

Community News

Kenneth D. Colen

Community Updates

THE SUMMIT IN LONGLEAF RIDGE: We are currently erecting the steel to establish the roof of this building. Rough mechanical work will begin once the building is protected from the weather. This will be a 20,000-square-foot amenity with a 6,000-square-foot ballroom, card room, a large main pool, and a resistance pool. The estimated completion of this project is in early 2026.

AZURA FITNESS CENTER IN CANDLER HILLS: The building permit has been issued, and site work has begun. We love your interest in the project but ask that you stay outside the construction fence. This 8,000-square-foot facility will have a large pool and will be completed near the end of 2025.

VETERANS PARK: The shooting lane for the archery pavilion is complete. This new shade structure should make range time more enjoyable, but we cannot guarantee that it will improve your technique.

MCSO SUBSTATION: On Top of the World is working with Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) to add a new substation on the north side of SW 90th Street adjacent to the south gate in Indigo East and across from Marion County Fire Rescue Station 21. If approved by the Marion County Board of County Commissioners, this new substation will benefit our communities by offering better service due to its proximity to our growing communities.

The building will house the MCSO and function as a polling precinct. A large community room will be available (subject to reservation by that office) to serve as a meeting space for community organizations.

NEW WOOD SHOP: A new, expanded wood shop building is planned for the parcel of land just north of the existing Bay Laurel Center CDD Water Plant #1. This new 8,000-square-foot building will be constructed where the Eco Gardeners Club garden is currently located, providing more space for our growing Wood Shop membership. This new building will also have separate suites and function as a general-purpose space for activities such as table tennis, ballet, and other uses.

A new, convenient location has been selected for rebuilding the current SW 99th Street Eco Gardeners' garden. This relocation offers the added benefit of additional garden plots. Management recognizes that building up soil tilth takes a great deal of time, especially for organic gardeners. To this end, management has worked with the Eco Gardeners Club to establish clean, fertile soils. Construction on the new garden is expected to be completed by late July.

ARBOR FITNESS CENTER: The new aquatic life flooring around the indoor pool is complete. The outdoor pool resurfacing project should be complete by the time this issue of the World News comes out.

THE ARBORS BOCCE COURTS: The bocce courts were completely remodeled and updated. Improvements included new laser-leveled elevated court surfaces, Trex railing systems around all courts, durable new bocce turf, and paver brick walkways around all courts.

EXPANSION OF MULTI-MODAL PATHS: The addition of multi-modal paths along the west side of SW 90th Terrace Road has been submitted to Marion County for plan review and permitting. This project also includes roadway improvements, including underground utilities and pavement from the entrance at Weybourne Landing, north to SW 63rd Street, opposite the intersection with Stone Creek.

This work will also include extending the multi-modal path from Weybourne Landing, south along SW 90th Terrace Road, creating a connection to SW 80th Street crosswalk opposite the main entry gate at Candler Hills.

CANDLER HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER: This amenity will see landscape en-



Championship Golf with a Legacy of Giving

By Hailey Authement

Golf enthusiasts and philanthropists alike, mark your calendar! The 20th annual Ocala Open will return to Candler Hills Golf Club from Tuesday, March 18, through Friday, March 21. It will bring together professional golfers, passionate spectators, and a community united by generosity and the love of the game.

More than just a tournament, the Ocala Open has become a force for good, raising over \$1,093,064 to support Interfaith Emergency Services and Empath Hospice of Marion County. As we celebrate two decades of exceptional golf and generosity this year, the tournament promises to be bigger and better than ever.

The Ocala Open has built a reputation as a must-attend event in the professional golf circuit, attracting skilled players

who compete fiercely for the title. Beyond the competition, the event fosters a strong sense of community. Director of Golf Matt Hibbs, at On Top of the World Communities, reflects on the tournament's impact and explains, "The Ocala Open is more than a tournament; it's a testament to the power of golf to bring people together for a greater cause. Over the years, we have built strong relationships with our community, partners, resident volunteers, and the charities we support. We are honored to reach this 20-year milestone and look forward to another unforgettable event."

This extraordinary event would not be possible without the dedication of its long-term partners and resident volunteers, whose commitment has helped make it a cornerstone of the Ocala sports

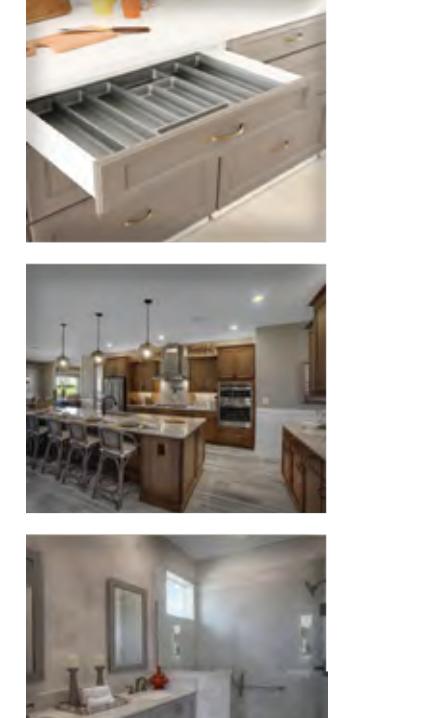
community. Every partnership and volunteer plays a key role in supporting this tournament's success and its ongoing charitable mission.

The action kicks off with the charity Pro-Am on Tuesday, March 18. Amateur golfers will have the opportunity to team up with a professional and compete in a scramble-format tournament, all while supporting two incredible charities. Then, from Wednesday, March 19, through Friday, March 21, the professional tournament takes center stage, showcasing world-class talent battling for the coveted Ocala Open title.

Whether you're a devoted golf fan or just looking for an unforgettable experience, the Ocala Open is the place to be! With VIP spectator tickets available for premium seating, delicious dining, and exclusive perks, there's no better way to enjoy the action.

Don't miss your chance to be part of history. Mark your calendar and join us for the 20th annual Ocala Open! Visit OcalaOpen.com or call 352-861-9712 for more details, partnership opportunities, and VIP ticket purchases.





Let's Get It Done

By Ray Cech
World News Writer

Are you ready to tackle some home improvement projects? If so, the Home Improvement Expo at Circle Square Cultural Center on Saturday, March 15, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. will have everything you need.

Recreation Program Manager Shannon Prince says, "This show is the one-stop shop for all home improvement needs."

It is expected that 60 or more home experts will be there. Whether you're

interested in new living room blinds, carpeting, air conditioning, jazzing up the garage or bedroom floors, or maybe new windows -whatever you're thinking of doing, there's a very good chance that a home improvement expert will be at the Expo, ready to answer your questions and discuss options. Of course, if you know what you want and are ready to start a project, you can sign up with a contractor immediately.

Adding to your home or improving

its look with a few upgraded changes is a great way to increase its value. Home buyers look for and are willing to pay for a newly upgraded kitchen or bathroom.

And don't forget about curb appeal. Whether you need new curbing, lawns, or plantings, an expert can help.

The Home Improvement Expo will be held on Saturday, March 15, at Circle Square Cultural Center. This event is free and open to the public. For additional information, visit the Circle Square Cultural Center Facebook page > More > Events.

If you would like to be a vendor, please call 352-387-7533 for more information.

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Is It Legal?

Colen & Wagoner, P.A.



payment to fix a debt crisis, to get you out of a timeshare, or any crisis at all, it's a scam. Trust no one.

If someone wants to meet you but it's not in a public area with videos all around, don't do it unless it's a significant other who you want to keep to yourself. Trust no one.

If someone knocks on your door and wants to fix your roof, do not let them in. Also, do not agree to anything that is not in writing and has not been reviewed by a trusted friend, a child, or an attorney, preferably your attorney.

If someone you do not know and you did not call wants personal information such as credit card or social security numbers, it is a scam. Trust no one.

Before you allow a handyperson into your house, learn about them. Ask for referrals and then check them. Do not ever be afraid to ask for help. It is not shameful to seek help; it is street-smart.

And if you make a mistake or fall for a scam, do not blame yourself. You weren't foolish. You were a victim. Blame the criminal. It's good to learn from your mistakes, but it's better to learn from someone else's.

Q. Please explain who the personal representative of my will can be. Also, for a trust, power of attorney, and health care surrogate.

A. Under Florida law, to qualify to be a personal representative of a will, the person you designate must either be a Florida resident over the age of 18 and not a convicted felon or if the person you select is not a Florida resident, that person must have a blood or legal-adopted relationship with you.

Regarding a trust, a durable power of attorney, or an advance directive such as a living will, Florida residency, or blood or legal-adopted relationship is not required. It's only the will where Florida residency or a blood or legal-adopted relationship is required.

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.

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Writers/Photographers

Ray Cech · Dave DeAngelis · Elaine Morrison · Phil Panzera

Distribution

The Villages Media Group

Proofreaders

Cecelia Adams · Gitte Agarwal · Margitta Claterbos
CJ Daane · Lennie Rodoff · Judy Shuster · Jerry ThompsonRead all the good news at ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala

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

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2025 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

On Top of the World NEWS

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.



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By Dave DeAngelis

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Lifelong Learning



Michelle Shideler
352-387-7571

michelle_shideler@masterthe possibilities.org

As winter gives way to spring, March brings a sense of renewal, growth, and fresh opportunities. It's a time of transition when the days grow longer, the air feels lighter, and nature begins to bloom again. What better way to embrace this season of change than by expanding the mind and engaging in lifelong learning?

March at Master the Possibilities is brimming with exciting courses designed to inspire curiosity, creativity, and connection. Whether you're eager to explore history, dive into the arts, sharpen technology skills, or prioritize health and wellness, there's something for everyone. With talented instructors and a welcoming learning environment, this is the perfect opportunity to step into or learn something new.

Ever heard of the Ocala Film Derby? What if I told you this was an impressive media competition in Ocala between various groups of middle and high school students throughout Marion County? These students will compete in filmmaking and have a chance to work with experts in this field. Join this presentation by Laurie Zink, the development and community outreach director at the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC), and hear how these talented groups of students work together towards a finished product for a chance to be awarded a schol-

OneBlood
Bloodmobile

Sara Sommer



The Big Red Bus® was here on Monday, Feb. 3. It was a great drive. We collected 44 units of whole blood and 12 units of double red cells. Each donation can save up to three lives. Although no reward was necessary, each donor received a \$20 e-card and a long-sleeve T-shirt.

The next blood drive will be on Monday, April 7. The buses will be parked in



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the Recreation Center parking lot from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. No appointment is necessary. Walk-ins are welcome. Go to oneblood.org > On Top of the World drive to make an appointment. Select the type of donation. Then, select a time that is convenient for you. You will receive a confirmation email.

Please eat a good meal and drink plenty of water before and after your donation. A picture ID is also needed.

There is no substitute for human blood. Only you can save a life. See you on the bus.

RESIDENT ID CARD

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Arship or a possible career in digital technology. Attending "Overview of the Ocala Film Derby" costs \$5 for members and \$10 for the general public, which will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. in Live Oak Hall on Wednesday, March 5.

Visiting speaker Michael Toulias has visited Master the Possibilities before and will once again give a riveting lecture at our learning center, this time on the Cuban Missile Crisis. He is a New York Times Bestselling author and co-author of 30 books, one of which is a major Disney motion picture. Hear the accounts of 13 tense days in October 1962, when the United States and the Soviet Union were on the brink of nuclear war.

During this presentation of "The Untold Story of the Cuban Missile Crisis," Toulias will recount and consider what may have unfolded behind closed doors in President John F. Kennedy's cabinet meetings, which brought about his strategic wisdom and the U-2 aerial spy program. He will also discuss the accounts of those brought together during a time that changed history. Attending this Thursday, March 20, presentation costs \$8 for members and \$13 for the general public. Toulias will present remotely.

History and technology are just two of the many fascinating topics one can explore this month. With more than 170 course opportunities available, there is something for everyone. Don't miss the chance to learn, engage, and discover something new.

Registration and a copy of our print catalog are available 24/7 at masterthe possibilities.org. For registration assistance, visit our office from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday or call 352-861-9751.

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Community News

► Continued from Page 1A

hancements during the summer golf course renovation.

IRON 9: A new pitch and putt 9-hole short golf course will be constructed near SW 80th Street and SW 92nd Court Road.

GATEHOUSE: A new automated gatehouse will be erected along SW 92nd Court Road to replace the temporary gate at SW 80th Street. The design team has been chosen, and work has begun on the permit drawings for this project. This automated gate will include a dedicated lane for guests to interact with the virtual gate attendant and a bypass lane for resident owners.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS: Underground utilities, including water, sewer, and data lines, are currently being installed. By the end of April, this project will become more recognizable as curbs are formed and the roadway takes shape. Please avoid transiting in this area, yes, even "sightseeing." Use caution in the adjacent work zones. Large equipment is operating in the area. I'd be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to remind you that the workers in those very large pieces of equipment cannot see or hear golf carts or pedestrians. Don't allow your curiosity to put yourself at risk. Please use extra caution around work

areas.

We have received permission from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to move forward with the east-west SW 52 Street improvements through Calesa Township. This improvement may offer much-needed traffic relief while SW 80th Avenue and SW 38th Street are under construction by Marion County. An adjacent developer will complete SW 52nd Street from Calesa terminus to the intersection at SW 60th Avenue (including a new traffic signal). On Top of the World Communities will continue to work with Marion County and the neighboring developer to ensure this much-needed project continues to make progress in a timely manner.

FAST Membership

On Top of the World (Central) residents, this is a reminder that the Florida Aquatics Swimming & Training (FAST) membership program terminated on Friday, Feb. 28. For the masters team, membership rates, or other information, visit FloridaFast.com.

AppFolio Owner Portal

On March 1, 2024, all owners in On Top of the World (Central), Candler Hills, Indigo East, and Weybourne Landing received an email from AppFolio inviting them to set up their Owner's Portal. AppFolio is the management company's software that allows community service payments and service requests, among many other things. The AppFolio Owner's Portal is secure, and you can manage your account by creating your password. If Owners have not enrolled, please ensure the Association has your

current email address. You may submit your email address to associationinfo@otowfl.net with that information or stop by Resident Services to update your contact information. Once you do so, a link to your portal will be sent to that email address so owners can register their portals completely.

Owners who have set up their portals can now remit payments for Community Service Fees (or other assessments) via eCheck or credit/debit cards (AppFolio service fees apply). They may also update their bank account information to continue with the management company's automatic debit service. Owners can also submit maintenance service requests and communicate with Resident Services, thus alleviating the need for an in-person visit.

In addition, under Florida HOA Statutes, all official records must be uploaded to a secure portal by Jan. 1, 2025. You can find all these records in the saved documents on every owner's portal. More information about the modification submittal process for your dwelling or landscape will be available soon. Stay tuned; if you have not signed up for this valuable tool, please do so!

Winter Weather & Shrubbery

March can be a tricky month when it comes to the weather. We may have won-

derfully warm days and cold nights. Do not remove seemingly damaged plants prematurely. Plants affected by the cold may surprise you with their recovery. Withhold pruning back until mid-April. There may be several more periods of cold and possible frost. Pruning at this point will spur plant growth vulnerable to the cold. Instead, wait until mid-April to consider any pruning or owner-added plantings. Central Florida generally experiences one cold snap with light frost between March 15 and Easter, so be forewarned.

When the ground temperature rises above 65 degrees, lawns and shrubbery will continue to grow, albeit very slowly. That said, watering requirements are significantly less during the cooler months.

Conservation Tip

Depending on the type of irrigation system, shaving two minutes off each irrigation run time yields 18 to 26 gallons per zone per run cycle. This can save 77 to 112 gallons per month per zone for once-per-week watering and 155 to 224 gallons per month per zone for twice-per-week watering. Overall, you can reduce your monthly water consumption depending on the time of year and specific run times for each zone, assuming seven zones. Savings can add up.

Safety First

Jonathan Miller



Slips, Trips, & Falls

When did you last slip, fall, and produce that slap-jaw-bug-eyed look? Do you remember what caused the fall? Now, here is the big question. Could it have been prevented?

Are you aware that slips, trips, and falls are the most common hazards in the world? Yes, the whole world. You can keep yourself safe from these hazards with adequate training and safety practices.

Please allow me to give you a few tips on how to avoid slips, trips, and falls. First, slips occur when there is little traction between your feet and the surface you walk on. Being aware of the condition of the ground or floor is vital.

Second, note whether you are in a parking lot or on a concrete or tile floor. Each surface has a very different effect from oil, lotions, or water, especially if you have a medical condition that requires balance. In a parking lot, be mindful of the weather conditions. Oil and water don't mix well and can cause slips.

Third, is the ground uneven? Pebbles, rock beds, or grass can deceive your perception. Note that each step on uneven ground may bring the ground higher or lower.

Now, let's talk about standing from a seated position. If you are sitting and you stand up, slide your chair in or away from you before you take a step or lift your foot. Chair legs are a common accident. It doesn't take much to throw your balance off. Many courtrooms have deemed this to be a self-inflicted injury because it was you who moved the chair into position.

Here is a challenge: If you are walking up or down stairs and they have handrails, take the time to walk over and use the rail. A few steps to the rail may prevent a trip to the hospital.

Safety recap reminders include wet spills (e.g., water, mud, grease, oil, food, etc.), dry product spills (e.g., powder, dust, wood chips, granules, plastic wraps), weather hazards (e.g., ice, snow), and concrete, ceramic tile, or marble floors. Also, consider sloped or uneven walking surfaces, wet, muddy, or greasy shoes, and ramps or planks without skid or slip-resistant surfaces.

Trips happen when there is clutter on the floor, an obstructed view, poor lighting, computer cables on floors, water hoses, open cabinet doors, uneven walkways, unmarked steps or ramps, and missing floor tiles.

Falls can result from weak or damaged ladders, medically diagnosed weak knees or injured ankles, ledges without proper railing, carrying heavy objects (like groceries) or furniture, failure to use guardrails, and unprotected edges.

Lastly, we are all driven by time. Please give yourself plenty of time to get where you are going. Rushing almost always contributes to accidents.

The most important part of our lives is you. Your safety is vital. Please feel free to email Jonathan Miller at safety-department@otowfl.com with any safety concerns.

Ship Modeling Club

Dick Ritchie



Well, there was a limited response from my column back in November. So, let me try again.

Take two. This column aims to find out if any residents are interested in a ship modeling group/club. The idea is to form an informal group that meets once or twice a month. Our focus would be on building model ships out of wood. We would enjoy sharing our skills, knowledge, and ship-building techniques. Your interest could range from building ships from kits, scratch building from plans, and/or remote control boating.

Our group may decide to plan a periodic workshop meeting when we bring our working model projects to the meeting for help or information.

If you have an interest in building model ships, contact Dick Ritchie at 239-287-4868 or dcritchie37@gmail.com.

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Around the World

Pam Babbitt
352-236-OTOW (6869)

Pack away your sweaters and your soup recipes. Turn off the heat and open your windows. Finally, spring is knocking at our door!

March is brimming with holidays, historical events, and birthday celebrations. Daylight saving time is March 9 (clocks go forward one hour). St. Patrick's Day is March 17, and the first day of spring is March 20.

Put a spring in your step, and a smile on your face, as warm, wonderful sunshine spreads all over your face!

Smoke Detector Check

Many fire departments suggest spring is an excellent time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors. If you have trouble replacing your batteries, you may set an appointment with Marion County Fire Rescue personnel to replace the batteries by calling 352-291-8000, then press 5. You must purchase a new one if your smoke detector is over 10 years old. Also, you will need to buy the batteries.

Ocala Open

The 20th annual Ocala Open tournament at Candler Hills tees off on Tuesday, March 18. The tournament concludes with the champions' round-up barbecue and awards luncheon. Proceeds benefit Empath Hospice of Marion County and Interfaith Emergency Services. The annual charity tournament has raised more than \$1.09 million for local non-profits.

Resident Services

Coming soon is a lobby in the Resident Services building (9850 SW 84th Court, Suite 400) for residents seeking assistance with MOD and/or compliance issues. The lobby is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Homeowners may also submit MOD applications online through the homeowner's portal on AppFolio.

Did you know you can complete your maintenance request online instead of stopping by the office? Please download the AppFolio Owners Portal app. Contact Resident Services at 352-236-OTOW (6869) if you need assistance logging in.

When you closed on your home, you became eligible to obtain up to two resident ID card(s). These ID cards expire every five years after the date of issuance for a records update. Non-owner, resident ID cards expire every year. Every third or fourth resident residing in a household must pay an annual guest fee. The first vehicle RFID is free to owners. Any additional vehicle RFIDs issued per household are \$15 each.

Spring Cleaning

Residents "cleared the clutter" on Thursday, Jan. 30, and Friday, Jan. 31. In partnership with Resident Services, Waste Management set up containers adjacent to the R/C flying field to allow our residents to drop off their unwanted clutter. Over 19,000 pounds of bulk trash and recycled items were hauled away.

Envera

In January, On Top of the World staff and volunteers partnered to ensure a seamless experience as Weybourne Landing residents received their new Envera gate RFID decals – a successful start to the gate transition period.

Mark your calendar for the March decal days:

- Renaissance/Williamsburg/Windsor (8 a.m. to noon): March 10, A-L and March 11, M-Z.
- Indigo East Gateway of Services Pass Holders (8 a.m. to noon): March 12.
- Longleaf Ridge (8 a.m. to noon): March 24, A-L and March 25, M-Z.

Additional information about our new gate system may be found at OTOWInfo.com > Resident Information > Community Gates.

Search for the RFID decal form, complete the front, and sign the back. Print this form and bring this document with you on the date and time your neighborhood is scheduled. Doing this ahead of time will expedite the process.

You may also remove your existing On Top of the World decal (just before arriving for your new replacement). If you are unable to do this, staff will assist you.

Upcoming dates for acquiring your new decal will be posted at OTOWInfo.com and the World News. If you cannot attend on your neighborhood's scheduled date, contact Resident Services. Only residents arriving on the specified date for those neighborhoods will be accommodated.

Do you still have questions about the Envera gate system? Email otowgates@



Photo by Kaytan Benson

Staff and volunteers partnered to ensure a seamless experience as Weybourne Landing residents received their new Envera gate RFID decals in January.

otowfl.com. You may also contact Resident Services by calling 352-236-OTOW (6869) or visiting in person Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., in Friendship Commons.

After Hours Non-Medical Emergencies

On Top of the World (Central) Owners Association members, please notify Resident Services first before contacting an outside contractor for repairs such as roots in water lines, sewer backups,

sprinklers damaged by mowers, etc. If it is after regular business hours and you experience some manner of a non-medical emergency, we ask that you please call 352-236-OTOW (6869) for assistance. Even though Resident Services is closed, the number is answered 24 hours a day, and you will be able to speak with an after-hours representative, who, based on the reason for the call, will provide direction or dispatch an after-hours person.

our winners.

I know everyone is wondering, but Crescent Ridges and Crescent Green are scheduled to receive our Envera stickers in June. You will receive additional information directly from Envera later.

Do you play cards/games? Email me if you'd be willing to open your home for play and how often.

For 2025, our monthly socials will be held in the Arbor Activity Center Event Room I from 3 to 5 p.m. Bring a beverage of choice and a dish to share.

To stay informed, join our Facebook page (OTOW Crescent Ridge Neighbors) or email crneighbors@yahoo.com to be added to our email list. You will only receive emails regarding Crescent Ridge happenings.

Crescent Ridge Happenings

Carol Lewis



Due to our February social falling on Super Bowl Sunday and early tailgate parties, we had a small crowd, but attendees still enjoyed food and fellowship.

