



BIRCHWOOD VILLAGE NEWS



City of Birchwood Village, MN

Spring 2019

Welcome new residents: Bradley and Kelly Hanson (404 Birchwood Ave)

Our condolences to: Dolores Schreiner on the passing of her sister Margaret "Margie" Frances;

Betty, Cindy and Vicky Nicholson on the passing of their son/brother Robert (Bub)

Our thanks to:

- **Felicia Leammukda** and **Alicia Jackola** for putting on another super Christmas party and **Brian Lind** for being one of Santa's helpers.
- **Kevin Woolstencroft** and **Chip Treen** for helping hang the Veterans' Day flags on main street.
- **All our neighbors** who have cleared snow away from water hydrants. THANK YOU!



KAYAK/CANOE RACK INFORMATION

Please register your boat before locking it to a rack. All boats must be registered prior to placement on a rack. Registration opened March 1 at City Hall and the new fee is \$30 per boat - fee increase will allow us to improve our racks and cover admin costs. Boats may be placed on the racks after April 1 and must be removed by October 31. Please be courteous to your fellow boaters -- ANY BOAT PLACED BEFORE APRIL 1 AND BEFORE A PERMIT HAS BEEN OBTAINED WILL BE IMPOUNDED.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The city has various boards that are open or up for renewal from time to time. This month the council is soliciting residents who are interested in the following positions:

- White Bear Lake Conservation District
- Cable commission Representative
- Water Utility Advisory Group

Meetings are monthly. Please contact the city administrator for more information and to submit a letter of interest by March 10, 2019.

**MORE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Historic Building Committee forming**

The City Council has determined that our Village Hall is in need of substantial repair / maintenance. With our centennial coming up, this is a good time to come up with a long term plan. We are looking for folks who are interested in helping look into research, planning, design solutions, grants and any other areas of review for this project.

In reviewing the history of our building, we learned that the Village Hall has quite the pedigree. It was profiled in the August 30, 1932 French magazine "La Revue Moderne" as an example of Art Deco by Architect Magnus Jemne. FFI see:

https://www.cityofbirchwood.com/index.asp?SEC=648C4AF5-9CF6-4EBC-AFEF-230D4ADB2324&DE=C453F18A-EFA1-403D-9F44-3D0FF5EA5235&Type=B_BASIC

This is an exciting opportunity to determine the future of our city hall going into our second century. Please contact Mary Wingfield (wingfield.mary@gmail.com) or the city administrator if you want to be a part of this committee.

SPRING LEAF PICK UP

The city will again provide spring leaf pick up service. Pricing is as follows: \$40/small pile; \$75/ large pile; mega piles will be determined on case by case basis; plus \$2 service charge. You will be billed for each pick up. Check the city website or send us your email so we can alert you.

Road signs will be put out at the entrances into town as a reminder when the dates are nearer.

FREE CABLE ACCESS

If you don't have cable and want access to local programming, including city council meetings, you are entitled to PEG universal service. (FYI, you must subscribe to cable for all other channels.) Just request it through the Suburban Cable Commission office (651) 747-3802 and they will coordinate it with Comcast.

HYDRANT FLUSHING REMINDER

Hydrant flushing will begin about mid-April. Although the water will still be safe, flushing can cause turbulence in the water mains and discoloration may result. If this occurs, run the water until it is clear.

2 BIRCHWOOD VILLAGE NEWS

TUESDAY YOGA --Temporarily suspended as our instructor is recovering from surgery. Contact city hall if you want to be included on future notices.

SNOW REMOVAL UPDATE

With the snowiest February on record, the city has been out figuring how to deliver better snow plowing results. A common problem is when stakes or markers are put at the roadside edge. This results in narrower streets and extra snow being deposited on other properties nearby.

The Roads Committee will be developing a policy that addresses these concerns so we have enough room to push snow off our roadways. If you would like to comment on this, please contact our city administrator by April 1.

SEWER AND WATER NOTES:

The City of White Bear Lake supplies our water and has again increased its water rates and has added a \$4/quarter lake litigation fee. And our meter reading rates have tripled the past year. The council has increased water rates accordingly as follows (these are reflected in your current bill):

2019 Water rates:

Flat fee - \$21 (2018 rate \$15)

Tier 1 - 2.56 (2018 - 2.46)

Tier 2 - 2.95 (2018 - 2.84)

Tier 3 - 3.39 (2018 - 3.26)

Tier 4 - 3.91 (2018 - 3.76)

Tier 5 - 4.48 (2018 - 4.31)

Met Council has increased our sewer processing rates by 8% for 2019. Your sewer rate is increasing by that amount, as follows:

2019 Sewer Rates:

Flat fee - \$36 (2018 rate \$36)

2019 Usage rate - 3.37 (2018 - 3.12)

2019 Sewer only \$80 (2018 - \$70)

However, the City Council wants to encourage residents to use ACH direct withdrawal for utility payments. You can reduce your utility bill by \$2 each period. ACH reduces time and processing costs and the risk of mistakes or lost paper. ACH means your checking account will have the exact amount due withdrawn on the LAST day of the billing for one of the quarters. If you wish to be heard on this issue, please contact the city administrator or any of the council members.

