

Community News

Kenneth D. Colen

New Things Happening

On Sunday, March 13, the Ocala Tree of Life Sanctuary located at 6140 SW 78th Avenue Road will celebrate a joint dedication in their new, shared location. The program and open house run from 3 to 6 p.m. This worship center is a venture between Temple Beth Shalom and First United Congregational Church of Christ. The service, hosted by Rabbi Ze'ev Harari and Reverend Hal McSwain will feature musical offerings by various choirs, followed by a reception.

All are welcome to the festivities honoring a partnership that will allow both faith communities to practice their respective faiths, but together will provide educational, social justice, and artistic endeavors for their members and the community at large.

On Saturday, March 26, the highly anticipated Florida Aquatics Swimming & Training (FAST) venue will have its grand opening from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event will be open to the public.

This premier teaching and training facility is open to aspiring swimmers of all ages and abilities. FAST is home to an indoor 10 lane, 50 meter by 25-meter-deep water pool, plus one- and three-meter springboards for diving. The outdoor pool is a seven lane, 50-meter pool, as well as 25-yard section for swimming lessons, fitness swimming, aquarobics, and water walking. This section of the pool is under shade cloth for anytime use.

If that isn't enough, there is also a shade cloth covered spray park for the littlest ones. For more information on how you can swim at FAST, visit FloridaFast.com.

Calea Township, the newest community by Colen Built Development, is a community for families of all ages and is now welcoming residents to its first neighborhood of Roan Hills. We find that the top two reasons for buyers selecting Calea are:

1. Ina A. Colen Academy public charter school
2. Moving closer to family.

In fact, many On Top of the World residents have children and grandchildren moving into Calea.

The Weybourne Landing clubhouse began vertical construction the third week of February. The plan to start locking the gate adjacent to the pool road and restrict traffic through this project began in late February. We are working within a very limited space to build this 12,000 square foot facility.

With supply constraints continuing, and long lead times on products critical to the job, there may be some odd delivery and installation times. To the extent that these can be accurately scheduled, the construction team will give advance notice to the residents.

By way of example, there is a large concrete pour scheduled for 1 a.m. Thursday, March 10. Because of very high demand for concrete, plants are running on a 24-hour basis and pours are scheduled when the material is available. We apologize for the inconvenience and will work to minimize these types of events. I should go without saying, that for your personal safety, we ask residents to stay off the jobsite.

On Top of the World (Central) Owners Association Board Meeting

The On Top of the World (Central) Owners Association Board meeting was held Wednesday, Feb. 23, with approximately 300 residents in attendance and another 90 attending online. The purpose of the meeting was to consider adoption of the fiscal year 2022-2023 operating budget and other items. The board addressed numerous questions, some of which pertained to the roof replacements and market volatility, supply shortages and rising labor and material costs and how that has impacted the community. It was

Continued on Page 4 ▶

Ocala Open

By Matt Hibbs

How would you like to be standing over a 10-foot putt with a chance to win \$15,000? Year after year, that's what the Ocala Open presents to up-and-coming professional golfers.

Wednesday, March 30 through Friday, April 1, Candler Hills Golf Club will host its 16th annual Ocala Open. The Ocala Open is a professional golf tournament run by Rick Hendershot, director of the Florida Professional Golf Tour. Each year, a field of 144 professional golfers competes for a chance to win the first place prize of \$15,000.

We have had many great players come to Candler Hills to compete in this prestigious event. Current PGA Tour player, Ted Potter Jr. won back-to-back championships in 2010 and 2011, Dan McCarthy, currently playing on the Korn Ferry Tour, won back-to-back Opens in 2015 and 2016. Most recently, Seth Fair, won with a score of 196 (17 under par).

For a true first-class experience visit the VIP tent adjacent to the 18th green. This beautiful viewing area is set up for spectators who wish to relax under a tent while watching these spectacular golfers compete for the Ocala Open championship. Tickets for this luxurious seating area can be purchased in the Candler Hills Golf Shop. A portion of the ticket proceeds goes to the charities.

The most important part of the Ocala Open is the charity Pro-Am. Annually, the Pro-Am is the biggest fundraiser in Ocala. With the support of local vendors and residents, we were able to raise \$80,000 for charity last year and presented both Interfaith Emergency Services and Hospice of Marion County a check for \$40,000 each. To date, the Ocala Open has donated over \$813,000 to local charities. This event has not only become a tradition at On Top of the World, but a staple to our community.

Interested in participating in the Pro-Am to help support these great



Photo by courtesy of Colen Built Development

In 2021, Seth Fair won the Ocala Open with a score of 196 (17 under par).

organizations? This year's Pro-Am will be played Tuesday, March 29. The entry deadline is Friday, March 18, and is limited to 32 teams. If you would like more information, please visit ocalaopen.com or contact Director of Golf Matt Hibbs at 352-854-2765.

To orchestrate an event of this stature, you must have exceptional employees and that's something we certainly have at On Top of the World. Every year, our employees put in countless hours to ensure the event's success. Andy Jorgensen and his maintenance staff do a wonderful job preparing the course. The players rave about how well maintained Candler Hills Golf Course

is and in particular the greens. We can't forget about the 30 volunteers who so graciously donate their time to make sure the players have an enjoyable experience. Thank you to all for your continued support of this charitable event.

Candler Hills Golf Club is proud to annually present the Ocala Open. We have fine-tuned the event over the years and it has become not only one of the best professional golf events in Ocala, but all of Florida. Please take time out of your busy schedule to come watch these players compete for this year's Ocala Open title.

For more information, please visit OcalaOpen.com.



Photo by Dave DeAngelis

More pickleball courts to accommodate this very popular sport.

New Pickleball Courts

By Dave DeAngelis
World News Writer

If you saw the movie Field of Dreams, you certainly will remember ... "If you build it, they will come." If you've seen the crowds of players in rotation to get on the existing pickleball courts, well ... "they are here, it must be built!" It being the new pickleball court areas. With over 500 active pickleball players on staggered days according to their skill level, it is no wonder why the existing courts

needed some help with expansion. Since each game averages between 10 to 15 minutes, the court additions will reduce wait times to get on the courts, and perhaps encourage more people to play. Uh oh ... "build more of us."

Eleven new courts recently opened adjacent to the existing courts by the Recreation Center. Weybourne Landing now has two permanent and four temporary

pickleball courts and one tennis court. Director of tennis, pickleball and POP tennis here at On Top of the World, Jorge Privat, described how so many people are attracted to pickleball because of its quick learning curve - just a couple of days to pick it up.

As Jorge, our tennis pro and instructor here for 17 years informed me, despite one's skill level, techniques of the game apply to everyone not only for success, but for safety.

Check out the new courts. They were built for you.

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Is It Legal?

Colen & Wagoner, P.A.



SCAM ALERT #1: I just received a call from Mark. Mark said he had an important message about my vehicle's service warranty. I noticed that Mark did not mention the make of my vehicle even though he knew the warranty was about to expire. Instead, he just wanted me to call and ... and ... and, well, I don't know what else, because I just hung up on "Mark" (if you believe that's his real name then I have a bridge in Brooklyn to sell you, very cheaply).

Here's the thing. Mark from the vehicle warranty department, Suzy from the roofer who's in the neighborhood and wants to give you a "free" roof inspection, Amy who's from the utility company and has a convenient way to handle payments for your utility bills, plus who knows who, etc. are scammers. That's all they are.

We know about emails - don't click. We know about phone calls - don't answer. And we know about texts - don't respond.

Whenever someone says he or she wants to give you something for free, please remember what my wonderful Uncle Sidney Colen used to say, "Free can become very expensive."

SCAM ALERT #2: The daughter of a longtime client of mine told me her mother got an email from Amazon and that her account had been suspended. (Strike one.)

My client's mother sort of did the right thing - she went to the internet, found a phone number for Amazon, and called it to find out what was happening. (Strike two.)

The person who answered the call, said a problem was happening. My client needed to go to Target to get a gift card and give them the numbers. (Strike three.)

The client did go to Target, but someone at Target was on the alert and so the scam was foiled. If you are told to get a gift card for any kind of payment, or any kind of method to check on a scam, it is a scam, all by itself.

SCAM TIP: All of us, no matter our age, no matter our health, will be faced with an attempt to scam us.

No matter how nice and sympathetic the scammers seem, they are just brutal thugs. We must always be on the alert, and remember to warn our neighbors, friends and loved ones.

Q. If I were to ask you to tell me about which is better, a will versus trust, what would you say?

A. I'd say that I am giving a lecture on that very topic at Master the Possibilities Tuesday, March 15 (register at MasterthePossibilities.org). However, my suspicion is that you want to know which I think is the best type of estate plan for folks - a will or trust. Well, that's not a simple question and the answer really depends on the specific facts of each person's or couple's plans and goals for the distribution of assets and for the protection of a spouse or children or other family members. So, I'd urge everyone to sit down with their attorney and discuss this.

Q. My husband has significant dementia and needs to be placed in a nursing home. We have been told that we have too many assets and income to qualify for Medicaid benefits. Although our assets and income may be above Medicaid requirements, if he is in a nursing home, I am not going to make it if I must give up all his income plus much of our money. Help!

A. You are lucky to live in Florida where our Medicaid laws are about as liberal as can be. I don't have enough facts to go beyond what I just wrote, but I urge you to meet with an attorney who specializes in Medicaid.

Q. My boyfriend and I are significant others. Each of us is married to someone else. Right now, he and I rent a place in Florida, as snowbirds. However, we intend to buy a home in Florida where we will live and become Florida residents. Neither of us plans on getting divorced and our spouses don't seem interested in doing that either. How do we protect each other?

A. Protect each other, from what?

The Law Offices of Colen & Wagoner, P.A. include Jerry Colen (Jerry@colenwagoner.com); Rachel Wagoner (Rachel@colenwagoner.com); and John Beck (John@colenwagoner.com). All are members of the Florida Bar Association. Jerry Colen and Rachel Wagoner are members of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, and the Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys. John Beck has a degree in finance, master's degrees in accounting and taxation. The law firm practices in the areas of simple and complex estate planning, wills, trusts, probate, real estate, title insurance, elder law, taxation, Medicaid planning and business and professional advice. This column is only intended to present fact situations that may be of interest to the reader. It does not, nor is it intended to provide legal advice. You should not rely on what is written in this column to be legal advice for any situation. You should always consult your own attorney for legal advice. The Law Offices of Colen and Wagoner, P.A. is located at 7243 Bryan Dairy Road, Largo, Florida 33777 and in Suite 11 at Circle Square Commons in Ocala, Florida; (727) 545-8114; www.colenwagoner.com.

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The World News is a monthly publication of On Top of the World Communities in Marion County, Florida. This publication is written and prepared by On Top of the World residents for our neighbors and those interested in becoming a part of our community. The World News strives to publish only "good, informative news." Events and activities that take place behind the gates of On Top of the World are for residents only.

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2022 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Issue	Ad/Payment/Column Deadline*	Insert Deadline**	Home Delivery
January	12/13/21	12/23/21	12/30/21
February	01/12/22	01/20/22	01/27/22
March	02/14/22	02/24/22	03/03/22
April	03/14/22	03/24/22	03/31/22
May	04/12/22	04/21/22	04/28/22
June	05/12/22	05/26/22	06/02/22
July	06/13/22	06/23/22	06/30/22
August	07/12/22	07/21/22	07/28/22
September	08/12/22	08/25/22	09/01/22
October	09/12/22	09/22/22	09/29/22
November	10/12/22	10/20/22	10/27/22
December	11/11/22	11/23/22	12/01/22
January '23	12/12/22	12/22/22	12/29/22

* Deadline at noon
** Printed inserts deadline by 3:30 p.m. at Heart of Florida

THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS WHO MADE THE 2022 OPERATION HELPING HEROES A SUCCESS...

...AND ALL OF THE REST!

GOLDEN OLDIES HUMOR
By Stan Goldstein

Nothing is often a very good thing to say.

Lifelong Learning

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Things are exciting at the Master the Possibilities Education Center this month. Not only is there a dynamic lineup of more than 200 courses to choose from, but the unbelievable list of visiting speakers is also enough to keep participants here all month long.

Starting our visiting speaker presentations is Michael Tougas. A person may find that name familiar since Tougas is a New York Times bestselling author of more than 25 books. One of those, "The Finest Hours," is now a major motion picture by Disney. What great talent to have right here at our lifelong learning center!

Master the Possibilities will be hosting a lecture at Circle Square Cultural Center Friday, March 11, at 11 a.m. with H. Keith Melton on "Sexspionage: Lies, Spies, and Naked Thighs." Melton is an intelligence historian, author, and specialist in clandestine technology and tradecraft. He has been recognized internationally as an authority on spy technology and has more than 9,000 books and papers of eminent spies. Among his many accomplishments, Melton is a founding board member of the International Spy Museum in Washington, D.C. Cost to attend is \$11 for members and \$16 for non-members.

Greg Clements, chief of the Strategic Implementation Office in the Exploration Research and Technology Programs Directorate at the John F. Kennedy Space Center in Florida, will talk about "What's New at NASA" from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 18. Some topics he will speak about include Artemis, the Perseverance Mars Rover, the Advanced Air Mobility project, and the Earth Systems Observatory initiative. There is no cost to members to attend this presentation, but registration is required.

I would highly recommend attending "State of the Arts in Marion County," a special event, Wednesday, March 16, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Jaye Baillie with the Marion Cultural Alliance; Pamela Calero-Wardell with the Reilly Arts Center, Ocala Symphony Orchestra, and Marion Theatre; Chad Taylor with Insomniac Theatre Company; Jesse James with the Magnolia Arts Exchange; Patricia Tomlinson with the Appleton Museum; Jennifer Normoyle with the City of Ocala Cultural Arts & Science Affairs; Maggie Weakley with Fine Arts for Ocala; and Laurie Zink with Ocala Film Foundation will all be here to share with participants the vision of art for Ocala now and in the future. Cost to attend is \$3 for members and \$8 for non-members.

Registration for any of these events is easy and available 24/7 at masterthepossibilities.org, or by calling our office from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, at (352) 861-9751.

Finding Zen

Christina Shearer
info@sholompark.org



Sholom Park is excited to announce their new Spring Strings concert featuring the world-renowned Harp Twins Saturday, April 9, from 4 to 7 p.m. Join us for a unique outdoor concert experience with identical twin harpists Camille and Kennerly Kitt. It's the harp like you have never seen or heard before!

Classically trained with degrees in harp performance, this multi-talented harp duo has a passion and flair for arranging and performing rock, metal, Celtic, Nordic-folk, and soundtrack music. Camille and Kennerly are recognized for their remarkable arrangements of some of rock and metal's most iconic hits by the likes of Guns N' Roses, Metallica, Led Zeppelin, Aerosmith, AC/DC, Black Sabbath, The Rolling Stones, Eagles, Pink Floyd, U2, Journey, and many more.

Showing the breadth of their arranging talents, the twins also arrange and perform TV and movie soundtrack, anime, and video game hits. Some fan favorites include their renditions of music from Game of Thrones, Pirates of the Caribbean, The Elder Scrolls, Final Fantasy, Star Trek, Star Wars,

Vikings, Doctor Who, Harry Potter, and The Lord of the Rings. The Harp Twins have also shown themselves to be formidable composers, lyricists, and storytellers through their Nordic-inspired original songs. They have released nine self-produced full-length albums.

The Harp Twins are seasoned performers, having toured North America, South America, and the United Kingdom. They have performed for celebrities, tech titans, and world leaders. Their remarkable arrangements have also caught the attention of original artists and composers. "Intrepid musicians. If you live long enough, you get to hear this (Harp Twins') version of White Wedding!" - Billy Idol

Don't miss an extraordinary outdoor concert experience featuring the Harp Twins at Sholom Park's Spring Strings concert Saturday, April 9. The concert is just \$27 per person and advance registration is required through our partners at Master the Possibilities Education Center. Bring your lawn chairs and pack some snacks or grab a bite to eat at participating food trucks - One Way Coffee or The Smoked Biscuit Company.

For more event details or to register, visit www.sholompark.org. Follow us on the Sholom Park Facebook page for event updates and videos. For registration assistance, please contact Master the Possibilities Education Center at 352-861-9751 or visit www.masterthepossibilities.org.

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Community News

► Continued from Page 1

noted that the same inflationary pressures we may be feeling, also shape the proposed 2022-23 budget.

The difficulties of 2021 are continuing into 2022 when it comes to materials and labor availability. Despite requesting 11 qualified roofing contractors to submit bids, only two submitted a bid for this year's work.

Last year your board faced a challenge over completing contracted roofs when the work was interrupted by supply shortages and roofing material price increases. We were very fortunate our roofing contractor finished the work with these challenging obstacles. This

situation continues to be a challenge that is only mitigated by the need for replacing roofs on only 285 homes (versus 750 in 2020 that extended over into 2021).

This remains a fluid situation largely controlled by limited shingle supply across all manufacturers and severe price increases for wood, metal, and underlayment. All partly due to raw material shortage, manufacturing plant closures that created vast product backlogs and labor shortage in the aftermath of the pandemic.

The association does not carry reserves for roof replacement because replacement is an obligation of the individual owner and not the association at large. A good rule of thumb is to set aside 1/15th of the estimated cost of replacement, using the last cost information you have on the roof replacement. Inflate that number two percent each year.

The fiscal year 2022-23 community-wide improvement work was reviewed, and the program was explained in detail. Other programmed work will include the new flooring in the restroom and pool areas of the Arbor Fitness Center, improvements to the Veterans Park, exterior painting and HVAC work, new flooring and equipment at the Recreation Center Fitness Center, and a substantial amount of roadway resurfacing. An update on community growth and development was provided.

Your board will again reestablish dialog with Spectrum for those who reside in neighborhoods where there is a Spectrum bulk cable service agreement in place. We are also reaching out and exploring other provider alternatives.

Your board is committed to providing an expansive bundle of services available for residents. We strive to provide access to numerous fitness, recreation, entertainment, and educational programs good for both the body and soul. Your board strives to build and reinforce the sense of community, enhance the opportunity to make friends, and enjoy the peace of mind of living in a safe and clean community.

Winter Weather & Shrubbery

March can be a tricky month when it comes to the weather. We may have wonderfully warm days and cold nights. Do not remove seemingly damaged plants prematurely. Plants affected by the cold

may surprise you with their recovery. Withhold pruning back until mid-April. There may be several more periods of cold and possible frost. Pruning at this point will spur plant growth that is vulnerable to the cold. Rather, wait until mid-April to consider any pruning of owner added plantings. Central Florida generally experiences one cold snap with light frost between March 15 and Easter; so be forewarned.

Lawns and shrubbery will continue to grow, albeit very slowly, when the ground temperature warms above 65 degrees Fahrenheit. That said, watering requirements are significantly less during the cooler months.

Conservation Tip

Depending on the type of irrigation system, shaving two minutes off each irrigation run time yields 18 to 26 gallons per zone per run cycle which can save 77 to 112 gallons per month per zone for once per week watering and 155 to 224 gallons per month per zone for twice per week watering. Overall, monthly you have the potential to reduce your water consumption from 721 gallons to 2,170 gallons depending on the time of year and specific run times on each zone, assuming seven zones. Monthly water savings for seven zones may cost in a range of \$1.41 to \$7.67 for once per week watering and \$2.82 to \$15.34 for twice per week watering depending on the rate tier. Savings can add up.

Bay Laurel Center
CDD

IRREGULAR WATER USAGE*

- **Toilets:** A failing flapper (valve seal) can waste up to 200 gallons of water a day.
- **Leaky Faucets/Showerheads:** Dripping can range from several gallons to hundreds of gallons of water per day.
- **Water Hose:** When left on with leaks at the spigot or nozzle.
- **Irrigation System:** Automatic irrigation solenoid valves not closing properly or excessive run times including multiple program cycles.
- **Water Softeners:** Excessively backwashing or the backwash valve failing.

* Water loss is estimated and varies depending on severity of leak.

Spring forward with the perfect cigar for the season!





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We saw 22 degrees in late January, and as a result, some plants were damaged by the cold or went dormant. Cold damage can be seen across the community, and it is tempting to trim to make the area not look so drab but resist the urge and let the plants go fully dormant.

I don't recommend trimming the cold damage for a minimum of two weeks post cold injury and waiting even longer is better. Many

residents who have plants such as Hawaiian ti, crotons, pigmy date palms (Phoenix roebelenii), ixoras or other south Florida plants may not be so lucky with plants recovering from the cold. Make sure when you are selecting plants for your landscape or working with a contractor to select plants suited for this climatic zone (8B).

Last month, I briefly wrote about the methods for trimming crape myrtles, and I recommended residents follow the pencil pruning method. This method thoroughly cleans the interior branches smaller than a pencil.

I would like to elaborate on this topic on what On Top of the World is doing and our direction to contractors. The contractors who maintain roadways and entrances will be doing hybridized pruning (removing seed heads or tipping back the crape myrtles with a focus on interior crossing branches and structure). Roadways will be generally tipped back following the same program and homes maintained by On Top of the World will also follow pruning methods mentioned in the UF/IFAS Edis publication (edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/EP399).

This publication explains why you should trim crape myrtles as well as the recommended pruning techniques. As recommended by the UF/IFAS Edis publication, please follow these recommendations:

- Pruning for safety may be done anytime. This may involve removing damaged or weak branches or pruning lower limbs for pedestrian and vehicle clearance and visibility.
- Pruning to improve plant structure, redirect growth, or alter plant shape and appearance should occur when plants are leafless and dormant – typically December through February. Although this can be accomplished at any time, without leaves, the branching structure is clearly visible to determine appropriate branches more easily for pruning.
- Prune to remove crossing or rubbing branches.
- Prune dead, damaged, or diseased branches at the branch collar.
- Remove vigorous branches growing toward the center of the canopy.
- Severe pruning should be performed late in the dormant period. Pruning too early might stimulate new growth that could be damaged by low temperatures.
- Pollarding is a method not typically seen in Florida but should be used if interested in reducing height correctly and not topping, which is widely done and not recommended.

To learn more, please visit hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/rcs-pollarding.shtml.

Irrigation returns to twice per week watering Sunday, March 13. Best of luck this spring.

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All Around Our World

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March allows us to thaw a little as warmer temperatures appear. This month is designated as National Women's History Month, recognizing, and celebrating women in schools, workplaces, and communities throughout our country. We can also look forward to daylight saving time Sunday, March 13, St. Patrick's Day with corned beef and cabbage Thursday, March 17, and Sunday, March 20, is the official first day of spring.

Ocala Open

As a reminder, the 16th annual Ocala Open at Candler Hills Golf Course is just days away! We have hosted this wonderful event for many years and have raised over \$813,000 for our charities.

The Ocala Open is sure to be the largest charity golf event in Marion County in 2022 and will be held March 30, 31 and April 1, with a Pro-Am Tuesday, March 29. You still have time to sign up to participate in the Pro-Am, which will help benefit our two local charities - Hospice of Marion County, Inc., and Interfaith Emergency Services. The professional tournament will showcase the Candler Hills Golf Course and will highlight professional golfers

from around the world. You truly do not want to miss this - come out and be a spectator and enjoy watching this great game.

Daylight Saving Time

Daylight saving time is Sunday, March 13, so we are setting our clocks one hour later. Many fire departments encourage people to change the batteries in their smoke detectors when they change their clocks as daylight saving time provides a convenient reminder. Unfortunately, the fire departments no longer offer checking smoke detectors for residents. You may also want to consider cleaning out expired medications at this time.

On Top of the World (Central) Budget Meeting

The board of directors meeting for On Top of the World (Central) Owners Association was held Wednesday, Feb. 23, at Circle Square Cultural Center and was well attended. The board took action to approve the 2022-2023 budget and board reports included discussing the list of re-roofs, budget drivers including challenges, paving and new projects for this budget year. The board adopted updated rules and you will find these at OTOW-Info.com; click Associations, then OTOW Central, scroll down to the Community Rules and Standards.

Estate and Tag Sales

Spring is the perfect time to clear out gently used or unneeded items through an estate or tag sale.

The sale must be registered and approved by Resident Services at Friendship Commons by the 10th of each month. A copy of the approved form will then be forwarded to the World News and an ad will run in the following month's issue on the Classifieds page. Estate and tag sales are for residents only; no outside parties allowed.

Resident Services

Please note that the Resident Services office is closed for thirty minutes during the noon hour to sanitize the lobby. Sanitizing begins when the last resident leaves the office. The Resident Services office is closed the third Wednesday of every month from noon to 1 p.m., which falls on Wednesday, March 16, this month. Resident Services may be reached at (352) 236-OTOW (6869) or otowservice@otowfl.com Monday through Friday, 8a.m. to 4p.m., or in person by visiting Suite 500, in Friendship Commons, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

You may wish to complete your maintenance request online versus stopping by the office. Visit OTOW-Info.com, click on "Maintenance Request" on the top ribbon and enter your request. Be sure to scroll down to enter the service you are requesting and click submit.

Street Light Outages

If a streetlight is out in your neighborhood, please call Duke Energy's outage line at 1-800-228-8485 and report it. You will need the pole number (e.g., B100540) and the nearest address to the light. If you

live in Indigo East, please report the outage to SECO Energy. Their outage line is 1-800-732-6141.

Rule of the Month

ANIMALS: We cannot stress enough how important it is to keep all pet food in storage containers inside your home or garage. Coyotes were seen in the Crescent Ridge area recently. When habitats are disturbed, coyotes go in search of new locations and food sources. Please keep all pets, pet food and their water indoors.

Under no circumstances should you leave food out for them and safeguard your garbage. Don't spread bird food on the ground as this attracts birds, squirrels, rabbits, and field mice. These are all high on the coyote's food menu and provide a food source that will tend to make them less afraid and more aggressive. Never leave your animals outdoors without being on a leash and accompanied by you.

If you are caught out, don't run, back away slowly, making loud noises such as shouting at them, blow a whistle, clap your hands, or throw a rock(s). Should they seem aggressive, return inside as quickly as possible. Remember to keep your animals close on a short leash and not allow them to be far from you on expanded leash, fewer than six feet. Please keep the neighborhood as safe as possible by not attracting these animals to stick around due to a food source. If you wish more information, please visit <https://myfwc.com/conservation/you-conserve/wildlife/coyotes/faq/>.

Community Emergency Response Team

Andrea La Fave



Considering we may have some hard of hearing residents, I thought I would present a "prevention tip" or two this month. Especially since I notice in myself that although my ear's hearing is normal, still - when I'm all absorbed in thought - the sounds around and behind me don't always enter my consciousness!

So, I really appreciate it when I'm out walking and a bike or golf cart comes up behind me, that the driver hollers "passing on the left" so that I don't drift into their path. Often, I will immediately recognize that I did hear their approach, but it didn't register in my brain!

The other tip, because I often walk out the SW 90th Street entrance, is to remind you that the Friendship Fire Station is right near the intersection of SW 90th and SW 80th. When those fire trucks and ambulances pull out onto SW 90th

Street, they are very close to the intersection with SW 80th, so their lights and sirens have only been on for a moment as they approach the intersection.

I see a lot of drivers oblivious of their approach, maybe partly because of hearing and/or vision issues? So, be careful as you approach that intersection.

Our Community Emergency Response Team is volunteers who have received thorough and valuable training from the Marion County Sheriff's Office in safely helping in case of a community emergency.

You are always welcome to visit our monthly meetings, which are held the second Tuesday of most months in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room. For more information and to confirm the date, please contact Debra Snyder at 412-443-2930. (Ham radio operators are particularly welcome.)

RECYCLE OFTEN. RECYCLE RIGHT.

Visit OTOWInfo.com for a list of acceptable items to recycle.

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Republican Club



Lizabeth Woodard

On Fridays, Jan. 14 and Feb. 11, the Republican Club's president called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Fiona Bowling gave opening prayers, and all veterans came forward to lead in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. A total of 26 new members were introduced at the two meetings. In addition, 18 new members signed up at the Club Fair in January.

During the January meeting, Election Chair Tom Hauck conducted the nomination and election process of club officers for 2022. Results of the process were: President Liz Woodard, Secretary Margaret Nodine, and Treasurer Cathy Cannatella. Vice President Maggie

Koller resigned from her position, and Charles Dodge was elected as her replacement.

