

# Briar II News

Volume 30, Number 1

Published by the Homeowners of Greenbriar II, Brick, N.J.

May 2025









May 2025





# **FUN FACTS**

# Did You Know?

5/1/1931 – The Empire State Building opened in NYC, marking it as the tallest building in the world at the time.

**5/8/1945** — Germany surrendered, thereby ending World War 2. It is also called VE Day, or Victory in Europe Day.

May 11th— Mothers Day is celebrated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of May. This year its May 11th

5/5- Cinco de Mayo is celebrated worldwide. Americans spend more on Beer on this day than the Superbowl or St. Patricks Day!.

# Stop in and Say Hello!

We are located in the lobby of the Clubhouse and offer free fax and copy service to all!

# **Market Watch**

# For Sale

13 Everest Dr N - \$379,000 167 Everest Dr S - \$435,000 18 Matterhorn Way - \$515,000

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#### AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY 888-295-4617

Emergencies are considered fire, flood or imminent danger to life or property. Any other calls should wait until next business day to notify Management Office.

#### **Briar II News Editors**

Colleen Tierney & Judy Muldoon

#### **Briar II News Staff**

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Anne Marie Wudarski, Bill Gathercole

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#### **Policy**

Contributions: We invite readers to send articles of interest to the GB II community, including photographs, drawings, and letters to the editor. Material must include the writer's name. We also solicit your opinions and your ideas for new articles.

Classified Advertisements are accepted only from residents of GB II. They must not compete directly with regular advertisements contained in the paper.

#### **For Advertising Contact:**

Senior Publishing Company 1520 Washington Ave., Neptune, NJ 07753 888-637-3200

**Deadline For All Advertising:** Tenth day of the month for insertion in following month's issue.

EDITORIAL STATEMENT: The *Briar II News* reserves the right to reject, edit or condense any submissins to this publication. Articles that we determine to be libelous, in poor taste, promote a political agenda, are plagiarized or argumentative/inflammatory will be rejected. We do not endorse any services or items offered herein.

### **Board Meeting**

### Monday, May 27, 2025 10:00 am

# Deadline

June 2025 issue deadline is May 2nd. Leave article at the office or hand to any staff member.

**Editorial Staff** 

### **CONTRIBUTORS**

Briar II News editors & staff thank the following for helping make this issue possible: Rose Marie Lodico, D. Danilewicz, D. Mansfield, A M Willcox, S Saccne, Shoeless and S. Vaccarella.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi all! May - finally!! The flowering trees and spring flowers really add to the beauty of our property, don't they? The landscapers are busy with the lawns and remaining cleanup where necessary. They did a fantastic job last year, and we want them to do even better this year! The sprinkler system is activated, but if you notice any issues on your property, please contact the office immediately so it can be addressed. As a matter of fact, and all issues concerning your property should be sent to the office. Your concerns can only be addressed if we're aware of them.

A new pool company has been hired this season. Let's wish them good luck and may they provide us with a service that exceeds our previous pool companies! Speaking of the pool, R&A has a lot of good and fun events coming up starting with the pool opening party; and I encourage you all to come out and enjoy! If you're able, please consider volunteering to help. Added help makes the burden light. Come out and have fun in the sunshine!

Looking forward to seeing you out and about!

Best Regards, Stan Miszczenski

### **THANK YOU**

I would sincerely like to thank all of our wonderful residents who sent mass cards, cards of encouragement and food to me during this difficult time. My husband loved living here and serving the community.

Susan Vaccarella

### MAY COMMUNITY NEWS FROM THE MANAGER

Karen Brown

#### **Wood Shop**

The Wood Shop is now open. Homeowners are required to contact the management office 24 hours in advance to schedule an appointment to utilize the shop. No more than 4 people may utilize the shop at one time due to space constraints. Homeowners must bring their own nails, wood and any other items needed to complete their projects. The Association only provides the tools. Two *Greenbriar II homeowners* must be present at all times. The shop is accessible Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, from 9 am to 4 pm. Keys may be picked up and should be returned to the management office on the same day. A waiver is required to be signed by anyone accessing the shop. No one under the age of 21 years old may enter the shop. Please be aware of all signage and use all safety precautions.

### **Ceramic Shop**

The ceramic shop is open to all homeowners. You are responsible to bring your own greenware and any paint supplies not already available in the room. If you are leaving your items to dry, please place them on the shelving provided and marked for Ceramics. This allows them to dry and keeps them safe when the room is cleaned by maintenance. This room may be shared with another crafting group. Only the chairpersons or management are permitted to utilize the kiln. If you need something fired, please notify the chairperson, MaryJane Nevins and she will handle it based on how many pieces need to be fired. At times you may need to wait until we have several pieces to run the kiln.

#### Pet Registration/ANIMAL LICENSING

The Association requires all owners with pets to complete a Pet Registration form. Please stop or call the management office and we will provide you with a copy.

In the Township of Brick dogs and cats, 7 months or older were required to be licensed with Brick Township for 2025 during the month of January. A certificate of Rabies

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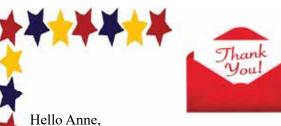
vaccination must be presented, and must be current through November, 2026 for a one year license or November, 2028 for a three-year license. Also, if your dog and/or cat has been spayed or neutered, you must present a statement from the veterinarian.

We are encouraging residents to apply for their animals' licenses by mail. If requesting by mail, please include the rabies certificate and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. If necessary, you can renew in person at the Municipal Building, 401 Chambers Bridge Road, Monday through Friday between 9am and 4pm. Exact change, check or credit (no American Express).

### **LICENSE FEES:**

- One year spayed/neutered animal: \$10.00
- One year non-spayed/neutered animal: \$13.00
- Three year spayed/neutered animal: \$26.00
- Three year non-spayed/neutered animal: \$35.00

There is an administrative charge of \$1.00 per month for any dog or cat registered after January 31st of each year.



On behalf of Comanche Company and the Fire Support Team I'd like to thank you and Greenbriar II's St. Martha Bible Study Group for your care packages. Chocolate and caffeine are always welcome. I especially appreciate the puzzles, personally enjoying crosswords to pass the time. I pray your New Jersey weather and our South Korea weather starts behaving like Florida weather soon.

