

## THANK YOU

To all the citizens and staff who helped remove trees, debris and damage around town after the many storms. Especially Jim Rydeen, Andy Sorenson and Steve Dean!

## WELCOME

Welcome new residents to Birchwood:

- Michael & Michelle Appleman 135 Wildwood Ave
- Brad Konkler 23 Wildwood Ave
- William & Stephanie Martinez 417 Birchwood Ct
- Austin Pasch & Annika Ferber 523 Hall Ave
- Ben & Mickey Hanson 612 Hall Ave
- Matt & Faith Brue 616 Hall Ave

## 2023 TREE INSPECTOR INVITATION TO BID

Birchwood Village wishes to contract an outside consulting firm or individual to administer Annual Tree Inspection Services. Interested parties should send bids to [rebecca.kellen@cityofbirchwoodvillage.com](mailto:rebecca.kellen@cityofbirchwoodvillage.com). Further information can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/TreeInspection>

## UTILITIES INCREASE SURCHARGE

Due to several water main breaks and inclement weather this year a water main break surcharge will be added to all quarterly utility bills to help recoup the cost of the repairs.

## IMPORTANT UTILITY REMINDERS

If your power goes out or you smell natural gas please make sure to report it to Xcel at 800-895-4999.

If your Xfinity internet goes out report to 800-934-6489.

## JOIN OUR E-MAILING LIST

If you don't currently receive email notices from the city, please reach out to [info@cityofbirchwood.com](mailto:info@cityofbirchwood.com) to be added to that list. Emergency and other important updates are sent through that list so sign up today!

## CANOE AND KAYAK RACK REMINDER

Please remember to remove your canoes and kayaks from the city racks on the beaches by Oct. 31st to avoid penalties.

## COMMUNITY CLUB UPDATES

### THANK YOU!

Thank you to all the Volunteers that helped with the 4th of July Parade! We had a great turn out, despite the rain. If you want to volunteer next year, we would be more than happy to have you sign up now: Please email Cynthia at [communityclubbirchwood@gmail.com](mailto:communityclubbirchwood@gmail.com). We're adjusting to new volunteers leading the club, so if we missed you this year, please reach out! We'd love to get you back in your roles -sorry for the omissions.

Thank you to our generous donors:

**\$100** - • R&C Cristan • D&M Ford

**\$50** - • P&J Sutherland • W&M Hullsiek • R Galena  
• D&P Trepanier • R&M Sternal

**+\$25** - • R Cummins • J&P Stockwell • S&M Newman  
• J Gluck • T&A Hoffman • L&S Mahoney  
• V&R Johnson • S&N Ferry • B Sperl • R Lemieux  
• S Schway • N Calderon • R Lessard • J&C Evans  
• K Holmes • B Kolcinski

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Community Club would like to put together a **City Wide Garage Sale** for Friday, September 29th and Saturday, September 30th. Please email us (email above) if you are interested in participating. We want to make sure we have several houses before we advertise.

We are also interested in hosting a **Clothing Swap**. This might be a great time to see if your kids' have outgrown last year's coat! If we get enough interest in this, we will post on the Birchwood Village Community Facebook page with dates and times.

Other events we are looking to bring to Birchwood:

- Bringing back the morning yoga classes
- A movie in the City Hall in the winter
- Bringing back the perennial plant swap

We need to know your interest in all of these ideas prior to planning. If you would like to participate in this please email us as well, so we can determine community interest.

Email us at [communityclubbirchwood@gmail.com](mailto:communityclubbirchwood@gmail.com)

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## **FALL DEER MANAGEMENT RETURNS**

Deer management returns this fall. Due to the ongoing concerns with our over-abundant deer herd, the Metro Bow Hunters Association will have 4 hunts on Oct 12-13, Oct. 29-30, Nov. 20-21 and Dec. 6-7. Look to the city website or sign up for emails for further announcements.

