

### WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS:

- Steven Bartlett & Lance Benson 9 White Pine Ln
- Joseph Nelson & Linsday Paulson 707 Hall Ave
- Daniel Windisch & Grace Krautkremer 426 Birchwood

### JOIN OUR E-MAILING LIST

If you don't receive email notices from the city, please reach out to [info@cityofbirchwood.com](mailto:info@cityofbirchwood.com) to be added for emergency and other important updates!

### BIRCHWOOD CITY TREASURER RETIRES

Mary Cahill, resident and our "Bestest Treasurer" is retiring. Mary, thank you for your service! You will be greatly missed!

### RECYCLING KNOW HOW

Curbside recycling is available within our village, but are you doing it right? Please rinse all glass, metal, cartons and recycleable plastic (#s 1,2, & 5) containers before adding them and other paper / cardboard into your recycling bin. Don't bag up the recycling or include any plastic bags / wrap, any tanglers (wires, string lights, etc.) or shredded paper. Look to [recyclingexists.com](http://recyclingexists.com) for more tips.

### YOGA CLASSES HELD AT CITY HALL

Yoga at city hall continues to be a great success. Next session offering is 3/6 thru 4/28. Reach out for updates on class options or registration to [yogadevo@gmail.com](mailto:yogadevo@gmail.com).

### UPDATED FEES FOR BIRCHWOOD VILLAGE

Several fees were reviewed and updated at our February 13th Council Meeting. To view these updates, go to our Birchwood Village website, or at <http://tinyurl.com/BV-fee-schedule>

### PET WASTE DISPOSAL AWARENESS

Spring is near and we all know what a job pet waste pick up can be. Did you know that dog waste is more than just an unsightly and smelly nuisance? It also carries harmful bacteria and parasites that can contaminate our waterways, soil, and harms wildlife. Birchwood provides safe dog waste bags for your use

in 3 locations. Please be kind to all and pick up and dispose of waste properly.

### COMMUNITY CLUB UPDATES

Thank you to Hope Monette for organizing the **holiday party** on December 10th. The kids had a great time!

If you would be interested in joining the community club to help with events like the upcoming 4th of July parade please, email [communityclubbirchwood@gmail.com](mailto:communityclubbirchwood@gmail.com) so we can include you in the meetings leading up to that event.

### 2024 MUSIC IN THE PARK

There will be another concert series on Sunday evenings this summer in the hockey rink in Tighe-Schmitz Park, our fourteenth year. The Riff Rangers, a versatile quintet, and a crowd favorite, will kick off the series on Sunday June 2. The concerts will continue on most Sunday evenings through August 28 with a wide range of music for all audiences. The full schedule will be posted on the city webpage. The concerts are free and open to the public. Bring your lawn chair and come for a fun night of music with your friends and neighbors.

### CANOE AND KAYAK RACK RENTAL FOR RESIDENTS STARTS MARCH 1ST

Registration for canoes and kayaks is underway. Your application may be found at our website under [www.cityofbirchwood.com/watercraft](http://www.cityofbirchwood.com/watercraft). A fee of \$30 per watercraft along with your application is required. With receipt of your payment, we will issue you a permit tag that must be applied to your watercraft. You may park your watercraft on your rack from April 1 through October 31st.

### PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Birchwood Village Parks and Natural Resources Committee hopes everyone is having a great "winter" season! As we all get ready for the spring and summer months, the committee wanted to send along a few community updates and reminders.

As always, the committee is open to community

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feedback, concerns, or ideas on ways to improve our parks & natural spaces. Our committee meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30PM at the Village Hall, and we are always available at [parks@cityofbirchwood.com](mailto:parks@cityofbirchwood.com).

**CLEAN UP AND ARBOR DAY**

Arbor Day is all about the trees! Birchwood is combining this nationally-recognized day with a **Village-wide Clean Up Day on Saturday, April 27th at 10:00AM**. To ease our Ash Tree loss, consider planting trees to help provide canopy for shade and habitat and natural beauty to our yards and parks.

Informational handouts on trees will be available in the Village Hall at our Clean Up Day – drop by and help keep our community looking great!

**TIGHE-SCHMITZ PARK PUBLIC FORUM**

We are excited to announce our next public forum focusing on the future of Tighe-Schmitz Park! We have been working closely with representatives from the Washington Conservation District and Rice Creek Watershed District to learn more about the park, future planning, and potential grant opportunities to help fund new projects.

The public forum is tentatively scheduled for **Saturday, May 18th at 10:00AM at City Hall**. Additional notification will be communicated by the city. The forum will focus on a history of the use of Tighe-Schmitz Park, solicit the public for ideas and preferences for the park, and describe potential grant programs available. Representatives from the Washington Conservation District will be present to answer questions from the public.

**WATER CONSERVATION**

Water conservation during our summer months is important, especially with the little snowfall this winter and generally dryer summers we have had that fill our lakes and replenish groundwater resources. Residents are reminded that, by ordinance (201.440), irrigation restrictions are mandated for the warmer months (May 1 - September 30) for all properties within Birchwood Village. Watering **cannot** occur from 10:00AM to 5:00PM, per city ordinance. This is especially important with our frequent drought conditions.

**SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!**

Many in our community have offered to help maintain our parks and beaches. Please be on the lookout for a new posting on the city's website with a spreadsheet listing various tasks that anyone can volunteer to complete. All volunteers will be required to sign a waiver for the work they are signing up for and will work closely with city staff or committee members to fully understand the task.

The spreadsheet will be updated periodically to reflect new and completed tasks. Thanks for your help in keeping our community beautiful!

**NEW SIGNS AT PARKS AND BEACHES**

We have been working in conjunction with city council to update the beach and park signs to reflect new changes in the city code (Chapter 607). The new signs are expected to be installed in the spring at all city parks and beaches. Please be aware that per city code (607.216), dogs will be allowed at all beaches and parks, with the exception of Kay Beach, and must be leashed at all times. No dogs are permitted at Kay Beach at any time due to it being a designated swimming beach. Smoking and motorized vehicles will not be allowed at any park or beach.

**GREETINGS FROM MAYOR MARGARET**

**THE WINTER THAT ALMOST WAS!**

The mild winter spared us the usual plowing challenges associated with heavy snowfall. At the time of this writing, we are well within our snow care budget. We'll brace ourselves for March.

The skating season has been short and sweet. Thanks to Jim Rydeen for managing the rinks during this challenging weather. Also thanks to all who volunteered to improve the rink.

I'm also happy to announce that we've had only one water main break to date. Thanks to John Manship for his careful investigation and quick action ensuring the reliability of our water infrastructure.

While we did encounter an emergency repair situation at two of our sewer lift stations, our swift response and action prevented any disruptions to or failure of service.

I'm pleased to share that progress on the construction of a new sewer lift station is well underway. We are in the final stages of approval of our plans and are putting the project out for construction bids.

I'm happy to share that two task forces are forming. One to assess the feasibility, costs and benefits of a bike path in Birchwood. This initiative aligns with our commitment to promoting alternative transportation methods, enhancing community for all residents.

The second task force is for improving road safety. These groups will share ideas to land on the best recommendations for our community.

As always, I welcome your continued engagement and feedback as we work together to make our town an even better place. Happy spring!

Margaret Ford