

# Why you should vote to waive reserves

see Kenneth Colen’s column on page 3

## ON TOP OF THE WORLD NEWS

May 2025      Published Since 1968      57 Years of Only Good News      Volume 57      No. 5

### 106 contribute to OTOW News during past 12 months - 33 qualify for Appreciation Dinner



What a way to end the 2024-25 season. Your On Top of the World newspaper staff contributed nearly 70 elements to the April newspaper. An element is anything that makes you stop and look - a story, a photo or an informative piece of art.

The average is 50 elements per newspaper! We crushed it!

Your newspaper staff doesn't get paid for their work. They are strictly volunteers who love their community newspaper.

On April 3, the Press Association held its annual Appreciation Dinner to honor its staff - especially those who not only contributed to the newspaper over the past 12 months, but those who attended meetings and helped the newspaper improve.

There were 99 residents and seven employees who submitted stories, submitted photographs, attended staff meetings or proof read OTOW News since May 2024. Thirty-one of them qualified for the Appreciation Dinner by contributing to at least three newspapers and attending at least three meetings.

The Appreciation Dinner took place at Philippe Park shelter No. 7 on a beautiful spring evening. Dinner was catered by Clearwater Family Restaurant - one of our monthly advertisers. It was a time to reflect on the past 12 newspapers, a time to finally exhale and a time to look ahead.

The evening ended with several people sitting in chairs just enjoying Old Tampa Bay. The Press Association requested some local dolphins to do a "swim-over" and they obliged by kicking their tales in the air for us.

"This staff is amazing," said Editor Doug Kates. "We continue to produce a quality newspaper the way OTOW founder Sidney Colen wanted it produced. Positive stories. Happy features. Informative content. And now we are starting to give residents a little



Pictured above are some of the OTOW News staffers who celebrated the end of the newspaper season with an Appreciation Dinner at Philippe Park. Below is the dinner line at shelter No. 7.



more community information that they've never read before."

One would think, if a writer contributed 12 stories over the past 12 months, that would be like a perfect record. But statistics show that some writers went above and beyond. Joe DeChiaro contributed 13 stories, including the Texas Card Game Club and his building Royale Dutch. Karen French wrote 15 stories, including ladies golf, ping pong and her building, French Renaissance. Patrick Hayes wrote 14 stories, including the New York-New Jersey Club and the Brahman building. Mike Wood wrote 17 stories, including the monthly Around the Bay feature and helped his wife, Charlie, cover the Rizal building.

Randae VanDenover topped everyone with 24 stories in the past 12 months. She writes the Science of Cooking feature and contributes the 25 Years Ago feature.

"You cannot read this newspaper in one day," Doug said. "There is too much stuff. And we plan on running at least 50 stories a month for the 2025-26 season, too."

One question asked at the Appreciation Dinner was the rumor being spread online that residents in each building have to pay to have the community newspaper delivered to each building. Some online rumors claim each building is charged \$200 a month just to have the newspaper stocked in their center core. Let's see. \$200 times 12 months would be \$2,400, times 91 buildings comes out to \$218,400 to deliver the newspaper for a year. Really?

At the Association Board Meeting on March 27, the board was asked if residents

for each building are paying \$100 or \$200 a month for newspaper delivery. Diane Like, the chairperson, said, "We have all gone through all the check registers and all the financial information for the Association. We (residents) are not being charged for the newspapers being delivered."

Hopefully that will stop the false rumors.

During a board meeting last year, it was stated that when Parkway Maintenance employees deliver bundles of newspapers, it is part of their daily duties for that day, which takes place only 12 times a year.

The Appreciation Dinner ended the 2024-25 Press Association season. There will be no elections in May because all

three current board members said they would like to stay on another year and no one else sent a letter requesting to join the board. Tom Butcher will remain as president, Donna Gagnon as vice president and Joanne Cordes as secretary.

The next staff meeting is 1:30 p.m., Thursday, May 8, in the East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room. Please note this is the second Thursday in May. This will be the first meeting toward qualifying for the 2025-26 Appreciation Dinner. The staff will discuss holding some future meetings at off-site locations in an attempt to create more interest.

### OTOW News contributors for the 2024-25 season

Julie Awot Katie Bajis Earl Ballance Ron Baltrunas Dessa Barabba Harry Barbin Sheryl Barbin David Beaven Sheila Bonomo Dennise Boudreau Patti Branch Laura Broberg Kathy Brumbaugh Cheryl Butcher Tom Butcher Tom Chalupka Ava Cioli Jerry Colen	Kenneth Colen Mary Connolly Joanne Cordes Patricia Cullen-Davis Marina Davidovich Joe DeChiaro Diane Dvorak Jay English Paula Ergang Fran Fairfield John Fier Ed Foland Rene Foley Lillian Foy Karen French Donna Gagnon Dana Garlick William Golden	Sam Gonnella Lori Gotshall Barney Hanrahan Patrick Hayes Sally Herman Bill Houser Ronald Huber Doug Kates Cheryl Kutchinski Jim LeBlanc Laurie LeClaire Roy Lemus Margaret LeTourneau Tim Lewis Diane Like Tim Martin Valerie Martin Constance McDonald	Bruce McMaster Terri Mikszenas MaryAnne Nargi Frank Newton Pat O'Beirne Maryanne O'Neil Joanne Osburn Irene Pappas Irene Piper Ismalia Polselli Jean-Paul Remont Barbara Rice Bob Rittner Nancy Rogers Pam Rosenblatt Deborah Russell Cecile Sangiamo Tony Santarsieri	Henry Santos Gloria Sayer Robin Scent Paula Schelling Edwina Schick Spring Shorten Marge Sivek Rick Slater Patty Soriano Betty Spoerl Dale Stackhouse Connie Stanley Tara Still Audrey Strong Maxine Sutcliffe Lyn Taecker Karen Tatge Hope Terra	Jesse Tiamson Susan Trost Ka-Rum Troyli Carl Turner Kathleen Clodge-Valdes Randae VanDenover Mary Lou Wall Joanne Wallend Kathleen Walter Linda Weaver Joe Wisinski Jane Wolf Howard Wolff Charlie Wood Mike Wood Toni Young Total 106 Dinner Qualified 33
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# Why you should vote to waive reserves

Association Board Chairperson Diane Like has asked that the Parkway Manager write an informational article on Reserves, and whether or not to waive them.

Annually, residents of condominium communities must vote on whether to waive or to establish Reserves, and if established, how much should be assessed.

A threshold question here is "Can owners legally waive Reserves?"

The answer is yes.

SB (Senate Bill) 154 allows for an alternative method in lieu of funding Reserves. Your Association entered into an agreement with the Division of Land Sales and Condominiums in 2023 where the division recognized the validity of the "pay as you go" approach utilized by the Management Company for this community.

So long as capital projects are funded when due, this Association remains in safe harbor and residents may vote to waive Reserves as long as a majority of residents in good standing vote to waive Reserves.

Since the inception of the community, Parkway Maintenance & Management of Pinellas, LLC, has adhered to the practice of budgeting for current maintenance expenditures and any capital items such as roofing, paving and painting. Generally, building repairs are considered as maintenance within the budget items because of their limited scope and cost. In other words, cash flow-based budgeting means that improvements are budgeted and funded for the year the improvements will



be made. It is basically a "pay as you go" approach. Nothing is allowed to fall behind or to be deferred.

This practice of cash-flow budgeting ensures that major, costly work is never deferred to a future date. Delaying or deferring current maintenance to some undefined future date always results in a higher cost of the needed repairs when they finally happen.

If the Association were to vote to establish Reserves, what kind of work is funded by Reserves?

The statutory requirements cover, paving, painting and roofs. Any Board may establish additional reserves for capital projects.

**The important point here is this: Imposing Reserves does not work to lower your monthly maintenance expenses.**

Why is this?

When Reserves are adopted, the economic value of any deferred work

must be funded into the Reserve Fund, in addition to the other operational expenses of the Association. Generally, funding of Reserves drive up the monthly costs paid by residents.

Should the community vote to establish Reserves, the Reserves would have to be fully funded at imposition within the new budget. **This would require a large special assessment to fund.** Monthly payment will need to increase to keep Reserves funded. Expenditure of any Reserve funds are limited to the expenses for that specific Reserve category. Roof reserve funds may **not** be spent on painting, paving or operating shortfalls. For example, a roofing reserve may only be spent for the capital costs of reroofing.

It is key to remember that the Management Company, at the Boards direction, worked with third party consulting engineers and architects to perform both Structural Integrity Reserve Studies (SIRS) and Threshold Structural Building Inspections. Both studies were completed in 2024. The SIRS study concluded that Reserves need not be imposed so long as the practice of budgeting for current maintenance expenditures and any capital items such as roofing, paving and painting is continued.

Both studies are available for review on the On Top of the World-Clearwater condominium website.

Your Board has previously let it be known through an article in the World News, that they recommend that all owners vote to waive Reserves in the 2025-26 fiscal year budget up for adoption at the June Board budget meeting.

**Consistent with that article, I am reminding you that unless you vote to waive reserves this fiscal year, \$77.22 will be added to your monthly community services fee beginning July 1.**

**It's your choice. You will need to vote in this important matter.**

Shortly, you will be receiving the very important budget mailing. Please reach out to the Community Service Office if you have not received the mailing. I mention this because the United States Post Office is racking up a very bad record for delivering the mail. We don't know why, but we do know that people who live here full-time have previously not received their Budget packages.

Fortunately, the Budget package is also posted online at [OTOWClearwaterInfo.com](http://OTOWClearwaterInfo.com) under the Association Meetings tab. When you visit the site to view the items mailed, you will also find an excellent alternative to a paper ballot and how to cast your vote electronically. You now have two options to vote electronically. Both ways are very easy, especially if you own multiple condos.

The first option is voting electronically through [otow.conduu.com](http://otow.conduu.com). If you have previously voted electronically, please sign in and cast your vote.

If you have not opted-in to electronic voting, please visit <https://www.otowclearwaterinfo.com/electronic-voting/> for more information on how to opt in for this convenient and secure voting option.

Electronic voting closes on June 3, 2025, at 10 a.m.

## Food Truck Nights on May 3 and 14, 3-7:30 pm, EAC

Introducing Mrs Wanda's Soul Food on May 3. Slipps Ice and ice cream will be available for dessert Cousins Maine Lobster will be here May 14 for the first time, plus Stevie D's Philly Cheese, BBQ Queen, Gigglewaters and Donut NV.

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# Hurricane season starts in June -

Hurricane season is quickly coming upon us so don't be caught unprepared.

Colorado State University is predicting 17 named storms, nine of which are predicted to reach hurricane force winds, with four reaching Category 3 or higher.

To amplify that further, Florida has a 65 percent probability of seeing a hurricane and a 35 percent probability of seeing at least one major hurricane.

Now is the time to evaluate the essentials and determine what you need to do to protect your family. Please review your evacuation plan and know the location of local shelters and special needs shelters. You can find this information, as well as an evacuation map, by going online and visiting:

[www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/shelters.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/shelters.htm)

Remember, On Top of the World activity centers are not approved shelters so be sure you have a safe place to evacuate to if the need arises.

If you are mobility challenged or have special medical needs, make a plan to seek shelter in a location equipped to meet your needs.

If you are able or choose to shelter in place, check your supplies to be sure you have enough non-perishable food, water and medication to cover at least seven days.

Also, have some extra cash on hand. Have a battery powered weather radio and some flashlights with extra batteries. If you do not have a weather radio, you may purchase one in the Community Service Office.

Check your insurance coverage before May 10 and contact your agent to review your policy by asking for an insurance check-up.

Many people fear hurricanes for their high winds when, in fact, history shows rising water causes most fatalities.

Stay safe and do not drive through flooded streets as it is almost impossible to determine the depth of the water that covers the roadway. Remember, turn around, don't drown.

Because localized flooding within the community is always a concern, your Association and Parkway Maintenance and Management Pinellas will make every effort to communicate before, during and after a storm event.



Be sure to sign up for OTOW Alerts powered by RAVE Mobile Safety. This is one of the quickest ways residents in our community can get the necessary information needed to remain safe. You can sign up by visiting the website [otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://otowclearwaterinfo.com) and scrolling down to the bottom of the home page.

Be prepared for the possibility or probability that elevator services will be suspended during weather events where conditions warrant it. Elevators could be shut down prior to a major storm arriving. If you have mobility issues, please plan to seek alternate shelter options.

### Did You Know Helpful Window Tips

Each month I like to put something in my article that speaks about a particular question a resident may have or issue they might be facing. This is one of those times when, given the pending hurricane season, I have included some helpful tips for window maintenance.

Believe it or not, some simple steps taken now may help you avoid costly problems later.

It is important to say that not all signs of potential leaks can be found indoors. Assess all your windows bi-annually to make sure they are functioning properly.

Windows need to be free of fractures, either in the frame or the actual pane itself. If you notice broken glass, contact a local window professional so you can remedy the situation quickly. Broken windows may provide an access point for wind driven water to damage the common elements or to enter the unit,

which may cause damage to your unit and even the unit(s) below.

Leaking windows also allow air to escape your home resulting in higher air conditioning costs.

During your window inspection, be on the lookout for telltale signs such as water stains, mold and mildew. Pay particular attention to the caulking for any cracks or areas that may have a void.

You will want a window professional to remove old caulking carefully and then replace it with a polyurethane sealant.

Regularly inspect all weep holes in your window tracks for water drainage. Clean out weep hole areas to avoid water intrusion at your windows by cleaning and removing debris when necessary.

Inspect screens for any damage and repair or replace as needed.

Now is the time to check those locks on your windows. If any are faulty, have them replaced immediately.

### HVAC Maintenance Tips

From May through October, your air conditioning systems will be running full tilt.

These systems don't operate by themselves without proper care and maintenance. Maintenance includes changing the filters monthly and pouring vinegar into the main condensate pan to keep the main drain flowing without obstruction. Also, be sure to check the outflow outside near the compressor. If you don't see the cleaning solution coming out, the drain line is blocked and needs immediate attention.

These are reasonable, simple things any homeowner can do. However, at least once a year, have your air conditioning serviced by a professional. They should clean the coils in both the air handler (in home) and the compressor (outside), as well as clean electrical connections, check system pressure to make sure there are no coolant leaks, and make sure the motors are operating properly.

### 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 Community Projects Painting/Waterproofing

May is traditionally the last month where painting crews can work unconstrained before Florida's summer weather pattern sets in. The daily rains take over for the next 4-5 months.

As this article goes to print, the painting contractor is already undertaking rear facade waterproofing projects at Buildings 47, 57 and 59. By the time May 1 arrives, the painting contractor will transition back to the front elevation of structures with Buildings 10, 15 and 16 next on their schedule.

As always, notices will be posted in advance of work.

Please keep in mind that the painting contractor will be operating in close proximity 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.

(Continued 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.**

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## SIGN UP FOR OTOW ALERTS

# RAVE

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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.



# prepare now when things are calm

## Construction, Roofing and Large Scope Projects

An outsourced elevator services provider will begin the replacement of the elevator operating components at Building 9 in May.

Prior to the commencement of their work, a life-safety contractor will be installing components required to meet fire recall needs in the case of an emergency.

The elevator contractor’s scope of work will include complete replacement of the operating equipment and software. As with all other elevator projects, the completed work must be inspected by the State of Florida before it may be given the OK to return to operational status.

Please know that your Management Company will do everything to push for the unit to be returned to service as soon as it is safe to do so. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

Aluminum railing improvements continue to take place on the east side of property. As stated in last month’s article, Building 8 is next on the schedule with June being the earliest arrival date for this work.

The improvements involve the removal of all existing components and the complete installation of railing elements with new code compliant systems in stairwells and in second and third floor balcony walkways.

Residents should be aware of active work zones as the project is underway. Please avoid work areas, watch your step and help us make safety a number one priority. Your cooperation is appreciated!

With springtime comes the arrival of asphalt improvement and parking lot maintenance projects at On Top of the World.

A licensed contractor will be applying sealcoating products to various parking areas around the community in order to extend the useful life of the surfaces as we move along in time. The contract was approved by the Association in late March and work was scheduled to begin as soon as possible in April, which will most likely continue into early May.

With this in mind, it’s important that residents be prepared to relocate cars as needed on short notice. Bulletin boards and car windshields are the most effective means of communication in situations like this so please keep an eye out for any updates.

Any parking areas serviced during

this maintenance cycle will be cordoned off for a minimum of 48 hours after the work has taken place in order to allow the product time to cure correctly. This curing time is crucial before it is driven upon and also will allow the contractor the opportunity to restripe the lot without obstructions as well as minimize tire scuffing.

We politely ask that residents observe the closures and wait until a Management Company representative has removed all the barricades at their parking lot before venturing onto the parking surface.

Alternative parking is available on roadways and in visitor spots at surrounding buildings for those residents displaced during work.

Management Company employees will be working in close proximity to the roadways during this work. For safety’s sake, we ask that residents slow down, pay close attention to any direction given by flagmen and obey posted speed limits. The worker’s safety depends on your cooperation.

### Recurring reminders for all community residents

Inspection Services Division: The Inspection Services team, in conjunction with the Parkway Construction 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 hangar 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 also will be reaching out to residents of buildings who 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 were not at home when this work takes place, you may contact the Community Service Office and schedule a follow-up visit by the coatings vendor. We appreciate your cooperation in making this project a success across the community.

Inspection efforts continue to be focused on the tagging and removal of portable barbeque grills, be it propane, charcoal, or electric, which are not permitted in any building 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.

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. Thank you in advance for your 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 RAVE Alerts

Signing up for OTOW-ALERTS (powered by RAVE) is incredibly easy. Simply go to [www.otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://www.otowclearwaterinfo.com) and from the home page scroll down to the bottom of the page and 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 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.

RAVE Alerts provide 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.

### 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



# Ups and downs of maintaining 82 elevators in our community

Having fully functioning and safely running elevators is not only important to you, it is important to your Association Board and Management Company as well.

Ensuring that residents can safely and reliably reach upper floors has been a part of On Top of the World life since the first unit came online in the late 1960s. As the years passed, the number of elevators at OTOW grew with the completion of each new building constructed.

By the time the development was ready to migrate across a then two-lane Belcher Road in 1982, almost 50 elevators were already in operation.

All of the elevators constructed in the community up to this point operated dependably on relay-based controllers (think tiny moving circuitry parts), which was the industry standard up until the early '80s. By the time the '90s arrived, mechanical relay controllers had been phased out by manufacturers and had given way to solid state and microprocessor units (no moving parts). These new elevator control units accounted for the final elevator controllers installed as construction on the property drew to a close in the last 1990s.

As with almost all machinery, there is a functional service life to consider and not every elevator unit can be estimated in the same manner.

An elevator that services a two-story building with 20 condominium units does not accumulate the same number of cycles that a three-stop unit does that services 60 units, even if the dates



of installation are the same year.

With that in mind, elevator controller upgrade schedules typically follow a date of installation pattern, but must factor usage into the equation.

From 2006 to the current date, 59 of the community's elevators have had their operating equipment and controllers replaced from their original elevators. That leaves roughly 23 units that were installed from 1990 on that will need to be replaced over the upcoming six budget cycles (six years).

Given the historical reliability of the equipment left to upgrade, that schedule should be attainable. That is, provided that an unforeseen condition does not happen where a recovery of the controller operating software isn't possible (think lightning or electrical surges, even with surge suppression in place). In those cases, a complete replacement to current code must occur.

Thankfully, the Management Company has long-standing accounts with elevator parts and equipment suppliers to meet almost any situation that may present itself.

While repairing damaged code is feasible, it does add generally 30 days to the elevator down time.

Cost is another part of the equation that must be considered. It is far more cost-effective to send a Delta controller off for troubleshooting and refurbishment than it is to perform a complete replacement and remanufacture (think replacement of all controller components) to current code. The difference in cost between a remanufactured controller and complete elevator modernization can easily cost several thousands dollars between the two.

For example, a remanufacture Delta controller costs roughly \$1,200 and usually takes 30 days to replace. The third party outsourced full elevator modernization at Building 9 (Polynesia) will cost the Association approximately \$75,000 and a minimum of three weeks. If Parkway Maintenance would have been able to perform the work in-house, the costs would have been Parkway's labor plus parts and components - a significant savings over a third-party contractor.

With this in mind, Parkway has sent these Delta units off for refurbishment because of such a substantial cost disparity. Parkway's goal is to save your Association undue expense whenever possible.

Please bear in mind that many of

these elevator outage events are inadvertently triggered by residents.

For example, blocking open the elevator door while moving furniture can cause the controller to time-out.

Another example, a furniture slider that maybe caught in the door track, or the greatest cause of failure: continually pressing the call button until the contactor breaks, and thus shuts down the elevator.

Regardless of the cause, any simple outage still requires that a technician respond to ascertain the cause and put the unit back into service.

This matter has been discussed at length through newspaper articles and at question and answer sessions with the Management Company.

Like any piece of mechanical equipment, it must have its components inspected, adjusted, maintained and periodically replaced by highly skilled technicians to keep out-of-service events to a minimum.

We are proud that our elevators are not only safe, but function without fail roughly 99 percent of the time.

But we fully understand and take very seriously that 1 percent when elevators, for one reason or another, are out of service.

The Management Company hopes that the board can and will approve in the upcoming 2025-26 fiscal year budget an accelerated replacement schedule so that even that 1 percent of elevator downtime can be reduced!

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**Darlene Vargas**  
Business Development Director  
**+1 (727) 435-0121**



# Board responds to your questions submitted during March survey

**By Dave Kelly  
Vice-Chairman**

A special thank you to everyone who took the time to complete an online community survey in March.

The survey appeared on the Box Office website and included eight questions. The answers will provide helpful information to the Board of Administration as we consider the future.

In the April edition of On Top of the World News we shared the results of the first seven questions.

We also received 260 responses to our final question: “Are there any specific topics you would like the Board of Administration to address?”

We have reviewed the responses and separated them into categories and overarching themes.

I want to take this opportunity to respond to a few of the representative requests or comments we received.

(Q) “There is no way to track the progress of a work/service requests. Residents do not know if or when something is addressed/corrected.”

(A) We anticipate that in the coming months, a new online portal available to all owners will be fully functioning and that will include the ability to track the status of work/service requests. If you have not yet signed into your portal, be sure to do so. All your account information, service requests and important documents will soon be available on this site.

(Q) “What is the status of Condominium Associates taking over both management and maintenance?”

(A) This question reflects unfortunate confusion within the community regarding what has and has not been approved. Please note that no final decision has been made by the Board of Administration regarding a change in the management of On Top of the World. Based on the initial presentations, negotiations with Condominium



Associates have begun, but there is also ongoing meaningful dialogue with Parkway Management. Discussions with both companies will continue to ensure the right choice and best possible management and maintenance contract for the future.

(Q) “Where does all our money go? How can a budget work out to \$0 every year?”

(A) Every budget should balance and “work out to \$0.” It is the actuals that will vary and each year the Association will end with either a surplus or deficit.

The budgeting here has been done quite well and forecasting (which is essentially what a budget is) has been very accurate. Of course, this year we had significant added expense from hurricane damage and cleanup, and that unanticipated cost will need to be addressed in the coming budget.

Also, please note that monthly finance reports and other documents are available on the official Clearwater website (otowclearwaterinfo.com) and provides detailed information regarding how funds are spent.

In addition, an audit is conducted at the end of the fiscal year, providing professional documentation that accepted fiscal practices are being followed.

(Q) “I would like to have follow up with what has transpired at the Board meetings.”

(A) The new portal mentioned above will include the posting of the Board of Administration minutes. Until the portal

is fully functioning, we will make the minutes available on the website.

Please keep in mind that minutes are not official until approved at the following Board of Administration meeting, so there will be a time lag of approximately five weeks until the minutes are added.

Of course, you are encouraged to attend in person or watch on YouTube for immediate results! Past board meetings for the last two years are available to watch anytime at otowboxoffice.com.

(Q) “Summit needs to improve service.”

(A) Summit has accepted responsibility for poor quality installation in 30 of our buildings. Complete rewiring of those buildings has begun and will continue until completion, without additional cost to the community or individual unit owners.

The Board and Parkway Management are committed to continuing oversight of these repairs and ensuring significant improvement in service delivery consistent with Summit’s original proposal.

There were many other survey comments that appear to demonstrate the need for culture change in the community, rather than specific action by the Board or Management Company (though some action steps are possible). These additional comments include:

- “A crack down on disruptive residents...”
- “How to get residents to follow speed limits, use turn signals, leave visitor spots for visitors and generally be more polite.”
- “Residents are not disposing of their personal items correctly.”
- “Rental units not having proper authorization.”
- “Enforce rules.”

While there are some things the Association Board or Management Com-

pany could do to address these types of concerns, the simplest and least expensive solution is for each of us to just do the right thing.

Yes, we could institute fines for people who don’t pick up after their pets, but wouldn’t it just be better for each of us to just do the right thing?

We received suggestions about adding more speed bumps in the community to deter excessive speed, but wouldn’t it be better if each of us just drove more responsibly and carefully?

Yes, we can add security cameras to the storage and garbage rooms, but that’s a lot of additional expense and wouldn’t it be better if each of us just did the right thing and followed the rules?

Owners who rent their units without going through the proper process increase the risk for the rest of the community. Background checks for renters are standard in the industry and an important tool for protecting people and property.

Yes, we can and may consider a finding committee to address critical safety issues such as this, but wouldn’t it be better if each of us just did the right thing?

If you are going to rent out your unit, please follow the prescribed process. It protects you and it protects the community.

Many of us have also mentioned the need for culture change that includes increased civility, improved communication, mutual respect and accountability. Let’s all commit to owning our own part in making this the best community it can be.

We hope this answers many of the questions and concerns expressed in the survey. It was great to hear from so many of you and it demonstrates how deeply we all care about our beautiful community.

Stay tuned. The Association Board and Management Company are working together on some exciting plans for the future! We remain convinced that the best years of On Top of the World are still to come.

## Your survey responses basically fell into eight different categories

There were 260 responses to Survey Question No. 8 on the online survey which took place in March. Those responses fell into eight categories.

A summary of those groups and descriptions appear below. These comments reflect those views expressed by multiple respondents.

### 1. Management

- Change: Concerns about changes in management and board chaos, requests to stop making changes, and concerns with transitioning to a new management company.
- Board: Requests for better communication and transparency from the board and concerns about the board’s decisions.
- Communication: Requests for better communication through email, RAVE alerts, and other channels.
- Rules: Requests for better enforcement of condo rules and concerns about rules related to pets, renters and exercise classes.
- Company: Concerns about the management company and its performance, and requests for better handling of maintenance and service issues.

### 2. Maintenance

- Parkway Management: Requests to keep Parkway Management for maintenance and concerns about changing vendors.

- Maintenance: Requests for repairs to be made more quickly.

- Cleaning: Requests for better cleaning and maintenance (common areas and trash rooms mentioned repeatedly), concerns about flooding and drainage, and the desire to keep Parkway Management.
- Flooding: Concerns about flooding and drainage issues during hurricane season.
- Trash: Issues with trash rooms and bulk pick-up possibilities.

### 3. Fees

- Concerns about HOA fees and the need to keep them low.
- Requests for clarification on fees and future increases.
- Request to keep HOA fees down without losing services

### 4. Internet

- Issues with Summit Broadband service and fees.
- Requests for better internet service and the option to choose providers.

### 5. Facilities

- Requests for better maintenance and more amenities at the pool and gym.
- Issues with fitness equipment and pool maintenance.

### 6. Communication

- Requests for better communication through email, RAVE alerts and other channels.
- Issues with the effectiveness of current communication methods.

### 7. Landscaping

- Requests for better landscaping and maintenance of grass and trees.
- Concerns about the decline in landscaping quality.

### 8. Amenities

- Golf: Requests for improvements to golf course operations and issues with the maintenance of golf course facilities.
- Pool: Requests for better maintenance and more amenities (including more chairs) at the pool, increased pool hours and changes to and enforcement of pool rules.
- Exercise: Request to reconsider insurance requirements for volunteer instructors.



# Food Truck Nights continue in May and Movie Night returns June 11 with ‘Thelma’

On Thursday, May 1, the Entertainment Committee invites all residents here at On Top of the World to a free concert performed by the Suncoast Symphony Orchestra.

The concert will start at 7:30 p.m. in the East Activity Center Auditorium. This event will be theater style seating (no tables), and doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Please do not arrive before 6:30 p.m.

Remember this is a free concert, you do not need a ticket for this event.



## Events & Activities

**Food Truck Nights**

The next Food Truck Nights will take place 3-7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 3 and Wednesday, May 14.

They will both take place at the East Activity Center back parking lot near our beautiful Pavilion.

Picnic tables and chairs will be available in the Pavilion Park. SCA also will set up tables and chairs in the parking lot for your dining pleasure.

Come join the fun. Make new acquaintances or reconnect with friends and neighbors. Enjoy some delicious food that you don't have every day.

Over the summer, we'll try a new food truck every month on a Saturday along with an ice cream or dessert truck.

First up, introducing "Mrs Wanda's Soul Food" which comes highly recommended by one of our residents who enjoyed her food on a visit to St. Petersburg recently.

Mrs Wanda's Soul Food will be here on Saturday, May 3, 3-7:30 p.m. Slipp's Ice and ice cream will be available for dessert.

Please contact me at Nancy's Bulletin Board at [otowclearwaterinfo.com](mailto:otowclearwaterinfo.com) and send me a review of the new vendors. Or send me an email to [general\\_activity@scacw.com](mailto:general_activity@scacw.com).

If the reviews are good, I'll invite these vendors back for the fall, winter and spring.

The next food truck event is 3-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14. Cousins Maine Lobster will be here for the first time, along with Stevie D's Philly Cheese, BBQ Queen, Gigglewaters and Donut NV.

**3D Mobile Mammography**

The next 3D Mobile Mammography visit will be Friday, May 2, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the East Activity Center front parking lot.

Since the pandemic, we have more preventative health options available to us than ever before. Telehealth doctor visits and onsite mobile health screenings can be especially beneficial and convenient for seniors.

I know that many residents have appreciated our onsite visits with OnSpot Mobile Dermatology and so for your convenience we have scheduled upcoming visits with 3D Mobile Mammog-

raphy, too.

3D Mobile Mammography boasts a very easy and comfortable experience: 10-minute appointments, no doctor's order needed, all insurances are accepted, same day results, the latest imaging equipment, top notch, and welcoming staff, and a beautiful, state-of-the-art coach.

If you have any additional questions or would like to register for an appointment, you can do so at their website: [www.3dmobilemammography.com](http://www.3dmobilemammography.com).

A link to the website also will be available at Nancy's Bulletin Board at the [www.otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://www.otowclearwaterinfo.com).

**OnSpot Dermatology**

OnSpot Dermatology will return on Fridays commencing Oct. 24.

With summer around the corner, be sure to follow these prevention tips and get regular check-ups with your dermatologist.

1. Avoid the sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., which are the peak hours of sun strength in North America, even in the winter and on cloudy days.

2. Wear sunscreen — at least sun protection factor (SPF) 30 — throughout the entire year. Reapply sunscreen every two hours or more frequently if you're swimming or sweating.

3. Wear sun-protective clothing with ultraviolet protection factor (UPF) of 50+, which blocks 98 percent of the sun's rays. Hats with wide brims and sun-protective clothing that covers your arms and legs are helpful to protect your skin from harmful UV damage. Sunscreen doesn't block all UV rays, which cause skin cancer.

4. Avoid tanning beds. Tanning beds operate with UV lights, damaging your skin and potentially leading to cancer.
5. Self-check your skin. If you notice differences, talk with your healthcare team.

**AAA Safe Driving Course**

The next AAA Safe Driving Course will take place on Tuesday, July 8, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. in the West Activity Center Learning Lab.

The in-person course is for On Top of the World residents only.

From now on the AAA Safe Driving Course will be held on a quarterly ba-

sis. Class size will be a maximum 30 people, sorry, no exceptions. Please bring your own bag lunch and refreshments.

Registration is ongoing and easy! Call 727-431-8887 with your name, address and credit card info, or you may also stop by the AAA Clearwater branch at 2347 Gulf to Bay Boulevard to register. The fee for the course is \$20.

Residents will receive a certificate of completion on the day of the course which could earn you a discount on your car insurance. The instructor can also email you the certificate in PDF format if you or your insurance company would prefer. The discount will be good for three years from the day the course is completed.

Wishing you happy and safe road travel!

**One Blood**

One Blood will return to the East Activity Center front parking lot on Thursday, May 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Residents can register to donate blood at Nancy's Bulletin Board on [otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://otowclearwaterinfo.com), they can sign-up in the Community Service Office or just show up that day.

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

Take this opportunity to save lives!

The honor roll from April is as follows: David Rosenberg, Diana Car-raturo, Francis Schultz, John Henry, Joseph Ashton, Rex Doty and William Keane.

**Farmer's Market**

Saturday Farmer's Markets are being held weekly at the East Activity Center front parking lot. Please note the time is now 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If there is produce left to sell, the vendor might stay after 4 pm.

This month the Farmer's Market will be here every Saturday in May.

Future schedules will be posted here in my newspaper column, at the Activity Centers, on the OTOW website [otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://otowclearwaterinfo.com) and on OTOW-TV channel 901.

**Hurricane Expo**

Palm Harbor will be hosting a Hurricane Expo on Saturday, May 10, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. with hosts Denis Phillips from ABC Action News and Mike Boylan from Mike's Weather Page at The Centre in Palm Harbor.

Get ready for the 2025 hurricane season, which begins June 1. The event is sponsored by Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation.

This is an amazing free event that will help you get ready for this year's storm season. It will feature lots of in-

formation on storm preparedness as well as storm recovery. Don't miss it!

Highlights of the Hurricane Expo include:

- Numerous Pinellas County Departments will be on hand to speak about preparing for and responding to hurricanes.
- More than 35 booths will be set up full of information, tips and giveaways.
- Lots of door prizes, including generators, hurricane supply kits, chainsaws and more.
- See local rescue equipment and vehicles.

**Movie Night**

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

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

Thelma was produced in 2024 and directed by Josh Margolin. The film has a PG-13 rating and is 97 minutes in length.

Seating is available for 80 people on a first-come, first-serve basis. No reservation is required. One free bag of popcorn per resident.

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

"Thelma" is the story of 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.

**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](mailto:general_activity@scacw.com) or call 799-2734. This starts the process.

Once we confirm all the details, you will fill out the online Facility Request form.

Visit: [otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://otowclearwaterinfo.com), click on "Community Activities" and "Forms" and select the SCA Online Facility Request form. Complete the form and sign it with your mouse or finger and click submit.

I will acknowledge receipt in an email. This form works better if you use Google as your browser.

Paper forms are still available and can be picked up and dropped off in the Community Service Office where I have a mailbox. Please complete the form outside of that busy office and then drop it off. I will acknowledge receipt in an email or phone call.

**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. If you need an Access Card, there is a \$7 charge.

As a reminder, you must bring your valid activity card with you when using SCA facilities and be prepared to show it upon staff request. Noncompliance matters will be directed to the On Top of the World Association.

# Join The Honor Roll

**On Top of the World**  
**Thursday, May 8**  
**10 am - 3 pm**

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

**\$20 Ecard**

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

**FREE HAT!**

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

**oneblood**  
Share your power.




# Community Calendar - May





## Special Events


- Thursday, May 1 - Suncoast Symphony Orchestra, 7:30-9:30 p.m., East Activity Center Auditorium, Free
- Friday, May 2 - 3D Mobile Mammography, 8 am - 3 pm, East Activity Center Front Parking Lot
- Saturday, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - Farmers Markets, 11 am - 4 pm, East Activity Center Front Parking Lot
- Thursday, May 8 - Get Acquainted Coffee, 9-11 am, East Activity Center Auditorium (free coffee, donut, Tony Orifici. Next one Sept. 11, Carla Hines)
- Thursday, May 8 - OneBlood, 10 am - 3 pm, East Activity Center Front Parking Lot, Donors Receive A Free Hat
- Tuesday, May 13 - New York-New Jersey Club Mother's Day Dinner, 5-9 pm, East Activity Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, May 14 - Food Truck Night, 3-7 pm, East Activity Center Back Parking Lot
- Thursday, May 15 - Entertainment Committee Show - George Tullinger Variety Show - 7:30 - 9:15 pm, East Activity Center Auditorium
- Saturday, May 17 - Entertainment Committee Dance - The Southshore Cruisers - 7:30 - 9:15 pm, East Activity Center Auditorium
- Thursday, June 12 - Annual Board Meeting, 10 am-2 pm, East Activity Center Auditorium (this date is tentative - it can be changed later)
- Wednesday, June 11 - Movie Night Returns - "Thelma" - 4 p.m., East Activity Center Auditorium, only 80 seats, free bag of popcorn to each resident, 97 minutes


## 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, Saturday, May 10, Largo Room
- Art Guild - Drawing Workshop: 12:30-3:30 pm, Tuesday, May 13, Largo Room
- Art Guild - Painting Pals: off until further notice
- Art Guild - Acrylic Painting: off until further notice
- 


Baby Boomers: 5:30-6:30 pm, May 7 | 5:30-6:30 pm, May 15, Largo Room
- 


Baby Boomers Acoustic Jam: 10 am - 1 pm, Thursdays, Learning Lab
- 


Bible Study: 2-3 pm, Fridays, Crystal Beach Room
- 


Bingo: 6-10 pm, Mondays, Auditorium
- 


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, May 22, Crystal Beach Rm
- 


Democratic Club Meeting: 2-4 pm, Thursday, May 8, Learning Lab
- Democratic Club Happy Hour: 6-8 pm, Tuesday, May 27, Learning Lab
- 


Entertainment Com. Board Meeting: 10:30-11:30 am, May 12, 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, May 15, Crystal Beach Room
- 


Good Neighbors Association: No upcoming events
- 


High Vibe Tribe: 7-9 pm, Tuesday, May 13, Clearwater Room
- 


Irish Club - No upcoming events
- 


Italian-American Club - No upcoming events
- 


Jesters Board Meeting: 11 am - 12 pm, Tuesday, May 13, Dunedin Room
- Jesters Meeting: Board only
- 


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, May 9, Pavilion
- Lambda Chat: 10:30-12, Friday, May 2 and 16, Safety Harbor Room
- 


Lawn Bowl Club: No upcoming events
- 


Music Group: 3-6 pm, Tuesdays, Dunedin Room
- 


New York-New Jersey - Mothers Day, 5-9 pm, Tuesday, May 13, Auditorium
- 


Philosophy Club: Has not reserved a room for May
- 


Plant-Based Living Club: 3-4 pm, Wednesday, May 14, Learning Lab
- 


Pickleball Club Board Meeting: 1-3 pm, Monday, May 19, Crystal Beach
- Pickleball Club Game Night: 6:30-9:30 pm, Monday, May 19, Belleair Rm
- 


Pray For America: 10 am-12 pm, Saturdays, Crystal Beach Room
- 


Press Association: 1:30-2:30 pm, Thursday, May 8, Crystal Beach Room
- 


Republican Club Board Meeting: 6-9 pm, Tuesday, May 6, Belleair Room
- Republican Club Meeting: 6-9 pm, Tuesday, May 6, Belleair Room
- Speak English: 10-11 am, Thursdays (Starts May 15), Dunedin Room
- 


Tennis Club: No upcoming events
- 


Texas Card Game Tourn.: 6-10 pm, Friday, May 23, Clearwater Room
- 

Theater Workshop Board Meeting: Off for summer
- Theater Workshop Meeting: Off for summer
- 

Town Hall Club: This club has stopped meeting
- 

Travel Club Meeting: 2-4 pm, Friday, May 2, Oldsmar Room
- 

Veterans Club: No upcoming events
- 

World Quilters: 8 am-2 pm, Tuesdays, Largo Room (May 13 until 12 pm)
- 

Writer's Ink: 1:30-3:30 pm, Thursdays, Dunedin Room
- ## Exercises and Games
- Aqua Aerovics: 9-10 am, Mondays through Fridays, EAC Pool

Bonesavers: 8-9 am, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Clearwater 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: On break

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 in Belleair Room; Thursdays in Exercise Room

9 Ladies Golf: 8:30 am, Tuesdays

18 Ladies Golf: 8:30 am, Tuesdays

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, May 7, Crystal Beach Room (new)

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

Blackout: 6:30-9:30 pm, Thursdays, Belleair Room (Must be member of Canadian Club)

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, May 21, 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
- No building events scheduled for May
- No building events scheduled for May





# Entertainment



Over The Edge band was here in March and provided a lot of good dance music for residents.  
The Southshore Cruisers will be here on May 17 providing more great dance music. (OTOW News photo by Mary Lou Wall)

May 1  
Suncoast Symphony  
Orchestra  
No Tickets Required  
If you cannot make  
it in person, watch  
on OTOW-TV 901.



The Suncoast Symphony Orchestra was last here in 2016. (File photo by Doug Kates)

# If you are reading this on May 1, get over to the Auditorium!

**By Mary Ann O’Neil**  
The Crystal Stark tribute to Whitney Houston on April 17 was a great show. Once again, we were sold out. It was an enjoyable evening hearing some of the hits that Whitney Houston brought to the music world, along with songs from other female artists. The band Sequel performed for us at our April dance. This band has performed here before and the music was great. Everyone enjoyed the evening. On Thursday, May 1, the Entertainment Committee invites all residents here at On Top of the World to a free concert performed by the Suncoast Symphony Orchestra. The concert will start at 7:30 p.m. in the East Activity Center Auditorium. This event will be theater style seating (no tables), and doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Please do not arrive before 6:30 p.m. If you cannot make it to this concert in person, OTOW-TV 901 is planning a live broadcast. You all remember The Ed Sullivan Show, don’t you?

Well, the George Trullinger Variety Show will return on Thursday, May 15, at 7:30 p.m. We had George here several years ago and what a show he gave us. George does great impersonations of Ed Sullivan, Buddy Holly, Mick Jag-ger and the Blues Brothers. George brings his sidekick, Tim Stamper, along to entertain us as well. Together they will give us a wonderful evening of songs and jokes. You do not want to miss this fantastic show. Just a reminder there will be no shows for the months of June, July, Au-gust and September. Our May dance will be on Satur-day, May 17 from 7:30-10:30 p.m. The Southshore Cruisers will be returning to entertain us. This band is made up of lifelong musicians from all over the country who have settled in the “South-shore” area of Tampa Bay. If you like music from the ‘60s, ‘70s and ‘80s, this band will have you out on the dance floor all evening. Come out for a fun evening of danc-

ing and enjoy meeting your neighbors or meeting new friends. Just a remind-er, wearing shorts is not allowed at our dances. May brings us to the Kentucky Der-by, so on Sunday, May 18, our free Sunday Meet and Greet will feature our own horse races. If you want to wear your Kentucky Derby hat please do so, as there may be a prize or two for the best-looking hats. This is a fun afternoon from 2-4 p.m. There are door prizes and lite refresh-ments at the end of the races. Get residents from your building and friends together and come to cheer your favorite jockey and horse to the finish line. The last Sunday Meet and Greet we hosted was a remarkable success, so you do not want to miss the fun. Our shows and dances are reserved table seating-bring your own favorite beverages. Remember we will try to accommodate your party, so get your friends together and reserve your table(s). Our dances (\$20) and show tickets

(\$10) are reasonably priced. The Hal-loween dance is \$15 and New Year’s Eve dance is \$30. These two dances are our biggest dances of the year and are always sold out. So be sure to pur-chase your tickets before heading back north. The earlier you purchase your tickets, the better chance you have of selecting the table you want. The Entertainment Committee Sound and Lighting group are looking for anyone who would like to volunteer and join their team. Experience is re-quired. If you are interested, please send an email with your experience to entertainment.otowcl@gmail.com. After reviewing your qualifications, Mike Wood, technical director, will con-tact you. If you have any questions re-garding our shows or dances, call (727) 449-9243 or (215) 431-4799 for more information. On behalf of the OTOW Entertain-ment Committee Happy Mother’s Day to all the moms out there.



# Committee



**Crystal Starks as  
Whitney Houston  
was here in mid-April.**

*(Photo by Mary Lou Wall)*



## Entertainment Committee Calendar

### MAY

- 15 - George Trullinger Variety Show (show), 7:30 pm, \$20
- 17 - The Southshore Cruisers (dance), 7:30 pm, \$10
- 18 - Meet and Greet (horse races), 2 pm, Free

### JUNE

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

### JULY

- 19 - Threes Company (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



# A sidewalk is a great place to be friendly, but you still need to be courteous, too

By Tara Still

The On Top of the World community has many sidewalks - they are here for exercise and getting from one point to another.

Please be considerate of those who use our sidewalks. Keep the sidewalks clear. It is unlawful to obstruct sidewalks by standing or congregating in a way that impedes traffic flow.

Make room for others. If you're walking with others and you stop to talk, move to one side of the sidewalk, or even off the sidewalk, to allow others to pass.

Be mindful of your surroundings. Avoid walking while texting or being otherwise distracted, which can lead to accidents.

Whether walking or bicycling, don't cut too closely when passing someone as it can be startling and potentially dangerous.

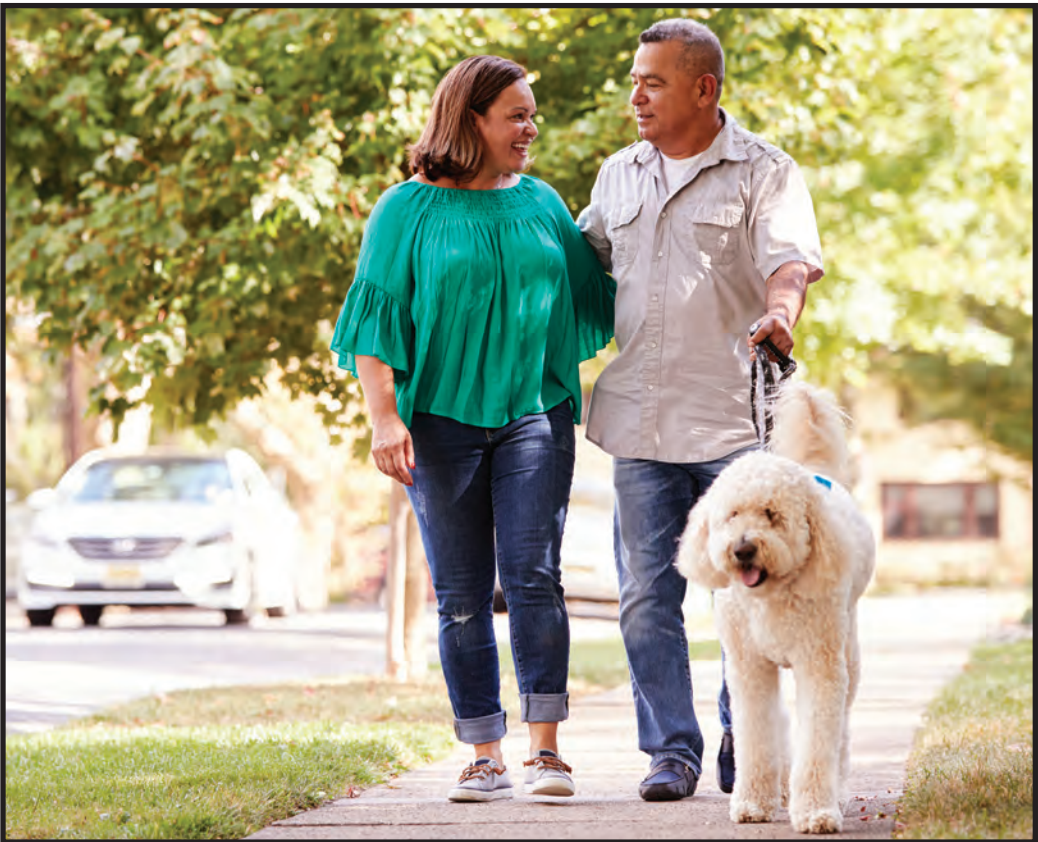
Greet people. Acknowledge others with a smile, nod, or "hello" to show courtesy and reduce the risk of bumping into them.

Keep right. Using a sidewalk is similar to driving. Pedestrians should walk on the right side.

In Florida, sidewalks can only be used by "vehicles" that use human power, with exceptions for motorized wheelchairs, scooters and mopeds that are being pushed along by your feet and toddlers riding in small motorized cars.

Bikes are allowed on sidewalks unless a local ordinance prohibits it. Bikers must yield to foot traffic and give audible signals when passing.

