



**An Honor Flight  
we will never forget.  
See page 20**



**Dorado residents hold Kentucky  
Derby in a swimming pool.  
See page 50**

# ON TOP OF THE WORLD NEWS

June 2025

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57 Years of Only Good News

Volume 57

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## Women can battle men at the pool table and still enjoy a good tea party

By Joanne Osburn

Not long ago, polite society demanded that women not enter a billiards room, let alone participate in the sport!

No “respectable” woman even thought about joining a room full of men who were chasing the eight-ball across a green felt table with a cue stick.

But times have changed, and more and more women are in pool rooms playing alongside men, playing with skill and a passion, and even winning money in tournaments!

At On Top of the World, women playing billiards with men is a growing trend started by the Que’T women’s pool league several years ago.

Ladies have become regular players in the OTOW pool leagues and play every Tuesday and Thursday evening.

At least six of those ladies, pictured above, are there because they enjoy playing pool. They are there supporting other women who also enjoy playing pool.

In the process, the game has also created friendships.

Pool night offers games, tournaments, winning, losing and competition. But like any friendship, these ladies can put their sticks down occasionally for a social night out. They have frequently gone out to dine together and very recently scheduled a tea party.

Lucy Ames, one of OTOW’s pool players, and her sister, Judy Salango, provided a traditional British tea luncheon in their home for a perfect afternoon tea party.

The lunch featured cucumber sandwiches and delicious desserts.

So, because a few ladies decided to play pool with the men, a British afternoon tea party took place as well.

Hey! There is a message here!

Afternoon tea and evening billiards are perfectly acceptable here at On Top of the World. Does this sound like something you might want to try?

Step into the Billiards Room and get more information.



Pictured above, left to right, are Lucy Ames, Melinda Wiesma, Rashanee Turner, Debbie Barry, Gail McNeil and Joanne Osburn. When they are not battling guys at pool tournaments, they are hosting social events like tea parties.

### Association Board

## More than 50 percent of the membership must vote to waive the reserves

#### Important Update For All Association Members

By Diane Like, chairperson

After completing our due diligence and upon the advice of legal counsel, your Association Board has been advised the “Reserves” amount must be based on the Structural Integrity Reserves Study (SIRS) as required by the state of Florida.

Based on the current report, the Reserves amount you should consider when voting whether to waive the reserves is \$37.12.

In reviewing the SIRS with legal counsel, we have also been instructed that the SIRS will need to be redone due to incorrect information in the original report. When the study was originally prepared, it was assumed there was already a significant reserve balance in place, which we know is not the case. Once the corrected SIRS reports are received, an amended budget will be presented to the membership.

Please keep in mind, if the reserves are not waived, and we are required to address the absence of a beginning balance, a much larger increase in the reserve amount will be required.

The General Budget Meeting for On Top of the World is now scheduled for June 12, 2025, at 10 a.m.

In an effort to ensure that as many owners as possible have the opportunity to participate in the vote and return their ballots in time to be counted, we postponed this meeting by one week.

This is the most important matter before the On Top of the World Condominium Association. Unless 50 percent plus one (of the owners) vote to waive reserves this fiscal year, about \$37.12 will be added to your monthly community service fee beginning July 1.

This is the first year this change has been in effect. Previously, the law required only a simple majority of those present, in person or by proxy, voting at the budget meeting to allow the board to waive imposition of reserves.

There has been a lot of incorrect information circulated on social media surrounding reserves. It is important that you know that the OTOW alternative funding method has been approved by the state. As such, we are to comply and use the “alternative funding method,” as described in Florida Statute 718, to avoid burdening members with additional monthly expenses.

It’s your choice. The board is encour-

aging all members to vote on this very important matter.

If you did not receive the budget mailing, please reach out to the Community Service Office before June 9.

You can also find the budget package posted online at:

[www.OTOWClearwaterInfo.com/  
Association Meetings](http://www.OTOWClearwaterInfo.com/AssociationMeetings)

When you visit the site to view the items mailed, you will also find an alternative method to a paper ballot - how to cast your vote electronically. The easiest and most preferred way to vote is electronically through [otow.conduu.com](http://otow.conduu.com).

If you have previously voted electronically, please sign in and cast your vote.

Each condo is entitled to one vote. If you own more than one condominium, you should cast a separate vote for each condo owned.

If you have not yet opted in to electronic voting and wish to do so, please visit:

[www.OTOWClearwaterinfo.com/  
electronic-voting/](http://www.OTOWClearwaterinfo.com/electronic-voting/)

This site will provide more information on how to opt in for this convenient and secure voting option. When you vote by proxy, please follow all directions for completing and delivering your vote. Failure to complete the steps could result in your vote being rejected.

Electronic voting closes on June 10, 2025, at 10 a.m.

Paper proxies mailed to the Association or dropped off at the East or West Activity Centers will be accepted until June 12, 2025 at 10 a.m.

Paper ballots will be available at the meeting, but must also be received by 10 a.m. (the time the meeting begins) on June 12.

We look forward to the highest voting participation total in the history of OTOW voting!

#### April 30 Board Meeting

At the Association Board meeting on April 30, the board instructed counsel to notify Condominium Associates that we would not be proceeding with their proposal to provide management services. Parkway Management and Maintenance continues to be our property manager.



# On Top of the World Real Estate of Pinellas, LLC

## Hire the Experts.



The Florida Real Estate market is hot! Whether you are looking for an investment property to fix up or a newly renovated home that’s already perfect, you won’t want to miss this opportunity.

### WHAT BUYERS NEED TO KNOW:

- **Pre-Approval is Key:** Start your search on the right foot by getting pre-approved for a mortgage. This will give you an edge in competitive bidding situations and help you establish a clear budget.
- **The Power of Negotiation:** With a knowledgeable agent by your side, you’ll be empowered to negotiate effectively, whether it’s securing a lower price, requesting repairs, or finding the right incentives.
- **Be Prepared for a Fast-Moving Market:** Homes are selling quickly in the spring season, so when you find your dream property, be ready to act fast.

### THINKING OF SELLING?

WE’LL GET YOU TOP DOLLAR FOR YOUR LISTING AND PUT THE MONEY IN YOUR POCKET.

- We care about your listing and will always strive for top dollar.
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or visit us at **OTOWRealEstateClearwater.com** or  
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Kenneth D. Colen, Licensed Real Estate Broker





# Check with your insurance agent now, not when a named storm is nearby

Please remember that the Annual Meeting is now scheduled for June 12. The purpose of this meeting is for your Board to adopt a budget for fiscal year 2025-26.

**Hurricane Season is Upon Us**  
June is here and so are the summer showers and the race to keep the area mowed and generally maintained. June should also be a reminder that now is a great time to look at your personal hurricane preparedness plan. As I am writing this article, there are no areas of concerns, yet. But all you procrastinators beware. You may think you have time to get your plan together. In reality, time is short to fully prepare as things can change very quickly based on recent experience.

That recent experience has shown that any hurricane or tropical storm can still be very disruptive to the Southeast in a big hurry. Not just damage from wind and rain deluge, but also damage from wind-driven rain which can penetrate around doors or windows, and through walls.

There is also the possibility of travel disruption should you choose to evacuate the area.

Those residents who sheltered in place have experienced first-hand the force of Category 4 storms.

Aside from an epic mess of toppled large trees and a massive pruning, the buildings here fared fairly well, especially compared to a few miles south on this peninsula.

Several buildings had damage to their roofs, and some of the building decorative facades were heavily damaged. And yes, there was widespread flooding in some areas of the community. The wind driven rain damaged an elevator and took it out of service for almost five months before it could be repaired fully.

To make a general point about storm



events or any natural disaster's effect on this community, when it comes to individual service requests, especially after any catastrophic event, each request is evaluated based on severity and risk to life and property.

The damage is then stabilized as needed, and resolved at the soonest possible time, given all else that may be needing special attention.

It is important that each resident of this community show patience and kindness to each other and to the workers who have left family to rally to the needs of the community.

Storms and protracted electrical outages are periods of high stress.

To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, in challenging times we must look to "the better angels of our nature."

It does not take a storm event to set back scheduled ground maintenance. Really, all it takes is large summer storms to disrupt the schedule.

As you no doubt observe, the lawns and shrubs love the wet, warm weather and respond by doubling their growth. Put the two things together and lawn maintenance crews struggle to keep pace.

**Time for an Insurance Review**  
Hurricane season is a call to action

for each resident to check in with your insurance agent and make sure the insurance coverage on your unit and contents is adequate.

If you believe you can self-insure any loss, please reconsider because the cost of repair or reconstruction may well exceed the market value of your condominium at the time of an event. It is the obligation of every owner to insure the contents of their unit. Please don't feel you can be "lucky" and go without insurance!

Content coverage may vary greatly depending on what you own and choose to insure. While the OTOW Condominium Association insures the building structure, it DOES NOT insure anything of a personal nature owned by a unit owner, including, but not limited to, your furnishings, personal items, floor coverings, appliances, cabinetry, as well as any electrical wiring that services your condominium unit exclusively (the demarcation of association responsibility is the connection to your electrical service panel).

Your individual insurance coverage on these items listed above would cover this type of loss.

In addition, all insurance carriers write an HO6 rider that provides for loss assessment coverage in the event a special assessment for unforeseen casualty losses made by the Association.

The other critical element of a condominium owner's policy is coverage for Loss of Use should you be unable to occupy your condo following a casualty. This coverage is very inexpensive, but can provide funds for living expenses while you are displaced.

Experience has shown that recovery to having a habitable dwelling can range from 18 to 24 months.

Please consider having your HO-6 policy cover the cost of rent, living expenses and all that entails for you to live away from your condo for 24 months.

Why would anyone not want that sense of security that a Loss of Use property rider could provide?

## Water Leaks

The Community Service Office continues to handle numerous major leaks from improperly maintained water heaters.

The replacement and maintenance of water heaters is the responsibility of the unit owner. In all cases, the owner found out how important having insurance is when faced with paying for the extensive damage to their unit, the adjoining units and the Association property between the units.

At the direction of the Association, the Management Company is actively seeking reimbursement from the unit owner for repair work made as a result of owner negligence.

In the On Top of the World Condominium Association, buildings are insured under a master policy in the name of the Association. The deductible is \$10,000 for any event, per occurrence, including wind/hail related damage. Named storm events carry a separate deductible of 5 percent of the total building value at the time of loss, at each location involved in the loss, subject to a minimum (community wide) deductible of \$250,000 for any one occurrence.

With respect to flood (rising water), earthquake and flood resulting from a named storm, all loss, damage and/or expense arising out of any one occurrence shall be adjusted as one loss and from an amount of each such adjusted loss there is a \$100,000 deductible.

For more information, please visit [www.otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://www.otowclearwaterinfo.com). From the main page go to "Association" tab and then scroll to "Insurance Forms." From there you may download the pdf document entitled: Insurance Responsibility of the Individual Unit Owner.



## PREPARE TODAY FOR A HURRICANE

Don't wait for a bad storm to be hours away.

Don't think, "It will never hit here."  
The photo at left was taken Aug. 4, 2024. It did hit here.

## Your Pre-Storm Checklist

1. Map out an evacuation route and choose a final, fortified destination well-inland. Tell family and friends where you intend to be during a storm. You should have one post-disaster contact - one person who is out of the danger zone, who you can contact and who will share your information with other loved ones. You may be short on power so consider limiting your contacts to one person.
2. If you stay behind, keep the following in stock: 1 week supply of bottled water and non-perishable foods, refill prescriptions, bottle opener, flashlight and battery operated radio. Do you know where these items are stored? Don't go searching for them as a storm is closing in. Keep tape and cardboard handy should a leak develop.
3. Create an inventory of your home. Use photos and videos in case some day you need to replace your items or determine the value of items lost. Special items should be stored away from your home in a safe place. Store important documents in sealable, water proof containers.
4. Bring in porch items and anything outside that could become a projectile.
5. Fill vehicle with gas. Don't wait until the mad rush starts.
6. Don't assume a storm is over. Stay indoors. Please use a flashlight and not candles. Keep refrigerator closed as much as possible.
7. Get cash. Money machines could be out for weeks.
8. Review your insurance policy once a year to make sure you are covered for a major storm. If you need to file a claim, do so immediately after a storm. Make a list of damaged items. Keep receipts. Be patient.
9. The OTOW activity centers are not storm shelters. They will not be open during a storm. If you live on an upper floor or may need assistance after a storm, plan ahead. There are nearby evacuation shelters.
10. OTOW will provide weather updates if possible using RAVE, OTOW-TV 901 and the Box Office ([otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com)).

### WHEN A STORM HAS PASSED

- A. If you evacuated, do not return home until authorities give you the OK.
- B. Do not go outside. Do not begin cleanup on your own. Let OTOW management personnel remove limbs, wires and all damage.
- C. Do not drive into a flooded road. Turn around - don't drown.
- D. Traffic lights may be out. Stop at all intersections where a traffic light is not working. Treat each intersection as a four-way stop.
- E. Do not use sink water until authorities give the OK. Do not eat spoiled food.
- F. Do not wear flipflops outside. Wear sturdy shoes.

Sign up for RAVE alerts.  
Community updates will be posted  
on RAVE,  
OTOW-TV Channel 901 and the  
Box Office ([otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com)).

[www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)



# Electronic voting is simple, private

### Electronic Voting

Signing up for electronic voting does have its advantages for both the Association as well as for unit owners.

You can vote anywhere with internet access and you can vote when it is convenient for you without waiting for the postal service to deliver the voting packet.

Electronic voting is secure and ensures the privacy of your vote.

Documents associated with the vote will be available for you to review prior to making your decision.

When electronic voting is utilized, it can streamline the voting process by making it quicker, more manageable, more efficient, more convenient, and more accurate since most systems have safeguards against duplicate votes.

With all of these benefits, including convenience and efficiency, let's get out there and vote electronically!

If you have not already signed up, you can do so by visiting the website [otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://otowclearwaterinfo.com) and click the tab for electronic-voting.

There is a very informative video located at the bottom of the page that will walk you through the sign-up process.

It doesn't matter if you vote electronically, in person, or by proxy, the important thing is to VOTE!

### Maintenance and Service Requests

To ensure the most efficient processing of your maintenance or service request, please submit any requests online at [otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://otowclearwaterinfo.com).

Click the "Service Department" tab followed by the "Request Form" tab.

If you are unable to access the online system, please call the Community Service Office at 727-683-6981 and we will return your call as quickly as we can during normal business hours.

Submitting your request yourself is the only way to ensure that your request has been received. Please do not rely on neighbors or friends to submit requests on your behalf.

Additionally, should you see something that needs to be repaired, please report it and don't assume that someone else has reported it.

Once your request is received, a service order will be generated and forwarded to the appropriate department



for resolution.

### Smoking Areas

The community pools, activity centers, the dog park and Pavilion areas are non-smoking areas.

Smoking is not permitted within 25 feet of either activity center or swimming pool.

The tennis courts, shuffleboard courts and lawn bowl areas are also non-smoking venues.

All building elevators are areas within the community where smoking is not permitted as it is unlawful to possess or use any ignited tobacco product or other ignited substance while in an elevator.

"No Smoking" signs cannot be posted on the walkways, ends of buildings or core entrances as they are considered open air and therefore not subject to the Florida Clean Indoor Air Act.

### Board Duty

One of the duties of the board is enforcement of the provisions of the declaration, by-laws, and Association rules. Enforcement action may only occur on valid Association matters reinforced by factual information.

If you are witness to a violation, I encourage you to write to the Association. If a violation is brought to you by a "well meaning" neighbor, please encourage them to document the facts and send the information to the Association.

The Association does not act based on hearsay or rumors. Matters that require action must be documented and supportable for legal follow-up. The Association requests that when providing information, you provide specific date, time, location and specific description

of what you observed. This is especially important when you write regarding possible rule violations.

### What To Do

#### When You Feel Threatened?

Do you know what to do if you find yourself in a situation where you feel threatened?

You should contact 911, or if the situation is not an emergency, you can contact the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office non-emergency number at 727-582-6200.

When speaking with the responding deputy, be prepared to provide specific details of statements made and make them aware that you fear for your personal safety.

If you are dissatisfied with how the deputy handles your concerns, you can contact the non-emergency number provided above and request to speak with a supervisor for further clarification. They can do their due diligence and find out why the call was handled in a particular manner.

Remember, there are factors that go into deciding to arrest someone. Each situation is unique and whether a threat is considered credible depends on various factors. A vague or ambiguous statement might not necessarily be considered a credible threat unless it can be backed by actions or other evidence to suggest that there is real intent to do harm.

### Upcoming Projects

#### Painting/Waterproofing

The painting contractor will continue working on the east side of property with the front façade of Building 22 being painted in June.

As always, please keep in mind that the painting contractor will be operating closely to parking areas and front/rear porches which may require the temporary displacement of vehicles or property. Thank you for your cooperation in advance and keep in mind that inclement weather can affect start and completion dates.

#### Construction, Roofing and Large Scope Projects

Building 8 will be the next structure to have its railings improved with the

project anticipated to begin in late May/early June, pending engineering completion and permit issuance from Pinellas County.

As with other railing projects, a licensed contractor will affect the removal and replacement of the aluminum components in the walkways, center core and end stairwell handrails which involve power tools and elevated noise levels periodically. The improvements are generally completed in 4-6 weeks, depending on the scope and the size of the structure.

Notices will be posted in advance of the work so residents should keep an eye on their bulletin boards for updates.

The Management Company and your association ask that residents be aware of workers in the building and do their best to avoid active work areas when at all possible. Thanks for your assistance.

The state-licensed roofing vendor will begin focusing their efforts on another Hurricane Milton restoration project as they work towards the rehabilitation of the metal façade on the front of Building 18. This is anticipated to take the better part of two weeks to complete, followed by the color matching of the panels by the community's painting contractor.

As a friendly reminder, we ask all residents in this building to please observe all areas cordoned off for safety reasons and to keep an eye out for heavy equipment operation and supply deliveries. Building bulletin boards will be posted in advance advising residents of the details which may require your attention or cooperation.

The restoration of the front façade of Building 22, due to Hurricane Milton, is another project that should also be in full swing by the time we reach June 1. This is another component that will need to be painted once the façade has been repaired, so residents should be prepared to relocate personal vehicles twice over the course of this work. This is another project requiring aerial lift equipment so please observe cordoned off areas and exercise caution in the name of safety.

(Please continue on page 5)

## Know Your Water Heater



Water heaters traditionally last 10-15 years.

If your water heater is leaking around the base unit, is not producing normal amounts of hot water or has become noisy, it's time to consider replacing your current unit with a new one.

If your water heater fails, it could not only flood your unit, but units below you. You may be financially responsible if it causes damage to your neighbors' units.

visit [otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://otowclearwaterinfo.com)

follow the links

NEWSPAPER • STAY INFORMED • CAREERS

Contact Us  
Important Phone Numbers  
Stay Informed

SIGN UP FOR OTOW ALERTS

RAVE  
MOBILE SAFETY

Signing up for OTOW-ALERTS (powered by RAVE) is incredibly easy. Simply go to [www.otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://www.otowclearwaterinfo.com) and click the "Stay Informed" tab at the top of the home page and then click "Stay Informed" in the gray box.

Signing up for RAVE is without obligation or cost to you. Your email and cell phone numbers are secure, never shared, and never solicited.

Alternatively, you may visit the Community Service Office to apply. OTOW-ALERTS can provide information of critical concern to the residents.



# and provides more freedoms to vote

**Recurring Reminders**

**for all Community Residents**

As a reminder, in 2023 the Management Company recommenced its enforcement efforts by removing all unapproved items placed in building common areas. This includes, but is not limited to, plants (live or artificial), personal items, non-exterior rated furniture, rusted chairs/tables or in disrepair, tchotchkes, etcetera, as these items are not permitted to occupy common spaces.

As has been referenced in the newspaper, on the community TV channel, and the bulletins posted in all building center core lobbies, these items will be removed and disposed of without further notice.

These ongoing efforts help keep the areas safe for first responders as well as maintain an aesthetically pleasing community for all to reside in. We ask that residents help keep the community's common areas in compliance by reporting violations of this nature to the Management Company. We appreciate the community's cooperation and support in reporting any violations of this nature so the Management Company can investigate and correct if necessary.

The Management Company would also like to thank the residents who live on the second and third floors for their cooperation in making the On Top of the World community a safer and more aesthetically pleasing place to live by removing their floor mats from the common area.

The community's response for compliance was astounding as has been the feedback regarding these efforts.

Once again, thank you for your support in this undertaking.

Now that the notification and compliance piece has been completed, the Management Company will continue the ongoing compliance enforcement of these common areas where the mats were once located, as well as repaint areas that could not be cleaned to community standards.

As a reminder to all residents and in keeping with condominium rules governing common areas, any floor mats placed in the second or third floor balcony walkways or center core areas will be removed without any further notification.

Please assist us in keeping these walkway areas clear while making your community a safer and more beautiful place to live.

**Inspection Services Division**

The Inspection Services Team, in conjunction with the Parkway Construc-

tion Department, will continue prepping buildings scheduled for new paint coatings in the current improvement cycle.

This has been an ongoing endeavor throughout the community over the last few years and encompasses the removal of all association unapproved plant hanger brackets, holiday lighting hooks that are affixed into the masonry block, hose reels and other wall and ceiling penetrations.

In keeping with association rules, these items will be removed without notice.

Residents are kindly asked to seek association approval before affixing anything to the common element in the future.

Inspection Services representatives will also be reaching out to residents of buildings that are scheduled for new paint and waterproof coatings during the current improvement cycle. The purpose of their contact will be to advise residents that the painting vendor will be color matching all external doors to the majority building color as is required by the condominium association rules. This will usually require no action by the unit owner other than to allow access to the entire door surface for the coating to be applied.

If for some reason you are not at home when this work takes place, you may contact the Community Service Office and schedule a follow-up visit from the coating vendor. We appreciate your cooperation in making this project a success across the community.

First floor unit owners will continue receiving notification from the Inspection Services Department as the Management Company works towards the removal of all unapproved decorative stones throughout the community. The stones are not only an unapproved item for use in landscaping, but have the propensity to damage association and personal property alike. To keep all residents in the community aware of this compliance issue, this notice will be published in upcoming editions of the OTOW newspaper.

