



# BIRCHWOOD VILLAGE NEWS



City of Birchwood Village, MN

Spring 2016

**Welcome new residents:** Nicole Pladson and Matt Tschider, 509 Wildwood; Douglas and Megan Hough, 705 Birchwood Ave; Melissa Loren, 27 Oakridge Dr.

**Passings:** Lorraine Cain passed away recently. She and her husband Dale lived on Wildwood Avenue for many years.

### Our thanks to:

- Volunteer newsletter stuffers: **Gene and Shirley Ruehle, Kevin Woolstencroft, Mary Wingfield. Mary Sue Simmons, Suzanne Donnell and Mary Wingfield** also stuffed the recent budget mailing.
- **Scott Howe** for again dedicating his time and energy in taking care of the ice rink in grand fashion despite the poor conditions.
- **Amy and Carter Johnson, Sara Nephew and Angie Churchill** for putting on another super Christmas party and **Bob Carson** for being one of Santa's helpers.

### ANNUAL BUDGET INFO

As you probably have seen, most cities and counties (as well as the state) have been raising taxes each year. We think we are doing well holding taxes down AND keeping services high here in Birchwood.

Last month every resident received an accounting of how the city uses your tax dollars. The levy has remained the same since 2012--\$326,299. This is just above the \$323,000 established by the Budget Committee in 2009. This figure is 17% below the high water mark of \$400k levied in 2009. (By comparison, Willernie (pop. 500) budgets the same amount that we do now.) We should be able to keep the same levy for a number of years to come. The city council is proud of the work we have all done to pitch and make our community affordable to live in.



### TRIVIA

The cost of renting the village hall in 1980--\$25.  
The cost of renting the village hall in 2016--\$25.



### KAYAK/CANOE RACK INFORMATION

Please register your boat before locking it to a rack. All boats must be registered or they will be removed. Fee is \$10 per boat.

### BIRCHWOOD DOCK ASSOCIATION

Everyone is invited to join the dock Association to use the docks at Ash, Birch, Elm and Dellwood Easements. (Kay Beach is now a city dock and is free for all to use.) Membership is \$35 per year. Check off the box on your utility bill and include your fee, or send it to Mike Evangelist, 364 Wildwood Av.

- If you are not on the boat slip waiting list, contact city hall to do so.
- The Association will hold a spring meeting in early April. All current members and easement neighbors will be notified of the date/time/location by mail. To add your name to the list, contact BirchwoodDocks@gmail.com.

### SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS—

#### Wetterling Foundation Program:

A good program to educate kids (K-6) how to be safe in their community. St Andrew's Church Great Hall, Mahtomedi. April 19, 6:30-7:15 PM. Sponsored by Mahtomedi and White Bear Lake Area Schools and Birchwood

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Semi-Annual Plant Exchange: June 4 10 AM Village Hall
- All City Garage Sale: June 11 All Day

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### FREE CABLE ACCESS

If you don't have cable and want access to local programming, including city council meetings, you are entitled to PEG universal service. Just request it through the Suburban Cable Commission office (651) 747-3802 and they will coordinate it with Comcast.

### SPRING LEAF PICK UP

The city will again provide for spring 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. Since the contractor makes many swings through town, **if you use the service multiple times, you will be billed for each pick up.**

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

### CHECK THIS OUT

Mike Evangelist is president of the Birchwood Dock Association AND an author. His recent photography book is a neat insight on the scenes of Minneapolis in the 1970s. You can see his work at [www.michaelevangelist.com](http://www.michaelevangelist.com)

### TOO GOOD TO MISS

Those that were unable to make the Common Table last month missed out on a real treat. Our speaker was JB Andersen, former history teacher in WBLAS. The pie by Jim Rupert was heavenly. Here is his recipe for those that need a few extra calories in their diets:

#### Pina Colada Pie

1 can (20 oz) pineapple slices  
2 pkgs Vanilla Jello pudding (not instant)  
1 pint sour cream  
¼ cup flaked coconut (toast at 350° for 6.5min)  
2 Tbls dark rum (or 1 tsp rum extract)  
¼ tsp coconut extract  
8" pie with graham cracker crust

Drain pineapple, reserve syrup. Combine pudding mix and syrup in sauce pan, cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until it boils and thickens. Remove from heat. Fold in sour cream, coconut, rum, and coconut extract.

Pour half of filling into pie crust. Arrange 5 pineapple slices on top, pour remaining filling over. Garnish with toasted coconut then remaining pineapple

### TREE INSPECTION NOTICE

Our city tree inspector checks for diseased trees twice a year on all village properties. If you would like to know which week he is passing through your place, please give provide your email address to the city clerk so we can let you know to when to watch out for him.

### WATER NOTES:

The City of White Bear Lake changed their water use rates and passed them on to us as they supply our water. Rates increases have changed based on winter versus summer usage. The Water Committee will be reviewing the cost structure and making recommendations to the city. We anticipate the figures will be finalized before the summer quarter.

### MAYOR'S NOTES

As quickly as we faced a sex offender living in our community, the matter has gone away. Or has it? There are 17,500 registered predatory offenders living in Minnesota right now. Of those, approximately 8,000 have been assigned risk levels, 9,500 have not. (A person receives a risk level of 1, 2, or 3 only if they are required to register as a predatory offender AND have been to prison.) Only Level 3 offenders are actually known to the community, so there are an awful lot of predators out there that we don't know about.

It is estimated that one in every five girls and one in every seven boys are sexually abused by the time they reach adulthood. One in six adult women and one in 33 adult men have experienced an attempted or completed sexual assault. And many more assaults never get reported. Clearly, our awareness of this problem has just begun. The city council called for a Safe Zone committee to address and protect the safety of our children. This group of folks has been meeting and researching information. One of the first things the Safe Zone committee did is forwarded to the council a Safe Zone code to criminalize any conduct of a predator being near a park or participating in a city event. I believe we are the first community in Minnesota to adopt such a code. This code is just one tool to aid the safety of our kids, but potential harm remains. The key is to teach our children what to watch for and how to react. To that end, our goal is to ensure we provide education and training to create awareness and vigilance for all our kids. In April, the city is again sponsoring the Wetterling Foundation program, this time focusing on kids needs. More information is posted elsewhere in this newsletter. Partnering and sharing information with neighboring towns and school districts is important as well. The threat to our children has not gone away, its face keeps changing. It is our responsibility as a community to recognize it and act. Let's work together to educate everyone to be aware and be safe.

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**EMAIL ADVANCED-NOTICE LIST**

Add your name to our list for important happenings. We will advise you of upcoming concerns such as hydrant flushing, leaf pick up dates, road repairs and other matters that occur on short notice. This list is for internal use only and will not be provided to others.



**DIRECT DEPOSIT YOUR UTILITY PAYMENT--NEVER RISK ANOTHER LATE PAYMENT!**

City of St. Anthony       **YES!**    I'd like to sign up for electronic payment!

<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b>	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: