



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!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Fourth of July—also known as Independence Day or July 4th—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence. Two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, drafted by Thomas Jefferson.

From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.

It's hard to imagine Independence Day without fireworks. It's history stems back to the summer of 1776 during the first months of the Revolutionary War. Officially, the Continental Congress declared its freedom from Britain on July 2, 1776, when it approved a resolution but it wasn't signed until July 4th. John Adams expressed that he believed that our "independence would be celebrated for generations as the great



anniversary festival solemnized with pomp and parade, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of the continent to the other from this time forward forever more." The tradition continues.



Beginning this month, a new section will be added to the newsletter. It will feature one of our residents and provide some of their background. You may be *aware* of them, heard their name, or recognize them in passing; but reading their story will help you to **know** your neighbor.



Claire and Abbott Phillips

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Claire Phillips

The youngest of three children to English parents, I was born in Plymouth, South Devonshire, England. My somewhat strict and Victorian father would on rare occasion take us to the putting green on Plymouth Hoe and regale us with the triumphs of Sir Walter Raleigh. My mother, despite suffering from tuberculosis, ran a dancing academy and arranged regular concerts, so that at the age of four I could be found happily dancing in my pink tutu performing the dance of the butterflies or, in the finale, as the tiny bride in the “Bells of St. Mary’s” finale. Sadly, these activities diminished as my mother’s health worsened.

Life in England was fairly austere in the aftermath of WW2 but we were fortunate in having good schools nearby. I could not wait to finish and ‘persuaded’ my father to let me attend a Business Academy, rather than going on to University. I was fascinated with the realm of ‘big business’ with a desire to be privy, in any capacity, to the machinations at the very top. Armed with my very dubious shorthand/typing skills and a very enquiring mind, my very first job was as a junior in the head office of a large Department Store.

Predictably, I spent the next few years working my way into gradually better positions as assistant to various Directors and with increasing responsibilities.

During this period I married at 18, had two children but divorcing after 7 years and remaining single for 12. I married a visiting American from PA. But this career woman found herself with no green card, living in a five bed roomed house with a husband, four children, three dogs, two cats and a parrot! This was a much shorter marriage.

Eventually I settled in New Jersey as assistant to the president of a High Tech export company who decided to promote me to VP / director of sales and marketing. The promotion offered commissions and great bonuses although I was convinced I would starve to death! But it worked. During the following years I travelled, mainly solo, to most countries in Asia and Europe.

Still in NJ, in 1985 I started my own import company, (Elexus International) selling metallurgic components from the UK and Israel throughout the US via a team of commissioned sales reps. After 25 good years and the sad death of my third husband, Abbott. In 2009 I sold the company and then our property on the river.

My lovely daughter and her Floridian husband wanted to move to Florida and suggested I move also. In 2010 I bought a house in Briar Patch and they bought a house with pool just four miles away. About a year later the Briar Patch board badly needed a secretary and I could not resist. I did enjoy my several years on your Board. But now, after so many years of hard work and much travel, I am enjoying the luxury of peaceful surroundings with no incessant phone calls, telexes, faxes, emails, overseas visitors or extensive travel. At this time in my life I may no longer appear to be very social, but I am **so** enjoying the quiet and, of course, the beautifully maintained Briar Patch. It’s a shame there’s no putting green.

Markets to Visit In and Around NPR

2nd and 4th Sunday of each month ...

Wrights Farmers Market

Shop along the sidewalk on Main St. between Adams St. and Grand Blvd. Support local growers, bakers and makers from 11am to 2pm October-May! You can find plants, vegan treats, microgreens, jewelry, handmade soaps and more.

4th Sunday of each month ...

(unless a holiday impedes the date)

Odessa Market at Starkey Ranch

Located at 12070 Lake Blanche Avenue, Odessa (within Starkey Ranch District Park). The market includes 40 to 60 artisans, local businesses, crafters, bakers, food trucks, and entrepreneurs, fresh fruits and vegetables, organics from local farms. The Market donates 10% of their spaces (4-6) to local organizations, giving them the opportunity to engage directly with the community. Open from 10am to 2pm.

