



**Briar**

**Patch**

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

6525 Thicket Trail, New Port Richey, FL 34653



While Spring officially starts in March, I don't believe it *actually arrives* until April. That deep breath of April's fresh air is warmer; reminding us of sunshine, fresh grass, and the promise that sunny days are right around the corner.

You can think of it this way:

**A = A New Month**  
**P = Push Yourself**  
**R = Rejuvenate**  
**I = Inspire Others**  
**L = Laugh**

Yep, there's something magical about April that makes us want to feel its warmth and renewal. Perhaps April is a good time to start or renew your Bucket List.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Jillian LaVelle**

*President*

**Fred Ausflug**

*VP/Director of Grounds  
& Landscape*

**Greg Davis**

*Director of Buildings & Architecture*

**Henry Perri**

*Treasurer*

**Diolinda Gonzales**

*Director of Clubhouse*

**Marie Lawrence**

*Secretary*

**One more Director TBA**

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**



**4/1 Yvette Grant**

**4/14 John Portelli**

**4/30 Phil Geraci**



## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

*Susan Smith*

Susan Jean Marie was born in New York City. She lived on Staten Island, New York and attended school there. In her senior year, 1967, when she was 17, her parents moved to St. Petersburg FL; Susan stayed behind. She rented an apartment and began working at Federal Reserve Bank in NYC. She was also employed at First National Bank and Raymond James Financial in Pinellas County, FL at Walter Mitchel Law Firm in Pasco County.

In April 1969, Susan moved to be with her parents in St Petersburg FL and met Wayne Smith at a church social gathering. Wayne was recently out of the Air Force and was employed as a Deputy Sheriff in Pinellas County. It was love at first sight; they were married a few months later in October. They have three sons and one daughter and also two grandsons and one granddaughter.

Wayne tended to their gardens on their 2-1/2 acres in Hudson, FL. Beautiful woods and a myriad of wild life surrounded the property. Susan and Wayne often entertained family and friends indoors and out in the peaceful setting. They enjoyed and respected the environment and often would simply sit back and admire the beauty in nature. After 35 years of service, Wayne retired as Court Bailiff Deputy with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. Wayne passed away in January 2021, after 51 years of marriage, she moved to Briar Patch.

Susan has always been very busy and very ambitious. Even when tending to her young family, she was involved in the sales and management of home decorating items with various companies (Home Interiors and Gifts, Celebrating Home, and Signature Home, to name a few). She was very knowledgeable of each line of the items – home decor, jewelry, candles, and purses. She also consulted those in need of home decorating in a manner representing the homeowner's lifestyle. Her decorating knowledge shows in her home.

Susan learned to sew at age 7 and continues to do so. She creates many beautiful quilts and crafts and crocheted items in addition to decorating her home. In high school, Susan learned ballroom dance and still loves dancing today. When relaxing, she and her cat, Gypsy, enjoy watching the array of birds and bees and four legged critters in her backyard.



*Susan Smith*

## ***APRIL 24 ~ "NATIONAL" BUCKET LIST DAY***

By definition, a Bucket List is a list of things a person would like to do, but has never experienced before. The Bucket List you create can be a list of goals, dreams, milestones, and aspirations you would like to accomplish during your lifetime. It should reflect your interests and help you to keep track of your goals by making yourself accountable to achieve all you want in life. A Bucket List can be anything you want it to be! Perhaps create a Bucket List with a friend that you both can enjoy. Here are some suggestions:

- ◆ *Learn a new skill* ◆ *Travel to places you have never been before*
- ◆ *Attend a festival enjoying a specific culture* ◆ *Try a different cuisine* ◆ *Meditate*
- ◆ *"Pay it forward" by volunteering for a good cause* ◆ *Swim with the dolphins*
- ◆ *Fly in a hot air balloon* ◆ *Turn new adventures into long-term fulfillment*

You've got the idea. Completing items on your Bucket List gives you the opportunity to experience life-changing moments you thought might never happen. Enjoy the ride and show gratitude for the

## RELIGIOUS CELEBRATIONS IN APRIL



Passover's dates are based on the lunar cycle. It starts in the middle of the month of Nisan, when the moon is full, typically falling in March or April of the Gregorian (modern) calendar. This year Passover begins at sundown on April 5 and ends at sundown on April 13.

