



THE BIRCHWOOD VOICE

Birchwood Lakes Community Association, Inc.
212 Aspen Road, Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328
(570) 828-2111

Volume 4/ No. 1

BIRCHWOOD LAKES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

HOLIDAY 2008

President's Message

by Chas Ritson

My, how time flies by! About the time that you receive this edition of *TheVoice*, you should also be receiving a packet of information from your Board of Directors that includes budget recommendations for 2009/ 2010, several revised By-Laws, a Gypsy Moth assessment, and finally, new Reserve items/ projects for your consideration. I recognize that this is a lot of information, but your vote and your willingness to take part in this process, is critical to the continued improvement of Birchwood Lakes. Let me take a few minutes to explain why your Board has approved these recommendations.

My thoughts on the new budget must first include some comments on the last two budgets. As a reminder, the 2007/2008 budget was narrowly voted down and resulted in the same amount of money

being available as from 2006/ 2007. This year's 2008/2009 budget that included a \$20 increase, was approved. What most members don't realize is that we survived last year, and are doing so again this year, by largely using money that was originally intended for staff salaries and using it instead to pay for expenses that were either higher than expected or not planned for at all. Putting it another way, while we have been able to pay our bills by transferring money from these open positions, the downside result is that we have been "spinning our wheels" in terms of day to day activities and longer term projects. Some of these unexpected increases include the huge surge in gasoline/diesel and heating fuel prices, higher federal taxes, and basic equipment failures involving the pool, vehicles, and clubhouse.



Delaware River.

Photo by J. Lesser

Which brings me back to next year's budget.

The 2009/2010 budget takes into account full staffing and associated expenses, completion of the transition of our bookkeeping function to outside management, and modest increases in our security, trash and other service contracts. The

Board understands that things are tough financially for many people, but without the recommended increase, we will not be able to perform the necessary activities that will be required to not only maintain what we have, but also to move us forward in a positive way. When viewing the increase, please recognize two points - that the average increase for next year's budget coupled with the last two budgets is quite small, and that our annual dues remain among the least expensive when compared

against neighboring communities. Lastly, I think you should know that as a new community member three years ago, I did not vote for that year's budget increase and as co-chair of the Budget Committee last year, I was at least partly responsible for the small increase that was approved. So, when I say that we absolutely need this new budget passed, you'll know that I have an intimate knowledge of not only what's been happening, but also that I have

Please turn to page 9.

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

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Deadline for the Birchwood Lakes newsletter is January 10.

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2008/2009 Board of Directors

President	Charles Ritson
Vice President	Louis Freeman
Secretary	Eileen Naturale
Treasurer	Chas Ritson
Directors	Daniel Capano Ann Marie Celentano John Meola Maria Moffa Robert Nilsen

At the August 23 Organizational Meeting, the Board of Directors elected the following Committee Heads.

Standing Committees

Finance, Budget, Contracts	Open, Chairperson Charles Ritson, Co-Chairperson
Road Maintenance	Louis Freeman, Chairperson Robert Nilsen, Co-Chairperson
BLCA Property Development	Charles Ritson, Chairperson Ann Marie Celentano, Co-Chairperson
By-Laws	Charles Ritson, Chairperson Kathy Stirrat, Co-Chairperson
Voting & Elections	Eileen Naturale, Chairperson Open, Co-Chairperson
Rules & Regulations	Daniel Capano, Chairperson John Meola, Co-Chairperson
Capital Projects	Daniel Capano, Chairperson John Meola, Co-Chairperson

Appointed Committees

BLCA Property Beautification	Robert Nilsen, Chairperson Open, Co-Chairperson
Community Safety	Kathleen Stirrat, Chairperson Maria Moffa, Co-Chairperson
Recreation Director	Eileen Naturale, Chairperson Robert Nilsen, Co-Chairperson
Lake Management	Charles Ritson, Chairperson Sheila Salmon, Co-Chairperson
Community Affairs	Sheila Salmon, Chairperson Maria Moffa, Co-Chairperson

Notes from the Community Manager

Betty White Gross, CMCA, AMS

As many of us start to settle in for the upcoming holidays and winter season, Birchwood Lakes' staff and Board of Directors continue in their efforts to meet the needs of the community and move forward on projects. Committee meetings are scheduled and held to develop the 2009/2010 budget, move forward on capital projects and develop and provide recreational activities. Maintenance staff is preparing to maintain the roads during upcoming winter snowstorms. Office staff continue to process the payments coming in for the third year of the small business administration loan, collections on outstanding accounts and preparing the membership mailing for the proposed 2009/2010 budget.