Spring 2019

POPULATION 875, MEETING YOUR NEIGHBORS ONE NEWSLETTER AT A TIME by Peggy Witthaus

Meet Birchwood neighbors Craig and Peggy Witthaus. Peggy and Craig are life-long area residents, who share a love of sailing, skiing, art, travel and entertaining. Craig grew up in Birchwood, and Peggy in Mahtomedi. They have been Birchwood residents for almost 10 years.

Craig grew up in Birchwood at 121 Wildwood Avenue-- a wonderful place to grow up for the four Witthaus kids: Lise, Marc and Craig (twins) and Marni. Summers were special and a blur of cutoff jean shorts, bare feet and T-shirts. During those years, the biggest decisions were whether to swim, sail, water ski, or just goof around with friends. Many of us growing up in the late 50s and 60s forgot what shoes felt like until September rolled around and we had to go back to school. Craig certainly misses those days. Growing up next to Ken and Jibby Maas, and the Nicholson and Norton families was a wonderful and magical time.

After leaving Birchwood, Craig traveled west, and attended the University of Oregon in Eugene as an art history/sculpture major. He completed his degrees at the University of Minnesota with a BA in Psychology, and a Master's in Industrial Relations, the Carlson School of Management. Craig enjoyed a career in management/print production at 3M company for 20+ years, then a stint as Human Resources manager followed by 10 years teaching Business Management and Leadership at Concordia University in St. Paul.

Recently retired, Craig is more involved with Art and painting, which he did as a hobby for many years. He is active with White Bear Center for the Arts, and has a variety of landscape and sailing themed, original art and prints for sale through local dealers and on his web site. He also enjoys commission paintings, where he collaborates with clients to create something very personal and specific to them. Craig thinks it's good to have a series of careers... keeps life interesting?

Peggy is one of six kids. She went to St Jude's for elementary school and had classmates from Mahtomedi and Birchwood. "The lake was always part of our summer activities – swimming lessons at East Shore beach, dock parties and floating in old, black rubber inner tubes. We stopped almost daily at Ralph's or Jerry Elliot's for snacks! In the winter we'd walk across the lake, skate, play broomball or fly down Hinck's (315 Wildwood Ave) front bank on saucers or oversized inner tubes. Their Dad would build an amazing curved track down the hill with a six foot drop onto the lake at the end. The lake then, just like now, was a big part of our life!

3 BIRCHWOOD VILLAGE NEWS

Peggy attended Mahtomedi High School and then the U of MN and Concordia for her undergraduate degrees. Graduate school at University of St Thomas in Business Communications and Marketing. She has held various sales and marketing positions, is an Adjunct Professor in Marketing and currently works in Marketing at Genentech, a biotechnology company in San Francisco. Her job involves extensive travel – and she and Craig have taken advantage of frequent flyer miles to visit over 40 countries to date! She also volunteers on the Board of new Lakeshore Players Theatre, at the Hanifl Performing Arts Center in White Bear Lake.

With all of that travel and big world- experiences, we are ALWAYS happy to get home to the lake and to Birchwood.

DISEASE TREE REMOVAL REMINDER

If you have a diseased tree that must be removed pursuant to city code, please remember the last day to remove it is April 15.

MAYOR'S NOTES

We have three lift stations in Birchwood. The one at the hockey rink serves the eastern half of Birchwood. The one at the west edge of Birchwood Lane serves about a dozen homes there. Both those lift stations pump waste to the Wildwood Lift station at Birch Beach where all of the city's sewage is then pumped up the hill to East County Line.

About half of your sewer bill goes to cover maintenance and operating costs; the balance goes to Met Council to pay for treatment costs.

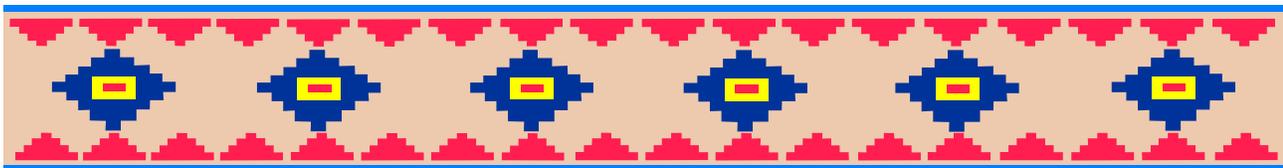
Spring 2019

Recently, the Birchwood Lane lift station developed issues that required us to consider replacing the facility—a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Knowing that White Bear Township has a lift station in the area, it made sense to look into the possibility of building a gravity flow pipe from Birchwood to the nearest WBT manhole. Our engineer verified that this is reasonable and feasible and has been working with the appropriate agencies to begin construction. We anticipate the project will happen this spring.

I am proud of the relationship we have with White Bear Township that has allowed us to pursue a common sense solution without delay. This type of inter-government cooperation should be considered by cities and counties whenever possible--it is a win-win for all.

Have a happy spring.

m



NEW!

NEVER RISK ANOTHER LATE PAYMENT!

SAVE \$2 ON YOUR UTILITYBILL!

Sign up for Direct Withdrawal (made on the last day payment is due) by filling out the form on next page and sending a voided check along with your utility payment. Your \$2 savings will start with the following utility billing. Thank you!

*

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:

(Utility Billing is processed in cooperation with the City of St Anthony)