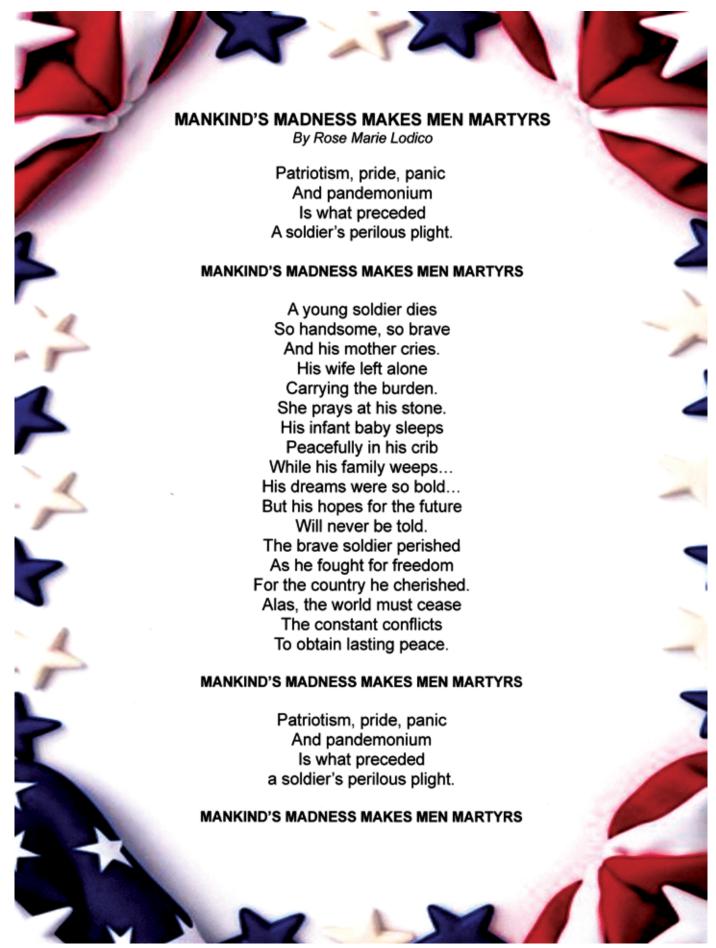
Thank you again for your generosity and keeping us in your thoughts.

Respectfully, 1 LT Williams, Erin

## REMEMBER OUR TROOPS

Care packages are sent to our troops regularly and are always appreciated. A receptacle is in the clubhouse where you can leave your donations (Check the list above the container) or get in touch with Anne Leahy for more information.





# ARMED FORCES DAY 3rd Saturday in May

On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy and Air Force Days. The single-day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under one department -- the Department of Defense.

Armed Forces Day recognizes the men and women currently serving in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or National Guard.

## How do you show military appreciation?

### **Acts of Service**

- Buy a meal. If you see a service member in uniform or recognize someone is a veteran while dining out, picking up the tab for their meal is a nice gesture – and an even better surprise.
- 2. Volunteer at a VA hospital or veterans' shelter.
- One of the easiest and most impactful ways to honor service members and veterans is to donate to a veterans service organization (VSO). Supporting VSOs is a meaningful way to empower veterans to thrive and live their lives to the fullest.

### Send a Military Care Package

Even during peacetime, there are things service members stationed in the U.S. and abroad can use and enjoy. Here are some ideas on what to send: **Toiletries:** Items like deodorant, soap, shampoo, and razors are always needed and appreciated. Costs for these little things can add up, and they are necessary, whether in the field, deployed overseas, or even at home.

- Deck of cards, puzzles, books. Even with all our modern technology, a deck of
  playing cards is a classic care package item. Books, puzzles, and games can
  also be a fun way to pass the time on deployment, in the field (if allowed), or at
  the barracks.
- Feminine-hygiene products. Women are the fastest-growing demographic of veterans, and more and more are serving in the Armed Forces. Sending items specifically to <u>women warriors</u> shows them they're being seen for their service and helps provide much-needed supplies that are often an extra expense for servicewomen.
- Snacks. Consider portable snacks like beef jerky, trail mix, or energy bars for warriors in combat zones. For those in basic training or stationed away from home, send local treats or popular snacks that are easy to share. Add comfort items like soup cups, instant coffee, flavored drink mixes, or cookies.
- A card or letter. It's always nice to hear that what you're doing is appreciated.
   When sending a note or card in a military care package, include how important
   the service member's sacrifice is to you why it matters. Reading these words of
   support and appreciation can go a long way in brightening someone's day.

# MEMORIAL DAY

# Monday, May 26

Memorial Day is always commemorated in the US on the last Monday in May. Memorial Day (originally known as Decoration Day) is one of the federal holidays in the United States for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces

"That Nation which respects and honors its dead, shall ever be respected and honored itself." Memorial Day, a federal holiday held the last Monday in May, is the nation's foremost annual day to mourn and honor its deceased service men and women. May 27, 2024

The tradition of wearing poppies stands out as a vivid symbol of remembrance. In addition, flying the American flag at half-staff until noon is another powerful gesture of respect and mourning, symbolizing the nation's grief and the valor of its fallen heroes.

#### $\star\star\star\star\star\star$ $\star$

## What not to say to a veteran on Memorial Day?

- Don't wish anyone a "Happy Memorial Day" This is not Christmas Memorial Day was not founded in joy with the promise of bringing glee each year. ...
- · Don't thank the current troops. ...
- Don't disregard its importance. ...
- · Don't forget it exists. ...
- Don't let politics keep you from rendering respect.

Instead of "thank you for your service," you could express gratitude by saying "I appreciate your sacrifices" or "I am grateful for your dedication". Here are some other options:

**Focus on Specific Actions:** 

"Thank you for all you've done for our country" or "I appreciate the way you supported me".

**Express Gratitude for Sacrifices:** 

"I am so grateful for the sacrifices you made" or "Thank you for putting your life on hold to serve".

**Acknowledge Their Choice:** 

"Thank you for choosing to serve when many others didn't" or "Thank you for stepping up and choosing to serve".

Simple and Meaningful:

"I appreciate your service" or "Your service is greatly valued".

**Offer Practical Support:** 

"Let me help you get help with your addiction" or "Let me pay for your lunch".



Let's give a warm welcome to Patty and Mitch Titen, who moved to Greenbriar II from Plainsboro, NJ. They enjoy walking and riding bikes. Patty worked in accounting and Mitch was a project manager.

No photo available

### ART WORK



Sadly, this will be the last art from Ren since he and his family have chosen to make Florida their permanent home. He will be missed by the staff and everyone who has known him at GBII.

We all wish you God's best!

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# NEAREST EXIT

#### By Rose Marie Lodico

Whenever I go to large theaters, concerts or other gathering places where there are crowds of people, I always look for the nearest exit signs. You never know when an unforeseen tragedy could strike, so it's better to be safe rather than sorry. Take a mental note as to where the nearest exits are when you go to your local movie theaters and restaurants.

Recently, a friend of mine had a frightening experience in a restaurant. On New Years Eve, Jo, her husband and other family members went to a new Chinese restaurant that had opened that week. The owner and manager of the establishment was a close friend of theirs, so they decided to try it out. After the delicious appetizers were served, anxious customers anticipated a terrific evening full of good food and entertainment. As the evening progressed everyone was in a holiday mood and feeling good!

