



# BIRCHWOOD VILLAGE NEWS

City of Birchwood Village, MN

SUMMER 2022

**Welcome new residents:** at 403 Birchwood Av, and Emma Solheim, 138 Wildwood, Erica Scott, 179 Cedar. [And correction: **Brittany Libra**, 157 Birchwood Av.]

**Our condolences to:**

**Liz Simning and Trevor Thompson** on the passing of Liz's father **Jim Simning**... And the family of former long-time resident **Marie Berglund**.

**Our thanks to:**

- **Mary Cahill and Mary Wingfield** for their annual litter pick-up efforts in the ponds and along Hall Avenue.
- The volunteer "A team" (**Margaret and David Ford, Jon and Sue Fleck, Kevin Woolstencroft, Van Johnson, and Mary Wingfield**) who chipped up all the brush piles around town and cleared out behind city hall. Check it out—it looks great!

**BITS:**

With the help of the White Bear Lake Historical Society, Birchwood obtained another \$10,000 Legacy grant for signage at our remaining sites (Village Hall, Feistner Preserve, Polly's Park and Hall's Marsh). Watch for installation some time later this summer.

Feistner Beach boat space was awarded by lottery to Joe and Torie Wormwood. Thanks to all who submitted a request to be considered.

Gail Diez and Ellen Maas made the juried Northern Lights art exhibition at the White Bear Ctr for the Arts.

Welcome new City Clerk Rebecca Kellen. Rebecca started working for us May 18<sup>th</sup> and is our full-time clerk. She is available in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30 am- 1:30 pm.

New City Backflow code: If you have an irrigation system, please make sure you have the proper backflow installed protecting the city public water supply. Our new code provides for assessing any costs incurred back to the property owner if you don't have one. Don't assume risks you don't have to.

Dog licenses are now **THREE YEARS**, retroactive to January 1. This coincides with rabies shot certificates. The fee is \$25 for a three year license.

Payment of your utility bill by ACH now earns you a \$3 credit each quarter. Look in your utility bill for FFI.

**KAYAK/CANOE RACK REMINDER:** Please register your boat and obtain a permit sticker before selecting a spot on a rack. All boats must be registered or they will be removed. Registration is \$30/ boat.

**MAHTOMEDI FARMERS' MARKET:**

Saturdays June 25 - Oct 1, 8- noon. Veterans' Park Local growers, Artisans, Community Resource Table. FFI or to volunteer contact: [mahtomedifarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:mahtomedifarmersmarket@gmail.com)

**CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT**

Here is the link for our public water supply system 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/Consumer\\_Confidence\\_Report\\_2022.pdf](https://www.cityofbirchwood.com/vertical/sites/%7BAA5D0154-C9CB-4BB6-8A70-7C86B8410F8A%7D/uploads/Consumer_Confidence_Report_2022.pdf)

**BIRCHWOOD DOCK INFO:**

- The city dock fees collected are used exclusively for park improvements. Last year the city used the dock fees to pay for Music in the Park, buckthorn removal and chipping, park signage, birch path overlay, new trees and some tree removal among other things.
- Contact the Birchwood Dock Association (612-339-1436) for any questions or contact them to be added to the boat slip wait list.

**EVENTS UPDATES**

- **Independence Day Parade. Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>.** Queue up at 5 Birchwood Av starting at 9:30 am. Parade starts at 10 am and finishes at Wildwood Park where there are free snacks and drinks. Prizes for costumes and floats! Join us and connect with old friends and neighbors. FFI: [wingfield.mary@gmail.com](mailto:wingfield.mary@gmail.com)
- **Music in the Park-** See Page Two
- **Community Club Dues.** Please return enclosed envelope with your \$4 annual dues. Dues support our community events.
- **City-wide Garage Sale- No longer a thing**

**WATER SYSTEM NOTES**

- There were four major water main breaks this past winter. That is above the amount we budget for and has triggered the water /break surcharge of \$25 for the next three quarters.

