



Briar

Patch

Briar Patch Homeowners' Association, Inc. Website: briarpatchnpr.com

6525 Thicket Trail, New Port Richey, FL 34653

In and Around Briar Patch

Hello to all the members of our Briar Patch Community!

The City's very much anticipated courtesy trolley, the DART (Downtown Area Roundabout Trolley) began service Thursday, February 17, 2022. It is fully ADA accessible and can accommodate eleven passengers.

You can board the trolley at four locations ~ *the 4-level Parking Structure* (which opened last fall and is located at the corner of Main Street and US19 behind the new Kaiser University campus), *Stonehaven at Main Street* (formerly known as Main Street Landing), *Railroad Square*, and *Sims Park*, then back to the *Parking Structure*.

The Schedule is:

Thursdays and Fridays from 5pm until midnight
Saturdays from noon to midnight
Sunday from noon to 6:00pm

The free service will make it easy and convenient for residents and visitors to get to and enjoy downtown NPR's businesses and activities.

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Time has a way of disappearing when we are not living in the moment. Barely the day has started and already it's the evening. Barely woke up on Monday and it's Sunday night, and before you know it, the month is over... and we realize it's too late to do the things we had planned to do "later."

So despite everything, try to enjoy each day. Keep looking for activities you like. Share your smile. Be kind. Make that phone call. Time is like a river; you cannot touch the same water twice because the flow that has passed will never pass again. Don't let the "laters" become the "too lates." Hold on to the little things in life that puts happiness in your heart and enjoy every minute.



As March 17th draws near, folks start gathering their green apparel, shamrocks, and decorations in preparation for the celebration of St. Patrick's Day. People around the world celebrate St. Patrick's Day with green-themed parties and parades. The "wearing of the green" is a symbol of springtime, hope, fertility and eternal life, and has become a staple of St. Patrick's Day.

However, the holiday was originally associated with the color blue. It's thought that the shift to green happened because of Ireland's nickname "The Emerald Isle," the green in the Irish flag and the shamrock or clover. A four-leaf clover and a shamrock are not one in the same. For one, four-leaf clovers are not considered a religious symbol but they are considered a rarity. They are said to be symbols of faith, love, hope and good fortune. Your odds of finding a four-leaf clover are about 1 in 10,000. So you'd be lucky just to find one!

Historically the Lenten restrictions of eating and drinking alcohol were lifted for the day, which encouraged the propagation of the holiday's tradition of alcohol consumption (primarily beer). This holiday has been celebrated in Ireland for over a thousand years. The first St. Patrick's Day celebration in the US was held in Boston 1737.

Maewyn Succat, St. Patrick's birth name, was born in Britain around 390 A.D. His father was Italian and his mother was Scottish. When he was 16, Irish raiders attacked his family's estate and took him prisoner. They transported him to Ireland where he was held captive for six years. During his captivity, he began to have dreams and visions of angels and the voice of God, telling him to convert Irish people to Christianity. He used the shamrock,

which was plentiful in Ireland, to preach about the Holy Trinity. He explained how just like the three leaves on the shamrock the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit could be separate entities, yet they are one in the same. After spending most of his adult life converting the pagans of Ireland to Christianity, St. Patrick went to his reward on March 17, 461 A.D.

Although Saint Patrick is considered a saint of the Catholic Church, he never was canonized by a Pope. His holy day is the day of his death and subsequent entrance into heaven rather than the day of his physical birth.

A Short St. Patrick's Day Quiz: (Answers below)

- 1) A lot of Irish names begin with "Mac" which means what?
a- son of b- father to c-born of d-mother born of
- 2) Another prefix that many Irish names have is the "O" as O'Riley. What does the "O" represent?
a-father of b-elder of c-grandson of d-descendant of
- 3) A leprechaun is really an Irish:
a-shoemaker b-thief c-midget d-magician
- 4) "Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-Ral" is an American-written Irish tune that Bing Crosby made popular in what movie?
a-Father Flannigan b-Going My Way c-Bells of St. Mary d-Irish Lullaby
- 5) The term "Paddy Wagon comes from this:
a- the police wagons had soft padding b-the police station was in Paddington c-the maker of the police wagon was Paddy Inc. d-when drunk Irish got arrested they all said their name was Paddy (like John Doe)

1) a 2) c 3) a 4) b 5) d

The City of New Port Richey announces the City Council candidate slate for 2022 Municipal Election. The following candidates are qualified for New Port Richey's open council seats:

*Peter Altman Dell deChant **Frank Ferreri** Kelly Mothershead Tom O'Neil George Romagnoli*

The election will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 from 7am to 7pm at the Recreation and Aquatic Center, 6630 Van Buren Street, New Port Richey. Voters must reside within the corporate limits of New Port Richey and must present proof of residency. Election results will be posted.

Frank Ferreri's interest in and dedication to our city makes him an excellent choice. Support Frank for this Council position!

