

Community News

Kenneth D. Colen

As this beautiful, wet summer is winding down, the ramp-up for the fall and winter is moving into full gear. From the property management perspective, the push is to catch up on the last of any rain-delayed work in the community and get lawns and landscaping ready for what little winter we enjoy around here.

Development Updates

The Summit in Longleaf Ridge is moving toward completion. Interior building finishes are in progress, and the swimming pools will be started very soon. As mentioned in last month’s column, this is a 20,000-square-foot amenity, including a 6,000-square-foot ballroom, a card room, a large main pool, and a resistance walking pool. All of this, along with a great view of the golf course. This project is on track for completion by the second quarter of 2026.

Azura Fitness Center in Candler Hills will be starting construction soon. This 8,000-square-foot facility will feature a large pool that will be focused on your active lifestyle and health. This project is expected to start construction in early 2026.

Recycling Update

It is worth reminding that plastic bags do not recycle. If you bring your aluminum, metal cans, and newspapers to the recycling containers or in the curbside containers in plastic garbage bags, empty the contents into the recycling bins and dispose of the bags in the household garbage. Doing otherwise only contaminates the entire recycling stream, and it will be directed to the landfill. A convenient container has been placed near the recycling areas for disposing of plastic bags.

Recycling works and has saved the Associations money in the long run. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Hurricane Season

September is the peak of the hurricane season. The recent National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) update on the 2025 hurricane season was concerning, to say the least. NOAA predicts a very high likelihood (85% chance) of an above-normal Atlantic hurricane season, with 17 to 25 named storms (average is 14), eight to 13 hurricanes (average is seven), and four to seven major hurricanes (average is three). The Management Company is reevaluating its resources for storm preparedness and recovery to ensure readiness for the challenges posed by serial storms.

It’s times like these that you need to locate your current HO-6 or HO-3 insurance policy. In the HO-6 under “Loss of Use,” it is recommended that a resident have 12 months of living expenses as a coverage amount. You could be out of your home for an extended period should damage occur.

The good news is that Parkway Maintenance & Management of Marion is always ready. Days before an incoming storm event, Parkway moves into “storm watch” status. As with any tropical storm, where it can rapidly strengthen, Parkway would go to “storm ready” status. Personnel and management review disaster preparation plans, personnel management, and recovery plans, anticipating the need to be ready to act.

It seems that every time the mowing crews get caught up, a long cycle of showers pushes them behind. I congratulate our crews for working so hard to keep up under the grueling temperatures and rainy conditions. Granted, we need the rain to replenish the groundwater, but it does come with a price.

As we move deeper into storm season, focus may be shifting to storm preparations. The Management Company is positioned to move fast, on sometimes less than 24-hour notice, to secure buildings and equipment from possible wind and rain damage, as well as make sure everyone is clear on their post-storm responsibilities for recovery and clean-up.

Residents are encouraged to be alert and ready to clean up personal items outside the house that may become missiles in high winds. Movable property

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Bands, Brews, & Dancing

By Ray Cech
World News Writer

Saturday, Sept. 27, is a date to put on your calendar. Why? Well, starting at 5 p.m. on The Town Square and not ending until the sun sets and the moon rises around 9 p.m., there will be everything you’ve ever wanted at a good, old-fashioned party.

Now, usually, this type of celebration is called Oktoberfest, but since it’s the beginning of fall, the party planners installed a new descriptive word into our dictionary – Falltoberfest. Okay, we can go with that, particularly since this year’s celebration promises to be over-the-top.

Here’s what’s planned: the party

will kick off with music by The Brussels Sprouts – not what you’re thinking – a German polka band that will get the party underway in high spirits with lots of high kicks, stomping, twirling, and shouting.

If you’re exhausted, just thinking about dancing the polka, you’ll be happy to know that they will be followed by a more traditional, but very entertaining band, called Chasing Amy. (Don’t ask.) They will chase Amy until the beer is exhausted, and the last axe is thrown. Yes, once again, by popular demand, there will be an axe-throwing competition. For beer aficionados, you’ll have a chance

to partake in tasting and judging your favorite seasonal craft beer – please, no axe-throwing after that!

Falltoberfest will welcome food trucks, The Town Square kiosk is selling beer, wine, soda, and water, and of course, the always fun, selfie booth. Dancing will be the order of the day, so be sure to bring those dancing shoes. In between sets, you’ll want to check out the cruise-in car show, throw an axe, walk around the pumpkin patch, take a selfie – or just enjoy a snack and a beer.

The Falltoberfest is on The Town Square, on Saturday, Sept. 27, from 5 to 9 p.m. It is free to attend and open to the public.

For the latest information, please follow Circle Square Commons on Facebook (@csctownsquare) or Instagram (@cscommonsfl).



Fraud - The Crime That Ignores Gates & Patrol Cars

By Geoff Oldberg

As the liaison to the Marion County Sheriff’s Office, I stay in close contact with their staff to stay informed about crime trends affecting our community. On Top of the World continues to enjoy one of the lowest crime rates in Florida. Property crimes such as burglaries and thefts are practically non-existent here – thanks to gated access, frequent deputy patrols, an active volunteer citizen patrol, well-maintained properties, and neighbors who look out for one another.

However, one type of crime is on the rise – and it’s one that gates and patrol cars can’t stop: fraud.

In 2023, scammers stole more than \$3.4 billion from Americans over the age of 60. Here in Marion County, the average monthly loss to fraud is approximately \$1.5 million. At this rate, residents in our county could lose over \$18 million to scams in 2025 alone – surpassing the total loss from all thefts in 2015, which was \$11.3 million. Many, perhaps someone you know, have lost their entire savings and even their homes to fraud.

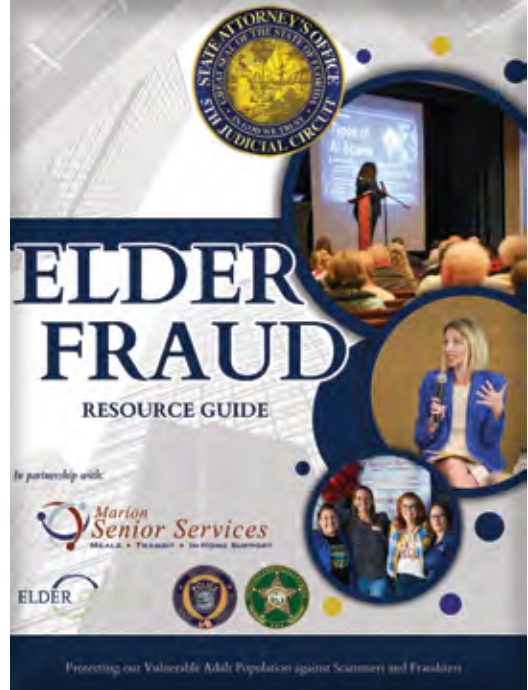
Unlike traditional thieves, scammers don’t need to sneak around in the dark. Instead of pry bars, they use emails, texts, and phone calls to “break in.” They use deceptive tactics to trick you into giving up personal information or financial access. These tactics typically involve these Ps:

- **PRETEND:** They claim to be from a familiar organization: the IRS, Social Security Administration, sheriff’s office, or a well-known company. They can even “spoof” phone numbers so it appears legitimate on your caller ID. Fact: The IRS, Social Security, police, and utility companies will not call you unexpectedly. If it’s important, they will leave a message. Government agencies communicate almost exclusively through the U.S. mail. As a retired deputy, I know they don’t call or send a letter. If you have a warrant, the police will come knocking at your door.
- **PROBLEM OR PRIZE:** They say there’s a problem with your account or claim you’ve won a prize or lottery. Reminder: Never provide personal info over the phone. And remember—if you didn’t enter a lottery, you didn’t win one.
- **Pressure:** They push you to act quickly, threatening arrest, lawsuits, or fines if you don’t comply immediately. Tip: Hang up. Legitimate agencies don’t threaten you over the phone.
- **PAYMENT:** They demand payment in unusual ways: cryptocurren-

cy, gift cards, and wire transfers. Warning: No legitimate agency or business accepts payment like this.

Scammers rely on fear, urgency, and manipulation. Their methods continue to evolve, and no one is immune. To combat this growing threat, the State Attorney’s Office has published a helpful Elder Fraud Resource Guide > <https://www.sao5.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Marion-Elder-Fraud-Resource-Guide-2025.pdf> I’ll be covering more types of scams in future columns. But for now, remember this: The best defense against fraud is you. Learn the warning signs. Be skeptical. And always think twice before acting.

Stay safe, stay informed, and don’t answer the phone or open any suspicious emails.



Is It Legal?

Colen & Wagoner, P.A.



Q. I was divorced about 15 years ago, and now I plan on getting married to a very nice gentleman. Recently, he admitted to me that he owes the Internal Revenue Service some money (he didn’t disclose the amount, but stated it was substantial). Do I have any worries if he can’t pay what he owes?

A. Probably not because he incurred his obligation before you and he married. However, the wisest thing for you and him to do, before you get married, is to have a pre-nuptial agreement drawn up by your attorney. He should also get his attorney. And after your marriage, you should keep your funds separate from his. It might be okay to have a “working” bank account in both names, but I would not advise keeping a large amount of funds in it. Of course, once his obligation to the IRS has been satisfied, you won’t have to worry about the matter. One caveat (warning) is that you should not even consider helping him to pay off that debt with your money.

Q. Is it legal for my boyfriend to buy ED drugs when he and I are on a cruise and we stop off in (a foreign country)? He is 79 and I am about the same age.

A. I get this or similar questions fairly often. Since I consider these questions to be serious about the legal issue concerning the purchase and use of any drugs overseas, I’m willing to answer them in this column. If it is truly ED drugs, then I am sure it is legal to do that. I think, though, what you want to know is whether it is legal to buy ED drugs in a foreign country and bring them back into the U.S. It depends on a few things, the most important being whether he intends to use them himself or intends to sell some or all of them.

Q. My will leaves everything I have to three different relatives, and I have named one of them as the executor of my estate. The will states that all my debts must be paid upon my death. Does my executor have any personal respon-

sibility to pay off my debts? I don’t want that at all.

A. The executor (I prefer the term personal representative, but executor is fine) should not have any personal responsibility to pay your debts out of his funds, unless, of course, he agrees to do that – and no, I don’t know why he or she would do such a thing.

Q. How many witnesses are needed in a will?

A. In the state of Florida, two witnesses are required. I believe there are still a few states where three witnesses are required, but not very many. Although it is not a legal requirement, I believe that a will should also be notarized because that makes it self-proving in Florida. When a will is self-proving, you don’t need to locate the witnesses because their signatures have already been notarized at the time you executed the will.

Q. About two years ago, I married a woman who told me she had never been married before. She is 78 and I am 75. A few weeks ago, she received a letter from someone who claims that she (my wife) is her mother. My wife then told me she had a baby out of wedlock when she was 16. She asked me if I wanted to divorce her.

A. You are talking about something that happened close to 60 years ago. Anyway, I’ve looked and looked, but I can’t seem to find a question in what you wrote. So, an answer doesn’t appear to be necessary.

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.

LEASH LAW

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2025 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

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

* Deadline at noon

** Printed inserts delivered to The Villages Media Group by 3:30 p.m.

grinsticks™
By Dave DeAngelis

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Lifelong Learning

Michelle Shideler
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September at Master the Possibilities (MTP) is shaping up to be one of the most exciting months yet, with more than 180 diverse classes on the calendar. This fall, MTP is commemorating the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, and participants will notice a strong historical thread woven throughout the catalog. Many courses reflect on the events, people, and lasting impact of the war. We have also invited expert guest speakers to help us remember and reflect on the past in ways that can inform and inspire our future.

On Thursday, Sept. 18, in Live Oak Hall from 10 to 11:30 a.m., Dr. Joe will deliver an impactful lecture on “The Tuskegee Airmen,” focusing on the often-overlooked history of Black military aviators. His emphasis is specifically on helicopter pilots who served during the Vietnam War. Their story is one of perseverance, honor, and legacy. This presentation is an opportunity to hear powerful, untold stories of American history firsthand. Cost of attending this event is \$13 for members and \$18 for the general public.

Following that presentation, on Thursday, Sept. 25, in Live Oak Hall at 10 a.m., participants have the rare opportunity to hear from renowned historian and expert Dr. Valerie Deacon, who will join remotely to present “Resistance in France During the Second World War.” Dr. Deacon is an authority on European resistance movements, and her research into the complexity of France’s internal fight against Nazi occupation is both timely and essential.

Drawing distinctions between the portrayals in popular novels and the intricate reality of political, social, and ideological divisions within the French Resistance, Deacon’s presentation will unpack who resisted, how, and why. Dr.



Photo courtesy of Dr. Valerie Deacon

Dr. Valerie Deacon will join remotely to present “Resistance in France During the Second World War.”

Deacon is currently the manager of academic support and curriculum innovation at Toronto Metropolitan University. Before her return to Canada, she was a faculty member at New York University and New York University Shanghai. She holds a Master of Arts from the University of Victoria and a PhD from York University.

Our lifelong learning center is privileged to host such a highly regarded voice in the field. The cost to attend this presentation is \$10 for members and \$15 for the general public.

Beyond these featured speakers, the September curriculum includes other themed classes such as “Thomas Nast: The Father of American Political Cartoons,” presented by John Dahowski on Thursdays, Sept. 4 and 11, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.; “Moe Berg: Scholar, Catcher, World War II Spy,” offered by Dr. Don Wyman on Friday, Sept. 26, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.; and “Rosie the Riveter,” portrayed by Dee Collier on Tuesday, Sept. 30, from 1 to 2 p.m.

For a complete list of classes this month, visit masterthepossibilities.org. Since we add classes weekly, check out the “New” category for classes that have been added since the catalog was printed. Ready to register for a class and need assistance? Visit or call us at 352-861-9751 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

OneBlood
Bloodmobile

Sara Sommer



The Big Red Bus® was here on Monday, Aug. 4. It was a truly fantastic drive. We had 36 whole blood units and six double red blood units. We also had two donors on the platelet mobile. Thank you so much.

It is also time for our Friday blood drive. The Big Red Bus will be here on Friday, Sept. 5, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Here is your chance if you are unable to donate on Mondays. The next Monday drive will be on Oct. 6. The Big Red Bus will be parked in the Recreation Center parking lot from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The platelet mobile will be joining us, too.

When donating, be sure to eat a good meal and drink lots of water before and after. Please bring a picture ID. Mark your calendar. Let’s see if we can top the

previous amount of donations.

Walk-ins are always welcome, but you can make an appointment. The schedule is online about two weeks before the drive. Simply log on to OneBlood.org and look for the On Top of the World drive. Pick your time, and you are all set. Appointments are usually taken first to try to keep on schedule. You will be sent a confirmation by email as well as a reminder when the time comes.

There is no substitute for human blood. Only you can make a difference. Please give.

There is another date to remember. The Club Fair is taking place on Thursday, Sept. 11, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center. OneBlood will have a table there as usual. Please stop by to say hello. We will be there to answer any questions you might have. If we don’t know the answer, we will direct you to a resource where you can learn it.

See you on the bus and at the Club Fair.

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Community Emergency Response Team

Jane Belz & Debbie Snyder



In times of crisis, the ability to respond quickly and effectively can make a difference. This is where Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) come into play.

CERT is designed to educate and train volunteers to assist in emergencies, providing support to professional responders and enhancing community resilience. Volunteers are trained in disaster preparedness, fire safety and suppression, basic first aid and medical operations, light search and rescue operations, team organization and communication and incident command principles.

This training enables CERT volunteers to provide critical support to first responders when they are overwhelmed, offer immediate assistance to victims, and organize spontaneous volunteers during emergencies. CERT trains volun-

teers to help themselves, their families, neighbors, and our community in disaster situations.

While CERT members train to be ready to respond at all times, the start of hurricane season is a great time to reassess and check supplies for the year. The group recently added 10 more handheld radios and 20 weatherproof speaker microphones to make communication during an emergency faster and more convenient. They also received a new stock of first aid items such as splints, tourniquets, disposable gloves and rolls of gauze. To help organize it all, members of the logistics team Gary Rodoff and Mark Uberstine assembled, installed and labeled new heavy metal shelves so everything can be stored while also being easily accessible in case of an emergency.

While CERT is a nationally recognized program, locally we are trained by the Emergency Management Division of the Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) and supported by On Top of the World. Members receive initial training through MCSO which occurs over five consecutive Saturdays. The next training class set to begin in October is forming now. Ongoing education and drills are conducted through monthly meetings.

Interested? Please stop by our booth at the Club Fair on Thursday, Sept. 11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center. Or attend one of our meetings on the second Tuesday of each month from 9 to 11 a.m. in the

Arbor Conference Center Event Room. Applications and additional information are available at each meeting. Our next meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 9. For more information about CERT or upcoming meetings, please email ontoptoftheworldcert@gmail.com.

Community ham radio operators can assist us from home by tuning into 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 ham radio operators meet at our designated command center and establish contact with Marion County Emergency Management. For information regarding ham radio operations, contact Bruce Twiss at brucetwiss@yahoo.com.

Community News

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that cannot be stored in the garage or secured in a closed room must be secured in place from high winds. If you have not prepared your hurricane kit, we urge you to do so.

Home Modifications

Residents of all communities require approval from the Association before adding any exterior modifications to their homes. One of the largest factors considered in the review and approval process is the wind rating on any proposed addition. Many aluminum products have an inadequate wind rating. Naturally, these types of products will not be approved by the Association. Check with Resident Services for details. Finally, don't forget to update your homeowner's insurance to ensure any additions to the original structure are included in your policy.



Sheriff Billy Woods at the Ocala-Marion County Veterans Memorial Park.

Veterans Club

Charles Calhoun



September holds a special place in the hearts of many Americans, especially our military, veterans, and first responders.

Most people remember precisely where they were on Sept. 11, 2001. I was less than a mile from the Pentagon. I will never forget that day and how it changed my life. I have devoted so much of my retirement years here in Ocala to serving my country by serving my community.

Every season we gather more momentum in serving our community. On Top of the World management has increased its devotion to helping honor veterans in Ocala, and we have unbelievable plans for this upcoming Veterans Day, Memorial Day 2026, and Independence Day 2026 to celebrate the 250th birthday of our country.

We would need a daily newspaper with several sections devoted to covering all the activities of our over 500 members of the Veterans Club. The ties to other clubs and local businesses that help us daily are overwhelming. The Marion County Memorial Honor Guard performed almost 300 services last year. The American Legion, Sewing Bees, Happy Hookers, Lions Club, SR200 Lions Club, Moose Lodge, Elks Lodge, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Rotary Club of Ocala, Pidge, and many other individuals collect and distribute food and clothing daily.

Many clubs and groups collect and donate to Operation Shoebox, Interfaith Emergency Services, children's organizations, and many more.

Don't forget the pets, Chuck's Piggy Bank, led by Mary Beth Bell, has partnered with 25 pet rescues, including Vets Helping Vets with pets. We also have equestrian partners with veteran color guards, equine therapy, miniature horses, and ponies. We also help expedite medical care and cancer screening through Vet Resource Center, Vets Helping Vets, and Vet Net.

If you think this is a long list, I can guarantee you I forgot some and will hear about it. My point is, this is a fabulous giving community that always steps up, and most of the time, you never know about it.

On Sept. 11, please reflect on all that has been done and renew your soul with what can be done in the future. Make today and tomorrow be days that you can be proud of.

For more information about what we do and to learn about volunteer opportunities, please attend our monthly Veterans Club meeting on the third Thursday of the month at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV at 3 p.m. Fran's cookies will be available.

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High Holidays 2025 / 5786 Schedule of Services

✧ Rosh Hashanah Evening	Monday Sept. 22	7:30 p.m.
✧ Rosh Hashanah Morning	Tuesday Sept. 23	10:00 a.m.
✧ Yom Kippur Evening Kol Nidre	Wednesday Oct. 1	7:30 p.m.
✧ Yom Kippur Morning	Thursday Oct. 2	10:00 a.m.
✧ Yom Kippur Afternoon, Yizkor and concluding services		
✧ Yom Kippur Break the Fast	reservations required, \$25 pp, see below	4:00 p.m. conclusion of services



www.templebnaidarom.org



Information and to RSVP for Break the Fast 352-861-0724



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Resident Services

Heather Ray
352-236-OTOW (6869)
associationinfo@otowfl.net



Community Meet & Greet

We are excited to have begun our Community Meet & Greet events. We were able to complete all neighborhoods for On Top of the World (Central) during August. September will focus on Candler Hills, then we will wrap up in October with Indigo East and Weybourne Landing.

These Community Meet & Greet events are where you will have the opportunity to meet your HOA Management Company, Parkway Maintenance & Management Marion, and learn more about our role in supporting your community. Whether you have questions, concerns, or simply want to put a face to the name, this is a great opportunity to get involved and stay informed!

We look forward to seeing you there! Please see the schedule by neighborhood on page 32.

On Top of the World (Central)

There is a board of directors meeting scheduled for Monday, Sept. 8, at 1:30 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center.

Association Emails

Each association now has a new email address. If you have any association-related questions, please don't hesitate to contact us by email.

- centralassociation@otowfl.com
- indigoassociation@otowfl.com
- candlerassociation@otowfl.com
- weybourneassociation@otowfl.com

The associationinfo@otowfl.net email will remain active.

Modifications

Application forms for modification requests, along with detailed checklists for each type of request, are now available on AppFolio. These checklists outline all submission requirements to help guide you through the process. We do encourage you to schedule an appointment through the OTOW App. If you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact us by email at modifications@colenbuilt.net.

Envera

Friendly reminder: the barrier arms are now lowered after each vehicle. The proper operating speed is 5 miles per hour; please slow down when approaching.

Friendship Park and Americana Village are scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 9, and Wednesday, Sept. 10, to receive their Envera decals. Friendship Village is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 23, and Wednesday, Sept. 24. Avalon and for those who missed their decal day is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 28, and Wednesday, Oct. 29. This will take place in the parking area behind Circle Square Cultural Center from 8 a.m. to noon.

Motorcycle decals have arrived. Please visit Resident Services if you are in need of one.

Safety First

Jonathan Miller



Starting to Forget

There are things we can't afford to forget about. There are many things we would like to forget about. There are even things we are eager to forget about. But safety is something we simply can't forget! Your safety should be a priority. Is it?

Forgetting things is a part of nature. Humans can't remember everything, unless, of course, you are a robot! The one thing we must not forget is ensuring that we have all the necessary safeguards in place to help us remember that we need to be and stay safe. Now, you might ask, how is forgetting going to relate to safety? Well, alright then, let's talk about it, shall we?

I have a couple of true stories to share, so please read on.

Pam was the last to leave the office. She made sure to remember to turn off the lights, turn off her computer, and set the security alarm before she left the building. In the morning, she got up to make coffee before leaving for work. She couldn't find her favorite coffee cup, then remembered she had left the cup in the employee lunchroom, right next to the coffee maker. The coffee maker was left on before she forgot to turn it off before leaving for the day. When she returned to work, the building was reduced to ashes. Thankfully, nobody got hurt, and no, she didn't lose her job. But her dad, who owned the place, created new colorful words that day, ending with, don't forget to turn things off.

Tristen was working in the shop making candles for his daughter's first-grade Christmas program. His daughter was one of the three wise men/women bringing gifts, while little angels, holding candles, sang to the newborn in the manger. He left the shop to deliver the candles to his daughter's school but forgot to turn off the hot wax machine. He also left his daughter's pet bird sitting on the rafter, next to the wax machine. The building was reduced to ashes. The miracle? The bird survived and flew to the daughter's bedroom window. His six-year-old daughter put him on punishment for two weeks for negligence! Needless to say, his daughter was hostile and made sure dad didn't get dessert for 14 straight days! True story!

My safety points this month. There are a few things in life we just can't afford to forget about, and that is safety. So, we have to set safety protocols in our agenda to help with forgetfulness. We do this by making a checklist. Write things down and follow your checklist before you leave home. Place that list by the door you exit. The important things that we can't afford to forget can be remembered this way. It is our way to protect ourselves from ourselves. Stay safe.

Please feel free to reach out via email at safetydepartment@otowfl.com.

In the News

Petra Schmidt
otownews@otowfl.com



Each On Top of the World household receives a complimentary monthly World News delivered by 1 p.m. on publication day (see schedule, page 2).

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Tina and Randy Ross enjoy a summer indoor picnic with neighbors.

Photo by Dee Null

Finding Zen

Robert Colen
info@sholompark.org



If you’ve ever set foot in Sholom Park, you know it’s unlike anywhere else. The quiet trails. The reflection pond. The Zen Garden. The way the breeze moves through the trees. It’s not just a beautiful park – it’s a space that feels set apart from the noise of the world. A space designed for peace.

Sholom Park exists today because Sidney Colen, the founder of On Top of the World Communities, believed our community needed a place to breathe. In this place, peace wasn’t just an idea, but an experience.

Since opening to the public in 2004, the park has grown into something more than a garden. It has become a sanctuary for over 200,000 visitors each year who come to walk, meditate, heal, connect with nature, and simply enjoy nature in all of its majesty.

But Sholom Park doesn’t exist by accident. Neither taxes nor homeowners’ associations support it. It remains open and free to the public only because people like you choose to support it. That’s why this year, we’re asking you to join us during Give4Marion – a 33-hour giving campaign that makes a lasting impact on non-profits across our county, including Sholom Park.

Give4Marion takes place this year on Tuesday, Sept. 16, and Wednesday, Sept. 17, and it’s more than just a fundraiser – it’s a moment when your support can go even further. Thanks to matching

funds and prize opportunities, every dollar you give to Sholom Park during this campaign could be matched or multiplied – helping us fund maintenance, improve infrastructure, and expand features for the community.

Some of our current priorities include:

- Expanding our new Food Forest: An area designed to produce edible plants while also restoring the soil and enriching the park’s ecology.
- Adding parking: As park use grows, we’re working to ensure everyone can access this space safely and comfortably.

Your gift helps us preserve the beauty of Sholom Park, not just for today, but for generations to come. It helps keep the park clean, safe, and welcoming. It helps us honor the original vision – that in a busy, complicated world, there should be at least one place you can count on to bring you peace.

Whether you visit the park weekly or simply believe in its mission, your donation matters. And during Give4Marion, it matters even more.

To support Sholom Park during Give4Marion:

- Visit www.give4marion.org.
- Search for “Horticultural Arts & Park Institute, Inc.” in the list of participating non-profits.
- Make your donation from 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 16, to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 17.

Spread the word to friends and neighbors who love the park, too. You can also learn more by visiting give4marion.org/info/faq.

This is your park. This is your opportunity. Let’s keep Sholom Park a peaceful refuge – for all of us.

Williamsburg Neighbors

Nancy Meininger



While we’re almost to the ides of September, the unrelenting summer heat carries on. It has been a season to remember, filled with sizzle and good times, especially those at our indoor summer picnic.

The Williamsburg wizards – Tina Ross, Gwen Fabian, and Carmel Kessler – outdid themselves again, creating games and laughter that kept us going all afternoon! We discovered that it was enjoyable getting to know our neighbors, competing, and sharing with them. The buffet table was filled with “disappearing” treats that found their way onto every plate!

Bocce continues the camaraderie every Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the courts behind the Arbor Fitness Center.

In August, we broke bread at Milano’s Restaurant for our monthly dinner led by Linda and Brian McDonald.

The fun is just beginning with a

game/trivia night on Tuesday, Sept.16, at the Arbor Conference Center Event Room from 6:30 to 9 p.m. On Thursday, Sept. 25, neighbors will gather for their monthly dinner at Mimi’s Café at 6 p.m.

Then, on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 4 to 7 p.m., is a much-anticipated Oktoberfest, which the wizards promise will bring out the polka foot in everyone! There will be a potluck buffet with pretzels and schnitzel. No lederhosen required to attend! Music and trivia provided by DJ Brian McDonald, a Williamsburg resident.

For more information about events happening in Williamsburg or to reserve your place at a monthly dinner, visit williamsburgneighborsotow.com. You can also find us on Facebook (Welcome to Williamsburg-OTOW). Being proactive, neighbor Vickie Hendricks has initiated a Nextdoor link for Williamsburg to share information (Williamsburg in OTOW).

Our Williamsburg welcome hostess, Deanne Sanders, has been busy putting together a newsy letter to bring new residents into the fold. If you’re new and interested in joining, please let me know, and I will send it your way. You can email me at nancy@nancymeininger.com.

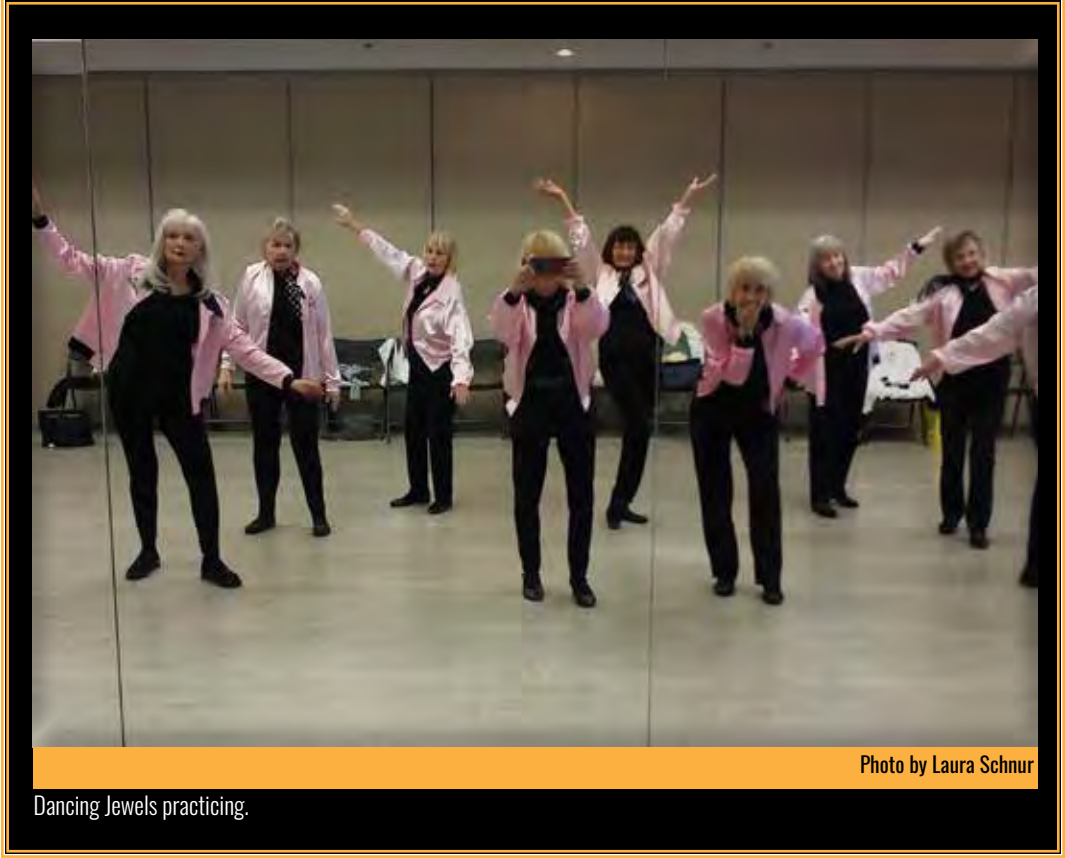


Photo by Laura Schnur

Dancing Jewels practicing.

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We're Not in New York Anymore

By Paul DiSclafani

Anytime you hear a stand-up comedian talk about the horrors of going to the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV), they are usually referencing New York. And with good reason – it’s a literal nightmare.

After navigating the complexities of driver’s licenses, car registrations, titles, and license plates for over 50 years, I can confidently attest that they are 100% accurate.

But why should Florida’s DMV be any different? Every state has the same issues, right? Tons of paperwork, irritable clerks, and poor working conditions.

So it was with some trepidation that my wife and I sauntered into Marion

County Tax Collector’s Office right up the road in the Jasmine Plaza for our new Florida licenses and registrations, anticipating spending most of the afternoon there. We arrived at 12:30 p.m. and figured on jockeying with the lunchtime crowd. Taking our neighbor Marilyn’s advice, we opted for Wednesday, avoiding Monday.

Armed with the required personal and resident documentation (and both cars), we spent less than 30 seconds with the pleasant woman at the information desk and were given a deli-style ticket (#52). In New York, we would have had to wait at least half an hour to reach the information desk, where we would have

been required to visit multiple windows because they don’t handle licenses and registrations at the same window.

Instead, in Florida, it’s one-stop shopping!

The large video boards displayed the number called and which window to proceed to. There was even a pleasant woman’s voice announcing the next number called. Clutching our number 52 like it was a \$100 bill, number 42 was currently being serviced. Maybe in Florida, you take for granted the next number called would be 43, but not in New York.

The ticketing system up north uses different letters and number combinations, like Q523 and G332, depending on what service you require. You might get five Q numbers called before a G number. It’s insane.

In less than 20 minutes, the numbers quickly cycled to our lucky 52. I almost yelled out, “Bingo!” as we sidled up to a smiling Jalcia manning window 12.

Her station, like most, was personalized with small furry animals and an American flag. In New York, you’d be lucky if a working pen were available. They even sold small candies for 25 cents (for charity).

When I presented her with the resident documents, I didn’t realize one was over 60 days old. If this were New York, they would have sent me packing. Instead, she had me email her a more recent copy, then printed it so we could complete the transactions.

In about 90 minutes, we had two brand new Florida licenses, new car registrations and plates, titles, and voter registrations. From the time we walked through the door until we left, it was less than two hours!

No hassles, no sourpuss faces, nothing but smiles and doing whatever was needed to complete the transaction without, as we say in Italian, agita.

Active Newcomers Club

Linda Baker



Is it September already? This year is flying by! We are looking forward to cooler temperatures and meeting you at the Club Fair on Thursday, Sept. 11. Stop by our table at Circle Square Cultural Center to get information about everything our club has to offer.

We enjoyed meeting many new residents at our “Doing Donuts” event, held on Saturday, Aug. 23. Membership applications and information about all our small groups were handed out. Everyone enjoyed the donuts and socializing with friends.

Reserve your spot now for our tailgate party on Thursday, Sept. 18, from noon to 3 p.m. at the Veterans Park pavilion. Enjoy a Lee’s Famous Recipe Chicken boxed lunch of two chicken tenders, two sides, and a biscuit with cookies for dessert. R&R Trio will provide the music. We encourage you to wear a jersey or shirt with your favorite team! There will be door prizes and a 50/50 raffle. Check our Facebook page or website if you have not already signed up for this event. Tickets are only \$10, and they will

sell out quickly!

We will be hosting our annual “Boo Bash” Halloween party on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Music will be provided by DJ Scott Bolton. Watch our Facebook page and your email for details. Start planning your costumes now, if that’s your jam (they are optional).

Our last event for 2025 will be our holiday party on Friday, Dec. 19. Pasta Faire will be catering. Both events will take place in The Lodge at Candler Hills Ballroom.

The Active Newcomers Club facilitates small groups to allow members with similar interests to meet and form friendships. The current groups are bunco, games, mah jongg, foodies, lunch, dinner, wine, book, golf, and hiking. Information about these groups can be found on the club’s web page. These groups are run by members of the club, who only ask that you respond to invitations promptly. This allows reservations to be made, food to be purchased, or teams to be formed (for games). Some activities are open to all club members, and these are posted on our Facebook page. If you are interested in joining a group, please send an email to activenewcomers34481@gmail.com with the group name in the subject line.

Membership applications for 2025 are available on our website. When completing your application, please be sure to

read the descriptions and requirements for small groups before making your selections. Dues for the remainder of the year are only \$10! Weybourne Landing and Indigo East residents must be part of the Gateway of Services program.

To learn more about the Active Newcomers Club, visit activenewcomers.org. Members can also visit our Facebook page. Email us at activenewcomers34481@gmail.com for more information.



Photo by Bob Schliffkin

Making new foodie friends.

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Blue Indigo East
Democratic Club



Lydia Kuust

The Blue Indigo East Democratic Club meets on the fourth Monday of every month in the Indigo East Community Center Ballroom at 2 p.m. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 22.

I hope you didn't miss the August meeting with Rocky Pizzarello, who has FEMA advanced first aid training and volunteers with COPS (Citizens on Patrol) and CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). He spoke about the rise of scams, especially those targeting our senior population, and strategies to address this challenge.

Our speaker for the September meeting will be Sheila J. Loughlin, who works in various capacities for the Marion County Democratic Party. She will share information about local election campaigns, including how our club can stay informed as local voters and how you can be involved in a more active role.

For our community outreach program, we have chosen two organizations to support. The first is Isaiah's 117 House. This organization will be building a facility soon to provide a more supportive, less traumatic environment for children in transition waiting to be placed into foster care, after being removed from their homes and families. Currently, before the house is built, they need lemonade mix and cups, so please think about bringing some of those to our next meeting. Isaiah's 117 House offers lemonade to visitors at farmers' markets and other local events, as people stop by their booth to learn about this organization. Winter hats for the children have already begun to be hand-crafted and donated.

The second organization we have chosen supports economically depressed students and their families living near Lake Weir Middle School. Their list of items requested for girls' and boys' ages 11 to 13 includes socks and underwear, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, body soap, toothpaste and brushes, hair combs and brushes, maxi-pads, small household appliances, linens, towels, washcloths, dishes, gently used clothing and shoes. There will be a table at our meetings for the collection of these donated items, and we have board members arranging their delivery.

We have a full slate of officers and a board of directors, but we continue to need more volunteers to help our various committees. If you are interested in meeting new people and can spare an hour or so a month, please contact me.

In this time of uncertainty, we need to connect and support one another. Attending and participating in our meetings offers an opportunity to be with others who share similar beliefs. Since our inception, our member roster has continued to grow with each meeting.

Democrat or not, you will be welcome at our meetings. If you need a ride, please call/text me at 802-345-0669, at least a few days before the meeting. I don't answer my phone if I don't recognize your number, but I'll return your call if you leave a message. You may also send an e-mail to iedemocrats@yahoo.com. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Avalon
Social Group



Laura Gavey &
Sharon Hall

Get out your dancing shoes and poodle skirts, Avalon! Dress up and join your neighbors on Monday, Sept. 8, at 5:30 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios for our first '50s sock hop! Dance to '50s music provided by DJ Anthony Elmore. See the Poms Dance and Cheer Squad provide additional '50s entertainment. Dine on hamburgers, hot dogs, and chicken sandwiches offered by the Blazin' Bites Food Truck and meet your neighbors.

RSVP no later than Monday, Sept. 1. Contact Sharon Hall at 270-855-1354 for tickets or more information.

Are you new to Avalon or our social events? 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 to provide your address to verify that you are an Avalon resident. If you have trouble finding the group or getting in, please email avalon-socialclub@gmail.com, and we'll send you the link to the group. If you would like to be notified of future events by email, please send your request to the email address above.

TRASH COMPACTOR FULL?

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Indigo East
Social Committee



Janice Liberton

The Indigo East Social Committee ice cream social was held on Sunday, Aug. 10, where 80-plus residents enjoyed the event. Bill and Jana McElroy hosted this successful social event. A huge thank you is in order for Bill and Jana, as they took the opportunity to step up and get involved in a neighborhood event.

The Indigo East Social Committee will hold a Labor Day party on Monday, Sept. 1, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Indigo East Community Center. Residents will have the opportunity to eat outside in the warm Florida sunshine or inside in air conditioning. The menu will consist of a quarter pound of all-beef hot dogs with all the trimmings, chips, and watermelon. Lemonade and water will also be available. Indigo East is a bring-your-own-beverage neighborhood; therefore, residents are permitted to bring a bev-

erage of their choice for themselves or to share with friends. All tickets for the event were sold during August. This is a resident-only event.

The Indigo East Social Committee will not hold a Halloween Party this year. Halloween falls on a Friday, and On Top of the World will hold a party during Happy Hour.

Future events for the Indigo East Social Committee are a potluck dinner in November and a holiday party in December. More information will follow as soon as it is released.

Indigo East residents, please mark your calendar for a new activity. Patricia Perri, a qualified ballroom dance instructor, has scheduled a six-week social dancing course for Indigo East residents. This course is designed to give residents the basic skills to get up and enjoy themselves during happy hour and the upcoming holiday parties. The course is geared toward those who know little to nothing about social dancing. It will be a quick and easy course, and no fee is required. Classes will be held on the following dates every Sunday from

Sept. 7 through Oct. 12, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

September is a busy month; it marks the beginning of fall, we celebrate the American worker on Labor Day, and we remember the fallen and the survivors of 9/11.


I came across a statement on the web, but unfortunately, I couldn't find the author's name. Nevertheless, it pays a great tribute to the American worker. "From construction sites and classrooms to hospitals and office spaces, every worker plays a vital role in shaping society. Labor Day reminds us to pause, reflect, and express gratitude for the tireless efforts that fuel progress and innovation. It's also a day to celebrate the dignity of hard work, the value of perseverance, and the belief that dedication and determination can pave the way to success."

I wish everyone a fabulous and patriotic September. As usual, I'll see you around the neighborhood.

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CONGRATULATIONS



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Candler Connection

Debra Keirn



The ice cream social in August was a huge success. Thank you to the 170 residents and guests who attended and enjoyed an afternoon of socializing with ice cream sundae creations and floats.

The fall picnic will be on Sunday, Sept. 21, from 4:30 to 9 p.m. You can choose two of three items (chicken, hamburger, or hot dog). Side dishes include baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, tomatoes and lettuce for your burgers, as well as desserts. Palomino Blonde will provide music. Tickets were sold in August for \$12 per Candler Hills resident and \$15 per guest. If you haven't purchased your tickets, please contact Karen Gemberling at 352-789-8259 or Deb Keirn at 352-414-5737 to see if tickets are still available.

The monthly potluck dinner (Mamma Mia Italian theme) will be on Sept. 30, at 5:30 p.m. Last names beginning with A-H bring dessert; I-P side dish/salad, and Q-Z main dish. Please prepare your dish for 12 to 15 people and label it with the ingredients to help those with food allergies. The \$1 fee at the door covers table cloths, eating utensils, plates, decaf coffee, creamers, and centerpieces. RSVP by phone to Deb Keirn at 352-414-5737, by text at 814-571-7908, or by email at arthurkipdeb@verizon.net to be added to the attendee list.

On Friday, Oct. 31, the Halloween



Photo by Nancy Kaplasky

Volunteers at the Candler Connection ice cream social in August.

Fright Night will be from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Our DJ will be Z Street Band. Come dressed in costume and win a prize in various categories (scariest, most original, or crowd pleaser) or come and enjoy an evening of good food and music. There will be snack, sandwich, salad, and dessert stations. Tickets will be sold Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sept. 23, 25,

30, Oct. 2, 7, and 9, for \$25 per Candler Hills resident and \$27 per guest.

Our annual holiday party is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 12, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Gourmet Affair will cater and Ross Getek will provide the music. The menu is cherry tomato basil chicken in a light garlic sauce, rosemary roasted pork tenderloin, mashed potatoes, green beans with bacon and onion, Caesar salad, and a variety of cakes for dessert. Tickets will go on sale in November for \$45 per Candler Hills resident and \$47 per guest.

All events and ticket sales occur at The Lodge at Candler Hills (unless otherwise noted). Ticket sales occur from 10 a.m. to noon; you must present your resident ID. If you are purchasing tickets for other residents, please have their resident ID and telephone number available. Candler Connection events are outlined in The Happenings, the Candler Hills Facebook page, and the OTOW App.

The Candler Connection Social Committee is working hard to come up with new events in 2026. Stay tuned for information.

See you around the neighborhood!

Kestrel Knowings

Lyn Yanss



Before you know it, it will be Halloween, then the holidays! Try to stay cool, and when you can, jump in the pool to cool off. There's planning being done and dates firmed up, so mark your calendar accordingly.

The Fall Holiday Fashion Show is scheduled for early November. Details are being finalized and will be announced soon. Jasmine Boutique will feature its holiday fashions.

The third annual holiday cookie swap is currently under discussion. Details will be released as the event approaches.

Holiday music "Singo" (similar to music bingo) is on Thursday, Dec. 18. The event will feature an ugly-holiday-sweater contest and a pajama or T-shirt contest with prizes. It is a great way to enjoy the holidays without stress. Raffle tickets will also be available. Ticket costs are \$15. Ticket sales dates will be announced closer to the event.

Any Kestrel resident interested in being added to the Kestrel directory or the email chain may send their details to Jeaton1000@comcast.net.

Enjoy your September! See you around the neighborhood!

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Newcastle Feud teams Magic and Dream Team. Photo by Ned Monaghan

Newcastle Social Committee

Anne McCauley

This summer has been hot, hot, hot. Even the pool water doesn’t provide much relief. So, the Newcastle residents took the much-needed break from the heat by heading indoors to The Lodge at Candler Hills Ballroom for their summer break event, held on Saturday, July 26.

While enjoying Lee’s chicken and assorted picnic-style dishes, attendees were entertained by a group photo identification game. Should be pretty easy, right? Not so much. The photos of the individuals were of the resident at age 21 or younger. Some photos were easily identified, but there were a few that stumped everyone. It was great fun.

After dinner, it was time to play “The Newcastle Feud.” Brett (Sinclair) Harvey emceed the event. He did a fantastic job, with a little assistance from his lovely assistant, Joni Sinclair, who helped him question the players on the most popular answers to survey questions.

Six teams battled it out, two at a time. So much for the break from the hot weather, because the competition was heating up. First round, the age-old showdown of Golden Girls against Grumpy Old Men. These men and women even donned t-shirts befitting their

team monikers. The battle was close at one time with some stealing going on, but the ending was one for the ages. Next up, Cruisers against Flower Power. The most memorable part of this match-up was the number one answer for “Name a reason you might stay up all night.” Last, but certainly not least, was Magic against Dream Team. There may have been some illegal usage of magic wands in this round, but neither team could even dream of where all the snacks were hidden. Where did that bunny come from? There was a lot of laughter and good-natured ribbing, and the audience seemed to have as much fun as the contestants. Everyone was a winner.

Later this month is the Polynesian Luau and potluck dinner on Friday, Sept. 26 at The Lodge at Candler Hills Ballroom. Newcastle and Alendel neighborhoods have joined together for a night of fun, food, and island vibes. Step into a Polynesian paradise when the doors open at 5:30 p.m. A tiki hut beverage station and photo op areas will be available at that time as well. Entertainment, provided by Sala’s South Seas Revue, will begin promptly at 6 p.m. Hopefully, you already have your ticket, but there may be more available, even if you do not live in Newcastle or Alendel neighborhoods. If interested, please contact lindalarzg@gmail.com (Alendel) or nancylea55@gmail.com (Newcastle).

Please visit our Facebook page (OTOW Newcastle Neighbors) for more information on all of our neighborhood events.

Longleaf Ridge Friends

Sandra Ritchie, Kathleen Taylor, Debra Vitale & Judi Walsh

“The best portion of a good man’s life,” wrote the poet William Wordsworth, “is his little, nameless, acts of kindness and love.” Good deeds, no matter how small, can have a profound effect, spreading kindness and positivity.

Many of us moved to Longleaf Ridge without knowing anyone. It’s exciting to forge new friendships, rewarding when those friendships flourish, and uplifting when friends offer aid without being asked.

Recently, a group of 16 neighbors sought a way to pay it forward by helping two neighbors who need assistance. Between appointments and treatments, planning and preparing nutritious meals became a real challenge. That’s when our generous and enthusiastic neighbors stepped up and formed a meal train to provide hand-delivered, much-appreciated meals three times a week through September.

With the summer heat, we look for ways to socialize indoors. The ladies’

groups enjoy monthly lunches while the men’s groups get together for breakfast or lunch each month.

The third annual bowling party was a blast! Congratulations to our winners: Janet Myers, Lynn Paxson, Ron Thrash, and Linda Money.

A potluck gathering was held at the Arbor Conference Center on Saturday, July 12. It was arranged by Mike and Amy Barry, who provided soft drinks and raffle prizes. Over 60 residents attended, bringing their best dishes. No one went home hungry!

Over five dozen neighbors came together for a summer party at Arbor Conference Center on Sunday, Aug. 3. Neighbors enjoyed good food, fellowship, and games during the potluck gathering. Many thanks to organizers Laura Rupert, Millie Green, Anna Gargiulo, Jenny Parsons, and Bea Pressler.

Many thanks to Michelle Migdal, Mary Evans, and Bea Pressler for their contribution to this column.

As our neighborhood continues to grow, we look forward to welcoming all the many new neighbors to Longleaf Ridge. 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.



Tamara Hutto, Nancy Kiziu, and Linda Valvo with her greyhound, Backer, at the Howling in June. Photo by Tom Maves

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Republican Club

Margaret Nodine



Summer flew by! I can't believe it's September!

At our July meeting, President Charles Dodge made a presentation on several topics that we are exploring this year. He briefly touched on some points from the U.S. Constitution and the U.S. Code. He reviewed the tenets of the club, which we put into practice daily.

We discussed the fine points of recently passed bills from Congress covering Medicare and Social Security. From the U.S. Codes, we reviewed Title VIII, which deals with seeking U.S. asylum, and Title X concerning presidential authority and the armed forces. Finally, the four "ism" governments and economic systems (socialism, communism, fascism, and capitalism) were reviewed. We adjourned, recognizing that knowledge is power and that understanding what we can and cannot change is crucial, as well as knowing the difference.

At our August meeting, Marion County Sheriff Billy Woods was our guest speaker. Sheriff Woods has been in law enforcement for 36 years and has been the sheriff since 2016. His approach

makes him a welcome speaker. He addressed a variety of important topics related to law enforcement and public safety within Marion County and our community. It was the perfect opportunity to gain insight into current initiatives, community concerns, and efforts being made to keep Marion County safe and secure. More on his actual presentation in our next column.

Our support of Operation Shoebox has reaped much thanks and appreciation from the troops and the board of Operation Shoebox. A new project is underway! Donations are being requested for first aid supplies, which will be packed in special red cloth bags.

We received letters of appreciation from Chaplain Nathaniel Logan (CPT) of the 1-44 Air Defense Artillery Unit in Kuwait, the 312th Master Leaders Course, and the soldiers of the 8-1 Calvary Unit. The troops are very grateful for our support and kindness during their deployment in this dangerous region.

We are also working to support the Marion County Honor Guard in their efforts.

Come and join us on Fridays, Sept. 12; Oct. 10, and Nov. 14. We welcome new members as well as guests to every meeting. When we meet, we educate and entertain. Doors open at 4 p.m. Look for our banner at Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. God bless America.



Photo by Rocky Pizzarello

Marion County Sheriff Billy Woods spoke on many topics concerning the safety of Marion County's citizens.



Photo by Leslie Miller

Jennie Stebbins and Mark Miller are ready for the Club Fair on Thursday, Sept. 11.

Democratic Club

Mark Miller



The Democratic Club generally meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios II-IV at 6 p.m., with a few exceptions.

Our last meeting was held on Thursday, July 24. The featured speaker was Tamboura Jenkins, candidate for Ocala City Council. Although we cannot vote for the Ocala City Council as we live outside the city limits, we can still support his efforts.

Our next meeting on Thursday, Aug. 28 will feature one of our own – Deborah Daniels. Her knowledge of ongoing bills and happenings in the Florida Senate and House will be good information to keep us engaged with state politics.

Don't miss our table at the Club Fair on Thursday, Sept. 11, at Circle Square Cultural Center. We look forward to meeting current and prospective members at this event.

We continue to support the Ocala Ritz Veterans Village. The veterans residing there need our support for many items we all take for granted. Priority for donations is laundry detergent. Other items needed include pillowcases, twin-size sheets, twin comforters, a 1.7 cubic foot refrigerator, a small microwave, men's razors, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, lotions, shaving cream, and toilet paper. The following food items are needed: canned meat, canned chili, ramen noodles, macaroni and 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 are unable to attend any meetings, please let us know, and we'll do our best to deliver your donations to the Ritz. Alternatively, you can drop them off before the meeting starts. If you'd like, you can order online and have the items delivered directly to the Ritz. Please email us to get the shipping address, etc.

If you need a ride to any meeting, please call or email the club to arrange it at least three days in advance of the meeting.

For more information, contact Mark Miller at 443-848-8549 or demclubotow@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you at our meeting on Aug. 28!

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Support Needy Pets

By Heather Tahan

Save the date of Friday, Nov. 7, or Saturday, Nov. 8, for a murder mystery dinner theatre event, “Haunting of Weybourne High.” Challenge your sleuthing skills while supporting needy pets of Marion County. The Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre Club will perform the original screenplay. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. with the show starting at 5 p.m. Participate with and follow the cast at their 1958 high school reunion, where 30 years prior, murder and arson abruptly halted their high school prom.

As part of the play, discover who the murderer and arsonist was who evaded the law for 30 years. Dinner, included in the \$60 ticket price, will be catered by Pasta Faire and includes salad, two entrees, sides, rolls, dessert, coffee, tea, and lemonade. Attendees may bring their own beverage. Tickets will be sold from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 15, at The Landing. This event sells out quickly, so make sure to get there early!

If you love animals, please consider joining the SPCA of Marion County, a 501(c)(3) organization that helps Marion County pets in need. Drop by our table at the Circle Square Commons Farmers Market on Thursdays, or feel free to attend our monthly meeting every third Thursday at 1 p.m., at the Friendship Baptist Church, Fellowship Hall, 9510 SW 105th Street, Ocala, FL 34481. To learn more, please visit SPCAofMarion-

County.weebly.com, follow us on Facebook (Marion County FL SPCA), or email spca.marion.county@gmail.com. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, Sept. 18. Donations of pet food and supplies will be accepted on the porch of Evelyn Sarnes-Holiday at 8880-C SW 94th Street, Ocala, FL 34481. To avoid accidental ingestion by a pet, please do not use staples to close opened bags.

Behind tidy fences and Craigslist ads promising “purebred puppies,” a hidden world thrives, one where profit outweighs animal welfare. Backyard breeders, often operating without licenses or oversight, contribute to the growing pet overpopulation crisis while skirting health and safety standards.

