

BP BULLETIN



In Memory
Betty Larson
Dec. 13, 2015
Building 10

D'Ann Prior
Nov. 14, 2015
Building 20

2015-2016 Birch Pond Association Board

Jerry Cowan, President
cowan215@comcast.net
612-306-5663

Ted Dageford, Vice President
tnmdageford@q.com
651-633-9873
612-396-8067 (cell)

Bonnie Conroy, Secretary
boncon8@comcast.net
651-633-6651
541-276-2898 (cell)

Marlene Dowson, Treasurer
Mardaledowson@comcast.net
651-797-2607

Peggy Jacobson
Member-at-Large
Peggyjake10@gmail.com
612-781-2233

Stacy Sheridan
Property Manager
New Concepts
stacy@ncmgi.com
Direct: 952-224-2694
Main Office: 952-922-2500

Jackie Cherne
Assistant Property Manager
New Concepts
jackie@ncmgi.com
Direct: 952-224-2696
Main Office: 952-922-2500

Board FYI Update

The ups and downs of living in "mature" buildings:

- ◇ Our elevators are an ongoing project; problems are being resolved.
- ◇ New heat exchangers and furnaces are being installed, through March.

Welcome, New Concepts Management!

New Concepts Management Group is now on the job for Birch Pond Condominiums. Founded in 1987, New Concepts offers management of homeowner associations, commercial properties, apartments and single family homes tailored to each of their client's needs.

Their ownership and property management team have a combined 140+ years of experience in managing common interest communities. Association management needs



commonly cover five basic areas: administration, consulting, financial, public relations and vendor management.

They also work with boards of directors to create programs that fit other association needs.

More information, including resources like webinars, newsletters and an article library are on the company website, www.newconceptsgroup.com.

New Concepts also has a weekly radio show, "Where You Live," at 10 a.m. Saturdays on Patriot Radio (1280 AM) hosted by Gene Sullivan, President and one of the owners.

New Concepts headquarters is located at 5707 Excelsior Boulevard in St. Louis Park.

Meet your New Concepts reps



Stacy Sheridan, Property Manager, has worked in property management for 15 years and has her real estate license. She is training as a Certified Manager of Community Associations (CMCA). This is the only national certification program designed

exclusively for managers of homeowner and condominium associations. The CMCA recognizes individuals who have demonstrated the fundamental knowledge required to manage community associations.

Stacy's focus is to train owners on how to live in an association. While most who have lived in a condo are well aware of the condo lifestyle, she likes to visit with new owners to explain condo life. In addition, Stacy says "we strive to educate the board and owners on new laws passed, best practices for hiring contractors, and how to manage a fiscally sound building." Continued on page 2



Calling herself a "Jackie" of all trades—from retail to restaurant—Jackie Cherne, Property Management Assistant, focuses on customer service. She worked in sales at Luther Nissan Kia and in the marketing department at

Century College. Her job with New Concepts is to assist Stacy with anything that comes their way.

"I am here to help homeowners who may have a problem or a question," she says. "I find it gratifying to work with the homeowners and it's wonderful helping maintain a beautiful place for everyone to live."

Jackie is in her last year as Century College pursuing a degree in marketing and will be continuing on to earn a degree in business administration.

Continued on page 2

Patti Kight crosses a marathon off her Bucket List

Everyone has a Bucket List: writing the great American novel, zip-lining Yosemite National Park, learning to speak Mandarin. For Patti Kight (Building 20, #212) her Bucket List included running the Twin Cities Marathon—all 26.2 miles. On Oct. 4, 2015, she did just that in five hours and 41 minutes.

“As a kid, I liked to run, and I had the opportunity to be on the girls’ track team in my high school, thanks to the Title IX legislation of the 1970s,” she said. “I started running again in my 40s. I love running around the lakes in Minneapolis. When you’re as slow as I am, you can really look around and enjoy things.”

Patti said that health struggles of several good friends and family members made her fully appreciate her good health. She ran a half-marathon (13.1 miles) in 2013, which gave her a taste of what a full marathon would be like. She wanted to try the longer distance while she was able and her joints were in good shape. Family and friends strongly encouraged her—one friend in particular wouldn’t take ‘no’ for an answer.

So, at age 58, Patti decided to make a run for it.

