

Community News

Kenneth D. Colen

Development Update

By the time this column goes to press, the Recreation Center pool will have been completed and open for swimming. We hope you are enjoying your time in the beautiful pool or relaxing in the sun on the pool deck.

The Candler Hills Community Center renovation has begun. The project includes an interior renovation of more than 50% of the building. This will include the lobby, small kitchen, card room, and restrooms. We are on track to complete this project in June.

The Summit is full steam ahead in Longleaf Ridge. Currently, the crews are working on site utilities for this amenity. We are hopeful to see the building go vertical this fall.

The future fitness center located in Balfour in Candler Hills is in design. More information about this amenity will be provided in future columns.

The SW 80th Street gate house is in rough design stage. This will be an additional resident entry into the On Top of the World property and will replace the temporary construction gate house.

Springtime is in Full Bloom

The April showers promoted native wild flowers to bloom along many roadways in the county. The winds have also been strong this year, this also accompanies the start of our dry season! Look for seasonal winds to settle down in May. The heavier rain cycle usually begins in mid-June to give the yards some relief but can be as late as mid-July.

If you haven't pruned back shrubbery in mid-April, May is still time to consider any pruning of owner added plantings. Lawns and shrubbery will continue to grow, albeit very slowly, because of dry conditions. Pruning back old growth stimulates new growth on trees and shrubs.

Although we have received some much-needed rain, irrigation may be needed as we warm up in the 90s and it is best to trust your smart water-wise irrigation controller to know when to water. If your shrubbery is still looking weak, it is best to hand water for approximately 10 minutes with a hose and sprayer attachment. This will perk them up and get them over the most stressful periods.

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. Savings can add up.

A Word About the Multi-Family Project

I have been purposefully silent on this matter. A long time ago I learned that people either believe what you have to say, or they don't. If they don't believe, no matter what you say will change their mind.

I need to make the point that any commercial development is not a part of the On Top of the World Communities. It is separate and apart. That said, before On Top of the World undertakes any design, we consider how its impacts, both positive and negative, may affect the community. In this case, we determined that more commercial development would not be in the interests of On Top of the World and would adversely impact the traffic on SW 99th Street because of the higher trip generation rate commercial development creates. With a hotel in place, residential apartments are complimentary to the entire commercial hub and the benefit residents receive with the near proximity. Trip generation rates for apartments are actually very close to trip generation rates for active adult communities. At the conclusion of this project, the level of service will actually be improved by the proposed

Continued on Page 4A ▶

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TO NEVER GIVE UP TO NEVER QUIT
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- TRAVIS MILLS

Memorial Day Events

By Phil Panzera
World News Writer

There will be several important veteran events in May. On Thursday, May 16, at 6 p.m., there will be a very special Memorial Day Tribute at Circle Square Cultural Center. SSG Travis Mills, US Army, Ret., will be here to present "Travis: A Soldier's Story." We will hear him speak personally, and there is an opportunity for a meet 'n' greet.

SSG Mills is now a recalibrated veteran, motivational speaker, author, actor, and advocate for veterans and amputees. He founded and leads the Travis Mills Foundation, which helps veterans and their families, and provides a special retreat in Maine for injured veterans and their families.

Find out how SSG Mills maintains his lifelong mantra of "Never Give Up, Never Quit," and why he now refers to himself as a "recalibrated veteran."

Before the Tribute starts, there will be a mini expo from 5 to 5:45 p.m., with tables from many local veteran support groups. HWY 94 Band will play popular and patriotic music from 4 to 6 p.m.

The coolest part though will happen at about 5:15 p.m., when SSG Mills arrives. Veteran groups, VFW and American Legion units have been contacted to provide as much public support as possible. When he steps out of that car, we want him to receive a hero's welcome, and a roar that will be heard over in Sholom Park!

300 American flags will be distributed to the crowd, and it will be an intensely patriotic and moving moment. Mark your calendar, and don't miss this unique opportunity to "give back" to a soldier who has given so incredibly much in service to his country.

Tickets are now available at CSCulturalCenter.com. All ticket proceeds go to the Travis Mills Foundation. For more information, visit TravisMillsFoundation.org.

On Memorial Day, the Veterans Club will host two ceremonies. At 8 a.m. there will be our traditional flag ceremony at the Veterans Park. At 11 a.m. the Veterans Club will host a Memorial Day Commemoration at the Recreation Center.

The colors will be presented by the JROTC Honor Guard from West Port High School. There will be several guest speakers, and a discussion of the services available from the Veterans Resource Center. Several veteran support groups will have kiosks, and there will also be a bake sale. As usual, the ceremony will also include dance and music performances.

The men and women who have sacrificed so much deserve our gratitude. Memorial Day is the time when we reflect on their courage and their dedication to a cause greater than themselves. Please consider joining us for these patriotic, emotional, and memorable events.

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Curriculum Kick-Off

By Ray Cech
World News Writer

With more than 500 classes scheduled for the upcoming second half of the year, this upcoming presentation may well be the Super Bowl of Master the Possibilities' kick-offs. Introduction to July through December classes will be held at Circle Square Cultural Center on Wednesday, May 22, from 1 to 3 p.m.

The curriculum kick-off is an opportunity to meet many of the instructors and learn first-hand how their classes may enrich your day. In attendance will be 50 or more instructors who will be ready and able to answer your questions and discuss the content of their class. If you're not sure if a particular class is for you, here's a chance to learn more.

Attending the kick-off gives you the opportunity to pre-register for classes, as well as the chance to win a free class or two. Please note that you will not be able to self-register for a class during the event. But as in past kick-offs, you will be able to physically sign up - just not online.

Online registration will open after 3 p.m. The class catalog will also be available for review. While refreshments and snacks will be served at this event, they are not to be confused with the fine cooking classes offered during the upcoming semester!

Is It Legal?

Colen & Wagoner, P.A.



Q. I live at On Top of the World which is an over-55 community. I am (considerably older than 55) and my spouse is (considerably younger than 55). My realtor said that if I pass away, because my spouse is not yet 55, she will have to leave our home. How can this be?

A. Your realtor is incorrect about On Top of the World. In an over-55 community, 80% of the residences must be occupied by at least one person who is 55 or older. That means that 20% can be less than 55. At either On Top of the World in Clearwater or Ocala, when the over 55 person passes on and the younger one inherits the residence, the younger person can continue to occupy the residence.

Q. My disabled child lives with me and is under 55 years of age. She can take care of herself, and I want her to live in this home once I am no longer around. Will she have to leave my residence at On Top of the World, because of her age?

A. Your child will not have to leave On Top of the World either in Clearwater or in Ocala. See my answer above.

Q. I am a veteran having been in the Viet Nam War. I have no spouse and am disaffected from my son. I do not need financial help now, but don't know about the future. More to my point is I have no idea what I need to do to plan for my future.

A. Of course, the Veterans Administration will be very helpful. Also, I am aware that there are veterans' organizations who are always available if you reach out to them. I don't know the name of one in Pinellas County, but in Ocala, the On Top of the World Veterans Club is eager to help all veterans.

Jerry Colen, Rachel Wagoner, and John Beck are law partners at the Law Office of Colen & Wagoner, P.A. 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 and master's degrees in accounting and taxation. The law firm practices in the areas of wills, trusts, probate, real estate, elder law, business litigation, Medicaid planning and business/professional advice. This column does not, nor is it intended to provide legal advice. You should always consult your own attorney for legal advice. The Law Office of Colen & Wagoner, P.A. is located at 1756 North Belcher Road, Clearwater, Florida 33765 and in Suite 11 at Circle Square Commons in Ocala, Florida. Contact us at 727-545-8114, info@colenwagoner.com or visit colenwagoner.com.

SCAM ALERT #1: The certified copy of deed scam is alive and well. In this scam, after you have purchased a home, condominium, homeowners' association, property, and your deed are recorded, you often receive a very official-looking letter. It appears to come from the local county government or deed-recording office. I mean, it really looks official. In one way or another, the letter informs you about the necessity of having a certified copy of your deed. Some of these scam letters just refer to the necessity of having a copy, without mentioning whether it's a certified copy. Then, of course, you are told what it costs. I've seen letters that say the cost is \$250. Please believe me, you do not need a certified copy of your deed. For that matter, should you ever need one, you can get it for around \$10 from the clerk of courts. You don't even need a copy of your deed because you will have the original recorded one since your closing agent, or title insurance company will send it to you, after the deed is recorded in the public records of the county where the property is located.

SCAM ALERT #2: Folks, it's impossible to alert you of all the scams that are out there. I visit websites for the FBI (fbi.gov), IRS (irs.gov), and Federal Trade Commission (ftc.gov) to see what scams they are warning us about. And it goes without saying, but I am saying it anyway, that if you receive a text message, email, or phone call about a credit card issue, rather than respond, call the credit card company, using the phone number on the back of your credit card, say you are calling about a scam and you will be given someone to speak with about the matter.

On Top of the World
EVENTS/ACTIVITIES
 Events and activities that take place behind the gates of On Top of the World are for residents and Gateway of Services passholders only.

On Top of the World NEWS

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Read all the good news at ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala

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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2024 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

On Top of the World NEWS

Issue	Ad/Payment/Column Deadline*	Insert Deadline**	Home Delivery
January	12/12/23	12/21/23	12/28/23
February	01/12/24	01/25/24	02/01/24
March	02/12/24	02/22/24	02/29/24
April	03/12/24	03/21/24	03/28/24
May	04/12/24	04/25/24	05/02/24
June	05/13/24	05/23/24	05/30/24
July	06/12/24	06/20/24	06/27/24
August	07/12/24	07/25/24	08/01/24
September	08/12/24	08/22/24	08/29/24
October	09/12/24	09/19/24	09/26/24
November	10/11/24	10/24/24	10/31/24
December	11/12/24	11/20/24	11/27/24
January '25	12/12/24	12/19/24	12/26/24

* Deadline at noon

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GOLDEN OLDIES HUMOR

By Stan Goldstein



Everyone can start at the top when digging a hole.

Hands Only CPR Class - A Huge Success!

By Dave DeAngelis
World News Writer

If you were unable to attend the hands only CPR class on Wednesday, April 3, we can report that it was a huge success! A couple hundred residents attended the life-saving training class at Circle Square Cultural Center. All the guest speakers, as well as one additional, made it to the event to share the importance of knowing hands only CPR in saving lives.

Susan B. Davis, president of the Citizen CPR Foundation drove here from Fort Myers, Florida to enthusiastically congratulate the group, with the Florida Department of Health in Marion County presenting the award to Kenneth D. Colen for On Top of the World's recognition as being the first community in the state of Florida to become a HEARTSafe Community. The only other recognition of this caliber was awarded to a city, not a community. Much to be proud of!

To receive this recognition, 15% of our residents and staff had to be trained in hands only CPR, and we did it. Pump it up! Colen Built Development's Health & Safety Training Compliance Officer

Jonathan Miller was the driving force behind bringing this program to On Top of the World. He said that the monthly classes here are always full, with two classes per month being not unusual. He explained that many people are afraid of attempting CPR for fear of injuring the recipient, and of legal ramifications because of their honest efforts. The Good Samaritan Act protects people from being sued for injuring someone by giving hands only CPR. This frees someone of the fear of litigation by being a Good Samaritan.

The potential life changing reality, when you think about it, is that each one of us has the power to save someone's life by knowing and implementing CPR. Jonathan said, "Doing something could mean life, rather than the alternative. Have the power of life. Be a part of history. Learn hands only CPR. Have the power!"

Oh yeah. Hands only means just that. Forget the worry about smooching with a stranger.



Photo courtesy of Colen Built Development

Kenneth D. Colen receiving HEARTSafe Community award.



Photo by Ray Cech

Kenneth D. Colen performing hands on CPR.

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Bible Studies · Men's & Women's Ministries
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Missionary Program · Community Outreach



Service Times

Sunday School · 9 am
Sunday Worship · 10 am & 6 pm
Wednesday Worship · 6 pm

Ongoing Activities

- Tuesdays: Pastor's Porch Men's Gathering
- Thursdays: Bible Study
- Fridays: Men's Prayer Meeting

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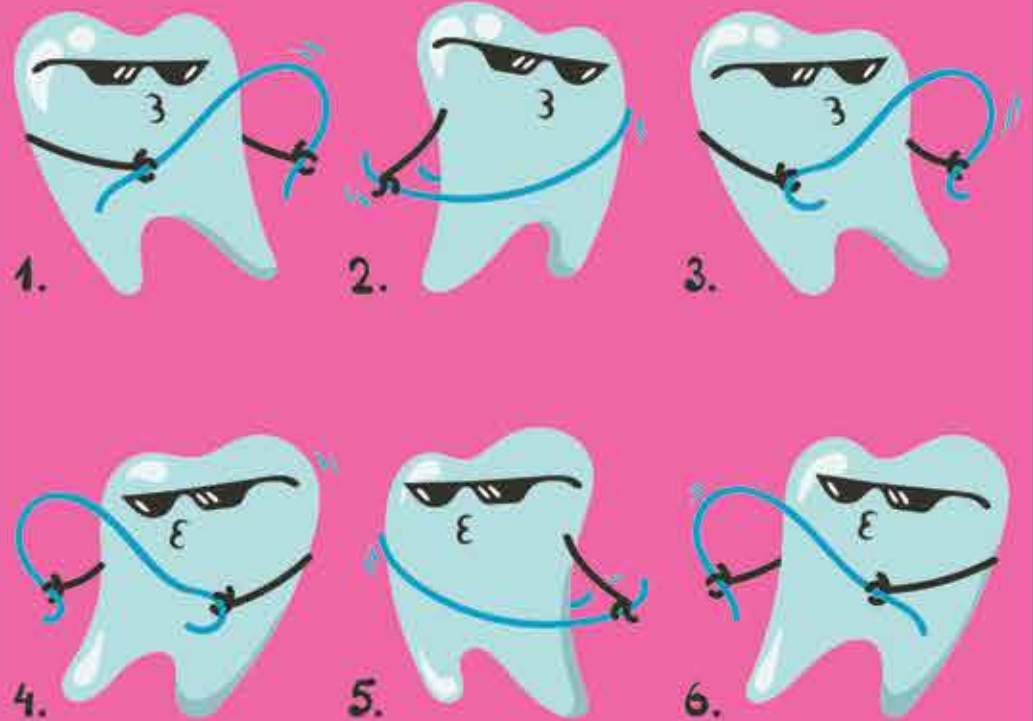
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Community News

► Continued from Page 1A

operational improvements (additional turn lanes and signalization improvements).

Lifelong Learning

Michelle Shideler
352-387-7571
michelle_shideler@masterthepossibilities.org



Guess what? Master the Possibilities is working on final plans for the July through December 2024 Curriculum Kick-Off at Circle Square Cultural Center from 1 to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, May 22. Our theming convention is a bit different for this catalog. We will be shining a spotlight on our faculty members, acknowledging their dedication and hard work by "Giving the Gift of Learning."

This fall semester, we will be recognizing and honoring those who actively contribute to spreading the joy of lifelong learning in the classroom. There are approximately 230 faculty members who help provide content at our Education Center every six months. Their contributions to education have a significant impact on our society. Their relentless efforts truly make a remarkable difference, enriching our community through

It is a misconception that a residential rental community necessarily draws large numbers of families with children. Continental's demographic research data of past multi-family projects prove out that only about 10% of residents have children between the ages of four to 18. With 315 apartments, this means 31 children. Certainly, this poses no adverse impact to On Top of the World (Central), especially since the apartment complex

is self-contained with age-appropriate recreational amenities.

I'll make the point that there are substantially more children than that in On Top of the World (Central) during the Christmas holidays and over spring break. Another great benefit is that with the completion of the overall design of the Canopy Oak Center, a defined cart path will be constructed that will easily and

their commitment to education. They should be commended for their efforts. At the Curriculum Kick-Off, there will be approximately 50 faculty members on-hand to give a more in-depth look at the courses they are teaching. Those who attend will have a chance to be placed in multiple drawings for a free seat in one of our many classes. The new print catalog will also be available at the Curriculum Kick-Off before being released to the public. During the event on Wednesday, May 22, no student online registration will be available. Preregistration will be exclusively taking place at the Curriculum Kick-Off event.

I would like to extend a very special recognition to one of our outstanding students, Neil Sorensen. Neil deserves this shout-out for his steadfast support of Master the Possibilities through his active participation in classes. Remarkably, Neil has attended more than 1,000 classes since 2015, earning him the title of the most dedicated student in our lifelong learning program.

When Neil learned about this amazing feat, his response was humbling. He visited me at our office and simply stated,

"It is your team who should be getting the recognition. You guys are amazing and are the reason I moved here. What more can I do to support you?" Thank you, Neil, for being a part of our lifelong learning family. We are truly humbled by your commitment of our program, and your insatiable appetite for learning.

Participants are invited to join Neil in the classroom this month at our Education Center. With more than 150 class

safely link the commercial center to On Top of the World for the long term.

Sadly, there was a great deal of fear mongering by a certain group of residents, none of which was based on objective facts. It grieves me to see attempts to divide the community. However, On Top of the World will remain a safe and vibrant community for the very long term. The Board of County Commissioners has spoken.

options, there is surely something for just about everyone in our curriculum. For an up-to-date list of our May class offerings, visit our website masterthepossibilities.org. For those who are looking for online and certificate courses, check out our ed2go classes under our Distance Learning category. Registration assistance is available in our office from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, or by calling 352-861-9751.

Community Patrol

Rocky Pizzarello



Looking back, can you remember that special teacher, mentor, or person who could explain something and make it seem simple? Or the person who could enlighten you about something you've seen but may not have understood completely? We are fortunate to have that person in our group, enhancing the value of the Community Patrol.

When was the last time you looked at your fire extinguisher and fully understood its capabilities and limitations? We had a presentation by one of our members, Allen Abbott, who is also a CERT instructor with a lifetime of experience and training skills. Besides showing the group how to read the capabilities of a fire extinguisher, he explained the different types of fires (A, B, C, D and K) and the proper extinguisher needed to put them out. When using a fire extinguisher, remember to PASS — pull the pin, aim at the fire, squeeze the handle, sweep the base of the flame — after calling 911 and making sure you can escape from the fire. Certain fires, such as lithium or magnesium, found in several late model vehicles, are virtually impossible to put out without the fire department's

help.

Recently, Allen was scheduled for a 15-minute presentation on how to stop bleeding. The meeting was running long, so he gave an amazing, condensed presentation in seven minutes, as clear and concise as an emergency room physician would have given! He is also working through the Marion County Sheriff's Office Foundation to have all members of the Community Patrol program receive "Stop the Bleeding" training to better protect themselves, their loved ones, and neighbors.

We want to share some information from the Florida Driver's Handbook for those of us who have handicap tags or permits. "If you have a mobility impairment, you don't have to pay parking fees on any public street, highway, or metered space and may park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities. However, you must display a disabled parking permit or plate to park in these designated spaces and the vehicle must be transporting the person with the disability who owns the permit or registration." (Note that this does not include independently owned parking garages/facilities unless indicated by the facility signage.) In other words, you don't need to feed the meter if you display the handicap tag/plate on a "public street highway or metered space."

If you'd like to join the Community Patrol, learn how to better protect yourself and contribute to keeping On Top of the World safe, visit the Marion County Sheriff's Office website at marionso.com for an application. Scroll down to the "Become a Volunteer" link. There you'll find a page with descriptions of volunteer activities and a link to the volunteer application.

Or, if you'd like to check us out before deciding, please join us at our monthly meeting on the fourth Monday of each month at 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. For more information, please contact Allison Cranmer at otowcommunitypatrol@gmail.com.



Photo by Rocky Pizzarello

Allen Abbott sharing his knowledge.

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Around the World



Mary Anne Lynum
352-236-OTOW (6869)

I am sure that you have heard that April showers bring May flowers. That certainly fits with the origin of May that comes from the Latin Maius, with references to the Roman fertility goddess, Maia. The May birth flowers are Hawthorne and Lily of the Valley.

May was once considered a bad luck month to get married. There is a poem that says, "Marry in May and you will rue the day."

The United Kingdom celebrates May as National Smile Month; On May 1, 1931, The Empire State Building was officially opened; May 12 is Mother's Day.

Memorial Day

On Monday, May 27, the Veterans Club will hold their annual memorial ceremony in the Veterans Park at 8 a.m. The ceremony will be conducted by the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard, assisted by the Veterans Club. At 11 a.m. the "Never Forget" ceremony will be held in the Recreation Center Ballroom.

Please join us as we pay tribute to those who gave their lives to secure the freedom and peace all Americans now enjoy. A reminder that this freedom ... was not free.

Golf Cart Courtesy Caught

More residents are being caught driving their golf carts safely. Our latest are Emilia Vagner, Maryann Sandford, and Brian McAdam. Thank you all for putting safety first!

Reminders

This is the time of year that some of our residents travel back to their winter homes. Please leave your home here in good order and have a neighbor or a friend check your home periodically to ensure against water leaks, power outages (which can affect irrigation system programming), and the general look of vacancy that happens if newspapers, notices, flyers, etc. are not picked up. Enjoy your time away and stay safe.

Visitors and Guests

Many of you will enjoy visits from your family and friends afar. Just a few safety reminders for the youngsters so that their visit will be the best time ever:

- Golf carts are to be operated by someone at least 15 years of age and possess a valid learner's permit or valid driver's license.
- Skateboarding, skating, rollerblading, and similar activities are allowed on residential streets only – not common property.
- Children must be monitored at pool areas and pool rules obeyed.

Geoff's Safety Advice

Geoff Oldberg, loss prevention officer for On Top of the World Communities, shares safety and security concerns, providing helpful tips.

As Mr. Kenneth D. Colen has often stated, while our community is equipped with gates and cameras to deter property crimes, it's important to recognize that we're not a military compound. Therefore, it's essential for residents to take simple precautions to protect themselves and their property. This includes locking doors at night, ensuring car doors are secured, and refraining from leaving valuables visible in vehicles. By practicing these basic preventive measures, residents can contribute to maintaining the safety of our community.

Furthermore, On Top of the World Communities has forged an excellent partnership with the Marion County Sheriff's Office, led by Sheriff Billy Woods, who maintains a positive relationship with our community. District Commander Lt. Ryan Robbins frequently engages with community groups, demonstrating his commitment to ensuring the safety of our residents. With this strong collaboration in place, residents can feel confident in the responsiveness and support of local law enforcement. While our community is indeed a safe and welcoming place, it's important to exercise caution and remain self-aware. By staying vigilant and taking proactive steps to safeguard ourselves and our belongings, we can continue to enjoy the peace of mind that comes with living in this wonderful community.

Resident Services

Resident Services may be reached at 352- 236-OTOW (6869) or otowservice@otowfl.com Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., or in person by visiting Suite 500, in Friendship Commons, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Resident Services is closed daily between noon and 1 p.m. You may wish to complete your maintenance request online versus stopping by the office.

If you accessed the AppFolio owners portal, you may enter your work order request(s). For those of you who do not utilize the AppFolio, there is still access via OTOWInfo.com > Maintenance Request. Be sure to scroll down to enter the service you are requesting and click submit. Please note that this method may not be the best to report the full details of your request due to a limit in characters allowed.

When you closed on your home, you became eligible to obtain up to two resident ID card(s). These ID cards expire every five years after date of issuance for records update. Non-owner resident ID cards expire every three years. Every third or fourth resident residing in a household is required to pay an annual guest fee. The first decal is free to owners. The second decal is \$15. Any additional gate decals issued per household are \$75 each. Tenants may obtain a free monthly gate pass or purchase a \$75 vehicle decal.

hicle decal.

After Hours Non-Medical Emergencies

On Top of the World (Central) Owners Association members, please notify Resident Services first before contacting an outside contractor for repairs such as roots in water lines, sewer backups, sprinklers damaged by mowers, etc. If it is after normal business hours and you experience some manner of a non-medical emergency, we ask that you please call 352-236-OTOW (6869) for assistance. Even though Resident Services is closed, the number is answered 24 hours a day and you will be able to speak with an after-hours representative, who, based on the reason for the call, will provide direction or dispatch an after-hours person.

Something to Take with You

"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." – Albert Einstein



Photo by Pam Babbitt

Emilia Vagner, Maryann Sandford and Brian McAdam with Jonathan Miller and Claribel Sagastume.

GOLF CART REGISTRATION
Bring golf cart, resident ID and insurance policy (stating amount of bodily injury). All residents in household must be present.

Resident Services
8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday
No inspections during inclement weather.
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Democratic Club

Mark Miller



retary; Jim Stormer, Jill Carel, Dan Hall, and Lynn Miller, directors. A short presentation by Nancy Carp regarding voter registration efforts followed, and then we addressed, stamped, and mailed almost 600 postcards to voters in Marion County. Thanks to all who participated in this effort. We will be conducting another postcard session soon!

Our Thursday, April 25 meeting highlighted Nancy Carp with more information on available technology assets to help us get out the vote.

As of this writing, our Thursday, May 23 meeting's speaker has not been determined yet. We plan more direct efforts to help us achieve our goals for the

general elections in November.