Unlike responsible breeders who prioritize health screenings, socialization, and clean environments, backyard breeders may house dogs in cramped, unsanitary conditions. Puppies are often taken from their mothers too early, lacking crucial early care and social development. This leads to lifelong behavioral and health problems for unsuspecting families who adopt them.

Many backyard breeders overbreed female dogs, risking their health and reducing them to litter-producing machines. Meanwhile, overwhelmed shelters struggle to care for unwanted or abandoned pets – some of whom come from these very operations.

The public often confuses backyard



Photo by Marcia VanDaele

SPCA member fosters five happy and healthy kittens from Quality of Life.

breeders with reputable breeders, making education key. Before adopting, ask to see the parents, the living conditions, and veterinary records. Better yet, adopt from a local shelter or rescue organization.

It’s time to shine a light on these hid-

den operations, and please, adopt, don’t shop. Animals deserve better – and so do the families who love them.

Report suspected backyard breeding to your local animal control or humane society.

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

Pawtastic Halloween Parade

By Gail Morris

This past month has been a busy one for our Lions Club. We began August by hosting the Lions District 35L meeting in the Recreation Center Ballroom, which was a great success and provided clubs attending with the opportunity to “brag” about the entities they support throughout the year and share them with others in attendance.

Our services committee has been very busy purchasing school supplies for the elementary schools in Marion County, which we continue to support. Our committee members have been checking in with the community liaison staff at the elementary schools to determine the date for delivering the school supplies they suggested our club should donate this year. There was a need for a wide range of items, including backpacks, crayons, notebooks, folders, pencils, and markers. We know these supplies will help the students to begin a year of learning.

The fundraising committee members

have been meeting to discuss various ideas for the coming year, including an upcoming event in October. We hope this event will appeal to many of our residents and their canine friends.

Mark your calendar! The Lions Club is sponsoring a “Pawtastic Halloween Parade” on Tuesday, Oct. 28. Leashed dogs will sashay at the softball field, accompanied by owners, for a variety of prizes. Costumes for the dogs and doggie owners are encouraged. Look for flyers soon announcing details, awards, and event sponsors!

We are meeting at our usual time on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month and conducting business as necessary. We are always looking for new members to help us fulfill our community service goals. If you are interested, join us at the Arbor Conference Center Event Room at 5 p.m. to enjoy our company and learn more about our club.

If you would like further information, you may contact Bert Perkins, our membership chair, at 909-262-8407.



Photo by Nancy Stephens

Barred owl.

Give a Hoot

By Linda Monaco

It’s time to get out your calendar and pencil in the dates of the birding outings that have been scheduled for this fall and winter season. The Birders Group plans to visit a few new destinations and enjoy lunch at various restaurants this year. Here’s what we have planned so far.

- Thursday, Oct. 9: A boat ride on the Rainbow and Withlacoochee Rivers and taking a walk on The Blue Run in Dunnellon. Lunch at Swampy’s.
- Wednesday, Nov. 5: A visit to Sweetwater Wetlands in Gainesville. Lunch at Ford’s Garage.
- Saturday, Dec. 13: The Audubon Christmas Bird Count.
- Wednesday, Jan. 14: A visit to the

Ocala Wildlife Sanctuary.

- February 2026: Bird Creek Beach in Yankeetown or Fort Island Beach in Crystal River.
- Monday, March 23, 2026: A visit to various birding hotspots in The Villages.
- Friday, April 17: The Emerald Marsh Wildlife Drive and then a walk around the Venetian Gardens in Leesburg. Lunch at Eaton Beach & Sandbar Grill on Lake Weir.

If you would like more information about our trips, visit our table at the Club Fair on Thursday, Sept. 11, and check out the Birders’ Beat column each month through April 2026.



Photo by Gail Morris

Lions Club collected tons of school supplies to donate for the upcoming school year.



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World Traveler

Bill Shampine



I often get asked if I have been to all of the places I write about. The short answer is no. As of today, I have been to 69 of the 195 countries in the world; however, most of my columns are written about places I have never visited. I am not going to turn The World Traveler into “the travels of Bill and Margitta,” however, now and then, I will chat about some place that I have visited, such as this column.

Today, I’m going to talk about what has to be one of the most photographed lakes in the world – Lake Louise, located in the Banff National Park in Alberta, Canada. I suspect we all have seen pictures of the striking green/blue color of the lake’s water.

Have you ever wondered how these colors are possible? It all starts with the six glaciers at the head of the valley that feed meltwater into the lake. As the glaciers slowly flow downhill, they grind the rock beneath them into a very fine powder, called rock flour. Meltwater then washes this powder into the lake. The rock flour silt in the water absorbs all colors of incoming light – except for the green and blue colors, which are left for us to see.

Not only is the area famous for the lake and the color of its water, but it also has other attributes that make it a desirable place to visit. The lake is surrounded by soaring, snow-capped mountains as high as 9,000 feet. In the summer, there are many hiking trails for folks with iron legs, or other trails for bikers or horseback riders. You can rent a kayak or canoe to paddle around the lake. You can visit and walk on a nearby glacier. In the winter, you can go skiing, snowboarding, or even heli-skiing. You can

go sledding, snowshoeing, ice climbing, ice fishing, or ice skating. You have lots of options available, depending on the time of year you go there.

We were there in April. The temperature ranged from the low 20s up to a daytime high in the mid-30s. Frankly, it looks strange boarding an airplane in Orlando in April while carrying a heavy ski jacket! Travel is full of pros and cons. The lake freezes every winter and usually doesn’t thaw until June. So, while we couldn’t see the lake’s amazing color, we were able to walk across it from one end to the other.

One of the big surprises for me was the small size of the hamlet known as Lake Louise. There are only 671 residents living there year-round, although in the summertime, the villagers have to deal with an average of about 9,000 visitors per day! We traveled with a tour company. The tour we signed up for was their first tour of the spring season, so the train, hotels, or towns we visited were not yet crowded.



Bill Shampine and Margitta Claterbos are standing at one end of Lake Louise in Alberta, Canada.

Silver Rainbow Club

Jeanne Bennett-Bailey



Music trivia is back! Join us on Sunday, Sept. 21, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. We will play in teams of no more than eight. There will be first-, second-, and third-place cash prizes.

What else? Glad you asked! All proceeds will be divided between Interfaith Emergency Services’ Food-4-Kids Backpack program and the Silver Rainbow Club.

Tickets are on sale now for \$10 each. Tickets will be sold on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon in the upstairs Recreation Center lobby.

There will be a 50/50 with multiple drawings. 50/50 tickets are \$5 for five tickets.

Bring your food and beverage to enjoy during the fun. No alcohol, please.

The Silver Rainbow Club is 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 host various activities throughout the year, including coffee gatherings, luncheons, cookouts, dances, and other social gatherings.

To get the latest information about all our events, visit SilverRainbowClub.com and our Facebook page (Silver Rainbow Club). Our annual club fee is \$10 per person.

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You are not alone on this journey. We come together weekly to share our experience, strength, and hope. If you are in recovery or think you have a problem with alcohol, please join us. We meet weekly on Mondays from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. Please note there will be no meetings on Sept. 1 or 15. For more information and to be notified of changes to the schedule, please email friendsobillwocala@gmail.com.

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Tech Tips from Bridgenet Communications

Shane Bobson
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In today’s interconnected world, technology can be a powerful ally for seniors who enjoy traveling. From planning a trip to navigating a new city, the right apps and gadgets can simplify the process and provide peace of mind.

For seamless travel planning, apps like TripIt are invaluable. By simply forwarding your booking confirmations for flights, hotels, and car rentals, TripIt automatically creates a comprehensive itinerary, which is accessible even offline. This eliminates the need to shuffle through paperwork and keeps all your important details in one place.

Once you’re on the move, navigation is a breeze with Google Maps. Its voice-guided directions and public transport schedules make it a reliable companion for exploring new destinations. Seniors with vision concerns can also benefit from its adjustable font sizes, while the ability to download maps for offline use is perfect for areas with spotty internet.

Staying safe and healthy is a top priority, and several gadgets and apps are designed with this in mind. For medication management, Medisafe is a popular app that sends discreet reminders, helping travelers stay on schedule with their prescriptions. For personal safety, GPS trackers are a great option. Wearable devices like the AngelSense or the Medical Guardian Mini Guardian offer real-time location tracking, geofencing (setting virtual boundaries), and a one-tap SOS button to alert emergency contacts. These devices are beneficial for those who may need extra assistance or have medical conditions.

Beyond safety and navigation, other gadgets can enhance the travel experience. A portable power bank is a must-have to keep all your devices charged throughout the day. For international travel, a universal travel adapter is essential to ensure your chargers work in any country. And for those long flights, a quality pair of noise-canceling headphones can make a world of difference, allowing you to relax and enjoy the journey without a lot of background noise.

By embracing these user-friendly apps and gadgets, senior travelers can confidently and independently explore the world, making their trips easier, safer, and more enjoyable.

Technology Club

Chris Kilbride



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What’s Cookin’?

Elaine Morrison

I came across this recipe in a magazine while waiting at the nail salon. It caught my attention because it uses a spice that I recently discovered, sumac, and its cooking method is unusual.

Lemon Chicken

1 large onion, thinly sliced
2 lemons, thinly sliced
6 to 8 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
3 pounds chicken parts, skin on
Salt and pepper
1 teaspoon sumac
Olive oil

Preheat oven to 550 degrees.
Layer the onion, lemons, and garlic in a roasting pan. Salt and pepper the chicken liberally on both sides. Sprinkle sumac over top and dribble with olive oil.

Roast in the very hot oven for 15 to 20 minutes, until the skin is nicely browned. Turn the temperature down to 400 degrees and continue to roast for an additional 15 minutes, or until the chicken is thoroughly cooked.

I was very pleased with the result. I hope you will be too.

GOING OUT OF TOWN?

View or download a PDF
of the World News at
ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala.

Genealogical Society

Sid Levine

Hobbies can be costly. Those of us who golf know that besides the initial cost of clubs and balls, you have greens fees, shoes, and clothing, and the round of drinks at the 19th hole. I don’t golf, but I am an avid cyclist, and I spent \$5,000 on a bicycle a few years ago. It sounds like a lot of money, but I can justify it with the number of miles I ride each year.

Genealogy can be expensive as well. Take into account all of the subscriptions you pay to genealogy websites, family tree software, and fees to get copies of documents from different municipalities, and you will feel the pinch in your pocketbook. But everybody loves a bargain.

We at the Genealogy Society can show you how to start your family history research at a relatively low cost. This way, you can do some research, maybe have some successes, and begin to build a tree before you open your wallet. Once the genealogy bug has bitten you, you can slowly subscribe to services that will help bring your family history to life.

Another great opportunity is to visit our table at the Club Fair on Thursday, Sept. 11, at Circle Square Cultural Center. If you join the club at that time, you will get a membership through 2026. Dues are \$20 per person or \$35 per couple. We will also have a couple of laptops available, so someone can show you how to use the internet to learn more about that great-grandfather you never met. We hope to see you there.

For more information about the club, send an email to otowgens@gmail.com.

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This presentation aims to share information about a population of men who engaged in military service for the United States with aviation duties. This book addresses the era during which there was considerable racial turmoil in America. So, these were stalwart men who entered a career field dominated by white males who did not readily embrace them. More specifically, the book is about black helicopter pilots who experienced combat duty in Vietnam (among the first were Tuskegee Airmen), some making the ultimate sacrifice, and who certainly have a place in U.S. history. It is also a story of the uncommon fortitude, perseverance, and triumph of black men who were often compelled to fight multiple battles against multiple enemies simultaneously (the enemy overseas and racial discrimination at home).

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Active
Singles Club

Jan Lindell



August continued to be another hot month, but the Active Singles stayed busy with our events and activities, including our weekly and monthly games, bowling, new restaurants, and our hikers enjoyed the beautiful landscape and wildlife even through the heat.

September activities are open for sign-up on the calendar. Be sure to sign up early so you don't get left behind. This month, the dining group's restaurants will be breakfast at The Breakfast Station, lunch at Ayutthaya Thai, and dinner at Mezcal Mexican.

Don't forget our walks at Sholom Park and hikes in beautiful grounds for good exercise with friends. Bowling is so popular, consider joining us on Sunday for lots of fun!

Our Sunday Cody's group enjoys having lunch and conversation together. Golf scramble is returning on Monday,

Sept. 22, with limited availability, so sign up now. Weekdays are full of card and group games.

Special September events include a pool party, with swimming optional. Don't forget to pick up your boxed lunch when you sign up. The other event is our anniversary picnic. Our game committee is planning some fun times, and we have the best grillers returning to cook your hamburgers and hot dogs perfectly! Buffet items will be on the calendar for members to bring. Don't miss this event.

Be sure to check out the calendar for the dates of the above events and activities and sign up today!

Don't forget to attend our membership meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 17. Get to socialize with other members following the meeting. If you are interested in learning more about us, come visit us at this meeting. Visit otowactivesingles.com to see photos that prove we have a lot of fun, and discover how easy it is to join in on the fun. Check us out - we love seeing you meet new friends and join the fun!



Photo by Barbara Benyaker

Active Singles Club members playing Mexican train.

SWANS

Lois Nix



September is the month when many clubs start their 2025-2026 season. The SWANS (Single Women's Networking System) meet throughout the year. We have been a non-formal club for close to 20 years.

We do not have formal monthly meetings, nor do we have dues. All women residents are welcome to join us; our social activities take place within our homes or in the outside world. We hold two membership meetings a year, one in March and one in September.

Saturday, Sept. 6, will be our next membership meeting in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II at 10 a.m. Join us and meet a group of women who are very friendly, generous, and supportive. The following day, we will

be going on one of our mini vacations to Daytona Beach Shores - the beach is our happy place!

On Thursday, Sept. 11, visit our table at the Club Fair at Circle Square Cultural Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet members who will share their journey with SWANS.

In 2006, we created this club for single women. We had about 20 women at that time who became members. We started happy hour on Fridays at The Pub, went out to eat once a month, and then created dinner-in and appetizer-in groups. We now have over 150 active SWANS and encourage the formation of friendships. Small groups travel together on cruises and to the theater, symphony, movies, and shopping. We have been fortunate to have SWANS who volunteer to set up many of our social activities. I have been a member since 2006. SWANS are my family and friends.

Being single doesn't mean you have to be lonely. "SWANS are never alone" has been our motto for years. We welcome new SWANS at any time.

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Women of
the World

Lois Rowland



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

Our monthly meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month at noon in the Recreation Center Ballroom. The club does not meet during the summer months, but the board members have been meeting to plan speakers and events for the upcoming year. The board members include Michele Croud, Dolores Burke, Marcia Meloni, Anita Martinetto, Lois Rowland, Patricia Pratt, Laura Rubert, Jan Spielvogel, and Ellie Richards.

Our first meeting will be on Thursday, Sept. 18, with a speaker from Habitat for Humanity. The charity for this meeting will be RAMAL (Reach Aim Motivate and Lead), which provides educational and social services for non-traditional students who are returning to higher education. They are requesting school supplies. We hope to see you there.

A bunco fundraising event is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 17, from 3 to 6 p.m. The 23rd annual Fashion Show will be held on March 18, 2026. We hope to see everyone at these events.

Women of the World will have a booth at the Club Fair on Thursday, Sept. 11, at Circle Square Cultural Center. Women will be able to register for the 2025-2026 season by paying the \$15 dues with cash or check. Tickets for the bunco fundraiser will also be on sale for \$30 (cash or check).

The club is open to all women residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. If you are interested in joining us, please call Michele Croud, club president, at 586-872-1966.

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Eco Gardeners

Phil Karcheski



Happy September, readers! I’m writing this column in Northern Wisconsin. We are living in a camper on the Menominee River. In mid-June, I fled Florida’s heat for the cool north. Unfortunately, we have had limited relief from the heat since Northern Wisconsin is also experiencing unusually high temperatures. Not as bad as Florida, but still unusual for this part of the Midwest.

Hopefully, September will bring some

relief, and the Eco Gardeners will be able to start some cool-weather plants. Since I didn’t have much to share about the Eco Garden or Florida, I will share a lesson I’ve learned this past season.

I have made many attempts to grow delicata squash and cucumbers without them being infected by mildew, viruses, blight, or insect pests. I have applied various market products, including milk and hydrogen peroxide, to the leaves, and systemics to the soil, with minimal success.

I finally achieved success by starting my battle at the beginning, when I first planted the seed. I started by covering the ground with fabric that allows water to penetrate, reducing weeds and keep-

ing soil-borne diseases from splashing up on the leaves. Once the plant reaches several inches, depending on what you’re growing, thinning out the bottom leaves allows air to circulate, reducing the chances of infection.

The next step was attaching the plant to a vertical trellis, allowing more air circulation and keeping the fruit off the ground, while making room for other plants.

The next thing to tackle was preventing pests from attacking my squash. Enclosing the fruit in fine mesh bags as soon as it starts to ripen prevents the moth that lays eggs on the fruit, which hatches into the larval state, from becoming pickle worms. They infect the

plants in the cucurbits family, including squash, cucumbers, gourds, melons, pumpkins, and more. When the egg hatches, the larva, pickle worm bores into the fruit, leaving a ballpoint tip-sized hole and devouring the inside, leaving a large cavity within the fruit.

Utilizing these techniques, I have gone from previous attempts that produced two or three delicata squash to 19 this last season. The mesh bags sold online are very inexpensive.

Until I return early September, I hope the weather will turn for the better, the sun shines on your garden, and the rains come when needed.

To learn more about the Eco Gardeners Club, visit eco-gardeners.org.

Latinos Club

Silvia C. Garcia



¡Hola, Amigos! We’re thrilled about our club’s rapid growth – now with over 150 members! Remember, you don’t have to be Latino to join. A big, warm welcome to our 150th member, Maryann Fada – we look forward to getting to know you!

Important - get your tickets before

they sell out for our Hispanic Heritage Celebration on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Enjoy the vibrant sounds of DJ Joe Ortiz and a flavorful dinner catered by Rafy’s Cuisine. We encourage everyone to wear cultural attire and dancing shoes! Add to the fun with maracas, tambourines, castanets, or small drums – come ready to party!

Congratulations to the final winners of our Biggest Loser competition:

1: Dalila Borrego; 2: Silvia C. Garcia; 3: Sherry Williams.

This friendly competition – a collabo-

ration between our club and the Tuesday morning On Top of Weight Loss Group was such a hit that we’re launching a new challenge! Stay tuned!

What a great day we had at Lakeridge Winery & Vineyards! From grape stomping and winery tours to wine tasting, live music, and tempting treats – it felt like we’d escaped on a vacation. The highlight? Our very own Micky Crawford didn’t just win the grape stomping competition once ... she crushed it twice (pun intended)!

Meet Dora and Reynaldo Najarro, proud members of our founding board

of directors. Dora was born in Mexico, and Reynaldo in El Salvador. Married for 52 happy years, they have called our community home since 2021. They fondly remember being welcomed by wonderful Newcastle neighbors before they’d even finished unpacking! The Najarros love spending time together – whether it’s socializing, dancing, playing games, or volunteering to make our community an even better place.

Meet one of our social committee members and grape stomping queen, Micky Crawford, and her husband, George. Both born in the U.S., Micky and George married in 1991. George’s 20-year military career took them to several states and countries, including Hawaii, Illinois, and Florida, where they built their home in 1997. Micky stayed home with the children while George completed his tours. After retiring from the military, he served 20 years as a state trooper. They now enjoy visiting family, walking, reading, watching movies, and traveling.

Save the dates! Upcoming events include Hispanic Heritage Celebration on Saturday, Sept. 13; Silver Springs State Park glass bottom boat tour and brunch on Thursday, Oct. 16; and Honoring Our Troops Ceremony at the Veterans Park Memorial on Saturday, Nov. 1. We have game night every Tuesday; Mi Casa Su Casa at various members’ homes; Café con Leche; monthly dinners for club members; plus, more.

Be sure to visit our Facebook page (OTOW Latinos Club Ocala). For more information, call Silvia C. Garcia at 561-801-8188; Ivan Vazquez at 727-403-9629; or Jesus Alvarez at 954-549-7953.



Grape stomping at Lakeridge Winery & Vineyards.

Photo by Silvia C. Garcia



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Global Diversity
Asian Social Club

Rosalina Norita



Borneo, if we recall the name, sparks our childhood imagination, transporting everyone from post-war Britain’s bleakness to a vibrant realm of pirates and princesses, tattooed headhunters, and a primitive, steamy land of untamed rapids, impenetrable jungles, and enchanting forests, the last haven of numerous unusual tribes and creatures inhabiting a frontier of myth.

In 1989, Borneo was unmapped mainly by tourism, with few hotels and no smartphones. Outside Southeast Asia, Kalimantan, the Indonesian portion of the island, was virtually unknown, with scholars tracing its name to the Malay term for “River of Diamonds.” Dayak is the indigenous tribe that originated from the island of Borneo and has settled in a dispersed manner across three countries: Brunei Darussalam, East Malaysia, and Indonesia. The island of Borneo in Indonesia encompasses an area of 748.168 km² and is divided into five provinces: West Borneo, East Borneo, Central Borneo, North Borneo, and South Borneo. Each Dayak tribe has inhabited each province. The dance is a tradition of the Dayak Kenyah tribe in East Kalimantan province that utilizes gongs as a medium in dancing. The gong dance is often referred to as the Kancet Ledo by the Dayak people, who cherish it.

The movement in this gong dance depicts the softness of a girl, visible from the movement of her body and her gentle hands. Movement in this dance is more focused on hand movement when waving, body movement, and move-

ment of the foot when stepping and resting on the gong. All these movements are played with great tenderness. This dance may look simple, but it requires flexibility and balance.

In this vibrant spectacle, the dancers proudly don traditional Dayak Kenyah regalia, featuring intricately beaded shirts and distinctive Dayak-style taah, symbolizing the rich cultural legacy of Dayak women. This stunning ensemble, adorned with colorful beads, is a timeless representation of Dayak tradition. The dancers elegantly drape the fabric around their waists, while their heads are adorned with beautifully crafted lavung hats, made from beads and decorated with matching patterns. Completing their ensemble are exquisite bead necklaces, carefully crafted from teeth or tiger fangs, showcasing the community’s exceptional artistry. During the dance, performers incorporate a series of hornbill tail feathers as a prop, inserting them into their hands. Although similar to the horn dance, this performance features softer and simpler movements. Traditional musical instruments, such as the sapeq or kecapi, accompany this dance. The accompaniment’s rhythm is slow, mirroring the dancers’ elegant movements.

The gong dance is a resplendent exhibition of Dayak Kenyah’s vibrant cultural legacy, consistently featured at traditional events, guest receptions, and cultural festivals, inspiring audiences and fostering a deeper appreciation for the region’s diverse traditions, while energizing efforts to preserve and celebrate its rich cultural heritage. We invite you to join our Indonesian gong dance class, every Thursday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Studio D. To secure your spot, please register at the Club Fair (table 35) on Thursday, Sept. 11, at Circle Square Cultural Center.



Photo by Rosalina Norita

Rosalina Norita, Ying Bailey, and Dahlia Echevarria, with a lavish table display, featuring a beaded, sequined mannequin and a gong base supporting the performer.

Scandinavian
American Club

David Wesenberg



The Scandinavian American Club meets every fourth Tuesday of the month from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Event Room from September through May. Our first fall meeting is on Tuesday, Sept. 23.

Since the Scandinavian American Club is essentially on sabbatical over the summer, I thought we could explore Scandinavians in this country.

I recently read an article on the Living a Nordic Life website entitled “Six U.S. Cities Where Scandinavian Culture Thrives.” The primary city mentioned is my home city, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, with the American Swedish Institute, and a population that identifies as Scandinavian at 43%.

Second is Decorah, Iowa, with the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum holding the most extensive collection of Norwegian-American artifacts in the United States, a tribute to the Norwegian settlers who settled there.

Third is St. Louis, Missouri, with the Swedish Council of St. Louis and Scandinavian Lutheran churches.

Fourth is Seattle, Washington, especially the National Nordic Museum in Ballard, Washington, with exhibits and lectures on Scandinavian artifacts and history.

Fifth is Chicago, Illinois, in the Anderson neighborhood, founded by Swedish settlers in the 1800s. There, the Swedish-American Museum features exhibits, art, stories, and lessons on Swedish crafts and language.

Finally, sixth is Minot, North Dakota, which hosts America’s largest Scandinavian Festival and features its Scandinavian Heritage Park with replicas of typical buildings in a Nordic town.

Americans with Scandinavian ancestry have justifiable pride in their heritage in America as successful, hard-working citizens.

What about you? Do you have Scandinavian heritage? Share memories of your Scandinavian past and culture. Many of our members have visited the Scandinavian countries from which they or their ancestors have migrated and returned with pictures and exhibits. Maybe you have a story to tell or a souvenir to share?

Whether you have a Scandinavian background or not, if you feel Scandinavian, join us for the fun. For more information, email Arlene Chilcott at chilcotlarlene21@gmail.com.

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Photo by Deb Thompson

Guest speakers Kat and Tamara from the Monarch Center for Hope & Healing with club member Gil.



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Recreation Center

Joy in the Mourning

Deb Thompson



Sometimes it is hard to believe how fast time passes. This month is the second anniversary of the establishment of Joy in the Mourning. During this time, a plethora of information is available to aid members in understanding the phases of grief and learning how to advance through them. Besides being a support group for one another, there is the individual work of implementing advice from counselors that becomes the catalyst for healing.

Several individuals recall where they were at the beginning of their journey to the present. Their testimonies of change are positive because they have been productive in their pursuit of overcoming trauma. This progress does not come naturally; it is challenging, hard, and requires steadfastness.

Within a support group that shares necessary encouragement, many find help. Such is the case with Gil, who at-

tends Joy in the Mourning and has spent time at the Monarch Center in Ocala, where hope and healing are offered. Gil says, "Through hospice reunions at the Monarch Center and the Joy in the Mourning, I have become more aware that this is a stage of life, and peace will come."

Kat and Tamara are incredible ladies from the Monarch Center for Hope & Healing. They spoke to the group in July and listened to each of our stories individually while sprinkling helpful advice along the way. We were tremendously thankful for their time and expertise.


The Monarch Center is a place for people of all ages to process their loss. Please visit them or join us on any Friday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room. For further information, call Deb at 352-445-4860 or Mimi at 954-254-9187.

As promised, the terrible trivia with a twist game was a total flop! It will go down in history as a horrible idea! The fabulous ladies, all decked out in their festive attire for the Christmas in July celebration, looked awesome.

Until next time, please know you are not alone. You are loved with an everlasting love as written in Jeremiah 31:3.

Ohio Buckeyes Social Club

Amy Ingram



The Ohio Buckeyes Social Club hosted the first game watch party of the season on Saturday, Aug. 30, at Gators Dock-side Ocala. We had a great turnout, and everyone enjoyed a fun afternoon of friendship and football. During football season, we host weekly game watch parties at various locations. On Saturday, Sept. 6, the game watch party will be held in the Recreation Center Derby Room. Kickoff is 3:30 p.m., so do not forget to bring your \$1 for the betting board.

On Wednesday, Sept. 17, join us for a fall chili cook-off and ice cream social. The event will be held at The Lodge at

Candler Hills Ballroom from 5 to 9 p.m. Members will be showcasing their chili talents, with the winner taking home a prize. To round out the evening, enjoy ice cream with all the fixings provided by the club.

