



BRIARPATCH NEWSLETTER September 2024

The Patch Corner

Martha's Vineyard

Our virtual vacation this month is to Martha's Vineyard, a unique island where everyone once used the language of sign.

Martha's Vineyard is seven miles off the coast of Cape Cod. There are two ports for our arrival: Vineyard Haven or Oak Bluffs. Let's watch a video and tour the island: [https://](https://youtu.be/k3pEBbNPU6Y)

youtu.be/k3pEBbNPU6Y (video credits to Jen O' Hanian)

Did you know that Martha's Vineyard used to be a place where everyone once communicated in sign language? There used to be many people there who were deaf. In one village 25% of the population was deaf. Their deafness was believed to be the result of a recessive gene traced to Kent County in England, where some settlers of Martha's Vineyard had originated in the late 17th century. In the mid-1700's deaf and hearing people in Martha's Vineyard used sign language. It was an island with its own language. Eventually their unique signs integrated into the American Sign Language System.



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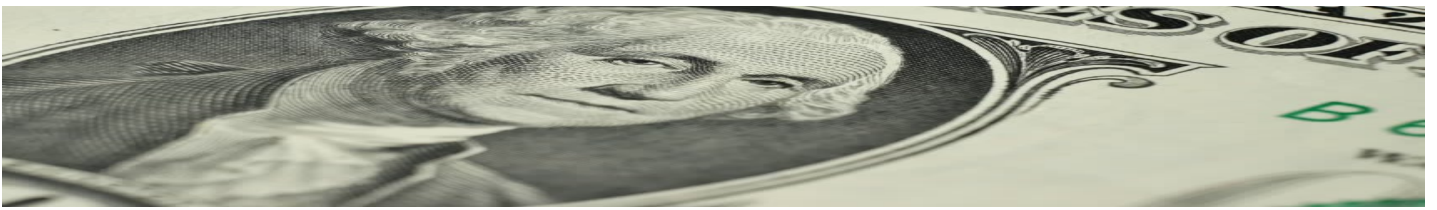
Martha's Vineyard (con't)

Deaf people longed for hearing people everywhere to accept their language of Sign for what it is, an actual language with its own grammar and syntax, a beautiful language with even its own culture. Lets watch an American Sign Language rendition of the song "This is Me" from the Greatest Showman, signed by a young deaf woman. Notice how graceful she is: <https://youtu.be/fMCFXWbJrA>. Let's learn some sign language to communicate with the townspeople: <https://youtu.be/8nIkMnipoic>.

Fun facts about Martha's Vineyard: In spite of the name, there are actually no vineyards on Martha's Vineyard. The island is composed of six towns. Martha's Vineyard was the home of the Wampanoag Native Americans who called the island "Land of the streams." A British explorer named the island after his daughter around 1602. For 200 years Martha's Vineyard was the home of the largest deaf community in the country.

I hope you enjoyed our visit to Martha's Vineyard. Our next trip will be to an island that is two separate countries with two separate languages and cultures. See you on our next virtual vacation.

Rachel James



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY LABOR DAY TO ALL! I Hope everyone enjoyed the summer !

We plan to have a fun time at the clubhouse for our Labor Day end of Summer get together. Thanks to everyone who are bringing tasty dishes !!!! We the BPHOA – BOD are trying to keep things moving. Thank you to our BP newsletter Editor: Lillian Gonzalez, I truly appreciate the help and support!!!

The Bylaws review committee finally met. We waited until the state amended the Florida 720 Statutes which set forth the rules HOA's must follow. This is an arduous task. When we have decided upon changes it will be put forth to you, the Homeowners, to read and review. You all may have comments that may be considered before a vote. Homeowners will need to VOTE on the planned changes. The amended bylaws must be reviewed by our HOA Attorney to ensure compliance to the Statutes. Kudos to the folks that wrote our Bylaws, Deed Restrictions and Covenants. We are in compliance with many of the changes to the 720 Statutes. Most of the processes that we have in place follow the new guidelines. Briar Patch was ahead of the curve! The county is raising the solid waste removal charges. Guesstimate is we (BPHOA) will pay approximately \$1250.00 MORE per month. If you have a Service Animal or an Emotional Support Animal you will be receiving a request for updated paperwork or certification.