## **FALL LEAF PICK UP**

We will no longer be offering fall leaf pick up through the city. Please reach out to Tennis Sanitation if you are interested in the seasonal Compost Program, at 651-459-1887 for pricing and information

## **PARKS COMMITTEE CORNER**

Happy Fall Birchwood Residents! I hope you are all enjoying your summer and gearing up for fall. The Birchwood Village Parks and Natural Resources Committee has been hard at work improving our parks and open spaces. Thank you to everyone who provided your comments during the July meeting on how best to improve and maintain Tighe-Schmitz Park. We received great feedback and will be using that in our future recommendations to the city council as we watch for possible grants available for park improvements. If you have other ideas or concerns about our parks, please join us during our regular meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. Thanks! Zach Michalk

## **OPENING ON THE PARKS COMMITTEE**

We will have one opening on the parks committee starting in September. If you are interested in volunteering for that role please submit your name to [rebecca.kellen@cityofbirchwood.com](mailto:rebecca.kellen@cityofbirchwood.com) to have your name added to the candidate pool before the Sept 12th City Council meeting.

## **GREETINGS FROM MAYOR MARGARET**

What a summer! This is a shoutout to the community that came together to clear the roads after that, as my neighbor Paul described it, a “really scary, go in the basement, storm” of July 19. On my drive home from my mother’s 91st birthday party, I wasn’t prepared for the huge tree that had been blown over to completely block Birchwood Avenue. I squeezed past the tree and walked towards the cheerful sound of chainsaws, and found Steve Dean and Andy Sorensen sawing and bucking up another huge tree further down across the road, while neighbors helped stack the debris on the shoulder while sharing their melting ice cream sandwiches. There were more trees down on Wildwood and Grotto, Tighe-Schmitz and more! By 11PM the roads were emergency accessible. Work continued through the weekend. I know many of

you also have cleanup challenges. Huge thanks to Steve Dean who volunteered his expert services on behalf of Birchwood. We do have large piles of wood stacked on the roadsides. We appreciate your patience while we chip away at removal. Jim Rydeen is working on this. Thanks to Jim. Also, Thanks to Kathy Weier for organizing neighborhood volunteers to move limbs into manageable piles and future trailer loading opportunities. We are looking into hiring a vendor, if needed, to get the big trunks cut and brush piles picked up before the snow flies. If you want firewood, grab it now. I know many have helped in the cleanup process. This is how it happens when we come together!

While it’s wonderful to live in an arboretum, it’s a challenge to manage storms and the diseases that arise. Many thanks to Bridget Sperl for representing Birchwood at the DNR forestry seminar. She received information about how we can apply for grants to have ash trees removed and others planted. More as we learn.

Speaking of storms, who got soaked at the Fourth of July parade? Or should I ask, who didn’t! While it sadly cut the festivities short, I’m sure we’ll all have a memory of the Gully Washer Fourth. The band under the leadership of Michael Lien was excellent and thanks to Tori Wormwood for a beautiful solo. Kudos to the Community Club and all who marched and volunteered. Bravo to Randy Lafoy who replaced the flag in Wildwood park. The media has reached out to do a story on our parade. I’ll find out more and give everyone an update next spring. Birchwood is having a moment!

The other events from this summer are far less dramatic. We’ve had some serious potholes problems that are being addressed in two ways. For now, we’ve been focused on patching and repairing the best we can given budgets and vendor availability. Going forward, Marcus Johnson, our city engineer, is doing a road survey project using imaging technology which will address repair/replacement systematically. This will help us formulate a comprehensive plan to allow data based long term budgeting. We are applying for grants to help fund these street improvements.

We are moving forward on the lift station replacement. This is a required infrastructure upgrade. We have \$600,000 in public funding put in place by the efforts of Mary Wingfield and Rep Betty McCollum’s team as well as money from the Rice Creek Watershed District to offset some of the costs on this project.

I’ve enjoyed my office hours. I learn many helpful things from your visits. The theme from these conversations is that we are proud of Birchwood in different ways and we all call Birchwood a wonderful home.

Margaret Ford