



Briar

Patch

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

6525 Thicket Trail, New Port Richey, FL 34653



Marigold and Cosmos, the two "birth flowers" for October, hold different meaning and symbolism.



The **Marigold** is a member of the Asteraceae family, also called the Daisy family. It's known for its strong odor and bright colors that commands attention with its radiant orange and yellow hues. This sun-loving plant not only adds a pop of color to any garden but also carries deep cultural and symbolic significance. This captivating flower symbolizes the warmth and intensity of the sun, as well as passion, creativity, and the cyclical nature of life and death. It's often associated with eternal affection, making the Marigold a perfect symbol for those born in the vibrant month of October.



The **Cosmos** flower that is commonly seen in gardens or fall centerpieces is usually yellow, orange, purple, pink, or white. However, they all come from the same family attributed to Sunflowers, Asters, and Daisies. The name Cosmos derives from "κόσμος" (kosmos), an ancient Greek word that means "order" or "arrangement." It refers to the world and its cosmic organization that reflects harmony, peace, love, and beauty. Different shades of the Cosmos have slightly different meanings. Bright-colored Cosmos typically symbolize wholeness and peace, while pink Cosmos reflect a mother's love and general affection. The white Cosmos can also

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symbolize purity, balance, and modesty. However, no matter what shade, the universal meaning of harmony and love remains.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/7 Mark Jones

10/7 Iris Davis

10/10 Jesse Gonzalez

10/11 Panagis Leonis

10/12 Joe Goldsmith

10/14 Jillian LaVelle

10/19 Lucinda Green



MEET YOUR

Jim and Gaynor Burch



Jim and Gaynor Burch

Gaynor and Jim both lived in Alabama about 30 miles apart. They were introduced to each other through a mutual friend at the former home of Hank Williams in Georgiana, AL, which was owned by their friend's grandmother. On August 31, 1973 they were married in Pensacola, FL.

Jim initially worked in retail. Although he likes people and works hard, the long hours became too much. He then decided to enter the field of insurance. He worked for an insurance company headquartered in

Jacksonville, FL for 15 years. After that he went out on his own for the next 20 years as a broker involving benefits packages for the top Fortune 500 companies.

When Gaynor (sometimes called Gigi) was a little girl she said she wanted to be a nurse. However, she instead became a stay-at-home mother raising children and working sometimes as a substitute schoolteacher. After the children were older, she went back to college and earned her degree as an LPN/RN and pursued that profession for 20 years before retiring.

They have one son, three daughters, and five grandchildren. Their son, a musician, lives in Nashville, TN. One daughter lives nearby in NPR, one in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and one in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The family gatherings around the holidays are well planned and much joy is shared together.

After living in the Pensacola FL area for over 40 years, it was hard leaving their friends when they moved to New Port Richey in May 2021. They promptly met and very much liked their new neighbors here in Briar Patch and they really like living here. Jim and Gaynor enjoy walking, church activities, bowling, game nights at the clubhouse, cruising, trips across the US, and Paris. Although not necessarily sunning, they like to visit the Florida beaches. They attended the recent golf tournament at Valspar in Palm Harbor and watched Gaynor's cousin who is a pro-golfer. Jim often golfs with his son-in-law.

Gaynor and Jim celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 31, 2023!

October 21 ~ "NATIONAL" SWEETEST DAY



National Sweetest Day began as a holiday founded by the National Confectioners' Association called **Candy Day**. On October 16, 1916, candy shops around the country filled newspapers announcing their sweetest treats and delights calling it the "Sweetest Day of the Year."

Americans were encouraged to patronize their local candy shops, bakers, and druggists for the highest quality confections. By 1917 when war was raging in Europe, many retailers encouraged patrons to "Get one for yourself and one for the boys overseas!" But then in April 1918, when the United States officially entered the war in Europe, there came rationing. Sugar,

as well as many other commodities, became scarce and the holiday was cancelled. With the end of the war in 1919, sweetness returned to October. So sweet in fact, Candy Day became an entire week!

The first actual **Sweetest Day** was in Cleveland, Ohio on October 10, 1921. It was a day to share romantic expressions and deeds of charity or kindness. It was planned by a committee of 12 confectioners. The committee distributed over 20,000 boxes of candy to newsboys, orphans, old folks, and the poor. In 1923, the day kicked into a full charitable swing when four Michigan confectioners united with the Red Cross. Together they distributed thousands of bags of candy to hospitals, orphanages, shelters, and homes across Michigan. The celebration also included 100 regulation army target balloons, which dropped coupons worth a box of candy. In 1929, Sweetest Day settled into its current home, the third Saturday in October.

For over 100 years, National Sweetest Day encourages everyone to be generous even in the smallest ways. This day reminds us that even small tokens improve the lives of those around us. While the observance started with candy and sweets given to our sweethearts and friends, the day is full of lessons in persistence, resilience, and doing small things greatly. On National Sweetest Day (October 21st this year) not only acknowledge your loved ones, but also take care of those who need some extra attention or recognition. A little treat, a card, or a show of support during a time of need may be the sweetest gift on this day. Just a little sweetness can mean so much!

MESSAGES FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Fun events! Come join us!

Dates and times are subject to change.

