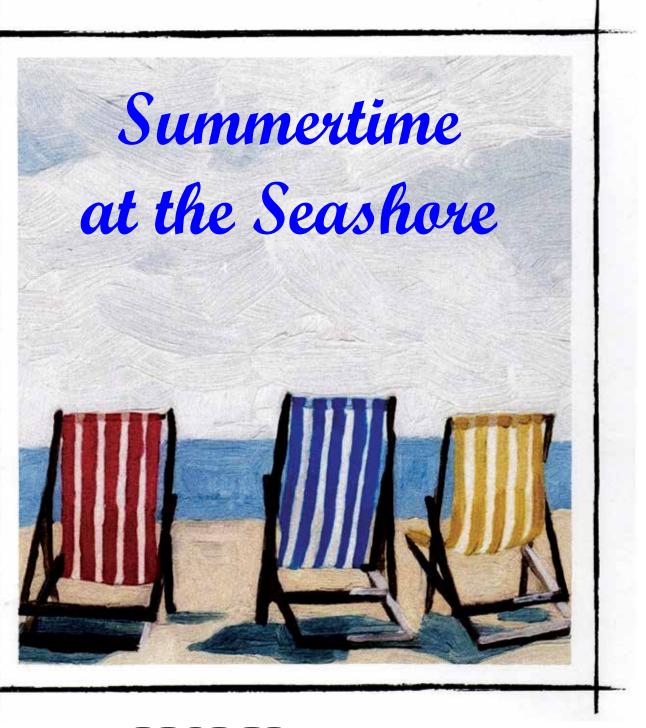


Briar II News

Volume 30, Number 3

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

July 2025



JULY 2025



Byrne

FUN FACTS

Did You Know?

 7/4 – 3 US Presidents died on the 4th of July-John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, both in 1826 James Monroe in 1831.

7/16/1931- The Star Spangled Banner officially became the National Anthem.

7/29/1969 – Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon

July is also both National Ice Cream month, and National Hot Dog month. Americans spend almost 10 Billion Dollars on food on this date alone!

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

4 Olympus Way - \$400,000 18 Andes Ct - \$410,000 40 Everest Dr N - \$429,900

Under Contract

93 Greenbriar Blvd -\$413,500 167 Everest Dr S- \$435,000 8 Rushmore Dr - \$499,000 4 Dartmoor Rd - \$519,900

Data taken from MOMLS, from 6/1/2025 to 6/30/2025. Deemed reliable but not guaranteed



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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

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Briar II News Staff

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Anne Marie Wudarski, Bill Gathercole

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These are the substitutes:

Diane Mansfield, Anna Patti, Ben Dispoto, Robert & Donna Heim, Marie Pausz Rich & Darlene Hollywood, Teri Lewer, Ed & Maureen Peterson, Shirley & Ken Weber

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, July 28, 2025 10 a.m.

Deadline

August 2025 issue deadline is July 3rd. 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: R. Duclos, R. Lodico, G. Stevancescz, D. Danielewicz, A.M. Willcox, K. Duclos and D. Mansfield.







I would like to thank my friends and neighbors, R&A, Michelle, Greg, and my bus friends, for the kind phone calls, well-wishes, cards, flowers and food that was sent during my recent operation. I would also like to thank everyone for their support during the flood that occurred at our home as well. Nancy and Maureen were indispensable to us in those first few hours. Manny and I feel very blessed to be surrounded by such wonderful neighbors.

Thank you, Ana Vidreiro



We're happy to welcome Maureen Flunefelt to our Greenbriar II Community. Maureen is formally a resident of Manasquan. She was an Administrative Assistant.

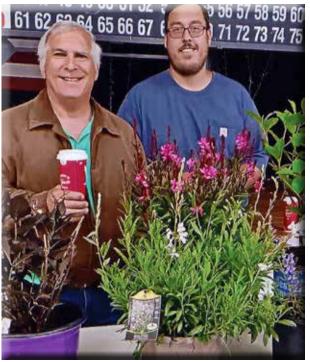
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"GARDENING 101" WEDNESDAY, MAY 21 ABRAHAM'S LANDSCAPE & DESIGN

Lunch provided by Marie Carevcle from Brandywine at the Gables











SWIMMING POOL RULES 2025

THERE IS NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY AND SWIMMING IS AT YOUR OWN RISK

- Rules will be enforced by the trained pool operator, the management office and security only.
- A Trustee's phone number will be provided in case of emergency when the office is closed.
- Residents and Guests, including children over 2, must present badges to the pool attendant and sign the Registration Book upon entering the pool area. Guests must be of residents that are currently residing in GB2. If a resident is on the non-eligibility list, you will not be permitted entry and use of the pool.
- RESIDENTS MUST BRING CHAIRS FOR ALL GUESTS ON WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS.

ADULT DAILY POOL HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday through Sunday, 10:30 AM to 8:30 PM

DAILY CHILDREN'S HOURS:

Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM and 4:00 PM to 8:30 PM Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday: 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM and 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM Holidays: Children May Swim All Day

Please refer to Resolution 90 for GB2 events that close the pool when children hours are lost.

GENERAL POOLS RULES:

- Any person showing evidence of skin disease, inflamed eyes, cold, nasal, ear discharge or communicable disease will be denied admission to the pool in consideration of the health of all residents.
- Beer, Wine and other intoxicants are prohibited in the pool area. Light food and drinks are only allowed at pool side tables. NO GLASS CONTAINERS OF ANY KIND ARE PERMITTED.
- Any person with incontinence, including children who are not potty trained, must wear appropriate waterproof clothing.
- All bathers must wear swimming apparel (no cut-offs, gym or street attire is permitted in the pool).
- Children must always be supervised by an adult.
- Noodles and goggles are permitted. All other toys or floatation devise are prohibited. Safety flotation devices may be worn by children in shallow water.
- No jumping or diving into the pool are permitted.
- Running or rough housing around the pool or clubhouse area is strictly prohibited.
- Pool and surrounding areas will be closed on the approach and during electrical storms.
- The stairs in and out of the pool must always remain free and clear. No one should sit on or block the stairs in and out of the pool at any time.
- Bathing attire (wet or dry), without some type of cover-up, is not permitted in the clubhouse. Shoes must always be worn when in the clubhouse.
- Restrooms are accessible from the pool area. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult when using the restrooms. Please towel dry and put on shoes before entering the restroom.
- Reserving chairs and/or tables is prohibited.
- No Smoking is allowed in the pool area which includes all portions of the fenced in area surrounding the pool area. Smoking is only permitted in the designated area outside the fence near the parking lot with the cigarette receptacle is located on the fence.
- Baby carriages, strollers and play pens are permitted only on the grassy area.
- Bicycles must be parked in the bicycle rack.
- Lounge chairs may be placed under the awning canopy adjacent to the pool but not under the pavilion.
- No pets are allowed in the pool area (except for registered service animals.

