



# BIRCHWOOD VILLAGE NEWS



City of Birchwood Village, MN

Fall 2016

### Welcome new residents:

Nathan Smith (3980 E Co Line), Aaron Will and Tara Fernholv (212 Birch St), James and Karen Anderson (364 Hall Av), Catherine Carlson (306 Wildwood Av).

### Our sympathies extended to:

- Joann Thornquist whose husband Ted passed away this fall. Ted was a dedicated ham radio operator and long-time resident
- David Sohl and Maxine Griffith passed away recently. Both were long-time residents.

### Our thanks to:

- Volunteer stuffers: **Cynthia Tomlinson, Mary Sue Simmons, Karleen Korliss, Ron Sternal, Gene and Shirley Ruele, Mary Hullsiek, Michael Lien, Suzanne Donnell and Mary Wingfield** for stuffing the fall newsletter. We accomplished our task in 45 minutes and had great conversation to boot.
- Mary Sue Simmons for her work on the Citizens Advisory Committee reviewing water issues for the Rice Creek Watershed District the past five plus years as member and vice chair.
- Steve Schad for updating the park signs now allowing pets at the lake easements.
- Mike Boerjan (aka Borj) for keeping the Cedar Hill well sanded in the winter. For many years Borj has spread salt out of the barrel there to keep folks from sliding off the road. Please do not deposit dog poop bags in Borj's barrel!
- Thanks to Mike Evangelist and those in the Birchwood Dock Assn who took in Kay Beach Dock this fall saving the city \$250!
- **Bob Byerly, David and Evan Drew and Mary Wingfield** who posted the American flags in time to honor our war veterans.

If you would like to add your name to future volunteer activities opportunities, contact [mary.wingfield@juno.com](mailto:mary.wingfield@juno.com)

### WARMING HOUSE HOURS:

3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Tuesday – Friday  
10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday – Sunday.  
Closed Mondays.

### TRUTH IN TAXATION MEETING

The city will hold its annual TIT meeting on December 13, 2016 at 7 PM at the Village Hall. The annual levy is posted on the last page of this newsletter and remains the same as past years. However, please note that there was a clerical error resulting in a 27% increase in the budget. That will be corrected when you receive your actual property tax statement this spring.

### SANTA IS COMING TO TOWN!

Join your neighbors and come to the annual Village Christmas party at the village hall Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> (5-7 PM). ALL KIDS young and old are invited. Cookies, hot chocolate, snacks and other beverages provided. Questions: Amy Johnson, 612-308-7902.



### PATTY WETTERLING VISITS TOWN

This past month we were fortunate to have Patty Wetterling come to a town hall meeting to discuss child safety issues. The city council wanted residents to know the issue of child safety is ongoing and there is much to be learned by all.

As you know Patty's family experienced child abuse first hand. Patty's strong voice on this issue has evolved to one of knowing who these offenders are and getting the community involved in their being.

Patty was kind enough to share her thoughts despite the recent tragic developments regarding their son Jacob. It was a very enlightening discussion and well received by those that attended. Unfortunately, we can no longer post the meeting on our website. It is available for

viewing at city hall if you are interested. Please bring a computer that has a CD/DVD option. It would be time well spent. Patty is a phenomenal resource from whom we all can learn.

**HOCKEY DAY 2017:** Check with the rink attendant for details of this January event.

### **COMMON TABLE POTLUCK RETURNS**

This year's edition is Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> and features speaker JB Andersen. JB has spoken at our event before. This time the topic is the 2016 National Election. JB is a retired history teacher and OLLI faculty member. This time the topic is the 2016 national election and what it portends for the future—kind of our own Almanac gig. Everyone is welcome!

**5:30 PM Social, 6 PM Supper, 7 PM Speaker**  
Questions: Mary.Wingfield@juno.com ; 653-1022

### **LAKE BITS:**

Paul Steinhauser was recently appointed board member of the White Bear Lake conservation District. Paul has been leading the charge to reduce water consumption to save our lake and water resources. He brings his knowledge and business talents to the WBLCD board. Thanks Paul!

### **BEACH BITS:**

We still have a few boats left on the city boat racks. All boats are required to be removed by October 31<sup>st</sup>. Please check if your boat is not home by now...the city is in the process of removing boats and will require you to pay for the cost and storage before it is returned to you.

### **MEET TOBIN LAY, NEW CITY CLERK**

Tobin Lay has been our city treasurer the past year. He is now our city administrator as Mike Anderson, our previous Administrator, has taken a new job with Waseca.

Three years ago, the city started a program coordinated with Hamline University. We get our staff from their graduate program by first hiring those individuals as our treasurer so they can gain familiarity with our town. They then move into the administrator spot when a vacancy occurs. We get talented people we could not otherwise afford while they gain first-hand experience in running a town.

We are lucky to have Tobin on staff—he has a law degree and a master's degree in business administration. He has a wide range of life experiences to boot. We look forward to working with Tobin in the time to come.

### **ELECTION RESULTS**

Mayor: Mary Wingfield was re-elected to new term  
Council: Randy Lafoy was re-elected to the council.  
Megan Malvey joins the council as well. 95% of registered voters participated. For more Birchwood voting data go to:

<http://electionresults.sos.state.mn.us/Results/PrecinctListResults/100?countyid=82&precincts=886082>

### **MAYOR'S NOTES:**

We just wrapped up a lot of door knocking and talking with many of you this past election season. It is always interesting and fun to talk with you. One of the things that came up is the possibility of a dog park. This fact dovetails with a situation a fellow resident and I have been working on: Dave Reynolds, long time resident at 523 Hall Ave passed away a year ago. It was his intention that his estate be dedicated to improving the lives of four-legged beings. His family would like to honor that and has expressed an interest in creating a dog park in Dave's name by donating a sizeable sum of their inheritance.

