

Community News

Kenneth D. Colen

Construction Updates

THE SUMMIT: Progress continues at Longleaf Ridge as this 20,000-square-foot amenity nears completion. The exterior walls of the building are almost complete. The interior finishes are currently underway. The folding partitions in the ballroom have been installed, and soon the flooring will be nearing completion. Both pools are actively under construction, including what will be On Top of the World’s first-ever resistance pool. The grand opening is tentatively scheduled for February 2026.

AZURA FITNESS CENTER: Construction is underway. This facility will go vertical soon, with the concrete slab poured and masonry work beginning. This will be a state-of-the-art facility featuring top-of-the-line fitness equipment and a 5,000-square-foot pool. The project is estimated to be completed by fall 2026.

RECREATION CENTER: The planned renovations to the front of the building have been in permitting for 30 days now. With the last-minute push by builders in Marion County to beat the new, higher transportation impact fee imposition, there are lots of companies ahead of us. It may be another eight weeks before we hear a peep out of the plans examiners. I am no longer optimistic this would start in late December, we are hoping to begin in February 2026. The work will be completed in phases and will include landscaping and improvements to golf cart parking. Once permitted, we hope to display elevation plans in the work area.

NEW WOOD SHOP: Design work is ongoing for this new facility. Due to the specialized nature of this building, we have collaborated with experts and with the club leadership to ensure it will be a top-tier amenity for the community. One key feature is an upgraded dust-collection system, carefully designed in coordination with club members to meet the space’s specific needs. The facility will be a 7,200-square-foot amenity building that will also serve as a home for additional activities such as table tennis, ballet, and more. The collaboration with the club will end Dec. 5. We will integrate their suggestions to the extent practical, and proceed to finalizing the design. I hope by the time the plans are completed, the County’s building permit backlog will be reduced, so we can then expect a “normal” review time. Thank heavens we are not building something complicated, like rockets!

SHUFFLEBOARD COURTS: The new surfaces are complete and look fantastic. These new courts will provide better control of discs and improved play. Let the games begin!

SAND VOLLEYBALL COURT: The court is now open and ready for play at the Veterans Park.

CANDLER HILLS GOLF CLUB: The Golf Course renovation is complete and opened on Monday, Nov. 10. The Golf Shop has returned to regular operating hours, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., and is fully stocked with new merchandise to meet anyone’s taste.

BALFOUR DOG PARK: The pavilion in the green space features pavers, benches that convert to a picnic table, and a walking trail with a pet station.

IRONS 9: Momentum is building at the future Irons 9 location, where essential site work is now well underway. The project has officially entered a new phase, with crews commencing paving of the main parking lot. Once this foundational work is complete, the focus will shift immediately to integrating the final landscape features. The cooler weather will delay turfgrass establishment, so look for a spring 2026 opening.

THE WHISTLING DUCK: Come experience the newly renovated Southern American tavern at Candler Hills Golf Club! Enjoy our refreshed décor, inviting atmosphere, and a brand-new menu that celebrates Southern flavor with a modern twist. We can’t wait to wel-

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Holiday Celebration - Lights, Bites & Beats

By Dave DeAngelis
World News Writer

Oh boy, it’s here already! The Holiday Celebration and Golf Cart Parade! If you missed last year’s event, you were not alone. Okay, yes you were – that’s how well-attended it was. It was a blast! This year’s event? Well, if you attend, you might think, wow, this is a blast ... I guess I actually was here last year! Here’s what’s happenin’ on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 4 to 8 p.m.

You want live music? We got live music! Sugar Vibe, a high-energy party band that delivers unique interpretations of your favorite Top 40 hits. They will get your sugar vibing! And so will DJ Area 51 Entertainment. I’ll be there because I do have some flying saucer and Bigfoot questions.

Have you ever wanted to go on a horse-drawn carriage ride? This is your chance with rides offered by Wind Chase Farm. Photo ops with Santa? Yep. Pose away! Photo kiosk. Practice the spirit of giving with the 50/50 raffle, with proceeds going to the SPCA of Marion County. There will be games, and of course, food trucks.

Been thinking about a new look for your golf cart? Well, deck the carts with boughs of ... whatever you want to deck them with for the golf cart parade! Line up time is 1:15 p.m. in the Recreation Center parking lot, with the call to “start your engines” as the start time nears. Then, at 2 p.m., the green flag drops for the start of the race ... I mean, parade. There is some truth to this analogy, as some of last year’s entries boasted quite a bit more horsepower than the others and gradually became a blur in the distance. So, if you’ve installed front and rear wings on your golf cart for this year’s parade, bumper.

A Recreation Center pace cart will lead the way through the entire course. Relax and enjoy the cheers from the appreciative spectators who will be present throughout the course.

The parade finishes at The Town Square at around 3 p.m., with viewing

up until 4 p.m. when the results from the following categories will be announced – Most Festive, Most Original, Funniest, Most Creative, and Best Club

Representation (Best in Show). One representative from the club will accept the award on behalf of the club. Then, bring on the music!

See you at the Holiday Celebration – Lights, Bites & Beats here at The Town Square at Circle Square Commons, Saturday, Dec. 6 from 4 to 8 p.m. This spectacular event is free and open to the public!

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

Holiday Golf Cart Parade & Celebration

Saturday, December 6, 2025

Line up starts at 1:15 pm in the Recreation Center parking lot.

Parade starts at 2:00 pm.

Celebration at The Town Square at Circle Square Commons starts after parade.

Make sure your golf cart is fully charged. Do not cover the back lights of your golf cart.

Awards will be announced at 4:00 pm.

Registration is free and required. Registration will be open from November 4th through November 28, 2025.

On Top of the World

SCAN THE QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD THE OTOW APP NEVER MISS AN EVENT OR UPDATE!

Register your golf cart at the Recreation Center office or on the OTOW App.

Annual Holiday Fest

By Linda Meyer

Get your holidays off to a great start! The 23rd annual Holiday Fest will be held in the Recreation Center Ballroom on Wednesday, Dec. 10. We start at 6 p.m. with homemade cookies provided by our generous residents. The cookies go well with the hot chocolate with marshmallows and coffee which is provided by On Top of the World. This is a free event! It’s always a fun-filled evening! So, come and enjoy an evening with your friends while munching on homemade cookies, drinking hot chocolate and coffee, and enjoying some fantastic entertainment.

We start the evening off with everyone getting into the spirit by singing a boisterous rendition of the “12 Days of

Christmas – Southern style,” a competition between the tables for bragging rights until next Christmas. The entertainment comes from the many talented residents living in our community. It changes from year to year and has included the Dulcimer Club, Dancing Jewels, a singing quartet, to name a few, and The New Pretenders. The Jewish Club provides us with a story about Hannukah.

Please drop off your cookie donations at the Recreation Center Ballroom from 3 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 10.

For more information about the Holiday Fest, contact Linda Meyer at 973-809-3338 or linda_a_meyer@yahoo.com.