During the February meeting, President Liz formally introduced the new officers and presented each of them with a box of candy. In addition, Maggie Koller was presented with a certificate of appreciation for her service to the club, as well as a potted plant.

In recognition of President Abraham Lincoln, the club began a new tradition in 2021 of presenting a Lincoln Day award certificate to two deserving members of the club for their dedication and service to the success of the Republican Club. This year's recipients were Fiona Bowling and Tom Hauck. Fiona is our sunshine lady, prayer leader, and refreshment committee member. In addition to being the election chair, Tom is the club communicator and sends all meeting announcements, voting infor-

mation, etc., to over 400 addressees each month. He also attends the executive committee meetings and supplies members with free File of Life emergency cards and disposal kits for controlled drugs.

The featured speaker for the January meeting was Marion County School Board member Nancy Thrower. Her presentation included background information on Marion County public schools and her education philosophy. Although members do not have school-age children, it is important students receive a high-quality education to ensure productive future citizens. Ms. Thrower gladly fielded many questions from the membership who had thoughtful and important questions.

Marion County Commissioner Kathy Bryant was the featured speaker at the February meeting. She gave a detailed accounting of the many accomplishments of the

commission. She indicated that the main responsibility of the commission is to provide for the safety and welfare of all Marion County residents and visitors. Additionally, they enact ordinances, resolutions and the approval of budgets and expenditures. The county budget covers the offices of tax collector, property appraisers, board of elections, sheriff, and clerk of the court. She gave her assurance that there are no efforts to defund the police in Marion County.

The Republican Club meets the second Friday of each month at 6:30 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.) in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. For more information regarding the Republican Club, please leave a message at 518-534-0201; your call will be answered as soon as possible. Come join in the political conversation with like-minded, positive, friendly people.

Democratic Club



Dan Lack

Martin Hoffert, PhD., will be our speaker Thursday, March 24, which is our usual fourth Thursday meeting date. Please do not try to attend March 31.

Marty is a member of the Democratic Club who is given the opportunity to speak to us each spring. He is a professor emeritus of physics from New York University and although his field is in science and climate change, Marty's interests are widespread. The topic of his presentation is "The Big Lie and the Attack on the Capitol."

The election of our board of directors will also take place. As of this writing there is one candidate each for president, vice president, secretary and treasurer and there are six candidates for the four di-

rector positions. Their terms of office will run through March 2023, when at least two board members are planning to retire. A quorum of at least 20% of our members must be present for us to conduct club business.

Our club supports the Ocala Ritz Veterans Village, a former Ritz Hotel that was converted into a facility for formerly homeless veterans. The Ritz provides a safe environment for these brave men and women to learn to become productive members of our community and to live on their own once again. The Ritz needs pillows, pillowcases, twin size sheets, towels and wash cloths, toiletries, laundry pods, paper goods and canned and dry food. Please bring your donated items to our meeting and not to my porch.

For more information, contact Dan Lack at (352) 509-4942 or otowdemclub@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page (On Top of the World Democratic Club). You are not alone!



Photo by Theresa Fields

The prom king and queen are Lloyd Parsons and Leslie Ayd. They were escorted to the prom in a 1963 Buick Wildcat owned by Joe Maggio.

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Purple Martins

By Susan Yenne
World News Writer

Wednesday, Jan. 19, was always the magic date for purple martins to show up in On Top of the World. But the past three years, a shift to colder Januarys has them swooping in from the Amazon basin in Brazil sometime in February.

Tom Miller, who put up the first purple martin gourd homes in 2007, has grown his collection to 30 homes on three poles on SW 94th Street, by the retention basin behind the ninth hole on The Tortoise & The Hare Golf Course.

He picked the spot because it offers the birds open spaces to make their diving swoop into the gourd opening, nearby powerlines for roosting, no shrubbery at the base of the pole, and a retention pond with a clay base that keeps water most of the spring and summer.

Each of the houses is about 10-inches in diameter, the perfect size for a couple to produce and raise five or six babies each season.

The popular belief is that the birds eat mosquitos. Not so, says Miller, an entomologist who taught high school biology in Warren, Pennsylvania, before moving here in 2005 with his wife, Rita. As the biggest in the swallow family with about a 10-inch wingspan, the purple martins eat from the highest el-

evations, about 300 feet. In On Top of the World, that means dragonflies. Also, the purple martins are out and about during the day; mosquitos are most prevalent at dusk.

When Tom puts out the gourd houses, he throws in a handful of pine straw to get the nests started. The birds add more straw and oak leaves as they make the house their own.

He also makes sure to add a predator guard on the poles – like upside-down buckets – to prevent snakes from reaching the nests.

“Those snakes can go up a pole as quickly and easily as you or I go up the stairs,” Miller said. The one thing the guards can’t prevent is fire ants.

“I go out most days to make sure there are no fire ants at the base,” he said. “They can go right up and eat the baby birds.”

The purple martins know him from his daily visits and are comfortable around him. Others who want to see them can pull up near the gourds in golf carts and sit a spell.

“If you don’t get out of your golf cart, you will see them coming and going,” Miller said. If people are moving about, the birds will fly off.

The white gourds, which are

made from plastic, come down in June or July. Miller always knows when they re gone because the birds leave en masse. One year, thousands assembled in Providence/Avalon. “Then someone snapped their fingers, and they

were gone,” he said. “Didn’t even leave me a thank-you note.”

He then takes down the gourds, washes them out, bleaches them, and hangs them in his garage until the next season.

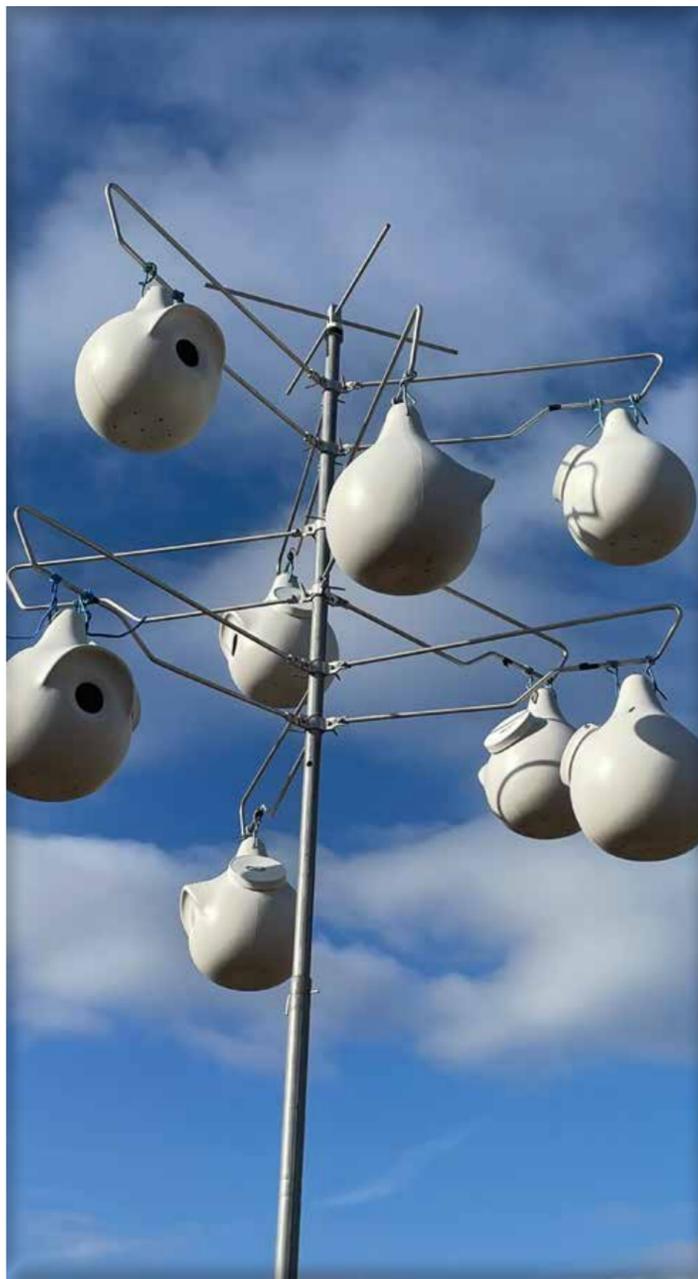


Photo by Susan Yenne

Thirty purple martin gourd homes hang on poles near the retention pond on SW 94th Street.

Eco Gardeners

Jeff Bell



The Eco Gardeners (corner of SW 98th Street and SW 99th Street Road) are looking forward to the spring planting of our gardens now that the weather has begun to warm up.

We recently held our elections and have installed the following officers: President Phil Karcheski; Vice President Jim Weaver; Treasurer Herb Katz; and Secretary Jeff Bell.

The Eco Gardeners’ objectives are to pass on the good gardening experiences to other members to help them in the right direction; as well as our unfortunate experiences we have learned

from. We learn and share information as well as new methods that save money, conserve water, and improve plant production. We consider alternatives to reduce poisonous pesticides and herbicides by using organic derived pesticides and herbicides in targeting detrimental insects.

The Eco Gardeners are taking steps to work with nature to reduce water use by applying water-saving devices and monitoring these systems regularly. Members can learn how to reduce water consumption by tailoring drip irrigation and micro-spraying systems and monitoring soil moisture.

If you are interested in learning new gardening techniques or beginning a garden, please join us at our next meeting. Please look for a meeting announcement on our Facebook page (OTOW Eco Gardeners).

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Photo by Bryan Hill

On Top of the Wheels Car Group.

On Top of the Wheels Car Group

Bill Bender



After a tough year of curtailed activities, the On Top of the Wheels Car Group returns. We thank George Hill and Don Zielke for their diligence in keeping the group intact with their regular communications.

Fifteen members of the group kicked off the new year with a day trip to visit the St. Augustine Classic Car Museum. We all had a great time examining the 100 collector cars on display. This museum was the brainchild of local businessman Sidney Hobbs who has his 70-car collection on display. In addition, he has 30 others who pay a monthly fee to store their cars in his beautiful climate-controlled building and allow them to be on display. The 30,000 square foot building, built specifically for this purpose, is full. The dream of adding another 10,000 square feet is in the wings. This is a unique non-profit operation, which as we understand it, donates funds above expenses to local charities. How brilliant! We all were envious,

wishing we had something similar in Ocala.

After two hours of admiring the museum's offerings, we all went out to lunch before returning home. This provided a great opportunity to get better acquainted with other members.

This group is an informally connected collection of individuals who have an interest in some sort of car. It can be any four wheeled vehicle, as our motto states, "If it's special to you, it's special to us."

It's no surprise that in an area such as ours, there would be a large interest in autos. In fact, our email list now totals 155 individuals. If you would like to have your name added, it only takes sending a request to George at ghilljr.500@gmail.com. You will then start receiving updates on group functions and local car shows. We gather for breakfast on the second Friday of each month, at 8 a.m. at the Golden Spoon Diner and always welcome new participants.

We look forward to the numerous upcoming local car shows in the area as well as resuming the Happy Hour Cruise-in at the Recreation Center that were so popular last fall. Keep your eye peeled for those details.

Grand Opening



March 13th 3pm-6pm
6140 SW 78th Ave Rd Ocala, FL 34474
Music and Refreshments
For information please call
(352) 418-0437
All Are Welcome!

Active Newcomers Club

Robyn Wagner



Active Newcomers Club held its inaugural meeting in January to set up some events for the year. This club is for anyone who has moved to On Top of the World Communities within the last two to three years, or those who are under contract and getting ready to move in. Our goals are to meet new people across

the different neighborhoods and to explore all the wonderful activities that the Ocala area has to offer.

Our first event was a driveway chat held in several neighborhoods in February, with residents having the opportunity to visit different neighborhoods and meet new friends.

March activities will be small group events including dining out, cultural events, local events, outdoor activities and more. To join, find us on Facebook (OTOW Active Newcomers) or email Robyn Wagner at fromtheheart72@aol.com.

Community Patrol

Erwin Fluss



The purpose of this column is to provide you with safety reminders. It is so important to watch your speed, obey stop/yield signs, wear seatbelts, look both ways at intersections, and be very careful when you spot "racecar/aggressive" drivers.

Please be reminded that from time-to-time Marion County Sheriff's deputies are onsite and will issue warnings and summons. Golf cart operators and bicyclists must also obey the same rules. Be aware and careful.

With so many contractors in the community, please keep garage doors closed at all times.

Please consider joining the Community Patrol, so we can fully cover areas as we drive and patrol. For more information, contact Paul Altman at 860-460-7632, or shelvesc@aol.com.

REPLACEMENT CAR DECALS

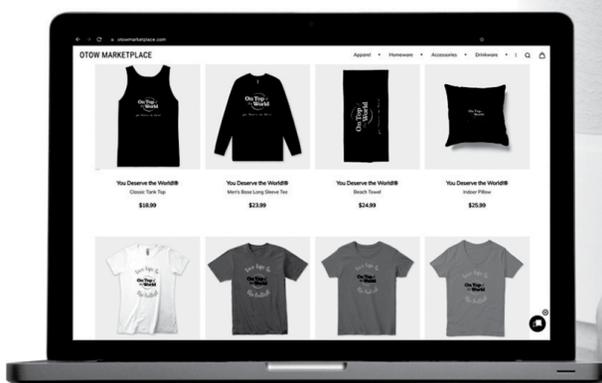
Bring your car, resident ID, auto registration and \$10.

Resident Services
8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday
No decals issued during inclement weather.
Closes at noon for 30-50 minutes for 30 minutes of sanitizing.

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#14367 - 10/21

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GOLF CLINICS

SCORING CLUBS: INSIDE 100 YARDS

Saturday, Mar. 5th • 9 am

Pre-register at the Candler Hills Golf Shop by 5 pm on Friday, March 4, 2022



GREENSIDE BUNKERS

Saturday, Mar. 12th • 9 am

Pre-register at the Candler Hills Golf Shop by 5 pm on Friday, March 11, 2022

f/candlerhillsgolf

8137 SW 90th Terrace Road, Ocala, FL 34481
352.861.9712 | CandlerHillsGolfClub.com

\$15 per person per clinic, minimum of 3, maximum of 20 golfers per session. Maximum of 10 students to each golf professional. These clinics are structured to give the golfer advice on how to improve his or her technique. #14365 - 3/22

The Lodge at Candler Hills

Cassie Cummings
(352) 387-9508
thelodge@otowfl.com



With warmer weather approaching, check out what we have in store for Candler Hills residents this month.

Happy Hour

Beginning Friday, March 4, Happy Hour will now be held outside by the pool and pavilion area at The Lodge at Candler Hills. Come join us and enjoy the beautiful warm Florida weather every Friday from 5 to 8 p.m. Residents must show their Candler Hills resident ID at the entrance. Guest fees are \$5 per person. This is a bring your own beverage (BYOB) event; coolers are permitted with approved containers only (no glass). Anyone bringing glass containers will be asked to leave it in their vehicle.

Entertainment is as follows:

- March 4: Groove 41
- March 11: Palomino Blonde
- March 18: Kathleen Kane
- March 25: Sal & The Gal

Social Night

On Tuesday, March 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. in The Lodge at Candler Hills Ballroom socialize with friends and neighbors as you enjoy easy listening music by Joe Beddia. This is a

BYOB event with light hors d'oeuvres (while supplies last).

Pasta Night*

Buon appetito! It's pasta night Wednesday, March 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. in The Lodge at Candler Hills Ballroom. Enjoy the sounds of the accordion with Reese Norris as you dine with neighbors and friends. The menu will consist of two salads - Caesar and mixed greens - with garlic breadsticks. Entrees include penne pasta with roasted seasonal vegetables and house-made marinara sauce; baked lasagna; meatballs; Italian sausage with peppers and onions; and pasta with creamy alfredo. Finish off the night with cheesecake for dessert.

Tickets are \$16 per resident and \$18 per guest accompanied by a resident. This is a BYOB event.

Kocktails & Karaoke

Sing your heart out Thursday, March 24, at Kocktails & Karaoke with Charlie and Kathy in The Lodge at Candler Hills Ballroom from 5 to 8 p.m. Come sing, dance, and clap with other Candler Hill residents. Bring your own beverage. Guest fees are \$5 and guests must be accompanied by a resident. This event takes place the fourth Thursday of every month.

2023 Room Booking Meeting

For those residents who have submitted room booking forms for 2023, we ask that you attend a meet-

snacks.

Pool Party Bash*

A Pool Party Bash will be held Wednesday, March 30, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Indigo East Fitness Center pool. Live entertainment will be provided by Harry O Chips. Fresh Plates Creative Catering will offer grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, and much more with purchase of a ticket. Bring your own beverage in approved containers for the pool area (no glass). The cost is \$13 per resident and \$15 per guest attending with a resident.

Marketing Fees

Going forward, all resident clubs and organizations requiring printed flyers and tickets will be charged \$5 per request. This fee includes professionally designed artwork and a maximum of 200 printed flyers and tickets (if needed).

**To register, visit the Indigo East Fitness Center office. Payment is required at the time of registration. No refunds will be issued 14 days or fewer prior to the registered event. Resident IDs must be presented at all events when purchasing tickets.*

HANDICAP EQUIPMENT

Handicap equipment is loaned free to residents during their convalescent term - walkers, crutches, canes or wheelchairs. For more information, call the Recreation Center at (352) 854-8707 x7534.

ing Thursday, March 31, at 3 p.m. in The Lodge at Candler Hills Ballroom. Here, you will pick up a copy for your records.

Marketing Fees

Going forward, all resident clubs and organizations requiring printed flyers and tickets will be charged \$5 per request. This fee includes professionally designed artwork and a maximum of 200 printed flyers and tickets (if needed).

Facility Hours

As of March, the hours at The Lodge at Candler Hills will be as follows:

- Monday through Thursday: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Friday and Saturday: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Sunday: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Residents who have already submitted a room reservation form for this year will be grandfathered into the original hours.

Pools will remain open daily, from 8 a.m. to dusk.

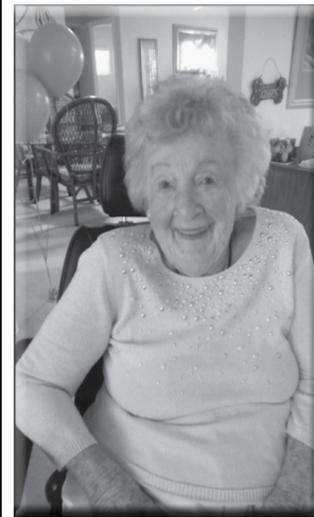
**To register, visit The Lodge at Candler Hills office Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Payment is required at time of registration. No refunds will be issued 14 days or fewer prior to registered event.*

LEASH LAW

Dogs must be on a leash at all times.

CONGRATULATIONS

Birthdays - Weddings - Anniversaries



Genevieve Mallardi
102nd Birthday

Please email birthday, wedding or anniversary announcements to otownews@otowfl.com by the 12th of the month.

Indigo East

Nora Dominguez
(352) 387-9060



March will usher in warmer temperatures and is a great month to enjoy the pools, walking trails and other outdoor activities.

Happy Hour

In March, Happy Hour will move to the Indigo East Fitness Center veranda and pool deck area. When weather conditions are not conducive, Happy Hour will move inside to the Indigo East Community Center. This event is held every Friday from 5 to 8 p.m. and is free to Indigo East residents (\$5 per guest). You may bring your own chair, refreshments, and snacks.

Upcoming live entertainment is as follows:

- March 4: Crystal Vision
- March 11: David Beaty
- March 18: Rock Solid
- March 25: Dynamic Duo

Trivia Night*

Trivia is held on the second Monday of each month, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Indigo East Community Center. This month, trivia will take place Monday, March 14. The cost is \$3 per resident and \$5 per guest. The game is played with eight-person teams that compete for prizes and bragging rights. You are welcome to bring your favorite drink and snack.

Karaoke

Karaoke is held on the third Thursday of the month, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Indigo East Community Center. This month, karaoke takes place Thursday, March 17. Residents and guests are encouraged to sing solo or in groups. Bring your neighbors and friends. This is a free event for Indigo East residents and \$5 per guest.

Social Hour

Come socialize in the Indigo East Community Center Wednesday, March 23, from 5 to 7 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by The Mudds. Bring your beverage of choice and enjoy light hors d'oeuvres (while supplies last). This event is free for Indigo East residents and \$5 per guest with a resident.

Name That Tune*

Name That Tune is held on the fourth Monday of each month from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Indigo East Community Center. This month, join us Monday, March 28. Eight-person teams compete for prizes. Cost is \$3 per resident and \$5 per guest. You are welcome to bring beverages and

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It's hard to believe that spring is just a few weeks away, and warmer temperatures will follow. Let's continue to be mindful of each other and adhere to safety protocols – sanitize/wash your hands often, wear a face mask when possible, and remain at a safe distance when socializing. We want you and our staff safe and healthy!

Don't forget that Sunday, March 13 is daylight saving time so you will be moving those clocks ahead one hour. We also have St. Patrick's Day right around the corner on Thursday, March 17. Stop by the Recreation Center downstairs lobby as we have our St. Patrick's Day tree decorated for a bit of good luck fortune to come your way! Rub the leprechaun.

Tropic Trivia Night*

Tropic Trivia has exploded with everyone ready for mind-boggling challenges and takes place the first Thursday of every month in the Recreation Center Ballroom. This event has become so popular that every month is sold out up through August.

To give everyone an opportunity to participate in future trivia nights, we will be starting a lottery for each month selecting 30 groups per month to participate. The first lottery will start in August for September trivia. Don't miss out on your teams' opportunity to participate. Stop by the Recreation Center office, and put your name on the lottery list for each upcoming month.

We will announce the participating teams on the third Monday of each month prior to the trivia night. Each team will be contacted by telephone, and they will have 48 hours to respond.

Please note that beverages, water bottles or cups are not permitted at trivia.

February

1: Factoids; 2: Firm; 3: 96th Street Bunch.

Social Hour

Come join us for a relaxing evening with friends and neighbors on Thursday, March 17, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. You will enjoy easy listening music as Saxman performs. A cash bar and light hors d'oeuvres will be provided (while supplies last). This is a free event.

Victory Casino*

An afternoon of gambling is

scheduled Wednesday, March 30, on the Victory Casino out of Port Canaveral, Florida. You'll enjoy bingo, entertainment, relaxation, live table games and over 600 of the latest slots. Dine in the Atlantic Café and receive free drinks while gaming. You will receive \$30 in qualified slot play that can be downloaded once you have played and received 12 points. Please note that a valid government-issued photo ID will be required to board. Cost is \$54 per person and includes transportation, boarding of the Victory Casino, buffet, and \$30 qualified slot play. Please note face masks are required on the vessel.

Tap Dance Classes*

Have some fun with tap instructor Penny Berton. No experience necessary. She will start with the basics, and you'll find yourself progressing quickly. Join the class, bring tap shoes (or hard-sole shoes), and awaken your love for tap.

There are currently two classes available on Tuesdays in the Recreation Center Ballroom: Intermediate (2:15 p.m.) and Advanced (1 p.m.).

Classes are \$20 per person for a 4-week class (monthly).

Ballroom Dance Lessons*

Butch Phillips teaches social ballroom dancing in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Singles are also welcome as we will rotate partners among all willing students. The three-week class is held on the second, third and fourth Wednesday of each month, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Cost is \$30 per resident per three-week class.

Classes include step description for leader and follower, including correct characteristic of dance with an emphasis on lead and follow skills and lots of practice to music. The classes are as follows: March–Rumba; April–Foxtrot; May–Cha-Cha, and June–Waltz.

Recreation Wine Social*

Join us for a relaxing afternoon with your friends and neighbors for great conversation, selections of house wines, and a variety of tasty snacks. This event will take place Thursday, March 31, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Tickets are \$12 per resident and \$15 per guest of a resident. Fresh Plates Creative Catering will present various selections of house wines. We will have live easy listening entertainment.

Happy Hour

Join us for Happy Hour every Friday in the Recreation Center Ballroom from 5 to 8 p.m. and outside at the pool pavilion.

The Cruise-In Happy Hour will

resume Friday, March 18 and then every third Friday of each month through May. It will be held on the Recreation Center front lawn. So, join us outside, bring lawn chairs and come enjoy live entertainment as well as viewing the showcase of cars that will be on display by many of our residents. Fresh Plates Creative Catering will have a tent selling beer, wine, bratwursts, hot dogs, and hamburgers. Come out and enjoy an evening with friends and neighbors. (Please note during inclement weather the car show will be cancelled and Happy Hour will move inside the Recreation Center Ballroom.) The entertainment lineup is as follows:

- March 4: Rear View Mirror (Ballroom); Take 2 (Pavilion).
- March 11: Boot Leggers (Ballroom); Nathan Leslie (Pavilion).
- March 18: Dave Shepard Band (Front Lawn); Kurtis Mae (Pavilion).
- March 25: Automatic (Ballroom); Jo Jo (Pavilion).

Individual resident IDs will be required for entry into Happy Hour; anyone not producing a resident ID will be considered a guest and guest fees are \$5 per person. Children under the age of 15 will not be permitted to Happy Hour.

Please note that no outside beverages of any kind will be allowed into Happy Hour.

Poolside Entertainment

We will now have poolside entertainment at the following pavilions:

- Sunday, March 6: Mike the Band (Recreation Center), 1 to 4 p.m.
- Friday, March 11: Retro Express (Weybourne Landing), 3 to 6 p.m.

Open Mic Night

Nick and Fred are back for an Open Mic Night Tuesday, March 29! This event occurs in any month with a fifth Tuesday. Bring your instrument and play your favorite song with the entertainers or if you can carry a tune sing with the band. It will be a lot of fun socializing and dancing with your friends and neighbors. The event will be held in the Recreation Center Ballroom from 5 to 8 p.m. This is a free event. Please note beverages and coolers are not permitted. The Pub will be open for beverage purchases.

Pickleball Courts

We are excited to announce that the Weybourne Landing and Recreation Center pickleball courts are now open.



Weybourne Landing has two permanent and four temporary pickleball courts and one tennis court. The Recreation Center has 11 new pickleball courts making a total of 23 courts at the Recreation Center. Please note courts one through 12 and 16 through 23 are designated league pickleball play with assigned times. Courts 13 through 15 are open pickleball play for all residents at the Recreation Center. League play time is posted on the bulletin boards by the courts.

Community Updates

We are now accepting 2023 room request bookings.

Going forward, all resident clubs and organizations requiring printed flyers and tickets will be charged \$5 per request. This fee includes professionally designed artwork and a maximum of 200 printed flyers and tickets (if needed).

Stay in the Know

Additional event/trip details are available at OTOWInfo.com by clicking "Activity Info" then "Virtual Bulletin Board" (or scan the QR code below), the Recreation & Wellness Connections catalog, or pick up a printed flyer at the Recreation Center. Please also refer to the monthly event calendar (home delivered with every issue of the World News).

*To register, call (352) 854-8707 x7498 or x7533. Payment is required at time of registration. No refunds will be issued 14 days or fewer prior to any event or trip. Events and activities that take place behind the gates of On Top of the World are for residents only.

ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala

REPLACEMENT CAR DECALS
Bring your car, resident ID, auto registration and \$10.

Resident Services
8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday
No decals issued during inclement weather.
Closes at noon for 30-50 minutes for 30 minutes of sanitizing.

On Top of the World BUS SCHEDULE
Monday - Thursday

MORNING ROUTE	PICK-UP LOCATIONS	TIME
The Lodge at Candler Hills	SW 87th Cir	8:35 a.m.
Providence	91st Cir. East - 91st Cir. West - Post Office	8:42 a.m.
Providence	90th St. - 92nd Pl. Rd. - 96th Ct. Rd. - 97th Cir	8:47 a.m.
Avalon Post Office	Parking Lot	8:51 a.m.
Windsor East	94th Pl. - 94th Lp.	8:55 a.m.
Windsor West	95th St. - 95th Lp.	8:58 a.m.
Crescent Ridge 1 & 2	97th Lane - Post Office - 99th Ave. - 96th St.	9:01 a.m.
Recreation Center	At Bus Stop Sign	9:04 a.m.
Americana Village	89th Ct. Rd. - Post Office - 85th Ter. Rd.	9:08 a.m.
Friendship Village	Post Office - 84th Ter. - 93rd St.	9:12 a.m.
Friendship Colony	83rd Ter. - 90th Pl. - 87th Ave. - 97th St.	9:16 a.m.
Friendship Park	97th St. - 94th Lane	9:20 a.m.
Friendship Village	89th Ct. Rd. - 92nd St.	9:22 a.m.
Friendship Colony	90th St. - Post Office	9:26 a.m.
Candler Hills Community Center	At Bus Stop Sign	9:31 a.m.
Indigo East Community Center	Parking Lot	Call one day in advance for pick-up
Weybourne Landing	Parking Lot	Call one day in advance for pick-up
Longleaf Ridge	Parking Lot	Call one day in advance for pick-up
Exit Community		9:36 a.m.

