



Briar

Patch

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

6525 Thicket Trail, New Port Richey, FL 34653

MARCH is a Busy Month

"In like a lion, out like a lamb" The phrase insinuates that the month of March begins with the continuation of cold winter (*aggressive like a lion*) and ends with warmer spring-like weather (*soft like a lamb*). This year Punxsutawney Phil revealed he did indeed see his shadow. He has projected a longer winter 107 times (84%) since 1887. Time will tell.

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 12th. The easiest way to ensure your clocks are showing the correct time on Sunday is to turn your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

March Madness is the time of the annual NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament. It begins on Tuesday, March 14th. The first four games will be played in Dayton, Ohio and continue to the Final Four in Houston, Texas.

St. Patrick's Day Friday, March 17th There are a number of traditions associated to St. Patrick's Day. Besides religious traditions, others are parades, corned beef and cabbage meals, a pint of Guinness, and wearin' of the green. It's a day for everyone to join in the celebrations even though they have no connection to Ireland.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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One more Director TBA

First Day of Spring Monday March 20th is the date that marks the spring equinox in the northern hemisphere. Eventually earlier dawns and later sunsets. Spring and winter equinoxes are the only two times each year that the sun rises due east and sets due west. Check it out.

Major League Baseball (MLB) is the most historic professional sports league in the US. Baseball is the sport that Americans still recognize as their "national pastime." Opening Day is Thursday, March 30th, all 30 teams are scheduled to play.



MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR *Michael and Laurie Blevins*



Michael and Laurie

When Michael and Laurie Blevins visited their daughter and family in Trinity, they had a chance to look around the area. In September of 2020, they bought their home in Briar Patch right in the middle of the Covid epidemic. That put a damper on a lot of things – finding stores that were open and actually finding items on the shelves; but mostly not able to get to know their neighbors. As time and the epidemic have past, they have become very acclimated to the area and have met many Briar Patch residents.

Even though they lived minutes apart right across the state borders – Michael in Maryland and Laurie in Pennsylvania, - they didn't meet until Laurie's brother (who was in the Navy) brought his sailor friend along when he came home on leaves. The rest is history. Michael and Laurie will be celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary next year in May. As they have done through the years, they are planning a trip for their celebration. They love to travel, catch Broadway Shows and Musicals, take cruises, visit beaches, bike and hike, visit the gym, play cards, and also spend time with their three children and three grandchildren.

Michael recently retired from a job of 20 years as Manager with the Maryland Transit Administration and Laurie from various positions in the banking industry. They love their retirement! They originally purchased their home in Briar Patch as a place for these two "Snow Birds" to get away to the warmer winter weather. They're very happy here in Briar Patch and have recently decided that they will make this their permanent home.

March 1 ~ "National" Peanut Butter Day

Peanut butter is a protein-packed spread popular around the world. It's been on market shelves since 1884 when the peanut butter paste was patented by Marcellus Gilmore Edison (a Canadian chemist and pharmacist). However, initially, the oil would separate from the paste, requiring it to be stirred often and it didn't keep fresh for very long.

In 1922-1923, Joseph Rosenfield, a food businessman in California, patented his homogenization solution by adding vegetable shortening to keep the peanut paste from separating from the oil. This solution made it possible to churn the peanut butter to a creamy consistency and keep the ingredients from separating. It also eliminated the efforts of constant stirring and provided a one-year shelf life.

Although peanut butter contains a range of nutrients (protein, niacin, magnesium, and Vitamin B) that may offer health-boosting benefits, read the label before buying. Some brands may have added sugar and fats. Check out this simple, nutritious Smoothie recipe!

PEANUT BUTTER SMOOTHIE

½ cup milk

1 small ripe banana

2 tablespoons peanut butter

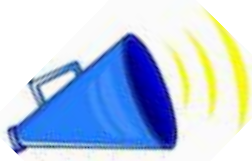
6 ice cubes

Combine all ingredients in a blender container until smooth.

Pour into a glass and top it with a bit of Reddi-Whip.

MESSAGES FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

All on Board!