Is It Legal?

Colen & Wagoner, P.A.



SCAM ALERT #1: Are scammers after you? Of course, they are!
Emails, text messages, phone calls, and letters. We are bombarded. It’s impossible to avoid them. Our best – and only – chance to protect ourselves is constant vigilance.

But what if we are caught or trapped by a scam? Maybe it’s the grandparent scam, the romance scam, the IRS imposter scam, the telemarketing scam, or the “you committed a crime and are going to jail” scam. Maybe a trusted advisor, a friend, or even a relative fraudulently got you to invest in a worthless scheme, making money while you were defrauded. It’s never-ending.

Remember this. You did nothing for which you should be ashamed. You were the victim. And I urge you not to hide what happened. Instead, you should report it to the Marion County Sheriff’s Office. They are eager to help and are kind and courteous. And, of course, for the tech-savvy among us (I’m not one), you should also report the fraud to the Federal Trade Commission (ftc.gov) and the FBI (fbi.gov). You will find that no one will blame you or shame you.

SCAM ALERT #2: The office of the prosecutor under the Florida Attorney General’s Office has announced the arrest of six persons who were part of a nationwide criminal enterprise that targeted folks in parking lots. They look for whatever you leave uncovered inside your car. If you left a car door unlocked, you made it easy for someone to steal it. If you lock your doors and they see something they want, they smash a window and steal whatever they can grab. They get critical personal items from purses left in a car. These include cash, credit cards, checkbooks, driver’s licenses, social security numbers, Medicare numbers, and other personal information.

Statewide prosecutor Stephanie Bergen asks us to help law enforcement by helping ourselves. Leave nothing in your car. If you must leave something, lock it in the trunk. If you frequently – or even sometimes – leave valuables in your car, break the habit. Protect yourself and help law enforcement in the process.

Q. From where do you get the ques-

tions for your newspaper column? From past times you’ve put in this question, I know you get questions from letters and emails. Do you get any from Facebook or other social media?

A. I get some questions from emails, but nowadays, none from letters, although if I did get them, I would consider them. I get the bulk of my questions from my clients, people I know, or those I meet, and they ask me something I want to print.

I am a member of the Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. They frequently post questions about issues they handle. Since the questions I’m presented with are almost always in the question-and-answer format, I just follow through with my response.

I never post anything that might be on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), or any other social media. I cannot imagine a worse place to find anything worthwhile amid the garbage they spew.

Two things. Whether I use a question or not, I destroy all reference to where I got it. No exception. And I should add that those sometimes-cutesy questions at the end of a column are all true.

Q. Is it true that if I sign a durable power of attorney, the person I name can control my assets and steal from me if I become incapacitated?

A. Yes. It would be a criminal act, and they could be arrested for exploitation or theft. However, my partners Rachel Wagoner and John Beck, and I believe that because a durable power of attorney is an essential estate planning document, folks should only select someone they absolutely trust. So, always discuss this with your attorney – always.

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.

Bay Laurel Center
CDD

IRREGULAR WATER USAGE*

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

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

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The World News, On Top of the World Communities, LLC
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2026 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

On Top of the World NEWS

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

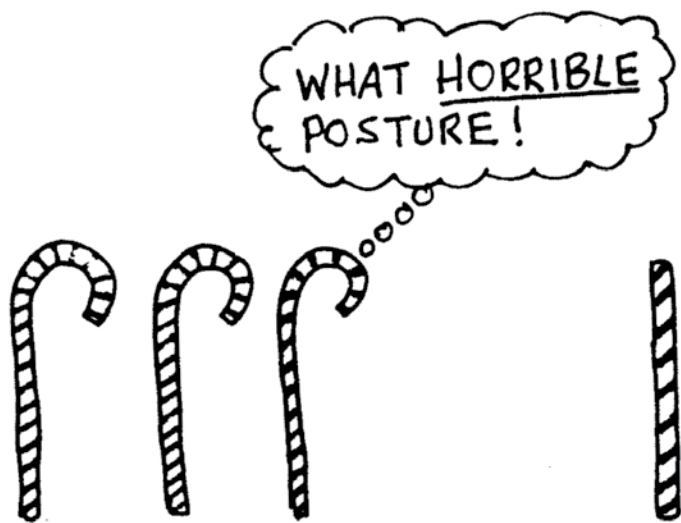
* Deadline at noon.

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

Red indicates variation in schedule.



grinsticks™
By Dave DeAngelis



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Lifelong Learning

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Thank you to everyone who joined Master the Possibilities for our January through June 2026 curriculum kick-off in November. What a wonderful and fun way to present the upcoming curriculum for our students to preview in the new term. Their enthusiasm and energy made the day a great success and a perfect way to launch the winter season of learning. Even Uncle Sam visited.

For those who could not attend, print catalogs are now available at the Education Center. Be sure to pick one up and start planning your next learning adventure. With more than 1,000 learning opportunities and over 80 courses focused on the “Exploring 250 Years of America” theme, the upcoming curriculum promises to be one of our most remarkable yet.

Before we officially turn the page to the new year, it is worth reflecting on the success of our fall 2025 semester – theme “World War II: Remembering the Past, Shaping the Future.” Many students shared how meaningful it was to hear from the experts who presented this term. By revisiting the stories, struggles, and triumphs of the World War II era, we honored the sacrifices of those who lived through it and gained insight into the enduring human spirit.

Even as we look forward to a dynamic winter 2026 term, December still has plenty in store. In addition to more than



Photo courtesy of Gary Mormino
Historian Gary Mormino will present “Florida and World War II.”



Photo courtesy of Len Ferman
Len Ferman will present “World War II: Classic Sports Achievements.”

50 courses offered this month, we are pleased to feature our last two distinguished visiting speakers this term.

On Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 11 a.m. in Live Oak Hall, acclaimed historian Gary Mormino will present “Florida and World War II.” Come learn how Florida made its mark during this pivotal period in history. For nearly 50 years, Dr. Mormino has been the leading chronicler of modern Florida history, combining storytelling flair with meticulous research. His honors include being named Florida Humanities’ first Humanist of the Year, a “Florida icon” by Florida Trend magazine, and a recipient of the Florida Lifetime Achievement Award for Writing. Admission is \$5 for members and \$10 for the general public.

Then, on Monday, Dec. 8, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., Len Ferman will present “World War II: Classic Sports Achievements.” This engaging talk highlights professional athletes, such as baseball great Hank Greenberg, who paused their athletic careers to serve during the war. Admission is \$13 for members and \$18 for the general public.

As we continue through this busy and rewarding season, we thank all our students, volunteers, and instructors for making 2025 a memorable and meaningful year at Master the Possibilities. Your passion for learning and community enriches everything we do. We look forward to continuing this journey with you and being part of history together when the winter 2026 term begins.

Students can register any time by visiting masterthepossibilities.org. For assistance, feel free to visit or call 352-861-9751 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.