The Association is awaiting receipt of the dredging study report for Middle Birchwood Lake as well as the reserve study which is nearing completion. Watch for more information on these topics in future newsletters. An extension on the joint permit for culvert

pipe replacements is pending and expected before year's end. Wayco, Inc. has completed roadwork for the year and will return in late spring to complete the seal coating of roads. Survey results are pending on East Birchwood Lake in regards to a possible "cap" on the dam to raise the water level.

A third maintenance employee, Jimmy Bicskey, has been hired. Our thanks to Jim and Shannon for their efforts when we were short-staffed, welcome to Jimmy and good luck to the full crew with their upcoming tasks.

Did you know that the recycling bin is in place now at the Clubhouse? The bin is located near the dumpster and a portion of the proceeds benefit the BLCA Swim Team. Instead of throwing away your aluminum cans, consider placing them in the bin (no plastic bags or garbage please) and help support the youth of our community. Participants to date have graciously followed the guidelines and the area is being maintained in a neat

fashion. We thank you.

When you bought a home or property in Birchwood Lakes, you should have received copies of the governing documents. Sometimes these documents get lost among all of the papers you receive or over time. With the recent changes to the Rules and Regulations, now is a great time to update your files and re-familiarize yourself what your rights and responsibilities are. If you don't have current copies, let us know and we will provide them to you. Of course, it's your responsibility to provide the Association with your current address and phone number (emergency contacts are also suggested, especially for nonresident owners) and if you would like to receive the newsletter by email, your email address. This enables us to meet our obligation to provide owners with information from the Association.

On a final thought, may your holidays be blessed with the joys of family and friends.

Let Delaware Township Inform you of local emergencies.

Delaware Township in partnership with Twenty First Communications has instituted a local notification system that will be able to send telephone notification to residence and businesses within Delaware Township impacted by, or in danger of being impacted by, an emergency or disaster. Register your phone numbers with us so we can add you to our Reverse 911 calling system.

Please contact us at:

570-828-2347

BIRCHWOOD LAKES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

2008-2009 SCHEDULE OF OPEN BOARD MEETINGS

Open Board Meetings are held at the BLCA Clubhouse

DECEMBER 13, 9:30 a.m.

JANUARY 9, 2009 7:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 14, 2009 9:30 a.m.

MARCH 13, 2009 7:30 p.m.

APRIL 11, 2009 9:30 a.m.

MAY 8, 2009 7:30 p.m.

JUNE 13, 2009 9:30 a.m.

JULY 10, 2009 7:30 p.m.

AUGUST 15, 2009 9:30 a.m.

AUGUST 22, 2009 9:30 a.m.

Annual Meeting

Lake Management Committee Honored

by Michele Ulmer,
Pike County Conservation District

Scott Savini, President of the Pike County Conservation District presented a certificate of appreciation to the Birchwood Lake Community Association's Lake Management Committee for their outstanding efforts in local environmental education. After working with the District to secure a League of Women Voters Water Resource Education Network grant, the Lake Management Committee set out with an ambitious schedule of educational programs throughout 2007 and 2008 that served both its own residents and the surrounding community. The Committee focused on septic system maintenance, geese population control options, and lake management training and monitoring. The committee sponsored a lake appreciation day and children's fishing contest and established a native plant demonstration area along the riparian border of one of their lakes. The committee also developed and distributed a "Lake Friendly Landscaping" brochure that provides examples of native plants that can be used locally.



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Maintenance Message by Jim Silverman

Holy Cow! Snow already! The October storm was unexpected and so were the eight trees that came down. But with the help of security and the office staff all was under control and taken care of.

third full-time maintenance worker, Jimmy Bicskey. I just know he will be an asset to our maintenance staff and your community.

Winter preparations continue. Plows and trucks readied, materials stockpiled, chain-

saws are ready. So let it snow. We continue our road improvements with Wayco and repairing signs and gates etc., but my main concern is to be as ready as we can be for winter.

Enjoy your holidays and hopefully, we will make your travel easier.

Please keep an eye out for us and observe all possible safety rules and regulations. It will make our job that much easier. Thanks

Permits

BLCA Rules and Regulations (Section 98-50-19), in accordance with the Association's Covenants and Restrictions, require members to obtain a BLCA permit prior to moving to, constructing, or erecting any structure or building within the community. There is no fee for obtaining the permit. Additionally, permits are needed for septic repairs and tree removals. For more information, contact the BLCA Office.