PLEASE OBSERVE THE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF ALL!

THE BOOK NOOK

By Ron Duclos

NON-FICTION

"The Guilty" by David Baldacci

Will Robie escaped his small Gulf Coast hometown of Cantrell, Mississippi, after high school, severing all personal ties, and never looked back. Not once. Not until the unimaginable occurs. His father, Dan Robie, has been arrested and charged with murder.

Father and son haven't spoken or seen each other since the day Robie left town. In that time, Dan Robie - a local attorney and pillar of the community - has been elected town judge. Despite this, most of Cantrell is aligned against Dan. His guilt is assumed.

To make matters worse, Dan has refused to do anything to defend himself. When Robie tries to help, his father responds only with anger and defiance. Could Dan really be guilty?

"The Midnight Feast" by Lucy Foley

Secrets. Lies. Murder. Let the festivities begin ...

It's the opening night of The Manor, the newest and hottest luxury resort, and no expense, small or large, has been spared. The infinity pool sparkles; the "Manor Mule" cocktail (grapefruit, ginger, vodka, and a dash of CBD oil) is being poured with a heavy hand. Everyone is wearing linen.

But under the burning midsummer sun, darlmess stirs. Old friends and enemies circulate among the guests. Just outside the Manor's immaculately kept grounds, an ancient forest bristles with secrets. And it's not too long before the local police are called. Turns out the past has crashed the party, with deadly results.

"Bad Tourist" by Caro Carver

Three tight-knit friends embark on an extravagant divorce trip to the Maldives where they can unwind and celebrate a new chapter in midlife - until they realize the resort of their dreams is harboring a killer.

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Best friends Darcy, Camilla, and Kate escape for a postdivorce retreat in the Maldives, the perfect place to relax, reset, and embrace a fresh start in life. Darcy is learning how to be a free woman at forty-two. Camilla has found the perfect calling as a fitness and wellness influencer with a devoted following. And Kate is fmally working on the book she was meant to write after years of telling other people's stories.

Their dream getaway? The exclusive and isolated Sapphire Island Resort. With luxurious private villas, crystal-clear waters, and sun-drenched white sand beaches, relaxation is guaranteed. But this is no ordinary friendship, and they're not the only guests on the island with secrets. Who left the body on the beach-and who's next?

"Hard To Kill" by James Patterson and Mike Lupica

Attorney Jane Smith is mounting an impossible criminal defense.

Her client, Rob Jacobson, is the unluckiest of the unlucky. No sooner is he accused of killing a family of three in the Hamptons than a second family is gunned down.

It's not double jeopardy. It's not double murder. It's double triple homicide.

Jane's career has spanned from NYPD beat cop to Hamptons courtroom. She's tough to beat. She's even tougher to kill.

The defense may never rest.

If you have read a good book and wish to share it, please submit it to the GBII News.

Hot and Humor for the Summer

Submitted by Diane Mansfield

Why don't they play poker in the jungle? Too many CHEETAHS.

How do you get a baby alien to sleep? You ROCKET.

What did one hat say to another? You stay here. I'll go on a HEAD.

How do you know when a tree doesn't know the answer to something? It SHRUBS.

Why did the person sell their vacuum cleaner? It was just GATHERING DUST.

THE BATTLE OF HAMPTON ROADS

By Bill Gathercole

On our recent visit to Norfolk, Virginia we were treated to a two-hour boat ride on the Elizabeth River. We had the chance to see row after row of U.S. Naval ships docked along the river. During the tour our guide told us about the Battle of Hampton Roads. This battle was also known as the Battle of the Ironclads which was a very important battle during the American Civil War.

One of these ironclads was the *U.S.S. Merrimack* which was a 40- gun frigate that was launched in 1855. This ship served in the Caribbean and was the flagship of the Pacific fleet. In the 1860's the ship was decommissioned for some large repairs at the Gosport Naval Yard in Norfolk, Virginia. It was still in the yards when the Civil War broke out in 1861. The Union sailors sank the ship so it would not fall into the hands of the Confederates. It was salvaged by the South six weeks later and the work was begun to rebuild it.

The ship was then covered in heavy armor above the waterline and was outfitted with powerful guns. It was rechristened the *C.S.S. Virginia* in 1862 and it was now a formidable vessel. It was commanded by the only full admiral in the Confederate Navy during the Civil War. His name was Franklin Buchanan.

On March 8, 1862 the *C.S.S. Virginia* set sail down the Elizabeth River and sank the *U.S.S. Cumberland* and then running the *U.S.S. Congress* aground, setting her on fire at Hampton Roads.

On March 9, 1862 the *U.S.S. Monitor* sailed into Chesapeake Bay to protect the rest of the Union's fleet of wooden ships. The *Monitor* had sailed three days earlier from the Brooklyn Shipyards under the command of Lieutenant John L. Worden. It was designed by a Swedish engineer John Ericsson. The ship had a very low profile, being only 18 inches above the water. It had a flat iron deck and a 20-foot gun turret which was in the center of the vessel. The turret had two 11-inch Dahlgren guns. The *Monitor* had a draft of less than eleven feet which allowed it to sail into the shallow harbors and rivers of the South. It was commissioned on February 25, 1862 and arrived just in time to fight the *C.S.S. Virginia*. At dawn on March 9 Worden told a captain of one of the North's wooden ships that he would stand by to the last.

The battle between these two ships began on the morning of March 9 and lasted for four hours. The ships were maneuvering around trying to get a good shot at each other. They would fire their guns, but the cannon balls would just bounce off the ironclad ships.

The *Virginia* retreated back to Norfolk in the afternoon and was not seriously damaged. The *Monitor* also received very little damage, but it had ended the short time the *Virginia* had supremacy over the Union Navy.

These two ships both failed to make it past the end of the year. Two months after the Battle of Hampton Roads the Confederate Navy scuttled the *Virginia* as they retreated from Norfolk. The *Monitor* sank during a storm off the coast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina at the end of 1862.

These ships had very short lives, but they brought a new era to naval warfare. Wooden ships would now be a thing of the past. By the time the war had ended the Confederacy and Union had produced 70 ironclad ships. This signaled the end of wooden warships!

LANDSCAPING REMINDERS

A buffer zone of approximately three (3) feet around the exterior of the entire house, including any additional porch or patio, must be kept free of grass that requires mowing to avoid the possibility of damage by lawn mower equipment. Failure to maintain a buffer zone will relieve the Association of any liability for damage to the unit or any addition.