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### **MUSIC IN THE PARK:**

Starting Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, the City's annual Music in the Park series will kick off at Tighe-Schmitz Park. The concerts will continue Sunday evenings through August 21 with a wide variety of talented musicians from around the Twin Cities.

These concerts are free of charge and open to the public. They start at 6:00 p.m. and run about 90 minutes. Bring your lawn chair and join your neighbors and friends for an evening of music and fun. Feel free to bring a picnic, snack and a glass of wine while enjoying the music. (In case of rain/covid, please watch postings on the web and street signage.)

#### June 12: **AMY AND ADAMS**

Eclectic//TinPanAlley/CountryBluesGrass blend of favorites and original tunes.

#### June 19: **LEGACY**

Four- piece group doing traditional and contemporary Irish vocal music and instrumental tunes.

#### June 26: **ENSEMBLE AVENTURA**

Five-person music ensemble specializing in world music with songs from Paris, Rio, and beyond!

July 3: No concert

#### July 10: **JENNIFER ECKES**

Cabaret vocalist, exploring the Great American Songbook and modern classics.

#### July 17: **THE RIFF RANGERS**

Western swing, vintage folk & rock classics, Big Band swing, Chicago blues and a wee bit of Irish

#### July 24: **ANY DAY NOW**

Six-member band playing classic rock n' roll/country – favorite songs from the sixties to today.

#### July 31: **GRIMM AND CRUZ**

Versatile and energetic guitarist. Talented vocalists. Bluegrass, Latin, jazz, original compositions

#### Aug 7: **SCOTTIE MILLER**

Keyboardist and vocalist. Combination of blues, soul, funk and jazz.

#### Aug 14: **HARMONIC RELIEF**

Adult show choir. A mix of music, choreography, staging. Folk, rock, show tunes, jazz and contemporary music.

#### Aug 21: **FABULOUS FAIRLANES**

a cappella Doo-Wop music from the 50s, 60s and newer

## **SUMMER 2022**

### **MORE UPDATES**

- The Northeast Family Youth Services offers assistance with mental health needs and chores services for seniors. This is a service to our community. Please take advantage of it.
- Be sure, be safe. Vote by mail. Contact the Secretary of State to apply for a ballot now.

### **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--don't miss a week by contacting us at [info@CityofBirchwood.com](mailto:info@CityofBirchwood.com).

### **MONARCHS ARE BACK**

Last year Nino Nardecchia held outdoor classes on "How to Raise Monarchs". The classes were well received, and he is offering the same again this year. Call him at 612-245-0461 or drop him a note at [headdragonkeeper@yahoo.com](mailto:headdragonkeeper@yahoo.com)

### **MAYOR'S NOTES**

With the recent closing of Old Highway 244, the city was instantly inundated with vehicles ignoring stops signs, speeding well above the speed limit, and passing over the double yellow line. Many were seen using cell phones, which is just as dangerous as driving under the influence of alcohol. The frustrating part was no one from the state or county communicated any of these potential problems to our city-- our city was not supposed to be a detour for this project. And law enforcement was unable to protect us.

The city immediately reached out for help. We worked with our county commissioner, county sheriff and county public works department to address this chaos. The next day was our regularly-scheduled council meeting, and we brought all the principals to the table to discuss our options. From the start, the safety of our kids and residents was paramount. The council discussed its options for over an hour and concluded that this *defacto* detour for much of the highway traffic needed to be stopped. The council decided to coordinate with the county to stop through-traffic from using Hall/Cedar.

Understandably, there was push-back for accommodating those who needed to get their kids to and from Mahtomedi schools. The city council then held a special meeting a couple days later and agreed to limited openings between the hours of 7-9 am and 2:30-4:30 pm.

This is not a perfect solution, but the alternative of allowing trucks, tankers, and so many non-compliant drivers was an accident waiting to happen...and it did. One bicyclist was clipped and thrown from his bike. There were a couple of near-hits with children as well.

Our decision was not made lightly, but the city council has always erred on the side of safety. We will continue to review the situation and make adjustments where we can. In the meantime, please take care and exercise due caution on our roads. Have a safe summer. M