The By-Laws Committee

by Nancy Costanzo

Serve on the By-Laws Committee? Who? Me? That was my initial reaction to being asked to become a member of the By-Laws Committee several years ago. At the time, I couldn't think of anything more boring. Now, however, I actually look forward to the meetings. The banter back-and-forth with other members of the committee tends to be lively, informative, and often very detailed. It is important to note that the focus of this committee always has one eye on present issues and another eye on the future welfare of Birchwood Lakes Community Association as a whole.

The By-Laws Committee is one of Birchwood's "standing committees." The function of this group is to assist in the review of the Association's current By-Laws and amendments. The committee is responsible for making recommendations regarding changes to the By-Laws to the Board of Directors. If there are any questions about the legal standing of certain suggested changes, the Board of Directors consults with the Community's attorney for clarification.

It is critical to mention that all By-Laws changes must be voted on by the membership. This is why your participation in the voting process is so important. Let's face it, we all have opinions, but we don't always take the time to vote. If the recent election for President of the United States has taught us anything, it is that all of our votes really do matter.

So, from behind the doors of the By-Laws Committee, I implore you to get involved. When the next voting envelope arrives, take the time to look for changes to the By-Laws that depend on your vote. If you have the time, think about calling the office to volunteer as a member of the By-Laws Committee.

It is anything but boring and your voice will be heard.

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K O B E R L E I N

Member's address changes

If you were issued a new 911 mailing address and have not yet notified the office in writing, we ask you please do so. This will allow you to receive your mail from the Birchwood Lakes Office and to prevent any problems that may develop in the next few months.

CHANGE OF MAILING ADDRESS FORM

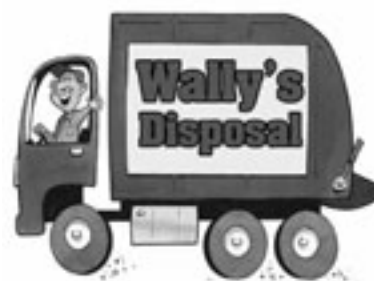
I, _____ have an address change.

Please change my address to

Lot(s) _____ Block _____

Section _____ Date: _____

No phone changes will be accepted. You can either mail the form, hand deliver it to the BLCA Office or drop it off in the mailbox by the BLCA Office front door. The Office will not change your address without written notification.



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Rules and Regulations Update

The Board of Directors discussed changes to the BLCA Rules and Regulations at their September 12 meeting. A new process for adoption will inform residents of the changes before they take effect and will allow residents to comment on them. In the future, a first reading of the proposed rules will be at a public board meeting. They will then be pub-

lished in the next issue of the newsletter and/or posted on the website. Residents may comment on them at the next board meeting. They will then be returned to the committee for their final form. The Board will be considering the new Rule and Regulation process at their next meeting. No decision has yet been made.

Construction Permits: Projects must now be completed within two (2) years from date of permit. The member shall be fined One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) per month thereafter until the project is completed.

Completion shall be defined as the date a Certificate of Occupancy is obtained from the Township and the contractor shall present a copy of the Certificate of Occupancy to the Community Manager within ten days of acquiring the same.

Temporary storage containers: Temporary storage container shall be defined as a container, cargo box, storage trailer, or any container rented solely for the purpose of temporary storage. A permit is required for all storage containers as defined by this rule permit is valid for thirty days, with two renewals allowed for a total of ninety days. Storage containers must be removed after ninety days.

Nuisance: No Member, nor the tenant, guest or invitee of a member shall participate in any activity in the Community deemed to be a nuisance. For purposes of this section, a nuisance shall be defined as conduct causing an intentional and unreasonable invasion of another person's private use and enjoyment of their property. A warning letter identifying the violation and demanding immediate abatement of the nuisance shall be issued for the first offense of this section. Fines will be assessed thereafter.

Abandoned Vehicle: The fine structure has been changed to include a \$5/day for each day the vehicle remains in addition to the initial fine.

Violations to the above rules will incur a fine(s) as adopted by the Board of Directors. Should you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact the BLCA Office. Complete copies of the Rules and Regulations are available in the Office.

BLCA Curfew

BLCA has a curfew of 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. As a courtesy to all members, please observe the curfew hours.

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Birchwood Lakes Community Association, Inc. New Mailing Address:

Birchwood Lakes is no longer using PO Box 222. Our new address is 212 Aspen Road, Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328. Please change your records accordingly. Mail will not be delivered to the old address. Thank you.

