



BRIARPATCH NEWSLETTER January 2025

The Patch Corner

Italy: The Beautiful Country



We are here in “The Beautiful Country” ... a title given to Italy. It is the land of the Renaissance and the art of Michaelangelo. Italy is the birthplace and center of the Roman civilization.

We landed in Rome, and upon disembarking from the plane entered the Leonardo da Vinci International Airport. Right away, we notice many art exhibits that show Italian culture and heritage.

Let’s get something to eat before a tour of the Roman Colosseum and then read the history of Italy. Would you like some Italian Pizza since pizza originated in Italy? Authentic Italian pizza is often served with flat bread and fewer toppings than traditional American pizza. Delicious!





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We will now tour the Roman Colosseum and see what our high school history books taught us. Do you have your cameras ready? You are allowed to take pictures. The colosseum was built in the first century AD for gladiator games and theatrical performances. As we enter the Colosseum step back in time and experience what was seen hundreds of years ago. We have a ticket for the guided tour, so we see everything. We see the arena where spectators entered and where gladiators entered. We see a wooden model of the building showing how it looked in ancient times. We see the first tier reserved for the king and his family. We can stop and hear the audio descriptions. We will walk through the long tunnel known as the secret tunnel of the king. So much to see! We leave thinking about all that history!

The History of Italy:

Ancient Italy was called Italia. It was inhabited by the Etruscans. Modern Italy began in 1861. The royal Savoy family, of what was then the Savoy dynasty, grew in power entered marriages that strengthened them and began to take over more and more of the then Italian peninsula. They unified most of the peninsula into the Kingdom of Italy. The language they chose was the Tuscan dialect, a form of Latin called Vulgar Latin. It became the Italian language. Italy was the birthplace and center of the ancient Roman civilization. We learn much about Rome from Italy's historical writings. The writings of Josephus and Tacitus talk about how the destruction of Jerusalem by Rome changed the Roman Empire. In 70 CE the Romans used proceeds from the destruction of Jerusalem to build the Colosseum that we visited. That not only changed the Roman Empire, but it influenced the world. In Central Rome stands the Arch of Titus that attracts visitors from all over the world. This Arch honors emperor Titus' conquest of Jerusalem in 70 CE. The Arch still stands today. (see photo below)





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The Renaissance began in Italy in the 14th century, making Rome the depiction of the art world with the Sistine chapel ceiling, painted by Michaelangelo, and Leonardo da Vinci’s Mona Lisa (considered the most famous painting in the world). Rome became the capital of Italy in 1871. Below is an intriguing video on the history of Rome:

<https://youtu.be/GIgGwoOEbiI>

(Control + Click Link)

(Credits to Office of the Historian website)

Fun Facts about Italy: Although Vatican City is in Rome, it has been an independent country since 1929 and is thus thought of as foreign soil by citizens of Italy. / Italy is the birthplace of ballet, opera and the violin. / The Italian language has become synonymous with music. / Some famous Italians are Christopher Columbus, Marco Polo, Sophia Loren, and Luciano Pavarotti.

I hope you enjoyed “The Beautiful Country” – Italy!

Our next virtual vacation will be to a historic city known to archaeologists and to the world.

See you there!

Rachel James



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hello all 2024 was another great year! If you are reading this we survived, many didn't. May we all have a peaceful prosperous New Year! We the HOA BOD accomplished many of the things that we set out to do. That information will be reported at the next board meeting.

I am going to address what is a **conundrum** for me. People choose to live where they desire. This community is an HOA governed community, requiring bylaws, covenants, deed and code restrictions, not to mention local, state and federal laws and statutes. The bylaws and deed restrictions must be read and signed before sale. We all should have read and understood and signed them before buying or moving in. Here is the issue, if you read the bylaws why can't they be followed? Why would you be upset about a regulation you read and agreed to before you moved in?

Please volunteer for the open board of director positions, send forth your resume.

For this HOA situation to continue to work for the community it is going to take succession planning. We need people who can step up to help. The current BOD has created job descriptions, mission statements, policy and procedures for guidance. When our terms of office are complete, we hope to have done required scheduled re-roofing and started re siding of buildings. The next BOD in **2026** will have a very solid foundation to continue building on.

Three of the current BOD members will be leaving at that time. We would like to remain fully self governing, meaning a full board composed of homeowners. However, it may come to pass a management company will need to be hired. Even with a management company the HOA would still need a 3 person board of directors. With a management company comes **payment** to them. In today's dollars that would mean a possible increase of \$40-50 (approximate) per month per home owner. That does not include routine scheduled increases

Please volunteer!