Passover, or *Pesach* in Hebrew, is one of the Jewish religion's most sacred and widely observed holidays. In Judaism, Passover commemorates the Hebrews' liberation from slavery in Egypt (in the 13<sup>th</sup> century). Their doors were painted with lambs blood to signify "passing over" and sparing of the firstborn of the Israelites. During Passover the members of the Jewish faith are forbidden to eat bread that has risen. The

belief is that the Israelites had to leave Egypt so quickly that they did not have time to let their bread rise. Matzah, a special type of flat bread which has not risen is accepted.

Passover is often celebrated with great pomp and ceremony, especially on the first night, when a special family meal called the *seder* is held. The seder itself is based on the Biblical verse commanding Jews to retell the story of the Exodus from Egypt. Seder customs include telling the story, discussing the story, drinking four cups of wine, eating matza, partaking of symbolic foods, and reclining in celebration of freedom. Prayers and traditional recitations are performed. Though the festival of Passover is meant to be one of great rejoicing, strict dietary laws must be observed, and special prohibitions restrict work at the beginning and end of the celebration. During the meal, the door is left open for the prophet Elijah, who is an important religious person, as it is believed he will come to announce the coming of the Messiah. Families also read the *Haggadah* - a book that tells the Passover story - with songs and blessings. Children will ask questions and everyone will discuss the story.



Lent, the 40/46 days preceding Easter, have been a time of fasting, prayer, and study for those wishing to grow closer to God. It can be a time of personal transformation and reflection. During the earliest celebrations of Lent, worshippers fasted (except for water) but not on Sundays. Most who recognize Lent sacrifice something for the season - anything from chocolate to bad habits and do not eat meat on Fridays.

Easter is the most important festival in the Christian calendar, and is celebrated by thousands of people all over the world. It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day after his crucifixion. Fixing the date on which the resurrection of Jesus was to be observed and celebrated triggered a major controversy in early Christianity in which an Eastern and Western position can be distinguished. The dispute, known as the Paschal Controversies, was not definitively resolved until the 8<sup>th</sup> century. Thus, based on mathematical calculations, Easter falls on the first Sunday after the full Moon date, that falls on or after March 21st. If the Full Moon is on a Sunday, Easter is celebrated on the following Sunday. This year Easter is Sunday April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Lamb is a traditional Easter food. Christians refer to Jesus as the "Lamb of God." Easter Lilies symbolize the purity of Christ. Their growth from dormant bulbs in the ground to flowers symbolize the rebirth and hope of Christ's resurrection.

Easter traditions and symbols have evolved over time. The most prominent secular symbol of the holiday - the Easter Bunny - was reportedly introduced to America by German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania in the 1700s. They brought over their stories of an egg-laying hare. The children decorated eggs and made nests in which the Easter Bunny would lay its eggs. The traditions have evolved over time. Now decorated baskets replace nests and are filled with chocolate candy and other treats. Children often lay out carrots for the Bunny in case he gets hungry from all his hopping.

Dating back to the 1800s, in New York City, the Easter Parade consisted of the upper crust of society. They would attend Easter services at various Fifth Avenue churches then stroll (*parade*) outside afterward, showing off their new spring outfits and hats. Although the Easter Parade has no Christian significance, parades are on-going today. The parades now will have live processions of floats, marching bands, classic cars fancy hats, beauty queens and of course the Easter Bunny.

## MESSAGES FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### *How's It Going?*

While strolling around our neighborhood, I get asked that question a lot. Since the election in February, we have been a busy Board. I am a big believer in training. All board members have completed, or are in the process of completing, the State required HOA Board Certification Course. A number of laws have changed regarding HOAs. We are now current with those changes. We have also formed support committees to take on projects needing deeper work. We have created a roofing committee, finance committee, and a pool committee. I love all the enthusiasm and fresh perspectives. In May, we will hear committee reports at our first Board meeting.