Please remember that the wooded areas behind your homes are common ground and are designated sight and sound barriers. They may also be part of the ground water runoff for the community. They should not be cleared or used as a dumping ground for branches, trimmings, grass clippings, or any other debris. Brick Public Works has a weekly pick up. Call them at 732-451-4061 to schedule. All items should be placed on the city strip and not on the road. Please refer to their website for further information.

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CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT CUP PRESENTATION MAY 6

Photos by Gail Stevancescz

A fitting finale to a great indoor cornhole season. Have a great summer everyone. See you back in October.











HOW JACK MARTIN BOULEVARD GOT ITS NAME

By Bill Gathercole

I have been driving through Brick for about 10 years now and I always wondered who was the person the boulevard was named after. I decided to look it up and found the information online.

The boulevard was named after John Christopher Martin. John was born on April 19, 1887 and he was a native of Plainfield, New Jersey. He played baseball for Plainfield High School and was a slick fielding shortstop. The big issue was he could not hit, but he was a human vacuum in the field. He batted right-handed and also threw right-handed.

Martin played many years in the minor leagues and at the age of 25 he became a major leaguer. He entered the major leagues in 1912 as the starting shortstop of the New York Highlanders, the team which would eventually become the New York Yankees. Martin would go on to play for the Boston Braves and the Philadelphia Phillies until 1914.

In his career Martin was a .237 hitter with 43 RBI in the 187 games that he played. His hits included 13 doubles, four triples, 20 stolen bases and a .323 on-base percentage. He did not have a homerun during his short career.

Once Martin retired he became a manager and coach in the minor leagues. He managed Jim Thorpe when Thorpe played for the Milwaukee Brewers of the American Association.

In 1954 Jack Martin moved to Brick Township, New Jersey where he lived out his retirement years. He was well known for helping out his neighbors whenever he could. He always had a smile on his face and greeted everyone when he walked through the neighborhood. In 1978 the Brick Township council decided to honor Martin for his inspiration to the youth of Brick Township. They named Jack Martin Boulevard after him.

Jack Martin was invited to the New York Yankees Old-Timers game on June 21, 1980. He suffered two heart attacks just after being introduced at the game. He was hospitalized at Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx for 13 days before he died. At the time of his death at 93 years old he was the oldest living Yankee and Phillies player. An interesting man deserving the honor he received!

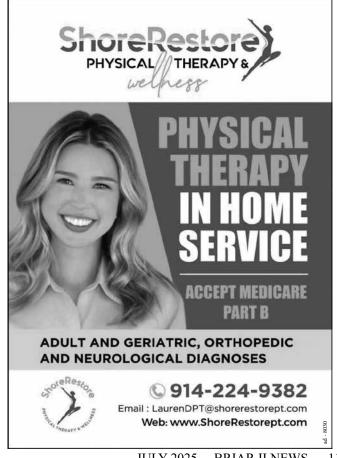
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AN OBSERVATION

By Colleen Tierney

Here I go again, making an observation about a frequently aired TV commercial and its what-should-beobvious attempt to fool the public. This one is the latest version of the Pocket Hose. Now personally, I've had them and really do like them in many ways, but this particular commercial is so blatantly phony to common sense it forces this comment. Everyone knows (or should) that water does not run uphill. Well, there's the hose on the ground, and the voice stating how it will shrink back down to its convenient "pocket size", easy to store away. The visual shows the hose doing just that. BUT - observe that both ends of the hose are elevated! One is attached to the faucet, the other is being held by the person whose lower half can be seen in the shot while the hose is shrinking to its smaller size. No, this doesn't require AI to perform this "miracle of physics", or of gravity. All it takes for the advertising company is to reverse the video and fool the unobservant consumer. Yes, these products do indeed revert to a small manageable size, but certainly not if both ends are elevated.

There are plenty more things on TV, commercials and programs, to ridicule. It can be a challenge at times, also aggravating at how ignorant "they" think we are.





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WHAT IS THE AMERICAN SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL?



Next year on July 4h, America officially turns 250 years old - exactly 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This anniversary, or semiquincentennial, marks the first nationwide celebration of America's birth since the bicentennial in 1976.

Of course, America's independence cannot be celebrated without also noting the efforts of the Revolutionary War that led there. Since the war started in 1775 in Vermont and Massachusetts, many of its key events will have reached their semiquincentennial this year.

"The **capture of Fort Ticonderoga** marked the beginning of offensive action taken by Americans against the British. It occurred on May 10, 1775, when a small force of Green Mountain Boys led by Ethan Allen and Colonel Benedict Arnold surprised and captured the fort's British garrison. This military action had significant strategic importance. It impeded communication between northern and southern units of the British Army."

Another important battle in Vermont was the **Battle of Bennington**. Roughly 2,000 militia, including men from Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, defeated a British force of 700. The end of the day-long battle saw 200 Loyalists dead and 700 captured, with 30 militiamen dead and 40 wounded.

Here are Revolutionary War events that happened in 1775 Massachusetts.

- Midnight Rides of Paul Revere, William Dawes and Samuel Prescott (April 18, 1775)
- Battles of Lexington and Concord (April 19, 1775)
- Siege of Boston (April 19, 1775 through March 17, 1776)
- Skirmish at Grape Island (May 21, 1775)
- Battle of Chelsea Creek (May 27-28, 1775)
- Battle of Bunker Hill (June 17, 1775)
- Conflict at Little Brewster Island (July 20 and 31, 1775)
- Battle of Gloucester (August 8, 1775)

• Fortification of Ploughed Hill (August 26-27, 1775)

How to celebrate America's 250th anniversary:

The *United States Semiquincentennial Commission* is the Congressionally appointed body in charge of promoting and coordinating the United States Semiquincentennial.

Federal legislation directs that semiquincentennial events receive special focus in the cities "in locations of historical significance to the United States" of Boston, Philadelphia, Charleston, and New York as "leading cities".

In August 2018, *New Jersey Historical Commission* was directed to create a program in NJ focused on the 250th anniversary of the independence of the United States. The law appropriated \$500,000 to fund the historical commission's planning for the anniversary festivities.

How do you pronounce semiquincentennial?

Literally meaning "half of five hundred years," semiquincentennial is pronounced se-me-quinn-sen-tene-el. The 250th anniversary can also be called the sester-centennial or the bisesquicentennial.