MESSAGES FROM OUR BOARD DIRECTORS

Welcome to spring; almost! Currently we are trimming up and taking down some of our trees. Unfortunately our trees are aging and outliving their life expectancy. This project was anticipated and budgeted for through 2023. At this time we are operating at a smooth pace with our lawn care and the grass is beginning to grow out of its dormancy. As a reminder, please don't water your own grass, this will help keep mold from forming from over watering. In the near future we will irrigating twice a week because of our dry weather.

In another note we will again be offering power washing of your driveways and sidewalks. The cost will be \$25! A great deal considering they use a spray to break down the black mold & fungus growing on the concrete then use a power scrubber to deep clean the concrete, not just a power wash! We will be beginning some time in April 2022

If you are interested please email me at briarpatchinfo@yahoo.com to be included on the work schedule. *Please include your name, phone number and address.*

*Fred Ausflug
Director Grounds and Landscape*



The pool is open at 9:30am and closes at sunset.

If the day time temperature is not going to be above 70 degrees, we do not remove the cover to open the pool. If the night time temperature is going below 70 degrees, we put the pool cover on at sunset.

The pool is scheduled to be closed for two to three weeks on April 18th 2022 to be resurfaced, If there is any change to this schedule it will be posted on the clubhouse billboard.

Please remember after using the pool to pick up your garbage and to return your chairs to where you found them and close any umbrellas that you used. Thank You.

*Gary Lavallie
Director of Pool*



The next roofing project will begin March 23, 2024. We'll start with replacing the oldest roofs (those on

Cabbage Lane) beginning with buildings 1, 2, 3, 4, etc.

The painting is projected to start in 2022 on buildings 13,14,17,18,19.

Pressure washing will be done on buildings 28,29,30,31,32.

*Ron Jazwa
VP/Director of Buildings & Architecture*



Why Community Engagement Is Important

Not only does helping your neighbors give you a chance to become closer as a community unit and to get outside the house, but you grow stronger as a Briar Patch family member when you participate too. You feel like you're making an impact in the community, and you will meet friends (of all ages!) while you help out others. It's also an opportunity to show off a skill or enhance a new one. As a bonus, if you get your kids involved, they'll learn a bit about volunteerism and selflessness. (I forgot to have kids. But I have borrowed other friends' kids on a project that I needed help with.)

Many people here at Briar Patch are on their own. That is to say, their family is living out of our area. Some are out of State. We can be your chosen family as neighbors. Offer to pick up some grocery items, because you are going to the store anyway. Host a casual get together. Homemade cookies or treats can go a long way to building long lasting friendships. If someone is planning a trip, offer to check on their home, or pick up their mail for them. It is always the little things that make a difference in people's lives! Pay it forward with acts of kindness.

*Jillian LaVelle
Mission Ambassador (Greeter)*

ADVANTAGES FOR 55+ ~ DI\$COUNT\$ IN or NEAR NPR

It's always nice to save a little on our purchases. There are many well-established businesses in our area that offer discounts with specifications of age, certain days, and various percentages. It's important to support small businesses too; they may not offer seniors discounts, but it doesn't hurt to ask. Here are some great discounts ...



Bealls ~ On Mondays, any age receives 10% discount. Sign up at the register.

Stein Mart ~ On the first Monday of each month, you can receive an additional 20% off its sample clearance items if you are 55 or above.

Goodwill ~ On Tuesdays, 60 and older receive 10% off.

Marshall's, Ross, and TJ Maxx ~ On Tuesdays 10% discount for seniors.

Kohls ~ On Wednesdays, seniors 60 and over receive a 15% discount.

Michaels ~ Anyone 55 and over can sign up as a Michaels member to receive a 10% discount any day of the week. When you pick up an item to purchase, you can sign up as a Michaels member and receive the discount at that time.

JoAnn Fabrics and Craft Store ~ If you're 55 or above, JoAnn offers a massive 20% discount to all seniors on specific days. Visit JoAnn's website for the announcement of when the next senior discount day will be.

Lowe's ~ All active military and veterans are entitled to get a 10% discount on all in-store purchases AND this offer is extended to their spouses.

Walgreens ~ 55 and above can benefit from the Walgreens senior discount offer at any of their stores. You will receive a 20% discount off all your eligible purchases on the first Tuesday of every month. The Walgreens senior discount can also be received if you're an AARP member.

Applebee's ~ For those 60 and above, 15% discount.

Arby's ~ 55 and above 10% discount.

Boston Market ~ 65 and above, 10% discount.

Burger King ~ 60 and above receive 10%.

Chick-Fil-A ~ 55 and above, 10% or meal OR free drink.

Denny's ~ 20% discount with an AARP card.

Outback Steakhouse ~ 15% discount with an AARP card.

IHOP ~ Senior portions are smaller and lower priced. If you are 55 or above, 10% discount on your meal.

Sign up for their Birthday Club and receive a coupon for a free stack of pancakes with any topping on your birthday, 7 days before, or 7 days after your birthday! In addition to the senior discount, a 10% off is also given to military and university students.

Ace Hardware

Rental Cars, Amtrak and Greyhound

US NATIONAL PARKS ~ Those over 62 can purchase a lifetime pass plus 50% off some amenity fees charged for facilities and services.

Remember: ALWAYS, ALWAYS ask first before you buy.