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Community News

► Continued from Page 1A

come you to your new favorite spot for great food, good company, and Southern hospitality.

GATEHOUSE: An automated gatehouse is planned along SW 92nd Court Road to replace the temporary gate at SW 80th Street. Construction is expected to begin in early 2026. There may be periodic lane closures while this work is underway. The project’s construction phase is currently on hold pending the final approval of required permits. The development team is prepared to mobilize rapidly once these approvals are secured, ensuring full, expedited progress on the project. This new momentum will include construction of the new SW 92nd Court gatehouse, which will replace the current SW 80th Street gatehouse.

WEYBOURNE LANDING GATED ENTRY: A design is currently underway for a new entry off SW 74th Street Road, which will include a gate system and a monument sign. This will be along the new construction section of SW 74th Street Road.

Roadway Improvements

SW 90TH TERRACE: The Weybourne Landing multi-modal path extension is complete from the gate to SW 80th Street.

Work is ongoing on the extension of SW 90th Terrace from SW 79th Street Road to SW 63rd Street Road. The contractor’s goal is to complete this roadway before major construction of SW 80th Avenue begins, providing an alternate northbound route. Construction of this road is scheduled for completion in late December. The crucial objective of opening this thoroughfare before the County’s planned expansion of SW 80th Avenue remains firmly on schedule. The project has now transitioned into the final landscaping phase, marking the completion of major paving and site preparation. Concurrently, the realign-

ment of the SW 63rd Street Road intersection is underway and is scheduled for completion in tandem with the adjacent SW 90th Terrace project.

SW 92ND COURT ROAD: The construction of the Phase 2 extension remains on schedule. Significant progress has been made, with both landscaping and paving activities now finalized. The project’s current focus is the final phase: the installation of pavement striping and regulatory signage. Once this essential work is complete, the extension will be submitted for final regulatory approval and subsequently opened for resident access.

SW 80TH AVENUE: As you are aware, Marion County is widening SW 80th Avenue, which is broken into two phases (Segment 1A & 1B). Segment 1A is from SW 90th Street to North of SW 80th Street, and Segment 1B picks up from where 1A leaves off and continues to SW 38th Street.

To avoid construction-related travel delays, if you are driving into Ocala, we strongly encourage residents to use the new SW 90th Terrace road extension to reach SW 63rd Street Road. SW 63rd Street Road connects to SW 80th Avenue well north of the Segment 1A Phase of construction. Another option is to use the SW 90th Street Road exit. While this intersects the start of the Section 1A construction zone, you may continue driving east to get to SR 200, hopefully with minimal delays.

As Segment 1A is completed and Seg-

ment 1B is commenced, the path of travel may be reversed to avoid the worst of the construction.

As I’m writing this, I’m thinking that the most impacted access will be Sholom Park, especially in the Segment 1B stage. Fortunately, the cart path should be unaffected, so you may walk, run, bike, or drive your cart to Sholom Park.

MELODY PRESERVE: This new housing development north of Indigo East has officially begun. Melody Preserve will be a 55+ HOA community, but will not be a Member Association within the Circle Square Ranch Master Association or On Top of the World in any way. Melody Preserve will have its own self-contained amenities and services. Initial earthwork activities at the site have been underway since September. These significant groundwork efforts are scheduled to conclude toward the close of the current calendar year. Following this key milestone, the project will immediately transition into the installation of critical infrastructure. This vital next phase encompasses the complete installation of the storm drainage, sanitary sewer, and potable water systems.

Universal Access Questionnaire

On Top of the World Communities, LLC, and SCA Marion Amenities, LLC will continue to study and refine the process of universal access to the amenities for all residents. The recent survey of residents indicated that many do favor this approach.

Safety First

Jonathan Miller



Over the past few months, we have discussed just about every safety topic, from slipping and falling to hot and cold weather to eating healthy.

CONSERVATION FUN FACT

Southeastern kestrels, a threatened species, are provided nesting boxes to promote population growth. There are at least six active nesting sites at On Top of the World.

So, what’s left to talk about when it comes to safety? The fact is, no one can think about safety 24 hours a day/seven days a week. It is impossible because of the thoughts we have to process on a minute-by-minute basis.

There are safeguards in our society that help us “unconsciously” think about safety. The repetitive motion is to avoid governmental penalties. Example: We have set regulations that prompt us to adopt a safety mindset. Regulations like, if I don’t put on my seatbelt, I could get hurt or get a driving ticket. Now, you put on your seatbelt, without even thinking about it, because both ideas, if not applied, are unacceptable. However, much of our so-called “personal” safety is just that –personal.

It’s not just about being safe; it’s about “living” safe – your practices within your structured lifestyle. Evaluate your lifestyle and ask yourself some questions.

- What are your safety priorities?
- Is there someone else who may help with your concerns?
- Are they different safety concerns, rather than the same safety concerns as those of the average person? Such as a hobby where safety is imperative.
- Have you spoken to anyone about them?
- From one to five, how important is your safety concern?

Personal Attitude About Safety

There is something always happening in our community, seven days a week. We have residents and employees who live and work here. We never close! It is the nature of our beast. Always here, always available, always working.

Safety is a Way of Life

This means we don’t just discuss safety; we consider it a way of life for us. It is a Colen Built Development/On Top of the World culture, an entity. Yes, an entity! We have to live and breathe safety for all the reasons that you see on our horizons at every twist and turn, every staircase, and around every bend. It is ingrained in us to address the subject at all times because our culture is always on the move.

Another factor is that many of us no longer have the fastest reflexes we had in our youth. Not to mention, many of us are more brittle. So, safety is imperative!

Well, what are you doing right now? Add safety to that! If there are safety questions, start there! Even if it’s just for a minute or so. That minute may make a difference. Don’t be afraid to ask for help! You are important enough for safety consideration. I will certainly vouch for you.

FREE RECREATION FITNESS CENTER ORIENTATIONS AND BALANCE ASSESSMENTS

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Thursdays, at 1 p.m.

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Resident Services

Heather Ray
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associationinfo@otowfl.net



Wishing you all a happy holiday season! Please find below important meeting reminders as well as updates and changes.

Association Meetings

- Annual meetings for various associations take place in Circle Square Cultural Center and are scheduled as follows:
- Master Association Annual Meeting & Board of Directors Meeting: Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 3 p.m.
 - Weybourne Landing Annual Meeting & Board of Directors Meeting: Monday, Dec. 8, at 10 a.m.

On Watch

Geoff Oldberg



What is a handyperson (also commonly known as a handyman), and what are they legally permitted to do?

Whether you purchased a brand-new home, a move-in-ready home or a resale home in On Top of the World Communities, after you’ve lived in it for a while, you may think of ways to make improvements; different color paint or add a chair rail, new cabinets, replace a ceiling light with a fan, any number of things to make the new house your “new home.”

Who is going to help make your vision a reality? We are not all jacks-of-all-trades. Sometimes we need a professional touch. There are hundreds of licensed contractors working in Marion County. From electricians to plumbers to carpenters, and the list goes on. And then there’s the handyperson. The guy with knowledge and skills across a wide variety of fields.

What is a handyperson? Typically, they are not licensed in any field, or maybe just one, but claim they can do just about anything when it comes to repairs and upgrades to your home. Many, but not all, of the handypeople working within our community do exceptional

- Candler Hills Annual Meeting & Board of Directors Meeting: Monday, Dec. 8, at 2 p.m.
 - Indigo East Annual Meeting & Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, Dec. 11, at 10 a.m.
 - On Top of the World (Central) Owners Annual Meeting: Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 10 a.m.
- Matters of general interest to your community, a review of the projected budgets for the coming year, and other matters affecting your community will be among the topics discussed at each annual meeting.
- AppFolio**
- We are requesting that all residents activate their AppFolio owner’s portal. You can access AppFolio via an app on your phone or desktop. Resident Services will need to send you an activation link. Please reach out to request. Beginning

- work.
- When hiring a handyperson, you must consider a few things. Does the work you want them to perform require a county building permit? Does the work require the contractor to be licensed? Who is responsible if you hire a handyperson who doesn’t have a permit and isn’t licensed?
- Here are some facts you should be aware of:
- Electrical requiring new wiring and/or boxes, plumbing (new pipes or additional pipes), HVAC repairs or installation (unless less than 3-ton unit), additions, changes to the structure, costs exceeds \$5000 in a year if done by a non-owner require a permit.
 - A license is required for plumbing, electrical (adding additional wiring, moving wiring, adding electrical boxes, replacing ceiling light with a fan if a new box and/or a support bracket is required), roofing if over 100 square feet, grade work, and stucco work if more than 100 square feet, structural changes, and replacing screens with windows.
 - Only licensed contractors or owner-builders can obtain permits. If a permit is required and not obtained, the homeowner can be subject to fines and penalties.
 - A license number issued by the Florida Department of Business

ning April 1, 2026, all Association payments must be made via AppFolio. You may sign up for ACH directly through AppFolio or pay with a credit/debit card. If you need any assistance, please reach out to Residents Services at otowservice@otowfl.com.

Premier Waste Services Acquired by Waste Pro

Waste Pro acquired Premier Waste Services. This took effect on Monday, Nov. 3. There should be no interruption in service for our residents, and the HOA contracts will continue as agreed.

Golf Cart Rule Changes

Golf cart rules have changed for On Top of the World (Central) and will be changing for Candler Hills, Indigo East, and Weybourne Landing in December. Resident Services will no longer conduct golf cart inspections or issue golf

cart decals. Please note that if you own a golf cart or a low-speed vehicle, you will need to complete a Waiver and Release of Liability form. These forms can be sent out via email, or you may stop by Resident Services.

Self-Storage & RV Parking

Self-storage and RV Parking no longer require the Gateway of Services pass. Self-storage and RV parking can now be reserved at OTOWInfo.com > Resident Information > Self Storage and RV Parking.

Holiday Office Hours

Please see the following hours of operation for Resident Services:

- Wednesday, Dec. 24: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 25: Closed.
- Wednesday, Dec. 31: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026: Closed.

- and Professional Regulation (DBPR) is required to be displayed on signs, work vehicles, and business cards if the contractor is offering to do work requiring a license. The following can identify licenses:
- CGC:** Certified General Contractor
 - CBC:** Certified Building Contractor
 - CRC:** Certified Residential Contractor
 - CCC:** Roofing
 - EC13:** Electrical
 - CFC:** Plumbing

In the News

Petra Schmidt
otownews@otowfl.com

On Top of the World NEWS

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

If you don’t receive your copy or wish to stop delivery, email otownews@otowfl.com with your neighborhood, house number, and street name.

After delivery day, copies are available at newspaper racks in:

- All postal centers
- Resident Services

- CAC:** HVAC (air conditioning and heating)
- If someone offers services in these areas without displaying a valid license number, report them to the Marion County Building Safety Department at 352-438-2400.
- A handyperson can be a great option for small repairs, painting, or simple updates – but anything beyond basic work could lead to serious problems with the county and your wallet. When in doubt, verify the contractor’s license through the Florida DBPR website: www.myfloridalicense.com.
- New Home Sales Center
 - Recreation Center & Arbor Fitness Center
 - The Club at Candler Hills & Candler Hills Community Center
 - The Lodge at Candler Hills
 - Circle Square Commons: The Ranch Fitness Center & Spa , Master the Possibilities, OTOW Real Estate of Marion
 - The Landing
 - Indigo East Community & Fitness Centers
- Read online or see the schedule at on-top-of-the-world-news.com/ocala.

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Newcastle Social Committee

Nancy Monaghan



On Friday, Oct. 17, Newcastle's fourth annual chili cookoff and cornhole tournament was held at the Veterans Park, and it was a gorgeous fall day. Twelve teams battled it out on the cornhole courts, but prior champions Mike McCauley and Brett Sinclair could not be beaten and took first place. Second place went to Jeff VanDyke and Ned Monaghan, while Charles and Linda Dodge came in third.

Competition was stiff between the nine chili competitors. Melissa Corazzin won first place and bragging rights for her delicious chili. Bing Bingham and Nancy Monaghan tied for second place. In addition to the chili, neighbors brought fabulous desserts, cornbread, and other treats. Thank you to all who participated. Special thanks to Jeff and Cindy VanDyke and Mike and Anne McCauley, the organizers of the day's activities. Newcastle appreciates the work, time, and planning these event leaders put into making such a fun day for all. You can bet Newcastle will be practicing cornhole and chili recipes before next year's event!

Further competition took place on

Candler Connection

Debra Keirn



I can't believe we experienced 30-degree temperatures in November, but that was our first taste of winter. Now we will focus on the holiday season and enjoy great times with family and friends.

There will not be a potluck dinner in December. A special thank you to all of the volunteers who helped at the dinners in 2025. We look forward to the potlucks in 2026 (last Tuesday of the month) starting at 5:30 p.m. The first potluck of 2026 will be on Jan. 27. See you then.

What a great time we had at the Trunk Sale in November. Hopefully, you sold your unwanted treasures, and you enjoyed the bake sale and basket raffle. We saw a lot of people walking around with their morning coffee and a donut while shopping. Thank you for attending this event.

Our annual holiday party is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 12, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Gourmet Affair will cater, and Ross Getek will provide the music. The menu includes cherry tomato basil chicken in a light garlic sauce, rosemary-roasted pork tenderloin, mashed potatoes, green beans with bacon and onion, Caesar salad, and a variety of cakes for dessert. Tickets were sold in November. If you haven't purchased your ticket, please contact Deb Keirn at 352-414-5737 or Karen Gemberling at 352-789-8259 to see if tickets are still available. The ticket price is \$45 for Candler Hills resident and \$47 per guests.

