



Briar

Patch

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

6525 Thicket Trail, New Port Richey, FL 34653

In October, autumn comes into full swing. Autumn in Florida is the BEST of all possible worlds. Opening up the doors and windows and letting in the natural airflow again ... Wow! It's like Spring in other parts of the world.

Here are some days of note in October –

October 4 at sundown marks the start of Yom Kippur. Yom Kippur means “Day of Atonement” in Hebrew. This is the holiest Jewish holiday of the year and ends the ten Days of High Holidays or, “Days of Awe,” which begin with Rosh Hashanah.

October 9 is Leif Erikson Day. The arrival of Leif Erikson and his Vikings in North America over 1,000 years ago didn't really change history. Leif's explorations never led to permanent settlement. But what we are celebrating is a historic encounter between Europeans and North Americans. One could say it was the original Family Reunion.

October 10 is a busy day with three holidays packed into it:

Canadian Thanksgiving Second Monday in October. Canadian Thanksgiving was originally less about celebrating the harvest and more about thanking God for keeping early explorers safe as they ventured into the New World. Today, the tradition of Thanksgiving is primarily seen as a time to gather the family, mark the start of autumn, and celebrate the harvest and good food of the season.

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OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/7 Iris Davis

10/7 Mark Jones

10/10 Jesse Gonzalez

10/11 Panagis Leonis

10/14 Jillian LaVelle

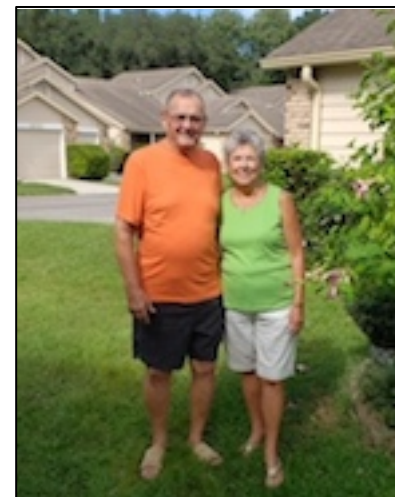
10/19 Lucinda Green





MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Theodore & Beverly Hughes



We're from the beautiful Hudson Valley in New York. We've been in Florida about 25 years. Every time we went past this development, I said, "That place is calling out my name." About 13 years ago we answered the call and here we are in Briar Patch. We've been married 62 years, have 2 children, 3 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

Ted was successful in advertising. I was a stay-at-home Mom until our youngest attended junior high school, then I worked at a local bank. When he came down with chickenpox while I was working, I felt so guilty to not be at home with him; I wanted to quit. However he talked me out of it and I continued at the bank for almost 18 years.

We have done a lot of traveling – cruises in the winter and motor home in summer. I like to swim, walk, and ride my bike. When at home, Ted likes to putter around the yard and baby his orchids. What we both really enjoy though is studying the Bible with anyone who shows interest.

I would like to say to all the new home owners – "Welcome to Briar Patch; we know you will love it as much as we do!"



October 5 "National Holiday" ~ DO SOMETHING NICE DAY

It would be ideal if everyone lived their lives doing something nice for others on a daily basis without thinking about it. We hold the power to change the course of a person's day in a matter of seconds by being kind. Kindness doesn't require grand gestures, just simple things like:

- ❖ Open the door for another person
- ❖ Let someone with only a few items go ahead of you at the checkout counter
- ❖ Give a sincere compliment
- ❖ Send a card that says "just because"
- ❖ Ask someone how their day is going and genuinely listen to their response
- ❖ Smile at everyone you see
- ❖ Say "Thank you" more often
- ❖ Share some baked goods
- ❖ Volunteer
- ❖ Introduce yourself to your new neighbor

You've got the idea. Doing something nice, being kind, takes very little effort and hardly any time. It not only has an affect on others, but it has a positive impact on us as well. Kindness is not doing something nice for someone else because *they can't*, but because *you can*. If you're doing something nice, you're doing the right thing. If you're not getting the right result, no worries; at least *you know* you're *doing* the right thing. So just do it.

REMINDER: In these "National Holiday" sections the "National Holidays" do not have a proclamation of the

MESSAGES FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Volunteer Spotlight!

Rosemarie MacLauchlan, one of our very own Briar Patch neighbors, has been volunteering at Metropolitan Ministries since August 2021 through Seniors in Service! This nonprofit organization offers volunteer opportunities for seniors (55+) as well as services that benefit seniors. Rosemarie was highlighted in its Facebook post #ShoutOutSunday on 9/4/2022 <https://www.facebook.com/seniorsinservice/>. Rosemarie has been a Florida resident since 1965 and she has volunteered at several organizations over the years. She is 89 years *young* and a retired Registered Nurse.

Ann Wilkinson, Seniors in Service, was a guest speaker at our Annual Meeting last year. According to Ann, there is a great need for male TelePal volunteers currently. Yes, *volunteer from home* to telephone other male seniors just to talk for a few minutes, weekly or monthly! Training is offered to all volunteers.

Services offered for seniors include food pantry, veteran's help, letter writing, food delivery, caregiver support, TelePals and more. Please contact Ann at 813-492-8921 or www.seniorsinservice.org.