As always, we will be supporting the Ocala Ritz Veterans Village with much needed donations. Priority for donations is laundry detergent. The following are the next most-needed items: pillowcases, twin size sheets, twin comforters, 1.7 cubic ft. refrigerators, small microwaves, men's razors, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, lotions, shaving cream, and toilet paper. Food items needed include canned meats, canned chili, ramen noodles, mac & cheese, microwaveable rice, boxed milk, cereal, canned fruit, crackers, individual

snacks, and coffee. They do not need clothing except for shoes. Please bring your donated items to our meeting.

If you can't come to the meeting, let us know and we'll do our best to get your donations to the Ritz, or you can drop them off before the meeting starts.

If you need a ride to the meeting, please call/email the club to arrange that at least three days before the meeting.

For more information, contact Mark Miller at 443-848-8549 or demclubotow@gmail.com. Hope to see you at our May meeting.



Newly elected Democratic Club board members.

Photo by Leslie Miller

Republican Club

Margaret Nodine



The Friday, March 8 meeting was led by Charles Dodge, newly elected president. In his remarks, Charles outlined the tenets that he hoped all members would abide by: you shall not speak ill of a fellow Republican; support the U.S. Constitution as it is written; no personal attacks and keep civil discourse civil; we will debate based on logic and facts; and support the sovereignty of the United States.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Chair of the Marion County Republican Executive Committee Brigitte Smith who

discussed voting demographics and how to make them relevant in the upcoming election.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 10. The speaker will be Beth McCall, candidate for Marion County School Board. Sheriff Billy Woods will address the meeting on Friday, June 14.

The Republican Club meets the second Friday of each month at 4:30 p.m. (doors open at 4 p.m.) in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. Look for our banner! The upcoming meeting schedule dates are May 10, June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, and Nov. 8. Guests are always welcome, and we accept new members at every meeting. We look forward to gathering and meeting with positive, like-minded, friendly patriots who will join in stimulating and open conversation.

Avalon Social Group

Laura Gavey & Sharon Hall



Mark your calendar, Avalon residents! Our next event is scheduled on Monday, May 13, at 5:30 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios. Join us for a night at the races! Select a dinner from Red Robin and cheer on your favorite horses. We will also be looking for volunteer jockeys. Come with dollar bills to join in on the horse race pools, place your bets, and have some fun!

Watch your email and our Facebook page for details. Your \$15 per person pre-paid reservations and menu selections must be made on or before Monday, May 6. For questions or reserva-

tions, please contact Sharon Hall at 270-855-1354. Reminder - tickets will only be on sale until May 6!

Are you new to Avalon or our social events? There are three ways to keep informed of upcoming events: email, our Facebook group, or posting 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.

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Veterans Club

Charles Calhoun



What brings value to your life? What do you want to be known or remembered for? When people talk about you, what mark will you leave on them, the community, or the society?

If you want to change the way you think about yourself, the way you think about our community and society, please purchase tickets to the Memorial Day Tribute at Circle Square Cultural Center on Thursday, May 16, at 6 p.m. and listen to the featured guest speaker, Travis Mills.

Travis Mills, 82nd Airborne, is a recalibrated veteran, motivational speaker, author, actor, and advocate for veterans and amputees. All ticket proceeds from this event will go to the Travis Mills Foundation.

Finding Zen

Robert Colen
info@sholompark.org



Nestled within the lush embrace of Sholom Park lies a tranquil oasis known as the labyrinth. This quarter-mile winding trail offers a journey of serenity and introspection, leading visitors along a meandering path towards a central focal point – the resting tree. Here the towering century-old hickory tree with branches that reach skyward to the sun and downwards to caress the earth below provides a canopy of shade and beauty, inviting contemplation and reflection. Beyond its visual allure, and like all Sholom Park, the labyrinth holds deeper meanings for those who seek them.

So much of what you can experience at Sholom Park is intentionally designed to pique your mind's search for deeper symbolism with the goal of reaching inner peace. The labyrinth, with its brick-inlaid trail, is a perfect example of how the park is much more than a beautifully landscaped and maintained oasis. When you reach the beginning of the labyrinth, you encounter the first of many signs that guide your journey. Each sign encourages you to observe nature in ways that educate and challenge your mind. Passing through the labyrinth's jasmine covered gateway, you enter a new and sacred space. Follow the trail from here, reading the signs that direct you to contemplate nature's hidden messages and stories.

You will soon approach the wounded heart tree, an 80-year-old laurel oak, that tells a poignant tale. One side bears a traumatic injury, a mystically shaped wound prominently displaying a torturous event in its life. While the other side

Community Emergency Response Team

Andrea La Fave



At our March meeting, we were visited by the heads of several Colen Built Development departments, including health and safety, community operations, landscaping, and grounds. They described their overall responsibilities, and we had the chance to ask questions and offer suggestions.

Colen Built Development now has 650 employees, with new residents, homes, roads, and facilities in the works. The department heads emphasized how valuable it is to have volunteers in every neighborhood who can be counted on for assessing the situation and checking on residents in the case of an event that might cause damage or injury.

Because communication will be vital in such events, we spent time reviewing our channels of communication.

Learn more about the Community Emergency Response Team visit <https://sites.google.com/view/otowcert/home>. You are welcome to come to one of our meetings to look us over. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month, from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room. Call Debra at 412-443-2930 to confirm the next date.

Community ham radio operators can assist us from home by tuning in to Simplex frequency 146.565. When deployed during a disaster event, we need neighborhood reports on building damage, blocked roads, medical emergencies, and other vital information. Our designated command center is the Hobby Building Art Room, where ham radio operators establish contact with Marion County Emergency Management. For information contact Bruce Twiss at brucetwiss@yahoo.com.

Everyone has a special skill. Your life's work and experiences have given you a uniqueness that you can and should share with your friends, family and community. Don't stop contributing to others just because you are retired. Now is the time to start the next chapter of living and giving.

Our military veterans have a unique set of skills to say the least, please come and join us on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, at 8 a.m. at the Veterans Park for a special flag ceremony and at 11 a.m. for the "Never Forget" ceremony to remember all those fine service men and women in the Recreation Center Ballroom.

The Veterans Club normally meets the third Thursday of the month at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV at 3 p.m. Please note that we will not meet in May so that we can attend the Memorial Day Tribute at Circle Square Cultural Center. Purchase tickets at CSCulturalCenter.com.



Photo by Fran Calhoun

Members of the Veterans Club and Marion County Memorial Honor Guard performed a ribbon cutting ceremony including a flag raising and missing man table ceremony at Cody's Restaurant in March to celebrate a new Veteran Wall of Fame.

of the same tree we see how it flourishes with vibrant life and strong roots. This juxtaposition prompts reflection on the will to live, resilience, perseverance, and the love of life itself.

Further along the journey, observe olive trees seeking sunlight, bamboo gracefully fulfilling its purpose, and a line of four pine trees, where one refuses to conform to the order of the others. Listen to the gentle flow of water across the stream, inhale the sweet fragrance of roses near the bridges. Allow your senses to absorb the labyrinth's sights, sounds, scents, and textures.

As you navigate the winding paths of Sholom Park's labyrinth, remember that every detail, every glimmer of light, carries symbolism like strokes on a masterwork canvas. The Park itself is a masterpiece of nature, crafted to heal and nourish the soul. Amidst its breathtaking beauty, it offers a sanctuary for those seeking inner peace. So, as you stroll through this tranquil oasis, immerse yourself in its splendor, but also open your heart to the possibility of finding solace and serenity within nature's embrace. Allow the park to be more than just a scenic retreat; let it become a place of healing and renewal, where every step becomes a journey inward, guiding you to the quiet center of your being.

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Candler Connection

Debra Keirn



Keirn by phone at 352-414-5737, text 814-571-7908 or arthurkipdeb@verizon.net.

It's hot in Florida. Let's cool off at the ice cream social on Sunday, June 16 (Father's Day) and another one on Sunday, Aug. 11, from 3 to 5 p.m. Choose from vanilla, chocolate, butter pecan, salty caramel and no sugar added moose tracks from Scoops. Purchase tickets on Tuesdays, May 14, 21 and 28, and Thursdays, May 16, 23 and 30. Buy tickets for both socials in May or wait to buy tickets for the August social in July. There will be a variety of toppings and/or you can have root beer or orange floats. You can even go back for seconds at the bargain price of \$6 per person.

The Independence Day pool party and picnic from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. will be catered by Cody's Restaurant with music at Ross Getek. We'll have barbecue chicken and ribs, garden salad, potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, rolls with cinnamon butter, and apple pie with ice cream. Tickets will be sold on Tuesdays and Thursdays from May 28 through June 13, at \$20 per resident and \$22 per guest.

Below are the dates for upcoming events:

- Sunday, Aug. 11: Ice cream social.
- Saturday, Sept. 14: Island party.
- Sunday, Oct. 20: Oktoberfest fall picnic at the softball field pavilion.
- Friday, Dec. 13: Holiday party catered by Pasta Faire and entertainment by Kathleen Kane.

Sign-up at candlerconnection.org to receive The Happenings and/or join our Candler Hills closed Facebook group to learn about our activities.

The next regular board meeting will be on Tuesday, May 7, at 4 p.m. in Meeting Room 1. Any Candler Hills resident is welcome to attend.

See you around the neighborhood and at future events.

Newcastle Social Committee

Nancy Monaghan



Congratulations to Newcastle resident, Janette Sheil, on her first hole-in-one! On Monday, April 1, Janette played in the Ladies Irish Derby at Golden Ocala Golf and Equestrian Club. She aced Golden Ocala's hole #6, a tribute hole patterned after the Augusta National Golf Club's par-3 hole #16.

The odds of an amateur golfer making a hole in one are 12,500 to one. The average years of playing golf for a player before making an ace is 24. Janette started golfing when she moved to Newcastle, less than four years ago, so she achieved every golfer's dream very quickly.

Although she saw the ball drop in after she hit her tee shot, she didn't quite believe her eyes until she got to the hole. Janette was especially excited that her hole-in-one was an over the water shot, as she was "not used to that" playing here in On Top of the World regularly! Congratulations Janette on your double win - hole-in-one and closest to the pin.

We have another superstar living here in Newcastle and her name is Olivia. Olivia, a Samoyed, has been a family member of Jimmy Gilleland and Eddie Balaban's family for 13 years since she was a puppy. Although she has a busy schedule with walks, greeting friends and eating cookies, Olivia has agreed to run for the 2025 Pets of OTOW calendar because she wants to support the Patriot Service Dogs charity. Voting closes May 10 and the winners will be announced May 17. Ballots are online at otowinfo.com.

As a proud Samoyed, Olivia has a very alert and friendly expression and a natural upturned mouth, characteristic of her breed, which is referred to as

a "Sammy smile." With her beauty and sweet disposition, she brings a smile to everyone she meets. Olivia would appreciate your vote and she thanks everyone for participating.

On Memorial Day, Newcastle will gather to honor and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. A fallen comrade table and traditional ceremony will be part of the event. Tribute will be made to the millions of service members. Event organizers will then segue to a celebration of their lives, followed by a barbecue. Thank you to all event volunteers.

And last, but certainly not least - happy Mother's Day to all moms!

Kestrel Knowings

Elaine Morrison



Once again, jukebox bingo brought out latent musical talents of many Kestrel residents and friends as they sang and bopped along to familiar songs, hoping at the same time, to become winners of the popular contest. If you have yet to experience this fun activity, you are urged to buy tickets the next time the event is offered. A good time is guaranteed.

There is great excitement currently surrounding the upcoming game night on Sunday, May 19, from 4 to 7 p.m. at The Lodge at Candler Hills. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased in the lobby on Saturday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to noon.

As reported in the last column, the games will include a cornhole tournament, a giant Jenga, the always popular left center right contest and keno. A 50/50 raffle and one or two surprises also await event goers. This is a bring your own beverages and snacks event.

Several acts have already been booked for the Thursday, July 18 talent show. If you or anyone you know would like their moment in the spotlight, now is the time to present yourself. There is no charge, just come to have some fun. More details will be provided in next month's column.

A class in CPR, is being developed for presentation. This emergency procedure, which anyone can learn, has proved to be a necessary tool for us all to be familiar with. The Lodge at Candler Hills has an AED (automated external defibrillator).

Stay tuned for more details about a murder mystery dinner sometime in September. And plans for the new, exciting holiday party are well under way. It will be a not to be missed event.

For ticket information, contact Jan Eaton at jeaton1000@comcast.net.

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Crescent Ridge Happenings

Carol Lewis



April and a beautiful spring have arrived in our communities. We must have had a perfect winter for flowering plants. This is our sixth spring here at On Top of the World and the azaleas have been gorgeous this year. I've seen bushes blooming where I didn't even realize bushes existed in previous years. And now the amaryllis are showing us their blooming beauty as well. Makes me look forward to what the crepe myrtles will look like this summer, but sad that we won't see the amaryllis for much longer. Hopefully the azaleas will bloom again later. I often walk by the Victory Garden and marvel at the tomatoes, onions, peas and so many other wonderful vegetables and flowers our gardeners are growing there.

Our yard was blessed with bluebirds nesting in the bird house behind our house and the chickadees building in a bird house that hangs on our front porch. I have a hummingbird feeder out but, unfortunately, have not seen any yet. I'm hopeful they find my feeder as I love watching them.

Our Crescent Ridge/Crescent Green social gathering is the second Sunday of every month and is held at the Veterans Park pavilion from 3 to 5 p.m. We ask that you bring a dish to share and your drink of choice. We provide plates, napkins, and utensils. We have a 50/50 raffle drawing and, if one is provided, a drawing for a gift basket. We are looking for individuals to volunteer to provide a basket for an upcoming month which would include whatever you wish to include in it. Also, we welcome ideas for entertainment and other activities to be included at our socials.

As new residents move into our neighborhoods, we welcome you to come get to know your neighbors and for us to get to know you. It's always interesting to find where our neighbors have come from, what they have done in their lives and continue to do in their retirement.

To keep up on Crescent Ridge news, you may join our Facebook page (OTOW Crescent Ridge Neighbors) or send an email to crneighbors@yahoo.com to be on our email list. You will only receive emails regarding Crescent Ridge. You will be asked in which neighborhood you live to be sure you are within Crescent Ridge or Crescent Green.

When out and about, give a wave, smile or a "hello" to others. It makes your day better and theirs as well. Until next month.

Williamsburg Neighbors

Nancy Meininger



It's springtime and our friendships are blooming - in the neighborhood that is! We are thrilled to see what we have nurtured by adding a weekly round of bocce, plus an energetic cornhole throw!

Cultivating all of this is an amazing steering committee that managed to present a highly anticipated luau event again this year. Sponsoring this favored entrée into spring is Dr. Dunn Dentistry and Scott Cameron of State Farm Insurance. Featuring music, dancing, games and a smorgasbord of Hawaiian chicken, barbequed pork, hamburgers, and hot

dogs with potluck sides to the moon and back, plus margaritas and blue Hawaiians, this gala will be long remembered. Also, proceeds are part of a fundraiser to be used both for charity and the holiday dinner this year at Stone Creek Grille.

Having something to look forward to and another way to meet your neighbors is the reason the neighborhood meets monthly for dinner at various local dining spots. They recently enjoyed Edo Japanese Steak House, Las Margaritas, and Milano's Italian Grille.

Future events include a driveway happy hour, a golf cart poker run, a bake sale, and neighborhood book club.

Williamsburgneighborsotow.com is our website with a running calendar of events and sign-ups. For more information about our active neighborhood, please contact Nancy Meininger at 352-554-0757.

Friendship Connection

Ellen Lee



Friendship neighborhoods celebrated the arrival of spring with a record number of attendees at the Saturday, March 23, "Spring into Friendships" event. Winners of gift baskets were Vickie Brown, Colleen Rocafort, Fred Kovenner, Leslie Lansing, Cindy Rocafort, Bob Junge, Trona Monchak-Carter, Barb Cobb, Bob Cannon, and Belinda Mason. The 50/50 prizes went to Donna White, Michael Crouse, and Nelson White. Door prizes were distributed to Tom Hotte, Diane Laney, Ginny Graf, Michael Crouse, Laura Schnur, Bob Junge, Cathy Clinton, Anita Dall, Diana Gayer, Marie Cannon and John Womanski. Congratulations to all the winners!

A survey was distributed to all who at-

tended. We received many great suggestions for future events and are looking into each response for ways to improve. Thank you all for your support and participation, we look forward to seeing you at more events soon!

Speaking of more events, I do hope you remembered to save time in your schedule on Saturday, June 8, for the "Friendship Connection Hello Summer" event! Friendship Connection committee members are hard at work planning so be sure to watch for more information soon. To keep up to date on information about this and future events, hop on over to our Facebook page (Friendship Connection - OTOW). If you're not already a member, be sure to answer all the questions so that we can get you in the group.

Friendship Connection is open to all residents of Friendship Colony, Park, and Village. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Denise Sherman at 704-650-7066 or otowfriendshipconnection@gmail.com.

Active Newcomers Club

Lori Lund



We have a new club logo, and our tagline is "Where Friendships are Made." With our club membership increasing, the need for more board members and small group leaders is a necessity. We have added more at-large members to our board of directors. The role of an at-large member is to familiarize themselves with all board member duties in case we need one of them to step up temporarily in the event one of the board members is out of town or unable to fulfill their duties. The other duty of our at-large members is to co-lead some of our bigger small groups like the dinner, lunch, and wine groups. Because these three small groups are the largest, some revamping of how the groups function are being taken into consideration.

One of our newest small groups is the foodie group. The foodies are comprised of people who love to challenge their culinary skills and taste buds. They have a passion for cooking and enjoy spending an evening by sharing a meal in someone's home. In this intimate setting everyone can converse and get to know each other. A different culinary food theme is selected each month and then we meet on the third or fourth Friday of that month. Throughout the year everyone will have an opportunity to host be-

tween six to eight people. Each month, couples are rotated to form new groups. The host selects the main entree and a side dish for each month's theme. Then the others that are assigned to that group coordinate with their host to supply any remaining needs for the meal.

The next two upcoming large activities is the Friday, May 3, rockin' pizza party at The Lodge at Candler Hills. DJ and multi-talented singer and musician, Tim Hargis, will be entertaining our members in attendance.

On Saturday, June 8, we will be holding our annual picnic at the Veterans Park from 4 to 8 p.m. Curbside Cuisine food truck will be available for those who prefer to purchase their picnic meal and R&R Trio will be providing music entertainment. Grouper will also have an information table set up to explain their perks for people with certain healthcare plans including reimbursement of club dues. We are opening our picnic up to members and potential new members who would like to attend one of our events to see if they are interested in joining our club.

The Active Newcomers Club is for residents who have lived here less than four years. We will have membership information available during the picnic event.

If you have any questions regarding the Active Newcomers Club the answers are only an email away at activenewcomers34481@gmail.com.

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Longleaf Ridge Friends



Michelle Migdal, Kathleen Taylor, Debra Vitale & Judi Walsh

great evening of live music, camaraderie, and delightful weather. Everyone in attendance was invited to meet and take selfies with Elvis at the poolside after party.

Neighbors enjoyed the Longleaf Ridge diners club dinner held at Stumpknockers. Thanks to Eric Anderson for continuing to organize these wonderful monthly dinners.

Irene Eff and Sherry Ott played their first doubles tournament at the 2024 Daytona Pickleball Challenge at Pictona in Daytona Beach. After dedicated training, the pair were delighted to win bronze. Now they're positioned to go for the gold at their next tournament.

Dozens of Longleaf Ridge neighbors attended the Women of the World 21st annual Fashion Show and Luncheon. Pat Wright, Donna Siegfried, Arlene Loepf and Marilyn Capanec were among the club members modeling Dillard's spring fling fashions. Net proceeds from ticket sales were donated to the Nancy Reinhart Center for Dementia Education and gift basket raffle tickets will benefit Hospice of Marion County.

Longleaf Ridge neighbors gathered for a bowling night. Ron Thrash threw 10 strikes and won the prize for the highest score. Prizes were also awarded for the most gutter balls and the lowest score.

The March howling was hosted by Dina Andrews and Maria Stephens. It was a chilly evening, but the moon eventually broke through the clouds and made its ethereal appearance.

As our community continues to grow, we look forward to welcoming all the many new neighbors to the Longleaf Ridge neighborhood. Please remember to join our private Facebook page (OTOW Longleaf Ridge Friends) and provide your phase and lot number / address. Please send questions to otowlongleafridge@gmail.com.

With beautiful springtime weather, Longleaf Ridge neighbors enjoy many gatherings where we socialize and share experiences during this chapter in our lives. The Longleaf Ridge social committee is excited to announce our very first all-inclusive Longleaf Ridge "Night on the Square" which will be held on Tuesday, May 7, at Circle Square Commons from 4 to 8 p.m. All Longleaf Ridge neighbors are invited to come meet new neighbors, socialize, and treat themselves to ice cream from Mr. B's Big Scoop.

Tom and Sandy Mansfield hosted our first annual celebration of Pi Day (March 14 or 3.14). Over 90 neighbors gathered on a perfect evening to enjoy over 40 versions of pie and great conversation.

Michele and John Marcinek have graciously opened their beautiful, recently renovated lanai to neighbors for Thursday happy hour. In addition to enjoying Michele's weekly tasty libations, neighbors get the opportunity to mingle, meet newcomers and enjoy each other's company.

In addition, neighbors have begun a new trend by meeting up at the mailbox kiosk area for "Mailbox Mondays," an impromptu opportunity to gather and stay connected.

Gary and Liz Kutty hosted a driveway concert featuring The Crescent Four, a band made up of neighbors from Crescent Ridge. Bruce Wisser, Cindy, and Paul Kranz warmed up the audience before Elvis, the fourth member of the group, made a grand entrance. It was a

Indigo East Social Committee



Janice Liberton

The Indigo East residents' bingo game on the first Tuesday of the month has become popular with the residents. During the April game, two winners split a jackpot of \$176.

The Indigo East Social Committee Memorial Day party will be on Monday, May 27, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Indigo East Community Center. There are 125 tickets for residents on a first come first served basis. The ticket price will include, per person, barbecue chicken, baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, cupcakes, watermelon, and lemonade. The first day of ticket sales was in April, followed by May 2, 7, and 16, from 5 to 6 p.m. and on May 17, at happy hour, from 5 to 7 p.m. All ticket sales are in the Indigo East Community Center, except for May 17, which will be where happy hour is held. Resident ID is required for ticket purchase. Entertainment will be by Indigo East's own D.J. Frank. There will also be door prizes and a promise of a great time to be had by all.

The Indigo East Social Committee will not hold any events in June, or July.

The Indigo East ladies luncheon committee is planning a Cinco de Mayo party on Thursday, May 2, from 1 to 3 p.m. at El Mezcal Restaurant. The menu will be a special menu for the group of ladies. There will be four choices of entrees, chips and salsa, dessert, and drink

specials. Ticket sales were in April and have been sold out. The cost of the ticket included tax and gratuity. There will be the usual door prizes and a whole lot of fun.

Do any of you remember the old rule whereby we could only wear white after Memorial Day and not after Labor Day? Since moving to Florida 13 years ago, I've bent the rule and begun to wear white after Easter and away by the end of October. The old rule was established as more of a practical way to dress. During the early 1900s, most fashion magazines were based out of the northeast and the fashion editors thought that the northern states' experiences of fall rains causing dirty streets made white shoes and trousers impractical to wear in fall. Also, winter snow and slush make wearing white almost impossible.

Today, wearing white during fall and winter is still fashionable but one should dress smartly. It is recommended that white be worn as an accessory during fall and winter. Unless one lives in Florida, then it depends on the weather.

Enjoy the merry month of May and the May holidays. Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers in Indigo East. Until next time, I'll see you around the neighborhood.

MAINTENANCE REQUEST WORK ORDERS
 Visit OTOWInfo.com > Resident Information > Maintenance Request
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On Top of the Seas

By Ray Cech
World News Writer

You won't have to know port from starboard or even aft from forward ... all you will need to know is how to sit back, relax, take Master the Possibilities classes onboard, and enjoy six days at sea with fellow Master the Possibilities enthusiasts.

Carnival's Mardi Gras will set sail June 15, 2025, and be spending six fun-filled and educational days at sea. Aboard, will be Master the Possibilities staff, students, instructors, volunteers, and anyone who just feels they need some time breathing in fresh air and enjoying the blue waters of the Caribbean.

I'm not making this up - it's a first, and everyone can sign up early and book a stateroom now. A cruise with like-minded travelers is as tempting as it will ever get.

There will be much to do aboard the Mardi Gras. You can book a spa date, catch a show, swim, play a sport, dance

the night away, enjoy excellent cuisine and, of course, attend Master the Possi-

bilities classes. It will be a time to relax, play, and learn.

For those landlubbers who need to occasionally feel earth under their feet, the Mardi Gras will port at the islands of Nassau, Amber Cove, and Grand Turk. Tripping along the islands offers you many choices to fill the day with exciting activities - snorkel coral reefs, kayak,

visit historic museums, swim with the porpoises, enjoy island cuisine, take a bike ride, or a mule ride, or simply hang out at Margaritaville. For more information and to book your cruise of a lifetime and be part of On Top of the Seas with Master the Possibilities, visit masterthepossibilities.org/cruise.