Suddenly my friend Jo noticed flames shooting out of the kitchen and tried to alert the manager very discreetly so she wouldn't alarm the patrons. At first the manager couldn't understand what she was saying over the loud music and partying crowd. When he observed more closely he realized something was very wrong. After investigating the situation he knew that the fire was out of control. By this time customers were in a panic and tried to get out of the restaurant the same way they had entered - the front door. People were pushing, screaming and stepping on those who fell down as they tried to get to the exit. The restaurant was full to capacity, and they ran for their lives to the cold without their coats. Fortunately, Jo lived only a few blocks from the restaurant, so she called her daughter to bring coats and blankets to help keep them warm temporarily. Calls to 911 were answered promptly, but it took the fire fighters quite a while to get the fire under control.

After the fact, Jo realized there was an exit located in close proximity to her table. So why was everyone running towards the front door and trampling one another? No one followed the rule of thumb; they didn't bother to look for the nearest exits. Thankfully there were only a few minor injuries among the elderly, which could have been a lot worse considering the fact that the restaurant was badly damaged by the fire. Although patrons were frightened and hungry, they were grateful to be alive, and were happy to retrieve their coats before they went home. What a way to start a new year!

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### **GRADUATION EVENT**

**By Colleen Tierney** 

Here's my rather unique high school graduation event. I'll call it an event since it wasn't the usual type of party, but many decades later is still remembered by the invitees. It was really my parents' idea and definitely was met by enthusiasm. The suggestion was for me to invite about a dozen friends for a cruise around the Statue of Liberty and New York Harbor along Manhatten. This jaunt would be on my family's boat, a Luhrs Sea Skiff. Yes, it was a good-sized boat, with a "head", so creature comforts were available.

The date chosen turned out to be perfect - warm, sunny, clear - with little "chop". We left the NJ State Marina at Leonardo (where the boat, named "Loan Shark", was docked that summer), so it wouldn't take too long to get out of Raritan Bay and reach the planned destination. None of my friends had ever experienced this and they not only enjoyed the day, but learned quite a bit along the way. For example, they saw US Navy ships stationed at Sandy Hook and how, when the military was conducting any practice all pleasure craft had to stay outside a perimeter - or risk an unpleasant encounter with naval patrols.

Passing by the Statue of Liberty, my guests were just as amazed at being so near to the enormous container ships, tankers and passenger liners that were entering and leaving the harbor. There was some concern when we (Dad and I) explained that those ships cannot "just stop", nor will they maneuver around a pleasure craft whose captain foolishly gets too close. Besides the sights, my friends were intrigued watching the radar and sonar (depth/fish finder), plus hearing the ship-to-shore radio while my dad spoke with the Coast Guard and called home to let the parents know all was well and we'd be heading back as scheduled after we all had some lunch on board.

It was certainly a graduation event that was different than what many others had. Fortunately no one got seasick, despite being many hours on the water. Beyond any doubt, we had a great time to remember.



Joe Mattimoe

Cell: 914-263-3494

Office: 732-410-7100 Email: mattimoej2@gmail.com 1512 Highway 138 Ste 1B, Wall, NJ 07719



### **MARCH LUNCH BUS**

By Anne Marie Wudarski

On March 25th, 22 Greenbriar II residents went to Brookdale Community College's Culinary Arts School in Asbury Park for brunch. What a surprise!

There are a few dining rooms in the school, and they were all in use. In our room there was another group of about 14-15 people, and we had lots of room. Two walls were half-glass, which let you see the cooks in action, and an instructor teaching a class. The whole atmosphere was beautiful with pretty table settings, low lights and a colorful virgin Pina Colada cocktail at your seat.

We came to eat and eat we did! The buffet was beautifully presented and offered many types of breads, along with a salad, pancakes, French toast, Eggs Benedict, sausages and bacon, and the carving station had the BEST roast beef and omelets made to order. The desserts made by the student baking department looked amazing, but I was too full to try them. I did go to the bakery which was open and bought two chocolate chip cookies to eat later, which were heavenly.

This meal was \$18 and what a deal. Brunch, lunch and dinners are offered on various days of the school year.

When the bus arrived at the school we were greeted by Christopher Bauer in his full chef uniform, including hat. Chris, whose mom Ann Bauer was on the bus, is the school's culinary purchasing agent. Before that he was an adjunct culinary instructor at Brookdale. He made us feel very welcome by escorting us to our dining room and introduced us to various members of the staff.

It really was a special outing, and I hope we return next school year.

Don't stress about your eyesight failing as you get older. It's nature's way of protecting you from shock as you walk past a mirror.

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### **JUST THINKING...**

### Submitted by a Resident

- My doctor asked if anyone in my family suffered from mental illness ... I said, "No, we all seem to enjoy it."
- Just once, I want a username and password prompt to say, "Close enough."
- I'm a multitasker. I can listen, ignore and forget all at the same time!
- Sometimes it takes me all day to get nothing done.
- One minute you're young and fun. Next, you're turning down the car stereo to see better.
- I'm at a place in my life where errands are starting to count as going out.
- I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.
- It's weird being the same age as old people.
- When I was a kid, I wanted to be older. This is not what I expected.
- I see people my age mountain climbing. I feel good just getting my leg through my underwear without losing my balance.
- We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads.

"Never regret growing older. It is a privilege denied to many."

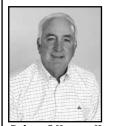


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# **HOW ARE PLACES NAMED IN THE US?**

**By Bill Gathercole** 

In the United States we place names on cities, towns, states, bodies of water, mountains and other major features of geography. Recently the US decided to rename the Gulf of Mexico and changed it to the Gulf of America.

The names of some places in the US are named using words from the local Indigenous peoples' language. Indigenous people named places based on the kind of hunting they did there or the type of things they found. Wakonda, a small town in South Dakota was named after a god or superior being that was worshipped by multiple tribes in the area. Some names come from the adventurers who discovered the area or mountain they visited. Other geographical areas are named after historical figures. For example, in New Hampshire there is a mountain that is named after George Washington. It is called Mount Washington. It has some of the strongest winds and some very cold and snowy weather because of its height and location. The major storm paths and the air mass routes all converge near the mountain.

Settlers would adopt a variation of the idigenous place name or words. The French explorers named one territory Michigan, which came from the Algonquin word Mishigamwa which meant "big lake" or "great water."

Colonists sometimes named a place after themselves,

their home countries, or the nobles who funded their expedition. An example of this would be in upstate New York, where there are cities named after Rome and Naples. Our fine state received its name from George Carteret who named it after the Isle of Jersey which is off the coast of England.

The first permanent English colony was named Jamestown after King James I of England. Shortly after this colony was formed, the English seized the territory called New Amsterdam from the Dutch and renamed it New York after the Duke of York.

In the area the Native Americans would spend their summers here. They came here for the oysters, clams, fish and the abundant wildlife in the woodlands. We have remnants of their time here with the names of the Metedeconk, Manasquan and Mantoloking. By 1850 the New Jersey Legislature created Ocean County from parts of Monmouth and Burlington counties. At this time they took parts of Dover Township and Howell Township and created Brick Township. It was named after the most prominent citizen of the area and the owner of Bergen Iron Works. His name was Joseph W. Brick. It's definitely interesting how places are named. I am still trying to figure out where the Burnt Tavern was on Burnt Tavern Road. Does anyone know?

