

Chelsea Woods Trails

1505 Yuma Lane N., Plymouth, MN 55447 October—December 2024

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Information included on invoice from UptoDate Bookkeeping.

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Chelseawoods.org

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Member at large -

SAVE THE DATE!

CWA Annual Meeting

When: November 18, 2024

Where: Ridgedale Library

Times: Sign-In 5:30, Meeting 6:00—7:30

Watch for further information to come via email and US Mail.

Please watch for the email/US mail information about the upcoming CWA Annual Meeting. We need a majority to have a quorum. The quorum is comprised of in-person attendance as well as proxies. Please return your proxies, if you are able to attend, your proxy will be returned to you.

It's Buckthorn Abatement Season

Buckthorn, an invasive shrub species, has been rapidly displacing native plants, degrading wildlife habitats, and disrupting ecosystems across Minnesota and beyond. Our own Chelsea Woods has been impacted critically by this invasive species as well. Effective buckthorn remediation requires a strategic approach to control its spread and restore ecological balance and we have been working diligently in-house on remediation. Including, working with the MN Dept. of Natural Resources on prospective grant funds to support us. Should Chelsea Woods Residents desire to work in areas surrounding their homes, kindly note below to some "best practices" to manage buckthorn:

- **Proper Identification:** Buckthorn can be mistaken for native species. It's crucial to identify it accurately by recognizing its dark green leaves, thorny branches, and female plants may have small black berries. There are two common types: Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and Glossy Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*). (Photos on page 4.)
- **Timing of Removal:** The best time for buckthorn removal is late fall or early spring when native vegetation is dormant, but buckthorn remains green. This makes it easier to distinguish from other plants.
- **Mechanical Removal:** Small buckthorn plants can be pulled by hand or with tools like a weed wrench, which ensures roots

are fully removed. For larger plants, cutting the trunk near the base followed by immediate treatment with herbicide prevents regrowth.

- **Preventing Spread:** Buckthorn berries are spread by birds, so removing berries and seedling growth is essential. After removal, mulch or reseed the area with native plants to prevent regrowth and outcompete any remaining seedlings.
- **Follow-up Monitoring:** Buckthorn seeds can remain viable in the soil for several years, so regular monitoring and follow-up removal of seedlings is necessary for long-term success. Replanting with native species can help restore the ecosystem and suppress future invasions.

By combining these mechanical and ecological methods, we are doing our best to manage buckthorn in our affected areas to the best we can together at Chelsea Woods..

Night to Unite



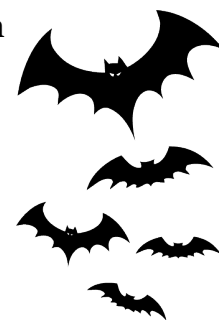
Thank you to all who helped to make The Night to Unite community gathering a big success. It was well attended and everyone enjoyed the games, facepainting, snacks and just getting together with neighbors.



Night Flyers

As Halloween approaches, images of bats often flutter into our minds, adding a spooky touch to the season. However, there's much more to these fascinating creatures than their eerie reputation suggests. Let's explore some interesting facts, common myths, and the many benefits bats provide.

Bats are the only mammals capable of sustained flight, with over 1,400 species worldwide. They range in size from the tiny bumblebee bat, weighing less than a penny, to the large flying foxes with wingspans of up to six feet. Despite their diversity, bats share some common traits, such as echolocation, which allows them to navigate and hunt in the dark by emitting high-frequency sounds.



One common myth is that bats are blind. In reality, all bats can see, and many have excellent night vision. Another misperception is that bats are aggressive bloodsuckers. While vampire bats do exist, they are just three species out of more than a thousand, and they mainly feed on livestock, not humans.

Bats play crucial roles in ecosystems. They are natural pest controllers, consuming vast amounts of insects, including mosquitoes. A single bat can eat up to 1,000 mosquitoes in an hour! Additionally, fruit bats are vital pollinators and seed dispersers for many plants, including those that produce bananas, mangoes, and avocados.

Despite their benefits, bats face numerous threats, including habitat loss and diseases like white-nose syndrome. Conservation efforts are essential to protect these misunderstood animals.

As Halloween casts its spooky spell, remember that bats are more than just a symbol of the season. They are remarkable, beneficial creatures deserving our respect and protection. By dispelling myths and understanding their importance, we can better appreciate the incredible world of bats.

Small Biz Saturday

Small Business Saturday is the perfect excuse to explore your local shops and support your community. Celebrated on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, this special day encourages people to buy from small, independent businesses. It's a great way to discover unique products and services you won't find in big-box stores. Shopping small means your money stays local, helping to boost the local economy and support your neighbors. From cozy cafés to quirky boutiques, small businesses add character and charm to your town. Plus, you're likely to receive personalized customer service and find one

Mission Statement

"To maintain and preserve our natural environment while enhancing quality of life, property values and our unique community"

-of-a-kind items.

So this Small Business Saturday, skip the crowded malls and online giants. Take a stroll down Main Street, enjoy some local flavor, and make a big impact by supporting the small businesses that make your community special.