Our social committee is hard at work preparing for our annual Halloween and Christmas parties to be held on Friday, Oct. 31, and Saturday, Dec. 13, respectively. Both events will be held at the Candler Hills Community Center. Mark your calendar now. You do not want to miss out on all the fun.

The current board's term limit is up in January, and we are looking for members to step up and volunteer for board and social committee positions. Please reach out to a board member if you have an interest in serving. In addition, we are always looking for new members. If you would like to join the Ohio Buckeyes Social Club, email us at buckeyefans34481@gmail.com.

Membership is open to residents with any ties to the state of Ohio. Annual dues are \$20 per person. Also, look for us on Facebook (Residents of On Top of the World Buckeye Social Club).

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September 2 OTOW FAVORITES Live music with a twist 7 - 10 PM	September 3 BOOTS & BEATS Live music with a twist 7 - 10 PM	September 4 TUNES 7 - 10 PM	September 5 PUB UP 6 PM PULL UP 6 PM Cubside Cuisine 6 PM	September 6 BILLY BUCHANAN & HIS ROCK 'N' SOUL SEVEN 7 - 10 PM
September 9 OTOW FAVORITES Live music with a twist 7 - 10 PM	September 10 BOOTS & BEATS Live music with a twist 7 - 10 PM	September 11 GROOVE BAWDS 7 - 10 PM	September 12 Mardi House 6 PM Voodoo Cypres 7 - 10 PM	September 13 FAT TINI 6 PM GROOVE SLAYERS 7 - 10 PM
September 16 OTOW FAVORITES Live music with a twist 7 - 10 PM	September 17 BOOTS & BEATS Live music with a twist 7 - 10 PM	September 18 STEEL RICKIN' BAND 7 - 10 PM	September 19 Verdian Rollin' Bistro 6 PM EARTH BEAT 7 - 10 PM	September 20 Steak Shack Bistro 6 PM TACHT-A-BOCK 7 - 10 PM
September 23 OTOW FAVORITES Live music with a twist 7 - 10 PM	September 24 BOOTS & BEATS Live music with a twist 7 - 10 PM	September 25 THE JOHN BOYS 7 - 10 PM	September 26 Ex-Squeeze-It Lemonade 7 - 10 PM THE EDGE OF ROCK 7 - 10 PM	September 27 FALLTOBERFEST 6 PM THE AUSTIN & THE FIELD 7 - 10 PM
September 30 OTOW FAVORITES Live music with a twist 7 - 10 PM				

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Michigan Club

Nancy Meininger



As summer ends and the snowbirds head back, the Michigan Club gets ready for its 2025 fall season opener. Sunday, Oct. 5, at 5 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-III is our Oktoberfest! This year, it is a Bavarian potluck feast brought in by you! Bring your favorite German dish, such as sauerbraten, schnitzel, pretzels, pickles, bratwurst, red cabbage, or German meatballs, and of course, beverage – a nice cold beer or two is welcome. We will have a round of German trivia, a 50/50, and lively Bavarian music

while we dine. Summers spent in Michigan are filled with crisp mornings, boating, campfires, and laid-back blues music. These are days to restore your soul, strengthen your determination, and remember your past. Memories easily made this summer include a sail across 10-mile-wide by 32-mile-long Grand Traverse Bay on a multi-masted schooner whose history reaches back centuries. Ojibway tribes were among the first residents of this area, crossing the crystal clear glacier-made waterway with their wooden canoes. Today, we feel their presence as we silently cut through the waves with just the wind power to move us along. The densely forested dunes that line the Grand Traverse Bay brought the lumber giants here, who initiated the development of this region on Lake Michigan. Soon after, farmers discovered the climate on Old Mission Peninsula was perfect for raising fruit, apples, and

cherries, which made the area famous with the annual Cherry Fest. Traverse City is the number one source of cherries for the state of Michigan. There is much to discover about the Mitten State, with bike trails criss-crossing the area from coast to coast. There are plenty of scenic places for hikers and mountain climbers, too. Not to mention over 200 shipwrecks for scuba explorers dating back to the 1800s. For birders, the area provides a natural haven for bald eagles, ospreys, herons, and many other migratory birds. For fishermen, the bay is home to native species of lake trout, whitefish, and perch. Michigan’s natural, untouched beauty is there for everyone to explore. It takes you back to the way things used to be. So much to discover. So much more to share! For information about the Michigan Club, call or text Nancy Meininger at 352-554-0757.



Soaring mast of the Tall Ship Manitou in Grand Traverse Bay. Photo by Nancy Meininger



Jewish Club members Ina Kline and Robert Abramowski are enjoying the club's annual pizza, pool, and salad party in July. Photo by Mark Frankel

The Jewish Club

Bruce Kanner



Pizza is called a comfort food for a reason: it makes people comfortable. And comfort is what about 50 Jewish Club members shared at the annual pizza, pool, and salad party held on Monday, July 28, at the Recreation Center pool pavilion. There was plenty of pizza from Piesanos as well as salad, dressings, and cookies (another comfort food) for dessert. Huge kudos to Second Vice President Lois Trepper, Hospitality Co-Chair Sue Miller, and the entire committee for an-

other flawless offering. With summer almost in the rear-view mirror, the club is getting ready for a new term of programs and activities. Sunday, Sept. 21, is the annual welcome back brunch for members with bagels, lox, and all the trimmings. You 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 holds meetings in both The Lodge at Candler Hills and the Arbor Conference Center. For more information about the Jewish Club or membership inquiries, please contact Audrey Wolotsky at audw27@gmail.com.

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Travel Toppers

Mary Lamp



Travel Toppers Tours and its volunteers practice safety procedures for residents participating in our tours. All residents must follow the directions of the volunteers when entering and exiting the parking lot located off SW 81st Loop. Golf carts and cars follow the same rules. Anyone who fails to follow safety procedures will be denied a reservation for future trips conducted by Travel Toppers Tours.

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 waitlist. As this is a resident club, the board would like to give our residents priority. If there is availability, guests from the waitlist will be asked if they are still interested in attending the trip.

The Suncoast Dinner Theater production of “Grease” is sold out. If you wish to be on the wait list, call Diane Knox at 352-390-2386. The other 2025 productions that we have, their performance date and the date when the coordinator will begin taking your reservation, the coordinator and phone number are: “Million Dollar Quartet,” Nov. 15, Sept. 8, Lisa Adams, 407-325-9863; and “Sunkicks Home for Christmas,” Dec. 13, Oct. 6, Sharon Stetson, 207-838-3776. The tickets are \$100 per person and include the performance, dinner and dessert, transportation, and tips for the driver and servers. Like all our trips, payment must be made by check only and is nonrefundable unless there is a wait list.

Reservations are still being taken for the Cirque du Soleil production “Drawn Life” on Sunday, Sept. 21, at 4 p.m. at Disney Springs. Disney Animation Art is brought to life in a way that has never been possible before, with legendary Disney music and Cirque du Soleil’s inventive acrobatic performances. To reserve, call Allan Rickards on 352-216-0528 or 352-390-3075. The price is \$112 per person, and if a guest is invited, the guest will not have to go on our wait list. The price includes the show, transportation, and driver tip. Lunch is on your own. Please note that walking and stairs are required at the theater.

We are also still taking reservations for our Valentine’s Day cruise from Feb. 14 to 21, 2026, aboard Celebrity’s Apex. If interested, call Janet Wiles at 804-243-4008.

We are pleased to offer a 16-day trip, “Highlights of Route 66,” from Sept. 18 to Oct. 4, 2026. This tour departs from Chicago and then travels through eight states, concluding in Los Angeles. The price is \$4,719 per person and includes escorted tours, accommodations, transportation, prepaid gratuities, travel insurance, and transportation to and from Ocala. This price does not include airfare. The deposit is \$649 per person, with the final payment due on June 30, 2026. For more information, contact Linda Hein at 352-861-9880.

Traveltopperstours.com offers more details and up-to-date information about our trips. Trips sponsored by Travel Toppers Tours are open only to residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. Copies of Gateway of Services passes must be submitted with the resident’s check to prove the resident is current. Any non-resident who participates must be a guest of a resident club member.

Rhode Island Group

Judy Parisi



So, when does old become new? Harnessing the wind is not new – wind has been used in facilitating navigation and in powering windmills for thousands of years. The Egyptians used wind to move boats along the Nile River in 5,000 BC. In the 11th century, wind pumps and windmills were used in the Middle East for procuring water and processing food. The technology traveled to Europe, and immigrants who settled here brought with them the knowledge of how to use the power of the wind to grind grains, move water, and serve industrial and agricultural needs.

Homesteaders and ranchers used wind pumps as they settled in the West. Many ranches still use wind pumps to supply water for livestock, especially in remote and rural areas.

Windmills evolved into wind turbines to generate electricity. The first windmill for generating electricity in the United States is said to date back to 1888, when American industrialist and inventor Charles Brush built an 80,000-pound generator to power his mansion in Cleveland. He sold his company in 1889 to Thomson-Houston Electric, which later merged with Edison General Electric, which subsequently became General Electric.

The popularity of wind turbines was spurred in the 1970s as an alternative energy source. Technological improvements have included efficient blade design, advances in battery storage systems, and digital monitoring. Some newer designs are bladeless, utilizing oscillation instead of rotation to generate energy. As wind flows around the cylindrical structure, there are swirls of air or vortices that cause the turbine to oscillate.

We can admire the ingenuity of the early users of windmills, particularly the Jamestown Windmill, a three-story octagonal structure built in 1787 and operated through 1896. Located in Jamestown, Rhode Island, it is a smock mill, with a roof or bonnet that rotates to bring the sails into the wind. As the blades turn, the rotational motion transfers to a system of gears that powers the



Jamestown Windmill.

milling stones. The revolving millstones grind grain or dried kernels of corn into flour or cornmeal. The windmill turns kinetic energy into mechanical energy.

You can see the Jamestown Windmill from North Road and stop to tour the structure. If you climb up to the bonnet, you can view the gears that turn the millstones. The windmill located on rolling pastureland is currently maintained by the Jamestown Historical Association.

After a tour of the windmill, treat yourself to a drive out to Beavertail,

where you can visit a lighthouse and enjoy time by the water with spectacular views and the calming sound of the wave action against the cliffs.

Our Rhode Island Group meets periodically to share stories and remembrances. If you have not attended prior lunches and would like to join us, please email judith.parisi@gmail.com so we can ensure you are on our email list. We welcome all who have lived, worked, studied, or served in Rhode Island and their family members.

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Freethinkers

Kathy Bell



“There is always something to occupy the inquiring mind.” – Margaret Atwood, Canadian author, poet, environmentalist, agnostic

The inquiring mind is an integral part of being a freethinker and part of what makes our club not only interesting but also challenging for our participants. As freethinkers, we encourage diverse opinions and civil discourse about a wide range of topics, not to change others’ minds but to learn new information that might change our own.

On Sunday, Aug. 3, Dr. Rod Broker, a retired academic and former Lutheran pastor, presented “God Talk: Thoughts and Theories on the Origin of Religion.” After 40 years of religious ministry, Rod’s critical thinking brought him to the path of humanism as a non-theist. He discussed the development of belief in supernatural gods who need to be appeased to secure favorable outcomes in, among other things, weather, prosperity, and war. Rod fielded questions for 30 minutes after his talk.

And on Sunday, Aug. 17, the Freethinkers open forum, always a favorite, returned; six groups formed to discuss specific topics under the headings of society, government, psychology, AI/sci-fi, health care, and politics. Thanks to our group facilitators for keeping us on target.

Lastly, on Monday, Aug. 25, our book club took up the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel “James” by Percival Everett, the reimaging of “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn,” as told in the voice of the enslaved Jim. For those who haven’t read it, this is a book not to be missed!

Coming up this month, our first presentation on Sunday, Sept. 7, will feature one of our freethinkers, Brenda Foster, who will discuss “Precepts of Buddhism - A Personal Journey.” Brenda will share her journey into Buddhist philosophy as a guideline for living. From a foundation in Catholicism and prayer to a deep exploration into Buddhism and meditation, Brenda will illuminate how these seemingly distinct paths converged in her life and led her to freethinking. She will outline some of the parallel messages in the teachings of the historical Jesus and the message of Buddha, and offer a fresh perspective on arriving at personal truth. A question and answer period will follow.

Did you know we are in a climate Ice Age? It seems counterintuitive, as we are experiencing some of the hottest temperatures ever recorded. On Sunday, Sept. 21, we will watch a video lecture given by Daniel Britt – “Orbits and Ice Ages: The History of Climate.” Dr. Britt is the Pegasus professor of astronomy and planetary sciences at the Department of Physics at the University of Central Florida. As always, a discussion will follow.

Freethinkers Club is designed to provide a safe and supportive place for discussion about controversial and important topics for non-theists on the freethinking continuum from religious skeptics to avowed atheists. We use science and reason in decision-making as opposed to faith and belief. If our club is a good fit for you, please join us for one of our meetings in the Hobby Building Event Room from 1 to 3 p.m. on the dates listed. Our freethought community will welcome you.

For more information, visit FreethinkersFlorida.com or email us at FreethinkersFlorida@gmail.com.



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Angels Above
Baby Gowns

Janet O'Neil



Please allow me to introduce you to a special group of volunteers who make it their mission to construct and assemble layette packages and keepsakes for infants and baby clothing for families in need. We are a self-funded organization and rely on donations from others to create these special packages.

A typical baby package includes lovingly made baby gowns from donated wedding dresses or any pale color formal attire. Included are handmade blankets, baby booties, and matching bonnets, as well as pearl bracelets frequently adorned with charms and bracelet beads used in crafting. The talented ladies in the organization disassemble the gowns and use the silk, lace, and satin-covered buttons to create angel ornaments for the family.

Another handmade project is the greeting cards sent to the family along with the gifts. The cards are hand-drawn or created by decoupage napkins, and each is signed by a member of the organization prior to delivery to be included with the individual package.

We have made deliveries to hospitals in our immediate area, including AdventHealth Ocala and Orlando, HCA North, and the University of Florida Shands Baby and Children’s Hospital in Gainesville. Other deliveries have been made to several hospitals in Orlando, Tampa, and St. Petersburg.

We were blessed to be nominated by ACCOLADE Celebrations, Inc., a charitable organization, as the Marion County charity for June 2025. We thank their organization for the June Ovations award. The dedication of our ladies has significantly improved the well-being of those in need and has had a profound impact on our local communities.

You may drop off monetary donations or wedding gowns, bridesmaid dresses, or evening gowns, and donate your time to this group at the Hobby Building Art Studio A every Friday from 1 to 4 p.m.

No special skills are required. Bring your compassion, hands, and heart! You will be trained on-site for the items provided, and the benefits are great! Volunteering is known to reduce stress and increase socialization. We have a sense



Photo by Janet O'Neil

Angels Above Baby Gowns received the ACCOLADE Celebrations award in June.

of community, have fun, and stay connected. Our group provides an outlet for creativity.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact one of our members at AABGOcala@gmail.com.

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Balls in the Air

By Elaine Morrison
World News Writer

Up, up, and away goes my beautiful beach ball. I know, I know, they are not the correct lyrics in that familiar song. However, they are exactly the correct words that describe the new, fun activity that recently debuted at The Lodge at Candler Hills.

Chair volleyball uses a beach ball! Kestrel resident Pam Monk heard about this unique game when her good friend, who lives in a retirement community on the other side of the state, spoke highly about it. “She told me what a great time she was having – so much laughter, such

movement. I visited her and played myself, and I was convinced that this could be something that our community should know about.” Pam brought the idea to the attention of Jerra Chitwood, who immediately embraced the concept. She, in turn, took the matter to Fitness Director Leslee Stephens, who was familiar with the activity because her parents played it in their retirement community. “My mother is in her 50s and my dad is on oxygen,” Leslee said, «and they both can

participate and enjoy chair volleyball.” Equipment was purchased, and a trial run by the staff guaranteed the game would be offered. A flyer was posted announcing the Aug. 4 rollout at The Lodge at Candler Hills. A team usually consists of four to six players. The same number of chairs is staggered on each side of a net, rope, or streamer. The serve is underhand, over the net. Each team gets up to three touches to return the ball. The ball must go over the net and not touch the floor. Any part of the body above the waist may be used to hit the ball.

Now comes the hard part, which brings with it a good amount of hilarity. Players may never stand up or scoot off their chairs. At the inaugural game, a discussion about how best to sit on the chair where you might not be tempted to rise proved to be useless.

Reaching over the net and holding or catching the ball are also not allowed, and there are no double-taps. Only hits are permitted – a point scores on every serve. The first team scoring 15 points, with a two-point spread, is the winner. Only the serving team can score. Sides switch halfway through when playing multiple rounds.

The call to action for the initial game was answered by a team of four Sanctuary residents: Debbie Gilchrest, Jane Williams, Jane Ellis, and Karen Luther. They came prepared for battle, despite not knowing the “fight.” In competition were Pam Monk and Gail Schultz, from Kestrel and Candler Hills, respectively, and Susan McSorley from Ashford and Pat Morrison from Newcastle.

The Sanctuary team’s loss to the less united team has made them determined to return for a rematch.

Chair volleyball at The Lodge at Candler Hills is held on Mondays, from 1 to 3 p.m. Treat yourself to a few hours of laughter and exercise, and you, too, may be carried up, up and away.



Photo by Leslee Stephens

Chair volleyball takes place at The Lodge at Candler Hills on Mondays, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Veterans Classic Softball Tournament

By Dave DeAngelis
World News Writer

All eyes were on Dave Rearick. All eyes – players, fans, and perhaps the ducks that flew into the Arbor Fitness Center pool a few weeks ago. There Dave was, at home plate, a white-knuckled grip on the bat, engaged in a staring match with the pitcher. A tied game. Two outs. Full count. Bottom of the final inning with a runner on second base.

A few scenarios here. Dave gets walked, and the next batter is faced with wetting his pants. Dave strikes out, and the game is history. If Dave gets a strategically placed hit, the runner on second (unless he’s a hippo) scores the winning run.

The pitch looked good, with a perfect arc right where Dave wanted it. The fans are going nuts, and it was a packed house. Like in slow motion, Dave took a nice, even cut at the ball and felt the contact. When he opened his eyes, the ball was slicing into right field and heading away from the fielder toward the first base foul line. A perfectly placed shot it was, the one that is a memory etcher.

And guess what? The runner on second was no hippo. The runner was Robby Iraci, who happened to be the fastest and most agile player on the team. He easily crossed the plate with the winning run to end the game in victory. Major League Baseball? Nope, this was last year’s Veterans Classic Softball Tournament game between Air Force and Warriors, with Air Force winning it all. Stop the madness!

The tournament is the brainchild of Captain Rick Munsell, U.S. Navy, retired, who is the chairman and who also plays in the regular softball league, as do most of the veteran ballplayers. The culmination of the tournament, of course, is the championship, which is comparable to “the Army-Navy game” with the winner claiming bragging rights and a whole lot of ribbing whenever the opportunity arises, which is quite often. Oh, the ribbing was alive and well when I interviewed these very spirited guys, players on the three-peat championship Air Force team: Pete Feliciano, 25 years of service, captain (O-3E), US Air Force, retired; Dave Rearick, 25 years of service, colonel, US Air Force, retired; Mark

Gatchell, 20 years of service, technical sergeant, US Air Force, retired; Ernie Serson, four years of service, sergeant; and Bill McElroy, one and a half years of service, airman first class.

The camaraderie between these guys was evident. Dave Rearick (2024 MVP) said that “we are playing for our brothers”, and also said, “Navy wants to win, big time!” Pete Feliciano (2023 co-MVP with Bill McElroy) explained that the big rivalry is between Air Force and Navy, comparing it to “the Hatfields and McCoys.” Ernie Serson (2022 MVP) said that their military background makes them “wired to win,” while Mark Gatchell (3-0 as a manager) noted that any vet-

eran is invited to play in the Veterans Tournament, and playing in the regular season is not a requirement (contact Rick Munsell).

In speaking about competitiveness, Bill McElroy (3-0 as the pitcher) reflected on another tournament in which he was the pitcher, and “inadvertently” beamed a very well-known major-league baseball player. Competitive spirit at its finest. Part of the game.

Since the Air Force has won it all over the past three years, needless to say, they are this year’s target. You can’t miss this tournament! This will be one to remember. Trash talk? Ha, you ain’t heard nut-hin’ yet. But it’s all in that wonderful competitive spirit that sport is all about. It’s all about the brotherhood that our veterans share, the respect they have for each other, and we have for them. Come cheer on your team – Air Force, Navy, Army, and Warriors (combo of Marines and Coast Guard). Come see if Mark Gatchell will duplicate last year’s pirouette at the plate when his tremen-

dous swing and miss spun him around. The tournament will take place on Saturday, Nov. 8 (Sunday, Nov. 9, rain date) at the softball field. As of this writing, the schedule is as follows:

- 8:20 a.m. Player’s lineup on base paths.
- 8:30 a.m. Presentation of the Colors by Marion County Memorial Honor Guard.
- 8:35 a.m. National anthem and opening prayer.
- 8:45 a.m. Presentation of the honorary first pitch.
- 8:50 a.m. Introduction of the players and game one commences.

Yes, food trucks, a home run derby, and a full day of activities with Mr. Kenneth D. Colen presenting the coveted captain’s trophy to the winning team!

So come on out and cheer on your team with the Poms Dance and Cheer Squad! Join your team in trash-talking. But most importantly, honor our veterans, past and present, while celebrating this day. Don’t miss it!



Photo by Jerry Weage

Kenneth D. Colen awarding the 2024 championship trophy to the Air Force Team.

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Golf

Matt Hibbs
352-854-2765
matt_hibbs@otowfl.com



As September rolls in and temperatures begin to cool, fall has officially arrived, bringing with it one of the most anticipated times of year for sports fans, football season. As a devoted fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers and Ohio State Buckeyes, I’m excited for what the season will bring. Here’s to cooler weather, great golf, and the thrill of the football season.

On Top of the World’s annual World Labor Day Event will take place on Monday, Sept. 1. It will be a four-person team scramble on The Links and The Tortoise & The Hare Courses. Teams will be flighted by handicap and randomly assigned a course. Registration is \$25 per player and includes a \$5 donation to Folds of Honor, supporting scholarships for families of fallen or disabled service members.

Candler Hills Renovation Update
The Candler Hills Golf Course renovation is wrapping up with only a few minor details remaining. The new turfgrass is growing in nicely as the staff continues to groom the surfaces to improve the playability. We are on track to reopen around the end of October or early November.

We look forward to seeing everyone once again!

Golf Membership Handbook

Please be sure to read the Golf Membership Handbook to stay abreast of all the rules and regulations of your golfing membership. We want to emphasize the Membership Medical Suspension Request Procedure. As stated in the membership handbook, “Should a current annual golf member of one of the On Top of the World golf courses become incapacitated during that year, there are several conditions that must be met before receiving consideration to obtain credit for this time towards the following year’s membership fees:

- 1. Within two weeks of sustaining an accident or a medical condition, the member must submit paperwork describing the condition that prohibits golf activity to the director of golf.
- 2. The severity of the accident or

medical condition must prohibit play for a minimum period of 90 days.

- 3. A physician’s statement must be submitted, stating the nature of the accident or medical condition, including when treatment began and when the patient was released.
- 4. The director of golf will notify the member if the condition warrants a credit of membership fees towards next year’s membership dues.
- 5. No golf or driving range use may be played during the time of membership suspension.
- 6. The director of golf must be notified before the member returns to any golf participation.

The golf department will review all requests for credit, and they must be approved by this department before any credit for the following year will be issued. No refunds will be issued for a membership suspension, except in the event of passing. If there is a couple membership, the remaining member will receive a credit towards the following year’s membership fees.

Just as knowing the USGA rules can be beneficial, understanding the policies and procedures outlined in your Golf Membership Handbook can also be advantageous. Don’t miss out on the credit you deserve.

Upcoming Events

- Monday, Sept. 1: World Labor Day Event on The Links and The Tortoise & The Hare.
- Monday, Sept. 8 through Thursday, Sept. 11: The Tortoise & The Hare closed for aerification.

World Accolades

THE TORTOISE & THE HARE: Ron Pfleger, hole-in-one #15. Steve Bassett, eagle #10. Larry Manion, hole-in-one #8. Bill Pitera, eagle #5. Jeff Richardson, eagle #10. John Mayfield shot 78, one stroke under his age.

THE LINKS: Jeff Richardson, eagle #3 and #12. Duane Covert, shot his age 74. Bob Mondore shot 74, seven strokes under his age. George Isaac, hole-in-one #14. Steve Bassett, eagle #3. Greg Hofmann, eagle #1.

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Meditation Group

Domenica Genovese



The Meditation Group offers a place for you to cultivate a consistent meditation practice. Join us to connect with like-minded individuals dedicated to deepening their meditation experience. Our members can explore and strengthen a variety of meditation techniques, including Vipassana breathing meditation or Shikantaza, which focuses on “just sitting.” We encourage you to discover the approach that best suits your preferences and experience.

Each session kicks off with a short, thought-provoking reading, followed by a 20-minute silent meditation accompanied by soothing background music. All members are welcome to bring their inspirational readings to share with the group.

After the silent period, we have an open discussion on the day’s reading. In recent weeks, we’ve delved into quotes from influential figures such as Anne Lamott, Gautama Buddha, Thomas Merton, William Shakespeare, and Mary Oliver. Reflecting on their insights, we’ve discussed topics like overcoming doubt, embracing impermanence, and the transformative power of mindfulness.

Our discussions challenge us to contemplate essential themes in life, such as stepping out of our comfort zones, cultivating resilience, and nurturing compassion. We explore how meditation can help us navigate adversity, de-

velop emotional agility, and learn from setbacks. Together, we aspire to embrace loving connections, gentle living, and the wisdom of letting go.

Join us every Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Event Room. Attendance varies from about 10 to 20 men and women. For more information about our weekly meetings or to share your interest in joining, please contact one of our facilitators: Domenica Genovese at domenica@gcfonline.com, Brenda Foster at brenda@gcfonline.com, or Athena Drewes at Drathenadrewes@gmail.com.

We look forward to welcoming you!



Photo by Domenica Genovese

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Top Pickleball Club

Teresa J. Armstrong



Recently, when I have met people around the neighborhood and shared my passion for pickleball, I’ve encountered concerns and myths about its safety, despite its potential as a significant benefit to orthopedic clinics.

First of all, I have to say that any sport comes with risks, and frankly, I am not as spry as I was a few decades ago; however, I believe pickleball is a relatively safe and fun sport. There are several ways to enhance your safety while playing and our training team covers these and more at the start of every class. For example: wear court shoes, wear eye protection, keep hydrated, never back-pedal, and don’t be a hero (it’s only a point). We are a social club and we focus on having fun.

The Top Pickleball Club would love to have you join us and give it a try. Every Monday, as well as the first Saturday of each month, the training team holds a Pickleball 101 class at 10:30 a.m. for beginners. No need to register, just show up at the covered lower courts and be ready to have fun. (Please note there will not be a class on Labor Day.) Visit top-

pickleballclub.com to get more information on classes and on joining the club.

