



BIRCHWOOD VILLAGE NEWS



City of Birchwood Village, MN

SUMMER 2019

Welcome new residents: Veronica Standish 3876 E. Co Line Rd; John & Nettie Warner 432 Birchwood Cts; Carla Sellner & Bradley Smith 232 Wildwood Ave; Bradley and Kelly Hanson 404 Birchwood Ave; Nicolas and Jami Studler 4029 1/2 E. Co Line Rd.; Hope Monette 182 Cedar; Timothy Ehlenz 161 Wildwood

Our condolences to:

- **Sharon Muellerleile** and the family on the passing of **Larry Muellerleile**.
- **Mary, Kevin & Jim Woolstencroft** on the passing of husband and father **Bill Woolstencroft**.
- The friends of **Marie Klabunde** (former resident) who recently passed away.
- **Bev Bosse** on the passing of her daughter **Carole Johnson**.
- Our Friends in **Willernie** on the passing of local institution and friend **David "Smiley" Letourneau**.

Our thanks to:

- **All our neighbors** who have cleared snow away from water hydrants.
- **Mary and Mark Cahill** who have adopted two storm sewer grates and remove debris from their grates after it rains.

BIRCHWOOD BUOYS:

The City Council is considering installing buoys at one or more of Birchwood's lake tracts for residents to rent. If you are interested in renting a buoy in Birchwood, please contact City Hall at info@cityofbirchwood.com.

KAYAK/CANOE RACK INFORMATION:

Coming soon: kayak racks at Kay Beach. Please contact City Hall for info.

You must register your boat and obtain a permit sticker before placement on a rack. Fee is \$30 per boat. All unregistered boats will be impounded at owner's expense.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Here is the link for our public water supply report. The analysis shows we are within the range of safety for all measured elements. Call 651-426-3403 for paper copies. https://www.cityofbirchwood.com/vertical/sites/%7BAA5D0154-C9CB-4BB6-8A70-7C86B8410F8A%7D/uploads/CCR_Report_PWS_1820_003_2018.pdf

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **4th of July Parade:** Queue on the 4th at 9:30 at 5 Birchwood Avenue. Parade starts to roll at 10 AM.
- **Music in the Park:** Sundays starting June 9th. Check <https://www.cityofbirchwood.com/events> for details.
- **All City Garage Sale:** Sat. June 22nd.

URGENT: LAKE LINKS OPEN HOUSE June 3, 2019 at 6:30 PM at City Hall.

Lake Links is a regional Bike/Pedestrian route around White Bear Lake. Some communities have received state funding and have done planning. Birchwood has not received such funding, but was one of the first to approve signage--which is posted on Wildwood, Lake and Hall Avenues.

The Roads Committee and Council recently met and discussed various possibilities going forward (provided we receive funding for such). None of the ideas were excluded from the list. The options include "do nothing more" as well as a number of different configurations. Options will soon be published on the city website.

This is the first time the city has addressed this issue and now we would like your input. Please come and tell us your thoughts. If you cannot come to the Open House, send us an email at info@cityofbirchwood.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Wanted: volunteer gardeners to occasionally weed the village hall garden.

UPDATES:

TUESDAY YOGA: Meets every Tuesday at the Village Hall. Contact Yogi Joyce Merienfeld for more information: jmarienfeld@gmail.com.

SATURDAY AM PICKLEBALL: Meets most Saturdays at the Tighe-Schmitz ice rink, weather permitting. Contact Mary Wingfield to be added to the contact list for updates: wingfield.mary@gmail.com.

BOAT SLIPS AVAILABLE: Open boat slips still available. Contact the Birchwood Dock Association (612-961-2254) for info or contact the city to be added to the wait list.

SEWER AND WATER NOTES:

In the past year, the cost of water meter reading has increased three fold. Historically, the city has billed quarterly. The idea of billing three times a year has been floated from time to time. This latest increase has again triggered that discussion. Clearly, the amount of each household bill would be greater if the city chose this option, but it would allow the city to reduce operational costs. We'd like to hear from you if you would appreciate fewer billing cycles or if you prefer the current process. Please drop a note to info@cityofbirchwood.com to weigh in on the discussion.

COMMUNITY CLUB ANNUAL DUES

Please make sure to send your dues (\$4) in the enclosed envelope. Your support funds various village events including the Fourth of July Parade and Christmas Party. Thank you to all for making Birchwood a great community.