Our Sunday, March 9 social will consist of two separate activities. First, there will be a scavenger hunt, followed by the social gathering. Judges will determine the winners, and prizes will be awarded. Team entries are closed; however, you can come to the social and see

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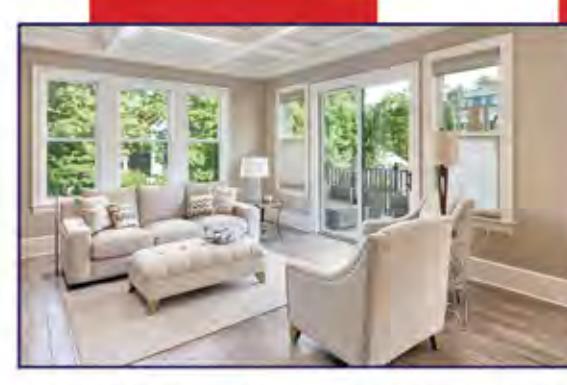
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Republican Club

Margaret Nodine



The February meeting was held on Valentine's Day, a date to show our love and gratitude for our families and this wonderful country. We asked the members to wear red or pink, if possible, to celebrate. It was a nice turnout. As always, we started our meeting by honoring America with the Pledge of Allegiance, singing our national anthem, honoring our veterans, welcoming new members, and having a moment of prayer.

In the previous news column, I mentioned that the officers would be elected at the February meeting. Since no members decided to run for office, the current executive committee was again elected unanimously. Congratulations to Charles Dodge, president; Liz Woodard, vice president; Margaret Nodine, secretary; and Linda Dodge, treasurer.

There was much interest at the Thursday, Jan. 30, Club Fair at Circle Square Cultural Center. We thank the attendees who stopped at our table and our club volunteers, Liz Woodard, Maggie Koller, Margaret Nodine, and Wendy and Der-



Marion County Commissioner Chair Kathy Bryant addressed the Republican Club in January.

Photo by Rocky Pizzarello

rill McDanel. This event facilitated sharing with potential new residents what all our clubs offer. Club information, not membership, was provided since it was open to the public.

The club's mandate in 2025 will focus on local, county, and state issues, with a heavy focus on school board, law enforcement, and veteran issues. Our monthly Constitution series, led by our president, will also continue. We will continue to support Operation Shoebox and the Marion County Veterans Honor

Guard.

Brigitte Smith, chair of the Marion County Republican Executive Committee, spoke at the February meeting. She discussed the recent special session of the state legislature. I will report on her presentation in the next issue.

We hope to see you throughout 2025. Please keep our dates handy: March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, and Nov. 14. Doors open at 4 p.m. God bless America.

and discussing other pertinent issues for our club. All of these were very helpful for our planning committee.

With upcoming special elections in Florida, we spent time at our January meeting discussing how to organize and/or volunteer for the current election in April and future elections. As a new club, we continue to grow and expand our community outreach. At the recent board of directors meeting, we began identifying organizations we would like to support consistently.

We welcome anyone who would like to participate and spend a little time each month to serve on a committee, especially the planning committee, the public relations committee, and, if you are comfortable with numbers, as treasurer. Our secretary is currently taking on double duties as she is also serving as the treasurer temporarily and we are looking for someone to fill that vacancy. The job description includes collecting money at meetings from member dues

and the 50/50 raffle, recording it on a spreadsheet and depositing that amount into our bank account, processing any invoices, and making a short report at the monthly board meeting to describe our financial state. If you might be interested in this position, please contact me.

During this time, 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 grown with each meeting. You will be welcomed at our next meeting on Monday, March 24. If you need a ride to this meeting, please let me know a few days before.

Feel free to contact me at 802-345-0669. If I don't recognize your number, I won't answer my phone. Leave me a message, and I will return your call, or text me at the same number. You may also email me at iedemocrats@yahoo.com. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Blue Indigo East Democratic Club

Lydia Kuust



The Blue Indigo East Democratic Club meets on the fourth Monday of every month at 2 p.m. in the Indigo East Community Center Ballroom. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 24.

Our January general meeting included six to eight people seated at each round table for a lively brainstorming session on what to include in our club meetings. Some results included speakers presenting local community issues, discussing and celebrating historical events, providing international potluck lunches,

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Democratic Club

Mark Miller



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

Our first meeting of the year was held on Jan. 23. Our attendance was stellar, especially with the colder temps and the doldrums of winter having set in. Dan Lack presented his trivia game, which we have conducted for several years. It was thoroughly enjoyable!

We look forward to his next game in 2026. Also, we elected two members to fill out our board of directors during the January meeting.

Our next meeting is tonight, Thursday, Feb. 27. Hopefully, you will read this column in time and attend our meeting. Our presenter, Deborah Daniels, will dive deep into Florida politics, including its structure, how bills pass through Congress, and how we can participate in those processes. This will be a detailed view of our state's political structure for members who may be newer to Florida or anyone looking to further their understanding of how the system works.

Our county Democratic Party will hold its annual fundraising event on Sunday, March 23. The event will feature good food, prizes/auctions, and featured speakers. It is a good time to meet other party members in Marion County.

Our club will have a presentation by State Committeewoman and Coordinated Campaign Chair Sheila Loughlin as our featured speaker on Thursday, March 27. She will discuss voter statistics and how we can get involved. I'm sure she will tell us that we need to "roll up our sleeves" as we are backing a candidate for an open U.S. House seat for a special election on April 1. Even if this is not in our electoral area, it doesn't mean we can't assist in this vote.

As always, we continue to support the Ocala Ritz Veterans Village. The veterans residing there need our support for many items we all take for granted. The priority for donations is laundry detergent. Other items are pillowcases, twin-size sheets, twin comforters, 1.7 cubic foot refrigerators, small microwaves, men's razors, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, lotions, shaving cream, and toilet paper. Food items needed include canned meats, chili, ramen noodles, mac & cheese, microwavable rice, boxed milk, cereal, canned fruit, crackers, individual snacks, and coffee. They do not need clothing except for shoes. Please bring your donated items to our meeting.

If you can't attend any meetings, let us know, and we'll do our best to get your donations to them. You can also drop them off before the meeting starts.

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

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

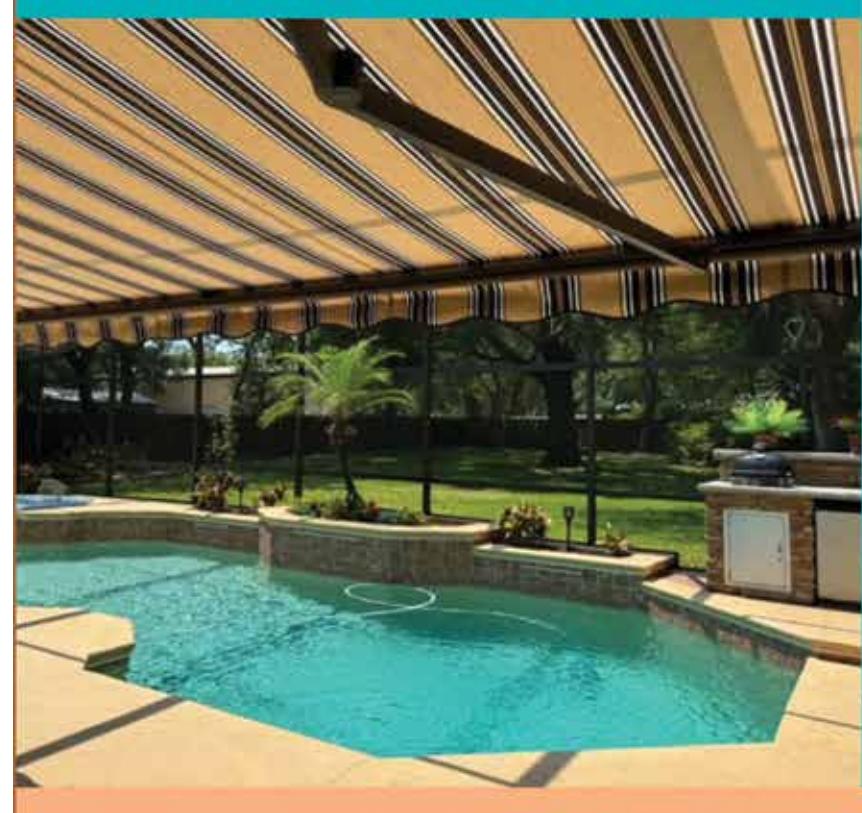
We look forward to seeing you at our meeting!

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Finding Zen



Robert Cole
info@sholompark.org

Spring is bringing an incredible line-up of music and entertainment to Sholom Park! Whether you love the soulful sound of bluegrass, nostalgic hits from past decades, or the magic of Broadway, there's something for everyone. Get ready to enjoy performances in the se-

Williamsburg Neighbors

Nancy Meininger



Williamsburg is celebrating the joys of giving from last year's fundraisers. We donated \$500 each to three charities and have received 10 times that back in blessings from the recipients.

Our gift to Special Olympics was presented to Adam Combs, manager of sports training. The presentation occurred at Tim Tebow's Night to Shine Prom for people with disabilities. Presenting the check was Ann Kessler, resident and daughter of Carmel and Dave Kessler, members of Williamsburg's steering committee.

We also received a warm response from St. Paul Catholic Church, letting us know that our gift was used to help several impoverished families dependent on the church.

There is a potluck at Arbor Confer-

Candler Connection



Debra Keirn

What a cold winter we have endured. We hope that March will bring us more moderate temperatures. May good luck be with you as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

The Flying Ivories Dueling Pianos was a huge success, with 240 attendees. We all had a wonderful evening of socializing, enjoying appetizers and snack foods with friends, great entertainment, and delicious desserts. Thank you to all of the volunteers who made this event a success. We appreciate you!

Saturday, March 8, will be an evening of music trivia and ice cream treats from 5 to 8 p.m. Bring table snacks to share and enjoy the music bingo. You can also create your own brownie sundae or banana split. Tickets were sold in February. This is a bring-your-own-beverage event.

The next potluck dinner will be on Tuesday, March 25, at 5:30 pm. The theme is "Foods from Ireland." Attendees with the last names beginning with A-H should bring a main dish; I-P side dish or salad; and Q-Z dessert (dishes for 12 to 15 people). The \$2 fee at the door covers table cloths, eating utensils, plates, decaf coffee, creamers, and centerpieces. Please RSVP to Debra Keirn by phone at 352-414-5737, text at 814-571-7908, or email at arthurkipdeb@verizon.net to be added to the attendee list. Hope to see you there to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and delicious Irish foods.

On Saturday, March 29, a Mardi Gras party will be from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Jammin Jambalaya Band will provide the music, and Pasta Faire will be the caterer with garden salad, bread, chicken penne Louisiana, chicken margarita, yellow rice, and cherry cobbler. There will be a best Mardi Gras outfit contest. Tickets for \$35 per resident and \$37 per guest are on sale on Tuesdays and Thursdays through March 6. This is a reserved seating, bring-your-own-beverage event.

Other upcoming events include:

- May 31: Thoroughbred brunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Aug. 10: Ice cream social from 3 to 5 p.m.
- Oct. 31: Halloween Fright Night from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Dec. 12: Holiday party from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Catered by Gourmet Affair and music by Ross Getek.

All events and ticket sales occur at The Lodge at Candler Hills (unless otherwise noted). Ticket sales take place from 10 a.m. to noon. Our events will be specified on the Candler Connection logo flyers and outlined in The Happenings.

You can sign up at candlerconnection.org to receive "The Happenings" and/or join our Candler Hills closed Facebook group to learn about our activities.

The Candler Connection Social Committee meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. If you are interested in helping plan our events, please attend a meeting.

See you around the neighborhood and at future events.

rene beauty of Sholom Park!

On Thursday, March 20, we will host Broadway Across the Ages at 6 p.m. (gates open at 5:15 p.m.) Tickets are just \$20 per person. Starring Scotty Tomas and Victoria Sexton, this show will bring the best of Broadway to Sholom Park! From showstoppers to heartfelt ballads, their performance will leave you enchanted.

A Musical Journey Through the 1990s with Gypsy Sparrow has been rescheduled for Thursday, April 3 from 6, to 7:30 p.m. Tickets are just \$20 per person for a nostalgic journey through the sounds

of the 1990s. You will enjoy songs you know by heart and love to sing along to by artists like Aerosmith, Bryan Adams, U2, Tracy Chapman, and the Dave Matthews Band, among many others. Don't miss this opportunity to experience an unforgettable evening of music that pays homage to the vibrant sounds of the 1990s.

Experience a fresh take on bluegrass with Remedy Tree, blending Appalachian traditions with innovative storytelling and high-energy performances on Saturday, April 19, from 4 to 7 p.m. (gates open at 3 p.m.). Founded by Ga-

briel Acevedo, the 2018 Florida State Fiddle Champion, this band has shared the stage with bluegrass greats like Ricky Skaggs and the Steeldrivers. Tickets cost \$30.

These events help to benefit Sholom Park so that we can keep our beautiful peace park open to the public 365 days a year for free to all visitors.

Secure your tickets today and prepare for an unforgettable season of live music at Sholom Park! Visit sholompark.org for more details! For tickets and more information, visit masterthe possibilities.org.

mation, please contact Dorothee White.

Our first Murder Mystery Night is in the works. More information is coming soon. Please refer to our Facebook page for all upcoming events.



Photo by Carole Beasley

Inge practicing her Luau moves.

Ashford Happenings

Julio Garrido



We kicked off 2025 with the South Sea Revue Luau Party, which was held at The Lodge at Candler Hills. Over 200 neighbors attended, and we thank our executive director, Inge Schild, for masterfully planning the event.

On Friday, March 14, get ready for some St. Patrick's Day shenanigans starting at 3 p.m. We have an afternoon full of fun activities.

The bowling league started in February. Please contact Sue Soltis for more information. Ladies' bunco meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Social time begins at 5 p.m., and the game starts at 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$5. For more infor-



Photo by Carmel Kessler

Ann Kessler proudly presents the \$500 contribution from Williamsburg to support the Special Olympics.

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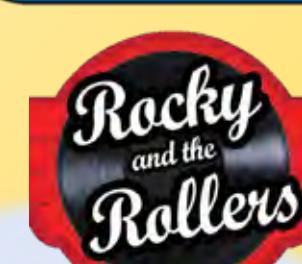
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Community Emergency Response Team

Debbie Snyder



We extend a big shout-out and offer our thanks to the CERT gate attendants who assisted in December and January during the Envera transition. We appreciate Allen Abbott, Jane Belz, Jon Fiedler, Steve Minafri, Anthony Pressley, and Tom Rumora for stepping up and helping the entire community during this time.

Congratulations to our newly elected leaders, Jane Belz and Linda Blair, who are now serving as co-leaders, with John Fiedler as assistant co-leader. Their knowledge, enthusiasm, and dedication will certainly benefit CERT. They will focus on recruiting new members and reducing response times during disasters.

Several committees have been formed to manage activities and enhance efficiency. These include a membership committee responsible for recruitment and team growth, a logistics committee for coordinating resources and equipment, a medical committee providing essential medical support in emergencies, and a radio committee ensuring effective communication via radios and other tools.

Recently, we participated in several events to attract new members and raise awareness about the importance of CERT. In January, we hosted a table at the Master the Possibilities Senior Protection Education Event and later that month at the Club Fair. In February, we held an open house during our monthly meeting. Prospective members stopped by and participated in the drill that day, gaining first-hand experience of CERT. These events allowed us to showcase our activities and invite interested individuals to join our efforts.

Please consider becoming a member of CERT. As a volunteer, you will acquire essential skills to help yourself,

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Photo by Jane Belz

CERT members who helped as gate attendants.

your family, and your neighbors in a disaster. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) developed the CERT training program to educate and train community members in basic disaster response skills. Our members receive comprehensive training at the Marion County Sheriff's Office, covering critical skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. CERT members are trained to provide immediate assistance when professional responders are overwhelmed or delayed.

If you would like to become a CERT volunteer, you can attend one of our meetings and learn more about what we do. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, March 11. Please email ontopoftheworldcert@gmail.com if you would like additional information.

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

Community Patrol

Rocky Pizzarello



During our January meeting, the Community Patrol was introduced to the new District Commander for the Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) Southwest District. Lt. Clint Smith transferred on Jan. 12, replacing Lt. Ryan Robbins, the District Commander for the past five years. While we were sorry to see Lt. Robbins move on to his new position, we look forward to working with Lt. Smith and learning from the experience he brings to the position.

Before moving to his new role, Lt. Robbins nominated Group Leader Allison Cranmer for an Eagle Eye award. The award is given to volunteers and employees of the MCSO who make a meaningful contribution to the operations of the MCSO or who go above and beyond in the prevention of crime. Allison was presented the award for her assistance in coordinating the annual Safe & Spooktacular Halloween Party held by the MCSO at Circle Square Commons. More than 100 volunteers and MCSO staff work at the event and behind the scenes to ensure children and families from Marion County and beyond have a safe, fun Halloween trick-or-treating experience. For the past two years, it's estimated there have been 3,000-plus

visitors each year.

We want to give a shout-out to the Community Patrol and CERT volunteers who quickly raised their hands when Community Safety and Loss Prevention Manager Geoff Oldberg, a regular attendee at Community Patrol meetings, asked if we would be willing to take on temporary positions at the entry gates after the staffing company providing employees ended their contract unexpectedly. After a new-employee orientation, the volunteers-turned-employees showed up dark and early on Dec. 27, 2024. They continued to provide coverage through Jan. 31, helping to smooth the transition to the new Envera gate system.

In January, the Community Patrol participated in two events. At the Senior Scam Seminar at Circle Square Cultural Center, we had a table, spoke with numerous attendees, and provided literature on fraud. At the recent Club Fair, 21 residents signed up to receive more information about joining. If you were one of them, we hope you'll check us out and become a volunteer!

If you'd like to join the Community Patrol and contribute to keeping On Top of the World safe, visit marionso.com for an application. Or, if you'd like to check us out before deciding, please join us at our monthly meeting on the fourth Monday of each month at 3 pm in the Hobby Building Event Room. For more information, please contact Allison Cranmer at OTOWCommunityPatrol@gmail.com.



Photo by Marion County Sheriff's Office

Lt. Clint Smith, Community Patrol Group Leader Allison Cranmer, and Lt. Ryan Robbins.

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Longleaf Ridge Friends

Michelle Migdal, Kathleen Taylor, Debra Vitale & Judi Walsh



While many people tend to let their New Year's exercise resolutions wane, many are determined to stick with them to lengthen their health spans. One case in point is a group of neighbors who meet for cardio/weight sessions at the Arbor Fitness Center under the direction of our neighbor Donna Siegfried. While the workout is very challenging, the "Warriors" have a lot of laughs while building strength and endurance.

Registered Dietician Devin Breedon gave a presentation to the men's group at their monthly luncheon. In addition to his practice and working at local hospitals, he teaches several courses at Master the Possibilities. Devin spoke to the group about the nutritional needs of seniors, such as managing chronic pain through diet, gut health, diabetes nutri-

Indigo East Social Committee

Janice Liberton



The Indigo East Social Committee has set Saturday, March 15, as the next potluck dinner date. Admission is a salad, side dish, main dish, or dessert, enough for eight to 10 people. The committee will provide most of the main dish items. Bring your alcoholic beverage. There will be many door prizes.

In addition to the potluck dinner, the Indigo East Social Committee is also planning the following events: an ice cream social in August, a Labor Day bash, a Friday night Halloween Party in October, a Thanksgiving potluck, a golf cart parade, and a holiday party in De-

Avalon Social Group

Laura Gavey & Sharon Hall



Our next event will be held on Monday, March 10, where we will be entertained with an eclectic mix of music by the Uniqueles, with food provided by Scrambles. Watch our Facebook group and your email for details and deadlines for this event. There will also be a 50/50. The club's portion of the 50/50 is used to supplement entertainment costs and purchase supplies. Contact Sharon Hall (270-855-1354) for tickets to the event.

Are you new to Avalon or our social events? Email or our Facebook group are two ways to stay informed of upcoming events. If you would like to be added to our email list or to verify that you are on the list so that you can be notified of future events, please email your request to avalonsocialclub@gmail.com

We encourage you to join our private Facebook group (Avalon Social Club) for up-to-date Avalon news and upcoming events. You will be asked for your address to verify that you are an Avalon resident. If you have trouble finding the group or getting in, please email us, and we'll send you the link to the group.

CONGRATULATIONS

Birthdays – Weddings – Anniversaries

Phyllis Jarskey
97th Birthday

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tion advice, and general tips for eating healthier.

With the warmer weather, golfers enjoyed their first group outing on Saturday, Jan. 25. Participants enjoyed the beautiful sunshine as teams competed in a scramble where the winning team came in at an impressive eight under! The outing was capped off by enjoying refreshments and relaxation at The Lodge at Candler Hills. Thanks to Wes Wendt, who organized the successful event.

Several ladies gathered at Epic Theatres for a movie adventure. They saw "Flight Risk," an exciting film that kept them on the edge of their seats.

On Wednesday, Feb. 5, 16 residents attended the Grandview World Nights competition at the World Equestrian Center, which featured Ocala's Clydesdale horses from Grandview Farms. Everyone agreed it was entertaining and a pleasant way to spend an afternoon. The consensus was that next time, the group would like to watch something with a little more action... like barrel racing!

The diners club enjoyed a fabulous

meal at Prime Tavern. Many neighbors braved the chilly January weather to enjoy warm food and company.

The January cold eventually gave way to wonderful February weather. Neighborhood groups took advantage of the pleasant temperature to gather and enjoy bocce in the afternoon and early evening. The game's easy pace allowed neighbors to socialize and have fun.

In January, one of our book clubs selected "The Women" by Kristen Hannah. Many thanks to Jan Ruder for leading a lively, thought-provoking discussion that transported us back to the Vietnam era. A special thanks to Delaine for hosting and helping us recreate the '60s decade with period-appropriate appetizers, snacks, and decorations.

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



Photo by Roy Siegfried
Donna Siegfried leads the Longleaf Ridge Warriors.

cember.

In researching information for this column, I found many stories about the famous Louis Armstrong's adoption, yet none can be substantiated. Still, several stories I read said that he was raised by his grandmother during his very early years. At seven, the Kamofsky family, who immigrated from Lithuania, took Louis into their home and supposedly adopted him sometime later.

With the Kamofsky family, Louis was treated with kindness and tenderness for the first time in his life. When he went to bed, Mrs. Kamofsky sang Russian and Jewish songs to him, and a couple of Armstrong's hit songs used Jewish melodies.

In true Jewish tradition, the Kamofskys gave Louis money to buy his first musical instrument, a clarinet, and the rest is history. Throughout his lifetime, Louis spoke fluent Yiddish and wore the Star of David to remember the loving family who adopted him. In his younger years, Louis sometimes got in trouble. Yet, he never forgot his roots and counted his blessings.

While researching Louis Armstrong, I came across a name that shocked me. I raised my son in the great town of Union, Union County, New Jersey. In addition to my career developing insur-

ance niche markets and my volunteer work on different advisory boards, I pursued my passion for politics. I'd run into Ray Liotta and Phil Rizzuto regularly during my time in local politics. Phil ate his nightly dinner at a restaurant in the center of the Union's shopping area. Ray was always invited to Christmas tree lightings, special events, mayor's wine and cheese parties, and more. He attended when he could get away from his busy schedule. Ray was born in Newark,

New Jersey, and was adopted from an orphanage at six by Alfred and Mary Liotta. He was raised and educated in Union, received his bachelor's degree at the University of Miami, and studied acting in New York City. Ray played many roles, from a soap opera to drama and comedy. Ray was posthumously honored with a Walk of Fame star in 2023.

I wish you a great month filled with many memorable moments. As usual, I'll see you around the neighborhood.

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Active Newcomers Club

Linda Baker



The Active Newcomers Club board has been busy! We have planned many events and activities for 2025. Our over 225 (and growing) members have many small groups to join. We have activities planned for almost every day of the week. If you have lived in On Top of the World for four years or less and have not joined us, what are you waiting for?

