



# BIRCHWOOD VILLAGE NEWS



City of Birchwood Village, MN

Fall 2018

**Welcome New Neighbors:** David Howard (426 Birchwood Cts), Jessica Myran (620 Birchwood Ave), Robert Foster (215 Cedar St), Scott Chatman (3834 E. Co Ln Rd), Jody Lallak (112 Wildwood), Jerilyn Gluck (146 Wildwood), and Alyssa Bedell (310 Wildwood).

**Our Condolences to:**

- **Shirley Donovan on the passing of her daughter Carrie.**
- **Joe Choulock and Sarah Gagnon on the passing of Joe's father.**
- **The family of Barb Peltier—long-time resident and friend to many.**
- **Steve and Karen Dopson on the passing of Karen's father.**

**Our thanks to:**

- Volunteer stuffers: **Gene and Shirley Ruehle and Tobin Lay's Family: Raegan, Riley, Preston and Chee Yeun.**
- **Oops:** The folks who pulled buckthorn in Bloomquist Park noted in the summer newsletter were not correct. Here were the participants: **Bridget Sperl, James Nelson, Doug and Megan Hough, Chris Sorenson, Kevin Woolstencroft and Mary Wingfield.**
- **Rachael and Dave Drew, Jim Rupert and Mary Wingfield** got the flags up in town and back down, with a little maintenance done along the way.
- **Dave Trepanier** did weed whipping along Hall/Cedar and then took on the Ash Pathway as well.
- **John Lund** helped put up the "Barn Quilt" at the Village Hall. **Mary Wingfield** was the designer/painter.
- **Gene Ruehle, Jim Rupert and Mary Wingfield** painted the lines of the pilot pickleball courts in the hockey rink.

If you would like to add your name to future volunteer activities, contact me at [wingfield.mary@gmail.com](mailto:wingfield.mary@gmail.com)

**Generous supporters to the Community Club: (\$20+)**

**Jean and Philip Sutherland, Bill and Mary Hullsiek, Gene and Shirley Ruehle, Marian Johnson, Alice and John Anderson, Chris and Angie Churchill, Sue Schway, Bridget Sperl and John McCormick, Susan and Michael Mercer, Ryan and Shari Hankins, JP and Patty Lauer, Mary and Steve Newman, Eugene and Sandra Bowar, Urho and Pam Rahkola, Steve and Nancy Ferry, Judy Alnes and Bernie Kruse, Peggy and Craig Witthaus, Kelly and David Strobel, Tom and Amy Hoffman, Alice and John Anderson, Steve and Tracy Schad, Dave and Pat Trepanier, Kim and Michael Geisser, Nancy Calderon and Rick Lessard, Ron and Mary Sternal, Dan and Cheryl Anderson, Bruce Kolcinski, Delores Schreiner, Thomas and CarlyAnn Nelson, Scott and Karen Freeberg, and Laura Broomell**

## POPULATION 875, MEETING YOUR NEIGHBOR ONE NEWSLETTER AT A TIME

Bev Bosse has lived across from the tennis courts for 50 years. Along with being active in the Girl Scouts and a gardener, she was the Birchwood Historian and was a major player in the Birchwood Bicentennial. In that time she has seen many things. Recently, she sent me a letter about what she saw outside her window this spring. Here is an excerpt:

As you know, life in Birchwood can be interesting. A mallard duck built her nest right behind my house. She laid 12 beautiful eggs and sat on them dutifully. What fun for me to watch! A week later when I checked on the nest (as I did every day), the duck was gone and only 5 eggs remained...but no sign of a skirmish. I then saw a red fox trotting down Cedar St. then up into Bloomquist Park. Aha! I fixed my morning coffee and after a while went back to look at the nest. Now only one egg remained. And as I watched the fox came up to the nest and took the last egg. Later, the duck came back to the nest for a while. I wished I could console her.

The fox had a lame left front leg and quite a scruffy coat. For me, it was fun for a while, but life goes on.

### **FOURTH OF JULY— A NEW EXPERIENCE**

For the first time in as long as anyone can remember, the rains came down on our parade. The events were a little shortened, but just like a rain-shortened ball game, 2018 is now in the books as official. There were plenty of smiles to go around, and there was not a dry eye in the crowd. Obviously, it was one for the records and memorable to boot.