Halloween, as Newcastle celebrated the fifth annual Halloween Progressive Walk. Voted on by everyone, the best costume award went to Bill and Carol Ibsen, dressed as a gorgeous Cleopatra and handsome Marc Anthony. The scariest costume winner was spooky spider Bea Keleman. The most original costume winner was Anne McCauley, whose creative jellyfish costume was complete with lighted tentacles.

Hosts Bing and PJ Bingham started the Halloween Progressive Walk off by welcoming everyone to their home. Delicious jambalaya, a fall sausage soup, and libations were enjoyed by nearly 50 neighbors, along with appetizers. The next stop was the home of John and Patty Snyder – not the place to be for those with arachnophobia. Patty and spider sisters made ice cream sundaes, plus they had help from other spider neighbors serving savory treats and other desserts. Thank you to the hosts who went all out to decorate and prepare refreshments. Your warm hospitality is greatly appreciated.

Preparations are underway for the holidays. By the time this publication is published, Light Up Newcastle will have taken place, with entryway festivities hosted by Ivan and Ivy Vazquez. Entry decorations built and installed by Jimmy Gilleland and other elves, and luminarias lining driveways, will draw many neighbors from throughout On Top of

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

The first 2026 event will be on Saturday, Feb. 14, with Flying Ivorys (dueling pianos) on Valentine's Day. Bring your own table snacks, and we will provide the delicious dessert bar. This is a great time to socialize with your friends. Tickets go on sale on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from Jan. 6 through Jan. 22 for \$25 per Candler Hills resident and \$27 per guest. This event is from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Other upcoming events include:

- March 28: Craft and Trunk Sale.
- May 25: Memorial Day Ceremony.
- June 21: Ice Cream Social.
- July 4: To be announced.
- Sept. 18: Cheeseburger in Our Paradise (Jimmy Buffett-themed event).
- Oct. 31: Halloween Party.
- Dec. 12: Holiday Party.

It has been a great year in Candler Hills. We are looking forward to the events in 2026. We are always looking for volunteers to join the social committee. We meet on the last Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. in Meeting Room 1.

Have a wonderful holiday season, enjoy your family and friends, and be safe in your travels.

See you around the neighborhood!

the World to enjoy the festive spirit of Newcastle.

In December, Newcastle will celebrate the holidays at our fifth annual holiday party with a catered dinner and DJ. The elf committee has been working hard for months to make it a special night. Neighbors will bring toys to the event in support of the Toys for Tots campaign. More on the holiday events in the next issue.

Newcastle wishes all neighbors a wonderful, blessed holiday season. And to our immediate neighbors, cheers to five years, it's a wonderful life in Newcastle!



Photo by Nancy Monaghan

Best costume goes to Newcastle residents, Bill and Carol Ibsen.

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Indigo East Social Committee

Janice Liberton



The Indigo East Social Committee will hold its holiday party on Saturday, Dec. 6, where residents will enjoy a jolly, great time of holiday spirit and fun. There will be an abundance of delicious appetizers and desserts. There will be dancing with music provided by Indigo East’s own D.J. Frank.

The Indigo East ladies luncheon committee will hold a holiday luncheon on Thursday, Dec. 18, entitled “’Tis the Season.” As usual, there will be plenty of food, holiday spirit, fun, and door prizes.

Crescent Ridge Happenings

Carol Lewis



A good number of Crescent Ridge residents came out for our Thanksgiving-themed dinner social on Sunday, Nov. 9. The room was just about full. Valerie and George Ostrom provided the turkey and ham and those attending were asked to bring their favorite Thanksgiving side dish or dessert. Amazingly, there were no duplicates and everything was delicious.

We were excited to have several new couples attend. For new Crescent Ridge residents who maybe haven’t had a chance to join us, our monthly socials are held the second Sunday of the month at the Arbor Activity Center Event Room from 3 to 5 p.m. Just bring a dish to share if you choose (can be meat, side, salad, dessert or snack for around six to eight people) or just come for the socializing. Bring your own beverage of choice.

Our next social will be Sunday, Dec. 14. We will attempt a Christmas-themed meal. In addition, we will have a gift exchange game. Just purchase a gift in the \$5 to \$10 range for each person attending (or if you prefer, one per couple). Be sure to wrap it. We will then have a dice game to determine the gift you win.

To “stay in the know” about things

Beginning Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026, Teresa Davis will take the helm as our new social committee chairwoman, and we all look forward to her leadership. Former chairwoman, Beth Griner, and her husband, John, will serve as Indigo East Social Committee board members. There is still an opportunity for residents to join the board and provide their insights into the entertainment in our community. The residents wholeheartedly thank Beth and John for their untiring years of service.

Become an expert on champagne on New Year’s Eve. Champagne originated in Roman vineyards in the fifth century, but the sparkling version was developed in France in the 17th century. The early version of champagne was made from a pale, pinkish version of pinot noir and was first served by King Hugh Capet at official banquets in the late 10th century.

While Don Pérignon, a Benedictine monk, did not invent champagne, he was instrumental in perfecting the drink. He is credited with methods for controlling the second fermentation, which creates the bubbles. He is also credited with placing the beverage in strong bottles and with the technique of blending different grapes to create a consistent product.

It is important to note that if the champagne is not from the Champagne region of France, it is called sparkling wine.

Several fun facts about champagne. There are approximately 49 million bubbles in a standard bottle of champagne, with approximately 30 emerging per second as it pours into the glass. The speed of the cork flying out of the bottle is approximately 40 miles per hour. The longest recorded flight of a cork is 177

feet.

There is a proper way to uncork and serve champagne. To begin with, champagne or sparkling wine must be chilled between 46 and 50 degrees. To uncork, place your thumb on the cork and hold it in place. Hold the bottle at a 45-degree angle, gently twist it until the cork loosens, and let the pressure push it out. Serve immediately in fluted or tulip-shaped glasses, holding the glass at a 45-degree angle when pouring. Place the open bottle in a bucket of ice to keep it chilled.

We celebrate Hanukkah on Sunday, Dec. 14; Christmas on Thursday, Dec. 25; and New Year’s Eve on Wednesday, Dec. 31. Coincidentally, Dec. 31 is also known as National Champagne Day. As you celebrate the holidays, be safe as you have fun. As usual, I’ll see you around the neighborhood.

happening in our Crescent Ridge/Crescent Green communities or information affecting our communities, you may

join our Facebook page (OTOW Crescent Ridge Neighbors) or send an email to crneighbors@yahoo.com to be added

to our email list. You will only receive emails regarding Crescent Ridge information.

Happy holidays to everyone.



Crescent Ridge social.

Photo by Carol Lewis

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Balfour Buzz

Kurt Larson



October was another busy month with more new friends moving in and some snowbirds returning. Welcome everyone!

Construction continues to move west, and I am happy to see our streets cleared.

The Balfour Social Committee organized a successful tailgate party in October. Thirty-two people were in attendance. Many dressed in their favorite team’s colors. Sonny’s BBQ provided the delicious food. There was a lot of football team trash talk, but all in good fun.

Balfour hosted a chili cookoff. Forty-three friends came, with 11 pots of chili, including several pans of delicious corn bread and other sides. Many thanks to everyone who attended and helped us with set-up and clean-up. All of the entries were excellent but we had to pick one. We chose a well deserved winner.

This neighborhood has such a great community spirit! Friendsgiving is coming up and is sold out! I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Stay tuned for our next event.

Avalon Social Group

Laura Gavey & Sharon Hall



Our November event was well attended with over 80 participants. Attendees enjoyed the appetizers and desserts that they brought to share. Multiple rounds of jukebox squares were played and everyone had fun guessing the songs.

Our first event for 2026 will be held on Monday, Jan. 12. We will have dinner catered by La Casella and entertainment by Anthony for singing and some dancing. Stay tuned for more information in the next column, via email, or our Facebook group. The committee is also working on some fun events for the remainder of 2026.

Are you new to Avalon or our social events? For up-to-date Avalon news and upcoming events, we encourage you to join our Facebook group (Avalon Social Club). This is a private group and you will be asked to provide your address to verify that you are an Avalon resident. If you have trouble finding the group or getting in, please email us at avalonsocialclub@gmail.com and we’ll send you the group link. If you would like to be notified of future events by email, please send your request to the email address above.

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Longleaf Ridge Friends

Michelle Migdal, Sandra Ritchie, Kathleen Taylor, & Judi Walsh



“December is a month of lights, snow, and feasts.” – Anita Krizzan

Although we do not have snow in Longleaf Ridge, we certainly have lots of lights and feasts to look forward to. Many neighbors will add to the festive spirit of the season by displaying luminaries along roadways, driveways, and walkways.

Neighbors enjoyed a chili cook-off featuring 14 participants who prepared a variety of delicious chili recipes. First-place winner Roxanne Zastrow was awarded a cash prize along with a clever trophy created by Gavin Karelitz. The second- and third-place winners were Sheila Karelitz and Judi Walsh.

John and Michele Marcinek, along with Tom and Sandy Mansfield, hosted a country music fest with a live performance by Nashville’s own Lance and Lea. Neighbors gathered on a beautiful evening and enjoyed a wonderful performance. Attendees also supported the Mansfield’s cause by donating 146 headscarves and hats for Scarves for Love & Hope.

There were several Halloween parties throughout Longleaf Ridge, including a trunk-or-treat block party. Prizes were awarded to Rick and Rhonda Liedtke for best costumes, to Tim and Jay Parker for best golf cart (decorated as a taco truck), and to Dana and Larry Sommerfeld for best treat.

Lyle and Susan Schlotterbeck hosted a drinks-on-the-driveway gathering with about 60 in attendance. The Broadway dancers provided entertainment in their Halloween costumes.

Another group of neighbors gathered outdoors on a beautiful Saturday afternoon for a block party to celebrate the season and reconnect with returning snowbirds. Neighbors shared delicious appetizers, desserts, stories, and laughter. Pat Winkhart won the candy corn count challenge. Her guess was only one off from the actual count of candy corn in a jar.

Kris and Rob Shaw hosted a drink-or-treat gathering on Halloween afternoon. Around 40 neighbors had a wonderful time visiting and sampling drinks and treats.



Photo by Judi Walsh

Ghostbusters Rick and Rhonda Liedtke won best costume at one of our Halloween parties in Longleaf Ridge.

More than 40 neighbors gathered at The Arbors for a spooky Halloween party. Guests provided the potluck meal, and prizes were awarded for the best costumes and for a “candy corn guessing jar.” Grand prize for the best costume went to Tom and Katie Machingo, also known as Gomez and Wednesday from The Addams Family. Dave Protsik came the closest to the candy corn count contest and went home with a jar full of over 1,100 pieces.

Community Coordinator Courtney Freeman from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection gave a pre-

sentation to the men’s group at their monthly luncheon. She spoke about the history and offerings of Silver Springs State Park.

For information about upcoming block events, please check with a member of the social committee in your phase. As our neighborhood continues to grow, we look forward to welcoming all the new neighbors to Longleaf Ridge. Please remember to join our private Facebook page (OTOW Longleaf Ridge Friends) and provide your phase, lot number, and address. Please send questions to otowlongleafridge@gmail.com.

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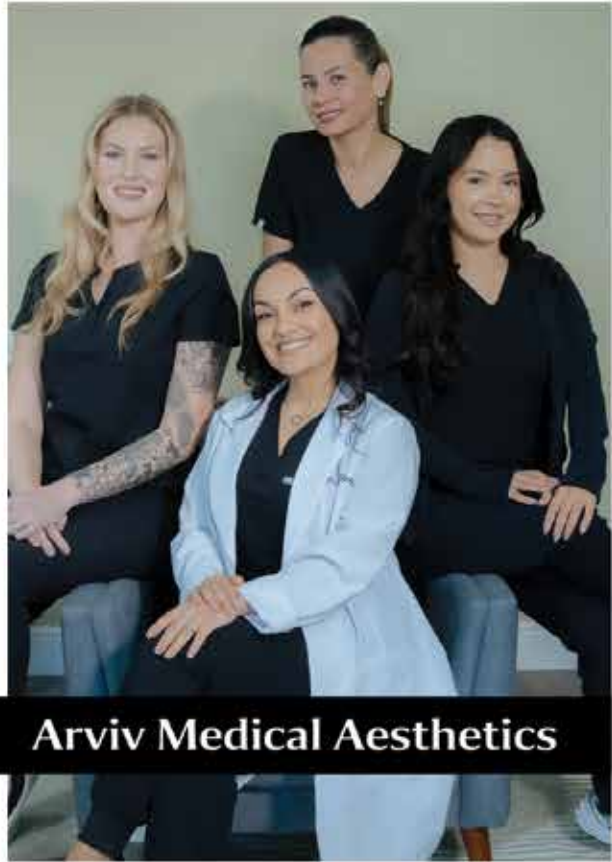
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Photo by Nancy Meininger

Len and Dougie Ruble, one of the very first resident couples of Williamsburg, are enjoying dinner out with the neighbors.

Williamsburg Neighbors

Nancy Meininger



The wizards plan to kick off the month on Saturday, Dec. 6, with a sold-out holiday dinner buffet at Stone Creek Grille. Transportation is being provided for residents who need a ride to attend. Along with a sumptuous meal, a silent auction will take place, featuring unique and entertaining items that will go to the highest bidders.

The second week of the month features the new monthly men’s lunch on Wednesday, Dec. 10, at noon at the Arbor Activity Center Card Room II.

Thursday, Dec. 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio II, is Williamsburg trivia night. The entry fee is A \$2 cover charge, awarded to the winning table.