Global Diversity Asian Social Club

By Rosalina Norita

Global Diversity Asian Social Club was established in March and is dedicated to promoting and empowering Asian art and culture within our community. People of all social and ethnic back-

grounds are welcome to participate. Club members will enjoy a broad range of activities which encompass learning some of the Asian languages, indulge in diverse culinary delights, exchange the

knowledge of variety of tourist destinations and interact with Asians and other folks some of whom are connoisseurs of Eastern culture and their history.

Last month, the Global Diversity Asian Social Club had a wonderful presentation of kyudo, Japanese martial art of archery. The group of instructors were Shizuka Campagna, Brenda Foster, and Ron Sensei. It was a very well delivered instructional with the aid of projector slides show, in person demonstration and commentary from Sensei. Everyone

was very happy with their experience and the presenters received very enthusiastic ovations.

The club had a couple of visitors. Robert Trask, who is the president of the Asian American Club in The Villages, and his wife Donna along with a former Ms. Universe, Yvonne Combs, from Vietnam who wrote the book "Me Tisse" came to give support for our newly found club.

A small group of the members car-pooled and took a trip to Tampa to participate in the celebration of Songkran, traditional Thai New Year festival on Sunday, April 14. This event was open to everyone.

We invite everyone to celebrate Asian American heritage on Friday, May 3, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. The event is dedicated to commemorating Asian culture and emphasizing the importance of our history and the contribution of Asian people to American society.

Club members do not use any plastic utensils or any other plastic products for food consumption. Our creed is to reduce harmful non-biodegradable waste to prevent pollution on our dear planet. Come and join us to celebrate the Asian American heritage and bring food representing your favorite Asian cuisine to share with each other. Also bring a drink of your choice.

For further information, please contact Rosalina Norita at 352-414-0323 or otowglobaldiversity@gmail.com.



Members and guests posed together before the kyudo presentation.

Photo by Judy Sullivan

Organic Pest Control

By Phil Karcheski

Organic garden pest control utilizes a variety of methods that are chemical-free. This prevents indiscriminately killing beneficial insects like pollinators. There are many organic garden pest control options available. The pests to be targeted should be understood before applying pest control materials.

Pests can be identified utilizing yellow sticky traps. These traps are amazing at restraining gnats, aphids, and flea beetles. The pests plaguing your garden can be identified by examining the pests captured in the trap.

Organic garden pest controls are made from naturally derived substances like soap, salt, and vinegar. Organic garden pest controls can use living organisms such as beneficial bugs and birds, natural or bacterial powders. A few of these pest control materials are listed below.

NEEM OIL GARDEN SPRAY: Neem oil is made from the seeds of the neem tree. The neem oil sticks to the leaves that the insects eat, disrupting their digestive system causing starvation and death. Bees, ladybugs, and earthworms are safe from neem oil as they do not eat the plant leaves.

FLOATING ROW COVERS: Floating row covers are another organic garden pest control. Row covers made of light fabric allows air and water to pass to the plants. The row covers are supported

with wire hoops or PVC pipe, keeping the row cover off the plants. They are the best way to keep cabbage worms off brassicas (e.g. broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, kohlrabi, napa cabbage, rutabaga, turnip).

INSECTICIDAL SOAP: You can make your own insecticidal soap using hot peppers, garlic, and a small bit of dish soap or you can buy a pre-made version. Using insecticidal soap is an easy way to constrain pest levels within a few hours. The soap suffocates the bugs and will not harm your seedlings or plants.

BACILLUS THURINGIENSIS (BT) SPRAY: Bt is a living organism that is toxic to some soft body insects, such as caterpillars. Bt is a bacterium that is sprayed onto the plants leaves and then ingested when the caterpillars are eating your veggies. The bad thing is it can harm monarch butterflies if used incorrectly.

LADYBUGS/MARIGOLDS: Providing ladybugs with areas to mate and lay eggs will give them protection from birds and other predators. Marigolds are a dual-purpose control that is also an effective deterrent to bad nematodes.

DIATOMACEOUS EARTH: Diatomaceous earth (DE) is a powder that kills hard body insects by scratching the exoskeleton. It can also kill soft body insects by dehydrating the bug, maggot, snail, or slug as it crawls over.

The Eco Gardeners will be taking a



Bluebird nest eggs.

Photo by Gayle McTeigue

break from monthly meetings after the May meeting during the summer heat (June, July, and August). The Eco Gar-

deners will resume monthly meetings on Monday, Sept. 16, in the Hobby Building Event Room.



Photo by Marcia VanDaele

CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion employees not only help people, but they also help pets in need. For a second year in a row, they have generously donated a bevy of pet supplies to SPCA of Marion County in support of the Meals on Wheels pet program.

SPCA of Marion County

Heather Tahan



The SPCA of Marion County is an all-volunteer organization always looking for volunteers to support our many initiatives and keep the organization running smoothly. Examples of help needed are greeters at our table at the weekly Circle Square Commons Farmers Market, administrative support in fundraising, accounting/bookkeeping, computer skills (Word/Excel) and coordinating speakers and activities. If you'd like to learn more about us, please join us (and bring a friend or two) at our monthly meeting every third Thursday, at 1 p.m. at the Friendship Baptist Church, Fellowship Hall, 9510 SW 105th Street, Ocala, Florida 34481. Our next meeting is Thursday, May 16.

If you have any food that your pet doesn't like or was shipped to you in error, please consider donating it to the SPCA. Donations will be accepted on the porch of Evelyn Sarns Holiday (8880-C SW 94th Street, Ocala, Florida 34481). We accept all pet items in addition to food, such as blankets, sheets, and other pet supplies (cat litter, doggy waste bags, etc.).

We also donate many items to local Marion County shelters, so, by giving items to the SPCA of Marion County, you are also supporting local shelters. Donors make a real difference in the lives of pet owners with limited means or foster pets waiting for their forever homes. Thank you in advance!

Why is fostering a homeless animal so important? Fostering homeless pets

gives them more time to find a forever home and reduces the need for euthanasia. High-risk pets such as orphaned neonates, expectant mothers, seniors, and those requiring medical care, just need a safe place to grow, heal and trust. Once in foster care, these animals receive extra love, socialization, and medical attention, increasing their chance of successful adoption. Fosters provide valuable information about each pet's personality, further increasing the chance for a successful adoption match.

Fostering benefits:

- Reduces animal shelter intake overflow at brick-and-mortar organizations and reduces need for euthanasia.
- Saves lives for the most vulnerable animals, such as orphaned neonates, expectant mothers, seniors, and sick or injured pets.
- Increases probability of successful adoptions by providing individual attention to socialization and exposure to people and other pets.

If you are interested in fostering an animal in your home, most animal shelters have foster programs and can walk you through their requirements. The foster generally only needs to provide a segregated location (away from your pets, such as a bathroom, spare room, even a large closet) and commit to a mutually agreeable period. The organization will supply everything else. The time commitment of typical fostering can be a few hours, weeks, or months.

To learn more about our organization, please visit SPCAofMarionCounty.weebly.com, follow us on Facebook (Marion County FL SPCA) or email us at spca.marion.county@gmail.com.

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." – Aesop

Joy in the Mourning

Deb Thompson



Formally, Joy in the Mourning was for widows. We have now expanded our group to include widowers and those who have lost any human who was

important to them.

The purpose of this group is to help provide ways to combat grief rather than letting grief control you. Encouragement and compassion are available to any resident desiring to overcome loss.

Join us as we journey this road together every Tuesday, from 1 to 2 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. For more information, contact Deb at 352-445-4860.

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BENEFIT	Florida Blue Medicare Premier (HMO) H1035-043	UnitedHealthcare The Villages Medicare Advantage (HMO-POS) H1045-025
Monthly Premium	\$0	\$0
In-Network Maximum Out of Pocket	\$2,400	\$2,700
PCP/Specialist Copay	\$0/\$20	\$0/\$30
MRI, CAT Scan, PET Scan at an Imaging Center	\$0	\$85
In-Patient Hospital	\$110 per day 1-6, Then \$0	\$175 per day 1-6, Then \$0
Comprehensive Dental Annual Dollar Maximum	\$3,500 Annual Max	\$2,500 Annual Max
Durable Medical Equipment costs	\$0 <small>(Except 20% on motorized scooters & wheelchairs)</small>	20% Coinsurance
Vision	\$300 Allowance per year for Eyewear	\$250 Allowance per year for Eyewear
Transportation	48 one-way trips annually to clinical and pharmacy and grocery locations	No
Over the Counter Items (OTC)	\$150 every 3 months	\$60 every 3 months
Dental, Vision and Hearing Flex Allowance	\$500 annual benefit	No
Prescription Drug Benefits	Standard Retail	Standard Retail
Preferred Generic Drug Copay (One month supply)	\$0	\$0
Generic Drug Copay (One month supply)	\$0	\$5
Preferred Brand Drug Copay (One month supply)	\$35	\$45
Moffit Cancer Center	Yes	No
The Villages Health	Yes	Yes
Shands Hospital / UF Health	Yes	Yes

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All benefits are not available on all plans. The Dental, Vision, and Hearing Flex allowance is a yearly benefit and any unused amounts do not roll over to the next year. The OTC allowance is a quarterly benefit and any unused amounts do not roll over to the next quarter. Florida Blue Medicare is an HMO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Florida Blue Medicare depends on contract renewal. HMO coverage is offered by Florida Blue Medicare, Inc., DBA Florida Blue Medicare, an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Patriot Insurance is an authorized, independent agent for Florida Blue Medicare. Applicable to 2024 HMO plans on contract H1035. We comply with applicable Federal civil rights laws and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. Visit floridablue.com/ndnotice for more information on our free language assistance services. © 2023 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc., DBA Florida Blue. All rights reserved.

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Genealogical Society

Ron Niebo



at 10 a.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room is “One-Step Webpages: A Potpourri of Genealogical Search Tools.” The speaker is Stephen P. Morse who created the best one-step genealogy webpage. Years-ago, while working on his genealogy hobby, he created an online means for finding passengers in the Ellis Island database. His hobby evolved to a series of web tools covering numerous categories with creative search tools and applications. His presentation will describe these tools and provide highlights and hints on their use. My suggestion is acquainting yourself beforehand by visiting his work at One-Step Webpages by Stephen P. Morse at stevemorse.org.

Some of our retired technology experts might recognize this speaker’s name. Yes, Morse is the electrical engineer and coding expert who designed Intel’s 8086 microprocessor chip. That technological breakthrough advanced personal computers onto our desks (now wrists) and into our lives. Fortunately, his hobby was genealogy, and I am grateful for the databases and tools he has also created.

The purpose of language translations is to interpret the original text using the words and descriptions described by the writer. You should use online translation tools cautiously as they often recast or paraphrase words into modern language usage. You can double-check a translation by visiting a used-bookstore and obtaining an old translation dictionary for the language you are reviewing. Be aware, the original text might include an idiom (slang of that period). Consider this old-German idiom “Alles hat ein Ende, nur die Wurst hat zwei.” It translates literally into “Everything has an end, only the sausage has two.” The English version is “All things must come to an end.”

The Genealogical Society holds friendly meetings focused on helping genealogical investigations. We meet from September through June, both in-person and via Zoom, on the third Monday each month in the Hobby Building Event Room from 10 a.m. to noon. During these meetings, there are open discussions, special interest group sessions, and a designated time-slot reserved for a guest genealogist to review a specific area of interest.

All residents can join. New members are welcome – beginners as well as experienced genealogists. Individual yearly dues are \$20 or \$35 for a couple. For membership information contact Membership Chair Wilma Kelley at wkellymt@outlook.com.

Technology Club

Chris Kilbride



Every Saturday at 9 a.m. the Ocala Tech Club meets for an hour through our weekly online Zoom meetings. We discuss Windows and Apple issues regarding software and hardware. Our OcalaTechClub.org website will give lots of great information about our group.

Let’s bring you into the quick, easy and convenient world of “Tap to Pay” with your cellphone. Open either the Google Wallet or Apple Wallet app built into your phone. Add information for one or more credit cards that you wish to use. Google Wallet will need Near Field Communication (NFC) turned on in Settings.

Now when you are in the store and ready to check out, look at the payment terminal screen. You’ll find either a logo for G Pay or Apple Pay. Another symbol you’ll see has four increasingly wider curved lines including a tiny hand holding a card. This is the contactless symbol which means this store cash register will take a “Tap to Pay” payment with your phone. On your phone, open your Google Wallet or Apple Wallet app and just bring your phone close to the terminal screen. Within a second, the connection is made, and you are on your way out of the store. No more handing your physical card to the cashier or pushing it into the card reader.

This “Tap to Pay” also works when us-

ing your plastic credit card that you hold in your hand. If that cash register terminal has those same symbols mentioned above, just get out your credit card, and be as close as one or two inches, you don’t even need to tap the terminal – that’s it, you’re done! This works at gas stations for credit card payments too!

We have been in this futuristic mode for years now, using short-range wireless technology with credit cards and phones tapping to pay, it is even available on payment-enabled watches! The security of this process is terrific because each sales transaction produces a one-time code. The store gets paid, and they do not know your credit card sixteen-digit number, nor the three number code on the back. Less counterfeit fraud is a great plus!

Your credit cards now have the four arched lines and a tiny metallic block on the front. You are ready to “Tap to Pay” and keep your security a top priority. Set up your credit card information in your phone app or use your credit card to tap!

Residents are welcome to join our club, with \$10 individual yearly dues or \$15 per couple. The Contact page on OcalaTechClub.org 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 Windows or Apple computer, smartphone, or tablet issues. On our website, members may list 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.

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Texas Connection Social Club

Kathy Cornell



Mother’s Day and our May meeting always fall on the same day. Last year we played a card game called “Just Like Mama Said.” This year we’ll be playing a game I (sort of) made up called “Just Like a Texan Would Say.” Anyone can play regardless of the amount of time they spent in Texas. All you need is a sense of humor and your reading glasses.

Our get-together will be on Sunday, May 12, in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II at 6 p.m. Feel free to mosey in any time after 5:30 p.m.

To keep it a laid-back day for everyone, the club is providing snacks that night. A headcount will be helpful for provisioning. All you need to bring is your own beverage and money for the 50/50 drawing if you choose to play.

This will be our last meeting of the season. We’re taking a summer break to rest up and do some planning and prep for the next go-around. We’ll start up again on Sunday, Sept. 8. Hope to see ya’ ll then.

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 spirit. 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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World Traveler

Bill Shampine



Located in the Austrian state of Tyrol, Kufstein is one of the best preserved small (20,000 people) historic villages in Austria. It is located about 1.5 miles from the German border in the north-west part of Austria, and about 46 miles southwest of Innsbruck, about 70 miles northeast of Salzburg, and about 60 miles southeast of Munich, Germany. The village, easily reached by train or car, is situated on the banks of the Inn River, in the shadow of the Kufstein Fortress. If you happen to be in this part of Europe, I think you would find a side trip to Kufstein to be worthwhile.

The first published record of Kufstein was about a church mentioned in a 788 deed issued by Bishop Arno of Salzburg. The Kufstein Fortress is first documented in 1205. The village's strategic location as a trading and docking point along the Inn River, plus the all-important Kufstein border fortress, made control of the village vital to the competing local governments. After 600 years, control was finally settled in 1814, when possession passed to the Austrian Empire. In the mid-1800s, the Austrian Government turned the Kufstein Fortress, a fighting fortress, into a Bastille for political prisoners.

Clearly, the biggest attraction in Kufstein is the fortress. It is massive and built on top of a rock jutting 300 feet above the edge of the Inn River. The most important tower, the round and impressive Kaiserturm, was built from 1518 to

22. The fortress has been repaired and enlarged several times over the centuries, most recently after enduring heavy bombing during World War II.

Today, the fortress serves as a municipal centerpiece, where it hosts a variety of concerts and meetings. A Heritage Museum showcasing everything from Bronze Age urns to folk costumes is also in the fortress.

A special attraction is the Heroes' Organ, the largest open-air organ in the world. This monster features 4,948 pipes and 46 organ stops. More critically, the distance between the keyboard and the tip of the pipes is more than 330 feet! This distance creates a serious delay in the sounding of the notes, which makes playing it a very tricky challenge. The village presents a 10- to 20-minute recital every day, which can be heard throughout the village. It is played in honor of the soldiers lost in World War I and World War II.

A stroll down the Römerhofgasse, the cobbled lane main street through Kufstein, is like a walk-through history. One of the oldest restaurants, the Auracher Löchl, is outstanding. After all, having been around for 600 years, the owners must be doing something right! Those owners also have the world's smallest bridge restaurant; a restaurant built on a bridge. You need to consider making a reservation, however, as it only has room for two guests at a time.

If you are a wine connoisseur, you may be aware of Riedel wine glasses. One of the company's three manufacturing sites is in Kufstein, where the glasses are blown by mouth. These glasses are famous because they have different shapes for every different type of wine! Overall, Kufstein is a nice place to visit.



Photo by Rufus46

Kufstein Fortress looming over the Inn River at Kufstein, Austria.

Buckeye Social Club

Amy Ingram



On Sunday, March 3, the Buckeye Social Club met for our annual meeting. New officers Gregg Keidel, president; Chris Moretto, vice president; Amy Ingram, secretary; and Dave Ruhlen, treasurer, were voted into place, social activities were discussed for the upcoming year and members enjoyed a yummy taco bar. A big thank you goes out to our past board members Gary and Liz Kutty, Karen Penrod, Becky Green, and Paul Siders.

Do you have ties to Ohio? Do you like celebrating all things Ohio? Are you an Ohio State Buckeye fan? Then this is the club for you! Join us for a picnic on Wednesday, May 22, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Veterans Park pavilion.

Hamburgers, hot dogs, and bratwursts with all the trimmings as well as non-alcoholic beverages will be served.

Test your knowledge about Ohio with a trivia contest with prizes given to the winning team! Cost is \$7.50 per person for members and guests. If you would like to attend the picnic, please email buckeyefans34481@gmail.com by Wednesday, May 15.

Membership opportunities will be available at the picnic; however, you do not need to wait until the picnic to join our club and have fun with other like-minded Ohio lovers. Now is the time to sign up for membership with the Buckeye Social Club. Membership dues are \$15 per person annually and will include events such as an ice cream social, game day watch parties, chili cook-off, annual Christmas party, and many other fun events. To join, please feel free to reach out to us at buckeyefans34481@gmail.com or on our Facebook page (Residents of On Top of the World Buckeye Social Club).

Freethinkers

J. Ashi Olshan



The Freethinkers Club is alive, well and recruiting new members every month. We must be doing something right, while we keep redesigning our agenda and room to accommodate the best wishes of as many members as possible; as an honestly applied democracy should. After all, as I always say, "I am never as right as we are," which is precisely what we Freethinkers are about; a collective of respectful, intelligent, independent thinkers, open to hearing and civilly discussing various points of view on a variety of important topics - which mean something to our contemporary lives. Via our group discussion together, we always seek to create "peace through understanding" which is the slogan from the 1964 New York World's Fair.

For example, on Sunday, April 7, Ellen Velie spoke on "Political Polarization and What We Can Do About It." Which extends into families now and is far greater than what we have experienced in the past. On Sunday, April 21, yours truly, Ashi, presented a talk with photos on the topic of "The Art and Craft of Home Improvement and Repairs." (I plan to offer a class at Master the Possibilities by the same name in January 2025.)

On Sunday, May 5, Mark Croft will be speaking on "Caregiving for Loved Ones with Alzheimer's and other Dementias." Mark also offers classes through Master the Possibilities. On Sunday, May 19, we'll be having open forum discussion facilitated by Bob Kraus. He welcomes questions and shares his personal and professional experience. Then, after all our speakers have presented their material, we will have our breakout groups of six to eight per table to discuss the topics spoken about and more. As always, everyone's opinion and points of view are respectfully heard.

Though we at Freethinkers try to adhere to our policy of nonpartisan, non-sectarian attitudes - when it comes to choosing political sides, or religious beliefs - the general topics of religiousness, church and state, and the state of our politics are respectfully discussed, peacefully.

What can I say? I love our new heartful friends, twice a month on alternate Sundays, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room.

My wife, Sheri, and I enjoy the many amenities we now share in-between Freethinkers Club meetings with our Freethinkers family, like bocce on Thursdays, at 11 a.m., dinners, cards, hikes, concerts, and more.

Come check us out and learn why many of us celebrate diversity, and understanding that we have more in common that binds us.

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Rhode Island Group

Judy Parisi



Church in Newport. During Kennedy's presidency it was the informal summer White House.

The property is some 54 acres and Hammersmith is a 28-room "cottage." The house itself dates to 1887, built for John W. Auchincloss, the uncle of Hugh Auchincloss, Jackie's stepfather.

Having been vacant for many years, it had fallen into disrepair, but Farley worked to restore it, both the interior and exterior. He then sold it in 1999 to a group of investors. It is currently closed to the public.

You can get a glimpse of the property from Harrison Avenue, and also from the road leading into Fort Adams. The best view however is from one of the many tour boats that leave from New-

port Harbor and go out into Narragansett Bay and into Brenton Cove. From there you can see not only the main house but also the outbuildings including one that resembles a windmill that is off the sloping back lawn near the water.

We were fortunate many years back to take a tour of the property when it was open to the public. It was beautiful, but with a comfortable feel, not ostentatious, with spectacular views of the bay and lovely grounds. The master suite was unique with the bedroom flanked

on each side by a dressing room and private ensuite bathroom - "a his and hers ensuite."

The Rhode Island Group meets for lunch several times during the year at different restaurants where we can enjoy a meal and reminisce on our time in Rhode Island. We hope that those who have lived, worked, studied, or served in Rhode Island will join us at our lunches. Please contact judith.parsi@gmail.com to have your name added to our email list.

The Jewish Club

Bruce Kanner



Who was the first Jewish person in America? Where was he from? Where did he settle? Which Jewish person invented blue jeans? Which Jewish composer wrote the song "Over the Rainbow?" Arlene Carlton and Sid Levine tossed out these and dozens more questions to the almost 100 in attendance at the Jewish Club meeting Sunday, March 17.

All the questions and answers were meant to highlight Jewish history and the significance Jews have played in

modern history and culture. (The answers Arlene and Sid shared: Solomon Franco, Holland, and Boston; Levi Strauss; Yip Harburg.) A good part of the interactive audience program was spent on why are there so many Jewish comedians and even some of their famous lines or jokes. As legendary Mel Brooks explains: "If your enemy is laughing, how can he bludgeon you to death?"

Audrey Wolotsky explained the festive holiday of Purim as the monthly moment in time. And as is customary, members spun their grogger noisemakers, stamped their feet, and yelled "boo" at every mention of the story's antagonist, Haman.

Of course, at the end of the meeting Hamantaschen - a triangle-shaped fruit-filled cookie - was served along with other sweet snacks as well as fruit, coffee, and tea.

For the monthly lunch bunch, 20 Jewish Club members enjoyed breakfast-for-lunch and lunch-for-lunch at Mama B's on Wednesday, March 20.

And despite raining cats and dogs the day before, overnight, and earlier in the day 14 members played miniature golf on March 28. The greens dried out by the time we met on the On Top of the World miniature golf course and played all 18 holes in perfect weather.

Jewish Club members do not have to be Jewish to belong to the Jewish Club. The club promotes understanding and respect for Jewish people and their history, customs, and culture through social and educational activities. Annual dues are \$18 per person. The Jewish Club is a reciprocal club meaning it holds meetings in both The Lodge at Candler Hills and the Arbor Conference Center.

For more information about the Jewish Club or for membership inquiries please contact Gail Levine at 954-881-4010 or gl4010@gmail.com.



Photo by Mark Frankel

Jewish Club members acknowledge new members Sharon Michaelson and Howard Shiner.

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Christian Women's Club



Sandi Kemp

In March, we celebrated Easter with our usual delicious potluck! Also, some of the ladies wore their Easter bonnets! We all sang the Easter bonnet song and oh, what talented singers we have! Of course, we were blessed with our two talented pianists, Marijane and Arlene. Sandy Hoskins surrounded our centerpieces with easter eggs that contained a surprise gift inside for everyone. She also told a little story pertaining to the gift!

I read a selection from a book by Anne Graham Lotz, one of Billy Graham's daughters, if you are not familiar with her, she is a great speaker and writer. The selection that I chose was appropriate for Easter. Following the reading was a beautiful piano solo by Arlene, "The Holy City." I hope you will join us for our next potluck. It will be on Saturday, May 25, at 11:30 a.m. We meet on the fourth Saturday of every month in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II. No reservations are needed just show up with your potluck. Drinks are supplied. Please try to arrive by 11:15 a.m. so that we can start on time.

For more information, call Sandi at 352-237-9073 (no texts).

What's Cookin'?



Nancy Grabowski

While it's too late for April hijinks, it's not too late to delight your family and friends with these unique mash-ups! It's a little bit of fun to mess with their expectations, isn't it?

Carrot Cake Cheese Ball

- 8 ounces softened cream cheese
- 1/2 cup grated carrots
- 1/2 cup well-drained crushed pineapple
- 1/3 cup golden raisins
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup lightly toasted coconut
- 1/4 cup lightly toasted, chopped pecans
- Additional shredded carrots

Beat cream cheese until smooth, then stir in carrots, pineapple, raisins, honey, vanilla, cinnamon, and salt. Shape mixture into a soft ball, wrap in saran wrap, and refrigerate overnight.

Before serving, roll the cream cheese ball in coconut, pineapple and an additional 1/4 cup shredded carrots.