MORNING DESTINATIONS

Freedom Library	Ollie's	Arrival and pick-up times for morning destinations will vary according to the number of passengers. The bus driver will announce the pick-up time at each destination for that day.
Jasmine Square	Paddock Mall	
VA Hospital	Walmart	
Dillard's/Kohl's	Target	
Sam's Club	Hobby Lobby/Shady Oaks Shopping Center	
Home Depot	Gateway Plaza	

Return to On Top of the World to begin drop-off/pick-up for the afternoon run.

AFTERNOON ROUTE	PICK-UP LOCATIONS AND TIMES
The Lodge at Candler Hills	1:15 p.m. Candler Hills Community Center 1:20 p.m.
Friendship Colony Post Office	1:25 p.m. Providence Post Office 1:28 p.m.
Avalon Post Office	1:33 p.m. Crescent Ridge Post Office 1:38 p.m.
Recreation Center	1:43 p.m. Americana Post Office 1:49 p.m.
Friendship Post Office	1:54 p.m.

AFTERNOON DESTINATIONS

Friendship Center	Save A Lot	Arrival and pick-up times for afternoon destinations will vary according to the number of passengers. The bus driver will announce the pick-up time at each destination for that day.
Publix	Big Lots	
Walmart Neighborhood Market	Beall's & Dollar Tree	
ALDI/Lowe's	Walmart	

*All times are approximate

For information, call the Recreation Center at 352-854-8707 ext. 7530 or 7533

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One of the many fun clubs at the Club Fair.

Photo by Ray Cech

Club Fair

By Ray Cech
World News Writer

It was quite a chilly day in our community, Thursday, Jan. 27 — a great day to spend indoors. Many did just that by spending time in the Recreation Center and chatting with members and getting to know more about the many clubs at On Top of the World.

This year's Club Fair was represented by more than 40 clubs. If you never shot a round of pool, built a model airplane or stretched your brainpower over a game of chess, talking to club representatives at the Club Fair could have gotten you started. Speaking of brainpower, along with inventiveness, if you visited the R/C Flyers display, you would have seen two remote-controlled aircraft that were built using 3D printing — an amazing, new technology.

Strolling around the Recreation Center Ballroom, visiting with club members, you would understand how clubs contribute to the social and active foundation of our community. Clubs bring together neighbors of like interests. Whether of-

fering sporting activities, outdoor events or intellectual stimulation, they can be a vital part of our everyday life.

As the Club Fair shuttered, many of the visitors, along with club members gathered at The Pub. This writer joined them, and over a brew and dangerously delicious burger, listened to conversations that included tap-dancing, how to adopt a pet, and the joy of hitting the bulls-eye using a bow and arrow. And, of course, from a few post-play golfers, there was the usual, "Can't believe I missed that putt." It was an interesting and convivial lunch that topped off a morning spent with so many movers and shakers from On Top of the World.

For meeting locations and times, check out the club schedule insert in this and every issue of the World News. Or read the World News from front to back with columns written by so many of the clubs at On Top of the World. If you see what you like and want to learn more, get in touch.

Changing Lives, One Month at a Time

By Anna McGonigal

Indulge me as I once again praise the generosity of the members of Women of the World. The charity for February was Tools 4 Teaching. Members filled three large tables with all sorts of supplies teachers need for their students. Rebecca Cherry, spokesperson for Tools 4 Teaching, said that we overflowed their store with supplies and when the teachers return to school they will be over the moon with happiness. Without these donations teachers would probably have to purchase the supplies with their own money.

A special shout out goes out to Maureen Jezek for her bighearted donation to Operation Shoebox. Maureen paid for a pallet of donations to be shipped overseas to our soldiers. One pallet can cost between \$1,500 to \$1,700; thank you, Maureen. Sandy Selensky read a beautiful thank you note from a sergeant from Wisconsin currently stationed in the Middle East. One package of donations went to six countries and 300 soldiers.

The members thoroughly enjoyed a flower arranging demonstration by Kristen Lindell. Kristen is a professional florist with over 20 years' experience, which included not only putting together flower arrangements but teaching the art of arranging flowers into beautiful

pieces. What Kristen can do with flowers purchased from Publix is nothing short of phenomenal. She arranged two gorgeous vases for the members and brought along four more vases that were raffled off. One member won a huge silk piece that was worth close to \$300 retail.

Women of the World now has a historian, Janet Smith, who will document our club's history through pictures and articles. Thanks to Janet for preserving our club's history.

Women of the World also has an informational technology director, Colleen Rocafort. Colleen will support our Facebook group page and email lists with technical issues we encounter.

There is no membership meeting in March as we have our annual Fashion Show Wednesday, March 16. The Fashion Show will truly be the event of the year. We have approximately 70 baskets for the silent auction. Freda Klump, from the Art Group, donated several pieces from the group for the auction. All proceeds from the auction will go directly to Hospice of Marion County, our designated charity for March.

Our next meeting is Friday, April 1 and our charity is SPCA of Marion County. All pet food donations are requested to have been made in the USA. Pet treats and toys are accept-



Photo by Lee White

Maureen Jezek's generosity paid for an entire pallet of donations to be shipped overseas to our soldiers.

able for donation. The speaker will be from UF/IFAS Marion County Master Gardeners about "Florida-Friendly Landscaping."

Then our meeting Friday, May 6, will support Stuff the Bus. Dona-

tions of backpacks, binders, pencils, composition books and children's scissors will be accepted. The speaker is Fitness Director Cammy Dennis from The Ranch Fitness Center & Spa.

Rhode Islanders Gather

By Judy Parisi

The Rhode Island Group met in January for lunch at Sammy's Italian Restaurant & Pizza. It was great to get together to meet new mem-

bers and catch up with existing ones. As usual, the food was delicious; although we all agreed that nothing can match the food from



Photo by Judy Parisi

Rhode Island Group luncheon.

Rhode Island, the Italian delicacies, or seafood offerings. We talked about one of the restaurants that had been in Rhode Island called Custy's. It closed many years ago but was remembered for its amazing all-you-can-eat lobster buffet. Custy's was in North Kingston near Quonset Point.

Many areas over the years have reinvented themselves to deal with shifts in the economy. Quonset Point was one of those areas. Once known as Camp Dyer, it was commissioned in 1941 as Naval Air Station Quonset Point. Adjacent to this area was Camp Endicott at Davisville, the home of the Naval Construction Battalions known as the Seabees. Quonset was a major naval facility during World War II and well into the Cold War, serving as home to numerous aviation squadrons and carrier-based anti-submarine and airborne early warning squadrons. It was also the off-season home of Antarctic Development Squadron, and home to a major aircraft overhaul and repair facility.

Quonset Point gave its name to the Quonset hut, a standardized temporary structure developed by the Seabees and used by the military starting in World War II.

Quonset was decommissioned in

1974 as part of a series of defense cutbacks; however it does remain home to the Rhode Island Air National Guard and Army National Guard. A general aviation airport — Quonset State Airport — remains, but there is no scheduled airline service on its two active runways. When Air Force One flies in, it lands at Quonset due to the length of the runways.

When Quonset was decommissioned, the economic situation in the area initially suffered. The state and business community turned this around, catapulting the area to one of the premier business parks in New England by leveraging off its port, rail, road and air facilities. It is home to nearly 200 businesses including the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics which is involved in submarine construction. The Port of Davisville at Quonset is one of the top 10 auto importers in North America.

Our Rhode Island Group will meet again for lunch in late April. If you worked, lived, or served in Rhode Island or are the spouse of someone that did and would like to join with us, please email your contact information to judith.parisi@gmail.com and we'll add you to the email list.



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Photo by Ron Broman

Where in the world is this tree (before the freeze)?

Native Plant Group

Ron Broman



As we pen this epistle, this year's first real southern winter weather has descended on us and then disappeared as if it never happened. The freeze lasted several hours here and depending on several factors, the plants showed the effects. Deciduous trees have lost their leaves and their flowers have not yet gotten started, so the effects don't seem to be apparent. However, the chill did its work on some of the so-called evergreens. Blossoms on the branches of "our" where in the world tree, that vied to be the first blush of spring, paid the price - some of them.

How certain inflorescens survive the cold and others don't is a mystery to me. But so is most of life.

Where in On Top of the World is this tree growing and what is she? You may have her in your yard or close by. This one, though, is very young, not even a teenager. She is sheltered by probably her mother of 21 years. We know that because - but that would be giving away too much of a hint.

Enough to say that she's quite at home with at least 70 other plants native to this part of Florida.

If you care to give yourself a challenge, you might search a bit for her botanical name. A few facts about her intrigue me. Perhaps you too might find them interesting.

She is a small deciduous tree, usually no more than 20- to 30-feet tall. "Mom" has reached at least 40-feet. Her heart-shaped leaves make her an especially appropriate choice for February. Unlike most trees, her light pink to magenta flowers appear in dense clusters before her leaves. Lastly, for now, folks all the way from Michigan and New York, through Nebraska and Iowa, then central Florida and all the way to Mexico are blessed by her beauty.

By the way, last month's candidate for where in the world was the Tampa verbena, *Glandularia tamensis*, growing within 50 yards of this month's candidate.

Enough. Where is our mystery tree blooming now? What is she? When you think you know, call 352-861-4560. (Remember the 352.) A small Florida native awaits.

Join us in the Native Plant Group as we continue to maintain our projects. Call the above number for details. Growing native is great!

Birders' Beat

Debbie Sherer



The Birding Group will travel to Silver Springs State Park Thursday, March 24. The leader for this trip will be Norm Lantz, a resident bird expert.

Silver Springs State Park has an interesting history that dates from the early 1800s. Before pioneers settled in Florida, the Timucuan Indians lived around the Silver River and named the area, Ocali. In 1985, the State of Florida purchased 5,000 acres of undeveloped land around Silver Springs to spare this area from commercial use that would limit recreational and wildlife usage.

Silver Springs State Park has an abundance of wildlife. Wildlife species that have been seen in the park are nine-banded armadillos, white-tailed deer, wild boars, turkeys, alligators, gopher tortoises, coyotes, bobcats, Florida black bears and many bird species. The eBird database lists 38 species of birds identified by birders in the park in January 2022. In 2021, 159 different bird species were identified by birders in the park.

Some of the bird species iden-

tified in the park in 2021 were: red-bellied woodpecker, pileated woodpecker, blue-headed vireo, ruby-crowned kinglet, brown-headed nuthatch, yellow-throated warbler, anhinga, hermit thrush, cedar waxwing, bald eagle, yellow-bellied sapsucker, wood stork, double-crested cormorant, and osprey.

Diving and dabbling ducks, raptors, game birds, woodpeckers, vireos, jays, crows, chickadees and nuthatches, wrens, thrushes, waxwings, cardinals, warblers, herons, vultures, and osprey are some of the types of birds that may be seen in the park.

The Birding Group has selected the restaurant, Eggs Over Farmhouse Kitchen, for lunch to provide some time to relax, discuss the trip and enjoy the local cuisine of the area. You will be provided with directions to Silver Springs State Park and the chosen restaurant on the day of the trip.

If you are interested in accompanying us on this trip, please contact Margitta Claterbos (mclaterbos@gmail.com). We plan to leave at 7:45 a.m. on March 24, from the parking lot of Friendship Center just outside the SW 99th Street On Top of the World gate. Please park your vehicle near Bank OZK but not in front of the bank. The best place to park is by the hedges on the side of the bank.



Photo by Nancy Stephens

Male and female mallards.



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- Residency:** Doheny Eye Institute, Los Angeles, CA
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Computer Club

Chris Kilbride



Every Saturday at 9 a.m. the Computer Club meets for an hour via Zoom. We discuss PC and Apple issues regarding software and hardware. Our otowpcclub.org website will give lots of great information about our group.

Many people are saving money by deleting a home landline expense. When upgrading to a new smartphone, how much phone do you need? Your smartphone has both Wi-Fi and cellular capabilities, with a variety of data plans available.

When purchasing a new smartphone, think screen size since our eyes are getting older and tiny

screens just don't cut it when trying to read or view anything of interest. If you choose the larger size, it can even be used as a mini tablet. The smartphone lets you establish two-factor authentication to prove who you are when doing online banking or shopping. When buying an older model, review how long you'll get the latest software and security updates, which limits the phone's lifespan.

What computer or tablet do you use, or plan to use? Think either Apple or Android, as the smartphone coordinates with your other devices. For example, iPhone, iPad and any Apple computer can share photos, email, messages, documents, and more.

What type of photos do you take? Think camera size since the latest smartphones range from simple cameras to take photos, scan documents, multiple lens to do portraits,

and even shoot a movie.

Analyze the storage you'll need. It is best to get the mid-range or higher capacity, since you'll have the phone for the next few years, apps will get larger, and your interests may change. Remember that photos and videos take up lots of storage space. You must buy it right the first time because you can't switch out the smartphone storage later. When you purchase the newest or last year's model, don't just think of the initial cost, but in terms of getting the best security and technology that will take you into the future.

Your smartphone is a small but real computer in your pocket. It's your own personal assistant. You can get on the internet to search and shop, review your email and daily calendar, find the weather, share photos, and get maps with verbal driving instructions. Listen

to music, keep in touch with messages, use your fitness and health apps, and even watch movies! I almost forgot; you can make phone calls too!

Residents are welcome to join our club, with \$10 individual yearly dues or \$15 per couple. The Contact page on otowpcclub.org or email otowpcclub@gmail.com will get you in touch with us.

Each Thursday from 9 to 10 a.m., members enjoy in-person help sessions in the Hobby Building or online one-on-one instruction, discussing their PC or Apple computer, smartphone, or tablet issues. Members may list on our website any computer-related hardware for sale or to give away.

We keep the meeting fun and offer suggestions and possible solutions to help our members.

Tech Tips

Shane Bobson

info@mybridgenet.com



What is Wi-Fi Calling?

Wi-Fi calling uses your household Wi-Fi network connection to complete calls whenever cellular signals are weak or disrupted. Once activated, the connection is seamless, and does not require any codes or passwords, however sometimes a call to your phone provider to initialize the function is necessary. If you are an Apple user, for example, simply go to Settings >Phone>Wi-Fi-Calling and toggle the slider to

green. Click on "Enable Wi-Fi Calling" and now that setup is complete; your phone will engage the function the next time it connects to a Wi-Fi network.

Wi-Fi calling works like a Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) device or an application like Skype, What's App, or Messenger. While Wi-Fi calling is enabled, you can make phone calls and send messages from your cellular phone without using your carrier's network, which often will allow you to avoid incurring the usual charges on your cell/data plan. Since you are on a more robust connection on your Wi-Fi network compared to your carriers, call quality will also be superior especially in the well-insulated homes built in On Top of the World, or in homes in rural lo-

cations. A downside to Wi-Fi calling is that if there is interference or a lot of congestion on your Wi-Fi network it will affect your call quality or your ability to make calls.

If Wi-Fi calling still is not working for you or is not an option, you

can always get a full VOIP landline connection through Bridgenet Communications. We will install an analog telephone adapter (ATA) that will allow any standard home phone to work over your internet connection.

What's Cookin'?

Elaine Morrison



Taking a dip is always pleasant when the temperature is high, and the dipping place is cool. Conversely, making a warm dip when the weather is cool might not be a bad idea right now. This warm spinach and artichoke dip is always a crowd pleaser, regardless of the weather.

Spinach and Artichoke Dip

- 2 large onions, sliced
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 ounces cream cheese, room temperature
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 9-ounce package frozen artichoke hearts, defrosted and drained
- 1 10-ounce package frozen chopped spinach, defrosted and drained
- 1-1/4 cups grated parmesan cheese, divided
- 1 baguette, diagonally sliced to 1/2-inch thickness and toasted

Heat the butter and olive oil in a large sauté pan and add the onions, cayenne pepper, 1 teaspoon of salt and 1/2 teaspoon pepper and sauté until browned and caramelized, about 20 minutes. Stir in the garlic and cook for one minute.

Beat together cream cheese, sour cream, and mayonnaise until smooth. Roughly cut the drained artichoke hearts and add, along with the drained spinach. Add the onion mixture and combine. Add 1/4 cup parmesan cheese and the remaining salt and pepper. Transfer to a casserole baking dish and top with the remaining parmesan cheese. Bake for 20 minutes in a preheated 400-degree oven until browned and bubbly. Serve warm with baguette slices.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly



Gail Hopper

Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) advocates healthy eating and moderate exercise to achieve weight loss and maintain it. TOPS is a weight-loss support group that's affordable and works. No fad diets or foods to buy in our program. Eat what you love and lose weight. As of September 2021, we are excited to offer two TOPS chapters here at On Top of the World.

-Mondays in the Hobby Building Art Room with weigh-in at 6 p.m.; meeting from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. with Linda Sisco (ljsisco@comcast.net).

-Tuesdays in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room with weigh-in at 9:15 a.m.; meeting from 10 to 11 a.m. with Gail Hopper (gailhopper@yahoo.com). Members must be residents, or if in Indigo East, have an active Gateway of Services pass. You can also find us on Facebook (OTOW TOPS).

From September through December, the Monday group lost a net of 116 pounds. The Tuesday group lost a net of 109 pounds. TOPS can work for you too.

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Only good news about the community, a club(s) or a resident(s) will be considered.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Humanists of North Central Florida (HNCFL)

WHO ARE WE?

- We are friends and neighbors who enjoy both gathering in homes and restaurants for good food and interesting conversation.
- We support local organizations that help people and animals.
- We attend enlightening lectures, cultural events and just hang out.
- We especially enjoy open minded people who value a respectful exchange of ideas.

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

Voices of Change Animal League • Humane Society of Marion County
Marion County Children's Alliance • Community with a Heart
RAMAL Educational and Social Services
Boys and Girls Clubs of Marion County • St. Pauls AME Food Pantry

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Genealogical Society

Peter Parisi



On Monday, Jan. 17, Thomas MacEntee gave a presentation on the 1950 U.S. census via Zoom. This census will be made public on Friday, April 1. Are you ready?

The U.S. Federal Census is mandated every 10 years by the U.S. Constitution to apportion seats in the House of Representatives. It was not created for genealogy purposes, but genealogists benefit greatly from the data.

The 1950 census is important because of the economic and social impact World War II had on the country. Some questions asked

were due to an economic recession in 1947, a post-war housing shortage with the soldiers returning home, many women who were employed to support the war effort leaving the paid workforce, and a shift in population from rural areas to the cities and suburbia.

This census was the first time that Americans living abroad, such as armed forces, ship crews and U.S. government employees living overseas were enumerated. The 1950 census covered 150 million residents across 45 million homes. Transients living in hotels were counted on April 11, 1950. Special "infant cards" were to be completed by enumerators for each child born from January 1 to March 31, 1950. Unfortunately, these cards were destroyed and never micro-filmed after the information was

tabulated for statistical purposes.

Besides the usual questions, such as street name, house number, was it a house or a farm, the names of the people living in the house, their relationship to the head of household, race, sex, age, the country the person was born in and if they were naturalized. Additional information was sought under marital status where it was asked if the person was separated from their spouse. Was the person working, and if so, how many hours per week, and if not, were they looking for work?

Genealogy services, such as Ancestry and Family Search, will take about six months to index the information on the 1950 census. If you want information before then, you will need to know the address of your ancestor on April 1, 1950, and use Steve Morse's website [steve-](http://steve-morse.org)

morse.org to find the enumeration district in which they lived to find the information on your ancestor.

If you are interested in joining the Genealogical Society, contact Wilma Kelly at otowgens@gmail.com. Dues are \$20 per year for an individual and \$35 for a couple.

Our meetings are at 10 a.m. the second and third Mondays of the month. Our meetings are both in person at the Hobby Building Event Room and via Zoom. Our club president, Paul Belter, will notify members by email on how to access Zoom.

On Monday, March 14, there will be a board meeting, followed by an open genealogy discussion.

On Monday, March 21, Sid Levine will give a presentation on using Findmygrave.com.

Visit us at otowgens.shutterfly.com.

Travel Toppers

Anne Parker



The Tampa Downs Racetrack trip Saturday, April 2, is wait list only. Tampa Bay Downs, the only thoroughbred racetrack on the west coast of Florida, is known as one of America's oldest and most well-maintained tracks. The price of \$58 per person includes the bus, tip for the driver, and a buffet lunch. If you would like to be placed on the wait list, please call Gail Ambrose at 954-614-0898 (9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday only).

We will travel to Mount Dora, Florida Saturday, April 23, with a

two-hour boat tour on Lake Dora and the Dora Canal. Shopping and lunch are on your own. The cost of the trip is \$60 per person. The price includes transportation, boat cruise, and tips for the bus driver and boat guides. The bus will depart On Top of the World at 9:30 a.m. and will return at approximately 5:45 p.m. Please call Linda Hein at 352-861-9880 to make a reservation (9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday only).

A trip to the Suncoast Broadway Dinner Theater is planned for Sunday, May 8. You will experience one of theatre's most legendary musical dramas - "Camelot." The play is set during the days of King Arthur and the knights of the round table when life is still magic. The cost is \$78 per person and includes transportation, tips, and your meal. Res-

ervations will be accepted beginning Monday, March 7, by calling Linda Wely-Cohen at 714-293-4514 (9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday only).

The Alaska adventure cruise and tour and Columbia and Snake River cruise are fully booked and are closed for reservations.

On Father's Day, Sunday, June 19, a trip is scheduled aboard the Barbara Lee on the St. Johns River. The cost will be \$80, which includes the bus, tip for the driver, and lunch. This trip is for residents and overnight guests only. Enjoy a three-hour luncheon cruise. Your meal is prepared fresh on board and served at your table. Choices are prime rib, chicken cordon bleu, salmon filet, roasted vegetable lasagna, chef's salad, or pasta primavera served with potatoes, vegeta-

bles, salad, rolls, and dessert. Hot and iced tea is included along with a cash bar. To make your reservation for this trip, please call Sharon Stetson at 207-848-4776 beginning Tuesday, April 5 (9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday only).

A brochure will no longer be published. The best way to get up-to-date information is to visit traveltopperstours.com. Information regarding our trips is also published in the Marion Citizen. If you have suggestions for future trips, please contact any officer. Their names and phone numbers are listed on the website under "Contacts."

All trips are only open to residents. Any non-residents who participate in trips must be a guest of a resident club member.

Tall Tale Travelers

David Cranmer



The Tall Tale Travelers RV Club is always welcoming new members and is open to all residents interested in the RV lifestyle. Whether you drive a motor home or a tow a camper - or you'd like to know more about RVing - please join us. Membership is free. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 16, from 3 to 4 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room.

Along with our monthly meetings, we have scheduled trips to RV resorts in Tampa, Brooksville, Ft. Myers Beach, as well as Savannah, Georgia. On these trips there are fun-filled activities at the resort as well as opportunities to enjoy local attractions. Throughout the year we enjoy informal camping trips to area campgrounds for special events.

For more information, contact club president, David Cranmer, at talltaletravellers@gmail.com or visit us on Facebook (Tall Tale Travelers).

OneBlood Bloodmobile

Sara Sommer



It was a great day Monday, Feb. 7, when two Big Red Buses came to the Recreation Center parking lot. The drive was a huge success with 56 units collected! That means we saved 162 lives! There are not enough superlatives to express how wonderful that was. Each donor re-

ceived a \$20 e-card and a t-shirt or blanket.

Remember the blood is needed before an emergency happens. Quite often the blood supply is very low. It may not be there when you or a loved one needs it. There is no substitute for human blood. One pint can save three lives. Please make a difference. The next visit of the Big Red Bus® will be Monday, April 4, from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will again have two buses. Let's stuff the buses. See you on the bus.

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Michigan Club



Nancy Meininger

On Sunday, March 6, at 5 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-III, the Michigan Club welcomes the ever so talented Dee Collier back for a repeat performance!

In full period costume, this articulate historian will walk us back through history to America's beginnings. Just two weeks after George Washington's birthday, Feb. 22, his wife Martha will walk in our midst and immerse us in the history of those bygone days.

This is a potluck meet and greet. Please bring your favorite Michigan casserole dish, vegetable, or dessert. If your name begins with O-Z bring a main dish; A-G a vegetable

dish; and H-N a dessert.

Our February speaker, Pat Gabriel, brought us a great deal of insight on the growth in this area. She described hundreds of apartments and townhouses along SW 80th Avenue and along SR200 and a new single-family subdivision being built on SW 60th Avenue near the post office. She also told us about a shopping center near the airport and a new UF Veterinary Hospital at the World Equestrian Center.

Coming soon is our annual Coney Island barbeque salute to the opening of baseball season. We have reserved the pavilion near the softball field for Sunday, April 3. Tickets are \$5 per person and will be available at the March meeting. There will be a potluck sign up for this meeting.

Michigan Club is open to all residents with any ties to Michigan. Please call Nancy Meininger for more information at 352-342-9757.



Pat Gabriel, president of the SR200 Coalition, spoke on the extraordinary growth in Ocala.

Photo by Nancy Meininger

Lions Club



Gail Morris

The party is over and from all accounts the Tacky Tea fundraiser was a blast! The ladies (and some gentlemen) were very creative in designing some outstanding hats. The judges had a very difficult time choosing the winners for each category. Technical difficulties at the time of submitting this column prevented me from including pictures of our winners. I will submit them for the next publication.

Most Creative Hat

1: Beth Vaudo; 2: Kristen Lindell; 3: Linda Thomas.

Fanciest Hat

1: Jan Lindell; 2: Linda Malave; 3: Colleen Skeffington.

Tackiest Hat

1: Rena Saiter; 2: Sue Lingner.

All participants did an amazing job with their hats. Thank you for supporting this event.

Our judges were Deliah Garcia, manager at Walmart (Silver Springs

Boulevard); Joshue McAdams, manager at Walmart Neighborhood Market; and Carrie Brown, operations manager at Walmart Neighborhood Market. They had a hard task but did a great job.

We would like to thank our major sponsors, who without their support we would not be able to help the many children and veterans in need. Dr. Paul Urban, Clay Timmer, Walmart (Silver Springs Boulevard), Walmart Neighborhood Market, Walmart (SR200) and Walmart (Summerfield).

Our food sponsors did a great job making our Tacky Tea a tasteful success - hoagies from Wawa; macaroni and cheese from Southern Pig & Cattle Co.; bags of chips from Frito Lay; chicken salad from Chicken Salad Chick; mini cupcakes from Betty Cakes and Publix at Canopy Oak; and tea from Fresh Plates Creative Catering.

Our table sponsors were Dawn Perinchief with Home Team Realty and Colleen Skeffington with Keller Williams Realty. We would also like to thank the following generous merchants for their gift cards which went on the beautiful basket created by our member, Charlie Hassett,

with donations from members of the club. Our gift cards were provided by the following merchants: Breakfast Station, Hair to Impress, Millers Ale House, Publix, Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen, Piesanos, Pie-O-Mine, Bob Evans, Soapy's Car Wash and Wendy's. When you redeem your card, please thank them for their generosity.

To the members of the Lions Club, your dedication and support made this event one of our best.

Thank you for your support and dedication to helping other less fortunate.

A big thanks to all who attended this fun event; without your support we'd be less successful.

Our meetings are the second and fourth Tuesday of each month in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room at 5 p.m. If you would like further information, you can contact Estelle Michelson, membership chair, at 352-861-7358.

The Jewish Club



Nancy Meininger

Jewish Club members - get ready to party! It's time for our annual celebration of Purim, Sunday, March 20, at 12:30 p.m. at The Lodge at Candler Hills.