Other exciting happenings were the “King and Queen of the Courts” events held on Tuesdays, Aug. 12 and Aug. 19. The ratings team has the monthly pickleball rules class on the first Tuesday of every month. Also, the training team has two additional classes every Monday: Pickleball 401 Skill Building and Pickleball 501 Drill Sessions. These events can also be found on the club calendar events page of the website. Once a member signs onto the web page, a click on the events tab quickly gets them to the calendar where they can register for events and classes.

The Top Pickleball Club will host a special event on Saturday, Nov. 8, to honor our veterans and active-duty troops serving overseas. The day will begin with the Marion County Color Guard presenting the colors, followed by a fun and spirited pickleball match featuring teams from various branches of the armed services.

After the morning activities, members will gather for lunch at the Recreation Center. In the afternoon, volunteers will pack care packages and write thank-you cards for Operation Shoebox.

We welcome donations from all clubs and residents who wish to support this meaningful cause. Needed items include granola bars, beef jerky, gum, pens/paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lotion, and socks (white calf high). A more complete list of needed items can be found at operationshoebox.com/how-you-can-help/#package.

For any questions, please contact Mary Kay at 612-817-1924.

Candler Hills Ladies 18-Hole

Beth Wolinsky



The fourth month of Candler Hills Golf Course’s renovation is advancing, and the fairways are beginning to show some growth. It is exciting to watch our beloved golf course come back. Can’t wait to see what next month will bring.

Did you know that Nullabor Links in Australia can take four days to play? It is in Southern and Western Australia and is a par 72 course. The course is 848 miles long and follows the Eyre Highway. A player will follow the route through 18 towns, playing one hole in each town.

The drive across the Nullabor Plain is quite long. Two members of the Eyre Highway Operators Association came up with this idea, over a bottle of wine, as

a way of breaking up the long drive and reducing the dangers of driving fatigue. After a feasibility study was completed, the course officially opened in 2009. It continues to operate to this day.

Each hole features tees and greens made of artificial turf, set against natural desert land. The average distance between each hole is 41 miles. There are also many natural hazards, including crows, emus, kangaroos, and poisonous snakes, to name a few. The temperature can reach over 120 degrees at times, which adds a further complication to completing the course.

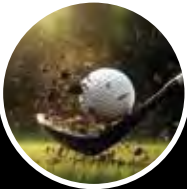
Many of the holes were created near roadhouses. You can play a hole and then refresh yourself with drinks, etc. It certainly sounds interesting, but you would have to be pretty determined to finish this course.

Please remember to stay safe in the heat and hydrate, hydrate, hydrate.

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

Men’s Golf Association

John Yenne



Mother Nature has a way of humbling golfers through the summer. One minute, she’s luring you out with a sunny forecast, and the next you’re sprinting to shelter as lightning forks across the sky.

In Central Florida, September sits squarely in that unpredictable in-between – still hot, still humid, still rainy, but (dare we say it?) just starting to improve.

The Men’s Golf Association has endured a long summer of interrupted golf this year – soggy grips, steamy greens, and tee times that double as sauna sessions.

But as September unfolds, so does the first whisper of change. The morning air sometimes feels a touch drier, and if we’re lucky, a weak front might even break up the humidity for a round or two.

Don’t be fooled – we’re still in peak

hurricane season, and the daily chance of thunderstorms lingers like a slow group ahead of you.

But by the back nine of the month, conditions will generally begin to shift. That’s good news for those of us tired of wringing out cart towels in the garage.

So, whether you’re chasing low-net or just escaping the honey-do list, September reminds us that fall is just around the corner – and with it, some of the best golf weather of the year. For now, carry an umbrella just in case. Because Candler Hills will be closed through the end of the year, make sure you sign up early for all of our events to guarantee yourself a spot in the weekly competition. For upcoming events and a new tip-of-the-month feature, visit otowmga.com.

Mark these upcoming Wednesdays in your calendar (weather permitting):

- Sept. 3: Chicken Day Scramble (The Links)
- Sept. 10: Two-Man Teams 6-6-6 (The Tortoise & The Hare)
- Sept. 17: 12 Blind Holes (The Links)
- Sept. 24: Modified Scramble (The Tortoise & The Hare)

Call of the Wild Sports Club

Scott Bloch



The summer months are the most challenging time for fishermen. The water temperature in the Atlantic ranges from 84.2°F at Daytona Beach to 84.4°F at Jacksonville. On the Gulf side, 86.1°F at Panama City to 90.3°F at Tampa Bay. Freshwater lakes are just as high.

Fish prefer cooler water. During the heat of the day, they become inactive and seek shade. Yes, they can be caught. Have patience.

And then there is surf fishing. Can you use my freshwater gear? Yes, you can.

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However, that would depend on your target species and the tides. The best conditions for surf fishing are dawn, 6 to 10 a.m., and then at dusk. The best seasons are spring and fall. Check out these websites for best surf fishing locations: surffishingflorida.com, surfguru.com, or pierandsurf.com.

Alligator season began in mid-August.

Beginning Monday, Sept. 8, all hunting equipment, including guns, rifles, ammunition, and archery equipment, will be tax-exempt until the end of the year.

Our speakers for the Wednesday, Sept. 3, meeting are Ken Jagodzinski and Charlie Pryce from the Deep-Sea Sports Club in The Villages. Ken is a videographer who tapes many of the group’s fishing trips. They come with a wealth of knowledge for one to two-day deep-sea fishing trips.

Our meeting begins at 1 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room.

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Candler Hills	Location	Date	Time
Ashford & Balfour (Last name A - K)	The Lodge at Candler Hills	Friday, August 29, 2025	10 am - noon
Ashford & Balfour (Last name L - Z)	The Lodge at Candler Hills	Friday, August 29, 2025	1 - 3 pm
Balmoral, Larkhill, & Stirling Meadow	The Lodge at Candler Hills	Thursday, September 11, 2025	10 am - noon
Newcastle & Sanctuary	The Lodge at Candler Hills	Thursday, September 11, 2025	1 - 3 pm
Alhndel & Kestrel	The Lodge at Candler Hills	Wednesday, September 17, 2025	10 am - noon
Stonebridge	The Lodge at Candler Hills	Wednesday, September 17, 2025	1 - 3 pm
Candler Hills East (Last name A - L)	Circle Square Cultural Center	Monday, September 22, 2025	10 am - noon
Candler Hills East (Last name M - Z)	Circle Square Cultural Center	Monday, September 22, 2025	1 - 3 pm

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Bocce Club

Kathy Nastally



We hope you’ve been enjoying a great time of doing whatever cool kids do over the summer. I have overheard many conversations in which people were discussing traveling to cooler climates. The first place that came to mind was Antarctica, where when it is summer here, it is fierce blizzardy winter down there! I know ... that is extreme, but true!

Our bocce courts are located behind the Arbor Fitness Center next to the tennis courts. The courts can be utilized by anyone outside of the posted open and league play times. Grab your friends and come up to play! Rules are on the bulletin boards. Crated balls can be found under the benches. Please wear closed-toed shoes for safety reasons, and a water fountain is available.

While league play has been on hiatus since April, open play has been going strong. Open play, pending weather, is on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8:30 a.m., and you are not committed to play each of these days. You play when your schedule allows.

We are limited to 48 players (eight players on six courts maximum), so arrive a little early to sign in. We select teams by a luck of the draw format. We draw cards to choose courts, teams, and opponents. Your teammates are usually different each day. We play games to 16 points, with the first team to reach 16 points winning, and we play two games.

All players must have a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. You can join the Bocce Club through open play or league, and dues are \$15, valid from October 2025 through September 2026. A signed hold harmless form is required for all members.

In league play, players are committed to playing on a team on a specific day and time, October through March. There is no play during the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year. League times are Tuesdays at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. and Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Each league team consists of only four players, may have one permanent designated substitute, chooses a team name, and a captain. Each league has a league representative, who also serves on our board of directors. Teams are forming currently for league play. If you are creating a team, a single player or couple looking for a team, or a team needing players, please call Jim Wolfer, 9 a.m. league representative, at 732-580-4915. League dues will be collected in early October, and league play begins Tuesday, Oct. 14.

Maybe a league team commitment isn’t for you. We need substitutes! Substitute status means your name goes on the list at a time slot that you designate, and teams can contact you to check your availability. If you are available, you play. The substitute lists are posted with the regular team schedules. If you have any suggestions, questions, or concerns, please contact President Pam Brown at 970-531-1890. We hope to see you very soon. Roll on!

Ladies Shuffleboard

Lois Nix



The summer is almost over, and September marks the start of our 2025-2026 season, which usually runs from September through May. Since the shuffleboard courts are being resurfaced, our season will begin in October. So please do not attempt to play until they reopen.

The courts are reserved on Mondays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The schedule for the clubs is posted on the bulletin board.

The Ladies Shuffleboard Club is open to all women residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. Pre-registration will be on Wednesday, Sept. 3, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Veterans Park pavilion. Please bring your resident ID, and you will be asked to sign a Hold Harmless Agreement form.

Our club will be participating in the Club Fair on Thursday, Sept. 11, in Circle Square Cultural Center at 10 a.m. New members are welcome to sign up to join our club. You will receive basic instructions and safety rules. You don’t need to know how to shuffle; our ladies will be happy to show you how to play. They may even teach you how to talk to the discs. We are a fun group of girls who love to shuffle.

This season, 2025-2026, begins our 10th year of the Ladies Shuffleboard Club. See you on the courts in October. Happy shuffling.

Table Tennis

Athena Drewes



The Table Tennis Club has been enjoying intramural tournaments this year. A second tournament geared to just the ladies had 20 participants. Special thanks to Phil Franklin, who configured player position and table rotation for the series of 10 games, as well as Paul Stadterman and Mike Lowe for keeping score and helping with player rotation. All had a great time.

Congratulations to the top scorers: 1: Shizuka Campagna; 2: Penny Wilson. Tie at 3: Maddie Berry & Paulette Rossi-Dunnack.

These tournaments have become very popular, with another mixed doubles tournament held on Saturday, Aug. 23. These tournaments give members a chance to experience playing against stronger players and getting a feel for what intramural tournaments might be like, but in a friendly and non-competitive way!

Since these tournaments, several members will be playing in the Table Tennis Senior Games in Gainesville, on Sunday, Sept. 21. The Senior Games have singles (men, women), mixed doubles, and doubles (men, women) by age grouping. It will be exciting to expand our competitive play into the broader field!

We look forward to our future expanded Table Tennis Room, which will give us more options for inviting neighboring clubs to have intramural games. Our club has grown to nearly 150 members, and some playing times are beginning to reach capacity, even with five tables available from Friday through Monday evenings. More newcomers, along with returning snowbirds and new homeowners, are joining. Membership for July through December is now \$5. Applications are available in the room, and a locked box is provided for submissions.

We look forward to seeing you at the Club Fair on Thursday, Sept. 11, and being able to answer any questions you might have about our club. Whether it has been decades since you played or are new to the sport, you will find our friendly members willing to help you improve your skills and enjoy the physical, psychological, and social benefits of

table tennis. Is it ping pong or table tennis? Fundamentally, there is no difference in the terms, often used interchangeably, and the game itself, played with paddles, a ball, and a table divided by a net. However, table tennis is the official and internationally recognized name of the sport. Ping pong, originally a trademark of Parker Brothers, is still widely used in casual settings or recreational play. But, to avoid trademark issues, the official organizations adopted the term table tennis, used in formal competitions, tournaments, and Olympic events.

Come join us at the Arbor Conference Center. Intermediate singles/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.

Contact President Paul Stadterman at ptstadterman@yahoo.com.



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Archery Club

Chuck Strickland



The club has two exciting events coming up. First, on Thursday, Sept. 11, there is the Club Fair. Our display will be located just inside the front doors. Members will be on hand to share their experience with the sport of archery and the club. We look forward to seeing you there.

Then, on Thursday, Oct. 2, is our open house. Have you ever wanted to try archery but haven't had the chance? Well, this is your chance. Beginning at 10 a.m., stop at the Veterans Park pavilion. Our members will register you, and then a golf cart will take you to the range at the back of the park.

Once there, you will get a tour of the range, have discussions about archery equipment, and the various archery disciplines. Most importantly, our instructors will guide you through the process of shooting several arrows, of course, aiming to hit the bullseye.

Then you can head back to the pavilion, where the Blazin' Bites food truck will be available for anyone wishing to purchase lunch and enjoy further conversations with our members and guests about your experience.

On the third Tuesday of each month, Patty Hoppe will be hosting Archery Fundamentals and Shooting workshops at the range. Topics will vary monthly, and a fun shoot will be held following each workshop. Workshops begin at 9

a.m. and are open to all club members. Every Friday, we host "Freestyle Friday" from 9 a.m. to noon. Club mentors are on the range and available to assist our novice archers with skill improvement. If you are considering joining the club, this is a great opportunity to meet members, learn more about archery, and have fun. If you would like a quick introduction to the club, we invite you to stop by.

Membership is open to all residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

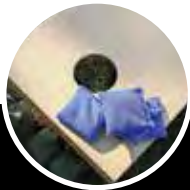
The Archery Club manages the range at Veterans Park. We have members of all skill levels, from novice to competitive. Plenty of equipment is available for those new to archery or returning after a long hiatus. The Archery Club has a well-equipped maintenance shop to keep club and personal archery equipment tuned for top performance. We also offer workshops that train members to care for their equipment and assist with maintaining club equipment.

Additionally, we have practitioners of the Japanese martial art of kyudo. If you would like to learn more about this archery discipline, please stop by the range on Wednesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. You may also contact Brenda Foster (brenda@gcfonline.com).

Interested in becoming a member? Visit otowarcheryclub.org > New Members and download the application form and required waivers. For additional information or the next steps to take to join the club, please contact Chuck at chuck.archery@strickland.net or 407-257-9668 or Suzanne at Suzanne.shea61@gmail.com or 908-510-5714. Keep it in the yellow!

Cornhole Club

Ray Nault



Despite adverse weather conditions, attendance remained steady. The men's league is scheduled to begin in November, but we are still looking for members.

OPEN PLAY: Monday and Wednesday are the most heavily attended, but Thurs-

day is gaining popularity. Start times are at 5 p.m. The boards are put out at 4:30 p.m. for those who wish to have some pre-play practice. Sign-in sheets are put out at 4:45 p.m. If more than 20 sign in to play, those after the first 20 will have the option of waiting for an available court (which does not take long) or play in the grassy area alongside the regular courts. We welcome players of all skill levels, including beginners.

We offer a beginner's class to learn the basic techniques and rules of cornhole. Contact Linda Nault at Lnault52@gmail.com for more information.

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Wheeling Around the World

Nick Arkon



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Equally important is assessing your physical readiness: checking your hydration status, eating appropriately, monitoring any existing medical conditions (such as asthma, allergies, or joint pain), and ensuring you have necessary medications like inhalers or EpiPens. Taking a few extra minutes to prepare both your bike and your body can prevent injuries, improve performance, and help you respond effectively in case of an emergency.

HYDRATION: Start hydrating one to two hours before your ride. Drink one 16-ounce of water or an energy drink containing electrolytes. Avoid alcohol and caffeinated beverages as they tend to dehydrate you.

NUTRITION: If you are riding within one to two hours, consider eating a banana with peanut butter, Greek yogurt with berries, or a hearty oatmeal with pure maple syrup and milk. For longer rides, prepare a breakfast with eggs and a protein (sausage), orange juice, and toast. Carry energy bars when you ride.

STRETCHING: (Pre-ride) loosen your body by performing simple leg swings, walking lunges, torso twists, and arm circles. Once on the bicycle, ride the first five to 10 minutes in a low (easy) gear to

help your muscles adapt to the motion and intensity. Do not push high gears.

BIKE AND GEAR CHECKLIST: Check your tires for proper inflation pressure. This is usually found on the side wall of the tires (PSI). Make sure your brakes are in good working order and there is sufficient brake pad rubber pressing against the rim. Ensure your gear (front and rear derailleurs are working smoothly. Check the chain for proper lubrication and minimal dirt and debris. Clean the chain frequently. Be sure you have a working taillight (optional flashing headlight) and an optional rearview mirror; a spare tube and inflation (pump or CO2 cartridge), tire irons, and a small adjustable wrench. Install a water bottle and cage filled with fresh water. Wear an approved cycling helmet. Always carry personal information in case of an emergency. Who to contact and any medical issues that you may have. I suggest carrying some cash for possible food and drink stops.

PLAN YOUR ROUTE: Decide your distance and route before heading out. Always let someone know where you are going and if you will be riding alone or with a group. Do not overextend or overexert your ride. I suggest riding with a group of cyclists who have a group leader and all the cyclists are of the same experience level.

OPTIONAL THOUGHTS: Check the weather and be prepared for any sudden changes. Wear sunscreen or optional sunscreen arm sleeves, cycling gloves, and sunglasses.

If you have questions or need additional information, email nickarkon1247@gmail.com.

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Tennis Club

Al Contarino



Tennis is experiencing a quiet resurgence among older adults, and with good reason. For those 55 and older, this lifelong sport offers a unique combination of fitness, mental stimulation, and social connection that supports healthy aging in a fun and accessible way.

Medical professionals and fitness experts alike are praising tennis for its low-impact, high-reward benefits, making it one of the most well-rounded activities for adults looking to stay active and engaged.

“Tennis is excellent for maintaining muscle tone, heart health, and balance as we age,” says Dr. Hannah Lewis, a geriatric physical therapist at Silverridge Wellness Center. “It’s a full-body workout, but it’s easy to modify for comfort and safety.”

According to the USTA website, playing tennis just three hours per week can reduce your risk of cardiovascular disease by 56%. A long-term study shows tennis players add 9.7 years to their lives over sedentary individuals.

Unlike running or high-impact sports, tennis played at a moderate pace is gentle on the joints. The movement involved improves coordination, strengthens the legs and arms, and helps maintain bone density, which is crucial after the age of 50.

Beyond the physical perks, tennis

provides meaningful mental stimulation. Players must stay alert, anticipate shots, and make quick decisions – all of which support cognitive function.

“Games like tennis are brain boosters,” says Dr. Lewis. “They improve concentration, reduce stress, and can even lower the risk of cognitive decline.”

Regular play also releases endorphins, which boost mood and may help combat feelings of isolation or anxiety – common concerns among older adults, particularly after retirement.

One of the most powerful benefits of tennis for older adults is its ability to foster community. Many players say it’s more than exercise or a social lifeline, commenting that it’s where we laugh, compete a little, and look out for each other. It keeps us young.

Doubles matches, in particular, reduce physical strain and encourage camaraderie. The Tennis Club provides a welcoming environment for beginners or those returning to the sport after years away.

Experts say there’s no “too late” when it comes to picking up a racket. Our tennis pro provides lessons and clinics, as well as weekly round robins. The Tennis Club offers various events, including ball machine practice, serving clinics, evening, and weekend play, as well as events with other communities.

“You don’t have to be fast or fancy to benefit,” says Dr. Lewis. “Just showing up on the court gets you moving, thinking, and connecting.”

For adults 55 and older, tennis offers more than exercise – it’s a key to staying physically fit, mentally agile, and so-

cially active. Whether you’re a lifelong player or a curious newcomer, now’s a great time to get back on the court.

Contact Brenda Foster for more information on how to join at brenda@gcfonline.com.



Photo by Brenda Foster

Al Contarino on the beautiful courts by Arbor Activity Center.

Billiards Club

Phil Panzera



Our new Billiard Academy is now underway! Its mission is twofold. One is to help our club members improve their skills by correcting the many subtle mechanics that are needed to play well. These mechanics are the same in most sports – stance, grip, alignment, swing, etc. – and without a proper foundation, it is extremely difficult to progress beyond even the most basic level.

The simple process of having an experienced instructor review your shooting technique can identify issues that can provide a substantial improvement, often quite quickly.

The second goal is to provide any resident with the fundamental knowledge needed to get started and hold their own in our Billiard Club. Even if you’re not sure which end of the cue goes toward the balls, this program will get you up and running. All you need is the desire and the ability to learn.

If you’ve been thinking about giving pool a try for some time, and just never

got around to it, this is the perfect time. The club’s main league for the fall season will be starting up soon, and sign-ups are currently underway. Do not be concerned if you’re at a very basic level. That describes a good portion of our membership, and you’ll fit right in. If you have any questions, feel free to call Phil, at 352-804-5498.

Our summer league finished last month, and we congratulate Team 3, which captured the league championship with the best win-loss record and the highest winning percentage of all ten teams. Team members include Captain Luanne Kerkhoff, Co-captain Bob Schmitt, Nikki Buehlman, Robert Foster, Mike Gaines, Art Keck, Bob Kuebler, and Gary Schroeder.

Congratulations also to Team 9, our Wolves Division Champions. Team members include Captain Bob Epling, Co-captain Paul Snyder, John Herman, Roger Mack, Charlie Regini, Barbara Spear, and Mike Zeller.

Honorable mentions go to the runners-up in each division. Second place in the Lions Division went to Team 4, led by Debbie Radicchi and John English. The runner-up in the Wolves Division was Team 5, led by Dave and Edi Piasiecki.



Photo by Phil Panzera

Summer league champions.

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Leading the Way in Whole-Person Wellness

At On Top of the World, we believe true wellness goes far beyond the gym. We’ve long understood that a fulfilling, vibrant life is built on balance, so we’ve embraced the “Seven Dimensions of Wellness: Social, Emotional, Physical, Intellectual, Spiritual, Environmental, and Vocational.” This holistic approach keeps us ahead of the curve, ensuring our residents enjoy not just fitness but a well-rounded, enriched lifestyle.

For the past 18 years, Cammy Dennis has been the driving force behind our success in the fitness industry. As fitness director, she created programs that went beyond exercise, bringing neighbors together, challenging the mind, nurturing the spirit, and encouraging personal growth. Her vision and dedication have laid the foundation for something even greater.

Now, as wellness director, Cammy is leading the charge to integrate fitness and recreation into a broader, more comprehensive wellness experience. Under her guidance, our talented team is creating opportunities that touch every dimension of wellness, whether it’s social gatherings that spark new friendships, educational workshops that stimulate curiosity, nature activities that connect us to the environment, or meaningful volunteer opportunities that inspire purpose.

Our goal is simple: to elevate life at On Top of the World. By bridging fitness and recreation with every aspect of wellness, we’re helping residents not only live longer, but live better. Here, wellness isn’t just a program. It’s a way of life.

Co-Ed Recreational Softball

Pat Wilbert



We are coming to the end of summer; however, hot days still lie ahead. This doesn’t stop our dedicated Saturday Co-Ed Recreational Softball players from arriving at 8:30 a.m. to join friends in playing the game we love.

We are still recruiting more women to join, as it is all in good fun and a great way to meet new friends.

I just wanted to provide a brief history of the game for those who are unfamiliar with how our league originated.

Co-ed softball has gained popularity as a recreational activity between men and women in the same game. It encourages teamwork and communication between genders, with slightly different rules and benefits for both sexes. Co-ed softball provides opportunities for socialization and building relationships as well as improving mental health outcomes due to increased physical activity and self-esteem. The sport is gaining

Wellness Cancer Support Group

Robin Storch Scheraga



We meet casually on the first of every month at 10 a.m. Please join us at the

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SEPTEMBER 2025 FITNESS

RECREATION FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	SPARC	Step	Remix Bootcamp	Step	SPARC
8:00 am	Zumba® Gold-Toning		Intermediate/Advanced Tai Chi		Dance Aerobics
9:00 am	S.O.S.	Stretch, Flex & Balance	S.O.S.	Sculpt	S.O.S.
9:00 am	Chair Pilates		BEAT		Stretch, Flex & Balance
10:00 am	Balanced Body	Chair Yoga	Balanced Body	Chair Yoga	Balanced Body
10:00 am	Chair Yoga		Chair Yoga		Chair Yoga
11:00 am	Chair Dance	Brain Power	Get Fit While You Sit	Move to Improve Parkinson's	Chair Dance
11:00 am	Dance Aerobics		Zumba® Gold		Dance Aerobics
12:00 pm				Beginner/Intermediate Tai Chi	
1:00 pm		Chair Chi	Punch Out PD		
3:00 pm	VYP Chair Yoga	Balanced Body	Chair Yoga	Balanced Body	
5:00 pm		Candlelight Yoga		Power 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. 7534.

ARBOR FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	Inferno HIIT	STRONG	Inferno HIIT	STRONG	Core & More
9:00 am	Power Yoga	Pilates Fusion	Yoga	Pilates Fusion	Yin Yoga
10:00 am	STRONG	Power Yoga	STRONG	Yoga	STRONG
11:00 am	Yoga		Yoga		ABC Yoga
4:00 pm	Muscle Fit	Strong and Steady		Interval Training	Dance Fit

Arbor Fitness Center Hours: Monday-Friday 5:30 AM - 8:30 PM; Saturday 7 AM - 8:30 PM; Sunday 9 AM - 7 PM
† Fitness Orientations are on Thursdays at 1:00 pm. These are free but space is limited. To schedule an appointment, please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7630.

ARBOR FITNESS CENTER INDOOR POOL

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
5:30 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 Aerobics	**Shallow Water Aerobics	**Deep Water Aerobics	**Shallow Water Aerobics	**Deep Water Aerobics
10:00 am	Open Swim	**Shallow Water Aerobics	Open Swim	**Shallow Water Aerobics	Open Swim
11:00 am	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming
12:30 pm	Aqua Aerobics Club	**Shallow Water Aerobics	Aqua Aerobics Club	**Shallow Water Aerobics	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	Open Swim				
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 inquiries, please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7630.

in popularity, especially in recreational leagues and adult leagues, offering a low-pressure way to stay active and exercise.

According to the official rules developed early in the history of softball, in 1887, there are nine players on the field at a time. The players take positions of pitcher, catcher, first baseman, second baseman, shortstop, third baseman, and outfielders. Usually, there are three outfielders holding the positions of right fielder, left fielder, and center fielder. However, slow-pitch softball allows for a fourth person in the outfield, sometimes referred to as a “rover.” The team with the most runs at the end of the seventh

inning is named the winner. However, if the teams are tied at the end of the seventh inning, the game can go into extra innings until the tie is broken.

Enough of the history, we just want you to join a wonderful group of men and women in the Co-Ed Softball League on Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. for warm-up

exercises and games at 8:45 a.m. after the teams are chosen (times subject to change). Don’t worry if you need equipment, as we have extra bats, a few gloves, and plenty of advice givers. We have individuals who volunteer to run for those who need “runners.” So, no excuse. Come join us.

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R/C Sailing Club

Gene Mangold



Full-scale sailboat racing is an all-encompassing, sensory experience that demands a deep physical and intuitive connection with the vessel and its environment.

Trimming sails and choosing the fastest steering angle are indeed facilitated by a sudden, undeniable physical feedback loop. The helmsman becomes one with the boat, sensing every nuanced change:

BOAT SPEED: The immediate surge or drag through the water.

HEELING ANGLE: The sensation of the boat leaning, an instinctive gauge of wind pressure and sail trim.

SOUND OF THE WAVES: The rhythm and force of water against the hull.

Racing a large sailboat is rarely a solo endeavor. It’s teamwork, where a tight-knit group of individuals works together.

