



Birchwood Lakes

# **THE BIRCH LOG**

WWW.BIRCHWOODLAKES.ORG

April 2008

## **INFORMATIONAL MEETING HELD ON MARCH 13, 2008**

An informational session about the upcoming Birchwood special assessment for lake restoration and dam repairs was held at the Public Safety Center at 91 Union Street on March 13<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the meeting was to enable representatives of the Township and Colony Club to address any preliminary questions and concerns that residents might have had about the special assessment. Doug Heinold of the Township Solicitor's office; Katherine Burger, Township CFO & Treasure; and Ryan Willits, Superintendent of Municipal Utilities, presented on behalf of the Township. Tom Andreacci and Ross Alber presented on behalf of the community. All told, approximately sixty residents attended the session.

Through the efforts of a number of volunteers and the strong support of the Township, the lakes have been restored and the dams have been repaired. Now, the Township, which co-signed the bonds on our behalf, will implement a special assessment process designed to collect a fair share from each resident and repay the bonds over time.

The Township derives its authority to conduct a special assessment from State Statute 40:56-1. Town Council unanimously passed Ordinance 2005-26 on December 13, 2005 which enabled the Township to proceed with the process. On August 22, 2006, Richard Carabelli Jr. was engaged to appraise the value derived from the restoration of the improvements and attributable to the individual lots in Birchwood. On December 11, 2007, three Special Assessment Commissioners were appointed by the Town Council for the project. These commissioners are residents on Medford Township but not of Birchwood Lakes. They are Scott Frymire, Joe Keresztury, and Jerry McHale.

If everything proceeds on schedule from this point on, the Special Assessment Commissioners will be sworn

*(Continued on page 5)*

### **REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM

At the Clubhouse

The Birchwood Lakes Officers and Directors will be addressing the issues affecting our community. Members are encouraged to attend. The Officers and Directors will be making decisions for you. Why not express your ideas? For detailed info on the meeting format and future meeting dates, go to our website and click on "Board Meetings".

Nonmembers who wish to join the Birchwood Lakes Colony Club are encouraged to come to the meeting. Their application will be taken at the meeting.

### **I'M A YANKEE DOODLE DANDY**

CALLING ALL FOURTH OF JULY  
PARTY PLANNERS!

Kickoff meeting Thursday 4/10/08  
7:30 PM BLCC Clubhouse

This is an annual BLCC tradition for the men of the neighborhood to get together and organize an all day extravaganza. Many hands are needed to make this day a success. If you are new to the neighborhood or have been here for a while, please join us. Please bring \$60 per household to begin party planning fund.

Please feel free to bring munchies and drinks. Any questions or comments, please contact:

Kevin Fennimore- [kfenn@uci-consulting.com](mailto:kfenn@uci-consulting.com)

## 2008 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President	John Cirenza	953-8912
	J.CIRENZA@verizon.net	
Treasurer	Steve Wilus	654-8683
	STEVE.WILUS@CITIZENSBANK.com	
Secretary	Vacant	
V.P. Finance	Mark Purfield	953-8330
	MDPURFIELD@comcast.net	
V.P. Lakes	Bill Brown	654-9291
	KERRYBILL@comcast.net	
V.P. Property	Guy Scott	953-5640
	GNSSCOTT@comcast.net	
V.P. Recreation	Christina Fennimore	654-5292
	CBFGOT9@yahoo.com	
Financial Sect.	Jack Campbell	953-7602
	CAMPBELL88@comcast.net	

### Directors

Tom Andreacci	11/2010	654-7922
	THOMASANDREACCI@msn.com	
Carol Kontos-Cohen	11/2008	714-2203
	KONTOS@georgian.edu	
Kelly Maguire	11/2009	654-8483
	MAGUIREFAMILY1@COMCAST.NET	
John Rothwell		654-4678
	JOHNROTHWELL@hotmail.com	
Joe Russomanno	11/2008	654-1991
	RUSSOMANNO@verizon.net	
Steve Strauss	11/2010	953-0780
	SGS321@verizon.net	
Kevin Wall	11/2009	654-6431
	KBWDECON@aol.com	

### The Birchwood Lakes Colony Club

PO Box 382 Medford, NJ 08055  
 WWW.BIRCHWOODLAKES.ORG  
 Copyright © 2007 Birchwood Lakes Colony Club  
 All rights reserved

## TEENAGER AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU

Sophie Dubbeling has recently completed the Red Cross Babysitting class and is now looking for assignments. Call her @ 609-654-8868 or email her at DDUBBLING@comcast.net. Thanks.

### MORE CONTRACTORS ADDED!

The *Resident's Recommended Contractors List* continues to grow. Check it out on our web site.