There is a new Board of Advisors here at the Briar Patch. Surprise, I am President. Please rest assured that I am dedicated to serving our community. I will always strive to put the community's needs first. There are really two positions on the board - those that serve the community and those that support those servers. We have a great group of people on our board. All bringing fresh eyes, talents, and ideas. I see a fresh, new energy. As President, I am here to help the other board members shine.

For those who want things to stay the same in our community, you will be pleased to know that I will be taking my lead from Marlene Winchester on the manner of running our meetings. That will feel very familiar. The one constant in life is change. Life has a way of pushing things forward.

We have a new technology that began on the week of February 19th. It is designed to allow for a cover-free pool, yet keep the heat in overnight. Will keep you posted on the success of that project. We are looking to change and do pool by committee. It is such an important part of our development that it needs more attention. The Gary and Muriel team were amazing. I also want to thank them for all their dedication during the years. Going forward let's lighten that burden from only one person director into a pool committee. With the cover-less pool the workload is lighter already.

If you are interested in being a part of that team, please contact us at briarpatchnpr@yahoo.com or call our main number.

Jillian LaVelle
President



Spring is just around the corner and the grass will be growing again before we know it. We understand there are some concerns about our lawns at this time. The same message goes out as it always does during this time of year and that is the grass goes dormant in the winter. St Augustine grass (our lawns) does not need a lot of water any time of the year. There has been some issues this past fall regarding fungus in the lawns. Contributing factors are that we had above average rainfall in November and December and also some over-watering by homeowners. Another factor contributing to fungus is that there are a few areas where the trees provide too much shade. Our partners from Tri-S will be adding additional potassium to our fertilizer mix twice this year to help combat fungus. Briar Patch service providers and contractors have asked for our homeowners to not stop them when they are working. Many of our residents stop to ask questions and for extra work. Please contact me for any information or extra work. With the exception of some broken sprinkler heads, the irrigation system is working just fine. The system is set to water 1-2 times a week "as needed," depending on rain.

Thanks to everyone for being cautious and not parking on the grass. This has helped us reduce the replacement of sprinkler heads. Lastly, if you have any concerns please contact me directly by email at briarpatchinfo@yahoo.com

Fred Ausflug
VP/Director of Grounds & Landscape

MESSAGES FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS, *continued*

In July, 2019, my husband and I became Briar Patch owners. In January 2022, Florida became our permanent resident. We are originally from Queens, New York. I worked 36 years in healthcare for Northwell Health System and Maimonides Hospital. Prior to that I worked for Manufacturers Hanover Trust Bank and the N.Y.C. Board of Education. I volunteered for over 25 years at my parish Church. At the clubhouse and/or at different locations it will be a pleasure to plan different events, activities, game night, classes, etc. Participation and cooperation from our Briar Patch community is vital for a successful and enjoyable time together.

Reminder if you see something say something as Briar Patch is our community to maintain and be proud of!

Updates:

Ladies room toilet issue - resolved
Men's room urinal issue - pending
Clubhouse air conditioner air filter – changed - resolved

Thank you!

Diolinda (Linda) Gonzalez
Director of Clubhouse

ZUMBA (GOLDEN) CLASSES **COMING SOON TO THE CLUBHOUSE NEAR YOU**

Where: Clubhouse or Clubhouse patio (depending on weather)
When: Thursdays, April 13th to June 1st, 2023 (total of 8 classes)
Time: 1:00 PM
Cost: \$5.00 each class

Would you like to join a Zumba (Golden) class close to home?
Here is your opportunity.

In order to give everyone ample time to plan accordingly,
we will have eight (8) Zumba classes on
Thursday's at 1 PM from April 13th to June 1st, 2023

**** If participating, these Zumba classes will need your commitment and dedication as the instructor needs to get paid regardless of your attendance. Pre-payment will be required prior to class beginning. A minimum of ten (10) individuals are needed. Need to wear athletic attire (i.e. sneakers, etc.). No flip flops allowed. ****

We are still in the planning stage so in the near future a notification will be provided with instructions for sign-up, payment, etc.