It’s a rigorous physical challenge. Shoulder and arm strength are crucial for manually winching and manipulating block and tackle systems to trim sails, which can often lead to soreness and bruises. The sudden, jarring motion of the boat, akin to a “rollercoaster ride,” translates into every bone in the body being jarred and tested.

The thunderous crash of the hull against solid water, the eerie screeching of the wind through the rigging, and the constant head-to-toe dousing from waves create an overwhelming and exhilarating sensory experience. Burning eyes from salt spray are a standard badge of honor.

In stark contrast, R/C miniature sailboat racing offers a different kind of challenge and satisfaction, focusing more on strategic oversight and precise remote control.

One of the immediate appeals is the ability to race from the comfort of a chair on the shore. Gone is the discomfort of bouncing around, the physical strain of pulling lines, and the constant drenching. This accessibility opens the sport to a broader audience, free from the physical rigors of full-scale sailing.

R/C racing provides a unique tactical advantage: the “bird’s-eye view” of the entire racecourse. From the shoreline,



Photo by Kemp Howland

R/C racing.

competitors can observe the precise location of all boats, their sail trim, and their current direction.

While the overview is an advantage, the act of sail trim and steering direction lacks the immediate, physical feedback of full-scale racing. You are not physically close to the sails, nor can you “feel” the boat’s response through direct vibration or motion. This necessitates a different kind of precision, relying on visual cues and practiced adjustments to the remote control.

A significant hurdle for new R/C racers is judging distances, particularly for critical maneuvers like rounding marks and preventing collisions. The scaled-down environment and the distance from the operator can make it tricky to gauge proximity accurately.

A temporary but common difficulty for newcomers is the phenomenon of reversed steering when the boat is heading towards you. Right turn on the controller results in a left turn on the boat as it approaches.

If you were a full-scale sailboat racer, perhaps it’s time to move to R/C sailboat racing. If you want to enjoy many of the same strategies, physics, and tactics of full-scale sailing without the abuse, come join us.

Call or text Gene Mangold at 772-678-5101 or Bernie Bossert at 816-678-3817.

Broadway & Tap Dancing

Elaine Voorhis



It’s almost fall, and we’re looking forward to our snowbirds returning from their cooler retreats. We know it must be difficult to leave your family, but we miss you!

Halloween decorations and pumpkin spice everything arrive too just in time for the Labor Day hamburger and hot dog cookouts! Although the summer has been very hot, it has gone by so quickly. Dare I say that the holidays will be here before we know it?

Speaking of time moving quickly, the Broadway dancers had a great time showing off their moves to “Steam Heat” from the Broadway play, “The Pajama Game,” and “Friend Like Me” from “Aladdin.” We hope you enjoyed our informal recital and will continue to attend.

For those of you who are not familiar with our Broadway recitals, at the end of our seven-week session, we perform the routine that we have been working on. We attend weekly practices and/or practice at home to be the best that we can be. We may do our routine a few times just to work out any kinks or cobwebs, and often the tappers will join in with a routine as well.

We then take a deep breath while our in-house miracle worker and photographer, Steve Warren, videos us and

makes us look good! We always have so much fun together and appreciate the support that our audience shows us. Our thanks to those of you who have become our regulars, as well as the new faces who attended for the first time. We hope to see you all again.

We’ve been holding our recitals for almost five years now. It’s hard to believe it’s been that long, and we plan to keep going.

In the meantime, the energy in our Broadway and tap classes remains as lively as ever. New choreography is in the works, echoing through the rooms with every shuffle and step.

We are currently working on a new Halloween routine, eerily choreographed by our instructor, Penny Berton. Our Halloween Haunting will be held on Friday, Oct. 31, at 1 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. Are you brave enough to attend? We hope so! I can only say that it will be pleasantly ghoulish, and it’s free! Stay tuned for more updates because there’s always something hiding, I mean, exciting just around the corner!

Fall and winter get busy for us as we prepare for several recitals and performances, but we’re always happy to perform for neighborhood get-togethers and club meetings, etc. We are looking forward to performing for Brookdale and Bridgewater on Saturday, Nov. 1. It’s always a good time. If you would like more information about our classes or booking a performance, contact us at broadwayandtap@yahoo.com. We’d love to hear from you.



Photo by Steve Warren

Tap and Broadway classes.

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Poms Dance & Cheer

Pamela Kalamaras



The Poms Dance and Cheer Squad is engaging in a month of intense work on our newest medley for our first fall performance. Even with our serious effort, we always manage to have fun as we dance to 1950s music and develop cheers aimed to be a crowd pleaser. We are ready to sock hop and dress up for your party.

As for our patriotic medley, we continue to improve and update the music used throughout the year. Past examples include our Memorial Day and Fourth of July programs, where our patriotic medley featured music and cheers to honor our country through reflection, remembrance, and celebration. It is a joy to foster patriotism in our community through dance and cheer.

We invite you to see us in action on Monday, Sept. 8, at the Avalon Social Club and on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at The Landing. We will also be performing at the sock hop held by Pati and Jan Bean on Thursday, Sept. 25, in the Recreation Center Ballroom.

Please stop by our booth at the Club Fair on Thursday, Sept. 11. We look forward to meeting you and answering any questions you may have about our club.

We hope the love of what we do shines through in each performance. Our group practices many hours each week, working up a sweat, as we build new skills and stamina. Teamwork is at the root of our accomplishments as we focus on communication, active listening, adaptability, and conviction. Our newest members are motivated by our commitment to the team and each other. Go pommies!

It is a joy for us to entertain communities right here in Ocala. We can tailor our performance to fit your specific time limits, music preferences, and themes. Our most popular requests are rock ‘n’ roll through the decades and our medley of patriotic songs.

We are always learning new dances and cheers to keep our performances fresh and exciting. Please contact Pam Kalamaras at pammykal@aol.com to book our club for your next event. We can bring on the entertainment for you as you dance and sing along. Please email our club for more detailed information, videos, pictures, or to view our rehearsals; you won’t be sorry.

If you’re interested in joining our team, I’d be happy to offer further guidance, information, and support. Entering this new world of dance and cheer is like no other dance in the community.



Photo by Rick Munsell

Poms Dance and Cheer Squad at the Patriotic Celebration at The Town Square.

Our unique and exciting performance club is now being offered at many 55-plus communities nationwide. We invite

you to visit us to learn more about what we’re all about and possibly join in the fun.

Horseshoes Club

Vern Kessler



Horseshoes is the most fun you can have with two and a half pounds of steel – and it’s free!

The summer is an excellent time of the year for anyone interested in the Horseshoe Club and pitching horseshoes. During this time, the club has open pitching on all the pits. Open pitching means that the club members pitch against themselves, and when interested residents come to visit the club, a club member has ample time to assist them

on the finer points of pitching shoes. The club pitches horseshoes on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at the Veterans Park pits. Practices on Thursdays start at 9 a.m. Members are encouraged to come out for practice because the more you practice, the luckier you get.

Always remember that the horseshoe pits are available most every day for residents. There are shoes, brooms, and dustpans available at most of the pits. Before pitching any shoes, please remove the white PVC pipe covering the steel stake. Replace when done, sweep up around the pits, and put away all the equipment used.

Contact Vern Kessler at 321-268-3179 or vkmicheel214@gmail.com with any questions.

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Vendors may reserve an outside table for \$55, or an inside table or outside porch table for \$100.*

*If you are interested in participating as a vendor, registration forms will be sent out via email and accepted in person only. Registration for On Top of the World residents begins on Tuesday, August 5. Open registration for all others will be starting on Tuesday, September 2.



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Country
Line Dancing

Judy Sullivan



This dance teacher’s heart swells with pride each time I watch my students take the floor, their faces glowing with joy and determination. I love seeing their hard work come to life in every movement and step, knowing each dance is a reflection of their growth and passion. Every turn, step, and smile reminds me why I teach – because nothing compares to the magic of watching my students express themselves through dance and shine with confidence.

When these students first stepped onto the dance floor, many of the beginners were unsure of their steps, moving timidly and second-guessing themselves. But through dedication, practice, and encouragement, they’ve transformed into confident dancers. What was once hesitation has turned into graceful movements, and their uncertainty has blossomed into self-assurance. Now, they dance not just with skill, but with the joy and confidence of country line dancers.

The Absolute Beginners class has learned seven dances in the first two months and an additional six dances in the past two months. They did fantastic! We will only go at the speed that the dancers are comfortable with learning.

The Beginners I class has learned eight dances in the first 2 months and an additional nine dances in the past 2 months. The Beginners II/Improver class has learned nine dances in the first two months and a further eight dances in the past two months.

We will continue to add new dances here and there, but will always go back to practice the dances we’ve learned in the past.

On Friday, Sept. 19, we will hold a social dance with a tie-dye theme, so please save the date.

Despite the challenges of unpredictable weather – with the rainstorms and high summer temperatures – Boots & Beats at The Town Square on Wednesday nights continues to be a great success. The attendees have shown remarkable dedication, braving the elements to come together and dance, creating a lively atmosphere no matter what the forecast says. As the weather becomes more favorable, we suspect that the turnout will be even greater. The dancing is from 7 to 10 p.m. I will cover the first hour and a half, and Chuck and Donna Nelson will cover the second hour and a half.

If you are interested in joining any of our classes, please check out the OTOW App. For more information, visit our Facebook page (OTOW Country Line Dancing with Judy). The YouTube channel is Country Line Dancing with Judy.

If you are interested in dancing and have any questions on how to sign up, please email me at CountryLineDancingWithJudy@yahoo.com.

Shuffleboard

Walt Lamp



Our 40th season will start a little later this year. Usually, we start on the first Monday in September (Labor Day), but since the courts are being resurfaced, we will begin once that project is completed (approximately three weeks). Please call Jane Boyer at 352-509-7142 or Walt Lamp at 352-304-8711 for time and details as they happen. The new courts will make the game a lot more fun and easier to play.

Once we resume, the shuffleboard schedule will be Mondays and Thursdays at 10 a.m., and Tuesdays at 1 p.m. Ten Pin will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 9 a.m.

If you would like to learn how to play, don’t forget we offer a free Introduction to Shuffleboard on the second Saturday of the month at 11 a.m. at the courts. So, the next one is scheduled to be held on Saturday, Oct. 11. Paul Hodges will once again instruct the class. The class will highlight the rules, scoring, safety, and the basics of shooting the disc. Open-toed shoes are not permitted.

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Line Dancing

Kathy Petrosky



September is here. I feel like saying Happy New Year. Many activities were on vacation for the summer. They are coming back. Line dancing on Mondays is one of them.

So many dancers have purchased tickets for September and October. For the returning dancers, let’s see what’s new. For the new dancers, let’s answer, “What do I need to know?”

For returning dancers, the Monday program has added an Intermediate level. It will be held on Tuesday. Why Tuesday? Many dancers on Monday also want to do Intermediate, and it is too much to do both in one day. Yi-Fu Wen, better known to us as Weber, is the instructor. His expertise is in intermediate and advanced line dancing. Just watching him dance is a treat. If you have any questions, contact Weber at yfwen@yahoo.com.

If you missed the ticket sale for this session, watch the World News and the OTOW App for the November-December session.

Cammy Dennis has arranged to have a line dance workshop for all resident line dancers on Saturday, Oct. 11, in the Recreation Center Ballroom from 1 to 4 p.m. The fee to attend is \$10 a person. Cody Flowers, a Florida choreographer who has conducted numerous workshops, will be leading this one. Several resident line dancers have attended one of his workshops. It is an excellent experience if you have never been to a workshop. Registration ends on Friday, Sept. 26.

Joe Spencer will return to start our dance classes on Monday, Sept. 8. Joe started teaching line dance in 1991. He is a choreographer. He attends many workshops to keep up with the latest dances. If you have program questions, contact Joe at joeship1@yahoo.com.

Here’s the dance schedule:

MONDAY: Improvers (noon to 1 p.m.); Beginners (1:15 to 2:15 p.m.); and Absolute Beginners (2:30 to 3:30 p.m.)

Practice sessions are included with

ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala

your dance pass. It is a chance to go over the dances taught on Monday. The schedule is as follows:

WEDNESDAY: Improvers (9:15 to 11 a.m.); Beginners (11:10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.); and Absolute Beginners (12:45 to 1:45 p.m.)

For new people to the program and a refresher to all dancers:

Your badge must be worn during Monday and Wednesday sessions. An emergency contact must be filled in on the back. If you need a lanyard, Joe has them. Joe also has the sliders for your shoes.

Shoes should be comfortable and give support. They should have a back. Flip flops or backless shoes are not permitted.

Bring water to drink. Check the floor around you to make sure it is free of water or anything that could cause a fall.

If the class before you is still in session, please wait in the lobby. Wait for the class to end before entering.

Above all else, come ready for fun and to meet many new people. See you on the dance floor.

Weight Loss Group

Laura Gavey



Are you ready yet? Do you still want to get healthy in 2025? 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. The new leader is Lois Trepper. On Tuesdays, we meet in the Arbor Activity Center Event Room. Weigh-in starts at 9:15 a.m., and the meeting begins at 10 a.m. Beth Green is the leader. Visitors are always welcome.

For questions and additional details, please email Lois at loistrepper@att.net or Beth at tandbgreen220@gmail.com.

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R/C Flyers Club

Ray Ihlenburg



The R/C Flyers Club has a small, talented group of helicopter pilots who fly at the dedicated drone field adjacent to the R/C car track. This is the only place in On Top of the World where drones, small fixed-wing, and rotary-wing (helicopter) aircraft can fly.

The following was provided by fellow neighbor and student helicopter pilot Bob Lathrop to relate his journey to flying a helicopter. “R/C helicopters have always interested me. However, I never had a mentor to help me break into that aspect of the R/C hobby. I have flown R/C airplanes for years, but attempting a helicopter did not go well. Crash after crash convinced me to give it up and put my ambitions on the back burner. But then I moved into On Top of the World.

I joined the R/C Flyers Club, where I found several accomplished helicopter pilots who have helped me get started with hovering.

The first recommendation to get me flying was to trade in my old models for one of the new small helicopters. They are fully capable of any maneuver possible, making them perfect for a beginner, as they withstand the inevitable crashes that a beginner pilot will make. I purchased the OMP M2 Evo, which is a “flybarless” design that is easier to set up and fly. Most crashes can be survived with a dust off, a battery change, and then flying again. Some “ground encounters” might require small replacement parts, but they’ll cost around \$10.”

To gain a deeper understanding of what flying a helicopter entails, Bob explains that it is wise to consider the transmitter and how the pilot controls the helicopter. The helicopters utilize the same type of transmitter as the fixed-wing aircraft, but they are configured differently.



Photo by Ray Ihlenburg

The OMP M2 Evo ‘Copter in the foreground with two big cousins.

This is where “two thumbs up” is a simple learning exercise. To fly a helicopter, the left stick or your left thumb begins in its lowest position or is pulled towards the body. This thumb/stick is then moved forward, say 20% to start the rotor and set the main rotor’s rpm. Further movement from this point begins to control the blade pitch, allowing the helicopter to rise from the ground and hover. Moving the left thumb/stick to the left or right pivots the helicopter, respectively.

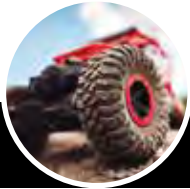
The right stick/thumb is centered straight up, as in airplane mode, but only controls the helicopter’s horizontal movements – forward, backward, left, and right. At first, this is akin to rubbing your tummy while patting your head while standing on a beach ball. An instructor requires a new pilot to learn to hover in place before attempting any other maneuver.

If drones, or better yet, helicopters are of interest, visit the drone field most mornings and talk with the pilots. They will get you on the right track, get you in the air safely, and help keep you within budget.

Hover good, land better.

R/C Car Club

John Schoenherr



The Club Fair will take place on Thursday, Sept. 11, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center. The R/C Car Club is pleased to again participate in this event and will have several displays to show the public what we do and how much fun it is.

Twice a week, the club runs car/buggy/truck races that have been our main event for several years. Each race day includes 12 different racing events and over 30 races. We race everything from beginner-friendly NASCAR electric cars to the “need for speed” touring cars. These cars will be on display at the Club Fair, where members will be available to explain how to purchase, set up, and drive them.

We also plan to set up a working slot car track again and invite you to enjoy a race or two. Slot car members will instruct you about driving and will be able to explain the basics of slot car racing and how to get started.

We also plan to have a short rock crawler track at the Club Fair. The crawler class is just beginning to get going,

and several members have started work on a course.

We look forward to seeing you at the Club Fair and sharing with you the fun we are all having with our R/C car hobby.

Slot car drivers meet every Tuesday at 1 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II. R/C electric car racing is every Wednesday and Saturday at 9 a.m. at the R/C car track. Legend car racing is every Thursday at 10 a.m. at the R/C car track.

For more information, contact John at 608 477-3420.

July

Traxxas-Larry Ericksmoen. Two-wheel buggy-Paul Beyer. Four-wheel buggy-Jim Siltman. Pan car-Doug Stansbury. Touring-Bob Herbst. Two-wheel truck-Roy Macomber. Four-wheel truck-Fred Penichet. Limited-Jim Printer. 17.5-Jim Siltman. Sportsman-Paul Beyer. Truggy-Paul Beyer. NASCAR-Mark Busch.

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Model Railroaders Open House

By Jim Lynam

You are invited to our Labor Day weekend open house on Friday, Aug. 29, and Saturday, Aug. 30, from 2 to 4 p.m. Labor Day celebrates American workers and their past and current contributions to the success of our country. The first Labor Day took place on Sept. 5, 1882, in New York City. The Central Labor Union organized a parade of thou-

sands of union members from all trades that culminated in a picnic for the members and their families. This form of celebration gained popularity across the country. On June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed a law officially making the first Monday of September a national holiday. The railroads epitomized the concept

of labor. Workers in nearly every category were needed to plan, build, operate, maintain, and supervise the daily functions of the industry. Further, because the railroads provided transportation, farmers shipped their products to the east, and factories shipped their farm machinery to the Midwest. The workers produced products that were marketed and shipped by railroads to every corner of the country. So it is that on Labor Day, the workers and their families could have a day of fun and relaxation. The traveling carnival provided just such a day and evening. In the early days, the carnival rides and booths were transported by railroads.

The main attraction for most people was the rides, such as the Ferris wheel, roller coaster, octopus, tilt-a-whirl, miniature railway, and carousel. The carnival also provided booths for games to win “valuable” prizes. Do you remember the duck pond, balloon darts, water balloons, baseball throw, basketball throw, and guess the age/weight? Young men tried to impress their dates with their strength by attempting to ring the bell with the wooden hammer. If successful, they would “win a cigar.” If not, hence the saying, “close but no cigar!” Perhaps the most appreciated booths were those that served famous “fair foods.” How can you forget cotton candy, fried dough, funnel cakes, ice cream, and caramel apples? Then add the main course of hamburgers, hot dogs, sausage sandwiches, fried onions, French fries and fried chicken. What a smorgasbord to choose from!

The Model Railroaders invite you to visit the Hobby Building Model Train Room to view our Labor Day carnival scene. The residents will be relaxing with their families and enjoying the carnival, picnics in the park, flying R/C airplanes, playing sports, boating, fishing, hiking, rock climbing, spelunking, and enjoying their favorite beverage.

The club invites you to visit the Hobby Building Model Train Room and see everything in operation on any Friday from 2 to 4 p.m.

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, Sept. 3, in the Hobby Building Event Room. If you have any questions, please text Jim Lynam at 352-861-2822. Happy Labor Day to all!



Photo by Jim Lynam

Labor Day carnival.

Craft Show Returns

By Chris Kilbride

We’re back starting Tuesday, Sept. 2! The weekly Artistic Crafts & Gifts Tuesday craft show at the Recreation Center Ballroom is from 9 a.m. to noon and will continue through May.

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 to over 50 tables on Tuesdays. Over 100 crafters are online with their virtual presence, offering unique and custom designs. All resident crafters are welcome to sell virtually on our website and inquire about a table at our Tuesday show.

This month, we’re featuring Linda O’Keefe, who started her needle felting hobby three years ago after seeing someone post a picture of a dog they made. She fell in love and knew with all her heart that she would study and learn as much as possible. Her dream has been to design wool miniatures for people who love their furkids.

Linda’s first project was to create a mini version of their Tinker and Roxy. Having worked on these two for months, she learned so much by trial and error. She was thrilled with the results and is now 100% addicted to felting!

The next project was a likeness of her Babycakes, their little girl for 17 years, and this became a delightful tribute to her. By incorporating some of the dog’s fur that Linda saved, she included a tiny heart embedded inside the crafted like-

ness, which holds some of the beautiful keepsake fur.

By then, Linda knew that she loved this felting process, and it became a creative venue that she could eventually do for others.

Through reading books on needle felting animals, watching YouTube channels of people who love creating fiber arts, and following Facebook groups, Linda learned from many people who were willing to share their experience.

Jumping in wholeheartedly, she purchased a variety of supplies like wool roving, needles, wire for armatures, glass, plastic eyes, and noses. Eventually, she learned how to substitute her style for eyes and noses.

Linda and her husband moved here a little over five years ago, while her dad was here. She loves her job as a business development person for a steel company, which has spanned over 20 years, and enjoys the flexibility of working from home. Eventually, when she is completely retired, Linda plans to travel to statewide arts and craft fairs with her animal “felties” in all shapes, sizes, and variety of breeds.

Each creature Linda creates has a special place in her heart. She finds it both fun and truly rewarding to see them come to life!

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



Photo by Linda O’Keefe

Linda O’Keefe creates adorable animals using the needle felting technique.

Singing in Harmony

By Holly St. John

“It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas” in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room! AcaBella is going to “Haul Out the Holly” at our first rehearsal on Wednesday, Sept. 10, to begin preparing for this year’s holiday performances. Our repertoire includes some contemporary toe-tappers like “Jingle Bell Rock” and “Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer,” plus a few traditional holiday pop tunes and carols. The materials fee for the fall session is only \$20 and includes sheet music and vocal learning tracks for all voice parts. It just couldn’t be easier!

AcaBella is a women’s a cappella ensemble singing four-part barbershop harmony. While most of us aren’t formally trained, we share a love of music,

laughter, and camaraderie. We rehearse Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m., doing our best to memorize (but hey, we know we’re not 18 anymore!). This is a short-term commitment.

Are you interested in joining? If so, here’s what we need to know about you:

- Are you missing the joy of singing in your life?
- Have you had any singing or musical experience?
- Even if you don’t read music, can you learn your part by listening?
- Can you commit to all (or most) of our Wednesday night rehearsals, September through December?

Please reach out to Director Holly St. John at agreatsound@gmail.com if AcaBella “sounds good” to you!



Photo by Autumn Blueter

AcaBella performs at a family and friends event.

Recreation

Shannon Prince

352-854-8707 ext. 7530
shannon_prince@otowfl.com



There’s always something happening at On Top of the World — and now it’s easier than ever to stay informed! Find trip, event, and class details on the OTOW App, OTOWInfo.com, and in the Life in Motion Wellness Connections catalog. Most Recreation events in OTOW (Central) are free for residents with a valid ID; guests are welcome for \$5 per person.

The new OTOW App (available in the App Store and Google Play) lets you register for events, book rooms, and pay for trips or classes from any device. After approval (up to 72 hours), you’ll have 24/7 access. No smart device? Visit the Recreation Center to use our new OTOW App kiosks.

As of Aug. 1, printed monthly event calendars in World News have been replaced with digital listings available in the OTOW App, at OTOWInfo.com, on community TVs, and on posted flyers.

We appreciate your support in this digital transition – it helps us bring you even more opportunities to stay active, social, and involved. Download the OTOW App and start exploring today!

Social Committee

Looking to get involved and make a difference in your community? The On Top of the World (Central) Social Committee is always looking for enthusiastic resident volunteers to help shape the fun!

The committee meets monthly to share ideas, offer feedback, and assist in planning, organizing, and decorating for upcoming Recreation events. Your input is a valuable part of creating activities that our community truly enjoys.

Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Recreation Center Lounge. If you’d like to join us, RSVP by calling 352-387-7530 or emailing shannon_prince@otowfl.com. We’d love to have you on board. See you there.

Recreation Center

Happy Hour (Free)

Join us for Happy Hour every Friday from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. A cash bar is always standing by for your beverage needs. Enjoy music, dancing, and The Pub. This event is free to residents. Resident IDs will be required to attend Happy Hour. Anyone without a resident ID is considered a guest. Guest fees apply at \$5 per person. Children under the age of 15 are not permitted. Upcoming entertainment is as follows:

- Sept. 5: The Stragglers
- Sept. 12: Gerry Coe
- Sept. 19: Tim Hargis
- Sept. 26: Rear View Mirror

Music at the Pool Pavilion (Free)

Enjoy some great music at the pool and pavilion area at the Recreation Center from 1 to 4 p.m. Upcoming entertainment is as follows:

- Sept. 19: Dan Flok
- Sept. 27: Kick’n Country Randy

Tropic Trivia

Ready to test your knowledge at Tropic Trivia? October tickets will be on sale from Tuesday, Sept. 2, through Friday, Sept. 12. A team representative may purchase a table for the entire team each month. Tables are \$40 and must be purchased through the OTOW App. Once you’ve secured your table, stop by the Recreation Department to choose your table location. Spots are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

Ballroom Dance Class

Learn “Bolero” with ballroom instructor Butch Phillips. Classes are held the second, third, and fourth Wednesday of each month from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. The cost is \$30 for three weeks of classes per month.

Karaoke (Free)

Karaoke is always fun! Sing your heart out or simply enjoy the music. Karaoke is the second Thursday of the month in the Recreation Center Ballroom from 5 to 8 p.m.

Ladies Night (Free)

Ladies, you are invited to join us on Tuesday, Sept. 9, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. Bill Billotti is the musical guest for this night. Bring your beverages and snacks. See you there!

Movie Night (Free)

Join us for a cinematic night out featuring, when possible, a newly released movie! The movie license covers only the Recreation Center Ballroom; therefore, we are unable to transfer its use to other buildings. Join us on Thursday, Sept. 18, from 6 to 8 p.m. for "Superman" (2 hours, 10 minutes, PG-13). Free popcorn and The Pub will also be open. Feel free to bring snacks and drinks.

The Ballroom will not be accessible as a cut-through to and from the pool or The Pub during this time. Please make your way around the building so that the darkness of the “theater” can be preserved.

Club Fair (Free)

Explore the many clubs available in your community at the upcoming Club Fair! Meet club representatives, ask questions, and discover new ways to get involved. If your club would like to host a table, table reservations will be accepted through Friday, Sept. 5, or until all tables are filled. Visit the Recreation Center office to submit your form and select your table. Please note that only clubs registered with the Recreation Department are eligible to participate. The Club Fair will take place on Thursday, Sept. 11, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center. The event is free and open to the public.

Annual Craft Fair and More!

For residents interested in participating in the annual Craft Fair and More, registration will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 2. The event is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 18, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center. You can pick your table when you register in person at the Recreation Center. Please bring

your resident ID with you. The tables inside the Circle Square Cultural Center and the tables outside on the porch are \$100 each, and the outside tables on The Town Square are \$55 each. Registration times are Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Craft Fair and More is free to attend and open to the public.