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

- **Game nights** - In the Clubhouse on the following Tuesday nights at 6:30 PM:
 - Trivia** - Tuesday, October 3rd at 6:30 PM Clubhouse
 - Mahjong** - Tuesday, October 10th at 6:30 PM Clubhouse
 - Wine tasting game** - Tuesday, October 17th at 6:30 PM Clubhouse -Please bring your favorite wine in a brown paper bag. The person with the winning wine wins a prize.
 - Cards/Dominos (i.e., UNO, Mexican Train, Rummikub, etc.)** - Tuesday, October 24th at 6:30 PM Clubhouse
 - Mahjong** -Tuesday, October 31st at 6:30 PM Clubhouse

➤ CLEAN UP TIME ~ POOL & CLUBHOUSE AREAS

Where: Pool/Clubhouse
When: Saturday, October 21st, 2023
Time: 9:00 AM

Please sign up to help in cleaning the pool and clubhouse areas. Everyone is welcome! The more help we receive, the faster we finish! Refreshments will be served. If you are able, please sign-up. The sign-up sheet will be on the clubhouse bulletin board.

If you have any questions please email or call Diolinda Gonzalez at dgonza13@hotmail.com or 718-744-8827.

- **Retirement Planning Presentation** - In the clubhouse on November 8st, 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 is on the clubhouse bulletin board. **Sign-up deadline is October 27th, 2023** as a total head count is needed for this event. We will need a minimum of ten individuals attending this event.

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- **Zumba registration and payment collection** - Zumba class will begin on Thursday, November 2nd until January 11, 2024 (except for holiday's – see schedule) at 1 PM in the pool and patio area. The cost of each class is \$5.00. Sign-up sheet is on the clubhouse bulletin board. **Pre-payment (cash only, receipt will be given) is required in order to pay the instructor which will be held in the clubhouse on October 26th at 1 PM.**

Zumba Thursday Class Dates
Thursday, November 2, 2023
Thursday, November 9, 2023
Thursday, November 16, 2023
Thursday, November 30, 2023
Thursday, December 7, 2023
Thursday, December 14, 2023
Thursday, January 4, 2024
Thursday, January 11, 2024

- **Holiday Decorating** - Come make Briar Patch festive for the holidays on **Saturday, November 25th, 2023 – 9AM.** Please sign-up! Sign-up sheet on clubhouse bulletin board. Coffee and donuts will be served.
- **Holiday Party** - **Please sign-up for the holiday party by December 2nd, 2023.** Sign-up sheet on the clubhouse bulletin board. **The holiday party will be held on December 9, 2023 at 11:30 AM, clubhouse/pool area.** We will have music, food and water/soda. Please bring your favorite appetizer, dessert and/or special beverage.



We had a great time at the "Farewell Summer" party!! Thank you to all who participated, contributed and helped!!

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



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

BUILDINGS

Hello All !!! The Labor Day gathering (Farewell Summer Potluck Party) was great! Fun was had by all, along with hotdogs, hamburgers, and a bunch of other goodies! Many thanks to Diolinda for making this happen !!! Fall has arrived and the snowbirds will soon to be here.



As mentioned last month, we are soon to embark on a roof replacement journey, beginning on or about October 16. Every homeowner in the affected buildings has received a letter of notification. During this project dates and time will remain flexible based on the weather and other unforeseen issues during roofing. Most importantly please have the bushes and trees trimmed! A couple of folks have already done this, THANK YOU VERY MUCH !!!!!

If a tree limb falls on your roof causing damage, it IS NOT covered by the GAF WARRANTY. All trees and shrubs should be maintained for the protection of your home and property.

PLEASE NOTE: ARRY'S ROOFING WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY PRE-EXISTING INTERIOR DAMAGE THAT WAS UNREPORTED PRIOR TO THE START OF THE OCTOBER 16 ROOFING PROJECT.

F.Y.I.

The question was asked: Why do I have to pay for my skylight? The answer: Skylights are classified as WINDOWS. The HOA bylaws state homeowners are responsible for their windows and doors. There are approximately 100 skylights; the replacement costs for every skylight would be \$80,000.00. Regarding this project the additional cost would be approximately \$18,400.00. Skylights are not common they belong to the homeowner not the HOA. Not everyone enjoys the benefit of having one.

Please note the recommendation to replace your skylight was made because your current unit is 25 - 30 years old. It has age related corrosion and offers no insulating or UV blocking ability. What better time to replace than with a new roof. You may keep the current unit as is or you may have the roofer remove and close up the opening.

The question was asked; What if I would like to add a skylight? The answer: That is ok, however it must go through an HOA Architectural Review process. The HOA Buildings and Architecture would need to have a committee meeting to review and approve, disapprove, or modify your request. Any architectural changes would have to be in line with the current look of every home. Example a skylight would only be placed in the back of the building. If you are thinking of adding or removing a skylight, keep in mind ALL interior work is the responsibility of the homeowner. This means the closing of or construction of the light shaft in the ceiling.

The question was asked: How much would it cost to hire an HOA management company? The answer: The national average is \$10 - \$20 per residence. If we use \$15.00 per residence, the annual cost for BP would be \$35,000.00 per year approximate. This would be in addition to all current operating costs not to include any needed future increases.



THE ANSWER = TO HELP KEEP FEES LOW, PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO JOIN