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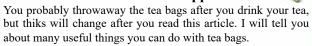
# Insights

On Real Estate



Brought to You by Maureen Porter

# Plant Tea Bags in Your Garden And See What Happens!



Firstly and most importantly I will tell you how to reuse the tea bag even if you are not a gardener. Just in case you want to plant something in your garden or backyard here is a trick or too. You might have not heard but if you plant tea bags in the soil they will provide nitrogen-rich nutrients to your homegrown herbs, fruits and vegetables.

Before you put them in the soil you want to be sure that the bags don't contain plastic or waxy film on them. The best option is to plant them just a few inches below the plant you are willing to plant. If you are not sure if the tea bags are compostable, you have a choice and you can either check by putting the bags into the soil and wait for a couple of weeks or you can put the content from the bag into the soil and throwaway the bag.

I believe you will love this natural, free and healthy fertilizer, so be open to try it.

#### · For Tired Eyes

Black tea or more accurate the tannin of this tea are every effective in reducing the swelling around the eye. In order to use the effectiveness, put the bags in water and let them stay on the eyelids for a few minutes.

#### Burns

Place the bag directly on the burn.

#### Shoe Freshener

If you want your shoes to smell good you have to put some tea bags in them, so that you avoid the odor to spread.

#### • Dish Washer

If you can't clean a dish from good leftover, put tea bag in dish willed with water for a few minutes.

#### · Removes the onion smell from our hands

When you are cooking and you use onion the smell of the onion is all over your hands. Wash your hands with a tea bag.

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# ARE YOUR EGGS

# SAFE TO EAT?

By Anne Marie Wudarski

There was a very timely article that appeared in the Asbury Park Press regarding eggs that I thought was important to pass-along. We all know how egg prices have gone through the ceiling in recent months. In the greater New York area prices range from \$4 upwards to \$9 a dozen. This in many cases can cause hoarding. Eggs may be refrigerated three to five weeks from when you put them in the refrigerator. Many times, the sell-by date has expired before you finish the carton, but according to the United States Department of Agriculture the eggs are still safe to eat.

Always buy eggs before the sell-by-date and store them at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or slightly below. They should be left in their carton and placed on the bottom shelf in the back or the refrigerator, where it is the coldest spot. Hard-boiled eggs can be stored in the refrigerator for a week and should be refrigerated within two hours of cooking.

Here is a test you can do to determine if your egg is fresh enough to use without cracking the shell open. Fill a glass or a deep bowl with cold water and using a spoon, lower the egg into the container. If it falls to the bottom but stands up, it is safe to eat. If it floats, it should be thrown out. Since eggshells are porous, the older the egg, the more the air penetrates the shell, creating an air pocket that causes it to float.

The USDA says an egg that floats in water is of poor quality, but may be safe to eat. The agency advises cracking an egg into a bowl and checking it for an off odor or unusual appearance before deciding to use it or discard it. A spoiled egg, raw or cooked, will give off an unpleasant odor when the shell is broken.

Even when this current health emergency is over, these are good tips to follow.

# BIRTH MONTH HERBS MAY: THYME



Thyme adds a savory touch in the kitchen, and also symbolizes **courage and strength** - valued characteritics of those born in May (Taurus-Gemini).

Thyol may still be found in mouth-washes and toothpastes today.

Before antibiotics existed, thymol (from thyme oil) was applied to bandages in folk medicine.



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Mazzocchi















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# **LADIES NIGHT**

### Friday, March 21 Photos by Sandy Saccone

Hosts: Sandy Saccone, Bridie Ford, Carol Maloney, Ginny Kelly-Yule and Ann Glaccum



















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The crematory fee is included.

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# THE BEAST: A REPETITION - SORT OF

**By Colleen Tierney** 

Approximately 10 years ago, after intense research, I produced an article for *Briar II News* that received many positive comments and lots of interest from the staff and residents. The subject of the article was "The Beast" - you know, the nickname of the U.S. President's limousine. For two reasons I decided to repeat some of that initial writing, but with changes to reflect other info. Since there's been a recent election and the news media frequently made mention of this vehicle each time it appeared, plus it was prominently shown on the Daytona Speedway before the famous 500 race. Also, the Presidential limo is designed to last about 8 years, and since the current model was put into service in 2018, it is nearing the end of its "life."

Actually there are 12 such "Beasts." There are also silver vehicles called "Camp Davids" used to chauffeur the president in less formal settings and several heavily armored tour busses for long trips, but these are seldom used. As for "The Beast:" It received the name during Obama's terms, which is when the current limo was designed. Although it resembles and is referred to as being a Cadillac, it definitely is NOT a Cadillac.

Aside from its outward appearance (which is because previous presidential cars were Cadillacs) "The Beast" has no other similarities. It is built on an extraordinarily strong truck chassis and weighs nearly 10 tons. However, some exterior components are stock, such as headlights and side mirrors to minimize cost of replacing parts. The actual designing and building is done by specialized Secret Service engineers and is only driven by S.S. drivers who undergo extensive military police-type training in evasive driving. Specifications for all of its components are classified as "Top Secret."

What facts are known: Door handles carry enough electric voltage to render anyone unauthorized who attempts to open a door to be severely stunned. The engine, which is diesel, and the transmission are extremely heavy-duty, rugged-grade GM truck parts. It has night vision driving mode, can emit a smoke screen, fire tear gas and lay down an oil slick to thwart any chase vehicles. Although not confirmed, it probably does carry grenade launchers. The tires are bus-sized Kevlar reinforced that will not go flat even if punctured. The multi-layered bullet-proof glass is 5" thick and only the driver's side can open, but only just 3." It has its own firefighting system, a special foam inside the walls that prevent an explosion even from a direct hit, each door weighs as much as a door on a Boeing jet. The communications system is beyond "state of the art" in its capabilities. When on the road "The Beast" is always surrounded by a convoy of disguised military vehicles, and includes one called "Roadrunner" that has a SATCOM military satellite dome on its roof.

Of course the limo is sealed against any gas or biological attack.

As I'd previously stated, my article of nearly 10 years ago contained considerably more facts regarding the presidential limo, but here's one that was omitted and has nothing to do with the vehicles' (yes, plural, since remember that there are 12 of "The Beast)" defensive and offensive capabilities. The Presidential Seals that had adorned the interior of the doors were hand-stitched by a woman, but she passed away before the current limo was introduced. The new seals are now laser-etched in titanium from a digital copy of the original. More interesting is that the seal is now inlayed in wood from the last remaining tree of the 13 that were planted by George Washington to represent each of the original 13 states. The trees were planted between the homes of Washington's mother and his sister. All trees eventually died, and the wood from the last one provided the bases on which the new seals are attached.