The Management Company asks if you receive a notification requiring action on your part, please remove the stones at the earliest convenience.

The removal of plantings located above and around the potable water meters that service the individual units is also ongoing.

The Management Company is asking that all residents comply and not replant the areas. Plants or other items found in these areas will be removed without notice and disposed of as they hinder the proper maintenance of these meters in the future.

Please keep in mind that the condominium association requires a modification request for any landscape alterations. Many times, decorative rocks or landscaping are installed without the advance approval of the association, and the removal and disposal of these items becomes the responsibility of the violator. Please, always apply for approval before you install.

Inspection efforts continue to focus on the tagging and removal of portable barbeque grills, including propane, charcoal, or electric, which are not permitted in any buildings common areas as they pose a fire risk to the structure and residents.

Only grills meeting the approved Clearwater Fire Department standard are permitted on the patio of first floor units. If you're a first floor unit owner and not sure if your grill complies, please stop by the Community Service Office to request a visit from our friendly Inspections Services staff.

The Management Company would like to remind residents that all water softening equipment installations require advance association approval via a modification permit.

A permit application package may be obtained by visiting the Community Service Office in the East Activity Center at 2069 World Parkway Boulevard East.

Residents are also reminded that only resin-style, not ion exchange or salt water softeners are permissible in the community. Please make sure you apply for a permit and receive approval prior to contracting with a service to avoid a compliance visit by the Management Company. Thanks for your advanced cooperation.

**After-Hours**

**Emergency Information**

The OTOW emergency after-hours phone number is 727-799-1115.

Please call this number, after hours, in the event of an emergency, such as a water intrusion into your condo.

For all other inquiries regarding general issues or questions that are not service-related, you will need to come in person to the Community Service Office.

**OTOW Alerts**

Signing up for OTOW-ALERTS (powered by RAVE) is incredibly easy. Simply go to [otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://otowclearwaterinfo.com) and from the home page scroll down to the bottom of the page to the "Sign Up Now" box located to the left of the screen. Click to enroll.

You can also sign up from the "Stay Informed" tab located at the top of the

home page.

Signing up for RAVE is without obligation or cost to you. Your email and cell phone numbers are secure, never shared and never solicited.

Alternatively, you may visit the Community Service Office to apply.

OTOW-ALERTS provides advance warning of severe weather events as well as other matters of critical concern to the residents of OTOW Clearwater Condominium Community. It is not hyperbole to say an advanced warning may save lives!

As a reminder, when signing up for community and emergency alerts, be sure to enter your building number. You can select to receive notifications via text, telephone call, and/or email. You can select one, two, or all three notification options.

Should you wish to change your notification options, you can do so by visiting the Community Service Office, calling 727-683-6981, or email at [www.associationinfo@otowfl.net](mailto:www.associationinfo@otowfl.net).

**Community Service Office Information**

The Community Service Office (CSO) hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The office closes for lunch from noon to 12:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, unless otherwise posted.

If your call goes to voice mail, it is because the staff is working with someone else. Please be patient. Calls and voicemails will be responded to during normal business hours.

Once the requested service matter is identified, a service order will be generated and submitted to the appropriate department to address the matter.

The goal of the CSO is to make an initial assessment of the request and to determine if it is an emergency or non-emergency. Once the matter is assessed, a plan to resolve will be made and work scheduled.

Generally, all non-emergency service requests are assessed and addressed in the order in which they are received.

From time to time, it may become necessary for us to contact you with questions or clarification of your request. It is not necessary to report service requests more than once.

If you have any questions regarding your request, and until the Community Service Office reopens, please call the Service Request Line at 727-683-6981.

As a reminder, window and door repair or replacement is exclusive to the condo and is the owner's responsibility. The Association's responsibility is to the structure and common elements.

## Storm Shelters - Get Informed Before A Hurricane Arrives

Pinellas County has 3 storm shelters available to people who are dependent on electricity or need assistance with medications. But the time to get informed about these shelters is not when a hurricane is here. The time is now. You must be pre-registered to be accepted at a county shelter.



Please note, during inclement weather, you may experience loss of elevator service or loss of power. Please plan ahead.

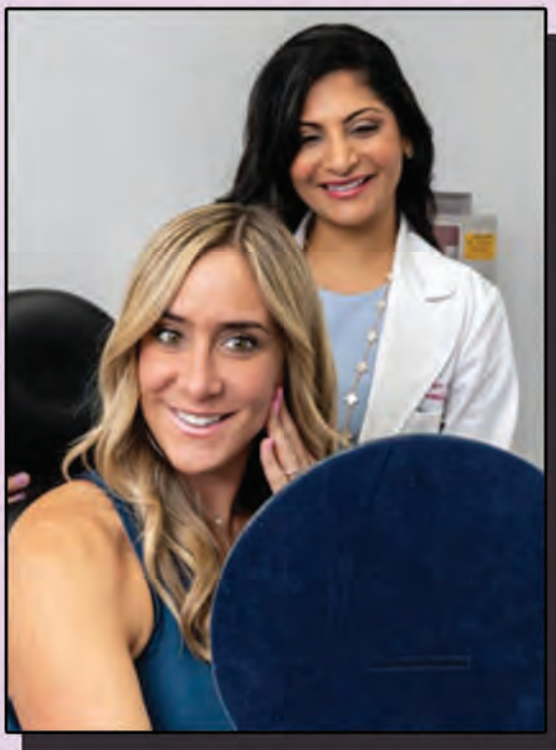
The shelters are available through the Pinellas County Special Needs Evacuation Program. Transportation to shelters is available. No pets are allowed. If you cannot find someone to take care of your pet, Pinellas County Animal Services may be able to help. If you choose to stay at a shelter, you must bring your own medical equipment, medications, blankets, pillows, change of clothing, batteries, special dietary items, sources of activities, personal hygiene products, radios, ear plugs, important papers and a list of emergency contacts.

For more information, please visit [PinellasCounty.org/specialneeds](http://PinellasCounty.org/specialneeds) or call (727) 464-3800

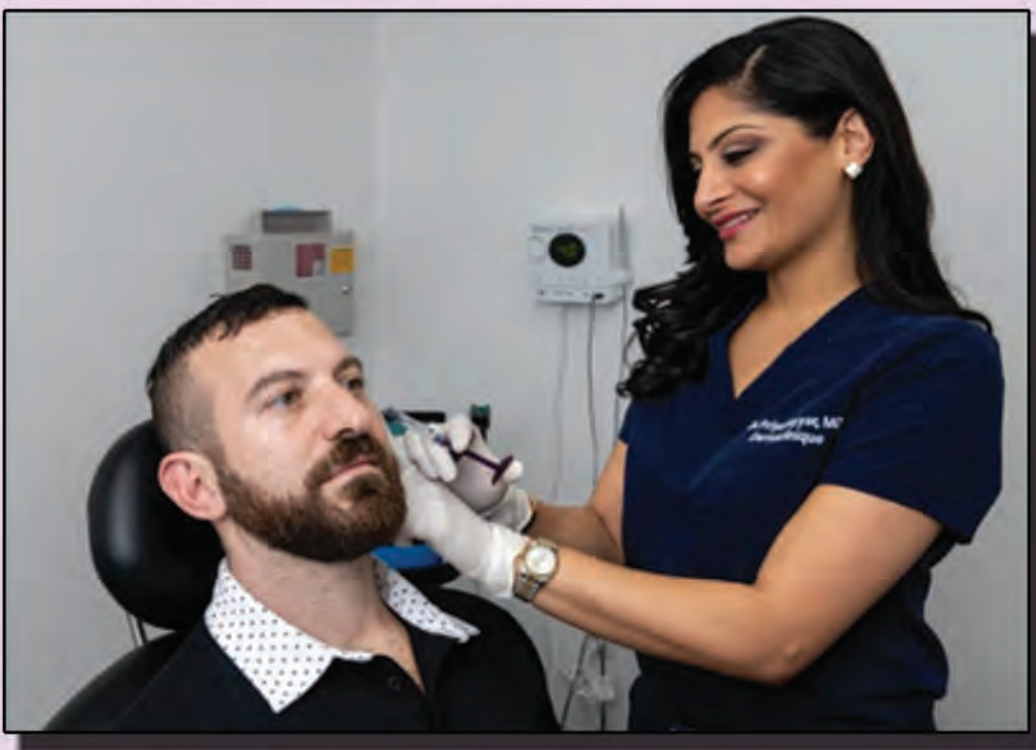




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### General Dermatology

- Mohs Surgery
- Skin cancer screenings
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- Psoriasis
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- Rosacea
- Nasal Disorders
- Cyst / Lipoma
- Wart / Skin Tags

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# Flamenco says thank you to only building captain it has had in last 20 years

After more than 20 years of service atop the third floor of the Flamenco building, there will be a changing of the guard.

Like a mighty captain of an exploring ship, Dick Smedley has guided our residents through many wild and windy days. But the time has come to pursue other seas. Dick will soon be leaving our community and we wish him the best.

As building captain, Dick kept us all on the straight and narrow course. He always had a key if we locked ourselves out of the apartment. He always had an answer, no matter what the question. He and wife, Charlotte, were always there to help.

To celebrate, or perhaps mourn, building residents met at Julian's Little Italy in Dunedin for a delicious lunch of pizza and pasta. There also was some



homegrown music for the day. The bittersweet celebration was orchestrated by Barbara Krepela and Rose Mulhall.

Although he is only moving a few miles away, Dick's guidance and direction will be truly missed.



Dick Smedley checks out the menu at Julian's Little Italy. This luncheon was a chance for building residents to say thank you for 20 years of helping out.

## Tricks of a Scammer

10:30-11:30 am, Wednesday, July 9

Sometimes it is hard to spot a scam. Con artists use various schemes to defraud millions of dollars from people every year. A combination of sophisticated technology and age-old tricks can fool people into sending money or giving out their personal information.

You can learn how to protect yourself by recognizing tricks used by scammers.

Join Pinellas County Consumer Protection to learn how to spot a scam and steps you can take to avoid becoming the victim of a scam.



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# Struggling with rising costs? Several agencies in the county can offer help

Summer officially begins on June 20. Find time to safely go outside and enjoy some summer days!

### Challenging Times

We are living through challenging times and for some of us, it's getting tough to make ends meet. So, I would like to share some resources that are available to you in the vicinity of our community.

**Countryside Cares Helping Hands Food Pantry** is serving all residents of Pinellas County.

Helping Hands, 1850 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater, is an outreach and food distribution service to those in need. This location provides a drive-through food distribution on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Check in begins at 8:30 a.m. and distribution starts at 11 a.m.

The pantry provides fresh produce, bread/sweets, frozen meats and non-perishable foods.

The organization aims to reach particularly underserved areas, the elderly, low-income and single-parent families in our communities.

To Register: The only requirement is a current government issue ID with a Pinellas County address.

Helping Hands is stocked with donations from individuals and groups throughout the community and from food drives. Without this help, their shelves would be bare.

As a reminder, a Helping Hands food donation barrel is housed inside the East Activity Center Community Service Office. Please consider donating a non-perishable food item on your next visit. Keep in mind that your neighbors are both the benefactors and recipients of this pantry.

Items needed: Cereals, diapers and wipes, fruits and vegetables (canned), peanut butter and jelly, tuna/chicken (canned), macaroni and cheese, pasta (boxed), pasta (canned) and spaghetti sauce.

Donations are accepted at Helping Hands from Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m – 5 p.m.

**Dunedin Cares Food Pantry** serves Dunedin, Clearwater and Palm Harbor.

The food pantry opened its doors in 2015 and over time evolved from providing food bags to a “supermarket” approach, which enables clients from Dunedin, Clearwater and Palm Harbor to choose items they would prefer.

Dunedin Cares Food Pantry is located at 1630 Pinehurst Road, Dunedin, The phone number is 727-410-8496.

To Register: The only requirement is a valid photo ID (driver's license, student or government ID) showing an address in Dunedin, Clearwater, or Palm Harbor. You will be asked to provide a photo ID each time you visit.

Dunedin Cares Food Pantry days and hours are Mondays, 5:30 – 7:30



p.m., Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. – noon.

Hours to drop off food donations: Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. – noon.

**Neighborly Senior Care Network** will help individuals age 60 and older who are homebound for illness, nutritional risk, isolation, or physical, emotional, or behavioral disabilities. You may be eligible for a home-delivered meal.

Meals are available for all Pinellas County residents.

Please contact (727) 573-9444 for more information.

Are you interested in joining other seniors for a nutritious lunch at a senior dining location in Clearwater?

Door-to-door transportation service is available, plus courteous drivers and wheelchair accessible buses.

These are just a few of the food and nutrition services in our area. For additional support pick up a copy of the “2025 Pinellas Senior Directory,” a publication that was developed as part of the Disaster Support Services for Seniors and Caregivers Grant.

Directories are available at the Good Neighbors Association information table in the East Activity Center Auditorium on Monday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. and in the Community Service Office.

**Prepare for Hurricane Season**  
Preparing for a hurricane can be budget-friendly. Stay safe without breaking the bank.

**No Cost Prep Tips**  
1. Gather supplies you have on hand and place in your emergency kit. If unavailable at home, all items can be inexpensively purchased at a dollar store (Sanitation items: bleach wipes, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, paper towels. Food: Non-perishable foods, i.e. peanut butter, canned food, cereal, instant coffee, pet food. Misc: Phone charger, flashlight/batteries, matches, first aid kit, solar lights, dry shampoo, zip lock bags.  
2. Place some drinking water containers in the freezer to preserve food and provide backup water during a

power outage

3. Bottle your own drinking water using empty food safe containers. Plan on having 3-7 days of water or one gallon per day for cooking and hygiene.

4. Avoid last minute expenses – pick up a few items for your kit each week – both grocery and other.

5. Take advantage of tax holidays and grocery store BOGOs or discounts. Buy one and save one for your kit.

6. Save on batteries, use solar lights in a glass container to light up a small room.

7. Preserve meat and perishables by cooking and freezing for future use or to eat if power is out.

### Saturday Food Truck Night

Eggs Up Grill will be here from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. on June 7 and Pamz Pizza Conez, Camerieri's Zeppole and Slipps Ice will be here 3-7:30 p.m. on July 12.

Over the summer we'll try a new food truck one Saturday every month in the East Activity Center front parking lot.

SCA will set up tables and chairs for dining and you can bring your meal to the Pavilion or inside downstairs in the Kitchen and Clearwater Room.

Please contact me at Nancy's Bulletin Board at otowclearwaterinfo.com with a review of the new vendors or send me an email to general\_activity@scacw.com. If the reviews are good, I'll invite these vendors back for the fall, winter and spring.

### New Exercise Program

KABoom is a fun, 45 minute class divided into segments consisting of warmup, moderate to high intensity cardio, exercises using light weights, cool down and stretching.

It also focuses on improving balance, agility and mental acuity. No chairs.

KABoom will get its first tryout here at On Top of the World in July. Scheduled times are 11 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays in the East Activity Center Exercise Room.

The instructor is Kevin Archibald, a certified instructor.

This class will be free to all Silver Sneakers members and \$2 a class to non-members. Class size will be limited to 30. Bring your activity cards. Register before class begins.

### Movie Night Returns

Movie Night returns on Wednesday, June 11, 4 p.m. in the East Activity Center Auditorium.

Beat the heat and come inside the beautiful Auditorium to see “Thelma.”

Thelma is about a 93-year-old woman who gets duped by a phone scammer pretending to be her grandson. She sets out on a treacherous quest across the city to reclaim what was taken from her.

Thelma was produced in 2024 by Magnolia Pictures and was directed by Josh Margolin. The film is rated PG-13

with a runtime of 97 minutes.

Seating is available for 80, first come, first served. No reservation required. Popcorn is free, one bag per person.

The cast includes June Squibb, Fred Hechinger, Richard Roundtree and Parker Posey.

### “Tricks of a Scammer”

“The Tricks of a Scammer” will take place 10:30-11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 9, in the East Activity Center Auditorium.

Sometimes it's hard to spot a scam. Con artists use various schemes to defraud millions of people every year. A combination of sophisticated technology and age-old tricks are used to get people to send money or give their personal information. You can protect yourself by recognizing the tricks that scammers use.

Join Pinellas County Consumer Protection Investigator and Outreach Coordinator Anna Marie Fiallos to learn how to spot a scam, the latest scams, and steps you can take to avoid falling victim.

Informational brochures will be available and there will be a chance to win a raffle prize.

### One Blood

One Blood will return to the East Activity Center front parking lot on Thursday, June 12, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Residents can register to donate blood at Nancy's Bulletin Board at the otowclearwaterinfo.com website, in the Community Service Office or just show up that day.

All donors will receive a trucker hat, \$20 Ecard and mini wellness checkup, including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening.

Take this opportunity to save lives. Thank you to everyone who donated in May and helped save lives. The Honor Roll from May 8 is as follows: Gary Anderson, Raymond Allia, Steven LeTourneau, Daphne Longley, Michael Hargett, George Mehany, George Mead and Kimberly Anastasi.

### AAA Safe Driver Classes

AAA Safe Driver Classes held at the West Activity Center Learning Lab have been cancelled until further notice.

### How do I make a reservation on the calendar?

The first step for making a reservation on the calendar is to email or call the Activity Office with the type of event you are planning and preferred date and location.

Send an email to general\_activity@scacw.com or call 727-799-2734. This starts the process.

Once we confirm all the details, you will fill out the online Facility Request form. Visit: otowclearwaterinfo.com, click on “Community Activities” and “Forms” and select the SCA Online Facility Request form. Complete and sign the form and click submit.

### Activity Card Renewal

The Community Service Office (CSO) is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. (closed from noon to 12:30 p.m. for lunch).


You must bring a valid, government issued photo ID, a recent piece of mail showing your name and OTOW address, and your most recently issued Activity Card.

There is no fee for renewals, however, if your card has expired (all fiscal years have been punched at the bottom), a new card is required and the fee is \$3. If you do not have your most recently issued Activity Card or Access Card, the fee is \$25 for a replacement. If you already have an Access Card, there is no charge to renew.

# Join The Honor Roll

## DONATE BLOOD

YOU HAVE GREATER POWERS THAN YOU KNOW.




**On Top of the World**  
**Thursday, June 12**  
**10 am - 3 pm**

Appointments are encouraged. Please visit [oneblood.org/donate-now](https://oneblood.org/donate-now). Or just show up at the bus.

**ID REQUIRED**

\*One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Not-transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information please visit [oneblood.org/details](https://oneblood.org/details).



**\$20 Ecard**

**Blood pressure check**  
**cholesterol screening**  
**pulse, iron count,**  
**temperature.**

**oneblood**  
Share your power.



# June Calendar
























































June 6 is  
National  
Donut Day

## Special Events

- Saturday, June 7 - Food Truck Afternoon, 11 am - 3 pm, East Activity Center Front Parking Lot
- Saturday, June 7, 14, 21, 28 - Farmers Markets, 11 am - 4 pm, East Activity Center Front Parking Lot
- Wednesday, June 11 - Movie Night, 4 pm, “Thelma,” East Activity Center Auditorium (runtime 97 minutes)
- Thursday, June 12 - OneBlood, 10 am - 3 pm, East Activity Center Front Parking Lot
- Thursday, June 12 - Association Board Meeting - 10 am, East Activity Center Auditorium (also Live OTOW-TV 901)
- Wednesday, June 18 - Travel Club Ice Cream Social, 4 - 8 pm, West Activity Center Belleair Room
- Saturday, June 21 - Entertainment Committee Dance - Boomer Band - 7:30 - 10:30 pm, East Activity Center Auditorium
- Thursdays Only - Club Information Tables, 8:30 - 10:30 am, East Activity Center Auditorium
- Extra Association Meetings: June 5 at 1 pm (information only) and June 19 at 1 pm, East Activity Center Auditorium

## Clubs and Groups

-  Art Guild - Board Meeting: No board meeting this month
-  Art Guild - Business Meeting: No business meeting this month
-  Art Guild - Club Meeting: 1-4 pm, Tuesday, June 10, Largo Room
-  Art Guild - Drawing Workshop: None scheduled
-  Art Guild - Painting Pals: 1-4 pm, Wednesdays, room open to club members
-  Art Guild - Acrylic Painting: 1-4 pm, Thursdays, room open to club members
-  Baby Boomers: 5:30-6:30 pm, June 4 | 5:30-6:30 pm, June 19, Largo Room
-  Baby Boomers Acoustic Jam: 10 am-1 pm, Thursdays, Learning Lab
-  Bible Study: 2-3 pm, Fridays, Crystal Beach Room
-  Bingo: Off in June
-  Canadian Club: Off for the summer
-  Caring and Sharing: 9 am-12 pm, Tuesdays, Clearwater Room
-  Chorus: Off until the fall
-  Coloring Book Club: 12-3 pm, Wednesdays, Crystal Beach Room
-  Computer Club: 8:30-10 am, Wednesdays and Saturdays, Learning Lab
-  Democratic Club Board Meeting: 2-4 pm, Thursday, June 26, Crystal Beach Rm
-  Democratic Club Meeting: 2-4 pm, Thursday, June 12, Learning Lab
-  Democratic Club Happy Hour: 6-8 pm, Tuesday, June 24, Learning Lab
-  Entertainment Com. Board: 10:30-11:30 am, Monday, June 9, Crystal Beach
-  Fixers, Fiddlers, Fumblers: No upcoming events
-  Freebirdz Weight Loss Group: 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Fridays, Crystal Beach
-  French Language & Culture: 11 am-12 pm, Wednesdays, Dunedin Room
-  Good Karma Book Club: 10-11:30 am, Thursday, June 19, Crystal Beach Room
-  Good Neighbors Association: No upcoming events
-  High Vibe Tribe: 7-9 pm, Tuesday, June 10, Clearwater Room
-  Irish Club - No upcoming events
-  Italian-American Club - No upcoming events
-  Jesters Board Meeting: No upcoming meetings
-  Jesters Meeting: No upcoming meetings
-  Kibitz Corner: 9-10 am, Mondays and Wednesdays, Clearwater Room
-  Knitting Group: 9-11 am, Wednesdays, Crystal Beach Room
-  Lambda Social: 6-9 pm, Friday, June 13, Oldsmar Room
-  Lambda Chat: 10:30-12, Fridays, Safety Harbor Room
-  Lawn Bowl Club: No upcoming events
-  Music Group: 3-6 pm, Tuesdays, Dunedin Room
-  New York-New Jersey: Off in June
-  Philosophy Club: 10 - 11:30 am, Tuesdays, Crystal Beach Rom
-  Plant-Based Living Club: 3-4 pm, Wednesday, June 11, Learning Lab
-  Pickleball Club Board Meeting: 1-3 pm, Monday, June 16, Crystal Beach
-  Pickleball Club Game Night: 6:30-9:30 pm, Monday, June 16, Belleair Rm
-  Pray For America: 10 am-12 pm, Saturdays, Crystal Beach Room
-  Press Association: No meetings in June or July
-  Republican Club Board Meeting: 6-9 pm, Tuesday, June 3, Belleair Room
-  Republican Club Meeting: 6-9 pm, Tuesday, June 3, Belleair Room
-  Speak English: 10-11 am, Thursdays, Dunedin Room
-  Tennis Club: No upcoming events
-  Texas Card Game Club: Next tournament July 25, Clearwater Room
-  Theater Workshop Board Meeting: Off for summer
-  Theater Workshop Meeting: Off for summer
-  Travel Club Meeting: 2-4 pm, Friday, June 6, Oldsmar Room
-  Veterans Club: No upcoming events
-  World Quilters: 8 am-2 pm, Tuesdays, Largo Room (June 10, 8-12 only)
-  Writer's Ink: 1:30-3:30 pm, Thursdays, Dunedin Room