This year's party has a bit of a different twist. You can still dress up as Esther, the Persian queen, Mordecai, evil Haman ... or you can choose to be Wonder Woman, Superman, or a zombie. Yes, there will be prizes and no doubt it will

be fun!

If you have not renewed your membership for 2022, please come at noon and bring your resident ID and \$18 for each membership (good through January 2023).

Please make a note not to miss our teaching seder for Passover, Sunday April 10, at 12:30 p.m. at The Lodge at Candler Hills. Join us in reading the Haggadah and sharing memories of holidays past.

The Jewish Club is open to all residents no matter what religious affiliation. It is a social club designed to share our cultural and religious heritage with others.

For more information, contact Rick Carel at 352-316-9946.

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Gene Wolotsky tells the Jewish Club about a Jewish moment in time.

Photo by Nancy Meininger

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Southern Club



Melanie Vittitow

If you missed our February meeting, you missed a great show. We were entertained by the professional duo Primetime Entertainment. Linda and Bill Sisco moved to On Top of the World last year and brought their act to Central Florida. Linda is the singer and performer, and Bill is her manager, DJ, and in charge of the music equipment. They put on quite a show. She sang songs from the music that we know and love. She even got a few of us up there as her back-up group for "These Boots Are Made for Walking." Thank you, Bill and Linda, for an enjoyable evening.

The Southern Club is a social group that meets on the first Tues-

day of the month for a potluck dinner followed by either a speaker or entertainment. We welcome all residents because you became a southerner when you moved to Florida. Our meeting takes place in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-III. We just changed our meeting time to 5:30 p.m. to accommodate the set-up schedule. We ask people to come between 5 and 5:30 p.m. to find a place to sit, get your drinks, and have time to socialize before dinner. The club furnishes coffee, tea, lemonade, ice, and cups. You bring a potluck dish to share, plates, and eating utensils.

Dues are normally \$10 per person for the year, but since the club year is half over, you can join for the bargain price of \$5 each! Our next meeting/dinner will be on Tuesday, April 5.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about the Southern Club, feel free to call me at 352-873-8690.

Pennsylvania Club



Lacinda Hobbs

As St. Patrick's Day approaches, let's examine Irish immigration to Pennsylvania and its contribution. The first Irish immigrants arrived in 1682 in the first ship that brought William Penn's Quakers. Many were lured by promises of cheap land and religious freedom.

From 1790 to 1815, British restrictions limited immigration. In 1817, the Erie Canal project began. Restrictions were lifted and thousands of young Irish men flocked to the work.

The great potato famine changed the face of Irish immigration. From 1850 to the 20th century, females outnumbered male immigrants.

Irish immigrants took on some of the toughest jobs such as coal miners, canal diggers, iron smelters, and railroad builders. Their hard work contributed to the industrialization of Pennsylvania and the rest of the United States.

Irish Americans formed strong community supports such as churches, parochial schools, universities, and social groups. Some famous Pennsylvania Irish contributions are Grace Kelly, Gene Kelly, John O'Hara, Villanova University, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

The Pennsylvania Club met in February and enjoyed a potluck dinner and Pennsylvania trivia game. Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 9, with a St. Patrick's Day theme with corned beef and cabbage for dinner at 5 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios. Come join us.

SPCA of Marion County



Kathy Tilghman Kluge

On Thursday, Jan. 20, the SPCA of Marion County held their monthly meeting. Here's a list of some new officers and board members:

Melanie Vittitow, president; Pam Rozmenoski, vice president; Connie Robinson, treasurer; Paulette Bourgon, secretary; Colleen Fuhs, membership; Dawn Case, foster chairperson; Evelyn Holiday, telephone; Kathy Kluge, publicity; Kim Grieb, Meals on Wheels; and Camille Esposito, Farmers Market (Marcia VanDaele assisting with supplies).

Congratulations to all the newly elected officers and others remaining in their current positions!

There was good news on the foster and adoption fronts. We found homes for two older dogs (Jackie, a shepherd mix, went to a new foster mom. The Maltese mix, Mimi, is currently being fostered. Adoptions are in process for both dogs). A stray yorkie we named Princess was also found, and after receiving needed medical attention is now with her foster mom. We were also asked to help a purebred boxer pup that is being fostered by a friend of an SPCA member. Asti, a 15-year-old yorkie, was adopted by a nice

man in Dunnellon and Susie Que, a young lab, was adopted by her foster mom in December 2021.

There are still two cats ready for adoption, but we cannot accept additional cats at this time. We get calls daily from people needing to re-home a cat or dog. SPCA members help with this but if anyone reading this can help, please call the number at the bottom of this column.

And good news on the donation front as well! The January Club Fair was a hit where we accepted many monetary donations. In addition, many people made generous donations to us in the name of Betty White, who was a lifelong animal advocate. Thanks to all who support us and continue to support us.

The SPCA of Marion County has a table at the Circle Square Commons Farmers Market every Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., where monetary and other pet supply donations can be dropped off. The table is there every Thursday except the third one of each month when we have our meetings.

Our meetings are held at one p.m. at Friendship Baptist Church, 9510 SW 105th Street.

If you want more information about being a foster or adopting a pet, call the SPCA at 352-362-0985. Also, if you have a pet in need, please contact us. For more information, visit SPCAofMarionCounty.weebly.com.

Texas Connection Social Club



Kathy Cornell

Texans are known for their love of football. Because our February meeting date fell on Super Bowl Sunday it made sense to skip that night. Even if there weren't any Texas teams vying for the big championship, we knew that many in our group would likely be watching the game.

Our next meeting is Sunday, March 13, in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II with horse racing and other fun stuff. Meeting will begin at 6 p.m. Feel

free to arrive any time after 5:30 p.m. Please bring a snack to share, your own beverage and dollar bills for betting.

Texas Connection is a club for residents who have a connection to Texas by being born and/or raised there; living there for work, college or military service; spending time there for vacation, competitions, or for professional reasons; or having family living there. Spouses or partners who haven't been to Texas are considered honorary Texans by association. We have a great group of folks who are ready to welcome you and share our Texas hospitality and fun-loving spirits.

For more information about the club contact Kathy Cornell at 352-300-3729, 352-562-2801 or kcornell54@cfl.rr.com.

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Active Singles Club

Eileen Marden



Here we are; another March and spring has come again. Our members can get outside and begin to participate in scheduled activities. New members are always welcome and can sign up anytime at our regular meetings held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. This month our meeting is at the Indigo East Community Center, Wednesday, March 16. To join our club, you will need to complete an application, pay dues of \$20 and show a valid resident ID.

Active Singles has several planned events on the agenda for March in addition to the schedule below. These can be found on our new website - otowactivesinglesclub.com.

Active Singles holds regular play every Wednesday for bocce at the bocce courts at The Arbors, currently at 4 p.m. Watch for time changes as the days become warmer.

New players are always needed and appreciated for wallyball at the Recreation Center lower-level enclosed court, at 1 p.m., Saturdays. Bocce and wallyball have great members who will help with rules and guidance for those just learning to play. No experience needed; tennis shoes are required, and a valid Gateway of Services pass is required for Indigo East.

The second Tuesday of every month is game night at Candler Hills Community Center, from 6 to 8 p.m. Bring a game you enjoy or play someone else's. It's always a fun night.

Don't forget to come to our monthly happy hour now taking place the third Tuesday of the month in the Indigo East Community Center. Bring your own favorite alcoholic drink. Following happy hour, many members travel to The Club at Candler Hills for dinner.

The 9-hole scramble is held the third Thursday of every month (weather permitting). Please see our events calendar for fees and other details. This month it takes place March 17.

Active Singles has grown to one of the larger clubs in the community. Our motto remains, "We may be single, but we are not alone."

Scandinavian American Club

David Wesenberg



The Scandinavian American Club honored long time members Arnold and Gracie and Norman and Jennie Halverson at its January meeting.

This meeting was a chance to get re-acquainted with each other and new leadership from Linda Pinney

as president of the club. We had a lovely dinner and good Scandinavian fellowship, welcoming everyone new and old.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 22, in Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios III-IV from 1 to 3 pm.

The club is entirely self-supported through its 50/50 raffle each meeting so there are no dues. Contact Linda Pinney at luckypinney@gmail.com or 831-431-0525 about joining us.



Scandinavian American Club long time members.

SWANS

Sandi Dickerson



Single Women's Active Networking System (SWANS) was established for single women in 2006. Our motto has always been "SWANS are never alone." We actively support each other during times of need and enjoy life through our many social events. We have a wonderful mix of women who get along very

well and have lots of fun together.

Our table at the Lions Club "Tacky Tea" fundraiser and luncheon was lots of fun! We had eight ladies at the table. Our own Kristin Lindell created the first-place hats in two categories and second place in the third category. Kristen created a beautiful purple hat for her mother, Jan, which won first place in the most beautiful category. It was very fancy with lots of bows and flowers. She also made Rena Saiter's hat which won first place in the tackiest hat category. This hat was made of toilet paper, a nod to an inside joke among the SWANS who went to Daytona Beach in November! Even the white flowers adorning the hat were made of toilet paper! Kristen's hat won second place in the most creative. It was a flamingo hat with beach scenes around the brim and flashing lights. It included palm trees, a lounge chair, and a pebble beach with a flamingo sitting on top. So cute and creative!

Kristin is a very welcome new member of the SWANS. Kristen also did a wonderful flower arranging demonstration at the February Women of the World meeting. We are glad to see that she is getting so involved here at On Top of the World!

We continue to meet Saturdays to play cards. The book club continues to meet, as well as our appetizer-and dinner-in groups. Carol and Renee hosted our February breakfast out at Keke's while Rosemarie and Kathy hosted our February lunch out with groups at Southern Pig & Cattle Co. Thanks to all these ladies who volunteered to host. Without you, these small excursions would not happen! Keep it up, ladies! We will also have several new trips and activities coming up soon.

Our group's sole purpose is to make sure the single women in On Top of the World are never alone in this journey. Our semi-annual meeting will be Saturday, March 5, at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II at 10 am. At this time, we will be signing up to join new appetizer- and dinner-in groups. Also, this is when our members can sign up to host our breakfast- and lunch-out groups. Lois will also have all the information about any trips and/or special events members will be arranging. It is also a good time to catch up with friends we haven't seen in a while and make new ones. Any ladies interested in becoming a member of the SWANS must attend this meeting. Call Lois Nix for more information.

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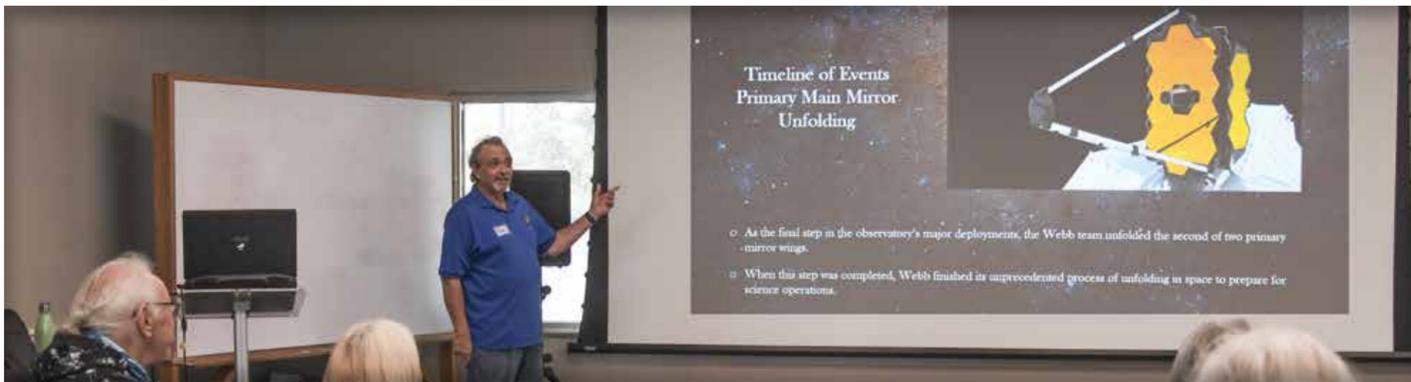


Photo by Jim Di Paolo

Astronomy Club President Jim Di Paolo presents about the James Webb Space Telescope.

Moonstruck Astronomy Club

Jim Shuman



The Moonstruck Astronomy Club held its monthly meeting Thursday, Feb. 10. Club President Jim Di Paolo began by announcing the next NASA webinar, followed by his update on the activity of the Perseverance Rover on Mars throughout 2021.

He then gave his highly anticipated presentation on the James Webb Space Telescope, which was launched Dec. 25, 2021, and reached its final orbital position a million miles from Earth a month later on Jan. 24. Utilizing photos and videos from NASA to augment his own research, Di Paolo explained how the new telescope is among the most complicated engineering challenges ever accomplished by NASA and its partners - the European Space Agency, the Canadian Space Agency, Northrop-Grumman Corporation, and the Space Telescope Science Institute, which will operate the telescope once it begins observational astronomy.

Di Paolo stated that the James Webb Space Telescope's launch in December 2021, followed by the many steps that controlled the unfolding of the origami-like telescope after launch, have been both remarkable and heralded throughout the world. It will still take six more months for NASA technicians to assure that the telescope has cooled down to the temperature of space (-380 degrees Fahrenheit!) and then calibrated to focus each of its 18 mirrors perfectly on the elec-

tronic receiver at its core.

Once all this is accomplished, images from the telescope can be transmitted back to Earth for years to come, providing astronomers with new data to understand our solar system, our galaxy, and the universe more fully.

Following Di Paolo's presentation, John Bridges provided members with his overview of the February night skies, showing positions of the moon, planets, international space station, and celestial objects of interest throughout the month. He highlighted details about ways club members can watch for the appearance of the International Space Station on evenings it will be particularly bright as it passes overhead.

Di Paolo concluded the meeting by reminding club members to watch for emails announcing more evening observation sessions and telescope operation clinics in the coming weeks and months. Observation sessions could be held on any evening that weather conditions allow for an open sky and club members are willing to set up their telescopes to share observations. Members are welcome to arrive and stay as long as they wish throughout the observation evenings. All sessions are held in the R/C flying field adjacent to the R/C car track.

Regular meetings of the Moonstruck Astronomy Club are on the second Thursday of every month from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. All residents can join the club, and new members are welcome! Yearly club dues are only \$15, and they include a subscription to the quarterly Reflector Magazine. Indigo East residents require a Gateway of Services pass.

For information or club registra-

tion, please contact President Jim Di Paolo at moonastroclub@gmail.com. More information is always

available at moonstruckastronomy-club.org.

R/C LadyBirds

Linda Lohr



The R/C LadyBirds held a birthday party in February. This party was to celebrate anyone having a birthday during the year! There was a cake and a small surprise for all in attendance.

Discussions were held to identify

what events we would like to participate in during the coming year, and dues of \$10 were collected.

Our club is open to all wives and significant others of the R/C Flyers. We meet the second Friday of each month (September through May), at 10 a.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. Please bring your choice of beverage, and join us! Our dues are \$10 per year. We are working on setting up adventures and guests for the coming year!



Photo by Linda Lohr

Model Railroaders president, Jim Lynam, explaining parts of the layout to the R/C LadyBirds in January.

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Photo by The TerraMar Project

The Great Blue Hole, located off the coast of Belize.

World Traveler

Bill Shampine



In 2012, the Discovery Channel ranked the Great Blue Hole, located off the coast of Belize, as number one on its list of "The 10 Most Amazing Places on Earth." It truly is an extraordinary sight. Living in Florida, we all are familiar with sinkholes. The limestone underlying all of Florida is relatively porous, with many caves and open channels. Under the right circumstances of the depth of some of these underground openings and the amount and level of the water in the limestone, the weight of the rock above, such an underground opening may collapse, leaving a big hole on the land surface. This is a sinkhole.

The Great Blue Hole simply is a sinkhole now in the ocean that occurred on a land mass thousands of years ago when that land was well above sea level. The hole is circular, 1,043 feet wide, and 410 feet deep. It formed in at least four stages starting about 150,000 years ago when sea levels were much lower and most of this area was 400 or more feet above sea level.

"How can you know all of this stuff," I heard someone ask. Scientists know this stuff because divers have found ledges at four different depths and submerged caves with stalactites in them. Stalactites (the pointy things that hang from the ceiling of a cave) are formed by gazillions of water drops steadily evaporating on the pointy end. This means they cannot form if the cave is underwater, right? Further, some of the stalactites are not completely vertical, so there also must have been some geologic shifts over the millennia (earthquakes or land mass lifts).

Sinkholes are relatively common in Karst (limestone) areas, such as Florida. There are many examples of sinkholes like that of the Great Blue Hole that are scattered around Belize and the Yucatán Peninsula, where they are known as cenotes.

Jacques Cousteau brought his famous ship, Calypso, to investigate the Great Blue Hole in the mid 1970s. Because of his fame and his oceanic-themed television exposure, the site quickly became famous across the globe. Today, it is a major tourist attraction for divers from all over the world. They can observe some of the world's best coral reefs and multitudes of sea creatures.

Scientific study of this sinkhole, however, may even lead to some cultural insights. At one time, the Mayan empire extended over much of southern Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Belize, El Salvador, and into Nicaragua. It began to collapse,

however, about 850 A.D. One by one, huge cities were abandoned, and by 900 A.D., the Maya civilization had largely collapsed. The reason for the collapse has been debated for scores of years. Interestingly, new research from samples taken from the stalactites in the Great Blue Hole suggests that the collapse of the Mayan empire may have been caused by a decades-long drought. No agrarian-based civilization can survive a prolonged drought of that magnitude.

If you ever get down to Belize, you just might want to sign up for one of the boat tours taking folks to see, and maybe snorkel in, the Great Blue Hole. You will not regret it.

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USTA National Invitational

By Dave DeAngelis
World News Writer

What do you do when you made the tennis team from Ocala that will compete in the 65 and over United States Tennis Association's (USTA) National League Invitational in Arizona? Well, you get darned excited.

What do you do when unforeseen circumstances prevent you from competing, when you worked so hard to earn this? Stay home and watch a "Sea Hunt" festival? No way! You travel to the nationals to support your team and that's what resident Brenda Miller did.

From Friday, Feb. 4 through Sunday, Feb. 6, 15 teams competed in this national competition in which the Ocala team of 10 players earned second place medals! To get to the nationals, Brenda and her team first had to navigate through the USTA Sectionals, which they won. Brenda wasn't alone being unable to play for her team at the nationals as the team's captain was sidelined as well. Supporting their team was a given, and for Brenda, the path that brought her here was a result of determination and plain old hard work.

In the early 1990s, not being quite the team enthusiast, Brenda would hit balls with her daughter whenever needed. As her daughter progressed, one day she said - "Mom, you don't have to hit with

me anymore. I'm getting better and you're hurting my game!" Brenda's one word reply was ... "Yes!" Her daughter's brutal honesty was a win-win for Brenda. No more tennis! Ah ... not so fast, Brenda.

Living in On Top of the World by way of Georgia and Pennsylvania, Brenda, in 2010, wanted to be active but did not have a plan. That's when she met Jorge Privat, tennis director, who suggested lessons. In the evenings, she would watch other players who eventually invited her to join them. As she progressed, she began playing in the mornings and on Saturdays at a higher level. Her drive to improve paid off, as she was invited to play doubles for the Fort King Tennis Club, a member of the Gainesville-Ocala Women's Team League (GOWTL) that competes against other women's teams in Marion County.

Many playing opportunities arose for Brenda in 40 and over, and 55 and over USTA women's doubles and mixed doubles competitions. The performance of the 65 and over team enabled them to qualify for sectionals in Orlando, Florida. This accomplishment advanced the team to the 65 and over USTA National Invitational in Surprise, Arizona. Brenda's success story began with - "If it wasn't for Jorge, I



Photo by Dave DeAngelis

Brenda Miller.

wouldn't have achieved this." She also told me that she can always

catch up on the "Sea Hunt" festival. Congratulations, Brenda!

Physical and Emotional Fortitude

By Cammy Dennis

Quincy Henry, Arbor Fitness Center supervisor, recently shared a story that inspired me. One of Quincy's clients, resident Laura Bender, demonstrated a feat of

physical and emotional strength. In January, Laura was on a day trip with a group of friends in St. Augustine. She witnessed an older woman fall. Laura is a retired nurse and

her instincts kicked in. She rushed over to assist the woman. To Laura's surprise, a friend of the woman who had fallen responded with, "No, no! We need somebody who is strong!" Laura refrained from her initial desire to shout, "Move over, I am strong!" She composed herself and attended to the fallen woman. After verifying that the woman was uninjured, Laura easily picked the woman up, and helped her to her car. Laura thought to herself, "For heaven's sake, don't tell me 'No, no! We need somebody strong.' I am strong!" Laura presents the confidence and conviction to age optimally! Here are some insights from a recent conversation with this amazing resident.

Q. Why is it important for you to stay strong?

A. Exercise is something I grew up with; I was raised in an environment that embraced health and fitness. Both of my parents lived to be 98 and I always remember my dad doing his exercises. I grew up swimming, biking and I used to run. I still bike and swim, take yoga classes and train with Coach Quincy twice a week. Staying strong gives me energy and an excellent quality of life.

Q. How do you maintain physical and mental strength?

A. I keep physically strong because I exercise regularly. Part of

my exercise is working out with Coach Quincy twice a week. I love my coach because he explains the rationale behind the exercise. He is also a stickler for making sure I stay in good form, and most of all he provides me with workouts that support my ability to function well. I also do a lot of other activities that provide enjoyment. I am a member of the Ukulele Club, and I take watercolor, and acrylic painting classes at Master the Possibilities. For mental stimulation, I play games and I love reading.

Q. Do you have any words of wisdom for your fellow residents?

A. I often hear my peers say things like "I'm too old. I'm too stiff. I'm too unsteady on my feet." Prior to working out with Quincy, this is a rut I found myself in too. We struggle with these things when we don't exercise. I had a woman tell me that she can't take yoga classes because she can't get up off the floor. Not being able to get down and up from the floor, squatting, standing up from a chair without assistance and walking without waddling ... when and why did we quit doing these things? There's no reason we can't resume these functions. Our age should have no bearing on our excuses. I love living here at On Top of the World because there are so many activities. My husband Bill and I love falling into bed exhausted at night, it means we had a fulfilled, eventful day!



Photo by Linda Ford

Resident Laura Bender after a workout with Coach Quincy.

Let's Throw Some Cornhole

By Vincent Stevens

The Cornhole Club continues to provide fun, camaraderie, and a bit of exercise for our club members. We have seen a significant uptick in open play activity and membership so far this year, with every indication that this trend will continue. While some of this increase can be attributed to returning snowbirds, a significant portion could well be due to the increasing scope of the community. We are exploring ways and means to ensure that we can accommodate this anticipated expansion.

Are you interested in joining the Cornhole Club? Just email us at otowcornholers@yahoo.com for complete information.

OPEN PLAY: Attendance at our open play sessions has been at or above maximum throughout the month. Venue and equipment lim-

itations cap our capabilities to 24 players, at any given time. Players arriving beyond that limit are required to wait until a match in progress ends. With the beginning of daylight saving time Sunday, March 13, we plan to amend the open play schedule to increase open play dates and/or times to accommodate any permanent increases in participation.

Open play is currently scheduled Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at 2 p.m. with volunteer hosts handling all details. Anyone interested in exploring this fun and very popular sport is welcome to join us at these sessions.

LEAGUE PLAY: Competition in league play was off to a roaring start early in the month with the first round of matches in our men's and ladies' leagues on Tuesday, Feb.



Photo by Vince Stevens

Mixed league match - ready to start.

1, closely followed by the mixed league on Thursday, Feb. 3. Both the mixed and women's (Golden Bag Ladies) leagues generated considerable interest in the winter league competition, with 10 teams competing in mixed, and seven teams competing in women's. The men's league is trailing the pack

with only four teams participating. The men's league competes at 3 p.m. and women's playing at 4 p.m. on Tuesdays. The mixed league matches take place at 3 p.m. on Thursdays. Come out and see what it's all about. Spectators are welcome.

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Ladies 18-Hole Golf Association

Marte Dobash



Mother Nature has not been kind to our golf league this winter season! Chilly weather kept our golfers from the course on a few league days, but the weather doesn't dampen our spirits as we continue our weekly attack on The Links and The Tortoise & The Hare!

Match play between members started in late January and golfers are continuing their competitions at this time. Look for the results in the next column. Our golfers are getting psyched for the upcoming Member/Guest tournament Tuesday, March 8. This year's tournament will have a Mexican flair as the golfers enjoy lunch at El Mezcal following the round.

A special shout out to member Bobbie Wiener, who shot a 79 Monday, Jan. 31 (The Links) and an 81 the week prior. Bobbie joined the elite club of golfers who have shot lower than their age! Nice shooting!

Congratulations to Judi McGuinness, a new league member who had her first hole-in-one! She aced hole number eight at Candler Hills Golf Club Dec. 9, 2021.

Welcome to new member, Page Falconer, who joined our ranks in January. Our league currently has 97 active members, and we look forward to growing even more as our community expands!

A few notes of interest: The handicap committee reminds all golfers to post scores regularly. This is the only way to tabulate an accurate handicap, allowing an even playing field for all events.

For future events, payment will be accepted by cash or check in the players room by the Golf Shop. Payment via the website is no longer available.

If you have news of interest regarding our league (hole-in-ones, eagles, etc.), please feel free to submit to mgdobosh@yahoo.com. Word of mouth doesn't always travel far enough!

For up-to-date information visit ladiesgolfotow.com.

One, Two, Three (Team) Net

Jan. 11/The Tortoise & The Hare
122-Susan Rhodes, Christine Giza, Liz Pruss, Suzanne Weirick. 124-Peggy Weichmann, Darlene DeBerry, Nancy Zielinski, Vickie Foster. 125-Vickie Noltensmeyer, Ellen Brin, Sharon Johnson, Pam Brown. 126-Linda Blewitt, Connie Norris, Virginia Madura, Cynthia Gersten. Tie at 127-Lynne Dickson, Peggy Ellenberger, Joan Gerbo, Jan Christ and Joann Dellapenna, Bobbie Weiner, Marte Dobosh, Lynn Barber and Connie Sohl, Beverly Ovrebø, Jane Hall, and Gloria Cullins.

Hi-Low Plus One (Team) Net

Feb. 1/The Links
134-Beverly Ovrebø, Katie Schriewer, Sharon Johnson, Susan Yenne. Tie at 136-Lynne Dickson, Judi McGuinness, Pamela Jones, Lynn Barber and Yuhlan Cho, MJ Strelec, Nancy Zielinski, Terry Wilks. 137-Lynn Colomb, Jill Strey, Jean Hsu, Gloria Cullins. Tie at 138-Gail Lagrange, Page Falconer, May Chin, Debbie Zile and Darlene DeBerry, Debby Wilson, Molly Lucieer, Cynthia Gersten and Sandy Snyder, Joyce Jones, Pam Brown, and Elena Sumter.

Men's Golf Association

John Yenne



The Men's Golf Association has contributed many thousands of dollars to Hospice of Marion County over the years, including the \$2,000 check it presented to the charity last month.

Cindy Moody, charitable gifts officer, was on hand at Chicken Day on Wednesday, Feb. 2, to thank members for their generosity and accept the donation from treasurer, Rusty Rhodes.

Our annual contribution is the fundraising portion of the club's monthly Chicken Day Scramble, the most popular event on its calendar.

Players contribute through their entry fee for the event, which includes a fried chicken dinner in the Recreation Center Ballroom after the competition.

The contributions to Hospice of Marion County first began years ago by members "buying" muligans during Chicken Day. Even today, members get two muligans a piece to use during the monthly scramble.

Hospice of Marion County is a not-for-profit, locally operated charity that has provided compassionate end-of-life care for patients and their families since 1983. The Men's Golf Association was founded in 1986.

Membership is currently at 247. Please welcome our newest: Bill McElroy, Jim Bowman, Paul Martello, Doug Buckler, George Creighton, Rob Walker, Robert Muller, Terry Champion, Gary Kohls and Bryan McCleave.