Serve with plain or cinnamon graham crackers, fruit slices, or vanilla wafers.

For the following recipe, take a childhood favorite, combine it with a breakfast treat and enjoy the comfort of both worlds!

Very Adult Breakfast Mash-up

Assemble a peanut butter and jelly sandwich on your favorite bread.

Mix two eggs and a scant 1/4 cup milk.

Melt butter in a frying pan until it bubbles or froths.

Dip your sandwich into the egg mixture and add to frying pan. Flip the sandwich when it browns to your liking on the first side.

Remove from pan, dust with powdered sugar or cinnamon/sugar or your favorite syrup. Dig into your peanut butter-jelly French toast and savor your childhood memories!

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Christian Women's Club ladies in their Easter bonnets.

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Moonstruck Astronomy Club

Jim Di Paolo



Photo by Jim Di Paolo

Moonstruck Astronomy Club Solar Eclipse event.

The Moonstruck Astronomy Club held their monthly meeting on Thursday, April 11. The meeting started with Larry Isenberg reading the minutes of the last meeting and reviewing the club's financial report.

Jim Di Paolo, club president, informed members regarding their current membership level and discussed the topic of the last World News club column that informed readers about the Total Solar Eclipse that was to occur on April 8. Jim went on to remind members about the topic and date of the next NASA Senior Outreach Webinar on April 18. The speaker was Dr. Priyarthini Ghosh who explained how she uses nuclear engineering to study the universe.

Doug George presented his monthly night sky report for April. He talked about the recent Total Solar Eclipse and pointed out that Mars and Saturn were in conjunction just before sunrise in the east on April 12. He talked about Comet 12P/Pons-Brooks that appeared near Jupiter just after sunset in the West and was visible with the naked eye under clear skies. Doug informed members about the Lyrid meteor shower that peaked on April 22. He talked about constellations that were viewable and

showed members images of the figures they represent in the night sky. Doug concluded his presentation by displaying a chart that listed upcoming International Space Station flyovers for the month.

Larry Isenberg, club vice president, did a presentation titled "Eclipse Mania," which revealed photos of the club's eclipse observing event that took place on Monday, April 8. He pointed out that we had over 200 people in attendance, some were club members, and many others were residents. The club set up 10 telescopes that used various solar filters

and a couple of them projected the image of the eclipse onto white boards.

Jim concluded the meeting by playing video highlights of the club's eclipse viewing event.

Club members are reminded to watch for emails announcing more evening observation sessions in the coming weeks and months. Sessions will be announced on any day 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 if they wish throughout the evenings. All ses-

sions are held adjacent to the R/C flying field.

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 and Gateway of Services pass holders can join the club, and new members are welcome! Yearly club dues are only \$20 per year, and they include a subscription to the quarterly Reflector Magazine. For information or club registration, please contact club President Jim Di Paolo at moonastroclub@gmail.com. More information is always available at moonstruckastronomyclub.org.

SWANS

Sandi Dickerson



We continued to be very busy during the month of April! Our recently new formed groups for dinner in, lunch in, and appetizers are up and running. I hope that you enjoy socializing with your new group and make some new friends. Some of these friends will last for the rest of your life!

April's lunch out was held at the Crazy Cucumber. Cel Adams was the hostess for the first one on Wednesday, April 17, and Sandy Welch was the second hostess a week later Wednesday, April 24.

Sally Herrick hosted dinner out at

Tuscany on Thursday, April 11. Tuscany is a new restaurant in the SummerGlen and specializes in Italian cuisine.

All these outings were well attended and enjoyed by all! Many "thanks" to Cel, Sandy, and Sally for arranging these outings for the SWANS. These events don't happen without our volunteers! If you would like to volunteer, please contact Lois Nix! She will be very happy to sign you up!

Carol Berta hosted a tour of the Haile Plantation right outside of Gainesville the first week in April. The ladies attending carpooled and had a great time. After touring the plantation, they all went to lunch at the Cheesecake Factory in Gainesville. It was interesting that Mrs. Haile had 14 children during her marriage. Can you imagine? At one time there were three Haile Plantations in the

Gainesville area. A very interesting tour! Thanks to Carol for arranging this! We will go again but am not sure of the date for that visit yet. Contact Lois Nix if you are interested in going.

Some of our members have just returned from a trip to Biloxi, Mississippi. They stayed at the Beau Rivage, a beautiful hotel/casino in Biloxi and even ventured down to Gulfport for some fun! The entire trip was very entertaining!

On Wednesday, April 10, Renee Turner and Betty Pane had speaker Will Barker-Palenik come and talk to us about the history of Ocala, the Seminole Indians, and Fort King. Boy, he really knows his history! It was interesting to learn about early Ocala. The brown bag idea was wonderful. Great job ladies! On Saturday, May 11, we will have a spring barbeque at the pavilion by the

softball field. Laura Mueller and Denise Moore are cooking for us this time. Also, from May 5, through May 7, we will be heading to Daytona Beach for one of our three outings to Daytona this year. Please remember that you may join the SWANS at any time! We always welcome new members and new ideas. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Lois Nix for more information. SWANS are never alone and never forgotten!

Scandinavian American Club

David Wesenberg



Our next and last Scandinavian American Club meeting for the season will be Tuesday, May 28, at 1 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room. The focus will be Scandinavian summers, especially holidays including St. Hans Day, Constitution Day, and Mid-Summer Festival. Helping us with that celebration will be the Dancing Jewels who will put everyone in a joyful mood.

At every meeting we share food, fellowship and conversation and enjoy a presentation about the Scandinavian lands and other fascinating topics of interest to the Scandinavian American Community. This includes personal stories, Scandinavian travels, and subjects of general interest.

What a great opportunity to meet new people, share stories and experiences, and have a great time.

Whether you have a Scandinavian background or not, if you feel Scandinavian, join us for the fun. For more information, contact Arlene Chilcott at chilcotta21@gmail.com.

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Travel Toppers



Mary Lamp

Reservations for Travel Toppers trips can be made Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with the coordinators listed for each event. Reservations can be made for only two people at a time and guests will go on a wait list. As

this is a resident club, the board wants to give the opportunity to attend first to our own residents and if there is availability, a guest from the wait list will be asked if they are still interested in attending the trip.

All our trips are to be paid by check only and are nonrefundable unless there is a wait list.

The Suncoast Broadway Dinner Theater production of "South Pacific" on Sunday, May 12, is wait list only. Allan Rickards should be contacted at 352-390-3075, if you want to be listed. We are

opening the Father's Day St. Johns River cruise on Sunday, June 16, to residents as well as guests. Guests will not be placed on a wait list. The cost is \$98 per person. If interested, call Allan at 352-390-3075.

Tickets have been bought and bus arrangements made for Suncoast Dinner Theater productions in the 2024-2025 season. Signups are not yet available but for your information, the shows are Chicago (Saturday, Sept. 28); Menopause (Saturday, Nov. 2); Sunkicks, the Christmas show (Saturday, Dec. 14); Jersey Boys (Jan. 25, 2025); Waitress (March

15, 2025); and My Fair Lady (May 11, 2025). The sign-up dates and coordinators will be announced in this column and will also be listed on our website when they are available.

Trips sponsored by Travel Toppers Tours are open only to residents and Gateway of Services pass holders. Any non-resident who participates must be a guest of a resident club member. Please visit traveltopperstours.com for up-to-date information regarding our trips.

Michigan Club



Nancy Meininger

Michigan Club is wrapping up the spring season with a Cinco de Mayo celebration on Sunday, May 5, at 5 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Studios I-III. This meeting features Kerry Elkins, a museum specialist from the Appleton Museum of Art, presented by member Michele Croud.

Please bring a Mexican type of dish to serve eight. If your name begins with A-H, bring a main dish with a protein component; L-P a dessert; and Q-Z a salad or vegetable. Also plan to bring your own place setting and a beverage of choice, beer or margaritas are okay!

As expected, Michiganders flocked to the Veterans Park for their annual Coney Island fix. Terry Champion grilled 120 dogs while Don Dewey slipped them into buns, Linda Champion added co-

ney sauce and Elaine Granzine topped them with chopped onions. Add to those plates mustard and sides to the rims as the hungry Tiger fans moved through the line.

Set up was done by Carolyn Abramovich, Sherry and Alan Irwin, Sandy Mandincia and Teri Anne Dewey. Those helpers are such a blessing!

Brian McDonald, our DJ provided insight and sounds of Motown as well as a salute to the Detroit Tiger's winning opener.

Michigan Club will be on a summer break until Sunday, Oct. 6, at 5 p.m. at Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-III for our opening meeting, an Oktoberfest! You must let us know you will attend, as the main course is provided by the club, and sides are potluck. This year we have an authentic German keyboard and accordion doing oompah music for the event!

For more information about the Michigan Club, please contact Nancy Meininger by phone or text—352-554-0757.



Photo by Nancy Meininger

Terry Champion grills Coneys for the hungry crowd.

Silver Rainbow Club



Jeanne Bennett-Bailey

We are a welcoming and affirming social group open to all. We are LGBTQ+ allies providing a space to gather, socialize, and enjoy each other's company. We meet the third Wednesday of each

month from 2 to 4 p.m. This year, our monthly meetings will be held at the Candler Hills Community Center. Our annual club fee is \$10 per person.

We have a monthly bowling outing on the third Friday of each month. We also have a monthly lunch outing.

To get the latest information about all our events, visit SilverRainbowClub.com or our Facebook page (Silver Rainbow Club).

We hope to see you soon!

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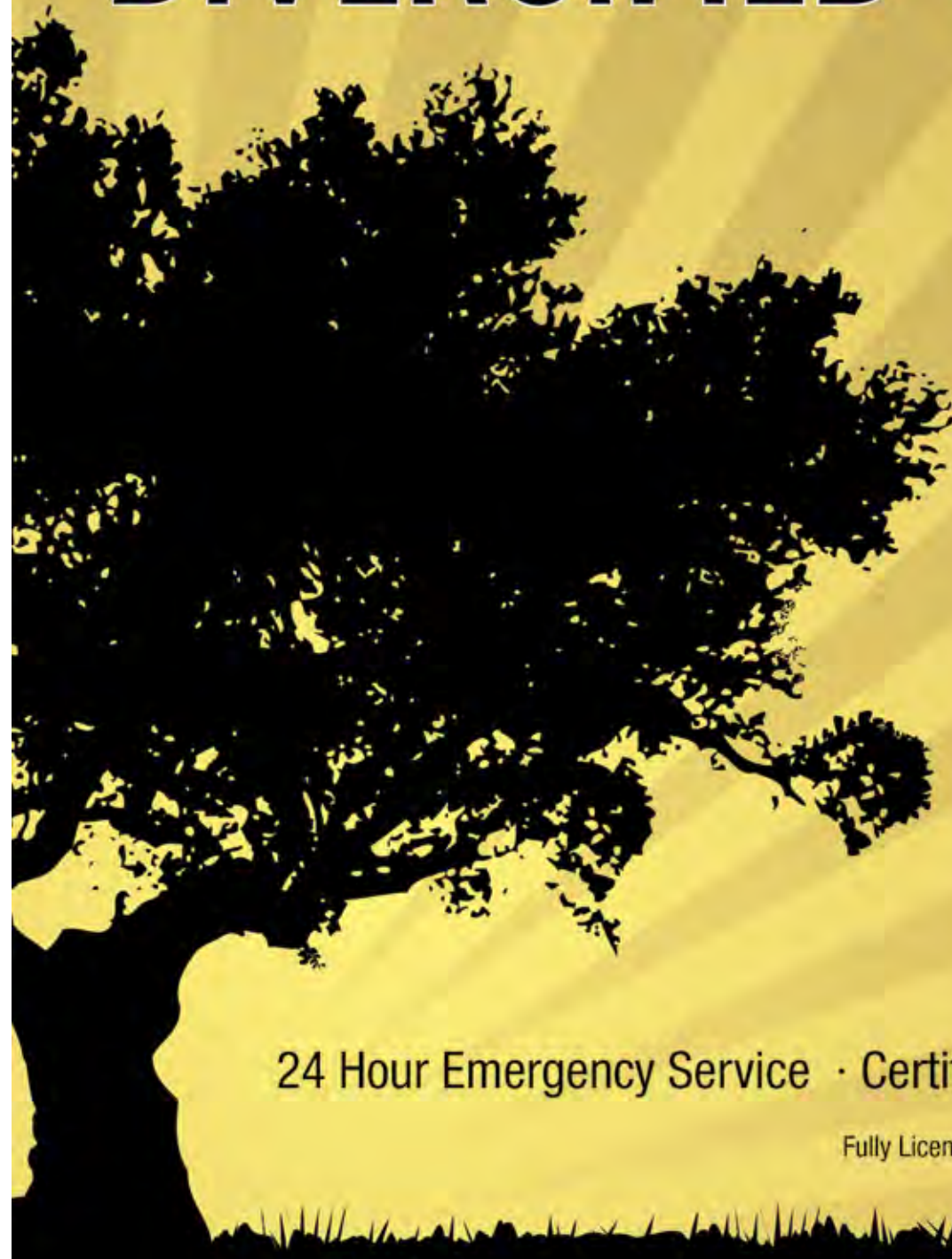
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Women of the World

Colleen Rocafort



Women of the World is a community minded club. Our mission is to entertain, inform, educate, and inspire our members through our monthly meetings and contribute to the local community by providing much needed goods to those in need in Marion County.

At our Thursday, April 18 monthly meeting, Women of the World presented a second check to Hospice of Marion County Foundation Executive Director Cindy Moody, for \$6,500 from the Fashion Show basket sales making our total donation \$10,500. This money enables Women of the World to have the "Forget Me Not Garden" at the Nancy Renyhart Dementia Education facility named in their honor. This garden will convey a sense of hope to individuals who are affected by this degenerative illness and represents remembrance for all.

Our featured speaker was Linda Norman from Voices of Change Animal League (VOCAL) and VOCAL was also our featured charity. VOCAL is about pet adoption and dedicated to ending homeless pet problems. VOCAL provides spray/neuter, vaccine and specialty surgical procedures, a pet food bank and rescue and adoption programs for both

cats and dogs. The club collected monetary donations for pet surgeries and medical care.

Our members also voted on the charities they wish to receive monetary donations from the club. We are in the process of counting the ballots and will announce the outcome at our May monthly meeting.

Our last member club meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16. Yvonne Phillips from the Feng Shui Institute will speak to us about feng shui and clutter clearing. Feng shui is the ancient Chinese art of harmonizing your surroundings - think more along the lines of "create energy flow," rather than "tidy up." Yvonne will share practical tips for effectively getting rid of clutter, whether it's in your home, yard, workspace, body, or mind.

Our featured charity will be Share the Love, an organization which provides summer camps for local youth in foster care.

We are still looking for volunteers to come forward to keep this club going as the current board is retiring. If you are interested, please contact Betty Thayer at 352-361-1313. The new board has the summer to plan for next year.

The club is open to all women residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. If you are interested, please join us as our guest on Thursday, May 16, at the Recreation Center Ballroom at noon and see what the Women of the World is all about.



Photo by Colleen Rocafort

Betty Thayer, Women of the World president (center) presenting \$4,000 check from the Fashion Show ticket sales to Hospice of Marion County Foundation Executive Director Cindy Moody, CFRE (right) and Annual Gift Manager Kari Hamende.

Lions Club

Gail Morris



We have little news to share this month. Our club is still active through the summer, but we are fewer in number as members go on vacation and others return to their northern homes.

Our club continues with its ongoing support to the Marion County community with its Shoebox Express donation program to area schools in need of children's gently used clothing, shoes, and academic needs. This past month we donated items to the resources at College Park Elementary and Dunnellon Elementary.

In June we will be preparing for the

Stuff the Bus initiative here in Marion County to provide school supplies for the next school year.

We also continue with support for the schools through the Box Tops for Education program, by simply scanning your grocery receipts into the App on your phone schools earn money. The Box Tops website just announced that "now when you buy participating products at Walmart in-store or online, you'll earn Box Tops for your school - no scanning required."

Lion Duane is continuing to collect eye glasses from our area recycled eye glass boxes in a variety of locations, including at Resident Services.

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, our membership chair, at 352-861-7358.

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Ocala Open

By Ray Cech
World News Writer

It was a frosty beginning, but the amateurs and pros soon turned it into a sizzling round of golf. On Tuesday, March 19, 134 golfers stuck a tee into the ground of the Candler Hills Golf Course. As the day wore on, golfers warmed up, and golf balls flew. It was the opening day of the 19th annual Ocala Open Pro-Am, when amateurs, sponsors, and professionals, competed for bragging rights. At the end of the day, it was a three-way tie at -16 among – Pinestraw of South Florida, C&S Roofing and, keeping them all honest, Crime Prevention.

After the teams gathered at The Lodge at Candler Hills for lunch, awards, and handshakes, donations raised at the tournament by sponsors were awarded to Hospice of Marion County and Interfaith Emergency Services. Each received a check for \$50,000.

At 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 20, 144 professional golfers teed off. The temperature was 48 degrees. But the chill in the air didn't bother Peter Creighton one bit. He turned in a masterful nine under par – 63. And sharing a very respectable position atop the leader board were Willie Mack, Wesley Hunter, and Will Chandler, each closing the 18 holes at 66. Let the games begin!

Thursday, March 21, was a golfer's dream. Warm breezes seemed to carry the ball in the right direction and scores showed a marked improvement. Marcus Plunkett posted a 63, and 131 for his two-day efforts. Morgan DeNeen shot a 63 and 135 for the first two rounds, and Tripp Kinney with his 65 and 131 was well in the hunt when he teed off on a weather delayed, Friday morning. It was nip and tuck (or is that birdie and par?) throughout the last 18 for Kinney and Plunkett, who paired up and both teed off at -11. But playing his best round of the three days, Plunkett held a two-

stroke lead at the end of the final round. He took home the honors and a check for \$16,000.

Once again, the Ocala Open gave the crowd a lot to cheer for and the golfers,

a lot to play for. But the success of the Ocala Open every year is in the hands of many – the volunteers. Head Golf Professional Denise Mullen directed the activities of 48 volunteers during the four-day event. She told us, "When I thought of all that the volunteers contributed, I went to the dictionary and looked up, "volunteer." It said, "a volunteer is a person who offers themselves for a service of their own free will without pay." I was very fortunate to have 48 volunteers

who graciously accepted all their assignments, especially on that last rainy, blustery day. The many positive comments from the players and guests, made it all worthwhile. What a wonderful community to be a part of."

A special shout out also goes to all the grounds crew who, under the guidance of Andy Jorgensen, prepared the Candler Hills Golf Course to professional perfection – compliments abounded from the pros.



Ocala Open champion – Marcus Plunkett.

Photo courtesy of Colen Built Development

Home on the Range

By Leslie McCormick

What's up at the range? Each month the club has two or three scheduled events for members who want to meet and shoot in a competitive atmosphere.

In April, the club held a new event called "Explore Archery." The day was broken down into two parts with the morning session focused on new members and novice archers and the opportunity to try out the new Galaxy Aspire bows with 15-pound limbs as well as meeting our trainers, mentors and others new to the sport of archery. The afternoon session focused on intermediate and advanced archers with organized shoots. Members and guests enjoyed a catered barbeque lunch between the sessions.

The 2024 winter season of off-site competition ended in March and several of our members brought home medals. The experience level of our members who competed range from over 50 years of competitive shooting to just three to four years, with those members (Mike and Phyllis) being introduced to archery when they joined the club. In the sanctioned events, each participant shoots against other archers in the same age group and gender and using the same bow type. For our ladies, Patty shoots compound release and Phyllis shoots barebow. And here are the results:

**USAA Nationals
Jan. 6 & 7**

- 1: Patty Hoppe.
- USAA Florida State Championship
Feb. 17 & 18**

- 1: Patty Hoppe, Phyllis Shaw, & Mike Bantz. 3: Sam Scarbrough.

**Florida State NFAA
March 9 & 10**

- 1: Patty Hoppe. 2: Phyllis Shaw.

They also used their scores simultaneously for the SE Sectional (five states) and took home the medals:

- 1: Patty Hoppe. 2: Phyllis Shaw.

**NFAA Nationals
March 16 & 17**

- 1: Patty Hoppe (292 and 295 out of a possible 300 score).

We were pleased to have members participate in the Archers for Autism

shop. Many thanks once again to all our dedicated volunteers in all capacities.

ed to shoot the 720 round with men and women combined in the same group and all three captured titles:

- 1: Mike Bantz. 2: Jerry Hoppe. 3: Patty Hoppe.

A wonderful day and for a great cause.

Back at the range, Dan Powell's duties have expanded to director of range operations with the help of two longtime and dedicated members; Jerry Hoppe, taking on the role of custodian of club archery equipment and Floyd Scott, taking on the role of custodian of range and

shop. Many thanks once again to all our dedicated volunteers in all capacities.

For information on joining the club, visit otowarcheryclub.org > New Members and download the application form and required waivers. For additional information or to schedule your initial safety/training session, contact Chuck at chuck-archery@strickland.net or 407-257-9668 or Phyllis at phyllisarchery@gmail.com or 606-384-1744. See you at the range!



Archers for Autism Charity Shoot on Saturday, April 6, at Gator Bowman with Patty Hoppe, Mike Bantz, and Jerry Hoppe.

Photo by Don Southard

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is \$20 per player. Golf is a wonderful game that we all love, but don't forget about the most important part of golf - safety. If not careful, you can get injured in a variety of ways on the golf course. Here are some safety tips to help you in case of an emergency:

- Always call 911 first.
- Make sure to carry a mobile device.
- On Top of the World and Candler Hills scorecards have golf shop phone numbers and addresses.
- All golf course restrooms have addresses.

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, May 11: Cross Country at The Links.
- Monday, May 13 through Thursday, May 16: The Links closed for aerification.
- Friday, May 17: Two-person Stableford at Candler Hills Golf Club.
- Monday, May 27: World Memorial Day Tournament at The Links and Candler Hills.

World Accolades

THE TORTOISE & THE HARE: Jeff Richardson, eagle #5. Norm Hayworth, eagle #5. LuLu Kerkhoff, eagle #5.

THE LINKS: Guy Wathen, eagle #16. Garry Gerlach, shot his age 75. Phil Shaw, hole-in-one #5. Norm Hayworth,

da heat and humidity rise into the summer. Check the forecast and your email for updates. If it is raining or rain appears imminent on league day, a decision will be made at least 30 minutes before rally time on whether to cancel the event or delay the start time. You will be notified by email, or you can contact the Golf Shop.

Remember our rain policy: "If you hear it, fear it. If you see it, flee it!"

The total MGA membership is now at 217. Please welcome Kevin Broadrick, Ray Kallai, Greg McMillan, Richard Sievers, and Maynard Thompson.

Make a note of these upcoming dates on your calendar:

- May 8: Two-man Scramble A&D B&C (The Links)
- May 15: Bat the Board Four-Ball Net (The Tortoise & The Hare)
- May 22: Team Three Best Ball (The Links)
- May 29: Two-Man Best Ball Team (The Tortoise & The Hare)

eagle #7. Chris Simpson, eagles on #3 and #12.

CANDLER HILLS: Ron Wages, hole-in-one #13. Yeong Lee, hole-in-one #5. Bob Springmann, eagle #16. Gary Bugielski, eagle #7. Larry Smallwood, eagle #15. Congratulations!

Golf Tip of the Month

Flexibility is the key to a successful golf swing, which leads to a lower handicap. Increasing flexibility has many benefits to the golf swing: increased swing speed, an increase in range of motion, creates a more fluid swing and promotes overall better health. Here are a few drills you can do from the comfort of your home to increase flexibility and improve your game.

- Shoulder Stretch: Hold a golf club above your shoulders and extend arms. Feel the stretch throughout your shoulders. Hold for 20 to 30 seconds.
- Back and Leg Stretch: Bend over at the hips and touch your toes. Hold for 20 to 30 seconds.
- Hip Flexors: This will help stretch your hips, legs, and torso. Begin in a forward lunge position and raise your arms over your head. Keep your head up and stretch. Hold for 20 to 30 seconds.

Add these stretches into your daily routine and in about a week you should start to see the benefits on the golf course.

Bocce Club



Kathy Nastally

What is bocce? Come on by and join us to learn the game or brush up on your skills. This is a great and exciting way to make some new acquaintances. You never know who you will playing with or against due to luck of the draw.

We play two games and open bocce is Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, at 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. All residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass are welcome. Come early as we are limited to 48 players.

When you arrive, please sign in by

printing your first and last name. Once everyone has signed in, players will draw cards to determine court, teammates, and opponents.

As a new player, and after you play on three occasions, you will be expected to join the Bocce Club. Dues are \$12 per year, and you must sign a "Release and Hold Harmless" consent form.

Your membership into the Bocce Club includes open bocce, league bocce, league equipment, and an annual banquet. The bocce courts are located between the Arbor Fitness Center and Arbor Conference Center.

So, come on by, check out the game, see how the game is played, and meet new acquaintances. For questions or concerns, please contact the league president, Pam Brown, at 970-531-1890. Hope to see you there!

Men's Golf Association



John Yenne

The Men's Golf Association is in the balmy embrace of summer, with storms already interrupting competition and snowbirds heading north.