Well Water Testing Program

by Sheila Salmon

How safe is our well water? What are the characteristics of the minerals and chemicals found in our drinking water? What do we do if something is wrong with our water? Will the planned construction of the nearby Forest Glen Community affect our groundwater adversely? Brian Oram, Professor of Geology, at Wilkes University addressed these questions and other topics related to groundwater at a series of meetings in Birchwood this fall.

About twenty-two residents took advantage of reduced rate water testing as part of the program. When the results were tabulated, Professor Oram graphed them geographically and found there were clusters of the same problems in some areas of Birchwood. These

results are the beginning of a study of Birchwood Community's groundwater and will help track the effects of construction of other communities on our water supply. As more residents join in this effort, the results will continue to add important data. Another well water testing opportunity will be offered this spring.

The results, so far, show that of the twenty-two samples, nine wells showed turbidity (cloudiness), four had more than the recommended amount of manganese and iron (these can cause staining and mineral buildup in pipes), five had coliform bacteria, and there were thirteen wells recommended for shock disinfection to eliminate bacteria. For more information go to Oram's website at www.water-research.net.



Photo by N. Costanza

Autumn Notes from the Gardener

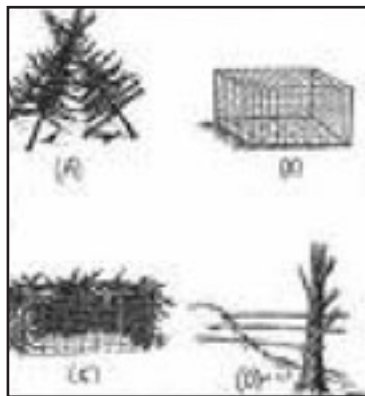
by Sheila Salmon, Pike County Master Gardener Volunteer

When Christmas is over, don't throw away your Christmas tree. Recycle it and use it for mulch, to shelter the birds or make a fragrant potpourri with the needles. If you have garden plants and shrubs, the branches of a pine or fir tree will protect them until winter freezes and thaws are over. Cut the branches from the trunk and place them over your garden plants. Spruce trees are not useful as mulch because their needles fall off. If you are not sure if your tree is a spruce, pull a needle away from a twig. If it leaves no mark, it's a spruce. If it leaves a depressed scar, it's a fir. Always mulch your plants during a frost to prevent rodents and insects from taking up residence. If you have a shredder, the whole tree can be ground into wood chips. These are excellent for woodland paths and as mulch for acid loving

plants such as Mountain Laurel, Rhododendrons and Azaleas.

Shelters are important to birds in winter. Benjamin P. Burt, (<http://web/~syr.edu/~bpburt/Birds/Dec26-04.htm>) in an interesting web article describes a number of ways that Christmas trees can become an artificial shelter that will protect birds from the weather and from predatory birds and cats. Birds eat during daylight and the long cold winter nights can kill them unless their protective body heat is sufficient to do the job. When the wind blows, it makes it harder for the bird to sustain heat and a shelter provides added safety. Burt states that chickadees, wrens and woodpeckers can roost out of the wind in natural holes or nest boxes, but other species seek cover where they find it. The illustration shown on his site and

copied here has ideas for a few different kinds of shelters. (A) is a teepee made of a few trees tied together, (B) is a cat proof enclosure where seed can be put or filled with branches as in (C) for a wind proof shelter and (D) is a frame on a hillside that is covered with evergreen boughs. Another more simple shelter is a brush pile using evergreen boughs and other branches. Place four logs on the ground to form the first layer and then four more at right angles and on top of the bottom layer. Then crisscross branches on top. Stringing popcorn cranberries and suet will provide treats for birds and other small animals (and keep small children busy on a nasty day).



Making a potpourri is easy. Dry the branches, then remove and crumble the needles. Mix the needles with cinnamon sticks, and whole cloves. Place in jars to store. The mixture can be sewed into cloth sachets or left open in a decorative bowl.



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Minutes

July 11, 2008

The Board of Directors hopes members who cannot attend the board meetings will gain some understanding of the issues facing the Board. The editors of the newsletter appreciate any comments. Residents who wish to see the entire transcript may get a copy at the BLCA office, or provide the office with a stamped self addressed envelope (8/12 X 12), with two (2) 42 cents stamps.

Motions approved at the July 11 meeting:

Write-offs of almost \$40,000.

Dumping is becoming an issue. Director Salmon proposed a motion to offer \$300 reward to any person who gives information about the person (s) responsible for dumping and vandalism.

Because of changes in committee chairs, they are missing minutes. Director Celentano moved to delete the 2006/07 minutes from the list and place a note in the file.