I am not only looking at the current year, but encouraging the creations of 3-5 year plans. I want to plan for a successful tomorrow. I promise to listen closely to the committees. The Board is prepared to take appropriate action as needed. I'm certain that those who choose to attend will be listening closely, along with me, at our upcoming meeting.

I'm here for the long run at Briar Patch. My goal is for Briar Patch NPR to be a great location for years to come!

*Jillian LaVelle*  
President

Spring is here, the grass is growing and the flowers are blooming, but we are in a moderate drought according to the National Weather Service. At this moment our irrigation is running smoothly with the exception of 3 zones along Cabbage Lane where we have a few electrical issues due to aged wiring. We need your help to detect any issues. If you see that there is an area that is not working please keep me informed through the on-line work orders.

After walking through the Patch we have noticed some sandbags still lurking behind some homes. These take away from our communities well kept grounds and make it difficult for our lawn maintenance to do their job properly; so please remove the sandbags.

Again we ask for everyone to not bother our contractors; we negotiate our prices based on their time to do the job. Any interruptions cost them money. Again please continue to refrain from parking on the lawns; this helps eliminate repairs to the sprinkler heads.

Your new Board of Directors are working tirelessly to move forward with many projects, old and new. Please have patience because we have new members doing the best they can as your advocates. They are volunteers and don't need to be ridiculed and argued with. All our volunteers should be appreciated for their willingness to take their personal time to make "your community" a beautiful place to live!

*Fred Ausflug*  
VP/Director of Grounds & Landscape



## ***Hello neighbors! Happy Spring!***

We [the *HOA board*] have hit the ground running! We have begun to catch up with repairs requests. We are currently utilizing DLS Construction & Cabinet Warehouse Co. The problem has been the inability to find a “handyman” company and then they must meet mandated criteria - liability insurance, worker comp, multiple business licenses or certifications, etc. Thank you for your patience! Please look at your property and submit work requests as needed.

The current contractor will **clean your gutters**. They will charge \$75 for a single request and \$65 if they receive multiple requests. The HOA may serve as a “*go between*” only. We will collect the name, address and bldg./unit number. Residents will need to pay the contractor directly. Arrangements will be determined based on the number of residents requesting service. **If you would like to have your gutters cleaned, please put a work request in** at our website: [briarpatchnpr.com](http://briarpatchnpr.com), Online Forms, Work Request.

We are continuing to acquire roofing estimates for the oldest roofs in the community. We will dissect each estimate in a comparative analysis. We have a primary requirement - contractor must be GAF Certified. Once the analysis is completed a report will be sent forward to the President and Finance committee for their review. The estimated average cost to Re-Roof **one** of our buildings is **\$50,000.00** we have **35** residential buildings. You “Do the Math”.

***Greg Davis***

*Director of Building & Architecture*



## **Hello Neighbors!**

Our beautiful pool is now being managed by a committee of wonderful volunteers. They are all helping with daily tasks as well as staying in contact with our pool maintenance service. ***Hearty thanks to our volunteers!***

Two of our volunteers are snowbirds and will be leaving shortly. If you would like to volunteer to help with pool chores one or two days per week,

If you have questions or concerns about pool *maintenance*, please message us at [briarpatchinfo@yahoo.com](mailto:briarpatchinfo@yahoo.com).

We will have our pool cleaning day on Sunday, April 16th at 9:00 a.m. If you would like to volunteer, please email me as soon as possible. Your help is greatly appreciated!

We hope you're enjoying our beautiful new pool!