Time Change Tune-Up

In the United States, daylight saving time (DST) ends November 3, which means our clocks will fall back an hour from 2:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. (and we will gain an hour of sleep). Interestingly, Hawaii and Arizona don't participate in DST, so their residents won't get an extra hour of rest. In Europe, they do not call it DST, but Summer Time, and it ends on October 27 at 2:00 a.m.

Regardless of where you live, the twice-yearly adjustment to DST offers an opportunity to take care of some important chores. Many fire departments advise us to change our smoke alarm batteries on this day. Don't forget to clean your dryer vent and have your fireplace and furnace inspected.

Drain your outdoor water spigots, and then shut off the water to them. Drain your garden hoses and store them indoors.

For one, don't forget to rotate your mattress! Take a good look at your bed. You may have made a lasting impression on it, or it may be starting to sag. Rotating and flipping your mattress will help it wear more evenly. Some new and improved mattresses may not require flipping, but even they should be rotated. If you have a vacuum handy, it's also a good idea to rid your mattress of dust.

Another chore is changing the furnace filter. Because we spend most of the winter inside, our heating systems usually work all day to heat our homes. A new furnace filter will purify the air in the house. If you have a pet or allow smoking in your home, these filters also remove pet dander and smoke from the air. While it may be a good idea to check your filter every three months, DST is the perfect reminder to change it.

Still looking for more chores? Check your pantry, refrigerator, and medicine cabinet for expired products. Or, if you're not a fan of DST, then this may be the perfect reminder to write a letter to Congress to abolish the practice.



Halloween at the Lake Oct. 25th

The City of Plymouth is set to host Halloween at the Lake 5-8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25 at Parkers Lake Playfield, 15500 County Road 6.

A free event that brings together the best of Plymouth's Parks and Recreation, Police, and Fire departments, Halloween at the Lake features attractions such as inflatables, food trucks, pumpkin bowling, pumpkin golf, bingo, an apple launcher, and a DJ and dance party. The event will also include public safety vehicles for children to view, a sensory station for hands-on fun and treat stations, while supplies last.

Attendees should bring money for food truck purchases. Costumes are encouraged.

Cutting-Edge Fun

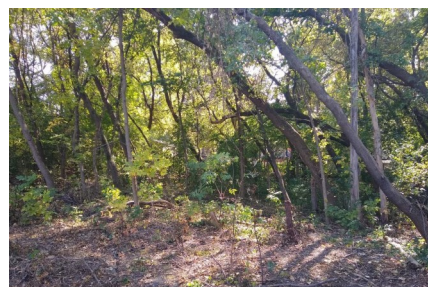


Nothing announces the arrival of the holiday season like the smell of freshly baked cookies. If you're looking to spruce up your baking this year, ditch the common

round shape for some fun cookie cutters during Cookie Cutter Week, held the first week of December.

While evidence shows that ancient Egyptians created interesting molds for baking cakes, Queen Elizabeth I of England is said to have popularized the novelty of baking cookies in the shape of her guests. Gingerbread men and women soon became popular in bakeries across 17th-century England.

Today, you can find cookie cutters in every conceivable shape and size. Some manufacturers will even create custom cookie cutters. Some people enjoy collecting cookie cutters, and serious enthusiasts belong to the Cookie Cutters Collectors' Club (CCCC). In fact, it was the CCCC that originally conceived Cookie Cutter Week about 30 years ago.



This area was cleared of buckthorn, earlier this fall. The photo on the next page shows how much buckthorn was removed. If you are interested, the City of Plymouth has brush

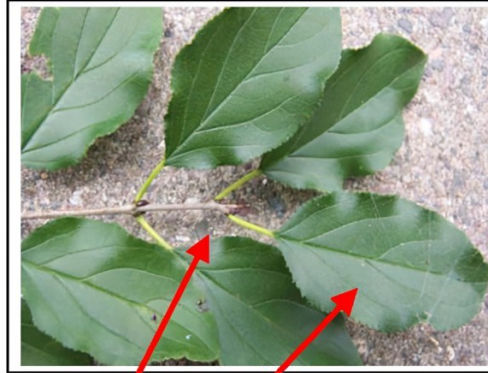
grubbers that can be borrowed to make the job easier.

Dates to Remember:

November 3– Daylight Savings Time
November 5– Election Day
November 11– Veteran's Day
November 14– Indigenous Peoples Day
November 18– CWA Annual Meeting
November 28– Thanksgiving
December 25– Christmas Day



Common Buckthorn
(most common)



Glossy leaves with deep, prominent leaf veins. Leaf edged with small teeth

Leaves almost directly across from each other, thorn at tip of twig

Glossy Buckthorn
(wet areas)



(C) 2002, Gary Fewless

Similar to Common Buckthorn, leaves extremely glossy with deep veins and leaf margin is smooth, without teeth

Services Available by Chelsea Woods Residents

Jim Gregory

Handyman Extraordinaire

Text to 612-232-6686

1830 Archer Lane North Working Exclusively in Chelsea Woods
Plymouth, MN 55447 jimgregory327@gmail.com

Electrical-110VAC / Low Voltage, Plumbing, Carpentry, Mechanical, Refinishing
Maintenance, Repairs, Weather Stripping, Picture Hanging, Landscaping

Need a Plumber?

John Hannus,

Master Plumber

(retired but wants to stay busy)

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