Room Booking Meeting (Free)

If you need to request a room reservation for 2026, this meeting is for you! The presentation will be on Thursday, Sept. 25, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. It will give you all you need to know about room requests made through the OTOW App. You may submit your request starting Friday, Sept. 26. Approval for those room requests will be pending until you receive a confirmation or a decline email from the Recreation Center office.

For events requiring registration, payment is due at sign-up. No refunds within 14 days of an event or trip.

The Lodge at Candler Hills

Poolside Entertainment (Free)

Celebrate Labor Day poolside with live music by Steve Lazarus on Monday, Sept. 1, from 1 to 4 p.m. Enjoy the sun, take a swim, or simply relax to the great music. Food will be available for purchase from Annabel’s food truck. No glass containers are allowed in the pool, on the deck, or under the pavilion.

World Class Active Aging Virtual Fitness Classes (Free)

Get fit with weekly fitness classes every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the Ballroom. Visit the Recreation Department at The Lodge at Candler Hills to pick up the wellness schedule and find out what to bring for each class.

Chair Volleyball (Free)

Get moving and have fun on Mondays at 1 p.m. in the Ballroom for chair volleyball! Rules and teams will be determined on the day of the event. Come on out and participate in this exciting, new active-aging sport.

From the Top Line Dance Class (Free)

Join us each Tuesday for our weekly line dance class from 10 a.m. to noon. Chuck and Donna Nelson host this instructional class.

Open Game/Card Play (Free)

Every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Card Room is open for game day. Bring your games and cards and have a great time.

Water Aerobics (Free)

Gather poolside on Thursdays at 10 a.m. to participate in water aerobics. Bring a pair of aqua dumbbells and a noodle float.

Kocktails & Karaoke (Free)

Sing your heart out! You’ll feel right at home singing with your neighbors to cheer you on. Enjoy the fun on Thursday, Sept. 4, from 5 to 8 p.m. with Charlie and Kathy Petrosky. Bring beverages and table snacks. \$5 guest fee applies.

Happy Hour (Free)

Cheers to a fantastic community! Join us for Happy Hour from 5 to 8 p.m. Feel free to bring your own beverages and table snacks. \$5 guest fee applies. The entertainment schedule is as follows:

- Saturday, Sept. 6: Groove 41
- Friday, Sept. 12: Debbie Owen & Tony
- Saturday, Sept. 20: Crossfire

Safety Training Class (Free)

The Colen Built Development safety team conducts safety classes. Active Shooter training will take place on Thursday, Sept. 18, from 4 to 6 p.m. All residents are encouraged to attend. Please call 352-387-9508 to reserve your spot.

Musical Game Night

Enjoy this musical fun night on Thursday, Sept. 25, from 5 to 7 p.m. Come and enjoy the game “PRIZEO” along with trivia and “Name That Tune.” Tickets cost \$5 per resident and \$10 per guest.

Poolside Entertainment (Free)

Sit poolside or under the pavilion for live music with Lisa Cohen on Sunday, Sept. 28, from 1 to 4 p.m. Relax in the sun, or swim in the pool, and make it a day with great music. Food may be purchased from the Blazin’ Bites food truck. No glass containers are allowed in the pool, on the deck, or under the pa-



vilion.

For events requiring registration at The Lodge at Candler Hills, please use the OTOW App. The required payment is due at the time of registration. No refunds will be issued within 14 days of any event or trip.

Indigo East Community Center

Happy Hour (Free)

Plan for a great time out with your friends and neighbors on Fridays from 5 to 8 p.m. Bring your favorite cocktails and snacks, and enjoy dancing, socializing, and relaxation! \$5 guest fee applies. The entertainment schedule is as follows:

- Sept. 5: Rear View Mirror
- Sept. 12: Dan Flock
- Sept. 26: Johnny Lobo

Music Trivia

Challenge your mind by playing rounds of music trivia and “Name That Tune” on Thursday, Sept. 4, from 3 to 5 p.m. First-, second-, and third-place prizes will be awarded. The cost is \$5 per resident and \$10 per guest.

Trivia

Get in on some friendly and fun competition with your neighbors and friends at Trivia Night on Monday, Sept. 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring your favorite snacks and beverages to share with your team. The cost is \$5 per resident and \$10 per guest. Don’t miss out on the fun!

Sassy Ladies Night (Free)

Invite your friends and girlfriends out for a night of dancing and fun! Bring some drinks and snacks to share with your table. Tony Machicote will be the entertainment on Wednesday, Sept.17, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Poolside Entertainment (Free)

Sit by the pool and enjoy the music of Dan Flock. Refresh and catch up with your friends and neighbors as you enjoy the last of the summer heat and some terrific sounds on Wednesday, Sept. 24, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Karaoke (Free)

Do you sing? Choose your song and share your voice at karaoke on Thursday, Sept. 18, from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring beverages and snacks. Feel free to sing solo or in a group. \$5 guest fee applies.

For events requiring registration at the Indigo East Community Center, please use the OTOW App. The required payment is due at the time of registration. No refunds will be issued within 14 days of any event or trip.

The Landing

Poolside Entertainment (Free)

Kick back and join in the fun on Sunday, Sept. 7, from 1 to 4 p.m. Enjoy great vibes and refreshing pool time – plus Tony Machicote will be playing tunes in the pavilion!

Bring your sunglasses, towel, and good energy! Get ready for a great afternoon at the pool on Wednesday, Sept. 24, from 1 to 4 p.m. The Joes will be playing music in the pavilion – perfect for relaxing and enjoying great company under the Florida sun.

Bead-filled floats are not allowed in the pool at any time. Glass containers are prohibited inside the pool gates.

Sock Hop (Free)

Dust off your poodle skirts, saddle shoes, jackets, and jeans, and get ready to rock around the clock! Our Sock-It-To-Me Sock Hop is Wednesday, Sept. 17, 5 to 8 p.m. Cheryl Jensen will be here playing the best of the ‘50s and more, so get ready to twist and shout like it’s the atomic age all over! \$5 guest fee applies.

Monthly Music Series (Free)

Our Howdy Y’all Country Music Party will take place on Monday, Sept. 29, from 5 to 8 p.m. Cheryl Jensen will be playing all of your favorite country music, from the classics to today’s hits. It’s gonna be a boot-scootin’ good time! \$5 guest fee applies.

For events requiring registration at The Landing, please use the OTOW App. The required payment is due at the time of registration. No refunds will be issued within 14 days of any event or trip.

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)	Ollie'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

Arrival and pick-up times for morning destinations will vary according to the number of passengers. The bus driver will announce the pick-up time at each destination for that day.

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

AFTERNOON ROUTE

PICK-UP LOCATIONS AND TIMES

The Lodge at Candler Hills	1:15 p.m.	Candler Hills Community Center	1:20 p.m.
Friendship Colony Post Office	1:25 p.m.	Providence Post Office	1:28 p.m.
Avalon Post Office	1:33 p.m.	Crescent Ridge Post Office	1:38 p.m.
Recreation Center	1:43 p.m.	Americana Post Office	1:48 p.m.
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

Arrival and pick-up times for afternoon destinations will vary according to the number of passengers. The bus driver will announce the pick-up time at each destination for that day.

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

#0901-1/2/4

For information, call 352-789-5666.

WM

WASTE MANAGEMENT

BULKY TRASH?

For bulky trash, schedule pickup by calling 866-684-3142.

Fun with Golf Carts

Susan Pulling Robinson



Labor Day is a time when our members decorate their carts to honor those who work hard for a living. Designated charities for the Labor Day parade included Operation Shoebox, Chuck’s Piggy Bank, Dunnellon Elementary School, Interfaith Emergency Services, and Veterans Helping Veterans. Thank you to all the folks who turn out to make generous donations to these causes.

Mark your calendar for the following Saturdays so you won’t miss the parade:

- Aug. 30: Labor Day
- Sept. 20: Dog Days of Summer
- Oct. 25: Halloween

On Top of the Wheels Car Group

Lyn Yanss



Welcome to On Top of the Wheels, a car club dedicated to automotive enthusiasts. Our organization emphasizes the significance of personal connections through a shared passion for automobiles. Our motto, “if it’s special to you, it’s special to us,” reflects our commitment to celebrating individual automotive interests and fostering a welcoming environment for all members and visitors.

We hold a monthly gathering on the second Friday of each month at 8 a.m. at Mama B’s on SR 200. These meetings

- Nov. 8: Veterans Day
- Dec. 6: Holiday Golf Cart Parade
- Dec. 20: Holiday Season

Membership in our Facebook group (OTOW Fun with Golf Carts) is now over 600! 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 otowfun-withgolfcarts@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 to your house, please meet us at the Recreation Center as we leave.



Handyman golf cart.
Photo by George Ostrom

Tesla Owners & Enthusiasts Club

Dan Lack



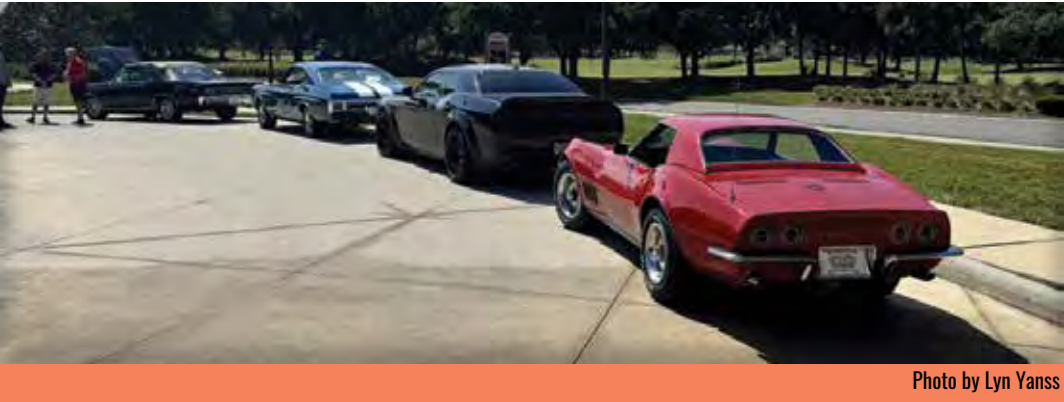
If we’re ever in Los Angeles, we will be sure to visit the new Tesla Diner and Drive-In on Santa Monica Boulevard. There are 80 supercharging stations, two 66-foot movie screens, and a futuristic diner where we can place our food orders via the touchscreen in our vehicles. Food is served by the wait staff on roller skates, reminiscent of 1950s diners. Popcorn is served inside by a Tesla Optimus robot.

Superchargers are located throughout the country, usually next to establishments where we can get food and use restrooms. The Tesla touchscreen directs us to the supercharger, indicating how much to charge to reach the next one most efficiently after about 20 minutes of charging time. This allows us to drive on road trips with no range anxiety.

The Tesla Owners and Enthusiasts Club meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room II. You do not have to be a Tesla owner to attend. There are no dues. There are speakers at some meetings. Most meetings are spent discussing our vehicles. Come and join us. We are happy to answer any of your questions about these fantastic vehicles.

SHOP ‘TIL YOU DROP

Buy On Top of the World branded merchandise at OTOWMarketplace.com.



Cars on display at the 2024 Club Fair.

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Synthetic Blend Lube Oil / Filter & Nitrogen Tire Fill

Change oil and filter, top off all underhood fluids, 27pt visual inspection. Reset all reminder and T.P.M.S systems.

\$24.99*

Must present coupon at time of write up. Up to 5 qts of oil. Synthetic oil extra. Not valid with any other coupons or discounts see facility for details. Most cars and light trucks.

ACTIVE AND RETIRED MILITARY PERSONNEL UP TO 30% OFF

ANY MAJOR MECHANICAL

Must present coupon at time of write up. Offer good on labor only. Not valid with any other coupons or discounts see dealer for details. (Most cars and light trucks)

Tire Rotation & Balance

Rotate and Balance Tires, Inspect for Abnormal Wear. Reset all reminder and T.P.M.S systems.

\$29.99*

Must present coupon at time of write up. Not valid with any other coupons or discounts see facility for details. Most cars and light trucks.

Front End Alignment

Check Front End Components . Adjust Camber/Caster/Toe If Needed. Check Tire Pressures . Reset T.P.M.S systems if Needed.

\$34.99*

Must present coupon at time of write up. Not valid with any other coupons or discounts see facility for details. Most cars and light trucks.

Front Brake Job

Remove and Replace Front Brake Pads , Install Ceramic Pads, Turn Rotors If Needed , Inspect All Hardware and Components:

\$159.99*

Must present coupon at time of write up. Not valid with any other coupons or discounts see facility for details. Most cars and light trucks.

Tire Rotation

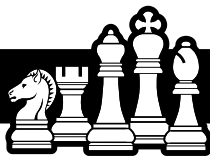
Rotate Tires, Inspect for Abnormal Wear, Reset T.P.M.S systems.

\$9.99*

Must present coupon at time of write up. Not valid with any other coupons or discounts see facility for details. Most cars and light trucks.



CARDS & GAMES



Bingo

Nancy Grabowski



It’s hard to imagine that Labor Day has arrived, bringing thoughts of cooler weather and plans for autumn. We hope you’ve included coming to bingo in your plans! We invite you to join us each Wednesday for a fun-filled evening.

The overall format for bingo is a constant: about 2:45 p.m. every Wednesday, bingo volunteers start to set up the equipment and supplies needed for the festivities to begin. Near 4 p.m., you can start purchasing 70/30 raffle tickets. The prizes are minimal: three for \$1 or 10 for \$3! Starting at 5:30 p.m., the lucky tickets are pulled to award the \$20 prizes. Perhaps you’ll be fortunate enough to have more than one winning ticket!

Each game card costs \$1, and you play it for all 20 games. The cards are equipped with sliders, so no dabbers or tokens are needed to play. The pattern for each game is shown on the board while the game is played; the last number called flashes until the following number appears. We encourage you to call “bingo” even if you’re unsure, so our runners can check it out for you. The number of cards determines the purse for the games the audience has purchased. The 10th game is always played for \$75, and the 20th game jackpot grows in \$10 increments from \$110 up to \$250, determined by a set number of balls for each amount.

You must bring your resident ID card each time you come to join us. Guests are welcome and must be accompanied by a resident. Florida statutes prevent anyone under the age of 18 from attending.

Another part of the statute prohibits beer, wine or any other alcoholic beverages in the Recreation Center Ballroom during bingo. They can be purchased in The Pub, finished there, or on the outside patio.

Volunteers place signs at their seats to indicate their assigned positions. Please respect this small request. You

may, however, save one seat other than your own if you choose to leave before the games start. Please do not tip the chairs, as they present a tripping hazard. Come join us for a great evening! Who knows? It may be your lucky night! If you wish to become a volunteer, speak with Carl Folkers or Nancy Grabowski on any Wednesday.

Bridge



Monday Afternoon
By Carol Johnson

July 7

1: Mar Valchin & Chris Wachter; 2: Phyllis Silverman & Judy Mackowiak; 3: Jack Heller & Steve Sekac; 4: Pat & Deb Quinn.

July 14

1: Barb Heller & Jean Krueger; 2: Craig Ford & Kurt Baumgartner; 3: Steve Sekac & Jack Heller; 4: Darlene Clark & Linda Curtiss.

July 21

1: Mike Meirick & Craig Ford; 2: Donna Peters & Rad D; 3: Jack Heller & Steve Sekac; 4: V.J. Hertz & Carolyn Higgins.

July 28

1: Craig Ford & Mike Meirick; 2: Jean Krueger & Barb Heller; 3: Diane Robinson & Carol Johnson; 4: Bruce Gillett & Al Kremer.

Tuesday Night Duplicate
By Bob Kraus

We meet in the Arbor Activity Center Card Rooms I-II, and play begins at 6 p.m. Please arrive by 5:50 p.m. so we can set up the best game, Mitchell or Howell, appropriate for the number of players. We can accommodate up to nine tables. Bring your partner and \$0.50 per person.

The boards are scored after the game and the results are 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, contact Bob Kraus at 352-492-8525.

July 15

1: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; 2: Bob Kraus & Arlene Loepp; 3: Carolyn Higgins & V.J. Hentz; 4: Chris Wachter & Jeff Young.

July 29

North/South

1: Chris Wachter & Jeff Young; 2: Dennis Wallace & Judi Wallace; 3: Brian Lomasky & Carrie Kanosky.

East/West

1: Jeff Bell & Pam Bell; 2: Barbara Heller & Jack Heller; 3: Linda Ryan & Bill Ryan.

Aug. 5

1: Bob Kraus & Arlene Loepp; 2: Diane Turkin & Gary Moses; 3: Linda Ryan & Bill Ryan; Tie at 4: Chris Wachter & Jeff Young; and Barbara Heller & Jack Heller.

Wednesday Afternoon
By Debbie Quinn

July 2

1: Bruce Gillett; 2: Bob Durst; 3: Al Kremer; 4: Craig Ford; 5: Marlene Floeckher; Cons: Linda Curtiss.

July 9

1: Ram Ray; 2: Linda Curtiss; 3: Pat Quinn; 4: Bob Durst; Cons: Bob Knowles.

July 16

1: Kurt Baumgartner; 2: Debbie. Quinn; 3: Bill Searight; 4: Craig Ford; Cons: Trudy Baumgartner.

July 23

1: Pat Quinn; 2: Craig Ford; 3: Marlene Floeckher; 4: Trudy Baumgartner; Cons: V. J. Hentz & Debbie Quinn.

July 30

1. Dianne Robinson; 2. Craig Ford; 3. Mike Meirick; 4. Bob Knowles; Cons: Steve Sekac & Kurt Baumgartner.

Thursday Afternoon
By Marlene Floeckher

July 3

1: Bill Searigixt; 2: Steve Sekac; 3: Ram Janaki; 4: Pat Quinn; 5: Al Kremer; Cons: Marlene Floeckher.

July 10

1: Kurt Baumgartner; 2: Dianne Robinson; 3: Billie Andersen; Cons: Linda Curtiss.

July 17

1: Betty Schaff; 2: Craig Ford; 3: Mary Bloch; 4: Linda Curtiss; Cons: Trudy Baumgartner.

July 24

1: Linda Curtiss; 2: Bruce Gillett; 3: Mary Bloch; 4: Carolyn Higgins; 5: V.J. Hertz; Cons: Dianne Robinson.

Bunco Babes
Social Group

Michelle Malsch



We meet in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The next scheduled game is Tuesday, Sept. 23.

Registration is at 6:45 p.m., and games begin at 7 p.m. You do not need to call to register; simply show up with your resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. The room is set up for 48 players. Please ensure you arrive on time to secure your spot. It will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Always check the World News for the latest updates on our group.

Although the name of our group is “Bunco Babes,” we also have a few husbands who attend. If you enjoy the game, don’t be afraid to be a “bunco dude.”

If you have never played, 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 gameplay. 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 have exact change), and all collected funds will be returned to the category winners at the end of the game. There are also two door prize drawings for those who did not win any of the cash prizes. Please bring your beverage and a small snack if you wish. After the first three sets have been played, there will be a short intermission.

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!

STAY IN THE KNOW!
DOWNLOAD THE APP!

The On Top of the World app is available in the Google Play and Apple Store (resident account required).

Cribbage

Judy Parisi



Our Cribbage Group meets in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room II on the first and third Thursday of the month from 3 to 5 p.m.

We welcome new players to join us. We’re a non-competitive group of all experience levels.

If you have a cribbage board and deck of cards, please bring them; however, we have extras on hand.

If you would like more information or would like to learn to play, please email judith.parisi@gmail.com.

Euchre



Friday Night
By Mary Bloch

Keep your brain sharp! Play euchre every Friday at 6 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Large Card Room. For more information, please call 614-806-6737.

July 11

1: Judy Lynch; 2: Karen Jacob; Tie at 3: Trudy Baumgartner & Cindy Turek.

July 18

1: Bob Krause; 2: Lloyd Beitel; 3: Sande Caton.

July 25

1: Carol Condino; 2: Pete Jacob; 3: Linda Brown.

Mah Jongg

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 p.m. every Thursday in Arbor Activity Center Card Room III. Please arrive a few minutes early as we will draw chips for table assignments. After three or four games, we will switch tables to make new friends and change the gameplay. Join us for a couple of hours of fun.

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

Pinochle



Pinochle is played several times each month. Double deck is in the Recreation Center on Mondays at 6 p.m. Single deck is played twice a week. You may find a large group on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. in the Hobby Building. On Fridays, you can find another game at the Arbor Conference Center at 10 a.m.

It’s always advisable to come a few minutes early. If you wish for more information, please contact me at 352-615-0018. All are welcome in our non-competitive games.

Tuesday Night
By Herb Katz

July 1

1: Ray Kallai; 2: Jackie Nuccio; 3: Ilene Casper.

July 8

1: Bud Alderman; 2: Mike Romano; 3: Lee Freehauf.

July 15

1: Bud Alderman; 2: Andy Nuccio; 3: Vicki Mattingly.

July 22

1: Vicki Mattingly; 2: Rick Carroll; 3: Al Whitford.

July 29

1: Marlene Floeckher; 2: Al Whitford; 3: Robert Moravec.

Friday Morning
By Mary Hannon

July 11

1: Jim Magoon; 2: Cheryl Adams; 3: Andy Nuccio.

July 18

1: Ilene Casper; 2: Edna Frye; 3: Andy Nuccio.

July 2

1: Jim Magoon; 2: Mary Hannon; 3: Cheryl Adams.

Aug. 1

1: Angela Brady; 2: Andy Nuccio; 3: Al Whitford.

Aug. 8

1: Gary Moses; 2: Stephen Mintz; 3: Cheryl Adams.

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Poetry

Barbara A. Scales



A Snake in the Kitchen

Shut the door,
Shut the Door.
Shut The Door!

Kitchen
To garage,
Garage
To kitchen,
Shut the door!

Words of wisdom, no not heeded resulted in me
unhinged, unseated.
Words ignored to shut the door, inside the kitchen
slithered a predator.

Black as midnight and three feet long, the foe on
belly slid along.
Inside the door, having lost camouflage, it wound
itself up, ick, very tall.

The loathe!
The fear!
Gripped me tight!
A burst of adrenaline zinged me and I prepared to
fight.
No weapon upon me I stomped my feet in hopes
that thing would quick recede.

The creature startled.
It stopped cold dead.
“Oh no you won’t wander this house,” I said.

There was no telling where it might choose to hide.
Behind the stove, or curled atop the couch or
worse, inside.
Absolutely, I would not sleep until it was gone or
died.

As a knight in armor I stood firm to halt its black
disdainful swerve.
Stomping.
Yelling.
Clapping my hands.
“This is it snake,” I shouted, “Custer’s last stand!”

Louder.
Bigger.
I stomped my feet.
Until at long last it turned to the garage in retreat.
And when the kitchen was mine once more
I scolded.
I shouted.
Shut that door!

Poetry

Linda Toner



The Club Fair

At the On Top of the World
Club Fair,
I found out,
that there’s
a weekly Woodcarving Club.
I love to carve,
so I signed up.
There were a couple more clubs
that I was interested in,
so I took their flyers
and I have been
a busy woman
who is having fun,
and when all
is said and done,
at the next Club Fair
don’t miss out.
Go, I am sure,
without a doubt,
that with all the clubs offered
you will find
a club you are interested in
like I did mine.

Poetry

Janice M. Puta



Show the Way

Adventure ...
make it fun and exciting!
Explore ...
find the hidden and buried.
Create ...
think and feel it into reality.
Dream ...
go deeper, further, higher, wider.
Inspire ...
be it, do it, show the way.

View from
the Library

Linda Baker



Would you want to know exactly how much time you have left on earth? Would that knowledge change the way you live – or the way others treat you? Two recent novels explore this question in very different ways.

In “The Measure” by Nikki Erlick, one spring morning starts in a very dif-

Happy Hookers

Jan Spielvogel



Hard to believe we are in September. This year is certainly flying by. Happy Hookers continues to work on creating hats, scarves, and blankets. Although it may not seem like it now, cooler weather is approaching, and our charities still have a great need for these items. We are also still making flowers for Empath Hospice of Marion County. In August, 18 members in our group enjoyed an excellent lunch at Mimi’s Cafe. 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, agendas, or penalties for missing a meeting, arriving late, or leaving early. Life can and does sometimes interfere, and we would hate for that to hold you back.

We have a talented group of ladies busy with crocheting, knitting, needle-point, card crafting, embroidering, and various other handicrafts. They are never too busy to help someone with a complicated pattern or stitch. We welcome newcomers with open arms. Attendees should bring their current projects or work.

If you have questions about our club, call Naomi Berman at 352-873-4328. We always appreciate donations of yarn, pattern books, knitting needles, crochet hooks, or other crafting tools. Please bring them on Mondays during our meeting, or contact Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178 to arrange pickup.

ferent way – every person in the world over the age of 22 receives a small wooden box inscribed with their name and the words “The measure of your life lies within.” Inside each box is a string, its length revealing the owner’s lifespan.

At first, no one knows what the string represents, but soon websites and apps emerge to calculate the exact date of passing. Some people refuse to open their boxes; others form support groups for “short stringers.” Governments and militaries start making decisions based on the length of strings. Politicians announce the length of their strings, presuming that a long string makes for a better leader.

The story follows eight characters through the first year of this new reality, weaving together their choices, relationships, and secrets – all shaped by the lengths of their strings. It’s a thoughtful, emotional look at how we judge and classify each other based on things we cannot control.

Liane Moriarty’s “Here One Moment” offers a different spin on the same theme. On an otherwise routine

short flight, a mysterious passenger (later called the “death lady”) tells each traveler the exact day and manner of their passing. Most dismiss her as eccentric until her first prediction comes true. Then another. And another. As panic and curiosity spread, we follow a small group of passengers whose lives begin to intersect in surprising ways. Some seize the chance to make major life changes; others stubbornly ignore the warnings. The “death lady” herself emerges as a central figure, with a backstory that explains how she came to bear such unsettling knowledge.

“The Measure” leans toward the philosophical, inviting readers to reflect on fairness, fate, and how much control we really have over our lives. “Here One Moment” moves with the momentum of a mystery, full of twists that keep the pages turning.

Both novels will leave you wondering: if you knew your ending, how would you live today? You can find these books (and thousands more) at the Hobby Building Library – waiting to challenge the way you think about time.

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The New Pretenders

Nancy Grabowski



The arrival of Labor Day heralds the new season of clubs and activities. The New Pretenders will be waiting to meet and greet you at the Club Fair on Thursday, Sept. 11, at Circle Square Cultural Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. We are excited to welcome our dedicated fans who are always so supportive, as well as meet the many new residents!

The arrival of Labor Day also signifies that the organized practices and increased hard work have arrived for our troupe. While it may seem as if we have plenty of time, every minute of practice makes our shows what you’ve come to expect.

The New Pretenders will present their

Broadway Playhouse

Elaine Morrison



On Sunday, Aug. 3, scripts and songs were distributed to the guys and gals who showed up to be players in our upcoming production of “Oklahoma, Jr.” The good news is that there are still opportunities for others to participate,

Paradise Players

Linda Yanss



Are you interested in getting involved in theater – acting, singing, dancing? Or, you might prefer to work behind the scenes, focusing on set construction, prop making/control, prompting, and other stage-related tasks. If any of these areas align with your interests, we encourage you to explore the various opportunities available within our organization.