Monday through Sunday ...

Farm Store & Market

The *Farm Store* is located on a 30-acre ranch, 15232 Matis Rd., Hudson. Also the home of the *Crooked Shack*. Lots to see and experience on the farm for the whole family! Jams, jellies, local honey, herbs and blooms, farm fresh products & produce for sale every day 10am to 6pm. Our market has a mission donating 100% of the proceeds to our therapy program for special needs children and veterans.

Each Tuesday of the month ...

Tasty Tuesdays Community Market

Located outside the New Port Richey Public Library, 5939 Main Street. Locally grown organic food and hand-made artisan items plus produce, plants, breads, honey, coffee skin care and more. Open 10am to 1pm rain or shine!

4th Friday of each month ...

Shops of Stonehaven

From 6pm to 9pm enjoy shopping, drinks, food and treats while visiting the numerous shops and restaurants. In addition, there will be lots of vendors offering jewelry, art, candles, shirts and much more.

Every Saturday ...

Farmer's Market

In the shopping center at 3021 Commercial Way, Spring Hill you will find grass-fed meats, heirloom plants and seeds, local honey, crafts, hand-made natural soaps, and much, much more. Come shop – 10am to 3pm.

First Saturday of each month ...

Trinity's Farmers Market

Located at Trinity Commons, 1540 Little Road, Trinity. Shop unique offerings of fresh produce, plants, local foods, artisan crafts and jewelry, farm-fresh products, bread, and more. Open from 9am to 1pm.

First Saturday of each month ...

The Backyard Bazaar

Located on Nebraska Ave, between Grand Boulevard and Adams Street. The market features a rotating cast of artisanal artists and makers selling handmade goods, jewelry, art, woodwork, gifts and so much more.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/5 Sandy Sgroe

7/15 John Murray

7/21 Gwen Maloy

7/22 Mary Clark

REMINDER: If you haven't already, please email your birth date to me (cla@frontier.com) to be included in the newsletter.

MESSSGES FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The pool is in worse condition than originally thought. However, the time and expense for this work will assure a sound pool for many years. We appreciate everyone's patience. Updates will be provided as we receive them.

A Big thanks to Gary for coordinating the project.

Frank Ferreri
President



A lot of hard work and dedication has gone into keeping our community landscape in such good shape. We've heard numerous compliments from our members, as well as visitors, how well kept and pleasing our environment is! **Thank You** to Preston and staff at Cutters Greenscapes!

Fred Ausflug
Director of Grounds and Landscape



What does it mean to be a great neighbor? TV shows us a lot of bad neighbors: Gladys the busy body neighbor in Bewitched, 3's Company had the nosy neighbor, and Raymond's meddling parents next-door. An example of a good neighbor is Wilson on Home Improvement. He was the wise neighbor who simply brings experience into an objective comment.

In Briar Patch we are blessed to have a lot of great neighbors. Sure, we do have some grumpy ones, but by and large we are surrounded by good ones. I know of neighbors who truly have stepped up. One neighbor who took care of the cat next door while the owner was in the hospital and continued tending to the cat after it's owner passed away. Several who have reached out to a new owner who had cancer and assisted with grocery shopping plus more! Neighbors who during 2020 also went shopping for folks who were at high risk. I've seen a neighbor who gives a helping hand for the leaves of a tree when another is unable to tend to them. I witnessed these neighbors. This makes our neighborhood into a unique caring one. Great job!!!!

I became aware of a need for some neighbors who don't receive this newsletter because they are not online. There are copies at the clubhouse, but how would they know if they don't see any message online! If you know of a neighbor in that situation then please either print out a copy or volunteer to get them one. Great job!

Jillian LaVelle
Director at Large

"National" Holiday ~ Ice Cream Day

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed July as *National Ice Cream Month* and established *National Ice Cream Day* as the third Sunday in July (this year it's on July 17th).

Thousands of years ago, people in the Persian Empire put snow in a bowl poured concentrated grape juice over it, and ate it as a treat. Even when the weather was hot, they would savor this sweet treat because they placed snow in underground chambers known as yakchal where the temperatures kept the snow from melting.