Mark these upcoming Wednesdays in your calendar:

- March 2: Chicken Day Scramble (The Links)



Photo by John Bauer

Men's Golf Association treasurer, Rusty Rhodes, hands Cindy Moody of Hospice of Marion County a \$2,000 donation at February's Chicken Day.

- March 9: Team Blind Holes (The Tortoise & The Hare)
- March 16: Any 4 Clubs, 3 Best Balls (The Tortoise & The Hare)
- March 23: Team Stableford, 3 Best Balls (The Links)
- March 30: Individual Quota Points (The Tortoise & The Hare)

Team 1,2,3 Best Balls
Feb. 9/The Tortoise & The Hare

128-Larry Gibson, Garfield Gray, Leonard Ruble. 130-John Parnau, Sam Feola, Bob Marks, Charles Regini. 131-James Gourlay, Robert Coutu, Douglas Kelchner, Paul Silliman. 132-Gregory Dyer, Everett Kimball, Dan Goggin, Thomas Norris. 133-Dennis McCourt, Greg McDowell, Roy Coombes, Alan Theusch. Tie at 134-Russell Zile, Bill McElroy, Jim Nicholson, Mike Benes: Julian Hobby, Doc Huffman, Bob Leiter, Thomas Kujawa: Dale Clarke, Jeff Rothwell, Richard Deschenes, Joseph Dunnack. Tie at 135-Jim Lefaver, Marvin DeBerry, David Wohlbeber, Loren Magsam: Bob Hilton,

Gary Hassett, Norm Hayworth, David Garland: Steven Rudolph, Donald Wheeler, Paul Snyder, Robert Muller.

Chicken Day Scramble
Feb. 2/The Links

52-Mark Beauchamp, Bryan McCleave, Garfield Gray, Thomas Norris. 53-Larry Manion, Jerry Englar, Richard Deschenes, Alan Theusch. 55-David Clune, Ken Zweiback, Jim Nicholson, Loren Magsam. Tie at 56-Rick Schriewer, Robert Walker, James Thompson, Bill Searight: Paul Snyder, Kevin Thompson, David Fosdick, Joseph Dunnack: Robert Coughanour, David Woitek, John Owen, Philip Moherek. Tie at 57-Rusty Rhodes, Bob Hilton, Norm Hayworth, John Hartney: Joe Polizzotti, Ruben Alvarez, John Snyder, Terry Hubbard: Brad Weirick, Steven Thesman, Anthony Morris, Lance Davsko: James McCormack, James Gourlay, Mike Ball, Larry Chase. Tie at 58-Roger Sparks, Kevin McGuinness, Mike Kurlakowsky, Bob Lang: Paul Stoecklin, Henry Sohl, Tom Fragapane, Paul Silliman: Rick Strynar, Charlie Taylor, Carl Zeiler, Robert Muller.

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Ladies 9-Hole Golf

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As we fly into the month of March, the LGA-9 schedule will be on the following Tuesdays:

March 1: Individual Quota Points (The Tortoise & The Hare) is the same format as the Stableford scoring system. Each golfer plays their normal round, but instead of the standard scoring, each player will have a certain number of points with Stableford scoring rules to achieve their "quota." You will see a number on your card associated with your name that indicates the points you need to get without your handicap.

March 8: Team Shamble - 4 Best Ball Net (The Links) is where every player tees off, then the team picks the best drive. Each player then plays their own golf ball from there for the rest of the hole, with each ladies' ball counting as the team score.

March 15: Ts & Fs - Individual Net (The Tortoise & The

Hare) is where each golfer plays their normal round of golf. The scoring will be your net score from all the holes that start with a "T" or an "F."

March 22: Team Scramble (The Links) is where every lady tees off, then the team of four picks the best drive and each player hits their second shot from that location. The process is then repeated until the ball is holed out.

March 29: Individual Low Net (The Tortoise & The Hare) is where every golfer plays their normal round of golf with all ladies flighted according to their current handicap index.

It's remarkable to see how busy the three golf courses here at On Top of the World have become. Any time we have 300-plus players on The Links and The Tortoise & The Hare, as well as, close to 200 players at Candler Hills, pace of play becomes a very big factor.

The term "ready golf" has now become a term that is used a lot more by the golf staff. "Ready golf" is a term that indicates that players should play when they are ready to do so, rather than adhering strictly to the "farthest from the hole plays

first" stipulation in the Rules of Golf. When you play ready golf, it is also very important to take safety into consideration. The main thing is, if you are ready to play your next shot and it is safe to do so, go ahead

Candler Hills Ladies 18-Hole

Beth Wolinsky



Golf has been quite a challenge as of late due to the cold weather. The necessity to dress in multiple layers can make it difficult to swing the club effectively. Let's hope a warmup will soon bring those comfortable temperatures we're used to feeling when we play.

Please welcome a new member, Mary Burns, to the league. We look forward to playing rounds of golf with her.

On Thursday, March 17, there will be an event with the Candler Hill LGA-9. The game played will be Red, White, Blue - Two Best Balls of foursome. Please mark your calendar. Look for more details to follow.

A hole-in-one is quite an accomplishment. The excitement of that happening is totally euphoric. Most are completed on shorter holes, however, historically, the longest hole-in-one was 427 yards, achieved by Lou Kretlow. It is interesting to note that he was a retired baseball player but that takes nothing away from his achievement.

Just a reminder. An explanation of all the games we play during league may be found at ladiesgolftow.com. The website is a good resource for not only games but league news and information.

Anyone who is interested in join-

ing the league may contact our president, Shelly Karsnitz, at karsnitz1@gmail.com. It is a great way to have fun and meet some lovely ladies.

Finally, stay safe, believe, achieve and enjoy golf.

1-2-3 (Team) Dec. 30, 2021

124-Michele Otto, Blind, Anne Dahlen, Joann Delmar. 125-Maria Fournier, Eileen Gustavus, Janette Sheil, Lynn Barber. Tie at 126-MJ Strelec, Beverly Ovrebo, Kate Beaty, Jan Christ and Donna Smith, Virginia Combs, Rosann Ross, Sandra Randles.

2 Best Balls of 4 (Team) Jan. 6

135-Shelly Karsnitz, Donna Smith, Eileen Gustavus, Beth Wolinsky. Tie at 139-Gail Lagrange, Virginia Combs, Janette Sheil, Kathy Zunica and Chris McIntire, Beverly Ovrebo, Terry Wilks, Blind. Tie at 141-Christine Giza, MJ Strelec, Janelle Gluckman, Rosann Ross and Michele Otto, Sara Nunn, Iro Lisinski, Vickie Foster. 143-Judie Anderson, Ellen Brin, Angelita Jingco, Joann Delmar.

Individual Stableford Jan. 13

Flight 1: 38-Shelly Karsnitz. 34-Christine Giza. 33-Michele Otto. 32-Gail Lagrange. 31-Lynn Colomb.

Flight 2: Tie at 33-Connie Norris, Sara Nunn. 30-Judi McGuinness. 29-Joann Dellapenna.

Flight 3: 34-Virginia Combs. 32-Teri Stecker. Tie at 30-Pamela Jones, Toni Stevenson, Iro Lisinski.

Flight 4: 38-Angelita Jingco. 33-Beth Wolinsky. 31-Kate Beaty. 29-Rosann Ross.

Flight 5: Tie at 34-Kathy Zunica, DeAnne Green. 30-Joann Delmar. Tie at 29-Lynn Barber, Vickie Foster.

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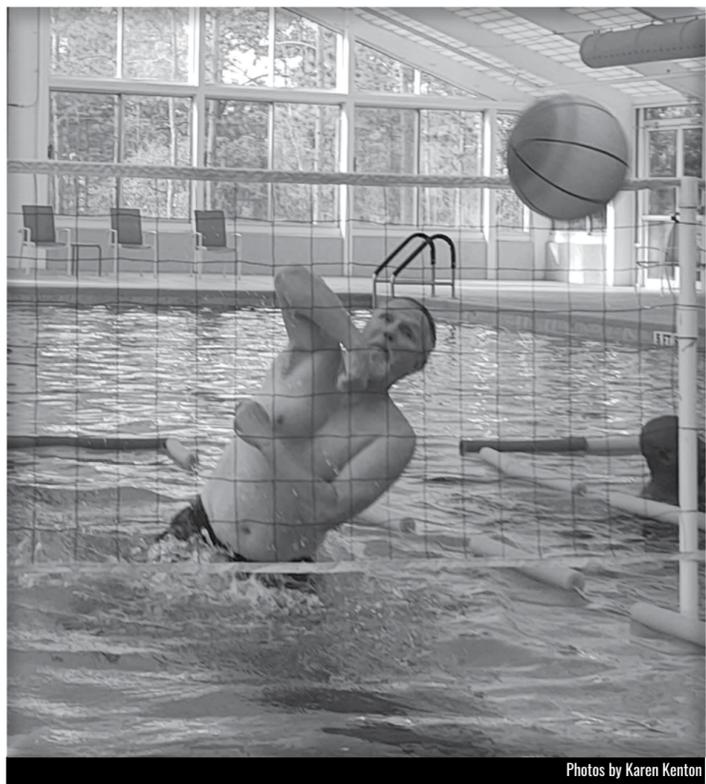
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FRIDAY, MAR. 18 PARADIGM PARTY BAND	SATURDAY, MAR. 19 THE WRECKING CREW
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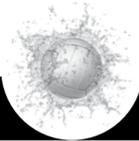
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Marv Maki sends a spike down the line.

Arbor Water Volleyball Club

Karen Kenton



Attention water volleyball enthusiasts! The Arbor Water Volleyball Club is offering a unique opportunity

to display your skills on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on court one. This session is known as advanced play. If you have organized volleyball experience in the past, and you are effective at serving, receiving a serve, setting, and spiking or dinking the third hit, we would like for you to try our advanced play option. If you are skilled at blocking shots at the net, or playing the hard serve or cross court spike, then we are inviting you to accept the challenge of advanced play and join in the fun.

Please note that the Wednesday court one session has an emphasis on clean, hard, competitive play. Players will also be held to a higher standard for adherence to the rules of the game. This is a different format than our Tuesday, Thursday, and Wednesday court two recreational sessions, where the emphasis is on having fun.

Whichever format you prefer, or both, we hope to see you at the Arbor indoor pool.

Don't forget to check out our column next month, when we will begin featuring resident players.

Direct inquiries to Dan Connors, president, at dan4birdie@gmail.com.

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Golf

Matt Hibbs
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Wow how time flies, spring is almost here. Take advantage of the weather and play some golf before the Florida summer arrives. We all know the high temperatures and extreme humidity will make us dream of this time of year again.

The 2022 Ocala Open will be held at Candler Hills Golf Club March 30 through April 1, with the Pro-Am Tuesday, March 29. We are offering all our golf members a discount to participate in the Pro-Am, \$800 for

a three-person team while being paired with one of the pros. Included in the entry fee is a gift package from our golf shop worth \$200 and a barbecue after the event.

The benefiting charities for this year's event are Hospice of Marion County and Interfaith Emergency Services. Last year, we were able to raise \$80,000 to be split between the two charities. We are hoping to make this year's event even bigger and better. Admission is free Wednesday through Friday with VIP tickets available for \$25 or three for \$65 in the Candler Hills Golf Shop. For more information regarding VIP tickets and the Ocala Open visit ocalaopen.com.

Also in March is the annual On Top of the World Club Champion-

ship. This two-day event is for On Top of the World golf members only. Round one will be played Friday, March 11 and round two Saturday, March 12. Both days will be 8 a.m. tee times. Good luck to our defending champions Tommy Lowe, Sandy Snyder and Linda Mandala. Please see the On Top of the World Golf Shop for more details.

Upcoming Events

- Friday, March 11 & Saturday, March 12: On Top of the World Club Championship.
- Saturday, March 19: Animal Golf at Candler Hills Golf Club.
- Saturday, March 26: Monthly Event - Cross Country at The Links.

- Tuesday, March 29: Ocala Open Pro-Am at Candler Hills Golf Club.
- Wednesday, March 30 through Friday, April 1: Ocala Open at Candler Hills Golf Club.

World Accolades

CANDLER HILLS: Gail LaGrange, eagle #1. Sandy Snyder, eagle #15. Carl Forsberg, eagle #7.

THE LINKS: Tony Vastano, hole-in-one #14. Paul Del Vacchio, drove #1 green. Garfield Gray, eagle #9. Page Falconer, eagle #3. Bobbie Weiner, shot 79 four strokes under her age. Bruce Combs, eagle #10.

THE TORTOISE & THE HARE: Jim Logan, eagle #5. Roger Sparks, hole-in-one #8 and eagle #17. Congratulations to all!

Golf Tip of the Month

You have a five-foot putt to make birdie and win the match. Your palms are sweating, hands shaking, and mind is wandering.

If you can relate to this scenario then here are a few tips to help ease your nerves. First create a pre-putt routine. This routine should be kept simple and quick, 30 seconds or less. Make sure to follow this routine for each putt during your round. During your stroke be sure to have nice rhythm. Nerves tend to get the best of players and create a quick stroke. This often causes the putt to fall offline. Stand over the putt with confidence, keep a good frame of mind & sink that putt.

Candler Hills Ladies 9-Hole Golf

Denise Mullen
(352) 861-9712
denise_mullen@otowfl.com



Calling all volunteers - it's that time of the year when I reach out to build my wonderful team of volunteers for the upcoming 16th annual Ocala Open. In case you are new to the area, we host a professional event at Candler Hills Golf Club. This year it's March 30, 31 and April 1. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to me. The volunteer roles are for shuttling players, monitoring beverage stations on the golf course, and spotters on holes #6 and #9.

Mark your calendar to play on Thursday, March 17, with the Candler Hills LGA-18. They are planning a fun event for you to join with them. It is a Red (Orange), White

and Blue event with 2 Best Balls of the 4 counting for the team score. It will be a 9 a.m. shotgun. Your invite will go out through your golf genius portal. There will be no other event scheduled to play in that day, so join in the fun and play.

Did you know that hitting too many golf balls can do more harm than good, especially if your swing plane isn't dialed in? It can put stress on your body and joints. Practice makes permanent and therefore, repeatedly practicing a bad move will not produce positive results. This can result in lost distance and playability of your golf shots. This will lend itself to frustration and then you will try

harder, and it only gets worse from there. We have excellent clinics that are offered on the first Saturday of each month, and an instructional staff that is available to guide you through positive swing changes.

Our LGA-9 Play Day on Thursdays is open to anyone with an established handicap. We start our tee times at 9 a.m. If you are interested in joining the group, please stop by the Candler Hills Golf Shop and speak to Nick or Denise.

Please like our Candler Hills Golf Club Facebook page and watch our On Top of the World YouTube.com videos for additional information of what events we have coming up.

Candler Hills Men's Golf

Mike Kelly



Hopefully winter has passed, and we will start to see warm sunny days as we move into March. There are five Tuesdays this month, and we will play on the first four. The Ocala Open will once again take place at Candler Hills, so we will not be playing March 29. Be sure to come out for this event and enjoy some great golf. Here is the Tuesday schedule:

- March 1: 3 Tee Scramble
- March 8: Team Stableford A/B, C/D
- March 15: Quota Points - Flighted
- March 22: Stableford, 2 Best Balls of 4

We hope to see everyone at our weekly events. If you know someone who is a member, please encourage them to join us. Also, if you know someone who is not a member, please encourage them to join us. Have a great month and some low scores!

For league information, visit CHMGA.org.

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Photo by Ernie Sersen

The Kingsmen is one of 10 teams in the Softball Club that play every week.

Softball

Ernie Sersen



Who could ever forget James Earl Jones' epic speech in the movie Field of Dreams, "The one constant through all the years, Ray, has been baseball. This field, this game - it's a part of our past, Ray. It reminds us of all that once was good, and it could be again."

I grew up playing little league baseball in Essex, Maryland, where I developed a taste for the game.

**EMERGENCY AFTER-HOURS
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When I was 12, my grandfather invited me to watch the Orioles at Memorial Stadium, where he worked as an usher in the box section right behind the plate. I remember waiting in the corridor until the third inning when he signaled me to come up and take a seat right behind the plate. Walking into that stadium, experiencing the grandeur of that moment, and meeting baseball legends including Brooks Robinson, Frank Robinson, Jim Palmer, and Boog Powell are among the richest memories of my life and ones that only fueled my passion for the game.

My softball journey began several years later when I was 18 playing for the U.S. Air Force at Camp Zama, Japan. After launching one over the fence and snagging a line drive at shortstop, I decided that this game would forever be a part

of my life, and I have been playing regularly ever since.

In October, my wife, Diane, and I moved to On Top of the World. One of the reasons I selected this community was the Softball Club. I have been a part of numerous clubs over the years, but this one is by far one of the most fun and better managed.

With two divisions to accommodate your skill and experience level, a "New Player Orientation" program, various clinics, and batting practice sessions, you have an excellent opportunity to learn this game for the first time or dust off your cleats and get back out on the field.

When we first moved in, a couple of our neighbors reached out and invited me to join their weekly golf outings, solidifying our belief that we made the right choice moving

here.

In that same spirit, we are inviting you to meet new people, make friends, get back in shape, and enjoy the excitement of the game and the enrichment that comes through active participation in our growing community.

In taking over for Tom Sheridan, my goal is to continue shining the spotlight on our community and the Softball Club. I look forward to the months ahead, both on the field and behind the keyboard bringing you more stories and interviews from others who enjoy this game as much as I do.

I would consider it a privilege to meet you and introduce you to our softball community and help you either get started or re-acquainted with this great game. You can reach me at 321-586-6225 or esersen@yahoo.com.

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R/C Car Club

Gene Mangold



A way to appreciate our beautiful car track that On Top of the World provided is to look back eight years when the R/C Car Club raced on grass then dirt and clay.

In March 2014, Bill Croff and Charlie Fisher borrowed a lawnmower from the R/C Flyers Club and cut a 70-foot-diameter oval in the tall pasture grass adjacent to the flying field. It looked like a crop circle similar to the one where UFO conspiracists believe ET lands. However, the only flying objects were the cars flying over makeshift jumps.

With a personal loan of \$5,000 from Charlie, the club obtained perimeter railroad ties, pipe track barriers, wooden jump jumps, a 500-gallon water tank, a timing program, and a computer shack. The best was last, a four-person driver's stand. It did not pass inspection because of the weight of four drivers, so Charlie's solution was to fill it with sand, and it became known as Charlie's sandbox.

Bob and Gail Perry drew up by-laws and helped the club become official. An excerpt from their newsletter by Bill Croff and Gail Baker is as follows, "The races on the oval track entertained everyone but the big hit was the new and challenging figure-eight course. Cars were racing around the curves, flying over the jump, flipping, smashing, and lining up to do it all again! Novice drivers were the hit of the day with "creative" shortcuts and wrong turns that kept the track marshals on their toes."

The work to build and maintain the track was solely on the backs of members. It was physically hard construction work and included shoveling, raking, blading, and dragging with a lawnmower, hauling, and spraying water. In addition, the track was often closed due to muddy conditions and blowing dust.

In June 2019, On Top of the World said it was time to relocate, and all rejoiced. The newly paved track included a concrete perimeter, orange plastic race lane barriers, metal sun shelters, and a rebuilt seven-person driver's stand. With all construction completed on the first of 2020, the boys and girls now could concentrate on driving



Photo by Gail Baker Croff

Paul Burrey, Charlie Fisher, Bill Croff and Alvin Topiol.

their cars and improving their driving skills. In addition, the club now had the money for a new computer system, a better timing program, a sensor bridge for recording car times, and many other improvements.

January

Truggy-Tom Seitz; Two Wheel Buggy-Ron Kaulfersch; Two Wheel Truck-Bob Herbst; Two Wheel Buggy-Terry Altman; Four Wheel

Truck-Bob Melzer; Stock GT-Tom Seitz; Touring-Bob Herbst; and Novice-Tony Chicote.

Car races start at 1 p.m. on Thursdays and Sundays at the R/C car track. Slot car racing is on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Music Rooms I-II, and legend cars on Tuesdays, at 10 a.m. at the R/C car track. Call President Fred Penichet at (914) 588-7293 for information.

Co-Ed Recreational Softball

Sherry Winn



This month I would like to introduce one of our esteemed founding members of this group.

Buzz Polek grew up by the water in Baltimore, Maryland, which led to his love of boating and his career in the marine business. He married his love, Dee, with whom they raised a family. After retiring, he and Dee left for a better climate in South Carolina, but soon decided they would prefer to permanently reside in an active retirement community. Research led them to On Top of The World, where they are active in their Avalon neighborhood.

As a Coast Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, he joined the Veterans Club, and quickly immersed himself in bocce, billiards, and poker. His love of slot cars drew him to the R/C Car Club where he was involved in the Club Fair. Golf is a new activity he's enjoying regular-

ly in retirement. You may also have seen Buzz and his lovely bride in car shows or golf cart parades in their old (and now sold) restored MG and their newer Solstice replacement.

When close friend and neighbor Lisa Dragos showed an interest in Co-Ed Recreational Softball, in her true effervescent fashion, she recruited not only her husband Frank but also neighbor Buzz to join her.

Buzz has come to epitomize the true spirit of this group. He played in his 20s, then pitched on a team for a while in his 50s, so his muscle memory soon kicked in. He immediately encompassed the game, playing any position required, quickly assuming the primary role of pitcher.

Dee initially came along as a spectator, blessing us with her joyful presence at social time. As our group encourages, the Poleks brought two of their visiting grandchildren to play one Saturday. Boy, were we all impressed when younger, smaller statured Kylie outplayed not only her brother Trey, but the rest of us! That day, Dee graduated to scorekeeper, but since has jumped in full force and can now be

heard laughing all the way to first base after connecting infield hits.

If you are new to On Top of the World and wish to meet more exuberant people like Buzz Polek, please join us Saturday mornings on the softball field. Regardless of how many years ago you played, or any ailments, we accommodate

them all to offer you another opportunity to explore activity options with our wonderful residents. Not to worry if you don't have equipment, we can accommodate your needs. Best of all, it's free!

For more information, contact Sherry Winn at 315-528-8499, or just show up any Saturday, at 10 a.m.



Photo by Maria Pena

Sherry Winn, Buzz Polek, Frank and Lisa Dragos.

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2022 board members: Paul Stadterman, president; Athena Drewes, secretary; Jim Swift, treasurer.

Table Tennis



Athena Drewes

What an exciting time we had! We were finally able to hold our long-awaited annual meeting in February. Directors Paul Stadterman (president), Jim Swift (treasurer) and Athena Drewes (secretary) agreed to continue serving on the board for 2022. We had a fantastic attendance of 40 members, giving new and existing members an opportunity to get to know each other, as well as have play time afterwards.

We signed up our 70th paid member, Linda Lull, along with four other new members at the meeting! This made 15 new members who signed up since Jan. 1.

Linda, and husband Rob, who is also a member, moved into Indigo East, from Atlanta, Georgia in March 2021. Linda started playing table tennis in the late '80s when she had a table in her basement in her Philadelphia home. She continued playing in 1999 when she moved to Georgia and bought a table which enabled Linda and Rob to continue enjoying many years of playing.

She has always enjoyed playing at a recreational level and is looking forward to being able to continue playing during club hours, meeting new people, and adding other activities to enjoy during her retirement.

Welcome to all our new members, and all members renewing their membership for 2022.

Members had an opportunity to hear about improvements made to the club play time during 2021, with new paddles, balls, cabinets for storing personal items during play, and upgraded tables being supplied by On Top of the World, along with increased play time for beginners, ladies, and advanced level players.

Directors also shared plans for re-activating play time with the Oak Run Table Tennis Club, as well as other surrounding communities. Member suggestions included consideration of modifying the playing schedule to offer a regularly designated day and time for a table tennis clinic to be offered for new as well as current members, offering pointers on serving and play. The need for designated intermediate play times as well as increased singles time slots, and another evening play time were suggested and will be investigated.

Those members who have not paid their 2022 dues of \$10 for the year, are encouraged to do so as soon as possible, before losing their ability to play during club times. Please feel free to contact our president, Paul Stadterman at pstadterman@yahoo.com with any questions. Applications are available in the Arbor Conference Center Table Tennis room.

Come check us out! Play times are Monday and Tuesday doubles (6 to 8 p.m.); beginners (Tuesdays, 1 to 3 p.m. (doubles); Thursdays, 3 to 5 p.m. (singles)); ladies play (Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to noon); doubles (Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, 1 to 3 p.m.) and singles (Wednesdays and Sundays, 1 to 3 p.m.) for all levels. We all play table tennis for fun and enjoyment! Please consider stopping by and meeting us!

Ladies Shuffleboard



Lois Nix

The weather was not cooperative to shuffle in January. When we were able to shuffle, we wore heavy jackets, earmuffs or wool hats, and gloves. Our ladies who shuffle at 11 a.m. were able to play because the sun came out. Are we really in Florida? Wonder if we could shuffle in snow? I know some would try.

Many of our players have purchased their own cue sticks and some of their own discs, so they can practice.

It is a pleasure to see so many players shuffling with skill and technique. Many were so surprised to discover what a great game shuffleboard is. We welcome all women residents to join us. Indigo East women must have a Gateway of Services pass. You do not need to know how to play.

We play Mondays at 5:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 9 or 11 a.m.

January

8-Sandy Welch. Tie at 7-Helen Fye, Cari Martin. Tie at 6-Dee Caple, Cindy Engler, Sally Herrick, Marsha Lau. 30-plus-Dee Caple, Sally Herrick, Marge Adragna, Cindy Engler, Marsha Lau and Jeanine Hargis.

Congratulations to Bonnie Herrick who had her first 30 of the season!

Happy shuffling and stay safe, ladies.

Billiards Club



Phil Panzera

As I write this, we've just finished the first week of the largest in-house pool league the club has ever had. It is also the first time the ladies have ever been invited to join the 27-year-old men's league. It is a historic moment, and we're proud to take this meaningful step forward in providing all members the equal opportunity to participate in club events.

Promoting gender equality can be challenging. Ultimately, in my view, it requires "respect." Respect for our ladies not just for whatever skill they may or may not have, but as people, who deservedly wish to be treated the same as others. To the naysayers to this change, I ask that you think on this one word: respect. It's something you certainly want, and think you deserve; please extend it in return.

Throughout my pool playing career, I'll estimate I've heard somewhere around thirty-seven thousand different excuses for playing badly. As we've had a large influx of new members recently, I'll give you a head start here, so you can have some of them ready when you need them.

The first law of excuses is that the problem is never, never, never about "your" skill - something else must be blamed! You can first start with the room; it's too hot in here, or too cold; it's too bright in here, or too dark; the music is too loud; or even, I don't like this kind of music.

Next you can try the medical outs: I just had hip surgery; I can't see that far; or I brought the wrong glasses today. I once heard our beloved Jimmy Kraft add excuse #7,849 to the medical list: "I would have made that shot, but I trimmed the hedges yesterday, and my shoulder is still sore!"

By far the most popular method is to blame it on the equipment: the table rolled off; you see that ball skid on me?; boy, these balls are warped; global warming warped my shaft; or, I left my custom cue at home, and these house sticks are terrible.

The creative ones are among the best: I forgot what I was trying to do; I can't shoot on Thursdays; I haven't had enough to drink; I've had too much to drink; my cue got in the way; someone moved the pocket; and (a personal favorite), I like going through the loser's side.

I've been known to miss a makeable shot, and immediately examine my tip closely - you'll see that a lot. There's also the guy who misses and tells his captain he's having a Mel Gibson moment. When asked what that means, he replies with one word: "Brainfart."

Excuse Anecdote of the Month: I was watching a guy practice and he missed three shots in a row. He looks at me and says, "I cannot get used to this Meucci."

I reply, "You're playing with a Predator."

He says, "Dangit! Now I have two cues I can't play with!"

2022

MARCH 29, 2022

CHARITY PRO-AM PRO TOURNAMENT

MARCH 30 - APRIL 1, 2022

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CHARITY PRO-AM EVENT SCHEDULE

Benefitting Interfaith Emergency Services and Hospice of Marion County, Inc.

Tuesday, March 29th - 9-30am
Scramble Format, Shotgun Start
1 Professional & 3 Amateurs.

FOOD

The Club at Candler Hills, Sid's Coffee Shop & Deli and Mr. B's Ice Cream Shop will be open.