For those keeping score at home, Jim Rupert was our Grand Marshal. Jim has been a dedicated volunteer in the community, mostly in the Boy Scouts of America, but Jim is also always willing drop what he is doing to lend a hand on projects around town. Thanks for all your good deeds, Jim. Karleen Corliss escorted Jim in her new Saab convertible. Karleen's car took a few days to dry out, but she is already looking to join the rotation next year.

And if you missed it, the Rollercoaster "float" by the Lind/Hagan family was just plain fun and silly. Folks are still laughing about it.

We had a lot of new helpers this year and their efforts were much appreciated along with the usual players...here they are: Bill Trinkka led the team and set up the route, Bill and Mary Hullsiek were on the Balloon team with Dave Trepanier, Mark and Mary Cahill. Bob and Diane Landberg and Margaret Ludick, Rachael Drew and Cheryl Anderson were busy rounding up treats and supplies, Brian Brady and Aaron Johnson were all lined up for the games but got stuck in the bullpen. Shannon Moore, Bob and Diane Landberg, Megan and Doug Hough and grandson Logan handed out balloons, Kevin Woolstencroft, Ron Sternal and Jim Rydeen were in charge of pop and ice cream, Sarah and Dan Webber and Mary K, Luke and Aura Sorenson, and Ben Lind manned the cotton candy and popcorn, Nancy Maas and Michael Lien organized the oh-so-good Birchwood Band with Anne Vail as the majorette, and Randy LaFoy took care of the garbage bins. JP Lauer recruited the VFW Post 1782, and the American Legion Post 168 with the Sons of American Legion and Ladies Auxiliary. They added dignity and honor to the day. And Boy Scout Troup #434 led the way. We did well under the circumstances. Let's hope next year brings fewer curve balls.

This parade was our 66th year all without a cancellation! We are truly blessed to have such good neighbors and good friends come together to celebrate our country, our community and our future. It is a tradition like no other. Thanks to all!

### **SENIOR CHORE SERVICES**

By connecting youth and adults in search of work with seniors in need of help, Northeast Youth and Family Service (NYFS) helps older adults live independently in their homes for as long as possible. Workers assist seniors with basic services such as housekeeping, and lawn care as well as seasonal activities such as snow shoveling and leaf raking. Contact Debbie Wells, Senior Chore & Volunteer coordinator: 651/757-4061 or [debbiep@nyfs.org](mailto:debbiep@nyfs.org)

### **NEW POOP BAG DISPENSERS**

The Birchwood Parks and Natural Resources Committee is pleased to announce the addition of three Pet Waste Stations installed in the Birchwood Community this month.

We wanted to make it easier and more convenient for our pet walkers to dispose of their pets' waste. The stations, donated by three local Veterinary Hospitals: Lake Animal Hospital, White Bear Animal Hospital and TLC Veterinary Hospital, are located in Tighe-Schmitz Park, Birch Beach and Bloomquist Park. The stations include eco-friendly bags for disposing of pet waste.

Thanks to the three Veterinary Hospitals who donated the stations!

**KAYAK/CANOE RACK REGISTRATION:** Please make sure to remove your boat from racks by Oct. 31 to avoid penalties.

### **ELECTION FILINGS (all uncontested races):**

Mayor: Mary Wingfield; Council members (2 seats): Kevin Woolstencroft and Jon Fleck

Special Election council seat (same ballot): Jessi Aakre

### **MARIAN JOHNSON ACROSS THE LAKE SWIM**

We had another beautiful morning for the 15 folks paddling from the Dellwood Peninsula back to Birch Beach the first part of July. The water was a bit choppy, and we gulped a few pints of lake water on our way, but we had fun and it was a great way to start the summer. Thanks to Jon Fleck for providing motor boat escort to keep the swimmers on track and safely home.

**HELP WANTED:** Contact the City Administrator if you want to help at the ice rink this year.

### **UTILITY RATES COMMITTEE TO CONVENE**

The City Council has been notified by Met Council that we generated 8% more sewer water this past year as compared to the other communities serviced by Pig's Eye. Accordingly, our sewer costs will be going up in addition to the annual cost increase that is projected.