Please email Diolinda (Linda) Gonzalez at dgonza13@hotmail.com

MESSAGES FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS, *continued*

Hello Neighbors!!!!

As a newly elected member of the BP HOA, I have been chosen to manage the Buildings and Architecture Committee. I have begun the process of organizing the many associated tasks related to building management. Most important to homeowners are, bringing on a new Contractor, catching up with work requests thereafter and of course beginning the roofing projects. Many Thanks!! to Kevin Risner who held this position on an interim basis after Ron Jazwa moved from BP. Kevin diligently worked on a search for contractors, interviewing and verifying backgrounds, licensure and insurance. Kevin also did the same for roofers. I am grateful for his work and he has committed to remain on our roofing committee.

My approach to leading the B&A committee, will be one of collaboration with the HOA board and homeowners. I will always remain open to suggestions but will be led by our HOA bylaws, state and city statutes. My goal for repairs & maintenance (R&M) is to process requests expediently and complete work requests as soon as possible. I will also attempt to attain the best pricing for any endeavor and be as frugal as possible with our funds.

My email address is **Gregdavis_bphoa@yahoo.com** please use this to contact me. I will attempt to post an update in the monthly newsletter. Our HOA is a **VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION**, that being said, please consider helping out by volunteering your time when possible.

Greg Davis

Director of Buildings & Architecture

March Birthdays

3/1 Michelle Bernhardt-Vandal
3/2 Roger Meriano
3/17 Linda Boeing
3/25 Maria Targoza

I want to thank all the members of our community who came out to vote and take part of this process. I have big shoes to fill. 2023 is going to be a great year.

Marie Lawrence
Secretary



Both the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are advising against the use EzriCare Artificial Tears, as they may be contaminated. The maker of the product, Global Pharma, issued a recall. The CDC is currently testing unopened bottles of the product to see if they became contaminated during manufacturing. If you have used EzriCare and have symptoms of an eye infection, see your doctor immediately.



CARES Elfers Enrichment Center
4136 Barker Drive
New Port Richie, Florida 34652

Elfers was known as the Baillie Settlement until the post office was established in 1909. The wife of the first postmaster chose "Elfers" as the name of the new settlement in honor of her favorite uncle whose last name was Elfers. Railroad service came to Elfers for the shipment of citrus in 1913. In 1915, the Elfers School opened; it was the first brick school in western Pasco County. A new building replaced it in 1966. After it was converted into the Elfers CARES Center, the red brick school celebrated a grand re-opening in 2013. The character of the building and items from the earlier years have been preserved. CARES Senior Centers are community facilities with open doors for all who seek senior resources, wellness information, and recreation.

Check out the help and classes they offer --

Alzheimer's Support Group
Beginner's Knitting
Beginner's Sewing
Bingo
Book Discussion
Diabetes Self Management
EZ Exercise
Games Group
Hand Quilters
Instructed Art
Jam Sessions
Knitting Instructions

Library
Line Dancing
Medicare, Medicaid & Insurance Counseling
Maghjong
Phone, Tablet, Computer Instruction
Sewing
SS Senior Citizen Fitness
SS Chair Yoga
SS Zumba
Stained Glass Instructions
Tai Chi

Café is open Monday through Friday from 11am to 1pm
Entertainment by The John Timpanelli professional musical Shows
presented by Tin Pan Alley Talent Agency
There is also a ballroom to rent.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Glenna Hileman, Manager • 727-847-1290 • ghileman@caresfl.org

NEW PASCO INTERCHANGE

The \$64.6 million project was built as part of a partnership between Pasco County and the Florida Department of Transportation. The new interchange, Exit 282, is approximately halfway between the exits at State Road 52 and State Roads 54 and 56, giving drivers new options for their travels.

It includes both entrance and exit ramps to both directions of I-75 and a "fly over" ramp for westbound Overpass Road traffic entering southbound I-75. The interchange was designed to cut down travel time and provide drivers with another option to enter and exit the interstate. Sidewalks have also been constructed; 10 feet wide on the north side of Overpass Road and 6 feet wide on the south side. Drivers are asked to remain alert to workers completing final tasks in the coming weeks.

