



Briar

Patch

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

6525 Thicket Trail, New Port Richey, FL 34653



Stemming from Roman tradition, “Birth Flowers” come from the use of flowers as gifts or for birthday celebrations. Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, the “language of flowers” developed, which assigned meaning to various flowers and enabled people to send messages through the different flowers’ symbolism and secret meanings. May Birth Flowers are the Hawthorn and the Lilly of the Valley. The Hawthorn means hope, while the Lily-of-the-Valley symbolizes sweetness or the return of happiness.

May Day is a public holiday marked with rich celebrations of culture and folklore through history. It is a day of unity, togetherness, and rebirth. In the United States as other countries, it is a celebration of the season of Spring. The meaning of seasonal change has been the most significant one amongst different countries.

In the 19th century, a new meaning of May Day came about. May Day also became known as International Workers’ Day for labor rights and an eight-hour work-day in the United States.

May Day, also called Workers’ Day or International Workers’ Day, commemorates the historic struggles and gains made by workers and the labor movement.

Decades before the 8-hour workday became the country’s norm in America, strikes by industrial workers were increasingly common in the United States in the 1800s. Working conditions were dismal and dangerous and wages were low. A 16-hour shift wasn’t unusual for workers at the time. New technology had made employers richer; and as the capitalist system gained a foothold in industrial-era America, working class conditions had worsened. The American Labor Movement included a radical faction of socialists, anarchists and communists who believed the capitalist system should be dismantled because it exploited workers. The organization, now known as the American Federation of Labor, set May 1, 1886 as the date that workers nationwide should go on strike to demand the 8-hour workday.

On May 1, 1886, anarchists and labor activists in Chicago began a multi-day strike in what became known as the Haymarket Affair of 1886 (also known as Haymarket Incident or Riot). By May 3rd the protests turned violent when police – which were “basically the armed forces of the capitalist masters” according to

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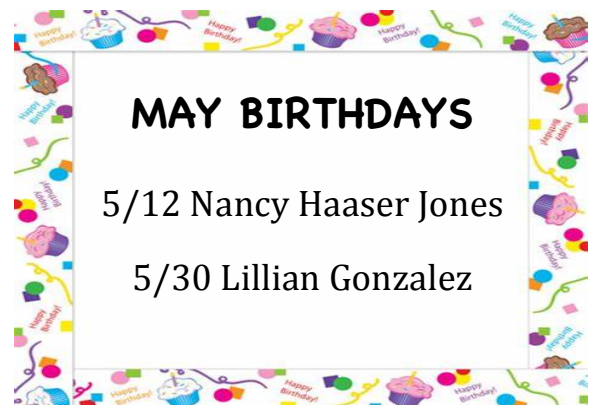
Marie Lawrence

Secretary

One more Director TBA

historian Linebaugh – attacked workers demonstrating near the McCormick Reaper plant in Chicago. The following day, a meeting held in the city’s Haymarket Square turned into a bloody riot when someone threw a bomb. Again, the police intervened, triggering clashes that killed both officers and civilians. Despite a lack of evidence against them, eight radical labor activists were convicted in connection with the bombing. The Haymarket Riot was viewed as a setback for the organized labor movement in America,

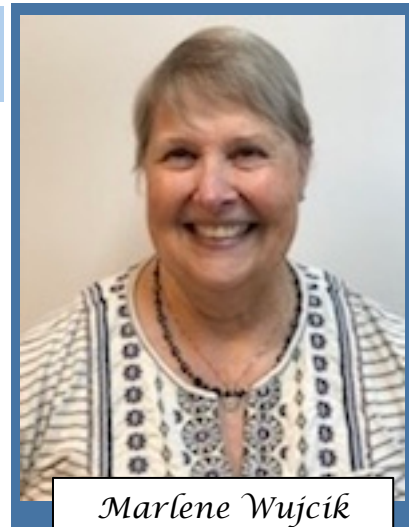
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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Marlene Wujcik



Marlene Wujcik

I was born and raised in Detroit, MI; the oldest of 5. Mike was my date for my prom. After graduation, we got engaged while we were both working and in college. A few weeks later, Mike got a draft notice (Vietnam War). He entered the Navy. In July 1967, after boot camp, we got married. He stayed in the Navy for 30 years, went on 11 deployments including three to Antarctica, served on six aircraft carriers (which are totally awesome and dear to my heart). He was on the USS Saratoga during Desert Storm.

We have a son and two daughters. I was very busy with raising kids, being involved in their many activities, and doing a variety of volunteer programs - Navy Relief, Red Cross, Dental, Chapel Board

Because my father worked for Chrysler, we lived in a community with others who also worked at the plant. I went to Catholic schools, which also put us in a community of like interests. Near the naval bases we were in still another community of like interests. Traveling all over the world because of Mike's deployments, my eyes were opened to so many places which were very different from the smaller circles I had grown used to. I've seen and lived in places that I had never even dreamt of. We experienced Venice and Sicily in Italy – London, England – Germany - Spain, Scotland, and Paris, France. We lived in a number of different states in the U.S. San Francisco and San Diego are two of my favorite cites – California is beautiful! Loved Hawaii – its gorgeous! I've also been on a cruise with my sister to visit Greece, Turkey, Israel, Egypt, and Holland.

After 42 years of marriage, Mike wanted a divorce. At the time I was working as a dental assistant in Michigan; he moved to Florida. After five years, I couldn't deal with the ice and snow any more so I retired and moved to Pensacola, FL. Although I incorporated myself into my comfort zone – the Navy community - there were a number of bumps in the road for me. Adjusting to living alone for the first time in my life took some getting used to. I also had trouble walking because of osteoarthritis in both knees and right hip (which required replacement surgeries). My daughter who lives in Port Richey talked me into moving closer to her. She found my place here in Briar Patch as her father-in-law lives here. I moved into my home in 2017. Three of my four grandchildren live close by.

I'm grateful for the experience as a Navy wife. That life encompassed the responsibility not only as a housewife, but also mother, father, and family manager all in one; as well as playing an important and needed role in my husband's career in the Navy. I'm proud of belonging to the Navy team. I love living in this area! I am very blessed.



May Day continued from pg 1

which was fighting for the common interest of laborers. The labor movement fought for better wages, reasonable hours and led efforts to stop child labor, give health benefits, and provide aid to workers who were injured or retired.

President Grover Cleveland was uneasy with the socialist origins of May Day (Workers' Day). He signed legislation in 1894 to make Labor Day the first *official* U.S. national holiday to be celebrated on the first Monday in September every year honoring workers and recognizing their contributions to society. Canada followed suit not long afterward.

Currently Labor Unions in the United States are organizations that represent workers in many industries recognized under U.S. labor law since the 1935 enactment of the National Labor Relations Act. Their activity today centers on collective bargaining over wages, benefits, and working conditions for their membership, and on representing their members in disputes with management over violations of contract provisions. Larger trade unions also typically engage in lobbying activities and electioneering at the state and federal level. *continued on pg3*



Cinco de Mayo

of May - Cinco de Mayo - the commemoration of Mexico's the French at the Battle of the 1862 is celebrated. France's Napoleon III wanted to

establish a French empire in Mexico. On May 5, 1862, his well-trained army was defeated at the Battle of Puebla by a far smaller force of Mexican militia. The events of May 5th unified the Mexican people during a long struggle to maintain their own independence. Many Americans, especially those with Mexican heritage, celebrate the outcome of the battle with festivals, food, and music.

One of the larger area Cinco de Mayo celebrations takes place at Casa Tina's, 365 Main Street, in Dunedin and spills out into John R. Lawrence Pioneer Park beginning at 4pm continuing to 11pm.

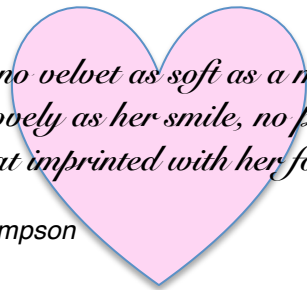
Carmelita's Mexican Restaurant - The Mexican restaurant will have a Mariachi band outside and drink specials all day including Margaritas for \$2.75 and Bud Light for \$2.75. 8526 Old Country Road 54 in New Port Richey
For more information call 727-376-4800.

Seaside Inn - Live music, drink specials, and party time are what Cinco De Mayo is all about at Seaside Inn. The band, Cross Eyed Larry, will perform at this party from 4 to 8 p.m. Join us at 5330 Treadway Dr. in New Port Richey
For more information call 727-846-1112.

Dented Keg - Join in the celebrations 5500 Main Street, Ste.104 in Downtown New Port Richey.
New Beer Releases & Sangria!
Juan-a-Taco • Live Music • Salsa Cook-off!
From 7pm to 11pm

*There is no velvet as soft as a mother's lap,
no rose as lovely as her smile, no path as flowery
as that imprinted with her footsteps.*

Archibald Thompson



The last Monday in May, Memorial Day, is a national holiday to honor **all** veterans who died sacrificing their lives for our freedom. It is observed with the laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, and by religious services, parades, and speeches nationwide. Flags, insignia, and flowers are placed on the graves of veterans in local cemeteries.

However you experience the three-day weekend, please pause one minute at 3:00 pm to remember and reflect on the sacrifices of all those who died provide freedom for all.



The month of May is significant for a lot of reasons. It comes with the gifts of spring, with hints of summer. May, more than any other month of the year, wants us to feel most alive. It's a wonderful month for inspiration. The world is coming back to life after a long winter, and there's something invigorating about seeing the trees and flowers in bloom Even if you're not a nature lover, it's hard not to

feel inspired when the world around you is bursting with new life. You don't always need a plan. Sometimes you just need to breathe, trust, let go, and see what happens. Let your inspirations soar!

MESSAGES FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Patch is looking green and neat thanks to our Lawn Care Professionals at Cutter GreenScapes. With the lack of rain the irrigation is timed for watering twice weekly until we move into the rainy season.

Irrigation repairs are ongoing; with our aging system there have been a few major line repairs. If you see a “gusher” in your yard please email me immediately at briarpatchinfo@yahoo.com. Also, please fill out a work request on our website.

***Thank you for not parking on our lawns,
it is making a difference.***

On another note: Our Finance Committee chaired by our treasurer has been meeting regularly. The committee is effortlessly looking into ways to save money in our budget while forecasting our future expenses 5-10 years into the future.

Fred Ausflug
VP/Director of Grounds & Landscape

POOL

On Sunday April 16th, we had a total of 12 helpers for a great Spring Cleaning of the chairs, shades, and other parts of the pool area. I'd like to thank everyone listed below for their participation!! We greatly appreciate their help!! Special thanks to Jillian LaVelle for getting everything started and organized! Also special thanks to Fred Ausflug who kept us on track for this great cleaning day!

Thank you again to all the wonderful volunteers!!

*Connie Ausflug - Jimmy Bajra - Mike Blevins - Diolinda Gonzales
Maria Lacasky - Jillian Lavelle - Nicky Merola - Mary Ann Murray
Sarah Pascarella - Tony Sperandeo*

Karen Ryan
Director at Large

REMINDER ...

Please

**STAY OFF
THE GRASS**

Briar Patch Home Owners Association

Fun events! Come join us!

Please mark your calendars!!

- **Game Night** - In the Clubhouse on the following Tuesday nights at 6:30 PM:
 - Karaoke** – Tuesday, May 2nd at 6:30 PM Clubhouse
 - Card Game** - Tuesday, May 9th at 6:30 PM Clubhouse
 - Chess, Checkers, etc.** - Tuesday, May 16th at 6:30 PM Clubhouse
 - Dominoes** - Tuesday, May 23rd at 6:30 PM Clubhouse
 - Wine tasting game** - Tuesday, May 30th at 6:30 PM Clubhouse -Please bring your favorite wine in a brown paper bag. The person with the winning wine wins a prize.

Thank you, Cate for teaching us how to play Mexican Train dominos. We had a great time!

- **Zumba Classes** – Lots of fun! Come join us! Clubhouse patio or pool on Thursday's, at 1 PM, \$5.00 cash Instructor's fee per person.
- **Hello Summer Pool Party** – On May 29th, 2023 at 11 AM in the pool and patio area. More information to follow.
- **Retirement Planning Presentation** - In the clubhouse on May 31st, 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. If you are interested, please sign-up. The sign-up sheet is on the clubhouse bulletin board. **Sign-up deadline** is May 15th, 2023 as a total head count is needed for this event.
- **Talent Show** – In the Clubhouse/clubhouse patio area on Sunday, June 11th, 2023 at 1 PM. Sign-up sheet is on the clubhouse bulletin board. **Sign-up deadline** is May 11th, 2023. Rehearsal for Talent Show on June 3rd, 2023, at 3 PM – Clubhouse/clubhouse patio area.
- **Farewell Summer Pool Party** – On September 3rd, 2023, at 11 AM in the pool and patio area. More information to follow.

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

Updates:

Men's room urinal issue – Fixed on 4/17/2023

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




**KEEP
TOILETS
CLEAN
FLUSH
AFTER USE**

Clubhouse Bathrooms - Reminder
Please maintain the bathrooms clean. Please flush the toilet after use. The un-flushed toilets create a health issue. We do not want to be shut down by the health department.

Thank you!
Diolinda (Linda) Gonzalez
Interim Clubhouse Director

May 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2 6:30 PM Karaoke Night - Clubhouse	3	4 IPM -Zumba Class	5 Cinco de Mayo	6
7	8	9 6:30 PM Card Game Night - Clubhouse	10	11 IPM -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 IPM -Zumba Class	19	20
21	22	23 6:30 PM Dominoes Game Night - Clubhouse	24	25 IPM -Zumba Class	26	27
28 11 AM Hello Summer Pool Party BYOL	29 Memorial Day	30 6:30 PM Wine tasting Game Night - Clubhouse -Bring your favorite wine in a brown paper bag	31 6 PM Retirement Planning/Presentation and Dinner	1	2	3

June 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1 IPM -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



Hello neighbors!

I hope everyone had a Great Easter Season!

Safe travels to all the “snowbirds”!! Y’all come back now, hear!

Once again **Thank you for your patience!** We are catching up with siding repairs, another round should be starting or finished by time of publication of this newsletter. Please look at your property and submit work requests as needed.

MAINTENANCE: If you would like to have your gutters cleaned, please put a work request in. The current contractor will **clean your gutters**. Residents will need to pay the contractor directly; they will charge \$75 for a single request and \$65 if they receive multiple requests from a building. The HOA may serve as a **“go between”** only. We will collect the name, address and bldg./unit number and notify the contractor. To date we have only received 2 requests. **A clogged gutter will cause water to run up under shingles, fascia boards and into your dwelling. They should be kept clear.**

Please remember we all are responsible for the maintenance of our Garage doors. If you have replaced your garage door, please make us aware and we will have it painted. Speaking of painting! Buildings 15,16,23,24,25 and 26 are due to be painted this year. Painting will have started by time of publication of this newsletter.

INSURANCE: It seems to be homeowners’ insurance renewal time. We have been providing roofing permits and GAF warranty numbers. I am going to place a list at the clubhouse of all the buildings and their respective permit number and GAF warranty number for your review as needed. If you need an actual copy, we can provide this at your request **if it is available**. You may still need to contact the city of New Port Richey Department of Development, for some information as we do not have everything insurers ask for. As an example, they may ask for flood zone information, **to be sure call NPR** to get the correct answer. Speaking of insurance, **PLEASE FORWARD ASAP TO THE BP HOA, A COPY OF YOUR INSURANCE CERTIFICATION TO BE KEPT ON FILE IN YOUR BUILDING’S HISTORY FILE AS PER STATE REGULATIONS.**

Did you know: The cost to paint 6 buildings is \$32,000.00 approximate.

Greg Davis

Director of Building and Architecture

May 7 ~ “NATIONAL” WORLD LAUGHTER DAY

World Laughter Day is celebrated on the first Sunday in May; this year it is celebrated on May 7th. The first World Laughter Day *gathering* took place in Mumbai, India, on January 11, 1998. Around 12,000 members from the International Laughter Clubs attended the event and, of course, laughed on this joyous day.

“Fight or flight” is our natural stress response that allows us to run away from a saber-tooth tiger. It’s supposed to be short-lived. But the stress that many are living today is triggering that response continually. That “fight or flight” mentality is the work of our *sympathetic* nervous system. Its job is to swoop in on a dangerous situation and psych you up to keep you safe. Your breathing gets shallow, your heart pounds, and your pupils dilate. Long-term activation of your stress system has an increased risk for obesity, heart disease, cancer, and variety of other illnesses.

On the opposite of the equation is your *parasympathetic* nervous system, which is where your “chill mood” comes from. Your *parasympathetic* nervous system kicks into gear when your body knows you’re not in danger and it can safely lower its guard. Your heart rate lowers and you breathe more easily. Sharing fun times and laughs with friends and family (or even on your own) lowers your stress levels and increases social bonds.

By laughing, the brain releases endorphins, which make you feel happy. It brings in heaps of extra oxygen helping you think more clearly, allows your body to relax, decreases stress hormones, and increases blood flow. It can also reduce artery inflammation, increase HDL (the good cholesterol), and reduce your risk of heart attack.

Laughter offers you so many good things! A smile starts on the lips, a grin spreads to the eyes, a chuckle comes from the belly; but a good laugh bursts forth from the soul, overflows and bubbles all around. So the next time you’re feeling stressed, go to a house of mirrors; it’s a good place to reflect.

(Yep, that’s a joke. Go ahead and laugh, it’s good for you!)

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



Morton Plant North Bay Hospital