Challenging weather conditions lately have tested our ability to play our weekly events. The monthly Chicken Day Scramble was canceled in April, although food was served to a smaller crowd during a fierce downpour. The following week, our scheduled two-day MGA Open team event was cut short by severe weather. Based on the first day-only scores of 23.5 to 18.5, the Blue Team was declared the winner over the Red Team.

Expect more of the same as the Flori-

OneBlood Bloodmobile



Sara Sommer

The Big Red Buses were here on Monday, April 1. We had a great turn out with 39 units of whole blood and 12 units of double red cells collected. Not everyone can donate double red cells and I thank those six people who did. Each donor received a \$20 e-card to spend at many local places plus an insulated tote bag.

Here are the guidelines for donating double red cells. For women, you must be 5'5" tall and weigh at least 150 pounds. For men, you must be 5'1" and

weigh at least 135 pounds. The donor care specialist also checks your iron level which must be 13.3 for both women and men. Blood pressure cannot be higher than 180/90. The wait time for the next donation is 16 weeks instead of the regular eight weeks.

The Alyx machine collects two units of red blood cells instead of one. Platelets and plasma are returned to the donor along with a saline solution for hydration.

The bus will be here next on Friday, May 3, at the Recreation Center parking lot from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is to give those donors who cannot make it on a Monday a chance to give. The next Friday drive will be in September.

The next regular Monday drive will be June 3. See you on the bus.

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Candler Hills Ladies 18-Hole

Beth Wolinsky



to be a part of this fun group. It's a very good way to meet new people and play some enjoyable games of golf.

Speaking of joining the league, we have a new member - Joann Ropel. Welcome to the league, Joann. We look forward to playing with you.

The blooming flowers and trees are a lovely harbinger of spring. This winter seemed colder than normal, and it was, according to local records. However, thanks to Ocala's subtropical climate, we didn't have to endure it for too long. Interestingly, in one freezing northern Canadian territory, a nine-hole golf tournament takes place during the coldest

weather. Golfers play on a sheet of ice, with fluorescent balls, in case the balls get lost in the snow.

The league Championship was Thursday, April 25, and Friday, April 26. Results will be listed in next month's column.

It is getting warmer so reminders to hydrate, use sunblock and replenish electrolytes can't be ignored. This is important, no matter what the weather or time of year.

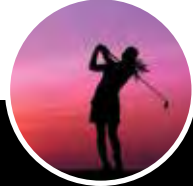
Finally, be careful out there, believe, achieve, and enjoy golf.

Stableford (Individual) March 7

Flight 1: 47-Betsy Maugherman. 45-Michele Otto. 41-Christine Giza. Tie at 40-Beverly Ovrebø, Lynn Colomb. Flight 2: 43-Diane Boston. 40-Katie Schriewer. 37-Laura McMillan. Tie at 32-Pat Williamson, Donna Herberger. Flight 3: 57-Jill Strey. 44-Janette Sheil. 36-Angelita Jingco. Tie at 34-

Ladies 18-Hole Golf Association

Jo Della Penna



Low Gross/Low Net (Individual) March 5/The Tortoise & The Hare Gross

Flight 1: 77-Sandy Snyder. 78-Betsy Maugherman. 84-Shelly Karsnitz. Flight 2: Tie at 84-Page Falconer & Bobbi Wiener. 88-Maria Fournier. Flight 3: 83-Katie Schriewer. 87-Jill Strey. 92-Debra De Matteo. Flight 4: 90-Lorie Anderson. 95-Debby Wilson. 97-Nancy Zielinski. Flight 5: 91-Cynthia Gersten. 95-Liz Lang. 103-Joann Ropel.

Net

Flight 1: 69-Beverly Ovrebø. 74-Linda Taylor. 75-Donna Herberger. Flight 2: 71-Judy McGuinness. 74-Joanne Woolery. 75-Diane Boston. Flight 3: 68-Marlena LaClair. 72-Janette Sheil. 74-Ellen Brin. Flight 4: 72-Robyn Atwood. 75-Alexandra Rivera. 77-Kathleen Mansfield. Flight 5: 70-Roxiann Dwyer. 74-Marla Bennett. 78-Jacquelin Randour

Member/Member March 12/The Links

Flight 1: 66-Mary Jeanotte & Beverly Ovrebø. Tie at

Joyce Jones, Judie Anderson. Flight 4: 42-Mary A. Cunningham. 40-Jane Hall. 37-Janelle Gluckman. 35-Cynthia Gersten. Flight 5: 45-Brenda Hofmann. 41-Jean Czachor. Tie at 36-Alexandra Rivera, Kate Beaty. Flight 6: 39-Sandra Randles. 37-Patty Whitely. 35-Sue Fierce. 33-Gloria Cullins. Tie at 32-Maria Bennett, Anne Dahlen.

Silver Tee Scramble (Team) March 14

Tie at 56-Sandy Snyder, Darlene DeBerry, Laurel Steiger, Maria Bennett, Beverly Ovrebø, Karen Schroeckenthaler, Cynthia Gersten, Carol Clark. Tie at 57-Lynn Colomb, Lori Pizzini, Jane Hall, Peggy Shanfelt. Christine Giza, Pat Williamson, Joyce Jones, Joann Delmar. Betsy Maugherman, Page Falconer. Liz Lang, Toni Stevenson. Tie at 59-Gayla Aldridge, Laura McMillan, Liz Pruss, Joann Ropel. Janette Sheil, Becky Bivins, Angelita Jingco, Anne Dahlen. Donna Herberger, Katie Schriewer, Kay Budd, Jan Christ. Shelly Karsnitz, Kathleen Goodwin, Beth Wolinsky, Kate Beaty.

67-Linda Taylor & Donna Herberger. Christine Giza & Lynn Colomb. 68-Lulu Kerckhoff & Joanne Woolery. Tie at 69-Sandy Snyder & Betsy Maugherman and Bobbie Wiener & Maria Fournier.

Flight 2: 62-Gail Lagrange & Connie Norris. 63-Katie Schriewer & Liz Pruss. 65-Paige Falconer & Ellen Brinn. 66-Karen Schroeckenthaler & Joy Benson. 67-Mary Ann Livingston & Virginia Combs. Flight 3: 64-Alexandra Rivera & Janette Sheil. 66-Joyce Jones & Donna Brunell. Tie at 67-Marte Dobosh & Mary Dawson and Marla Bennett & Laura McMillan. 69-Joann Delmar & Carol Dawn. Flight 4: Tie at 64-Virginia Madura & Marlena LaClair and Cynthia Gersten & Joann Ropel. 67-Kathy Zunica & Sue Fierce. 68-Jacquelin Randour & Darlene De Berry. 69-Debby Wilson & Nancy Zielinski

Pink Ball-Two Best Ball Net (Team) March 19/ The Tortoise & The Hare

Tie at 143-Page Falconer, and Cho Youlan, Janelle Gluckman, Jan Christ and Donna Herberger, Darlene DeBerry, Beth Wolinsky, Patty Whitely. 147-Mary Jeanotte, Kathleen Goodwin, Mary Cunningham, Joann Delmar Tie at 148-Diane Boston, Karen Schroeckenthaler, Kay Budd, Roxiann Dwyer, and Christine Giza, Judie Anderson, Lorie Anderson, (B) Nancy Skoch. 150-Peggy Ellenberger, Faun Doctor, Robyn Atwood, Jean Czachor. Tie at 151-Va Donna Hall, Liz Pruss, Peggy Wiechmann, Marla Bennett and Jill Strey, Marlena LaClair, Donna Townsend, Nancy Skoch. 152-Laura McMillan, Angelita Jinco, Debra DeMatteo, Vickie Foster.

Blind Mice March 26/The Links

Flight 1: 36-Va Donna Hall. 37-Shelly Karsnitz. Tie at 38-Sandy Snyder & Gayla Aldridge. Flight 2: 33-Diane Boston. Tie at 36-Gayle Lagrange & Dawn Carroll. Tie at 37-Beverly Ovrebø, Lynn Colomb & Laura Mc Millan. Flight 3: Tie at 34-Darlene De Berry, Cho Yulan. 35-Katie Schriewer. 37-Peggy Ellenberger Flight 4: 37-Kathleen Goodwin. Tie at 38-Janette Sheil, Judi McGuinness & Virginia Combs. Flight 5: 36-MJ Strelec. 38-Mary Dawson. 39-Joann DellaPenna. Tie at 40-Connie Norris & Liz Pruss. Flight 6: 37-Christine McIntire. Tie at 39-Lori Anderson & Gretchen Normandin. Tie at 40-Jane Hall & Robyn Atwood. Flight 7: 33-Liz Lang & Nancy Skoch. 38-Vickie Foster. 40-Eileen Gustavus. Flight 8: 33-Jacquelin Randour. 35-Marla Bennett. 37-Roxiann Dwyer. 38-Susan Yenne.

When playing golf, surround yourself with people who push you to do and be better. No drama or negativity, just higher goals, higher motivation, good times, and positive energy. Simply bringing out the best in each other.

Shuffleboard



Walt Lamp

April ends our regular season. We got a few new members and the Ten Pin games continue to grow. Our shuffleboard schedule will remain basically the same for the summer - Monday, at 9 a.m.; Tuesday, at 1 p.m.; and Thursday, at 9 a.m. Ten Pin will be played on Tuesday and Thursday, at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, at 9 a.m.

We thank our three captains - Robert Sapiro (Monday), Jane Boyer (Tuesday), and Jim Vail (Thursday). We want to also thank Paul Hodges for his time and expertise in conducting the shuffleboard class for beginners. We will have our annual get-together on Saturday, May 4, including refreshments and food.

March Men/Women

Tuesday (1 p.m.): Lou Fisher/Laurel Bischoff. 30-plus-Mary Ann Franco, Charlie Lentz, Danny Newby, George Gross, Pam Anderson, Jane Boyer, Barbara Daughtry, Robert Sapiro and Joe Franco. Thursday (9 a.m.): Jim Vail/Annette Hodges.

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R/C Sailing Club



Gene Mangold

As the noon day sun cast its warm glow over Tusawilla Park pond in Ocala, Florida, a small group of enthusiasts gathered on the shores, each carrying their prized possession – meticulously crafted one meter R/C model sailboats. It was race day, but not the kind where egos clashed or records were broken. No, this was a different breed of racing, where the wind whispered tales of camaraderie and the water embraced the gentle spirit of fair play.

Amidst the chatter of excited sailors, there was a palpable sense of anticipation, not for victory or glory, but for the simple joy of sailing. The rules were few and simple, echoing the values of respect and safety: starboard boats held the right of way over port for the sake of all sailors' well-being.

With a nod and a smile, the boats were gently lowered into the water, their sleek hulls slicing through the mirrored surface. As the breeze caught their sails, they danced like graceful swans, each maneuvering with the finesse of seasoned captains.

There were no judges, scoreboards, winners nor losers. Just the peaceful rhythm of boats gliding across the pond, guided by the invisible hand of nature.

Every tack and jibe were met with nods of appreciation, every near miss followed by a chorus of relieved laughter.

As the hours drifted by, stories were shared and friendships forged amidst the tranquil waters. The racecourse, marked by buoys maintained through voluntary effort, stretched across the pond like a canvas waiting to be painted by the strokes of wind and sail.

At the sound of the starting audio device, a symphony of sails maneuvers, each boat embarking on its own journey, guided not by competition, but by the simple pleasure of the voyage. Following the many five minutes around the buoy

races, the sailors relax with their folding chair gathered on the shore, their hearts full, their spirits light.

For in this corner of the world, where the gentle breezes caress the water and the living is easy, there existed a place where racing wasn't about winning or losing, but about coming together, embracing the spirit of fair play, and celebrating the timeless beauty of sailing. And on Tusawilla Park pond, that was all that truly mattered.

Come enjoy our style of gentle racing every Wednesday and Sunday, at noon for two hours; please call or text Gene at 772-678-5101 or Bernie at 816-678-3817.

R/C LadyBirds



Linda Lohr

Eight LadyBirds enjoyed a luncheon on Wednesday, April 10, at Southern Pig & Cattle Co. Our server did a fantastic job with all of our different orders. Lunch and the comradery were great!

Keep an eye out for emails regarding outings and more luncheons that will be set up in the future.

Gloria Scicluna has arranged for our group to see Jimmy Buffet's, "Escape to Margaritaville," on Saturday, May 11, at 2 p.m. at the Ocala Civic Theatre. Tickets are \$30, but the club will provide \$10 for

any member who chooses to attend. The upfront \$20 from each member is due as soon as possible to secure our seats. Contact Gloria for more information at 352-237-7439. We plan either an early lunch before the show or an early dinner afterwards.

Our club is open to all wives and significant others of the R/C Flyers. We will meet, for the 2023-2024 season, the second Friday of each month, September through May, at 10 a.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Event Room. Please come, 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!

Our final meeting for the 2023-2024 year is Friday, May 10, at 10 a.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Event Room.



Photo by Gene Mangold

Gentle racing.



Photo by Linda Lohr

R/C LadyBirds luncheon at The Southern Pig and Cattle Restaurant.

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Table Tennis

Athena Drewes



Photo by Athena Drewes

Monday night players.

1910, with the Table Tennis Association established in 1921 and renamed English Table Tennis Association in 1926. The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) formed in 1926, whose rules we currently follow. London hosted the first official World Championships in 1926. In 1933, the US Table Tennis Association, now USA Table Tennis, was formed. Table Tennis was introduced as an Olympic sport at the 1988 Olympics and continues to date.

Come join us! Beginners doubles, Tuesday, 1 to 3 p.m.; singles, Friday 3 to 5 p.m. Ladies doubles/singles, Monday 1 to 3 p.m.; doubles Wednesday, 10 a.m. to noon; singles, Friday, 1 to 3 p.m. All level doubles, Monday, Tuesday, Friday, 5:30 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, 1 to 3 p.m. All level singles, Wednesday, 1 to 3 p.m. Intermediate/advanced singles/doubles, Wednesday, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Advanced, Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Annual dues are \$10. We play at the Arbor Conference Center, first room on left. Have a question? Contact president, Paul Stadterman, at ptstadterman@yahoo.com.

Is it table tennis or ping pong?

Table tennis and ping pong are essentially the same game. Table tennis is an Olympic sport and ping pong is mostly referred to as just a hobby or recreational activity.

But here is the history! James Devonshire invented table tennis, put in for a patent in 1885, but never produced it. John Jaques, owner of a British game company, took the idea and created the gossima game borrowing the drum style battledores from the shuttlecock game, a 50mm webbed wrapped cork ball, and a 30cm high net that was secured by a belt-like strap under the table. Jaques continued to advertise gossima throughout the 1890s, and around 1900, when the celluloid ball was introduced to the game, the concept of tennis on a table became successful.

The name ping pong is attributed to an 1884 song by Harry Dacre with the distinct sound of the celluloid ball bouncing off the drum rackets. As the name caught on, Jaques changed his game to "gossima or ping pong." Ultimately the name gossima was dropped.

Ping pong quickly caught on with the public, marketed under different names such as gossima, ping pong, table tennis, whiff waff, parlour tennis, indoor tennis, pom-pom, pim-pam, netto, clip-clap, royal game, tennis de salon and others.

Ping pong and table tennis prevailed as names. However, as two associations formed with different rules for the game some confusion resulted. Ping pong was trademarked in 1900 by Hamley Brothers in England, and soon afterwards joined with Jaques. They rigorously enforced the ping pong trademark, requiring use of their ping pong equipment in ping pong tournaments and clubs. Parker Brothers, who acquired the American rights to the name ping pong, similarly enforced the trademark. Eventually, for the sport to move forward, commercial ties had to be severed and in 1920 the various associations changed their names to "table tennis," which helped ensure tournaments could go on without a hitch.

The Ping Pong Association existed by

R/C Flyers Club

Ray Ihlenburg



The R/C Flyers 16th annual Spring Fly-In on Saturday, April 6, was a terrific gathering. Twenty-five percent of our 32-participant pilots were from visiting clubs, including pilots from Punta Gorda and North Port. The quality of the models and flying was just super. As President Don Wright emailed the team... "A smooth and fuss free event. Truly, thanks to all who continue to put in the extra effort these events require - field conditions, chairs, parking, food, ice, chopped onions, cookies, announcements, cooks, air bosses, CD, and countless other tasks that are done in the background like the placement of flyers. What a great turnout of spectators, possibly our biggest."

Cars, carts, and spectators were truly everywhere. At times it seemed like standing room only. While we pilots love to fly and talk about what we do, flying and putting on a big show for a large crowd is very gratifying. This year, the big show during the lunch break was a World War II fighter "gaggle" or mass fly event. This event included eight large scale fighter planes, including a twin-engine B-26. So, with nine large engines

running and flying overhead all together, the crowd got a great visual and thundering treat. Thank you, residents!

Club member James Paolo prepared a video recap of this event. Visit otowrcflyers.com for a look at some of the behind the scene preparations and flight operations. The drone views provide quite a perspective of the parking and crowd that enjoyed the beautiful weather, resident camaraderie, and flying. This website will answer 99% of questions a new resident wishing to join the club may have and includes means to make contact.

Another great way to get answers or become involved with the club is to visit the field, introduce yourself, and just ask one of the members. Visitors are welcome to the monthly business meetings held in the Hobby Building Event Room on the first Monday of each month beginning at 9 a.m.

The R/C Flyers club membership holds steady close to 200. Even so, our instructors stay busy with new pilots training to solo and new resident experienced pilots demonstrating their skills and knowledge of the field rules; both necessary to fly at this amenity.

The next club event that we will host is the Fall Fly-In. There will be announcements as summer wanes.

In signing off, bring your coffee most calm mornings and watch the flying. Later in the day bring some iced tea and watch the larger models fly.



Photo by Ray Ihlenburg

World War II "Fighting Birds" illustrates the size and detail of several of the fighters that flew during the gaggle. Are you able to identify the P-47 Jug, the F4U Corsair, how about a Stuka, or Zero? Look hard to find a P-51 Mustang's tail.

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Cornhole Club



Vincent Stevens

Club activities continued at a relatively relaxed pace during early April, with emphasis on preparation for our annual picnic on Saturday, April 13. Weather conditions caused some cancellations or difficult playing conditions. Our open play sessions continued with full house participation on Mondays and Wednesdays, with less than full house at our Thursday sessions. The ladies group resumed activities mid-month, meeting on Tuesdays. League activities continued Thursdays with the Killer Bees holding on to the top spot so far.

INTRO TO CORNHOLE: Another introduction to cornhole session was conducted on Tuesday, April 9, with four participants. Although the group for this session was small, all participants enjoyed the experience, and hopefully will opt to continue this exciting and enjoyable activity and join our group.

Our next one-hour session will be conducted on Tuesday, May 14, at 1 p.m. at the Veterans Park cornhole courts. Newcomers who are not familiar with this very popular activity can

attend to learn what it's all about, and why so many people nationwide are addicted. The club's head coach/cornologist, Bill Ballweg, who conducts the session, will cover loads of rules, protocol, and practical tips, tempered with an occasional bit of Nebraska humor to keep the session enjoyable. The class size will be limited, and registration is required. To join this session, submit names and email addresses of those interested to otowcornhole@yahoo.com.

OPEN PLAY: Open play sessions continue Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, at 6 p.m. although it usually begins earlier. The physical limitations of the cornhole courts dictate that only 20 players can be accommodated simultaneously. The first 20 players are accommodated when that number is reached, irrespective of the actual time. Club members arriving after play has begun will have a short wait until space opens. That wait time has proven to be relatively short, or in some cases, nonexistent as active players may cede their space after one or two games rather than the usual three.

LEAGUE PLAY: Mixed league matches continued Thursdays throughout the month. The Killer Bees (Bob Helf and Bruce Combs) lead the pack. The ladies league is on a break with activities expected to begin later this month.



Photo by Vince Stevens

Another full-house-plus session.

Horseshoes Club



Vern Kessler

The club welcomed back Betty DeLong in April. Betty came out to pitch with the club on Tuesday, April 9. She showed the rest of the club what horseshoe pitching is about by being the first to break 70 points and pitch 20 ringers in one game. With one game consisting of throwing 40 shoes, that gave Betty a 50% ringer percentage for that game. Congratulations, Betty.

The results for the year for best win/lost record: Mike Hamlin with a 52 to 17 record; most improved, Ed Stinnard from 38.13 to 33.19 handicap; best ringer percentage, Cliff Dallas at 28.85%; and

best winning percentage, Mike Hamlin at 75.36%.

Some other notable achievements include most games played, Dave Laliberte with 75 games. The "triple double" achievement, throwing six ringers in a row, by both Paul Lariviere and Cliff Dallas each doing it once in a game.

The club meets to pitch at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays, and 10 a.m. on Thursdays for practice. Come join a few of our club members and see how much fun we have at the horseshoe pits in the Veterans Park.

The club reminds all residents that the horseshoe pits at the Veterans Park are there for everyone's use any day of the week. Please remove the white PVC protective pipes from the horseshoe stakes before throwing the shoes.

Contact Vern Kessler with any questions that you might have concerning pitching horseshoes or about the Horseshoe Club. Just text or call me at 321-268-3179.

Ladies Shuffleboard



Lois Nix

April showers should bring May flowers. May also ends our eighth year of the Ladies Shuffleboard Club. As most clubs start a season in September and finish in April or May, we play all year - in the heat of the summer and in the cold of the winter. September through May, we keep individual scores. In the summer, we do not keep scores, but just shuffle to have fun, and practice different approaches. The times we shuffle remain the same all year and are posted on the bulletin board by the courts.

All women residents are invited to join us. You do not need to know how to play. We will teach the basics. Opened-toed shoes are not permitted. You will need to sign a Hold Harmless form which is required by On Top of the World. You play at your own risk. Please bring your resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

Since summer is upon us, we ask when families visit, please check when the courts are reserved. Thank you for respecting this request.

On Wednesday, May 22, Michael Riley, our sponsor, will be presenting the winners of the tournament in March with trophies:
1: Darlene Clark; 2: Laura Mueller; 3: Ruth Greenfield.

Congratulations ladies!
Michael will also present our club shirts to the players who completed their first season. Lunch will follow. Our refreshment committee will decide whether it is pizza or club sandwiches. If you are unable to play in the summer, we will hopefully see you in September. Wear your club shirts.

We will continue to have our column through the summer. The season begins on Monday, Sept. 2, at 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesday, Sept. 4, at 9 and 11 a.m.

March

9-Cari Martin, Cindy Engler, Lois Nix. 7-Barbara Russell, Becky Queen, Dee Caple, Jeanine Hargis, Sally Herrick. 6-Helen Anderson, Marsha Lau, Sandy Welch.

In March, 27 shufflers scored over 30! Carol Noval, Deborah Portegys, Pam Kalamaras, Rosemarie Hayes, and Ruth Greenfield had their first 30-plus.

Happy summer, ladies! See you on the courts. Happy shuffling!

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Poms Cheer & Dance

Pamela Kalamaras



Poms Dance and Cheer has been working diligently on increasing their stamina while improving technique. Good arm strength is necessary for all the large arm movements that we perform. We aspire for sharpness and clarity as we "practice to make as close to perfect as we can manage." I am so proud of our group's efforts. These ladies want more, more, and more. We have included a second weekly practice session which has helped improve memorization of our unique dances and cheers.

The support and teamwork from each member are what makes this team so strong. Our motto is "We, not I, and team not solo." Some of these ladies were past cheerleaders, or dance team members, or have daughters who participated in this sport; others have no experience. Everyone learns together and helps each other for the strength of the team while doing modern versions of cheer and dance.

If you are interested in our team, I can provide further information, guidance, and support. Entering this new world of cheer and dance is like no other dance in the community. This unique and exciting performance is now being offered at many 55-plus communities around the nation. Every week, I have members expressing a thank you to me for starting this newest group here at On Top of the World. We invite you to come and visit us at our Thursday practice time to see if you would like to join us. Although we have limited openings, we welcome newcomers.

We will be performing our rock 'n' roll theme at Windsor of Ocala in June. We are also looking forward to showcasing our patriotic theme routine for the Patriotic Celebration at Circle Square Commons. More information to follow!

Poms Dance and Cheer is available for short performances at club meetings, parties, and events. Please contact us for summer and fall bookings as soon as possible. We would love to introduce our talented, hard-working team to the community.

Please contact Pam Kalamaras at pammykal@aol.com for more information on viewing our rehearsals, upcoming performances, new memberships and bookings.

Ballet

Eugenie Martin



When I read through the World News and see all the organizations here, and learn of new ones starting, I am amazed. That does not even include all the classes that residents give and take. Residents can be involved in activities all week long, if they wish, and many are busy running these groups and classes. I have also noticed that many friendships are made through activities, and often continue outside of the activity.

This reminds me of school when I was growing up in suburban Boston. The teachers ran our classes, and the school hosted activities such as Scouts, seasonal performances, and in the upper grades, sports, dances, plays and operettas. But

here, we are doing a lot for ourselves. At times, we are both teacher and student. And On Top of the World provides the "school" buildings in which to place our activities, and sometimes provides teachers.

So, we get to have fun, meet new friends, and have no homework or tests, unless we want them. That sounds like a very good deal to me!