Need a Lift?

HealthRide Can Deliver

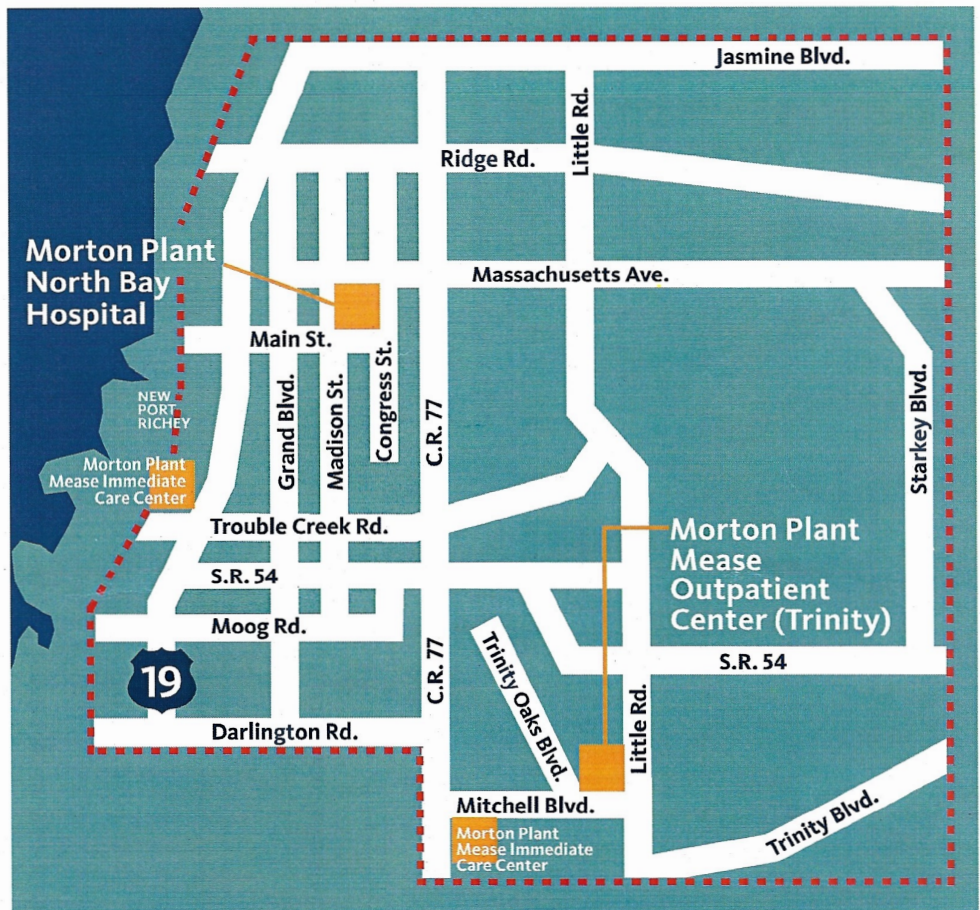
Call HealthRide if you need transportation to:

- Morton Plant North Bay Hospital
- Morton Plant Mease Outpatient Center (Trinity)
- Morton Plant Mease Immediate Care Centers

You'll enjoy a FREE ride provided by Morton Plant North Bay volunteers.

To ride, you must:

- Be able to get in and out of the HealthRide van without assistance
- Live within the dotted line area shown on the map
- Have no other means of transportation



To schedule your FREE ride, call (727) 859-4730 between 8am and 3pm.

Call early for reservations. Service is provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

Morton Plant North Bay Hospital
6600 Madison St.
New Port Richey

**Morton Plant Mease
Outpatient Center (Trinity)**
2102 Trinity Oaks Blvd.
Trinity

**Morton Plant Mease
Immediate Care Center**
1306 Seven Springs Blvd.
(in the Chelsea Place Shopping Center)
Trinity

**Morton Plant Mease
Immediate Care Center**
4821 U.S. Highway 19
(just south of Floramar Terrace)
New Port Richey



BayCare

Morton Plant North Bay Hospital