Gwen Maloy

Director of Administration

Namasta

The new word in Florida is "Namasta." When asked, "Are you going to evacuate?" Native Floridians say, "Namesta right here." It is amazing what the storm brings out. Suddenly, there is tons of activity. So much prep to do. Many decisions to be made. Should I stay or should I go? Until the storm finishes with Cuba, then we don't really know the direction it will take. The good news is that it still takes two or three days to get to Tampa after Cuba. I have hurricane windows, food, an emergency kit, and a bag packed. I know which shelter I prefer. Every year my prep gets stronger. It is a learning experience. Fortunately, I make candles, so I am good to go there. My candles are now in pretty lanterns spread throughout my home.

My traditional sandbags are in a ready position, but this year I added to them. There is a new bag that has absorbing crystals. They are easy to store. They swell up with water, so the key is in the prep. They need to be submerged so they can activate fully and become an instant dam. I wasn't as good with them for this storm, but will get better. Great for redirecting water flow and being an additional barrier for water coming into my lanai. We were very lucky with the storm, but there are others who are not. Please donate, if you can, to those victims.

There are a number of funds. The local news channels have lists on their websites. You may want to see if you can volunteer at the American Red Cross or food pantries. Your time and energy would be appreciated. John Donne once said, "No man is an island." His simple poem explores the connectedness of people. In life, we come together so all can move forward.

Jillian LaVelle

Director at Large

Please be aware when parking on the street to not park directly across from another vehicle. That leaves very little room for another to pass through, let alone an emergency vehicle.

Big **THANKS** to our volunteers for bringing in all the furniture around the pool to the patio and securing the tarp around the openings before hurricane Ian, and also replacing the furniture after the hurricane.

Cutters Landscaping is, and will be, working on cleanup from the storm over the next few weeks. If anyone needs special attention around their home, please call me directly at 440-343-0696.

For those new to Briar Patch, remember to fill out any work order requests on line at briarpatchnpr.com if you plan or need anything done to your home per our deed restrictions. Over the next few weeks I will be evaluating our aging trees throughout our community for safety concerns.

Again, thank you for not parking on our lawns; this has helped prevent irrigation repairs.

Fred Ausflug

Director Grounds & Landscape



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Columbus Day (U.S.), a federal holiday, is observed on the second Monday in October. It was on October 12, 1492, that Christopher Columbus landed on a small island in the Bahamas, convinced that he had reached Asia. Columbus Day was first celebrated in New York City in 1792 to mark the 300th anniversary of Columbus's arrival. Although he was not the first European to come across the Americas (Vikings, among others, had visited before), his journey sparked enthusiasm for European exploration of the hemisphere, and kicked off a significant connection between the Old World and the New World.

Indigenous Peoples' Day **Indigenous** is a day to recognize the rich culture and contributions of the Native American people and their ancestors, as well as to mourn those lost to genocide and Western Colonization. For the Native Americans, Columbus Day was always hurtful as it glorified the violent Past constituting 500 years of colonial torture and oppression by European explorers like Columbus and those who settled in America. Indigenous Peoples' Day draws attention to the pain, trauma, and broken promises that were erased by the celebration of Columbus Day. Before his arrival, the indigenous folk were successful, self-sufficient communities that sustained life for thousands of years.

October 18 is St. Luke's Little Summer. Lovely, summerlike days that occur around October 18 are called Saint Luke's Little Summer in honor of the saint's feast day. Around this time, Saint Luke's feast day, there is a brief period of calm, dry weather. Of course, it's difficult to generalize today across the vast continent of North America, but the temperature is usually mild and the leaf colors are turning a gorgeous color. It was created to keep from being forgotten that St. Luke presented us with some golden days to cherish before the coming of winter.

October 24 is United Nations Day, which aims to bring awareness to the work of the United Nations across the world. The UN was established after World War II with the aim of preventing future wars, succeeding the League of Nations, which was characterized as ineffective. On April 25, 1945, 50 governments met in San Francisco for a conference and started drafting the UN Charter, which was adopted on June 25, 1945 and took effect on October 24, 1945, when the UN began operations.

October 31 is Halloween (All Hallows' Eve) The origin of Halloween can be traced to an ancient festival called *Samhain* (pronounced sow-in) meaning Summer's End. This was a sacred festival celebrated by the ancient Celts and Druids in the British Isles. It marked the end of harvest time and the beginning of the "dark half" of the year. It was a seasonal marker as the ancient Celts bid goodbye to warmth and light as day length shortened.

On a spiritual level, Celts believed that the veil between the worlds of the living and the dead was at its thinnest during Samhain. It marked the time of the year in which the barrier between the earthly world and the spirit world dissolved, allowing spirits and faeries to walk among - and perhaps torment - mortals. People would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. The Roman Catholic Church further modified Samhain, designating November 1 as All Saints' Day to honor all saints from Christian history. This day was formerly known as All Hallows' Day, *hallow* meaning to sanctify, or make holy. The evening before, October 31, is known as All Hallows' Eve - or, more commonly, Halloween!

Hundreds of years ago, winter was a frightening and uncertain time because food supplies were low and winter days were dark. In England, during the parades on All Saint's Day, poor people would beg for food. The poor would promise to pray for the families' dead relatives in respond to receiving food called "soul cakes;" perhaps the start of "trick-or-treat" today. In the second half of the 19th century, America was flooded with new immigrants. The combination of the cultures cultivated an American version of Halloween; it was directed mainly at the young. Today there are costumes, parties, trick-or-treating, scary movies, and "Haunted Houses" to visit for both adults and children. Americans spend an estimated \$6 billion on Halloween making it the country's second largest commercial holiday, Christmas being the first.