In the not too distant future, these 12 limos will no doubt be meeting the fate of their most recent predecessors, total demolition/destruction by the Secret Service that designed and created them. I would guess this would occur after new and probably even more advanced "beasts" are put into service.

# Sudoku

2	4			5			7	8
	9		1		6		2	
6		8		7		3		1
	7		5		4		3	
8		9			1			6
			8		9			
3		7		1		9		4
	2		3		8		5	
5	1			9			8	3



# St. Patrick's

"Food delicious, music awesome"
"Fellowship between friends and
neighbors: The Best!"
"Thanks R & A ... great night!"
"Great food ... fabulous night"
"Best corned beef ever!"

# Mare Entertainment: Pipes & Drums by Leader/Res



















Dinner Dance

ch 15 <u>Steve & Debbie</u> sident *Hoggland* 

sident *Hoagland Bagpipe Band* 





















May 2025	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday	1 2 3 LCR 6-8PM	5 Cinco de Mayo 6 7	12 R & A 15 9:30 am 16 17 ALL WELCOME 16	CORNHOLE BAGELS & BP ARKING LOT PARKING LOT PARTY ARHED FORCES DAY Sign up	Candidates Night Abraham's Night 6:30 Sign up	26 Memorial Day         27 (3)         28 (3)         31 (3)           BOARD         BOARD         MEETTING         ABOARD         ABO
	Monday		° ₹ 0			Candidates Night 6:30	8701
	Sunday		4	11	Continues	<del>2</del>	25

### **GREENBRIAR II Homeowners Association Financial Summary** FEBRUARY 2025 - Revisesd 3/28/2025

	Current Month	Year-to-Date
Income Resident Monthly Fees	\$96,000.00	\$768,000.00
Misc. Income		
Office Rent	\$2,000.00	\$16,000.00
Late Fees	\$100.00	\$890.00
Fines	\$10.00	\$10.00
Legal Fee Incom	\$0.00	\$0.00
R&A	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Interest Income	\$1,070.22	\$14,616.84
Briar 2 News Revenue	\$850.00	\$6,800.00
Membership Fees	\$0.00	\$31,680.00
Misc. Income	\$850.00	\$5,494.65
Garage Rent	\$0.00	\$3,600.00
P/Y Surplus/(Deficit)	\$11,400.00	\$91,200.00
Parking Spt Rental	\$2,950.00	\$5,345.64
Total Misc. Income	\$19,230.22	\$180,637.13
TOTAL INCOME	\$115,230.22	\$948,637.13
•		
Expenses		
Administration	\$37,781.40	\$286,115.25
Common Operations	\$20,594.64	\$315,195.62
Pool	\$0.00	\$8,902.36
Clubhouse	\$14,396.03	\$112,612.81
Painting	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bus	\$1,098.17	\$12,653.72
Reserve Additions	\$10,833.33	\$86,666.64
Reserve Int. Allocation	\$1,012.52	\$14,069.75
Deferred Maintenance	\$1,166.67	\$9,333.36
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$86,882.76	\$845,549.51
Net Income including P/Y Carryover	\$28,347.46	\$103,087.62
P/Y Surplus/(Deficit)	\$11,400.00	\$91,200.00
Actual Net Income w/out P/Y Carryover	\$16,947.46	\$11,887.62
RESERVE ACCOUNTS		****
Reserves (Cash/MMF)		\$152,762.33 \$446.000.40
Reserves (CD'S)		\$446,909.46 \$500.074.70
TOTAL RESERVE		\$599,671.79
Storm Fund (Cash/MMF)		\$47,257.97

Maribeth O'Neill, Treasurer 3/20/2025



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# **Golfers Wanted**

Greenbriar Woodlands Golf Assoc. is offering a limited opportunity for golf membership at our picturesque golf course.

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AD# 8159



# **May-At-A-Glance**

By Judy Muldoon

Friday, May 2	L C R - 6-8 PM
Monday, May 5	BINGO & SNACKS Sign up
Tuesday, May 6	BOCCE OPENING DAY - 10 AM
Tuesday, May 13	
Wednesday, May 14	<b>BP &amp; Bagels</b> - 9:30 AM
	R & A - 9:30 AM *Residents Welcome
• •	LADIES NIGHT - 6:30 PM
Friday, May 16	ANNUAL PARKING LOT PARTY Sign up
Saturday, May 17	
	GARDENING 101-Abraham's Nursery
<b>3</b> /	& LUNCH Sign up
Saturday, May 24	<b>S 1</b>
Monday, May 26	
Tuesday, May 27	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	WEENIE WEDNESDAY SOCIAL - register
• •	

### MAY ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

AEROBICS	Monday 10 am	BINGO	Wed. 6 pm
BOCCE	Tuesdays 10 am	CERAMICS	*
BILLIARDS/8-BALL	Tues & Thurs 6:30 pm	LIFETIME FITNESS	• 1
KNITTERS	Tuesday 10 am	CORNHOLE Outside	
LINE DANCING		COMMOLE Outside	1 desday o pin

Editor's Note: Event & times may be subject to change after publication time.

## **MAY RECYCLING DAYS**

Mondays 12th & \*27th

## MAY GARBAGE PICKUP

Wednesdays 7th, 14th, 21st, \*29th

# <u>GREENBRIAR II BUS SCHEDULE</u>

**Currently runs on Tuesdays and Fridays** Please contact the H.O.A. Office, or Greenbriar 2.com for trip details.

# **PROPERTY SALES**

#### **NEW OWNER**

Anthony Damelia Michael R Yencarelli

Mitchell Titen

#### **ADDRESS**

27 Mansfield Dr. 1 Cascade Court

8 Vernon Court

### **PREVIOUS OWNER**

Robert C Hammond Norman & Carolann Heifitz Rosetti 2 LLC

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



### **BINGO ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Beginning March 19, 2025, the cost of admission to Greenbriar 2 Bingo will be \$3

Do you have a kind neighbor you'd like to tell us about?
Send us your comments and we'll publish them in the next *Briar II News!* 

# **GBIINEWS**

The Briar II News wants to print your story!

- Have you been on vacation?
- · Found a new restaurant?
- Have you celebrated a special birthday or anniversary?
- Have you seen an exciting show or sporting event?
- Do you have a special memory to share?
- Would you like to publicly thank your "Special Angel"?
- Would you like to share some special recipes?
- Do you want to recognize a "good neighbor"?

If you have a story to tell, we'd love to hear from you!
Call or leave a note at the Clubhouse office!



# **BINGO & SNACKS**

WHAT A DEAL!!!