Submitted by Judy Muldoon

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Insights

On Real Estate



Brought to You by Maureen Porter



Caring for Your Patio Furniture

ait! You don't have to throw out that grungy patio set. Just because the vinyl is a little faded or the fabric is tattered doesn't mean you can't salvage it. Patio furniture can be refinished for much less than it may cost to replace it. Try these tips to get your outdoor tables and chairs looking good as new:

- Never use harsh cleaners or bleach on vinyl; instead, clean with a mild detergent and a soft rag.
- When bringing out patio furniture for the first time, check bolts to make sure that they are securely fastened.
- Try to keep wicker furniture in the shade as sun can make it dry and brittle. Clean wicker furniture with a toothbrush and wood soap.
- If aluminum furniture looks shabby, lightly sand it with steel wool or fine sandpaper, then buff it with car polish to restore its luster.
- Keep your patio furniture clean throughout the summer by rinsing it weekly to remove dirt and chlorine, which can quickly deteriorate it.

Diane Turton, REALTORS

Maureen Porter • Sales Associate
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ads-4992

STAYING SMART

Info from Consumer Reports research labs

By Colleen Tierney

As we age, the concern about memory and mental function grows. Here are current findings and advice from *CR's* medical scientists, specifically neurological doctors (such as D. Wint, MD, Director of Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health at the Cleveland Clinic).

Regular use of anticholinergics is linked to dementia. These include common OTC allergy drugs, diphenhydramine (i.e., Benedryl, etc.), prescription drugs to treat urinary incontinence (oxubutynin [i.e., Oxytrol, etc.]) and some asthma treatments. Other drugs are also known to damage memory include the antidepressants, Valium, Elavil, OxyContin, etc.

Besides pharmaceuticals, other health issues can have negative effects on memory and make people more susceptible to dementia. These include poor vision and hearing problems. The medical profession at the American Academy of Ophthalmology strongly recommends anyone over 65 should have an eye exam yearly, and American Speech-Langurage-Hearing Assoc. advises hearing tests for those over 50.

Other facts regarding memory/dementia that were covered: Getting 6 - 8 hours of sleep is important for good brain health, *But more than 9 hours is detrimental*. People who drink 2 - 3 cups of coffee daily have a 28% reduced chance of dementia. Regular daily exercise is important for brain health and dancing is especially good. Doing puzzles, crosswords are helpful, but teaching the brain something new is better (i.e., new language). Some stress is beneficial for the brain and adequate Vitamin D (but never overdo this vitamin) is definitely helpful for mental health.

Probably most important to know is that none, *none* of any of the supplements that are constantly being advertised has shown any evidence of increasing memory or aiding mental ability. The best advice: Save your money and eat a healthy diet, get a proper amount of sleep and keep busy doing physical and mental exercise.





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- in a few short months, Furry Friends will be opening a brand new state of the art veterinary hospital located at 580 Brick Blvd. In the Riviera Plaza (behind the old Boston Market).





Mazzocchi















732-440-9311 www.furryfriendsmobilevet.net 508 Brick Boulevard, Brick, New Jersey 08723





ADDICTIVE SHOPPERS

By Rose Marie Lodico

As I walked up and down the aisles of the super food warehouse, Costco, I was amazed by the amount of bulk buying people were doing. You could furnish your house, feed an army, plus buy a huge array of cleaning products and paper goods that could last a lifetime. Not to mention the phannaceuticals, appliances, electronics and jewelry departments. I'll order to avoid having to shop weekly at the local supermarket, young families load their wagons full of bulk goods as they drag unhappy kids through Costco: Good to go for about three weeks or more!

I remember when our children were young we followed the weekly sales that the local supermarkets offered. We clipped coupons and saved lots of money! So why has this trend of bulk buying caught on so well?

The facts are that Costco is the largest wholesale club in the United States. It has 490 membership warehouses. There are 47 million card holders in 37 states, plus Puerto Rico, Canada, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, Taiwan and the UK. Costco discounts 4,000 products in their warehouses, most are in bulk. Obviously, working families like to buy at the super warehouse because in the long run it saves them time and money.

Tony and I certainly did not need to buy bulk at this point of our lives so why did we go to Costco? I think we were addicted! We'd compulsively buy enormous amounts of fresh fruits, frozen foods, etc. that we couldn't possibly finish: our logical answer was to give half or more to our children. It's quite insane! It was a non-win situation! Yet we kept going back for more.

Sometimes on a boring afternoon when there was nothing to do, we would decide to take a stroll through the store. No particular agenda in mind - I would browse through the book section and Tony would go directly to the meat department. Momentarily my cell phone would ring and Tony says he wants me to check out a 10 lb. roast beef or loin of port. "Why do we need such a large roast?" I would ask. He intended to buy, cut it up, and freeze it in portions for two. reluctantly, I'd agree because he was going to buy it anyway. The roast beef was added to our shopping cart, along with books for my grandsons Christopher and Stephen.

The aroma of food cooking is wafting through the store. Frozen foods are being prepared for customers to sample. Well, it's almost lunch time, maybe we'll indulge in a taste or two. Yes, they cleverly hook you into the old taste and buy trick. Needless to say, we impulsively pick up a huge bag of pot stickers - the bait - and put it in the wagon. Samples of almonds are also being served - so why not buy a 5 lb bag - maybe we could finish them in a few years.

So much for browsing, it becomes a compulsive buying

afternoon. I know I'm going to be sorry when I get to the register. Yet, as I pass a beautiful plant, I can't resist: Into the wagon it goes. Now, more determined than ever, I want to get out of the store. We only have 6 items, how expensive could it be? I estimated fifty or sixty bucks, maybe seventy.

"Ninety dollars?" I questioned the c lerk to be sure she had the correct price on each item. She did! As we walked out of the store I thought to myself - this is an outrage - Tony and I better find a cheaper way to kill a boring afternoon.

We'll go and take our chances in Atlantic City again! Maybe we'll be lucky and come home as winners one day.

REPETITIOUS, BUT WORTH A FEW WORDS

By Colleen Tierney

Condensed email from my financial person: How log ins and passwords are targeted.

- Do not reuse passwords. Using the same one for multiple accounts creates a domino effect if one account is compromised, it's likely that others will be in jeopardy.
- Criminals use "Brute-force attack software" which rapidly and repeatedly guesses possible PWs, and the software does this much faster than you can think. It often begins with what's called "Dictionary Attacks", commonly used words.
- Malware/Ransomware/Spyware: The number of these kinds of programs is enormous. They are designed to uncover and find your sensitive info, including PWs.
- Phishing in the form of texts, emails, or phone calls that are disguised as legitimate communication will try and trick you into revealing confidential information, especially your PW.
- Always be aware of your surroundings because even the traditional tactics like listening to, or observing over someone's shoulder while they speak on the phone or type in a PW at a public location are still effective methods used by criminals. Even leaving a note behind with your PIN can make you especially vulnerable.