The Board discussed the CDARS program from Dime Bank and votes to renew the CD's for 4 weeks.

Director Freeman moved to get Birchwood Lakes on the gypsy moth spraying program for next year.

The deadline for Board vacancies was extended.

Reimbursement to two directors for expenses

Donation to Delaware Township Ambulance Corps

Denied request from residents to waive past dues on lots recently purchased.

Other discussions.

The Board discussed outsourcing ditch cleaning. Prices to be gotten for once or twice a year cleaning.

Outsourcing bookkeeping will be discussed in depth at a separate meeting in August.

A survey is needed before the Board can progress with the East Lake dam cap and the engineer will be available at the annual meeting to discuss options on the Upper Lake dam.

The Board discussed adding sand to Beach 6, the Manager will check cost plus removal of weeds and whether there is an issue with glass debris.

There will be a Volunteer Recognition lunch on September 6, 2008.

Two proposals were received for the Middle Lake dredging study; they will go to the Lake Management Committee for their recommendation.

Random order of candidates for the ballot was chosen.

Two residents from Lancet Circle brought to the Boards attention the lack of Public Safety in the area and condition of the mailboxes.

Director Salmon requested the results of the ground water and lake water safety survey go to the Rules & Regulation Committee to draft a rule for mandatory septic inspections and cleaning.

Director Freeman requested the status of the Nuisance Rule from the Rules & Regulations Committee.

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Minutes

August 8, 2008

Actions approved between the July and August meeting, by polling Board members:

A hearing date of August 9, 2008 for By-Laws changes;
Payment of \$178 to the Pocono Mt Summer Swim League;

Postpone mailing of By-Law changes to allow the Board and Committee to consider attorney's comments;

Contract with Parties to Remember;

Ratified decisions from the June 13, 2008 Open Board Meeting and Executive Session;

Approved up to \$2,500 to repair pool pump.

Motions approved at the August 8 meeting:

Write-offs totaling over \$71,000;

Seven requests for tree removal;

Outsourcing bookkeeping to Appletree Management;

Five over budget bills transferring money from other accounts;

Hanover Engineering's proposal for the Middle Lake dredging study;

Changes and additions to Rules & Regulations;

Inspection of corporate documents by residents;

Two lot improvements requests by residents;

A three-month trial of aluminum can recycle bin placed at the clubhouse at the request of the Swim Team;

Donation to the Delaware Township Volunteer Fire Department;

Election judges;

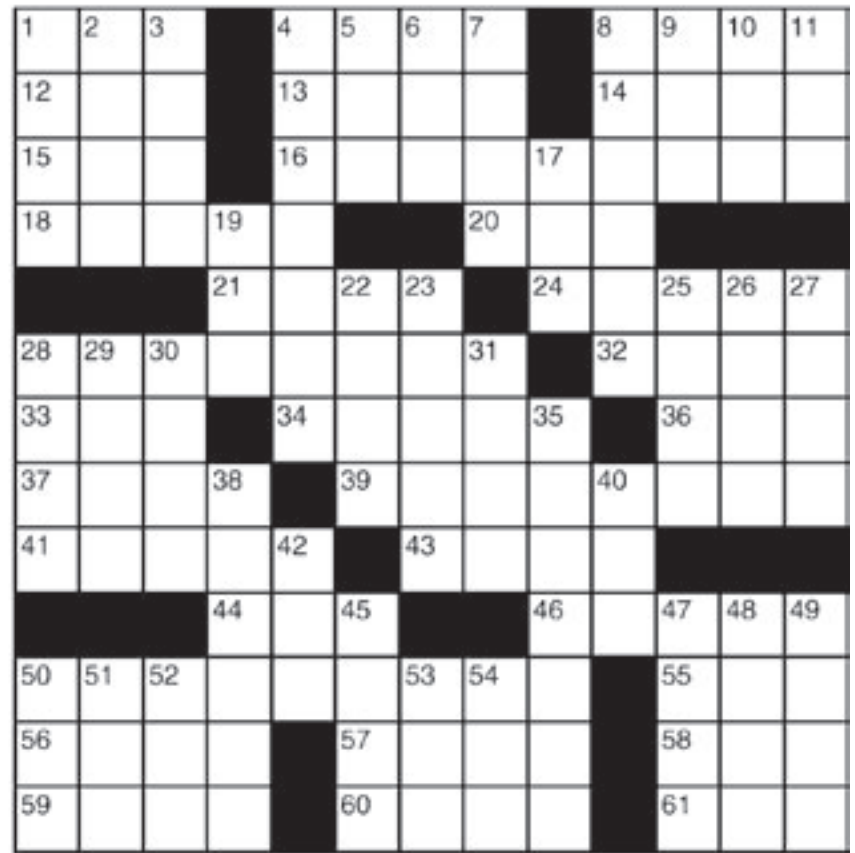
Cargill as supplier of winter salt.