MONDAY, MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>

12 Noon

Hosted by BP Senior Care

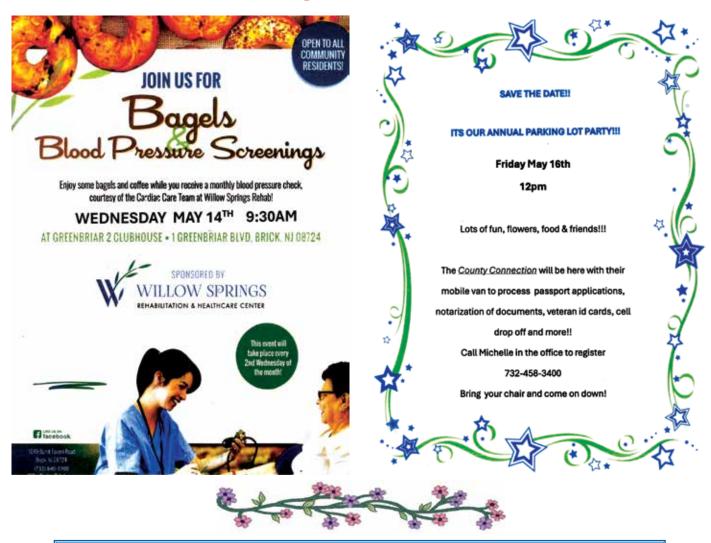
Call Michelle in the Office

to register 732-458-3400



CARE-RING
NEEDS DRIVERS
If you are able
to serve our community
please call
Anne Leahy for more
information
908-499-0645

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



#### SAVE THE DATES!!!!

# GBII BUS TRIP TO THE ARTS CENTER IN HOLMDEL BUS LEAVES AT 12NOON

THURSDAY MAY 8TH THE DUKE ELLINGTON ORCHESTRA

WEDNESDAY MAY 14TH AN AFTERNOON WITH LUCIE ARNAZ

WEDNESDAY MAY 28TH FOREVER DONNA

TUESDAY JUNE 10TH
THE GRASS ROOTS & THE BUCKINGHAMS

CALL MICHELLE IN THE OFFICE 732-458-3400 FOR DETAILS AND TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT

# ANNOUNCEMENTS





### SWIMMING POOL SEASON!!

Our pool opens in May

Badges & pool rules are available in the H.O.A. office at that time.

There is a \$20.00 charge for replacement badges.

Please check the portal or the signs at the pool for children's hours.





# Ocean County **Health Department**

# HOMEBOUND COVID-19 & I

VACCINE PROGRAM





- Allow space for the nurse to perform vaccinations
- Wear clothing appropriate for vaccination
- Secure any animals
- Hydrate if possible, before and after
- Have Medicare/insurance cards ready
- If you are feeling sick, please call and reschedule!

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According to \*CDC, not only does receiving both vaccines at the same time (called coadministration) make it easier to stay up-to-date with shots, but it helps protect against severe illness caused by the major fall and winter respiratory viruses.

\*Source: cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/

#### STAY UP TO DATE WITH COVID-19 VACCINES

\*Staying up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccines significantly lowers the risk of getting very sick, being hospitalized, or dying from COVID-19.

Source: cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits







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- · Personal hygiene

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# CANINE COLUMN

#### **By Colleen Tierney**

Studies have found that using probiotic supplements in dogs has definite positive effects on digestive and gut health. More recent research is also showing that the supplements might also promote weight loss in animals that are obese by reducing fat storage as well as inflammation in the digestive tract. Also the study noted that dogs have more efficient energy utilization.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Lyme disease is a major headline and most know that it is caused by ticks. Humans as well as pets can be infected, and the disease can produce very serious health issues. We are well into another "tick season", so use caution and keep your dogs/cats current on whatever preventive meds you use. Besides Lyme, another serious consequence of tick bites is Anaplasmosis, which is on the rise. This initially presents itself as lethargy, loss of appetite and often a low fever. One version is the thrombocytic, that is a clotting problem - causing nosebleeds, bruising of gums and abdomen, weight loss, enlarged lymph nodes and joint pain. Any animal with other health issues is a higher risk. There is no vaccine for Anaplasmosis, therefore it is most important to use tick (and flea) preventive measures.

Be aware that people also can contract these tick-borne illnesses, and these are NOT from your pet, but from you having been bitten by a tick.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Canine Cognitive Dysfunction (CCD) is more common than most people realize. It is seen as behavioral changes, especially in older dogs. The changes are gradual and quite subtle. Sadly, some owners will blame the pet for being spiteful, especially when a house-trained pet begins soiling inside the home. Never punish a pet for this lapse of training. Other signs of CCD can be disorientation (getting "lost" inside the home, failure to recognize familiar people, staring blankly, getting "stuck" in a corner or at a wall), changes in sleep/wake cycles, increased pacing - are only a few of the symptoms that can present. Some treatments are available, but most important is for the owners to be patient and understanding, show compassion towards the aging pet.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Another condition that occurs in both dogs and humans is Pulmonary Fibrosis (PF), or scarring in the lungs. There is no known cause, but for dogs, many of the terrier breeds (and terrier mixes) seem to have a genetic predisposition. Clinical signs begin gradually, increasing over time. There is less capacity for the exchange of oxygen and normal breathing. Less tolerance for exercise is often dismissed as a result of aging, but eventually respiratory distress

becomes severe, leading to collapse. At first PF might be misdiagnosed as pneumonia or a cardiac failure. There is no cure, but medical treatments do offer a degree of control over symptoms and a chance of delaying progression of the disease. The type of terrier that is most at risk is the West Highland White Terrier and any mix of this breed. Prognosis is very poor for dogs who develop PF and seldom survive longer than 18 months once diagnosed. Researchers suspect that PF results from a defect in collagen production and are working toward finding a genetic manipulation to help dogs with this defect.

# WHO KNEW THESE THINGS HAD NAMES??

### (Copied from a Facebook posting) Submitted by Dennis Danilewicz

- The space between your eyebrows is called a glabella.
- The way it smells after the rain is called petrichor.
- The plastic or metal coating at the end of a shoelace is called an aglet.
- The rumbling of a stomach is actually called a wamble.
- The cry of a newborn baby is called a vagitus.
- The prongs on a fork are called tines.
- The sheen or light that you see when you close your eyes and press your hands on them is called phosphenes.
- The tiny plastic table placed in the middle of a pizza box is called a box tent.
- The day after tomorrow is called overmorrow.
- Your tiny toe or finger is called minimus.
- The wired cage which holds the cork in a bottle of champagne is an agraffe.
- The "na,na,na" and "la,la,la" which don't really have any meaning in the lyrics of any song, are called vocables.
- When you combine an exclamation mark with a question mark (like this ?!) it is referred to as an interrobang.
- The space between your nostrils is called the columella nasi.
- The armhole in clothes, where the sleeves are sewn, is called armscye.
- Illegible handwriting is called griffonage.
- The condition of finding it difficult to get out of bed in the morning is called dysania.
- The dot over an "i" or "j" is called tittle.
- That utterly sick feeling you get after eating or drinking too much is called crapulence.
- The device used to measure your feet at the store is known as a Brannock device.