Our spring picnic will be on Saturday, March 22, from 1 to 4 p.m. at The Lodge at Candler Hills Ballroom. Members will enjoy a catered barbecue lunch from Mission BBQ with pulled pork, chicken, rolls, macaroni and cheese, baked beans, and dessert. R&R Trio will provide music for dancing. Tickets are only \$15 (\$20 for guests) and are going fast. Don't forget to bring your beverages! Please update your calendar with this new date and location and check our Facebook page for more information.

Future events include a spring fling on Saturday, May 3, at the Recreation Center Ballroom, and a pizza party on Saturday, June 7, at The Lodge at Candler Hills Ballroom.

Our small groups include bunco, games, mahjong, foodies, lunch, dinner, wine, book, golf, and hiking. Our dinner and wine groups each have over 100 members. These groups are led by volunteers who give their time to plan gatherings and ensure our members have an

opportunity to meet new friends. When you receive an invitation to an event, please be courteous and respond so the host knows you are attending.

Are you looking for opportunities to play bocce, shuffleboard, or miniature golf? A day trip with new friends? These are some of the activities in which members have expressed interest, but leaders are needed. If you are interested in forming a new group or have not received information about a group you signed up for, please send a note to Sandie Butler, our small groups director, via activenewcomers34481@gmail.com. Include "small groups" in the subject of your email.

Membership applications for 2025 are available on our website. Dues are only \$20 per person. When completing your application, please read the descriptions and requirements for small groups before selecting a group. Members receive invitations to small group activities and large events. Weybourne Landing and Indigo East residents must have a Gateway of Services pass.

To learn more about the Active Newcomers Club, visit activenewcomers.org. Members can also visit our Facebook page. For more information, email us at activenewcomers34481@gmail.com. You can also contact any member of our board. The 2025 board members are President Ellen Attenson, Vice President Liz Allen, Treasurer Barb Feller, Secretary Cora Schlipkin, Marketing Linda Baker, Small Groups Sandie Butler, and Membership Andrea Wallet. Members at Large are Cathy Mammolenti, Debbie Haddad, Ginger Allshouse, and Donna Witts.



Photo by Barbara Katz

Members of the Active Newcomers hiking club.

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The Great Escape

By Dave DeAngelis
World News Writer

Part II

If you haven't read Part I of The Great Escape, shame, shame, shame as Gomer Pyle would say. But! You can catch it in the February issue of the World News.

Okay, now to recap some of Part I, the story of an impish chihuahua named Dobbie, a.k.a. Ferris Bueller, that decided to split from his brand new home and hit the road for 10 days. Not long after Heather and Amanda Newman dropped Dobbie off at his new digs with Chris Spillane, and with Donna Smalley remaining at her home ready to assist if needed, Dobbie headed for wherever the heck he was going. I mean, the dog was gone for 10 days! He could have gone from here to Timbuktu. Heck, he could have gone from here to Timbukthre in that time! The adventure continues.

Day 4 – Food Enticement

From Central Command (Camp Smalley) in her house, Donna patiently waited for incoming sightings to send back out to the search team, but not one Dobbie sighting was reported. Her knowledge of dogs is extensive, a perfect qualification for her full-time dedication to fostering dogs. She called the shots from her home to create a game plan that would hopefully corral the dog.

She contacted a trapper with an animal rescue organization who donated traps in which food was placed. Although Dobbie "eats anything," his preference is hot dogs. The traps with hot dogs were set around Chris's neighborhood to entice Dobbie. Heather stayed with the traps while Chris spread the word around her neighborhood to be on the lookout for the escape artist. At 9:30 p.m., without any sightings, the exercise was halted to be continued the next day.

Day 5 – Changing the Menu

Since the hot dogs didn't lure Mister Finicky, the new entrée was "stinky wet cat food." Surely, this delicacy would lure any reputable dog back home. Nope. Just a squirrel with a dazed look and a couple of grouchy crows feigned an interest. Chris and Heather diligently patrolled the area for a few hours but

needed some rest, and Heather returned to her house in Inverness.

At around 4 p.m., a call came in from a woman who had just spotted the Dobbie in Crescent Ridge. Heather hoofed it back up to the location of sighting, searched for a few hours but that little bugger was nowhere to be seen. She returned home at 8 p.m., with Chris staying on alert and Donna, at Camp Smalley, poised to field calls. By now, the number of concerned residents who were also searching was growing. This was turning out to be a massive effort by a whole bunch of really nice people.

Day 6 – Out of the Woodwork

And then, it began to happen. On the morning of day six, Heather decided to make a few more rounds of searching. And just like that, three volunteers from neighboring communities came out of the woodwork. They had seen the online posts and joined the growing search party of residents. The next thing you know, a backyard sighting was reported in Longleaf Ridge.

Back at Camp Smalley, Donna was receiving yet more reports of Dobbie sightings, and she sent the leads back out to the army of now, Team Dobbie. Then, a construction worker reported a sighting and pinpointed the location. Heather was close by, but by the time she arrived, you guessed it. A Houdini act. But the calls seemed to come in continuously for the next two hours. Dog sighted in yard ... driveway ... everywhere but where he was supposed to be. Dobbie had Heather running in circles. (I'm hearing the song "It Keeps You Running" by the Dobbie Brothers, sheesh, I mean Dobbie Brothers).

Day six was cookin'. A kind woman in Indiana saw the Dobbie Facebook posting and, remarkably, created a flyer, emailed it to Heather, and she printed copies. Also behind the scenes in this series of events was a random call placed by Pat Girvin from Providence to Heather's place of employment. Pat needed a contractor, and Heather not only secured a contractor for her but also enlisted Pat to Team Dobbie. Pat

worked tirelessly with the other searchers, spreading flyers and spreading the word.

Then, at 3:30 p.m., another sighting alert. Dog headed your way! The search crew saw Dobbie in a driveway again in Longleaf Ridge. But ... you guessed it. When Dobbie heard his name, he flew off quicker than a toupee in a bad wind-storm.

Three more sightings around the golf course, two final search hours left in the day. No luck. Time to go home. You too, Dobbie! C'mon man!

Day 7 – Strength in Numbers

I was doing my usual workout walk when a car stopped to ask if I had seen a little chihuahua. I had not. A while later,

another car, same thing. I had not. Did I think to ask the dog's name? Nope. Nitwit. What am I gonna call the chihuahua if I see him? Ferris? Little did I know that I'd end up writing about that prankster. Around 10:30 a.m., Chris forwarded a text message to Heather from Don Wright, a neighbor, who spotted Dobbie on his front porch. Don called out for Dobbie, who, pretending to have a hearing issue, hit the pike. More traps were placed around Windsor, the original locale from which Dobbie disappeared.

No luck despite everyone's efforts. Time for all to go home and be a part of The Great Escape Part III – coming in the World News!



Photo courtesy of Heather Newman

Heather Newman with Dobbie.

Night Sky Highlights

By Jim Di Paolo

The Moonstruck Astronomy Club held its monthly meeting on Thursday, Feb. 13, in the Hobby Building Event Room.

Jim Di Paolo, club president, kicked off the meeting by informing everyone

that the club currently has 50 paid members for 2025, and they ended up with 50 members at the end of 2024. He reminded everyone to talk to their friends to help drive membership so they can

reach their goal of 100 members by the end of 2025. Jim spoke about NASA's "Evening with Scientists and Engineers" webinar, which was scheduled for later that evening. He talked about the recent club column in the February edition of the World News, which mentioned the club's recent field trip to Kennedy Space Center. He displayed some photos taken by members at Kennedy Space Center and finished by playing a

video he had compiled featuring highlights of the trip.

Next up was Doug George, who presented his night sky highlights for February. He reviewed which planets are visible to the naked eye, including Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, and Mercury. He talked about M33, the Triangulum Galaxy, M42, the Orion Nebula, and Barnard 33, the famous Horsehead Nebula, all deep-sky objects visible in February. Doug pointed out constellations in the night sky and concluded his presentation with a chart listing all the International Space Station flyovers.

Larry Isenberg, vice president, along with former member Norman Stringfield, gave a presentation on the art of astronomical sketching. The primary purpose of astronomical sketching is to present deep sky and other celestial objects the way we "really" see them in a telescope, by our own eyes, and not artificially enhanced astrophotography images. Galileo sketched astronomical objects, most notably the Moon, Jupiter's moons, Venus, the Sun (including sunspots), and star clusters like the Pleiades and Orion's Belt.

At the end, Jim presented NASA's Artemis program, which will return astronauts to the Moon. The program will use multiple vehicles developed by both NASA and private industries. These include NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) with a Boeing core stage, Blue Origin's New Glenn rocket, and the SpaceX Super Heavy launch system.

The Moonstruck Astronomy Club meetings are on the second Thursday of every month from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. All residents with valid resident IDs or Gateway of Services passes can join the club, and new members are welcome! Yearly club dues are only \$20 per year and include a subscription to the quarterly Reflector Magazine. For information or club registration, please contact President Jim Di Paolo at moonastroclub@gmail.com. More information is always available at moonstruckastronomyclub.org.

Barnard 33 Horsehead Nebula.

Technology Club

Chris Kilbride



Every Saturday at 9 a.m., the Ocala Tech Club meets for an hour through our weekly online Zoom meetings. We try to help resident members learn about the ever-changing technology surrounding us through discussions about Android, Windows, and Apple devices, including current issues. OcalaTechClub.org provides lots of great information about our group.

With the rapid advancement of technology, the need for a large desktop scanner is diminishing. Smartphones have become powerful scanning de-

Tech Tips from Bridgenet CommunicationsShane Bobson
info@mybridgenet.com**811: The National Call-Before-You-Dig Number**

Before you dig, it's crucial to call 811, the national call-before-you-dig phone number, or visit Sunshine811.com. This service allows you to request that the approximate location of buried utilities be marked with paint or flags, helping you avoid accidentally digging into underground utility lines.

Striking underground infrastructure

Women of the World

Lois Rowland



The Women of the World is a social and charitable organization. Our mission is to entertain, inform, educate, and inspire our members through our

can have severe consequences. For example, damaging a telephone line can cut off service to a home or community. Failing to notify the proper authorities can lead to hefty fines, which may catch the attention of homeowners. However, the worst-case scenario involves accidents due to an unmarked or illegally dug utility line.

For many homeowners, digging in the front yard may seem simple. However, if they understood the risks involved with striking buried infrastructure or the broader societal costs – such as the \$30 billion in damages to underground infrastructure in the U.S. in 2019 alone (according to the Common Ground Alliance) – they would likely see calling 811 as essential, not optional.

When to Call 811

monthly meetings and to contribute to the local community by providing much-needed goods to those in need in Marion County.

Our last meeting was on Thursday, Feb. 20. The Poms Cheer & Dance Squad entertained us with their cheers.

The charity was Wear Gloves. Their program equips clients with essential job skills to boost their confidence and help them become valuable contribu-

tors to their community. Our members donated many goods for their general store.

We continue to support our troops through Operation Shoebox. A wish list of items to donate includes breakfast bars, instant oatmeal, individually wrapped crackers, fruit gummies, peanuts, beef jerky, candy, travel-size hygiene products, writing paper, envelopes, pens, puzzles, and all sizes of new batteries.

We're excited about the upcoming 22nd annual Fashion Show & Luncheon at Circle Square Cultural Center on Wednesday, March 19. The doors will open at 10:30 a.m. Pasta Faire will

can scan a single or multiple pages simultaneously and name each file individually.

The next step will be where to put your scans, whereas even a single scan can be substantial in size. When storing your scanned documents, you have several options: on your computer, on an external drive, in cloud storage, or all of the above. Utilizing cloud storage provides convenient access to your information when you're not at home and is considered cost-effective.

Apple iPhones and iPads utilize the built-in Notes app for scanning. Simply click the paper clip icon, take the photo(s), and save the PDF scans to the Files app. Android uses its camera and any choice of apps such as Google Drive, Adobe Scan, Microsoft Office Lens, etc. to scan the photo as a PDF and send it to storage.

Granted, you can always place a piece of paper on the table and take a photo. It will be saved as either a JPG or PNG in your photos app and can be moved to any storage location. The beauty of scanning is that you can scan multiple pages as a set and save them.

Residents are welcome to join our club. Yearly dues are \$10 per resident or \$15 per resident couple. You can contact us through the Contact page at OcalaTechClub.org.

Members enjoy in-person help sessions in the Hobby Building each Thursday, where they discuss their Windows or Apple computer, smartphone, or tablet issues. In-person classes are on the first Friday and Saturday of each month, with online Zoom meetings held on additional Saturdays.

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cater the lunch. The show will include fashions from Dillard's and the Golf Pro Shop. Baskets will be raffled off with tickets purchased before lunch.

Tickets for the Fashion Show & Luncheon will be on sale for \$40 at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio III on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. until the tickets are sold out.

Our monthly meetings are on the third Thursday of each month at noon. 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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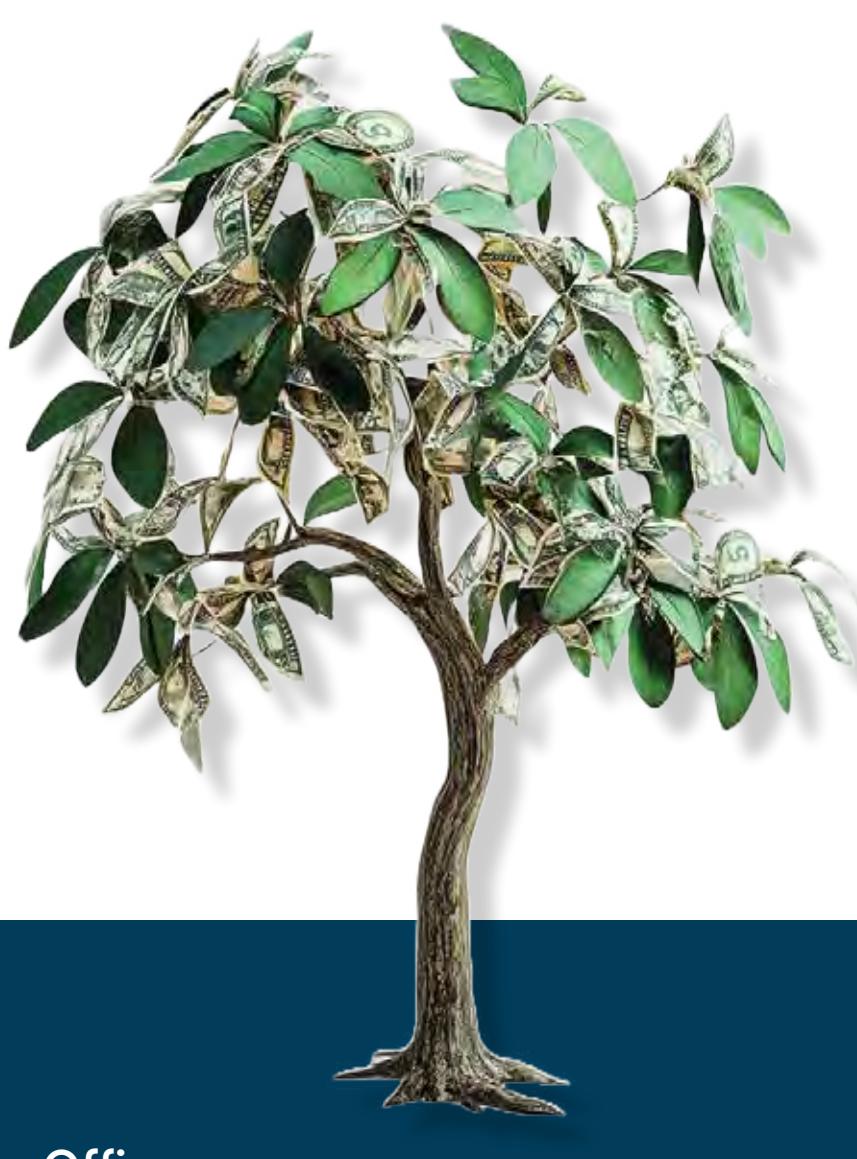


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Birders' Beat

Linda Monaco



Villages and is very familiar with the best birding sites there. The group will visit several locations, including the Fenney Nature Trail, Hogeye Preserve, DeLuna Walking Path, and Sugar Cane Postal Station. If you would like to learn more about some of the excellent birding sites located in The Villages, follow Brownwood Birders on Facebook. Although The Villages community does have many entry gates, a resident or visitor pass is not required for admittance. Just proceed along the visitor lane and press the button to activate the gate.

If you would like to join the group for this trip to The Villages on Thursday, March 27, please contact Margitta Claterbos at mclaterbos@gmail.com. We will meet in the parking lot of Friendship Center just outside the SW 99th Street gate for On Top of the World at 7:15 a.m. This is the parking lot by Roses store and the Bank of OZK. Plan to wear comfortable shoes and bring your hat, binoculars, sunscreen, water, camera, and bug spray. We will eat lunch at one of the restaurants in the area, and relevant information will be provided before we leave town. We hope you can join us on this adventure to experience some birding hotspots in The Villages. All the sites we plan to visit have paved trails and are handicap accessible.

The next group outing to The Villages on Thursday, March 27, will provide a wonderful opportunity to try some old or new binoculars. This adventure will be led by Wendy Chasalow Milstein, an avid birder who happens to live in The



Photo by Nancy Stephens

Northern cardinal.

SPCA of Marion County

Heather Tahan



The SPCA of Marion County is an all-volunteer organization that always seeks volunteers to support our many initiatives and keep the organization running smoothly. Examples of help needed are greeters at our table at the weekly Circle Square Commons Farmers Market, administrative support in fundraising, accounting/bookkeeping, computer skills (Word/Excel), and coordinating speakers and activities. If you'd like to learn more about us, please join us (and bring a friend or two) at our monthly meeting every third Thursday at 1 p.m., at the Friendship Baptist Church, Fellowship Hall, 9510 SW 105th Street, Ocala, FL 34481. Our next regular meeting will be on Thursday, March 20.

Please welcome our new president, Marlene Hatch, who originally hails from Indiana but has lived in On Top of the World for three years. She grew up on a northern Indiana farm and was an active 4-H and Pet & Hobby Club member, always having many pets. Her current pets are Scarlett, a rehomed toy poodle, and Carly, a Persian cat rescue. While Marlene worked in the corporate world for much of her career, she has spent the last 40 years in leadership roles with various charities, such as president for Prevent Blindness Indiana, president of three Indianapolis area Kiwanis International Clubs, Indiana District Lt. Governor, and Ocala Kiwanis Club board. Her first act as president of the SPCA of Marion County was to hold a donation drive. She raised \$200 and collected pet supplies to assist Marion County pets and families in need. Marlene's vision for SPCA is "To create a more humane community through education, protecting and enhancing the lives of animals, and nurturing the bond between people and their pets."

The SPCA of Marion County would like to thank Mari Hellweg, owner of the Jasmine Boutique in the Jasmine Square Ocala, for graciously inviting our group to participate with an information table at a local fashion show on Feb. 9.

In addition to providing pet food and supplies to the Marion County Meals on Wheels, Sheltering Hands, and oth-



Photo by Dawn Case

Mocha is currently being fostered by Dawn Case. If interested in making Mocha part of your family, please email dcindc3@verizon.net.

er local animal shelters, we assist with veterinary costs at the Humane Society of Marion County (such as performing spays and neuters). Last year, our organization sponsored a service dog with Patriot Service Dogs, which provides free, fully trained service dogs for veterans.

Donations of pet food and supplies will be accepted on the porch of Evelyn Sarns Holiday at 8880-C SW 94th Street, Ocala, Florida 34481. To avoid accidental ingestion by a pet, please do not use staples to close open bags. By giving items to the SPCA of Marion County, you also support local shelters. To learn more about our organization, please visit SPCAofMarionCounty.weebly.com, follow us on Facebook (Marion County FL SPCA), or email us at spca.marioncounty@gmail.com.

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



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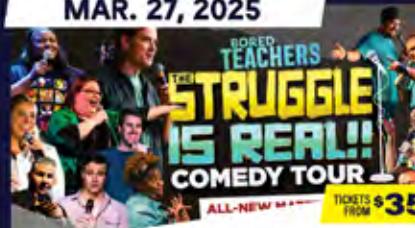
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Ticket prices do not include sales tax or online convenience fees. ALL TICKET SALES ARE FINAL. Call or visit the box office to reserve handicapped seats. Refreshments are also available for purchase at events.

*Free tickets are not available online. They must be picked up at the box office during regular business hours. There is a limit of two tickets per household.



ISSUE 17 - 5/25

Eco Gardeners

Phil Karcheski



Want to start a garden but not at one of the community garden plots? What if you could have one at home? Great news! Now you can! On Top of the World allows residents to have a raised bed garden adjacent to the back of their house or lanai where they can grow flowers, herbs, or vegetables.

To get started, request guidelines from Resident Services, select a contractor from the approved list, and submit modifications. Then, follow the information below.

Raised bed gardening involves raising the soil above ground level, usually in a rectangular or square shape. The raised bed can be made from various materials, including wood, brick, stone, or concrete.

Raised bed gardening offers many advantages over traditional gardening methods. One of the biggest advantages is that it allows you to create the perfect soil conditions for your plants. You can amend the soil in your raised bed to make it ideal for the types of plants you want to grow. This is especially beneficial if you have poor soil in your yard.

Raised beds also make it easier to control weeds and pests. Because the soil is contained in a raised bed, it is more difficult for weeds to take root. Additionally, raised beds can help deter pests such as slugs and snails.

Another advantage of raised bed gardening is that it can be easier on your back and knees. Because the soil is raised, you don't have to bend over as far to tend to your plants.

If you are interested in trying raised bed gardening, there are a few things you need to keep in mind. First, you need to choose a location for your raised bed. Ensure the location gets plenty of sunlight and is close to a water source. You must also decide what size you want your raised bed to be. A good size for a beginner is four feet by four feet.

Once you have chosen a location and size for your raised bed, you need to build it. There are many different ways to build a raised bed. Plans for raised beds can be found online or at your local home improvement store.

After you build your raised bed, you need to fill it with soil. Various types of soil can be used. A good mix is half top-soil and half compost.

Once your raised bed is filled with soil, you can start planting. Choose plants that are well-suited for your climate and soil conditions. Be sure to water your plants regularly and fertilize them as needed.

With a bit of care, your raised bed garden will provide fresh vegetables, herbs, and flowers all season long.

Christian Women's Club

Sandi Kemp



We meet on the third Saturday of every month for a delicious potluck luncheon. In a peaceful setting, we enjoy fellowship with like-minded women. Most months, we have speakers who bring us inspiring messages.

Our February speaker was Tina Kleiss, who was back by popular demand! Tina and her husband wrote a daily devotional book answering many questions about the future as written in the Bible.

Our speaker in March will be Barbara Wells. Barb has attended every month since we started almost two years ago! I am looking forward to hearing her story, and I know we will all be blessed.

Each month, we collect for Interfaith Emergency Services. In addition to food items, please remember that many other things are needed, including anything you use daily, personal hygiene, first aid, and pet food.

Our next meeting is on Saturday, March 15, in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II. We start at 11:45 a.m., but please arrive by 11:30 a.m. so we can start on time. Reservations are not needed; just show up with your potluck. Iced tea and water are provided. We ask for a \$1 donation to help with supplies. I hope to see you there! If you have any questions, call me at 352-237-9073 (no texts, please).

Friends of Bill W Group

There is an open weekly meeting on Mondays from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. Join us! There will be no meeting on Monday, March 17. For more information, please email friendsofbillwocala@gmail.com.

Lions Club

Gail Morris



Casino Night is on Sunday, March 9. It's our major fundraising event for the year. We are in the last days of ticket sales. Tickets are \$50 each, which includes \$300 gaming money, food, and drink. Lions will sell tickets on Tuesdays at the Recreation Center Craft Fair and Thursdays at the Circle Square Commons Farmers Market. Our ticket limit is 300. The last day to purchase tickets will be Tuesday, March 4. Don't miss out on a fun night.