Other Discussions.

The Board approved hiring a surveyor to determine the right-of-way for the Middle Lake Joint Permit pipe replacement.

ACROSS

- 1 Japanese pond carp
- 4 Mini-plateau
- 8 Comedian Carvey
- 12 Altar affirmative
- 13 Not "fer"
- 14 Shorten a text, maybe
- 15 Part of NIMBY
- 16 Santa's home
- 18 Pie chart alternative
- 20 Square root of IX
- 21 "How clumsy of me"
- 24 Berate
- 28 Crime novelist Donald
- 32 Genealogy chart
- 33 Rage
- 34 Hydroxyl compounds
- 36 About-face from SSW
- 37 Layer
- 39 "Million Dollar Baby" director
- 41 Macho type
- 43 Ogler's look
- 44 Adversary
- 46 Aggressive
- 50 Lefties
- 55 Work unit
- 56 Opening



- stake
- 57 Hodgepodge
- 58 Past
- 59 Bosc or Bartlett
- 60 Billboard
- 61 Journal
- DOWN**
- 1 Interviewer Larry
- 2 Stench
- 3 Tittle
- 4 Sewer access
- 5 Id counterpart
- 6 Madam's mate
- 7 Con
- 8 Draw
- 9 Fuss
- 10 Zilch
- 11 Consumed
- 17 Towel designation
- 19 Cauldron
- 22 Glazier's sheet
- 23 "To your health"
- 25 "Yes —?"
- 26 Comic Jay
- 27 "Monopoly" card
- 28 Accompanying
- 29 Canal zone?
- 30 Appear
- 31 Otherwise
- 35 Ingredient in ranch dressing?
- 38 Roof beam
- 40 Distorted
- 42 Japanese drama
- 45 Grand-scale poetry
- 47 Ring out
- 48 Therefore
- 49 Head over heels
- 50 Enervate
- 51 Indivisible
- 52 Actress Hagen
- 53 — Baba
- 54 Peruke

ANSWERS



Encroachment Enforcement

All property owners are to refrain from placing personal property within the Association's right of way. The Association does not permit encroachment of any Association property, which includes roads or right-of-ways, common area or any other location, which is BLCA property. BCLA is monitoring the roadways and residents will receive a letter advising them to remove any materials, structures, and vehicles from Association property. Residents have six months for removal. After that, fines are levied.

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President's Message...

continued from page 1.

the entire community's interest in mind.

As for the recommended changes to the By-Laws, this batch is primarily meant to make it easier to attract and maintain candidates for open positions on the Board and to do away with unnecessary costs when the number of candidates is equal to or less than the number of openings.

And lastly, the proposed Reserve items are largely intended to purchase equipment that cannot be purchased using our regular budget dollars and are urgently needed to maintain and/or upgrade our amenities and common areas. Of note is the larger amount for roads, which will likely now include some tree cutting on our easements.

I'd like to close by strongly urging you to support all of the recommendations being made by your Board of Directors. Thanks in advance for taking the time to read and vote on these very important documents.

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Home Sales in Birchwood Lakes

During the month of September and October, 7 homes were sold in Birchwood Lakes. The breakdown is as follows: five homes priced under \$100,000; and two homes between \$100,000 and \$160,000.

Birchwood Lakes welcomes the new owners to our community. May you enjoy your time here and become an active member of our Association.

Welcome to Tanis, Cruz, Dekmar and Scicutella families.

Volunteer Reporters Wanted

Have you an interest that Birchwood residents may also enjoy? Why not write about it? We are looking for people who would like to submit a regular column, or occasional pieces that are of interest to our community. It can be a letter to the editor, an opinion editorial, a report of something that has happened in the community, or photographs of activities or scenes in Birchwood. Send your submission to Sheila Salmon at rssalmon@rcn.com or mail it to the office c/o Birchwood Voice and we will consider it for the next edition of the Voice.

Important Telephone Numbers

Police, Fire, Ambulance Emergency 911
 Birchwood Lakes Office 828-2111
 Birchwood Lakes Public Safety
 828-6009

911 Signs

Please help us help you. Many residents in Birchwood Lakes Community still do not have "911" street signs on their house or in front of their property. When a call comes in requesting emergency assistance (ambulance, fire, police), it is difficult for the Association to offer assistance in leading the emergency volunteers to your home if it isn't clearly marked with the 911 address. Make sure your sign is visible from the road. If you need information on your 911 address, contact the BLCA Office at 570-828-2111. While we hope that you will never require emergency services, take a moment to help yourself and your loved ones just in case.

