



BIRCHWOOD VILLAGE NEWS



City of Birchwood Village, MN

Fall 2016

Our sympathies extended to: Annie and Dave Vail on the passing of Ellie Butler; the family of John Griffith, who lived here for many decades and the family of Jeff Lutz, who was our hockey rink attendant for many years.

Welcome new residents: Tom McKeown, 441 Lake Av; Jennifer Hart, 5 Hall Ct, Dylan Tierney, 234 Cedar St; Mark Schauffhausen, 240 Wildwood Av; Roger & Donna Madison, 158 Wildwood Av; Dane Hansen, 267 Wildwood Av; Jason Gray, 708 Hall Av.

Thanks to our Volunteers:

- Lori Klimp, Mary Sue Simmons, Nancy Rush, Ron Sternal and Barb Flatten for stuffing the summer newsletter
- Steve Dean for cutting back the road brush.
- Steve Schad for updating the park signs regarding pets at the beach easements.
- Jim Halverson and Mary Wingfield for helping cut and remove downed trees on Hall Avenue, and Dan Webber and Mark Thury for storm damage clean up.
- Bob Byerly, Jim Rupert and Mary Wingfield for taking care of the flags on the Avenues.
- Mark Anderson on getting the stop signs put in along Hall/Cedar.
- Kevin Woolstencroft for welding the city hall railing back together. That was a huge undertaking and we were able to reuse the original sturdy wrought iron. Kevin saved us thousands of dollars. Thanks, Kevin, it looks fantastic!
- Jane Harper for serving four years on the White Bear Lake Conservation Board.

SEX OFFENDER RESIDENCY UPDATE

The city council preliminarily adopted residency restrictions that prohibit any Level 3 offender from residing within 1000 feet of a park. A public hearing is required and has been set for September 13, 2016 at 7 PM at the city hall before the code is formally adopted.

FALL LEAF COLLECTION: Signs will be posted along the main roads two weeks prior to pick up dates.

PATTY WETTERLING IS COMING TO THE SEPTEMBER 13th CITY COUNCIL MEETING*

Much has been learned in the course of listening to experts and researching information on predatory offenders. Most importantly, the more we know and the more we educate our kids, the better off we will be to protect them. Patty has taken on this mission as a result of her painful and very public tragedy in her family. Her lessons apply to all of families. The council believes it is appropriate and proper to have Patty come talk with us. Please join the council in having an open discussion about this issue.

***Recent developments could cause a schedule change. Please contact city hall to confirm date.**

DO NOT FLUSH FLUSHABLES!

Perhaps you have already heard, but those Swiffers and other cleaning products bog down the sewer systems costing millions of dollars to remove and unclog treatment facilities. Please put all such products (diapers, rags, wipes, cloths, etc) in the garbage. It will save a lot of trouble and expense in the long run.

RECYCLABLES ONLY PLEASE!

Our residents are doing a great job of recycling. Ninety-eight percent of collections are in fact recyclable. However, a few items that are making their way into our bins should be tossed in the garbage. Please remember to toss diapers, items with food bits and all Styrofoam into the garbage.

NEW LEVY, SAME OLD NUMBERS

The city council has adopted the same figure as 2014, 2015, and 2016 for next year's budget: \$326,299. This continues maintaining the standard set by the budget committee in 2009. Not that we need to compare ourselves to other communities, but we are doing really well at maintaining our expenses yet finding ways to improve our community and use your tax dollars wisely.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Fall Plant Exchange: Sept 24 at 10 AM at the Village Hall. Bring a plant or two for adoption or bring some treats to share. Coffee provided.

FFI: Randy Lafoy--ph. 651-429-9229

COMMUNITY CLUB ANNUAL DUES

Thanks to the following families that have given so generously in supporting the Community Club. Thanks to all our unique community traditions continue!

\$50 donors: J McCormick/B Sperl, W&M Hullsiek

\$20+ donors: L Broomell, B Flatten, J Alnes/B. Kruse, D&C Anderson, S&N Ferry, B. Kolcinski, D&P Trepanier, P&M Steinhauser, G&S Ruehle, E&S Bowar, S&M Newman, C&P Witthaus, U&P Rahkola, J&B Bertram, M Hauser, R Larson, S Dean, R&M Sternal, M&S Mercer

\$10 donors: A&A Jackola, B Brenny, M Johnson, L Lodmell, B&R Trink, T&J Thornquist, S Schway, J&J Molitor, B Peltier, D&W Wall, V Johnson, D&K Madore, C&M Sorenson, B&K McGinnis, J&P Elias, N Calderon/R Lessard, T&T Muench, D Tellier, T&A Hoffman, R Ebbott

NEW TREE PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

As a result of numerous concerns we received about old, stately trees being removed in Birchwood, the council reviewed what other communities do to protect these natural assets. After many months of revisions and reconsiderations, the city passed an ordinance that addresses those concerns. The ordinance requires replacement trees when oaks and other desirable trees are removed. The new code DOES NOT require replacements for dead or diseased trees, or less desirable trees such as cottonwoods, ash, box elder, silver maple or buckthorn. Please consult with our city administrator or the city web pages if you have any questions.

FOURTH OF JULY PARADE RECAP

It was a spectacular day for a parade this year. Folks from around the area enjoyed reconnecting and making new friends during the 65th annual parade. John Manship and Steve Dean were co-grand marshals (each equally deserving, but reluctant to take the spotlight alone). They have contributed greatly to the community spirit of volunteering when something needs to be done. We also had many people contribute to the success of our event. Please thank these folks if you see them, and consider adding your name to the list next year.

Band leader Michael Lien and assistant Nancy Maas; Balloon guy Dave Trepanier and helpers Bill and Mary Hullsiek, Acadia Hegedus, Kellie Lund, Barb Brenny, Kevin Woolstencroft, Megan Hough, Cynthia Tomlinson, and Jim Rupert; popcorn and cotton candy peeps: Mary and Tom Marthaller and friends; Superb Games guy: Aaron Johnson, Super parade leader and prep guy Bill Trink; Food guys: Kevin Woolstencroft and Ron Sternal; Singer extraordinaire Ginny Altman; GM escort John Lund; Flag gal Lori Klimp; bins guy Randy Lafoy; Grounds: Aakres, Murrays, Vails; and special thanks to John Lauer and the VFW Post 1782 Rifle Squad, American Legion Post 168, and Sons of American Legion Auxiliary Color Guard, and Scout Troop #434.

HOME ENERGY AUDIT AVAILABLE for \$35
(from Randy Lafoy)

In just two hours, the Home Energy Squad will design and install a customized energy-saving solution that meets your comfort needs and will help decrease your energy use each month.

For a \$35 trip charge, they'll install FREE, energy-saving materials valued at over \$200 including:

- High-efficiency lighting, including CFL bulbs
- Programmable thermostat
- Door weather stripping
- Faucet aerators
- Water heater insulation

Call them at 651-328-6220 to schedule an appointment or visit HomeEnergySquad.net for more information. As a personal testimonial, they visited my house and left me with a bag of old lights they'd replaced with energy efficient bulbs and they weather-stripped a door and replaced shower heads – all for \$35.

MAYOR'S NOTES

By now you have noticed the stop signs along Cedar and Hall Avenue. While it might be inconvenient to some of you, it has greatly improved the quality of life for those living along the road. Our goal was to improve safety and encourage drivers to not cut through Birchwood on their way around the lake. Traffic volumes have been reduced significantly. A side benefit is we have also gained much more compliance with the 25 MPH speed limit. The council will continue to monitor the situation and look for ways to continue to make our community safe. Let us know your thoughts.

Be safe, schools are back in session. m