### Committees

#### Architectural

Chairperson	Bill Brown	654-9291
John Fiore		654-1080
Martha McDermott		605-2658
Antony Parsons		654-2033
Guy Scott		953-5640
Dan Ziomek		654-4635

#### Clubhouse

Chairperson	Valerie Wall	654-6431
	KBWDECON@aol.com	
Sandy Scott		Kevin Wall

### Communications

#### Website

Webmaster	Al Homann	953-3222
	AHOMANN@aol.com	

#### The Birch Log

Editor	Al Homann	953-3222
	Birch Log Distribution	

N Lakeside Dr W	Bill Bielec	654-1761
S Lakeside Dr W	Joe Zurzolo	953-2734
Upper Lake	Connie Ziomek	654-4635

#### Garden

Chairperson	Ed Briggs	953-7949
-------------	-----------	----------

### Lakes Restoration

Chairperson	Tom Andreacci	654-7922
	THOMASANDREACCI@msn.com	

### Membership

Chairperson	Patty Yulick	953-2734
	PATYYULICK@comcast.net	

The Birch Log is published just prior to each monthly meeting and before any special meeting. Materials for the newsletter should be received 12 days before the meeting. Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month, at 7:30 PM, in the Clubhouse. Material may be faxed to 609-953-3222 but the preferred method is by e-mail to AHomann@aol.com. Your e-mail will be acknowledged within 48 hours. If you receive no acknowledgement, call 609-953-3222.

## **BLCC LAKES STOCKED WITH WRONG SPECIES OF FISH**

Last week, the NJ EPA issued a report on our lakes indicating that we have an undesirable species of fish in our lakes. The occurrence of this species, the Brazilian version of our North American Large Mouth Bass, has become a serious problem in many lakes in NJ, PA and Delaware. The source of this fish is wholesalers who buy what are thought to be inexpensive stocks of Large Mouth Bass. They are actually cheap fish, illegally imported from Brazil where they are very common. They are found throughout the Amazon River basin. The problem is that they are almost indistinguishable in looks from our native Bass. The wholesalers and retailers can easily be fooled. The problem in our lakes came to light only last Tuesday and only by chance. Ned Sheerin had been visiting a school mate here in Birchwood Lakes. The boys got into a contest to see who would be the first to swim in our lakes in 2008. Both boys jumped into the rather cold water. The boys were being boys, slapping at the water, trying to pull one another under, all the usual frivolity. After just a few minutes however, Ned called out in pain as a fish had bitten him in the buttocks. The boys got out of the lake fast. Their first thought was to apply a band aid to the slightly bleeding bite. The parents however felt that there might be a possible infection from the fish or from the lake water. Mr. Burrow took Ned to the hospital in his car. There the doctors recognized the problem, as they had had two similar cases earlier in the day. With the first patient that day, the doctors were baffled because a person getting bitten by a native Large Mouth Bass is extremely rare, almost unheard of. However, the second patient had been able to bring the fish that bit him in with him. Ichthyologists from Rutgers University were the ones to identify the species of fish. In the pictures below, the North American Large Mouth Bass is on the left. The fish on the right has



two small white spots behind the gills, the only identifying difference in the Brazilian Bass. The scientists from the University described the different behavior of the Brazilian Bass. Because Ned's bathing suit was a bright, metallic red, it had attracted the fish. The Brazilian fish are accustomed to the bright red leaves of the *Alstroemericeae* plant which grows in abundance in Brazil and along the shores of the Amazon and its many tributaries. This plant is a staple of the Brazilian Bass. Like many fish in the mangroves of Florida, the Brazilian Bass supplement their diet with plant life. Ned was lucky that the doctors had seen those other two cases before he came in to the emergency room. Both other patients also had bright red bathing suits. The Ichthyologists stated that one other unusual trait of the Brazilian Bass is they only bite you on April Fools day.

### **YARD SALE! YARD SALE!**

The BLCC yard sale will take place on Sat, May 3rd (rain date, Sun., May 4th) with Deerbrook's yard sale. Starting time will be 8 am. It will be advertised in the local papers. Info at 654-5292.



### **BLCC THANKS TO..**

A big Birchwood *thank you* goes out to Michelle Swift and Kathy Lawlor for organizing the Easter egg party. We had 40 children and 20 adults having a wonderful time looking for eggs, playing games and eating pizza. Thanks also to Pam Gunderson for stuffing eggs, Chris Swift for picking up the pizza and Sandy Scott for helping set up.

