



BIRCHWOOD VILLAGE NEWS



City of Birchwood Village, MN

Spring 2022

Our Condolences to:

Jerry Pierre's family. Jerry was our long-time refuse hauler and snow plower. No one worked harder than Jerry.

Bill Butler's family, another well-liked, long-time resident.

Jon Fleck's family on the passing of his sister Emily Just-Fleck

Judy Duffy on the passing of her husband Gerald

Paul and Meryl Steinhauser on the passing of Paul's sister

Welcome New Residents:

Toni & Scott Berg--131 Wildwood, Britany Library & David

Barclay--157 Wildwood, Peter Holstad--542 Wildwood

Thanks to our Volunteers:

- Christmas party elves: **Felicia Leammukda and Chris Creagh.**
- Buckthorn helpers: **Paul Steinhauser, Ian Harding, Mark Foster, Justin McCarthy, Bridget Sperl, and Mary Wingfield.**
- Rink Helpers: **Andy Sorenson and Chris Sorenson, Bob Carson** (and a few others).

Adding a bright light to our community: Kraig Rasmussen Whose gallery exhibit "Elemental Realm" is open through March 17th at the White Bear Center for the Arts.

Ron Goertz whose "Pluggers take 'Friendies' not selfies" made the January 27th Pluggers comic in the St Paul Pioneer Press

Birchwood Community Club News:

Generous donors: Sandy Kris-Buerkle, John & Kellie Lund

The Centennial Booklet is now on line on the city website. A hardcopy is available for a nominal cost through the White Bear Lake Historical Society. It is a wonderful work edited by Scott Freeberg. It makes for a nice gift. Thanks to all for making it possible.

BOAT BITS:

KAYAK/CANOE RACKS: You must register your boat and obtain a permit sticker before taking a rack spot. All boats must be registered or they will be removed. Fee is \$30 per boat. The council has waived the fee for anyone with a household Adjusted Gross Income under \$35,000 (with proof via federal tax document; one waiver per address)

FEISTNER BEACH: There is room for one boat at end of East Co Line Road. (Access stairs will soon be installed, and the guardrail will be removed as part of the Lake Links design). Bring your own lift or secure your boat on shore. \$1000 for the season. User will be determined by lottery.

Submit request for consideration and \$1000 to the city administrator by March 20th.

ADD YOUR NAME FOR EMAIL MAILINGS

Add your name to our list for important notices. 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.

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. **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.

TENNIS SANITATION NEWS:

- Tennis will provide you with a larger recycling bin upon request.
- Tennis Sanitation is offering one month free when you pay in full for one year of service. Ph. 651-459-1887

NEWS BITS:

THE CITY OFFICE is open Monday 9:30 am-12:30 pm and Thursday evenings 6-9:00 pm or send an email or leave a message at other times.

- **CITY CODE REMINDER:** Dogs must be licensed. Licenses are two years.
- **The city council has enacted a new code requiring all residential water systems to have back-flow valves.** This is especially important for all those who have irrigation systems. Failure to have such during a system failure could be costly and dangerous to the public water system. Those costs will be borne by any violators under the new code. Please make sure to have your system up to date to avoid this serious risk.
- The county STS crews have been busy taking out buckthorn throughout town. Most of the public spaces have been cleared thanks to their help.
- The STS crew spent one cold weekend and stripped the brass off our old water meters. The scrap netted us \$3000--which has been added to the city water fund.
- Total number of deer killed: 17
- Based on a recent case, the city will be revamping its signage code. The city will probably be allowing and

2 BIRCHWOOD VILLAGE NEWS

regulating the size and placement of any signs.
Regardless, the city has never regulated content.

LAKE LINKS UPDATE

You are probably aware that Lake Links has been asked by the city to route bicyclists via Hall Avenue instead of Lake Avenue. The council believes this is a safer route for riders with better sightlines. Pedestrians will still be routed along Lake Avenue.

Lake Links funding will allow the city to restore the roadway edges from vegetation encroachment and provide safer shoulders where the shoulders have slumped away.