### THE GIFT OF CHOCOLATE

By The Shoeless Strudel

To all our mothers, grandmothers, great grandmothers (Wait, aren't all grandmothers great?), aunts and just good, loving women who hold a special place in someone's heart, Happy Mother's Day this month! My wishes for a joyful day with perhaps, the reception of a little something to commemorate the occasion. Dinner at a nice restaurant and/or flowers seem to hold the top-of-the-list spot as a gifts for this holiday, but candy, especially chocolates, also fills in as a good choice. So, the Strudel, always wanting to impart some information on a topic, wondered about chocolate and its history.

The history of chocolate dates back more than 5,000 years, when the cocoa tree was first domesticated in present-day southeast Ecuador. Cocoa spread to Mesoamerica and was consumed as an elite beverage by the Mayas and Aztecs. Cocoa, considered a gift from the gods, was used as a currency and medicinally and ceremonially. In the late Maya and during the Aztec periods, there was a strong symbolic connection between cocoa and blood, since the bean was used as a symbol for the heart. Although chocolate was primarily served as a drink, it was sometimes eaten. The most popular additions throughout Mesoamerica were dried and ground chili, honey, dried and ground vanilla or flowers, and cinnamon. In time, the domesticated cocoa tree was then spread along the Pacific coast into South America.

On the fourth voyage of Columbus in 1502, the expedition came upon cocoa beans in a Maya trading canoe near an island in the Gulf of Honduras. The discovery was documented even though they did not know what they were, nor what they were used for. Spanish conquistadors encountered chocolate in 1519 and brought it to Spain as a medicine. Chocolate gained popularity among the European elite over the following three centuries, traveling to Portugal, Italy, England and France. From England, chocolate spread to the North American colonies by the late 17th century.

In the 19th century, technological innovations completely changed chocolate from a drink for the elite to a solid, milky block, increasingly eaten by the public. That century saw the rise of Swiss and British chocolate makers, and production was industrialized. In 1819, Francois-Louis Cailler opened the first chocolate factory in Switzerland. In the 1860's, Van Houten's Cocoa improved chocolate's taste and darkened its appearance. Modern milk chocolate was invented in 1875 when Swiss chocolate manufacturer Daniel Peter combined the recently invented powdered milk with chocolate. And, in 1879, Swiss chocolatier Rodolph Lindt developed a process using natural cow's milk. Consumption of chocolate was on the rise as well

as the number of companies that produced the product for the public. Some are still with us and others were bought by larger manufacturers. Today, Mars, Mondelez (owner of Cadbury), Ferrero, Nestle and Hershey are known as the 'Big Five' and comprise almost two-thirds of the global chocolate market. The international trade in chocolate is worth billions of dollars annually.

Chocolate, especially in candy form, is great. Very few people will disagree with this. However, there is a downside to its production that is worth mentioning. Attitudes towards the ethics of its production have shifted, as awareness of slave and child labor, especially in third world countries, has risen. In 2005, a non-binding, voluntary industry agreement called the Harkin Engel Protocol created by US Congress members was created to address child and forced labor. This topic continues to be studied on a global level. Awareness of labor conditions of cocoa growers spurred demand for fair trade chocolate.

I have been too lengthy in my presentation on chocolate, so there will not be any recipes this month. You all know how to make brownies and chocolate cake, I'm sure. And chocolate candy, in all its forms can be found everywhere. Little need for recipes.

The Shoeless Strudel is saying "Good-Bye". She has found her shoes and is walking away!

# Sudoku Answers

2	4	1	9	5	3	6	7	8
7	9	3	1	8	6	4	2	5
6	5	8	4	7	2	3	9	1
1	7	2	5	6	4	8	3	9
8	3	9	7	2	1	5	4	6
4	6	5	8	3	9	7	1	2
3	8	7	2	1	5	9	6	4
9	2	6	3	4	8	1	5	7
5	1	4	6	9	7	2	8	3

### **NEVER SAY DIE!!**

By Louis A. Dorse

In 1972 the world was stunned by the news that a Japanese soldier who had been hiding in the jungles on the island of Guam for 27 years was captured by two Guamese natives. After the re-capture of Guam in July of 1944, Sergeant Shoiuchi Yokoi along with about 5,000 other Japanese defenders took to the hills and jungles of Guam refusing to surrender to Allied forces. Over the next few months most of the holdouts were either killed or captured. By the end of WWII in September of 1945 only about 130 holdouts remained, one of which was Sergeant Yokoi. By 1964 he and two other Japanese soldiers were the only holdouts left alive, the others having died either from starvation, disease or malnutrition.

Yokoi survived by eating coconuts, river shrimp, toads, frogs, eels and at times even a jungle rat or two. He lived in natural caves and eventually in a makeshift underground shelter which he dug himself. Drawing on his civilian skill as a tailor he made his own clothing out of tree bark as his original uniform over the years succumbed to jungle rot.

Sergeant Yokoi had been in contact with the other two holdouts until 1964 when both lost their lives in a flood. He remained in total isolation for the next eight years. One day as Sergeant Yokoi was tending to his shrimp traps in a stream he was spied and captured by two Guamese natives, who took him at gunpoint to the officials in Agana, the capitol city of Guam. The officials let the news out to the world press which caused a sensation.

Shoiuchi Yokoi was repatriated back to Japan in February of 1972, receiving a hero's welcome from a crowd of close to 5,000 people. Rather than being appreciative of his enthusiastic welcome, Shoiuchi Yokoi was filled with embarrassment. He told reporters that the Japanese soldier was trained to fight to the death rather than face the disgrace of surrender. He felt that he had disgraced himself, his family and above all the emperor for allowing himself to be captured. Yokoi absolved himself of his guilt by making a personal apology to Emperor Hirohito by stating, "I am sorry that 1 did not serve you to your satisfaction."

Yokoi spent the next twenty-five years adjusting to modern civilization and made a living by going on the lecture circuit, telling the tale of his arduous existence as a holdout for 27 years in the jungles of Guam. He also wrote a book telling of his plight. Prior to Yokoi's death in 1997, he had made a number of trips back to Guam, revisiting the underground shelter he had carved out for himself.

Just when it was thought that Shoichi Yokoi was the last Japanese soldier to surrender, 1974 saw the surrender of Lieutenant Hiroo Onoda who had been living in the Philippine jungle for 30 years, ever since the recapture of the Philippines by General Douglas Mac Arthur in 1944.

Like Yokoi, Onoda had been taught to honor the code of Bushido and die fighting rather than surrender. Onoda refused to leave the Philippines until his aged commanding officer journeyed to the Philippines and officially relieved him of his duty to the emperor.

Hiroo Onoda died as recently as 2014 from heart failure brought on by complications of pneumonia. Both these men, even though our former enemies, deserve the utmost praise for living up to their military tradition rather than disgracing themselves by surrender.