## Exercises and Games

- Aqua Aerobics: 9-10 am, Mondays through Fridays, EAC Pool

Bonesavers: 8-9 am, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Dunedin Room

Co-Ed Exercises: 10-10:45 am, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Exercise Room

Cornhole: 1-3 pm, Mondays, Belleair Room

Gentle Movement Exercises: 11 am-12 pm, Tuesdays | 3-4 pm, Fridays

Ladies Exercises: 8-9 am, Monday-Friday, Exercise Room

Line Dance Club: 1-3 pm, Tuesdays, Auditorium

Moving 'n Grooving Line Dance: 9-10:45 am, Tuesdays | 1-2:45 pm, Fridays, Auditorium

Qigong: 3-4 pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays, Exercise Room

Slimnastics: 9-10 am, Monday through Friday, Exercise Room

Snowbirds Line Dancing: Off until fall

Social Dance with Howard: 1-3 pm, Thursdays, Belleair Room

Tai Chi Flow: 3:15-4:15 pm, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Exercise Room

Yoga Align and Stretch: 10-11:15 am, Mondays, Belleair Room
- 9 Ladies Golf: 8:30 am, Tuesdays

18 Ladies Golf: 8:30 am, Tuesdays

Billiards 8 ball: 6-10 pm, Mondays and Tuesdays

Billiards: 9 ball: 1-3 pm, Tuesdays and Fridays; 6 - 10 pm, Thursdays;

Billiards Pizza Party: Tuesday, June 24, 4-7 pm, West Activity Center Belleair Room

Mens Golf: 8 am, Wednesdays

Mixed Golf: 9 am, Fridays

Lawn Bowling: 6:15 pm, Mondays and Wednesdays | 9 am, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays

Pickleball: 10 am-1 pm Mon, Wed, Fri | 8-10 am, Tue, Thu, Sat | 5:30-7:30 Tue, Wed, Thu | 9-12 Sundays

Ping Pong: 10-1, Tuesdays-Fridays, Belleair Room

Shuffleboard: 4 pm, Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Softball: 7:45 am, Off untill fall

Tennis: 7:30-10 am, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays | 10-1 Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays
- All-In: 2-4 pm, Wednesday, June 4, Crystal Beach Room (new)

Board Games: 1-3 pm, Wednesdays, Palm Harbor or Belleair Room

Blackout: 6:30-9:30 pm, Thursdays all year, Belleair Room (Canadian Club members)

Bid Euchre: 6:30-9:30 pm, Tuesdays, Crystal Beach Room

Casual Bridge: 1-4 pm, Tuesdays | 9 am-12 pm, Thursdays, Ozona Room

Cribbage: 10 am - 12 pm, Wednesdays, Ozona Room

Dominos: 5:30 - 8 pm, Tuesdays, Ozona Room

Double Deck Pinochle: 1-3:30 pm, Wednesdays and Sundays, Ozona Room

Duplicate Bridge: 11 am - 4 pm, Saturdays, Ozona Room

Ladies Bunco: 6-9:30 pm, Wednesday, June 18, Crystal Beach Room

Mahjong: 1-4 pm, Tuesdays, Fridays, Palm Harbor Room

Mexican Train: 1-5 pm, Thursdays, Safety Harbor Room

Qwirkle: 1-4 pm, Mondays, Dunedin Room

Rummikub: 12:30 - 3:30 pm, Mondays, Ozona Room

Sambda Hand & Foot Canasta: 5:30 - 9:30 pm, Fridays, Ozona Room
- Alonso Poker: 5-8 pm, Wednesdays, Safety Harbor Room

Barry's Poker: 6:30 - 9:30 pm, Mondays and Wednesdays, Ozona Room

Bob's Poker: 6-9:30 pm, Tuesdays, Safety Harbor Room

Carol's Poker: 6-9 pm, Wednesdays and Fridays, Safety Harbor Room

Laura's Poker: 5-9 pm, Fridays, Safety Harbor Room

Richie's Poker: 5-8 pm, Mondays and Wednesdays, Ozona Room

Tom's Poker: 5-9 pm, Wednesdays, Safety Harbor Room

## Building Events

Cordoba Building Social - Sunday, June 1, 4 - 8 pm, Pavilion

Swimming Pools: 8-6:30 Mondays-Saturdays, 9-6:30 Sundays | Woodshop: 8-12 Monday-Friday | Library: 10-12 Mondays & Thursdays, 1-3 Wednesdays





# Suncoast Symphony Orchestra



The Entertainment Committee ended its 2025-26 season by providing residents with a free concert. The Suncoast Symphony Orchestra was here and performed in the Auditorium in front of nearly 300 people. The concert was also televised live on OTOW-TV 901 and will be rebroadcast on Christmas Eve.

(OTOW News  
photos by  
Doug Kates)





# Committee



## There will be one dance each month through September

**By Mary Ann O'Neil**

The Entertainment Committee had another exciting show on May 15. The George Trullinger Variety Show was a great hit.

George performed for us a few years ago and he did not let us down with his repeat performance this year.

We saw a little bit of Buddy Holly, Mick Jagger and, of course, the Blues Brothers.

If you missed this performance, you missed a terrific evening.

Our shows will resume in October with Beatle Maniacs, in November featuring Divas of the '70s and '80s, and our holiday performance in December featuring Voices of Jazz.

So, be sure to stop by the Entertainment Committee information table and purchase your tickets.

In May we were entertained by the band Southshore Cruisers. We have had this band a few times before and they never have let us down. They had us out on the dance floor swinging to the '60s, '70s and '80s songs.

Our Sunday Meet & Greet on May 18 was fun. You may have noticed that some of the horses that were in the Kentucky

Derby stopped by to participate in our races!

After the races, everyone was counting their winnings, along with light refreshments.

We know that a lot of our residents have gone back north for the summer, but we want to assure those of us who are full-time residents that we still have events to attend during the summer months.

We will have a dance every month throughout the summer months, June through September.

Our June 21 dance will feature the Boomer Band. This band has performed for us throughout the years and brings us music from the '60s and beyond.

So, keep your dancing shoes on and come out and support our dances.

Dance tickets are only \$10 per person. Our dances are reserved table seating-BYOB.

We will try to accommodate your party, so get your friends together and reserve your table(s).

If you are having a birthday, why not come by, celebrate with your friends and enjoy an evening of dancing. You can reserve your tables so that everyone is together.

Just a reminder, shorts are not allowed at our dances. This includes both females and males. We would hate to have to ask you to leave.

Starting in June, the Entertainment Committee will post one flyer in each activity center and on building bulletin boards which will list all the dances from June through the end of September.

Having to post only one flyer during the summer months will give our volunteers a well-deserved break.

Please remember that our Halloween Bash (\$15) and New Year's Eve Dance (\$30) are our most popular dances, so do not wait to purchase your tickets. These dances are always sold out, so get your friends together to reserve your table. The earlier you purchase your tickets the better chance you have of selecting the table you want.

During the summer months, the Entertainment Committee will be selling tickets on Thursdays only between 8:30-10:30 a.m. at the East Activity Center Auditorium.

If you have any questions, please call 727-449-9243 or 215-431-4799.

On behalf of the OTOW Entertainment Committee, thank you for your support!

## Entertainment Committee Calendar

### JUNE

21 - Boomer Band (dance), 7:30 pm, \$10

### JULY

19 - Threes Company (dance), 7:30 pm, \$10

### AUGUST

16 - Louie Bravo Trio (dance), 7:30 pm, \$10

No shows June-September, New Year's Eve Ball Wednesday, Dec. 31. More info call 727-449-9243 or 215-431-4799





Each month, OTOW artist Irene Piper will be providing each Pet of the Month winner with a pet portrait based on their submitted photograph. The owner will be contacted when each portrait is finished. If you would like to contact Irene and request your own pet portrait, she is receiving emails at [loislane96@hotmail.com](mailto:loislane96@hotmail.com). Irene does not take the initial photograph. You must submit a photo and she will create the painted portrait based on the picture. Irene also can be reached at 617-921-3272.

# Pet of the Month

## Nico

Hi. I would like to nominate my dog, Nico, for Pet of the Month. His mom and dad are Renee and Robert Mrvos of the Viking building. Nico is a 2 year old Sheepadoodle. He is a very energetic dog with a big heart. He loves everyone and every dog we run into during our many walks. Nico loves to play ball, go swimming at the beach, walk around Dunedin and visit all the farmers markets. Some of the things that make him so unique looking is his coloring. Plus, he has two different color eyes. He is a very loving boy and he completes our family!



Each month, OTOW News will feature a Pet of the Month. Any pets living at On Top of the World are eligible. To enter your pet, email one perfect photo and a brief reason why your pet deserves to be Pet of the Month. Email to [otow.newsroom@gmail.com](mailto:otow.newsroom@gmail.com). You must include your pet's name, owners' names, breed of dog, age of dog and building you live in. You can enter more than one pet per household but they all must be in the same picture. The winning pet each month will receive a portrait for Irene Piper. The newsroom will notify you when your portrait is finished. Each monthly winner then becomes eligible for the State Farm Pet of the Year, which takes place with an online vote each January. Your pet must still be a resident of OTOW on Jan. 1 to be eligible for the State Farm Pet of the Year honors. The State Farm Pet of the Year will be announced in February and gets invited to march in the annual Irish Club Parade.



### Guidelines for Riding the Shuttle Bus

- 1- You MUST have a valid Activity Card and present it to the driver upon entering the bus. The SCA bus service is exclusively for use by Association-approved residents and tenants only. If you do not have a valid Activity Card, you may not ride the shuttle bus.
- 2- Reservations are REQUIRED - please call (727) 799-3417 Option 7 no later than 1:00 pm the day prior to your planned trip. Monday's trip deadline is 1:00 pm Friday. Please be present in the care of your building at your scheduled pick-up time.
- 3- Stoppage time is 1.0 hours for grocery stores and 2.0 hours for Countryside Mall. Those going to Sunset Point 19 Plaza will have approximately 90 minutes to shop. Shopping time begins when you are dropped off at the destination.
- 4- Although appreciated, the driver is prohibited from accepting gifts or tips.
- 5- The driver may not assist you with entering or exiting the bus, or with your packages. Please do not ask him to do so.
- 6- The start time listed is when the shuttle bus departs the Community Service Office. The pick-up schedule will rotate weekly between low and high buildings, meaning one week pick-up will start with the lower-numbered buildings, the following week it will start with the higher-numbered buildings.
- 7- Seats are not assigned. They are first come - first served.
- 8- Seat belts must be fastened during bus movement and must remain fastened until the bus comes to a complete stop.
- 9- Eating, drinking, smoking, vaping, fighting, distracting the driver, or any other unacceptable actions at the discretion of the driver are strictly prohibited on the bus. Violation of the above may result in your bus privileges being revoked.
- 10- All route changes are at the discretion of Management.

## Bus Schedule June

SCA - OTOW Shuttle Bus  
NC - Neighborly Car Bus

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	SHOP	BUS
Mondays	10:00 AM	Publix	1 hour	NC
Tuesdays	No Rides			
Wednesdays	10:00 AM	Walmart	1 hour	NC
Thursdays	10:00 AM	Walmart	1 hour	SCA Shuttle
Fridays	10:00 AM	Aldi	1 hour	NC

For next day reservations, please call before 1 p.m.  
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# On Top of the World News

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Publisher: Kenneth Colen

Editor: Doug Kates

Press Association President Tom Butcher   Vice President Donna Gagnon   Secretary Joanne Cordes

On Top of the World News - 2069 World Parkway Boulevard East, Clearwater, FL.,33763  
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On Top of the World News is located at 2069 World Parkway Boulevard East, Clearwater, Fla., 33763. The office phone is 727-799-3216. The newspaper and advertising rate sheet are available by visiting the Box Office website and clicking the link for downloading the current newspaper. Look for the rate sheet icon. Past editions of OTOW News are also available on the same website. Each edition is uploaded about the first of each month.

### Proofreaders This Edition

Joanne Cordes  
Donna Gagnon  
Lynn Taecker  
Mary Lou Wall  
Pat Hayes

## Around The World

SECTION ONE	SECTION TWO	SECTION THREE
1: Billiards 1: Association Board Report 3: Ken Colen 4-5: Dessa Barabba 7: Flamenco 8: Nancy Rogers 9: Community Calendar 10-11: Entertainment Committee 12: Pet of the Month 12: Community Bus Schedule 14: Good Neighbors Association 15: Is It Legal - Jerry Colen 18: Food Truck Night 18: Movie Night 20: Honor Flight 52	21: Friday Mixed Golf 21: High Vibe Tribe 22: Republican Club 23: Baby Boomers 23: Plant-Based Living Club 24: Texas Card Game Club 25: New York-New Jersey Club 26: Travel Club 26: Theater Workshop 27: Democratic Club 28: French Culture Society 29: Computer Club 29: Lambda 30: Moving 'n Grooving 31: Writer's Ink 31: New Exercise Class - KABOOM! 32-35: Sports 36: Around The Bay	37: Casa Verde 37: French Renaissance II 38: 25 Years Ago 38: Bohemia 39: Rural French 39: Swedish Traditional 40: Yoshimitsu 40: Englander 42: Austrian Alpine 42: Granada 44: Butcher Block 45: Science of Cooking 46: Vienesse Villa 48: New World French 48: Valencia 49: Bonnie Mack 50: Dorado 50: Fujiwara 51: Melbourne 52: Classifieds 52: Puzzles 52: New Library Books 52: Good Karma Book Club

East Activity Center Ground Floor

East Activity Center First Floor

East Activity Center Second Floor

West Activity Center

Pavilion Park

### East and West Activity Centers Room Maps

### EAC Pavilion Park Grill Map

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Community Service Office  
727-683-6981  
Activities Office  
727-799-2734

Water Turn-On/Water Turn-Off  
727-799-3417 Option 6  
Emergency After Hours/Weekends  
727-799-1115

### Association Board Members

Chairperson Diane Like, Vice Chair Dave Kelly, Treasurer David Everett, Secretary Russell Bolin  
Mike Elza, Janet Hooper, Les Meneilly, Dale Prunoske



# Get Acquainted Coffee will be back in September with Carla Hines



By Sue Trost

Good Neighbors Association hosted our last Get Acquainted Coffee for the summer on Thursday, May 8 and the featured performer was Tony Orifici.

It was a great performance to finish out our season.

Our next Get Acquainted Coffee will be on Thursday, Sept. 11, from 9-11 a.m. Our entertainment will be none other than our own Carla Hines who has provided us with her amazing singing performances in the past.

She will be such a great performer to kickoff our 2025-2026 year. Hope to see all of you there.

Our club's next Food & Clothing Drive will be held on Friday, Oct. 10. More details to follow in the following months.

Our next fall social will be Music Bingo, which is coming back due to overwhelming requests for us to do this again. This will be held on Saturday, Oct. 18 and tickets will be on sale starting in August.



Wishing everyone a safe and healthy summer and please try to stay cool!

Tony Orifici performed live during the final Get Acquainted Coffee of the winter season.

(OTOW News photo by Doug Kates)



## Music Bingo

Coming on Oct. 18 to the EAC Auditorium

Tickets are \$13 per person and includes a hot dog meal.

Mark your calendars!  
Be back by Oct. 18!

1

26

41

13

7

Tickets sold 8:30-10:30 am  
at Good Neighbors  
information table on  
Thursdays over the summer

## Are the hours at the Community Service Office out of sync with your busy lifestyle?

## Let's try something a little different!

**Your Community Service Office will be open on Saturday, June 21 from 8:00 to 12:00 to assist you!**

*Get your Activity Card or Access Card, or pick up an application or form.*





# Just because it says ‘push’ - don’t push it!

Scam Alert: I am getting anywhere from 4 to 5 texts every day warning me that social security checks are being stopped, or this disaster is happening or that calamity will take place, blah, blah, etc., etc.

All I have to do is donate to this cause or that one or who knows what.

I am 100 percent positive that most of you have received the same or similar messages. Block and delete them, or just delete them, but DO NOT REPLY.

Most of these are true phishing scams. Some may not be actual scams but even so, once you contribute, they’ve got you!

Delete, delete and delete.

There are three words with which I want you to be familiar. Three wonderful words:

“BLOCK” “DELETE” “NO”

Block scam texts and emails.

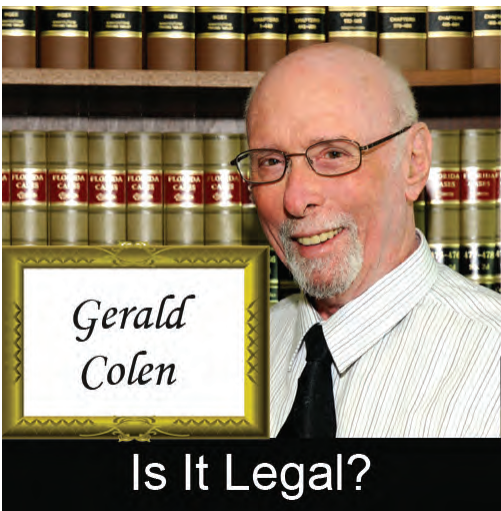
Delete scam texts and emails.

Say NO to texts and emails, (OR to anyone) asking for money.

NO is such a wonderful word, easy to spell, easy to say. It works for scams, even for children and grandchildren.

Scam Alert: How about this one!

A few days ago, I was on a website and all of a sudden, without any warn-



ing, a pop up ad appeared on my computer. It said my computer was infected by some virus (or whatever) and it was terribly harmful. All I had to do was click on a link that was right there and my problems would be solved.

One thing I never ever do is click ANYWHERE on a pop up ad. And I didn’t. Instead, I shut down my computer — “Control, Alt, Delete.”

I’m technologically challenged. I admit it. I do know that Control, Alt, Delete was the wrong way to shut down my computer, but I didn’t have one of my grandchildren around to look at me with pity, so I shut it down the way I knew how and hit restart. That took care of

the problem.  
The pop up ad was gone.  
Look here! If you ever receive a pop up ad that just suddenly appears on your computer screen, it is always, always, always a scam. No exceptions.  
Do whatever you have to do to get rid of it immediately. It is a scam!

Q. You seem fixated on scams. Do you think that we are not educated enough, or not smart enough to be able to handle them?

A. Well, I don’t know about you, but I’m not even close to being educated enough or smart enough to protect myself from being scammed.

Scammers are more and more sophisticated and intelligent enough to fool anyone.

I’ve recently learned from a seminar put on by the office of the Florida Attorney General’s office, that many scammers hire psychologists to teach them how to engage with folks who resist them or who might be skeptics.

Scamming is a multi-billion dollar industry. Yes, an industry. And, over the years, I’ve had several clients who’ve lost thousands upon thousands of dollars to phishing with the worst of all, being romance scams.

So, yeah. I am fixated on scams.

Q. Do you talk just the same way as you write?  
A. Yeah. But I cuss a lot, too.

(Jerry Colen, Rachel Wagoner and John Beck are law partners in Colen & Wagoner, P.A. Jerry and Rachel are members of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, and the Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys. John has a master’s degrees in taxation, accounting and a degree in finance. The law firm practices in the areas of wills, trusts, probate, real estate, elder law, asset protection for business and professionals. This column does not, nor is it intended to, provide legal advice to anyone. You should not rely on what is written in this column to be legal advice for any situation, even if it appears similar to an issue you face. You should always consult with your own attorney for legal advice. The law offices of Colen and Wagoner, P.A. is located at 1756 North Belcher Road, Clearwater, FL, 33765 and in Suite 11 at Circle Square Commons across from the ice cream shop. Phone numbers in Ocala and in Clearwater are (727) 545-8114. Our website is [www.colenwagoner.com](http://www.colenwagoner.com). For more information, send an email to [Info@colenwagoner.com](mailto:Info@colenwagoner.com).)

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# Press Association officers ready to go another round

Press Association officers are having so much fun, they decided to sign up for another term!

At the Press Association monthly meeting in May, On Top of the World News Editor Doug Kates swore in officers for the 2025-26 season.

Tom Butcher remains as president, Donna Gagnon as vice president and Joanne Cordes as secretary.

"Several changes are being made to bring more news to our residents and it's a good thing that I get to keep three wonderful officers for another term," Doug said.

At the May meeting, about 20 staffers were on hand and they talked about how to get more people to club meetings. Ideas were thrown out about meeting on a different day, earlier in the morning or even at night, but no matter what ideas were thrown out there, changing the date or time didn't seem to solve anything.

So, Doug suggested a different idea - a change of scenery.

Doug proposed holding the Aug. 7 Press Association meeting at Eggs Up Grill in Clearwater - one of this newspaper's sponsors. The invitation actually came from the breakfast/lunch restaurant. Management said we could come after normal closing (2 p.m.) and hold our meeting at their place.

Everyone at the May meeting agreed, so a new tentative change of location will take place. Staffers are asked to meet for lunch, 2 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 7 at Eggs Up Grill.

