

WILDWOOD LIFT STATION FUNDING UPDATE

The lift station at the east end of Wildwood Park is due for replacement after it was damaged following a 2020 water main break and no longer meeting OSHA standards. Through the efforts spearheaded by Mary Wingfield and Representative Betty McCollum, Congress approved funding through the Environmental Protection Agency in December for \$480,000.

Birchwood has a grant application pending with Rice Creek Watershed for an additional \$100,000, which their Board of Managers is scheduled to consider on February 22, after the newsletter deadline. At its February 8 meeting, Rice Creek managers expressed their appreciation that the project already involved joint local and federal funding.

If Rice Creek approves the application, outside funding will cover \$580,000, and Birchwood taxpayers will be responsible for the remaining costs through our tax levy. The city is currently seeking bids for the project to determine final costs, but it is estimated at approximately \$750,000, with construction planned to begin later this year.

SNOWPLOW BUDGET UPDATE

Birchwood contracts with Brightview for snow plowing. Brightview acquired our previous contractor, Birch, in May, 2021. The city pays for each snow fall; recent snows have cost around \$4000 each. For 2022, the city’s budget for snow removal this season was \$27,500 and costs were \$38,453 as of February 17th, 2023. This was 40% more than anticipated. In December and January, large snowfalls made it difficult to navigate many driveways, but more recent warmer weather has improved those conditions.

EMERALD ASH BORER UPDATES

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is present in Birchwood. The City will be removing any boulevard or park ash trees identified to be in poor condition and targeted for removal with those in close proximity to trails or structures being addressed first. Replacement of trees will be conducted as funds allow.

For homeowners, with Ash trees on private property, please be on the lookout for:

- Increased woodpecker activity/damage
- Bark splitting (vertical slits)
- D-shaped exit holes created by adult insects as they emerge from the tree
- Epicormic branching/shoots near base of tree
- Canopy dieback
- Serpentine (s-shaped) larval galleries that are packed with frass

If you notice signs, please reach out the the Birchwood City office or the MDA Arrest the Pest hotline for additional information and site inspections.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS AND SCHEDULE

After the November election, our city voted in 3 new members for our 5 member City Council - our new Mayor is Margaret Ford, and new council members Ryan Hankins and Kathy Weier joined existing Council members Mark Foster and Justin McCarthy.

A new City Council Meeting Schedule was confirmed at the January 2023 meeting moving the meetings up to 6:45pm on the Second Tuesday of the month. The schedule of meeting dates is available on the city’s website: www.cityofbirchwood.com. **(OVER)**



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. HAVE A COMMENT OR SOMETHING TO SHARE IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER?

NAME: _____ **ADDRESS:** _____

COMMENT: _____

(OVER)

(CONTINUED)

**CANOE AND KAYAK STORAGE
REGISTRATION OPEN**

Registration for a slot in the canoe and kayak storage opens March 1, which crafts being allowed on racks starting April 1st. All crafts must have a permit displayed on their watercraft in the form of a sticker obtained at City Hall prior to being added to the rack. The cost of the permit is \$30.00 and must be renewed annually. Canoes/Kayaks cannot be placed on the racks until a permit has been purchased and a slot assigned.

JOIN OUR E-MAILING LIST

If you don't currently receive email notices from the city with important updates, please reach out to info@cityofbirchwood.com to be added to that list. This list is for internal use only and will not be provided to others. Birchwood Village is also on Facebook - follow us at "City of Birchwood Village"

NEW PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER

The Council approved Michael McKenzie for the vacant planning commission spot created when Ryan Hankins was elected to City Council.

The planning commission meets every 4th Thursday of the month, however if no pressing business it is subject to cancellation. Please confirm with Chair Andy Sorenson.

NEW PARKS COMMITTEE

The Council approved the creation of the New Parks Committee. We welcome the new volunteer members!

- Council members

- Justin McCarthy
- Kathy Weier

- Citizens

- Jennifer Arsenault
- Alan Mitchell
- Noel Hegedus
- Mary Sue Simmons
- Zachary Michalk

All in the community are invited to join in the brainstorming to create even more exciting green spaces. The meeting schedule is forthcoming on the City's website.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY CLUB MEETING - MARCH 29

The Community Club is the organization responsible for the 4th of July Parade as well as some of the other community engagement events around town. If you would like to attend, you are welcome. City Hall at 7 pm

**GREETINGS FROM
MAYOR MARGARET**



During my first months of service, I am grateful to have received tremendous feedback from so many of you. We have a special, engaged community and I welcome a robust exchange of ideas! To that end, I will be available to all who want to join me for discussion.

My office hours at the Village Hall are the second Monday of each month from 5:00-8:00 pm and the second Wednesday of each month from 8:00-10:00 am. Please drop in! I am always available by appointment. Send me an e mail: Margaret.Ford@cityofbirchwood.com I will also review the slips below you submit:

- Thoughts to Share
- Potential Projects
- Funding Initiatives
- Community get together
- Possible New Committees

I am so happy to hear from all of my dear Birchwood neighbors!

Happy Spring,
Margaret

***DO NOT USE FOR ITEMS REQUIRING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.**

IF YOU NEED SOMEONE AT THE CITY TO REACH OUT - CONTACT INFO: _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENT: _____

DROP THE SLIP OFF AT THE CITY HALL'S COMMENT BOX.