# LAUGHTER IS A GOOD MEDICINE

Submitted by Diane Mansfield

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Why did Shakespeare's wife walk out on him? She was sick of all the Dramas

\* \* \*

- \*If you ever feel cold, then just stand in a corner. They're usually around 90 degrees.
- \*The baseball player was such a bad sport. He stole third base and then just went home!
- \*Never marry a tennis player. Love means nothing to them.
- \*Did you hear about the guy's awesome new girlfriend who works at the zoo? She's a Keeper!
- \*Can you spell armageddon? If you can't, it's not the end of the world...
- \*I was in the gym the other day and jumped on the treadmill. People were giving me weird looks so I started to jog instead.
- \*Pro tip: call your bathroom a Jim instead of a John. Then it sounds better in the morning when you tell people that you are hitting the Jim.

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# **UNSUNG HEROES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

#### **By Bill Gathercole**

When we think of the American Revolution, the people who immediately come to mind are George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and Paul Revere. They were heroes and leaders during our struggle to create our own country. Here are a few that you may or may not have heard of, but were important to our cause.

The first unsung hero was a man named Henry Knox. In his teenage days he was a street brawler and fighting was in his blood. He was the co-founder of the Boston Grenadier Corps, but he did not have a military education. Knox was a bookstore owner and in his spare time he read many books on the subject of war. He impressed George Washington with his knowledge, and was tasked with moving the cannons from Fort Ticonderoga to the heights overlooking the city of Boston during the siege of the city. He had to move these cannons in the middle of winter over 300 miles by using large, oxen drawn sleds. This act led to the British evacuating Boston, and it was the first victory for the patriots.

Knox also managed the logistics for Washington's crossing of the Delaware. He ran the siege at Yorktown that forced the British to surrender. Henry Knox was a trusted Washington advisor and served as the first Secretary of War for the new United States.

Nathaniel Greene was another unlikely military hero because he was a Quaker, raised a pacifist, and was afflicted with asthma. In 1774 he was refused entry into the Kentish Guard militia that he helped form because he had a limp. Greene taught himself to be a great soldier by reading books on military tactics, leadership, and fortifications that he purchased from the store of Henry Knox. Greene had never been in a battle, but somehow Washington saw his talent and made him the youngest brigadier general in the Continental Army in 1775. The next year he was promoted to major general after his successful battles at the Battle of Trenton and Germantown. Greene would serve as a quartermaster after Valley Forge. Later in the war he was the commander-in-chief of the Southern Army during a campaign which forced the British out of the Carolinas. This was right before the Battle at Yorktown.

Anthony Wayne was told by his teacher at the time that he would never be a scholar, but he should become a soldier. During the break in their studies, Wayne would organize his classmates in mock battles and attacks. The teacher was right. Wayne raised a militia at the start of the Revolution and his Pennsylvania regiment was involved in the failed invasion of Canada. In 1777 he led his men against the British at the Battles of Brandywine and Germantown. In 1779 Anthony Wayne was given the assignment of storming the almost impregnable cliffside fortifications of the British at Stony Point, New York. This amazing attack took place at night and his soldiers used only their bayonets as weapons. The battle lasted only 30 minutes and earned this brigadier general the nickname of "Mad" Anthony Wayne.

### THE MOTHER'S DAY RULE: GARDENING FOLKLORE

From The Farmer's Almanac

Lore and tradition have a lot of advice to follow and many swear by these tried and true tidbits passed down from our ancestors for a successful, prolific garden.

One popular bit of planting wisdom suggests that you hold off doing any planting until Mother's Day, known appropriately as "The Mother's Day Rule." What is it, and is there any truth to it?

Simply said, Mother's Day falls on the second Sunday in May which, for many, the threat frost! has passed and it's considered safe to get your garden started. It's a good rule of thumb because as we all know, while the calendar may say spring, it doesn't mean we'll have spring temperatures in March and April (especially for those of us in the Northeast).

The warning is that if you put your tender plants in the ground too early when temperatures are still in the 20s and 30s at night, you're going to be very disappointed! Of course, it depends on the plant itself and its hardiness. Warmer climates have different requirements for when to plant.

"So, while the Mother's Day Rule is a good one, it's really more of a "guideline." We all know Mother Nature can be fickle, no matter what part of the country you live in, and it's not unheard of to have a freak snowstorm as late as May. But for the most part, the second Sunday in May is a safe time, temperature-wise." ... Farmer's Almanac





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### CONSUMERS ONLY

### (Brief info from Consumer Reports research labs) By Colleen Tierney

You've likely seen, used and/or heard about these - Swedish Dishcloths (or towels) that actually have been around for quite some time, but seem to now be the current "thing." They appeared in the 1950s and are comprised of a cellulose sponge that is blended with cotton fiber and flattened. They are stiff when new and must be moistened with water to be used. They can be laundered and re-used several times. Their advantage to paper towels is their ability to be washed and possibly last for several months before discarding. But *CR* tested them against another favorite - microfiber cloths.

Results: Microfiber cloth is made from tiny synthetic fibers, 200 times finer than a human hair. The better quality cloth will seem like it clings to dry skin. It does this because microfiber is positively charged, similar to how hair gets a positive charge when a balloon is rubbed on it. That is why dust and other negatively charged particles will cling to it. Microfiber cloth should not be washed with other laundry items because it will attract hair, lint and dust from the other articles. If used properly the cloths can last a couple of years. As to how these two products did in the tests:

Cleaning windows, mirrors - the microfiber cloths were superior. The Swedish type left streaks and spots. Cleaning countertops - very little difference, but there was less visible streaking from the microfiber. The verdict: Both products work well, although the microfiber did do better, especially on glass. The primary consideration is you'll save more money by using microfiber.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Besides testing thousands of products, *CR* keeps careful track of prices including the claims by companies that they're offering big discounts. This past Spring, Amazon's claims about discounts, special deals and offers for products it sells was investigated. Here are the results: These sales are not as big as those on Amazon Prime Day or Black

Friday, but are better than typically offered. Actually many of the price decreases are the same as what the giant retailer has been offering for weeks and even months. However, *CR* concedes that these might not be great values, but they are good values. Also mentioned is that Target and Walmart are offering very similar or same prices. But Prime members do get better deals on many items.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

This info is from the Cleveland Med. Clinic's registered dietitian - not CR's research labs, but since it seems to be one of the latest "things," I'm offering what Cleveland Med. Clinic states (a condensed version, of course). The topic is the growing popularity of "mushroom coffee." There's a wide variety of types, but the most common does look like regular coffee grounds. All are made with different mushrooms that go through a drying and extraction process that retrieves the beneficial compounds. These are then mixed into regular coffee. Therefore, it will taste like coffee because that's what it is. There are benefits from mushrooms, BUT the experts warn, "...take these with a grain of salt." In other words, do not believe the hype. There is no proof that processed mushrooms are truly beneficial. What is known is that they do have side effects on those who consume them as a "coffee." They can cause digestive issues and can be a serious concern to anyone with kidney problems. Dietitians recommend avoiding these drinks and simply use regular mushrooms in your diet if you want known benefits. Also, the high cost of these specialty drinks just isn't worth the claims being made.

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