The best advice is to always start with "strong passwords" - those that are at least 10 figures long and include both lower & upper case letters, numbers and symbols.

Briar II News OnLine

To view the *Briar II News* via the internet simply open Senior Publishing's web site, which is <u>www.seniorpublishing.net</u>.



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MUSICAL ARTWORK

By Dennis Danilewicz

Although "vinyl" LPs are making a small comeback, many of the younger generation will never know the enjoyment of seeing the artwork of an album cover and using it as an opening to their favorite music. While some covers were complex in their design, the simplicity of others made it interesting. For artists and fans alike, album covers serve as more than just packaging; they are gateways to stories filled with creativity and sometimes controversy. They may express a moment in time, an intimate self-portrait, or daring designs. Let's look back at some of the more interesting covers.

Where to begin with Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band by The Beatles? The Beatles didn't merely put on military garb; they threw a cultural extravaganza, inviting everyone from Marilyn Monroe and Marlon Brando to Karl Marx and Oscar Wilde to their album cover party. The idea was to create a collage of cultural icons, reflecting the band's experimental approach to the album. The inclusion of over seventy life-sized cardboard cutouts was intended to illustrate the wide-ranging influences on The Beatles' music and evoke a sense of nostalgia and celebration. Add to this, all the "clues" it contains to the Paul McCarney is dead hoax, and the cover became one of the most famous and recognizable images in music history.

Crosby, Stills and Nash were one of the super groups of the late 60's/early 70's. On their first album cover, before they decided upon a name for the group, the members are shown, from left to right, as Graham Nash, Stephen Stills, and David Crosby, the inverse of how we know them. For the shoot, they found an abandoned house in West Hollywood with an old, battered sofa outside that they thought would be a perfect fit for their image. Except, a few days later, they decided on the name Crosby, Stills, and Nash. To prevent confusion, they went back to the house to re-shoot the cover in the correct order, but when they got there, they found the house had been demolished.

How often can you find a business with the same name as your band's lead singer? Such was the case with the cover of *Morrison Hotel* by The Doors. The cover photo was taken at the Morrison Hotel on South Hope Street in Downtown Los Angeles. The band was denied permission to use the hotel for their photo shoot, so they did it while the clerk was called away from the desk. The band jumped right behind the windows as the photographer took the shot. Over the years the hotel fell into disrepair and on December 26, 2024 the former Morrison Hotel building was severely damaged by fire. The future of the hotel is unknown.

The album cover for *The Freewheelin'* Bob Dylan captures a moment of youthful romance, rebellion and New

York cool. It reflects the spirit of the early '60s folk revival: young artists living cheaply in Greenwich Village, immersed in poetry, politics and guitar chords. Shot on a cold February afternoon, it features Dylan and his then-girlfriend Suze Rotolo walking arm in arm down a slushy sidewalk on Jones Street which is lined with vintage cars. Dylan is hunched slightly, hands in his pockets, while Rotolo clutches his arm and leans into him. They're bundled up in winter coats. The cover made Dylan seem both romantic and rebellious. According to the NYC Board of Tourism, it captured a sense of young love and the spirit of the 60's.

Most people associate The Bee Gees with the disco sound of the 70's, however, long before that they were another pop group. In 1969 they released what was to be a concept album with the working title of *Masterpeace*. It evolved into the double-album *Odessa* which has a distinctive and unusual album cover, not for elaborate artwork, but for its texture and material.

The original release of Odessa came in a red, flocked velvet sleeve, embossed with gold lettering. The luxurious material gave the album a regal, almost antique look and feel. The lavish packaging however, came with a price. Literally. The cover was expensive to produce and impractical. The velvet wore out easily and accumulated dust and fingerprints. It was also hard to stack or store. Later pressings replaced the velvet with standard cardboard and printed artwork.

Carole King's top-selling album, *Tapestry*, features a photo of her relaxing in her own living room. The picture portrays King seated beside a window with her cat, Telemachus, nearby. This warm and personal image was inspired by King's desire to convey a sense of home and domesticity. The cover's simplicity and authenticity resonated deeply with fans, making it an iconic representation of King's journey as a singer-songwriter.

The Beach Boys' <u>Pet Sounds</u> reflects a juxtaposition between the whimsical cover and the deep music inside. John Lennon was inspired by it and said it was one of the best albums ever. The cover photo was taken at the San Diego Zoo and features the five band members feeding goats and posing among animals in a petting enclosure. The image is charming but bizarre, with goats chewing at their sleeves and the band looking mildly confused or indifferent.

Prior to the final cover shoot of the Beatles album, *Abbey Road*, numerous ideas and names were tossed about. Eventually they went with the easiest plan possible, called the album *Abbey Road* and shot the cover right outside. The band's leisurely stroll in the crosswalk was another which

Continued on page 19

MUSICAL ARTWORK continued from page 18

led to the "Paul is Dead" myth. Paul McCartney's decision to go barefoot ignited numerous theories however, the real reason behind his lack of footwear is much more mundane. According to McCartney himself, he simply found the shoes uncomfortable on the hot August day when the photo was taken. The image's enduring popularity has made *Abbey Road* one of the most recognizable and imitated album covers in music history.

When Pink Floyd set out to design the cover for *The Dark Side of the Moon* in 1973, they aimed for a show-stopper. It is unique due to its Simplicity, striking design and symbolic representation of the album's themes. The image of a triangular prism refracting white light into colors against a black background has become iconic and a visual shorthand for the album. This image perfectly emulates the band's cosmic vibe and Roger Waters' vision for something unforgettable. Waters declared, "Let there be light, and a killer album cover!" The result? A timeless piece of art that still dazzles and remains one of music history's most recognizable covers.

If I dropped something when I was younger,
I just picked it up.
Now, I'm older, and I drop something,
I stare at it for a while,
contemplating if I actually need it anymore.

I watched a documentary on marijuana last night. That's probably how I'll watch all documentaries from now on.

Procrastination is totally a good thing. You always have something to do tomorrow, plus you have nothing to do today.

A GREENBRIAR II MYSTERY MOST FOWL

As I was looking out my front window one morning, I saw my neighbor Leo (not his real name) returning from his daily walk. He was across the street, about a half block away. Although he appeared unhurried, he seemed uneasy as he kept glancing back over his shoulder to look at something behind him on my side of the street. Then I spotted what he was observing: a big, hefty male turkey, its head turned toward Leo, watching him and keeping pace with and obviously following him. It produced a threatening gobble every now and then.