Paradise Players is a dedicated ensemble of individuals committed to the art of entertainment. Our activities encompass more than just stage performances; we undertake a variety of roles essential to the success of our productions. Recently, we completed the April performance of the “Platinum Gals Cruise Adventure,” which was well-received by audiences and provided diverse participation opportunities for members.

Currently, we are in the process of reviewing scripts and conducting readings for our upcoming production scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 22, entitled “Comedy Tonight.” This show will feature a series of short plays and sketches designed to entertain a broad audience.

We will be participating in the Club Fair on Thursday, Sept. 11, at Circle Square Cultural Center, so stop by and visit our booth.

Interested individuals are invited to attend our upcoming meetings at the Arbor Conference Center on Wednesdays in September. Please note that on Wednesday, Sept. 17, this will be a social event, as no rooms are available.

The social gathering begins at 3:15 p.m., followed by the meeting at 3:30 p.m., with an expected conclusion by 5 p.m. We welcome your participation and look forward to your involvement in our upcoming projects.

If interested, please email otowparadiseplayers@gmail.com.

new show: “Tonight’s Gonna Be a Good Night” in the Recreation Center Ballroom on Friday, Feb. 6, and Saturday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. or Sunday, Feb. 8 at 2 p.m. Our goal is always a flawless performance. Looking at Sunday’s date, don’t worry! We’ll have you (and us) home in plenty of time for the Super Bowl.

Our troupe has set some lofty goals for this presentation. Our band has an increased presence, which you’ll notice when you see how many different instruments each member plays! Additionally, some band members will put on their dancing shoes, and they’ve planned more than one more surprise for our loyal fans!

The singers are determined to elevate their numbers as well. You might notice the energy that adds to the fun on stage, or you might note the costumes or perhaps the choreography. The entire group aims to enhance your experience in the audience, encourage you to sing

particularly for you guys.

The production will be presented on two successive weekends: Saturday, Feb. 28, and Sunday, March 1, and Saturday, March 7, and Sunday, March 8, in the Recreation Center Ballroom. There will be evening and matinee performances. Details concerning times and tickets will be published in the next month’s column.

Auditions will be held in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room Wednesday, Sept. 3, through Friday, Sept. 5, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Memorization of the material is required, and creating the character as authentically as possible is suggested. Each participant will be allotted 15 minutes to make their presentation. A \$10 membership fee is required.

Ongoing rehearsals begin on Sunday, Sept. 7, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. A commitment to attend the rehearsals is a priority for all participants.

The popular entertainment trivia contest will be held in the Recreation Center Ballroom on Sunday, Nov. 2, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Those who attended last year’s event know what a fun time it was. All the questions concern every facet of the entertainment field, covering categories which include movies, theater, music, dance, and television. Tickets are \$10 and will be on sale soon. For further information, please contact otowbroadwayplayhouse@gmail.com.

along, and possibly entice you to consider joining us next season!

The New Pretenders strive to add new elements to their performances year after year. This year is no exception. We

will hint at and/or reveal one of the biggest surprises as our dates draw near.

If you are interested in more information, contact any troupe member or Nancy Grabowski, director, at 352-209-4699.



Photo by Lennie Rodoff
Fran Jones, Judy Singer, Fran Allen, Jean Duda, Nancy Wright, and Tom Miller from The New Pretenders.

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Big things are happening at the ShutterBugs Photography Club! We recently completed a full update of our website – otowspc.org. Here you will find fresh, modern content with a wealth of information and excellent access to educational articles and videos. You’ll have the ability to join the club, enter the members’ photo contest, get links to other contests, peruse a massive list of great locations to visit for your growing photography hobby, and view a tremendous

collection of photos in our member gallery. As a member, you can upload up to 12 of your photos to your member gallery. After you join the club, create your account online to get member gallery access. A superb job in designing and implementing the new site was done by club officer Ron Rydell and our skilled development partner, Jose Torres, who worked diligently to craft a superb site for your education and enjoyment. With a few clicks of your mouse or taps on your tablet or smartphone, you’ll see a list of upcoming events, get access to educational sources, learn about the club, access the membership application, enjoy reading our member spotlight feature, and more. We are

an active club with weekly meetings or events where you can get troubleshooting help, see presentations on photo-related skills and post-processing, join with other members on field trips, and have your work reviewed in our show-and-tell sessions. Join our Facebook group (Shutterbugs - OTOW Photography Club), where you can view the latest member photos and get helpful information to help you grow your skills. You can also post your favorite images there. Don’t forget, you can see some of our members’ photographs on display in the Master the Possibilities lobby. Exhibitions change monthly, and our exhibitor for September is Sue Lassiter, who is displaying some great photos, including

landscapes and nature/birds. Always remember this – photography in any form is about seeing the world with intention. Whether through a smartphone, a digital camera, or a vintage rangefinder, the image reflects the photographer’s inner lens. It’s an incredible journey – let us help you enjoy it to the fullest. What’s in your camera bag? Are you a Canon person or a Nikon fan? Maybe Sony is your favorite or some other brand. Post a response on our Facebook page when you get a chance. The ShutterBugs motto: “Those who don’t know should ask, those who do know should show-and-tell.” For more information, contact Harry Boyajian at 239-336-4804.

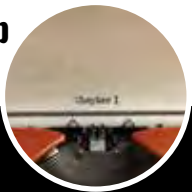


Lake Louise, Canada.

Photo by Sue Lassiter

Author Support Group

Paul DiSclafani



Are you a published author? Have we got a group for you. Welcome to the Author’s Support Group! We meet on the first Thursday of every month at the Arbor Activity Center Event Room from 11 a.m. to noon. Our next scheduled meetings are Sept. 4 and Oct. 2. Led by the founder of the group, author Filomena Abys-Smith, who was featured in the World News (April 2025), our group of merry wordsmiths discusses our current projects and shares stories. They support each other through the ups and downs of publishing. Filomena’s most recent historical fiction novel, “At the Lord’s Table,” is a tale of an Irish family’s struggle to survive the famine of the mid-19th century. She also penned two memoirs, “A Bit of Myself” and “A Bit of Herself.” Let me introduce you to some of our members. Lori Szepelak’s most recent non-fiction, “An Angel on My Shoulder,” was inspired by her belief in the afterlife and noticing auras in her photographs. She has also published “Floors of the Forest” and “Visits with Mom,” which chronicle her different spiritual experiences, leading her to share these messages from the angelic realm. Lori, a seasoned newspaper reporter with over 30 years of experience, is hosting several writing-related classes this fall for Master the Possibilities, including “So ... You Want to be an Author?” Visit masterthepossibilities.org for more information. Like a satisfying mystery series? Ivan Obolensky’s “Dark of the Earth” is the third in his award-winning gothic mystery series about two friends who reunite as adults to solve the intriguing mystery of a family member’s death. Catch up on the other books in the series that begin with “Eye of the Moon” (book one) and “Shadow of the Son, (book two). Melinda Sutherland has published two children’s books, “Belinda’s Hugs” and “Read This One,” and a memoir, “Moments with Melinda.” Her most recent novel, “The Women of Mockingbird Hill,” is a historical fiction tale of a young girl who uncovers the stories of the strong women in her family history. And me? I’ve published three memoirs. My most recent, “Meeting Bruce Springsteen and Other Tales of Debauchery,” is a fun collection of six true stories chronicling crazy adventures with friends in the late ‘70s. And yes, we did meet Bruce Springsteen. My first memoir, “Burning Through the West Coast,” was followed by a compilation of my favorite stories from my award-winning Massapequa Observer column, “Long Island Living.” Check out Sid’s Coffee Shop & Deli; you might find a copy of my books there. We’re organizing some events in the fall (like the October Craft Fair at Circle Square Cultural Center) where residents can meet us and chat. If our group sounds like something you would be interested in, please contact Filomena via email at fabys2@aol.com.

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* weather permitting. Entertainment and vendors subject to change without notice.

BE READY BEFORE THE STORM!

Florida's hurricane season runs through November 30. It is important to plan ahead so you are safe in an emergency. Get ready now for the risks associated with stormy weather so you are prepared to act when alerted by emergency officials.

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO HELP YOU PREPARE FOR HURRICANE SEASON:

- **Build a disaster supply kit** (first aid kit, water, canned food supply, etc.)
- **Compile a list of medications, including dosage and frequency.** Have a 7-day supply on hand, particularly special needs items like oxygen tanks
- **Those with special needs should register with the Marion County Special Needs Program to receive assistance during a disaster** ([marionso.com/special-needs-program](#) or (352) 369-8100)
- **Bring in anything that can be picked up by the wind** (bicycles, lawn ornaments, patio furniture, etc.)
- **Close windows, doors and hurricane shutters***
- **Fill your vehicle's gas tank and any gas cans you may have**
- **Obey evacuation orders**
- **Pet owners should have plans to care for their animals**
- **Register for emergency alerts at [alertmarion.com](#)**

Visit [www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/ready.php](#) and [www.ready.gov/hurricane](#) for additional information.

*Please refer to the Association Rules as to when hurricane shutters may be closed.

On Top of the World

On Top of the World FRIENDSHIP COLONY Vehicle Decal Event

Attention Friendship Colony Residents!

You are cordially invited to attend the scheduled RFID Vehicle Decal Drive-Through Event for your neighborhood.

This drive-through event will occur in the Circle Square Cultural Center parking lot from 8 am to noon on the specified dates below. Entrance to this event will begin on SW 79th Street Road. Please follow all directional signs to ensure a proper flow of traffic. For an expedited experience, you may remove your existing decal before arriving at the event.

Residents should arrive on their assigned day to facilitate seamless distribution:

Tuesday, August 26, 2025 - Last names: A-H
Wednesday, August 27, 2025 - Last Names: I-Q
Thursday, August 28, 2025 - Last Names: R-Z

Residents with different last names in the same household, can collect their decal(s) on either date.

Can't attend on your assigned day? Please reach out to otowservice@otowfl.com for rescheduling information. As a reminder, your barcode will continue to work while we integrate all communities.

*Future dates have been scheduled for other OTOW neighborhoods.

Art Group

Marianne Hoffman



Mitch Baylis takes a different approach to storytelling. He uses highly intricate and surreal black-and-white ink drawings that combine human, abstract, and geometric forms to entice his audiences into a dreamlike narrative.

Mitch explains that his creation “Under Pressure” is based on the lyrics for the song co-written by Queen and David Bowie. Mitch explains that, “The central figure is under pressure,” .The upper portion features a figure with an exaggerated arm reaching out, blending seamlessly into a series of fluid, flowing lines that resemble water or fabric.”

Mitch adds that some of the symbolism in this piece shows a Bowie knife with the handle of the queen chess piece. “This indicates a collaboration between Bowie and Queen.”

His use of intertwined human forms with abstract and symbolic elements demonstrates a strong imaginative and innovative approach to visual storytelling. “It is my goal for the surrealistic quality to evoke emotions ranging from intrigue to unease, encouraging introspection about underlying themes or narratives,” he concludes.

What are you waiting for? Grab your brushes, pastels, pencils and pens, canvases, art paper, and join us to use art to tell your stories. The Art Group meets in the Hobby Building Art Room two days a week: Wednesdays, from 1 to 4 p.m., and Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information, contact Freda Klump, director, at 615-336-6863 or fredaklump@gmail.com.



Ink Drawing by Mitch Baylis

Under Pressure.

Concert Chorus

Joanne Houston



Can you believe that there are only 104 days until the magnificent Concert Chorus “Home for the Holidays” holiday concert? The concert will be performed at Circle Square Cultural Center on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 3 p.m. and Monday, Dec. 15, at 6 p.m.

Tickets will be sold in October through Concert Chorus members or in the Recreation Center Ballroom. The cost of a ticket is \$10. We will once again be asking for food donations to support the Interfaith Emergency Services program which feeds thousands of Marion County children during the holiday season.

Get ready to sit back and enjoy new

twists on traditional holiday favorites, along with some fun surprises from our 90-member chorus of talented singers! We will have some guest appearances from some popular holiday characters to add to the fun.

If you are interested in joining the Concert Chorus, please plan to come to our first rehearsal on Tuesday, Sept. 2, at 8:45 a.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room. The membership fee is \$20, and all enthusiastic singers are welcome to join us.

For more information, please email Joanne.houston57@gmail.com or deboraasmith@gmail.com, and we will get back to you as soon as possible. If you can’t make the first rehearsal, you are still welcome to attend any Tuesday from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room to preview the music and be part of our music family! We hope to see you there soon.



Photo by Cheryl Richardson

Singers rehearsing for the Concert Chorus spring concert.

Karaoke Friends

Kathy & Charlie Petrosky



The thought of singing karaoke can evoke a range of emotions in people. For regular karaoke singers, it makes them happy. They look forward to singing. If it is a new song, they hope for the best. They know making a mistake is okay. They practice some more, and the next time, they nail the song.

I was wondering, “Is there such a thing as the fear of karaoke?” I found out there is, and it has several names. It is known as Decantophobia, Adophobia, Psalophobia, or even Karaokephobia! Whatever you want to call it, fear of singing in public can become a person’s worst nightmare. I remember it took me several visits as a clapper before I sang.

I like looking up trivial information. Did you know you burn calories singing? A person who weighs 150 pounds will burn approximately 100 calories singing for an hour while sitting down. A 200-pound person will burn about 140 calories. If you sing while standing, calories burned increases to 140 and 180, respectively. So singing is good for the diet!

Some people come in and say, “I think I would like to sing. What do I have to do?” We have a sign-up board. Simply

put your name on the list and you go into the rotation. In other places, just let the KJ (karaoke jockey) know so they put you in the rotation. What happens if you change your mind? Just say “pass” when it is your turn.

Now to pick a song. Select a song that suits your vocal range and style. It is good to choose one that is familiar to the audience. Avoid songs that are too long, too difficult, or overplayed. How do you know if the song is in your vocal range? Try singing the song. If you are stretching too much for the notes or feel like you are in the basement, that range isn’t

right for you. Either pick another song or ask the KJ to do a key change.

We love having an audience that loves to listen, sing along, and clap. Yes, our clappers are a big part of the show.

If you haven’t already, come and join us as a singer or clapper. We meet on the first and third Mondays of the month in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room. Singing starts at 5:30 p.m. We also meet on the second Thursday of the month in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Singing starts at 5 p.m. We love it when a new singer joins us. Hope to see you there.



Photo by Kathy Petrosky

Recreation Center Ballroom clappers.

Tell Me More About the TRAVELLER Study

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Individuals 50-90 years old who:

- have memory concerns reported by them or a doctor within the last year ;
- have not previously had a diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease based on an amyloid PET scan or cerebrospinal fluid draw;
- are able to complete daily, basic tasks that are not affected by memory or cognitive concerns;
- do not have other neurodegenerative conditions or major psychiatric conditions;
- has not chronically used antipsychotic or neuroleptic medications within last 3 months;
- has not abused alcohol or substances within the last 6 months.

WHAT IS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE?

For this prescreening program, participants will be asked to do the following:

- sign an informed consent document;
- provide information about their medical history, baseline conditions, and medications usage;
- provide demographic data, including their age, sex, and self-reported race or ethnicity;
- complete a learning and memory task assessment;
- complete a blood draw for standard blood tests and to determine ptau217 (pTau217 is a protein that is elevated in the blood of individuals with Alzheimer’s disease).

Learn More Today!

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Why Should I Participate In an Alzheimer’s Clinical Trial?

Reasons to participate can include:

- people 60+ years old have a 1 in 6 chance of developing harmful levels of amyloid beta, a protein associated with Alzheimer’s disease;
- participating in research expands your options, especially if you have been offered limited treatments or have tried treatments you could not tolerate, afford, or found effective;
- once enrolled in trial, you receive regularly scheduled monitoring by specialized health professionals at no cost to you or your insurance;
- you can make a difference! Your participation in this study will help contribute to scientific research that could help you or future generations.

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Sewing Bees

Ann Gallo



The “ber” months have arrived, and I am hoping for some relief from this heat.

We have just about completed this year’s Christmas quilts and are getting ready for our fall distributions.

During July, we were contacted by the Ocala Gazette. The paper’s editor had heard about the Sewing Bees and wanted a feature story about us, our work, and giving back to the community. On Thursday, July 11, we were visited by reporter Edith Sickler and photographer Bruce Ackerman. They were very impressed with our work and involvement in the community, as well as the number of quilts that have been donated. In 2024, we donated 1,003 quilts to disadvantaged children in Marion County.

The ladies and gentlemen who give of their time and talents were showcased in the article. If you haven’t seen the article, you can find the link on our Facebook page.

A limited number of our quilts are available for a donation. Please message if you see anything on Facebook that you might be interested in.

Did you know that the word “quilt”

comes from the Latin word “culcita” (meaning “mattress” or “cushion”)?

We anticipate filling 150 Christmas stockings for children aged five to teens. If you would like to help fill our stockings, please reach out to us at our email SewingBeesClub@gmail.com to see how you can assist us.

Not sure if this is a club for you? Stop by and watch the magic happen in the Hobby Building Art Room. We meet every Thursday from 12:30 to 3 p.m. and on the second and third Saturdays of the month from noon to 3 p.m.

This is a very generous and talented group of men and women who share their talents by offering warmth and comfort to homeless, foster care, and disadvantaged children in Marion County.

If you sew, you don’t have to complete every phase of the quilt-making process. Many hands are involved in the final quilt. We have sewing machines available for your use. Dues are \$15 for the year.

We are always in need of children’s-themed cotton, solid-colored cotton, or flannel fabric. Gift cards, especially from Hobby Lobby and Michaels, are always welcome.

Join our page on Facebook (Sewing Bees Club Inc.) and see what magic takes place at the hive.

Questions? Call or text Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178 or Susie Clauson at 904-422-5135.



Photo by Connie Press

Triple stamp card.

Rubber Stamp Greeting Cards

Linda Lohr



Our presenter on Thursday, Aug. 7, was Connie Press. She shared a triple stamp card and a creative fan card. Both can be used for any occasion. We thank Connie for sharing these ideas with the group.

Our group is open to all crafters, whether you’re a beginner or more experienced. Each month, one or two people will present. The group meets on the first and third Thursdays at 1 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room.

Anyone can be a presenter; the cards do not have to be fancy or complicated. Our group is based on friendship, socializing, and helping each other.

Contact Connie Press using the email below for any class or general information. Basic supplies, such as a trimmer, glue, scissors, and card stock, are required. Everyone in the group shares their supplies, and everyone brings new ideas to the table. You are only limited by your imagination!

If you feel this might be a class you would enjoy, or if you have any questions, please contact Connie Press at connie.rubberstampclub@gmail.com. You can also find the information for each class on our Facebook page.

Until our next meeting, keep on stampin’!

Woodcarving Club

Linda Toner



It is still summer, and everyone is carving up a storm.

We welcome Jim Sullivan to our group. Jim is attempting a carving in soapstone.

Our featured woodcarver this month is Vicky Larson. She has been carving for the past two years. She prefers to carve basswood. She had an uncle who used to carve, and she always admired his work; therefore, she was excited to learn about our club. She gets her inspiration for subjects from other people in the club. She prefers to carve in the round, creating three-dimensional pieces mostly featuring winter themes. She said she is still learning new knife techniques and finds herself developing more skills with each project. She says she is very grateful for the mentorship of the club members. “People are so helpful with their time and talents to get you the carving you desire.”

We meet every Thursday in the Hobby Building Art Room from 3 to 5 p.m. If you already know how to carve or are interested in learning, you can call Tom at 352-586-1171 or just stop by. We have carvers ranging from beginner to advanced who can share their techniques and tricks, so you can create a carving of your own. We have wood and tools to lend to get you started.



Photo by Linda Toner

Vicky Larson is displaying her works.



Photo by Donna Owen

Susan Schlotterbeck with her beautiful Dot art project.

Crafters Anonymous

Donna Owen



Do you love making things with your hands? Do you enjoy learning new skills and sharing your creations with others?

If so, you may be interested in joining our club. We are a group of friendly and creative people who meet every Tuesday from 12:30 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Art Room. We work on various projects, including polymer clay, diamond art, needlework, paper crafts, and more.

We welcome crafters of all levels and love exchanging ideas. Our club is not only a place to create beautiful crafts, but also a community where you can have fun and make new friends. Come check us out.

We can’t wait to meet you and see what you can create! Please contact Donna Owen at bammao@sbcglobal.net with any questions.

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ADS: There is no charge to residents as long as it is not of a business nature. There is a \$500 limit on FOR SALE items. Items valued at more than \$500 (i.e. golf carts) may be listed, but price will not accompany the ad. Auto, apartment, financial service, home, legal, real estate, and timeshare ads WILL NOT be accepted. Ads may be emailed to otownnews@otowfl.com.

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SERVICE ADS: Will be accepted from residents and non-residents and may be emailed to otownnews@otowfl.com. For advertising rates, visit ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala and click on "Advertising Rates."

AD DEADLINE: Noon on the 12th of the month. If the deadline falls on a weekend, then it's noon on the Friday before. For more information, call 352-387-7466, email otownnews@otowfl.com or visit ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala

The publisher reserves the right to reject any ad which, in his judgment, would not be in the best interest of the residents of On Top of the World Communities.

For Sale

Computer Equipment: Dell 22" monitor and keyboard, \$30 firm. 352-844-1394.

Electronics: 22" Samsung LED TV for RV, \$30. 414-218-9348.

Electronics: Canon Rebel T3i EOS 600D with case, battery pack, charger, stereo AV cable, CD-ROMs, and manual, \$200 firm. LG 55" TV (#55LK520) with stand and remote, \$350 firm. 352-844-1394.

Furniture: 5-piece patio set, strong frame, large tan cushions, \$375. 352-208-4941.

Furniture: Polywood patio furniture, green – glider chair, fixed chair, ottomans (2), and double chair with table unit. 610-721-1424.

Golf Cart: 2023 Star Sirius, 2-in-1 combo golf cart, holds 4 people or holds 2 people plus 2 golf bags, lithium battery, includes canopy top and Sunbrella curtain, seat belts, light package with turn signals. 610-721-1424.

Golf Equipment: Ladies golf clubs (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, PW, SW, putter) and bag, \$100 for all. 610-721-1424.

Medical Equipment: Assembled Rollator walker with padded arm rests, seat, back, storage, and cane holder. Asking \$100. 352-789-0047.

Misc. Items: Arlo wireless home security camera systems (3) with solar panel and gutter bracket. \$95 per set. 21.5-quart water bath canner with jar rack and lid canning preserving pot, \$25. 610-721-1424.

Misc. Items: Stained glass equipment – Diamond Star glass grinder, mini no-scratch glass cutting surface (14-1/4» x 22 1/2»), Glass Shop quick angle kit, and many sheets of colored glass. Text/call 561-445-1922.

Misc. Items: Travel trailer equalizer hitch, \$200. Trailer hitch drop-down bar 2", \$20. Sunthesis 100-watt solar suitcase, 20-amp PWM

waterproof, \$60. Beach chairs (2), beach tent, fold-up wagon, and table, \$100. 414-218-9348.

Sports Equipment: Schwinn Sierra 700 hybrid bike, 7-speed, \$200 firm. 352-844-1394.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT: ZuGo e-bike, step-through, 48-volt, 750-watt, LCD display, Kenda 20" 4.0 tires, 20" frame, 4-6 hours to charge, 15-38 mile range, max speed 31 mph. Electra ladies Cruiser 1 bicycle with steel frame, single speed with coaster brake, and 24" alloy rims with classic knobby tires. 610-721-1424.

Tag Sales

Friday, Sept. 5: 7750 SW 88th Street Road (Indigo East), 8 a.m. to noon.

Friday, Sept. 5 & Saturday, Sept. 6: 9152 SW 91st Circle (Williamsburg), 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. · 9055 SW 106th Avenue (Avalon), 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 12 & Saturday, Sept. 13: 8723-A SW 93rd Lane (Friendship), 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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American Junk Removal & Demo: One call, we haul – one item, room, or total clean-out. Total kitchen & bath demolition. Lawn/landscape clean-up. Dumpster rental. Call/text Garfield 561-306-6969. Quality work, competitive prices, licensed & insured.

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Bates Lawn Services LLC: Family owned & operated. Mowing, weeding, pruning, mulch, stone & plants. All landscape needs. Fully insured. Senior discounts. Mike or Daisy 352-207-7221.

Bathroom & Flooring: Tile and LVP installation. Five stars on Google. Many satisfied customers in On Top of the World. Free quotes. Insured. Innovate - Home Renovation (L20000157682), Gabriel 352-216-2202.

Cat Sitting: Provided by loving experienced Cat Nanny (resident) 352-854-8589.

Computer Help: Arthur Burditt, 352-875-7878. House calls, \$60/hour. Tutoring, setups, installations, Windows upgrades, PC cleanups, security software, internet connections, email access, printers, wireless devices.

Estate Sale Services: Ready to sell the contents of your home? Community resident providing estate sale services for all neighbors. I'm here to help. SW Ocala Estate Sales 352-219-6799.

Geller Lawn: Mowing, irrigation, bushes, mulch & much more! Starting at \$50 per month (no contracts). Insured. 352-390-7454.

Handyman: Insured. JAO Home Improvement & Repair – all your home's needs – carpentry, built-ins, roll-out shelves, moldings, faux painting, tile, and furniture touch ups. Visit JAO Home's page at www.ashiarts.us or call 707-280-3823 (resident).

Handyman: Repairing sliding glass door rollers/tracks, sliding garage screen doors, window balances, sliding shower doors/guides, doors & locksets, door seals. Installing handicap grab bars. One call does it all! Steve, S&T Quality Services 352-207-8682.

Jordan's Golf Cart Batteries: 6-6v installed \$780. 6-8v installed \$860. 4-12v installed \$900. Free battery check. Call 352-789-2812 with any questions.

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Mobile Notary: Stop hunting for a notary! Same day service by appointment. I come to you. Call/text Larry 352-509-5211 (resident).

Music Lessons: Piano, cello, organ, composition, and conducting. Contact Johnathan Couch at 352-425-9148 or johnathan.couch@aol.com. Accepting students aged 7 to adult. Discounts available for families enrolling multiple students.

Music Recordings: A former professional Nashville songwriter will set your lyrics or poem to music and deliver a mastered recording suitable for CD or streaming for \$175. Stu 615-260-8617.

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Donations: Dog or cat food [SPCA of Marion County 352-362-0985] · Electric golf carts in full working condition for use by volunteers for local park. [Barbara btsprigg@gmail.com] · Non-perishable food for food bank, and cards for veterans [Anne 843-504-0032] · Personal hygiene, & school/craft supplies for homeless; pet food/supplies for animal shelters; musical instruments for troops/veterans; socks, underwear & men's clothing [Donna 352-237-3062] · Yarn for VA hospitals, children, and newborns [352-843-6519].

Ham Radio Operators: Support the Community Emergency Response Team in the event of a disaster. Please email brucetwiss@yahoo.com.

Pet Foster Parents: Temporarily open your home to a pet in need. Call SPCA of Marion County at 352-362-0985.

On Top of the World NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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