*Christina Fennimore*

*Is your heating and air conditioning equipment efficient?  
"Invest in your property not the energy company"*



## **Heating and Cooling Systems**

*Professional Installation*

*Most efficient equipment on the market*

*Frigidaire*



*Geothermal, forced air, hot water, radiant floor and heat  
pump systems*

*We service most makes and models*

*Warranty and service plans to meet your needs*

*Free estimates*

**For sales and service call us at  
1-800-676-4666  
Joseph N. Russomanno  
President**

in by April 15<sup>th</sup> and they will hold a public hearing on the assessment on or about April 29<sup>th</sup>. Residents will receive notice of the public hearing from the Township by regular mail. At that time, any resident impacted by the assessment will have the right to be heard.

Following the public hearing, the Town Council can be expected to ratify the final determination made by the Special Assessment Commissioners on or about May 27<sup>th</sup>. Once ratified, the matter will be referred to the Tax Collector. The first payment due under the assessment would then be payable 60 days from May 27<sup>th</sup>. So, if the time line holds, July 27<sup>th</sup> would be the day a resident would be expected to make his or her first payment.

At this time, the Township anticipates billing each resident for one payment, due annually, over twenty years. It believes it will be able to accept upfront payments and is investigating to determine if some other repayment options may be available.

This is a special assessment, not a tax assessment. Richard Carabelli Jr., the appraiser hired by the Township for this purpose has already completed his site inspections. There is no need for him to see the interior of anyone's home. The complete assessment will be an open book: residents may even have an opportunity to review it in its entirety on-line prior to the public hearing.

---



## BOOK FAIRS PROVIDE

**A UNIQUE SHOPPING EXPERIENCE & FUNDRAISING DOLLARS!**

**COMING TO THE BIRCHWOOD LAKES COLONY CLUBHOUSE**

**Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> & Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**

**During Yard Sale Sat. 9 – 5, & Sun. 9 - 3**

**Will feature great gift items for:**

**Mother's Day, Father's Day & Graduation.**

**A portion of the proceeds will be rebated to**

**Birchwood Lakes Colony Club.**

**ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS & PERSONAL CHECKS ACCEPTED.**

Authorized Agent for Books Are Fun: Diana Dubbeling 609-868-7019 – [ddubbeling@comcast.net](mailto:ddubbeling@comcast.net)

---

Do you have family or friends interested in moving to Birchwood? We have just listed our completely renovated 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath ranch-style home at 109 N. Lakeside Dr. East! Features include spacious open floor plan, large bedrooms, granite kitchen counter tops, hardwood floors, two fireplaces, and sunroom. Call Angela Cantone at 856-235-4664 or e-mail her at [C21angelaC@aol.com](mailto:C21angelaC@aol.com). David & Tracey Blocker.

View more details at [www.realtor.com](http://www.realtor.com) then click on *Advanced Search* and enter 5317073.

**DO YOU NEED A BABYSITTER?**

I am available on the weekends and some week nights to baby sit your child. I have been certified through Cooper Hospital's Safe Sitter program. I am reliable and love children. If you would like to hire me, please call Caroline Ristine at 953-7260. PS I am also available to pet sit.

**BIRCHWOOD LAKES HOME**

available for sale, lease purchase or rent! Have a friend or relative looking to purchase or rent in the area? I have a 5 bedroom, 3 bath, lakefront home available now. Lease purchase at \$2,950/mo or buy for \$649,900. Call Andrew Meltzer at 609-315-1511 or ANDREW@GOGRM.COM

**STILL LOOKIN' ☹**

BLCC needs a Secretary to record Board Minutes. If you have one night a month and a couple hours between that once a month meeting to type up the minutes and to handle BLCC correspondence, BLCC needs you! Call Carol Kontas-Cohen, 714-2203, or email Carol at [KONTAS@GEORGIAN.EDU](mailto:KONTAS@GEORGIAN.EDU)

Other than the Board position, the Birch Log could use a volunteer to solicit paid advertisements. From time to time, businesses contact the Birch Log but we have no one to do follow up, or better, to solicit paid advertisers. Call Al Homann, 953-3222 or email AHOMANN@aol.com.

**WANT BOYS??? WE'RE AVAILABLE!!!**

If you need a babysitter or leaves raked, we're willing and able!

Hi. My name is Joey Zurzolo. I'm 14 years old in 8th grade. I have babysitting experience - with my two brothers - and with children between the ages of 1 and 10. I'm very patient and responsible. 953-2734.

Hi. My name is Michael Zurzolo. I'm 12 years old in 6th grade. I love kids and will actually play with them while you are gone. I'm just starting to baby sit, and would love to be your mother's helper first, to get to know you and your children). I'm very enthusiastic and responsible. 953-2734.

**BIRCHWOOD BUNCO!**

Attention: Birchwood Bunco Babes.... you know who you are!

Friday April 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 at Jennifer Howell's (corner of S. Lakeside E & Brookside Dr.) is the next Bunco night. Please call or email Leigh or Pam to confirm your seat, so we know if we need to call in a sub.

