



BIRCHWOOD VILLAGE NEWS



City of Birchwood Village, MN

Winter 2018

CITY OF BIRCHWOOD VILLAGE BUDGET

The purpose of this report is to provide summary 2019 budget information concerning the City of Birchwood Village to interested citizens. The budget is published in accordance with Minnesota Statute Section 471.6965. This budget is not complete; the complete budget may be examined at Birchwood City Hall, 207 Birchwood Avenue, Birchwood Village, Minnesota 55110 during normal business hours.

ICE RINK/WARMING HOUSE BITS:

Open 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday – Friday
And noon to 9:00 p.m. Saturday – Sunday.
The rink should be open for Christmas.
WEATHER PERMITTING!

SNOWPLOW FEEDBACK?

Send us your thoughts - good or bad.
info@cityofbirchwood.com

| Revenues: | <u>2019</u> | <u>2018</u> |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Property Taxes | 364,000 | 354,500 |
| Total Revenues | 364,000 | 354,500 |
| | | |
| Expenditures: | | |
| Current: | | |
| General Govt | 162,059 | 160,631 |
| Public Safety | 80,600 | 75,639 |
| Streets and Hwys | 43,400 | 43,500 |
| Sanitation | 16,300 | 24,500 |
| Culture and Rec | 28,590 | 15,570 |
| Miscellaneous | 3,051 | 4,660 |
| Trans to other funds | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| Total Expenditures | 364,000 | 354,500 |
| Excess (deficiency) | 0 | 0 |
| | | |
| Property Tax Levy to Fund This Budget | 364,000 | 354,500 |



Welcome New Residents: Daniel & Karen Fredrick 368 Wildwood, Matthew Boumeester 415 Birchwood Av, Luke and Aura Sorenson 409 Birchwood Av.

Our Condolences to: John Rubbelke on the passing of his brother, and to the families of Shannon Cilek and Dave Magler—both recently passed away.

Our Thanks to: Our Newsletter Stuffers last quarter: Rachael Drew, Chris Sorenson, Karleen Corliss, Bobbee Dowdal, Jim Rupert, Kevin Woolstencroft, Randy Lafoy and Mary Wingfield. [Ed note: We now are farming out newsletter stuffing to Merrick Inc.—a non-profit empowering adults with disabilities with meaningful work options. It is a win-win for all.]

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Come celebrate the season with your neighbors and Santa. Santa Claus will make a special appearance at the annual Birchwood Holiday Party on Wed., Dec. 12, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall. All Birchwood children are invited to stop by and decorate their own cookie and sip on hot chocolate, make an ornament and tell Santa their Christmas wishes. This is an opportunity for all Birchwood families – kids and adults alike – to enjoy a bit of holiday cheer with their neighbors! This event is free and snacks and beverages will be provided. Kids wearing jammies are welcome. If you have questions or would like to help at the party, contact Alicia (AliciaJakola@hotmail.com) or Felicia (fdtibayan@gmail.com)

ELECTION RESULTS:

Mayor: Mary Wingfield, 407 votes
 Councilmembers Jon Fleck 373 votes
 Kevin Woolstencroft 326 votes
 Special Election Jessi Aakre 397 votes

2019 WATER AND SEWER RATES

The Birchwood Utility Committee met this past month to review the sewer and water rates for 2019. The cost of delivering water has increased with a \$4 per household “water litigation fee” imposed by The City of White Bear Lake. Our Water Utility base fee will go up accordingly until that fee is rescinded.

Also, the cost of water from the City of White Bear Lake has gone up by 4%. Plus, we now have additional costs--contracting for the newsletter stuffing and our water meter reading contract more than doubled. The committee decided to increase the Water usage rates as a result. These new rates will be reviewed and considered by the council and probably become effective with the March billing.

LAKE AVENUE PROJECT AHEAD

Lake Avenue has significantly deteriorated due to excess wear from construction projects. The city has enlisted the help of MNDOT and their research staff and they agree it is appropriate to mill and overlay the street. The city has obtained an estimate for the work to be completed next summer. The cost is about \$45,000 of which no more than 50% will be assessed to the neighboring property owners and the city paying the balance. (The city will be paying a large portion of the assessed expense since the road abuts Tighe-Schmitz park.)

In conjunction with that project, residents have raised safety concerns at the Iris/Wildwood Av intersection. The project will probably include raising Iris to increase safety by eliminating the steepness of that intersection. Look for notice of the public hearing in the White Bear Press.

PLANNING COMMISSION OPENINGS

Two long-time PC members are retiring after many years of dedicated service: John Winters and Randy Felt. Thanks John and Randy!

The council is taking applications for these seats. If you are interested in being a part of reviewing city variance applications, conditional use permits and ordinances, please send a letter of interest to the city administrator by January 1, 2019.

WHITE BEAR LAKE CONSERVATION DISTRICT VACANCY

The city is looking for a representative to sit on the Conservation Board. Meetings are once a month on the second Tuesday at the White Bear Lake city hall. If you would like to be considered for this position, please send a letter of interest including giving us some information about yourself and your experience or desire to be considered for the post to the city administrator for consideration.

SHOVELING OPPORTUNITIES

Kindly consider adopting a hydrant near you and shoveling it out after it snows. We appreciate your help in helping keep our community safe.

Also, the meter reader needs access to your water meter. Please clear a path through the snow to make his job easier. Thanks!

MAYOR'S NOTES:

November 2018 is a date that has been circled on my calendar ever since I took office in 2010. I am very happy to report the City is now officially debt free! We have paid off the last sewer bond and we have done it even though we retired the \$25 sewer surcharges years ago. And we avoided taking on new sewer debt by lending city monies from the general fund to the sewer fund to defray the costs of this year's sewer project.

The council continues to manage your tax money diligently. The city levy is going up 2.68% or about \$10,000 for 2019. Those figures are shown on page one of this newsletter. By comparison, the County tax rate is more than double that increase.

One of the big projects that the council will be considering next year is repairing our Village Hall. There are some water and roof issues that need to be addressed. We have engaged an engineer to review the best way to ensure the building lasts well into this century.

I did a little background work on the history of our hall as we are approaching our 100 year city centennial. It turns out the hall was erected in 1932 and was designed by architect Magnus Jemme. Jemme designed the Art Deco building that used to house the Minnesota Women's Museum in downtown St. Paul. More amazing is our Village Hall was noted in the August 30, 1932 La Revue Moderne Illustree Des Arts et de la Vie. The picture shows our wonderful “Town Hall” dressed out with shutters and lintels. I know some Art Deco features are still under the current siding. It will be interesting to see what else we learn as we go forward. We will be sure to keep you posted.

I wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and New Year!

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EMAIL ADVANCED-NOTICE LIST

Add your name to our list for important happenings. 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.



DIRECT DEPOSIT YOUR UTILITY PAYMENT--NEVER RISK ANOTHER LATE PAYMENT!

City of St. Anthony

YES! I'd like to sign up for electronic payment!

| | | |
|--|---------------------|---|
| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY | Customer Account #: | |
| Name on account (Please print): | | |
| Address: | | |
| City: | State: | Zip Code: |
| Please transfer payments directly from my: | | <input type="checkbox"/> Checking account |
| Routing # : | Account #: | |
| I authorize City of St. Anthony to process debit entries from my account. This will remain in effect until I give reasonable notification to terminate this authorization. I have attached a voided check. | | |
| Authorized signature on account: | | Date: |