GET THE LATEST EMAIL POSTS

It's free! This is a great opportunity to add your name to the list where you will be sent city updates, important notices, and some cool photography around town. Sign up online at www.CityofBirchwood.com and don't miss a week. You will also get notice of upcoming concerns such as hydrant flushing, leaf pick up dates, and road repairs. Fear not, this list is for internal city use only and will not be sold or provided to others.

SAVE \$2 ON YOUR UTILITY BILL

Sign up for Direct Withdrawal (made on the last day payment is due) by filling out the ACH form (see Spring 2019 newsletter at

<https://www.cityofbirchwood.com/newsletter>) and sending a voided check along with your utility payment. Your \$2 savings will start with the following utility billing. And you will continue to receive your statement and Village Newsletter by mail.

HELP STOP LAKE POLLUTION

The City of Birchwood Village asks your help to stop the discharge of illicit liquids and materials from entering the City's storm sewer system. Illicit discharges are generally any discharge not composed entirely of storm water; such as oil, paint, fertilizer, pet waste, car wash chemicals, and grass clippings. Storm sewer systems are not designed to handle anything other than storm water; everything dumped down the storm sewer eventually drains into lakes and streams. Illicit liquids and materials can kill important plants and animals and negatively impact the water quality.

Please take measures to keep the storm sewer system free from illicit discharge. If you see any unusual liquids or materials draining into a storm drain, ditch, stream, or lake, please call City Hall at [651-426-3403](tel:651-426-3403) or email info@cityofbirchwood.com. If it is after hours or on the weekend please call the Washington County Sheriff's department at 651-439-9381 or the 911 non-emergency hotline."

In addition to keeping our water safe, the city is always looking for ways to improve our natural resources. The city of Maplewood recently posted the following information to its residents to help in this endeavor. Here are some of their ideas. We think you might be interested in doing the same:

1. Protect a storm drain. Keep leaves, grass, and debris from getting into the drains by keeping them on your property an off the streets.
2. Mulch or compost your Grass. This reduces the need to fertilize.
3. Use zero-phosphate fertilizer – the soil does not need it and the runoff creates more algae in the lake.
4. Reduce storm-water runoff – direct down-spouts into your lawn, use rain barrels or create rain gardens.
5. Use native plants. They have deeper root systems and help with water infiltration.
6. Properly dispose of all hazardous waste.

CITY TREE INSPECTIONS NOTICE

If you want to be notified when our city tree inspector is out looking for diseased trees on your property, please contact the city administrator so you can be updated when the inspector will be in your neighborhood.

WHAT'S YOUR STORY

Birchwood will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2021. We are making plans for commemorating this grand occasion by soliciting stories from residents, past and present. Tell us what's your story. Some topic ideas include your family's history, what brought you to Birchwood or stories about living in your neighborhood. You decide what to write about. Recommended length is a full page or less. Thank you!

MAYOR'S NOTES

A month ago the City Administrator and I attended a Public Works Safety and Loss Control Workshop. We learned a number of things and have shared that with the council. There were two breakout sessions that were really insightful that you might find interesting as well:

- **THE BENEFITS OF INFRARED TESTING:**
Roof leaks, mold intrusion, and electrical hotspots all can cause long-term health issues and/or expenses for any homeowner. An infrared thermography analysis can provide a definitive analysis of whether these issues exist when they might otherwise go undetected. This is an indispensable tool for any building inspection, especially when remodeling or buying a home or other building. Knowing what I know now, I would not buy a house without this analysis.
- **PLAYGROUNDS:**
I met someone in attendance who is certified to perform playground equipment inspections. In talking with him, he told us that equipment degrades with time, then added that one company, "Landscape Structures", was the gold standard for longevity.
Last week I checked out what company manufactured our playground equipment. It turns out it is Landscape Structures! I then checked out their website and found they warranty their equipment for 100 years! That is amazing. Many thanks to our volunteer Parks Committee from 20 years ago that saw the value in buying a quality product that would serve us well for so many years to come.

Have a great and safe summer. M

CONTACT INFORMATION:

CITY HALL: 207 Birchwood Avenue, Birchwood MN; tel.: 651-426-3403; email: info@CityofBirchwood.com