

2003 Manitou Days Treasure Hunt
Podvin Park, White Bear Lake

Clue #1:

*The greater population won't deduce our new innovation
Without first attempting these clues that befuddle.
Staying on public terrain is an absolute obligation
While searching in a place named for a vast "puddle."*

Explanation:

Besides alerting hunters that the medallion was hidden on public property, it also tipped off White Bear Lake or White Bear Township with "a place named for a vast 'puddle.'" We also sought to hint to participants that the medallion was hidden in a way never used before.

Clue #2:

*There are problems still with that couple Jack and Jill
But their toil can aid in your progression.
It seems that after tumbling down that big hill
Jill developed some pent-up aggression.*

*So Jill had her fill and crashed into Jack's Coupe deVille
With her little (but sporty) Subaru.
Now bed-ridden with many a hospital bill
What is poor Jack to do?*

Explanation:

"What should Jack do" is the question to be solved in this clue – the rest is unimportant. Given the incident and circumstance, Jack could "sue her" – or sewer. The medallion was lowered into a sewer storm drain using wire.

Clue #3:

*As you poke and prod, let's mention the strange façade
That fronts our medallion's dominion.
It and yet another may strike you as a bit odd
But that is all simply a matter of opinion.*

Explanation:

Podvin Park is located between 7th and 9th Streets, both "odd" numbers.

Clue #4:

*These clues will encumber and disrupt your slumber
But retreat to a placid street that spans our land.
Whether its name remains or is just any number
Simply depends on which side of the critter you stand.*

Explanation:

The "placid street that spans our land" is White Bear Parkway. This clue referred to the intersection of White Bear Parkway and Otter Lake (the "critter") where the Parkway magically transforms into 9th Street, which runs into Podvin Park.

Clue #5:

*What's in a name? Potentially masses of fame
If it's a carpenter or the leader of a state.
Add in a love that an old buddy couldn't tame
And even a television comic's fictional mate.*

Explanation:

There are many first-named streets running into the south side of Podvin Park. Four of those roads (Karen, Sharon, Peggy & Debra) were tipped-off in this clue. "Carpenter" referred to the late Karen Carpenter; "leader of a state" pointed to Ariel Sharon of Israel; Peggy referred to Peggy Sue, to whom Buddy Holly wrote a song; and Debra, the first name of comic Ray Romano's wife on *Everybody Loves Raymond*.

Clue #6:

*Still deciding where our coin may be hiding?
We hope that this may be of some avail.
To stay on track may only be misleading
Therefore, just follow the paper trail.*

Explanation:

"Staying on track" referred to the distant Soo Line railroad tracks, north of the site – actually closer to Weyerhauser baseball diamonds, which may be "misguiding." "Follow the paper trail" tipped-off the Weyerhauser Paper Company, located to the north of Podvin Park.

Clue #7:

*The money you've paid the city sure turned out pretty
White Bear Parks n Rec is certainly up to par!
But the spelling of a president's name seems a bit gritty
And who really needs directions to a candy bar?*

*To fit the location, we had to do a minor operation
On our plastic, circular prize.
A quick little piercing and now it's up to your imagination
To wire together our clever disguise.*

Explanation:

Built just in 2001, Podvin Park has one of the newest (and nicest!) public pavilions in the northeast metro area. The president's name whose spelling was a bit "gritty" referred to the Fill-More trucks (Millard Fillmore was the 13th president of the US) parked in the Weyerhauser plant parking lot. Finally, the last line of first stanza pointed to a sign to the northeast of the site pointing to the nearby Babe Ruth baseball diamonds. Baby Ruth is a commonly known candy bar. The second stanza referred that the medallion had a hole drilled into it before it was hidden and then wired down into the storm drain.

Clue #8:

*The past may indeed be just the past
But history will help you unravel this riddle.
Ponder the last two spots where the prize was cast
And analyze the public land falling in the middle.*

Explanation:

Podvin Park is found between Central Middle School (2001 hunt) and Rotary Nature Preserve (2002 hunt).

Clue #9:

*You've walked the fine line and pleaded with the Divine
And still no trace of that gem.
There's something special amongst seven and nine
So it'd be best to concentrate between them.*

*We hereby contend that sports are a worthy trend
But only one will do.
Diamonds may be a girl's best friend
But remember that a guy wrote this clue.*

Explanation:

Treasure hunters were urged to search between 7th and 9th Streets in Podvin Park. Both soccer and baseball facilities dominate the park. Hunters were urged to avoid the baseball diamonds, thus revealing the medallion was near the soccer fields.

Clue #10:

*Crack the case: Podvin is the place
Somewhere in the southwest part of the park.
Nearby, soccer players kick and race
While eight tall lights pervade the dark.*

*Be among the elite and get to seventh street
Beside a middle light pole.
Look for a suspended medallion beneath your feet
Dangling in the nearby "sue her" hole!*

Explanation:

Final hints to the treasure's location.

Treasure's Exact Location:

