



BIRCHWOOD VILLAGE NEWS



City of Birchwood Village, MN

FALL 2014

COMMUNITY NEWS

Welcome new

residents: PAYTON & TONY BRUNSTAD (173 Birchwood Ave), AMY VREELAND (360 Wildwood Ave), TAYLOR LOWELL (542 Wildwood Ave), BENJAMIN & CHRISTINE CREAGH (16 White Pine Lane), MARK MCKEE (184 Cedar St), STEPHEN & NANCY FERRY (191 Wildwood Ave)

Our sympathies extended to the families of: Greg Rick, whose father passed away this spring; and to Greg Donovan's family. Greg lived in Birchwood since 1978 and was on the Birchwood city council and Suburban Cable Commission at the time of his passing.

Generous donors to the Community Club this quarter:

Bill and Mary Hullsiek, Nick Leeves, Jim and Nancee Greeley, Craig and Peggy Witthaus, Bruce Kolcinski, Tom and Amy Hoffman, David and Wanda Wall, Ted and Joanne Thornquist, Roy and Karen Krahn, Lynn and Dyann Hanson, Joe Allaben and Donna Sommerfeldt, Karn Holmen, Bryan and Karen McGinnis, Shawna Gibson, Greg and Shirley Donovan, Didier Tellier, Gary and Judy Oakins, Mary Hauser, Arlene Feistner and Ralph Larson, and Ron and Mary Sternal.

Thanks to the spring newsletter stuffing team: Barbara Flatten, Suzanne Donnell, Al Mitchell, Shirley and Gene Ruehle, Joyce and Bob Belknap and Mary Wingfield. All were treated to Al's almond coffee cake after a short hour of work.

Thanks to Alan Feistner who was in town visiting his family and took a break to pull out the log jam at the culvert under Hall/Birchwood Road. It was wet and dirty work, but flooding was kept to a minimum with the spring rains.

The community club thanks the following for their donations in memory of Greg Donovan: Margaret Westin and Randy LaFoy and Mary Wingfield. Their contributions helped to pay for some of the flags that adorned the main road this summer. Greg was really happy to see that happen and he would be pleased to be a part of that honor.

LEAF PICK UP

The city council will again provide for fall leaf pick up. Based on comments and the amount of leaves picked up last year, a flat fee of \$25 will be charged (via your utility bill) to each resident who puts leaves out at the curb. You will continue to be part of the program and billed each fall unless you tell clerk you are opting out. We will do the same method for those who want spring leaf pick up.

LEAF PICK UP OPERATION--(\$25 per household; billed on your utility bill statement in December)

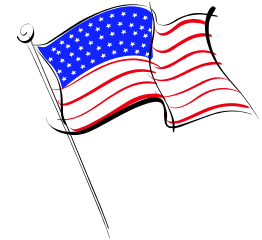
Road signs will be put out at the entrances into town the week prior to the pick-up weekend.

- Leaves must be piled along the curbside --NOT extended back into the yard.
- Residents with limited frontage should consider putting piles at the end of their driveways.
- LEAVES ONLY--no compost, dirt, sticks, rocks, plant or garden material
- DO NOT place leaves on rock/gravel driveways or landscaping

LEAF PILES WILL NOT BE PICKED UP FROM PROPERTIES THAT DO NOT FOLLOW THESE CONDITIONS.

FLAGS ON MAIN

The Birchwood Community Club sponsored the purchase of 26 flags along Hall and Cedar. They have been a hit with those that live in and pass through our community. The community club thought it would reflect our community spirit. We are proud to say the units are 100% made in America. We had to go to Costco in St Louis Park and Burnsville to meet our needs, but it was worth the trip. Please consider donating to the Community Club if you agree. The cost is \$4 annually. We really appreciate all those who continue to donate annually. Won't you be a part of this dedicated group? If you wish to donate, please send a check the Community Club, c/o/ Skip Wingfield, 720 Birchwood Avenue.



*****HELP!***** In London, a bus-sized "fat-berg" clogged a sewer over the summer. What was it? A congealed mix of cooking fat and disposable wipes.

PLEASE DO NOT PUT GREASE, OIL or FAT (FOG) OR ANY MANUFACTURED PRODUCT EXCEPT TOILET PAPER DOWN YOUR SEWER. IT IS EXPENSIVE FOR US TO REMOVE AND CAN LEAD TO SEWER BACKUPS. YUCK!!!



FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

What a wonderful day for the 63rd Annual Birchwood Parade. The band was fantastic, the food most excellent, and the company the best. Sadly, our designated Grand Marshal Greg Donovan had been ill recently and passed away on July 3rd. Our contingency plan was in place--John Lauer was to be our 2015 Grand Marshal, so we had to slip him in a year early. John is a Navy Viet Nam Vet and our recognition for his service was too long in coming. John served our country first in the reserves in high school, then two years in Viet Nam (February 1965-67)--joining the war just after the Gulf of Tonkin conflict. John has been the White Bear Lake VFW Commander twice and is involved in the American Legion as well. John graciously accepted on the condition he was representing all that have served our country. It was especially heartwarming to see the community stand and clap for John as he passed by parade gatherers.

John also served on the Birchwood planning commission and city council and has lived in Birchwood with his family since 1976. John and his wife Patti have two sons, Jonathan and Ian, who enlisted in the Army and are still on active duty.

Special thanks to Polar Chev for the use of their 2014 Camaro. They were most generous in offering it to us with just a phone call and a hand shake. What a deal. Also, special thanks to Dave Prunty who lent us his sound system. We hit a snafu with the power supply and got the system on-line 30 seconds before our cue from the band. Whew!

Those who volunteered their time: Bill Trinka (coordinator), Aaron Johnson (games guy extraordinaire) and Ed Lafoy, Joey vail and Beau Berger, Ginny Altman (national anthem), Dave Trepanier, Colleen Jefferson, Claudia and Greg Beckman, Bill and Mary Hullsiek, Mary Hauser and Leah Orey (balloons), Lauri Klimp (flags), Coursolle and Marthaller families (cotton candy and popcorn), Kevin Woolstencroft, Ron Sternal and Skip Wingfield (pop), Michael Lien, Nancy Maas and Anne Vail (band), Joy Hogenon (parade judge), VFW 1782 (rifle squad), American Legion 168 Sons of the American Legion and Auxillary (color guard), Scout Troop 434 (clean up), Randy Lafoy (containers), Nino Nardecchia and Mary Wingfield (prep). If you would like to join this gang, let us know--the more the merrier.

The parade was funded entirely from your community club dues. Thanks to all who have contributed

MARIAN JOHNSON ACROSS THE LAKE SWIM

This summer the community club hosted the annual swim in August. The weather was placid and the water delightful. Thirteen swimmers started at the peninsula and fourteen made it across. That is a first--one late starter got dropped off in the middle of the lake and joined us for the second half. Gene and Shirley Ruehle provided their boat and helped make sure all were well. Treats and juice and a good conversation on a job well done finished off the event at Birch Beach.

WANTED: Rink attendant to flood and maintain rink and keep warming hut hours this winter. Please contact the city administrator for the contract terms. The duration of the contract is weather related, but will not exceed three months (Dec 1-Feb 28).

NEW CITY TREASURER

The city hired Jason Foutz this spring to handle our financial affairs. Jason has a degree in business administration, is a graduate of Hamline Law School, and just recently took the bar. Jason has already addressed a long time concern about investing our reserves in staggered certificates of deposit. This will increase our interest income greatly and will cover a good portion of Jason's annual salary. Jason is very efficient and we are fortunate to have his skills. Welcome Jason.

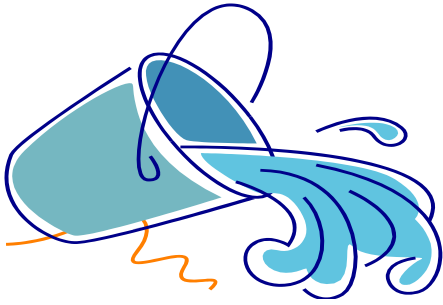
MORE FREE BINS--these are the old sort bins we used prior to single sort. Tubs are located by the stairs in the basement at city hall. Help yourself.

FALL PLANT EXCHANGE— SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH at 10 AM City Hall

Please bring "extra" plants from your yard to share with others. If you don't have a plant, swing by for company and some plants too. Snacks, juice and coffee are always good to share with others too. Please contact Randy LaFoy (429-9229) if you have additional questions.

Trivia Question: Do you know what the village street numbering system and the five city easements have in common?

Answer: The house numbers all start with a unit of 100 for the lots to the west of the easement. E.g. Ash creates the 100 block, Birch, the 200 block, etc...



WATER CONSERVATION NOTES (from George Dege—aka “Mr. Lawn”)

There are several things people can do to keep their water bills low this fall:

- Fix dripping faucets (interior and exterior)
- Water your trees “slowly” – a trickle in the fall. Trees reduce water evaporation and reduce the air conditioning demand. Dry tree roots create stress on the trees.
- Water your grass to keep it alive – not to keep it green. Grass needs only 2 inches of water every 4 weeks to keep root structure alive. Overwatering does not allow the roots to develop.
- Stop bagging the grass clippings - Consider using a product as Natural Guard to increase the organic content of your soil. This will accelerate the breakdown of grass clippings allowing for more moisture retention. It avoid the thatch build-up. An application in the fall – will help your lawn in the spring.

The fall feeding of winter fertilizer encourages root growth – stronger roots means your lawn is more resistant to drought and can go longer between watering.

WASHINGTON COUNTY CITIZEN ACADEMY

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scene at the sheriff’s office? Now the sheriff has a program to introduce you to what they do, besides issuing tickets and arresting bad guys. The classes include fingerprinting, shooting guns at the range, interviewing techniques, dog searches as well as a ride along. Both Randy LaFoy and Mary Wingfield participated in the inaugural program last winter. We learned a lot and appreciate even more the work these dedicated men and women perform on our behalf every day. Please contact Chris at city hall if you would like to participate. The classes are October 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th and November 6th, 13th, and 20th

NEW LEVY, SAME OLD NUMBERS

The city council has adopted the same figure as 2014 for next year’s budget: \$326,299. This continues maintaining the standard set by the budget committee in 2009. Not that we need to compare ourselves to other communities, but we are doing really well at maintaining our expenses yet finding ways to improve our community and use your tax dollars wisely.

STREET IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

Thanks to the roads committee who worked tirelessly on the second half of the crack filling and seal coating project. All our roads are now protected from any serious decay due to water and frost. This preventative maintenance should help us avoid any significant repairs in the years to come. We will start building up our reserves for the next round of seal coating 4-5 years from now.

COUNCIL MEMBER POSITION OPENING

With the passing of Greg Donovan, a seat has opened up on the council for the last four months of Greg’s term. If you are interested in consideration by the council for this seat, please send a letter to the city administrator with a short description of why you wish to be considered and your experience/qualifications. Deadline is September 8, 2014.

ALTERNATE CABLE COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED

There is an opening for an alternate Cable Commissioner from Birchwood. This Commission oversees the local Public-Education-Government cable operations. The oversight include several channels on TV (14, 15, 18, 19, 20), refranchising (our agreement with Comcast), On location, video equipment and more. The alternate should plan on attending Cable Commission meetings, and become a member of committees. Birchwood is one of 12 cities on the Commission. Please contact Randy LaFoy (429-9229) if you have additional questions. Deadline is September 8, 2014.

NEW CITY HALL SIDEWALK

We now have a new sidewalk at city hall. Mark Anderson coordinated this project and did a fantastic job. The sidewalk now is of proper incline and not treacherous on frosty/icy days and it is ADA compliant.

COMPOST PICK UP: Tennis Sanitation offers large yard waste bins for pick up twice a month. Contact Tennis for more information. 651/459-1887.

MAYOR'S NOTES

Council member Greg Donovan's passing left a big hole in our community. He was always willing to lend a hand or an ear to any problem. I loved his voice of reason and his ability to come to a meeting of the minds on just about any issue. Greg was instrumental in solving staffing at city hall by coordinating with Craig Waldron at Oakdale to get us talented help at an affordable price. This program that Greg (and Randy LaFoy) created allows us to tap into recent graduates who are eager to apply their public administration skills and get hands on experience that is difficult to otherwise achieve.

Craig has now moved on to Hamline University, but our city will continue to use Craig as a resource in providing us with a pipeline for young talent when our current clerk, Chris Michelson leaves for a larger playing field. In conjunction with this transition, the council has renamed the clerk mentorship program "The Greg Donovan Fellowship Program." I am delighted the council has honored Greg this way. I only wish he were here so we could brag to him about it.

The second part of this transition is the council has re-titled Chris's job as "City Administrator." Chris has earned the title with his leadership and hard work. In addition, he will be taking on the additional responsibility of planning and building code administration in 2015.

The council is thrilled and proud of how well the mentorship program has worked for us. We hope you agree.

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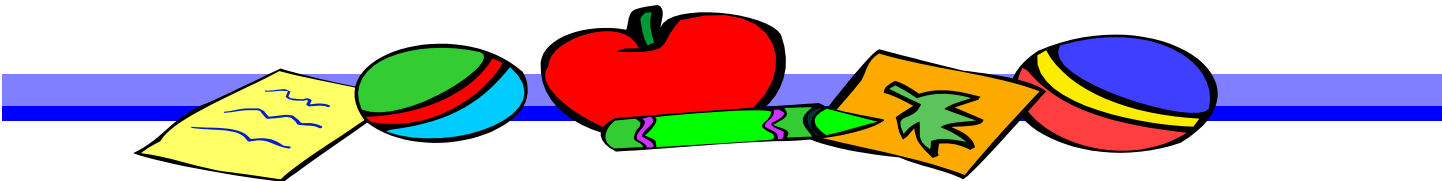
CITY HALL CONTACT INFORMATION:

City Office 651/426-3403 Fax 651/426-7747
 207 Birchwood Ave, Birchwood, MN 55110
Office hours: M & Th 9 a.m. - 12 noon

info@cityofbirchwood.com

www.cityofbirchwood.com

Official city notices are published on the City website, in *The White Bear Press*, and on the bulletin board outside the Village Hall.



In case you missed it—Direct electronic payment is available to pay your utility bill. Please return this form to the city administrator at City Hall in time for the December billing.

City of St. Anthony

YES!

I'd like to sign up for electronic payment!

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	Customer Account #:	
Name on account (Please print):		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Please transfer payments directly from my:		<input type="checkbox"/> Checking account
Routing # :	Account #:	
I authorize City of St. Anthony to process debit entries from my account. This will remain in effect until I give reasonable notification to terminate this authorization. I have attached a voided check.		
Authorized signature on account:		Date:

