



**SUMMER  
2026**

# CITY OF BIRCHWOOD VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

## Birchwood Lake Links Enhancements

As part of the regional Lake Links trail connection initiative, the City of Birchwood will be adding several improvements this year to better support walking and biking throughout the community. These enhancements were recommended by the Birchwood Lake Links Committee, approved by the City Council, and funded through the Lake Links initiative.

### NEW AMENITIES COMING TO BIRCHWOOD

#### Four Benches

New benches, similar in style to the existing green bench at Birchwood City Hall, will provide welcoming places to rest and enjoy the lake loop.

#### Bike Repair Station

A public bike repair station equipped with basic tools and an air pump will be installed to help cyclists with quick adjustments and repairs.

#### Water Filling Station

A new water bottle filling station will offer a convenient place for walkers and cyclists to refill and stay hydrated.

#### Street and Safety Improvements

To support safer shared use of Birchwood streets, the City will also install a coordinated set of traffic signs and roadway markings, including:

- Two electronic speed feedback signs
- Six "Share the Road" signs
- Four blind-corner warning signs
- Bike and pedestrian sharrows in key locations

These improvements are intended to increase visibility, encourage safer driving behavior, and make it easier for pedestrians and cyclists to navigate the community.

#### Project Timeline

Installation of the benches, bike repair station, water filling station, and signage is expected to take place this summer. Roadway sharrows are planned for installation next summer.

## Parks Committee Reminders

As we gear up for summer, we would like to remind everyone of some summer best practices! Keep grass clippings out of the street and off driveways. If left on the street, this waste is washed by rain and garden hoses into storm drains and down streets where it winds up in our lake! Grass clippings and oil/grease residues negatively impact water quality. Thanks for your cooperation!

## Dog Licensing Discontinued

At the May 12<sup>th</sup> Regular City Council Meeting, it was decided to eliminate the dog licensing program in Birchwood.

## Summer Lawn Watering

Birchwood follows the City of White Bear Lake's water conservation ordinance prohibiting irrigation from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 1 through September 30 to reduce water loss from evaporation.

## Canoe and Kayak Rack Rental

Please register your watercraft and obtain a city permit sticker from City Hall before selecting a spot on a rack. The cost of the permit is \$40.00 and open to City residents.

## Shredded Paper Recycling

Shredded paper can be recycled — place it in a stapled paper bag labeled "Shredded Paper" so it stays contained and identifiable.

## Independence Day Celebrations

**Join us for the 75th annual Birchwood Parade!** Line up starts July 4<sup>th</sup> at **9:30am at 5 Birchwood Ave**, and **parade starts at 10am**. Kids - decorate your bikes, wagons or make a small float to join in the fun! After the parade, join us for free snacks, games and the annual tug-of-war.

- **We need volunteers!** Please email [communityclubbirchwood@gmail.com](mailto:communityclubbirchwood@gmail.com) - we would love your help!
- **Send nominations for this year's Grand Marshal** to the email address above with why that community member deserves the honor.
- **Calling all band players:** The Birchwood Band is returning for the parade and we want YOU! Come to the rehearsal at 9:00 am on the 4<sup>th</sup>. We rehearse on Birchwood Ave near East Cty Line Road. We will play the same music as last year. Contact Michael Lien for further details: [michael.lien09@gmail.com](mailto:michael.lien09@gmail.com)

Please note, the **road will be closed on July 4<sup>th</sup>**, from E County Line Rd at Birchwood Avenue and Wildwood Avenue to Wildwood park during the parade.

## Welcome New Residents:

- James & Michele Siefert, 143 Wildwood Ave

# Mayor's Corner

Dear Birchwood residents,

With the arrival of spring, maintenance and improvements have begun in the city.

## ROAD WORK

The following is the work tentatively scheduled for 2026. Please note that all of the quotes for road work have not yet been received so the scope of the work could either be expanded or narrowed.

### May

- Crack-filling and sealing on Cedar, Hall, Hall Ct., Jay St., White Pine Lane. With the exception of part of Cedar, this has been completed.

- Cleaning and televising of all storm sewers and catch basins\*
- Cleaning and televising of 40% of sanitary sewer mains\*
- Xcel will be replacing the gas main and gas line service to homes on Birchwood Ave, Birchwood Cts and Jay. (This is a project initiated and paid for by Xcel.)

\*Before replacing the top layer of asphalt on the roadway, we want to make sure the underlying infrastructure is sound.

### End of May/June

- City-wide pot hole filling
- Vialytics-Street Condition Assessment (City-wide)\*
- Road striping on Cedar and Hall

\*This is done to verify that our current road plan is still accurately addressing the roads in the worst condition first and will also assist with future planning and budgeting.

### May-August

- Identifying and mapping curbstops (the shut-off value between the water main and water line to house) within the city.

### August/September

- Birchwood Ave., Birchwood Cts. and the city hall parking lot will be milled and overlaid.\*

\*This plan may be adjusted base on the results of the vialytics and the televising of sanitary and stormwater sewers.

### Tree work

City trees are currently being identified for removal and bids for their removal will be requested. Please note that the city is aware of the volume of dead Ash trees. The dangerous ones will be prioritized for removal. The grant money for the removal and replacement of trees in Polly's Park has been reinstated. That work will begin in the winter of 2027.

### Tighe-Schmitz

Work on the drainage in and around the park is scheduled to begin mid-summer.

Please remember that we have a limited budget with which to work. I realize all of the roads are in bad condition. The council is working to make good, data-driven decisions on prioritizing road repair. We also have to take into consideration Xcel's work. We do not want to put down new asphalt just to have them dig through it. The roads didn't get into this condition in one or two years nor will they all be repaired in that timeline. Thank you for your patience as we move forward. Lots of good things are happening in the city. Have a great summer!

Jennifer Arsenault, Mayor of Birchwood Village



# 2025 Water Status Consumer Confidence Report

The City's annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is now available online. This report provides important information about the quality of your drinking water.

View the report here:

[cityofbirchwood.com/notices/public-notices/](http://cityofbirchwood.com/notices/public-notices/)

Contact City Hall with any questions or to request a printed copy.

## Music in the Park

Music in the Park returns for the 2026 season at Tighe-Schmitz Park Sundays from 6:00 - 7:30 pm! Pack a blanket or lawn chair and settle in for evenings filled with local talent, fresh air, and a great time with neighbors. These concerts are free and open to the public - tipping is appropriate. Beer and wine are permitted. More details can be found at [cityofbirchwood.com/community/current-events-and-services/](http://cityofbirchwood.com/community/current-events-and-services/)

June 7 <sup>th</sup>	Sweet Rhubarb
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Any Day Now
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	Harmonic Relief
June 28 <sup>th</sup>	Folk Revival
July 5 <sup>th</sup>	No Concert - July 4 <sup>th</sup> Weekend
July 12 <sup>th</sup>	Artrio
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	The Riff Rangers
July 26 <sup>th</sup>	The Capri Big Band
August 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Scottie Miller
August 9 <sup>th</sup>	Jennifer Eckes
August 16 <sup>th</sup>	Legacy Celtic Band
August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Swing Soufflé
August 30	Fabulous Fairlanes

## Introducing the Birchwood Connections Committee

Hello Birchwood! My name is Jamie Eisele, and I am honored to serve as chair of the new Birchwood Connections Committee. Along with four amazing resident volunteers, our committee is dedicated to strengthening community connections and ensuring all residents feel welcomed and included in the life of the city.

We are excited to host **our first event** on **Friday, June 7, from 5:00-6:15 p.m. at Tighe-Schmitz Park**, before the first Music in the Park. Please join us for a **free ice cream social** and a **community rock caterpillar craft**.

We would appreciate your participation in a short survey to hear what residents would like to see from the committee in the future.

Please scan the QR code to share your ideas and feedback. You may also respond by phone (651-426-3403) or complete a paper copy offered at city hall.