Next, Doug talked about a tradition halted a few years ago. The Press Association used to hold a Kick Off the New Year Luncheon for its January



OTOW News Editor Doug Kates, right, swears in the Press Association officers for the 2025-26 season. From left to right are Secretary Joanne Cordes, President Tom Butcher and Vice President Donna Gagnon. All three are returning for another term.

(OTOW News photo by Mary Lou Wall)

monthly meeting. That event ended with COVID.

Doug asked if anyone wants to bring it back. He said staffers had a great time at his 200th newspaper party at the Varsity Club and suggested holding the January meeting there in its reserved room. A majority of staffers said yes to the idea, so the January 2026 meeting has been tentatively set for 1:30 p.m. at the Varsity Club.

There will be no staff meetings in June, July or September.

The Oct. 2 meeting will be in the Crystal Beach Room and the Nov. 6 meeting will be the annual Writers Workshop in the East Activity Center Auditorium. Everyone on staff should

be at this meeting - veteran staffers, new staffers and anyone who will become a staffer for a club or building during the 2025-26 season.

The Press Association staff has been invited to join the Italian-American Club, Travel Club and Canadian Club for an afternoon brunch at Tampa Bay Downs on Feb. 27. Cost is \$45, which includes a race program.

Lunch includes a main course, sides and dessert. Transportation is not included.

Doug said if enough staffers want to participate, he will confirm our reservation with the other clubs.

Next, Doug talked about the need to bring in more advertising and to support the advertisers we currently

have in each edition.

Restaurants, car dealerships and medical offices are all welcome. Doug encouraged staffers that when they visit a favorite restaurant to mention to management that they should be in OTOW News.

But at the same time, our residents need to support those businesses already in our newspaper so they continue to advertise.

Lastly, there are some people on staff who do not have our official OTOW News green collared shirt (shown above). If you would like to purchase one, please send Doug an email by June 30 stating size required. Shirts were about \$22 the last time an order was placed.

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Food Truck  
Night  
May 14

At Food Truck Night on May 14, Cousins Maine Lobster and Ms. Wanda’s Soul Food were two new food trucks to our community.  
(OTOW News photos by Doug Kates)



Food Truck Saturday

11 am - 3 pm, June 7



- Texas Toast French Toast
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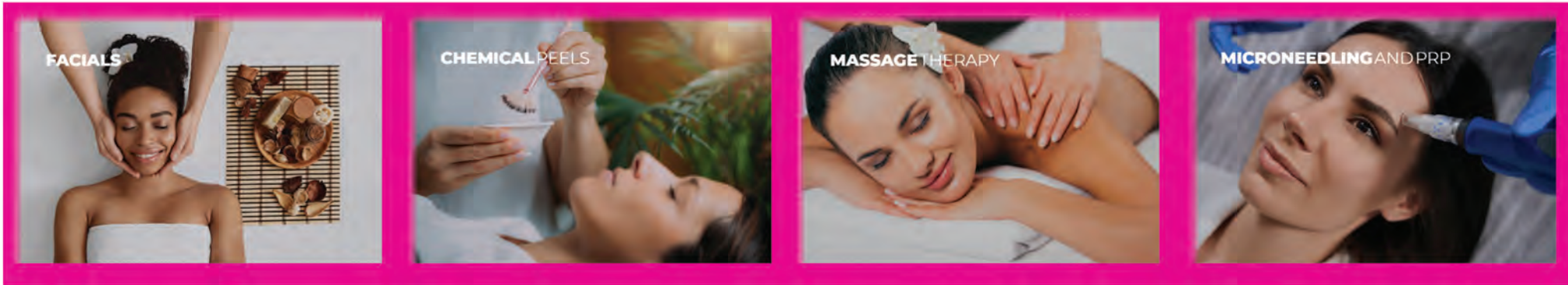
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# Honor Flight 52 April 16, 2025



Sidney Kaye received dozens of thank you cards during mail call on the flight home. This one particular card hit a soft spot.

By Terri Mikszenas

On April 15, 10 veterans from On Top of the World took part in a deeply meaningful journey - Honor Flight of West Central Florida's Mission 52.

This special trip to Washington, D.C., was designed to honor our veterans by giving them the opportunity to visit memorials dedicated to their sacrifices - completely free of charge.

Representing OTOW with pride and dignity were: James Ampela, Willy Burt, Philip Clinton, Steven Dukes, Sally Herman, Irving Hernandez, Sidney Kaye, Robert Kelly, Henry Santos and Norman Whitten.

Accompanying the veterans were OTOW's selfless volunteer guardians Jerry Esposito, Faith McMahon, Mendy Payne, and Holden Kelly, the grandson of veteran Robert Kelly.

The presence of each guardian made the day even more impactful, ensuring that their veteran was cared for, encouraged and lifted throughout the mission.

The day began early as OTOW guardian drivers and volunteer Keith Elder escorted our veterans to the St. Petersburg-Clearwater Airport. WFLA Channel 8 news interviewed Norm Whitten about his expectations for the day and his interview aired locally for two consecutive days.

Mission 52 included 75 veterans from West Central Florida. Among them were three sets of brothers, a father/son duo, and a married couple - all veterans. The oldest participant was a true WWII hero at the age of 101 years.

During their time at the nation's capital, many veterans were approached by tourists offering heartfelt thanks for their service. Some even had an opportunity to shake hands and chat with former Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, who was there to greet the Honor Flight veterans.

OTOW Veteran Henry Santos said he was surprised to learn Honor Flight was a nationwide organization, not just a Florida initiative. In fact, there are 128 National Honor Flight hubs serving 46 states. Flights have transported more than 317,000 veterans to Washington, DC, since the organization began in 2005.

Our local chapter, Honor Flight of West Central Florida, was established in 2010 and has flown more than 3700 veterans.

"Once we landed in Baltimore, we were welcomed by the local firefighters with a water salute from their fire engines, one on each side of the plane," said OTOW Veteran Sally Herman. "Then off to our busses. There were three busses - red, white and blue.

"First stop was the World War II Veterans Memorial. Was so large and beautiful. Our next stop was a tour around the Lincoln Memorial, Korean Wall of Remembrance, which was outstanding with all the life size soldiers and faces on the wall. Next was the very moving Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Most of the veterans who were with us served in this war.

"Next stop was to Arlington National Cemetery. There, we got to see the cherry trees in bloom. Then we got to see the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It was a sight not easily forgotten."

At the Vietnam War Memorial, some veterans looked for names of their friends and comrades engraved in stone. Others walked along the black granite wall reflecting and remembering.

After a day of reflection, our heroes boarded their plane home unaware rest wasn't yet in sight. To their surprise, they were each handed red backpacks filled with cards and letters from OTOW residents and loved ones. OTOW volunteers Sue Pall, Terri Fefer, Betty Spoerl, Linda Faust and others organized the card-writing events and collected more than 1,100 notes of appreciation. State Farm-Pam Leonard Williams donated the backpacks.

Upon landing in Clearwater, Sally Herman and the other veterans were told their guardians would be carrying their gear off the plane. Sally didn't know why until she saw the crowd in the airport that greeted them.

"My hands had to be free to shake hands and receive tokens from all the hundreds of people there waiting to welcome all of us veterans home," Sally said. "It was a very moving experience, one I won't forget."

Honor Flight was created in part because many veterans came home to nothing - no gatherings, no ceremonies, no thank yous. Honor Flight truly is a second chance to say thank you. The efforts of our veterans are so appreciated, and the expressions of gratitude in each card they received are indicative of the respect our community has for our heroes, their service and sacrifice.



From left to right, (1) Sally Herman poses at The Three Servicemen Statue dedicated to the strength, vulnerability and unity of our active service members. (2) Willy Burt (right) is greeted by retired US Army 4-Star General Lloyd Austin, who was in Washington just to greet the veterans. He is also a former Secretary of Defense. (3) Henry Santos and Philip Clinton pose outside the Arlington National Cemetery Amphitheater. (4) David Dukes and guardian Stephen Taylor stand in front of the Washington Monument.



# ACTIVITY REPORTS



## Bill Whipps wins championship honors

By Sheryl A. Barbin

The Championship Season for the Friday Mixed Golf League ended on April 25. Our league champion is Bill Whipps, who ranked first with 45 points.

The leaderboard consists of 10 spots. Other top 10 finishers were as follows:

Jack Patterson (44 points), Ada Maloof (41 points), Fred McAndrew and John Maloof (39 points), Roger Shockley and Joe Wisinski (38 points), Sue Beals (37 points), and Paul Cairns and Kyong No (36 points).

Our last tournament of the season was a 6-6-6 Tournament on April 11. The tournament consists of best ball scoring on holes 1-6, pure alternate shot scoring on holes 7-12, and a scramble format on holes 13-18.

Fifty-eight players participated.

First Place in the tournament went to Ada Maloof and John Maloof with 51 points. Second place went to Roger Shockley and Paul Cairns with 52 points. Third place went to Joyce Majewski and Barb Moon with 52.5 points.

Fourth place went to Sheryl Barbin and Sue Beals with 52.5 points. Fifth place went to Harry Barbin and Deb Young with 54.5 points. Sixth place went to Kyong No and Darilyn Bedel with 55.5 points.

Seventh place went to Warren Levine and Verna Lundgren with 56 points. Eighth place went to Andy Watson and Bill Holland with 56.5 points. Ninth place went to Bruce MacPherson and Karen Oshona with 56.5 points. Tenth place went to David Johnson and Joan Smith with 57 points.

All ties were broken by a match of cards.

Closest-to-the-pin on hole No. 3 went to Len Picone and David Baldwin, hole No. 5 to Rick Muchler and Paul Meyers, hole No. 6 to Art Reilly and Gary Piccoli, hole No. 9 to Ada Maloof and John Maloof, hole No. 13 to Bill Higgins and Jack Patterson, hole No. 15 to Len Picone and David Baldwin, and Hole No. 16 to Bill Lucci and Robin

### Friday Mixed



### Golf League

Hendricks.

Skins were awarded on hole No. 1 to Mike Tomaselli and Fred Peace (eagle), hole No. 5 to David Saccone and Bill Whipps, hole No. 7 to Rick Muchler and Paul Meyers, hole No. 8 to Bob Beals and Mike Lucas, hole No. 9 to John Spencer and Don Hahs, hole No. 11 to Greg Basheda and Edmund Molina, hole No. 12 to David Johnson and Joan Smith, and hole No. 17 to Rick Muchler and Paul Meyers (eagle).

#### Results for Friday, April 25

We had 48 players on a beautiful Florida day.

First place went to Sheryl Barbin with a plus-9, second place to Bill Houser with a plus-6 and third place to Joe Wisinski with a plus-5.

Fourth-place went to Jack Patterson with a plus-5, fifth place to David Saccone with a plus-6, sixth place to Len Picone with a plus-4, seventh place to Joe Ventimiglia with a plus-4, and eighth place to Andy Polselli with a plus-3.

All ties were broken by a match of cards.

Closest-to-the-pin and hole Nos. 3 and 9 went to Andy Polselli, hole No. 5 to Joe Wisinski, hole No. 6 to Barb Moon, hole No. 13 to Bob Beals, hole



Bill Whipps - 2025 League Champion

No. 15 to Sheryl Barbin, and hole No. 16 to David Johnson.

Skins were awarded on hole No. 8 to Len Picone (eagle) and hole No. 13 to Bob Beals.

Low Gross went to Joe Wisinski for a 68 and 33 points. Nice round Joe!

Even though the championship season is over, summer and fall golf continues May through October.

For more information about our league, please contact Harry Barbin at 215-514-1280 or email him at HarryBarbin1@gmail.com.

## Learn about eye movement therapy at the next High Vibe meeting in June

By Laurie LeClaire

I received an inspired, excited phone call from resident Bill Houser in April.

He was excited about healing topics, especially after having read two books written by Dr. Sue Morter.

The books were entitled: "The Energy Codes" and "108 Ways to Embody Your Magnificence."

Bill also participated in Dr Sue's three-day seminar entitled "Heal Yourself. Heal the World" and got inspired by her insistence that an inner peace can be achieved by "opening up a trap door from the conscious mind to the subconscious" and relieving the traumas of our past.

Shortly after attending the seminar,



Bill was researching at the Clearwater library and discovered a fabulous

therapy, not new, called Eye Movement Desensitization Programming (EMDP).

Eye movement therapy is a tremendously effective way to open the trap door and relieve tension caused by injuries, both physical and mental, and leave an individual much happier and healthier.

With so much excitement and desire to share what he learned, Bill plans to do a presentation at our Tuesday, June 10, class.

The presentation will include a personal story of Linda Crampton, a discussion about Vietnam and the first use of the term post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and a discussion of the strong possibility that each of us has

trauma stored in the subconscious.

Bill plans to share his own personal story. He will share insights gathered from studying with the discoverer of eye movement therapy, Dr Francine Shapiro, PhD.

So on Tuesday, June 10, we welcome Bill as a guest speaker to our metaphysical society.

Our group is open to all residents of On Top of the World. It meets monthly on the second Tuesday evening in the East Activity Center in the Clearwater/Kitchen Room from 7-9 p.m.

Questions? You can email Laurie LeClaire at otowoowoo@gmail.com.



# Republican Club waits until late April to have a celebration picnic



By Jesse Tiamson

The Ronald Reagan Republican Club of On Top of the World held its first picnic of the year on April 27 at the Pavilion.

More than 60 members celebrated a very upbeat time to “paint the town red.” The picnic followed the long task of getting eligible, independent, and non-affiliated voters to register as Republicans and get people out to vote. In 2024 we held rallies at every opportunity.

Much thanks goes to the outgoing leadership of this club, President Carl Turner, and the help of the many volunteers who waved flags at rallies, on street corners and at flag-waving boat rides. We handed out voters’ guides on



More than 60 people attended a Republican Club picnic in late April. There was food, music and singing.

election day itself.

With planning from Vice President David DiNardo, Treasurer Karen Tatge and Secretary Louanne Feist, along with Jesse Tiamson, Bill Houser and Tom Huffman, we were able to make the 2024-25 season a complete success.

“Mr. Fun,” Bill Houser, brought his keyboard to the picnic and volunteered to provide the music and singing.

Jesse was the emcee and we got the Pavilion rockin’ and rollin’ to everyone’s hearts content.

Food included beef and chicken fajitas with all the trimmings, nachos with guacamole, queso, salsa, cerveza Corona, and margarita drinks.

Although we anticipated about 30 people coming out on this sunny day, more than 60 people attended with their Republican friends and guests.

And we never ran out of food!

Many members brought other side dishes and salads, and we filled a whole table with desserts of all kinds.

As a matter of fact, at the end of the meal, we had so much leftovers that we handed out to-go containers, thanks to Karen’s foresight.

Now it is time to rest on our laurels until the upcoming mid-term elections.

## Fifth of July party for club members

The Ronald Reagan Republican Club will be hosting a Fifth of July fun-raiser, (yes, you read that correctly!) picnic and dance at the Pavilion from 1-5 p.m.

This will be a barbecue with hot dogs and ham-

burgers. Live music will be provided by our favorite one-man band, Mr. Fun!

Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share.

A \$5 donation will help raise money for future

events.

Come join the fun, raise money for the club and celebrate! Don’t forget your dancing shoes.

For more information please contact Debbie Russell at [debruss11@gmail.com](mailto:debruss11@gmail.com) or call 727-515-8211.

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# You know the Boomers are a fun group when even the cast of shows want to pose with us



By Dianne Dvorak

In April, several residents in our Baby Boomers group headed to TheatreFor to see "Meteor Shower," a wacky play written by Steve Martin.

First of all, this intimate theater is nearby with only 50 seats, but the talent is far from small. It is hard to imagine such professional directing, producing and acting talent for such a reasonable ticket price in such a small and intimate venue at 1863 N Highland Ave, Clearwater.

Meteor Shower is a play influenced by absurd minds, a style that explores the idea that life isn't always logical or predictable. It was hysterical, puzzling and entertaining - just like the writer, Steve Martin, that "wild and crazy guy."

For some of us, this was the third time we've enjoyed TheatreFor.

For those who would like to volunteer their time and talents, TheatreFor is looking for assistance as well. They have a busy schedule of productions planned for the 2025-2026 season and you can check them out online at [www.TheatreFor.com](http://www.TheatreFor.com) for information and tickets.

It's rewarding and fun to support local theater and it's worth checking out.

Several of the oldtimers in the Baby Boomers group leave for the summer months, but the group continues its meetings with less people attending, of course. We are hopeful the regular



Boomers are joined by three of the four actors in the show 'Meteor Shower.'

fulltimers and new members will carry the torch.

Bowling and biking will continue as usual if people in the group come to meetings and/or continue to post online messages and show up.

Getting the word out is important while the usual organizers are away.

Casual bowling takes place at Maple Lanes at 10 a.m. (be there at 9:50 to meet up near the cashier) on Mondays when games are \$1.50. It's freaking hot outside so should be a real winner!

There are no league sign ups or expenses. Just come when you can or want to bowl. No pressure. The fun part is trying to knock down 100 pins in 10 frames.

This is open to anyone, nonmem-

bers are welcome, of course.

The Entertainment Committee's New Year's Eve Dance at the East Activity Center is selling quickly. The Baby Boomers have already reserved three tables: 25, 26 and 27. If you want to be near us, we encourage you to get tickets nearby. It's a ways off, but those tickets are going pretty quickly, as they do every year.

Many On Top of the World residents have joined the Baby Boomers over time and recently. We have no officers or dues and we rely on ideas in meetings and postings in our Google email to keep us active. We tend to act and think young, so if you are Generation X ... please join us. No one or group or committee runs this show. In this me-

nagerie, it's up to all of us to run the show.

Come to a Baby Boomers meeting the first Wednesday and/or the third Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the Largo Room in the East Activity Center. It's a great way to find out what is happening around town while enjoying local shows at OTOW, bowling, biking, golfing, enjoying music, playing our ukes, going to karaoke, and meeting new people.

Many of us have found the best of friends and partners through this group. This is our third act in our play of life, so let's make the most of it. Have a great June, y'all!

# Could grilled carrots someday replace hot dogs as an American favorite food?



By Kathy Brumbaugh

Just how dangerous is animal protein to our health?

Processed meats are classified as Type 1 carcinogens. All animal proteins are acid forming which makes it detrimental to kidney function. This is because animal protein tends to have higher levels of sulfur-containing amino acids, such as methionine, which produce sulfuric acid.

On the other hand, fruits and vegetables, base-inducing foods, are alkalizing which helps neutralize acids in our kidneys.

Dietary acid load is determined by the balance of acid-inducing foods (such as meats, eggs and cheese) and base-inducing foods (such as fruits and vegetables).

Based on Dr. Michael Greger's study on "How Not To Die," this advice is given:

"If people are unwilling to reduce



Valerie Martin demonstrates making carrot dogs while members of the Plant-Based Living Club observe.

(OTOW News photo by Mary Lou Wall)

their animal protein consumption, they should be encouraged to eat more fruit and vegetables to balance out that acid load."

The Plant-Based Living Club at On Top of the World enjoyed a demonstration by Valerie Martin on carrot dogs. The carrots are cooked on a grill and could very well become a new American favorite.

Michelle Hammerton shared two

types of delicious plant-based cheeses, one made from walnuts and the other cheese made from cashews.

I shared a recipe for chocolate mousse made entirely from tofu and cacao, sweetened lightly with pure maple syrup.

The 16 members in attendance at our May meeting all agreed that carnivores, or meat-eaters, would enjoy all of our plant-based delicacies, too.

For information on our club, visit [OTOWboxoffice.com](http://OTOWboxoffice.com) or email me at [kbrumbaugh51@gmail.com](mailto:kbrumbaugh51@gmail.com).

Also, see [nutritionfacts.org](http://nutritionfacts.org) and/or [VeganSalvation.com](http://VeganSalvation.com) for the many benefits of eating plant-based foods.

Our next meeting is June 11 in the West Activity Center Learning Lab. Please join us to discuss processed foods.



# Three split awards at ‘Good Thursday’ tournament

By Joe DeChiaro

Due to the Good Friday holiday; our Texas Card Game Club poker tournament in April was moved up a day. Unfortunately, only 12 players attended.

Almost everyone made the final table, but in the end, only three players finished in the prize pool agreeing to divide their reward evenly.

The next tournament will be held on Friday, July 25, at 6 p.m. in the East Activity Center Kitchen/Clearwater Room.

Please remember to update your activity card in June before attending the July tournament.

For more information on tournament participation and rules, please send an email to joegdechiaro@yahoo.com.



At the final table are, left to right, Joe DeChiaro, Mark Manns and Judy Mitchell.

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# Carla Hines is coming back in July and so are the strawberries

By Pat Hayes

The New York-New Jersey Club started its summer party series with a bang in May!

A crowd joined us for entertainment by Scott McParland of Frontline and pizza from Verrazzano's Pizza.

Thanks to Scott for getting everyone on their feet to dance. A good time was had by all.

We look forward to Scott's return engagement in October for Sports Shirt Night. Cost will be a mere \$10.

Sitting home on Tuesday nights over the summer? Please reconsider.

Come join the New York-New Jersey Club for the following summer events:

On Tuesday, July 15, the New York-New Jersey Club will bring back Carla Hines for Dessert Night.

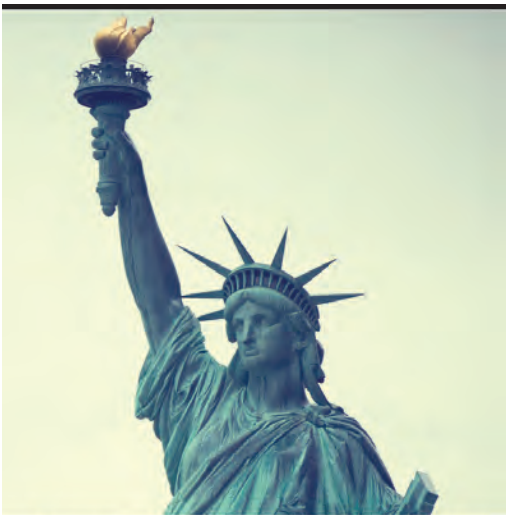
Carla will be singing for us at 6 p.m. in the East Activity Center Auditorium.

Carla is the lead vocalist for the trio band "In Perspective." Her performances focus on the motown sound and the best music from the '60s and '70s. We will be serving fresh strawberries on pound cake with whipped cream. Of course, we will serve coffee, water and ice.