Missing Statuary?

Birchwood Lakes maintains a lost and found in the BLCA Office. Currently we are looking to find the missing owner of a piece of statuary and some lighting units that were found within BLCA. If you have misplaced or forgotten anything throughout the community, it may have been turned in. Contact the BLCA Office to see if your "missing" item is there.

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Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervae



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Minutes - September 12, 2008

This is an abbreviated record of the minutes; a complete copy is available from the BLCA office.

Actions taken by the Board, between the August and September meeting by polling all directors:

Transfer money between accounts to pay over budget bills

Selected Maria Moffa to fill an opening on the Board until the next election.

Approved a pre-buy of LPG from Combined Energy

of \$2.69 per gallon for the October 1, 2008 through April 30, 2009 heating season.

Write-offs of over \$37,000.

Other motions approved by the Board:

Three tree removal requests

Inspection of corporate records by residents

Survey for the East lake dam cap

Purchase of acoustic panels for the clubhouse

Other discussions:

Community members to be notified of upcoming roadwork through the newsletter and flyers

The Board will schedule workshops to discuss Public Safety, and culvert/ditch maintenance

The volunteer lunch had 25 attendees

Bingo will continue

The Board decided not to purchase plot maps from the original surveyor. Copies are on file at the Pike County Court House.

Gate House Volunteers Wanted

The BCLA Board considering utilizing volunteers to stay in the Route 739 Gatehouse. If you would be interested in donating a few hours of time a week for this important community service, should the Board proceed with this option, please contact the office.

Carolyn's Recipe Recommendations

by Carolyn Martin

I love to cook and collect cooking books and magazines. I have always loved the kitchen. Since we are busy people, I use simple recipes. Please try them and enjoy the results.

Football Favorites

Meatballs with BBQ Sauce

- 2 lbs. lean ground beef
- 2 eggs
- 3 slices of bread soaked in milk
- 1/2 c finely chopped onion
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 pepper
- 1 tsp. dry parsley flakes
- 1 (1 lb) bottle BBQ sauce

Combine everything but the BBQ sauce. Shape into one-inch balls. Cook in a skillet with a little oil. Put cooked meatballs in a bowl and pour BBQ sauce over the meatballs while they are hot. Put the meatballs in the refrigerator and reheat the next day, or simmer gently when the BBQ sauce is absorbed. Use as an appetizer or put on rolls for sandwiches.

Valerie's Chili Recipe

I got this from a co-worker. She loved to cook and developed this recipe.

- 4 tsp oil
- 1 1/2 tsp pepper
- 3-4 large onions chopped
- 1 1/2 tsp cumin
- 4 cloves garlic, crushed & minced
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 3 lbs ground beef
- 1 1/2 tsp. oregano
- 2 16oz cans tomatoes
- 1 1/2 tsp. sage
- 2 - 16 oz cans kidney beans
- 4 tbsp. chili powder
- 2 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper (optional)

Sautee onions and garlic in hot oil until tender. Add crumbled beef and brown thoroughly, stir often. Add remaining ingredients. Mix thoroughly and bring to a boil. Cover pot stirring occasionally. Freeze leftovers.

If you use whole tomatoes, cut out the stem and run through the food processor for a second or two.

Reach 30 Newspapers Pocono Area With ONE CALL!

Journal Newspapers publishes the 129 year-old Journal-Herald and the Journal of the Pocono Plateau every Thursday, reaching over 13,000 homes in the western Poconos. We also compose over two dozen property association newsletters in Monroe, Pike, Carbon, Lackawanna, Wayne and Luzerne Counties. New customers are welcome. Add our two news monthlies in southern Luzerne County, our new Journal of Penn Forest and News of The Poconos for vacationers to complete our mix.

Journal Newspapers is also the place to call to buy regional and national classified ad networks, reaching from 5 million to over 40 million homes.

One call reaches them all

**- call Seth at
(570) 443-8321 x302.**



Right-of-Way

All property owners are hereby put on notice that the Association has a right of way on each roadway. Any personal property placed in the Association's right of way is not the Association's responsibility and the Association will not be held responsible for any damages incurred to said personal property. All property owners are to refrain from placing personal property within the Association's right of way. The Association does not permit encroachment of

any Association property, which includes roads or right of ways, common area or any other location, which is BLCA property.