If there are any potential ballet dancers reading this, give me a call at 352-854-8589. Our dancers start with all levels of experience, including beginner. Here is our schedule of five weekly classes which are held in the Arbor Conference Center Ballet Room:

- Tuesdays: Beginner, from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.; Advanced Beginner from 1 to 2:15 p.m.
- Thursdays: Advanced Beginner, from 1 to 2:15 p.m.
- Fridays: Technique, from noon to 1:15 p.m.
- Saturdays: Intermediate, from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Happy dancing!

Line Dancing

Tamara Stanford



Two years ago, I wrote a column about the popularity of line dancing. The popularity continues to grow worldwide. Line dancing began about 70 years ago. While it is difficult to know the first line dance, Wikipedia designates the dance named Madison as the first. The Madison started in Ohio in 1957 and was soon being danced nationwide. YouTube has a film of the dance. Another popular dance from the 1950s is The Stroll. It was popularized by American Bandstand and the dance is also on YouTube.

Line dancing is popular for several reasons. It is a great group activity. Choreography for one dance can be interchanged with the music of another. The same steps may be danced to many different songs. Another benefit is that line dance steps can be choreographed to a variety of dance types. Partner dances such as a waltz, a cha cha, a rumba, and a country and western two step, can also be performed as line dancing.

Dancing of any type is great exercise. Dancing to a peppy tune can be good for the heart. Standing and moving can strengthen muscles and bones and helps the dancer maintain good bal-

ance. It is a social activity that helps participants meet new residents and maintain a positive outlook.

If you have ever considered line dancing, I encourage you to give it a try. On Top of the World management provides residents with many opportunities for dancing. For example, there is Friday Happy Hour in the Recreation Center Ballroom and Girls Night Out at The Arbors once a month. The Town Square at Circle Square Commons hosts live music for dancing and listening on Friday and Saturday evenings.

The website copperknob.co.uk is a great resource for dances, music, and dance instruction videos. Each dance has a step sheet and videos demonstrating the dance. These tools assist in learning, and practicing, a dance. Copperknob tracks the popularity of dances and provides dance rankings. An instructor can use the rank of a dance's popularity to determine the class agenda.

The club will begin the new line dance year in September. The 2023/2024 dance year ends in June. The instructor is Darlene Miller and she can be reached at 352-259-3695.

Line dancing members have access to webuse.com/otowdance/main/. Donna Gordon designed and maintains this excellent resource for line dancing information and links to dances. Contact Donna, should you have any questions about the website.



Photo by Kay B. Snapp

Line dancers having fun.



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Sound Healing

Sound healing, sometimes referred to as a "sound bath," is a powerful remedy for the stresses and challenges that life can toss in our path. Sound healing is medicine derived from sound frequency and vibration. Sound has a profound impact on the human brain and body. Sound healing works by using vibrations to bring about a relaxed state. Participants usually lie comfortably on the floor with their eyes closed as the facilitator plays various instruments such as singing bowls, gongs, chimes, or other objects that resonate.

These types of instruments create harmonious, soothing sounds and vibrations for a serene, sensory experience. The vibrations stimulate neural, physiological, and biochemical reactions in the body which help to release stress and tension. Additionally, the frequencies in sound healing slow down the brainwaves to a restorative state (as experienced in sleep), activating the body's self-healing system. Research demonstrates that sounds can affect the brain, nerves, muscles, and organ function. For example, nails on a chalkboard would put most into a very uncomfortable state; a sudden, loud crash would likely evoke alarm. However, the sound of waves on the shore, or a gentle breeze through chimes would lull you into a more tranquil state.

This powerful practice is gaining interest and popularity because people are searching for proactive health and wellness solutions. Sara Auster, a sound therapist and meditation teacher and author of "Sound Bath: Meditate, Heal and Connect Through Listening," notes, "Sound healing is a deeply immersive, full-body listening experience that uses sound and simple mindfulness techniques to invite gentle yet powerful therapeutic and restorative processes to the mind and body".

We are delighted to bring a Sound Healing Workshop to On Top of the World this month! On Thursday, May 23, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom, you will have the opportunity to immerse yourself in a sound bath. Jill Jordan, certified sound practitioner and Reiki master, will educate you on this practice and then lead you in an immersive meditative experience. Jill will use singing quartz crystal bowls, tuning forks, percussion instruments, chimes, and voice to soothe and heal your body, mind, and spirit.

Join this special Sound Healing Workshop and experience the medicine of frequency and vibration to bring balance to your inner self. Please bring a yoga mat, you may also want a pillow or blanket for added comfort. For those who are not comfortable lying on the floor, chairs will be provided. For more information on this special program, please call 352-387-7532.

MAY 2024 FITNESS

RECREATION FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	SPARC	STRONG	Remix Bootcamp	STRONG	SPARC
8:00 am	Zumba® Gold-Toning				Dance Aerobics
9:00 am	S.O.S.	Stretch, Flex & Balance	S.O.S.	Dance Aerobics	S.O.S.
9:00 am			BEAT		Chair Dance
10:00 am	Balanced Body	Chair Yoga	Balanced Body	Chair Yoga	Balanced Body
10:00 am	Chair Yoga		Chair Yoga		
11:00 am	Chair Dance	Brain Power	Get Fit While You Sit	Move to Improve Parkinson's	Stretch, Flex & Balance
11:00 am	Zumba® Gold		Zumba® Gold		Dance Aerobics
1:00 pm		Chair Chi	Punch Out PD		
3:00 pm	VYP Chair Yoga	Balanced Body	Chair Yoga	Balanced Body	
5:00 pm		Hatha Yoga		Yoga	

Recreation Fitness Center Hours: Monday-Friday 6:30 AM - 7 PM; Saturday 7 AM - 7 PM; Sunday 9 AM - 5 PM
*Fitness Orientations are on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm, and Balance Assessments are on Thursdays at 1:00 pm
These are free but space is limited. To schedule an appointment, please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7635.

ARBOR FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	Beginner/Intermediate Tai Chi	Spark	Intermediate/Advanced Tai Chi	Strike	
9:00 am	Yoga	Pilates Fusion	Yoga	Pilates Fusion	Yin Yoga
10:00 am	STRONG	Yoga	STRONG	Yoga	STRONG
11:00 am	Yoga		Yoga		
1:00 pm				Fitness Orientation*	

Arbor Fitness Center Hours: Monday-Friday 6:00 AM - 8:30 PM; Saturday 7 AM - 8:30 PM; Sunday 9 AM - 7 PM
*Fitness Orientations are free. Space is limited. To schedule an appointment, please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7635.

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 am	Water Walk	Water Walk	Water Walk	Water Walk	Water Walk
9:00 am	Deep Water Fitness Class**	Shallow Water Fitness Class**	Deep Water Fitness Class**	Shallow Water Fitness Class**	Deep Water Fitness Class**
10:00 am	Open Swim	Shallow Water Fitness Class**	Open Swim	Shallow Water Fitness Class**	Open Swim
11:00 am - 12:30 pm	Lap Swimming	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	Water Volleyball Club 1:30 - 3:30 pm	Water Volleyball Club 1:30 - 3:30 pm	Water Volleyball Club 1:30 - 3:30 pm	Open Swim
2:30 pm	Deep Water Fitness Class**				
3:30 - 8:15pm	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim

Open Swim: Saturdays 7 AM - 8:30 PM; Sundays 9 AM - 7 PM
**Fee-based class. For pool novices, please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7635.

Weight Loss Group

Laura Gavey



Are you ready yet? Spring is here and summer is coming! Come join the On Top of Weight Loss Group as we help each other to reach our goals. Use the food plan and exercise of your choice and get suggestions and positive reinforcement from your neighbors who will become friends. Join us and get yourself

back on track.

There are two opportunities to meet each week. On Mondays we meet in the Hobby Building Art Room. Weigh in starts at 4:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 5 p.m. Linda Sisco is the leader. On Tuesdays we meet in the Arbor Activity Center Event Room. Weigh in begins at 9:15 a.m. and the meeting begins at 10

a.m. Beth Green is the leader.

Visitors are always welcome. Come and join us for a meeting and see if our group will work for you!

For questions and additional details, please email Linda at ljsisco@comcast.net or Beth at tandbgreen220@gmail.com.

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Photo by Judy Sullivan

Sidekicks Partner Dance Club yearend party.

Sidekicks Western Dance



Judy Sullivan

This is a background story, in their own words, of how Mark and Janice Kellogg, two of our avid dancers, got involved with dancing with us.

“For those of you who attend the dances at the Recreation Center Ballroom and Circle Square Commons, you have likely observed a variety of couples dancing around the perimeter of the dance floor. We are now one of those couples!

Originally from Elmira, New York, Janis and I have had homes in upstate New York, Vermont and Lakeland, Florida. Our decision to move from Lakeland to On Top of the World was not based on an expectation to make dancing a major part of our daily lives. Rather, we were drawn primarily by the wide variety of activities and facilities available here. Shortly after moving into Candler Hills, we began to attend Friday night Happy Hour at The Lodge at Candler Hills. As we began to participate in dances there, we met several individuals that were taking various dance classes, which led us to join the Western Line Dance classes that Judy Sullivan was leading at that time. Not long thereafter, we connected with Sidekicks – which now encompasses more of our time than any other activity in our community!

We are now in our new home in Longleaf Ridge and participate in Sidekicks classes and practice sessions on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays. Those attending the dances at various places have likely seen us, as we sometimes smoothly move around the floor, or quite often, humorously struggle to recall and execute dance sequences as we follow some more knowledgeable dancers around the floor. And yes, we do often practice at home using written and video materials compiled by Judy and Jim Sullivan. You may also have met me, due to my habit of approaching anyone who seems to be watching and showing some interest in the Sidekicks dancers, to let them know about our group. The Sidekicks Western Partner Dance Club has introduced us to couples from a wide range of locations and backgrounds. Our members collectively share the enjoyment of partner dancing – as well as the fun, comradery, social interactions and physical and mental exercises that we derive from it.”




On Tuesday, April 9, we had a yearend party to say goodbye to our snowbirds, but we will continue to dance until May 14, and the Tuesday night dancing will resume back in September. We will try to have one night a month during the summer to dance as a group. Friday practice classes at the Indigo East Community Center Ballroom will continue until May 17, and resume back on June 7. Review class at 11 a.m. and Absolute Beginners at noon.

Summer is a great time to continue to review the dances so that you will not forget the dances. If you’ve never danced before, the summer will give you ample time to learn the basics and some easier dances to prepare to be a member of the club when we return in September.

For any questions, please email Sidekickspartnerdance@gmail.com.



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Softball

Tom Laccone



roy, Sam Mestre, Peyton Jackson, Joe Commorado, and Barry Girsch.

The Softball Club finished another successful winter season with eight teams participating. Congratulations to Mike Hamlin's team, the Suspenders, for finishing with the best record. Team members include Manager Mike Hamlin, Barry Barnhart, Tony Blueter, Joe Commarado, Barry Cuoco, Steve Gregg, Mike Hoenie, Bill McElroy, Paul Milhan, Mike Saumier, Jim Stecker, and Mark Uberstine.

Preparations have been completed and a draft conducted for the summer season beginning on Monday, May 6. If you want to participate in the Softball Club, you are required to attend our new player orientation program. This program consists of a three-hour-long session where fundamentals are covered to help you ease back into the game. To participate in this program, visit otowsoftball.org > Announcements > New Player Orientation and fill out the application. The program will be moving to Wednesdays after the scheduled games. Once a start time is determined, the change will be posted on our website.



Photo by JoEllen King

Players in the SummerGlen Classic Softball Tournament.

Twelve members of the Softball Club participated in the 10th annual SummerGlen over 70 Classic Softball Tournament Monday, March 25, through Friday, March 29. This is the third year the Softball Club participated in this tournament, including 55-plus communities from Ocala south to The Villages.

This year, our players dominated the diamond winning their first three games putting them on top of the winner's bracket in the double elimination tournament. We played a tough Del Webb team in the championship game and unfortunately came up short finishing in second place. Congratulations to the players participating in a great tournament representing our community.

Thanks to the following players who participated: Jeff Thomas, Brad Youngberg, Tom Duncan, Al Ott, Res Heitz, Mark Reynolds, Ralph Mazzio, Bill McEl-

Co-Ed Recreational Softball

Pat Wilbert



women in the same game.

This game requires players to be mindful of differences between men and women when playing together as one team. This means that teams have to communicate effectively and support each other as well as have fun. The game provides opportunities for both men and women alike to come together and build relationships on the field. Research shows that mixed gender

competitive activities lead to improved mental health outcomes due to increase in physical activity levels and improved self-esteem.

So enough on the why we need to play, just come down on Saturdays at 9:15 a.m. to the softball field and join the fun. We are a family and welcome all. You don't know how to play? No problem. We have plenty of experienced and

non-experienced players to help. Only four innings are played, and everyone gets to bat. We really need more women to play especially since a lot of our players are snowbirds.

We really have a lot of fun and laughs as well as exercise. Please come join us. You won't regret it. Food for thought, we're not just a team, we're a family united by our love for softball.

Cycling Club

Dennis Baker



tos Trail here in Ocala, and the Withlacoochee Trail in Dunnellon, Hernando, and Inverness are favorite haunts of the wheelers.

Intermediate and advanced cyclist groups have been active for quite some time. Beginners and "easy riders" have become more active over the past few weeks with several folks stepping forward to post rides on the club's Facebook page. Whatever your comfort level, there's a good chance you'll find friends to ride with.

For information, contact Dennis Baker at dbaker@laposte.net or 352-562-0088, or join our Facebook group (Wheeling Around the World Cycling Club). Grab your helmet and let's ride!

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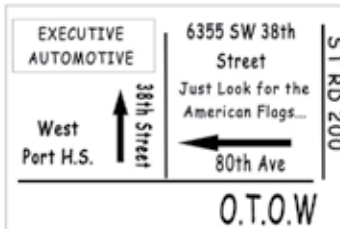
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R/C Car Club

John Schoenherr

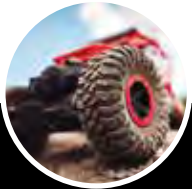


Photo by John Schoenherr

R/C Car Club mentors Peter Martin, Tony Severino, Terry Altman, and Dave Johnson.

For cleaning the tires Simple Green is the choice of most drivers. Buying a tube of Shoe Goo is advised. You will find out what Shoe Goo is used for after your first crash into the wall. And naturally you

will need at least one two cell battery and a battery charger. Ask for advice on which brand to purchase.

When you receive your vehicle set up an unboxing meeting. If you purchased a ready to run vehicle, there will be little or no assembly required but the vehicle will need some tuning, your mentor can help with this.

Your next step is to practice. For the first few practice sessions drive the oval track before attempting the interior course. You will have enough challenge keeping the car on all four wheels just dealing with four turns. When you can

drive around the track without hitting the walls, then try the interior course with nine turns. Your mentor can help you with your driving plan and technique. For more information contact John at 608-477-3420.

March

MudBoss-Larry Ericksmoen. Pan car-Dave Johnson. Truggy-Paul Beyer. Traxxas-Steve Yamamoto. Touring on road-Bob Herbst. Touring 17.5-Bob Herbst. Limited touring 17.5-Dave Johnson. Two-wheel truck-Terry Altman. Four-wheel truck-Fred Penichet. Two-wheel buggy-Dave Johnson. Four-wheel buggy-Paul Beyer.

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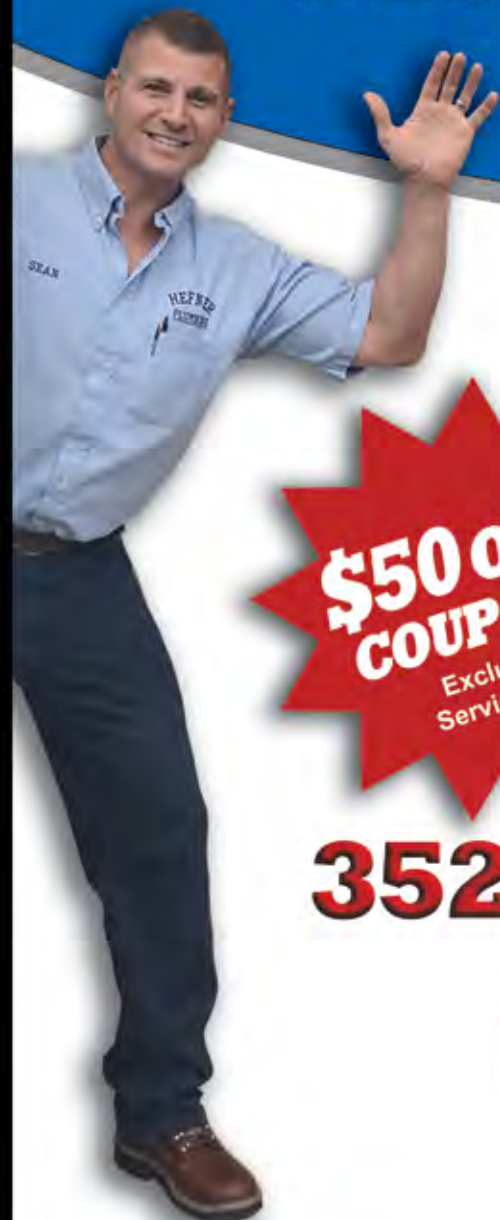
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POP Tennis



Domenica Genovese

There are many avid POP tennis players in our community. Why do they return week after week with such enthusiasm? We interviewed several players to find out what motivates them to keep coming back. Meet a few of our players and see the sport from their individual perspectives:

Dan Calhoun: "It's a way to improve my skills while enjoying the company of a great group of people. I recommend it to anyone interested in getting exercise while playing a very fun sport."

Jim Gaylord: "I enjoy POP tennis because it is less stressful on the body compared to other racquet sports. The best part is the camaraderie and the friendliness of the group."

Sanders Davis: "It's great exercise and I really enjoy having a good time with a super friendly group of people."

Mark D'Addario: "The group has trainers who will instruct new players with hitting technique. Before you know it, they progress to game play. New players also comment on how patient the trainers are and how they are made to feel comfortable and welcomed."

Ron Gates: "I've been playing three times a week (weather permitting) for two and a half years. I recommend it to anyone looking for new friends, fun, and sportsmanship."

Terri Cavagnaro: "This is my favorite sports activity because it gives me a great workout. Every day is fun and lots of laughs."

Dave Cavagnaro: "I play four to six

times a week. I like the challenge of improving my game while having a good time."

Brenda Foster: "I am a regular tennis player but I like to switch to POP tennis several times a month. It's a great way for me to practice the techniques I use in tennis."

Roberta Postupack: "I've been playing since the group started around two years ago. It's a very fun game and players are extremely friendly and helpful. No egos here!"

What is your funniest or most memorable moment on the courts?

Ron Gates: "I have to laugh at the times when I swing at the ball and completely miss or better yet, when it goes flying over the fence."

Terri Cavagnaro: "Some days it's better than watching America's Funniest Home Videos!"

George Barrett Jr.: "It's happened to me several times but I'm not alone with this one. It's the times you call out 'I've got it!' and you do a complete miss."

Dan Calhoun: "Even the most skilled players can flub up a shot. I've seen some pretty funny ones like the time a ball took a harmless spin off a player's nose."

Dave Cavagnaro: "Have you ever tried to tap a ball over the net, but it just winds up at your feet? That's pretty memorable!"

Mark D'Addario: "I would say that every day on the court with friends is memorable and always leaves me smiling."

Come join us on the lower courts #7-10 at The Arbors. Group play is on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 8 to 10 a.m.

Email Mark D'Addario at markdad06@gmail.com for more information.



Photo by Domenica Genovese

Is it the shadow of a backpack or a POP tennis gremlin? You decide!

Top Pickleball Club



Steve Carr

We all know the changes of the seasons are once again warming the courts to encourage earlier morning and late afternoon playing. "And I wonder where those dreams of covered, air-conditioned, well-lit pickleball courts come from?"

Other changes are also being implemented to help reduce the waiting times between games, as well as how we move on the courts as we play.

We are scheduled to implement new signs soon for the courts to help the player traffic flow.

When the courts are full, the "four on four off" signs will be visible to help the flow of players on the courts. This is practiced almost universally on most busy pickleball courts throughout the U.S. (I know, many of us grew up playing "King of the Hill.") Just remind yourself it is for the greater good.

Along with the "four on four off" signs, we are going to soon roll out the practice of "the slide" or sliding.

Look for the new video soon on our YouTube channel, showing you how to help eliminate the endless flow of players coming off the courts and walking behind you on their way to their rehydration stations as they break between games.

Our new YouTube channel can be

viewed by going to toppickleballclub.com and then click on the YouTube icon. In the future, we will have events, training and more on YouTube for your viewing pleasure!

In closing, remember, our hard-working volunteer pickleball trainers who are ready to take you from zero to hero as fast as you want to go! If you are a current resident reading this and your interest is peaked, make your way to the pickleball courts adjacent to the Recreation Center, Monday through Saturday from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.

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Call of the Wild Sports Club



Scott Bloch

March was a busy month for our club. Our trip to the Gulf was successful. The blue striped grunt was the primary species caught. They were 14" to 16" long and weighed anywhere from one to two and a half pounds. We are planning a fall trip. You could be one of 20 to go.

If you are into fly fishing, we have a group meeting to learn the art of fly tying with Paul Reithmeir.

If you prefer to fish from a pier, the club makes a trip to the Cedar Key Fishing Pier. Bring bait and a chair.

Our events director, Frank Chagoya, joined a group who went target shooting at Shooters World near The Villages. More trips are planned for the near future.

There will be a group of skeet shooters going to a nearby range to test their skills during the month.

We are fortunate to have had an in-house speaker for April's meeting, Bob Millar. He is a professional guide who gave us a slide presentation from various elk hunts in Wyoming.

Interested? Have questions? We meet on the first Wednesday of the month in the Hobby Building Event Room. Or you can call or text President Scott Bloch at 614-806-6738.



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Billiards Club



Phil Panzera

then never looked back. They also won the League Championship with the best record of the eight teams competing. Bob's teammates included Co-Captain Joe Amigliore, Lynne Dickson, Joe Furfaro, Art Keck, Lew Plauny, Al Sable, and Carl Spotts.

Captain Dennis Kargul's team took first place in the Wolves Division. Dennis's teammates included Co-Captain Frank Rasco, John Anthony, Dave King, Glo King, Dave Piasecki, Ron Rosenwald, Bill Weir and Don Wright.

The club also recently held its annu-

al Nine-Ball Tournament. The tournament was open to all members, and it was handicapped to give players at any level the opportunity to win. The event also had a somewhat rare format, with a sudden death shootout. These tiebreaking shootouts were tense, exciting and decided quite a few matches.

Congratulations to tournament champion, Bob Eaton, a new member who established himself instantly as a straight shooter. Rick Casey had a splendid tournament and came within one ball of winning the championship himself.

Mark Larzelere played a smart defensive game to take third place, and Dean Fesette made some lovely shots to finish in fourth place.

John Greene and Richie Carrano exceeded their expectations and finished tied for fifth and sixth place. Frank Rasco and Mike Romano also had a great tournament and finished tied for seventh and eighth place.

The club's summer league just recently started, and our next tournament will be a Mixed Doubles Ladies Choice event in July.



Photo by Phil Panzera

League Champs 2024 NL: 2024 Winter League champions.



Photo by Phil Panzera

2024 9B champs: Annual 9-Ball Tournament champions.



Photo by Phil Panzera

Wolves Champs 2024 NL: 2024 Winter League Wolves Division winners.

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DISCOVER *Live* MUSIC



Circle Square Cultural Center



Discover Circle Square Cultural Center

By Dave DeAngelis
World News Writer

Just when you thought it was safe to do nothing – bam! Circle Square Cultural Center came along and messed up that idea by announcing a dynamite lineup of upcoming shows from July through December. Do nothing? Nice try. Ain't happenin'.

This series comes on the heels of year-to-date shows, five of which have been sellouts, the most sellouts since 2019. Circle Square Cultural Center Director Gary Pierre said that all this year's acts are "back by popular demand with the addition of some new, family friendly shows." He also hinted that "maybe some more shows/events would be added." So, what is this next half of 2024 lineup that will convince me to not do anything, you ask? Well, here you go:

- Saturday, July 13: Latin Fever Dance Party with La Calle
- Saturday, Aug. 17: Karen Durrant – A Tribute to Tina Turner
- Saturday, Sept. 7: The Fab Four – The Ultimate Beatles Tribute
- Thursday, Sept. 19: Michael Grandinetti Magic (family friendly)
- Wednesday, Sept. 25: Direct from Sweden – The Music of Abba
- Saturday, Oct. 5: Beginnings – A Celebration of the Music of Chicago
- Thursday, Oct. 24: Steve Solomon – My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm in Therapy
- Friday, Oct. 25: The Doo Wop Project
- Saturday, Nov. 2 (3 p.m.): The

- Magic School Bus – Lost in the Solar System (family friendly)
- Thursday, Nov. 7: Can't Get Next to You – The Ultimate Temptations Experience
- Friday, Nov. 15: Doobie Others – A Doobie Brothers Tribute
- Saturday, Nov. 16: Lights Out – The Jersey Beach Boys
- Saturday, Dec. 21: Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol (family friendly)

Ticket sales for all July through December shows start on Monday, May 6, at 11 a.m. at the box office (8395 SW 80th Street, Ocala, Florida 34481) or at CSCulturalCenter.com. Unless otherwise noted, all shows begin at 7 p.m.