We will also raffle some great baskets created by Lion Charlie, including a men's and a ladies' golf basket. Thank you to Director of Golf Matt Hibbs for donating the items and rounds of golf. We will have many other creative baskets. We will also sell tickets for the liquor wagon and a 50/50 giveaway. It's going to be another fun night.

Not only do our members work hard during Casino Night, but we also have great support from various sponsors, including personnel and grants from Super Walmart and WaWa. We also receive funding from our great corporate sponsors: Robb Harrison Realty, First Federal Bank, Fero & Sons Insurance, Dr. Urban, Scott Cameron Insurance, Marty & Higgins Development, Lorna-Skeffington, LLC, Sunshine Living of Central Florida, and some individual sponsors.

The funds raised at this event will help our Lions to help others. We were able to help our community and others with last year's funds by supplying three of our local elementary schools with supplies as needed, including Thanksgiving baskets for their families. Locally, we use the funds raised to help with childhood hunger issues through the Interfaith Emergency Services. We also help with the Ocala Ritz Veterans Village and Marion County Vets Helping Vets. This past year, we could also donate funds to both the North Carolina hurricane and California wildfire victims.

Thank you for supporting our efforts by attending Casino Night.

The Lions Club meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 5 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room. For further information, contact Estelle Michelson, our membership chair, at 352-861-7358.

Freethinkers

Kathy Bell



The Freethinkers Club offers a warm and inclusive environment where non-religious individuals can connect, learn, and engage with others who share their secular values and advocate for the separation of church and state. Our last program drew 50 participants, and we are still growing. We meet twice a month on selected Sundays from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room.

On Sunday, Feb. 2, Tracy Fero of Fero Insurance discussed recent and proposed legislation affecting Florida homeowners and vehicle insurance and steps being taken to reduce costs. A lively question-and-answer session followed the presentation.

An open forum took place on Sunday, Feb. 16. The forum was piloted at one of our January meetings and has become a favorite. Participants select from a list of five to seven diverse topics and join other interested Freethinkers ready to offer thoughts, comments, and personal knowledge.

As part of our conversations that matter series on selected Monday evenings, our book club got off to an excellent start on Monday, Feb. 24, with a discussion of "Democracy Awakening" by Heather Cox Richardson, a Boston College professor of history.

This month, on Sunday, March 9, we will host Dr. Rod Broker, an academic

and former Lutheran minister, who will discuss his journey to humanism. On Sunday, March 23, we will follow up on one of our January open forum topics, transgender issues, with videos by bio-chemist Hank Green of SciShow and Anthony Youn, MD. A discussion will follow.

There are many opportunities every month for Freethinkers to get together, including three dining-out options and our weekly Unholy Rollers bocce game. On Wednesday, March 12, interested Freethinkers will take a field trip to the Royal Rural Historic District near Wildwood, Florida, to learn about the origins of Royal as a Black Homesteader Colony, only one of two surviving in the U.S. today. Descendants of the original freedmen who settled there still live on the properties granted by the Homesteaders Act of 1862. The community is now threatened by development and a highway expansion.

You are welcome to join us at any event if you consider yourself anywhere on the Freethinker continuum from non-religious skeptic to avowed atheist. If that suits you, you will find a welcoming community to discuss current topics and get to know other Freethinkers. For more information, email us at FreethinkersFlorida@gmail.com or visit FreethinkersFlorida.com.

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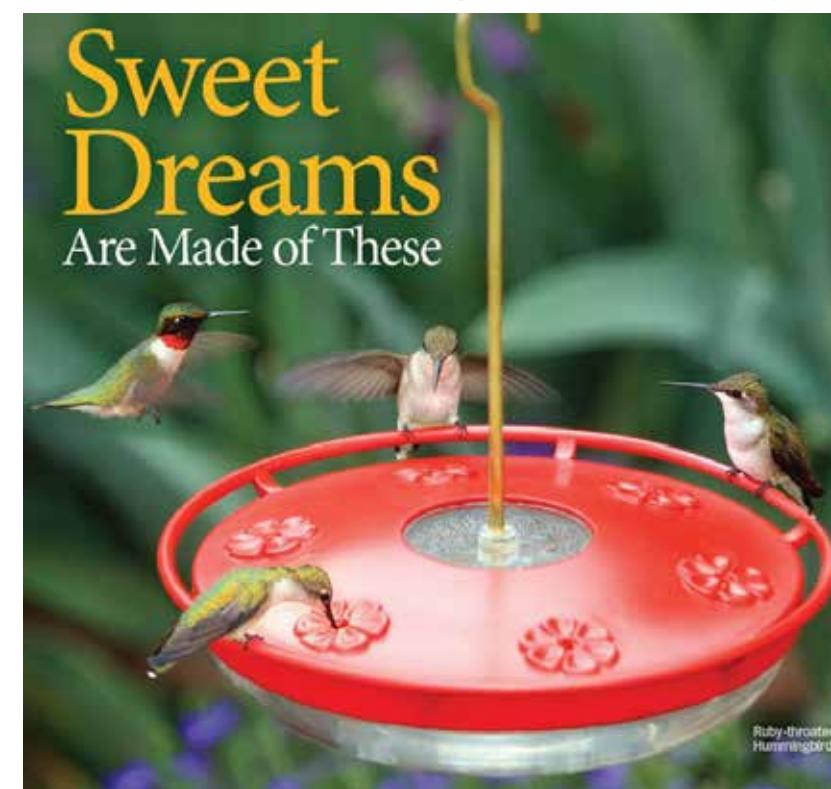
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Active Singles Club

Catherine White



course! They offer open swim hours and diving adventures to the Honduras and the Maldives. There is so much to offer regarding instruction and training for water, diving, and navigation from beginners to the advanced. Only steps away from our community!

As you read our column, our group is preparing to spend the day in Winter Park. This trip includes an hour-long boat tour of Lake Osceola and its channels, lunch and shopping, and a tour of the Morse Museum, which houses the most extensive collection of Tiffany glass.

Coming up in April are some amazing opportunities. Want to go to Ireland? This is your chance to get a good deal on a flight and head out with the experienced group on a great tour from Northern Ireland to the south. While locally, we have our annual poker run, a fun day of scavenger hunting in golf carts! There are several day and overnight

treats and entertainment by the Ukulele Club.

We meet on the second Friday of each month in the Hobby Building Event Room from September through May. This is a change for all of 2025.

Some of the events planned for the year include a talk by CPA Randall Hammatt on Friday, March 14. Spouses also are invited to this meeting. For our Friday, April 11 meeting, we will have a luncheon at the Mellow Mushroom. Times and details will be forthcoming.

Plan to come and support this great club comprised of some great ladies!

R/C LadyBirds

Linda Lohr



Our club is open to all wives and significant others of the R/C Flyers.

Our February meeting was on Valentine's Day and spouses were invited for

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SWANS

Lois Nix



Our bi-annual membership meeting is on Saturday, March 8, at 10 a.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-III. Single Women Active Networking Systems (SWANS) is one of the oldest clubs in On Top of the World. It aims to promote social interaction and support and encourage active single women. We have over 100 SWANS who socialize together.

At this meeting, we will plan social and volunteer activities for the upcoming six months. Each SWAN will submit a form letting our team know what social activity they want to participate in. We have appetizer, lunch, and dinner groups that meet each month. Each group consists of six SWANS who meet for six months. Join us at the meeting to hear the rest of the story.

February was a short month, yet we were busy. Breakfast-, lunch- and dinner-out were well attended. The SWANS enjoyed eating out, taking nature walks, going to the book club, and playing Sam-

New appetizer-, lunch- and dinner-in groups will be created in March. Sign-up sheets will be available for future events, such as a mini vacation to Daytona Beach and a trip to Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park and Haile Plantation in Gainesville. We look forward to seeing all our members and welcome new members anytime.

SWANS are never alone; SWANS are never forgotten.

Joy in the Mourning

Deb Thompson



Consolation is a term referring to providing psychological comfort. Consolation and full restoration to wholeness is what Joy in the Mourning provides.

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Here, one discovers new beginnings while not forsaking treasured memories. Recently, a member permitted me to relay his thoughts about the group. He said, "This group embodies a spirit of understanding and shared experience, providing a haven for those navigating the tumultuous waters of loss. Here, I have found a community bound by empathy and the collective pursuit of healing. Through the companionship of others who have faced similar trials, I have begun to see glimmers of hope and renewal. I am encouraged by the support and solidarity I have found in this new chapter of my life. Together, we honor the memories of our loved ones and embrace the promise of a future filled with both remembrance and resilience."

If your heart needs mending, this club may be your answer. We meet weekly in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room every Friday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. You can stay as long or as little as you wish. For more information, contact Deb at 352-445-4860.

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World Traveler

Bill Shampine



an ancient tradition!

But what exactly is Carnival? It is a festive season that occurs during the Christian pre-Lenten period. It typically involves public celebrations, parades, street parties, masquerade balls, and feasts. The elaborate costumes and masks allow people to set aside their everyday individuality and experience a heightened sense of social unity. There often are competitions related to the costumes people prepare, some of which, for the women, may even include a whole matchbox full of cloth material.

Knowing that they are about to live with some self-imposed limitations, participants often indulge in excessive consumption of alcohol, meat, alcohol, and other foods, such as alcohol, that will be foregone during the upcoming Lent.

Different names for this celebration vary depending on where your feet are located. For example, the celebration is called Mardi Gras in the U.S., Fastelavn in historically Evangelical Lutheran countries, Shrovetide in areas with a high concentration of Anglicans, Methodists,

and other Protestants, and Maslenitsa in Slavic Eastern Orthodox nations.

The word "Carnival" is thought to come from the Late Latin expression carne levare, which means "remove meat." True or not, it is a good description.

In the Middle Ages, roughly from about 500 to the early 1400s, some cultural features may have supported the continued celebration. Not making any judgments as to the order of issues, but, traditionally, the Carnival feast was a time to indulge in sexual desires, which were supposed to be suppressed during the following period of fasting (a strong motive). Secondly, and one I had never thought of, was that the early spring period was, essentially, the end of their winter stores of food. Meat from the animals that had been slaughtered for food as winter started, likely was running out as there was no refrigeration to keep it fresh. So, until the spring harvest produced more stores, food consumption likely would be on the light side, a good time to embrace fasting.



Photo by Agustinagava

One lady's costume at a Carnival parade in Malta.

Travel Toppers

Mary Lamp



Theater production of "My Fair Lady" on May 11. Tickets are \$94 per person and include the show, dinner and dessert, bus transportation, and tips for the servers and driver. Like all our trips, this is to be paid by check only and is nonrefundable unless there is a wait list. Copyright laws protect any production at Suncoast Dinner Theater; no video or pictures should be taken. If this is not adhered to, any violator will be denied a reservation on future trips conducted by Travel Toppers Tours.

We have also planned a trip to Tampa Downs for March 22. The cost is \$82 per person and includes the entrance fee, buffet at the Sky Terrace, bus transportation, and tips for the meal and driver. The bus will leave at 9 a.m. and return at approximately 6 p.m. To make your reservation, call Sharon Stetson at 207-838-3776.

We are offering a St. Johns River Dinner Cruise for Father's Day on Sunday, June 15. The cost is \$100 per person and includes a narrated river cruise, dinner, music on board, bus transportation, and a tip for the driver. Call Lisa Adams at 407-352-9863 beginning March 3 to make your reservation.

We have also planned a cruise: the Celebrity Apex's Caribbean sailing

from Port Canaveral Feb. 14 through 21, 2026. It is a Forbes Travel Guide four-star rated resort at sea, with ports of call at Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, San Juan, Puerto Rico, and St. Kitts and Nevis. If interested, call Linda Hein at 352-861-9880.

We are planning for the 2025-2026 season, so watch for further information. Traveltopperts.com offers more de-

tails 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 for 2025. Any non-resident who participates must be a guest of a resident club member.

Southern Connection Club

Patsy Dooley



Southern Connection members are looking forward to the return of monthly activities in March following a Super Bowl hiatus. Congratulations to all the Eagles fans! The Sunday, March 9 meeting promises to pay homage to the special attributes of this transitory month. Our activities coordinator also is excited to share that the always popular Dancing Jewels will be performing for your enjoyment.

All residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass are cordially invited to join our social potluck

gathering as we enjoy good food, fun, and fellowship. There's no prior notice required – just show up at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-III and bring a dish to share (meat, casserole, salad, vegetable, or dessert) and an appetite. Should you join our merry band of diners, annual dues are \$10 per person and cover expenses, including paper plates, napkins, utensils, and beverages. Members are welcome to bring their dining paraphernalia and drinks if they choose.

Whether you are celebrating March Madness, Mardi Gras, St. Patrick's Day, or spring's arrival, we wish you a joyful March!

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Rhode Island Group

Judy Parisi

**Ohio Buckeyes Social Club**

Amy Ingram



Have you heard about the Norwegian trolls in Ninigret Park in Charlestown, Rhode Island? Two unique 16-foot trolls, Greta Granite and Erik Rock, are there. It is well worth seeking them out.

The trolls were created by renowned Danish recycle artist Thomas Dambo from repurposed wood, quahog shells, straw, rocks, and other natural items. Dambo has built some 125 trolls worldwide, in 20 countries on five continents, 44 of which are in the United States. They symbolize his mission to recycle and reuse materials and reduce waste to preserve our planet.

Ninigret Park comprises some 227 acres with a state-of-the-art playground, ball fields, a 10-speed bike course, tennis and basketball courts, picnic areas, and a freshwater swimming pond with crystal clear water and a family-friendly public beach. There are many hiking and walking trails as well. Erik Rock, one of the trolls, is located along one of the walking trails near Little Nini Pond. It is well situated for those with mobility issues or small children who cannot hike. About one-half mile from there, along a trail, is a path that takes you into the woods, where you find Greta Granite, a more striking sculpture.

If you have time after visiting the trolls, consider visiting the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge, which has a coastal lagoon or salt pond. The lagoon is excellent for fishing from the shoreline, and the calm waters and expansive flats are ideal for digging for quahogs or clams. The Refuge and Ninigret Park are easily reached from Route 1 in southern Rhode Island.

Close by is the Fantastic Umbrella Factory, which, despite its name, does not sell umbrellas. It is a quaint 19th-century farmyard with beautiful gardens to stroll and various stores selling unique crafts. There is also a section with an animal pen housing goats, chickens, and an emu. They seem to get along well, but I found the emu a somewhat intimidating animal.

These are just some of the hidden gems for Rhode Islanders and visitors to the state.

The Rhode Island Group meets periodically for lunch to reminisce on our time there. We welcome all who have lived, studied, worked, or served in Rhode Island and their families. If you are not on our email list, please contact judith.parisi@gmail.com.

Michigan Club

Nancy Meininger



On Sunday, March 2, in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-III, join the Michigan Club for a meet, greet, and eat potluck at 5 p.m. Wear green and pretend to be Irish!

The club is honored to present Linda Letcher, a Historic Ocala Preservation Society board member who has been featured in 352 Magazine and WUFT's Greater Good series. Linda has led many historic walking tours through our great city and lives in a home in the historic district.

But wait! That's not all. She has a past that is well worth mentioning, too. After retiring in Mexico in 2010, Linda and her husband helped start the first no-kill shelter for street dogs in the Yucatan and passed the first laws against animal abuse. She also spent 20 years mentoring at-risk young girls as part of the Take Stock in Children program in Florida.

Our last meeting featured Dee Collier, the amazing, costumed storyteller who led us into the personal story of gangster Al Capone. Dee has always brought historical figures to life in our midst.

Please bring your plate setups, silverware, and beverages (alcohol is permitted) to all meetings in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-III.

If your last name begins with A-G, bring a dessert. If it starts with H-M, bring a vegetable or salad. If it begins with N-Z, bring a main dish.

Along with your potluck dish to serve eight, bring your wallet. Tickets go on sale for our annual April Coney Island picnic at Veterans Park to salute the Detroit Tigers. Tickets are \$5 each. Sign up for sides.

Don't worry if you've never lived in Michigan. If you went to school, vacationed, or have always yearned to go there, if you love Michigan, we love you! Please come and join us.

For questions, call or text Nancy Meininger at 352-554-0757.

LEASH LAW

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On Top of the World**EVENTS/ACTIVITIES**

Events and activities that take place behind the gates of On Top of the World are for residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

Scandinavian American Club**Scandinavian American Club**

David Wesenberg



The Scandinavian American Club's next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 25, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Event Room I.

Our February meeting discussed the flags of Scandinavian countries. Denmark has two flags, one for land use and the other for the sea. Both are red with a white cross, and the naval flag is darker red. Both flags are swallow-tailed. They have been used since the 13th century.

The Norwegian flag resembles the Danish flag except that inside the Danish flag is placed a narrower blue Scandinavian Cross. Denmark and Norway were once one nation.

The Swedish flag uses the same cross idea, but it is a yellow cross across a sky-blue background, with the arms of the cross closer to the mast that supports it.

Finland's flag is like the Danish flag, except its cross is sea blue on a white background. It is one of the newer flags, dating from the 20th century.

The Icelandic flag looks like the Norwegian flag with a narrower red Scandinavian cross inside a white cross on a sky-blue background.

The Faroe Island flag is shaped like the Icelandic flag, except the narrow Scandinavian cross is red inside a sky-blue cross on a white background. It was first recognized in 1940.

Finally, the flag of Greenland consists of two equal horizontal bands of white

(top) and red (bottom), with a counter-changed red and white disk slightly to the hoist side of the center.

When we meet, you can see all these flags just outside the door where we meet. See if you can picture each of the flags when you visit.

We ask members to be prepared to share their memories of their Scandinavian past and culture. Many of our members have visited the Scandinavian countries they or their ancestors have migrated from and returned with pictures and exhibits. Maybe you have a story to tell or a souvenir to share?

The Scandinavian American Club is an excellent opportunity to meet new people, share stories and experiences, and have a great time. Whether you have a Scandinavian background or not, if you feel Scandinavian, join us. For more information, contact Arlene Chilcott at chilcottarlene21@gmail.com.



Photo by Lori Szepelak

Scandinavian American Club table at the Club Fair.

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Archery Club Open House

By Suzanne Shea

The Archery Club is holding its semi-annual open house on Thursday, March 13, from 10 a.m. to noon. Residents are invited to the range to learn about the sport, tour the range, meet our members, and try their hand at archery. The

club will supply equipment and have instructors available to guide you through the shot process. Come to the Veterans Park pavilion for registration, and golf carts will be on standby to shuttle you to and from the range. If you cannot make

it to the open house, we invite you to stop by the range on any Friday from 10 a.m. to noon for a quick introduction to the club.

The shooting line cover has been installed! Members will see continuous tweaks and improvements to the range and cover over the next few months. Many thanks to the On Top of the World staff and dedicated club members who worked tirelessly to add this to the range.

On the third Tuesday of each month, Patty Hoppe will host Archery Fundamentals and Shooting Workshops at the

range. The topics will vary monthly, and a fun shoot will follow each workshop. The workshops begin at 10 a.m. and are open to all archers.

The next Archery 101 class will be Tuesday, March 25, at 10 a.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. Jerry Hoppe will discuss the recurve and compound bow typically used at the range. He will expand on various aspects of archery and the types of equipment that may be required for each. Additionally, the class will provide insight and direction on buying your equipment and assist you in improving your archery skills.

Wishing the best of luck and good skill to all members participating in competitions around the state and country this month.

Saturday, May 10, will mark the fifth anniversary of the range's opening, and plans are underway to celebrate.

Every Friday, we host "Freestyle Friday." From 10 a.m. to noon, club mentors are at the range and available to assist our novice archers with skill improvement. If you are considering joining the club, this is a wonderful way to meet members, learn more about the sport, and have fun.

The Archery Club has 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. We also have a well-equipped maintenance shop to keep club and personal archery equipment in good working condition. Membership is open to all residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

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 Phyllis at phyllisarchery@gmail.com or 606-383-1744. Keep it in the yellow!



Photo by Chuck Strickland

Club members honing their skills under the new shooting line cover.

Start Now

By Laura Gavey

Want to be a part of this happy group? Looking to lose weight and feel better while being supported by neighbors and friends? We have the group for you! Our Weight Loss Group gets together once a week to share ideas on weight loss, healthy cooking, exercise, and tips to meet your goals. Follow the food plan that works best for you.

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

Join us for a meeting and see if our group will work for you!

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



Photo by Diana Laude

The Monday and Tuesday groups are celebrating their weight loss journey.

held on Sundays from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Recreation Center Ballroom. If you need additional help with the dance steps, please come at 1:30 p.m. to review them before the rest of the dancers arrive. We will add one or two every month going forward.

I encourage all dancers needing additional help to review the dances on YouTube. The best thing to do is to get as

many dance practices as possible.

On Thursdays, Sheryl Bradley teaches line dancing from 10 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. The Beginner I class is at 12:15 p.m., and Absolute Beginners starts at 1 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios. She does not teach the same dances as I, but the steps you'll need to line dance will be the same. I invite you to take advantage of these opportunities

— sign up at the Recreation Center office.

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, please text or email me your name, email address, and phone number to 973-903-8719 or spirit927@live.com.



Photo by Judy Sullivan

Dancers from two line dance classes enjoyed the Mardi Gras-themed social night.

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Golf



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

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

The 2025 Ocala Open will be held at Candler Hills Golf Club Wednesday, March 19 through Friday, March 21, with the Pro-Am on Tuesday, March 18. We offer our golf members a discount to participate in the Pro-Am, \$1,400 for a three-person team while being paired with one of the pros. The entry fee includes a gift package from our Golf Shop worth \$200, breakfast before play, and a barbecue lunch after the event.

The charities benefiting from this year's event are Empath Hospice of Marion County and Interfaith Emergency Services. Last year, we raised \$100,000 and split it between the two charities. We are hoping to make this year's event even bigger and better. Admission is free Wednesday through Friday, with VIP tickets available for \$35 or three for \$90 in the Candler Hills Golf Shop. For more information regarding VIP tickets and the Ocala Open, visit OcalaOpen.com.

The annual On Top of the World Club Championship, open to On Top of the World golf members only, will also be held in March. It is a two-day event, with round one on Friday, March 14, followed by round two on Saturday, March 15. Both days will have 8 a.m. tee times. Good luck to our defending champions, Tommy Lowe, Gayla Aldridge, and Lynne Dickson. Please see the On Top of the World Golf Shop for more details.

Upcoming Events

- Friday, March 14 & Saturday, March 15: On Top of the World Club Championship.
- Tuesday, March 18: Ocala Open Pro-Am at Candler Hills Golf Club.
- Wednesday, March 19 through Friday, March 21: Ocala Open at Candler Hills Golf Club.
- Friday, March 28: Spring Fling at Candler Hills Golf Club.

World Accolades

CANDLER HILLS: George Isaac, eagle #18. Bob Coughanour, hole-in-one on #13 and shot 71 two strokes under his age. Don Wheeler, shot his age 81.

THE LINKS: Larry Manion, eagle #2.

THE TORTOISE & THE HARE: Gary Kohls, eagle #5. Kevin Hammonds, eagle #9. Congratulations to all!

Golf Tip of the Month

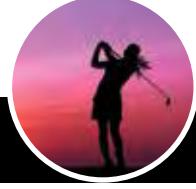
How many of you have a consistent pre-shot routine? No matter the circumstances, this is critical to becoming a more consistent golfer. Take these steps to set up the perfect pre-shot routine.

1. Pre-shot routines should be 30 seconds or less.
2. Step behind the ball and visualize the shot.
3. Take a deep breath and relax before addressing the ball.
4. Find your target and address the ball.
5. Waggle a few times before swinging to keep your muscles relaxed.