The Williamsburg monthly dinner will be at Ivy on the Square at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 18.

Wrapping up the Christmas season will be a progressive holiday cookie ex-

change on Sunday, Dec. 21, starting at 2 p.m. at the home of Tom and Nancy Meininger, 9044 SW 91st Circle. What to expect? Music, an opportunity to visit with your neighbors over a cup of frothy Christmas magic, and some light nibbles. If you have company, bring them. At 2:45 p.m., you will move on to stop number two, next door, the home of Deanne Sanders and Mike Below. Feel the Christmas love all around! At 3:30 p.m., you will move on to your final stop next door at the home of Frank and Gwen Fabian. Share your holiday memories from this day and from the past!

Carmel Kessler and Gwen Fabian, the planners of the ongoing events, have come up with a unique end to end a busy 2025. We will celebrate New Year’s Eve around the world, starting at 6 p.m. with a French twist. Participants are encouraged to wear their sparkles and bring an appetizer dish to share. The event will take place at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio I. As we wait for the “ball drop” in France at 6 p.m., we know it will be hours before we can celebrate in Singapore! By using these times around the world, we can avoid the traditional American midnight, as many of us will be hugging our pillows by then!

OneBlood Bloodmobile

Sara Sommer



December is the month of giving. What better gift to give than the gift of life? The Big Red Bus® will be here on Monday, Dec. 1, so you can do just that. It will be parked in the Recreation Center parking lot from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Be sure to eat a full meal and drink plenty of water both before and after donating. You will receive a \$20 e-card to use at many local businesses.

There is still time to make an appointment –simply log in to OneBlood.org. Search for the On Top of the World drive on Dec. 1, select your time, and press enter. A confirmation email will be sent in a few minutes. If you do not want to make an appointment, walk-ins are always welcome.

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Active Newcomers Club

Linda Baker



It's the most wonderful time of the year! The Active Newcomers Club is busy with year-end activities, reorganizing our board, and planning for 2026.

The hiking group is enjoying the cooler weather. They hiked at Silver Springs State Park on Saturdays, Nov. 8 and Nov. 22. Watch our Facebook page for information about future adventures.

The club would like to thank Pam Brown and members of the Bocce Club for providing 48 members with a great introduction to bocce on Thursday, Oct. 30. Everyone enjoyed meeting new friends and learning more about the game.

Tickets for our holiday party are almost sold out! The party will be on Friday, Dec. 19, in The Lodge at Candler Hills Ballroom. Pasta Faire is the caterer. The meal will consist of garden salad and rolls, chicken Francese, eggplant rollatini, pasta, and vegetables. Guests will enjoy cookie trays for dessert. Be ready to dance with entertainment provided by Tim Hargis. Check our Facebook page or website for ticket availability for this bring-your-own-beverage event.

The Active Newcomers Club annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 21, at 5 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Event Room. The 2026 board will be presented, and 2025 activities will be reviewed. We hope to see you there.

The lunch, dinner, wine, and foodies groups will not be meeting in December or January. New groups will be formed based on 2026 membership and will start meeting in February. Active members of the 2025 wine groups will be gathering at The Lodge at Candler Hills on Jan. 9 for a bring-your-own-beverage event. Watch your email for more information.

Membership applications for 2026 are now available at activenewcomers.org. All current members who wish to continue to enjoy club activities must complete a new application. New members are also welcome. Membership is open to anyone who has lived in the community for four years or less. Once you join the club, you can be a member for four years. Residents must present a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.



Photo by restaurant staff

Active Newcomer members love dinner groups!

We have improved our application form, making it fillable on your tablet or computer. Type in your information, print, sign, and send in your form today! (Handwritten forms will also be accepted.) When selecting the groups you want to join, please keep in mind that each member of the wine, foodies, lunch, and dinner groups must host an event at least once a year. Wine and foodies groups are hosted in members' homes (you tell the lead how many people you can host), while lunch and dinner hosts select restaurants and coordinate attendance.

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



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- Vendor Village for shopping
- Food trucks and bar
- See Clydesdales being ridden as well

Book your tickets online today and save. Visit:

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Tickets start at \$25/person



Photo by Rocky Pizzarello

CERT members Dee Dee Pressley and Zen Butao-Reda are ready for children in their game booth at The Town Square at Circle Square Commons.

Community Emergency Response Team

Jane Belz

Members of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) recently traded hurricanes and tornadoes for piles of candy and costumed children as they helped organize, plan, and staff the annual Marion County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) Halloween Party at the Circle Square Commons.

Jon Fiedler lent his meticulous map-making skills to the event, figuring out where games, candy booths, and all the trucks and equipment from MCSO should be set up. Everything from the K-9 unit to the mounted police and their horses to an airboat and a giant crane was set up for children and their parents to visit and learn more about how MCSO keeps the community safe.

There were also lots of games to play and prizes to win while children trick-or-treated around the various booths staffed by community groups, including CERT. Members pitched in with delivering candy to the booths, helping children with the games, preparing hot dogs for the hungry trick-or-treaters, and directing traffic in the parking lots.

More than 12 pallets of candy and treats were handed out at the event, and members enjoyed the chance to interact with the children and see their costumes. All of the 17 CERT members who participated enjoyed the opportunity to assist the community during the annual festival. “This is so much fun!” exclaimed CERT member Dee Dee Pressley, who assisted with the game booths during the event.

CERT is a nationally recognized program through FEMA, and we are trained locally by the Emergency Management Division of MCSO and supported by On Top of the World. Members attend an initial five-week class on Saturdays and receive training in light search and rescue, damage assessment, basic first aid, and hazardous materials, preparing them to assist our community during a disaster. Ongoing education and drills are conducted through our monthly meetings.

Attend one of our meetings to learn more. We do not have a meeting in December. In 2026, we are changing our date to the second Wednesday of the month and are moving our meeting location to the Hobby Building Event Room. Our first meeting of the year will be on Wednesday, Jan. 14. Applications for training and additional information are available at each meeting. For more information about CERT or upcoming meetings, please email ontoptheworldcert@gmail.com.

Community ham radio operators can assist us from home by tuning into Simplex frequency 146.565. When deployed during a disaster event, we need neighborhood reports on building damage, blocked roads, medical emergencies, and other vital information. Our ham radio operators meet at our designated Command Center and establish contact with Marion County Emergency Management. For information regarding ham radio operations, contact Bruce Twiss at brucetwiss@yahoo.com.

Democratic Club

Mark Miller

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

Our October meeting focused on our preferred charity, the Ocala Ritz Veterans Village, and featured Stephanie Vranich as our speaker. Our club has supported the Ritz for many years. Who doesn’t want to support previously homeless veterans? The club filled three SUVs with donations at that meeting! And the timing was great – our last meeting before Veterans Day!

We held our inaugural mini-golf tournament on Saturday, Nov. 8. Participants included members of the Marion County Democratic Executive Committee and our Democratic Club. As they say, a good time was had by all.