Greg Davis

President





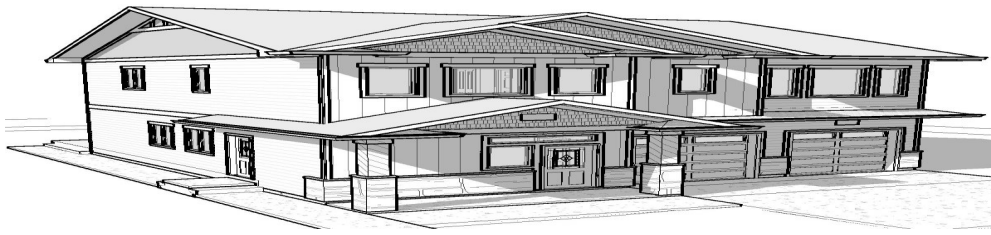
If you haven't already sent in your copy of the Declarations Page of your home insurance, please do so as soon as you can. Just the Declarations Page is needed, not the whole Policy. The page with your name, address and dates of coverage is what is required to be on file annually by law. You can bring it to the Clubhouse and place it in my bin at the back of the room by the file cabinets, or you can send a copy via email to:

Briarpatchnpr@yahoo.com or mail it to: Briar Patch HOA 6525 Thicket Trail New Port Richey, FL 34653. *This address is for mailing only, you cannot send anything via UPS, FedEx or certified with signature required. No one lives there.*

Thank you for complying with this request.

Marie Lawrence
Secretary





BUILDINGS & ARCHITECTURE

It has been too wet for DUNA to commence painting. We will know when the rainy season is done when they show up. Our contractor ghosted us! I have been looking for a good contractor, apologies to those waiting for repairs. I have engaged with another company and we should be starting repair work within a week or so. If you have not looked out your back window or door PLEASE do so. Please ensure that your trees or shrubbery are not rubbing on or growing onto/into your home.

Please take a look at your screens, some are in terrible disrepair. These must be repaired or replaced.

As per Bylaw #16 please keep your garage door closed when you are not actively working in the garage. You can keep it open up to a foot.





ROADS & GROUNDS

LAWN FERTILIZATION

Some of you may have noticed that periodically our landscape provider sprays chemicals on our lawns and then posts “Stay Off the Grass” signs. The chemical applied contains fertilizer, insecticides (targeting the kinds of insects that can attack lawns such as mole crickets) and weed killer. Although these chemicals are not particularly toxic in such low concentrations, state law requires landscapers to post signs whenever chemicals are applied to a lawn. As an added precaution, they suggest that pets be kept off the lawns until the chemicals dry, about 15 minutes in the summertime. Be advised that the weed killer applied does not work against all weeds. Crabgrass and some broad-leafed weeds may not be effected. Any weeds that remain on your lawn can be removed by hand with a digger or spot sprayed with a consumer weed killer such as Round Up. This is the homeowner’s responsibility. Be advised that if you use Round Up or something similar, it will also kill the grass around the weed and will take some time to recover.

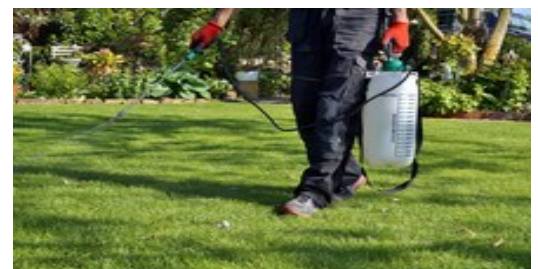




ROADS & GROUNDS

GARDEN WEED CONTROL

One of the services that our landscapers provide is weed control for gardens. Some of our homeowners have indicated that this weed control may be contributing to their garden plants dying. The type of weed killer used must be applied to the top (green) part of the weed in order to work. Any weed killer which gets in the soil does not harm garden plants. In order for the landscapers to kill a garden plant they would have to intentionally spray the top of the plant. I cannot imagine for the life of me why they would want to do this. It's not as if they don't know the difference between a weed and a garden plant. As you are probably aware, plants can die for a variety of reasons such as excessive heat, poor soil condition and insufficient watering. If your plants are dying, I cannot tell you the exact cause. However, I can tell you with 100% certainty that it is not because the landscapers have poisoned them. However, if you do not agree with me, you have the option of placing a red stake in your garden which will be a signal to the landscapers not to treat the garden for weeds. You can then remove the weeds yourself. This will eliminate any misunderstandings.





ROADS & GROUNDS

LAWN WATERING

Our HOA provides lawn care services such as mowing, fertilization and watering. As you are aware, our 40-year-old irrigation system occasionally requires repairs. The most common problem is due to malfunctioning sprinkler heads. If you notice that any of your sprinklers are not working, submit a work request through our website www.briarpatchnpr.com so we can address the issue. Depending upon the problem, this may take some time to resolve. Meanwhile, the homeowner should continue to water either by hand with a garden hose or lawn sprinkler once or twice a week until the irrigation system sprinklers come back on line to prevent permanent damage to their lawn.

David Vangness

Director Landscape & Grounds





Hello Briar Patch Community,

Thank you so much to Lucinda Green for arranging the clubhouse books by author's last name. Please borrow books but remember to maintain the books in this order. Thank you! I would like to give a big "Thank You" to the anonymous person who donated toilet paper for the bathrooms.

We would like to start a monthly "Show & Tell" or "Exhibit" at the Clubhouse with items that you crafted with your own hands. You would share what you have completed or are currently doing with the members of our community. Each month, one of our talented neighbors would bring in their finished craft(s) and explain it to us. We would like to start in October. Anyone who is interested in sharing their crafts with your neighbors please send an email to briarpatchnpr@yahoo.com. In your email, please include your name, address, phone number, etc. and what craft you would like to share.