PROFESSIONAL TOURNAMENT

Wednesday, March 30th - First Round
Thursday, March 31st - Second Round
Friday, April 1st - Final Round

PARKING

Golf cart parking for residents is located at the Candler Hills Community Center behind the gate.

For more information, a registration form or partnership opportunities, visit us online at OcalaOpen.com or call 352-861-9712. 8137 SW 90th Terrace Rd., Ocala, FL 34481

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Tennis

Jorge Privat
(352) 387-7539



The tennis committee is busy planning several fun activities and get together. One of those things will be a barbecue scheduled for Thursday, March 24, after tennis.

We are in the process of restructuring the tennis program. Round Robins will now take place Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, instead of Thursdays. We plan to set up a website to increase communication, scheduling, and various other things. We will keep you informed.

Court Positions in Doubles

An important part of playing doubles is getting to know your partner, their tendencies, strengths, and weaknesses. However, it is also very important to know where you should be during play. There are three basic positions for doubles: two up, two back and one up one back.

Two up means that both players are positioned at the net. This is the best of the three because you are offensive and can cover most of the court from this configuration. The one wild card is the lob. Because there is no body there to back you up. Covering the lob can be tricky for the weekend warrior. You must learn to recognize the lob earlier by watching the opponents court position and racquet face. Anticipation is the key to covering the lob effectively.

One up one back means that one player is standing at the net while the other is on the baseline. This is the least desirable configuration because there is a big gap left open in the court - right down the middle. If the ball stays in front of the player at the net, it is not as big a problem, but if the patten switches and the ball is cross-court from the net player, then you are in trouble. It also makes poaching (by the opponents) more effective because there is a big open target to hit to when the opponent gets the ball. Many times, you will find yourself caught in a one up one back situation. Don't panic, it is not the end of the world. But do try to get up to the net with your partner at the earliest opportunity to be more aggressive. If you don't feel comfortable doing this because your volleys are not so good, then, work on your volleys until you feel comfortable. You will also find that the more often you move forward to the net, the easier it will become to see the lob coming before the opponent even contacts the ball.

Two back means both players are positioned at the baseline. Although most of the court is covered and you don't have to worry about the lob, this is not considered as effective as two up, because it is difficult to be offensive from the baseline in doubles. This configuration should be used if you and your partner are not very good volleyers, or at times when they are moving a lot at the net and outplaying you from there. Then, the best is to step back to make it more difficult for them to hit winners and to make sure you don't go home with a bunch of bumps and bruises courtesy of the other team drilling you with the ball. See you on the courts!

TRASH COMPACTOR FULL?
Please take trash to another location. Do not place trash outside of trash compactor.

On Top of the World

MARCH 2022 FITNESS

RECREATION FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	Dance Party JESSICA	Strength & Stretch DENISE B	Warrior MAUREEN	Strength & Stretch DENISE B	Dance Party JESSICA
9:00 am	S.O.S. DENISE	Dance Aerobics JACQUE	S.O.S. LARRY	Dance Aerobics DENISE	S.O.S. GB
10:00 am	Balance Body LINDA K	Chair Yoga KATHY	Balanced Body KITTI	Chair Yoga KATHY	Balanced Body INGRID
11:00 am	Get Fit While You Sit KITTI	Brain Power CARMY/QUE	Move To Improve Parkinson's JESSICA/SUE	Brain Power JESSICA	Get Fit While You Sit KITTI
11:00 am Recreation Ballroom	Dance Aerobics LINDA		Zumba® Gold KITTI		Dance Aerobics DENISE
1:00 pm		Fitness Orientation*		Balance Assessment*	
3:00 pm	Blended Yoga JOE		Chair Yoga TRISH	Qigong ART	
4:00 pm				Tai Chi ART	
5:00 pm		Intro Hatha Yoga KATHY		Yoga SANDRA	

Recreation Fitness Center Hours: Monday-Friday 6:30 AM - 7 PM; Saturday 7 AM - 7 PM; Sunday 9 AM - 5 PM
*Fitness Orientations and Balance Assessments are free. Space is limited. To schedule an appointment, please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7634.

ARBOR FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9:00 am	Yoga SANDRA	Boomer Beat JESSICA	Yoga JOE	Boomer Beat CARMY	Yin Yoga RENU
10:00 am	STRONG MAUREEN	Yoga SANDRA	STRONG LINDA	Yoga MAUREEN	STRONG JOHN
11:00 am	Yoga MAUREEN		Yoga TRISH		
1:00 pm		Posture Assessments*		Fitness Orientation*	
2:00 pm	Balanced Body L2 GB				

Arbor Fitness Center Hours: Monday-Friday 6:00 AM - 8:30 PM; Saturday 7 AM - 8:30 PM; Sunday 9 AM - 7 PM
*Posture Assessments and Fitness Orientations are free. Space is limited. To schedule an appointment, please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7638

ARBOR FITNESS CENTER INDOOR POOL

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
6:00 am	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming
7:00 am	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim
8:00 - 9:00 am	Water Walk	Water Walk	Water Walk	Water Walk	Water Walk
9:00 - 10:00 am	Deep Water Fitness Class**	Shallow Water Fitness Class**	Deep Water Fitness Class**	Shallow Water Fitness Class**	Deep Water Fitness Class**
10:00 - 11:00 am	Open	Shallow Water Fitness Class**	Closed for Cleaning 10:30 - 12:30 pm	Shallow Water Fitness Class**	Open Swim
11:00 am - 12:30 pm	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming		Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming
12:30 pm	Aqua Aerobics Club	Shallow Water Fitness Class**	Aqua Aerobics Club	Shallow Water Fitness Class**	Aqua Aerobics Club
1:30 pm	Open Swim 1:30 - 2:30 pm	Water Volleyball Club 1:30 - 3:30 pm	Water Volleyball Clu 1:30 - 3:30 pm	Water Volleyball Club 1:30 - 3:30 pm	Open Swim 1:30 - 2:30 pm
2:30 pm	Deep Water Fitness Class**				Deep Water Fitness Class**
3:30 - 5:00 pm	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim
5:00 - 6:00 pm	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming
6:00 - 8:15 pm	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim

Open Swim: Saturdays 7 AM - 8:30 PM; Sundays 9 AM - 7 PM • For pool inquiries, please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7639.
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Photo by Larry Bass

On Top of the World line dancers at Good Times Workshop.

Line Dancing

Nancy Carmack



Line dance classes and groups continue to grow with more opportunities to dance at a time and

day that works for everyone. Dancers can also attend dance events and workshops during the year at various locations. A large group of dancers from On Top of the World attended the Good Times Winter Line Dance Workshop in Spring Hill, Florida in January. Our former teacher, Marilyn McNeal, was the main host and taught dances. We

all enjoyed seeing and visiting with her again. It was a full day of dancing, and everyone had a great time! Our current teacher, Darlene Miller, was also there and worked hard to help make the event a success. She has taught a couple of great dances in her classes that were introduced at this event. On Thursday, Feb. 10, the Begin-

ner Level II, Improver, and Intermediate enjoyed a Valentine's Day themed dance in the Recreation Center Ballroom. We had a great turnout, and it was so much fun to be dancing together again, and to see everyone attired in their red to celebrate the holiday.

This month we are looking forward to a potluck party and dance with a St. Patrick's Day theme. Carolyn Meador has organized this event, and Kathy, Rose and Charlie will provide the music and lead the dances. We look forward to having a wonderful assortment of food and a fun afternoon of dancing.

In addition, we also dance at The Town Square (weather permitting). Pre-recorded music plays Tuesdays through Thursdays and live entertainment on Fridays and Saturdays from 6 to 9 p.m. Pick a night to come out and join us on the dance floor!

For more detailed information, please contact Darlene Miller for Beginner and Improver Plus classes at 352-259-3695 or Sheryl Bradley for her Thursday classes in the Arbor Conference Center at sbradley057@yahoo.com.

Shuffleboard

Walt Lamp



We still offer introduction to shuffleboard on the second Saturday of the month at 11 a.m. The next scheduled class is Saturday, March 12. If you are interested in learning the game, we invite you to the courts at the Veterans Park. We will go over the rules, scoring, safety and the basis for shooting the disc. Open-toed shoes are not permitted. Paul Hodges teaches the class.

January Men/Women

Monday a.m.: Nick Dreimiller/Vicki Lenz. 30-plus-Nick Dreimiller.
Tuesday p.m.: Moe Gauthier/Lynn Dickinson.
Thursday a.m.: Bob Stubbs.

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Top Pickleball Club

Bill Bender



Friday, Jan. 28 was a big day for pickleball players as it marked the opening of 11 new courts. These are a welcomed addition to the 12 we already have and with the tremendous growth of interest in the sport, there is no doubt that they will be well used. The complex of 23 courts is certain to impress anyone that this is a place of opportunity for pickleball players.

To appropriately initiate the new courts, a tournament was held with our Stone Creek neighbors. Teams of all levels participated for some healthy competition. Over 32 players from each club attended the inter-club matches. While the winds had an impact, the sun and warm weather cooperated for the event.

Stone Creek President Pam Dutton threw out the first pickle and the afternoon began once photos were taken, and event overview was covered. There were over 64 games with four levels of play including 4.0, 3.5, 3.0, and 2.0, and 16 teams from each club competing. All levels were equal in value so there was support for all the teams. Good sportsmanship and healthy compe-



Photo by Matt Corey

Pickleball competitors.

tion ended with our Top Pickleball Club winning the most points, but everybody winning in the fun and entertainment department. Special thanks go to our events committee and the volunteers who helped make the event a huge success. There will be a rematch at Stone Creek in a few weeks.

As we say every month in this column, we always have room for more. As you read this, if your interest is sparked, you only have to make your way to the courts adjacent to the Recreation Center Mon-

day through Saturday, from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. to see how the game is played.

If you like what you see, come join us at one of our free introductory classes. These sessions are specifically for residents who want to learn about the fastest growing sport in the world. Just show up at 10:30 a.m. on any Monday, or on the first Saturday of the month with plenty of liquids (to avoid dehydration), wearing your tennis or court shoes, and we will provide the rest

(equipment and fun!). We recommend that you not purchase paddles before taking the lesson as our instructors will guide you in choosing the proper equipment. In one hour, it will be abundantly clear if this sport is for you.

If you like it, the opportunity for you to join the club is yours for a modest annual dues of \$15. As a member, you would have access to our website where you can sign up for various clinics to improve your pickleball skills and participate in club tournaments and other functions.

Back at The Ranch

Rus Adams
(352) 861-8180
rus_adams@otowfl.com



Nurturing Mind, Body, & Spirit

I had the good fortune of sitting down with three amazing women who were delighted to share their feelings about aging actively, and why it is important for them to nurture their bodies, brains, and spirit. Meet Patricia, Doris and Annette, passionate Ranch members who embody the strength and conviction to live life to the fullest. I was curious as to what makes these ladies tick, and what brings them into The Ranch Fitness Center & Spa every morning with smiles and the energy to take on their workouts. Here is what these inspiring women had to share.

THE RANCH: What is your motivation for coming to The Ranch Fitness Center & Spa five to six days a week to work out?

PATRICIA: "Exercise is like food. It nourishes the mind, body, and spirit. There isn't just one thing that brings me to The Ranch. The big reasons are that I am committed to my self-care. I want to wear a bikini on my 65th birthday! But it's a lot more than how I look. I want to live a long healthy life. I love meeting up with my friends here at The Ranch. Exercise and connecting with others give me purpose."

DORIS: "I came to The Ranch Fitness Center & Spa two years ago when I was advised to have shoulder surgery. I worked in the race-horse industry for 45 years and all those hay bales and saddles I lifted took a toll on my shoulder. I didn't want surgery, so I trusted the professionals at The Ranch to help me. Not only did I gain core strength, shoulder mobility, and prevent the surgery, I lost 15 pounds! I am a caregiver for my father and The Ranch has become my outlet, my happy place."

ANNETTE: "I love dancing! When I hear music, I must move. I was raised by a mother who embraced exercise. We walked almost everywhere we went, and she even followed along with Jack LaLanne on TV. I discovered that I liked to move my body and I felt better when I did. I am not a sitter, so as soon as we were settled into our new Weybourne Landing home, I was at The Ranch doing Zumba®. Now I take all of the morning fitness classes at The Ranch."

THE RANCH: Not everyone shares the same enthusiasm for working out. Do you have any encouraging words for our readers?

PATRICIA: "Meet with a professional! They can assess you and provide you with the exercise that is just right for you. The team at The

Ranch can help you modify exercises so that you can be successful. And it is not just about exercise, everyone needs self-care. I treat myself to massages in the spa to help with exercise recovery."

DORIS: "I couldn't raise my arm when I started at The Ranch. If I can do it, anyone can! I avoided surgery and I can now reach up into the cabinet. After working for 45 years, it's time to take care of me! Everyone needs to make their health a priority"

ANNETTE: "Start slow, but you need to start! Once you get going, it gets easier, and you get stronger. No matter what your age, don't be afraid to try something new. I still think like I'm 21!"



Photo by Cammy Dennis

Patricia Smith-Lalor, Doris Arterburn, and Annette Ferguson are passionate active agers.



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On Top of the World NEWS

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**Sidekicks
Western Dance**

Barbara Scales



March is when we plan the garden of our dreams, but have you thought about planning your personal garden of health? Each bad habit you weed out puts you that much closer to your goal.

Analysts recommend starting to exercise in small increments. And what kind of exercise is best? Hands down, it must be the one that you are unaware you are exercising while you do it! The Sidekicks dance class is so much fun that we often forget we are exercising, and participants reap a harvest of multiple benefits. We meet friendly people as the class shuffles around in a circle to new and old patterns of dance. And meeting new friends can improve your outlook on life with good conversation and laugh-

ter. Exercise helps our brain. Are you aware that a hippo camps in your brain? The hippocampus was named such because it resembles a seahorse. Why should we care? The hippocampus helps regulate our ability to retain memories. As we age, this section of our brain shrinks. Studies documented in The New England Journal of Medicine showed that dancing helps us to put off the shrinkage, and thereby delays dementia.

There is much to be said for happy feet. Happy feet lead to happy minds.

While dancing you are also giving your body the full pamper treatment. You are not only burning calories, which can help with weight maintenance, but you are gradually improving your flexibility and balance. We all understand how flexibility plays into joint stiffness and sore muscles. Dance helps us reduce both of those. Keeping limber allows for ease of motion and agility. Improving our balance is a

great deterrent to falling, thereby avoiding hip, shoulder, and head injuries. You do not have to be a Fred Astaire or a Ginger Rogers. You just need to be willing to come out and dance the light fantastic!

Expand your horizons with the Sidekicks and gain heart health. During exercise, such as partner dancing, blood pressure and heart rate rise temporarily to meet the demands of the body. After exercise like dancing, the blood pressure and heart rate find new and lowered resting points. The average heart rate is between 60 to 100 beats per minute. Some superbly trained athletes have resting heart rates in the 30 to 40 range. Your heart will

love you for participating.

Remember to start small. Overdoing can be as harmful as no exercise at all. Listen to your body. Take breaks. Hydration is a key to avoiding muscle cramping. Check with your doctor if you have questions about starting an exercise program.

When you participate with the Sidekicks you will make new friends, improve your posture, and improve your overall mental and physical health.

On Tuesday, March 15, there will be an ice cream social for Sidekicks Dance Club members. Be sure to mark it on your calendar. Until then be active, exercise and keep on dancing!

Ballet

Eugenie Martin



In a way, the Ballet Club is like a mini-United States of America/United Nations. Our dancers come from all over the country, east to west coast, and northern states to Florida. In addition, we have dancers from other countries, including Israel, Colombia, Puerto Rico, Indonesia, and Hungary. We even have a new dancer who lived in many international spots as she grew up in a military family and speaks fluent French. Of course, we welcome women from all areas, but a French-speaker is very important, since virtually all ballet terms are French.

After participating in the recent Health & Wellness Expo with a demonstration of six different dances, we are now returning to our regu-

lar classes. (Before the demo we did a lot of rehearsing.) We offer five classes each week, all held in the Arbor Conference Center Ball Room. Here is our class schedule:

- Beginner: Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to noon with Instructor Suzanne Scheraga; Fridays, noon to 1:15 p.m. with Instructor Eugenie Martin.
- Advanced Beginner: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1 to 2:15 p.m. with Instructor Eugenie Martin; Saturdays, noon to 1:15 p.m. with Instructor Suzanne Scheraga.

We always welcome newcomers. If you want to join our classes, you do not need any previous experience, nor do you need ballet clothes. To start, all you need are exercise clothes, socks, and a bottle of water. It is best if you call me first, so I can find out about your previous experience, and direct you to the best class for you. Happy dancing!

**Horseshoe
League**

Joe Lawson



Why go to the gym to lift weights? We lift weights every Tuesday outdoors in the sunshine. Yes, some mornings are cool, but by 10 a.m. after warming up everyone has all their coats off. We use a two and a half-pound horseshoe and throw it at a stake that sticks about 18 inches out of the ground. We throw two shoes 20 times each game and play three games. That's 120 shoes or reps with two and a half-pounds.

Our league is composed of both men and women. So, if you think women can't compete with the men? Meet Betty DeLong who now leads the league undefeated with only one tie after five weeks. Think you're too old? Meet Ed Klodzen. Just like bowling, our games are handicapped so everyone has a chance to win. Come play with us at Veterans Park each Tuesday at 10 a.m.

The Horseshoes Club is holding training classes to assist anyone who might be interested in getting some help if they have never played or only played recreationally. Just email me at softballjoe46@gmail.com and we will setup a time that works for you.

On Top of the World plays in the tri-county travel league and at this writing, we are in fourth place out of nine teams. Every team has a bye week, which we had the second week. The week of Feb. 10, we played the top team so we could move up closer and then two weeks later they have their bye week, which will really change the standing. We won the travel league three years ago and finished second two years ago. We hope to finish well ... wish us luck.

Cycling Club

Dennis Baker



The Wheeling Around the World Cycling Club invites and welcomes all residents and guests interested in cycling regardless of cycling ability. Beginner, intermediate, advanced, or pro? All are welcome and will find cyclists of similar interests and capabilities!

The club meets two or more times each week usually at the Power Park on SW 90th Street across from the dog park near the four-way stop. Special rides or excursions are often scheduled by group members. Schedules are published regularly on Facebook (OTOW Chat Room and Wheeling Around the World). Grab your bike or trike and your helmet and join the fun.

For information, contact Dennis Baker at dbaker@laposte.net or 352-562-0088.

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Archery Club

Dee Dombach



Have you ever thought that joining the Archery Club might be fun and challenging, but you don't know the first thing about it, don't want to embarrass yourself, or are afraid you might shoot yourself or someone else? Don't worry! The Archery Club has you covered. As part of the process of joining the club, future members receive education and training to help them have a successful and safe start on their archery journey.

Bocce Club

Michelle Malsch



This is how we roll! Open bocce continues to be one of the hottest games in town. As of late, all six courts are being utilized and are at full capacity. Open bocce is played Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, at 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Please arrive a few minutes early so that a count can be taken and numbers of players per court can be decided upon. Teams are decided by the luck of the draw. Masks or face coverings are optional. Social distancing guidelines may affect the number of players per court.

Open bocce is a good opportunity to practice or learn the game. Anyone who shows up can play. This is your chance to watch and learn or play, however as a new player, once you have played with the league on three occasions you will be expected to join the league, pay dues, and

Call of the Wild Sports Club

Jeff Wiita



On Sunday, Jan. 30, in a barn near Ocala, the temperature dropped to 22 degrees Fahrenheit with no wind. The day before, the temperature was 30 degrees, and the wind was gusting from the northeast, and then on Monday, the temperature dropped to 33 degrees, again. It was reported that this was the coldest it has been for 10 years. For many, the current drop in temperature reminds us of the snook kill of 2010. Fortunately, this weather event was not expected to have the same impact. Back then, there were reports of cold temperatures and gusty northeast winds for over a week. That led to a snook and other tropical fish "cold kill." For those who do not know, snook are one of Florida's top sport fish, and they have been slowly recovering from this 50- to 60-year event.

Water cools much slower than the air. So, a couple of days of chilly nights is far less damaging than a week or more. The current cold event also occurred at the end of January. The mature snook were prepared for this natural event by migrating to the warmer spring water in the rivers. There may be some cold related fish kills reported, but they will be the juveniles that have not migrated to safety. Another difference between this cold snap and 2010 was the wind direction, which has a bigger impact on the fish along Florida's Nature Coast. The 2010 freeze featured consistent northeast winds which blew the west coast tides out and never let them come back in. That trapped a lot of snook in the shallows and flats, where they froze.

Now for a fishing report and forecast. As mentioned above, the mature snook and redfish have migrated up the rivers seeking warmer water. This migration from their summer shallows and flats occurs when the water temperature approaches 60 degrees. The fish seek deeper and warmer temperatures to winter and the natural springs in the rivers provide a constant 70-degree temperature all year around. They should remain in the rivers until mid-April when they decide to migrate back to their summer homes.

I have heard reports of snook over 28-inches caught on the Withlacoochee River/Barge Canal and many keeper redfish as well. If you are interested in spotted seatrout and sheepheads, focus on the larger rivers further north during March and April. Suwannee River, Steinhatchee River, East Pass Channel near Destin, and Waccassa River

New members will become familiar with basic safety rules and shooting etiquette, where to stand when you're ready to shoot, where to wait for the rest of the line to finish shooting, how to carry your arrows, and how to pull them from the target. You'll learn how to use protective equipment such as arm and finger guards. You'll learn the parts of the bow and how to knock your arrows. You will become acquainted with the USA Archery National Training System's 11 steps of shooting.

Don't have any archery equipment? No problem. The Archery Club has a variety of bows, arrows, quivers, and protective gear for members to use while at the range.

sign a "Release and Hold Harmless" consent form.

The annual banquet will be held Saturday, May 7. The location will be determined pending member participation. Updated information will follow.

We are looking for players to form a team of four for league play on Thursdays, at 10 a.m. If you are interested, please contact Terry Connolly at 352-895-3866.

A directory is in the storage unit which contains an alphabetical list of all members. Please make sure you have entered your name and contact information.

At the end of league play in April, several positions will become available: secretary, vice president, and league representatives for Tuesdays, at 9 and 11 a.m.; and league representative for Thursdays, at 10 a.m. The new season will begin Tuesday, Oct. 4 and end April 27, 2023. If you are interested in one of these positions or would like information on what the responsibilities are, please contact Terry Connolly, president at 352-895-3866. Until we roll again ...

are where they winter. If you are adventurous and interested in primarily seatrout, focus on the deep holes and deep bends of Barnett Creek and Big and Little Trout Creeks.

If you enjoy the outdoors and find this information helpful, please visit Call of the Wild Sports Club Wednesday, April 6, in the Hobby Building Event Room from 1 to 3 p.m. If you would like further information or have any questions, feel free to contact Scott Bloch, our president, at 614-806-6738.

We are fortunate to have many experienced and excellent archers among our ranks who are able and willing to provide help and advice when needed to newer archers eager to learn. Some members have even achieved various levels of certification through the USA Archery Instructor Certification Program. Level I course includes information about range safety and setup, the steps of shooting, and equipment and repair. After completing online coursework and passing the exam, students must pass an in-person practical course to complete their certification. There are five levels of certification within the program.

One of our members, Tom Roach, who is also the club's secretary, recently completed the level I instructor online coursework. He is the subject of this month's member spotlight.

Tom was born in a French Catholic community called Moxee, Washington, known as the "Hops Capital of the World." He pursued a wide variety of careers through the years

including agriculture as a hops farmer, aircraft owner and pilot, aircraft maintenance and repair with the U.S. Air Force, computer engineer, and furniture designer and builder.

Tom started archery at an early age thanks to an uncle who was a great outdoorsman. He started with long bows, switched to compound, and recurve, and is now back to traditional longbows. Tom finds the most challenging part of archery is shooting consistently. The most satisfying is getting out to the range and enjoying the friendship and competition.

Tom says, "I have seen many changes in the sport, but what does not change is all the great people I meet and the challenge of trying to improve." He recommends a book by Byron Ferguson called "Become the Arrow."

If you are interested in learning more about the club, please contact Bob Papirner at rpapirner@aol.com or Mark D'Addario at markdad06@gmail.com.

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R/C Flyers Club

Dan Gaffin



Winter showed itself in January and February in central Florida but that doesn't stop the R/C Flyers from enjoying the hobby we love. The R/C Flyers Club held a Fun Fly for all members in February. Thank you to Alex Fedele who organized, coordinated, and commentated this great event.

There were nine pilots who participated in the flying events at the Fun Fly and these events were judged by six other pilots. There were four events that pilots could participate in with each event representing a specific level of flying skill. It was up to each pilot to decide which event they felt skilled enough to participate in.

The first flying event was named the "joker draw" and each pilot drew a card from a playing deck and then performed the flying skill associated with the card drawn. The card drawn could represent several types of skills such as flying loops or aileron rolls with the aircraft in a designated amount of time.

The second event involved landing your aircraft in a designated zone on the flying field and to accumulate as many landings as possible in this zone within a designated amount of time.

The third event was the "touch and go" in which a pilot would take off from the runway and return to touch his landing gear on the runway as many times as possible within a designated amount of time.

The fourth event was the "mail run" and this was a designated flight course that a pilot had to complete as fast as possible.

For each event a pilot participated in, a score was given to the performance. At the end of all the events the overall winners were announced and are listed as follows: 1: Don Wright; 2: Bob Anderson; 3: Dan Gaffin.

As with all club events, there is a lot of fun and laughs and therefore an award was given to Kenny Graham for the most "spectacular crash" of the day. Kenny accepted this award with honor and good sportsmanship as all the pilots do.

The Fun Fly was followed by a barbeque lunch for all club members, and this was served by all the great volunteers of the club. Thank you to all who participated to make this a great day of fun, laughs and good food.

The R/C Flyers is hosting a Fly-In Saturday, April 2, at the flying field and this is open to everyone. Along with watching the amazing flying and flying stunts in the air, there will be food and beverages available for purchase, a 50/50 raffle and free admission.

For more information about this upcoming event visit www.otowrc-flyers.com.



Photo by Dan Gaffin

Fun Fly participants.

Fit Tips



Larry Robinson
(352) 387-3571
larry_robinson@otowfl.com

Fit Tips for Your Toes

When was the last time you replaced your athletic footwear? Your shoes are an important part of your workout. Sport specific shoes assist with base support, stability, and balance. Inexpensive, lower quality brands are generally not sufficient for exercising in. Additionally, certain shoes are better suited for certain exercises.

FIT TIP #1: Pain is not normal. If you experience foot pain while exercising, try getting your feet pro-

fessionally measured and fitted to the right shoe. I also recommend talking to your health care provider about this to rule out any underlying health issue.

FIT TIP #2: Agility sports need lateral support. The movements in tennis and pickleball require shoes that provide support for quick side-to-side movement. Look for shoes that provide stability on the inside and outside of the foot.

FIT TIP #3: Think cushion for cardio. Shoes for aerobic conditioning should have extra shock absorption in the sole beneath the ball of the foot where the most stress occurs.

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Grazing on the Lawn

By Ray Cech
World News Writer

Inspiration and Celestial Magic are the two majestic horses that are now permanently grazing on the lawn at Circle Square Commons. Celestial Magic (2021) was created

by artist and veterinarian, Michelle Farrar. The artwork for Inspiration (2001), was the work of artist, Mary Verrandeaux.

It was a long road getting to On

Top of the World for these two artists and their horses, but their artwork now holds a prominent place in our community at Circle Square Commons.

It all started more than 20 years ago. Back then, Laurie Zink founded a charitable program for the arts of Marion County. It was inspired by Ocala being known as "Horse Capital of the World," and she called it "Horse Fever." She imagined an

opportunity to turn our city slogan into a way to raise money for the arts, which at the time was struggling here in Ocala.

Horse Fever originally started with more than 50 fiberglass horses. Local artists were then given the challenge of submitting a full-scale drawing of their proposed design that would eventually decorate their horse. All designs were submitted to a panel of jurors who then selected the best-of-the-best.