It was a strange scene, and I felt compelled to watch as the duo approached and moved past my house. Then the feathered stalker crossed the street, still clearly following Leo, and a bit closer. Leo had intensified his stride. I watched as he reached his property and turned into his driveway. The fowl was on his tail and followed behind him. By then my view was cut off since the street curves slightly there. I lost sight of both. I waited for a few minutes, but never saw the big bird come back to the street. Leo wasn't seen for several days, and neighbors noticed that his home remained in darkness at night.

I probably should have called for help. But alas, I was distracted by an important phone call. It was weeks later when I saw Leo at the clubhouse, and I asked him about the incident. He looked as if he had been under severe stress. He told me he couldn't talk about it. All he would say was, "There was no evidence of fowl play, according to police."

Submitted by a resident

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OPENING P TOO CHILLY TO BE OUT

Photos by Ann















BRIAR II NEWS JULY 2025

OOL PARTY TSIDE - 140 ATTENDED



Marie Willcox













	Saturday	2	12	19	26	
	Friday	4 BBQ	11 LRC 6-8pm	18 6-10 pm \$10	25	
July 2025	Thursday	8	10	17 R & A 9:30 All Welcome NIGHT 6:00 pm	24	31
	Wednesday	2	9 MBAGELS & BP	1 6	23	30
	Tuesday	-	8	15	22	29
	Monday		7 RECYCLE	14	21 CALLE	28 Board Meeting 10:00 am
	Sunday	LNEWS HHV 2025	9	SUNDAY NITE Social Gathering At the pool 6-8:30 PM	20	27 SUNDAY NITE Social Gathering At the pool 6-8:30 PM

GREENBRIAR II Homeowners Association Financial Summary APRIL 2025

	Current Month	Year-to-Date
Income		Washington or an annual section of the section of t
Resident Monthly Fees	\$96,000.00	\$960,000.00
Misc. Income		
Office Rent	\$2,000.00	\$20,000.00
Late Fees	\$100.00	\$1,075.00
Fines	\$0.00	\$10.00
Legal Fee Incom	\$0.00	\$0.00
R&A	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Interest Income	\$3,853.51	\$19,044.38
Briar 2 News Revenue	\$850.00	\$8,500.00
Membership Fees	\$1,440.00	\$37,440.00
Misc. Income	\$200.00	\$6,004.65
Garage Rent	\$1,800.00	\$5,400.00
P/Y Surplus/(Deficit)	\$11,400.00	\$114,000.00
Parking Spt Rental	\$0.00	\$5,895.64
Total Misc. Income	\$21,643.51	\$222,369.67
TOTAL INCOME	\$117,643.51	\$1,182,369.67
Expenses		
Administration	\$27,551.08	\$295,527.74
Legal & Other Professional	\$0.00	\$65,502.21
Common Operations	\$58,221.10	\$389,660.20
Pool	\$10,745.24	\$19,647.60
Clubhouse	\$17,633.82	\$140,400.54
Bus	\$1,211.16	\$14,824.53
Reserve Additions	\$10,833.33	\$108,333.30
Reserve Int. Allocation	\$3,792.01	\$18,371.53
Deferred Maintenance	\$1,166.67	\$11,666.70
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$131,154.41	\$1,063,934.35
Net Income including P/Y Carryover	-\$13,510.90	\$118,435.32
P/Y Surplus/(Deficit)	\$11,400.00	\$91,200.00
Actual Net Income w/out P/Y Carryover	-\$24,910.90	\$27,235.32
RESERVE ACCOUNTS		
Reserves (Cash/MMF)		\$227,980.77
Reserves (CD'S)		\$397,270.13
TOTAL RESERVE		\$625,250.90
Storm Fund (Cash/MMF)		\$47,349.60
Maribeth O'Neill, Treasurer		
5/19/202		



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July-At-A-Glance

By Judy Muldoon

Friday, July 4	JULY 4 TH POOL PARTY BBQ
Wednesday, July 9	BP & BAGELS - 9:30 AM
Friday, July 11	L R C 6-8 PM
Sunday, July 13	Sunday Nite Social at the Pool - 6-8:30 PM
Thursday, July 17	R & A Residents Welcome - 9:30 AM
Thursday, July 17	LADIES NIGHT - 6:00 PM
Friday, July 18	KARAOKE NIGHT - 6-10 PM - \$10
Sunday, July 27	Sunday Nite Social at the Pool - 6-8:30 PM
Monday, July 28	BOARD MEETING - 10 AM

Coming Attractions: It's 5:00 Somewhere - Saturday, August 16

•••••

JULY ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

AEROBICS	Monday 10 am	CERAMICS	Thursday 1 pm
BOCCE	Tuesdays 10 am	LAP	7
BILLIARDS/8-BALL	Tues & Thurs 6:30 pm	SWIMMINGMo	n.,Wed., Fri. 8:30-9:30 am
KNITTING	Tuesday 10 am	WATER AEROBICS	Thursdays 9:30 am
LINE DANCING	Tuesday 10 am		
BINGO	Wed. 6 pm	CORNHOLE Outside	Tuesday 6 pm

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

JULY RECYCLING DAYS

Mondays 7th & 21st

JULY GARBAGE PICKUP

Wednesdays 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th

<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

Teresa Carson

ADDRESS
14 Brenner Ct.

PREVIOUS OWNER

Kathleen Martinez

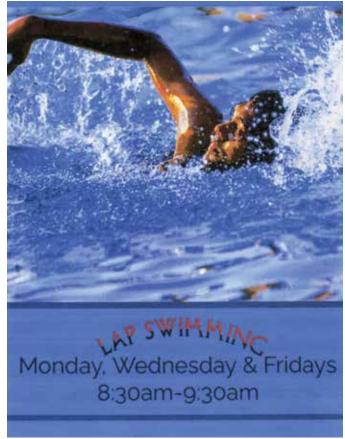


ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRIPS AND TRAVEL INFORMATION

Ace Travel
Information on trips and travel
are posted on the bulletin board
in the Clubhouse. For details
call Monica at 732-341-4555

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!*

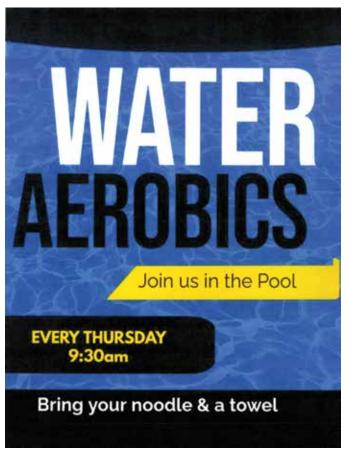


BEFORE PLANNING ANY MODIFICATIONS TO THE EXTERIOR OF YOUR HOME!