Remember, everyone's pre-shot routine is unique in its own way. Use these five tips to help develop a consistent routine for every swing you make. Hopefully, this will help you control your emotions and become a more consistent player.

Ladies 18-Hole Golf Association

Jo Della Penna



One, Two, Three

Jan. 14/The Tortoise & The Hare

134-Lisa Free, Gail Lagrange, Lorrie Anderson, Connie Lukas, 141-Shelly Karsnitz, Connie Sohl, Carroll Dawn, (B) Connie Lukas. Tie at 142-Sharon Fairclough, Katie Schriewer, Cindy Channell, Joann Delmar, Sandy Snyder, Joanne Woolery, Donna Townsend, Jacqueline Randour.

Aces Wild (Individual)

Jan. 28/The Tortoise & The Hare

Flight 1: 69-Gail Lagrange, 70-Sharon Fairclough, 73-Gayla Aldridge, 74-Linda Taylor. Flight 2: 63-Joyce Jones, 71-Katie Schriewer. Tie at 72-Vickie Noltenmeyer, Youlan Cho. Flight 3: Tie at 65-Debby Wilson, Brenda Hoffman, 74-Joann Della Penna, 75-Lori Anderson. Flight 4: 70-Cynthia Gersten, 73-Nancy Skoch, 74-Donna Issac, 77-Jacquelin Randour.

Thoughts to bounce back by:

- Have compassion for yourself when you fail.
- Refuse to get upset about bad shots or tournaments.
- Take pride in the way you bounce back from setbacks.

Candler Hills Ladies 18-Hole

Beth Wolinsky



A Silver Tee Scramble was our game on Thursday, Feb. 6. This event was to support our charity, Arnette House Teen Shelter and Services. There were many ways to contribute, including 50/50 raffles and the purchase of mulligans and tosses. Ladies from both courses, from both the nine- and 18-hole leagues, participated. Kudos, ladies! Over \$2,200 was collected. Thank you for your generosity.

Marte Dobosh has joined our league. She is also a member of the On Top of the World league. Welcome!

There are only 24 rules for golf, which, interestingly, doesn't seem like a lot. However, with countless subsections and changes yearly, these rules have grown to more than 5,000 words and over 200 pages. For rules officials, it certainly makes a decision a daunting task during a round.

The league is open to any female residents. If you wish to join, contact our president, Lynn Colomb, at coachlynn@aol.com. It's a great way to play golf and meet some fun women.

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

Low Gross/ Low Net (Individual)

Jan. 16

Gross

Flight 1: 73-Sandy Snyder, 80-Michele Otto. Flight 2: 87-Dawn Carroll. Flight 3: 90-Karen Schroeckenthaler, 91-Faun Doctor. Flight 4: 93-Eileen Gustavus, 94-Brenda Hofmann. Flight 5: 96-Teri Stecker. Flight 6: 106-Pamela Robison.

Net

Flight 1: 75-Betsy Maugherman, 77-Shelly Karsnitz. Flight 2: 75-Laurel Staiger, 76-Virginia Combs. Flight 3: 76-Yuhlan Cho, 76-Katie Schriewer. Flight 4: 74-Liz Pruss. Flight 5: 74-Cynthia Gersten, 79-Beth Wolinsky. Flight 6: 77-Renee Middleton, 85-Terry Lemesh.

Quota in Flights (Individual)

Jan. 30

Flight 1: 0-Shelly Karsnitz, -1-Gayla Aldridge, -2-Laura McMillan, -3-Christine Giza, -5 Sandy Snyder. Flight 2: 2-Linda Taylor, -2-Beverly Ovrebo. Tie at -3-Lynn Colomb, Dawn Carroll, -4-Becky Bivins. Flight 3: 6-Joyce Jones, 3-Janette Sheil. Tie at 1-

Janelle Gluckman, Karen Schroeckenthaler, Joanne Woolery.

Flight 4: 3-MJ Strelec. Tie at 1-Debby Wilson, Mary A. Cunningham, -4-Brenda Hofmann, -5-Virginia Combs.

Flight 5: Tie at 2-Eileen Gustavus, Beth Wolinsky, Robin LeMaster, -2-Joann Delmar, -3-Peggy Weichmann.

Flight 6: 7-Terry Lemesh, 4-Margie Williams. Tie at 1-Renee Middleton, Teri Stecker, Anne Dahlen.

Silver Tee Charity Scramble (Team)

Feb. 6

45-Page Falconer, Janette Sheil, Anne Dahlen, Leslie

Weddle, 48-Beverly Ovrebo, Nancy Zielinski, Pamela Robison, Fran Delaney. Tie at 49-Connie Norris, Lynne Dickson, Ronda Richley, Carol Carney, Judy McGuinness, Chris McIntire, Tammy Shultz, Dianne Masterson, Sandra Mansfield, Paula Lilly, Mary Polizzotti, Patty Snyder. Tie at 50-Eileen Gustavus, Mary Ruffner, Mary Jeannette, Sandy Thompson, Katie Schriewer, MJ Strelec, Joann Delmar, Margie Williams, Michele Otto, Mary A. Cunningham, Carol Clark, Leigh Erickson, Dawn Carroll, Liz Pruss, Dolores Jaynes, Blind, Shelly Karsnitz, Brenda Hofmann, Jean Czachor, Patricia Grosso.

Ladies Shuffleboard

Lois Nix



We were only able to shuffle for two weeks in January. We cannot play when it rains or the courts are wet, and some ladies do not play if it is too cold.

We welcome new members who signed up at the Club Fair! Hopefully, we will have more ladies join us. Our seasoned players like to teach new

members the basics. Shuffleboard is a great game and is played all over our country. Shuffleboard has been played in St. Petersburg, Florida, for almost 100 years. In On Top of the World, it has been played for over 35 years. The Ladies Shuffleboard Club has been playing for nine years. Our club is open to all women residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

January

6-Sandy Welch, 5-Barbara Russell, Lois Nix, Dee Caple, 4-Kathy Kloos, 30-plus-Marie Nasti.

Happy shuffling. See you on the courts.

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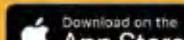
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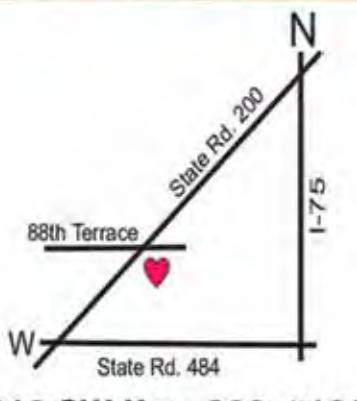
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Softball Club

Mike Manas

Baby, it's been a brisk winter for the Softball Club! Our members braved the (ahem!) slightly cooler January weather and are now back on their field of dreams, enthusiastically pursuing the coveted Frog in a Bucket trophy. It's been a fantastic season, filled with exciting, high-scoring games and impressive defensive plays. With everyone playing their best, each team has already celebrated at least one victory! We've also made some positive changes, recently switching to a new type of ball to further enhance the safety and enjoyment of our games.

The return of our snowbirds and the start of the winter season has allowed us to expand to eight teams, creating even more opportunities for fun and friendly competition. Check out the creative team names and standings below!

Every Monday and Wednesday, year-round, you'll find a great group of guys enjoying the camaraderie and excitement of softball.

We're incredibly proud to recognize Jimmy Russo, our remarkable outfielder and catcher. Jimmy's enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and willingness to help (including keeping the dugouts tidy!) inspire us all.

The Softball Club is all about fun, fellowship, and the love of the game. Whether you win or lose, you'll leave with a smile.

If you're looking for a welcoming group of guys to play ball with, we'd love to have you join us! New players are encouraged to participate in our New Player Orientation (NPO). You can apply at otowsoftball.org or chat with one of our members at the field behind the Recreation Center. Feel free to contact Brad Youngberg at 954-732-5863 for more information.

Standings as of Monday, Feb. 10: Big News is leading the way with a 5-1-1 record, followed closely by Suspenders Too at 5-2-0, with the Sun Kings right behind at 4-3-0, Rounding Third with a record of 3-3-1 is in fourth place, with Old Sox and Guardians tied for fifth place at 3-4-0, and the Old Farts and Sarcistic Swingers at 2-5-0 are tied for seventh place early in the season.

Billiards Club

Phil Panzera



On Tuesday, March 11, we will take a quick break from our league schedule to hold our club's annual Nine-Ball Tournament. The tournament will be open to all male and female club members and will be handicapped. As usual, we'll have food and snacks for the players.

If you've never played in a pool tournament, consider joining us. You'll learn more about your "true" game in a day than in a month banging balls for fun. Competition is the essential catalyst for growth and progress. It's fun and exciting and has a thrill that you just don't feel in casual play.

Most importantly, it does not matter how well you do. The quest is to do your best, learn and understand yourself better, and compete under pressure, knowing that any shot can decide a game or match. As Howard Cosell once said, "The ultimate victory in competition is derived from the inner satisfaction of knowing that you have done your best."

I get positive feedback from every tournament, and I smile when first-timers (especially ladies) say they enjoyed it more than they expected. There's no league that day, and you're free, so have an adventure and try it.

Co-Ed Recreational Softball

Pat Wilbert



It looks like spring is around the corner. The weather has been great, which attracts more people interested in playing Co-Ed Recreational Softball. Men and women are always welcome. We meet every Saturday, weather permitting, at 9 a.m. for stretching, and games start at 9:15 a.m. We pitch five innings, and everyone bats.

Everyone in the softball family has so much fun playing the game we all love. We have a limited supply of equipment if you don't have it. Always bring water or drinks to stay hydrated, but if you forget, we have some bottled water available. Two teams are picked, with men and women of all ages and experiences. Let's play ball.

By the time this column comes out, we will have already had the pleasure of two competitive games against Stone Creek, thanks to our manager, Chris Lopez.

Please come to the softball field on Saturday if you want to play or learn about Co-Ed Recreational Softball. If you have any questions, email otow-coedsoftball@gmail.com. Remember, don't wait to do what you want to do – do it now.

Ballet

Eugenie Martin



The Club Fair at Circle Square Cultural Center was very good. The new venue, much larger than the Recreation Center Ballroom, offered more space for tables. The tables were neat and attractive, and the noise level was low. Walking around the space, looking at displays, and chatting with club members was delightful.

The Ballet Club attracted several new members, and they have started participating in our Introductory/Beginner class, which we recommend for new dancers. If that class is too rudimentary, a dancer can always transfer to one of our more advanced classes. All our classes are designed especially for more

mature bodies. As a result, we start our classes with stretches for the whole body and do more stretches at the barre, more or less in the middle of the class.

Because ballet clothes – leotards, tights, ballet shoes, and skirts – can be expensive, we suggest that new dancers hold off on purchasing them until they are sure they want to continue with ballet after the first few classes. Most women own exercise tights, so we suggest wearing them to class with a stretchy top and thick socks on the feet. And bring a bottle of water, of course.

Here is our schedule of classes:

- Introductory/Beginner: Thursdays, 1 to 2:15 p.m.
- Advanced Beginner: Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Intermediate I: Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Intermediate II: Fridays, noon to 1:15 p.m.
- Technique (Advanced): Wednesdays, 1:15 to 3:30 p.m.

I am always available to talk to you about all our classes. If you have any questions, please contact me at 352-854-8589 or eugeniemartin@aol.com. Happy dancing!

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Meditation Group

Domenica Genovese



tate. No matter where I am in the world, that's my one non-negotiable. Investing even a few minutes in meditation makes the whole day happier and more productive."

The Meditation Group can provide a place for you to develop a consistent practice. Our sessions begin with a short reading followed by a 20-minute silent meditation period with calming background music. Members are encouraged to bring a reading they wish to share with the group. After the 20-minute meditation, everyone is invited to discuss the reading's meaning or share insights about their meditation practice. We go around the room, allowing each person to offer their thoughts or comments. If you prefer not to speak, simply say "pass," and we'll move on to the next person.

Four facilitators – Terri Cavagnaro, Athena Drewes, Brenda Foster, and Domenica Genovese – support our group. We welcome members to the room, help guide the discussion, and answer questions about group guidelines.

Participating in a meditation group can provide additional benefits, such as connecting with others who share similar interests, supporting others in staying committed to their practice, and engaging in discussions where we learn from each other's experiences and insights.

We invite you to the Arbor Activity Center Event Room I every Tuesday at 1 p.m., and we look forward to welcoming you!



Photo by Domenica Genovese



Several members of the Meditation Group gather outdoors on a sunny day.

Photo by Domenica Genovese

Meditation is not a practice limited to lone monks sitting in seclusion. In 2022, 17% of adults in the U.S. practiced meditation, which was more than double the rate in 2002. More and more prominent people have committed to the practice. Did you know that Paul McCartney, Lady Gaga, Melinda Gates, Steve Jobs, and Jeff Weiner (CEO of LinkedIn) are all dedicated meditators? More and more Americans are discovering that a consistent meditation practice has beneficial effects that will help bring clarity and focus to your daily life.

I recently watched a talk by noted historian Yuval Noah Harari, who explained that he meditates daily and commits to a 60-day retreat once a year. He says that meditation is central to his understanding of history and that through practice, he gained the clarity to write the highly-acclaimed books "Sapiens" and "Homo Deus."

Harari states, "Meditation can be difficult and it can help people confront things like fears, guilt, and boredom. It is not a way to disconnect from reality, but rather a way to get in touch with it."

Melinda Gates also finds a consistent practice has great rewards. "The first thing I do in the morning is to meditate.



Photo by Mike Romano

Cheryl Jensen and Mary Romano worked the Club Fair on Jan. 30.

Poms Dance & Cheer

Pamela Kalamaras



ty. We hope this brings joy to many men and women in their homes.

On Thursday, Feb. 20, we performed for Women of the World.

Looking forward, we will be dancing at the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Recreation Center Ballroom to honor our soldiers who gave all.

It is a joy for us to entertain communities right here in Ocala. We can adjust our performance to suit your time limits, music selections, and themes. Our most popular requests are rock 'n' roll through the decades and our medley of patriotic songs. On that note, we always learn new dances and cheers to make the most of our performances.

If you want to join our team, I can provide further information, guidance, and support. Entering this new world of

dance and cheer is like no other dance in the community. This unique and exciting performance club is now offered in many 55-plus communities nationwide. We invite you to visit us to see what the team is all about and maybe even join in the fun. Please contact Pam Kalamaras at pammykal@aol.com for more information on viewing our rehearsals, upcoming performances, new membership, and bookings.

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Broadway & Tap Dancing

Elaine Voorhis



The beat of this song absolutely refuses to leave our heads.

Broadway II is working on a good, clean dance routine - Splish Splash (I was taking a bath) by Bobby Darin. Wait until you see this one! It's going to be lots of fun. There will be lots of giggles for sure and maybe even some bubbles!

We'll be dancing to those songs at our free end-of-session recital on Friday, Feb. 28, at 1 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. It's an informal performance where we practice our routine a few times until we're ready for our close-up, or rather our video. Then we pose for our group shot. At the end, Penny always rewards us with a special heartfelt certificate. We hope you can attend. It's a great way to see what we're about and what we accomplish in a seven-week session.

The tap classes haven't been idle either. Our toes have been tapping right along. We're always working on different steps and combinations and learning different routines. The joint is really jumpin' when we're in class in the Recreation Center Ballroom. We occasional-



Photo by Steve Warren

Broadway I and II.

ly step back into the past and do an older routine that helps get the cobwebs out of our brains! We really amaze ourselves when we actually remember the steps. Penny loves to keep us on our toes, literally, but in the end, we come away with a feeling of confidence and accomplishment.

We had a great time at the Health &

Wellness Expo in January. It was so much fun seeing people in the audience cheering us on. It certainly energized us, and we sincerely appreciate your support.

Come watch us, or contact us at broadwayandtap@yahoo.com for more information. We'd love to perform for your club or organization.

Sidekicks Western Dance

Peggy Eizans

**Line Dancing**

Tamara Stanford



Line dancing is a popular activity. Residents enjoy dancing, and most organized dances are for couples. Line dancing is unique because the participants dance individually but as a group. There are rows of dancers all facing the same wall as the dance begins.

The origins of line dancing are unknown. However, it likely evolved from square and contra dances. According to Wikipedia, contra dancing started in Europe in the 17th century. It was a folk dance for couples. Two long lines of couples faced each other. As in square dancing, a caller announced the steps, and a band provided the music.

Those emigrating to America in the 18th and 19th centuries continued contra dancing. Slowly, contra dancing changed from partner dancing to individual dancing. Country and western music helped the change, and television popularized it. The first line dance to gain national recognition was the Madison in 1958. There is a video of this dance at

youtube.com/watch?v=w6QWoLXJ9Z4. The Electric Slide also brought recognition to line dancing in the early 1980s. The Electric Slide is still taught and is often in the dance rotation at many events. Billy Ray Cyrus' hit Achy Breaky Heart is another song that popularized line dancing.

Copperknob.co.uk compiles information about line dancing. Its top 10 dances, as voted by registered Copperknob viewers, are listed there. All line dances remain in the Copperknob database.

Each dance has a step sheet and videos of demonstrations and instruction. It is the site to go to when searching for dance information.

Joe Spencer is the line dancing instructor and can be reached at joesp1@yahoo.com.

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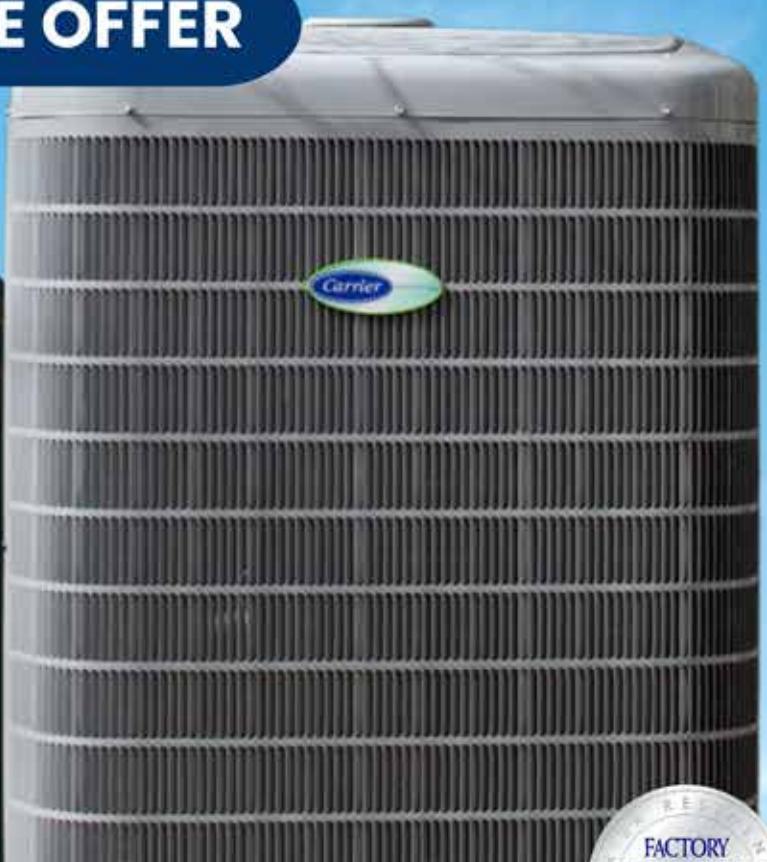
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Photo taken by Cammy Dennis

New Fitness Supervisor Lillian Grajeda is leading chair pilates.

Fitness Happenings



Cammy Dennis
352-854-8707 x7532
cammy_dennis@otowfl.com

Welcome Lillian Grajeda!

I am pleased to introduce Lillian Grajeda, On Top of the World's new fitness supervisor. She and her family recently moved to Ocala; we are so glad they did. Lillian is going to be a fabulous addition to our team. Lillian's love of fitness started when she was just out of high school; she spent much of her time in strength, step, and spinning classes. Eventually, she decided to enroll in a 200-hour yoga training program, and since then, she has taught over a thousand hours of yoga, Pilates, and barre classes. Here are some insights from Lillian about active aging.

Q. How long have you been teaching fitness classes, and what first attracted you to the fitness industry?

A. "My passion for fitness spans more than two decades. My career began with a deep-seated desire to empower others to achieve the same vitality and well-being I experienced through exercise. This intrinsic motivation drives my commitment to sharing the transformative power of movement with individuals of all backgrounds and fitness levels."

Q. You have been the fitness supervisor for just over a month. What excites you about working with our community?

A. "My experience as fitness supervisor thus far has been incredibly rewarding. I have had the privilege of working alongside a truly exceptional team and engaging with a vibrant community of individuals dedicated to active aging. I am eager to contribute my expertise in yoga, Pilates, and barre, focusing on strengthening, activating, and retraining the postural muscles crucial for balance and overall well-being. My goal is to empower residents to cultivate improved balance and foster a greater sense of equanimity through mindful movement."

Q. What advice do you have for residents to help them age optimally, preserve their independence, and maintain a high quality of life?

A. "My advice is to get to our fitness centers! Our comprehensive fitness programs go beyond 'getting to the gym.' We address multiple facets of well-being, focusing on proven strategies to extend your lifespan and enhance your overall health, including strength training, cardiovascular exercise, flexibility, balance, and social interaction."



MARCH 2025 FITNESS

RECREATION FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am SPARC (60 min)	Step & Sculpt (60 min)	Remix Bootcamp (60 min)	Step (60 min)	SPARC (60 min)
8:00 am Zumba® Gold-Toning (45 min)				Dance Aerobics (45 min)
9:00 am S.O.S. (TRISH)	Stretch, Flex & Balance (TRISH)	S.O.S. (TRISH)	Dance & Sculpt (TRISH)	S.O.S. (TRISH)
9:00 am Chair Pilates (LILLIAN)		BEAT (LORI)		Stretch, Flex & Balance (LORI)
10:00 am Balanced Body (LORI)	Chair Yoga (LORI)	Balanced Body (LORI)	Chair Yoga (LORI)	Balanced Body (LORI)
10:00 am Chair Yoga (SANDRA)		Chair Yoga (SANDRA)		Chair Yoga (SANDRA)
11:00 am Chair Dance (AMY)	Brain Power (S/TEAM)	Get Fit While You Sit (S/TEAM)	Move to Improve Parkinson's (S/TEAM)	Chair Dance (S/TEAM)
11:00 am Dance Aerobics (SANDRA)		Zumba® Gold (AMY)		Dance Aerobics (SANDRA)
1:00 pm	Chair Chi (AMY)	Punch Out PD (PARKINSONS)		
3:00 pm VYP Chair Yoga (JAN)	Balanced Body (LORI)	Chair Yoga (LORI)	Balanced Body (LORI)	
5:00 pm	Hatha Yoga (FRED)		Power Yoga (SANDRA)	

Recreation Fitness Center Hours: Monday-Friday 6:30 AM - 7 PM; Saturday 7 AM - 7 PM; Sunday 9 AM - 5 PM

*Fitness Orientations 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 Beginner/Intermediate Tai Chi (NANCY)	STRONG (DOROTHY)	Intermediate/Advanced Tai Chi (AMY)	STRONG (CARLY)	Core & More (NANCY)
9:00 am Power Yoga (JANET)	Pilates Fusion (JANET)	Yoga (LORI)	Pilates Fusion (LORI)	Yin Yoga (NANCY)
10:00 am STRONG (JANET)	Power Yoga (JANET)	STRONG (LORI)	Yoga (LORI)	STRONG (LORI)
11:00 am Yoga (CARLY)		Yoga (LORI)		ABC Yoga (TEAM)
1:00 pm				Fitness Orientation*

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 free. Space is limited. To schedule an appointment, please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7638.