You can visualize the final product by looking at Lost Lake Ct just east of the city line. State funding should be in place soon so the city can complete the project this spring.

NEW METER INFO:

Welcome to the 21st Century. Your new water meter allows you to track usage, provides an account summary, weather data, notice history and notification preferences. And there is an App for that.

Here is how to access all this info: On your computer, go to www.getmymeter.info. Click on "Create Profile" below the Login to the right of the page. Enter "Birchwood Village" as the Utility Name. On the next line, enter your six digit account number (do not include the dash) from the top of your utility bill. Then create your account on that same page. You will be prompted through the process.

Now it gets a bit less direct. To connect your account to your phone, download the app MyMeterInfo. ("H2O ANALYTICS CORP). It's a blue icon with a house with a wifi signal within, sitting in a puddle.) Then go back to your computer and click the upper right phone icon in the Account Summary box. It will open up with a QR code. Go to your phone, open the app (it will only give you one option--to scan the QR code.) Scan and your phone is now connected. You can then review your usage and change notifications using the settings icon on the Notifications page.

(Ed note: My consumption shows my humidifier is a silent water gulper. There is also an option for snowbirds to learn if their pipes are getting seriously cold to freezing.)

The new system is much more efficient and cost effective for the city. The city will be able to pass along these savings to you if you opt to go paperless. (Fear not, you will still receive this newsletter by mail.) Stay tuned for more details on the discount next quarter.

TRIVIA: Five Oaks Lane is named for the five oaks that were left in the middle of the road at the eastern end. The trees died a number of years later and the green area was paved over. Too bad, it would have been another unique touch to our village.

SPRING 2022

MORE HISTORIC MARKERS:

The White Bear Lake Historical Society is working with the city for educational markers for Polly's Park, Curt Feistner Reserve and the Bell Tower and Village Hall. These signs follow the ones installed last year that have received rave reviews. The first drafts have been produced and a Legacy grant has been submitted. Installation will occur later this summer.

The Bell Tower signage will acknowledge those who generously donated. Here is a complete list of those who have. Send corrections to wingfield.mary@gmail.com

Gold donors (\$100+)

Birchwood Community Club, American Legion Post, Wayne Lodmell, John McCormick & Bridget Sperl, Charles Suzanne Sandstrom, Elliot Rauscher and Katherine Weier, Sue Schway, David & Pat Trepanier, Mary Wingfield

Silver donors (\$50-99)

Richard Galena, Ellen Maas, Dennis & Dana Murray, Urho & Pamela Rahkola, James & Peggy Stockwell, David & Wanda Wall

Bronze donors (\$25-49)

David & Rachael Drew, Stephen & Nancy Ferry, Marilyn Husnik, William & Ramona Jwanouskos, Dana & Lori Klump, John & Kellie Lund, Ellen "Jibby" Maas, Mark & Julie Simanski, Todd & Amanda Stanhope

MAYOR'S NOTES--HALL'S MARSH UPDATE

The city council has had some concerns about stormwater that has been discharged from the Priebe Lake Outlet Pipe. This pipe was built around 1980 to alleviate flooding in White Bear Lake, Ramsey County. Rice Creek Watershed District built the pipe and is responsible for the system. Only they have been very slow to address our concerns. So the city decided to do our own investigation to make sure this natural wetland is properly protected.

The city recently contracted with a pollution analytic company and soil samples were taken from the marsh at the stormwater pipe outlet as well as elsewhere. The report revealed elevated B[a]Ps—which is the junk in asphalt sealers—at the end of the pipe (but not elsewhere). The amount is of concern to the city as disposal is regulated by the MPCA. (Check the city website for the "Hall's Marsh Pollution Report" for more information.)

The council has now demanded that the relevant government agencies fix the problem. Our goal is to have those that created this problem pay for fixing it. We are hopeful for a speedy resolution. But it is shaping up to be a long, frustrating process. Stay tuned. m