Thank you,

**Karen Ryan**

*Director at Large*



**SUNDAY**  
**JUNE 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**1:00 PM**  
**BRIAR PATCH**  
**CLUBHOUSE**

**Do you have talent? Even the slight talent? Show it off and have some fun!**  
**All talents are being showcased! Single and Group entries welcomed!**  
**The winner will receive a PRIZE!**

If you are interested in showcasing your talent, please sign-up at the Clubhouse by **May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023**.  
**Rehearsal** is scheduled for **June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023** at 3 PM - Clubhouse.

**Some Ideas for the show:** Dance routine, Singing, Comedy, Magic, Karaoke, Karate, Musical Instrument, Juggling, Poems, Mimes, Gymnastics, Acting Skit, Yo Yo tricks, Hula Hoop, etc.

If you have any questions please contact Linda Gonzalez  
Telephone: 718-744-8827 • Email: [dgonza13@hotmail.com](mailto:dgonza13@hotmail.com)

## ZUMBA CLASSES

**Where:** Clubhouse, Patio area and/or Pool (depending on weather)  
**When:** Thursday's, April 13<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 (total of 8 classes)  
**Time:** 1:00 PM  
**Cost:** \$5.00 each class

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

***We will have eight (8) Zumba classes on Thursdays at 1 PM from April 13<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.***

**\*\* If participating, these Zumba classes will need your commitment and dedication as the instructor will need to get paid regardless of your attendance. Pre-payment will be required prior to class beginning. A minimum of ten (10) individuals are needed. Please wear sneakers or similar footwear. No flip flops allowed. \*\***

***If interested, registration and payment collection will be held on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1 PM in the Clubhouse.***  
***If you have any questions, please email Diolinda (Linda) Gonzalez***  
***at [dgonza13@hotmail.com](mailto:dgonza13@hotmail.com) or call at 718-744-8827.***

## ***Fun events are coming up so please mark your calendars!!***

- **Game night** - In the Clubhouse on the following Tuesday nights at 6:30 PM:
  - Dominoes – Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM Clubhouse**
  - Wine tasting game - Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM Clubhouse**
  - Karaoke – Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM Clubhouse**
  - Card Game - Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM Clubhouse**
  - Chess, Checkers, etc. - Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM Clubhouse**
- **Zumba registration and payment collection** - In the clubhouse on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1 PM. Zumba class are beginning on Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM in the pool and patio area. Prepayment is required in order to pay the instructor.
- **Hello Summer Pool Party** – On May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 11 AM in the pool and patio area. More information to follow.
- **Retirement Planning Presentation** - In the clubhouse on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 at 6 PM. Dinner will be served. Healthcare, portfolio and estate planning will be presented by Mr. Paul Hayes from Hayes Independent LLC and Anna Stout. Sign-up sheet will be on the clubhouse bulletin board. Sign-up deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 as a total head count is needed for this event.
- **Talent Show** – In the Clubhouse/clubhouse patio area on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 1 PM. Sign-up sheet will be on the clubhouse bulletin board. Sign-up deadline is May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Rehearsal for Talent Show on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, at 3 PM – Clubhouse/clubhouse patio area.
- **Farewell Summer Pool Party** – On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, at 11 AM in the pool and patio area. More information to follow.

Dates and times are subject to change.

*Participation and cooperation from our Briar Patch community is vital  
for a successful and enjoyable time together.*

### **Resolved issues:**

Ladies room toilet issue - resolved

Clubhouse air conditioner air filter – changed - resolved

### **Updates:**

Men's room urinal issue - pending

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

**Diolinda (Linda) Gonzalez**

*Interim Clubhouse Director*



### **Clubhouse Bathroom – Reminder: *Keep Toilets Clean Flush After Use***

**We would really appreciate it if everyone  
can maintain the bathrooms clean after use.**

**Thank you!**

**Diolinda (Linda) Gonzalez**

*Interim Clubhouse Director*

# April 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 April Fools' Day
2 Palm Sunday	3 1 PM Zumba Registration and payment collection	4	5 Passover	6	7 Good Friday	8
9 Easter	10	11	12	13 1PM -Zumba Class	14	15
16 Orthodox Easter	17 Tax Day	18 Tax Day 6:30 PM Dominoes Game Night -	19	20 1PM -Zumba Class	21 Eid al-Fitr	22 Earth Day
23	24	25 6:30 PM Wine tasting Game Night - Clubhouse	26	27 1PM -Zumba Class	28	29
30	1	Notes				

# May 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2 6:30 PM Karaoke Night - Clubhouse	3	4 1PM -Zumba Class	5 Cinco de Mayo	6
7	8	9 6:30 PM Card Game Night - Clubhouse	10	11 1PM -Zumba Class Deadline to sign- up - Talent Show	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15 Peace Officers Memorial Day	16 6:30 PM Chess, checkers, etc. Game Night	17	18 1PM -Zumba Class	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 1PM -Zumba Class	26	27
28 11 AM Hello Summer Pool Party BYOL	29 Memorial Day	30	31 6 PM Retirement Planning/Presen- tation and Dinner	1	2	3



# June 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1 1PM -Zumba Class	2	3 3 PM Rehearsal for Talent Show
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 1 PM Talent Show	12	13	14 Flag Day	15	16	17
18 Father's Day	19 Juneteenth	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1

# Cotee River Seafood Fest Marks 19th Year

**April 20, 21 and 22 ~ SIMS PARK ~ Main and Bank Streets, New Port Richey**  
Friday 5 to 11 pm   Saturday 10 am to 11 pm   Sunday 10 am to 6 pm

## *Boat Show – Saturday and Sunday*

- ★ *Hurricane Disaster Expo* – Saturday 10 am to 5pm Featuring a hurricane simulator, Spectrum Bay News 9 meteorologist Juli Marquez and anchor Erica Riggins. Free hurricane guides and kid's weather activity books.
- ★ Miss Daisy boat rides on the Cotee River Saturday and Sunday. Tour is 30 to 45 minutes. Cost is \$5.
- ★ *Fifth Annual DUCKtona Duck Race* Saturday at 4pm from the Main Street Bridge. Results and rewards will follow the race.
- ★ *Arts and Crafts* including prepared food items, puppy hats and sunglasses, hand-crafted sculptures, jewelry, and kitschy clothes ranging in price from \$5 to \$500.
- ★ *Food Vendors* offering seafood favorites including grouper sandwiches, crab cakes and crawfish soufflé as well as corn dogs, shaved ice, and funnel cakes.
- ★ *Activities and Games for Kids* including bounce houses, slides, and other interactive inflatables. Games run an average of \$5.
- ★ *FREE music each day!*

Friday 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm ~ Barefoot Bob and the Hope  
9:00 pm to 10:30 pm ~ Greg Billings Band

Saturday Noon to 1:00pm ~ Father Eric Band  
1:00 pm to 2:30pm ~ Black Water Swamp Band  
3:00 pm to 4:30pm ~ Nitro with the Tampa Bay Blues Machine  
5:00pm to 6:30 pm ~ Sarasota Slim  
7:00 pm to 8:30 pm ~ Lauren Mitchell  
9:00pm to 10:30 pm ~ Little Jake and the Soul Searchers

Sunday Noon to 1:00pm ~ Bear and Robert  
1:30 pm t 3:00 pm ~ Black Track Blues Band  
3:30 pm to 5:00 pm ~ Sugar & Spice Revue



Election day is Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. Voting will take place from 7 am to 7 pm at the Recreation and Aquatic Center, 6630 Van Buren St., New Port Richey. Residents will cast their ballots for a new mayor of the city.

*Candidates are: Kate M. Connolly, Chopper Davis, and Wayne L. Scott*

Residents who wish to participate in the municipal election but will not be in the city on Election Day may vote by absentee ballot. To do so, go to the Pasco County City Clerk's Office, second floor of the New Port Richey City Hall, 5919 Main Street. Absentee ballots can be placed from 8 am to 5 pm. Monday through Friday until April 10. Voters must live within the city limits of New Port Richey, and must bring proof of residency.