She set up a training schedule and a project plan in January 2015 and followed it faithfully through September. A Lifetime Fitness

marathon training group also helped her. She was hesitant about running in warm, humid weather, but learned that **it’s very doable if you stay hydrated. “Sweating is healthy and I don’t mind it,” Patti said.**

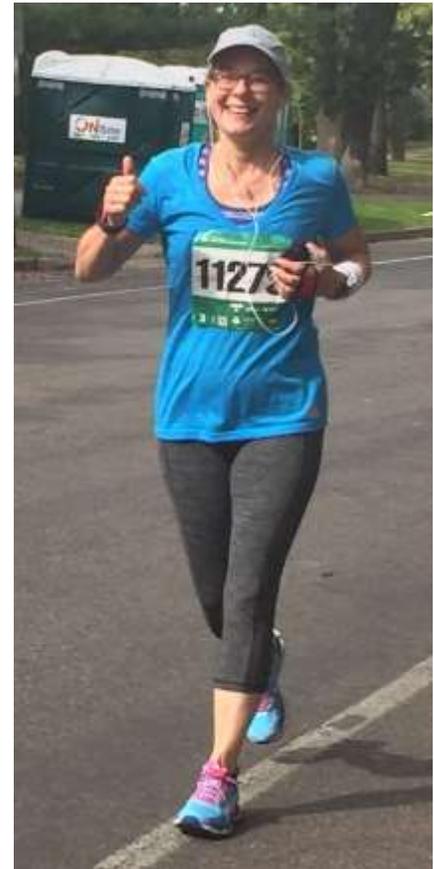
Staying with the time commitment was challenging and by mid-summer, everything (except work) revolved around her workout schedule. **“By October I was ready to be done,” she admitted.**

When marathon day finally rolled around, she was indeed ready. The crowd support along the entire route was wonderful, she said, with thousands of cheering spectators, little kids with funny signs, and even live music, a hallmark of the Twin Cities Marathon. **Patti’s friend who wouldn’t take ‘no’ for an answer was there at Mile 19 cheering her on.**

Patti doesn’t plan on running another full marathon, but she’ll keep doing half-marathons. “It’s a nice distance. Not easy, but achievable.”

As for what remains in her bucket, she’s ready to tackle sailing. Her significant other, Mike Peluso and his brother have sailboats on Lake Superior. “It looks complicated, but I’ll give it a shot. What could possibly go wrong?” she said.

Patti came to Birch Pond in spring 2014. She grew up in Barron, WI, and has lived in the Twin Cities for 35



years, most recently in Brooklyn Park for 20 years. She downsized and moved closer to work and friends, including her daughter, Keri, in Minneapolis, and Mike, from Northeast Minneapolis. Patti has worked at the University of Minnesota Foundation since 1992. She also loves reading, hiking, camping and travel.

New Concepts reps, continued from page 1

Stacy Sheridan — She has a paralegal degree and is pursuing her bachelor’s degree in psychology at Augsburg College. Stacy likes to read fiction and nonfiction, mostly WWII history. Her grandfather was on Normandy Beach and served through the end of the war. He shared his war experiences with her during his life, which stimulated her interest. Stacy grew up in Wayzata and currently lives in Plymouth. She has lived in Atlanta, GA, but it was too hot for her in the summer so she moved back home. She has a daughter Bailey in college; a son Brenden who is a junior in high school and three cats.

Jackie Cherne — She grew up in Brainerd, and currently lives in Apple Valley with her husband, Sam, their children, Cadence, 6, Jackson, 3, and an orange cat named

Rupert. Reading is the one hobby Jackie wishes she had more time for. She loves doing arts and crafts with her children and the family enjoys as many outdoor activities as Minnesota will allow.

COMING SOON! — Birch Pond Website
New Concepts is developing a website for homeowners. **When it’s ready, homeowners will be contacted and, if you’re interested, will be given a login name and password to set up your account.**

We had a Dickens of a great Christmas!



Make no mistake, Birch Ponders like to celebrate and decorate for the holidays. Residents in Building 10 got together one Saturday morning to decorate, followed by coffee and treats. They also had an all-building Christmas gathering on Dec. 15 with snacks. Building 20 held a Christmas party on Dec. 15 with a catered meal, “T’was the Night Before Christmas” Right/Left Pass Around game and Christmas carols.



A drive along Windsor Lane, Silver Lake Road and County E proved that we know how to decorate. Inside the Commons and decks were Christmas trees, nativities, a knight in shining armor adorned with a Santa hat and red muffler, balconies wrapped in evergreen swags and lights, and a deck stuffed with two dozen Santa Bears.



On the second floor Commons of Building 20, a Department 56 Dickens Village brought “A Christmas Carol” to life. Thanks to Amy Cameron (#211), 10 buildings and numerous accessories from her mother Peggy’s collection were nestled in a “snow-covered” village illuminated by “streetlights.” After Peggy’s death in 2009, Amy inherited the collection and decided to share it with her neighbors. With the help of Elaine Rossow (#209) and Amy’s aunt, Marsha Hanson (#211), Amy set up the village—no small task considering there were over 50 pieces.

