



## Jean Birch

February 3, 1945 - March 5, 2024

The open house celebrating the life of Jean Birch, of Staples will be held from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 9, at the Verndale Chapel. Burial will be in Green Lawn Cemetery in Verndale, MN.

At the age of 79, Jean passed away with family by her side, at Lakewood Pines Assisted Living in Staples, MN, on March 5, 2024, with tender care provided by the staff and Lakewood Hospice.

Jean Marie DeWald was born to Clinton "Howard" and Erma (Gould) DeWald on February 3, 1945, at Wesley Hospital in Wadena, MN.

On July 9, 1966, Jean married Russell Lee Birch at the Central Methodist Church in rural Verndale. For 24 years Jean was employed with the Wadena County Sheriff's office as an administrative assistant. She had a love for horses and was active with the River Trail Riders.

Preceding Jean in death were her husband, Russell; parents, Howard and Erma; and sister, Ruth DeWald.

Jean is survived by her son, Shane Birch of Canton; grandchildren: Dylan Birch, Nathan Birch and Carlee Birch; three great-grandchildren; and siblings Larry DeWald, Linda Heikkinen and Sheila Finck.



# Cemetery Details

## Green Lawn Cemetery

16277 120th Street  
1st Ave./ Co Rd 104 (1 mile west of Verndale)  
Verndale, MN 56481

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Open House

MAR 9. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Verndale Chapel  
9 North Farwell Street  
Verndale, MN 56481  
(218) 445-5191

## Burial

MAR 9. 4:00 PM (CT)

Green Lawn Cemetery  
16277 120th Street  
1st Ave./ Co Rd 104 (1 mile west of Verndale)  
Verndale, MN 56481

# Tribute Wall



“ Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Jean Birch



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - March 08, 2024 at 12:09 PM

LH

*Wonderful picture display. Seems like only yesterday. Miss my big sister every day.*

*Linda*

Linda Heikkinen - March 08, 2024 at 05:00 PM

HJ

*What a nice tribute. I will miss my friend.*

Harold Johnson - March 08, 2024 at 06:22 PM

CD

*This is a beautiful tribute to Jean. She was a sister, a sister in law, a farm wife and daughter, mother, grandmother, RTR saddle club member, and contributed so much to those of us who knew her!! She was also a valued employee wherever she worked. As Linda Heikkinen said, "seems like only yesterday!" She will surely be missed!*

Coralie J DeWald - March 08, 2024 at 07:39 PM

RA

*So sorry for your loss, have some great memories from River Trail Riders trail rides and horse shows. She definitely will be missed.*

Rhonda Adams - March 12, 2024 at 10:02 PM

LS

“ Jean and Russ would allow 10 girls for slumber parties with Sheila; we had so much fun there. Sincere condolences to the family; this is a tough loss.

Lois Schlupp - June 06, 2024 at 01:32 PM

WS

“ Wayne & Sheila Stave sent a virtual gift in memory of Jean Birch



Wayne and Sheila Stave - March 13, 2024 at 01:38 PM

CS

You will be missed Jean. I will hold our memories in my heart. Rest in peace with the Lord.  
Chris Stanek

Christine Stanek - March 13, 2024 at 02:10 PM

TD

“ Ted & Mary Ellen Derby lit a candle in memory of Jean Birch



Ted & Mary Ellen Derby - March 12, 2024 at 09:42 PM

JC

“ Jim Janell Carr sent a virtual gift in memory of Jean Birch



Jim and Janell Carr - March 09, 2024 at 10:20 PM

KH

“ Jean you will be missed dearly! I truly enjoyed my years working with you, so wise and caring! Prayers for Jean’s family and loved ones!

Kelly Haugen - March 09, 2024 at 06:37 PM

MC

“ Jean was the best hire that I made as Sherrif. She was hard working, always the first in and the last to leave . When I needed advice or we were having a problem she always gave good advice. I considered Jean as a friend more than just an employee. My sincere condolence to the family. I know she will be missed

Mike Carr - March 09, 2024 at 11:37 AM

RO

“ Rosemary Oberg lit a candle in memory of Jean Birch



Rosemary Oberg - March 09, 2024 at 09:22 AM

MH

“ *Marladene Heinen lit a candle in memory of Jean Birch*



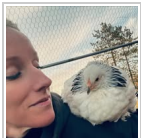
Marladene Heinen - March 08, 2024 at 01:07 PM



“ *43 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - March 08, 2024 at 12:05 PM



“ *You will be missed. Thank you for keeping us in line at the Sheriff's office for all those years!*

Amy Lane - March 07, 2024 at 10:38 PM

RC

“ *River Trail Riders Saddle Club planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jean Birch.*

River Trail Riders Saddle Club - March 07, 2024 at 08:24 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Jean Birch.*



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March 07, 2024 at 08:24 PM



“ *Many good memories playing cards, laughing, all the fun times together, Rest in peace Jean.*



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**Judy and Eddie Greenwaldt** - March 07, 2024 at 03:50 PM



“ *Dale & Marlene Campbell lit a candle in memory of Jean Birch*



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**Dale and Marlene Campbell** - March 07, 2024 at 11:18 AM



“ *We will miss you Jean.  
As a friend and as a member of the River Trail Riders saddle club.*

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**Dale and Marlene Campbell** - March 07, 2024 at 11:18 AM

JP

“ *Shane and families. So sorry to hear of your loss. We remember the carrot harvesting with Russ. Great times. She is at peace and in the arms of our LORD and SAVIOR. Deepest Sympathys. Jay and Jackie.*



Jackie Perius - March 07, 2024 at 11:04 AM

PD

“ *Patty Desrocher lit a candle in memory of Jean Birch*



Patty Desrocher - March 07, 2024 at 09:53 AM

CD

“ *Jean was a friend, a sister-in-law, and wonderful neighbor to me. Her wisdom and talents will be deeply missed. Jean, rest in peace. Love, Coralie*

Coralie J DeWald - March 07, 2024 at 05:06 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Jean Birch.*



March 07, 2024 at 05:00 AM

SW

“ *She will never be far from our hearts and her light will always shine on.*



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**Sally Siegler, Wadena** - March 06, 2024 at 09:54 PM

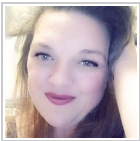
BB

“ *Prayers to the family!!*



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**Barbara Brown** - March 06, 2024 at 05:07 PM



“ *Rest easy Jean* 🕊️



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**Shelly Dukowitz** - March 06, 2024 at 04:59 PM