



## BIRCHWOOD VILLAGE NEWS



City of Birchwood Village, MN

Spring 2021

### NEWS BITS:

- NEW CITY OFFICE HOURS: Mondays 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and Thursday evenings 6-9:30 pm.
- THE CITY OFFICE still operates virtually. Please email or leave a message and staff will timely respond. Thank you for your patience.
- New city staff: Jackie Smith has joined the city office as a part-time deputy clerk. Jackie will be handing permits and assisting our Administrator. She previously worked in for the City of Edina in their building department.
- If you need help with getting groceries or other needs due to Covid concerns, please let Mary Wingfield know ([wingfield.mary@gmail.com](mailto:wingfield.mary@gmail.com)). Our volunteers are at the ready.
- CITY CODE REMINDER: Dogs must be licensed. Licenses are two years, but prorated to one year for this year if you are a new applicant.
- The Subdivision Task Force has been meeting frequently this winter to revamp the city subdivision code. The group has been reviewing water runoff, noise and design concerns. We anticipate the final draft will be on for hearing before the council this April or May. Please contact the city administrator if you want to receive notice of the hearing and proposed code.

### OUR VILLAGE CENTENNIAL *by Bridget Spertl*

Did you know the Village of Birchwood will be 100 years old on September 10th of this year? To honor that date we are asking residents for their favorite pictures and stories of Birchwood. We plan on publishing them on line and in booklet form.

Sarah Markoe Hanson and Rheanna O'Brian from the White Bear Lake Historical Society are combing through old city council minutes to unearth interesting facts and figures. Scott Freeburg, our resident historian, is sharing what he knows too.

Stay tuned to learn more about our last 100 years. And please, if you have stories, histories, pictures, maps or interesting facts to contribute, send them [wingfield.mary@gmail.com](mailto:wingfield.mary@gmail.com).

### HEY..... WHERE DID YOU GET THAT T-SHIRT?

What is more iconic to Birchwood than the 4th of July Parade? By popular demand, and to help celebrate the Birchwood's Centennial, the classic parade T shirt will once again be available! Shirts in sizes 2T to adult XL must be ordered in advance for \$15, by advance order only! Proceeds will go to the Birchwood Community Club! Please contact Cynthia Tomlinson for order information at [ceeshtom1@comcast.net](mailto:ceeshtom1@comcast.net).

### 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. Please contact our city staff to sign up.

### MAYOR'S NOTES

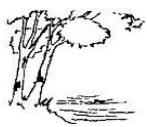
Despite the apparent doldrums of winter, much has been going on behind the scenes at city hall. The Centennial committee has been scouring old files looking for tidbits of information. It is fun to find rabbit holes to go down. Sometimes they enlighten how we got where we are; other times, they connect dots about who's who and the names that appear on signs and in records but don't have a connection any more.

Sara Markoe Hanson of the White Bear Lake Historical Society has been helping our group make those connections. We have one grant and are applying for more grants to create historical signage to memorialize those who provided the foundation for our community. That work is ongoing with a goal of an event celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

This group has also been working on a centennial booklet (see article on this page). A booklet was done in the 1950s and for the country's Bicentennial. This will be a nice addition to our collection. And we are looking for pictures. Let me know if you have anything to share or would like to be a part of this group.

The building group has been making tracks as well. As part of that research, I was in the city archives trying to find the original plans for the village hall to help the building task force learn more about the historical value. I found the original specs handbook, but no exterior or first floor plans, but I did find two plans for alternative designs that were considered. In my mind, those designs were reminiscent of the lodge up at Itasca State Park. A large dining room and men's and women's sitting rooms were included, while the council chambers appeared to be an afterthought and quite small. I suspect the plans were too fancy for the times and our predecessors chose the rather simple hall that was actually built...for a total of \$3900. The land was an additional \$661.40.

All our work has been done via zoom, phone calls and emails, which can be a challenge. It will be nice to get back to normal sooner rather than later. We are getting there together. Stay safe and have a pleasant spring. m



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**Our Condolences to:** Friends and family of **Ruth Teichrow** and **Dorothy Welch**, both former long-time residents.

**Welcome New Resident:** **Samantha Smith**, 264 Cedar St.

**Thanks to our Volunteers:**

- All our neighbors who have cleared snow away from fire hydrants. THANK YOU!

## KAYAK/CANOE RACK INFORMATION

You must register your boat and obtain a permit sticker before selecting a spot on a rack and storing your boat. All boats must be registered or they will be removed. Fee is \$35 per boat. The council has waived the fee for anyone whose household Adjusted Gross Income is less than \$35,000 (with proof via federal tax document; one waiver per address)

## SPRING LEAF PICK UP

The city will again provide for spring leaf pick up. Road signs will be put out at the entrances into town the week prior to the pick-up weekend. For more info check [www.CityofBirchwood.com](http://www.CityofBirchwood.com). **You must RSVP** for this service. Please call city hall to register. If you use the service multiple times, you will be billed for each pick up. If you put your leaves on city property/parks/open space, you will be billed triple the fee.

**Those that added a Bright Light to the community:**

- **Rene Heimer** on making the *St Paul Pioneer Press* for her prodigious mask-making skills and donating the proceeds to the *St Croix Valley* food shelf.



- Happy chickens at **Bob and Rhea Gray's** (523 Hall). Follow them on Instagram @523Chickenglee

## VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

You will soon be seeing the cedar siding removed from the village hall. This will reveal the original 1932 façade. The cedar siding was put up in the 1970s. It has sustained drainage and rot problems. And the woodpeckers have been busy doing a number on it as well. The Building Restoration task force submitted this recommendation so we can make the exterior weather and water tight for the next 100 years.

The task force also has recommended that the runoff around the building be corrected. Right now, runoff seeps into the office. Once the outside issues are addressed, the task force will concentrate on interior improvements. Stay tuned.

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## TRIVIA

When we moved to Birchwood in 1967, we were told our address was "White Bear Lake, MN 55110" because Birchwood did not have a post office (like Dellwood). At that time, Mahtomedi and Willernie had post offices so their addresses conformed to their own town. Our utility bills continue to be shipped to you in "White Bear Lake." For some of us, old habits die hard.