Property owners are responsible for maintaining the sidewalks abutting their property. If you see a trim limb in your walking path, you are in the right to kindly ask someone to trim it.



Be attentive on any sidewalk. Share it. Be courteous to others.

(iClipArt)

## Taps Across America 3 p.m., Monday, May 26

See story on page 41

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**Editor: Doug Kates**

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**Vice President Donna Gagnon**

**Secretary Joanne Cordes**

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Phone: (727) 799-3216 Hours: 9-5 Monday through Thursday, 9-2 Fridays

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On Top of the World News is a community organization for the benefit of the residents of On Top of the World. On Top of the World News does not accept advertisers solely for commercial purposes or income. This newspaper will be published on its regular schedule whether there are advertisers or not. On Top of the World News reserves the right to reject any advertiser within its sole, absolute and unfettered discretion. Not every advertiser is acceptable for this publication. If you, a resident, have had a justifiably bad experience with an advertiser in this newspaper, and if we have had previous justified complaints, we will not accept future ads from this client.

On Top of the World News endeavors to keep standards of this newspaper very high. We do not, however, endorse advertisers or knowingly accept objectionable or fraudulent advertising. On Top of the World News does not strive to be a profit-making entity. We take pride in the fact that the On Top of the World News staff is entirely made up of volunteers except for one professional to coordinate the operation of this newspaper. On Top of the World News does not accept an advertiser solely because it is willing to pay for an ad. Trades and services regulated by the state or county must be licensed in order to advertise. Someone in business for themselves, who plans on entering a resident's condo, must fill out an online background check form. It is a requirement even if an individual has already done a background check for another business. All advertisements must contain either a local address or local phone number. Ads cannot resemble newspaper articles. Ads must be in display ad formats. QR codes are allowed, but a website address must be an alternative option. Deadline to advertise is the 15th of each month. Payment and final ad are due on this date. Space is never saved without a payment. Your ad will not run if payment is not received.

If you submit an article or photograph to On Top of the World News, you are giving this newspaper permission to publish it - not only in the next edition, but any future edition, in print or online. If you submit a photo, please make sure people in that photo are aware you have turned it in for print and online publication. On Top of the World is not responsible for publishing people's images who wish to remain private. The individual submitting the image is responsible.

On Top of the World News may not be made available on any website except [otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com), [ontopoftheworldnews.com](http://ontopoftheworldnews.com) and [otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://otowclearwaterinfo.com). Uploading any link to another website is prohibited. The contents of OTOW News are copyrighted.

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 Taeker  
Tara Still  
Barbara Rice  
Mary Lou Wall

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## 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**

**Katie Bajis, Mike Elza, Janet Hooper, Les Meneilly, Dale Prunoske**





Vicki French  
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Miriam Strawn  
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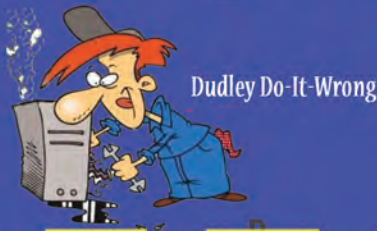
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# Think twice about sending money to anyone - whether a romance or to get someone out of jail

Scam Alert: I worry about the scams that target all seniors, which includes me.

Here are two that are truly insidious. One is the romance scam. And do not for one moment think you are immune.

If you are on any social media website, or a dating site, even a religion-based site, you are a target.

A romance scammer claims to be looking for someone to trust, or to love, or to be a companion. What he or she is, however, is a slimy swindler who wants to steal your money and leave you broken, empty and even ashamed.

These disgusting people want to convince you that you share common interests. They'll hunt for anything they can glean from what you write, to use as a connection with you. Once they find that connection, they will want to move the conversation to a private page where just the two of you can share in the discussion.

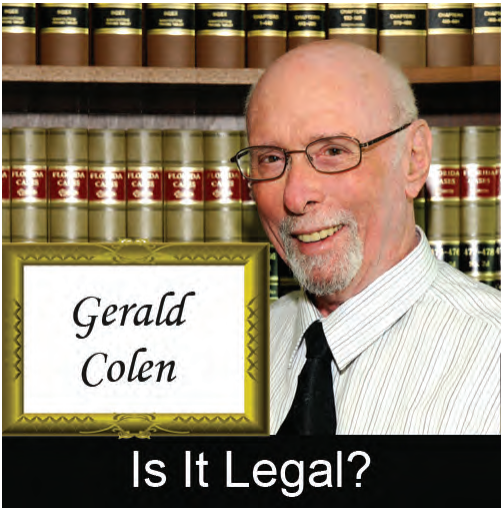
When you and they "connect," that's when you are most vulnerable because now you need this communication. And they know it.

Soon they will say they are in a dire financial situation and will ask if you can help. They will request cash, a gift card, a credit card number or check - anything at all.

Everything is urgent. They need money now.

Then, once you send them anything, they've got you hooked and now they come in for even bigger money.

Then, when you can no longer pay them, you'll find they're gone.



There is only one way to protect yourself and that is by never sending money or gift cards, or any form of cash or credit card, or pay pal, Venmo or Zelle, or other payment, to anyone, ever, that you met on any social media site.

But should you do it, should you send money, only to discover you've been scammed, do not feel ashamed or guilty. You did nothing wrong, nothing. You were victimized.

Now you must be proactive. You must move quickly!

File a complaint with the local police or sheriff's offices, and also the Florida Attorney General's office at MyFloridaLegal.com or call its phone number 1-866-966-7226.

You will not only be helping yourself but can help others who might fall victim to this terrible scam.

The second scam is the grandparent scam. Well, yeah, of course you know about it. You're smart. You ain't ever

gonna fall for it, right?

However, did you know that it rakes in millions of dollars every year.

It's done in more than one way.

Maybe it's someone identifying himself/herself as your grandchild, but maybe it's done a different way.

Example: You get a call from someone claiming to be a police officer or a federal agent or an attorney. They'll tell you they've got your grandchild in custody, or they represent your grandchild, and to keep him or her out of jail or get them out of immediate trouble, it is urgent to send money and do it right now.

What you need to do is hang up! Don't say a word.

Don't be cute and say, "Is that you, Judy?" when you don't have a Judy. Just hang up.

Then, you could call the kid or call his parents or just do nothing.

Maybe call the police and say what happened and give them the phone number on your caller ID (and you certainly should have that).

Q. Why do you use your newspaper column to write about scams when you could be giving us more legal information? It might even result in you getting some business.

A. Stop! I do not use, and never have used, this column, or my lectures for that matter, as a way to obtain any business for me or my law firm.

You will not find one instance where I suggest anyone use my law firm. It's always "see an attorney or see your attorney."

I write the column and do my lectures hoping you'll find something interesting.

If, from reading this column, someone discovers that they need an attorney, be it my law firm or any other one, then that makes me feel good because I've helped them.

That's it!

----

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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# What are the odds of my former co-worker visiting his sister at On Top of the World?

Sometimes you just cannot make up the most unexpected stories.

Back in January, I was busy at work on the February newspaper when a complete stranger walked into my office and handed me a golf tee. The golf tee read “Kelly Thomas Golf Tournament” on it.

I was a member of the golf tournament organizational committee for several years – but that was in Pennsylvania many many many years ago.

Seeing someone hand me the golf tee in my office was very confusing.

Then the complete stranger held out his hand and introduced himself to me – Steve Bishop.

Steve was one of the other six people who were on the golf tournament committee. He was also a former co-worker of mine, twice.

“Oh my gosh,” I said to Steve. “What brings you to On Top of the World.”

The story just turned more and more amazing from there.

Steve was the editor of the Jamestown Post Journal (New York) when I was just a part-time college student during the summer of 1986. I was a sports writer and helped with Little League stories, dirt track car racing, golf stories and bowling scores.

From 1988-89 I went to St. Bonaventure University and got my journalism degree and spent a brief time at the Corning Leader, also in New York, as a news writer.

In 1992 I got a phone call that the Corry Journal (Pennsylvania) was looking for a new sports editor. I took the job and was reunited with Steve, who was the news editor of the paper. Steve and I were part of a six-person news staff who put together a daily newspaper six days a week.

During our time in Corry, we had a news reporter named Kelly Thomas, who passed away one evening from a motor vehicle accident. Kelly loved golfing, especially at the Union City Country Club. Steve and I, along with other close friends, decided to create the Kelly Thomas Memorial Golf Outing. Not only did we work together to produce the daily newspaper, but for a few months each year we worked together to organize this golf outing.

Steve went on to leave the newspaper business in 1996 and took charge of a higher education center for adults. In 2008 I left Corry for Clearwater where



Steve Bishop, left, and your newspaper editor, Doug Kates, meet at Jack Willie’s tiki bar for lunch in March. Steve and Doug were co-workers at two other newspapers. Steve was visiting his sister at On Top of the World when he saw Doug was the editor of the community newspaper.

I joined the St. Petersburg Times as a freelance sports writer.

I can honestly say, I didn’t keep in touch with a lot of people in Corry after 2008. I did hear Steve finally left the higher education center, but that was the last of the news.

So here I was on a busy January day in my office when Steve walks in and hands me a Kelly Thomas Memorial Golf Outing golf tee. That was a shock.

But that’s not the end of the story.

Turns out, Steve has a sister who retired and bought a condo here at On Top of the World. For the last three years Steve has been coming down from Pennsylvania to visit his sister and actually held OTOW News in his hands – at first, he had no idea I was the editor.

Then one day last winter, he saw my name in the newspaper as the editor and wondered if it could possibly be the same Doug Kates. To answer that question, he walked in my back door holding the golf tee...

How’s that for crazy.

Want more?

So Steve’s sister lives in the same building as resident Susan Carlson, who is originally from North East, Pa., 30 minutes from Corry. Susan knows I used to work in Corry. When she met Steve and heard he was from Corry, she immediately said, “Do you know Doug?”

Steve’s response. “Yes. We worked together.”

Susan couldn’t believe the visitor in her building was a former co-worker of

mine.

Corry is not that big! In fact, at one point it was the smallest registered city in the state of Pennsylvania.

When I first met Susan a dozen years ago, she introduced herself and said she was from a very small city in Pennsylvania that I probably had never heard about. She mentioned North East High School. I responded, “Oh. You are a Grape Picker,” the high school mascot of North East High School. Susan’s response was priceless. “How did you know that?” she said.

I covered high school sports for 13 years in Corry. North East was one of our rivals. I traveled to Susan’s alma mater several times.

I smiled and she smiled. Funny how things happen.

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# OTOW Library now has very old copies of OTOW News for you to browse - you may enjoy going back in time

By Roy Lemus

I was browsing the Summit Broad-band channel guide when I saw the “Back To The Future” movie listed. It gave me an idea.

I went out to my Delorean and set it for May 1 of 1990. Before I knew it, I was in the parking lot at the On Top of the World East Activity Center.

I got out of my car and I noticed a lot of old cars.

I entered the building and went downstairs for a cup of coffee at The Good Karma Cafe. Oops, there was no Good Karma Cafe then. In its place was the OTOW Library.

I went back upstairs and found the newspaper bin, took out the May 1 edition and started to page through it. Times have changed.

You don’t actually have to watch Back to the Future or get into a Delorean to go back in time and see old copies of OTOW News. Your OTOW Library now has a few binders from past years and you might just enjoy browsing through them.

In the May 1990 edition, I saw articles from clubs that still exist today. I also saw articles from clubs that don’t exist today. Thirty-five years ago our community newspaper had a Chaplains Corner, Sunset Point H-12 Club, The Shalom Club, The Fun Club, Great Lakes Club, Married Women’s Club, Single Women’s Club and Shriners Club.

I did recognize The New York-New Jersey Club, Canadian Club, Water



Aerobics Club, Jesters, Good Neighbors Association, Shuffleboard Club and Lawn Bowlers group.

There were many articles written by building reporters. It was fun to see what they considered news then.

I also found out that sometimes OTOW News was published twice a month.

Ads were fun to look at, too.

The Coachman Car Wash ad was \$2.99. There were ads for nine area churches, a 24-hour emergency TV repair shop, and carpet for your condo - just \$89 for a 12x12 room.

Curious? The On Top of the World Library now has many of these back newspaper editions for you to view.

We are now open Mondays 10 a.m. to noon, Wednesdays 1 to 3 p.m. and Thursdays 10 a.m. to noon.

New books are always listed toward the back of this newspaper.



OTOW News May 1, 1990, edition



Michael Pasquino  
Owner/Master Electrician

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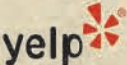
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# Good Neighbors Association Craft Show / Flea Market April 2025

(OTOW News photos by Barbara Rice)





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# Welcome Home



This shows part of the crowd that attended Honor Flight on April 15 at the St. Petersburg-Clearwater Airport when 10 veterans from our community were welcomed home. OTOW News will publish more photos from the actual trip in the June edition. (OTOW News photos by Jesse Tiamson)

## Do you want to learn how to vote online? The Computer Club can help

*We do not tell you who or what to vote for - just how to do it from home*

**By Joe Wisinski**

A critical vote for On Top of the World residents is coming soon.

Residents will decide if they want to waive or not waive reserves for the next fiscal year.

The easiest way to vote on this important issue is online, but not all OTOW residents are comfortable enough with computers to utilize that method.

If you want, the Computer Club will help you learn how to vote online. We're not going to tell you which way to vote on reserves. We just want to assist you if you want some help with online voting.

To learn to vote online, come to a Computer Club help session any Wednesday morning. We meet from 8:30 to 10 a.m. in the Learning Lab, which is in the West Activity Center.

We're also available to help every Monday and Thursday through June 5 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Auditorium of the East Activity Center.

For those who can't attend a week-day meeting, we're offering Saturday morning training sessions. Come to the Learning Lab between 10 and 11 a.m. any Saturday in May.

### About the Computer Club

The Computer Club meets every



### Computer Club

Saturday morning from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Meetings take place both in person at the West Activity Center Learning Lab and using the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Visitors are welcome.

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

OTOW residents are welcome to come to the Computer Club help session any Wednesday morning from 8:30 to 10. We're located in the Learning Lab in the West Activity Center. Our



If you need to learn how to vote online on OTOW issues, the Computer Club will help you.

services are free. Please arrive before 9:30 a.m. so we have enough time to help you.

For more information about the Computer Club, or to ask computer service-

related questions, send an email to [otowcc@gmail.com](mailto:otowcc@gmail.com), visit our website at [www.otowcc.com](http://www.otowcc.com), or click our link on the OTOW Box Office website at [otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com).





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.



This is Bear. Don't worry. It's just his name! He's as friendly as can be. Bear is 11 years old. He is a Chocolate Havenese who lives with Margo Smith in the Modernage building. Bear loves to fetch shoes and not give them back. He loves squeaky toys and will squeak them just to annoy people.

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 cone of your building at your scheduled pick up time.
- 3. Shopping time is 1.0 hour 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 May

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Tuesdays	No Rides			
Wednesdays	10:00 AM	Walmart	1 hour	NC
Thursdays	No Rides			
Fridays	10:00 AM	Aldi	1 hour	NC

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# ACTIVITY REPORTS



Theresa and Chuck McAllister were season ticket holders for 10 years

## Threshers season starts with first pitch from one of their biggest fans

By Jim LeBlanc

The first home game of the 2025 Clearwater Threshers minor league baseball season took place on April 8 and one of our own was asked to throw out the first pitch.

Play ball!

Threshers personnel contacted On Top of The World resident Theresa McAllister and asked her to do the honors. She took to the mound like a real pro! Theresa threw her fastball straight to the catcher for an almost strike.

Theresa is a valued and loved fan of the Threshers and BayCare Ballpark.

Theresa and her late husband, Chuck, had been loyal season ticket holders for Philadelphia Phillies spring training games and Clearwater Threshers minor league games for the past 10 years. They loved baseball and being a part of the action at the stadium.

It's a great social outing where they've met and made many new friends over the years.

Although Chuck is no longer with us to enjoy the love of the sport or the stadium that he and Theresa always shared together, that hasn't stopped Theresa from carrying on their favorite pasttime while keeping Chuck deep in her heart.

BayCare employees are Theresa's extended family and are always there for her. They are friendly and caring people and never at a loss for hugs and kisses.

Even Phinley, the Threshers mascot, gets in on the action with hugs and high fives.

It's no wonder that Theresa was asked to start the 2025 home opener.

The game, itself, didn't start out well. The Daytona Tortugas were in town and took advantage of seven walks and five runs in the second inning.

Many On Top of the World residents in attendance told Theresa to go to the bullpen and loosen up her pitching arm. The Threshers might need her one more time.

Turns out, everything was under control.

Clearwater came back from a 7-3 deficit in the ninth inning for an 8-7 win.

Not only was the crowd screaming in joy, but so was Theresa. After all, she was the one who started the game.

Since Theresa brought such good luck to the Threshers, many residents approved the idea she should throw out the first pitch for every game.



Above, Theresa McAllister and Phinley pose for a picture as the start of the 2025 minor league baseball season begins at home. Below is Theresa throwing out the ceremonial first pitch. You can see the ball on a direct path toward home plate for a close strike. Kodey Shojinaga did the honors of catching the first pitch.

(Photos by Laurie Fischer)



# The Snowbirds have left and are gonna miss our busy summer season!

It’s not too late to turn around and come back

By Pat Hayes

The New York-New Jersey Club is proud to present our summer schedule that will entertain you until the Snowbirds come home.

This will keep you busy until our famous Ugly Christmas Sweater Party in December.

Please keep in mind, we work hard to bring you these events with inflation-fighting prices.

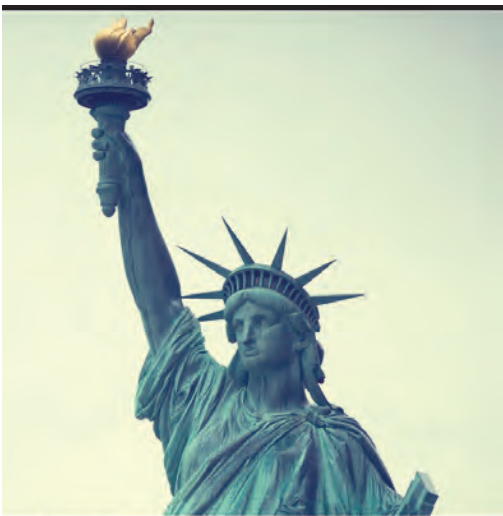
On Tuesday, May 13, our club will host Pizza and a DJ Night, 5 p.m., in the East Activity Center Auditorium.

You will have a choice between cheese, pepperoni, sausage and vegetable toppings. The tough part is, you have to tell us your topping choices in advance when you buy your tickets.

Our club will provide dessert, coffee, water and ice.

DJ Scott McParland will provide the music so bring your dancing shoes.

On Tuesday, July 15, at 6 p.m., the New York-New Jersey Club will bring



New York - New Jersey Club

back Carla Hines.

Awww. The Snowbirds are going to miss her!

Carla is the lead vocalist for the trio band “In Perspective.” Her performanc-

es focus on the Motown Sound and the best music from the ‘60s and ‘70s.

This event will take place in the EAC Auditorium along with desserts for everyone. We will be serving fresh strawberries on pound cake with whipped cream. Of course, we will serve coffee, water and ice.

Cost is \$10.

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

The evening will feature New York-style dirty hot dogs, beans, chips, dessert, coffee, water and ice.

Frank Lebano from Brooklyn will be our guest DJ. Cost is \$10.

On Tuesday, Oct. 7, (hurricanes permitting), our club will host Sports Shirt Night.

This event starts at 5 p.m. Cost is \$18.

Come out wearing your favorite sports shirt or hat! We will serve Felice’s pulled pork subs with pasta salad.

You also have a choice of sausage with peppers, meatball parmigiana, chicken parmigiana, Italian (Godfather), and tuna or turkey with swiss cheese.

DJ Scott will provide the entertainment. “Desserts by Lou” will provide the sweets. Coffee, water and ice are on the house.

Then finally, our Snowbird friends will be back after missing all the fun.

Ugly Christmas Sweater Night will be Tuesday, Dec. 9, in the Auditorium. Cost is \$28.

Frank Lebano will be our guest DJ. The menu will be announced later.

A special thank you to all of our volunteers for their help over the winter season.

If you would like to become a volunteer, stop by our information table on any Thursday morning over the summer and say hello. Our club is already hard at work planning 2026, so feel free to make suggestions for future events.

## New English class starts May 15

The desire to speak English, or better English, is stronger than ever before.

In 2025, English was chosen as the primary language in the United States. If you live at On Top of the World and want to learn English, or just improve your English, a new class has started.

Lola Dickert has designed a program for Spanish, French or South American residents who want to better understand conversations. You will benefit from this class when you interact with other people at grocery stores, res-

taurants and drug stores, plus neighbors and even first responders.

Feeling self conscious? Afraid to speak?

Improve your speech and have fun at the same time.

Speak English will take place 10-11 a.m. every Thursday in the East Activity Center Dunedin Room. Bring your valid activity card. The rest will happen naturally.

This class is set to begin on May 15 and is free.



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On a Qwirkle board, you try to connect colors and shapes.

# Ever try Qwirkling?

By Rene Foley  
and Sherrie Markey

There's a new game in town!  
Qwirklers play on Mondays in the Dunedin Room at the East Activity Center from 1-4 p.m. Everyone with a valid activity card is welcome.  
Qwirkle is a game consisting of 108 tiles in six shapes and six colors. One player starts the game with a minimum of two tiles and each player, taking turns, adds one or more tiles connecting to the existing grid matching either the same color or shape forming a continuous line.  
If a player completes a line of six tiles, making a Qwirkle, they are awarded 12 points. Whoever scores the most points wins the game. Sounds easy ...right?  
Qwirkle is easy to learn, but challenging to master. It's a game of skill, luck and strategy. Qwirkle stimulates brain cells and is fun.  
If you enjoy playing games like Dominoes or Rummikub, why not try Qwirkle? We will teach you how to play.  
We are a friendly group and have grown to enjoy our time together. Recently, our Qwirkle group extended our fun and fellowship by having dinner at Frenchy's Outpost Bar and Grill in Dunedin.  
We look forward to Qwirkling with you.  
For more information, contact Sherrie Markey at (717) 873-1066 or sjm2101@gmail.com.

## At May 6 meeting, Republicans will discuss forming new groups

By Deborah Russell

The Ronald Reagan Republican Club meeting set for May 6 will take place as planned in the West Activity Center Belleair Room.

The meeting will start at 6 p.m. and we will discuss forming new groups for outings, social events and political events.

It is our club's goal to help our members stay in close contact with local leaders and be informed of any changes in our community government.

We are currently seeking a new president for the club and would like to encourage our members to consider running for this position.

Starting the first week in May, our information table will only be set up at the East Activity Center Auditorium on Thursday mornings from 8:30-10:30 a.m. No Mondays. This will last for the summer months. We will resume our Monday morning table in the fall.

Summer is approaching, but our duties never cease. We still need more volunteers for our information table. Taking turns means lightening the load for those of us who have been faithful in showing up weekly. We will be providing a sign-up sheet at the next meeting.

In preparation for the 2025-26 season, we are planning more speakers to attend our meetings. We desire to have an interesting and informative guest list, including Anna Paulina Luna.

We look forward to seeing you May 6. Our meet and greet is from 6-6:45 p.m., then the meeting runs from 6:45-8 p.m. at the West Activity Center in the Belleaire Room.

If you have any questions, please contact David DiNardo at 603-300-6727.

Thank you for your interest in our club. We hope to see you at our next meeting!

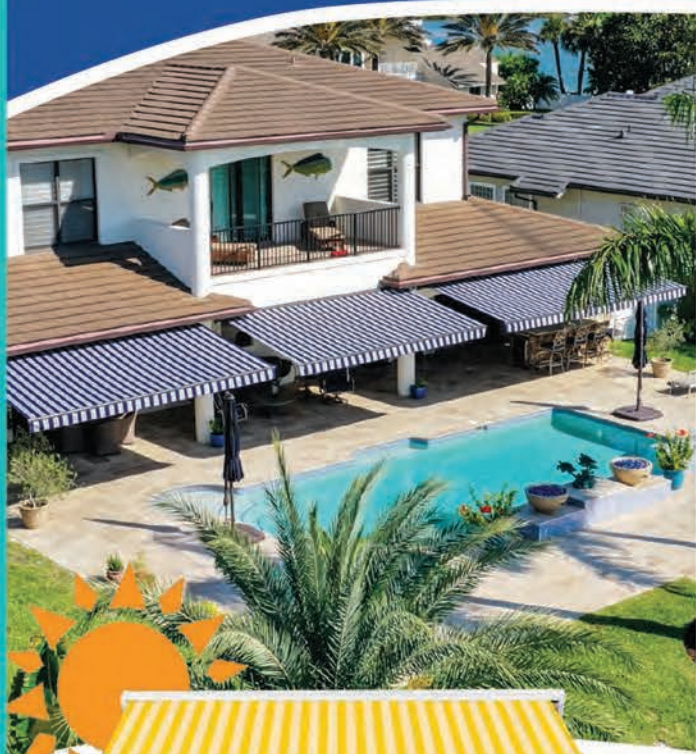


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# We are going to Charleston! Who wants to come long?



By Tom Chalupka

Every fall the On Top of the World Travel Club schedules a wonderful five-day bus trip that is usually somewhere in the southeast part of the United States.

These trips are coordinated by long-time member Terri Mikszenas and her husband, Dick.

In past years we have traveled to places like Nashville, Savannah, Charleston, New Orleans and last year our trip was to Miami and Key West.

This year we are traveling to the historic city of Charleston, S.C.

We will leave OTOW by motor coach on Monday, Sept. 22 and return on Friday, Sept. 26.

This trip includes transportation, four nights lodging, eight meals, guided tours, admissions to historic sites and a scenic harbor cruise.

During our time in Charleston, we will visit the historic Middleton Place, which is an 18th century rice plantation and historic landmark comprising 65 acres of America's oldest gardens and landscaping.

The guided tours of the city will in-



Dock and Church Streets in historical downtown Charleston, S.C.

(Courtesy of Explore Charleston, ExploreCharleston.com)

clude an intimate tour inside the historic Charleston home of Joseph Manigault, a French family that fled religious prosecution in Europe.

The tour also includes the McLeod Plantation, the Charlston Tea Gardens

and a tea factory tour including tasting samples at the tea bar.

If you are interested in joining us or would like more information about this trip, stop by our information table in the East Activity Center every Monday

and Thursday from 8:30-10 a.m. or at our monthly meeting the first Friday of the month at 2 p.m. in the East Activity Center Oldsmar Room.



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# Art Guild Art Show ‘25

Congratulations go out to Maggie Reinhart - winner of the 2025 Art Guild Art Show.

The event took place in late March. About 300 people attended.

You can see samples of Maggie’s artwork below. There

was one judge - a non-resident.

Dale Stackhouse took second place and Rosemarie Lugg took third place.

Everyone entered in the event was an artist with the On Top of the World Art Guild.



Maggie Reinhart  
First Place



Dale Stackhouse  
Second Place



Rosemarie Lugg  
Third Place

(OTOW News photos  
by Barbara Rice)



# Jesters already thinking ahead to 2026 show with casting calls set for October



By Michelle Fournier

The big news ... yes, we're at it again! At the Jesters monthly meeting in April, the club elected a new board.

Chosen were President Michelle Fournier, First Vice President Robyn Kumar, Second Vice President Rodger Hillier, Treasurer Carlee Clayton, Assistant Treasurer Cheryl Pollack, Secretary Millie Cantone and Assistant Secretary Renee Ingrassia.

Our new president then appointed our new director, Rodger Hillier.

We are grateful to our past president Valerie Martin, past director Robyn Kumar, assistant director Cheryl Pollack, the past board and all our active members.

Our April meeting was filled with laughter, hugs and delicious pizza. We welcomed two new members, Bob Sharp and Roberto DePalma.

It had been a whole month since we had been together so we were ready for some hijinks. We had our first ever "pizza balancing contest" and Fred Langrock can now add this talent to his resume after he vanquished all contenders. No doubt, Fred will be in high demand from local pizza delivery ser-



The Jesters monthly meeting in May was all about having fun. Above, Millie Cantone, left, and Yvonne Courtney receive a 'pineapple' pizza in honor of their April birthdays. (OTOW News photo by Valerie Martin)

vices!

We couldn't help but reminisce about how much fun we had with our spring show and with our wonderful audiences who totaled more than 1,000 fans.

Soon, Rodger will select a creative

team to work over the summer to develop the next show.

Our membership drive will occur in September. Our casting call will happen in October. We will begin our show rehearsals in November.

Our annual show will take place Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2026. Please consider joining us in the cast or crew. We would love to have your special talent in our amazing production. It will be a blast! That's how we roll ... jest for fun!

## April 1975 Canadian Club started to share correct information

By Doreen Bernier

Wallace and Lillian Parr arrived at On Top of the World on Dec. 2, 1973, and moved into the Ottoman building.

During their stay in 1974 and into the spring of 1975, the Parrs kept hearing conflicting comments about Canadians at OTOW seeking answers to questions concerning taxes, medical insurance, and legal and financial aspects of retirement months in Florida.

The Parrs discussed these concerns with Canadian friends and thought if they formed a club of Canadian residents, everyone would get correct information. But no one volunteered to lead the club.

So Wally and Lillian listed the names. Then went out for a walk each day. As they came across a Canadian license plate, they would see the number of the associated condo/apartment, knock on the door and ask if the people would be interested in starting a club. They also shared the ideas that when there were a sufficient number of names, they would put the meeting date in the OTOW newspaper.

The Parrs' first walk was in March of 1975. Their first meeting was on Saturday, April 12, 1975, in the East Activity Center Large Card Room, which is currently the Fitness Center.

Thirty-nine attended and the names of 18 more Canadians were added later.

Wallace chaired the first meeting and Lillian gave a demonstration on how to remember names to help the



The Canadian Club's special 50th anniversary logo was created by OTOW News.

original members become acquainted with each other.

Wallace and Lillian agreed to work on the Canadian Club bylaws to be presented at the November meeting in 1975.

The following officers were elected: President Wallace Parr, Vice President Jack Bedbrooke, Vice President Muriel Pomeroy, Secretary Betty Stehelin and Treasurer Don Crawley.

The proposed bylaws were accepted at that meeting.

For 50 years, the On Top of the World Canadian Club's purpose has been to foster fellowship and mutual assistance among members.

William Finch, a formal commercial artist from Toronto, offered to design the club letterhead, which is still used today.

## Movie Night is Back

Thelma is 93 years old and she does not appreciate getting duped over the phone. Watch her quest to get back what was taken from her.

"Thelma" hit theaters in 2024 and was directed by Josh Margolin. It is rated PG-13 and is 97 minutes long.

This will be On Top of the World's first movie night this summer. Seating is open to 80. No reservations required. Each resident gets one free bag of popcorn.

The event is 4 p.m., June 11, in the East Activity Center Auditorium.

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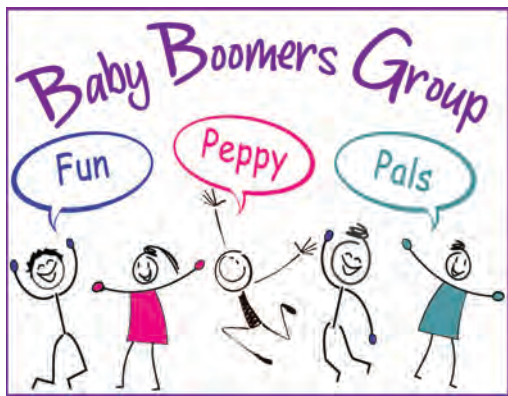


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# When Baby Boomers come up with great ideas (even new ideas), we show up for a good time



By Dianne Dvorak

Twelve Boomers decided to try something different. We went to TheaterFor to see “A Lighter Shade of Noir.”

This theater is close by at 1863 N. Highland Ave. and has only 50 seats. For such a small theater, the acting was amazing, the writing and directing by local Michael Cote was phenomenal.

The show featured cynical, malevolent characters in a sleazy setting and an ominous atmosphere that was conveyed by shadowy scenes and foreboding background music.

Most of the eight short scenes were written in noir style with most taking on a more lighthearted look at standard, hard-boiled, private detectives, femme fatales and nasty bad guys.

It was “just that good” so the Baby Boomers went back to the next show, “Meteor Shower,” written by Steve Martin.

For more than 12 years now, the On Top of the World Baby Boomers have been to so many memorable out-



Baby Boomers from On Top of the World get ready to enter TheaterFor for their first visit at this venue.

ings to great places around the Tampa Bay area. We get tickets near each other when we go out and we sit together at tables during OTOW music shows.

Several of us, for example, went to enjoy “Celebrate Band” in March right here in our East Activity Center Auditorium. The night was excellent and so much fun.

We appreciate the OTOW Entertainment Committee for bringing great groups to OTOW!

The Baby Boomers group meets in the Largo Room on the first Wednesday and third Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm. Please join in to get info on fun stuff and ideas of what’s going on. You will receive emails and get connected on our Goodle Group site.

We have no officers or dues. We have no leaders - just members and

participants who bring their ideas and knowledge of what’s going on around the area.

This is a way to hang out and make friends while having a fun time.

We bowl on Mondays at 10 a.m. at Maple Lanes in Clearwater (please come 5 or 10 minutes early so we can figure how many lanes we need). It’s a deal because it’s \$1.50 a game. We play two games. Shoe rental is extra.

We cheer on our fellow bowlers, especially if we bowl over 100!

Biking is 10 a.m. on Fridays and we meet at the East Activity Center. Typically, we bike to Safety Harbor via the Ream Wilson Trail (beautiful) and it’s about 14 miles round trip.

Most of us will have coffee or breakfast at Cafe Vino Tinto, a local coffee roaster in Safety Harbor.

Sometimes we bike on to Philippe Park before returning to OTOW.

Helmets and a bike, either e-type or conventional, are required.

Now that many of us are heading north, these events could be sparse or nill, depending on the whims of the full timers. It’s up to the members of the Baby Boomers group to keep events going through the summer.

Please, Baby Boomers, do not hesitate to compose an email and send your suggestions out to the group. Keep the fun rolling and let’s continue meeting new people.

The Baby Boomers era is officially 1947-1964, but that doesn’t mean anything to our group. Age means nothing on the fun-meter scale. Everyone is welcome to join us. Life is short - have fun!

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# Democratic Club gets report on how county schools are operating despite struggle to keep teachers

**By David Beaven**

The Democratic Club had a special guest at its April monthly meeting. Pinellas County School Board Member Eileen Long spoke to us about what's going on in schools this year. It was well attended with 37 residents present.

Many of us worked on her campaign last year. We solicited signatures to get her on the ballot, waved signs, distributed literature and donated to her cause. So we were very pleased when she won.

Eileen worked as a teacher for three decades before running for school board. She said these days it is challenging to keep teachers due to the high cost of local housing. Many teachers live in Pasco County and Manatee County where housing is cheaper, but they have long commutes.

Competition from charter schools also drains money from the school board budget.

So we are lucky to have a dedicated person like Eileen on the board to guide our schools into the future.

Our club also has an informal happy hour evening gathering each month.



Members bring dishes to share and beverages as well. And we get to know each other better.

Of course, political talk is encouraged. It's a good way for all of us to learn and exchange views.

In addition, the Democratic Club has an information table in the East Activity Center Auditorium on Mondays and Thursdays. Feel free to drop by and chat with us.

The Democratic Club schedule for May is as follows.

Our next monthly meeting is 2 p.m., Thursday, May 8, in the West Activity Center Learning Lab.



Eileen Long was a guest at the Democratic Club meeting in April. She is welcomed by club president Dave Beaven.

Our next happy hour is 6 p.m., Tuesday, May 27 in the Learning Lab.

Our information table will be 8:30-10:30 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays in the Auditorium until we switch to one day during the summer.

For more information, visit our official webpage at [worlddemsclub.blogspot.com](http://worlddemsclub.blogspot.com). Or call Dave Beaven at 727-410-7566.

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# Only source of relief at Cantina Night might be an ice cold margarita



**By Dave Beaven**  
Lambda Club members celebrated April country-style. As you can see in the picture, there were some cowboy hats in the crowd. Country music was floating through the evening air and Lambdians celebrated with cocktails and tasty food. For some of our members, it was a farewell dinner as they were preparing to head north for the summer. We will miss them, but they can keep informed about our club news. After all, On Top of the World News is on the web! Our social in May takes its cue from the biggest holiday this month. No. Not Mother's Day. The other holiday. Cinco de Mayo. On Friday, May 9, at 6 p.m., join us for Cantina Night. Mariachi music will be blaring from the Pavilion. Step up to



The Lambda social in April featured a western theme as evidenced by the cowboy hats in the crowd.

the bar for a margarita. Have a chat with old friends and meet some new ones. As always, the potluck dinner table will be serving tasty dishes prepared by our members. Mexican recipes are favored this month. Some of it may be muy caliente (very hot). So you may have to have another margarita! Lambda is a social club for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) residents of OTOW. We are an informal group that gets together for various activities. If you are interested in finding out more about the club, visit our official webpage [lambdaclearwater.blogspot.com](http://lambdaclearwater.blogspot.com). Or call Dave Beaven at 727-410-7566.

# An expert look into the nine sacred frequencies at our High Vibe Tribe meeting in May

**By Laurie LeClaire**  
During this heightened period of solar flares and disruptions in our institutions, we all can use some techniques to feel at ease and more grounded. So on May 13 I have invited a special guest, who is driving in from Sarasota, to introduce us to some techniques to empower others through biofield education. This should help us discover some shortcuts to healing. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Jayme Westrom, M.Ed, RMT, RYT-Wellness Educator, QRA Practitioner. I first met Jayme at an event hosted by Nana Hendricks, who was last month's speaker. Jayme had pendants on display and later revealed their capacity to protect us from electro magnetic wave field (EMF) waves. Jayme is a quantum reflex analysis practitioner, chief executive officer of Biofield Expert, LLC. She earned a Master's Degree in Education from Goucher College. She is a certified quantum reflex analysis practitioner



through Premier Research Labs. She also is a sanctified healer and Reiki Master teacher. Jayme is the developer of the Financial Alignment Technique, Bio-Magnetic Tone Healing and the Biofield Resonator. She is passionate about empowering others through biofield education

and helping people discover shortcuts to healing. Her specialties include; quantum reflex analysis, frequencies, quantum k, EMF/5G protection, medical intuition, Vastu and custom supplement protocols. She attributes her success to the generosity of her teachers. I have invited Jayme to bring a few Solfeggio Biofield Resonators to test on our group. They were designed using Vastu principles and Solfeggio frequencies. Dr Joseph Puleo rediscovered the Solfeggio frequencies in 1974 by applying pythagorean mathematics to the Book of Genesis: Chapter 7, Verses 12-83. Since his discovery of the six sacred frequencies, three additional Solfeggio frequencies have been discovered. All nine Solfeggio frequencies are included in the "Solfeggio Biofield Resonator." The 3, 6 and 9 frequencies are the fundamental root vibrations of the Solfeggio frequencies. Nikola Tesla said, "If you only knew the magnificence of the 3, 6, 9 frequencies then you would hold a key to the universe." These sacred frequencies are believed to transform grief into joy, clear negativity, remove subconscious blockages, stimulate love, restore equilibrium, repair DNA, strengthen relationships, cleanse the body of toxins, awaken intuition and help one return to spiritual balance. Jayme plans to demonstrate various muscle testing techniques and have us practice on our own or with a partner. So I encourage anyone with curiosity to come whether or not you have ever attended our group. Our High Vibe Tribe meets once a month on the second Tuesday evening from 7-9 p.m. in the Clearwater/Kitchen Room of the East Activity Center. For any questions, you may contact me, Laurie LeClaire, at [otowoowoo@gmail.com](mailto:otowoowoo@gmail.com) or call 727-265-1671.

# Who has a great idea for a 2026 show?

**By Maxine Sutcliffe**  
Would you like to put on, direct and design a show for Theater Workshop? We extend an enthusiastic invitation. You do not have to be a current member. The Theater Workshop board would welcome a 1-2 page conceptual idea of your proposed theme and production type/style. Please send an email to [maxjust43@yahoo.com](mailto:maxjust43@yahoo.com) or submit a hard copy at our information table any Monday or Thursday morning in May, 8:30-10:30 a.m. in the East Activity Center Auditorium. Theater Workshop just completed one of the best shows we have ever



put together, "Derby Daze." We have heard residents' positive accolades for the performance and also for the hard work, effort, enthusiasm and fun put into the concept. This has led to a 20 percent increase

in membership since the show – so we not only have retained existing talent, but are attracting new skills and interest for the mid-March show in 2026. Everyone is already asking, "what's the show for next year?" Theater Workshop is not a "closed group." We are open-minded and welcome anyone who is interested in theater in any capacity. This leads me to thank, on behalf of the board, everyone involved in our 2025 show: performers, back stage crew, scenery design and construction, costuming, seamstresses, sound and lighting, and provision/serving refreshments. Everyone pulled together to provide our OTOW community audience with entertainment. Not just everyone on stage, but an even greater number of people who worked behind the scenes. The level of commitment to our club is as little, or as much, as you choose. Snowbirds are welcome. So come find out more about us. Our next meeting will be 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 7, in the West Activity Center Belleair Room. You can always visit our information table for updates or read our monthly article when you are out of town.



# Knitting Club had two full tables of hand-made items for sale at annual Flea Market-Craft Show

By Cheryl Butcher

One sure sign of spring here at On Top of the World is when residents clean their closets and storage rooms, and box up everything with hopes of selling it at the annual Good Neighbors Association Flea Market and Craft Show in April.

It's fun to walk into the East Activity Center and see all of the tables brimming over with treasures. It's fun to look at the faces of vendors practically begging you to buy their wares.

The On Top of the World Knitting Club was "front and center" with its tables at the Flea Market. We were positioned at the very top of the stairs. You couldn't miss us and our two tables piled high with our handmade items.

We had a large variety of things for sale besides our usual beautiful lap robes. The most popular item we sold was our baby blankets. The beautiful pastel colors always catch your eyes and it seems there is always a baby or two that needs to be kept warm.

We are always thankful for the residents who purchase from our tables. And even if they don't buy, they are kind with their praise of our work.



Knitting

We hope to gain some new members, too. Several ladies seemed interested in joining us to learn or refresh their talents.

We will continue to make lap robes, baby blankets and hats to donate to nursing homes and hospitals.

If you have an interest in knitting or crocheting, we would love to have you join us in the East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room on Wednesday mornings from 9-11 a.m. The Knitting Group operates under the auspices of the Good Neighbors Association.



This is what you saw when you first arrived at the Good Neighbors Association Flea Market and Craft Show in April. From left to right were Betty Karabotsios, Mary Lou Cichon, Cheryl Butcher, Sumiko Moran at their Knitting Club tables.

# Beans - who knew they had so many health benefits

By Kathy Brumbaugh

Legumes, in many forms, are a powerhouse source of nutrition.

At the April meeting of the Plant-Based Living Club, our members discussed the many benefits of eating beans on a daily basis:

- Lowers blood pressure
- Protects against heart disease
- Lowers high blood pressure
- Contains antioxidants that fight cancer development
- Helps prevent or treat type 2 diabetes
- Provides a high source of protein
- Boosts immunity against infections and viruses
- Offers a high source of vitamins and minerals
- Fights obesity and helps weight loss
- Helps to keep hormones balanced

One of our guest presenters in April was Sheila Charette, who used a variety of black beans, pinto beans, lima beans and chick peas in various recipes she shared with the group.

Sheila also made a delicious black bean and corn salsa, which can be used in healthy tacos, added to a salad, or eaten as a dip with vegetables or corn chips.

I shared some raw, crunchy, mung beans spouts with the group while reminding them that all sprouts are a nutrient-dense food source.

Our club members continue to find



different foods to ferment. Bob Harvey demonstrated how to preserve lemons.

Fermenting foods not only boosts the food's shelf life and nutritional value, but gives our bodies a dose of healthy probiotics, which are live microorganisms crucial to healthy digestion.

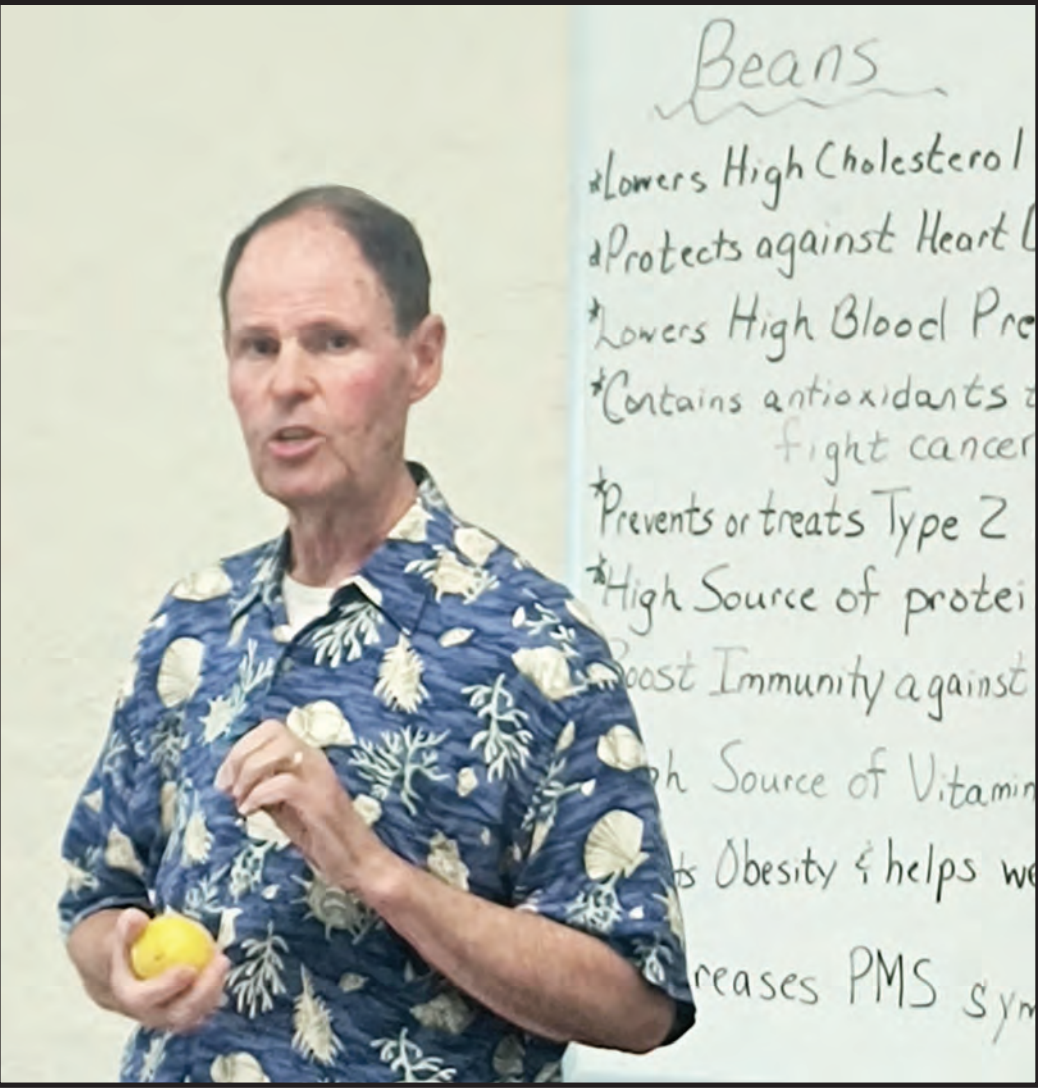
By sharing his knowledge, Bob reminded us that when it comes to fermenting plant foods, the possibilities are endless.

Who would have thought about fermenting lemons?

For information on our club, visit the Box Office at OTOWboxoffice.com. Scroll down and click on the Plant-Based Living Group logo.

Also visit VeganSalvation.com and/or nutritionfacts.org for many benefits of eating plant-based foods.

For club information, contact me at kbrumbaugh51@gmail.com or call



Bob Harvey demonstrates how to preserve lemons.

727-777-5127.

Our next meeting will be 3 p.m., Wednesday, May 14, in the West Ac-

tivity Center Learning Lab. The topic will be "Red Light Foods" and ways to avoid them in our diets.

# Blackout remains an active game every Thursday through summer

By Barb Jamrozy

Blackout is a year-round social card game in association with the Canadian Club. We welcome newcomers every week.

Tom Jamrozy is available to teach the game at 6 p.m. every Thursday before games actually begin from 6:30-8:45 p.m. It is an easy game to learn and costs five quarters for the entire night. Bring something to drink and have fun.

You have the opportunity to make many new friends, have some laughs and have a great time.

Please feel free to join in on the fun in the West Activity Center Belleair Room. Membership in the Canadian Club is required. We hope to see you there.





# With all the red, white and green floating around, there was no mistake this was an Italian party



**By Sam Gonnella**

Have you ever had an occasion where some individuals worked selflessly for the good of others and made a dramatic impact?

At the Italian-American Club traditional St. Joseph's Dinner Dance, we did just that.

Many individuals contributed greatly and deserve to be thanked for their efforts. They fully participated from set up to clean up.

Thank you all.

Thanks in part to assistance from volunteers from other clubs, our event was not just another dinner dance, it was a very enjoyable evening.

We especially want to thank Connie Stanley from the Canadian Club for her work and for her donation of a colorful balloon archway. Colors of the Italian flag (red, white and green) filled it in. The display added to the festive atmosphere and later served as a venue for photo taking.

Our club's final event of the season was an ice cream social in April. It was an afternoon where members and non-members gathered to enjoy ice cream sundaes and colorful layer cakes. It was also an opportunity to socialize with friends and neighbors.

For the fall/winter season, the Italian-American Club has selected some interesting events. They will feature popular foods, fun and games.

A Little Latin Twist will take place on Sept. 24 and a holiday pizza party will take place on Nov. 12.

During the spring/summer seasons, tickets for these events will be sold 8:30-10:30 a.m. on Thursdays only at our information table in the East Activity Center Auditorium.

In the fall, tickets will be available for the following: Gasparilla Night on Jan. 21, 2026, a trip to Tampa Bay Downs in February 2026, our St. Joseph's Dinner Dance on March 25 and our annual Ice Cream Social on April 14.



Thanks to the Canadian Club, the Italian-American Club had a beautiful balloon display during its annual St. Joseph's Dinner Dance in March. The balloons were red, white and green to match the Italian colors. Below is some of the dancing and socializing that went on away from the balloons.



Details to follow later.

You can look for future event postings on the OTOW Box Office ([otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com)) or by watching OTOW-TV channel 901.

On behalf of all members of the Italian-American Club, we would like to thank every On Top of the World club for being active this past winter season and making our community a great place to live. We are hopeful for continued club participation during the 2025-26 winter season. We look forward to all of your plans and keeping us busy.

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# Lawn Bowl winter season concludes with a ‘Fun Tournament’ and several lead changes



Newly elected President Roxanne Deagler and Vice President Drew Deagler.

**By Kathleen Walter**  
A wonderful time was had by all at the final Lawn Bowl Club tournament of the season on March 26.  
The Fun Tournament was designed by our own US National Bowls Champion, Sandy Walls. It is unlike any other tournament we hold because each end of the court is set up with a new challenge to test the skills of our bowlers.  
Scoring is also unique because each team gets the opportunity to advance by scoring extra points in their own designated bonus frame.  
The lead constantly goes up and down until the final roll of bowls.  
Twenty members participated this year. Congratulations to our winners: Roxanne Deagler and Rodger Hillier.  
The tournament was followed by an amazing potluck lunch in the Pavilion. The food was delicious and plentiful!

We all enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with each other, especially sharing news about our families and upcoming plans for the summer.  
It was also bittersweet though because we had to say goodbye to several of our members who will not be returning next year. A special thank you and godspeed goes out to Dottie Graham, our most senior member.  
At our annual meeting on March 28, we elected our new officers for the upcoming year. Congratulations to those elected: President Roxanne Deagler, Vice President Drew Deagler, Secretary Beth Conversi and Treasurer Greg Middleton.  
We are grateful for their willingness to serve.  
On May 15 we begin our summer schedule for our year-round members. Practices will be held Monday and

Wednesday evenings at 6:15 p.m., and Tuesday, Friday and Saturday mornings at 9 a.m.  
Whenever we are practicing, we welcome visitors who would like to learn about our sport or roll a few bowls.  
If you have never played before, the summer is the perfect time to give the game a try as our practices are very relaxed.  
Many of our newest members were not familiar with lawn bowling until coming to On Top of the World. Now they are part of the club.  
We provide free lessons and equipment to anyone with an OTOW Activity Card.  
During the summer you can reach out to our communications liaison, Gerry Boone, by writing to fishingpop1955@gmail.com. He will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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Joe DeChairo, Bonnie Savajian and Warren Levene sit at the finals table.

## Finally, a sole survivor on Texas Card Game night

**By Joe DeChairo**  
The Texas Card Game Club poker tournament in March attracted 24 players as already some of the players started to head back north.  
Helen Hughes, Bonnie Savajian and Ann Simsic supplied the sweets as everyone played till there were only three players left.  
Finally, Warren Levene outlasted Joe DeChairo to claim the first place prize.  
The next poker tournament will be held on Friday May 23 at 6 p.m. in the Kitchen/Clearwater Room.  
Anyone with an updated activity card can play. Just show up 15 minutes before the start time.  
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# SPORTS

## Memories of playing against dad

By Karen French

Stan Stock's dad won a ping pong tournament in the 1940s in Illinois. The prize was a professional paddle that his seven kids were never allowed to touch.

For years, Stan recalls everyone tried to beat dad in the basement. In the beginning, the kids never won. However, as time went on, and skills improved, the kids started evening the score.

"Dad never let us win," Stan said. "We always had to earn it and dad always played with that professional paddle."

Stan has now been playing ping pong 11 years with our On Top of the World club. He says it is a lot of fun playing Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Stan also plays pickleball and golf and greatly enjoys the people in this area.

If you want to join our fun group, call Karen French at 907-229-2648.



Stan Stock gets ready to serve.

## Ping pong ends winter season with a fun event matching experience with novice skills



By Marie Clodge Valdes

On April 11, the Ping Pong Club held our first annual "Spring into Fun" Tournament and although some of our Snowbirds have already headed north, we still had 32 players or 16 doubles teams.

That represents more than 65 percent of our membership!

In the past, we have always had an A and B division for competition, but as our members practice regularly and improve, the B division has become quite small. We wanted to try a new ap-



Pictured above are the top finishers in a tournament recently held by the Ping Pong Club. From left to right are second place finishers Phil Henne and Marie Clodge Valdes, and the first place winners Phyllis Tetzlaff and Scott Sheaman.

proach for this tournament.

As our club has many new faces this year, we wanted to help them get acquainted with tournament play. In creating the doubles teams, each partnership had a more experienced player with a less experienced player, and all but one of the teams were coed to ensure equitability.

We also had everyone sign up a cou-

ple of weeks prior to the tournament so we could organize the teams, allowing them a few days prior to the tournament to practice playing together.

This also allowed them to practice against potential opponents and gain a little knowledge and experience beforehand.

This went over really well and made it very enjoyable for everyone.

After the tournament, photos were taken and medals were awarded to first place winners, Phyllis Tetzlaff and Scott Sheaman, as well as second place finishers, Phil Henne and Marie Clodge Valdes.

The attendees also enjoyed fellowship together with a club-sponsored potluck luncheon. Many thanks to Oscar Kanter for organizing the play schedule and Karen French for organizing the medals and awards that were given out. Janice Wisinski said a prayer and blessed our meal together.

The greatest thanks goes out to all our members who were willing to help set up prior to the tournament and participate. Others watched and gave encouragement to the various teams.

Maybe they will join in the friendly competition next year. We will have to wait and see!

If you are interested in having fun, meeting new friends and learning how to play ping pong, you are invited to join us Tuesdays through Fridays at the West Activity Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. We hope to see more new, smiling faces!

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20 Years of Teaching at OTOW





# Bob Voigt hits for cycle, Ray Woolsey smacks three home runs in one game, as softball season heats up

For Red, Bob Voigt hit for the cycle (a single, double, triple and homer), but it was not enough as Blue's hitting was spread out among every player and included a triple by Ralph Scunziano and two doubles by George Morgan, all of which drove in and scored runs.

On Field 1, Blue beat Red 8-5.

On Field 2, a brilliant leaping catch by Robert Bannick at second base helped keep the score tied 8-8. Perfect 5-for-5 days by Lenny Segall and Charles Kovarik contributed to five of the Red runs.

For the White team, Steve Garvin had two triples and Ray Woolsey had four hits, including a double and home run for the heavy lifting.

**Field 1**  
**Blue 8, Red 6**  
**Field 2**  
**White 11, Red 2**

On Field 2, airtight defense stymied every Red scoring effort. Going into the ninth inning, Red was shut out. Then, solid hits by Mike Blaa and Charles Kovarik followed by a couple of "bleeders" that just eluded infielders brought both home. The shutout was over.

White's batters dominated with Al Bartolo and Joe DeChiaro having perfect four-hit days. White scored in all but one inning.

On Field 1, proceedings were more nailbiting as the game was tied going to the bottom of the eighth inning. Don Mandeville singled and moved to third on Bill Holland's double. Both scored when Ray Woolsey and Bob Voigt singled. Bob had earlier homered on his 4-for-4 day.

**Field 1**  
**Red 16, Blue 10**  
**Field 2**  
**White 8, Red 8**

On Field 1, Blue scored four runs in the sixth inning to tie the game 8-8, but Red came back led by the first three batters in its lineup. Lenny Segall, Al



Bartolo and Robert Bannick, who accumulated 12 hits in the game, overwhelmed Blue with eight runs over the last three frames for the victory.

On Field 2, White forged an 8-2 lead after five innings, but was held scoreless the rest of the way. Red stormed back as Jim Kemp collected three hits, including a double, Bob Voigt and Ray Woolsey both doubled and drove home five of the six runs needed to tie.

**Field 1**  
**Blue 13, Red 4**  
**Field 2**  
**Red 5, White 3**

It would seem reasonable that an article about a rout would focus on the great hitting or defense of the winning team. True - Barry Yellets went 4-for-4, Lenny Segall hit two triples on a 3-for-3 day and both Bob Voigt and Gene Abood homered and doubled on perfect three-hit days for Blue.

But the remarkable story was Ray Woolsey who, after a hard single in the first inning, hit three solo homers, each of which reached the farthest limits of the nearly 300 foot field.

And the most remarkable fielding gems were a series of outstanding catches and throws by Red middle infielder Jim Kemp and a brilliant backhand grab of a hard grounder by Gary Zimmerman who then whirled and threw a strike to second base for a

force out.

On Field 2, spectacular defense by left fielder Roger Martel highlighted a defensive struggle. Roger corralled four line drives coming in, going out and spinning to his right.

**Red 8, Blue 7, White 7**

With the score tied at 7-7 for all three teams, Robert Bannick led off the top of the last inning lashing a hard single into center field. He raced to third base on Rick Champ's single and scored the go-ahead run on a force out.

Each team led at some point in the game. For Blue, Gene Abood homered early for two runs and saved two runs with sparkling catches in the outfield.

Jim Kemp had a perfect three-hit day for White while Jim Tiano singled to drive home one run and doubled to deep center field later in the game.

**Field 1**  
**Blue 14, Red 13**  
**Field 2**  
**White 15, Red 12**

On Field 1, the hero for Blue was Ed O'Connor who came to bat in the last of the ninth inning with two men on and slashed a single into right field to score the winning run.

On Field 2, Joe DeChiaro and Barry Yellets each had perfect four-hit days with Joe clubbing two triples and a double in his batting line and Barry two doubles to lead their White team to victory.

For the Red team, Jim Tiano also had two doubles in his 4-5 day.

**Field 1**  
**Red 14, Blue 10**  
**Field 2**  
**Red 13, White 1**

Visiting player Rick Wilson homered and hit two doubles while Gene Abood went 5-for-5 to lead Red to the victory on Field 1.

The rout on Field 2 came courtesy of a full team effort. Pitcher Guy Bertuzzi

not only kept White off the scoreboard, but contributed three hits himself - one a double. Barry Yellets, Wayne Pall, Robert Bannick and Ray Woolsey each had three hits and Tara Gunning doubled twice to ring up four multiple run innings.

**Field 1**  
**Red 9, Blue 9**  
**Field 2**  
**White 5, Red 3**

Red had four-hit days by Rick Champ, Lenny Segall and Tom Rafferty. Ron Nobile of the Blue team matched the effort. Ray Woolsey doubled and homered, Al Bartolo tripled and Melvin Tennille doubled among his three hits leading to the tie game.

On Field 2, pitching and defense dominated, punctuated by Ralph Scunziano's solo homer to account for a Red run. Bill Holland's triple drove in a run for White and led him to score as well.

**Blue 9, Red 7, White 4**

Shutout for seven innings and down 9-0 on just four singles, White suddenly scored four runs on seven hits that included doubles by Bob Studwell and Tara Gunning.

But with the bases loaded, they were unable to continue their remarkable comeback as outstanding defense by shortstop Gary Zimmerman, middle infielder Bob Dembinski and first baseman Richard Mierzejewski finally cut the rally short.

Red and Blue slugged it out over the first six innings, each leading at some point, but a three-run outburst in the seventh inning, Blue sealed their victory. The rally began with a long double off the bat of Melvin Tennille and ended with a solid single by Mary Anne Benuzzi.

The biggest blow for Red was a two run over-the-fence homer by Ray Woolsey.

## By Marina Davidovich

Pickleball is similar to tennis, but has its own court, paddle, ball and rules. Most people find it more forgiving than tennis and easier to play.

But even though it can be less impactful on your joints, it's still a great workout. People love pickleball because it's fun, very social, easy to learn and not expensive.

Here at On Top of the World, the Pickleball Club has 120 members and is still growing.

Every day is good for pickleball, even if the weather is not perfect. Sundays are the most popular! The courts are always filled with laughter and happy sounds of good shots.

Each day we have about 28-30 players on the courts playing or waiting for their turn. When not playing, we exchange different ideas about future events and learn interesting facts about each other.



# A variety of times and days to play with the Pickleball Club



You could be a part of this group! Join pickleball over the summer. We will be on the courts 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; 8-10 a.m., Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays; 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and 9 a.m. to noon on Sundays.





# BJ Reece and Joanne Fenn win Shuffleboard Club doubles tournament

By Tim Lewis

The Shuffleboard Club has been busy since our singles tournament in April.

In addition to our regular schedule, which is Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 4 p.m., we held our first “Fun Day” event. All of the games had special rules.

In one game, players only scored by being on the lines, which is the opposite of regular play. During regular play, you only get points if your disc is not touching a line.

Players got five points for every line they touched. Shots in “the kitchen” (which is the 10 off area on a court) still counted the usual points.

In another game, players had to shoot two discs simultaneously, but we reverted back to standard scoring rules.

In a third type of game, we only counted the discs that landed in the seven boxes and the kitchen. Though it was confusing at times, everyone left with a smile.

Later in March, our club held a doubles tournament with 10 teams vying for the top spot.

In the double-elimination tournament, it took 19 games to determine our winner.

Congratulations to BJ Reece and Joanne Fenn, who took top honors.

The second place team of Richard Lagasse and Tom Fahey pinned one loss on our champs, but couldn’t quite pull off the upset. They worked their way through the loser’s bracket to reach the finals.

Also making a strong showing and finishing third was the team of Donna Smerz and Mark Maczka.

A few days later, 48 members and guests got together at the Pavilion for our close-to-the-end-of-the-season pizza party.

Mary Patterson baked cupcakes for the occasion and others brought a few cookies.

Our playing season may be over by the time you read this, but if the weather isn’t too hot we might play into May.

Many thanks to our club officers for their hard work during the season. We end this season with 60 members.

Come out and join us this fall (October) as we begin a new season.



From left to right are the top doubles players from a tournament in March: Richard Lagasse, Tom Fahey, BJ Reece, Joanne Fenn, Donna Smerz and Mark Maczka.



Nilson Sabadin - Club Champion



Ron LaFond - B Flight



Henry Rejman - C Flight



Bob McGrogan - Let Net

# Five golfers share Flight B honors from March 19 - all shot rounds of 62

By Barney Hanrahan

Well, it is quite amazing that I can write a golf report and not complain about the weather.

The Men’s Golf Association finally achieved consistent weekly scores without a rain break. That is quite an achievement.

Speaking of achievements, pictured above are winners of the recent Men’s Club Championship. We reported the winners in our last report, however did not have current photos.

Here are other recent scores.

On March 2, Gary Sandine and Jeff West led Flight A with 62s, but the big news was in Flight B where five golfers all tied for the low round. Tom Moran, Bob Beals, Andy Polselli, David Johnson and Tom Stephens all shot 62s. Marc Schell led Flight C with a 59 and Bob McGrogan led Flight D with a 59.

On March 26, low net score for the day were a pair of 58s. Ken Schoenherr achieved it in Flight C and Jim Valloreo in Flight D. Brian Kreilach led Flight A with a 65 and Bob Beals led Flight B with a 61.

On April 2, Bill Whipps had low score



from Flight A with a 61. Tom Moran shot 62 in Flight B, Ken Schifferle and David Baldwin shot 60s in Flight C, and Harry Crawford shot 59 in Flight D.

**March 19 Flight A**

Top scores: Gary Sandine, 62, Jeff West, 62, Mike Crittendon, 63, David Saccone, 66, Barry Pelham, 66.

**Flight B**

Top scores: Tom Moran, 62, Bob Beals, 62, Andy Polselli, 62, David Johnson, 62, Tom Stephens, 62.

**Flight C**

Top scores: Marc Schell, 59, Henry Rejman, 62, David Baldwin, 63, Ken Schoenherr, 63, Jerry Jordan, 63.

**Flight D**

Top scores: Bob McGrogan, 59, Harry Crawford, 60, Roger Shockley, 61, John Blanck, 62, Bill Robertson, 64.

**March 26 Flight A**

Top scores: Brian Kreilach, 65, Gary Sandine, 66, Mike Schuyler, 66, David Saccone, 66, Miike Walker, 66.

**Flight B**

Top scores: Bob Beals, 61, Ron Nobile, 62, Ronald Huber, Pete Gagnon, 63, Tom Stephens, 64.

**Flight C**

Top scores: Ken Schoenherr, 58, Henry Rejman, 64, Sal Vasapolle, 64,

Dermot Keane, 64, Guy Bertuzzi, 65.

**Flight D**

Top scores: Jim Valloreo, 58, Robin Hendricks, 61, Paul Seggelin, 63, Jim Caldwell, 64, John Blanck, 67.

**April 2 Flight A**

Top scores: Bill Whipps, 61, Jere Keiser, 62, Mike Walker, 63, Fred Peace, 64, Keith Miles, 65.

**Flight B**

Top scores: Tom Moran, 62, Andy Polselli, 63, David Johnson, 63, Tom Stephens, 63, Jay Schwallie, 65, Lester Whynot, 65.

**Flight C**

Top scores: Ken Schifferle, 60, David Baldwin, 60, Marc Schell, 65, Jack Gow, 65, Dermot Keane, 65.

**Flight D**

Top scores: Harry Crawford, 59, Bill Robertson, 62, Roger Shockley, 64, Tim Palmquist, 65, Bob McGrogan, 68.





## Higgins, Patterson win Alternate Shot Tournament

By Sheryl A. Barbin

The Friday Mixed Golf League had 60 players participate in our Select Drive Alternate Shot Tournament on Friday, March 14.

First place went to Bill Higgins and Jack Patterson with a score of 51.5.

Second place went to Mike La Violette and Bill Holland with a score of 56.5.

Harry Barbin and Deb Young took third place with a score of 57.5.

Ed Sixon and Bill Whipps took fourth place with a score of 58.5. Fifth place went to Joyce Majewski and Joy Walker with a score of 58.5. Roger Shockley and Paul Cairns took sixth place with a 59. David Saccone and Fred Peace took seventh place with a 59.5.

Paul Hanko and Gary Herr took eighth place with a 59.5. Joe Wisinski and Ken Smith took ninth place with a 59.5. Mike Marsh and Paul Meyers took 10th place with a 60.

All ties were broken by a match of cards.

Closest-to-the-pin on No. 3 went to Mike Marsh and Paul Meyers, on No. 5 went to Joe Wisinski and Ken Smith, on No. 6 went to Jeff Chesson and Pete Stewart, on No. 9 went to Mike La Violette and Bill Holland, on No. 13 went to Joyce Majewski and Joy Walker, on No. 15 went to Ada and John Maloof, and on No. 16 went to Bill Higgins and Jack Patterson.

Skins were awarded on hole No. 3 to

### Friday Mixed



### Golf League

Ed Sixon and Bill Whipps, on hole No. 8 to Dan Hyden and Grant Hone, on hole No. 12 to Joyce Majewski and Joy Walker, and on hole No. 18 to Bill Higgins and Jack Patterson with an eagle. Congratulations to all!

Our last tournament of the winter season, a 6-6-6 tournament, was held on Friday, April 11. Results will be in the June newspaper.

Even though our championship season ended on April 25, we continue to play through the summer.

Remember to sign up by Wednesday at 6 p.m. for Friday's play.

For further information, please contact Harry Barbin at 215-514-1280 or email [harrybarbin1@gmail.com](mailto:harrybarbin1@gmail.com).



Bill Higgins, left, and Jack Patterson were winners of an Alternate Shot Tournament in March.

## Becky West and Jodi Albert win Best Ball Scramble

### 18-Hole



### Ladies Golf

By Karen French

The Ladies 18-Hole Golf League held a Best Ball Scramble Tournament on April 1.

Becky West and Jodi Albert shot low score with a 156, followed by Verna Lundgren and Rosemary Sabatino with 164, Mary Patterson and Arlene Hanson with 171, Ursula Taylor and Dot Graham with a 171, Kim Norried and Linda Rice with a 172, Joann Congelli and Nancy Lo with 173, Donia Stadler and Mary Beth Devine with a 175 and Joyce Majewski and Nat Sue Dawson

with a 177.

The scores were really close and everyone had a fun morning.

We also had an installation of officers ceremony and celebrated the Club Championship.

Thank you to Kim Norried who made and gave beautiful golf towels to each member.

On Tuesday, April 8, it was a damp and rainy day. Very few courageous golfers braved the elements

In Flight A, first place was Annette Voss-Lake with a 64. Mary Patterson

had a 66 for second place, Gloria Sayer and Becky West tied with a 69 for third place.

The Flight B first place winner was Nancy Lo with a 63.

The Flight C first place winner was Joedie Albert with a 58, followed by Arlene Hanson with a 69.

If you are interested in joining the fun with the ladies on Tuesday mornings, please contact Becky West at 727-301-8854.

## Tennis has no age limit on OTOW courts

By Bruce McMaster

The On Top of the World Tennis Club has three members hovering around the age of 90. They are Roland Kearley, 90, Bill Lepping, 88, and Art Lambert, 90.

These gentlemen have a very storied past.

Roland used to be a marathon runner who ran in the Marine Corps Marathon and the Paul Bunyon Marathon in Maine.

Bill Lepping was in the St. Louis Cardinals baseball organization and Art Lambert was drafted out of college by the Milwaukee Braves baseball team

All three tennis players are all very active and play regularly with our club.

Come out to the tennis courts and watch them in action.



The On Top of the World Tennis Club is open to anyone 88 and above. Here's proof. Introducing Roland Kearly, 90, Bill Lepping, 88, and Art Lamber, 90.



# SPORTS

## Nine-Hole Ladies League celebrates a season of low scores and highlights

By Paula Ergang

Celebrating.  
That is what the On Top of the World Ladies 9-Hole Golf League has been doing.

We celebrated our 12th new member this season when Helene Marchand joined us.

At our spring luncheon on April 2, we celebrated the end of our season. Thirty-one members attended a luncheon at the Safety Harbor Resort and Spa.

Nancy Schifferle planned the day and started off by having golf theme coin purses by everyone's plate. Then she presented President Carroll Harris with a gift and thanked her from all of us for making the season fun and smooth.

Carroll took the opportunity to recap our season.

First she mentioned our record 12th new member in one season. Then she reminded us of tournament winners.

The team of Linda Graff, Kathy Aherns, Sharon Bora and Pam Riley won Best Ball.

Ann Stewart, Darilyn Bedel, Carole Whynot and Rosemary Lepping won their flight in the the Flight Tournament.

The President's Tournament winner for low gross was Gilda Gambacurta and low net was Marge Sivek.

And who can forget the 21 birdies that Anne Jarvis made this season?

The luncheon gave us all the opportunity to celebrate everyone's accomplishments.

We'll continue playing in May before taking a summer break.

Play Best Drive is the theme for May 6. Low Gross/Low Net is the theme for May 13, 20 and 27.

Our goodbye to Snowbirds Nine and Wine and snacks will also be May 27.

We take a break from league play at the end of this month. But some ladies play in the summer for fun. If you'd like



information about the league, contact Carroll Harris at 432-528-8694.

Now for the latest low scores:

### March 18

#### Mystery Hole

Flight A: Pat Holland had a 24, Sue Beals and Paula Ergang 28.

Flight B: Pam Riley scored 21, Lainey Quarello 24, Suellen Dowe and Sue Stevens had 28.

Flight C: Sheryl Barbin had a 27, Judy Bergeron 29 and Diana Anderson 30.

Flight D: Mary Ann O'Neil had a 20, Sarah Fergas and Mary Ellen Makowski 25 and Carol Murphy 26.

Birdies: Birdies were made by Laura Chesson on hole No. 4 and Lainey Quarello No. 5.

### March 25

#### Count Odd Holes Only

Flight A: Anne Jarvis had 21, Sue Beals 23 and Paula Ergang 24.

Flight B: Gilda Gambacurta shot a 22, Lainey Quarello 26, Carroll Harris and Pam Riley 27.

Flight C: Wendy Colquhoun had 26, Sheri Blaa 27 and Marge Sivek 28.

Flight D: Sharon Bora had 28, Laura Chesson and Deb Barnes both had 30.



League President Carroll Harris, foreground, enjoys the spring luncheon alongside Chairperson Nancy Schifferle and Vice President Sheryl Barbin. Closer to the wall are Kathy Ahrens and Judy Bergeron.

Birdies: Gilda Gambacurta had a birdie on hole No. 3, Mary Ann O'Neil No. 4 and Anne Jarvis Nos. 5 and 7.

Birdies: Anne Jarvis had a birdie on hole No. 2.

Closest to the Pin on Hole No. 4 was Laura Chesson.

### April 1

#### Closest to the Pin on Hole No. 4

Flight A: Paula Ergang had 39 and Pat Holland 41.

Flight B: Anne Jarvis shot 43, Jan Pettit and Ann Stewart 45, and Sheri Blaa 47.

Flight C: Wendy Colquhoun and Joan Yorkery had 49, Diana Anderson, Judy Bergeron and Sheryl Barbin all had 51.

Flight D: Sharon Bora had 46, Laura Chesson 50 and Sarah Fergas 52.

### April 8

#### Low Gross/Low Net

Flight A: Paula Ergang and Sue Beals had 41.

Flight B: Anne Jarvis had 41, Jan Pettit 44 and Darilyn Bedel had 46.

Flight C: Sheryl Barbin and Wendy Colquhoun both shot 47.

Flight D: Mary Ellen Makowski had 50, Deb Barnes and Theresa Gates 52.

Birdies: Lainey Quarello had a birdie on hole No. 2.

## Charlie Cronk and Rashanee Turner win billards championship tournaments

By Tom Chalupka

Greetings from the ever growing, always busy, On Top of the World Billiards Club.

The OTOW Billiards Club has weekly 8-ball tournaments on Monday and Tuesday starting at 6 p.m. The Monday night competition is for our more experienced players, or our A members, and Tuesday night is for our less experienced, or beginning players, known as our B players.

Every spring we have a round-robin championship tournament for both our A and our B players. This year the annual tournaments were held on Monday, March 31, and Tuesday, April 1.

We had 14 players compete for the A division title this year and Charlie Cronk came in first place narrowly finishing ahead of Freddy Montalvo. Eddie Ramirez and Jerry Barry finished third and fourth respectively.

Charlie won the B division in 2017 and is one of our only members who have won both divisions.

The B division had eight players competing for the title with Rashanee Turner winning ahead of Phil Henne.



Lucy Ames and Dennis Abbarno finished third and fourth, respectively.

Rashanee is a first-time winner of the B championship.

Congratulations to Charlie, Rashanee and all our 2025 eight ball champions!

The OTOW Billiards Club is open to any OTOW residents regardless of your skill level. Besides playing 8-ball on Mondays and Tuesdays, we also have a 9-ball tournament on Thursday nights starting at 6 p.m.

Please come and join us and see what the Billiards Club is all about.



In a recent eight-ball tournament, Charlie Cronk won the A Flight championship and Rashanee Turner won the B Flight championship.





# ‘May’ the Force guide you through live entertainment Around the Bay

May is picking up right where April left off with great live concerts and theater.

On the concert scene, it doesn't get any better than AC/DC and the Country Thunder Music Festival at Raymond James Stadium, the Happy Together Tour at Ruth Eckerd Hall, Cheap Trick at the Mahaffey Theater and the Tampa Symphony Orchestra at several venues.

Theater buffs won't be disappointed either with "Kiss Me Kate" at Francis Wilson Playhouse, "Social Security" at the Early Bird Dinner Theater and "Kinky Boots" at the Central Park Performing Arts Center.

Several of these concerts and shows are taking place early in the month so you Snowbirds have a chance to enjoy them before you head back north!

Remember to keep an eye out for my **\*Must See\*** selections.

So, if Yoda were here, he would definitely impart his wisdom by recommending you use the force to guide you to some of these great live performances "Around the Bay!"

## Live Concert Venues in Pinellas County

### Ruth Eckerd Hall Venues

Ruth Eckerd Hall has seven venues in and around Pinellas County.

These are the three venues closest to On Top of the World. They are predominantly musical concert facilities.

Listed are some of the highlight concerts coming to these great venues.

All tickets and information for the following Ruth Eckerd Hall venues are available through their website: [www.rutheckerdhall.com](http://www.rutheckerdhall.com).

### The BayCare Sound at Coachman Park

301 Drew St, Clearwater

May 2, 6:30 p.m., Tom Jones highlights this Ruth Eckerd Hall Experience to benefit the Marcia P. Hoffman School of The Arts.

### The Nancy & David Bilheimer Capitol Theater

405 Cleveland St, Clearwater

May 9, 7 p.m., Our House: The Music of Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young – live performance by several past band members of this iconic Rock-n-Roll foursome.

### Ruth Eckerd Hall

1111 McMullen Booth Road  
Clearwater

**\* May 16, 7 p.m., Brit Floyd: Wish You Were Here 50th Anniversary Tour** – all of your favorite Pink Floyd songs performed by the best Pink Floyd cover band on the planet! **\*Must See\***

May 18, 7:30 p.m., The Florida Orchestra: Simply the Best – The Florida Orchestra performs the timeless music of Tina Turner.

May 28, 7 p.m., Rick Springfield – I Want My '80s Tour 2025, with special guests John Waite, John Cafferty and Wang Chung.

May 30, 7 p.m., Happy Together Tour featuring musical icons The Turtles, Little Anthony, Gary Puckett & The Union Gap and more...

### Palladium Theater

253 5th Ave N, St. Petersburg

Ten great concerts in May highlighted by the Tampa Bay Symphony, The St. Petersburg Ballet Company and Steelin' Peaches: An Allman Brothers Review.

Visit their website [www.mypalladium.org](http://www.mypalladium.org) for show dates, times and tickets.

## Live Theater Venues in Pinellas County

### Francis Wilson Playhouse

302 Seminole St, Clearwater

**\* May 1-18, Kiss Me Kate** – Cole Porter's Tony Award Winning Best Musical in 1949 and Oscar nominated Best Picture in 1959 **\*Must See\***

Tickets and showtimes are available at [www.franciswilsonplayhouse.org](http://www.franciswilsonplayhouse.org).

### Early Bird Dinner Theater

13355 49th St N, Clearwater

May 10-June 15, Social Security, a romantic comedy by Andrew Bregman. Showtimes 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays.

All performances include lunch or dinner and a show.

Tickets are available on their website, [www.earlybirddinnertheater.com](http://www.earlybirddinnertheater.com).

### freefall Theater

6099 Central Ave, St. Petersburg

May 1-11, For Closure – "A sidesplitting and satirical look at the foibles and hypocrisies of modern life, set on the Florida Gulf Coast."

Dates, showtimes and tickets avail-

able at [www.freefalltheater.com](http://www.freefalltheater.com).

### West Coast Players

21905 US Hwy 19 N, Clearwater

May 1-11, Dial M for Murder – If you loved the 1954 movie of the same name, directed by Alfred Hitchcock, you'll also love this intriguing crime thriller stage adaptation.

Tickets are available on their website: [www.wcplayers.com](http://www.wcplayers.com).

### St. Petersburg City Theater

4025 31st St S, St. Petersburg

Still rebuilding after Hurricane Milton caused serious damage to the theater, they are on track to reopen in September. Stay tuned for more updates as they become available.

Visit their website for dates, showtimes and tickets: [www.spcitytheater.org](http://www.spcitytheater.org).

## Blended Venues – providing both live musical concert and theater shows

### Central Park Performing Arts Center

105 Central Park Dr, Largo

May 2-11, Kinky Boots, "a big-hearted musical extravaganza that won six Tony Awards, including Best Musical and the Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater album."

For tickets and showtimes, visit their website: [www.largoarts.com](http://www.largoarts.com).

### The Mahaffey Theater

Duke Energy Center for the Arts

400 1st St. South, St. Petersburg

May 3, 8 p.m., Cheap Trick Live in Concert: 60th Anniversary Celebration.

Fifteen more great shows this month, highlighted by The Florida Orchestra, The International Ballet of Florida and One Night of Queen - rock classics performed by Gary Mullen and the Works.

Show dates, times and tickets are available on their website: [www.themahaffey.com/shows-and-events](http://www.themahaffey.com/shows-and-events).

### Tarpon Arts Performing Arts Center,

324 Pine Street, Tarpon Springs

May 4, 2 p.m., The Greatest Arias of George Bizet's Carmen – a Flip Flop Opera production.

May 17, 7 p.m., Journeyman: A Tribute to Eric Clapton.

Show dates, tickets and the 2025 brochure are all available through their website, [www.tarponarts.org](http://www.tarponarts.org).

### Zubrick Magic Theater

1211 1st Ave N Suite 101

St. Petersburg

Unbelievable family-style magic shows every Thursday through Sunday.

This show is an On Top of the World resident favorite for all ages!

Tickets are available on their website [www.zubrickmagic.com](http://www.zubrickmagic.com).

## Popular Concert and Theater Venues Across the Bay

### The Straz Center

1010 N Macinnes Place, Tampa

May 7-June 1, The Butterfly's Evil Spell – adapted from the play by Federico Garcia Lorca.

May 1-11, Amaze – A magic show for the ages that involves the audience in a thrilling story.

Dates, showtimes and tickets are available on their website at [www.strazcenter.org](http://www.strazcenter.org) for these venues: Jaeb Theater, Shimberg Playhouse, TECO Theater, Morsani Hall and Riverwalk Stage.

### Amalie Arena

401 Channelside Dr, Tampa

Sorry, no scheduled concerts for the next couple of months. We'll see you in July for the next big show.

The full listing of shows and tickets are available through the Amalie Arena website: [www.amaliearena.com](http://www.amaliearena.com).

### Raymond James Stadium

4201 N Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa

May 2-4, Country Thunder Music Festival – featuring Riley Green, Blake Shelton, Jelly Roll and a plethora of country western music stars!

If you love country music, you won't want to miss this fantastic festival!

**\* May 16, 7 p.m., AC/DC - Power Up Tour with The Pretty Reckless.** Hall of Fame Rock and Roll band comes to Tampa for what could be their last tour.

If you have been following them since their formation in 1973, you won't want to miss this rock and roll experience. **\*Must See\***

Concert and parking tickets available at [www.raymondjamesstadium.com](http://www.raymondjamesstadium.com).

*(No one paid to have information placed on this page. This is strictly internet research for our residents. All this information can be found online.)*



**Pam Leonard-Williams** CLU, ChFC



**PAM LEONARD-WILLIAMS**  
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# COMMUNITY REPORTS



## Traveling the world, from On Top of the World, save lives as a bone marrow/stem cell courier



On Top of the World, as its name suggests, is a microcosm of the world. Our residents come from various parts of the United States and the world.

Recently, I had the privilege of meeting a remarkable Melbourne resident who has dual citizenship and is an extraordinary gentleman.

Nick Dowsett and his wife, Julia, moved to the Melbourne building in 2021. During his professional career, Nick traveled extensively internationally. Now retired, he is utilizing his expertise of travel to provide lifesaving bone marrow and stem cells to critically ill blood cancer patients.

He is a volunteer courier for the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP). He has made 32 trips on behalf of the program so far and when I spoke with him, he was about to embark on a trip to Germany to retrieve medical donations for a patient in the United States.

He has transported donations from many countries including Argentina, Brazil, Germany and Sweden.

When Nick first began volunteering for NMDP four years ago, he was transporting donations solely within the United States. Once he became proficient as a domestic courier, he was able to provide his services internationally.

He explained, as a courier, he needs to protect his precious cargo in a special cooler that maintains a temperature of 50 degrees for up to 96 hours.

Nick is responsible for cleaning and maintaining his cooler and, when it contains the marrow/stem cells, he must



Nick Dowsett with his special cooler for transporting bone marrow and stem cells from country to country.

be in constant custody of the cooler even when using the bathroom.

Now that Nick is an international courier, he must also be proficient at navigating the cooler through customs and airport security, which often involves agents swabbing the cooler for explosives and an occasional physical pat down of his person.

Nick shared that he needs to be able to remain calm under stressful situations. The marrow and stem cells are time sensitive and are usually transplanted within hours of arrival at the hospital.

Nick is passionate about NMDP. He cited that the program enables more than 7000 transplants per year in the

U.S. and has more than 700 volunteer couriers.

Using a global database, NMDP matches donors with patients in need of a transplant. Unfortunately, even with a database containing 41 million potential donors, the odds of obtaining a genetic match for a patient are still low. The database needs to increase to improve the odds of a successful match.

Since potential donors must be under 30, we, as residents, are no longer eligible to be donors. However, Nick is hoping by our awareness of this program, we would encourage our grandchildren and great-grandchildren to consider becoming a potential donor

to this lifesaving organization. It is as simple as submitting a cheek swab to determine DNA compatibility.

Although there is no monetary compensation, the knowledge of contributing to extending the life of another human is priceless.

As I stated at the start of this article, I have the utmost respect and admiration for Nick and his dedication to this program.

My own cousin received a bone marrow transplant several years ago.

Thank you Nick.

I encourage everyone to get to know your neighbors. We have some remarkable people living in our buildings and community.

## Taps Across America will be represented right here at On Top of the World

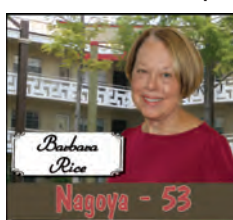
Laurie LeClaire is shining up her trumpet.

For the fourth Memorial Day, Laurie will put On Top of the World on the Taps Across America map.

On Monday, May 26, she will once again join a million-mile chain of buglers simultaneously sounding "Taps" across the United States precisely at 3 p.m.

Organizers of the nationwide observance encourage all citizens, wherever they are at 3 p.m. "to pause in tribute to all men and women who have served honorably and to those who made the sacrifice for our nation."

OTOW residents are invited to come pay tribute together at the Nagoya Building located at the corner of Netherlands Drive and World Parkway Boulevard facing the golf course.



Join alongside countrymen who will be honoring heroes at this time from ocean to ocean, across plains and over mountains.

Laurie will trumpet "Taps" at 3 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and patriotic singing will follow.

The time 3 p.m. was first proclaimed as the national moment to pause and remember in May 2000. It was put into law by the United States Congress in December 2000.

Taps Across America was brainstormed in 2020 when Americans could not celebrate Memorial Day together during COVID pandemic days. Buglers were invited to play "Taps" from their front porches at the same time across the country.

Thousands of musicians have joined the solemn observance every year since its debut.

We salute Laurie for bringing the patriotic tradition to OTOW.



Laurie LeClaire and her trumpet.





# May 2000

## U.S. News

On May 1, 2000, President Bill Clinton ordered the U.S. military to turn off selective availability. This was a feature that intentionally degraded GPS signals for the public. This 2000 decision made GPS 10 times more accurate for civilian receivers. This allowed emergency crews to respond faster and more accurately to where help was needed.

## Florida News

Florida mandated vehicle emissions tests from 1981 into 2000. Governor Jeb Bush decided these tests did little to reduce pollution in the state. May 2000 was the last month for these tests that had irritated many Floridians with the long delays to get a two-minute test. Currently 20 states across the U.S. do not require vehicle emission testing.

## Movie News

The “Gladiator” movie premiered in 2000, directed by Ridley Scott and starring Russell Crowe and Joaquin Phoenix. It was named the Best Picture in 2001. After more than 20 years, director Ridley Scott jumped back into the arena with a follow-up to his Oscar-winning film. The 2024 film is titled Gladiator 2. Ridley Scott’s sequel became one of Paramount’s highest-grossing movies of all time, surpassing some classic movies in the process. Though Gladiator II has not quite reached the critical heights of the first movie, but the film has still proven to be a success theatrically, grossing almost \$370 million worldwide to date.

## The Musical World

On May 28, 2000, Britney Spears proved her star power when her sophomore album, “Oops!... I Did It Again” debuted at the top of the Billboard 200 chart and quickly became the fastest-selling record by a female solo artist in chart history.

## Sports

On May 1, Barry Bonds was the first Major League Baseball player to hit a homer into San Francisco Bay as the Giants beat the Mets, 10-3. Barry hit 35 homers there during his San Franciscan career.

## Medical News

In 2000, 465 cases of Lyme disease were confirmed. Recent estimates suggest that approximately 476,000 people may be diagnosed and treated for Lyme disease each year in the United States. Currently, cases of Lyme continue to outpace other infectious diseases in the U.S. by significant margins.

Lyme disease takes its name from Old Lyme, Conn., where the disease was first identified when two women, unrelated except that both were residents of Old Lyme, separately reported inexplicable arthritis symptoms. The full spectrum of illness was described in 1975. The aerial distance between Plum Island and the harbor town of Old Lyme is less than 12 miles.

Plum Island Animal Disease Center described itself as the United States’ “premier defense against accidental or intentional introduction of transboundary animal diseases”.

Established by the U.S. government in 1954, it is located on highly-barricaded Plum Island near the northeast coast of Long Island in New York State. It was rumored that biological warfare experiments occurred on Plum Island during the Cold War era. These claims were supported by previously-classified documents unearthed in 1973. Biological warfare is said to have been ended in 1969 by U.S. president Richard Nixon.

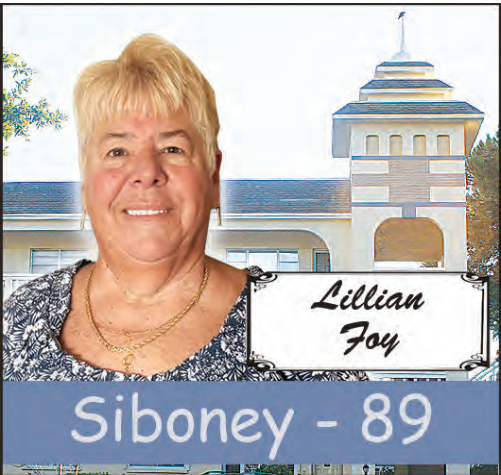


April showers bring May flowers doesn’t necessarily apply at the Siboney building. These beauties were already blooming in April and there was not a whole lot of rain to help them grow.

# Siboney flowers don’t wait til May

Happy May to all of our neighbors. April showers bring May flowers. Not sure if that is true in Florida? We seem to have beautiful flowers growing in our gardens all year long. Hope everyone had a great Easter and Passover holiday. In April, our annual Siboney pizza party was held in the West Activity Center Belleair Room. Hope you didn’t miss it. Yummy pizza and desserts were appreciated by all residents.

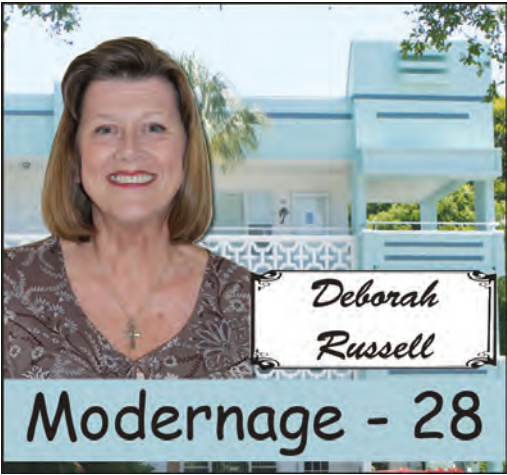
Just letting everyone know that I am one of the instructors for water aerobics class. This year it is different for us. Instructors had to get certified and carry liability insurance. We had to form a club and request annual membership dues. Everyone was still very grateful to join and I’m happy to continue this class.



Please consider joining. We have a lot of fun and you really benefit from it. We hope everyone has a great Mother’s Day on May 11. Have a great summer whether you plan to go up north or stay here in beautiful Florida.



# Modernage scheduled an early picnic to make sure all residents could enjoy it



Modernage residents are so excited to welcome warmer weather. We celebrated with our first barbecue picnic of the year at the East Activity Center Pavilion. This event was earlier than in past years. Co-Presidents Marge Sivek and Barb Lenzi planned the picnic well in advance so our winter residents would still be here. We had 35 people attend. Everyone brought something to share, a side dish, dessert or beverage.



More than 30 Modernage residents enjoy a picnic at the Pavilion.

This year the hamburgers and hot dogs were provided by our building fund and cooked on a griddle instead of an open grill. All the burgers were so moist and delicious!

The griddle was manned by Sam Patterson with assistance from David Wilson and Toni Martinez. Everyone relayed their enjoyment of the picnic long after they arrived home.

As you can see from our photo, everyone was very excited to have their pictures taken together. Thanks to everyone for making this picnic one of our most joyous!

# Safety and savings - Rio Riviera gets 27 dryer units inspected in one day



April was a busy month for the folks at Rio Riviera. Jim Ellis arranged for a dryer safety day and 27 units signed up for the lint removal service. A group rate was negotiated cutting the fee in half. Thanks to all who participated in building safety and keeping costs down. Building elections were held and Loyd and Leslie Cunningham had the meeting catered by Publix. Our new building coordinator is Stan Shook, Treasurer Leslie Cunningham, Sunshine Lady Donna Wells, and wing



The annual Rio Riviera barbeque picnic was attended by more than 20 residents.

captains are Loyd Cunningham, Jim Ellis and Jim O'Beirne. At the meeting it was agreed that voluntary building dues will now be \$20. Dues help pay for refreshments, shopping cart replacement and building decorations - the small details that make living here even better. Check out the bulletin board for more volunteer positions and events. Thank

you to all for your generous donations. Our annual barbeque was held at the East Activity Center's Pavillion and Ron Cree was our "Celebrity Chef." On game days, Ron grills 2000 hotdogs and hamburgers for Phillies spring training games and Thresher fans at Baycare Stadium. Thank you Ron and to all who bought supplies, made burgers, and contribut-

ed side dishes and desserts. They all added a special flavor to the day. If you would like to host an event or have ideas for a feature newspaper article, please contact our board members. Watch the bulletin board for new ways to enjoy living in Rio Riviera. Happy Spring.

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# With this story, Richard Broadhurst becomes a second generation Yoshimitsu reporter

On Top of the World was home away from home for me long before I moved here.

I'm Richard Broadhurst, and through the powers of persuasion of others, I'm going to give it a try and write about my Yoshimitsu friends and neighbors for Mr. Sidney Colen's legacy "only good news" publication.

My wife, Candy, and I have lived here full-time since 2012, but being a second generation OTOW owner, my history here begins much earlier.

I met Sidney Colen last century when I was a know-it-all architecture student.

My mother, Jeanette Broadhurst, was part of his sales force and arranged for us to meet. I was appalled. He was kind. That edict, "Form Follows Function" drilled into my young head played no discernable role in his OTOW vision that I could see.

Willy-nilly applique of historical architectural features was years away from mainstream acceptance, as was my reporter role for a building, quite possibly, named for a 14th-century shōgun, Ashikaga Yoshimitsu.

After my University of Florida time, graduate studies took me to North Carolina and a varied career eventually took off. I ultimately found myself specializing in airport design.

The shōgun Yoshimitsu supervised the construction of the Golden Pavilion (Kinkaku-ji) in Kyoto, Japan. Hardly comparable, but I supervised the design and construction of Fort Lauderdale's airport Terminal 1. His project was covered in gold leaf - mine had a Starbucks.

My project led to a decades-long life in Hawaii for Candy and me. A two-month consulting job to plan an air cargo facility for Hawaiian Airlines



morphed into years of other work for them. Hawaiian eventually hired me to head their Properties and Facilities Department.

Candy and I lived facing the Diamond Head volcano cone in Waikiki, where I served six years as our condo president.

I was with Hawaiian for just under 10 years when I chose to retire. Candy and I would travel the world and live the island life to its fullest. "Lucky we live Hawaii" is the saying.

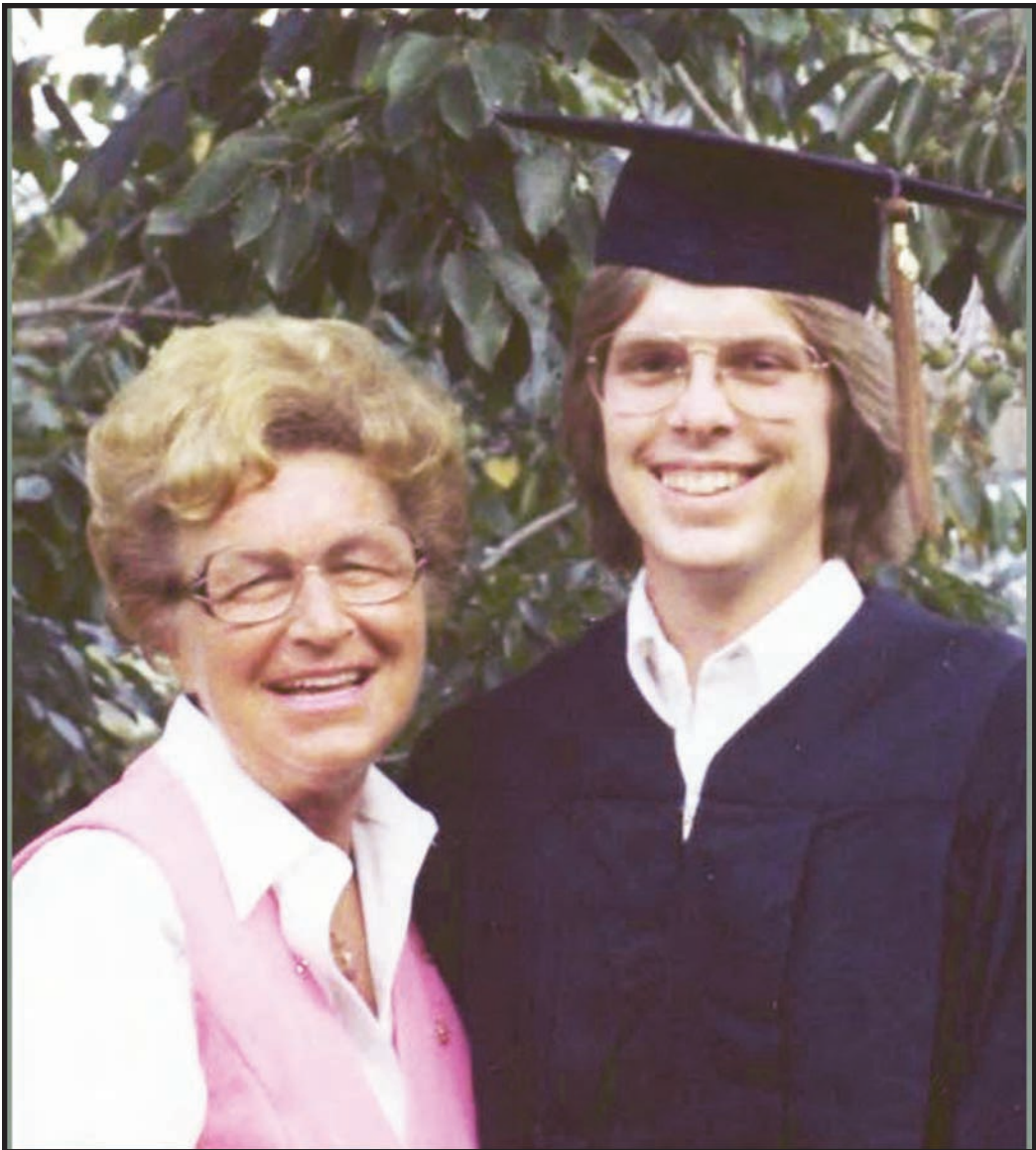
Meanwhile, OTOW had become home not only to my mother, but to multiple aunts, uncles, my brother, and cousins.

And, as we all do, they aged too. The travel challenge separating Honolulu and Clearwater found us trekking back and forth, helping more and more. Finally, we packed it up, said our alohas, and moved here in 2012.

Ashikaga Yoshimitsu built Kinkaku-ji as his retirement villa. Sidney built mine - a lovely ground-floor apartment facing the 18-hole golf course.

Between travel, postcard collecting, photography, canasta, genealogy, friends, loved ones, and pontificating on Facebook, my days are full.

I miss Hawaii, but occasionally, while



Jeanette Broadhurst and son, Richard, 'a few' years ago.

driving home, I glance towards Sidney's Aloha Tower and think of that first meeting with him.

Mahalo, Mr. Colen.

My mother reported for Sidney's newspaper, too. She liked her news "good."

Unlike her, I'm typically not a joiner,

nor terribly social, and an introvert at heart, and often just a cranky old man. But with this story I become a second-generation Yoshimitsu reporter.

If Mr. Colen's "good" will allow "honest", this reporting gig may work out. So, for my next story, something good. Domo arigato gozaimasu.

# Old World Spanish has expert neighbors when it comes to the Argentine Tango

In the same year that my husband and I moved into Old World Spanish, we were bestowed one of life's greatest gifts – the best of neighbors.

Not something you can expect or calculate to happen, but living next door to Mike and Penny Nyberg of Oxford, Mich., truly is a beautiful bonus to life in On Top of the World.

Aside from the usual helpful ways of a caring neighbor, Mike has a great instinct for storytelling. The most fascinating story I've heard in the past eight years is how he and Penny came to be Argentine Tango dancers.

This story began in the 1990s when Argentine Tango became popular globally again due to Argentine dancers and musicians traveling the world.

The movies "Tango" and "The Tango Lesson" and the Broadway show "Forever Tango" also renewed interest.

Their ballroom teacher went on a trip to Buenos Aires, Argentina, to learn about the dance and came back transformed. The teacher told Mike and Penny they must learn this exciting and passionate dance. The rest is history.

And of course, Mike had done research to learn that the Argentine Tango is essentially learning about connecting to the music, not just steps. The leader had to pay attention to the rhythm, mood and pauses in the music. Also, the melody and intensity of the music plays a role in how the leader creates the dance.

The follower (or partner) conforms to the leader if the dance is led well.

This is done while all the couples dance in a counterclockwise fashion around the perimeter of the dance floor.

The Argentine Tango is often danced in close embrace, or salon style, and



the dance movements are below the waist. It is a totally improvisational and passionate dance. Each leader interprets the music differently and his dance is unique.

It has been said by a passionate Argentinian dancer: "When the tango gets inside you, it's something that you start to need in a certain way."

After Mike and Penny's introduction to the dance came trips to Buenos Aires where tango originated. Their trips included visiting different parts of Argentina and other South American countries.

They have a dance wardrobe here in Florida, so they can go to the historic Gulfport Casino Ballroom for Argentine Tango Tuesdays. Mike even participates as a DJ on occasion.

When dancing Argentine Tango, you are more with the melody. The dancers work together to support each other in creating art.

Our neighbors, the Nybergs, are more with the melody and with an embrace that is more supportive and warmer than ever – for each other and for their family, friends and neighbors.



Mike and Penny Nyberg on a dance floor.



# Building meetings are the perfect time to break the ice with new residents



Forty residents from Casa Verde attended our annual meeting/pizza party on March 31 in the Belleair Room at the West Activity Center.

Since we have several new residents, we thought it would be a good idea to start with an ice breaker. We asked everyone to introduce themselves and include their unit number, plus mention whether they are Snowbirds or full-time residents, where they are from and anything else they would like us to know.

I think we all came away from the evening knowing each other a little better.

Instead of having pizza delivered at 5 p.m., it was delivered at 5:45 p.m.



Casa Verde residents not only enjoyed a social in March, but got educated on things happening in the community. The beautiful flower decorations at each table were handed out as gifts when the evening was finished.

This gave us time for socializing and completing the ice breaker.

Association Board Vice Chairman Dave Kelly happens to live in our building and he took the time to explain to us new laws regarding reserves. He told us it was important to waive reserves.

We all enjoyed hot pizza, salad and cookies for dessert.

A short business meeting followed the dinner.

Then we discussed our holiday party, which has been scheduled for Dec. 8 and also will be held in the Belleair Room.

We asked Dave if he could provide entertainment again since we are fortunate to have several residents who are musicians with The Salvation Army.

We asked for volunteers to take over some of the building captain tasks. Amy Caraway, a new resident, volunteered

to distribute birthday cards to residents and Gigi Huff volunteered to decorate the bulletin board. Thank you, ladies!

We ended the meeting by presenting new residents with floral arrangements as a welcome gift.

Carol Babini was presented with an arrangement since she has been here the longest - since 2000. We also had a drawing for flower door prizes, gift cards and chocolates.

# Japan, Taiwan, The Phillipines, Indonesia and Malaysia all in one vacation many times zones from Florida



When Rizal resident Irving Hernandez told me he was excited about his upcoming cruise, I completely understood why. He explained that he would be on a 26-day cruise from Tokyo, Japan, to Singapore with stops in numerous Asian ports along the way.

The excitement in his voice and expressions got me super excited for him, too! I couldn't wait to hear all about it.

Irving's travel companions included three of his dearest friends, Carlos Vallecillo, and Pasqual and Zoraida Bidot. Irving was thrilled to be invited along to help celebrate Zoraida's birthday – the initial reason for this cruise.

This vacation of a lifetime started out with three extra days in Tokyo, which probably came in handy traveling 14 time zones away from Florida.

Irving said Tokyo was a wonderful city. He was very impressed on the cleanliness of the city and how friendly, courteous and welcoming the people are when you meet them.

Irving and his travel companions then boarded Oceania Cruises Riviera cruise ship. They visited the cities of Shimizu and Kagoshima in Japan before stopping in Taipei, Taiwan.

There were a few days cruising through the East China Sea during the first week which gave the travelers time to relax and enjoy the amenities of their three-plus week home away from home.

Their second week aboard the Oceania Riviera took them to Manila, Boracay Island and Puerto Princesa in the Philippines. Then it was on to Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, and Muara, Brunei, before spending two days cruising



Irving Hernandez in Tokyo with Mount Fuji in the background

the South China Sea and the Java Sea.

In Muara, Irving took the Splendor of the Sultan Tour. This tour included the opportunity to explore the Sultan's fabulous palace, which boasts 1,788 rooms!

Travel in week three were spent in Indonesia with stops in Semarang, Surabaya, Bali (Benoa), Bali (Celukan Bawang) and Jakarta.

Two of the Indonesian ports included an overnight stay in port giving the cruisers more time to explore these ports. The final stop was Singapore, where Irving and his friends spent three more days enjoying this beautiful city before heading back to Florida.

Irving said he really enjoyed Singapore for its architecture, cleanliness, food and the people. The photos he showed me were beautiful. I especially enjoyed the city view at night.

Many of the stops included museum tours, local cultural centers and visits to several areas devastated from bombings during World War II.

In fact, Kota Kinabalu (Borneo), Malaysia was razed by bombings during WWII and is now a beautiful city after being reconstructed.

Irving enjoyed learning about the different cultures and trying the local cuisine.

As our discussion came to a close, Irving told me that he would love to return to that part of the world. He also mentioned that, as in many parts of the world, there were some areas of extreme poverty outlined by areas of vast wealth.

"It is a testament to the human spirit that whether I was visiting a wealthy part of a city or a slum, the people were always happy, warm and welcoming," Irving said. "All in all, it was truly a trip of a lifetime and I personally recommend it to anyone with the opportunity to visit this spectacular part of the world. Do it!"



*Americana building and Rural French building make it a party*

# Pavilion double-booked! Not a problem. Parties become more fun with twice as many people



What a great way to bring an end to our winter season.

On Sunday, March 30, our building held its year-end barbeque in the Pavilion.

The barbeque was hosted by our building coordinator, David McClellan, who took care of all the planning and shopping. Hot dogs, hamburgers, rolls, condiments, plastics and paper items and the charcoal were all purchased using our building funds.

All of our neighbors contributed by supplying side dishes and desserts.

As with all of our building functions, Bob and Kim Stackpoole ended the day with their hot fudge sundaes.

We must say, there was plenty of food. It was delicious and nobody went home hungry.

Once the charcoal was ready, so were our chefs. This year's chefs were Stanley Doran and Lars Ferling. They couldn't wait to get to work. They loaded meat on the grill and did a great job keeping up with all of our 46 hungry neighbors.

The hardest part of their cooking job was staying away from the grill smoke which kept blowing in their faces.

We joked that every dog in the neighborhood must have followed them all the way home, sniffing all the way.

Many thanks go out to all who attended and contributed to this beautiful day.

Although this barbeque was planned



One of the hazards that comes with being a grill master is sometimes the wind blows the smoke right at you. Such was the case for this day. Fortunately, it was a good-smelling smoke.

well in advance, there was one oversight that had to be resolved. The Pavilion was accidentally double booked for that Sunday. Luckily the other booking was with Americana building. They were having Hawaiian Day on the same day.

It wasn't a problem at all. Everyone was there to have a good time so we all shared the Pavilion and enjoyed the day together.

As Rural French finished cooking, Americana stepped in and took over the grill. That brought the group in the Pavilion that day to more than 80 people.

It was nice to share, meet and enjoy time with people from another building while enjoying such a nice day together. This is a perfect example of how a mistake can create a positive and enjoyable outcome when people work to-

gether.

Our building treasurer, Sandy Stuhr, is collecting building dues. The dues are used for building functions, decorating and operating expenses.

Do you have a story to share? Talk to your building reporter.

What about a function you'd like to host for all of us to enjoy?

Things don't happen by themselves. Be a part of it and make it happen.

# Spring months were perfect for outdoor dinner socials



New World French residents enjoyed a lovely dinner at Rumbas Island Bar and Grill in March.

As you can see, the event was held outside on a very pleasant evening with palm trees swaying in a nice breeze.

Our April dinner outing was held at Island Way Grill on the water at Island Estates.

We also had a celebration in the building. One of our residents, Merlin Fleming, turned 100 in the middle of the month.

Merlin has lived here for many years. You might have seen him riding his electric scooter with an orange flag on the back. He makes regularly trips to the Sunset Grill Restaurant for either breakfast or lunch each day.



New World French residents recently gathered at Rumbas Island Bar and Grill for an outdoor dinner. We needed a table for nearly 20! (Photo taken by Suzy Vesley)





Bavarian Chalet residents welcomed spring with a gathering in the Clearwater Room. The cake was typical spring colors.

# Easter came early for Bavarian Chalet meeting

On March 22, 35 Bavarian Chalet residents gathered in the Clearwater Room at the East Activity Center to enjoy pizza, salad and delicious cake. The theme for the meeting was Bavarian Chalet welcomes spring. The beautiful cake was decorated with spring flowers and there were Easter decorations scattered on the table. The special word for our meeting was “respect” and how important it is to respect our neighbors and all the residents who live at On Top of the World.

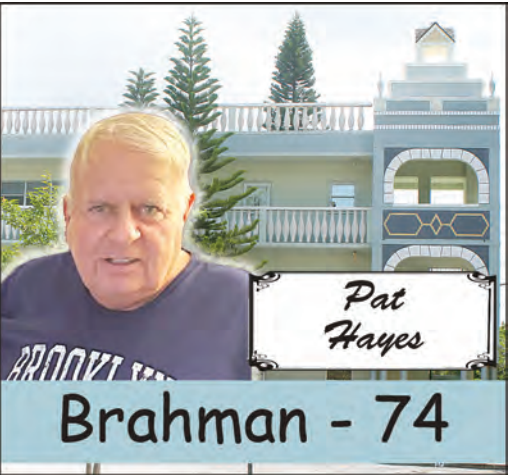
Building President Joanne Wallend opened the gathering with a welcome to residents and thanked them for coming. Bob Wallend offered prayer for our gathering and thanks for the food. This was the first meeting for Bavarian Chalet in 2025 so each of the six building captains gave a brief overview of their responsibilities and how we work together. One of our residents, John Kozojed, spoke about the On Top of the World reserves, which is coming up to vote,

and he answered a few questions. Then a survey sheet was passed out asking residents what they would like to enjoy this year. Results will be announced later in an email. A reminder sheet was given to each resident present. The information included a few reminders about the spaces we share in our building, including bike room, storage rooms and the importance of observing rules. All in all we had a great meeting.



## If you have enough social events, you eventually learn people’s names

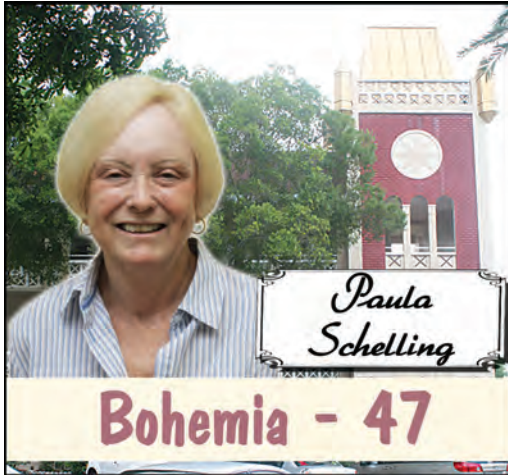
I put a sign-up sheet in the Brahman building core on a Tuesday morning for a pizza party at Queen’s Pizza. Two days later, 20 residents, neighbors and friends were registered. Surprisingly, most people didn’t come for just pizza and conversation. Most dishes were Italian or Greek. So it wasn’t just a pizza party. It was a chance to go out and be social. As the night rolled on, we discovered that not only were our neighbors friendly, but we were starting to remember each other’s names! Since our last get-together, Tony Santarseieri has created a Facebook page for the building called Brahman Building Buddies. Tony has agreed to manage the page, which can be a useful means of communication for residents. We will post all upcoming events, as well as building notices, in



addition to posting them in the core. By the way, Tony serves as the build-ings liaison to the Veterans Club and manages the veterans materials on the bulletin boards. So many thanks, Tony, for your ser-vice to our community.

## ‘Bohemiafest’ Who says Oktoberfest cannot take place in April?

Back in 2012 our building started a fall gathering we named Bohemiafest, patterned after Germany’s Oktoberfest. The menu predictably consisted of, bratwurst, sauerkraut, German Potato Salad, apple strudel and, of course, beer. This event became an instant hit for us every October and has continued to flourish over the years. But many of our Snowbirds did not participate in this event because they were not back to Florida yet. They often remarked on their disappointment. Our own Activities Committee lis-tened and realized it could be held any-time during the year. So, we moved it



## Bedford goes Mexican



Hope everyone had a happy Easter. Residents at the Bedford building had their bimonthly dinner at Poblano’s Mexican Grill and Bar. Fifteen residents enjoyed a lovely dinner with socializing. Barbara Wong, Sally Herman, Jerry Jordan, Alan Wong, Joe and Cindy Popelik, Nancy Casey, Robin and Dave Becker, Kathy Alexander, Richard Huovinen, Phyllis Dumdrie, Sandi and Clarence Cole, Sylvia and Jay Auch and Mimi Vitale all had a great time.

to early April to encompass more of the residents. Since the date change, Bohemiafest has continued to evolve over the years to what it is today. It is no longer a backyard event, but is now held in the Pavillion. Added this year was a 50/50 raffle for a beer basket. One thing that remains a constant is the original menu. Ten days after Bohemiafest, our building held its annual luncheon at Ozona Blue. This is our way of welcom-ing in spring. It began in 2016 and continues to be a favorite gathering as we may not see some of our friends again until fall. April 19 was an Easter egg hunt. This is a newer event that was started last year by some very creative building residents. They had such a good time watching us seniors scramble in quest to find the eggs, they decided to host it again this year. A big Thank You goes out to the girls who put this hunt togeth-er. It is so much fun. We welcome Pam and Jim Webb as our newest residents to the building. Jim was originally from New York and Pam from Michigan. They resided in Pensacola before moving here. Pam’s career was nursing, while Jim worked for Union Carbide as a welder. They share two sons and a grandson plus three dogs. Pam enjoys gardening and Jim’s hobby is racing. They like being here but what makes it extra special, Pam’s brother Steve re-sides in our building, too.



# One definition of American foods could be convenience



American cuisine has been influenced by Europeans, Indigenous Americans, Africans, Latin Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders and many other cultures and traditions.

The large size of America and its long history of immigration have created an especially diverse cuisine that varies by region.

American cooking dates back to the traditions of the Native American, whose diet included a mix of farmed and hunted food, and varied widely across the continent.

The Colonial period created a mix of new world and old world cookery and brought with it new crops and livestock.

During the early 19th century, cooking was based mostly on what the farming population could grow, hunt, or raise on their land.

With an influx of immigrants, and a move to city living, American food further diversified in the late 19th century.

The 20th century saw a revolution in cooking as new technologies, the World Wars, a scientific understanding of food, and continued immigration combined to create a wide range of new foods and allowed for a rich diversity in food dishes throughout the country. This was driven in part by the many chefs and television personalities who contributed to the rise of the culinary arts in the US.

Highlights of American cuisine include a wide range of fried foods.

Many quintessential American dishes are unique takes on food originally from other traditions, including pizza, hot dogs and Tex-Mex.

Regional highlights include a range of fish dishes in the coastal states, gumbo and cheesesteak.

American cuisine has specific foods that are eaten on holidays, such as a turkey at Thanksgiving dinner or Christmas dinner.

Modern American cuisine includes a focus on fast food, as well as take-out food.

There is also a vibrant culinary scene in the country surrounding televised celebrity chefs.

Here is a list of the 10 most popular foods of America.

1. Hamburger: The quintessential American meal. No list of popular American foods would be complete without the iconic hamburger.

Originating from the Germany city of Hamburg, this simple, yet delicious meal, has become a national favorite. It's estimated that Americans consume 50 billion burgers each year with an average eating three hamburgers weekly.

2. Pizza: A slice of American life. Pizza is another food that truly represents American ingenuity. While its roots can be traced back to Italy, pizza has evolved into numerous styles within the U.S. Each region boasts distinct characteristics that make their pizza unique.

3. Hot Dogs: Hot Dogs are a quintessential American food, particularly associated with sporting events and barbecues. The sausage, typically made from beef, pork, or turkey, is served in a sliced bun and adorned with an assortment of toppings.

4. Fried Chicken: Fried chicken is synonymous with its crispy exterior and juicy interior creating an irresistible combination that is beloved nationwide.

5. Tacos: A fiesta on every plate. Tacos have surged in popularity throughout



## Try making your own crispy fried chicken

### Ingredients

- 1 broiled/fryer chicken, cut into 8 pieces
- 2 cups low fat buttermilk
- 2 tablespoons kosher salt
- 2 tablespoons paprika
- 2 teaspoons garlic power 1 teaspoon cayenne
- Flour, for dredging
- Vegetable shortening, for frying

### Directions

- Place chicken pieces into a plastic container and cover with buttermilk. Cover for 12 to 24 hours
- Melt enough shortening (over low heat) to come just 1/3 inch up the side of a 12-inch skillet. Once the

shortening liquefies raise heat to 325 degrees.

3. Drain chicken in a colander. Combine all the ingredients in a large bowl. Dredge chicken in flour and shake off excess.

4. Place chicken skin side down into the skillet. Put thighs in the center and breast and legs around the edge of the pan. The oil should come half way up the pan. Cook chicken until golden brown on each side, approximately 10 to 12 minutes per side, until it reaches 180 degrees.

5. Drain chicken on a rack over a sheet pan. Don't drain by setting chicken directly on paper towels or on foil. If you need to hold the chicken before serving, cover loosely with foil.