The Chinese, under the Tang Dynasty around 697 AD, took to freezing dairy with salt and ice. However, the results aren't exactly the ice cream we enjoy today. Frozen treats and beverages later, culinary folks point to Naples, Italy as the birthplace of the first ice cream. They give credit to Antonio Latini. He was born in 1642 and created a milk-based sorbet.

In the United States, the Quaker colonists earn the nod for bringing their ice recipes over with them. They opened the first ice cream shops, including shops in New York and other cities during the colonial era.

Dish, cone or cup, share some with your family and friends! Enjoy *National Ice Cream Day!*



The two-day Independence Day celebration, hosted by New Port Richey Main Street, kicks off Friday evening (July 1) at Sims Park in downtown New Port Richey. Admission is free.

The 19th annual Friendly KIAFest Main Street Blast is from 5pm to 11pm Friday and noon to 11pm Saturday. The KIAFest Main Street Blast received "Honor Award for "Best Main Street Event" by Florida's Secretary of State and was named one of the "Top 20 Events in the Southeast" by Southeast Tourism magazine! This year's events are sure to be spectacular!

Among the offerings are a full lineup of live music, food and beverages, beer garden, craft vendors, boat tours and military vehicles on display, and a Classic Car & Truck Cruise-in (4 to 8 pm Saturday). Those who attend are welcome to compete for a \$500 prize at the Friendly KIA Trolley Pull on Saturday.

ENTERTAINMENT AT SIMS PARK

Friday, July 1

6:30pm – 8:30pm	Barefoot Bob & The Hope
9:00pm – 10:30pm	Purple Madness (Tribute to Prince)

Saturday, July 2

1:00pm – 12:30 pm	SPF 40
3:00pm – 4:30pm	Fade to Grace
5:00pm – 6:30pm	Elvis Tribute
7:00pm – 8:30pm	Retribution/Celebrates the 80s and 90s
9:00pm – 10:30pm	King of Pop/Michael Jackson Tribute



MORE CELEBRATIONS NEARBY

- **Sparklebration** Star-Spangled Spectacular: Pasco County's celebration is from 4 to 10 pm July 4 at the Pasco County Fairgrounds, 36722 State Road 52, Dade City. Includes live music, food court, numerous eating contests, karaoke contest, petting zoo, bounce houses, pony rides, games, face painting and a fireworks finale. Admission \$6, 12 and younger free. Parking \$5. *No coolers, alcohol, pets or personal fireworks.* For more info call (352) 567-6678 or sparklebration.com
- **Rhythm and Brews Festival** The second annual Fourth of July party will be from 2:00pm to 10:00pm July 4 at Rhythm and Brews, 4711 Gall Blvd., Zephyrhills. Food by Flaming Q BBQ, local beer, wine and music by Kid Royal and the Hang Ups, Rev. Billy C. Wirtz, Doug Deming and the Jewel Tones, and the Sugar and Spice Revue. Tickets are \$10 advance, \$15 at entrance. (813) 395-6957 for more info.
- **The City of Port Richey Independence Day Fireworks Display** July 7 from 4:00pm to 10:00pm, at Waterfront Park, 8119 Old Post Road, Port Richey. Call (727) 816-1900, ext.180 for further information.
- **Tarpon Springs Fourth of July Fireworks** The City of Tarpon Springs says the best viewing spot for fireworks is Fred Howard Park, 1700 Sunset Drive, Tarpon Springs. They're set to go off at "dusk" on July 4. Call (727) 938-3711 for further information.
- **Fire Cracker Smash'em Up** Gates open at 4 p.m. July 4 at the Hernando County Fairgrounds, 6436 Broad St., Brooksville. Demolition derby begins at 7:00pm. There will be live music, crafts, games, a Lego display, bounce houses and pony rides. Fireworks will follow the demolition derby. Free admission; parking is \$5. Admission to the demolition derby is \$10, \$5 for ages 4-12, and free for ages 3 and younger. Call (352) 796-4552 for further information.