ARBOR FITNESS CENTER INDOOR POOL

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
6:00 am Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming
7:00 am Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim
8:00 am Water Walk	Water Walk	Water Walk	Water Walk	Water Walk
9:00 am **Deep Water Aerobics (LARRY)	**Shallow Water Aerobics (SUE)	**Deep Water Aerobics (TRISH)	**Shallow Water Aerobics (SUE)	**Deep Water Aerobics (LARRY)
10:00 am Open Swim	**Shallow Water Aerobics (SUE)	Open Swim	**Shallow Water Aerobics (SUE)	Open Swim
11:00 am Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming
12:30 pm Aqua Aerobics Club	**Shallow Water Aerobics (DIAHNE)	Aqua Aerobics Club	**Shallow Water Aerobics (SHEILA)	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		Open Swim	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. 7639.

Shuffleboard



Walt Lamp

Our free Introduction to Shuffleboard class, led by Paul Hodges, is scheduled for Saturday, March 8, at the Veterans Park shuffleboard courts. The class will highlight rules, scoring, safety, and the basics of disc shooting. Open-toed shoes are not permitted.

January

Men/Women

Monday (a.m.): Paul Genereux/Vicki Lentz.
Tuesday (p.m.): Lou Fisher/Jane Boyer.

Thursday (a.m.): Scott Lyons/Annette Hodges.

30-plus: Tom Getts & Ron Daughtry.

Attendance in January was sparse due to the chilly weather. As the weather warms up again, we invite everyone to come over and join the fun!

If you have any questions, please call Jane Boyer at 352-509-7142 or Walt Lamp at 352-304-8711.

HANDICAP EQUIPMENT

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



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Cornhole Club

Vincent Stevens

**Bocce Club**

Kathy Nastally



Despite the cold and windy weather in late January, our open play sessions continued to attract full houses on most occasions. With the arrival of warmer weather in early February, overflow participation increased.

The men's league will complete its competitions on Friday, March 7, and mixed league competitions will begin on Friday, March 14.

Due to inclement weather in late January, several introduction to cornhole sessions were cancelled. The session was finally rescheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 29.

Our annual club picnic has been scheduled for Saturday, April 12, with preliminary planning well underway.

OPEN PLAY: Open play continued as scheduled despite the weather. However, participation quickly returned to normal with more seasonable weather and Full-house levels. Open play is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. To minimize delays, we generally start lane assignments as soon as the court capacity of 20 players is on site. Members arriving after the first wave has begun may have a short wait until a lane opens. Given the popularity of the open play sessions and the venue limitations, we are considering adding a fourth weekly date to our schedule.

INTRODUCTION TO CORNHOLE: The Introduction to Cornhole session in January was postponed twice because of inclement weather. The weather cooperated a bit, and the class was finally completed on Jan. 29. Our next session is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, at the Veterans Park cornhole courts, beginning at 2 p.m. Find out what all the hype is about by emailing names and contact information to otowcornholders@yahoo.com to be included in the March 19 session.

LEAGUE PLAY: The men's league will wrap up competitions on Friday, March 7, with the Goodhue/Daughtry team the heavy favorites to capture the number one spot. Our mixed (male/female) league will begin competitive matches at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 14, with seven teams on the roster.

The World News

for safety, and come out to the bocce courts. The courts are behind the Arbor Fitness Center, next to the tennis courts. Everyone is welcome to come out for open play on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. Come by a few minutes early, as we are limited to 48 players, eight per court. We play two games to 16 points, the first team to 16 points wins. We draw cards to determine courts, teammates, and opponents. All joining players must complete a Hold Harmless form, have their resident ID or Gateway of Services pass verified, and pay dues of \$15. Dues are good through September. New league play will begin in October.

The current league play began in October 2024. It is currently held on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. and Thursdays at 10 a.m. Any member wishing to participate as a substitute should contact a league representative or board member. Their information is posted courtside and on the bulletin board, along with the team contacts, play schedules, and team standings. Rules are also available and posted on our shed front door and the freestanding bocce bulletin board.

The best of bocce tournaments will be held at the end of April. The annual member meeting is slated for Sunday, May 4.

Crated balls are under the benches for anyone wishing to play outside league or open play times. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact Pam Brown, president, at 970-531-1890. We look forward to seeing your smiling faces soon at the courts. Come on out and let the bocce balls roll!

has many animals, including deer, wild boar, black bear, and panthers. There are target ranges, too. The U.S. Navy uses a section as a bombing range.

Around North Central Florida, fishermen are still catching large stringers of crappie. In the Gulf, they catch mangrove snappers, sheepshead, porgies, and grunts. Inshore fishermen catch sea trout, red drum, and other species.

Turkey season will be in very shortly. Check the regulations.

For additional information about the club, visit cotw.springly.org. The next meeting is Wednesday, April 9, at 1 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room.

Jazz Dance Club

Liz Elliott Lieberman



January was a whirlwind of activity for the newly formed Ovation Dancers, a performing group within the Jazz Dance Club. Rehearsals for Weybourne Landing's murder mystery, The Golf Father, continued, and 10 lovely dancers opened the show on Saturday, Jan. 25, with "All That Jazz." The audience participated enthusiastically as they got in the mood for the Roaring '20s, dressed as mobsters and flappers. I will have more to report on the murder mystery in the next issue of the World News. Suffice it to say it was a hit and exceptionally well produced by Weybourne Landing's own talented Dexter Vance. The plan is to bring more fun and entertainment to the community.

We participated in the Club Fair on Thursday, Jan. 30, at Circle Square Cultural Center. I was happy to have our table next to my dear friend Eugenie Martin, the founder of the Ballet Club, for whom I teach on Fridays, at noon in the Arbor Conference Center Studio D.

The Jazz Dance Club is a joy to teach, and the amount of talent blows me away. We are rapidly growing and evolving. We begin our Mondays at 10 a.m. with Pati Bean, who takes the Ovation Dancers through their choreography to fine-tune and correct the moves, especially if we have an upcoming show. This hour is specifically for those who will perform the number, but it is also helpful for those learning it, even if they don't wish to perform it.

I take over at 11 a.m. with a short warm-up concentrating on technique and then teach a dance combination. This class is suitable for new students with some dance experience. At the Club Fair, I received several inquiries about a beginner jazz dance class, so I hope to start one shortly, depending on studio availability.

"To dance is to be out of yourself. Larger, more beautiful, more powerful."

- Agnes De Mille

If you have any questions, please contact Liz at lizzylieberman@gmail.com or 702-378-6300.

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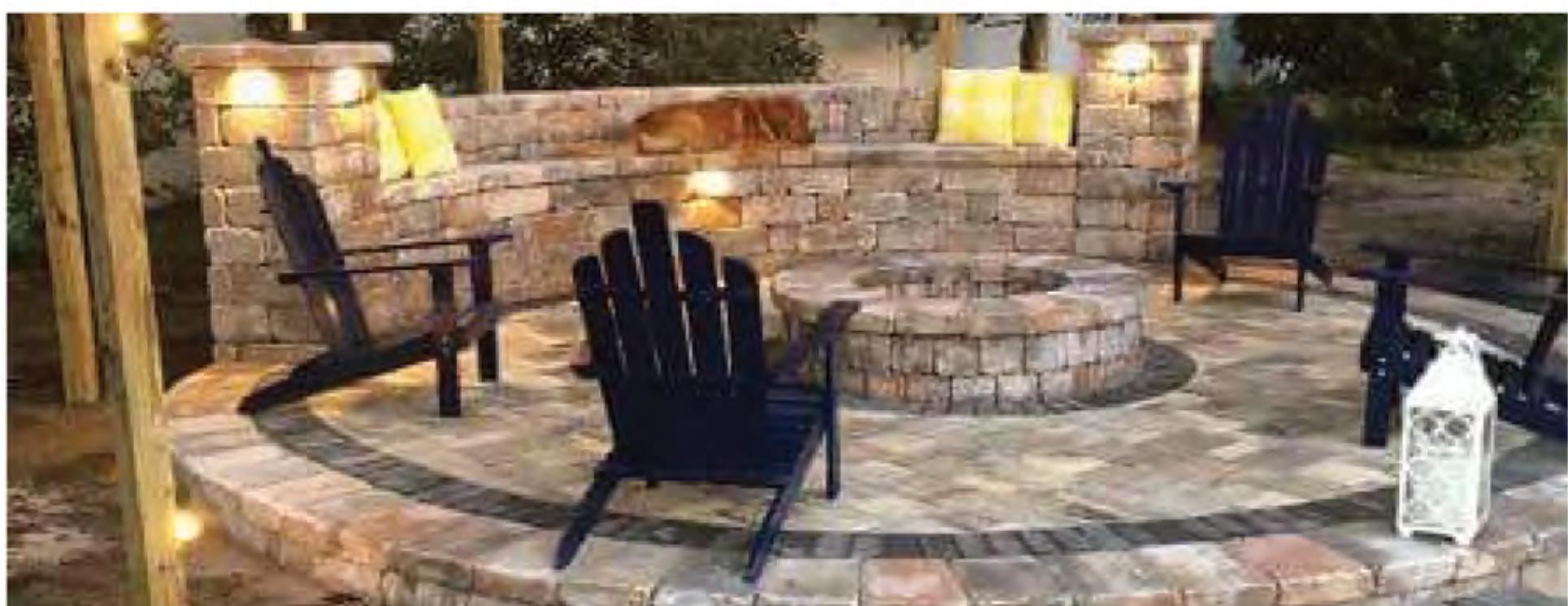
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Table Tennis

Athena Drewes

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Tennis isn't just a game for the young; it's also a fantastic activity for seniors! Whether you're looking to stay active, socialize, or simply enjoy some fresh air, tennis offers numerous benefits tailored to the needs of older adults. The Tennis Club proudly provides an ideal setting to embrace this rewarding sport.

Regular physical activity contributes significantly to overall well-being, especially for seniors. Tennis is a full-body workout that enhances cardiovascular health, flexibility, and strength while being easy on the joints when played at a moderate pace. The sport also sharpens mental acuity, requiring quick decision-making, strategic thinking, and hand-eye coordination. These cognitive exercises can be particularly beneficial

POP Tennis

Domenica Genovese



POP tennis players can learn quite a lot from the world's legendary tennis players. While POP tennis and traditional tennis differ, they also share similar skills and strategies.

By watching top tennis tournaments or listening to the insights of tennis legends, you can apply valuable lessons to your POP game and find the inspiration to reach new heights. Besides, it's great fun to see the best players in the world compete in a high-energy game. I feel like a better player just watching them! Let the words of these tennis greats inspire you to improve your POP tennis game and stay motivated to be the best player you can be:

Roger Federer says, "I'm a very positive thinker, and I think that is what helps me the most in difficult moments." Maintaining a positive mindset during challenging points in a match can help you stay focused and persevere through adversity. By channeling Federer's opti-

in keeping the mind active and alert.

Moreover, tennis encourages social interaction, which is crucial for emotional health. By participating in matches and lessons, seniors can connect with peers, foster friendships, and build a sense of community. The camaraderie experienced on the courts leads to increased motivation and enjoyment, making physical activity feel less like a chore and more like a fun social event.

The Tennis Club features 12 meticulously maintained courts that provide an inviting atmosphere for play. Whether you're a novice or an experienced player, our courts accommodate all skill levels. The quality of the playing surface contributes to a safer experience, reducing the risk of injury and ensuring a more enjoyable game. Our welcoming environment encourages players of all ages and abilities to partake in the joy of tennis, with ample space available for practice, matches, and even friendly tournaments.

Our mixed doubles sessions are a perfect fit for those eager to engage socially and play competitively! Scheduled on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays,

our well-seasoned tennis professionals will tailor sessions to participants' abilities, pairing you with others with similar skill levels. This fosters inclusivity and enhances the experience by promoting teamwork and friendly competition. It's an excellent way to meet new people while enjoying a game you love. If you're new to the sport or want to sharpen your skills, consider signing up for our reasonably priced private lessons or weekly group clinics.

Are you ready to pick up a racquet and experience the myriad benefits of tennis? We invite you to contact Jorge Privat, tennis pro, for more information; simply stop by our facilities or email otowtennisocala@gmail.com. Whether you're interested in joining our mixed doubles, signing up for lessons, or just exploring the courts, we're here to assist you every step of the way.

We believe that age is just a number, and everyone deserves the chance to enjoy the invigorating game of tennis while improving their health and happiness. Embrace the joy of this fantastic sport and discover the positive changes it can bring to your life today!

We are at the Arbor Activity Center lower courts (#7 through #10) on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8 to 10 a.m. Several of our members also serve as trainers, ready to help newcomers looking to learn the ins and outs of the sport. Stop by sometime and check us out!

New workshop! The POP Tennis Club is offering a workshop by club member Brenda Foster to help you hone your skills. The "Tips and Tactics" workshops are held every Monday in March from 3 to 4 p.m. They cover footwork, improving your serve, returning lobs, strengthening your forehand, backhand, and volleys, adding power to your strokes, and much more! All levels are welcome!

For further information about the POP Tennis Club, email Mark D'Addario at markdad06@gmail.com.

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Florida Attorney General Moody Presents at the Senior Scam Seminar

By Katie Miller

Master the Possibilities, in partnership with the Office of the Attorney General, the State Attorney for the 5th Judicial Circuit Bill Gladson, the Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), Seniors vs. Crime, and other community organizations, hosted a vital crime prevention symposium at Circle Square Cultural Center in January. The "Senior Scam Seminar" focused on equipping attendees with knowledge and resources to avoid becoming victims of crime, particularly financial exploitation, cybercrime, and scams.

As attendees entered the venue, they were greeted by various informational booths, including Crime Prevention, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), On Top of the World Community Patrol, Seniors vs. Crime, and the Marion County Sheriff's Office. The CERT team educates residents on disaster preparedness and safety and provides helpful tips for staying safe in emergencies. A key takeaway was their partnership with AdventHealth Ocala to promote the "help" or "okay" sign, which can be displayed at the front of homes during emergencies to signal whether help is needed. A motto emphasized during the event was "Be aware, be prepared."

Presenters covered various topics throughout the day, including common

scam tactics and warning signs to look out for. Representatives from Seniors vs. Crime and MCSO also offered practical tips on protecting oneself and others from becoming victims. The event emphasized the need for ongoing education and vigilance. A recurring theme was: "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

Sheriff Billy Woods discussed safety and introduced Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody (soon-to-be senator). In her address, Moody stressed the importance of protecting Florida's seniors, noting that they are particularly vulnerable to scams and exploitation. "Since day one, my number one priority has been senior protection," said Moody. Florida is a top destination for retirees, and with more people comes more challenges—particularly in the realm of technology.

Attorney General Moody discussed the evolving nature of scams targeting seniors, including the common "grandchild in jail" scam, where a scammer pretends to be a grandchild in distress and asks for money to be sent urgently. In times of distress, we are all more susceptible to scams. She also highlighted the importance of staying informed, mentioning the Senior Protection Program launched in 2019 to combat scams

and provide resources for seniors. The program's "Scams at a Glance" pamphlet series, including the newly released edition "Grandparents Gifts," was distributed to attendees to help recognize and avoid fraud.

Moody also shared the success of the Senior Protection Program, which had a significant impact in 2024, recovering \$2 million in stolen funds for victims. She explained that the focus is not only on recovery but also on prevention. "If you educate yourself about scams, you can understand the blueprint and recognize

when they happen," she said.

The seminar was a resounding success, with a high turnout. It informed participants more about the risks they face and the steps they can take to protect themselves and their families.

Master the Possibilities continues to offer excellent educational programs to promote lifelong learning. For more information, visit masterthe possibilities.org. For information about Florida crime prevention and informational resources, visit myfloridalegal.com.



Photo courtesy of Colen Built Development

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) member displaying the AdventHealth Ocala "okay" and "help" sign.

Bees Celebrating Over 1K Quilts

By Ann Gallo

Top of the morning to everyone! It's been a busy month. We distributed quilts to two agencies in January. Our

first delivery of 20 quilts went to the Salvation Army shelter for women and children. Our second delivery of 20 quilts, 20

flannel blankets, 50 burping cloths, 20 pillow friends, and 20 pieces of clothing went to Alpha Center for Women. Stay tuned; there were many quilts delivered in February.

Thank you to all who stopped by our table at the Club Fair. We would love to have some of you join – no sewing skills required. There are lots of things to do. If you do 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.

We were excited to see articles about us in the Ocala Gazette and the Interfaith Emergency Services monthly newsletter. Check our Facebook page to view the articles.

Did you know that the most expensive quilt ever sold was a Civil War-era piece purchased for \$254,000 in 1991 (the equivalent of \$470,230 in 2018)?

See our program in action in the Hobby Building Art Room A & B. 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.

Can't sew? No problem. Our program requires many sewing tasks. We have sewing machines available, or you can bring your own.

Meet an amazing and talented group of ladies and gentlemen. Dues are \$15 for the year.

We always need cotton fabric with a children's theme, solid cotton, or flannel. Hobby Lobby gift cards and Kohl's Cash are also welcome. We use Kohl's Cash to purchase clothing for several of our agencies.

Join our Facebook page (Sewing Bees Club Inc.) to see what magic takes place at the hive. You can also stay current on what we are working on and our current needs.

If you have any questions, call or text Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178 or Susie Clau- son at 904-422-5135.



Celebrating the holidays and our record of 1,003 quilts at Milano's Restaurant

Chester Weber Honored

By Charles Calhoun



Bob Levenson, Chester Weber, Charles Calhoun, and Steve Petty.

The Veterans Club had the privilege and honor to present a proclamation to Chester Weber for saving the U.S. Army's caisson program at Arlington National Cemetery.

This Ocala native and supporter of the veteran community has used his expertise in equestrian management to revive the horse-drawn caisson program for the U.S. Army.

The horses that pulled the caisson for President Jimmy Carter were trained here in Ocala by local equestrian experts. This program would be history and unavailable to our future veterans without Chester Weber. This is one of the most time-honored traditions the military has.

March is rich with dates to remember and honor our veterans:

- March 3: U.S. Navy Reserve Birthday; it was formed in 1915.
- March 13: K-9 Veterans Day.
- March 25: Medal of Honor Day.
- March 29: Vietnam Veterans Day.

The Veterans Club meets on the third Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. There are no dues, but plenty of coffee and Fran's homemade cookies will be available.

We also accept donations for Operation Shoebox and Vets Helping Vets.

Please join us.

Recreation



Shannon Prince

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

Stay in the Know

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

To register for a trip or event, you must be a resident with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. All bus trips leave from the Recreation Center parking lot.

Community Updates

We have some great news for you! As of March 1, the following changes will be implemented to improve the ease and enjoyment of using amenities.

Room reservations are no longer restricted by group size. You no longer need a minimum of 10 people to reserve a room.

The \$100 room deposit will no longer be required for groups with less than 100 participants.

A valid resident ID may be used by your family and friends, 15 years and older, to access the pool and other amenities. Under 15 needs to be accompanied by an adult.

The Landing, Indigo East Fitness Center, and The Lodge at Candler Hills will be staffed Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. These amenities will now close at 10 p.m.

Pool monitors will no longer be scheduled at the Recreation Center and Candler Hills pools.

If you have any questions about these improvements, please call Shannon Prince at 352-387-7530.

OTOW App

The new OTOW app is available for download through the Apple Store or Google Play! If you haven't already done so, download it today. Account approval can take up to 72 hours to verify resident status. With the OTOW app, you can easily purchase tickets, reserve rooms or seats, and pay for trips and classes – all from your phone, tablet, or computer, at your convenience. Online registration for all Recreation Department activities/events is live, so sign up soon.

Starting Tuesday, April 1, the OTOW app will be the only way to register for Recreation Department activities and events.

If you experience any login issues after the initial 72 hours, please contact Resident Services for assistance. Register today to take advantage of all the excitement On Top of the World has to offer!

Want to learn more about the OTOW app? Please attend one of these classes to help with app navigation and ease of use: Wednesday, March 19, at 10 a.m. in Live Oak Hall or Friday, March 21, at 2

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		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.
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	Gaitway Plaza	

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

AFTERNOON ROUTE	PICK-UP LOCATIONS AND TIMES
The Lodge at Candler Hills	1:15 p.m.
Friendship Colony Post Office	1:25 p.m.
Avalon Post Office	1:33 p.m.
Recreation Center	1:43 p.m.
Friendship Post Office	1:54 p.m.

AFTERNOON DESTINATIONS		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.
Friendship Center	Bryce Supermarket	
Publix	Big Lots	
Walmart Neighborhood Market	Bealls & Dollar Tree	
ALDI/Lowe's	Walmart	

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

For information, call 352-789-5666.

p.m. in Live Oak Hall.

Social Committee

The social committee meets monthly and welcomes residents to contribute ideas, provide constructive feedback, and assist with planning, organizing, and decorating events. The Recreation Department highly values your suggestions for improving recreational activities. If you want to join the committee, please call 352-387-7530 or email shannon_prince@otowfl.com.

Recreation Center

Happy Hour

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 the music, dancing, and The Pub. Resident IDs will be required to attend Happy Hour, and anyone not producing a resident ID will be considered a guest. Guest fees are \$5 per person. Children under the age of 15 will not be permitted into Happy Hour. Please note that no outside beverages or containers will be allowed.

The entertainment lineup is as follows:

- March 7: Cherokee
- March 14: Pure Magic
- March 21: Area 81
- March 28: Hwy 94

Music at the Pavilion

Enjoy great music at the Recreation Center pool and pavilion from 1 to 4 p.m. This is free for residents. The schedule is as follows:

- Friday, March 7: Debbie Owen and Tony T
- Sunday, March 16: Mike and Kathy Gallenberger
- Saturday, March 29: Ron Harvey

Karaoke

Karaoke is always fun! Sing your heart out or enjoy the music every second Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m. This event is free to residents and \$5 per guest if accompanied by a resident.

Ladies Night

Ladies, you are invited to the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV on Tuesday, March 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. Sal and the Gal will provide music. This event is free for residents and \$5 per guest if accompanied by a resident. Bring your beverages and snacks. See you there!

Home Improvement Expo

Thinking of making changes or upgrades to your house? Need some good ideas or advice? Ask the pros! Visit the Home Improvement Expo at Circle Square Cultural Center on Saturday, March 15, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Representatives from On Top of the World and World Home Improvements will be there to answer questions regarding home modifications.

Movie Night

Join us for a cinematic night on Thursday, March 20, to watch "Top Gun" from 6 to 8 p.m. This newly obtained movie license covers only the Recreation Center Ballroom and cannot be transferred or used at any other building. The movie is free for residents and \$5 per guest if

accompanied by a resident. Concessions may be for sale, and The Pub will also be open. The Ballroom will not be accessible as a cut-through to and from the pool or The Pub. During these times, please make your way around the building so as not to disrupt the movie.

Ballroom Dance Class*

Register for the April class and learn the Foxtrot with ballroom instructor Butch Phillips. Classes are held every 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. Sale dates are from Tuesday, March 4, through Friday, March 21.

Woodstock Revisited-themed Party

We're going back to the summer of '69! So, wear your bell-bottom jeans, tie-dye shirts, and bandanas for a Woodstock Revisited-themed party on Thursday, March 27, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom! Sound Waves will play music featuring Woodstock all night. The event is free for residents and \$5 per guest if accompanied by a resident.

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

The Lodge at Candler Hills

Kocktails & Karaoke

Sing your heart out! You'll feel at home singing with your neighbors to cheer you on. Enjoy the fun on Thursday, March 6, from 5 to 8 p.m. with Charlie and Kathy Petrosky. This event is free for residents and \$5 per guest if accompanied by a resident.

Open Game/Card Play

Join your neighbors and friends every Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Lodge Card Room for open game day. Bring your games and have some fun. Remember, only water is allowed in the card room.

Happy Hour

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

- Saturday, March 1: MPiRE
- Friday, March 7: Sal & Gal
- Saturday, March 15: Crystal Vision

Bring your beverages and snacks. This event is free for residents and \$5 per guest if accompanied by a resident.