Our water rates will be reviewed as well to make sure we continue to operate in a revenue neutral manner.

The utility commission will report back to the council by its December meeting.

### **SATURDAY MORNING PICKLEBALL**

Come join your neighbors and learn to play the up-and-coming sport of Pickleball. We play every Saturday morning at 9AM inside the hockey rink at Tighe-Schmitz Park. Pickleball is a cross between ping pong and tennis and played by all ages. It is fun and easy to learn, and yet it can be challenging for all skill levels. Balls and paddles provided. See you there!

### **MAYOR'S NOTES by Mary Wingfield**

Thanks to Eagle Scout candidate Dave Doughty, our city bell tower project made the news in the Minneapolis Star Tribune

[www.startribune.com/for-birchwood-village-a-bell-tower-courtesy-of-a-soon-to-be-eagle-scout/491503831/](http://www.startribune.com/for-birchwood-village-a-bell-tower-courtesy-of-a-soon-to-be-eagle-scout/491503831/) and the White Bear Press [www.presspubs.com/white\\_bear/news/article\\_b02b5f24-b2d1-11e8-9f4f-0f4de265c2b5.html](http://www.presspubs.com/white_bear/news/article_b02b5f24-b2d1-11e8-9f4f-0f4de265c2b5.html)

and then a subsequent story appeared thanks to local Historian Scott Freeberg confirming the history of the bell.

[www.presspubs.com/white\\_bear/news/article\\_bf3e2742-b6b1-11e8-a4f8-734920d9b07d.html](http://www.presspubs.com/white_bear/news/article_bf3e2742-b6b1-11e8-a4f8-734920d9b07d.html)

The Bell Tower had been a dream of mine ever since Randy LaFoy brought the old cast iron bell out of the mothballs for our first Common Table Potluck in 2008. It took ten years to gain traction, but with the help of Dave and Lead Carpenter Gene Ruehle, the project took shape and came to fruition just in time for primary voters to see its rough skeleton. Since then the final bell placement and landscaping was completed in time for Dave to earn his eagle award before his 18th birthday.

Engineer Bill Becklin volunteered his design skills for the worthy cause as did Andy Sorenson who was the contractor. City Building Inspector Jack Kramer, City Engineer Steve Thatcher, John Lund, and Doug Danks also rendered professional help.

We are very fortunate that Dave undertook this project and gave us a new landmark and identity while preserving history.

If you would like to contribute to this piece of history, the city is still collecting donations. A dedication and appreciation event will be held as well for our residents to come celebrate Dave's achievement and recognize his contribution to our community. A plaque will be subsequently installed on the tower with a description of its history and who contributed to the project. Send your donations to the city clerk so you can be a part of this unique project.

In addition, on Veteran's Day, resident John Lauer, former VFW Commander, asked Birchwood to participate with the greater White Bear Lake community celebrating the cease fire 100 years ago that ended "the war to end all wars" on 11/11/18 at 11:11 A.M. All the bells in the White Bear Lake area will sound in celebration of peace. I told John I would be proud to have Birchwood participate. Come join me for this hallowed moment.

On a personal note, my friends and I were on a bicycle tour in France this past spring. Our trip started in Compiegne on the L' Oise River. The first day we rode through the countryside to where the WWI armistice was signed. It was a simple crossing of railroad tracks in the middle of nowhere in a forest clearing. We were told the leaders were unsure the armistice would actually stick so the event was kept at a low profile to avoid embarrassment if it failed. There is a lot of history in Compiegne and it gave me a new perspective on WWI as well as on WWII. I highly recommend you put it on your list of things to do if you travel to the Paris area. It was very moving.

School is in...Be safe,

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## HISTORIC BELL TOWER DEDICATION

SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

5 PM

VILLAGE HALL

WE HAVE THIS OLD BELL  
THAT'S REALLY QUITE SWELL  
BUT NO LONGER A MYSTERY  
SINCE WE HAVE LEARNED OF ITS HISTORY

COME CELEBRATE WITH US  
AND SEE WHAT'S THE FUSS  
BECAUSE AN EAGLE SCOUT IS NEW  
SO LET'S GIVE HIM A BIG THANK YOU!

Refreshments and snacks will be served