Go Green: Get Your Birchwood Voice on E-Mail

Submit your name, mailing and e-mail address to the office or e-mail the information to: rssalmon@rcn.com

Statement of notification to all landowners within BLC

Birchwood Lakes Community Association, Inc. is participating in the 2009 Gypsy Moth Suppression Program. Every landowner is hereby notified that their property is within a proposed spray block and those lands will be treated with an aerial application during May – June 2009 to control gypsy moths.

Wishing Well®

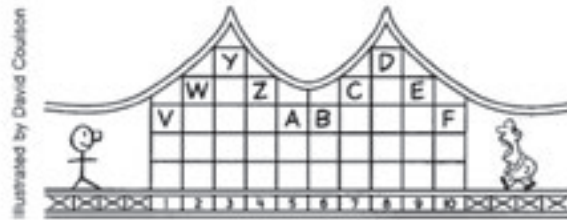
4	6	2	6	5	8	4	7	4	7	5	7	8
A	S	L	E	L	B	N	D	E	O	O	A	U
6	4	8	7	5	7	6	3	6	2	3	2	7
E	W	S	F	O	R	K	A	T	I	I	F	I
2	7	2	5	2	5	6	7	6	3	8	5	7
E	E	I	K	S	T	H	N	E	D	I	O	D
2	8	6	5	2	5	6	8	7	6	3	4	6
B	N	T	T	O	H	R	E	A	U	O	F	T
7	5	7	6	8	7	2	3	7	8	2	3	2
F	E	A	H	S	V	U	T	O	S	N	H	T
5	7	5	8	5	4	8	2	3	8	2	4	8
F	R	U	T	T	R	H	I	E	R	F	I	I
4	5	2	4	5	8	2	8	4	5	3	8	3
E	U	U	N	R	V	L	E	D	E	R	S	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.



HERE'S A PEACHY PROBLEM! Two of the above fruit baskets look exactly alike. See if you can "pick" them out in one minute flat.

Answer: Baskets 4 and 8



A WORD BRIDGE!
The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each word, plus plenty of hints.

1. A large barrel.
2. Science fiction unit of speed.
3. Heard in the mountains.
4. Outlandishly comic.
5. Exactly suitable; appropriate.
6. To prohibit or deprive.
7. Teeth found on a gear.
8. To fix a computer program.
9. Type of Dutch cheese.
10. Said to be sly.

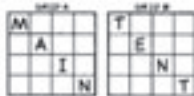
DOUBLE FEATURE! Arrange the five letters pictured here into two five-letter words that have more or less opposite meanings.



Answer: UNTIE AND UNITE

BIG TOP TESTING TIME! Pictured below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid B contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid A.

1. A good friend.
2. A weak excuse.
3. A happy expression.
4. To change direction.



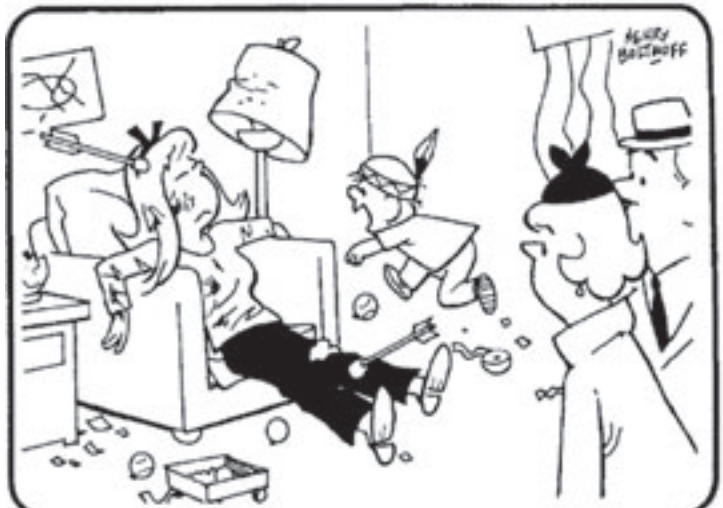
1. People on the same side.
2. Complete food serving.
3. A boxing area.
4. An undersized animal.

Answers: 1. Mate-team 2. Lame-meal 3. Grr-ing 4. Turn-out

MAMA'S BOYZ WWW.MAMASBOYZ.COM JERRY CRAFT



HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Boy's pants are black. 2. Ball near boy's foot is missing. 3. Mom's hat is gone. 4. Drapes are wider. 5. Girl's bow is different. 6. There's more trash on floor.

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