America evolving from a traditional Mexican food into a national phenomenon. The combination of a tortilla filled with various ingredients allows for endless creativity.

6. Barbecued ribs: A finger-licking tradition. Barbecued ribs are another American classic dish, especially popular during the summer months. They are rich, flavorful and often cooked low and slow to achieve the perfect tenderness.

7. Macaroni and Cheese: The ultimate comfort food. Macaroni and cheese, affectionately known as "mac and cheese," is a dish that warms the soul. This combination of macaroni pasta and a rich cheese sauce is a staple not only in American homes, but

also in restaurants across America.

8. Donuts: Sweetness in every bite. Donuts have become a beloved snack or breakfast option throughout the United States. Originally introduced by Dutch settlers, they have transformed into an artisanal treat.

9. Ice Cream: A sweet treat for all seasons. Ice cream is loved by Americans of all ages and is frequently associated with warm weather, celebrations and family outings. Its creamy, cold texture makes it a perfect dessert choice all year round.

10. Salad, a healthy favorite. As health consciousness rises in America, salads have become a popular choice for those

seeking healthy meal options. It can range from simple green to elaborate bowls filled with an array of fresh ingredients.

Why are these 10 foods so popular in America?

Convenience, taste and cultural significance.

Many of these dishes are easy to prepare making them ideal for busy lifestyles.

For instance, pizza can be quickly delivered, burgers are often grilled for gatherings, and tacos can be assembled in just a few minutes. Their ease of preparation and availability has ingrained them in America's culinary fabric.



# Two days in May you are required to eat shrimp



Here are three holidays in May that are worth celebrating. (1) Cinco de Mayo on May 5, National Shrimp Day on May 10, and combine these two holidays into Yucatán Shrimp Day on May 28.

Yucatán Shrimp became more well-known in the U.S. in the 2000s and 2010s as interest in authentic, regional Mexican cuisine grew.

The dish has been featured in food blogs, cookbooks and upscale Mexican restaurants.

While not yet as mainstream as tacos or ceviche, Yucatán Shrimp continues to gain popularity with chefs and restaurants, especially in California, along the Gulf Coast in Florida and in Texas.

### Yucatán Shrimp A Vacation on a Plate

The Yucatán is a large peninsula in southeast Mexico, including adjacent portions of Belize and Guatemala.

The Yucatán Peninsula constitutes a significant proportion of the ancient Maya lowlands and was the central location of the Mayan civilization.

What exactly makes Yucatán sauce so special?

Yucatán sauce is a zesty, punchy blend of citrus juices (usually lime and orange), garlic, smoky achiote (annatto), and ends with a touch of heat from mild chili peppers.

The achiote gives the sauce its characteristic reddish-orange hue and imparts an earthy, slightly peppery undertone.

The acidity of citrus juices helps balance the spiciness to create a beautifully layered sauce that’s tangy and smoky with just the right amount of heat.

If you are a big fan of Mexican or Latin American cooking, or simply happen to have some chile de arbol lying around, this would be great to use. It is more mild than red pepper flakes, but similar in flavor. It is good on salmon, in salsa or chili, or in a rub.

### Alternative Store-Bought Sauces for Yucatán Shrimp

It is much easier for most of us to buy a prepared Yucatán sauce versus preparing it from scratch.

You can buy a delicious 12 ounce squeeze bottle of Doc Ford’s Yucatán Sauce for \$8.95 from either of the two Doc Ford’s restaurants in Pinellas County.

If you prefer, you can buy Harissa Sauce as a substitute. It is available in Publix and other grocery stores for around \$5.60 for a 10 ounce jar.

Harissa (a Moroccan sauce) can work in a pinch. If you want to use harissa, make these modifications to be closer to the Yucatán flavor:

- Add citrus by mixing in fresh lime and orange juice. These will also help thin this thicker sauce to a consistency and flavor more like Yucatán sauce.
- Include a bit of achiote (annatto) paste or powder for an earthy, slightly nutty taste.
- Add a small amount of honey or agave.

Yucatán sauce can be used for soups, noodles and stir-frys, mixed into marinades and dipping sauces, added to eggs, burgers, or any dish that needs a quick chili sauce kick.

### The Science

Don’t overcook! Shrimp cooks fast — once they turn pink and curl slightly, they’re



## Yucatán Shrimp

For authentic Yucatán Shrimp, fresh Key West pink shrimp is the best choice, but white or royal red shrimp are great alternatives. Here’s how to properly prep, cook and enhance their natural flavor.

### Ingredients

- 1 pound large shrimp, peeled and deveined with tails on
- Yucatán sauce (or Harissa substitute)
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- Juice of two large limes
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon chile de arbol flakes (optional)
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro

### Instructions

1. Marinate the shrimp: In a bowl, combine the olive oil and next eight ingredients. Use a generous amount of Yucatán Sauce to well-coated the shrimp. Cover and refrigerate for 20 minutes to allow the flavors to meld.
2. Sauté the Shrimp: In a large skillet, melt butter over medium heat. Once melted, add shrimp -- along with the marinade. Cook for 2-3 minutes per side or until the shrimp are pink and cooked through.
3. Serve: Garnish with chopped fresh cilantro and serve immediately. Pair the dish with sides like coconut rice, plantains, or grilled corn. Serves two.

done. Overcooking makes them rubbery.

Marinating shelled shrimp before sautéing can enhance flavor and tenderness. But if you marinate longer than 20 minutes, the citrus will start “cooking” as in ceviche!

Shrimp have a pigment called astaxanthin, a member of the carotene family. As soon as they are put under heat, the red-orange astaxanthin molecules are released, displaying their unique deep red hues.

For some, it’s a tradition to serve shrimp with the shells-on, which “traps” more of the flavor of the sauce. Yes, it is much messier to eat with shells on, but maybe that’s half

the fun?

If you remove the shell, you can devein each shrimp. Leave the tails on for presentation and extra flavor.

**Nutritional Value of Shrimp**

Shrimp are not only delicious, but also high in protein, low in calories and packed with essential nutrients. Key nutrients in shrimp are omega-3 fatty acids, which support brain and heart health.

Its astaxanthin and omega-3s promote cognitive function. Its high Vitamin B12 is essential for energy and nerve function. Its

strong iodine levels support thyroid function and metabolism.

Yes, shrimp has about 166 milligrams of cholesterol per 3 ounce serving, but research shows that dietary cholesterol has less impact on blood cholesterol than once thought. Plus, shrimp is low in saturated fat, which is a positive factor in heart health.

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.)*



# May means Kentucky Derby party

Dorado building residents don't necessarily agree with the phrase "Things slow down at On Top of the World during the summer months."

Yes, we miss our Snowbird friends, but we have a lot planned and look forward to starting in May.

Several residents are gearing up for one such summer event on the first Saturday in May - the Kentucky Derby.

The Kentucky Derby is a tradition at the Blanck house. John and Gai Blanck annually attend a Kentucky Derby Party at their daughter Amy's home in St Petersburg. They make it a dual celebration because it's her birthday. This year it will be a triple celebration because Amy will be hosting the party in her home after losing almost everything to Hurricane Helene.

They can call this the Triple Crown.

The first Saturday in May is like Super Bowl Sunday to Tracey Zhender. She is originally from Kentucky and raised near Churchill Downs in Louisville. Tracey shared stories about the Run for the Roses and several traditions for the locals.



Of course, that called reason for a social gathering with some On Top of the World residents. Right away the planning started.

Sue Yost, Ann Brown and yours truly went to Hobby Lobby buying tulle, fringe, netting and other supplies to decorate their flamboyant derby hats.

Beth Kincade began doing research for recipes for traditional derby food.

Fernando Mariz reminded us that Mint Juleps and Kentucky Bourbon would be must.



A Kentucky Derby party requires a special dress code: Beautiful, colorful dresses, hats and mint juleps. Yes, mint juleps are part of the dress code.

(Photo by Alice Scott)

Karen Kaplan, our game master, will be planning games to keep us legal.

Colette Scheda will help with decorations, including balloons floating around and pictures from past trips to Tampa Bay Downs. Some of those pictures will definitely start us down memory lane.

We all remember Edna Mae Jordt, 100 years young, waving her winning horse ticket.

The fun thing about our residents, everyone can come up with an idea and the others join right in.

It's usually last minute, spur of the moment, fly by the seat of our pants thing, but it always works out.

We don't have invitations. We just start planning and the word spreads.

After all, we do call ourselves "The Fun Building."

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If you have cement, you can have a building party. Let's play a game. (1) Find the guy signaling touchdown! (2) Find the woman with rabbit ears. (3) Find the garden hose. (4) Find the keyboard player. (5) Find a red chair with no one sitting in it. (6) Find the person having a good time.

# Got cement? You can have a cemento party

Over half of our Granadian residents, 46 of us, enjoyed a great second annual El Cemento Party.

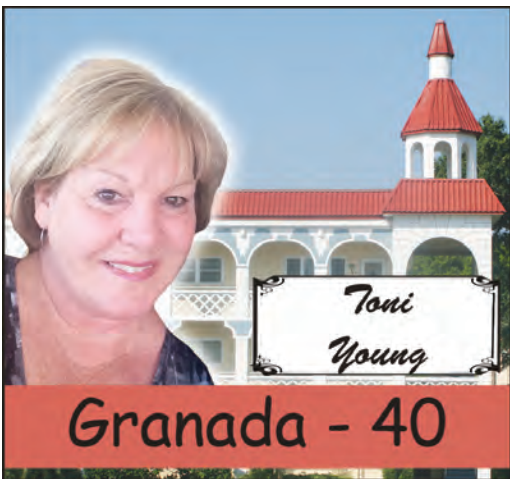
(Party on cement)  
Delicious food, music, dancing and games were enjoyed by all.

Thanks to Randy Cox, who raffled and donated a solar fan. The \$80 proceeds were donated back to our building fund.

Food was donated and prepared by our residents. Thank you for helping make our event successful. Thank you, Mr. Fun for your great tunes!

As a reminder, be sure to vote on the proxy reserves. Details have been in past On Top of the World newspapers.

Our May building luncheon will be at Red Lobster, 2 p.m., Monday, May 12,



26320 US 19, Clearwater.  
Sign up sheets will be posted on bulletin board for reservations.  
Our next monthly Meet and Greet

will be a "potluck meeting" on Thursday, May 22, 4 p.m.. There will be a sign up sheet for a headcount. Bring a chair and a dish to share.

Another leak. Dossi Allen came home from a nice trip and an hour later discovered a water leak coming from the guest bathroom.

Water leaks involve challenging cleanups, long waits for repairs and floor replacement. It is your personal responsibility for those repairs. Dossi took charge after having experienced her second bathroom's old pipe leak and replacement.

With hot weather approaching, remember to clean out, donate or toss, old unused items in storage units, help prevent the spread of mold.

Air conditioners need attention monthly by adding vinegar to the drainpipes and prevent clogging. Check your windows, particularly the old crank out ones, to make certain the seal is properly intact to keep water from damaging your unit as well as neighbors. Unmanaged leaks cause harmful mold.

Walk around the back of your building and look at your unit's air conditioner and windows. You may see old insulation sticking out instead of where it needs to be and fix them as soon as possible.

Until next month, be blessed and let not your hearts be troubled!



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# Picnic was a chance to get acquainted and wish some neighbors happy travels



Residents at the Ottoman building held an April picnic at the East Activity Center Pavillion where approximately 35 gathered for food, fun and time to get acquainted with neighbors.

“That may be a record,” said Judy Bosnyak, referring to the number in attendance.

Judy and Ron Cree planned the outdoor event.

Ron cooked hot dogs and hamburgers, while attendees brought side dishes to share.

Rhonda Burnaugh popped in to visit old friends in the building where she had lived for seven years. She and her Chihuahua, Stella, recently relocated to a different building within On Top of the World.

Brian Munroe and Lynn Bamberger discussed preparations to return to Canada. They will be traveling west hoping torrential rains subside.

Elaine Ewchuk was all smiles sharing news about the expected arrival of family, who will be visiting the area for a few days.

Avid traveler Hope Hrysemko, who has visited every state in the United States and has ridden a camel in Egypt, finds joy at her home in OTOW.

“I’m retired and I love it here,” Hope said. “I feel very safe. My neighbors check on me.”

You may see Sanja Willemain leaving her condo several times a week while participating in a stretch lab in Dunedin.

“Oh, I love it,” she said. “A certified



A record crowd attended an Ottoman picnic in April. It was a great chance to wish Snowbirds a happy summer before they leave.

lady stretches the entire body twice a week for an hour. Although I’ve exercised in the gym for many years, I saw the stretch lab after shopping at Publix. People don’t realize how important stretching is.”

Residents found out who maintains the building’s decorated bulletin boards when teacher Venus Valenty admitted such. Although still teaching, she is looking forward to retiring.

“I got roped into decorating because I am a teacher,” she said.

Venus’ friend, Marie Floro, a four-year resident, is also looking forward to retirement, while working from her condo for an insurance company.

Linda and Paul Kowbel were reminiscing about their recent cruise with the Moving ‘n Grooving Club. The

three-year residents from Syracuse, N.Y., visited the Dominican Republic, St. Thomas, Tortola and a Bahamian private island.

“We had a great time,” Paul said. “We did gain 10 pounds though.”

Virginia Carbley, a three-year OTOW resident, has a sister in Paradise who will be leaving for the season.

“We’ll miss our Snowbirds,” Virginia said. “They are starting to fly home ... so to speak.”

The picnic included a 50/50 raffle and Sandy Dole received \$31 as winner.

Sandy said her parents had purchased a brand new unit on Brazilian in the late ‘60s or early ‘70s. She has a picture of her son, now 51, standing in front of the globe as a 4 year old.

Upon a recent visit, the son mentioned how everything still looks the same.

“That’s a real tribute to On Top of the World for keeping it so well,” Sandy said. “It looks exactly the same, except the trees are bigger.”

Meanwhile, Sandy has a friend who was looking for a new unit to purchase. After she moved into it, the friend called Sandy and told her about her new unit on Brazilian. It turned out to be the exact unit owed by her parents several years ago.

“She called me and said, ‘I found one’ and it was my Mom’s unit,” she said.

Ideas for activities are gratefully appreciated. Feel free to contact Ron or Judy.

## New York-New Jersey Club Pizza and a DJ

Tuesday, May 13, 5 pm, Auditorium

No tickets at the door. Must visit our information table in advance to order your pizza.

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# Ken Smith says be thankful for what you have - he's now thankful for 80 birthdays



In April, residents from the Royale Dutch building celebrated our neighbor Ken Smith's 80th birthday at his favorite restaurant, Johnny's Italian Restaurant.

Ken's wife, Jan, son and immediate family attended, as well as more than 25 neighbors.

Ken has lived in Clearwater since 1955. He moved from Long Island, N.Y., when he was 10 years old. He met his wife in the summer of 1967 at college in Illinois. This month they will be celebrating their 58th wedding anniversary.

Ken worked 53 years in a family jewelry store in Clearwater. He worked alongside his dad, grandfather and two brothers. Even his son worked there.

He sold the business in 2008 and then worked 16 years in a custom gun-engraving business.

Jan worked in a bank for 21 years. They finally retired in 2024.

Ken's favorite quote is "don't worry about what you haven't done or don't have, but be thankful of what you do have and what you have done."

Ken and Jan moved to On Top of the World in 2018 and enjoy living here. Neighbors often see both of them sitting in front of their condo greeting neighbors and inviting them to sit with them and converse.



Jan and Ken Smith celebrate his 80th birthday at Johnny's Italian Restaurant. There's no mistaking the birthday boy. He had on a birthday sash and 80 crown.

# Villa resident decided OTOW had a more relaxing lifestyle than downtown Chicago

Meet Steve Mazurek - a most interesting, fun and dapper guy.

He was born in a log cabin in Ontonago's Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

He was schooled with his eight siblings in the same small school and by the same teachers who taught his parents.

Upon graduation, Steve joined the U.S. Army, serving in Germany during the Berlin crisis. Those were very interesting times over there.

After Army life, our guy bought a house and 40 acres of land.

City lights beckoned so off he went to Chicago.

His brief career as a bus driver ended after the fourth time he was held up by gunpoint and knives.

Steve parked the bus!

Next adventure was the Chicago Sun Times where Gene Cisco and Roger Ebert, and Ann Landers were also employed.



Upon retirement, Steve found On Top of the World's lifestyle to his liking. He bought his condo from Edward Kennedy ... yes that Edward Kennedy!

Steve was wing captain and the Villa's first flag guy. He recently passed that baton on to Brian and Jerri Lance.

So thank you for your service, Steve,



Steve Mazurek - U.S. Army and for being such a fine neighbor. Speaking of neighbors. Chris Tut-

tle's son, Mark, has made transporting items much easier here at the Villa. He gifted us a wagon. We all so appreciate. Thanks very much.

I understand our Summit Broadband service may be interrupted periodically as crews install new fiber optics.

Be patient. This work is supposed to improve our service with more consistent results.

There's a very important vote coming up soon. Reserves. The topic is a bit confusing, but very important. I'm not going to tell you how to vote, but please get educated on the matter before you place your vote.

Memorial Day is this month. Please remember why we celebrate this holiday.

That's all for this month. Happy birthday Chris Tuttle and all others, along with anniversaries to all celebrants.

Get Acquainted Coffee - Final of the Season  
9-11 am, Thursday, May 8, EAC Auditorium  
Live performance by Tony Orifici - saxophonist



# Bring back board games



**By Donna Gagnon**  
Breaking news: Board games are back in!  
Pizza and game night in April was a blast. A blast from the past.  
Austrian Alpine's very own Tiffany Schad was the host of game night and we all thank her for making the arrangements so we could enjoy an evening together.  
Although she was unable to attend, Tiffany made sure that games and beverages were on hand for those who attended.  
We purchased pizza from Queen's and with the combination of scrabble, pizza and great neighbors, a good time was had by all.  
Marilyn Whelan and I brought bar cakes to top off the evening. Who doesn't enjoy a sweet treat on occasion?  
Someone in the room was enjoying their birthday and everyone in the room did a rousing edition of happy birthday to mark the occasion.  
It was quite the choir of angels to say



Austrian Alpine residents enjoyed game night and pizza night at the same time, and also put their voices together to make a birthday special.

the least.  
In other social news, Marilyn hosted a morning bingo with prizes in the second floor core. Everyone enjoyed themselves and went home with at least one prize.  
At all of our socials, the feeling of camaraderie among neighbors is mutual. Thank you to all of our participating neighbors for bringing the fun and laughter.  
See you next month when there will be very special news about a very special and beloved neighbor.  
To be continued...



Simple lesson in having a building party.  
1. Invite people over. 2. Bring food.  
3. You do not need an occasion or a reason.



## Frustrated with last few days of cold weather, Flamenco residents threw a party

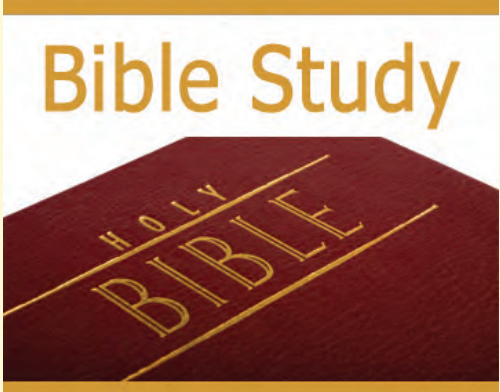
After over 20 years of service atop the third floor of Building 79, there will be a changing of the guard. Like a mighty captain of an exploring sailing ship overlooking the horizon, he guided us through many a wild and windy day. As building captain, Dick Smedley kept us all on the straight and narrow course.  
He always had a key if we locked ourselves out of the apartment. He always had an answer, no matter whatever the question. He, and wife Charlotte, were always there to help.  
To celebrate, or perhaps mourn, this day we joined at Julian's Little Italy in Dunedin for a delicious lunch of pizza and pasta. There was also 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, his guidance and direction will be truly missed.



You just read 72 stories  
in the May edition of OTOW News!  
Nice job Press Association!







**Bible Study**

2 PM  
Fridays  
Crystal Beach Room

All Denominations  
Welcome

**Shuffleboard**


Open to all OTOW residents with a valid activity card.

Join us during league play and we have equipment available.  
Mon-Tue-Wed 4 pm  
East Activity Center



**New Qwirkle Group**

Qwirkle is a fun tile game full of colors and shapes. Residents are getting together now to play together. It is easy to learn but challenging to master. Come join us. No experience necessary.



Mondays 1-4 p.m.  
East Activity Center Dunedin Room  
Everyone Welcome!  
Call Sherrie Markey at 717-873-1066.

**Blackout**

Year-Round  
Thursdays  
6:30-9:30 pm  
WAC Belleair Room  
Must have a valid activity card and be a member of the Canadian Club.  
Bring spare change.



Learn how to play at 5:50 pm


**Billiards, Tennis, Lawn Bowling, Pickleball, Golf, Ping Pong**

Schedules are on the community calendar.

**French Language and Culture Society**

11 am - 12 pm  
Wednesdays

EAC Dunedin Room



French Language and Culture Society

All-In: 2-4 pm, Wednesday, May 7, Crystal Beach Room (new)

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

Blackout: 6:30-9:30 pm,  
Thursdays, Belleair Room (Must be member of Canadian Club)

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, May 21, 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


10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Saturdays  
East Activity Center  
Crystal Beach Room



**Bonesavers**  
Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays  
8:00 - 9:00 am  
EAC Clearwater Room



**Freebirdz**  
(formerly TOPS)  
10:30 am -12:00 pm Crystal Beach Room  
Sit, talk and lose weight. No membership.



**Social Dance with Howard**  
1:00 - 3:00, Thursdays  
WAC Belleaire Room  
You select the dances to practice  
Men and Women welcome



# 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: 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 and leave message.

For sale: Haviland China service for 12. Asking \$50. Christmas dinnerware for eight. Asking \$20. Silverware chest asking \$50. Call Susan at 727-400-6006.

For sale: Two white bamboo Baha-ma sofa beds. They combine with an intersecting white corner table. They become two two beds when separated. Asking \$150. Call Richard at 727-725-3046 or 727-492-7464.

For sale: Go Go Elite Traveler. Good condition. New battery. New charger. Four new tires. Folds into a trunk. Distance about 10 miles. Asking \$350. Call Mary at 727-282-2823.

For sale: Collectors item. Walt Disney World Resort Hotel promotional photographs. Beautiful glossy color professional photos all dated and captioned. Each is 8x10 inches. Twenty-one pictures in all. Must see to appreciate. \$1 apiece or \$10 for all. Call Debbie at 724-961-3379. No texts.

Free to good home. Pro form treadmill. You must move it. Call Bob at 414-429-5115.

For sale: 26 inch Trek Verve 2, non-electric bike. Runs perfectly. Cosmetically has been through its share of accidents. New cost was \$7000. Asking \$100. Call Tara at 727-577-8145.

For sale: Brothers printer. Call Richard at 727-723-0240.

# Brain Tease

3	6		5	2			1	4	
4	7			5	3	9			1
0		1	4	9	5	7	8	6	2
2		8	7			5	6		9
		3		4	2		7	0	5
9		4	6	3	1	2	5	7	
7	1	2			4				3
6	5		2	0		1	3		4
			9				4		7
1		5	3	7	8	4	2	9	6

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.

N E R E V

I O I D T

T N E U R A

R E A T E Y

N H T T I G O

O R E N U Y G

SECRET WORD:

Last month's scrambled words: Radar, After, Filter, Thrift, Exhaust, Runaway. Secret Word Last Month: RAFTER

Good Karma Book Club

A post-read book discussion group.

10 am, Thursday, May 15

“Lessons in Chemistry”

By Bonnie Garmus

10 am, Thursday, June 19

“The Lion Women of Tehran”

By Marjan Kamali

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.

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

LESSONS in CHEMISTRY

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—The Washington Post

“Stunning debut... Darkly funny and poignant”  
—The Atlantic

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Bonnie Garmus

LIBRARY

New Books

“Overkill” by J.A. Jance

“Nobody’s Fool” by Harlan Coben

“The World’s Fair Quilt” by Jennifer Chiaverini

Join the OTOW Library for \$5.

Renew your membership so we can buy new books.

Hours: 10-12 Mondays, 1-3 Wednesdays, 10-12 Thursdays

We are currently looking for volunteers to help on Wednesdays