

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS:

- Avery Morse 160 Cedar St
- Jesus Sandoval 310 Wildwood Ave

JOIN OUR E-MAILING LIST

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

CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

After almost 3 years, Rebecca, (Becky) Kellen resigns as our City Administrator. We thank Becky for her dedication and service. Thank you to everyone who participated in our survey to determine any additional needs within this role as we start the hiring process.

WATER & SEWER RATE INCREASE - MAR 1

Due to increased costs, your water and sewer rates will increase effective March 1st, 2025.

Water Rates:	2025
Water flat fee	\$50.00
Water usage rate per 1000 gallons	
Tier 1:	\$4.30
Tier 2:	\$4.95
Tier 3:	\$5.64
Tier 4:	\$6.45
Tier 5:	\$7.33
Sewer Rates:	
Sewer flat fee per Qtr.	\$36.00
Sewer usage rate per 1000 gallons	\$4.78
Unmetered Sewer fee	\$84.85
Lift station replacement fee	\$20.00

Reminder, if you pay by ACH, you save \$3 and you never have to worry about forgetting a bill payment.

DOG LICENSE RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS

Thank you to all who renewed their dog license for this next term. If you have not had a chance to complete this requirement, you may find the dog license app at Birchwood's website. www.cityofbirchwood.com/general-city-information/permits-and-licenses.

NEW SPEED LIMIT COMING - 20 MPH

The city of Birchwood Village has adopted a speed limit of 20 mph on all residential roadways. Thank you to the road safety task force for developing a policy for this. Since the city of Birchwood is a walkable, bike-able village without sidewalks, has hidden driveways, is a residential community with small children and has limited road site lines. A speed limit of 20 mph will provide safer streets and reduce the likelihood of accidents and injuries.

A city email and notice will be put out prior to the change taking affect. Thank you for your cooperation!

LIFT STATION UPDATE

We're nearly there on the lift station replacement!

The contract has been signed with the contractors, all required forms have been submitted on grants.gov, and we're working on final plans. Anticipate more details from the city via email or the website as to time lines for when we break ground. We will be calling for task force volunteers soon!

2025 MUSIC IN THE PARK

There will be another concert series on Sunday evenings this summer in the hockey rink in Tighe-Schmitz Park, our 15th year. Sweet Rhubarb will return to kick off the series on Sunday June 8. The concerts will continue on most Sunday evenings through August 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 1

Registration for canoes and kayaks is underway. Your application may be found at our website under www.cityofbirchwood.com/general-city-information/canoe-and-kayak-storage/. A fee of \$35 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.

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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 so you can attend the meetings leading up to that event.

PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE UPDATES

Come join our Parks and Natural Resources Commission and make a difference! As a member, you will make recommendations to the City Council regarding policies, practices, and proposals that relate to our city parks. If interested, write us a letter telling us why you would be right for this seat. Forward your letter to info@cityofbirchwood.com

Tighe-Schmitz Park updates:

Plans are progressing as we move towards breaking ground for the \$75,000 grant to help address water management concerns and improve the park. We are working closely with WCD assistance to help with drainage and improvements. And we also have another \$10,000 grant in the works for another section of the park to address additional concerns from last year's park public forum. Plans will be presented yet this spring.

We'll need volunteers once we're ready to start work after the City Council approves the plans and the teams alert us to time lines. Watch your emails and the city website for updates - we can offset the full \$10,000 match required for the grant in volunteer work!

Our committee meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30PM at the Village Hall.

GET YOUR FOOD SCRAPS STARTER KIT

Let's make a difference! Ramsey and Washington counties are working together to bring residents a new way to recycle food scraps from home.

Food scraps such as fruit and vegetable peels, eggshells and coffee grounds make up 20% of trash. Recycling these food scraps helps turn them into soil rather than waste. Get started TODAY by visiting <http://FoodScrapsPickup.com> Call 651-661-9393 to get your food scrap bags.

FAMILY TREASURE HUNT & CLEAN UP

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 26th! Meet at City Hall at 10 am for our annual clean up day - bring gloves, rakes, and other yard tools to help tidy up

easements and city parks after winter. Then come back at 1:00pm for a Family Treasure Hunt. You will be in search of unique and unusual items within the City. Bring a phone and reusable bag. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place. See you then!

MAYOR'S CORNER



It has been a pleasure working with staff and residents the past two months. Your dedication to Birchwood is apparent. City Council has been working hard as well. We have attended two workshops in addition to the monthly Council meetings. The workshops allow us to have in-depth discussions on matters that will be voted on during the regular Council meeting. The public, of course, is invited to attend both. We always welcome resident input.

Speaking of input, thank you for taking the time to complete the survey that was posted on the City's website and Facebook page. Your Council made a pledge to the residents to increase communication and garner community feedback. If you did not complete the survey, it included questions regarding administrative staffing, City Hall office hours and communication preferences. Please feel free to email Jennifer.arsenault@cityofbirchwood.com anytime with any input you may have about improvements you'd like to see in the City.

We have heard from many about trees on public property that need to be removed or trimmed. Several trees have been identified for removal. If you see green ribbon on trees, that's what it's about.

The City will be hosting an **Open House April 7th at 6:30 pm** so our City Engineer, Marcus Johnson, can answer questions from and provide information to you about the road Capital Improvement Plan, drainage issues within the City and the possibility of incorporating the replacement of City water lines into the road plan.

The City has entered into a Tighe-Schmitz Park Field rental agreement with the Mahtomedi Youth Soccer Association. The Association will be using the field for practice this Spring. Many of the soccer players reside in Birchwood Village. What a great way to make use of a great space!

Coming this Spring:

- Replacement of the Wildwood Lift Station
- New 20 mph speed limit. You will be notified when the signs begin going up.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Arsenault