Fast forward to 2020. Thirty-one artists submitted designs. Fifteen were chosen. Those selected were then given almost two months to transfer their paper designs onto a life-like fiberglass horse, each with a theme. After completion, the horses were clear coated for preservation.

They were then all introduced to the public at an outdoor display in February 2021. Visitors were able to stroll around from horse to horse enjoying the artwork. Adding interest to the event, artists were there with their painted horse to greet and talk with anyone having a question or two. The most frequently asked were, what inspired the design, how long did it take, and why did you name it that?

On Top of the World President, Kenneth D. Colen, selected Celestial Magic to be on permanent display here in our community. Keeping her company at Circle Square Commons is Inspiration, the horse designed and painted by Mary Verrandeaux over 20 years ago.

Stop by, pay them a visit, and make it a photo op.



Photo by Ray Cech

Celestial Magic and Inspiration at Circle Square Commons.

Tickets on Sale Now

By Richard Rosen

A line made famous in the legendary Broadway musical, 42nd Street - "Musical comedy ... the most glorious words in the English language!"

Enjoy all our Theatre Group's glorious words and music in the upbeat, sophisticated, and sassy musical revue, "The Best of Times," Sat-

urday April 2, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 3, at 3 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom.

Advanced tickets are already selling briskly. \$10 for general admission, and \$25 for patron priority reserved seating, including appreciation and acknowledgement in our program. Tickets are available

Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Recreation Center. We will also be selling tickets at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays, in Recreation Center Ballroom before rehearsal. You may pay with cash or check. Please provide us with the names and addresses of any outside guests in your party. At this writing, all audience members must be masked.

Our dynamic presentation includes songs and scenes from Applause, Annie, Porgy and Bess,

South Pacific, The Fantasticks, Bye Bye Birdie, Carousel, Damn Yankees, On a Clear Day You Can See Forever, Ain't Misbehavin', Flower Drum Song, Moulin Rouge, The Sound of Music, La Cage Aux Folles, Little Shop of Horrors, Camelot, My Fair Lady, Guys and Dolls, and A Chorus Line.

Backstage and ticket booth people are still needed. Be a part of this thrilling event!

For further information, contact Richard at upstage111@yahoo.com.



Photo by Lori Szepelek

Ken Russell, Dave Wesenberg, Leonard Rivkin, Brady Reeves, Russ Kaye, Wayne Dilts, Rosalina Norita, Jane Bennett-Bailey, Cicily Kaye, Carole Beauchamp, and Sherry Troy.

Toppers Banjo Group

By Lisa Augustine

Did you know that we have a banjo group? Well, we do! Meet Ed Martin, he has been a member for seven years. Ed plays a Jany tenor banjo made in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he is originally from. He has been playing the banjo for 50 years.

If you are from the Philadelphia area you know all about watching the Mummers Parade every New Year's Day. Ed proudly walked up Broad Street during the parade playing his banjo as a member of the Woodland String Band for 10 cold years. Ed not only played his banjo up Broad Street but wore a costume and feathered back piece weighing 25 to 30 pounds. For a musician who can never get enough banjo or music he was also a member of The Knights of Columbus and Gloucester City String Bands as well as the Philadelphia Banjo Society.

Currently besides playing his

banjo every day, Ed is also learning how to play the ukulele and is a member of the Ukulele Group. Music has been good for Ed's soul!

The Toppers Banjo Group has members who play the banjo, piano, and bass guitar as well as a singer. They mostly play New Orleans jazz music as well as some oldies like "When You're Smiling," "Five-foot Two," and "Four Leaf Clover." They had the opportunity to play at some of the On Top of the World functions such as the opening of the Veterans Park, Sunshine Quilters holiday party, and the Texas Connection monthly meeting.

If you are interested in making music and having fun, come check out the Toppers Banjo Group at 1 p.m. on Mondays or 10 a.m. on Thursdays in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room. If you'd like more information, call Ed Martin at 610-304-6974.



Photo by Lisa Augustine

Ed Martin with Mummers Parade painting in the background.

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Artistic Crafts & Gifts

Chris Kilbride



The Artistic Crafts & Gifts Group's Tuesday craft show at the Recreation Center Ballroom is from 9 a.m. to noon, and will continue weekly through May.

Our website ArtisticCrafts.org will give you a glimpse of our very talented crafters and artisans. The group started back in the early 1990s, and the show has grown from seven crafters to now over 45 on Tuesdays, with over 55 online and more gearing up to go virtual. All resident crafters are welcome to sell virtually on our website and inquire about a table at our Tuesday show.

This month we feature Mindy Silberstein who has been involved with various mediums of arts and crafts from her early teens until the present day.

Originally from Long Island, New York, she attended SUNY Farmingdale majoring in art and design. At

that point she was very much into pen and ink drawings including the art of decoupage, which as one of her favorite mediums, she still uses today.

Decoupage work abounds on her Christmas ornaments as well as on the beautiful jewelry boxes and trays that she designs.

Over the years Mindy has dabbled in creating gorgeous brooches, stick pins, earrings, as well as hair accessories and necklaces. Her inventory of beads, findings and various bits and pieces is quite extensive, even though she is still constantly on the hunt for new items to use in her work.

Throughout the year as each holiday presents a different theme, you'll see hearts, patriotic items, or other seasonal gifts which are truly unique. During the winter holidays her focus is on Christmas ornaments which are always a big hit at the Tuesday craft show. She has added a collection of mini-Christmas trees which include various beads, trimmings, and crystals to create a beautiful holiday glow to each one. Some are ready for hanging with a beaded hanger, while others are stand alone on small



Photo by Chris Kilbride

From Christmas trees to butterflies, Mindy Silberstein enjoys the art of decoupage.

black easels.

Mindy has enjoyed being artistic her whole life and plans on continuing her passion for many years to come.

For those who have never visited on Tuesday, please take an hour, and go by to see the wide variety of quality items for sale. All vendors are now part of our virtual web-

site also, so you can see everyone's crafts even if you can't get to the weekly show. Any vendor can make arrangements for you to purchase items throughout the week.

If you have your own artistic endeavor you wish to sell, please contact us through our website ArtisticCrafts.org where our coordinator Rene can answer all your questions.

Art Group

Joanie Ford



Photo by Joanie Ford

Florida scene.

With spring and St. Patrick's Day arriving soon I thought discussing green may be fun.

Green, is a secondary color. We produce green when we mix the two primary colors - yellow and

blue.

And not all greens are created equal.

Recently, I painted a Florida scene in the Hobby Building Art Room. I did most of the painting there, and when I came back to my studio, I noticed that it needed a little more work, so I finished it.

That painting has sat unframed looking at me since. It isn't right. It is too green.

So, back to the easel it will go.

When you are mixing greens, there are many ways to change them - by tone, value or chroma. One way I can fix my green painting is to add the missing primary. Since I mixed yellow and blue to get green, the missing primary is red. The red, opposite of green will make it feel less intense.

I can also choose to add more yellow (warmer) or blue (cooler) to the green mixtures. It all depends on how I want my painting to look and feel for the viewer.

As an artist, I think a lot about color and the effect it has in the painting. Green is the color of harmony, balance, and security. It is symbolic meaning for hope, peace, and gentleness. It is a soothing color and the color we think of for

healing. Green also suggests endurance, hope and growth.

Green is the color of money. Yellow green portrays sickness or jealousy, and we all are familiar with the phrase "green with envy."

Spring leaves and grasses show us hope for warmer weather and a seasonal change. The Irish in their dream of independence, choose a spring green for the green of the flag and the official color for St. Patrick's Day.

Color has a lot of meaning in our lives, yet we hardly notice it. Unless of course you are a painter, crafter, or someone who works with color daily.

Celebrate green today! Think green for all the good things it can bring into your life.

The Art Group meets Wednesdays at 1 p.m. and Thursdays and Saturdays at 9 a.m. in the Hobby Building Art Room.

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Backgammon

Karyn Dubie



The Backgammon Club continues to grow with nine new participants joining over the last month. There are 29 members, at the time of this writing.

At each weekly meeting there are an average of 12 players. Members are at all experience levels from having never played to very experienced and knowledgeable players. Backgammon is a very social game and can be what you want it to be. It is simple to learn but if you want to go all in, it can be very involved.

Many of our players are well versed in the strategy and nuances of backgammon and can tell at a glance the odds of winning a game in progress, how many different chances there are of getting a needed dice roll, and if it is worth the risk of hitting the opponent's checker off the board when they can't safely cover all of their points.

Other players are happy to play, following the basic rules, and enjoy the process without getting into the more demanding details that others enjoy. Players use a card draw to determine initial opponent for the evening, play a couple of games together and then switch up with other players for additional games. This provides all members the chance to get to know each other as well as be involved in different scenarios and experiences.

The night may start out with conversations or presentations relating to backgammon. We anticipate having actual tournaments in the future but right now we are just enjoying the game and meeting new interesting and friendly people. If you are interested in learning, there is an opportunity to do so every week. If you already play, come

right in, and take a seat. There is always room.

The Backgammon Club meets Wednesdays, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. There is no membership fee and is open to all residents and those with a Gateway of Services pass.

For current information, visit our Facebook page (OTOW Backgammon).

Bingo

Nancy Grabowski



Most of the bingo information remains constant. We play every Wednesday in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Before the games start, raffle tickets are sold three for \$1 or 10 for \$3 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Then, at 5:40 p.m. winning tickets are drawn, and winners receive \$20 for each winning ticket.

Playing cards are sold from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. for \$1 each. Resident IDs must be shown; guests may be signed in after the resident shows the ID. There are 18 games with prizes based on sales; the 10th game always has a pot of \$75 while the 20th game has a base of \$100. Ten dollars is added to the last game until it is won; it is capped at \$250. As of this writing, the jackpot is \$170 and continues to climb.

On Wednesday, April 20, we will hold the semi-annual super bingo night. There will be sixteen games at \$75 each and four games at \$250 each. More details about this special night will be announced in April so they remain fresh in the eyes of our participants.

We had a good number of new players since we returned in January. Our volunteers work hard to keep the games flowing and are more than helpful. Our runners have suggested to newcomers if you think you have bingo but aren't

sure, call it and let them check for you. This sage advice serves as a great reminder for our veteran players, too.

We invite you to join us for a fun-filled, relaxing evening!

Bridge



Monday Afternoon

By Shirley Stolly & Carol Johnson

Jan. 10

1: Diane Perry & John Ryan; 2: Mar Balchin & Bruce Gillett; 3: Shirley Stolly & Carol Johnson; 4: Joan Lord & Craig Ford.

Jan. 17

1: Debbie & Pat Quinn; 2: Linda & Bill Ryan; 3: Judy Mackowick & Rick Saffol; 4: Shirley Stolly & Carol Johnson.

Jan. 24

1: Shirley Stolly & Carol Johnson; 2: Mary Bloch & Linda Curtiss; 3: Mar Balchin & Rick Saffol; 4: Barb Heller & Caryl Rosenberger.

Jan. 31

1: Lew & Margie Plauny; 2: Linda Curtiss & John Ryan; 3: Mar Balchin & Rick Saffol; 4: Joan Lord & Craig Ford.

Tuesday Night Duplicate

By Bob Kraus & Gayle Taylor

The Duplicate Bridge Group meets at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays in the Arbor Activity Center Card Rooms I-II. This is a pairs game so please bring a partner and arrive a few minutes early to sign in. If you would like to play occasionally as a substitute, contact us and we will put you on our list.

We collect \$0.50 per person at the start and after all the boards are scored, this is distributed the following week to the top teams. We are enjoying a good turnout which continues to increase.

If you like friendly competition, come try about 20 boards with us. For more information, you can contact Bob Kraus at 352-492-8525 or Gayle Taylor at 352-387-9571.

Jan. 11

North/South

1: Wayne Caldwell & Jack Heller; 2: Connie Campbell & Billie Anderson; 3: Patsy Claremont & Paul Claremont

East/West

1: Barbara Heller & Caryl Rosenberger; 2: Gayle Taylor & Bob Kraus; 3: Linda Ryan & Bill Ryan

Feb. 1

North/South

1: Wayne Caldwell & Jack Heller; 2: Dan Hall & Dave Cunningham; 3: Patsy Claremont & Paul Claremont

East/West

1: Barbara Heller & Caryl Rosenberger; 2: Bob Kraus & Gayle Taylor; 3: Sharon Miller & Arlene Loepp

Feb. 8

North/South

1: Wayne Caldwell & Jack Heller; 2: Judy Ladd & Jon Ladd; 3: Linda Ryan & Bill Ryan

East/West

Tie at 1: Gayle Taylor & Bob Kraus and Sharon Miller & Arlene Loepp; 2: Barbara Heller & Caryl Rosenberger.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Pick up after your pet.

Wednesday Afternoon

By Debbie Quinn

Jan. 5

1: Bruce Gillett; 2: Joe O'Brien; 3: Debbie Quinn; 4: Judi Wallace; Cons: Nancy Lustenberger.

Jan. 12

1: Dennis Wallace; 2: Dianne Robinson; 3: Rik Saffol; 4: Bruce Gillett; Cons: Betty Morris.

Jan. 19

1: John Ryan; 2: Craig Ford; Tie at 3: Shirley Stolly and Rik Saffol; Cons: Lucy Malloy.

Jan. 26

1: Dianne Robinson; 2: Joe O'Brien; 3: Betty Morris; 4: Shirley Stolly; Cons: Judi Wallace.

Thursday Night

By Jeff & Pam Bell

Come join us at 6 p.m. on Thursdays in the Recreation Center Lounge. No need to bring a partner, we will pair up by luck of the draw and rotate partners through the evening. Bring \$0.25 and a smile. All levels are welcome.

Jan. 12

1: Jean Krueger; 2: Pam Bell; Tie at 3: Bob Durst/Al Whitford.

Jan. 26

1: Gayle Taylor; 2: Brent Powell; 3: Mary Bloch.

Feb. 3

1: Sara Anderson; 2: Al Whitford; 3: Tom Baglan.

Feb. 10

1: Bill Lomerson; 2: Jeff Bell; 3: Al Whitford.

Bunco Babes Social Group

Michelle Malsch



New location! We now play bunco in the Recreation Center Lounge (previously the library) on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The next scheduled game is Tuesday, March 22. Registration is at 6:30 p.m.; games begin at 7 p.m. You do not have to call to register. You need only show up. You may bring a guest.

The room is set up for 28 players. Please make sure you arrive on time to reserve your spot. It will be first come, first served. Always check the World News for the latest updates for our group.

If you have never played before, come see what fun we have rolling the dice in this game of luck (no skill required)! The game is easy and only requires rolling three dice and moving to the next table at the end of game play. New players are always welcome.

The cost is \$3 per person and all monies collected are returned at the end of the game to the category winners. There are also two drawings for door prizes for those who did not win any of the cash prizes. Please bring your own beverage and snack if you wish. There is a short intermission after the first three sets have been played.

Come join in the fun and make new friends! For more information, please call Micki Malsch at 352-615-2790. Stay safe and be healthy!

Pinochle



Tuesday Night

By Herb Katz

Jan. 4

1: Charlie Budd; 2: Lucy Eberly; 3: Herb Katz.

Jan. 11

1: Herb Katz; 2: Rick Carroll; 3: Ilene Casper.

Jan. 18

1: Jim Magoon; 2: Dawn Bunyak; 3: Norma Miles.

Jan. 25

1: Debbie Martello; 2: Al Whitford; 3: Charlie Budd.

Friday Morning

By Mary Hannon

Jan. 14

1: Al Whitford; 2: Cheryl Adams; 3: Jim Magoon.

Jan. 21

1: Mary Hannon; 2: Charlie Budd; 3: Judy Black.

Jan. 28

1: Dawn Bunyak; 2: Jenny Magoon; 3: Al Whitford.

Feb. 4

1: Jim Recor; 2: Bruce Gillett; 3: Jenny Magoon.

Feb. 11

1: Kathy Schmidt; 2: Larry Black; 3: Mary Hannon.

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Poetry



Tony Jarvis

My Valentine

When you and I had only just begun,
With nothing more than hope and lots of love,
The wonder of it all was so much fun.
Through thick and thin, when push would
come to shove.

The first decade was filled with all the joys
That life would bring with each new passing
year.
And we were blessed with four new baby
boys,
The ring of laughter echoed in our ears.

The sweet sorrow as each one left the nest.
The two of us, the way we were before.
And all the ways that we were richly blest,
We will treasure now and forevermore.

And as we go toward the end time.
I'm proud to have you as my Valentine.

Poetry



Linda Toner

My Cat

My regal cat
In all her aloofness.
Replaces that
With catnip goofiness.

With tail held high
She meows a greeting.
To one and all,
That she is meeting.

She loves me
And I love her.
A stroke is all
She needs to purr.

I watch her as
She silently stalks.
A leaf that blows
Across the walk.

And I often wonder
What she thinks.
When she looks at me
And slowly blinks.

Her hair is silky,
Her eyes are bright.
And I think
That I was right.

To see her and
To bring her home.
Because now I'm
No longer alone.

Life is better
Where I abide.
To have my cat
By my side.

Happy Hookers



Jan Spielvogel

Happy Hookers continues to meet regularly and welcomes new members almost weekly. It is always good to have new members join our group. Our group is open to all residents.

We resumed our every-other-month luncheons with our first one in February at Elevation 89.

We meet year-round on Mondays, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Art Room. There are no dues, agenda nor penalties for missing a meeting, arriving late, or leaving early. Life can and does interfere at times, and we would hate for that to hold you back. What we do have is a group of ladies busy with crocheting, knitting, needle-pointing, card crafting, embroidering, and handcrafting of all kinds. This is a very talented group that's never too busy to help someone with a difficult pattern or stitch. We welcome newcomers with open arms. Attendees should bring whatever they happen to be working on.

If you have any questions about our club, you may call Naomi Ber- man at 352-873-4328.

If you have yarn, pattern books, knitting needles, crochet hooks or other crafting tools that you no longer have a use for, donations are always appreciated. Please bring them on Mondays during our meet- ing time or contact either Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178 or Kathleen Frost at 925-960-5945 to arrange for pickup.

ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala

Karaoke Friends



Kathy & Charlie Petrosky

I often wondered how our child- hood experiences affect us in adult- hood. I came from a family who loved to sing. Every family gather- ing with aunts, uncles and cousins always had singing. After dinner the adults sat around the table and sang all the old songs. The children gathered and prepared a talent show. After the show, we walked to the ice cream parlor. We loved that part. Many singers, when talk- ing about their interest in singing, mention family gatherings where all sang.

Lynn Roles had such an experi- ence. Here is what she would like to share about her interest in singing: "I have loved music since child- hood. Weekly, my family and I would "Sing Along with Mitch" and I looked forward to singing hymns at my church. At age 10, I received my first guitar and taught myself to play, and in my adult years I have been privileged to sing with several choirs in my church and commu- nity. However, I was fearful at the thought of singing alone before an audience. On a 2018 cruise, with my husband's encouragement, I over- came my performance anxiety and sang karaoke for the first time. To my surprise, I enjoyed the experi- ence and became a karaoke enthu- siast. I've found Karaoke Friends,

Friendship Connection



Carron Janssen

Saturday, Feb. 12, was our Mardi Gras event. We sold 65 tickets, and everyone had a fun time. Music and games were provided by Kathy and Charlie Petrosky. Games played were Mardi Gras trivia, bead toss, and statue dance. Prizes were beau- tiful throw pillows with a Mardi Gras design, while door prizes were king cakes from New Orleans.

Our next event, celebrating the Kentucky Derby, will be Saturday, April 9, in the Recreation Center Ballroom from 4 to 6 p.m. Tickets for this catered event will be on sale the week of March 21 (Monday through Friday) and week of March 28 (Monday through Wednesday) from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in the Recre- ation Center Lobby. Look for Lin- da's table in front of the large urn. No tickets will be sold after 10:30 a.m. on March 30, because we need to get the number attending to the caterer.

Kathy and Charlie Petrosky will again be providing music and en- tertainment. Games will include our own competition on inflatable hobby horses. In keeping with the Kentucky Derby theme, we will have a contest for the best hat! As usual, we will also have door prizes and 50/50. If you have any questions about tickets, please contact Linda at 352-509-4967.

Friendship Connection is open to all residents of Friendship Colony, Friendship Park, and Friendship Village only. Our events are sched- uled on the second Saturday of ev- ery other month from 4 to 6 p.m.

If you are interested in volun- teering to help plan, setup, cleanup, or serve please contact Carron Janssen at 847-529-6183, visit our website at otoffriendshipconnection.com or our Facebook page (Friendship Connection-OTOW), or email us at info@friendshipconnection.com.

led by Charlie and Kathy Petrosky, to be a receptive, fun and talented group of singers."

This month we meet Mondays, March 7 (prop night) and 21. We love adding new singers to the

group. Perhaps you would like to give it a try. We meet on the first and third Mondays of the month in the Arbor Conference Center Music Room from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.



Photo by Steve Warren

Lynn Roles.

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Photo by ShutterBug John Ware

Eagle fight.

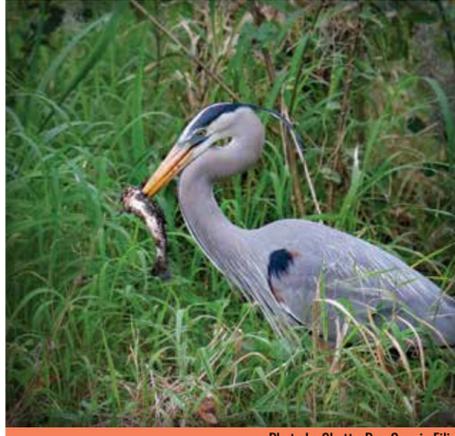


Photo by ShutterBug Connie Filip

Skewered.



Photo by ShutterBug Connie Filip

A new day begins.

ShutterBugs Photography

Connie Filip



The ShutterBugs are proud to present our master class winners from the November 2021 photo contest.

Thanks to all the ShutterBugs who entered their photos and to our residents who voted for their favorite. If you missed seeing our photo display in the Recreation Center, you can still see all our entries at otowspc.com

John Ware has taken first-place honors with "Eagle Fight." Graduating as the first grand master is a fitting ending to John's illustrious history with ShutterBugs. We would also like to thank him for the time and talent he has shared with us over the years.

John says that every December his best friend with whom he served in the U.S. Air Force comes down from Atlanta to photograph birds. A favorite spot is area landfills to capture images of bald eagles. John says, "We always have a friendly competition to see who can get the best shot - I won last year with this one. We always try to get a shot of eagles fighting - and action

shots are hard to get." This shot was taken at the Hernando landfill on a chilly day with clear blue skies. John says seeing this many eagles at once is rare.

Our second-place masters award was given to my photo "Skewered." Years of photography have taught me that the eyes have it. They draw your attention into the photo and then you naturally look at what your subject is looking at. His lunch. This photo was taken at Circle B Bar Reserve in Lakeland while on a ShutterBugs field trip.

The third-place masters award was given to my photo "A New Day Begins." This was also taken in Florida, at dawn at New Smyrna Beach. For me, there's no more peaceful place in the world than watching the colors shift in the morning sky while hearing the surf. This photo captures that mood perfectly.

In Master the Possibilities' lobby this month, stop by to enjoy Martha Coyer's photos from her recent trip to France. Her favorites include stunning photos of Paris at night. Come see the grand sights while not leaving our community!

ShutterBugs president, Harry Boyajian continues to facilitate our sharing of photography tips to improve our skills in camera use and editing.

Want to learn more about digital? Stop by the Hobby Building Event Room for a ShutterBugs meeting at 3 p.m. on the third and fourth Tuesdays. We also generally plan for a photography field trip the first Tuesday of the month. For more information, contact Harry at 239-336-4804.

Rubber Stamp Greeting Cards

Linda Lohr



We learned a new word in class - ephemera - "a class of collectable items not originally intended to last for more than a short time, such as tickets, posters, postcards or labels."

On Thursday, Feb. 3, our presenter, Sherry Lovelass, had plenty of ephemera for everyone! She generously shared her supply with all her fellow stampers. She had such a variety that everyone could find a few that piqued their interest. Sherry also supplied several stamps with sentiments that could be used for different occasions. We thank Sherry for the vocabulary lesson and the great cards we were able to create!

Our group is open to all crafters - beginners or those more experi-

enced. One or two people do a presentation each month. The group meets the first and third Thursdays of the month at 1 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room.

Anyone can be a presenter - and the cards do not have to be fancy or complicated. Our group is based on friendship, socializing and helping each other.

For information on any class or for general information, contact Penny at the email below. There are basic supplies that are needed, such as a trimmer, glue, scissors, and card stock. Everyone in the group shares their supplies and everyone brings new ideas to the table. You are only limited by your imagination!

If you feel this might be a class you would enjoy, or if you have any questions, please contact Penny Douphinett at pennydouph@gmail.com. We look forward to introducing new people to our fun craft. Until then, keep on stampin'!



Photo by Linda Lohr

Examples of cards presented by Sherry Lovelass.

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Fun with Golf Carts

Susan Pulling Robinson



Twenty-five golf carts and several classic cars joyfully participated in the Valentine's Day parade Saturday, Feb. 12. Before the parade, members lined up in front of the Recreation Center to drop off their donations for local charities, especially for Voices of Change Animal League (VOCAL) a local animal rescue and adoption organization.

The route included stops at both Bridgewater Park and Brookdale senior living facilities. Parade participants dropped off cards and treats to be distributed throughout the two locations. Many residents turned out to cheer the gaily decorated carts. After the parade, club members enjoyed a potluck picnic at the Veterans Park pavilion.

The St. Patrick's Day/Mardi Gras parade will be Saturday, March 19. Wear green and join us!

Our Easter parade with potluck, adult Easter egg hunt and raffle is scheduled for Saturday, April 9. Members are reminded to bring an Easter basket or bucket for collecting hidden eggs. A non-refundable \$5 per person donation will enable

volunteers to fill 300-plus plastic eggs with some fun prizes. Members who did not pay their \$5 at the Valentine's Day parade may call Dee or Gary Null at 314-882-7264 to arrange payment.

If you want to make up an Easter basket to donate for the raffle, please do so! Hint - some eggs containing cash will be included in the raffle! As always, proceeds from this event will benefit our chosen charities.

Membership in the Fun with Golf Carts Facebook group is now well over 300, so it is no wonder that the parades are getting bigger and better! If you have a golf cart, please consider jazzing it up (or not) and joining in as we parade for a cause. Each parade benefits one or more local charity.

To follow us on Facebook, search for OTOW Fun with Golf Carts. For more information and to receive emails about this club, please email otowfunwithgolfcarts@gmail.com.

All parades start at the Recreation Center, with lineup and charitable donations at 9:45 a.m., and pullout at 10 a.m. The route for a given parade is posted on Facebook (OTOW Fun with Golf Carts and OTOW Chat Room). If the parade is not coming by your house, please come see the action as we leave the Recreation Center promptly at 10 a.m.

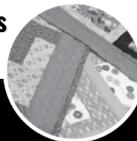


Photo by Gail Schultz

Christine Smith with a recently completed quilt.

Sunshine Quilters

Teri Anzalone Penichet



Our featured member for March is Christine Smith. Christine moved to On Top of the World in 2007. Before moving here, she resided in Maryland, but lived in other states as well.

Christine graduated from the State University of New York at Oswego with a Bachelor of Science in education. She began teaching in elementary schools and met her husband Ed shortly afterward. Ed was just out of the U.S. Navy, where he worked as a missile fire control tech. They married in 1975, and Ed began working for IBM. During Ed's 34-year career with IBM, Christine and Ed lived in New York, North Carolina, and elsewhere in Florida. They were living in Maryland when Ed retired, and they moved here.

Christine credits her time as a Girl Scout while growing up as piquing her interest in sewing. She learned to sew through the scouting program, earning many badges. Christine recalls an early home sewing project was helping her mother make a patchwork quilt top, and that she learned more about sewing through the home economics classes she took in high school. She took a break from sewing for a while as an adult, but got back to it about 20 years ago, when she was

reintroduced to quilting.

Since her return to sewing, Christine has made 60-plus quilts for charity. She tries to finish one quilt a month, completing the entire process (sewing the pieced top, quilting, and binding the quilt) on her own. Christine likes using bright colors and animal print fabric for her quilts, and aims to make "one for a girl, one for a boy, one 'neutral' for anybody" when planning her quilts.