Tuesday game nights are back! Come join us! Mark your calendars!!



Tuesday Game Nights @ 6:30 pm at the Clubhouse as follows:

- ⇒ **Wine tasting game** - Tuesday, **September 10th** at 6:30 pm. Please bring your favorite wine in a paper bag. If you do not have a bag, we will provide one. The person with the winning wine wins a prize.
- ⇒ **Dominos (i.e. Triominos., Mexican Train, Rummikub, Mahjong, etc.)** - Tuesday, **September 17th** at 6:30 pm.
- ⇒ **Karaoke** - Tuesday, **September 24th** at 6:30 pm.





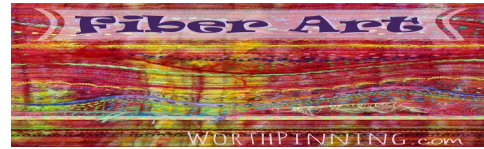
Please come join us at the clubhouse for the following activities:

⇒ **Labor Day/Farewell Summer** – On **Monday, September 2nd**, starting at **12 pm** at the clubhouse, patio area and pool. Please bring your favorite beverage, food, side dish and/or desert to share with your neighbors. The HOA will provide hamburgers, the famous hot dogs and water. We have a sign-up sheet in order to avoid food duplication. Please sign-up! Come join us for a great time!!



⇒ **Fiber Artists** – For those of us that either knit, quilt, crochet, embroider, cross stitch or weave... You are an artist! Beginners. Experts. Recent devotees. Decades of experience. All are welcome! Come join us on **Thursday, September 12th from 2 to 3 pm** at the clubhouse. Barbara will begin with a 10-minute educational demonstration, showing the variety and/or versatility. There will be a door prize! Please come join us!!

Questions: Call Barbara Larson (405)562-0442



⇒ **Paint & Sip** – Come and explore your creativity and try your hand at painting a rainbow on an acrylic canvas painting on **Thursday, September 19th from 6 to 8 pm** at the Clubhouse. Enjoy a glass of wine! Bring your wine glass. There will be white and red wine. Limited to 10 people. There is a \$5.00 charge per person. If you are going to attend, please send an email message to briarpatchnpr@yahoo.com



- Dates and times are subject to change.
- Participation and cooperation from our 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!

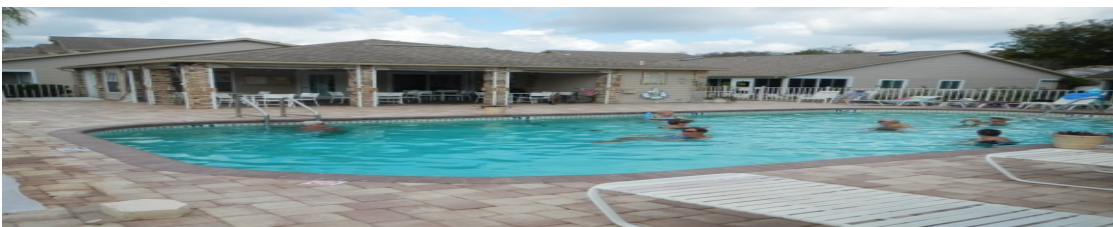
Thank you all for your help and support!


Diolinda (Linda) Gonzalez, Clubhouse Director



We had the pool heat pump replaced. The core heat exchanger was leaking, and the cost of repair (\$1800) was more than half of replacement costs. The warranty on the old unit was over on November 1, 2024. We were able to trade the old unit in against the purchase of a new unit. It cost us \$3,500 to replace. I had estimates for replacement that were \$5,500 with no trade in deal. We are awaiting a date from 5 Star Pool as to when they can repair the pool wall and light. Sadly they only warranty their work for one year. It will cost us \$1000.00 to repair the problem area. We will need to drain the water down and be closed for 2-3 days. We will keep you posted. **BREAKING NEWS**

ATTENTION: The Swimming Pool will be **CLOSING** for Repair on **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th** and will **Re-Open** on **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th**.





2. Bylaws

The bylaws of a corporation a
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Bylaws Review

39. A prospective Lot owner in Briar Patch Unit One or Briar Patch Unit Two must complete and sign a disclosure summary form, the contents of which are subject to the sole and exclusive discretion of the Association's Board of Directors. The current Lot owner is responsible for supplying the Disclosure Summary form to the prospective Lot owner and the current Lot owner shall provide the Board of Directors with a copy of this completed form. Blank disclosure summary forms are available through the Secretary/Treasurer of the Assoc.

41. The Association shall procure and maintain adequate hazard insurance and liability insurance On real property owned by the Association. All homeowners are required to procure and Maintain adequate hazard insurance and liability insurance on their respectively owned Lots Including the residence located on the Lot.