



**Briar**

**Patch**

Briar Patch Homeowners' Association, Inc. Website: [briarpatchnpr.com](http://briarpatchnpr.com)

6525 Thicket Trail, New Port Richey, FL 34653



**PRESIDENTS DAY**

President's Day, originally called Washington's Birthday, is on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> this year. It was created to celebrate the birthday of our first president, George Washington, as a sign of respect long before it became a federal holiday in 1879. Although George Washington was born on February 11, 1731, the date of Presidents Day changes every year.

Republican representative Robert McClory spearheaded the bill to change the celebration to the third Monday of February. He also proposed to change the name to President's Day, so Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays could share the holiday as Lincoln's birthday is February 12<sup>th</sup>.

The Uniform Holiday Act was signed on June 28, 1968 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. The Act was designed to increase the number of three-day weekends for federal employees. The Act moved permanent to a Monday three Federal holidays – Washington's Birthday (aka President's Day), Memorial Day and Labor

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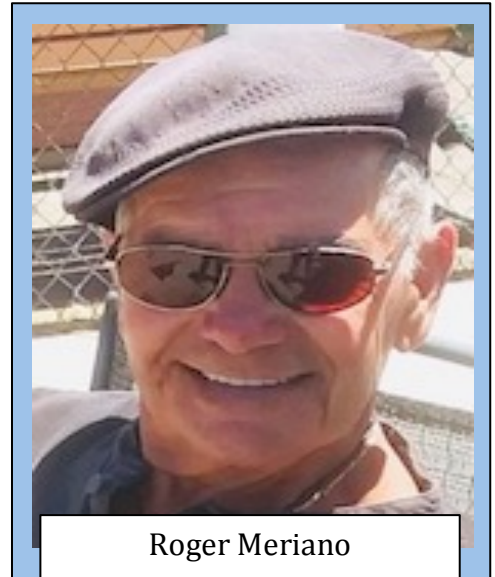
Day and that made Columbus Day a Federal holiday also on a Monday. Federal holidays are those observed by the federal government so that anyone who works for one of those entities generally has the day off as a benefit agreed upon by employer and employee. Federal holidays may be observed on a Friday or a Monday if they fall on a weekend.

While we know the holiday more popularly as President's Day, the federal government still officially calls it Washington's Birthday.



## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

### *Roger Meriano*



Roger Meriano

Roger grew up in Bridge Port, Connecticut. At 18, he joined the Aviation division of the Navy as a mechanic for the jet squad. His responsibility was to ensure a safe and efficient flight by distinguishing any problems with the fighter jet engines. He actually crawled into the combustion chamber to listen for and identify the particular malfunctioning part. When the part causing the problem was repaired or rebuilt, Roger would go up with the pilot in the jet when they were practicing Dog Fight and Bombing Maneuvers. The very next day after his four years in the Navy, Roger was hired by a government machine shop and worked on experimental jet engine parts.

When he married, he moved to Milford, Connecticut; and after divorcing, he bought a condo along the shores of West Haven, Connecticut. He earned his certification as a Building Official/Inspector and worked for the City of Milford for 26 years. He retired at age 56. The retirement present to himself is a 2004 350Z Nisan convertible, Silvertone, with a black top (for which he smiles as he talks about it).

Whether he was delivering milk or caddying at a young age, when enlisted in the Navy, or any number of his employments in his subsequent endeavors as an adult, Roger always provided funds to his mother, as she was a single parent who raised Roger and his twin half-brothers. In 1998, Roger and his brother bought a house in Briar Patch for their mother. After her death, Roger decided to keep the house and travel from NPR to Connecticut at various times of the year. He takes the Autotrain (Amtrak) from Sanford, Florida to Lorton, Virginia and completes the 5-1/2 hour drive from there to West Haven.

Roger's home in Briar Patch displays nautical decor representing his life on the shores of Connecticut. He has a tall and wide bookcase filled with books from well-known authors as well as those on various interesting subjects like history, philosophy, trivia, psychology, exodus, and genesis (to name only a few).

After retiring, Roger took an eight-week trip across the States. Some of the places he enjoyed visiting are: Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio, the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee, The Hot Air Balloons Festival in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he worked with the balloon pilots, Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada, Mount St. Helen's volcanic peak in Washington, the coast of California, and Corpus Christie, Texas. He also enjoyed time on his Runabout boat in Long Island Sound fishing, digging clams, and enjoying the view. Here in NPR, Roger walks daily. He always offers a smile and a wave to those who pass by while he's reading or working on a puzzle comfortably sitting in his drive. I'm sure he would enjoy your smile and a wave as you pass by.



Did you ever wonder why time seems to pass so quickly when you're having fun? So what is time? It's the progression of events from the past into the future. Time moves only in one direction, forward but never backward. America's official time is kept at a government laboratory in Boulder, Colorado. It's fed through computer networks and cellphone towers to our personal gadgets, which tick in perfect synchrony.

The human brain is equipped to track time. Certain nuclei in the brain are the reason for daily circadian rhythms. But neurotransmitters and drugs affect time perception. Chemicals that excite neurons so they fire more quickly than normal *speed up* time, while decreased neuron firing slows down time perception. Basically, when you are enjoying yourself, time seems to *fly by* because the brain distinguishes more events within an interval. Time seems to *slow down* during times of emergency or danger because it gives us more time to respond to the situation. However, as you know, time doesn't last forever.

*Enjoy life and remember, don't count the days, make the days count.*

## MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# BRIAR PATCH ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, February 13 ~ 1:00pm

Calvary Chapel Worship Center ~ 6825 Trouble Creek

This article for the Briar Patch monthly newsletter provides an update regarding current and future activities which impact the buildings in which we all reside.

As many of you know, letters were sent out regarding damage to garage doors. This has created a lot of discussion and questions. The overall intent was and is to improve the appearance of our community. This is NOT the first-time letters have been sent out requesting repair/replacement of garage doors.

Efforts are underway to find a good and dependable handyman. This task has been challenging at best. I hope to have someone on board very soon.

Review of roofs for possible reroofing has occurred. The reason for this is as follows: age of roofs and leaks which have occurred after rain storms this past Summer and hurricane Nicole. Four different companies have walked the roofs of multiple units (Bldgs. 1 – 6 and the Clubhouse) last re-shingled in 2009 to determine if reroofing should occur sooner rather than later. The feedback received is as follows:

- flashing shows signs of deterioration due to improper product use (i.e., metal was installed instead of aluminum),
- siding was installed with no reveal along the roof lines. Installation with no reveal or gap creates a situation where when it rains the bottom edge of the siding is subjected to excessive amounts of moisture causing rot or decay.
- kickout flashing could have been installed on the two-story units to keep water away from the siding as water comes off the upper roof dormer.
- shingles are showing signs of deterioration, along with the nails which hold them in place.

Reroofing benefits are as follows:

- Rotted or damaged decking will be replaced.
- The entire roof decking will be re-nailed to meet current wind mitigation requirements.
- Peel and Stick membrane will be installed creating a secondary waterproof barrier.
- Skylights can be replaced (at the owners' expense) with new Hurricane rated units.  
NOTE: Skylights not meeting current Hurricane standards will compromise Wind Mitigation requirements.
- Lifetime GAF shingles will be installed.
- Ridge venting will be installed over the garages to help with heat dissipation.
- Wind Mitigation Inspection will be performed and made available to each homeowner.
- Replacement of rotted siding (due to improper installation) along the upper roof lines will be replaced.
- Resulting in buildings which are better secured against weather and provide an opportunity for better insurance rates.

Painting of buildings by Duna Painting continues per the established schedule.

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The maintenance of exterior windows (including screens) is an expectation as is keeping gutters free of debris per requirements found within General Information of the Briar Patch Website. Please inspect your home for any other damage. Such as fascia and siding, if found, submit an online work request via the Briar Patch Website.

I would like to ask all Briar Patch Homeowners to inspect their gutters and downspouts to ensure that they are functioning properly.

I am including an attachment which gives examples of gutters which require cleaning and the reason for this request.

Here are the reasons for this notification:

1. It is a requirement that homeowners in Briar Patch keep their gutters free-flowing,
- 2 Gutters containing debris can cause rot to the fascia and create a potential for leaks,
3. Degrades the life of the shingles,
4. Creates an environment for ants and termites to live,
5. Creates an unsightly appearance.
6. Let's practice and promote Briar Patch Pride!

## Gutters Require Cleaning

Per Briar Patch requirements found within **Bylaws and Deed Restrictions**

[2015 Briar Patch Deed Restriction](#)...states:

23. Homeowners shall keep their gutters and downspouts free-flowing and unobstructed; the Association shall not have such an obligation.



I want to promote what I am calling Patch Pride (a borrowed phrase) by maintaining our buildings to the best of our abilities. Your support in this effort is greatly appreciated. Regards,

**Kevin Risner**, Director of Buildings