The collection features Scrooge and Marley’s Counting House and his haunted manor, the humble Cratchit house, two churches, the poulterer, carolers, families out shopping and on sleigh rides, Ye Old Curiosity Shoppe, Faver-

sham Lamp and Oils store and Victorian cottages. And of course, what’s a Dickens Village without Ebenezer Scrooge strolling through the town square with Tiny Tim on his shoulder. Thanks for sharing, Amy!

Photo Op (and a Geography Lesson)



The Roberts-Thomson family from “Down Under” stopped in at Building 20’s Wednesday Social Hour on Jan. 6. The family, from Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia, is friends with Marguerite Nelson (#311). They got acquainted when



Marguerite’s daughter, Ann, was a high school exchange student in Australia years ago. From left are: Craig, son Angus (10), Marguerite, Leanne and Zoey (12).

Shake winter doldrums with food, spirits

By Paul Rettinger, Bldg. 20, #203
My #1 pick of restaurants this time around is **Kam Wong's Chow Mein** in Anoka, just a few blocks off Highway 10. They feature a lunch buffet 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday. Their recipe for Chow Mein very close to the taste and texture of the Nankin that used to be downtown Minneapolis. They also have great stir fry items; my favorite being Kung Pao Beef. Besides the extensive takeout, **Kam Wong's has a very cozy dining atmosphere**; mostly booths. – 3603 Round Lake Blvd, Anoka, 763-422-9193, 763-422-8458.

Olive Joe's, Willernie – Features hard-to-find **Boar's Head meats and Bridgeman's ice cream**. They have very fresh ingredients in a quaint surrounding with soft background music from the Big Band era, some jazz and light country. The building is well-hidden from the road and about a half block from the main highway, but well worth the effort. They will substitute items if they have the ingredients. – 106 Wildwood Road, Willernie, 651-426-3668, www.olivejoes.com.



Mama Maria's Italian Ristorante, North Hudson, WI – Try this in the **spring or summer when you're out for a drive**. Reservations recommended; very elegant décor. They feature **many unusual dishes**. It's a great place for seniors; many come on charter buses. – 800 North Sixth Street, North Hudson, WI, 715-386-7949, www.mamamarias.com.

Grumpy Steve's Coffee Shop, St. Paul – Nothing fancy—just chairs and tables—but the best Belgian waffle in

town and moderately priced. It's located in front of the old caves where gangsters of the 1920s and 30s from Chicago used to hide out. It features Big Band dances in the Wabasha Caves with a big ballroom and a 60-foot bar. Great hot coffees, Lattes and teas. – 215 Wabasha Street South,

Raise a glass!

If you like micro-brews, you'll like these, especially brews on the dark side.

Lake Monster Brewing – Calhoun Claw Pilsner and India Pale Ale. Available in bottles at Surdyck's, and six-packs at Top Value Liquor. www.lakemonsterbrewing.com

Bell's – Best Bronze Ale; 16 oz. cans; available in bottles at Sam's Club; cans at Surdyck's and Top Value Liquor. Look for picture of Great Horned Owl on label. www.bellsbeer.com.

Got News?

Send news, photo ops and suggestions to: [Janell Wojtowicz](mailto:Janell.Wojtowicz@comcast.net), Building 20, Apt. 315, 651-528-7425 or janellwoj@comcast.net. I'm available to help craft stories or just brainstorm.

To readers in Building 10, I don't want to overlook you! Let me know if you have news or ideas to share.



Deadline for the spring edition is March 15. For those who did not receive this by email, but would like to, send me your email address.



Christmas is over. We're stuck in the middle of winter. And the Vikings, well, you know what happened to them. So let's warm our hearts with a few fun facts about Valentine's Day.

150 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged annually, making Valentine's Day the second most popular card-sending holiday after Christmas. It's second only to Christmas with 1.6 billion cards, and is followed by Mother's Day with 133 million. Research reveals that more than half of the U.S. population celebrates by purchasing a greeting card; women buy 85 percent of the cards.

Physicians of the 1800s commonly advised their patients to eat chocolate to calm their pining for lost love. Richard Cadbury produced the first box of chocolates for Valentine's Day in the late 1800s. Today, more than 35 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate will be sold for Valentine's Day. Over \$1 billion worth of chocolate is purchased for Valentine's Day.

Almost 190 million stems of roses are sold in the U.S. on Valentine's Day. Red roses are considered the flower of love because the color red stands for strong romantic feelings. Seventy-three percent of people who buy flowers for Valentine's Day are men.