Safety Training Classes*

The Colen Built Development safety team is conducting safety classes. All residents are encouraged to attend. You can register using the OTOW app.

- Thursday, March 20 (4 to 6 p.m.): Golf Cart Safety
- Wednesday, April 9 (2 to 4 p.m.): Basic First Aid
- Wednesday, May 14 (2 to 4 p.m.): Active Shooter
- Thursday, June 19 (4 to 6 p.m.): Hands-Only CPR

To register or purchase event tickets, visit The Lodge at Candler Hills Office Sunday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. or Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Payment is required at the time of registration. Resident IDs must be presented at all events and when purchasing tickets. No refunds will be issued 14 days or fewer prior to registered event. We encourage all residents to use the OTOW App to reserve your seat and/or purchase tickets.

Indigo East Community Center

Trivia*

Join your neighbors and friends for a friendly competition at trivia night on Monday, March 3, from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring your favorite snacks and beverages to share with your team. We have tables if you have the play! The cost is \$3 per resident and \$8 per guest if accompanied by a resident.

Poolside Bash

You are invited to our Poolside Bash on Wednesday, March 19, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Indigo East Fitness Center pool. What better way to enjoy the lovely weather than in the pool with friends and neighbors? Enjoy live music by Casey Young. Blazin' Bites Food Truck will have food and beverages to purchase and enjoy. Grab your swimsuit and join the fun. This is a free event for residents and \$5 per guest if accompa-



nied by a resident.

Karaoke

Do you like to sing? Come to karaoke on Thursday, March 20, from 5 to 7 p.m. and share your voice. Bring your beverage and snacks. You can sing solo or in a group. This event is free for residents and \$5 per guest if accompanied by a resident.

Happy Hour

Come for a great time with your friends and neighbors on Fridays from 5 to 8 p.m. This is a free event for residents and \$5 per guest if accompanied by a resident. Bring your favorite cocktails and snacks. Dance, socialize, relax, and enjoy! Upcoming entertainment includes:

- March 7: Hwy 94
- March 14: Fred Campbell
- March 28: Tim Hargis

Garden Plots*

We have seven garden plots ready for you to start cultivating. Want to join in? Here's how:

- Visit the Indigo East Fitness Center and speak with Nora or Patty to select your garden plot.
- Once you've picked your plot, it's all yours to care for and enjoy the harvest!

For guidance on what to plant this season and helpful tips for Central Florida gardening, check out UF IFAS Extension at <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/>. They provide excellent resources and advice tailored to our area.

Are you interested in connecting with fellow gardeners? Consider joining or forming a garden club! If you'd like to participate, please email pattie-hughes@otowfl.com with your name, plot number, and email address. Let's grow together!

To register or purchase tickets, visit the Indigo East Fitness Center office. Payment is required at the time of registration. No refunds will be issued 14 days or fewer prior to the registered event. Resident IDs must always be presented and are required when purchasing tickets. An Indigo East resident must accompany guests. Starting April 1, tickets will be available via OTOW app.

The Landing

View from
the Library

David Wessenberg



Jane Eyre, a fictional autobiography, was published on Oct. 16, 1847, under the pseudonym Currer Bell. The author, Charlotte Bronte, was one of three sisters among six siblings who were writers and poets. They were the children of a country preacher. An American edition followed in 1848.

The story is about Jane Eyre, a girl orphaned shortly after birth. She was briefly taken in by her Uncle Reed, then leaving her in the clutches of her Aunt Reed and three cousins, made to feel a burden and bullied, especially by her cousin John Reed.

At age 10, this spirited girl began to rebel against her unfair treatment and argued with her aunt, who sent her to a charity boarding school, Lowood. There, she befriended Helen Burns, who was forgiving of the school's deplorable health conditions and limited food.

Due to the terrible outcomes at Lowood, conditions improve, and Jane ultimately becomes a teacher at the school. To enhance her life, she becomes a governess at Thornwood Manor for a little French girl, Adele, the daughter of the master Rochester's mistress, who abandoned Rochester and left the child in France.

Rochester is 40 years old, and Jane is 18. Despite his gruff manner and rough visage, a romantic interest develops.

Jane saves Rochester from a fire in his bed, supposedly started by a drunken servant, Grace Poole. But Grace continues her duties at Thornfield without consequences.

Rochester begins a flirtation with a woman of his class, Blanche Ingram, but ultimately, that relationship ends. Finally, Rochester proposes marriage to Jane, and she warmly receives his proposal. But a man named Mason appears with a strange and unknown purpose.

At the wedding ceremony, he objects to the marriage and asserts that Rochester is already married and his wife resides in Thornfield. Rochester tries to convince Jane it does not matter because his wife, hidden in the attic and cared for by Grace Pool, is insane.

Broken-hearted, Jane leaves in the

dead of night and arrives in a new town in northeast England, homeless, penniless, and starving. After three days, she is taken in by Mary, Diana, and St. John Rivers. St. John, a handsome preacher, arranges for her to teach at a village charity school. St. John tries to convince her to be his wife as he becomes a missionary, but Jane declines.

Fate intervenes as Jane learns that John Eyre, her father's brother, unknown to Jane, left her 20,000 pounds. She learns that the Rivers are her cousins, and she splits the inheritance between herself and them out of gratitude for their friendship and support.

Jane returns to Thornfield and learns that Rochester's insane wife burned it down and that Rochester lost his sight and left hand trying to get all the servants out. His wife took her own life.

Jane goes to Rochester's new dwelling, Ferndean, an isolated dilapidated mansion. Jane marries Rochester, who recovers partial vision in one eye and fathers their son. They are happy.

This book is a moral and spiritual journey, with adult discussions of fidel-

ity, love, forgiveness, and concerns for the soul. Charlotte Bronte lived in Jane Eyre's world as a governess and teacher.

Its moral and Christian perspective perfectly comprehends the bad and

the good. The result is understandable, practical personal actions with real consequences, which often surprise the reader but never bore them. Enjoy!

Concert Chorus

Joanne Houston



Drum roll please ... in just 37 days the Concert Chorus will once again light up the stage at Circle Square Cultural Center on Sunday, April 6, at 3 p.m. and Monday, April 7, at 6 p.m. Ninety-seven talented singers will present a fun-filled evening of great music and memories called "Rock 'n' Roll Jukebox Review." There are many familiar songs spanning six decades of popular music and music from the blockbuster movies "Lion

King" and "Wicked," plus a fabulous closing patriotic salute to the USA and the Armed Forces. Tickets are on sale in the Recreation Center lobby every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, from 9 a.m. to noon from Wednesday, March 5 through Friday, April 4, and at the door one hour before each concert.

For more information about the Concert Chorus, please visit otowconcertchorus.com. Here, you can learn more about the singers, how to become a sponsor, and updates regarding upcoming events. If you have any other questions, please email joanne.houston57@gmail.com or debraasmith@gmail.com.

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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

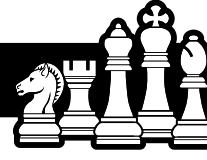
Rotate Tires, Inspect for Abnormal Wear, Reset T.P.M.S systems.

\$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

Set aside late Wednesday afternoon for bingo in the Recreation Center Ballroom! We begin selling raffle tickets at 4 p.m. and the bingo cards at 4:30 p.m.

The raffle tickets are three for \$1 or 10 for \$3, which is a slight cost compared to the \$20 each winning ticket provides. The tickets are pulled at about 5:30 p.m., depending on how many are awarded. Each lucky winner pulls the next ticket, and multiple winners are a regular occurrence. Why not try your luck?

Cards are played for the entire 20-game program. Each card costs \$1 with a valid resident ID. The cards have sliders, so daubers are unnecessary, plus big number cards are available.

Guests are welcome to join the games when accompanied by a resident. The guests must be at least 18 to play.

Bingo is an alcohol-free zone. Beer, wine, and/or mixed drinks are available in The Pub for consumption or may be taken out on the patio.

While no seats are reserved, please respect the "volunteer" signs. Our volunteers, who arrive early and stay late, are busy working to make your experience terrific!

Consider joining us as a volunteer, too. We have three teams that share the schedule, working every third month. Of course, our folks step up when needed to fill in when that need arises. Contact Carl Folkers or Nancy Grabowski for more information.

Bridge



Monday Afternoon

By Carol Johnson

Jan. 6

1: Linda Yuen & Carol Johnson; 2: Donna Peters & Rad D; 3: Pat & Debbie Quinn; 4: C.J. Daane & Dennis Durt.

Jan. 13

1: Carol Johnson & Linda Yuen; 2: Billie Anderson & Mary Bloch; 3: V J Hentz & Carolyn Higgins; 4: Judi & Dennis Wallace.

Jan. 20

1: Mike Meirick & Craig Ford; 2: Judy Mackowiak & Phyllis Silverman; 3: Mary Bloch & Billie Anderson; 4: Donna Peters & Rad D.

Jan. 27

1: Pat & Debbie Quinn; 2: Linda Yuen & Carol Johnson; 3: Darlene Clark & Pam Bell; 4: Craig Ford & Mike Meirick.

On Top of the World NEWS

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Beverly, Brenda, Meghan, Natasha, Nicole, Lisa, Debbie, Jill, Karen, Julie, Colleen, Kim, Janeen, & Stephanie

Tuesday Night Duplicate

By Bob Kraus

We meet in the Arbor Activity Center Card Rooms I-II, and play begins at 6 p.m. We set up the best game, Mitchell or Howell, appropriate for the number of players, so please arrive by 5:50 p.m. to sign in and allow time for setup. 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, you can contact Bob Kraus at 352-492-8525.

Jan. 14

North/South

1: Linda Ryan & Bill Ryan; 2: Brian Lomasky & Drew Brehm; 3: Sharon Miller & Maureen Brehm.

East/West

1: Jack Heller & Barbara Heller; 2: Paul Agarwal & Dan Lack; 3: Chris Wachter & Jeff Young.

Jan. 21

North/South

1: Dennis Wallace & Judi Wallace; Tied at 2: Dan Lack & Paul Agarwal; and Bob Kraus & Arlene Loepp.

East/West

1: Linda Ryan & Bill Ryan; 2: Chris Wachter & Jeff Young; 3: Gary Moses & Diane Turkin.

Jan. 28

North/South

1: Chris Wachter & Jeff Young; 2: Linda Ryan & Bill Ryan; 3: Bob Kraus & Arlene Loepp.

East/West

1: Paul Agarwal & Dan Lack; 2: Barbara Heller & Jack Heller; 3: Gary Moses & Diane Turkin.

Feb. 4

1: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; 2: Brian Lomasky & Carrie Lomasky; 3: Barbara Heller & Jack Heller; 4: Bob Kraus & Virginia Collins; 5: Chris Wachter & Jeff Young.

Feb. 11

North/South

1: Sharon Miller & Matt Oram; 2: Brian Lomasky & Carrie Kanosky; 3: Chris Wachter & Jeff Young.

East/West

1: Linda Ryan & Bill Ryan; 2: Paul Agarwal & Dan Lack; 3: Barbara Heller & Jack Heller.

Wednesday Afternoon

By Debbie Quinn

Jan. 7

1: Mike Meirick; 2: Debbie Quinn; 3: Bob Durst; 4: Craig Ford; 5: V.J. Hentz; Cons: Bob Knowles.

Jan. 15

1: Craig Ford; 2: Ron Smith; 3: Bruce Gillett and Jeff Young; Cons: Debbie Quinn.

Jan. 22

1: Marlene Floeckher; 2: Bob Durst; 3: Linda Yuen; 4: Mike Meirick; 5: Bruce Gillett; Cons: Billie Anderson.

Jan. 29

1: Marlene Floeckher; 2: Bruce Gillett; 3: Craig Ford; Cons: Pat Quinn.

Thursday Afternoon

By Marlene Floeckher

Jan. 2

1: Betty Schaff; 2: Mike Meirick; 3: Marlene Floeckher; Cons: Ram.

Jan. 9

1: Craig Ford; 2: Bruce Gillett; 3: Steve Sekac; Cons: Marlene Floeckher.

Jan. 16

1: V J Hentz, Jr.; 2: Chris Wachter; 3: Craig Ford; 4: Judy Mackowiak; Cons: Linda Curtiss.

The World News

CARDS & GAMES



CARDS & GAMES

Euchre



Euchre

Friday Night

By Mary Bloch

Our euchre family is growing! This is a great time to enjoy an entertaining game and an evening with friends. We meet on Fridays at 6 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Large Card Room. Bring your dimes, a smile, and a friend. Call Mary Bloch at 614-806-6737 with any questions.

Nov. 1, 2024

1: Deni Whittaker; 2: Robert Moravec; 3: Pete Jacob.

Nov. 8, 2024

1: Edith Kolb; 2: Phyllis Jarskey; 3: Gayle Organo.

Nov. 15, 2024

1: Pete Jacob; 2: Karen Jacob; 3: Dan Brady.

Nov. 22, 2024

1: John O'Leary; 2: Jean Gillette; Tie at 3: Linda Brown & Ellie Lee.

Nov. 29, 2024

1: Gary Whittaker; 2: Mary Bloch; 3: Linda Brown.

Dec. 6, 2024

1: Deni Whittaker; 2: Walter Hickenlooper; 3: Gary Whittaker.

Dec. 20, 2024

1: Pete Jacob; 2: Gayle Organo; 3: Bob Kraus.

Dec. 27, 2024

1: Walter Hickenlooper; 2: Pete Jacob; 3: Sande Caton.

Jan. 3

1: Pete Jacob; Tie at 2: Edith Kolb & Dan Brady; 3: Bob Kraus.

Jan. 10

1: Jean Gillette; 2: Edith Kolb; 3: John O'Leary.

Jan. 17

1: Robert Moravec; 2: Gary Whittaker; 3: Judy Lynch.

Jan. 24

1: Lloyd Beitel; 2: Terry Champion; 3: Pete Jacob.

Jan. 31

1: Robert Moravec; 2: Sande Caton; Tie at 3: Edith Kolb & Dan Brady.

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 ag-brady@peoplepc.com. Jokers to ya!

Pinochle



Tuesday Night

By Herb Katz

Jan. 7

1: Rick Carroll; 2: Bud Alderman; 3: Janet Becker.

Jan. 14

1: Michelle Pritchard; 2: Pat Noel; 3: Edith Kolb.

Jan. 21

1: Bev Merrick; 2: Michelle Pritchard; 3: Dawn Bunyak.

Jan. 28

1: Bud Alderman; 2: Larry Black; 3: Judy Black.

Friday Morning

By Mary Hannon

Jan. 17

1: Cheryl Adams; 2: Herb Katz; 3: Bruce Gillett.

Jan. 24

1: John Bunyak; 2: Andy Nuccio; 3: Cheryl Adams.

Jan. 31

1: Mary Hannon; 2: Andy Nuccio; 3: Stephen Mintz.

Feb. 7

1: Bev Merrick; 2: Cheryl Adams; 3: Herb Katz.

On Top of the World NEWS

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

RESIDENT ID CARDS

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8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday through Friday

Model Railroaders

Jim Lynam



If your town or city was lucky enough to have a trolley system, then some of your earliest and most memorable memories occurred when your parents took you for your first ride. While waiting at the stop your imagination ran wild with anticipation, apprehension and unanswered questions. Why were there railroad tracks in the middle of the street? What was the purpose of all those wires overhead? Where are we going? When

will it get here?

The first sign of the trolley's impending arrival was the strange sounds, even before it could be seen. The loud rumble, the screeching of the wheels, and the sound of a bell made one wonder if it was a horrible monster. The first glimpse posed the question of why a big pole came out of its roof and connected to those overhead wires. And what made the sparks fly from the wires when the trolley hit a bump?

Finally, you stepped up the steps and saw the motorman in his cap and uniform with a big smile, which put your mind at ease. Then you watched your parents put some coins into a strange box and saw them zig-zag down a chute to the bottom. Finally, you arrived at

your seat and began to relax as the trolley wound through the city, heading to your destination.

The first trolley, or streetcar, arrived in the mid-1800s as a horse-drawn wagon with its wheels riding on rails to reduce friction. It was known as an omnibus. This signaled the beginning of mass transit in metropolitan cities.

One of the earliest streetcar routes was developed in Scranton, Pennsylvania, in 1886. It was the first system to operate exclusively on electric power. The rapid growth of streetcar systems led to the widespread ability of people to live outside of a city and commute to work. An outgrowth of the urban system was the rise of inter-urban lines that operated between cities and served rural areas.

By the 1960s, most streetcar lines were closed as cars and buses provided the transportation.

The club encourages you to visit the Hobby Building Model Train Room and view our trolley system that serves the town of Franklin on any Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. We are also available on Facebook (OTOW Model Railroad) and YouTube (OTOW HO layout 2022 June).

The Model Railroaders Club is always looking for new members. You are welcome to join us. Our next club meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5, at 9 a.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. If you have any questions, please call Jim Lynam at 352-861-2822. Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Med Jajalla enjoys both jewelry-making and diamond painting formats.

Artistic Crafts & Gifts

Chris Kilbride



The weekly Artistic Crafts & Gifts Tuesday craft show at the Recreation Center Ballroom is from 9 a.m. to noon and continues through May.

ArtisticCrafts.org will give you a glimpse of our very talented crafters and artisans. The group started in the early 1990s, and the show has grown to over 50 tables on Tuesday, with over 90 online for their visual presence, with 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 Med Jajalla. Originally from the Philippines, she moved to the United States in her early 20s. A few years later, she met and married her husband, raising their family in central New Jersey. Her lengthy career was in insurance as a branch underwriting manager, and her retirement led them to Florida nine years ago.

Med has always been passionate about jewelry making, especially designing with South Sea pearls and semi-precious stones. Over the years, she has created whimsical, nature-inspired jewelry.

It started with simple drawings she drew on Shrinky Dinks film, which required coloring on clear plastic polystyrene sheets. When heated, the shapes became thicker, and their dimensions were reduced by a third. After a few years, she was able to digitize the drawings and print them out onto transfer paper.

Med's current obsession was inspired by a gift of a diamond painting kit, which is similar to a paint-by-number set. The kit includes a canvas, diamond applicator pen, wax, and tray. Diamond painting can be time-consuming, but in addition to making a diamond painting frame, you can also make coasters, keychains, refrigerator magnets, holiday ornaments, sun catchers, place-mats, etc.

Lay the canvas print side up; a chart design is labeled with numbers corresponding to a diamond color symbol

What's Cookin'?

Elaine Morrison



Versatile hot dogs are never out of season. Diverse geographical regions have their own variations on not only the type of hot dog to use but, most particularly, the toppings that enhance their taste. In New York City, every hot dog cart has the following recipe as one of their toppings, along with sauerkraut and mustard.

Onion Sauce Topping for Hot Dogs

4 medium onions, sliced
3 tablespoons vegetable oil
1/3 cup ketchup
Pinch of cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon chili powder, or to taste
2 dashes of hot sauce, or to taste
Pinch of salt
1 cup water

Sauté onions in oil until golden and limp. Stir in ketchup and seasonings. Add water and bring to a boil. Lower heat and simmer until slightly thickened about 10 minutes. This recipe yields about two cups.



The Town of Franklin's trolley.

Photo by Jim Lynam

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AcaBella**Holly St. John**

Hello, ladies! AcaBella is looking for women who love to sing the songs we all have sung along with on the radio, such as "Blue Moon," "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," and Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah." These songs, and so many others from our generation, are captured exquisitely in a "barbershop" format.

What does that mean? It's singing four-part harmony without instrumental accompaniment. Is this the barbershop music of our mom and dad's day? No!

This is music we know presented in a new and exciting way. We aim to have fun making music and friendships while singing the songs we love and perform-



Photo courtesy of Holly St. John

Laura DeAngelo and Holly St. John of AcaBella.

Karaoke Friends**Kathy & Charlie Petrosky**

March can bring fun songs for karaoke. There are so many different songs for St. Patrick's Day. Interestingly, the songs we sing here are initially from Ireland. These songs are part of folk music. They tell of different events reflecting Irish culture.

One song I like to sing is "Who Put the Overalls in Mrs. Murphy's Chowder?" It tells of a pair of overalls found in a batch of chowder. Tim Nolan discovers them and assumes it is a prank. He promises to inflict pain on the prankster. Mrs. Murphy collapses. When she comes to, she must confess that she forgot to take them out after doing the laundry.

We wanted to highlight our photographer, Steve Warren. His wife, Nancy, wants to share some things about Steve.

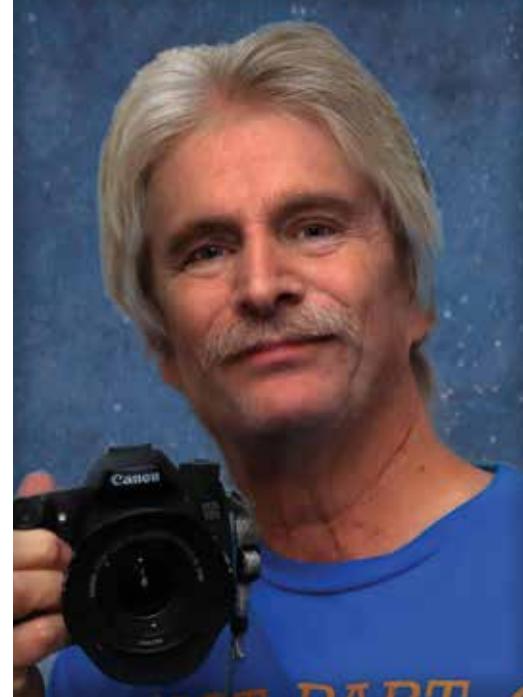
"Photography for Steve Warren is more than just a hobby for him – it's a passion. What does photography have to do with singing? Steve is our "resident" photographer. He is always ready to help with prop night photos for individual singers. These pictures have been published in the World News."

He has been into photography since his Navy days and always has his camera ready, whether for a day trip or at our karaoke get-togethers. He is the official photographer for the Broadway and Tap Dance Groups and a member of the ShutterBugs Photography Club.

He comes to karaoke to support my friends and me. He is an excellent clapper! He has videoed several of us, which we always enjoy seeing.

We moved here from Pennsylvania eight years ago and he retired from gainful employment a year ago.

When asked if he might sing sometime (I always encourage him to do so),



Steve Warren

Photo by Steve Warren

ing for your club and special occasions.

Singing in the a cappella style is one of the most rewarding accomplishments of a vocal ensemble. Each rehearsal includes vocal education and instruction on "how to sing your part smart."

Here are some basics: We welcome all women who love to sing. While instrumental or vocal experience will benefit you, it is not required. Consequently, you don't necessarily have to read music, but you must be able to sing in tune and eventually carry your own part.

Rehearsals are held Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Music Room. Our director will determine which part best suits your voice at your first visit. Then, you'll be seated next to your section leader, who will be your musical buddy and help you become acquainted with the music. Please contact director, Holly St. John, at agreatsound@gmail.com to set a time to meet before the start of rehearsal.

We love to sing, and it shows!



Photo by David Wesenberg

Toppers Banjo Band.

Toppers Banjo**David Wesenberg**

cimer players to complete the sound of the Toppers Banjo Band. We welcome these new additions and are faithfully rehearsing to integrate them fully into the music library.

We have also welcomed visitors to listen to the band, which has increased our joy in playing. Wonderful musical moments are taking place.

We welcome active or aspiring banjo and acoustic guitar players to join us in playing and singing banjo music. If you like to play, come and join us. If you have ideas to improve performance and presentation, we want to hear them. If you like to listen, join us and enjoy the music and conversation. Everyone is welcome.

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he replies, "I only sing solo. So low that you can't hear me!"

We appreciate all Steve does for us. You do not have to be a singer to come to karaoke.

You can join the fun on the first and third Mondays of the month in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. This month, we meet on Mondays, March 3 and 17. All residents are welcome to attend.