Among these scheduled events, on Thursday, May 16, at 6 p.m. there will be a Memorial Day Tribute featuring Travis Mills. Born and raised in Vassar, Michigan, U.S. Army SSG (Ret.) Travis Mills, 82nd Airborne, is a recalibrated veteran, motivational speaker, author, actor, and advocate for veterans and amputees. All ticket proceeds will benefit the Travis Mills Foundation that supports post-911 recalibrated veterans and their families through various programs that help these heroic men and women overcome physical and emotional obstacles, strengthen their families, and provide well-deserved rest and relaxation. Tickets are on sale now.

So now we have more than plenty to do! Check out all these events at Circle Square Cultural Center.



A sampling of some of the upcoming shows at Circle Square Cultural Center: The Fab Four - The Ultimate Beatles Tribute (top left), Direct from Sweden - The Music of Abba (top right), Can't Get Next to You - The Ultimate Temptations Experience (bottom left), and Lights Out - The Jersey Beach Boys (bottom right).

The Platinum Girls Take the Stage

By Liz Elliott Lieberman

The Paradise Players are nearing the end of rehearsals for "The Platinum Girls Las Vegas Adventure," and the excitement is running high. The cast has

bonded over the last few months and the fun and laughter we have all experienced is what makes the world of theater such a special place. Please join us

in laughter, tears, and happy memories as we discover the hilarious antics of a group of loving and feisty friends known as the Platinum Girls. They prepare for, and finally arrive in Las Vegas and along the way they encounter some crazy characters like Margaret, the cat lover, Vera who likes to experiment with beauty products, an annoying ex-husband, Zelda, the exuberant Zumba® teacher, Francesca, Sophia's sister who dabbles in clairvoyance, and a snooty British neighbor, Brenda. An unscheduled over-

night guest creates much consternation and then the security line at the airport could be the last straw before they reach their destination in Las Vegas!

All performances are in the Recreation Center Ballroom on Saturday, May 4, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 5, at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Tickets can be purchased on Tuesdays and Thursdays, in the upper lobby of the Recreation Center from 9:30 to 11 a.m. General seating is \$10; premium seating is \$20.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Photo by Harry Sarkis

Paradise Players dancers Jennifer McMullen, Kristin Millet, Liz Lieberman, Pam Kalamaras, Pati Bean, and Sherri Reichgott.



Photo by James Di Paolo

Cast members of "The Platinum Girls Las Vegas Adventure."

Recreation

Shannon Prince

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shannon_prince@otowfl.com



to 2 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. The cost is \$30 for three weeks of classes per month.

Ladies Night

Ladies, join us Tuesday, May 14, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. Music will be provided by Kurtis Frazier. Bring your own beverages and snacks. This event is free for residents and \$5 per guest attending with resident.

Music at the Pavilion

Enjoy some great music at the Recreation Center pool and pavilion area from 1 to 4 p.m. This is free for residents. Here's the lineup:

- Friday, May 3: Double Trouble
- Sunday, May 12: Sal and the Gal
- Friday, May 17: Dave and Kenny
- Sunday, May 19: Bill Billotti
- Friday, May 24: Debbie Owen and Tony T.
- Sunday, May 26: The Gallenbergers

Happy Hour

Join us for Happy Hour every Friday from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. A cash bar is always standing by for your beverage needs. Enjoy the

music, dancing, and The Pub. Resident IDs will be required for entry into Happy Hour and anyone not producing a resident ID will be considered a guest. Guest fees are \$5 per person. Children under the age of 15 will not be permitted into Happy Hour. Please note that no outside beverages of any kind will be allowed. The entertainment lineup is as follows:

- May 3: Shift N Gears
- May 10: 4 for the Road
- May 17: Kathleen Kane
- May 24: Latin Night with Groove 41
- May 31: Pure Magic

Tropic Trivia*

Tropic Trivia is a blast every first Thursday of the month in the Recreation Center Ballroom from 4 to 6 p.m. Trivia tickets for every month up to June are now on sale.

Karaoke

Karaoke is always fun! Join us every second Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m. This event is free to residents and \$5 for guests accompanied by a resident.

*To register, visit the Recreation Center Tuesday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Payment is required at the time of registration. Resident IDs or Gateway of Services passes must be presented at all events and when purchasing tickets. No refunds will be issued 14 days or fewer prior to registered event. All trip reservations need to be made in person only.

The Lodge at Candler Hills

Safety Training Classes*

The Colen Built Development safety team is conducting the following classes from 2 to 4 p.m. on the following Wednesdays:

- May 1: Active Shooter
 - May 22: Hands Only CPR
- This is a free for residents.

Happy Hour

Happy Hour will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. on the following days:

- Saturday, May 4: Rock Solid
- Friday, May 10: HWY 94 Band
- Saturday, May 18: Kathleen Kane

Bring your own beverages and snacks. This event is free for residents and a \$5 guest fee applies when accompanied by a resident. Children under the age of 15 are not allowed.

Social Night

Join us for some easy listening music by 4 for the Road and celebrate Cinco de Mayo with some tacos (while supplies last) on Tuesday, May 14, from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring your own beverage and table snacks. This event is free for residents and a \$5 guest fee applies when accompanied by a resident.

Poolside Picnic*

Enjoy the day poolside by attending our ultimate picnic. Create your own sandwich with all the trimmings and more. Don't miss our frozen pina colada dispenser (non-alcohol). Join us for this bring your own beverage event on Sunday, May 26, from noon to 6 p.m. with music by Area 81 from 2 to 5 p.m. Tickets go on sale Saturday, April 20, and limited to the first 120 residents. Tickets are \$20 for residents and \$25 per guest when purchased by a resident.

*To register, visit The Lodge at Candler Hills office Sunday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. or Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Payment is required at the time of registration. Resident IDs must be presented at all events and when purchasing tickets. No refunds will be issued 14 days or fewer prior to registered event.

Indigo East Community Center

Musical Bingo*

Join us for musical bingo with Wendy on Friday, May 3, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Indigo East Community Center. Bring sic \$1 bills for the prize pots. Bingo cards available at 4:30 p.m. Games begin at 5 p.m. Seating is limited to the first 120 people at the door. This event is free to residents and \$5 per guest. Guests limited to two per resident. Guests must be accompanied by a resident.

Trivia*

Ready for a little friendly competition with your neighbors and friends at trivia night? Trivia will take place on Monday, May 6, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Indigo East Community Center. Bring your favorite snacks and beverages to share with your team. Cost is \$3 per resident and \$5 per guest. Guests must be accompanied by a resident.

Karaoke

Sing your heart out! Enjoy the fun with DJ Frank on Thursday, May 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Indigo East Community Center. This is a free event for



residents and \$5 per guest. Guests must be accompanied by a resident.

Social Hour

Join us for two hours of easy listening music by Palomino Blonde while socializing with friends and neighbors on Wednesday, May 22, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Indigo East Community Center. Cheese and fruit will be offered to enjoy (while supplies last). This is a free event for residents and \$5 per guest. Guest must be accompanied by a resident.

Happy Hour

Come and join us for a good time with your friends and neighbors from 5 to 8 p.m. This is a free event for residents and \$5 per guest. Bring your favorite cocktails and snacks. Enjoy the upcoming entertainment.

- May 10: Cherokee
- May 17: The BadKitty Band
- May 24: Johnny Lobo
- May 31: HWY 94 Band

*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 registered event. Resident IDs must be presented at all times and is required when purchasing tickets. Guests must be accompanied by an Indigo East resident.

The Landing

Cinco De Mayo*

Join us on Sunday, May 5, from 1 to 4 p.m. for a Cinco de Mayo celebration with Cheryl Jensen as your entertainment. Fresh Plates Creative Catering will provide a taco bar for \$10 per resident and \$15 per guest. There will be pulled beef, pork, chicken, Mexican rice, black beans, salsa, guacamole, and more. Bring your favorite drink and enjoy a great day.

Poolside Entertainment

Have some fun in the sun with poolside entertainment with The Joes on Saturday, May 18, from 1 to 4 p.m. Bring your snacks and your favorite drinks. Please note no glass bottles are allowed in the pool area.

Music Bingo*

Monthly music bingo is a hit with Wendy Petersen. Join the fun on Monday, May 20, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the ballroom. Music bingo has six rounds, \$1 per round for your bingo card. The money goes into the pot and the winner of each round wins the pot. You can buy more than one bingo card if you choose. Monday, May 6 is the sign-up day for music bingo. Space is limited to the first 120 people. This event is \$3 per resident and \$5 per guest.

Social Hour

This is and has been a great way to meet new people. Join us on Sunday, May 26, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the ballroom with musical guest Linda Sisco. Bring your favorite beverage and snacks. This event is free to residents and \$5 per guest accompanied by resident.

Happy Hour

Come join us for a night of dancing and socializing with your friends and neighbors. Happy Hour takes place on Thursday, May 23, from 5 to 8 p.m. Rock Solid is the entertainment for the evening. Bring your own beverage and table snacks. Let's have some fun and dance the night away! This event is free for residents and a \$5 guest fee applies when accompanied by a resident.

*To register, visit The Landing office Tuesday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Payment is required at the time of registration. No refunds will be issued 14 days or fewer prior to registered event. Resident ID must be presented at all times and when purchasing tickets. Guests must be accompanied by a Weybourne Landing resident.

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.

Levitt AMP Ocala Music Series

10 FREE CONCERTS
Fridays, March 15 - May 17
7 - 9 p.m. | Webb Field, 1510 NW Fourth St.
Rain location: E.D. Croskey Recreation Center

2024 LINE-UP

March 15 Americana Leon Timbo and the Family Band with Theo Moon	April 19 Cuban Jazz Iliana Rose with Sean T Music Global Group
March 22 Folk Rock Streetlight Cadence with Nicole Equerme	April 26 Country Roberta Lea with Noah Hunton
March 29 Reggae Jah Movement with Ace Winn	May 3 Soul/Gospel The Sensational Barnes Brothers with Mwiza
April 5 Heavy Metal Metalachi with El Trio Rosal	May 10 Root/R & B Kyshona with Jenna Clark
April 12 Irish Punk Clover's Revenge with Irish Dance by Gainesville Dance Academy	May 19 Funk The Rumble feat. Chief Boudreaux Jr. with Central Florida Community Arts

www.ocalafl.gov/levittamp | artinfo@ocalafl.gov

On Top of the World

BUS SCHEDULE
Monday - Thursday

MORNING ROUTE	PICK-UP LOCATIONS	TIME
The Lodge at Candler Hills	The Lodge Parking Lot - 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	97th Lane - Post Office - 99th Ave. - 96th St	9:01 a.m.
Recreation Center	At Bus Stop Sign in Parking Lot	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 in Parking Lot	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 Model Center	Parking Lot	Call one day in advance for pick-up
Exit Community		9:36 a.m.

MORNING DESTINATIONS

Freedom Library (Tues/Thurs only)	Olle's
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
Friendship Colony Post Office	1:25 p.m. Providence Post Office
Avalon Post Office	1:33 p.m. Crescent Ridge Post Office
Recreation Center	1:43 p.m. Americana Post Office
Friendship Post Office	1:54 p.m.

AFTERNOON DESTINATIONS

Friendship Center	Bravo Supermarket
Publix	Big Lots
Walmart Neighborhood Market	Bealls & Dollar Tree
ALDI/Lowe's	Walmart

*Please arrive about 5-10 minutes earlier, as all times are approximate.

For information, call 352-789-5666.

GOING OUT OF TOWN?
View or download a PDF of the World News at ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala.

Artistic Crafts & Gifts

Chris Kilbride



The weekly Artistic Crafts & Gifts Tuesday craft show in the Recreation Center Ballroom is from 9 a.m. to noon and continues until our last show date of May 21 just before Memorial Day. We then take our summer break and come back again on Tuesday, Sept. 3, for the next season.

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 over 50 on Tuesday, with even more online for their visual presence. All resident crafters are welcome to sell virtually on our website and inquire about a table at our Tuesday show.

This month we feature Betty Wiedemann, born in Massachusetts, as her family of origin came to the colony in the 1600s. She made the move here from Palm Beach County late last year. As a retired registered nurse with a Master of Science in gerontology, Betty also volunteered as a long-term care ombudsman.

Her hobby is decoupage, although she has not taken classes or done any teaching. She would enjoy sharing her experiences with others who may feel they would like to learn.

Decoupage is a technique of decorating an object with paper or fabric and gluing it onto painted elements ranging from boxes to furniture. More recently, hobbyists have been using recycled objects such as bottles or tin cans.

Betty began doing decoupage two years ago using recycled wine bottles by adhering napkins to the surface. Then she began to collect interestingly shaped recycled bottles and many beautiful napkins. Now her decoupage is on clear glass plates, envelopes, Christmas ornaments, gift tags, lampshades, vases, or even canvas shoes. Finished products have been given to friends and neighbors just as a thank-you gift or filled with goodies. The items she has for sale are priced only for the cost of making them. For construction, you need chalk paint, a sponge pouncer, some Mod Podge, and a sealer such as clear enamel.

Be careful though, collecting napkins



Photo by Betty Wiedemann

Betty Wiedemann gives plain pieces the excitement of colorful Decoupage accents.

and fabrics can be addictive. Patience is required. There are many sites on the internet that teach techniques, and even more for trading napkins.

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 website, so you can see a sampling of 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 or you wish to sell, please contact us through our website ArtisticCrafts.org where our coordinator Marion can answer all your questions.

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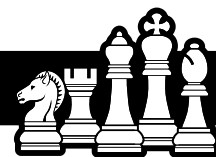
THE KEY TO GREAT HEALTH STARTS HERE



Chloe Castellano, APRN



CARDS & GAMES



Bingo

Nancy Grabowski



Wednesday, April 17 was a fun-filled night with more than the normal bingo crowd. Why, might you ask? Well, it was our semi-annual super bingo night. Sixteen games began with a \$75 pot to a single winner or divided equally with multiple winners. Four games held the jackpots, each worth \$250 ... again to a single winner or split equally among multiple winners. No wonder we had such an amazing assembly of residents!

Bingo returns to its normal proceedings for the next few months. That means we will have our 70/30 raffle whereby individuals with winning tick-

ets accrue \$20. These tickets are sold, beginning at 4 p.m., at a price of three for \$1 or 10 for \$3. There are some very lucky people who seem to win quite frequently like our own Andy "Candy Man" Rocafort. Andy uses his winnings to purchase candy to share with everyone in the room!

Playing cards are sold starting at 4:30 p.m. Each person must present a valid resident ID. Cards are sold for \$1 each and players determine the number of cards they can comfortably play. The cards have sliders, so no daubers or tokens are needed.

Residents may bring guests and sign them in at the card table; our sheriff will direct you to the correct place. State gaming rules prevent anyone younger than 18 from playing; the rules also do not allow alcoholic beverages on the gaming floor. This includes beer, wine, and mixed drinks; these beverages must

be consumed in The Pub or on the patio. OSHA safety rules prohibit entry into the ballroom until the maintenance staff has set it up. The safety rules also disallow tipping chairs as a method of saving seats as it presents a tripping hazard. One chair other than your own can be saved.

Our volunteers work hard to provide bingo every week! They come early, work during the games, and stay late to store away our materials. Please honor the designations at their seats while they volunteer.

You can become a bingo volunteer. Talk to our president, Carl Folkers, any Wednesday evening!

Bridge



Monday Afternoon

By Carol Johnson & Rik Saffol

March 11

1: Caryl Rosenberger & Barb Heller; 2: Pat & Debbie Quinn; 3: Carol Johnson & Shirley Stolly; 4: Mar Valchin & Linda Yuen.

March 18

1: Jack Heller & Ron Smith; 2: Judy Mackowiak & Phyllis Silverman; 3: Barb Heller; 4: Mary Bloch & Carolyn Higgins.

March 25

1: Barb Heller & Caryl Rosenberger; 2: Ron Smith & Jack Heller; 3: Bruce Gillett & Mar Valchin; 4: Donna Peters & Rad D.

April 1

1: Caryl Rosenberger & Barb Heller; 2: Rik Saffol & Judy Mackowiak; 3: Mike Meirick & Craig Ford; 4: Phyllis Silverman & Linda Curtiss.

Tuesday Night Duplicate

By Bob Kraus

We begin play at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays in the Arbor Activity Center Card Rooms I-II. Please arrive by about 5:50 p.m. to sign in and allow us to set up the game appropriate for the size of the group. Bring your partner and \$0.50 per person. The boards are scored after the game and the results emailed to the group within a few days.

You can also play occasionally as a substitute. Contact us and we'll put you on our list. For more information, you can contact Bob Kraus at 352-492-8525.

Feb. 13

1: Bob Kraus & John Baru; 2: Dan Hall & Jeff Bell; 3: Caryl Rosenberger & Barbara Heller; Tie at 4: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen and C.J. Daane & Carolyn Higgins.

Feb. 20

1: Bob Kraus & John Baru; 2: Brian Lomasky and Drew Brehm; 3: Arlene Loepp & Sharon Miller; 4: Caryl Rosenberger & Barbara Heller; 5: Sophie Redman & Jean Krueger.

Feb. 27

1: Dennis Wallace & Judi Wallace; Tied at 2: Caryl Rosenberger & Carolyn Higgins; and Drew Brehm & Pam Bell.

East/West

1: Bob Kraus & John Baru; 2: Bill Ryan & Linda Ryan; 3: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen.

March 5

1: Caryl Rosenberger & Barbara Heller; 2: Diane

Turkin & Gary Moses; 3: Sharon Miller & Arlene Loepp; 4: Linda Ryan & Bill Ryan; 5: Bob Kraus & John Baru.

March 12

North/South

1: Sharon Miller & Arlene Loepp; 2: Caryl Rosenberger & Barbara Heller; 3: Sophie Redman & Jean Krueger.

East/West

1: Bob Kraus & John Baru; Tie at 2: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen and Brian Lomasky & Drew Brehm.

March 19

North/South

1: Dennis Wallace & Judi Wallace; 2: Caryl Rosenberger & Barbara Heller; 3: Diane Turkin & Gary Moses.

East/West

1: Bob Kraus & John Baru; 2: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; 3: Bill Ryan & Linda Ryan.

March 26

North/South

1: Caryl Rosenberger & Barbara Heller; 2: Sharon Miller & Arlene Loepp; 3: Dan Hall & Dean Samuel.

East/West

1: Bob Kraus & John Baru; 2: Dan Lack & Paul Agarwal; 3: Jack Heller & Carolyn Higgins.

April 2

North/South

1: C.J. Daane & Carolyn Higgins; 2: Caryl Rosenberger & Barbara Heller; 3: Dennis Wallace & Judi Wallace.

East/West

1: Bob Kraus & John Baru; 2: Bill Ryan & Linda Ryan; 3: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen.

April 9

North/South

1: Caryl Rosenberger & Barbara Heller; 2: Dan Hall & Jeff Bell; 3: Sharon Miller & Arlene Loepp.

East/West

1: Bob Kraus & John Baru; 2: Don Giedermann & Judy Selund; 3: Paul Agarwal & Dan Lack.

Wednesday Afternoon

By Debbie Quinn

March 6

1: Debbie Quinn; 2: Bruce Gillett; 3: Ram Ray; Cons: Linda Curtiss.

March 13

1: Carolyn Higgins; 2: Mary Bloch; 3: Dianne Robinson; 4: Bev Meirick; Cons: Joe McKeown.

March 20

1: Bruce Gillett; 2: Debbie Quinn; 3: Phyllis Silverman; 4: Marlene Floeckher; Cons: Al Kremer.

March 27

1: Linda Curtiss; 2: Rik Saffol; 3: Phyllis Silverman; 4: Carolyn Higgins; Cons: Ram Ray.

Thursday Afternoon

By Marlene Floeckher

March 7

1: Bruce Gillett; 2: Phyllis Silverman; 3: Marlene Floeckher; 4: Joe McKeown; Cons: Beverly Meirick.

March 14

1: Al Kremer; 2: Debbie Quinn; 3: Billie Andersen; Cons: Betty Schaffer.

March 21

1: Linda Yuen; 2: Pat Quinn; 3: Marlene Floeckher; Cons: Al Kremer.

March 28

1: Pat Quinn; 2: Steve Sekac; 3: Alex Kremer; Cons: Mike Meirick.

Thursday Night

By Pam & Jeff Bell

Last month, we moved to the Arbor Activity Center Card Rooms II-III to accommodate more players and tables. Enter on the side of the Arbor Activity Center Card Room II. We meet weekly at 6 p.m. (except the first Thursday of the month).

You do not need to bring a partner; we pair up by the luck of the draw and rotate partners throughout the evening. Bring 25 cents and a smile.

March 14

1: Darlene Field; 2: Larry Bernier; 3: Dean Samuels; 2 prize: Brent Powell.

March 21

1: Penny Wagener; 2: Joe McKeown; 3: Bob Durst; 2 prize: Betty Schaff.

March 28

1: Linda Curtiss; 2: Al Whitford; 3: Steve Sekac.

April 11

1: Steve Sekac; 2: Brent Powell; 3: Bruce Gillette; 2 prize: Mary Bloch.

LET'S DANCE!

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OTOW

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FRIDAYS	SATURDAYS
May 3 Pepe Joe's • 6 PM	May 4 Empanada Factory • 6 PM
 SLICKWOOD 7 - 10 PM	 CUATRO DE MAYO WITH STELLA BEAT 7 - 10 PM
May 10 Big Lee's • 6 PM	May 11 SNAKEEYEZ 7 - 10 PM
 HIGHTIDE 7 - 10 PM	
May 17 Empanada Factory • 6 PM	May 18 Ampli-FIRES 7 - 10 PM
 THE EDGE OF ROCK 7 - 10 PM	
May 24 Fat Tiki • 6 PM	May 25 SEANTGLOBAL WITH KEITH CATON BLUES BAND 7 - 10 PM
 HWY 94 BAND 7 - 10 PM	
May 31 Empanada Factory • 6 PM	 BLUE STONE CIRCLE 7 - 10 PM

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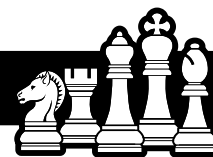
NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthday, wedding or anniversary announcements may be emailed to otownews@otowl.com by the 12th of the month.



CARDS & GAMES



Bunco Babes Social Group

Michelle Malsch



Cribbage

Judy Parisi



The group meets in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios III-IV, on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The next scheduled game is Tuesday, May 28. Registration is at 6:45 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 48 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.

Although the name of our group is "Bunco Babes," we have a few husbands who attend as well. If you enjoy the game, don't be afraid to be a "bunco dude."

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 rules are simple and will be explained before the start of play.

The cost is \$3 per person (please try to have exact change) 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 healthy and be safe until we meet again!

We meet at the Arbor Activity Center Card Room I on the first and third Thursday of the month from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

We welcome new players. We're a non-competitive group of all experience levels. We help each other out, and don't do "muggins." Wins are for bragging rights only.

If you have a cribbage board, please bring it with you.

If you would like more information or like to join us, please email judith.paris@gmail.com.

Euchre



Friday Night

By Mary Bloch

Who doesn't like a lively game of cards with good friends on a Friday night? Come on out and join us at the Arbor Conference Center Large Card Room at 6 p.m. every Friday. You won't be disappointed! Bring a few dimes so you can add to the kitty if you get euchred. No cover charged. Contact Mary Bloch at 614-806-6737 (call or text) with any questions.

March 1

1: Angela Brady; 2: John O'Brian; 3: John Illig.

March 8

1: Jim Wells; 2: Jean Gillette; 3: Cindy Turek

March 15

1: Phyllis Jarskey; 2: Mary Bloch; Tie at 3: Carol

Condino: Jean Gillette; Bob Kraus.

March 22

1: Pete Jacob; 2: Jim Wells; 3: Dan Brady.

March 29

1: Edith Kolb; 2: Mike Kennedy; Tie at 3: Karen Jacob; Scott Bloch; Mary Bloch.

Mah Jongg



American

By Angela Brady

This weekly game of American mah jongg is open to all eligible residents. All skill levels are welcome. While the game will not be taught during this time, players are willing to help beginners. The games begin at 1 pm, every Thursday, in Arbor Activity Center Card Room II. Please arrive a few minutes early as we will draw chips for table assignments. After three or four games, we will switch tables so we can make new friends and change up the game play. Come join us for a couple hours of fun.

For more information, please contact Angela Brady at 407-403-0861 or agbrady@peoplepc.com. Jokers to ya!

Siamese

By Joan Boedy

Double the tiles! Twice the fun! Siamese mah jongg is quickly spreading around the world. The game was developed in 2015 by Gladys Grad, a board member of National Mah Jongg League.

If you already play mah jongg, you'll be playing siamese in a few minutes. If you would like to learn siamese, I would be happy to introduce you to the

game. We play Tuesday mornings in the Candler Hills Community Center Card Room.

Please text Joan at 352-598-8489 for more information.

Pinochle



Tuesday Night

By Herb Katz

March 5

1: Larry Black; 2: John Bumyak; 3: Joe McKeown.

March 12

1: Cheryl Adams; 2: Rick Carroll; 3: Ilene Casper.

March 19

1: Judy Wagnitz; 2: Walter Hickenlooper; 3: Herb Katz.