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Greg Davis

President BPHOA



Great news for our seniors!

The [Pasco Board of County Commissioners](#) (BCC) unanimously approves an additional homestead tax exemption for low-income property owners 65 years or older – providing a much-needed break on their future tax bills.

The additional exemption, set at \$50,000, aims to provide financial relief to seniors with a household income not exceeding \$36,614 [for 2024](#), helping them maintain their **permanent residences** starting in the 2025 tax year.

To be eligible, seniors must submit a sworn statement to the [Pasco County Property Appraiser](#) regarding household income **by March 1, 2025**. They must also include documentation such as federal income tax returns and wage statements by June 1, 2025.

Also, please remember to send in your Insurance Renewals. There are still about 11 homeowners that have not submitted their insurance Declarations forms. All Briar Patch homeowners are required to do so.

Marie Lawrence
Secretary





As I reflect on our current financial condition, it is hard to imagine that another year has almost passed us by.

Many of my friends have told me time will slow down as you enter those golden years. Well, the sun seems to set faster every day. Although I have become more appreciative of the beauty of each sunset, I look forward to seeing the sun rise again tomorrow God willing. I hope everyone has had a great 2024. My thoughts for your good health and enjoyment in 2025.

Just a few words to reflect on our operations for 2024.

For the most part we have been able to operate within our budget. There are a few areas of concern that I feel are worth mentioning.

Our electricity charges are over budget. I am sure you are experiencing the same. We will make provisions for 2025. We expect to spend about \$3,000.00 more than budgeted.

The Pool Maintenance and Repairs exceeds what we estimated for the year. This is due to unexpected problems in ongoing maintenance and upkeep as well as hidden damage to pumps and tiles. As of November, we exceed our budgeted amount by over \$ 8,000.00.

We were able to make significant improvements to the Clubhouse by upgrading our Air Conditioning system and replacing our windows. This amount was budgeted and has a cost-benefit component. It will save us money and energy costs over the coming years.

As for roofing we spent \$ 330,060.00, which was just slightly over our budgeted amount of \$328,615.00. The funds for this project came from our Reserve Account. Additionally, we were able to add an additional \$ 215,000.00 from our current operations to the Reserve Account for future roofing obligations.

As for the future I am planning in conjunction with our HOA Board to prepare a schedule of HOA fees for the next few years that will reflect the additional cost of living increases and inflation.

No More surprises.

Thank You,

Henry R Perri

Treasurer



ROADS & GROUNDS

Please be advised that it is against the Briar Patch Bylaws for a dog owner to leave their pet unattended tied to a post or railing in their yard. Dogs must be leashed and accompanied at all times.

Happy New Year!

David Vangsness

Director of Roads and Grounds





Hello Briar Patch Community,

Thank you to everyone who volunteered and donated items for the holiday celebration and door prizes! The Holiday celebration was such a great success!!

Thank you so much to all who came and participated in the Holiday celebration!! We had a wonderful time!! We would like to start an event/game night committee.

Please send an email to: briarpatchnpr@yahoo.com if you would like to be a member of the event/game night committee.

Please come join us at the clubhouse for the following:

- ⇒ **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, January 9th from 11 AM to 12 PM at the clubhouse. Barbara will begin with a 10-minute educational demonstration, showing 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 on an acrylic canvas on Thursday, January 16th from 6 to 8PM 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 email to briarpatchnpr@yahoo.com



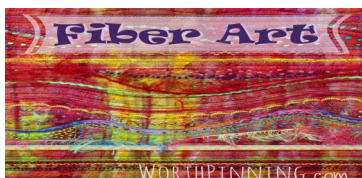
Due to the holidays, we will not be having Tuesday's game night.

Dates and times are subject to change.

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!

Thank you all for your help and support!

Diolinda (Linda) Gonzalez, Clubhouse Director







**KEEP
TOILETS
CLEAN
FLUSH
AFTER USE**

Clubhouse Bathrooms - Reminder

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





2. Bylaws

The bylaws of a corporation a
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Bylaw Review

7. No owner shall permit or suffer anything to be done or kept on his Lot which shall increase the rate of insurance on the other Lots, or which shall obstruct or interfere with the rights of the occupants of the other Lots or annoy them by unreasonable noises or create nuisance.

22. Each wall which is built as a part of the original construction of the homes upon the property and placed on the dividing line between the lots shall constitute a party wall. General rules of law regarding party walls and liability for property damage due to negligence or willful acts or omissions shall apply thereto.

13. Enforcing obligations of the Owners and taking such actions as shall be deemed necessary and proper for the sound management of the association