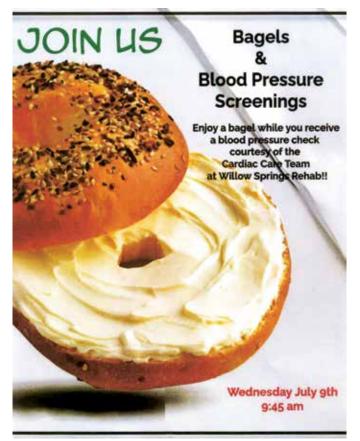


The Greenbriar II governing documents require that any changes to the exterior of the home, including the surrounding property, need to get approval from the Architectural Committee prior to the initiation of any work. An application and a refundable check in the amount of \$50, must be submitted and approved prior to the work being done. In addition, Brick Township permits may also be required for certain things.

Please check with the H.O.A. office with any questions or for a copy of the Architectural Committee Application.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



SUNDAY NITE SOCIALS: GATHERING AT THE POOL!

July 13 and 27 6:00 - 8:30 pm

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Mondays & Tuesdays ~ 10 am - 12 noon

June 30, July 1, 7 & 8

Wednesdays, July 2 & 9 ~ 5 pm - 6:30

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!



SATURDAY, AUGUST 16

\$40 ~ 6 - 10 PM

TICKETS

Mondays & Tuesdays

July 1, 7, 8, 14, 15 ~ 10 am - noon

Wednesdays

July 2, 9, 16 $\sim 5 - 6:30 \text{ pm}$

THE FOUNDING FATHERS

By Dennis Danielewicz

When we think about the founding fathers of America, our thoughts generally go to the famous painting by John Trumball, hanging in the Capitol Rotunda. It depicts a group of elderly statesmen in white wigs presenting the draft copy of the Declaration of Independence to Congress. (It is sometimes incorrectly described as depicting the signing). However, this portrayal doesn't accurately reflect the youthful reality of many of its signers.

Contrary to popular belief, the majority of the 56 signers were relatively young:

The average age was approximately 44 years old with more than a dozen being 35 or younger. Of them, the youngest signers were Edward Rutledge and Thomas Lynch Jr., both from South Carolina, and just 26 years old. The oldest signer of course, was the elder statesman, Benjamin Franklin, and he was 70 years old.

This age distribution highlights the significant role those younger individuals played in shaping the nation's future. They were a diverse group, reflecting the varied fabric of colonial America.

Among them were 18 merchants or businessmen, 14 farmers, 22 lawyers (including William Hooper of North Carolina, who was disbarred for opposing the Crown), four physicians, and nine judges. Many were well-educated, with seven attending Harvard, four each at Yale and William & Mary, and three at Princeton.

Religiously, while most were Protestant Christians, Charles Carroll of Maryland was the only Roman Catholic signer.

In addition, despite their relatively young age, many signers had accomplished significant feats:

- **Thomas Jefferson:** At 33, he was the principal author of the Declaration.
- **Benjamin Rush:** At 31, he was a prominent physician and advocate for independence.
- Elbridge Gerry: At 32, he was an active member of the Continental Congress.

As we know, signing the Declaration was an act of treason against the British Crown, carrying severe risks. Many signers faced personal losses and experienced financial difficulties and confiscation of property by the British. William Floyd of New York, for one, had his estate seized and used by British forces during the war.

Five signers were taken captive by the British and treated as traitors, with some enduring torture. The National Park Service also notes that Richard Stockton was likely captured and imprisoned specifically for signing the Declaration.

At least twelve signers had their homes ransacked and burned by the British. The British also pillaged or confiscated estates, scattering some families. Several signers lost loved ones, including sons who served in the Revolutionary Army, and wives who died from the hardships of the war.

After the war, many signers continued to serve their states and the nation and had prominent roles in government, law and public life.

Despite the hardships they faced, the signers of the Declaration of Independence are remembered as heroes who courageously pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to the cause of independence.

One interesting note is that Roger Sherman of Connecticut uniquely signed all four foundational U.S. documents: the Continental Association, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution.

The image of the Founding Fathers as elderly statesmen doesn't align with historical reality. Many were young, ambitious individuals who played pivotal roles in America's quest for independence. However, the combination of youthful vigor and seasoned wisdom laid the foundation for the United States, and their diverse backgrounds and shared vision for independence-inspired generations.

Sudoku

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

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Course closed from 8:00 A.M - 11:00 A.M., Wednesdays and Thursdays for League Play



ds- 479

CANINE COLUMN

By Colleen Tierney

Heart: Parallel to humans, canine heart issues range from minor to life threatening. Owners should be aware of these signs of heart disease, and note that early detection and treatment is always important: abdominal swelling, behavioral change (more withdrawn), coughing, collapse, exercise intolerance, breathing difficulty, edema, less appetite, lethargy. Any one or several of these symptoms need to be evaluated by a veterinarian.

Among the more common heart problems are Mitral Valve Disease, more usually seen in small dogs. It is a result of aging, causing thickening of the valves so they don't close properly. Usually the first indication is a mild murmur noticed by the vet during a regular exam. Second in frequency to be seen is Cardiomyopathy, when the heart muscle thickens or stretches so it becomes difficult for the heart to beat. This is more commonly seen in large dogs. Both of these conditions are chronic and can be controlled, but not cured. Congestive Heart Failure nearly always causes a cough and usually there are signs of respiratory distress, weakness, collapse and if there is also cardiomyopathy, sudden death.

Kidney: Although Kidney Disease is less prevalent in dogs than it is in cats, Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) does affect canines. This condition prevents kidneys from retaining water in the body regardless of how much the dog drinks. Toxins build in the bloodstream, leading to mouth, esophagus, stomach and intestinal ulcers. Other signs are bad breath, mouth pain, difficult swallowing, vomiting, diarrhea. As CKD progresses more serious complications occur, leading to further damage. Prognosis for dogs is less effective than it is for cats. No older animal that suddenly loses bowel or bladder control should ever be scolded or punished. There is no cure for CKD and any treatments require careful monitoring, are expensive and eventually necessitate euthanasia to end suffering.