On Tuesday, Aug. 12, the New York-New Jersey Club will host New York Block Party Night at 5 p.m. in the Auditorium. Cost is \$10.

This evening will feature New York-style dirty water hot dogs, beans, chips dessert, coffee, water and ice. We are pleased to announce Frank Lebano from Brooklyn will be our host DJ.

On Tuesday, Oct. 7, our club will host Sports Shirt Night at 5 p.m. in the Auditorium. Cost is \$18.



New York - New Jersey Club

Come out wearing your favorite sports shirt or hat! We will serve Felice's Italian Catering pork subs with pasta salad. Your choice of sausage and peppers, meatball parmigiana, chicken parmigiana, Italian (Godfather), tuna or turkey and swiss cheese.

The DJ will be Scott McParland. After dinner will feature "Desserts by Lou." Coffee, water and ice will be provided.

On Tuesday, Dec. 9, the New York-New Jersey Club will host Ugly Christmas Sweater Party Night. The cost is \$28. Frank Lebano will be the guest DJ. Our menu will be announced later.

Thank you to all of our club volunteers who help at all of our events. If you would like to volunteer, stop by our information table on Thursday mornings and say hello. Our club is already hard at work planning 2026, so feel free to make suggestions for future events.

## New York-New Jersey Club

### Dessert Night

Tuesday, July 15, 6-8 pm

East Activity Center Auditorium

Carla Hines in Concert!

**Strawberry Shortcake**

Tickets on sale 8:30-10:30 am, Mondays and Thursdays, EAC Auditorium



\$10





The New York-New Jersey Club hosted Pizza Night in May and as you can see, residents loved every bite.

(OTOW News photos by Mary Lou Wall)



## Association Annual Meeting, Thursday, June 12, 10 am, EAC Auditorium

If you cannot make the meeting, watch live on OTOW-TV channel 901 or on the Box Office



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# Two more Lunch Bunches in June and then time to rest before fall



By Tom Chalupka

After a remarkably busy first half of the year, the On Top of the World Travel Club is starting to wind down for the summer months.

We will shut down for the months of July and August, but we still have a few events in June for sale.

In June we will still staff our information table on Thursdays only in the East Activity Center Auditorium from 8:30 until 10 a.m. and have our monthly meeting on Friday, June 6, in the EAC Oldsmar Room.

Also in June, we are having a Lunch Bunch on Tuesday, June 3, at Dimitri's on the Water in Tarpon Springs.

We will meet for breakfast on June 13 at Egg's Up Grill and our last event will be an Ice Cream Social in the West Activity Center Bellair Room on June 18.

In May we started selling tickets to events that we have planned for the second half of 2025 and beginning of 2026.

We will return to our normal sched-



Travel Club members enjoy breakfast at Eggs Up Grill in Clearwater. If this looks like fun, the club will be doing it again on June 13.

ule of selling tickets at the information tables on Thursday, Sept. 4, and then Mondays and Thursday thereafter.

Our first monthly meeting of the fall will be on Friday, Sept. 5, at 2 p.m. in the EAC Oldsmar Room.

To get a jump on fall activities, we have for sale a monthly lunch at Diesel Garage Grill & Bar on Tuesday, Sept. 9.

Our first fall trip will be a private tour of the Dali Museum on Sept. 17 followed by lunch at Doc Ford's on the St Petersburg Pier.

We will end the month with a five-day trip to Charleston, S.C.

In October we will have lunch at Bahama Breeze on Wednesday, Oct. 9, and we will be going by bus to Solomon's Castle for a tour and lunch at The Boat on the Moat café at the castle on Wednesday, Oct. 22.

We are also selling tickets now to our annual Christmas Party on Thursday, Dec. 11 and Tampa Downs on Friday, Feb., 27. The trip to Tampa Downs is a joint event with the OTOW Italian-

American Club, which includes your admission, lunch in the clubhouse and a program. A fun-filled way to begin 2026.

For more information on these trips, please stop by our information tables in the EAC.

On Sept. 4 we will announce and start selling tickets for more events for 2025 and the start of 2026. We hope that everyone has a great, safe summer and remember our motto: "We're Going Places."

# New Theater Workshop board ready to start 2025-26 season

By Maxine Sutcliffe

As Theater Workshop moves on from its success show "Derby Daze," it's an ideal time to "meet your board" for the upcoming season.

The 2025-26 board members will be selecting and supporting the director of our next show, which is March 2026.

Spring Shorten, president of Theater Workshop, is commencing her second term as president, having previously served as assistant secretary.

Spring is passionate about our veterans. While in Orlando, she volunteers to cook meals at Fisher House.

Veterans and their families stay there during treatments at the local veterans hospital.

"I find this very rewarding," Spring said.

"On Top of the World has been my home for four years and I have made many good friends. I love playing pinochle, swimming, jigsaw puzzles, sewing and bingo, of which I am also club president."

Sue Booth, is the vice president of Theater Workshop. She has been a member of the Theater Workshop club for the past three years.

Although she enjoyed her working career, she now enjoys keeping busy during retirement. Joining Theater Workshop has been an adventure in acting. She's been finding abilities that she didn't know she had and enjoys working with people who want to enjoy life to their fullest potential.

Jane Wolf is the Theater Workshop secretary.

"This October will be 11 years of calling On Top of the World home and in November my husband and I will celebrate our 19th wedding anniversary," Jane said.

Jane started as assistant secretary and as a backstage volunteer helped costume changing for the show "Oceans Away."

At first, Jane was ready to try anything, but only offstage. But in the next show, "OTOW Talent Across the States," in addition to helping with scenery, she was persuaded to participate in dancing. She ended up dancing on stage five times.



From left to right are Candace Bolin, Jane Wolf, Spring Shorten and Judi Linick. They will be leading Theater Workshop into its 2026 spring show. Missing in photo are Sue Booth and Maxine Sutcliffe.

(Photo by Mary Lou Wall)

"It was so much fun," she said. "I thoroughly enjoyed myself. My experience in the most recent show, "Derby Daze," was equally as exciting. I was in charge of props, designed and built scenery, and performed in five dances – obviously I have 'caught the bug.'"

Judi Linick is the assistant secretary for Theater Workshop. This will be her second term.

This is her fourth year with Theater Workshop and she considers her friends in and out of the club to be a part of my

extended family.

Maxine Sutcliffe is the treasurer for Theater Workshop.

Her parents also lived at OTOW and were actively enthusiastic in Theater Workshop and Jesters productions. They encouraged Maxine to get involved, too.

Although not gifted with theatrical talents, Maxine says she nonetheless discovered a real love of "things theatrical" finding great enjoyment, fun, friendship and camaraderie within these clubs.

Maxine belongs to seven other clubs

and feels privileged to be a part of this unique "city."

Candace Bolin is the assistant treasurer for Theater Workshop. She is a new member and was elected for her first term.

During her career she's been an owner of two businesses. She moved to Florida in 1998 and I worked for the Pinellas County School Board in the payroll department. OTOW became her home six years ago and she has loved making new friends and participating in all the activities.



# OTOW Democrats mingle with county Democrats at picnic

By David Beaven

Democratic Club members had a fun time in May when we went to the North Pinellas Democratic Club picnic on the at Philippe Park.

We were able to mingle with Democrats from around the county. We also heard from speakers about building-up the party in our county.

There was plenty of food - barbeque, salads and desserts. Also, there were numerous raffle baskets to bid on.

All funds went for coming expenses in voter registration and future election campaigns.

On June 12, at 2 p.m., in the West Activity Center Learning Lab, we are looking forward to hearing guest speaker Mary Fahy, who directs Voter Action Pinellas.

This is an active group in our county. It focuses on voter registration and getting out the vote.

One of its tools is a phone app that lets users get in touch with their friends and relatives to pass on voting information.



The group also creates voter guides to help voters pick candidates.

If you are a Democrat, or lean our way, I think you would enjoy meeting other On Top of the World residents of like mind.

Our club meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. in the Learning Lab. We also have a monthly happy hour.

Find out more at our webpage: [worlddemclub.blogspot.com](http://worlddemclub.blogspot.com) or call Dave Beaven at 727-410-7566.



Joanne Cordes, David Beaven and Don Ladner take in the county picnic.

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# French class is about more than just the language



**By Jean-Paul Reymont**  
During the past three years, On Top of the World's French Language and Culture Society has lived up to its reputation for not just being a language class.  
We are also an adventure into learning about another culture, cuisine and a nation - namely, la belle France.  
We've also covered quite a number of topics relating to not only France, but also Québec, Canada.  
We even had a guest speaker, a professional cook, who gave a presentation on how to make a proper Quiche Lorraine.  
Included in our cultural program are short 10 minute segments from French films such as Le comte de Monte Cris-



Joseph Flekenstein holds a poppy seed cake during a recent French Language and Culture Society meeting.

to, L'homme de Rio (Jean-Paul Belmondo), Gigi (Maurice Chevalier), etc., usually with English subtitles.  
Some members, who have visited France, also shared with us some of

their travel experiences.  
We learned that so-called French dishes were not all created by French chefs. For example, croissants -- so popular in France as part of a breakfast dish -- came from Austria by the artillery officer August Zang, who opened a Viennese bakery in Paris.  
Poppy seed cake, now called in French "gâteau aux graines de pavot" was brought to France from Poland (called makowiec in Polish) by a Polish Jew. His name was Sacha Finkelsztajn and his bakery is located in Le Marais, a section of Paris which is well-known for its desserts, bread and Kosher food.  
Our class sessions are unique in that our program starts with a joke, then followed by a song or a narrative given by one of the participants about France or even Canada.  
For example: What do you call your angry French aunt? A burnt croissant.

Or why do the French eat snails? Because they don't like fast foods.  
Then one learns common phrases and, especially, the pronunciation.  
As they say, "The French don't care what you do as long as you pronounce it correctly."  
The textbook that we use in our sessions is called French Made Simple (2006 edition) by Pamela Rose Haze (Broadway Books). The book can be purchased for about \$5 to \$10 online through Thrift Books.  
If you wish to donate to the cost of printing the outline of each session, it is only \$5 a month.  
Sessions are free with no obligation to pay. We meet every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon in the Dunedin Room located in the East Activity Center.  
Au revoir or à la prochaine fois ('til next time). We look forward to seeing you.

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# Computer Club learns about free Google apps

By Joe Wisinski

The On Top Of the World Computer Club recently learned about the many free apps available through Google.

Club members Charlie and Mike Wood taught the session. They explained the value of the apps, where to find them, and how to use them effectively.

“Google offers a wealth of incredibly useful applications (apps) that are readily available on our smartphones, tablets, computers and even our Summit TV boxes,” Charlie said. “These apps are remarkably easy to access and user-friendly.”

Charlie demonstrated apps from Google’s website. Some of the apps she discussed were “Docs,” which is Google’s online word processor, “Sheets,” a spreadsheet, and “Gemini,” Google’s version of artificial intelligence.

To find these apps, and many more, go to google.com. Look for nine dots arranged in a “waffle” pattern in the upper right corner of the screen. Click on



## Computer Club

the dots and scroll down for the complete list.

Mike showed club members apps from Google’s Play Store. Those apps are available to anyone with an Android phone as well as other devices, such as Chromebooks.



Computer Club member Charlie Wood teaches about Google apps.

### About the Computer Club

Anyone who wants to learn more about Google apps, or any other tech-

nology issue, is welcome to attend either the club’s Saturday morning meetings or Wednesday morning help sessions.

Both sessions run from 8:30 to 10 a.m. in the Learning Lab, which is in the West Activity Center.

Saturday sessions are also available on the Zoom virtual meeting platform.

Saturday sessions usually consist of presentations or discussions led by club members or guest speakers. Time is also made available to ask questions.

During Wednesday morning help sessions, the club offers assistance to any OTOW resident with technology-related questions or issues. The services are free. Computer Club membership is not required to get assistance.

For more information about the Computer Club, or to ask computer-service related questions, email otowcc@gmail.com, visit our website at www.otowcc.com, or click our link in the OTOW Box Office, otowboxoffice.com.

# Celebrating Pride Month

By David Beaven

Lambda Club was founded to provide friendly get-togethers for our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) residents.

June is a special time for our folks as it is Pride Month.

All around the world in June, LGBT people, friends and allies celebrate the ability to be them-

selves - open and proud.

Our club’s Pride Social will take place 6 p.m., June 13, in the East Activity Center Largo Room.

There will be disco music booming off the walls. The bar will be serving Rainbow Punch. And our members will bring proud recipes for our potluck buffet.

For dress code this evening,

wear your pride gear. The attendee most colorfully decked out will get a special award.

If you would like to find out more about our club, go to our website: [lambdaclearwater.blogspot.com](http://lambdaclearwater.blogspot.com). Or call Dave Beaven at 727-410-7566.



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Above is the Gentle Movement Exercise Class getting a seated workout on a Friday afternoon.  
Below are some of the line dancers who participate on Tuesday or Friday mornings.

# Line dancing and Gentle Movement Exercises are back and are following new community guidelines

**By Margaret LeTourneau**  
As you can see from these recent class photos, the Moving 'n Grooving Club is still providing needed services to our wonderful community members. Margaret LeTourneau, who is the president of the Moving and Grooving Club, received a tremendous amount of support from members when On Top of the World introduced new regulations for exercise and fitness clubs. All Moving 'n Grooving functions shut down for a brief time, but because of all of the support, we're back! Margaret is now a certified fitness instructor and has purchased required insurance in order to voluntarily teach her classes.



Come back or join us. Even though the Gentle Movement Exercise Classes are done in a chair, don't let that fool you into thinking that it's easy. This functional movement exercise class provides a total body workout that not only gives healing stretches,

but also improves muscle strength and core strength. If you are experiencing any joint issues, such as arthritis, Parkinson's, neuropathy, balance issues, or if you need an exercise program that will improve your overall condition, you may want to give the Gentle Movement Exercise Class a try. Margaret's line dance classes are one of the kind and will continue all summer. She choreographs almost all of your dances in order to safely meet the needs of the students. She does a layered, cyclical approach that incorporates and reuses dance patterns in order to allow the students to learn many new steps successfully. Please note that Margaret teaches these classes year round. The only time off will be the month of July. So please mark your calendars. The Moving 'n Grooving Line Dance Classes are every Tuesday from 9-10:45 a.m. and every Friday from 1-2:45 p.m. in the East Activity Center Auditorium. The Moving 'n Grooving Gentle Movement Exercise Classes are every Tuesday from 11 a.m. - noon and every Friday from 3-4 p.m. in the East Activity Center Auditorium. Movement is medicine. Let's keep Moving 'n Grooving!



**Association Annual Meeting, Thursday, June 12, 10 am, EAC Auditorium**  
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# You have all summer to write some personal great stories and then share them with Writer's Ink

By Lori Gottshall  
Thursday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. are a magical time for members of the Writer's Ink creative writing group here at On Top of the World.

For two hours we get to bask in fellowship with other writers. We get to share our words – our prized possessions - with people who will critique but don't criticize.

The atmosphere is always one of respect and camaraderie.

In May, at our last session of the season, we shared short stories, AI poetry and personal musings.

Joe Fleckenstein wrote a piece about an American businessman having to travel alone on a night train in Egypt sometime in the 1970s. He had been warned to only travel during daylight hours.



## Writer's Ink

The piece was a real nail-biter with misdirections to the departing gate, trouble finding the first class car, swar-

thy-looking characters who seemed to be sizing the guy up for who-knew-what mayhem, and unexpected local stops that pushed the possible arrival time far into the evening.

It turns out it was not fiction, but a personal memoir. Wow!

I have been experimenting with ChatGPT and wondered how today's political climate would sound if reported in the form of a Shakespearian sonnet. I listed a few recent events and asked the system for a comical sonnet. The result came fast.

In less than four seconds ChatGPT delivered a useful piece in perfect iambic pentameter. I would have had to spend hours testing rhymes and phrases and counting syllables to get that far. But, with the help of AI, I was able to produce something that really made

people laugh in less than five minutes.

Kim Chen reminisced her life by starting with her first small apartment, up-sizing through a few more rentals before buying a first house, then the next bigger house, and finally down-sizing here at On Top of the World.

Along the way she started with one plant in a flowerpot, progressed to caring for a property that needed a riding lawn mower and other assorted machinery, and she is now back to one flowerpot. It's a life cycle to which many of us can relate.

Did you ever think about writing? Now would be a good time to dust off those thoughts and put them to work. You could have a few good pieces ready for the fall when we resume meetings right after Labor Day. We'll be waiting for you in the Dunedin room.

## Something new - exercise with certified instructor

KABoom is a fun, 45 minute class divided into segments consisting of warmup, moderate to high intensity cardio, exercises using light weights, cool down and stretching.

It also focuses on improving balance, agility and mental acuity. No chairs.

KABoom will get its first tryout here at On Top of the World in July. Scheduled times are 11 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays in the East Activity Center Exercise Room. Please arrive before 11 a.m. to pre-register.

The instructor is Kevin Archibald, a certified instructor.

This class will be free to all Silver Sneakers members and \$2 a class to non-members.

Class size will be limited to 30. Bring your activity cards.



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# Bill Lepping brings three more generations to the ballpark and they showed grandpa how to hit

By Bob Rittner

On Top of the World softball set a record by having four generations of players in one game.

Bill Lepping, 87 years old, was joined by his nephew, Rick Wilson, and Rick’s son, Max, and grandson, Chance, on Field 1. Each had a hand in Blue’s victory.

All four got at least one hit that led to scores. Chance made a putout at home plate while Max dived for a hot smash to catch it while prone on the ground.

Rick’s four hits included a double and three RBIs, plus he scored two runs.

Max hit two doubles, one nearly clearing the fence, and Chance got two hits with an RBI.

Bill also drove in a run with a hit

Max led off the eighth inning with a double to start a rally that led to a three-run cushion. Blue beat Red 12-8.

The leading hitters for the Red team were Frank Apicella and Mark Clear each of whom was 5-5.

On Field Two, with two outs and two runners on base, Tara Gunning came through with a double that cleared the bases to create a tie. It was a seesaw game, each team leading at different points. Red ended up winning 10-8.

The Red team was shut out through five innings, but Ray Woolsey’s second double of the game completed a three-run sixth inning giving them a 3-1 lead.

With his team up 5-4 in the eighth inning, Ray stepped to the plate with a runner on first base and promptly lifted a majestic fly ball into center field that the outfielder could only admire as it sailed 50 feet past the fence for a homer.

Going to the ninth inning, the score was 8-5, but clutch singles by Robert Bannick and Burnell Hoekstra, and a Bob Dembinski run-scoring double, set



the stage for Tara’s heroics.

Field 1  
Red 3, Blue 2

Field 2  
Red 11, White 8

By acclamation, the game on Field One was the most exciting game played this season.

Marked by superior defense, excellent baserunning and thrilling moments, the excitement was palpable.

There was no scoring in the first one and a half innings as Red infielders Barry Yellets, Don Mandeville and Charles Kovarik scooped up every ball except for two singles by Bob Voigt and Julie Long. There was not even a scoring threat.

The home team broke through in the bottom of the second inning when Jim Tiano led off with a double past the center fielder and scored on Don Mandeville’s hard single to left-center field.

The next two innings saw the visitors put two runners on base each frame, but again could not score thanks to a brilliant running catch of a deep fly to

right-center field by Robert Bannick and fine plays by Dan Joyce in center field and Joe Harrington in right field.

Then came the crucial fifth inning.

Richard Mierzejewski, who had singled deep to left field earlier, now launched another soaring fly ball over the outfielder’s head. Up-stepped Ray Woolsey with his lethal bat. Two pitches later and boom, the score was 2-1 on a home run over the center field fence.

In the bottom of the inning, Mary Anne Benuzzi’s one out single would turn into a run when Robert Bannick forced her out at second base, but then used his blazing speed to score from first base when Dan Joyce put a fly just out of reach of the right fielder.

The score remained tied 2-2 until the ninth inning when Ray doubled with two outs and scored the go-ahead run on Henry Zussman’s scorched single into center field.

In the bottom of the inning, Blue threatened with leadoff singles by Barry Yellets and Jim Tiano, but they were stranded when Bob Voigt made three spectacular plays at shortstop, racing left and right to grab line drives headed for the outfield.

The game on Field Two was more one-sided as White outfielder Joe DeChiaro’s 4-for-4 day with a double and a triple led to two runs scored and three RBIs. Lenny Segall went 5-for-5 and Eddie Ramirez and Bill Holland each hit doubles on their 4-for-5 days.

For Red, Ralph Scunziano hit a three-run homer and Al Bartolo went 5-for-5, but the team fell behind 8-3 by the seventh inning. Although they scored five runs over the last three innings, White scored three more themselves to keep and extend the lead.

Blue 10, Red 7, White 2

Through three innings the score was 3-3-2 and through six innings it was 7-7-2. But in the eighth inning, Blue broke through with three runs that won the game.

The most impressive hit of the day was another over-the-fence homer by Ray Woolsey, to date the only player who hit even one out. His total is now in double figures.

As for defense, once again Tara Gunning provided a highlight reel of pivots on double plays accomplishing it three more times.

For Red, Mark Clear was 4-for-4 with a double while Rodger Hillier kept the White bats silent after the first inning.

White 12, Red 8, Blue 8

The game was marked by superb defense by Ray Woolsey (Red), Henry Zussman (Blue) and Charles Kovarik (White).

Ray ranged far and wide in the outfield to haul in line drives and high fly balls while Henry and Charles did similarly from their middle infield positions, nabbing hot shot liners, scooping up hard grounders and drifting back to catch pop-ups over their heads.

Offensively, the game was nip and tuck. No team ever had more than a two-run lead until White exploded for five runs over the last two innings to put it away.

Charles contributed with a 4-for-4 day that included two doubles, two runs scored and four RBIs.

The most impressive hit of the game was Ralph Scunziano’s homer to center field, the first over the fence homer this season by a player using a wood bat.

# Off-season provides opportunities to improve our golf games, scores

By Barney Hanrahan

As we start June, members of the Men’s Golf Association are reflecting on how to improve our game considering the many challenges “Mother Nature” imposes on us in the rainy months ahead.

Golfers, like seasoned sailors, accept the challenges and move on.

May all of you have improved scores now that the weather has warmed up.

At this time, I would like acknowledge someone who is having a birthday and someone who has a major impact on how we play golf at On Top of the World.

We all know John Lewis.

He is recognized as one of those people who has been responsible for keeping golf in our lives.

We wish John a belated 95th happy birthday.

John has lived here for years and is a Navy veteran. He has diligently organized and prepared numerous week-end tournaments to sustain the enthusiasm for the game he loves so much.

John has been the stalwart in both men’s golf leagues and has challenged all players to improve their game.

He has decided, after many years of offering various tournament challenges for the players, to retire and pass the putter on to another manager.

We wish John much success in bringing his already low handicap down and look forward to getting in a round or two with him.



Now the scores.

April 16  
Flight A

Low scores: Mike Schuyler, 58, Mike Crittendon, 62, Nilson Sabadin, 65, David Johnson, 66, Jere Keiser, 66.

Flight B

Low scores: Lester Whynot, 62, Jay Schwallie, 62, Len Picone, 63, Daniel Morey, 65, Roger Amundson, 65.

Flight C

Low scores: Jay Laracuente, 60, Sal Vasapolle, 62, Jerry Jordan, 63, Henry Rejman, 64, Harry Crawford, 64.

Flight D

Low scores: Roger Shockley, 56, Paul Seggelin, 59, Ken Schifferle, 61, Robin Hendricks, 61, Tennyson Spice-land, 61.

April 23  
Flight A

Low scores: Jere Keiser, 63, Mike Schuyler, 63, Bill Whipps, 63, Miike Crittendon, 66, David Saccone, 66.

Flight B

Low scores: Jay Schwallie, 56, Bill Haener, 62, Tom Sullivan, 63, Daniel Morey, 63, Joe Johnson, 66.

Flight C

Low scores: Guy Bertuzzi, 63, Marc Schell, 64, Bob McGrogan, 65, Mike Smith, 65, Sal Vasapolle, 66.

Flight D

Low scores: Paul Seggelin, 60, Irving Hernandez, 61, Glen Meyers, 62, Buddy Sayers, 64, Bob Ellis, 64.

April 30  
Flight A

Low scores: David Johnson, 61, Ed Sixon, 63, Stanley Doran, 64, Fred Peace, 64, Jim Vanleuven, 64.

Flight B

Low scores: Tom Stephens, 57, Lester Whynot, 60, 60, Ron Lafond, 61, Roger Amundson, 62, Tim Finan, 66.

Flight C

Low scores: Bob McGrogan, 60, Guy Bertuzzi, 60, Sal Vasapolle, 63, Harry Rejman, 63, Jim Cadwell, 63.

Flight D

Low scores: Joseph Dowe, 58, Bob Ellis, 58, Roger Shockley, 59, Jim Valloreo, 61, Glen Meyers, 61.

May 7  
Flight A

Low scores: Nilson Sabadin, 62, Mike Schuyler, 64, Fred Peace, 64, George, Mead, 65, Bob Beals, 65.

Flight B

Low scores: Ed Sixon, 57, Daniel Morey, 69, Roger Amundson, 61, Bill Haener, 64, Tom Sullivan, 66.

Flight C

Low scores: Henry Rejman, 59, Glen Meyers, 61, David Baldwin, 62, David Baldwin, Jim Caldwell, 62.

Flight D

Low scores: Bob Ellis, 60, Jeff Martin, 61, Tim Palmquist, 62, Irving Hernandez, 62, Ken Nield, 64.

May 14  
Flight A

Low scores: Nilson Sabadin, 58, Stanley Doran 62, Jere Keiser, 62, Bill Whipps, 63, Lester Whynot, 65.

Flight B

Low scores: Mike Smith, 61, Bill Haener, 64, Pete Gagnon, 64, Sal Vasapolle, 65, Len Picone, 66.

Flight C

Low scores: Glen Meyers, 62, Jay Laracuente, 63, Guy Bertuzzi, 63, Marc Schell, 67, Keith Miles, 68.

Flight D

Low scores: Joseph Dowe, 60, Tim Palmquist, 62, Ken Nield, 62, Jack Gow, 63, Jim Valloreo, 64.



# SPORTS

## Tennis Club is more than serves and forehands

By Charles Torisky

If you are a member of the On Top of the World Tennis Club, then you know we do a lot more than just play tennis.

We enjoy spending time together - going out to different restaurants and bistros for club lunches or dinners.

We celebrate birthdays. We hold special golf events several times a year. And, of course, we have two on-site tennis club meetings each year.

We take the time to acknowledge winners of our spring picnic and elect officers at our November annual meeting.

Our in-house tennis pro offers lessons to club members at discounted rates.

If you've ever thought about trying tennis, this is your chance. After all, what's retirement for?



Members of the Tennis Club stopped at Norton's in Dunedin for lunch. They don't just play tennis together.

**Food Truck Saturday**  
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# SPORTS





Even though summer is approaching, we still have quite a few people who enjoy playing ping pong in the air conditioning. Come and join us.

## When you play ping pong with us, your ears get a wonderful workout, too



**By Marie Clodge Valdes**  
The Ping Pong Club gets together Tuesdays through Fridays at the West Activity Center in the Belleair Room from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
On Tuesdays Oscar Kanter plays “Doo Wop” music from the 1950s and on Thursdays Dave Purcell plays music from the 1960s.  
Music from other decades is played on the remaining days.  
Oscar and Dave are two of our longest-standing members who love to

stump each other and the rest of us on the songs being played. They are both so knowledgeable that they can even name the songs, albums and years the songs were released. This really adds to the atmosphere and fun of our club and our club members really appreciate it.  
If you have never played ping pong, or used to play as a child, but haven’t played in years, we invite you to join us.  
This time of the year is especially fun to play as there are fewer club mem-

bers and there is more time to practice.  
We play doubles and it is very easy to learn once you practice and come out for regular play.  
Anyone with a valid On Top of the World Activity Card can join the club and there is a two week trial period to see if it is something you like to play before committing the annual \$15 to join.  
If you are interested in meeting new friends, socializing and friendly competition then we would love to meet you!

### Movie Night is Back!

### “Thelma”

### Wednesday, June 11, 4 pm

### East Activity Center Auditorium



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# SPORTS

## Suellen Dowe wins Jackpot tournament in a putting playoff



By Paula Ergang

It's another tie.  
The On Top of the World Ladies 9-Hole Golf League had their Jackpot Play event on April 15.  
At the end of our round, two hole numbers were picked from a hat. We had to average our scores on those corresponding holes.  
Wouldn't you know it? Five players had an average of four. Just like last year, which meant a putt-off to decide the winner.  
Suellen Dowe, Paula Ergang, Pat Holland, Jan Pettit and Pam Riley headed back to hole No. 9. One-by-one they putt to see whose ball would either drop in or be closest to the hole.  
To make it a little more challenging, whoever was not putting had to turn their back to the hole so they wouldn't get to read the green.  
In the end, it was Suellen who had the best putt, less than a foot away, and went home with the jackpot.  
Congratulations to all five with the low average, but especially to Suellen for her winning putt.  
The ladies in our group played until the end of May and now have started our summer break. However, many ladies, who are here year round, will continue to play on Tuesday mornings. Call Carroll Harris at 432-528-8684 if you'd like to join in.  
Here are the latest, but not the last, of our weekly scores:



Pam Riley, Paula Ergang, Jan Pettit, Pat Holland and Suellen Dowe have their clubs ready for a putt-off.

### April 15 Jackpot Play

Flight A: Paula Ergang shot 37 and Sue Beals had 41.  
Flight B: Lainey Quarello and Darlyn Bedel both had 42s. Katherine Aherns had 43 and Suellen Dowe 45.  
Flight C: Sue Stevens had 43, Sheryl Barbin shot a 44, Dorothy Hughes shot 49 and Marge Sivek had 48.  
Flight D: Laura Chesson shot a 48, Deb Barnes a 49, and Theresa Gates a 51.  
Birdies: Anne Jarvis and Paula Ergang had birdies on hole No. 2 and Sheryl Barbin on hole No.3.

### April 22 3 Clubs and a Putter

Flight A: Paula Ergang had a 36 and Pat Holland a 42.  
Flight B: Anne Jarvis had a 40 and Jan Pettit a 43.  
Flight C: Dorothy Hughes had a 46, Sheryl Barbin a 52 and Carroll Harris a 51.  
Flight D: Laura Chesson shot a 48 and Theresa Gates a 52.  
Birdies: Anne Jarvis had a birdie on hole No. 1, Sue Beals on hole No. 3 and Paula Ergang on holes No. 2 and 8.

### April 29 Throw Out Worst Hole\*

\*(Low scores reflect the gross score minus our handicap, minus our worst hole score).  
Flight A: Paula Ergang had a 27.  
Flight B: Lainey Quarello had 26.  
Flight C: Wendy Colquhoun had 18 and Sheryl Barbin had a 20.  
Flight D: Mary Ellen Makowski had a 22.  
There were no birdies.



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# COMMUNITY REPORTS



## Casa Verde residents discuss what should be our state bird - flamingo or mockingbird?



Residents at Casa Verde held a vote. Who would we like to see as the official state bird - American Flamingo or Northern Mockingbird.

Our residents voted 34-4 in favor of the American Flamingo.

The same vote was supposed to take place by state officials, but a bill to select a state bird was defeated in May.

Did you know that Florida does not have an "official" state bird?

The Florida Senate passed a resolution in 1927 naming the Northern Mockingbird as our state bird, but that bill was never signed into law.

Nevertheless, the mockingbird holds the title of state bird.

Recently, many residents in Florida have voiced their opinion to change the state bird, but no one can agree.

There are four main contenders for the title: the Florida Scrub-Jay, the American Flamingo, the Roseate Spoonbill and the Osprey.



American Flamingo (iClipArt)

Why not keep the Northern Mockingbird as our state bird?

It's one of the most prolific birds in our state and is among the top singers of all wild birds. It can reproduce up to 200 different sounds, including car alarms, sirens and even cell phone ring tones. However, four other states also have the Northern Mockingbird as their state bird.

Advocates for the Florida Scrub-Jay

point out that it is the only bird endemic to our state and is found nowhere else in the world. Their numbers have declined 90 percent over the last century and are now listed as threatened by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

If we designate the Scrub-Jay as our state bird, advocates hope that more conservation dollars will be spent to protect it.

Those in favor of the American Flamin-

go believe it is a strong symbol of Florida's natural beauty and is already associated with the state through tourism and other imagery. There is even a statue of the flamingo inside the Tampa airport.

But an official state vote will have to wait at least another year - unless someone wants to make the Casa Verde vote official.

Guess the mockingbird will be around for at least another year.

## Baseball and dollar drinks - we are so there!



Thirty-three residents from the French Renaissance building had the joy of watching a Clearwater Threshers minor league baseball game with free tickets, thanks to Donna and Mike Mitrani.

This was the fourth annual spring baseball trip for our building and this was the largest turnout yet!

A huge shout out and thank you to Donna and Mike.

The Bradenton Marauders played the Threshers at Baycare Ballpark on Tuesday, May 13. It was dollar night so that was an added bonus for us.

Between innings we chatted about playing baseball when we were younger. We also talked about upcoming events at our building.

The Threshers lost 5-2, but we were incredibly thankful to have the Phillies stadium so close and we love being able to watch the Threshers all summer long.



French Renaissance building residents enjoy a night at BayCare Park to watch the Threshers.





June 2000

By Randae Van Denover

World News

June 13 - South Korean Supreme Leader Kim Dae-jung met North Korean dictator Kim Jong – Il for the beginning of the first inter-Korea summit since the North-South Korea war in the 1950s. Its importance lies in the lack of formal communication between these two countries, which makes discussing political and economic issues difficult. Originally, the summit was planned to take place July 1994 with the founder of North Korea, Supreme Leader Kim Il Sung. These plans were abruptly abandoned when Sung died 14 days before the summit.

Business News

Originating in Harrisburg, Pa., Food Fair expanded significantly by acquiring other chains, including Setzer’s and Best Markets, the latter of which owned the popular Pantry Pride brand. Food Fair struggled in the 1980s and its grocery stores started to disappear. The last Food Fair and Pantry Pride stores were gone by 2000.

Sports

June18 - 100th Men’s US Open in Pebble Beach: Tiger Woods wins his first US Open by a major championship record-setting 15 strokes over Ernie Els and Miguel Ángel Jiménez. The 2000 PGA Tour season was Tiger Woods’ best and one of the greatest seasons any tour player has ever had.

Movies

June 12 –“X-Men” first starred Patrick Stewart, Hugh Jackman and Ian McKellen and premiered on Ellis Island in New York Harbor. X-Men is an American superhero film series based on the Marvel Comics superhero team of the same name.

The popular movie and Grammy winner “Brother, Where Art Thou?” was playing in U.S. movie theaters in June 2000. This movie featured blue-grass and Southern folk music to the delight of its fans. Alan Lomax was an American ethnomusicologist, best known for his numerous field recordings of early folk music. One was a song by a prisoner named James Carter who was leading fellow prisoners, all while chopping logs, in a song called Po’ Lazarus. It was among songs in “Sounds of the South” by Lomax. In 2000, it was one of the many songs used in “O Brother, Where Art Thou.” Amazingly, the movie producers searched and found James Carter who was given thousands of dollars in royalties.

OTOW News

In May 2000, On Top of the World invited residents to voluntarily submit their phone numbers for a community residential phone book. That sounds so convenient, doesn’t it? Today, it is a challenge to find a phone number of a neighbor. The phone book was likely last published in 2000 and ceased due to misuse of the phone book by people outside of our community. The threats of privacy invasion and scams had grown and it was decided not to make resident phone numbers public to people outside our community.



Ladies from the Bohemia building practice the ancient art of tie-dyeing T-shirts. (Photo by Douglas Mlodzinski)

Yes we did!  
We tie-tyed  
T-shirts

Ladies of the Bohemia building did a history reboot by spending an afternoon tie-dyeing T-shirts.

This ancient procedure was first recognized in the fifth century AD. Over the years this art was practiced in the pre-Columbian period in Peru, followed by Japan in the eighth century. It eventually spread to Africa and the Philippines during the war years.

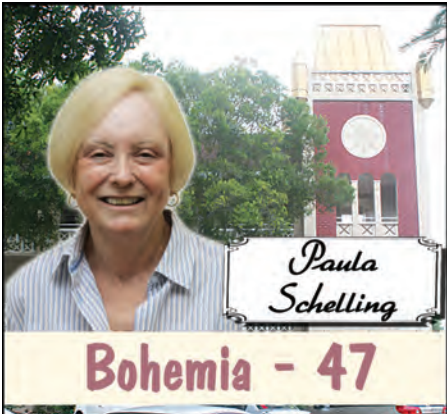
After the war, this form of art lay dormant until it’s rebirth in the ‘60s. Over the years it has popped up again and been used by many designers.

Our building’s personal art instructor is Carleen Jurkowski, who has patiently taught the ladies in our building over the past two years. She not only generously provides her time, but the materials as well.

A big thank you goes out to Carleen.

This past month’s dinner out was to Taco-Quila here in Clearwater. There were 25 residents in attendance. It was nice to see some new faces in the crowd and we hope this will continue.

We ended May with our Memorial Day pot luck dinner. The added attraction each year is our Irish Lane versus Jamaican Street scavenger hunt challenge. For the past two years, Irish Lane has taken home the prize. This year Jamaican street was trying a new strategy in an attempt to win. The one constant rule, we may not enter our own building to collect the items listed. It’s such fun. I will share results in the July newspaper.



Association Board Meeting

OTOW

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901

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# Rural French resident proves that being single opens a door to new adventures

Don't let being single stop you. Being single gives you the opportunity to explore, make your own choices, engage in what interests you and builds the confidence that you can do it.

Just ask Joanne Storen. Joanne moved to On Top of the World in 2023 coming from her home of South Carolina.

Joanne may be single, but you'd never know it with the busy schedule she keeps.

Joanne is a part-time surgical nurse who loves her job as much as she loves to dance and travel.

Being a world traveler has its benefits and addictions. She can't wait to embark on her next journey.

Some of Joanne's past trips were to South Africa, Vietnam, China, India, Morocco, Peru and many stops in Europe. She's met and made many new and interesting friends from all over the world. She still keeps in touch with some of them through Facebook.

Traveling alone made her more open to adventures and she gained the confidence to do whatever she wants.

Joanne says that being a good listener is important when hearing other people's stories, especially in foreign



countries. You can learn a lot from other people's experiences no matter where they live.

"Gate 1 Travel" is the company Joanne chose for accommodations. She said she considers it a very trustworthy company because you always have a guide leading and explaining everything along the way.

Joanne travels with groups, maybe 15 to 30 tourists per vacation. Whenever she sees something of interest, she's free to venture off and explore on her own. The guide gives all the information she needs to get there and have a good time.



Joanne Storen enjoys meeting new people and taking new adventures.

Joanne says that twice a year Gate 1 Travel waives the single supplement and that's a big money saver. She can also have a room to herself. Otherwise she'll try to share a room with other single friends.

Trips are mostly on land but some-

times they are combined and include a river cruise.

When Joanne's not working or traveling, she can be found on the dance floor three or four times a week. She loves to dance and has her favorite places to go for a night out.

She'll swing dance at the German American Society in Pinellas Park. They offer lessons 7-8 p.m. on Wednesdays, followed by dancing from 8-11 p.m.

She also visits the Suncoast Ballroom in Largo, American Legion Post 7 dances, and On Top of the World Entertainment Committee dances the third Saturday of every month.

On Thursdays, if Joanne's not working, you'll find her in the West Activity Center from 1-3 p.m. That's where Howard Wolff gives free dance lessons. Joanne will be learning more dances or practicing the ones she already knows.

What more can be said about being single and loving life, meeting new people everyday, traveling or dancing. You'll never be alone. You are surrounded by people with the same interest as yours.

Keep smiling and keep going Joanne!

# Residents gather for a 100th birthday



Helen Gonzales celebrated another birthday in May and this was the really big one.

One hundred! Can you imagine being able to tell people you just celebrated your 100th birthday party? Sounds like a Disney movie with all the nostalgia.

The party was held at the Swedish Traditional building parking lot. Her friends contributed to make this a joy-



A whole lot of people from the Swedish Traditional building showed up for Helen Gonzales' 100th birthday party.

ous memory. Helen was escorted to her table with a glowing smile on her face as she was waiting for her favorite pizza.

As each person arrived, they were asked to sign a card stating the first words that come to mind when you look at Helen. There were so many wonderful comments.

Here are a few: Classy lady, kind and loving, strong, my jalapeño (think this

means still a hottie), wonderful sense of humor, fascinating, card shark, wonderful friend, my hero, inspirational, lots of energy and happy.

The night lingered on with food, chatter, memories and, of course, a birthday cake with some candles glowing.


Happy birthday was sung as Helen made a wish and blew the candles out. God bless you Helen. Happy 100.



**Have you ever been told that restoring your teeth was hopeless?**

**Have you been led to believe that costly implants or uncomfortable dentures were your only option?**

If the answer to either of these questions is yes, I have good news.




I'm Dr. Austin Sampson. I have 46 years experience in reconstructive dentistry.

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- Membership in the **Heritage Registry of Who's Who**
- Recipient of the **Top Doctors & Dentists, Florida Doctor Awards**


I can't tell you the number of times I have spoken with patients with complex dental problems who believed that their teeth could not be restored. Thanks to my training and experience, I have been able to successfully treat hundreds of such patients, many of whom are your neighbors at On Top of the World. In many cases this can be done more affordably than you might imagine.

So if you think that dentures or implants are your only options, come in for a complimentary consultation. We are conveniently located just a short drive from the west entrance to On Top of the World.



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## Vietnam Veteran and World Traveler

# After years of living in different places, Gerri Heintz has finally settled down in his own little world

If On Top of the World had a “Best Hair, Men Over-75” contest, my neighbor would win hands down.

You may have seen Gerri Heintz riding his bike through the community with his long gray locks flowing in the wind like Fabio’s hair on a romance novel cover.

Gerri is a Hoosier from Muncie, Ind., home to Ball State University and Garfield the cat.

It took Gerri decades to find his way to Yoshimitsu.

The owners of Wilhoite Monument Company had four sons. Gerri was their youngest. While it’s safe to say Gerri and high school never bonded, he always felt a powerful sense of patriotism.

He still does.

Gerri enlisted in the Navy during Vietnam and served aboard the USS Myles C. Fox (DD-829). He manned one of the ship’s two 5-inch/58 caliber guns.

Seeing action in Vietnam and circumnavigating the globe twice, Gerri remains proud of his service time, while recognizing that experience altered his worldview forever - as it did for many Americans.

After his tour of duty, Gerri first lived in Boston, then Newport, before heading west to Southern California, then returning east, then back west, then Tennessee and elsewhere.

He got around.

Along the way, Gerri worked in the Quincy Shipyard as an electrician, General Motors in Fort Wayne, Ind., and an assembly plant in Roanoke, Ind., where he eventually rose to be a master electrician.

He added working in a nightclub or two to mix things up.

A dozen or so years ago, while living in the Muncie, Ind., area, Gerri de-



cided it was time to leave. He wanted a change from a “people are too judgmental here” area.

Gerri saw an ad for a \$43,000 Clearwater apartment. Thinking it unlikely, but knowing he liked Florida, he investigated.

Next thing he knew, On Top of the World here I come.

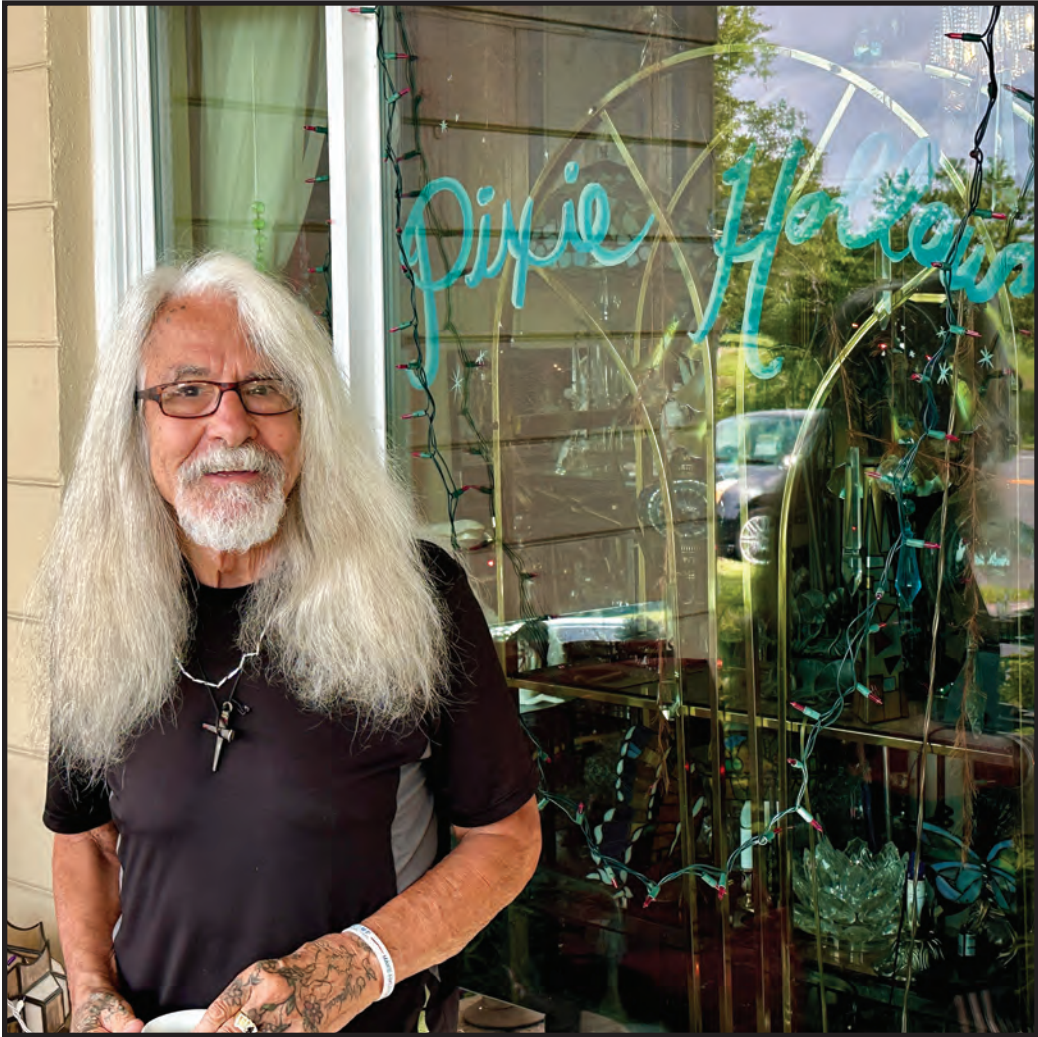
As a condo owner, while enjoying the conviviality of sharing coffee at an activity center, Gerri eventually met a special person. They danced and danced in our dances and soon would be married.

This was not the first marriage for either, as is common when people reach 55-and-older, but they both relished their independence and decided to maintain separate condos — across the golf course — from one another.

All was well.

Gerri’s Navy destroyer was decommissioned in 1979, then sold to Greece to be used for spare parts. Gerri approved the move as he is a fierce opponent of today’s “throw away” society. He finds and repurposes other people’s “trash” into art.

If you show a mere interest, Gerri is very gracious and will encourage you to tour his gardens and museum — aka



Gerri Heintz outside his Yoshimitsu condo - also known as Pixie Hollow.

Pixie Hollow. Yes, that Pixie Hollow from Tinker Bell.

Little did J. M. Barrie imagine in 1904 that she was creating a beloved character that would charm the world. From childhood to adulthood, through war, work and retirement, Gerri shares an affinity with the writings and ideas surrounding that little fairy’s world and enjoys an extensive collection of art and figurines dedicated to her.

Also an avid gardener, he presents an ever-rotating selection of plantings and decorations. A favorite garden sign

reads, “Don’t Piss Off The Fairies.”

Like a book, you can’t judge Gerri by his cover. His life is far more interesting than I’ve shared here.

And his politics ... often promoted on a unicorn atop his car ... might, or might not, come as a surprise, too.

But so what?

Variety remains the spice of life.

Walk by the Yoshimitsu building and you may find Gerri enjoying his front porch and garden. He’ll be eager to share a thought or two with you in his own Neverland.

# Mother Nature told Ginny and Ken Boucher it was time to move into On Top of the World

Ginny and Ken Boucher have been through a lot in the past year, but their story is one of resilience and faith.

Although they are new to On Top of the World, they already have a solid footing in the Clearwater area. They have lived in Clearwater since the age of 3.

Ken is a member of the first graduating class at Dunedin High School and Ginny has been a nurse throughout her career, now retired.

Most recently, Ginny served veterans at Bay Pines Veterans Hospital. Ken is a retired social studies teacher, who taught for an impressive 46 years at Dunedin Highland Middle School.

Married for nearly five decades, they raised a son and a daughter in their cherished Clearwater family home for the past 31 years. They also have two grandchildren.

Their world changed last year during Hurricane Helene when catastrophic flooding engulfed their home.

The water rose so high that their dog had to swim from the backyard to the front to be lifted into a truck before the family could escape the neighborhood.

In the aftermath, the Bouchers faced immense loss.

Among the few treasures salvaged were Ginny’s hand-crafted photo scrapbooks – filled with decades of memories of family and travels – thanks to Ken’s quick thinking and care.

Rather than face the extensive and overwhelming task of rebuilding, Ginny and Ken chose to embrace a simpler,



more manageable lifestyle. They spent several months living in a camper before finding a fresh start at On Top of the World.

Now they are officially settled into their new Englander condo, alongside their two beloved dogs: Skippy, a feisty Chihuahua, and Moose, their faithful black Labrador.

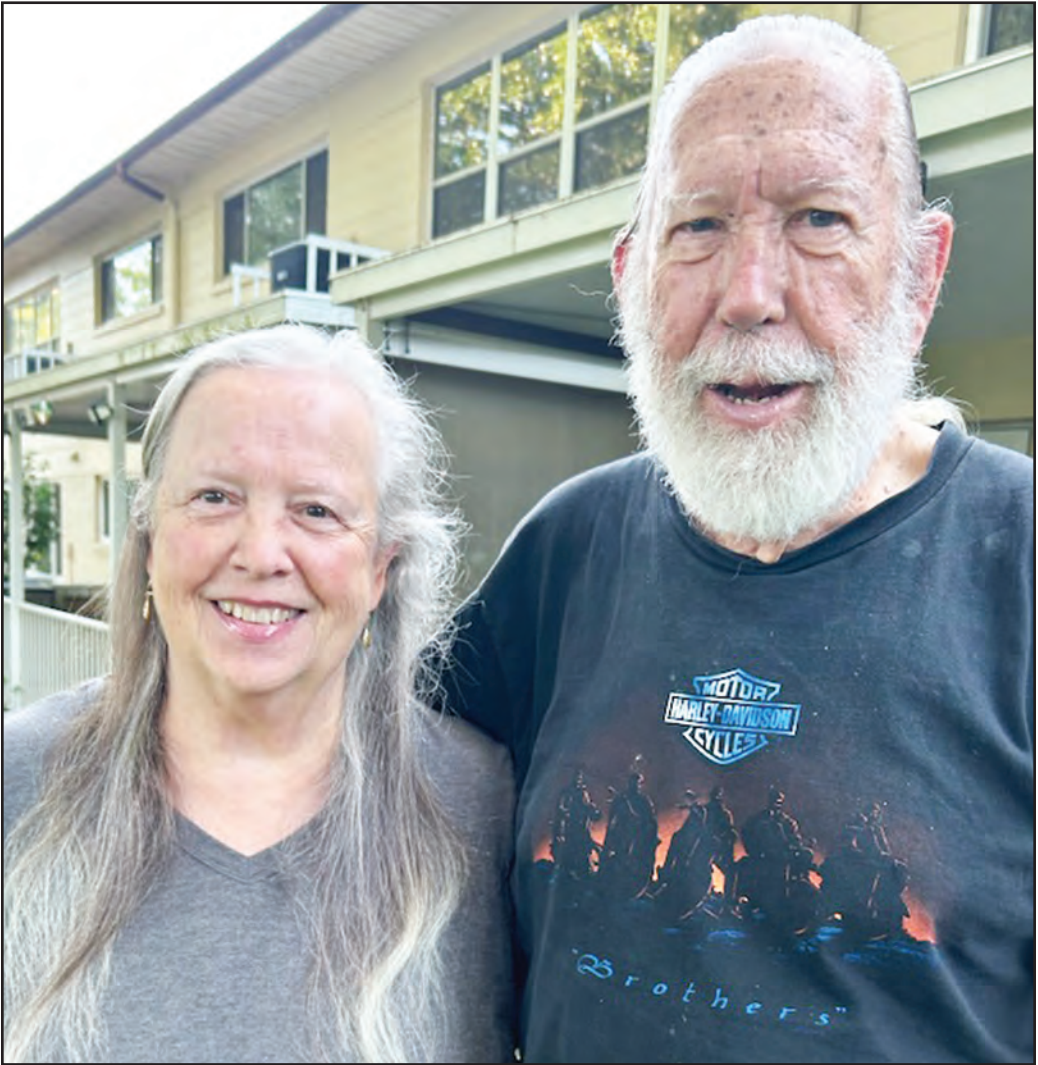
Beyond their home life, Ginny and Ken share a love for adventure. They enjoy cruising on both land and sea.

As avid motorcycle enthusiasts, they often hit the open roads together on one of their three motorcycles.

They embrace the freedom and joy that comes riding.

When not buzzing on a bike, you might find Ken and Ginny ocean cruising. They’ve already been to Iceland, and admit they’ve been to Alaska six times.

Their 50th wedding anniversary is coming up in December and if there’s



Ginny and Ken Boucher

a Christmas Market Cruise, I bet they’ll be on it.

Through it all, Ginny and Ken said they believe that everything happens for a reason and they trust that God

had this plan for them.

Please join us in welcoming Ginny and Ken to the Englander and to the OTOW community!





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# Austrian Alpine celebrates a 100th birthday and Star Wars Night at a Threshers game



There's a certain spunk, charm, sense of humor and surprise that comes with age, especially when one reaches the milestone of 100 years young.

At a mere 5 feet tall, with a smile that could light up a room, Dolores Strenkoski will tell you her secret to a long life: Take one day at a time.

The ever joyful, loving, Austrian Alpine senior has been here since 1986 when she lived with her sister-in-law, Beth Cupack Taylor. She currently lives with her daughter and son-in-law, Janice and Bill Farnham.

Dolores, a native of a town north of Buffalo, raised five children, cultivating a lifelong legacy of love and devotion.

She was married 45 years,

Dolores' unwavering commitment to family has been the cornerstone of her life and personal faith.

She has always been a hard-working woman and during World War II was "Rosie the Riveter" at Bell Aircraft Company in Niagara Falls. She built planes with her mom.

Dolores also was a school bus driver for 25 years.

Over the years, Dolores sang in the On Top of the World Chorus, enjoyed Italian language lessons through the Italian language club, and participated in line dancing.

She played golf ... and I hear she was pretty good at it. In fact, just a few weeks ago, she was at the Congo River Mini Golf Course here in Clearwater and made a hole in one on the first hole.

Way to go, Dolores.

Dolores has been active throughout her entire life enjoying skiing, snowmobiling, golfing, bowling, dancing and she's a lifetime member of Bali Health.

One of the greatest joys of celebrating this birthday milestone was to be with her family. Dolores is the second oldest of 10 children. She has five adult



Above, Austrian Alpine residents enjoy Star Wars night during a Clearwater Threshers baseball game. You can see how many building residents attended. Below is Dolores Strenkoski, who recently celebrated her 100th birthday.

children, 14 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews and cousins.

In other news, Bob Young hosted a Clearwater Threshers baseball game with residents from our building attending.

It was also Star Wars night.

In this unique twist, Star Wars characters and the team mascot, Phinley, put on disguises, such as Obi-Wan Kenobi. Yes! Obi-Wan was giving warm hugs to happy participants.

Jeff Flynn gave me the lowdown that the all-you-can-eat buffet in the party suite was delicious and the game was fantastic. A grand slam home run during the game was pure excitement.

He and his wife, Lora, were all smiles.

Linda Franklin said, "I had such a

great time."

I asked Bob Pugliese about his night. He said the game was exciting and he really enjoyed the atmosphere.

Jeannette Donnelly was nearly swallowed whole by Phinley Kenobi, but I think she was really getting a big kiss and sharky hugs.

Cliff and Laurel Chavis had fun with the Star Wars characters when Darth Vader and Grand Moff Tarkin entered the suite.

Laurel, our Kentucky native, was watching the Kentucky Derby live via an app on her phone. This woman can multitask like a boss. Everyone was happy to see her there and like Jeannette, she was nearly swallowed up by the shark. Photos are on our building bulletin board.

Thank you, Bob, for hosting a special event for the benefit of our neighbors.



Dolores Strenkoski

## Here is an idea - a building fishing trip

The Granadian men's club went fishing!

Our own men's club gathers every other Friday, at 1 p.m., at the Busy Bee Restaurant to discuss busy men's business.

A recent meeting led to members of the group taking a fishing excursion. You will notice in the photo they are actually displaying poles, but there are no fish.

The lack of fish will be discussed at the next meeting on June 13. Many other topics will be discussed.

Granada will hold its next building luncheon at Joey's Pizza and Italian Restaurant in Palm Harbor at 2 p.m. on June 9.

Please sign up on the reservation sheet that will be posted in the core bulletin board a few days before luncheon time.

Our "Meeting on the Green" social hour is held every fourth Thursday. Always bring a chair, your favorite drink, and your special words of wisdom to



share. We will next meet on Thursday, June 26 at 4 p.m. Come join the socializing. We will have an item to raffle as well as our 50/50 pot.

Don't forget to vote. Your vote is crucial to our wonderful community that we all live in and share together. Your vote and our community matters!

Until next month ... be blessed, be peaceful and let not your hearts be troubled.



Bob Davey, left, and Jeff Young proudly display their fishing poles after returning from a fishing excursion at the Clearwater Beach Marina. Notice, they are displaying fishing poles, but not fish!





# WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON IN YOUR BRAIN WHEN YOU'RE DEPRESSED?

It's not just in your head—it's in your brain chemistry, oxygen levels, and electrical activity



**Walter Griffith, MD**  
Psychiatrist, Medical Director

If you've been battling depression or anxiety, you might have wondered:

- ? **Why do I feel this way?**
- ? **Why can't I just snap out of it?**
- ? **Why won't medication work—or why does it make me feel worse?**

The truth is, depression isn't a weakness or a lack of willpower. It's a medical condition with real, measurable changes in the brain.

## HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING UNDER THE SURFACE:



### Your Brain's Communication System Is Disrupted

When you're depressed, certain areas of your brain—especially those involved in mood, motivation, and focus—aren't communicating properly. These brain circuits get underactive, like a dimmer switch turned too low



### "Feel-Good" Chemicals Drop

Neurotransmitters like serotonin, dopamine, and norepinephrine—your brain's natural mood boosters—start to decline. This leads to feelings of sadness, numbness, and lack of interest in things you once enjoyed.



### Oxygen Flow Slows Down

Brain scans show that blood flow and oxygen levels can decrease in people with depression. Without enough oxygen, your brain can't function at full strength.



### Your Brain's Rhythm Is Out of Sync

Just like a heart has a rhythm, so does your brain. Depression can cause certain brain waves to slow down or become irregular, making it harder to think clearly or feel emotionally balanced.

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# Feeling a little bit British this month? Try bangers with potatoes and peas



British cuisine consists of cooking traditions associated with the United Kingdom, including regional cuisine of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

British cuisine has its roots in the cooking traditions of the indigenous Celts, however, it has been significantly influenced and shaped by subsequent waves of conquest, notably that of the Romans, Ango-Saxons and Viking.

Traditional British foods are characterized as coarse, hearty dishes, relying on local, high quality, seasonal ingredients, paired with simple sauces to accentuate their flavor.

Staples of British cuisine include the roast dinner, the full breakfast, Shepherd's Pie, Cornish pasty (invented for Cornish tin miners who were unable to surface for lunch).

Traditional pasties combine diced beef, onion, rutabaga and carrots, encased in thick pastry and are best eaten hot from the bakers.

Other flavors, including veggie and vegan, are Christmas pudding, and bangers (sausage mashed with potatoes and onion gravy, with a side of peas - the ultimate pub grub comfort food).

Why as it called bangers?  
During World War I, water and other fillers were added to sausage to make up for meat shortages. When cooked, these fillers would cause the sausage to explode with a bang.

Everyone is familiar with the term fish and chips, but this dish also was called "chippies."

Chippies were often located in working-class neighborhoods, catering to the needs of factory workers, miners and dock workers.



The affordability and convenience of fish and chips made it a popular choice for families and, of course, another popular choice was Beef Wellington - believed to have been named after Arthur Wellesley, the first Duke of Wellington.

The precise origin of Beef Wellington is unclear and no definite connection between the dish and the duke has been found.

The meal itself includes a variety of cheeses, beer, ale, stout and cider.

When my wife, Cheryl, and I were in England recently, we saw that breakfast was always served with beans, along with eggs and potatoes, and sausages or bacon. When you order fish and chips, you get mashed peas.

### Tea

The rise in popularity of tea between the 17th and 19th Centuries had major social, political and economic implications for Great Britain.

Tea defined respectability and do-

mestic rituals, supported the rise of the British Empire, and contributed to the rise of the Industrial Revolution by supplying both the capital for factories and calories for laborers.

It also demonstrated the power of globalization and its ability to transform a country to reshape its society.

Since the 17th century, the United Kingdom has been one of the world's largest tea consumers with an average annual per capita supply of 4.2 pounds.

Originally an upperclass drink in Europe, tea gradually spread through all classes, eventually becoming a common drink. It is still considered an important part of the British identity today and is a prominent feature of British culture and society.

One of the things the British enjoy is high tea. The addition of the word "high" is specific to afternoon tea.

Afternoon tea is traditionally served on low, comfortable, parlor chairs, or while relaxing in the garden. It also can be a worker's after-work high tea that

is served at a table on high-back dining chairs.

Today, many people do not have the time to sit down to enjoy scones and cakes in the late afternoon, so for many the tea ritual is saved for a holiday or special treat.

Still, the traditional Brit will make time to sit and enjoy the civility of tea and other English dining customs - just maybe not on a daily basis.

In the United Kingdom, tea blends and preferences vary. Tea is typically served with milk, but it is also common to drink a variety of teas black or with a lemon.

Sugar is a popular addition to any variety. Everyday tea, such as English breakfast tea, served in a mug with milk and sugar, is a popular combination.

Sandwiches, crumpets, scones, cakes, or biscuits often accompany tea, which gave rise to the prominent British custom of dunking a biscuit into tea.

## Bangers and Mash

### Ingredients

- 2 pounds fresh Bangers sausage\*
- 2 pounds Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and diced
- 1 jar of onion gravy
- Kosher salt
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 4 ounces crème fraise
- ½ cup whole milk
- 2 teaspoons whole-grain mustard
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- Fresh parsley for garnish

\*You can buy Bangers sausage at Fresh Market here in Clearwater

### Directions

- Preheat oven 425 degrees farenheit.
- Place a baking rack on a sheet pan and arrange the sausages in one layer on the baking rack.
- Bake for 18 to 20 minutes, until the sausages are just cooked through.
- Meanwhile, place the potatoes in a large saucepan with 1 tablespoon of salt and enough water to cover the potatoes. Bring to a boil and simmer for 20 to 25 minutes, until the potatoes are very tender.
- Drain the potatoes in a colander and return them to the saucepan. Add butter, crème fraiche, milk, Dijon mustard, whole-grain mustard, dry mustard, 1 tablespoon salt and pepper and then beat the potatoes in the pan with a hand-held mixer on low speed until very smooth and creamy.
- To serve, mound a generous portion of potatoes on a dinner plate with onion gravy and top with sausage that have been cut in half diagonally.
- Sprinkle with fresh, chopped parsley and serve.





Golden Turmeric Gel

# The power of spices!

I thank a faithful reader for suggesting a column on the health benefit of spices.

Unlike the Western World, 80 percent of developing nations use herbal remedies and natural substances for medicine.

This is continuation of discussion on ways that food — particularly turmeric — might help lessen inflammation that afflicts so many seniors.

Spices can pack a powerful inflammation punch. (i) Research suggests a variety of spices can quiet the body’s signals to produce inflammatory chemicals. Several spices also contain potent antioxidants which may help negate inflammation produced by free radicals in our bodies.

I always add a ¼ teaspoon of turmeric powder to mayonnaise when I make potato salad. Its color makes the salad look rich as if it contains many eggs. Add turmeric to rice dishes for a beautiful golden hue and a subtle flavor. Incorporate turmeric into soups and stews for added depth of flavor. It works well in lentil soup and vegetable stews.

Remember a little turmeric goes a long way!

The dish pictured above is for adventuresome chefs, like you, my dear readers.

Turmeric is a common spice in Indian cooking. The turmeric flavor may seem unusual to you at first, but the spice gives warming, earthy flavors. In this recipe, that flavor is softened by the natural sweetness of the fruit. Blue-



berries are particularly a lovely complementary flavor to the turmeric.

This recipe takes only five minutes to make and the rest of the “work” is done in the refrigerator overnight. So easy. I like to make this every week and take a couple of teaspoons as a healthy snack daily.

### Nutritional Value

Turmeric contributes an amazing anti-inflammatory benefit. It comes from its potent plant compounds and polyphenols that can lower inflammation and help reduce pain. You can buy turmeric in bulk at Queen Cleopatra Mediterranean Grocery or Sprouts. Both are on Sunset Point Road.

Turmeric is also good for the brain and is recommended by Dr. Amen, renowned brain specialist.

Turmeric is part of daily curries eaten in India and may help explain the low rate of Alzheimer’s disease in that country. (ii) Among people aged 70 to 79, the rate is 75 percent less than that of the United States.

The National Institute of Health provides a listing of other chronic diseases that may be helped by curcumin which is the more powerful portion of turmeric. These include: atherosclerosis, cancer, COPD, diabetes, psoriasis and more.

It is possible to buy over-the-counter turmeric pills. Since turmeric can thin the blood if taken on a daily basis, consult with your doctor if you are already on blood thinners.

Each of the ingredients in the Golden gel help subdue inflammation.

Black pepper is perhaps the best-loved and most widely used spice in the world. It is included in this recipe because black pepper enhances the absorption of turmeric.

Medicinally, black pepper also boosts the generation of heat in the body, leading to more calories burned. Ironically, black pepper has been known to help calm digestive issues – it helps signal the stomach to produce more hydrochloric acid, which aids in protein digestion.

Black pepper was seen as so valuable during the Middle Ages that it catalyzed the spice trade, led to the exploration of undiscovered lands, and spurred the development of merchant cities in the Middle East and Europe.

Black pepper was so valuable, it was used as currency at that time.

Chia seeds are high in protein, rich in omega-3 fatty acids, and full of vitamins and minerals such as iron, calcium and magnesium.

These little black seeds are a superfood for real. It is a soluble fiber that

is good for your health. Chia seeds are keto friendly and very high in fiber. They help slow digestion by making you feel satisfied longer. These seeds are recommended in preventing osteoporosis and bone loss as it is high in calcium, phosphorus, and manganese.

You can buy chia seeds at Sprouts or any health-food store.

Once cultivated by the Aztecs, chia seeds grow mostly in southwestern part of the United States and in Mexico.

These seeds do not have flavor, but add a crunchy texture to recipe. Once chia seeds are wet, they get a jelly-like texture when chilled. The texture is not as firm as that of a traditional pudding.

Berries are rich in vitamins, minerals and flavonoids and other polyphenols. Thus, berries are effective in reducing inflammation and pain associated with arthritis. Another clinical trial found strawberries can lessen cartilage degradation osteoarthritis.

This recipe is vegan, gluten free, dairy free and not bad for keto dieters if you use a keto friendly sweetener. (If you prefer, you can substitute regular milk for a non-keto version.)

Enjoy your nutrient-dense, plant-based treat! This makes for a nutritious breakfast, snack or dessert.

Good nutrition is one of the key foundations of good health.

This column is not intended to provide medical advice. The reader should consult a physician for medical advice.

(i) [www.drweil.com](http://www.drweil.com)  
(ii) [pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](http://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)

## Golden Turmeric Gel

### Golden Turmeric Gel Ingredients

- 1/4 cup chia seeds
- 1 cup unsweetened plant-based milk (almond or coconut work well)
- 1/4 cup shredded coconut flakes
- 1/2 teaspoon ground turmeric
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

- 1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 teaspoons honey
- 1/4 teaspoons vanilla extract

### Toppings

- 1/4 cup walnuts, chopped
- 1/4 cup fresh blue berries
- 2 sliced strawberries

### Instructions

1. In a bowl, whisk together the milk, turmeric, cinnamon, black pepper, honey, shredded coconut, and vanilla extract until well combined.
2. Add the chia seeds and stir well. Let it sit for five minutes, then stir again to prevent clumping.

3. Cover the bowl and refrigerate. After a couple of hours, stir again.
4. Refrigerate overnight to allow the chia seeds to absorb the liquid and create a gel consistency and for the flavors to meld together.
5. Top each bowl with chopped walnut and fresh berries.



# Vienesse Villa throws a going away party to one of our beloved neighbors



Villa residents got together in May for a going away party for our dear neighbor Rosalie Borselli. She is moving to be closer to family.

We presented her with flowers and a huge cake. Certainly she will be missed, but promises to keep in touch with us.

“Old Glory” flag day is coming up. Time to unfurl the Viennese Villa flag.

Thanks to Brian and Gerrie Lance, Viennese Villa shall be decked out for that special day, June 14.

The Villa had a well-attended pizza party in May. Carroll Harris, Karen Safee and Joan Coyle, along with others, set up a table in the second floor core, which allows cool breezes on warm days.

Thanks to the gals and guys for a very enjoyable evening.

I want to give a huge thank you to our Summit “go-to guy” Wayne Edwards and his excellent crew for resolving problems in our building. I, for one, really enjoy Summit, especially the recall feature.

Thanks again, Wayne. Well done.

It’s great seeing Nancy Malinconic’s cheery smile and looking chipper around the Villa after a long absence.

Welcome back Nancy!

Kudos to the Parkway Maintenance



crews which never cease to amaze me.

They also keep the Villa building and grounds so spick and span.

There is a very important vote this month on reserves. If we waive reserves, it will save us money in our HOA fee. If we keep reserves, it will cost more.

The most important thing is get educated. Ask questions. Learn about reserves before you vote. It’s your choice.

Well kids ... that’s about it for this month.

Birthday greetings to all including Steve Mazurek, Trudy Barry and Dana Garlick and all others celebrating.

Any news fit to print, send along to [fresca@maine.rr.com](mailto:fresca@maine.rr.com).

At left, Rosalie Borselli at her going away party in May.



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Extra copies of OTOW News are available in the East and West Activity Center lobbies and at the newsroom.

OTOW News is read all over the world - even Bali Indonesia.

If they run out in Bali, you can always look online at  
otowboxoffice.com





# Everyone here should celebrate their birthday at Island Way Grill

New World French residents enjoyed dinner at the Island Way Grill to celebrate two April birthdays. They were very important birthdays - mine was one of them!

We had a very nice three-course dinner and Suzy Vesley made lemon muffins for everyone after dinner.

New residents have moved into our building: Bob and Vicky Randis. They are originally from Northeastern Pennsylvania and moved to Tampa four years ago.

They had friends at On Top of the World who encouraged them to move here and here they are.

Bob enjoys fishing. Vicky enjoys bingo and plays poker.

Vicky has applied to work in the library, so hopefully you might see her



working there. They have a daughter who lives in Tampa and three grandchildren. Welcome both of you.



When you celebrate a birthday at New World French, you go first class. Above was the April birthday celebration.

## Hot dog party gets professional entertainment

"Hot diggity dog!" That's an old expression of joy. The Valencia Building sure had plenty of joy to share at our annual hot dog party in April.

At the Pavilion we had a good turnout with a wonderful buffet of dishes to share and perfectly grilled quarter-pound hot dogs that we buy from Gordon's Food service store on Gulf to Bay.

We had so much fun chatting and laughing. We didn't even have time for a traditional round of corn hole, but we sure had some great music.

Kim Copeland kindly invited her friend, Will Johns, the English rock singer and guitarist to entertain us with a few songs. What a treat! He was here from London doing shows locally at venues like the Capitol Theater and the Safety Harbor Art & Music Center. He has his own band and he has performed with renowned artists such as Joe Strummer, Eric Clapton, Jay Kay Ronnie Wood, Jack Bruce and Bill Wyman.

Our Building's "Ladies Brunch Bunch" continues through the summer on the second Thursday of the month.

In May, our building headed out to Carmelita's Restaurant for some Mexican style food and fun. Ole!



Valencia crowd at hot dog picnic.

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# If you’ve never been to South America, pack a bag - your first tour starts with this story

By Bonnie Mack

Whenever I reflect on the most memorable 95 countries I have visited over the last 58 years, many deserve one or more encores.

For some, it was their magnificent history. For others, it was their lovely architecture.

Others deserve an encore for their wealth of natural beauty.

I initially visited South America in 1973 and returned in 2003 to include additional sites, whose impressions beckoned for yet another encore this year.

My most recent trip confirmed what I previously discovered – exciting history (often tumultuous), lovely architecture, and a wealth of natural beauty.

Trip three to South America truly was an encore.

My tour started in Santiago, Chile, which seemed new to me because I was staying on the other side of the city. My hotel was surrounded by beautiful apartment buildings, whose sidewalks were shaded by huge trees.

Tucked away amidst the apartments and offices of the sprawling city were the government buildings. The city was a mix of modern and colonial architecture, often residing side-by-side.

I flew down Chile’s coast to Puerto Montt, gateway to the Lake District - a region of beautiful, crystal-clear, emerald lakes.

Continuing through the rolling countryside, I arrived at the charming village of Puerto Varas, known as the “city of roses.”

Just across the lake were two imposing, snow-capped volcanoes.

The following day, I journeyed through the Andes, where I boarded one of several catamarans to cross the lakes. The boat rides were broken up by bus drives on winding roads through heavily-forested areas to the next boat dock.

A day that began with gray clouds, exploded into one with glorious sunshine. It was impossible to determine if the azure sky reflected its color on the lakes, or vice-versa.

All the while, people in my group were cruising. We were surrounded by volcanoes, some of which had snow on their peaks even though it was early autumn in South America.

As if I hadn’t seen enough beautiful lakes, we crossed into Argentina to Bariloche.

Members of my group ascended by chairlift to Cerro Campanario (Belfry Hill), where I was astonished to see amazing views of lakes surrounded by the low Andes.

Bariloche is famous for its chocolate, developed through the decades by German and Swiss immigrants. The entire area is reminiscent of those areas in Europe.

In 1973, I arrived in Buenos Aires just three days after the previously exiled Juan Peron had returned to Argentina and had been elected president once more.

I still recall the posters on the walls of buildings, each with Evita looking over Juan’s shoulder, and Isabel, his current wife, in the forefront.

I wanted to learn more about Evita Peron after seeing the movie and learning of her history with Juan.

My trip leader was so excited to hear about my experience in 1973 that he asked me to relay it to our group.

Gee, it felt like only yesterday. I looked at everyone, and wondered



On top, Bonnie Mack poses in front of the Lakes of Bariloche located beneath the lower Andes mountains in Argentina. Below, Bonnie has a birds-eye look of Rio de Janeiro, which she considers the most beautiful view in the world.

where the decades had gone. It had been 52 years since my first visit to Buenos Aires and I was now among the oldest in the group, far from being the youngest in 1973.

How time marches on!

Before my plane landed in Buenos Aires, my head was filled with the staccato music of the tango. Even as a child, the name of the city called to my imagination. The city is like a smorgasbord of varied architecture, where modern and colonial style buildings are surrounded by beautiful parks.

The Rio de la Plata River is so wide that one would think they were looking at the ocean.

The people themselves are as varied as the architecture. More than one guide commented that an Argentinian may be of Italian descent, speak Spanish, think he’s English, and prefer to live in a French-style house.

One of Buenos Aires’ most interesting places is the La Boca neighborhood, a working class barrio, the old quarters of which are a mix of colonial style homes, narrow lanes, artists’ lofts and very trendy cafes. It’s where the tango originated and dancers can still be found practicing their moves on sidewalks.

The entire area shouts “TANGO!”

The area is colorful and full of shops and restaurants, not to mention unbelievable, and sometimes outrageous, artwork on many of its buildings.

Back to the waters.

After visiting the big cities. It was now time for Iguazu Falls, another spectacular place that has been calling for an encore visit for two decades.

This UNESCO World Heritage Site is tucked away in the jungle.

There are 275 separate cataracts, spanning miles. It’s 2.5 miles wider than Zimbabwe’s Victoria Falls and higher than Niagara Falls.

Having visited all three locations several times, on a scale of 1-10, Victoria Falls is about a 6.0, Iguazu Falls is a 15.0 and Niagara Falls doesn’t make the scale.

My group spent two days walking along (and over) the cataracts of the falls – first on the Argentinian side, to view the Brazilian side, and then the reverse.

Some of the cataract sprays, such as from Devil’s Throat, were so forceful that visitors were drenched.

When standing near one of the massive cataracts, nothing could be heard but the rushing waters. Like the lake



crossings and Bariloche, Iguazu Falls ranks among the most beautiful sites on the planet.

The “Jewel in the Crown” was next – Rio de Janeiro!

I’ll never forget my first visit to Rio in 1973. My friend and I were standing on a restaurant balcony that overlooked Guanabara Bay. It was early evening and the mountains could be seen cascading into the water. The peak of Sugarloaf Mountain (another UNESCO World Heritage Site), erupted from the bay. The site absolutely took our breaths away.

Rio is loud, colorful, unbelievably beautiful, and most inviting.

The city’s beauty doesn’t necessarily come from its modern high-rises, or even its colonial buildings, built by the Portuguese. It comes from the landscape, necessarily modified by tunnels that connect the area like arteries, rushing life to the city.

Wherever one looks, mountains of all sizes appear to be tumbling into the sea.

One of the most delightful tours I took was to “Samba City,” built by a

former mayor to house the floats for Carnival. Hundreds of samba schools participate and Carnival dominates everything for a four-day period, prior to Ash Wednesday.

Architects, artisans, carpenters, dancers, seamstresses and many more contribute to the development of each float, working for an entire year to address one segment of the annual theme.

At the conclusion of our tour, we were invited to try on some of the costumes previously worn during Carnival. Perhaps my biggest surprise was watching grown men so excited to dress up that they couldn’t get one costume off fast enough to try on another.

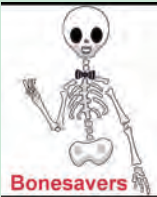
Meanwhile, their wives, who appeared to be very conservative, busied themselves dressing in plumed head-dresses and colorful gowns.

The flight from Miami is only about 8.5 hours and the time is the same returning from Rio.

Anyone who loves history, architecture, friendly people and magnificent natural beauty must put these places at the top of their travel plans!

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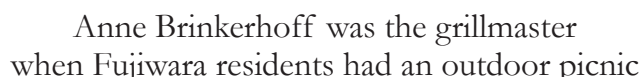


It was a tight race, neck and neck, between Baby Blue and Little Green

One such event, inspired by Tracey Zhender, a Kentucky native with fond memories of derby days, provided an authentic derby experience including

Once again Dorado residents displayed their love of fun by celebrating a great event like the Derby.

We are already looking forward to our next one!



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# Even Hong Kong and Vietnam can be considered a tourist attraction

“A most unusual trip” is the only way to describe a recent trip taken by our building residents Nick and Julia Dowsett.

While most of us consider a cruise to the Caribbean or perhaps a trip to Europe an adventure, Nick and Julia ventured to Hong Kong and Vietnam.

To add to their experience, they arranged their own itinerary rather than participate in a preplanned group tour.

Nick has traveled extensively during his business career, including trips to Hong Kong, but this was an opportunity to explore the sights on a leisurely trip.

Nick and Julia spent 18 days at many interesting locations.

Nick said Hong Kong had not really changed much since his business travel when it was a British colony. Now under Chinese rule, it continues to be a well-developed city with a great infrastructure.

Nick described Hong Kong as semi-autonomous with no sense of oppression. He also shared that throughout the city there is an obsession with Bruce Lee of martial arts fame and there are many statues of Bruce throughout the city.

From Hong Kong, they proceeded to Vietnam which some people would never consider a tourist destination. However, Nick said he had been intrigued with Vietnam ever since the war and it is a very affordable place to vacation.

Hanoi was their Vietnamese destination. Nick and Julia dined on Train Street, which has a scheduled train that runs four times daily through the center of the dining area, which temporarily disrupts meals.

About 10 minutes prior to a train's approach, a conductor walks down the center of the track to clear it of diners. Nick videoed the event and it was amazing how close the diners were to the speeding train which was headed to Saigon. As soon as the train passed, diners moved tables back on the track and finished their meals.

I inquired about the food and Nick said it was good quality, but mainly rice and noodles and no western foods. He noted that it was challenging to eat with chopsticks, especially the noodles, which tended to slip off the chopstick. He complimented Julia for her proficiency with the chopsticks and noodles.

During their stay, Nick and Julia saw the infamous Hanoi Hilton which was built by the French and served as a prison for many American service members during the horrific war years.

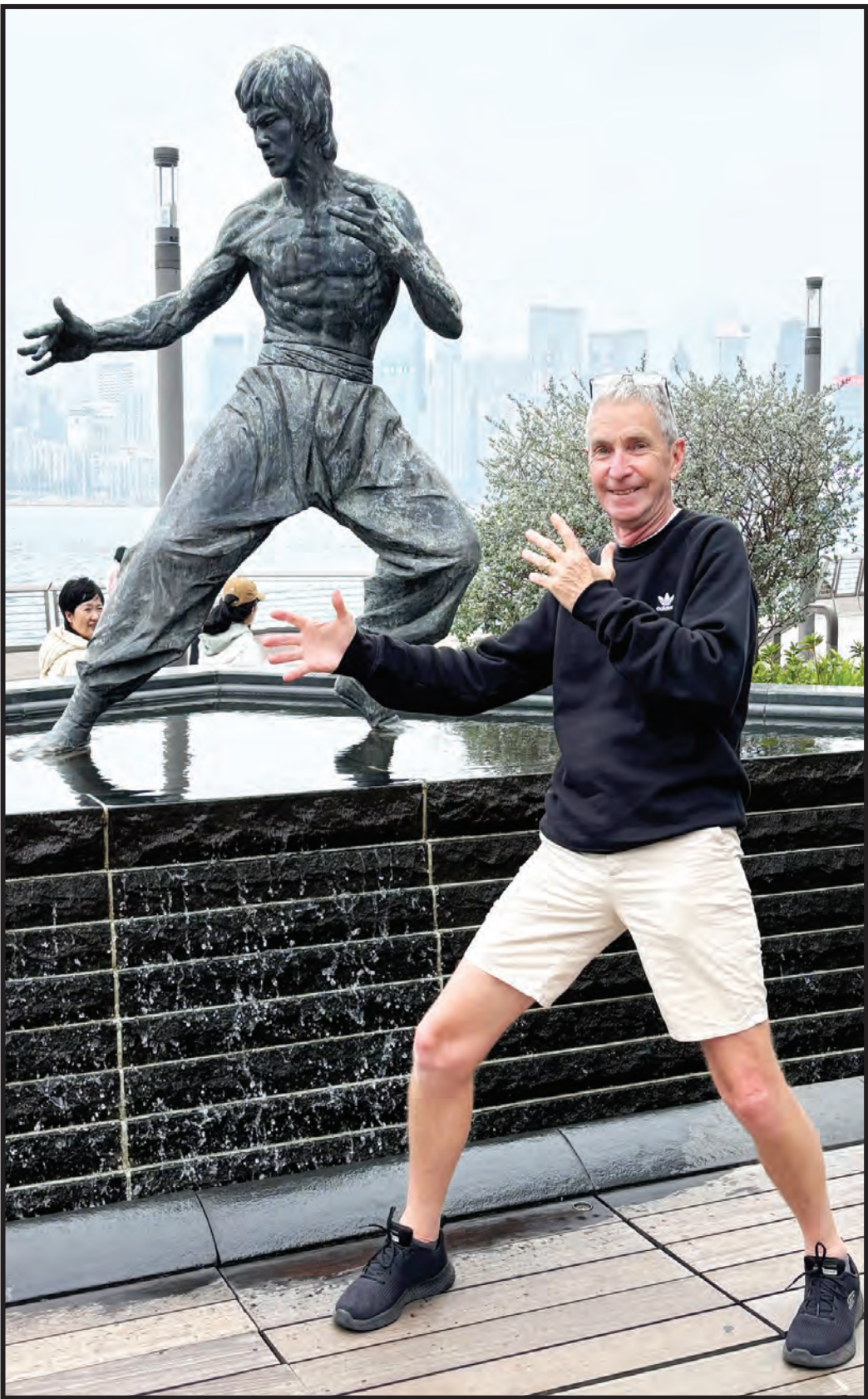
I inquired what effect the war had on the Vietnamese people and Nick replied that the people were welcoming and helpful.

Other than frequent “public service” announcements on loudspeakers, it was difficult to differentiate this communist controlled city from any other large metropolitan area.

Since Nick couldn't understand the announcements, he assumed they were government propaganda.

On the lighter side, Nick and Julia enjoyed a sunset cruise on the picturesque HaLong Bay.

At the end of our interview, Nick shared that he would like to travel back to Vietnam to ride the train to Saigon. If he does, I will enjoy hearing about this new adventure and sharing it with the rest of our building and community.



Nick Dowsett stands in front of a Bruce Lee statue in Hong Kong. This was not the only statue dedicated to the martial arts expert. There were many in the city.

## Mah Jongg in a Condo

There is a group of Mah Jongg players at On Top of the World which plays on Thursdays in people's condos throughout the year. We play 1:30-3:30 pm. We also teach if you want to learn the game. Interested? Call Libby at 727-669-1486.

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# Classifieds

OTOW News classifieds are for On Top of the World residents only. You may place an ad to sell or seek to buy using up to 40 words. You cannot sell anything for a price of more than \$500. You cannot sell condos, cars, bedding or used clothing. No business ads. No companion ads. Classifieds must be dropped off at the newsroom in person before the 16th of each month. You may be asked to show your activity card. One classified per household per month. You must ask to have your ad run twice.

For sale: Dining room table with four chairs. 48x48 with storage doors underneath. Asking \$200. Call Jayne at 727-791-1978.

For sale: Hisense dehumidifier. Like new. Compact size. Retail price \$189. Asking \$90. Call Carol at 727-560-6608.

For sale: Pride Jazzy Air 2 elevating power chair. Like new. New battery. Was \$4300 new. Call Steve for a price, 817-874-2085.

For sale: Fish tank, 90-pound, with accessories. Lights at night. Call Joe at 732-710-0214.

Free wine-making supplies. All you need to add is a wine kit. Call Dave at 727-580-0002.

For sale: Blond bamboo etagere with four shelves. 60 inches high, 25 1/4 inches wide. Will fit in back of SUV. Best offer considered. Call Cecile at 727-797-9616.

## BRAIN TEASE

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To do the Brain Tease above, you must put a number 0-9 in each white square. The trick is, each number can only appear one time horizontally and vertically. Start with a row or column with only one white square. As you fill in squares, the rest of the board will get easier to manage.

OTOW News

WORDMIX

Unscramble the six words listed below.  
If you unscramble correctly, the first letter of each word will spell out the secret word of the month.  
If you cannot come up with the secret word of the month, then redo at least one of the six scrambled words.  
Please note, none of the secret words are plural.

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SECRET WORD:

Last month's scrambled words: NEVER, IDIOT, NATURE, EATERY, TONIGHT, YOUNGER. Secret Word Last Month: NINETY

## Good Karma Book Club

A post-read book discussion group.

**10 am, Thursday, June 19**

**“The Lion Women of Tehran”**


**By Marjan Kamali**

**10 am, Thursday, July 17**


**“The Brilliant Life of Eudora Honneysett”**

**By Annie Lyons**

All of our meetings take place in the East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room.  
For more information, see our web page on the Box Office (otowboxoffice.com).  
You can also call Jane at 727-754-3823.



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