Have Medicare questions? I have answers

I'm Vicki McGlamery, a licensed sales agent in Ocala, Florida. When it comes to Medicare, it's important to consider all of your options. What works well for your neighbor may not be the best fit for you. I know the ins and outs of Medicare, and I'm ready to answer your questions and help you find a plan that fits your needs. **Make the most of my knowledge and experience to:**

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Happy Hookers

Jan Spielvogel

**Broadway Playhouse**

Elaine Morrison



Happy Hookers wishes everyone a happy St. Patrick's Day! Green may be the theme, but it's not the only color being used by our group. We bring hats, blankets, and scarves made from all colors weekly. Our group is off to a fantastic start in making these items for the various charities we support.

We are a group who works diligently but takes time to play. In February, we enjoyed our first group lunch of 2025 at Milano Italian Grille.

Happy Hookers is open to all residents. We meet 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, needlepoint, card crafting, embroidery, and handcrafting. They are never too busy to help someone with a complicated pattern or stitch. We welcome newcomers with open arms. Attendees should bring whatever they happen to be working on.

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.

TRASH COMPACTOR FULL?

Please take trash to another location. Do not place trash outside of trash compactor.

What do you get when you mix and match the characters in Snow White, Cinderella, The Sleeping Beauty, and The Wizard of Oz? You get a fractured fairytale and much more; that's what you get. And that is what is in store for you when Broadway Playhouse performs their version of "Snow ... sort of ... White" as part of their spring production on Friday, May 16, Saturday, May 17, and Sunday, May 18.

Rehearsals are underway, and the cast is enjoying speaking and acting the zany lines written by Ken Bradbury. Check future columns for information about ticket sales.

Entertainment trivia took place in February, proving much more than the club hoped. Tickets, limited to 120 people, were sold out two weeks before the event. Twenty tables held six teams, each with a name assigned to them. The Producers and Directors competed against the Tonys and the Oscars – questions in five entertainment categories covered theater, movies, television, music, and dance. There were three questions plus a bonus question in each round. The players assigned value points depending on the strength of their certainty of the correct answers. The final bonus question allowed participants to bet up to 20 points of their final scores. To paraphrase a line from the familiar song from "My Fair Lady," the players of entertainment trivia "Could have played, played, played all night." Look for a full report about this event in the next issue of the World News.

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.

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Live in On Top of the World? Representatives from the community will also be on-site to answer any questions regarding your home and what may be required if you are considering modifications to the exterior of your home.

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**Rubber Stamp Greeting Cards**

Linda Lohr



On Thursday, Feb. 6, Lucille Klos presented variations of a slider card with a gate fold. The slider part can be done in two ways, and the cards can be used for any occasion.

We thank Lucille for these great cards and for providing punches, papers, and ephemera for the members.

Our group is open to all crafters, whether beginners 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 needed. 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. We look forward to introducing new people to our fun craft. Until our next meeting, keep on stampin'!



Photo by Linda Lohr

Lucille Klos presented the cards.

Tesla Owners & Enthusiasts Club

Dan Lack



ance, fees, and taxes and found that the Model 3 costs less than 50 of the best-selling cars.

The redesigned Tesla model Y, "Juniper," was recently released in the U.S., with the first expected deliveries in March.

A recent U.K. study concluded that Volvo, Subaru, Tesla, Genesis, and Polestar are the five safest cars in the world.

Edmunds awarded the Highland, the redesigned Tesla Model 3, the title "Top Rated Electric Vehicle of 2025."

During our club meetings, we discuss our vehicles and answer questions. Occasionally, a guest speaker appears. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room II. Come and learn about these amazing computers on wheels.

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The New Pretenders

Nancy Grabowski



play an instrument." Or, "I could never do that!" Stop right now. We all had those same thoughts, but our troupe family helped us overcome our hesitations. You can do it, and just like the Hamburger Helper ad from years ago, "We helped" to bring out the best in each of us, we'll do it for you, also!

Commitment to the troupe is a strong factor. Starting in September, practices are scheduled on Wednesdays and Thursdays. However, small groups meet to practice a particular portion of the show.

Another group that is hard at work is the music committee. They review many music and comedy routines from the multitude of material out there. Often, suggestions from within our ranks lead to a song's selection. Sometimes, we go back into our archives to revisit a hit from the past.

The music committee commits to a theme for the new show as a starting point. Then, costuming, acquiring props, and stage decorations are other areas that are addressed this soon into

our next production. The time just flies with all this fun!



Photo by Lennie Rodoff

Kim English, Mary Ann Berardi-Schmidt, Darlene Clark, Jennie Stauffer, Linda Meyer, Nancy Jennings-Fair, and Fran Allen.

Still thinking, "I'm too shy." "I don't

do so, contact a current member or Nancy Grabowski, director, at 352-209-4699.

Paradise Players

Denise Gatchell

and \$20 for preferred seating. They are on sale Mondays and Tuesdays through April 22 in the Recreation Center Lobby from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

As part of, or if you are interested in joining the Paradise Players, we build your confidence, teach the art of performance, build camaraderie, support everyone in their endeavor, and perform community theatre. We also invite those interested in behind-the-scenes positions such as prop managers, technical support, creative set design, and costume design. The Paradise Players meets every Wednesday at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio III or IV. Social time is from 3:15 to 3:30 p.m. Workshops and rehearsals are from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. We also meet on Mondays in the Recreation Center Ballroom from 6 to 9 p.m. Stop by one of the meetings to meet the club members and see what we are all about.

This year's production is entitled "The Platinum Gals Cruise Adventure." Yes, Dorothy, Sophia, Rose, and Blanche are going on a cruise! What kind of antics will they be up to this time? Join them as they "navigate" love, mystery, kooky cruisers, and many surprises!

The show will be held in the Recreation Center Ballroom on Saturday, April 26, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 27, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for general seating

For more information, contact Lee Smith at otowparadiseplayers@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page (OTOW Paradise Players).

EMERGENCY AFTER-HOURS PHONE NUMBER
352-236-OTOW (236-6869)

more information and to receive emails about this club, please email otowfunwithgolfcarts@gmail.com. We all have much fun cruising around in our "mini-floats."

All club parades start at the Recreation Center, with lineup and charitable donations at 9:45 a.m. and pullout at 10 a.m. The route for a given parade is posted on Facebook (OTOW Fun with Golf Carts and OTOW Chatroom). If the parade is not coming by your house, please see the action as we leave the Recreation Center.



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Poetry

Linda Toner



Art Group

Marianne Hoffman



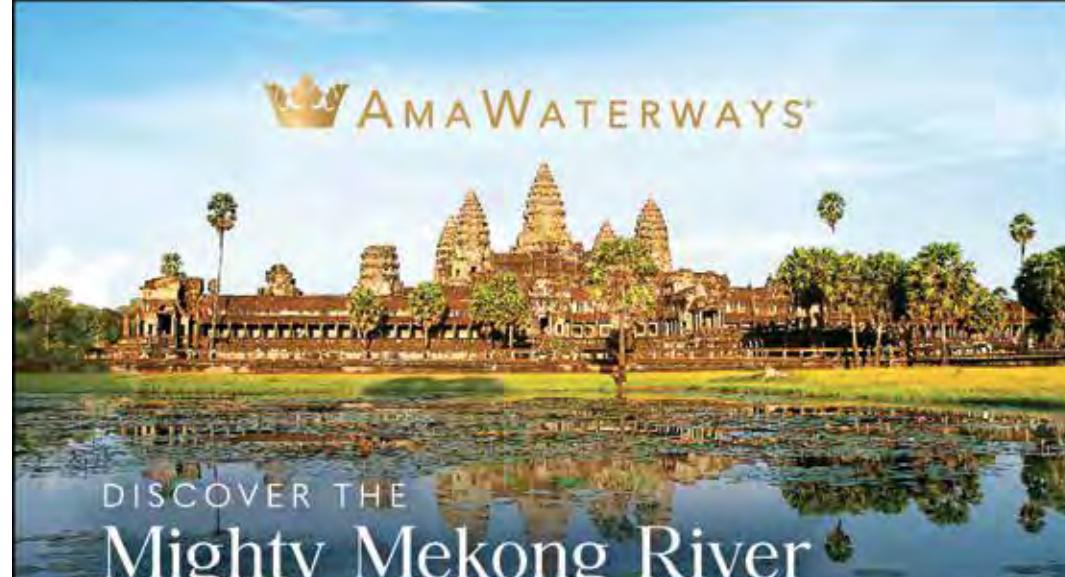
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MARCH 5, 2025
10 AM - NOON | OCALA, FLORIDA | COURSE #: TR238
Members: \$10 | General Public: \$10

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PARAMOUNT+ CHOPPER COPS: MARION COUNTY BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOUR
MARCH 12, 2025
10 - 1:30 AM | OCALA, FLORIDA | COURSE #: TR239
Members: \$1 | General Public: \$10

Join the Marion County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit in the Paramount+ program "Chopper Cops". Have you wondered what it takes to fly a helicopter and do that when actively chasing a suspect? Join us for a tour and listen to the chief pilot describe the operations and the specialized training that they go through.

REGISTRATION AVAILABLE ONLINE 24/7 AT MASTERTHEPOSSIBILITIES.ORG OR CALL (352) 861-9751.

Great news! If you would like to see Kathy's artwork up close and personal, along with the creations of other Art Group members, mark your calendar for their annual show on Saturday, April 5, from 9 a.m. to noon in the Hobby Building Art Room.

New members are always welcome.

The Art Group meets at the Hobby Building Art Room three days a week: Wednesday from 1 to 4 p.m. and Thursday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. There is no fee, but you must bring your own supplies. To learn more, contact Freda Klump, the director, at 615-336-6863 or fredaklump@gmail.com.



Art by Kathy Torres

Leopard (left) and Torres Lady (right).

Drum Circle

J. Ashi Olshan



Drum what you feel. You don't have to be an experienced (hand) drummer to drum out whatever energy wants to be discharged in some creative, productive way – while enjoying the natural highs of drumming in a circle of 15 to 20-plus new friends.

When we lifted the ban on interior gatherings back in 2021, Ruth Greenfield, like many of us, had pent up stress just dying to be expelled in some positive, relaxing way. So, she started her coed Drum Circle Club, still going strong after three years, with surprisingly more women than men.

If you have not drummed before, then start out by playing along softly – letting your volume build as the contagious syncopated rhythm in the room fills your bones and transports that energy

to your fingers. Everyone has rhythm inherently embedded in their DNA, just needing a little push to let it confidently flow out – naturally. In fact, drumming was the original music, dating back to the beginning of mankind, and still joyfully practiced for fun and relaxation – and as rituals in many tribes – around the world.

One hand or two, it's up to you, no one is keeping score. And if you don't yet own a pair of bongos, a djembe, a conga drum, tambourine, or maraca – to keep the beat, we have all kinds of extra drums and percussion instruments to give you a taste and get you started.

The Drum Circle Club is still being offered for free - no club dues - on the second Thursday of each month, from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room. Come check it out, you might just be surprised by your inner drummer, as you turn off your mind for an hour of relaxing drumming meditation. Ruth Greenfield can be contacted at 201-887-5547.

On Top of the World Vehicle Decal Events

You are cordially invited to attend the scheduled RFID Vehicle Decal Drive-Through Event for your neighborhood.

These drive-through events will occur in the Circle Square Cultural Center parking lot from 8 AM to 12 PM 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:

Renaissance, Williamsburg, Windsor Residents

Monday, March 10, 2025 (Last names A-L ONLY)

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 (Last names M-Z ONLY)

Indigo East Gateway of Services Pass Holders

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Longleaf Ridge Residents

Monday, March 24, 2025 (Last names A-L ONLY)

Tuesday, March 25, 2025 (Last names M-Z ONLY)

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 otowgates@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.



Ukulele Club.

Ukulele Club

Carol Himes

If you've never played the ukulele and want to see what it's all about, the Ukulele Club is for you! See what it's all about every Wednesday in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room.

Our session for beginners, Uke 101, meets at 2:30 p.m. This is when we help those new to the ukulele get started, constantly reviewing the basics. After that,

Dulcimer Club

Sharon Bruno

Why yes, the Dulcimer Club is still growing! Our newest member is Carol-sue Cummings, who read about the club in the World News and came to listen to us play. Carolsue has lived in On Top of the World for 20 years, mostly as a snowbird along with her husband. Her two daughters also live here. Carolsue said she was interested in learning something new, and the dulcimer seemed a good choice. She has played the piano, saxophone, and guitar. She loves to sing and is a member of AcaBella, where she sings lead and Concert Chorus as an alto. Carolsue said she likes how we all have fun during our practices and is eager to start her first lessons with our beginner instructor, Karie Dawkins.

Vicki Terry has now joined the club! She has always had music in her life. In high school and over the summers in music camp, she played the French horn, cornet, and trumpet. Like so many of us, Vicki also had piano lessons early in life. She earned advanced teaching degrees in English, theatre, and speech in college. And was a high school debate coach. Her first introduction to the dulcimer was when she attended a Dulcimer Club gig and thought she might like to learn the dulcimer. Vicki, now retired, has the time to combine her love for music and socialize with the club while studying her new instrument.

To schedule the Dulcimer Club to play at one of your meetings or events, contact Patricia Gift at 717-798-4085 or email Rich Furlong at richieretired@gmail.com. The Dulcimer Club meets Tuesdays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room.

ShutterBugs Photography

Kathi Simens



club has been instrumental in helping him achieve this goal by connecting him with fellow enthusiasts and inspiring his growth in photography.

This month, the photos on display in the lobby of Master the Possibilities are by Stephen Allen as well! The theme of his presentation is learning photographic art. Please stop in and check them out!

If you missed seeing our annual photo contest or our prior photo displays at Master the Possibilities, you can still view all our photos at otowspc.com.

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

We generally meet for a field trip the first week of each month, ShutterBug Solutions (where members can get assistance with cameras and photographic software) the second Tuesday, a show-and-tell the third Tuesday, and an educational class the fourth Tuesday at 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. For more information, contact Harry at 239-336-4804.

"All the planning, intuition, technical prowess and knowledge, as well as the trust and rapport you have (or haven't) established, will show up in the picture, frozen forever." - Gregory Heisler



Photo by ShutterBug Stephen Allen

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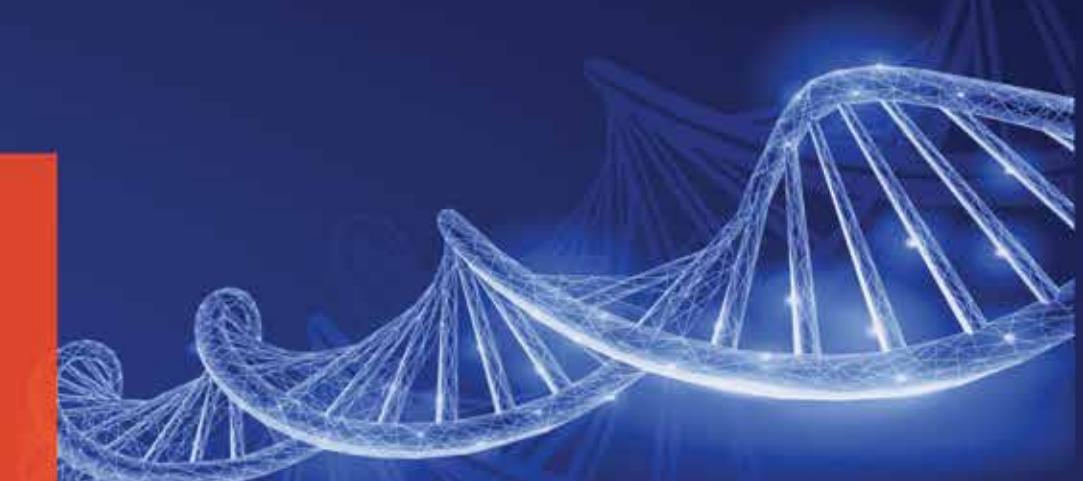
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**FOR SALE, WANTED AND LOST/FOUND**

ADS: There is no charge to residents as long as it is not of a business nature. There is a \$500 limit on FOR SALE items. Items valued at more than \$500 (i.e. golf carts) may be listed, but price will not accompany the ad. Auto, apartment, financial service, home, legal, real estate, and timeshare ads WILL NOT be accepted. Ads may be emailed to otownnews@otowfl.com.

ESTATE/TAG SALE ADS: There is no charge to residents, however, residents must register their estate/tag sale with Resident Services at Friendship Commons. Visit ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala and click on "Resident Info" to download the appropriate form for your community and submit it to Resident Services by the 10th of the month prior to publication.

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

Appliance: Gaggia deluxe espresso coffee maker machine with wand. 561-676-1262.

Golf Cart: 2020 Evolution Pro, holds 2 people and 2 golf bags, 2 speeds, 61.7 miles on it, full curtains, and turn signals. 352-212-2216.

Golf Cart: 2023 Star EV Sirius, seats 4 (2+2) with room for golf clubs, 80 AH lithium battery, safety features, and Sunbrella rain cover. 352-484-0951.

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: Taylor Made RBZ speed lite senior golf set with driver, 3 & 5 woods, 4 & 5 hybrids, 6-9 irons, PW, putter, extra SIM 2 Max driver & golf bag, \$90/obo. Call/text 352-895-5312.

Fitness Equipment: Orbitrek elliptical trainer, \$50. 321-543-0077.

Fitness Equipment: Total Gym complete, \$20. 570-396-4340.

Furniture: 1880 ladies dresser with ornate mirror, \$400. 352-438-3354

Furniture: Antique Philippine mahogany 4-drawer carved telephone stand, 44" W x 18.5" D x 36.5" H, top carved knobs (2), carved back spindles (6), and 19.5" x 17.5" cushioned seat. 3-piece carved library accordion roll-top desk, 79.5" H x 52.5" W x 42" D, glass-paneled shelves (2), Italian marble center piece inlay, cubby holes (10), large pull-out drawers (6), pull-out writing areas (2). 2-piece carved chess set, 28" W x 28" D x 27.5" H, carved horse head base, reversible backgammon board, carved chess pieces (56), backgammon pieces (41), storage bin, carved round horse head wooden seats (2) with base, 17.75" H x 11.5" W. Text 757-589-8610.

Furniture: Cherry espresso 42" drop-leaf table with chairs (2) and buffet. Brown accent cabinet with 2 doors. Simply Southern hutch

with glass doors. Two-piece desk with circo glass door top. 352-509-7705.

Furniture: Glass coffee table, 55" x 28" x 17", \$200. 16" round top end table, 26" high, \$75. Custom swivel chairs (2 each), \$500. 954-254-7172.

Furniture: Parasol brown wicker bar table with glass top, brown wicker bar chairs (3) and black cushions. Scott Living metal tall bistro table and Chippendale-style bar chairs (2) with coral cushions. Turquoise distressed solid wood dresser with pewter colored bamboo handles. Johnston Brothers 90" camel back sofa in navy, burgundy, and hunter green zigzag fabric, \$350. Text only 540-915-6730.

Furniture: RST Brands outdoor set with Sunbrella cushions and covers, ginkgo green, bronze aluminum - dining table, dining chairs (4), coffee table, chaise lounges (2), end table, chairs (2), ottoman, love-seat, and accent pillows (4). Polywood patio furniture, green - glider chair, fixed chair, ottomans (2), and double chair with table unit. 610-721-1424.

Home Décor: Brushed nickel pendant lights (3) with glass globes. Fits most models. 561-676-1262.

Home Décor: Cherry electric fireplace. 352-509-7705.

Home Décor: Off white, vintage-looking lanterns (2) with mounting pieces, \$100. Off white distressed metal garden table cart with wheels, \$50. Off white distressed metal etagere shelving with birdcage-type top, \$100. Marble sink bowl in grey, white and peach, \$100. Text only 540-915-6730.

Misc. Items: Chicco child's stroller. Kenmore sewing machine (#16231), \$35. Glass globes (9) for bathroom light fixtures. 561-676-1262.

Misc. Item: Bicycle carrier rack. Attaches to trailer hitch. Text 352-598-8489.

Misc. Items: Brown wicker tall planters (2). Outdoor wide shade tilting umbrella and concrete stand. Books, console table, lamps, décor, and more. Text only 540-915-6730.

Misc. Items: Expedition travel trailer cover, 32' long, waterproof mariner boat cover fabric rooftop, heavy-duty reinforced zippered panels, marine grade strapping, 402" L x 102" W x 104" H, \$250/obo. 603-493-6102.

Misc. Items: Garage workshop, quality metal cabinets, machines, and power tools. 863-258-2100 or patomtul@gmail.com.

Misc. Item: Kendon folding single motorcycle trailer, slides into any garage, torsion suspension, kneeling, one person loading, and spare tire included. 662-346-6843.

Misc. Item: Shark rotator pet plus upright vacuum (NV255) with owners guide, \$75. 610-721-1424.

Sports Equipment: E-bike - step-through, 48-volt, 750-watt, LCD display, Kenda 20" 4.0 tires, 20" frame, 4-6 hours to charge, 40-60 km range, max speed 31 mph. 610-721-1424.

Yard Equipment: 20" Kobalt self-propelled mulching mower, 40-volt, variable pace, rear bagger, and batteries (2) with charger, \$150. 847-878-9999.

Tag Sales

Saturday, March 1: 9235 SW 90th Street, 9033, SW 91st Circle (Williamsburg), 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. · 9032, 9117, 9121, 9169, 9250 SW 91st Circle (Williamsburg), 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. · 9133 SW 91st Circle (Williamsburg), 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. · 9020-B SW 93rd Lane (Friendship Colony), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. · 9153 SW 91st Cir-

cle (Williamsburg), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sunday, March 2: 9133 SW 91st Circle (Williamsburg), noon to 4 p.m.

Monday, March 3: 8998 SW 75th Loop (Weybourne Landing), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, March 3 & Tuesday, March 4: 8420-A SW 90th Place (Friendship Colony), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday, March 7: 10430 SW 90th Street Road (Avalon), 8 a.m. to noon · 8530-C SW 92nd Street (Friendship Colony).

Friday, March 7 & Saturday, March 8: 10362 SW 91st Street Road, 9102 SW 102nd Circle, 9065 SW 106th Avenue (Avalon), 8 a.m. to noon.

Saturday, March 8: 9169 SW 91st Circle (Williamsburg), 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. · 9293 SW 94th Loop (Windsor), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Friday, March 14 & Saturday, March 15: 9638-A SW 94th Court (Crescent Ridge), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday, March 15: 8681-C SW 94th Lane (Friendship Village), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. · 8717-D SW 93rd Place (Friendship Colony), 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Monday, March 17 & Tuesday, March 18: 10598 SW 91st Street Road (Avalon), 8 a.m. to noon.

Friday, March 21: 9581 SW 96th Street (Crescent Green), 9 a.m. to noon.

Friday, March 21 & Saturday, March 22: 9731 SW 97th Lane (Crescent Ridge), 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Friday, March 28 & Saturday, March 29: 9652-A SW 84th Terrace (Friendship Village), 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Services**American Junk Removal & Demo:**

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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.

Cleaning by Evelyn Lee: House & deep cleaning, move-outs. Licensed, bonded & insured. Sunshine Cleaning Service of Ocala, LLC. 352-286-6055.

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.

LOST OR FOUND A PET?
Call the SPCA of Marion County hotline at 352-362-0985.

Folding Table Rentals: Daily rate includes up to five 6' tables plus drop off/pick up in On Top of the World. Multi-day discounts. Deposit required. SW Ocala Estate Sales 352-219-6799.

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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).

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Transportation: Private car service anywhere in Florida - airports, cruise ports, theme parks, sporting events, beaches, etc. Visit www.mytransportationtv.com or call 404-569-2647 or 352-430-8262.

Wanted

Companion: Elderly retired gentleman seeks salaried live-in female companion. Paid vacation, generous compensation, private room with bath and paid living expenses. 860-490-4682.

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