One thing every pet owner must deal with on occasion is (ugh) a dreaded issue of diarrhea. A recent study of cases that were of an uncomplicated acute nature - in other words, not due to parasites, involved no vomiting, no blood (these cases require specific and usually veterinary treatment) - was conducted in several facilities. Some of the affected dogs were given powdered cellulose, and these animals had a much faster resolution of their diarrhea than those who received the standard treatment of chicken/rice or any of the anti-diarrhea meds (i.e., Immodium). The conclusion is that adding just a bit of powdered cellulose (i.e., psyllium) - plain, no other ingredients - into the food is an easy and safe way to add fiber. It does not disrupt

normal intestinal flora and helps the intestines to self-adjust quickly. Of course it is very important that the animal has access to plenty of water to prevent dehydration.

HMMM...RATHER INTERESTING

Provided by R. Duclos

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs is the first film to have featured an official soundtrack, but none of the songs were even nominated for an Oscar. However, Walt Disney did receive an Honorary Award in 1939 for this paramount achievement.

It might seem strange, but taking a shower will allow the areas of the brain that handle decision-making to "take a break," so that other regions of the brain can become more active. This helps humans to think more clearly, often to promote unique and interesting ideas.

Museums must give careful consideration to the best ways to display their treasures, while at the same time protecting them from damage or loss. At times this can cause a purely accidental near loss of an item. The LAM Museum in Holland had featured an unusual form of "transformational art" that features common objects formed into challenging perceptual and delightful visuals. But one of the technicians mistook a renowned work by artist A. Lavet and tossed it into the trash. Fortunately one of the curators noticed the missing piece and it was rescued before being permanently destroyed. This particular work happened to have been made to resemble dented beer cans.

Here's a clever one: A cat ate some cheese and then waited with baited breath for a mouse to appear.

And another groan: The person who invented the door knocker was awarded the NoBell prize.

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THE HISTORY OF SHADY MAPLE

By Bill Gathercole

Many people whom I know have been taking bus trips through the many different travel companies in the area. One of these trips is to the Sight and Sound theatre in Ronks, Pennsylvania to see Bible stories live on stage. It is always a great trip, and for lunch they usually stop at the Shady Maple which is a huge Smorgasbord. They have almost every type of delicious food that you could imagine. It is a nice experience.

In 1962 Henry Z. Martin and his wife opened a roadside stand in front of their house. It was located under large maple trees where the name Shady Maple originated.

In July 1970 the business was taken over by Marvin and Miriam Weaver. At the age of 23 they opened the first block building. It measured 65 ft. X 65 ft. and they had planned to sell produce. They had an opportunity to join IGA, a grocery store alliance for independently owned stores. They installed a grocery department and overhead doors to keep the farm market look. This small operation had 2 cash registers, a few employees and business was good the first year.

Over the next few years the Weavers expanded their business to better serve their customers. They removed the overhead doors, added air conditioning, a stockroom and added 25 people to their payroll. By 1976 the Weavers had expanded their business to 4500 square feet, 10 cash registers and 130 employees. A newly remodeled in-store bakery and warehouse was also added to the facility. During the years from 1976 to 1980 the store had some interior remodeling done. An employee lunch room was added and a small lunch counter was installed in the building.

In 1982 a major expansion of the building was started. They remodeled and expanded the store up to 70,000 square feet. The most notable change was the addition of a 100-seat cafeteria and now they employed 240 people.

During the next few years the Weavers continuously changed and added things like a computerized smokehouse, and a soup and salad department. Everything was made from scratch using old-fashioned Weaver Family recipes.

In the fall of 1984 the Weavers started construction of the Smorgasbord. In July of 1985 the new restaurant opened and it was a great success. It had over 300 seats and the all-you-can-eat concept kept the restaurant full and profitable. Unfortunately the wait time was 1 - 2 hours. In 1989 the Weavers doubled the size of the facility and now had 180 employees.

In September 2000 they opened a larger Smorgasbord with approximately 110,000 square feet with seating capacity of 1,200 people.

In 2005 they expanded the entire building, adding a Banquets and Conference center, also expanding the Gift

Shop. Shady Maple catering was started at this time and served great food off the premises. There still was a waiting line on Saturday, and special events.

Other Shady Maple businesses are Weaverland Foods, a wholesale distributor and also Shady Maple RV Sales and Service. The Farm Market now has a Pharmacy and Snack Shack.

Today the Shady Maple companies have more than 750 employees. Marvin Weaver credits his management team and employees for all the success he has had. He feels greatly indebted to all his faithful customers who come back to enjoy the Smorgasbord. He and his family thank God for his success and invite all to the Maple Shade experience, a family tradition.

Today Marvin still believes in the time-tested motto, "Give the customer quality food and service and you will have a customer for Life."



Sudoku Answers

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

RESTAURANT REVIEW

By Judy Muldoon

ATLANTIC FISHERIES



Photo taken in 2003

Our May Birthday Club meets once a month for breakfast, but once a year we splurge on a nice dinner to celebrate our birthdays. Our little group began during COVID, when our neighbor, Father John Zayack discovered that 4 of us close neighbors share May birthdays! In fact, he and I were birthday "twins." We had a special, enjoyable friendship for several years until we lost John a year ago. We've continued our monthly date, and for this year's dinner celebration we decided on Atlantic Fisheries on Channel Drive in Pt. Pleasant.

We were seated immediately at a table in a rectangular, porch-like room completely walled by windows that look out to the street. Upon entering, customers are immediately assaulted by The NOISE! First we learned that wine was only available by bottle, so we settled for water or soda. Having checked the extensive menu online, we had already decided what we would order. Two of us requested "Lump Stuffed Flounder Fillet" while Ro ordered fried shrimp. Dinners included either a salad or French fries and coleslaw. I looked forward to a Caesar salad; Dot chose a house salad.

We were surprised when our dinners and salads were served together. Although our flounder was hot and looked inviting, the salads were in plastic trays. My Caesar consisted of a handful of Romaine, a sprinkling of grated cheese and croutons, and a little container of dressing. Dot said her garden salad was acceptable with a nice selection of greens. Only after a few bites of the flounder did we find the "lump" that was advertised ... a crab cake tucked inside the folded fillet ... crabmeat was not discernable! Ro said her shrimp, also delivered in a tray, was tough. I refused the little cup she offered to share with me of some white-ish stuff that looked like horseradish. Only 2 desserts were available, neither interesting to us. We left feeling very dissatisfied. The only thing I can say about the meal: Disappointing.

However, I'd like to add something on a positive note: Both Ro's family and mine had been to the Shrimp Box the previous week. Each group was extremely pleased with their meals, the service and the ambiance. My family (all "foodies"!) each chose a different entree, with beverages, appetizers and even dessert, all thoroughly enjoyed. Dinners were about the same price as Atlantic Fisheries, and we were much more satisfied at the Shrimp Box!

I'll leave it to you to figure out which place we'll revisit!



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