March 26

1: Mike Romano; 2: Rick Carroll; 3: Andy Nuccio.

Friday Morning

By Mary Hannon

March 15

1: Larry Black; 2: Andy Nuccio; 3: Debbie Martello.

March 22

1: Al Whitford; 2: Andy Nuccio; 3: Jim Magoon.

March 29

1: Herb Katz; 2: Ilene Casper; 3: Judy Black.

April 5

1: Ilene Casper; 2: Marilyn Whitford; 3: Debbie Martello.

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*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.



#1007 - 524

Concert Chorus

David Wesenberg



The Concert Chorus wants to thank our wonderful audiences for their support of our chorus program "Made in the USA." Full house performances on April 6 and 7, were a smashing success. The chorus is also very grateful for the financial support that defrays the cost of the concerts including music, risers, and sound production.

The Concert Chorus also wishes to thank our directors, Peggy Bumatay, Joanne Houston, Cheryl Richardson, and Randy Schmid. Without their planning and leadership our concerts could not be presented. A huge effort was required for the 61 members of the chorus to perform including 13 rehearsal sessions. Everyone worked hard, and smart, to serve you - our audience - with first class content.

As for the readers of this column, were you impressed? Would you like to be part of our chorus. It is a lot of hard work, but it is very satisfying to work together to achieve a successful result. If you love to sing, join us! You'll be in great company. We begin rehearsals for our winter program in September. We have a great group of singers, many of whom are new. And of course, some fac-



Photo by Cynthis Scholl

Concert Chorus tenor section.

es will be sorely missed. But the chorus has a wonderful collection of voices be they sopranos, altos, tenors, or basses.

If you plan to join us, contact Debbie Dougherty at deboraasmith@gmail.com for further information. The Concert Chorus is open to all residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. Our dues are \$15 per season.

Karaoke Friends

Kathy & Charlie Petrosky



Did you know that Shigeichi Negishi was an entrepreneur who invented the world's first karaoke machine? What an amazing impact he's had on people who love to sing!

Patty Hainzl is one of the singers. She is sharing her experience with you.

"I grew up in Oregon. At 19 I moved to San Francisco where I met and married Fred. That began my many adventures. His information technology job required frequent moves. We moved to eight different states. I could pack up a house in a week and hit the road. I am wondering if I have some gypsy blood mixed into the Oglala Lakota and Scotch Irish back ground I have. We retired to Ocala moving into On Top of the World, where we met many good people.

I started line dancing which led to being invited to go to karaoke as a clapper. I had never sung before. I was always told I couldn't sing. Kathy and Charlie worked their magic. I sang "You Are My Sunshine" with another lady and that is how it all began. I enjoy practicing songs to prepare to sing at karaoke.

I love living here teaching line dance, singing karaoke, and selling my clay creations at the Farmers Market. I am learning the ukulele and have started taking guitar lessons. Meeting people is my favorite activity.

My two step daughters both live in On Top of the World. It has become a family affair."

Patty meets many people at the Farmers Market. She is always eager to give new residents ideas about the different activities available here.

We enjoy when new residents come to karaoke to see what is happening. So many stay and some become singers. New residents find this a very welcoming group.

Monday, May 6 we are planning a prop night. This is a night for creative singers to enhance a song by wearing or bringing a prop. There is much laughter this night.

We meet in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room on the first and third Mondays. Singing starts at 5:30 p.m. and ends at 8:30 p.m. We meet this month on May 6 and 20. Come join the fun!



Photo by Steve Warren

Patty Hainzl.

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If approved, a World News writer will be assigned.

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

Happy Hookers

Jan Spielvogel



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, needlepointing, 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 Berman 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 meeting time or contact either Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178 or Kathleen Frost at 925-960-5945 to arrange for pickup.

In April about 30 of our group enjoyed a lovely lunch at Horse & Hounds. We also continue to do work in support of charities. On most Mondays we see completed items - blankets, shawls, stuffed animals, hats being the most common - brought to our meeting by our members and others who are aware that we donate. The need is great and ever-present, and we are happy to be part of this necessary effort.

Happy Hookers is open to all residents. We meet on Mondays, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Art Room. There are no dues, agenda, or penalties for missing a meeting, arriving



Photo by Ann Gallo

Two Happy Hookers members with recently created animals for our charities.

Sewing Bees

Ann Gallo



We meet every Thursday, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Art Room. We also meet the second and third Saturdays of the month from noon to 4 p.m. in the Hobby Building Art Room. If you have long arm or embroidery machine, we would love to have you join our group. Can't sew? No problem. We have many tasks that are essential to our program. Come meet an amazing group of ladies and gentlemen. Dues are \$15 for the year.

We are currently in need of thread. We are always in need of children's themed cotton or flannel fabric.

Join our Facebook page (Sewing Bees

A huge thank you to The New Pretenders for their generous donation to us. They are a group of very talented residents who perform at select venues in Marion County. Proceeds from the sale of tickets are distributed to various charities. We were thrilled to be one of the recipients of their generosity.

Stop by and see our program in action.

Club Inc.) and see what magic takes place at the hive. Stay up to date on what we are working on and what our current

needs are.

Call or text Marsha Schmeer at 813-920-3487 or Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178 with any questions.



Photo by Michele Baker

The New Pretenders representative Rita Miller (center) presented a generous check to the Sewing Bees.

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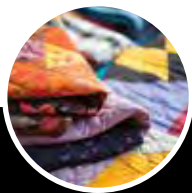


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Sunshine Quilters Guild

Vicky Sanders



Our featured quilter for May is Jennette Wesley. As an Army brat and former Army officer's wife, Jennette had the opportunity to reside in a variety of locations, including the Philippines, Panama, Maryland, Louisiana, Kansas, New Jersey, California, and Germany. Following 12 years of living in Germany, Jennette settled in nearby Summerfield, Florida. About 10 years ago Jennette relocated to On Top of the World and resides in Friendship Park with her cats, Posey, and Misty.

Jennette returned to school after mov-

ing to Florida and earned two associate degrees, two credits shy of a bachelor's degree in psychology. Jennette smiled happily and shared that she is too busy enjoying her retirement to be concerned about two remaining credits. Jennette retired three years ago following several years of employment with the Florida Department of Health and Florida Department of Children and Families.

Jennette shared that her interest in quilting was sparked after viewing a variety of quilts displayed in several historic homes she toured. She admired the creativity, skill, and time the resourceful women in our past put into practical items, such as quilts. Jennette took an evening class to learn the basics of quilt making nearly 33 years ago and has loved the craft ever since.

Currently, Jennette uses a Janome

machine and claims it is a little work-horse. Jennette's favorite projects include lap quilts, bed-sized quilts, table toppers and runners. She loves color and prefers making projects with a variety of fabrics. Piecing the quilt top together is one of her favorite steps in the process. Additionally, Jennette enjoys paper piecing.

A favorite resource for Jennette is the quilting community on Reddit. She finds the community to be very positive, supportive, informative, and inspiring. She learns a lot from other quilters and has had the opportunity to share several of

her finished quilts with that online community.

In conclusion, Jennette shared how essential it is for her to have a creative outlet. Jennette said it is a pleasure to be part of the Sunshine Quilters Guild, spending time with others who love what you love. Being part of a group who genuinely understands and appreciates what is involved in the process is quite satisfying. We are so happy to have Jennette as a member of our guild and look forward to seeing many more of her beautiful projects.



Photo by Vicky Sanders

Jennette Wesley shares a colorful, beautiful quilt.

View from the Library

David Wesenberg



Looking at the title of this book, one might anticipate a hard slog through something like "War and Peace." Instead, "Pride and Prejudice" is a delightful tale of family life and manners in rural England in the late 1700s. The author was a preacher's daughter. Her second novel, "Pride and Prejudice" is one of the most popular books ever written in English and has never been out of print.

Mr. and Mrs. Bennet of Longbourn Estate hoped to have a son to inherit their property that could only be inherited by a male. Instead, they had five daughters with poor prospects unless they married well. Mrs. Bennet, a woman of little depth, is bound and determined she is going to marry off her daughters no matter what it takes. Mr. Bennet wryly jokes about the mother's efforts but enjoys a good relationship with two oldest, Jane, the beautiful, and Elizabeth, who is pretty and smart. He calls the other three daughters "three of the silliest girls in all England."

Action starts when Mr. Charles Bingley, a moderately wealthy and pleasant young man leases Netherfield Lodge and occupies it with his two sisters, one of their husbands, and his best friend, Fitzwilliam Darcy. Darcy is very wealthy and uncomfortable in social situations. Because he fends off attempts to communicate when she first meets him, Elizabeth Bennet decides it is pride that motivates him. Through the story she learns that he is generous and reasonable, not unnecessarily proud. On the other hand, Jane and Bingley quickly fall in love, but Darcy convinces Bingley, Jane is only after his wealth and position.

From this point in the story, lovers' part and come together, love and don't love each other, weather false starts, and make the kinds of mistakes young people make as they are falling in love. The dialog is witty and spirited as this very human story of manners and life unfolds. I would spoil the fun by describing everything here, but suffice it to say Mrs. Bennet ruthlessly tries to get all her girls married, and generally makes matters worse, with a little help from her youngest daughter Lydia, who seems to forget the detail of getting married until wiser heads prevail when she runs off with Mr. Wickham, creating the crisis that leads to her marrying Mr. Wickham, to Jane marrying Mr. Bingley and to Elizabeth marrying Mr. Darcy.

Why should you read this 18th century tale with all of its twists and turns of plot? The character development, dialog and expression of feeling are exactly on target from a clever and discerning author, Jane Austen. I was absolutely fascinated with the story and have read the book many times, always getting pleasure from the reading. It is your good luck that the pleasure of reading "Pride and Prejudice" is immediately available from the On Top of the World Library.

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Photo by ShutterBug Steve Allen

Osprey on branch.



Photo by ShutterBug Robert Wester

Xylcopa bee.

ShutterBugs Photography

Connie Filip



ShutterBugs are proud to present our blue-ribbon winners by Steve Allen and Robert Wester in the nature category of last year's photo contest.

Steve Allen says, "I was able to capture the photograph of my bird alongside Ken Rider, an award-winning wildlife photographer. We were shooting in Emerald Marsh Conservation Area. With his expert guidance, we walked through the wetlands, my camera trained on the diverse wildlife that calls this sanctuary home. The highlight was an osprey, perched majestically in a tree, its keen eyes surveying the waters below. It was a learning experience for me that has helped me improve my photographic skills."

Robert Wester says, "This image was taken with the Nikon D850 using the PB-6 bellow, Nikon Reversing Ring and Nikkor 50mm f2.8 Enlarging Lens re-

verse mounted. The image was luminated with two Nikon SB-R200 strobes. This is a stacked image consisting of approximately 26 images that were stacked and processed in Photoshop. Some touchup was done to the final image removing dust spots and the mounting pin."

This month, photos by Tom Murray and Mark Frankel will be on display in the lobby of Master the Possibilities. Stop in and look! Tom's photos focus on the wildlife he saw during his recent trip to Yellowstone and Grand Tetons National Parks.

Mark says, "Photography to me is about slowing down, visualizing the big unique picture, and cropping and editing on the computer as well as in the camera while in the field. For me, the practice of photography cleanses the everyday grit of daily life out of your mind. It's Zen like in a digital form!"

If you missed seeing our photo display, you can still view all our annual contest entries on our website's front page. Just go to otowspc.com

Want to learn more about photography? ShutterBug President Harry Boyajian continues to facilitate our sharing of photography tips to improve our skills in camera use and editing. Our club motto is those who don't know should ask, and those who do know should be willing to show and tell.

We generally meet for field trips the first week of each month, show-n-tell the third Tuesday and an educational class the fourth Tuesday at 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. For more information, contact Harry at 239-336-4804.

"God creates the beauty. My camera and I are a witness." - Mark Denman

Toppers Banjo



David Wesenberg

Toppers Banjo Band meets every Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon in the Arbor Conference Center Music Room.

Toppers Banjo Band played for the Southern Club on Tuesday, April 2. We prepared a special "down south" program for that event. The program included blues, old fashioned strumming, and fun numbers with audience participation.

If you would like to book a performance email Eddie Martin at udeddie2@gmail.com or David Wesenberg at dpw@mastersoftwareinc.com. We are delighted to play for you.

For folks who just want to come and listen to some good music, we have about 600 songs in our repertoire from all sorts of sources covering the civil war until now. We play every week, and we welcome visitors in the Arbor Conference Center Music Room at 10 a.m. every Thursday.

In recent weeks several banjo and acoustic guitar players have joined us in playing and singing banjo music. If you like to play, come, and join us. If you just like to listen, join us also and enjoy the music and conversation. Everyone is welcome.

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Model Railroaders

Jim Lynam



began the design using graph paper to achieve the proper geometry. The HO scale imitation shrubs, bushes, and flowering plants were purchased, and construction was under way. Susan received additional help from Bernie Bossert, Larry Huffman, and Jim Lynam.

The knot garden is a very popular destination for the citizens of Franklin. A trolley provides transportation from the town and surrounding areas to the park and garden. Excursion trains from other cities have been scheduled for tourists to arrive and appreciate the peaceful, picturesque, and pastoral beauty of the knot garden.

The club encourages you to visit the Hobby Building Train Room and investigate the knot garden any Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. Come on in and run some trains with us!

The Model Railroaders Club is always looking for new members, and you are welcome to join us. Our next club meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Wednesday, June 5, in the Hobby Building Event Room. If you have any questions, please call Jim Lynam at 352-861-2822.

Remember to remember this Memorial Day!

Are you ready for a spring riddle? When is a garden not a garden? Hmm. The answer is when the garden is a knot garden.

Is this an oxymoron or what? A knot garden is a garden style that was popularized in 16th century England. The knot garden consists of a variety of aromatic and culinary herbs and low hedges consisting of the box plant. What makes the knot garden so unique is that the hedges are positioned in various geometric shapes, and the spaces between the hedge rows are filled with stone, gravel, sand, or flowering plants.

The interior knot pattern could be composed of bands of plants in contrasting colors which are hedged to look like they weave over and under each other.

The Model Railroaders Club chose to create the knot garden to celebrate spring on the layout. Club member Susan Fuchs developed the concept and



Photo by Jim Lynam

A knot garden.

Art Group

Marianne Hoffman



"You never know just what you can do until you try" is a famous quote from British author, Joseph Delaney.

Ironically, while no relation, Fran Delaney has followed the writer's advice. With no formal training in art, Fran took a chance and signed up for one of the Painting with a Twist sessions.

"After taking classes at Master the Possibilities, I discovered how much I love painting," she explained. "I became hooked. And, while my works may never live up to those of my favorite artist Van Gogh, I find painting to be very relaxing and fulfilling."

Fran became a member of the Art Group about five years ago. "I feel that I have truly grown as an artist since I joined," she said, adding, "It has provided me with a wonderful community of creative artists who share a wealth of knowledge and experience."

If you would like to try your hand at painting or drawing, consider joining the Art Group. Our resident artists meet in the Hobby Building Art Room three days a week: Wednesdays, from 1 to 4 p.m. and both Thursdays and Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to noon. Some members are new to art; others have a lot of experience. Either way, they are all very welcoming and helpful to newcomers. There is no fee, but you will need to bring your own art supplies. For more information about this group, contact Freda Klump, director, at 615-336-6863 or fredaklump@gmail.com.



Photo by Fran Delaney

Serenity.



Photo by Fran Delaney

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- Additional criteria apply

Qualified participants may

- See a doctor at no cost
- Have access to investigational trial medication for COPD
- Receive compensation for time and travel

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Photo by Susan Pulling Robinson

Linda Yanss with her Easter-themed golf cart.

Fun with Golf Carts

Susan Pulling Robinson



The Easter parade on Saturday, March 30, was something special! The event kicked off with a bake sale by the American Legion Ladies' Auxiliary Post 354. Many residents enjoyed the goodies, while donating generously to Interfaith Emergency Services, Operation Shoebox, Veterans Helping Veterans, and Voices of Change Animal League (VO-CAL). Our colorful carts were joined by over a dozen specialty and classic cars, adding to the joy of the spectators along the route. This parade included stops at the Brookdale and Bridgewater assisted living facilities, where everyone enjoyed watching resident's grandchildren participating in a raucous Easter egg hunt.

The Memorial Day parade will be on Saturday, May 25. Please join us as we remember those who gave their lives in service to our country. One easy decoration is the American flag. Just take it down from the front porch and cable-tie Old Glory to the upright of your golf cart. Instant patriotic, waving décor to honor the fallen!

Membership in our Facebook group (OTOW Fun with Golf Carts) is now over 570, 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 charities. For more information and to receive emails about this club, please email otowfunwithgolfcarts@gmail.com. We all have a lot of fun cruising around in our "mini-floats."

All club 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 Chatroom). If the parade is not coming by your house, please come see the action as we leave the Recreation Center.

Tesla Owners & Enthusiasts Club

Dan Lack



The Tesla Owners and Enthusiasts Club (TOE) is composed of members who own Tesla vehicles or who are thinking about owning Tesla vehicles.

Most meetings are devoted to discussions about our cars. Last month, Elon Musk gave one month of free full self-drive (FSD) to every Tesla owner and our club members had lots of questions and comments about this new experience.

If a destination is programmed into the Tesla onboard computer, the car with FSD will stop at red lights and stop signs, enter, and exit interstates, change lanes, and slow down or speed up depending upon the situation on the road, all without any input from the driver. The driver must remain alert and be ready to take over the operation of the vehicle if necessary. Those of us who experienced FSD for the first time remarked that it was a little scary at first but we adapted and marveled at the usefulness of artificial intelligence.

We meet on the second Wednesday of each month in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room II from 10 to 11 a.m.

SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP
Buy On Top of the World branded merchandise at OTOWMarketplace.com.

Poetry

Linda Toner



Girlfriends

My girlfriend is smart, she is also kind, she helps you out when you're in a bind.

She quietly steps up to the plate, you can count on her when you make a mistake.

She sends you off with a smile, and keeps your secrets all the while.

She comforts you again and again. It's nice to know you have such a good girlfriend.

Poetry

Barbara A. Scales



The Frog and Me

On a dreary rainy day, my heart yearned to just go outside to play
And dig in the dirt beneath my feet to plant seeds for an autumnal treat
However, the wind and rain decided not, instead into the porch pots some seeds I plot
Dug a hole to hide the seeds, and realized the soil was dry indeed
Fetched my water can to ferry, heavy laden to the porch I carried
Dampened top and deep beneath, the soil prepared now to receive
When I surprised, but not alarmed, a green frog jumped from the water can onto my arm
And then from my arm and onto the porch farm he leapt with vigor
While down deep in my belly there came a ripple of laughter

For he startled me, and then I startled him, as he swam about the water can and hopped out from within
Imagine his unbridled surprise, when he looked up and met my eyes
Most assuredly he hopped away on legs, quite fast
For alas, I had disturbed him in his bath
Off he hopped to my tomatoes and hid himself there among the shadows
His greenery blended quickly therein, as I sat back with the widest of grins

We are co-farmers, the frog and I
Partners in this garden below God's great sky
He eats the pesky beetles and the flies
That eat of my garden greens they spy
With each visit he snaps up the garden pests for me
As for the frog and me, with me in my villa, and he in his tree, now the very best of pals are we

Poetry

H. Dean Barks



Agging Well

I look pretty good, from the front in my shaving mirror.

I quit smoking, except for these little cigars.

I have a healthy lifestyle, at least one glass of red wine a day.

My marriage works, it doesn't require a lot of talk.

I make good use of my time, I do crosswords while watching TV.

My mind is still sharp, my son-in-law values my advice.

I love America and Medicare, I just bought this day-of-the-week pill dispenser.

I was a good father, though my job took most of my time.

I still run things around here, but I let her do what she wants.

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The New Pretenders

Nancy Grabowski



The New Pretenders have started work on their "off-season" activities which include some relaxed, fun gatherings of the group. However, charitable donations top the "to do" list. Quite often, our columns mention how thankful we are to you, our loyal and supportive fans! Without your help, we would be unable to fulfill our goal of local charity support.

Once more, your help was outstanding, therefore, our first undertaking was to decide which charities we would support with the money we raised from our performances. A typical business meeting was held, various charities were discussed, and we arrived at the top 10! A ballot was sent to each member and the votes were counted.

With the votes tallied, these are the charities we wish to support immediately: Sewing Bees, Wear Gloves, Ocala Ritz Veterans Village and Kimberly's Center for Child Protection. In addition, Joy House and Interfaith Emergency Services will be included in this endeavor.

The Sewing Bees meet each week to construct blankets, quilts, and children's clothing all of which are donated to other causes. As an example, at the end of March, 265 blankets were delivered to Kimberly's Center, providing comfort to children in need.

Wear Gloves, established in 2009, serves, teaches, and advocates for the needy with dignity rather than dependency. It is a "hand up rather than a hand out" program.

The Ocala Ritz Veterans Village is a revitalized building that not only provides shelter for homeless vets but conducts programs that provide educational and vocational opportunities. Renovations increased the accommodations to permit 50 additional veterans access to healthcare and fellowship as well.

Another check was cut to further the goals of Kimberly's Center. It provides a safe and child-friendly environment where children are safe from abuse and trauma. The aims of this agency are to protect, serve, and advocate for Marion County's abused and needy kids.

Press Forward Inc. is the charity that



Photo by Linda Lohr

Sewing Bees receiving donation from Rita Miller.

includes Joy House. The goals of the group are to provide access to safe and stable housing, healthcare, and education. Joy House is located on the grounds of Joy Lutheran Church but is not affiliated with the church. Within the rental home, young women suffering from abuse and/or trauma are fostered while experiencing a compassionate home in which to recover.

Interfaith Emergency Services (IES) has long been one of our favorite charities. It has expanded its umbrella of coverage to include the Food-4-Kids Backpack Program as well as Brother's Keeper. The food bank at IES works industriously all year to provide basic foods for families in need. IES also addresses shelter, clothing and funding for victims of crime or other emergencies.

The New Pretenders will assess our budget in the fall with the hopes of making more donations. We cannot thank you, our audiences, often enough for allowing us the ability to do this.

Your next opportunity to support us will be at our shows on Jan. 31, Feb. 1, and Feb. 2, 2025. More details will follow over the summer.

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While Marcus Plunkett took home the 2024 Ocala Open title and the \$16,000 first place check, the event netted \$100,000 for the real winners, the benefiting charities. Interfaith Emergency Services and Hospice of Marion County each received \$50,000 as a result of the success of the tournament. Without your contribution, this would not have been possible.

We sincerely appreciate your support and recognize your commitment to the Ocala Open.

Sincerely,

Kenneth D. Colen,
President

Matt Hibbs,
Director of Golf

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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.

S men's e-bike, 52-volt, 19.2 aH, 2 amp 52 volt, standard charger, thumb throttle, 28 mph top speed. 610-721-1424.

Sports Equipment: Old Town fishing kayaks 106 (2) powered by Minn Kota. Purchase one or both with all the accessories. azdoubleagle@pm.me or text 480-266-1400.

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Tag Sales

Thursday, May 2 & Friday, May 3: 8552-B SW 92nd Lane (Friendship Colony), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday, May 3 & Saturday, May 4: 9155, 9309 SW 86th Place, 9187, 9204 SW 87th Place Road (Newcastle), 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. · 9588, 9630 SW 86th Place, 8594, 8680, 8686, 8710, SW 94th Circle (Stonebridge), 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. · 9595 SW 86th Place (Stonebridge), 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. · 8662 SW 94th Circle (Stonebridge), 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Friday, May 10 & Saturday, May 11: 9692 SW 89th Loop (Providence), 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, May 11: 9608 SW 95th Loop (Windsor), 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Transportation: Local doctors' appointments, shopping, etc. Anna 352-873-4151 (resident). Leave message.

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Electronics: Arlo 5S 2K (VM-C4060P-100NAS) security cameras (3) with solar panels and gutter attachment, built-in speaker, microphone, night vision, weather resistant, and security light, \$150 each. 610-721-1424.

Furniture: Large, comfortable, good quality arm chair. Small oak sewing chair. Both are free but must be able to pick up and haul away. 352-509-7147.

Furniture: Queen mattress, box spring and headboard with nightstand, large dresser, and mirror. Hide a sofa. 352-445-5075.

Furniture: Swivel/rocker chairs (2), \$195 each. Unique table with drawers, \$185. Old farm table, 3' x 6', \$275. 352-547-4925 (after noon).

Home Décor: Large collection of Scottie terrier memorabilia. Upright multi-fan, \$95. 352-547-4925 (after noon).

Misc. Item: 6' fiberglass step ladder, 10' reach, 250-pound load capacity, Type 1 duty rating, \$75. 610-721-1424.

Misc. Items: Baseball card sets - 1981 Topps, \$60; 1982 Topps, \$80; 1983 Topps, \$80; & 1984 Topps, \$60. 845-304-1415.

Misc. Items: Danielle Steel books (113). Red Hat Society items - large quilt, picture frame, paper kit, and bow. 352-857-8595.

Mobility Scooter: Pride Maxima includes basket, cover, charger, horn, rearview mirror, and Werner car carrier. 352-484-7113.

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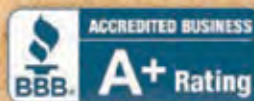
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