Anyone interested in playing Bunco, please call or email Leigh Donadieu or Pam Gundersen:

**TOWN WATCH NEEDED?**

I received a notice from Medford's Sergeant Robert Zane reporting 5 burglaries since March 13th. Two of those were in Oakwood. All of the robberies had taken place during the day, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Entry had been gained by going through the front door or garage door. One of the burglars gained entry by finding a key under the front mat.

Additionally, several Birchwood residents have noticed cars/vans parked in front of houses, seemingly "checking them out". On Thursday when Michael got off the bus, there was a small white car parked right at the end of our driveway! It was driven by a middle-aged, heavy-set, white man. When I went outside to approach the car, he drove away. I called the police and spoke with an officer. They have received other calls about a small white car, and about several vans just idling at the end of a driveway.

Maybe we should begin a neighborhood watch till these criminals are caught. I will drive both lakes and the side streets every Tuesday and Friday in the 9am hour. I will try to get the plate number. If anyone else would like to volunteer on other days/times, please reply to me. Thanks, Nora Z. Cell 609-332-0132



**Township of Medford  
Division of Police**

91 Union Street, Medford, New Jersey 08055  
Main # (609)654-7511 FAX # (609)654-5996

Chief James Kehoe  
Chief of Police

(609) 654-7805

Capt. Anthony Canale (609) 953-0834

News Release

CASE # 2008 – 3314 / 3378      DATE: April 4, 2008      TIME: 6:40 pm

TYPE OF INCIDENT: *Burglary*

LOCATION/ADDRESS:    *Oakwood Road, Medford, New Jersey*

NAME OF BUSINESS:    *N/a*

PROPERTY TAKEN/DAMAGES:      *Jewelry (\$3500)*

DEFENDANT/DRIVERS NAME, AGE, ADDRESS: *Edward S. Dormand (39) from the 400 Block of Miller Avenue, Brick, New Jersey*

CHARGES/SUMMONS:    *Burglary / Theft*

AMOUNT OF BAIL:    \$5,000.00      SET BY:      *Judge Alfred A. Faxon III, JMC*

10% AUTHORIZED       R.O.R.

SUSPECTS/INJURED:    NAME, AGE, ADDRESS:    *N/a*

TYPE OF INJURY:    *N/a*

WHERE HOSPITALIZED:    *None*

SQUAD TRANSPORTING:    *None*

INVESTIGATING/ARRESTING OFFICER:    *Medford Criminal Investigations*

**NARRATIVE:** *On April 4, 2008, Medford Police arrested Edward S. Dormand (39) of Brick, New Jersey for a "day-time" burglary and theft from a home on Oakwood Drive. Dormand surrendered to police without incident. Dormand who is formelly from Medford, alledegly burglarized two separate homes on March 31 and April 2<sup>nd</sup>. No one was home at the time of the burglary and only some of the proceeds were recovered. Dormand was charged with Burglary and Theft. He was remanded to Burlington County Jail in lieu of 10% of a \$5000.00 bail.*

(FOR QUESTIONS – PLEASE CONTACT CHIEF JAMES KEHOE or CAPT. ANTHONY CANALE

WITH SOMETHING AS IMPORTANT AS *YOUR HEALTH...*  
WHY SETTLE FOR *SECOND BEST?*

COME IN AND TRY US FOR **FREE**,  
WITH OUR 14-DAY TRIAL



**Just *Minutes* from Home**  
**A Friendly, Non-intimidating Atmosphere!**

**ATTENTION**  
**BIRCHWOOD LAKES**  
**RESIDENTS!**

Present this coupon when you join  
and receive **1/2 OFF** the Enrollment Fee!  
*Applies to one year memberships only. Offer expires 4/30/08.*



***At BREAKTHRU, you get:***

**Quality Staff!**

- Nationally Certified Trainers with degrees in Exercise Science and Real World experience
- Free assessments, with periodic re-assessments

**Expert Fat Loss Training!**

- The latest research to develop cutting edge fat loss programs for anyone.
- Our Fat loss training programs are the best in the area and that is why we get results!

**Semi-Private Training, Same Great Results!**

- Training with a partner or small group of people gives you peer motivation, better cost and a great value! Research shows, people that exercise in groups achieve their goals faster and are much more consistent with their exercise routines.

***More Professionals + More Attention = More Results***

Visit us online to register for our newsletter and other promotional offers  
Learn about all of our other services

*Massage, Full Fitness Center, Classes, The Nation's #1 Physical Therapy Practice!*

**BREAKTHRUPTFITNESS.COM**

856-396-2250 • 200 Tuckerton Rd, Suite 17, Medford • Village of Taunton Forge