I will be asking the council in December to set up a committee to look into achieving that goal. That group would be charged with finding an appropriate site and creating a suitable environment for a park. At this point, part of Bloomquist Park is underutilized and might be a good fit. The park would benefit by the removal of invasive buckthorn as well.

The committee would review ideas and plans and figure out the logistics and communicate with the citizens and the council. If you would like to be considered for this (assuming the council agrees to the process), please submit your name to the clerk with a short letter of interest by Jan 1, 2017. I look forward to seeing folks work together to make this work for our community.

Have a safe and happy holidays,  
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**CITY OF BIRCHWOOD VILLAGE BUDGET**

The purpose of this report is to provide summary 2017 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.

<b>Revenues:</b>	2016	2017
Property Taxes	\$326,299	326,299
Total:	\$326,299	326,299

**Expenditures:**

Current:		
General Govt	\$127,883	127,820
Public Safety	77,800	73,250
Streets and Hwys	43,000	46,000
Sanitation	28,000	25,000
Culture and Rec	17,700	17,085
Miscellaneous	1,916	7,144
Trans to other Funds	30,000	30,000

Excess (deficiency) -0- -0-

Property Tax Levy to fund this Budget **\$326,299 326,299**

**HELP STOP LAKE POLLUTION**

The City of Birchwood Village asks your help to stop the discharge of illicit liquids and materials from entering the City's storm sewer system. Illicit discharges are generally any discharge not composed entirely of storm water; such as oil, paint, fertilizer, pet waste, car wash chemicals, and grass clippings. Storm sewer systems are not designed to handle anything other than storm water; everything dumped down the storm sewer eventually drains into lakes and streams. Illicit liquids and materials can kill important plants and animals and negatively impact the water quality.

Please take measures to keep the storm sewer system free from illicit discharge. If you see any unusual liquids or materials draining into a storm drain, ditch, stream, or lake, please call City Hall at 651-426-3403 or email [info@cityofbirchwood.com](mailto:info@cityofbirchwood.com). If it is after hours or on the weekend please call the Washington County Sheriff's department at 651-439-9381 or the 911 non-emergency hotline.

**MAKING THE MOST OF BIRCHWOOD DOCKS**

We're just wrapping up the 6th season of boating since the creation of the Birchwood Dock Association. Which means several boating members have now completed their first 6-year 'turns' and those spots will be available to others on the waiting list starting next Spring. (We anticipate 11-13 vacancies for next season.)

As we've reached out to those on the waiting list, we are challenged by the restriction on boat length, embodied in the current dock ordinance. Boats are limited to 19 feet, except on Birch Dock, which can have up to 22 feet. However, most of the people who would like to utilize one of the docks have boats (i.e. pontoons) longer than 19 feet. This means their only option is to hope for one of the 3 or 4 open spots at Birch to become available. It also means we might actually have unused spots at the other docks, because not enough people have smaller boats.

In order to give more residents an opportunity to use a boat slip, and increase access to this wonderful resource, the Association is asking that the rules be amended to allow 22-foot pontoons at other dock(s). We have asked to discuss this with the Council at the December 13<sup>th</sup> council meeting. We welcome any and all feedback on this idea! - *for the Dock Association - Mike Evangelist - president* [mike.evangelist@me.com](mailto:mike.evangelist@me.com)

**FACEBOOK IN BIRCHWOOD**

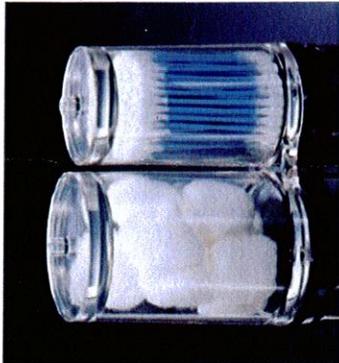
By popular request, the city is considering setting up a Facebook page. You can get any important city messages by liking our page. Please note content cannot be posted to the site. Updates on this will be posted to the City website in late December.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

City Clerk—207 Birchwood Avenue  
Office:651/426-3403...Fax:651/426-7747  
[www.cityofbirchwood.com](http://www.cityofbirchwood.com) [info@cityofbirchwood.com](mailto:info@cityofbirchwood.com)

**Office hours: M & Th 9 a.m. – 12 noon**

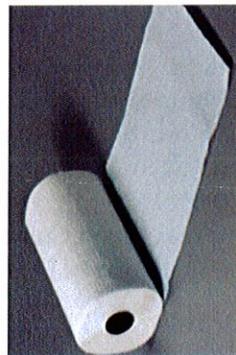
# YOU WOULDN'T FLUSH MONEY DOWN THE TOILET, WOULD YOU? WHEN YOU DO, YOU RUIN EQUIPMENT



Cotton balls or q-tips



Pills



Paper towels



Marbles



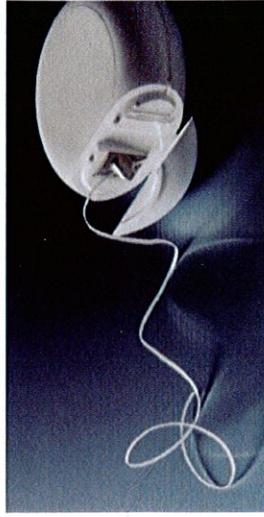
Flushable Wipes



Birchwood residents have flushed these items down the toilet. It has cost you/us \$5000 fix things.



Diapers



Dental Floss



Cat litter