She sews on a vintage Bernina machine and finds patterns for her quilts from books in her home library, occasionally buying new patterns.

Christine has been a member of the Sunshine Quilters for five years. She says her favorite thing about our club is "learning new blocks and meeting new people and old friends." We are so pleased to have Christine as a member of our club!

The Sunshine Quilters meet each Tuesday, at 9:30 a.m. in the Hobby Building Art Room, as well as Wednesdays, at 4 p.m. in the same place. So far this year, we have donated five quilts and 50 burp pads to Alpha House, and four quilts to Marion Senior Services.

Our activities for March include a block-of-the-month, sit-and-sew sessions, and sewing doggie beds for the Humane Society of Marion County. We welcome new members who have an interest in sewing quilts and other items. For more information, please call Gail Schultz at 352-304-9159.



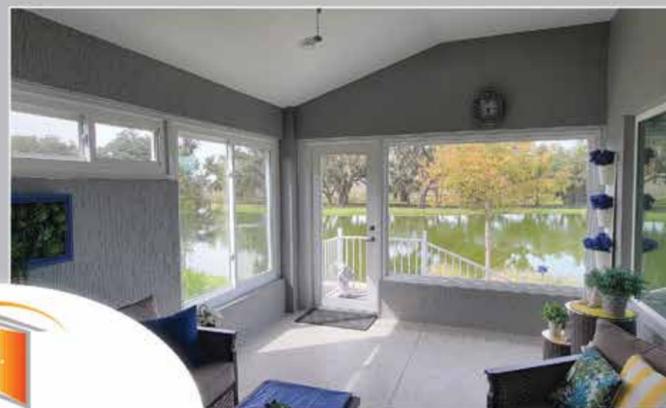
Photo by Susan Pulling Robinson

Shelly and Ina Kline.

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Avalon Social Group

Karen Volpe & Sharon Hall



Our February social event was on Valentine's Day with around 80 in attendance. We had an enjoyable evening with a catered meal and music. Thanks to all who helped plan and organize the event.

Our next event is scheduled Monday, April 11, at 5:30 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios. We are planning to host a night at the races. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more information.

We had another planning meeting in January to gather ideas for the remainder of 2022 and have several ideas in the works. If you

ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala

are interested in helping to plan or volunteering at our monthly events, please contact Karen Volpe at 631-766-1907.

There are three ways to keep informed of upcoming events: email, Facebook group, or flyers at the postal center.

If you would like to be added to our email list or to verify that you are on the list so that you can be notified of future events, please email your request to avalonsocialclub@gmail.com.

For up-to-date Avalon news and upcoming events, we also encourage you to join our Facebook group (Avalon Social Club). This is a private group, and you will be asked for your address to verify that you are an Avalon resident. If you have trouble finding the group or getting in, please email to the email address above and we'll send you the link to the group.

Activities and events will also be posted at the postal center.

Williamsburg Neighbors

Carmel Kessler



Williamsburg is a vibrant neighborhood with amazing residents and great activities. At the annual meeting in January, Nancy Meininger volunteered to be the coordinator/president of our neighborhood association. Jill Carel oversees residents' contact information, email communications, and notices. If you are not receiving Williamsburg emails, please contact Jill Carel at jilleroni@gmail.com.

Please mark your calendar for the several activities that have been set. The neighborhood tag sale will take place Thursday, May 5 and Thursday, May 6. This is a great opportunity to clean out the closets and sell those hidden treasures you don't even know you still have. To participate, you must fill out a tag sale form and return it to Nancy Meininger by Thursday, March 31. The forms will be submitted to Resident Services for approval. You cannot participate unless you submit the necessary paperwork. Contact Nancy for further information at nancy@nancymeininger.com.

A Hawaiian luau is planned for Saturday, July 30. Linda Jones is coordinating this event, which will be hosted by Dan Weigand. Tickets are \$3 per person to cover the cost of the chicken. The remainder of the meal will be potluck. Our holiday party is scheduled Saturday, Dec. 10, at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios. Vicki Enderby and Gwen Fabian are co-chairing this wonderful night.

Other ideas for socials include a comedy night and a sock hop. If you would like to suggest an activity, or volunteer to help, please contact Nancy.

Vicki Enderby suggested a neighborhood information network for assisting neighbors in need. If you would like to help with this endeavor, or have questions or suggestions, please contact Vicki at venderby@aol.com.

Carmel Kessler (dkes22@aol.com) is writing the monthly World News column, and would appreciate any suggestions and information for future submissions.

Another helpful mode for communication and information is our Facebook page (Welcome to Williamsburg-OTOW) managed by Sandy Matlock.

Jean Monroe continues as the Williamsburg treasurer.

A \$100 gift card was sent to Ginny Nardone in appreciation of her dedicated work as coordinator/president for the many years she served. Ginny and Jerry moved to Rhode Island, not New Hampshire as previously reported.

Everyone, please join in, however and whenever you can. Your help is always appreciated. Williamsburg socials are fun, interesting, and a great way to meet new neighbors and learn more about the wonderful people who live here.

Our mail delivery has returned to normal. Many thanks to our regular postal worker, Carol, for her dedication and outstanding service during the temporary interruption.

New neighbors, please contact any of the people listed above so we may answer your questions or concerns and have an opportunity to welcome you to Williamsburg.

Americana Village

Julie Sloat



Where it all began – Americana Village! It's such a great place to live. We are planning several social events for the coming year. In February, we held our kick-off event with a dinner, door prizes, and social time to meet new neighbors and get reacquainted with old.

An Easter activity is tentatively planned for Sunday, April 4, at our own beautiful gazebo. Some activities include an egg hunt and Easter bonnet contest. Come join in or be a cheering spectator.

We also plan to have a summer, fall and Christmas event; so watch for information.

Americana 2022 is open to all Americana Village residents only. Volunteers for setup and clean up are appreciated. Visit our Facebook page (OTOW: Americana 2022) for updates and details. Please contact Julie Sloat at jsloat60@gmail.com or Gloria Stoecklin at stoek2@gmail.com for further information.

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#1022

Model Railroaders

Paul Lewandowski



If one were to ask an HO-scale railroad enthusiast, why did they choose HO-scale, many (most?) would say they like the detail and realism that HO-scale provides. A Lionel enthusiast would probably say, "You can't break them."

When visitors come in and see our HO-scale layout and watch the trains go around successfully, they do not have an appreciation of how much fine-tuning has gone into the wheels, trucks, and track to make sure they all work well together. Lionel (or three-rail) is a bit simpler; if the track doesn't come apart, the trains run without derailling.

In the early part of the 20th century, scale was less important than functionality. Most train sets were bought for children, and they were interested in playing, not detailing. The Lionel company had tracks laid behind the factory that could have railroad cars parked there so the design engineers could make measurements to come up with functional representations of the freight and passenger cars and locomotives of the day.

Early trains were called "tin-plate." These were stamped out of thin metal, and the details of color and markings were printed on the metal. Since the end of World War II, Lionel cars were made mostly from plastic (with metal underframes, trucks, and wheels). These were molded with rivets, handrails and other details molded right into the plastic. In these cars, road



Photo by Paul Lewandowski

Lionel layout progress.

names and colors were printed directly on the plastic after injection-molding. These added much more detail and realism to the trains.

Cost-savings efforts in the last quarter of the 20th century even went as far as having plastic trucks and thinner parts with less detail. That was too much for Lionel aficionados; the trains are being made more substantially these days.

Our resident Lionel expert (Charlie Vartanian) was asked if Lionel will ever catch up to the HO scale DCC concept of locomotive control. His answer was quite surprising;

in 1946, Lionel experimented with a form of remote control. The system was a box with numerous buttons on it. Each button controlled a separate function. Each car in the train (four of them) had a button for a remote uncoupler function that opened the couplers of that car. A dump car had an additional button to rotate the body and dump the load. Another button sounded the locomotive horn. The system did not catch on because the electronics available at the time, including vacuum tubes and relays, were too bulky and unreliable.

Today's Lionel trains are strong, attractive, and reliable. Come out and check out our layout. We want to thank Vince DeJong for his donation of a Lionel post-war work train.

For information on joining our club, call Jim Lynam at 352-861-2822. Our club schedules run sessions every Friday (except holidays) from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. in the Hobby Building Model Train Room.

Club business meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month (except holidays) at 9 a.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room.

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Photo by Valerie Ostrom

Crescent Ridge residents enjoying the outdoors and each other's company.

Crescent Ridge Happenings

Valerie Ostrom



Winter is almost behind us. Getting to know our neighbors is one of the highlights of life in our community.

We had another nice potluck at the Veterans Park. We lit the grill and enjoyed nice weather. Folks from Crescent Ridge sure know how to put on a potluck. There was a wide assortment of food, and no

one went home hungry. We had a great turnout, but we always welcome more of our neighbors to join us! We had a 50/50 and congratulations to Fran Calhoun for winning!

Our next potluck will be Sunday, March 13, from 3 to 5 p.m. As usual, bring a dish to share, your drinks of choice, and a chair or two, just in case. The 50/50 funds our paper plates, plasticware and napkins.

For more information, visit our Facebook page (OTOW Crescent Ridge Neighbors) or email us at crescentridgenh@yahoo.com. Carol Lewis is the keeper of our email list, and it will not be used for any other purpose.



Photos by Sherry Bright

Cole (left) and Blu (right).

Newcastle Social Committee

Sherry Bright



Our March event is a singing river tour on Wednesday, March 23! Come on out and enjoy a Rainbow River cruise and lunch with your neighbors. There will be two cruise times - 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. - (20 people on each cruise). Cost is \$20 per person due before Wednesday, March 9. Lunch is on your own. We will meet at the Blue Gator in Dunnellon, Florida at noon. Contact Jeff VanDyke at 49case@gmail.com to reserve your space or for more details.

Newcastle neighbors, did you

share your birthday when signing up for the Newcastle directory? We now have a "sunshine lady" to acknowledge special occasions like birthdays or to send a cheery note or get-well card when needed. To reach the sunshine lady, contact Nancy Monaghan at 352-572-7281 or nancylea55@gmail.com.

This month, I'd like to tell you a little about my friends, Blu and Cole. Blu and Cole live with their owners, Sue and Rick. I got to spend some time with them last weekend and would love to share some of their secrets.

Blu is a five-year-old dachshund that loves to play ball. Blu's superpower is finding hidden treats. In the real world, Blu's job would be a gigolo - the ladies adore him and would be willing to pay to spend some time with this lover!

Cole is a 26-year-old Timneh African grey parrot. Cole's real-world job would have been a peanut taster; he is a peanut connoisseur after all! Cole's very favorite thing to do is to tear up boxes and hats. Cole's obvious superpower is being able to fly - but when he's home alone, he is a rock star! You can hear him singing "Shake Your Booty" throughout the house! As I left the house after my visit, I could hear Cole tell Blu, "She'll be right back!"

Newcastle residents, if you would like to be included in our email list or to verify that you are on the list, please call in your request to Sherry Bright at 860-287-9232 or Meg Kajewski at 540-272-2247. For up-to-date Newcastle news and upcoming events, we encourage you to join our Facebook group (OTOW Newcastle Neighbors).

Longleaf Ridge Friends

Michelle Migdal & Bridget Trenkle



Greetings from Longleaf Ridge! We are excited to bring you news of the latest happenings in our neighborhood.

Longleaf Ridge ... where is that, you ask? It is up past The Arbors, across from Avalon, on the left side of SW 94th Street as you drive towards the R/C flying field.

In our first year as a neighborhood, monthly driveway gatherings were held to allow neighbors to meet each other; and these events were met with great enthusiasm. Phase I also initiated the neighborhood's inaugural Halloween pet parade, an event that is sure to be repeated year after year. Stay tuned for more exciting events as our neighborhood grows.

If you are a future or current homeowner in Longleaf Ridge, we'd like to connect with you. Please join our Facebook page (OTOW Longleaf Ridge Friends). Please make sure you provide which phase you are in and your lot number or address, as this is a private page only for Longleaf Ridge residents.

Questions or want to connect by email? Send an email to otowlongleafridge@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you and welcoming you to Longleaf Ridge.

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The New Pretenders

Nancy Grabowski



Our grand announcement was supposed to happen with this news column. However, once again, the New Pretenders are disappointed to have their plans thwarted. Sadly, too many details hit stumbling blocks to allow us to plan and perform a spring show.

The good news in all of that is the decision to move forward with our traditional show in 2023. The tentative dates are Feb. 3, 4 and 5, 2023. Our performances will be at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, with a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee. We will present the program in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Tickets will be pre-sold in January 2023.

Our current music committee, with the agreement of the entire troupe, has shelved "On the Radio" because it seemed to have a dark cloud over it. Instead, the committee is creating an entirely different

show for our faithful fans as well as those new residents who have not been a part of our audience, yet. Once again, we hope to astound you with our creative efforts.

We did participate in the semi-annual Club Fair which met with great success! We had an amazing group there including Nancy Jennings-Fair, Darlene Clark, Fran Allen, Phyllis Pastore, Jennie Stauffer, Janet Becker, and Bob Schmitt. More troupe members Joe and Fran Jones, Jeanne Wise, and Nancy Kibler made their way through the Ballroom to head folks in our direction. With this effort, our membership committee now has over 40 recruits to interview. This hard-working group hopes to have the results by the end of March.

The membership committee will meet with candidates to add to our roster, filling it with band members, singers, propman, and backstage personnel. If you missed the Club Fair and are interested in joining us, but a bit hesitant, we can help you conquer your qualms. The New Pretenders will assist you in learning a new instrument or perhaps re-



Photo by Gail Epstein

Nancy Jennings-Fair, Phyllis Pastore, Darlene Clark, Fran Allen, Nancy Grabowski, and Bob Schmitt.

connect with a childhood favorite. Enjoy singing but feel too shy? We will get you over those jitters easily. Worried about costuming? We have a supply that will work with you, too. Our family will help you dis-

cover or uncover talents that have been dormant for a while!

Now, it's your turn to come to us. Contact any current member or Nancy Grabowski at 352-209-4699 for more information.

Concert Chorus

David Wesenberg



The Concert Chorus is well into rehearsals for the "Hooray for Hollywood" concert scheduled for Saturday, May 26, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 27, at 3 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom.

The Concert Chorus was very excited to have professional director, Joshua Mazur, visit us and conduct a tutorial and seminar in chorus performance. We are amazed at the improvements he helped us make. Our directors, Randy Schmid and Peggy Bumatay, acquired some new insights and skills to help us sharp-

en our "Hooray for Hollywood" performance.

For you, our wonderfully loyal audience, are in for a treat especially with the vocal improvements taught by Joshua Mazur. Many of your favorite movie themes will be performed, and so far rehearsals indicate they will be performed well. For those who are a new to our audience, check us out and enjoy great music.

The Concert Chorus is open to all residents and Indigo East residents with a Gateway of Services pass. Please be sure to bring your resident ID card to the first rehearsal you attend and every rehearsal thereafter.

If you plan to join us, contact Mary Ann Majni at flmam68@aol.com for further information.



Photo by Mary Ann Majni

Concert Chorus.

Sewing Bees

Linda Lohr



One of our latest projects is to create calming quilts for Head Start. These 30- x 30-inch flannel backed quilts are used by the children when they are upset or over excited. The soft flannel is perfect for cuddling. Our local Head Start requested 49 for themselves and another 108 for other areas.

We continue to work on quilt kits all year long, and we are glad to have our snowbirds back to help!

We currently have 24 paid members.

Our mission is to provide comfort for the abused, abandoned, and neglected children of Marion County. Your donations all year long help us to do just that. Stop by our hive on any Thursday in the Hobby Building Art Room, 12:30 to 3 p.m. We would be happy to show you our creations made with love for the children. You may find our club is just what you have been looking for to round out your week.

Please contact Kathy Nardone at 352-300-3063 or Marsha Schneer at 813-920-3487 with any questions or



Photo by Linda Lohr

One of the calming quilts for Head Start.

concerns.

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NOV. 19, 2022

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Wind-Up ROCKS THE WORLD **MAR. 19**



THE WILDFLOWERS: TRIBUTE TO TOM PETTY AND THE HEARTBREAKERS

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TheWildflowersBand.com

NEW DATE! **MAR. 26**



THE LORDS OF 52ND STREET: LEGENDS OF BILLY JOEL

TICKETS FROM **\$30**

LordsOf52ndSt.com

MAR. 1



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THROUGH THE YEA **APR. 8**



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MAY 6



AN EVENING WITH PATSY CLINE PERFORMED BY CINDY MOODY

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Schedule and prices subject to change without notice. Reduced ticket prices for residents of On Top of the World Communities and Stone Creek apply to Circle Square Cultural Center produced shows only. (Resident ID required when purchasing at box office.)
 *Ticket prices do not include sales tax. Refunds are available for purchases at events. To arrange for handicap seats, call or visit the ticket office. According to CDC guidelines, wearing a mask indoors is recommended.
 Free tickets not available online. Tickets must be picked up at the Circle Square Cultural Center box office during normal business hours. Limit two per household. *Online tickets subject to a convenience fee. All ticket sales final.



Candler Connection

Debra Keirn



Casino night in February was a success with 90 people attending. Proceeds from the event were donated to Helping Hands of Ocala. Thank you to all who made this event possible.

The St. Patrick's Day spring din-

ner dance will be Saturday, March 19, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at The Lodge at Candler Hills. This is a catered event with a choice of corned beef or ham. Please bring your own beverage(s). Kathleen Kane will provide the music for your dancing pleasure. Tickets are \$30 per person and will be sold from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday, March 8, at Candler Hills Community Center and Thursday, March 10, at The Lodge at Candler Hills. Please come celebrate with us and wear green.

Indigo East Social Committee

Janice Liberton



All positions for the 2022 Indigo East Social Committee board have been filled. Voting members include Lynn West, chairwoman; Pat Smith and Beth Griner, co-chairwomen; Athena Drewes, secretary; Phil Mercurio, treasurer; and Sandy Mercurio, supply coordinator. Non-voting members include communications - Janice Liberton; neighborhood directory and news flash website - Roger Schwartz; Facebook page coordinator - Steve Schlesselman; library monitor - Stephanie Komar; and ladies breakfast/luncheon - Sharon Gruca.

Indigo East is an awesome neighborhood. Residents of Indigo East have so many functions to participate in that one is never bored. Not only are there Indigo East Social Committee and On Top of the World functions, there are also many neighborhood games and clubs for one to join. These groups meet each month: Bingo-First Tuesday, at 6:30 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.). Bunco-Second and fourth Tuesdays, at 6 p.m. Book Club-Third Thursday, at 10 a.m. Chinese Mahjong-Wednesdays, at noon. Cribbage-First and third Mondays, at 1 p.m. Dance Aerobics with Sherry-Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 11 a.m. Euchre-First and third Monday, at 6 p.m. Line Dancing Beginner Level II with Sheryl Bradley-Mondays, at 10:30 a.m. Line Dancing Improver/Intermediate Level with Sheryl Bradley-Mondays, at 12:30 p.m. Ultra Line Dancing with Ronnie Pig-naró-Tuesdays, at 11 a.m. Men's Poker-Thursdays, at 6 p.m. Mexican Train Dominos-Thursdays, at 12:30 p.m. (bring \$3 in quarters). National Mah Jongg-Mondays, at 6 p.m. and Wednesdays, at 12:30 p.m. (bring \$3 in quarters). Qi Gong - Tai Chi-Saturdays, at 9:30 a.m. (Qi gong); 10 a.m. (Tai chi essentials); 10:30 a.m. (Tai chi eight immortal flute and advanced forms). Samba-Tuesdays, at noon. Thursdays, at 6 p.m. (samba activity).

Upcoming events include:
 • Wednesday, March 30: Pool

- party bash, at 3 p.m.
- Saturday, May 7: Night at the races.
- Monday, May 17: Taco night.
- Sunday, June 19: Father's Day breakfast.
- Sunday, Aug. 21: Ice cream social.
- Monday, Sept. 5: Labor Day cookout.

Ongoing monthly events include Active Singles Club, community blood drive (every other month), karaoke, Name That Tune, neighborhood social (every other month), Sassy Ladies and trivia.

Residents of Indigo East can also participate in On Top of the World amenities with a Gateway of Services pass.

Indigo East residents can post on the neighborhood Facebook page, which is a private group site, as well as receive immediate pertinent information posted on Facebook by either Janice Liberton or a club leader. Information and reminders are sent to residents via email, and flyer, calendar, club information and event photos are posted on the neighborhood website.

Indigo East residents have the best of both worlds. We are in a separate neighborhood, yet we belong to the best 55 and over community, On Top of the World.

Enjoy the month of March and I'll see you around the neighborhood.

The potluck dinner is Tuesday, March 22, at 5:30 p.m. at The Lodge at Candler Hills. Let's continue to celebrate green and bring our best Irish creations for 10 to 15 people. Residents with last names beginning with A-I should bring a main dish; J-Q bring a salad or side dish; and R-Z bring a dessert. \$1 cost per person covers eating utensils, plates, napkins, and decaf coffee. Please RSVP to Deb Keirn by phone or text at 814-571-7908 or email at arthurkipdeb@verizon.net. Please label your dish with ingredients to help those with allergies.

Trivia night will take place at The Lodge at Candler Hills Monday, March 21, at 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$5 paid at the door, and the money will be used for prizes. Teams of eight per table will compete.

The speaker series, chaired by Doug Dahlen, is at 3 p.m. at The Lodge at Candler Hills:

- Thursday, March 17: Lacey Larramore with Marion County Waste Disposal.
- Wednesday, May 18: Brian MacNeal with Florida Crime Prevention.

Questions regarding the ambassador program should be directed to Pat Diaz-Verson at pdv@bell-

south.net.

New residents of Candler Hills please log onto candlerconnection.org and fill out the form to receive "The Happenings" by email. 1,550 Candler Hills residents receive this e-publication to learn about events and activities.

The Candler Connection Facebook group has 1,333 members. This closed Facebook group is a good source of information for Candler Hills residents.

The Candler Connection board has expanded from nine to 11 members in January. We welcome Richard Steinfeldt, Deb Keirn, John Podkomorski, Pat Diaz-Verson, John Maggio, and Vicky Major-Bell back to the board. We welcome our new members: Linda Agerty, Glenn Cohen, Russ Gemberling, Jeff Gordon, and Meg Kajewski. The officers are Richard Steinfeldt, president; Russ Gemberling, vice president; Deb Keirn, treasurer; and Meg Kajewski, secretary.

The next Candler Connection board meeting is Tuesday, April 5, at The Lodge at Candler Hills at 4 p.m. Any resident of Candler Hills is welcome to attend.

See you around the neighborhood and at future events.

World News Delivery

Each household in On Top of the World should receive a complimentary copy of the World News along with the Ocala StarBanner every month.

If you are not receiving home delivery, please email otownews@otowf.com. Please include your house number and street address along with your neighborhood name.

A copy of the World News may be picked up at all postal centers, Resident Services, New Home Sales

Center, Recreation Center, Arbor Fitness Center, The Club at Candler Hills, The Lodge at Candler Hills, Candler Hills Community Center, Master the Possibilities, The Ranch Fitness Center & Spa, Indigo East Community Center and Indigo East Fitness Center.

Visit ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala, to view or download a PDF of the World News. Please see page 2 of the World News to view the publication/delivery schedule for 2022.

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FOUND ADS: There is no charge to residents as long as it is not of a business nature. There is a \$500 limit on FOR SALE items. Items valued at more than \$500 (i.e. golf carts) may be listed, but price will not accompany the ad. Auto, apartment, financial service, home, legal, real estate, and timeshare ads WILL NOT be accepted. Ads may be emailed to otownnews@otowfl.com.

ESTATE/TAG SALE ADS: There is no charge to residents, however, residents must register their estate/tag sale with Resident Services at Friendship Commons. Visit ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala and click on "Resident Info" to download the appropriate form for your community and submit it to Resident Services by the 10th of the month prior to publication.

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AD DEADLINE: Noon on the 12th of the month. If the deadline falls on a weekend, then it's noon on the Friday before. For more information, call (352) 387-7466, email otownnews@otowfl.com or visit ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala

The publisher reserves the right to reject any ad which, in his judgment, would not be in the best interest of the residents of On Top of the World Communities.

For Sale

Automobile Accessories: Cargo cover (#08U35-TG7-111) for 2018-2021 Honda Pilot, dark gray, \$150. Call/text (561) 603-7506.

Electronics: Marantz AV surround receiver (#SR400) with remote, \$50. Sony DVD home theater surround system (#DAV-HDX265) with 6 speakers and remote, \$50. Sony beta recorder with remote, 7 new beta tapes and 3 used, make offer. 352-895-4815 or edkrecz13@msn.com.

Electronics: TCL Roku 55" smart TV, \$150. Roku wireless Bluetooth speakers (2), \$50. TV stand, \$25. Or all three for \$200. 352-237-4242 or 352-895-4815.

Furniture: White Jenny Lind daybed with trundle, heavy duty, \$300. May sell the twin mattresses (2) as well. TV armoire, 81" h x 50" w, black with greenish accents and adjustable shelves. Dining table with extra leaves (8' long with leaves), 2 armchairs and 2 side chairs, opulence finish, custom protective pads, \$500. Matching sideboard, \$250. End tables (2), 21" x 23" and matching coffee table 48" x 24", brown with a touch of black, black legs, \$75 for all 3. Wrought iron barstools (2) with leather seats and hardwood trim, adjustable feet, swivel, 30" seat height, \$75 each. 304-893-1261.

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Golf Equipment: Ladies left-handed golf clubs and bag, \$60. 352-875-5300.

Golf Equipment: Men's golf club set - Callaway 9.5 degree driver, 3 & 5 rescue, pitching wedge, X 3 through 9 irons, Muzuno Gap wedge, Tommy Armor putter and Bag Boy golf club bag with cover. Also included over 1 dozen Titleist golf balls, (8) 4 yards further tees, extra tees, Golf Pride grip with tape, a push button ball repair tool with ball marker, and poncho, \$125. Golf Buddy Pro 1 Tour range finder in box with charger & manual, \$50. 352-895-0039.

Home Décor: Framed oil paintings and prints, various sizes and prices. 352-873-8565.

Misc. Item: Blackstone gas grill with cover and full gas tank with gauge, \$60. 352-873-8565.

Misc. Item: Duro-Max generator, dual-fuel (gas or propane), 4500-watt max includes full propane tank and extra regulator, \$350. 352-237-42342 or 352-895-4815.

Misc. Items: Flowerpots - various sizes. 352-875-5300.

Yard Equipment: Tomato growing boxes (4), 28" long x 12" wide x 10" deep with instructions, \$30. 352-873-8565.

Tag Sales

Friday, March 4: 9293 SW 94th Loop (Windsor), 9 a.m. to noon.

Friday, March 4 & Saturday, March 5: 8653-D SW 95th Lane (Friendship Village), 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday, March 5: 9802 SW 89th Loop (Providence), 8 a.m. to noon.

Friday, March 11 & Saturday, March 12: 8560-C SW 93rd Lane (Friendship Village), 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Friday, March 18: 9151 SW 94th Court (Providence), 8 a.m. to noon.

Saturday, March 19: 9257-F SW 82nd Terrace (Friendship Colony), 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday, March 20: 9257-F SW 82nd Terrace (Friendship Colony), noon to 4 p.m.

Thursday, March 24 & Friday, March 25: 8969-E SW 95th Street (Friendship Park), 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday, March 25: 8883-C, 8884-A SW 93rd Lane (Friendship Colony), 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Donations: Dog or cat food [SPCA of Marion County 352-362-0985] · Electric golf carts in full working condition for use by volunteers for local park. [Barbara btsprigg@gmail.com] · Non-perishable food for food bank, empty ink/laser cartridges and cards for veterans [Anne 843-504-0032] · Personal hygiene, school/craft supplies & small appliances for homeless; pet food/supplies for animal shelters; used cell phones, computers & musical instruments for troops/veterans; theatrical costumes & props; socks, underwear & men's clothing [Donna 352-237-3062] · Yarn for VA hospitals, children, and newborns [352-843-6519].

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