Our November meeting featured Meghan Bowman, a repeat presenter from Your Florida and WUSF. Your Florida is a reporting project that aims to help residents understand how state government works.

A reminder, we do not have a meeting in December.

We continue to support the Ocala

Ritz Veterans Village. The veterans residing there need our support for many items we all take for granted. Priority for donations is laundry detergent. Other required items include pillowcases, twin-size sheets, twin comforters, a 1.7-cubic-foot refrigerator, a small microwave, men’s razors, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, lotions, shaving cream, and toilet paper. The following food items are needed: canned meat, canned chili, ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese, microwaveable rice, boxed milk, cereal, canned fruit, crackers, individual snacks, and coffee. They do not need clothing except for shoes. Please bring your donated items to our meeting.

If you are unable to attend any meetings, please let us know, and we’ll do our best to deliver your donations to the Ritz. Alternatively, you can drop them off before the meeting starts. If you’d like, you can go online and have the items delivered directly to the Ritz. Please email us to get the shipping address, etc.

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

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

If you couldn’t be at our November meeting, we look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026.



Photo by Dan Lack

Members who took part in our inaugural Mini-Golf Tournament enjoyed the morning and the camaraderie.

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Dinner, Drama, and a Good Cause

By Heather Tahan

The SPCA of Marion County held our first annual murder mystery dinner theater fundraiser in November, featuring two performances. “The Haunting at Weybourne High” for the 136-seat-per-show sold out in record time. A big thanks go to On Top of the World, our local merchants, and the Murder Mystery Theater Club for their overwhelming support of our mission to help needy pets in Marion County.

The original play, “The Haunting at Weybourne High,” was written and performed by the Murder Mystery Theater Club, who graciously donated their time to help our club’s cause. Each couple received an SPCA logo “swag-bag” filled with goodies and gifts from local merchants. Also, 26 gift baskets were raffled off with contents ranging from spa items to golf packages. The evening ended with each table taking turns guessing who the murderer was. If you missed this year, don’t worry. This will be an annual event.

In addition to the holidays, December is a busy month for supporting pets in Marion County. SPCA of Marion County is sponsoring giving trees again at Arbor Fitness Center, Recreation Center, The Landing, and Indigo East Fitness Center. These donations help pet owners in need, especially senior pet owners receiving Meals on Wheels.

We are humbled to be the featured charity for Women of the World in December (thank you!). Instead of our monthly member meeting in December, we will host a holiday luncheon for our members at the Stone Creek Grille on Tuesday, Dec. 9, at 11:30 a.m. The fixed-price menu is \$25 per person and includes an entrée (six to choose from), a drink, tax, and tip. Please bring a check or cash, as credit cards are not accepted.

Please note that, as of Jan. 1, 2026, the SPCA of Marion County will have a new name but will still have the same mission. We will be known as “Friends of SPCA” or the operational arm of the charity. SPCA of Marion County will continue to be the umbrella 501(c)(3) non-

profit but will be supported by this official On Top of the World club, “Friends of SPCA.”

Also, please note that our monthly member meetings will now be held in the Recreation Center Lounge on the third Thursday at 1 p.m. Our first 2026 monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, Jan. 15. Make it your New Year’s resolution to get involved in animal welfare and join Friends of SPCA. Please attend a meeting to check us out.

If you love animals, please consider joining the SPCA of Marion County, a 501(c)(3) organization that helps Marion

County pets in need. Drop by our table at the Circle Square Commons Farmers Market on Thursdays. To learn more, please visit [SPCAofMarionCounty.weebly.com](#), follow us on Facebook (Marion County FL SPCA), or email [spca.marion.county@gmail.com](#).

Donations of pet food and supplies will be accepted at the porch of Evelyn Sarns Holiday, 8880-C SW 94th St, Ocala, Florida 34481. To avoid accidental ingestion by a pet, please do not use staples to close open bags.

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



Photo by Marlene Hatch

Murder mystery dinner theater cast of “Haunting at Weybourne High.”

Stay Pawsitive

By Gail Morris

The Lions Club “Pawtastic” Halloween dog parade is over, and the weather cooperated on Tuesday, Oct. 28, allowing pets and parents to participate. Our event sponsors included the Poms Dance and Cheer Club and the SPCA of Marion County. The Poms sponsored the “most colorful” costume, or the costume that best showcased a cheerleader. Our fundraising chair, Lion Norma, developed a fun, interesting, and new way to introduce residents to our Lions Club. Thank you to all members who participated in this event.

Director Todd Belknap from Vets Helping Vets came to our club and shared with our members the needs of the Marion County veteran community and the services they provide. They are a stand-alone, donation-driven, non-profit organization. We were able to present him with a \$1,000 check for this important county organization.

At this writing, our services committee, led by Lion Eileen, is preparing to deliver 107 Thanksgiving meals. Our club members helped complete the meal packages with fresh produce donated by O’Steen’s Market, Walmart Neighborhood Market, and Sunrise Harvest. We are very fortunate to have these partners.

On Wednesday, Nov. 19, we completed the meals by gathering the turkeys

and non-perishable goods from Super Walmart. We delivered them to several of our school families (Dunnellon, Saddlewood, and College Park Elementary), Ocala Ritz Veterans Village, and Vets Helping Vets. This year, we were able to expand our donations to meet the greater need because of the success of the casino night fundraiser.

Our current community services event is our annual Toys for Tots Christmas tree, which is on display in the lobby of the Recreation Center. This year, you’ll find our tree decorated with candy canes instead of tags. Please bring a toy for any child aged newborn to 12 years old, leave it in the box, unwrapped, and we will deliver it to Toys for Tots. If you care to, take a candy cane in exchange for the toy. The last date for donations is Tuesday, Dec. 10.

We have been increasing our membership over the past few months and are always looking for folks who would like to participate in the services we provide to our community. If you are interested, come to the Arbor Conference Center Event Room at 5 p.m. We meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Enjoy our company and learn about our club.

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



Photo by Eileen Andrepont

One of the participants in the the Lions Club “Pawtastic” Halloween dog parade.



Photo by Nancy Stephens

Eastern bluebird.

Annual Christmas Bird Count

By Linda Monaco

In December, the Birding Group does not have an organized field trip due to our participation in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This year, the census in Marion County will be completed on Saturday, Dec. 20.

We will have three teams of observers traveling around On Top of the World, Sholom Park, Stone Creek, and adjacent streets looking for birds. They will begin their route about 7:30 a.m. The participating golf carts and cars will carry signs identifying them as CBC census takers. So, don’t be alarmed if you see people peering into your backyard and checking out your bird feeders. They aren’t really snooping, but they are on a mission.

Our 2025 team of CBC birders includes: Carol Rhinehart, Nancy Stephens, Liz Stakenborg, Laura Lasky, Debbie Fisher, Art Van Arsdale, Sue Lehman, Janet Amend, and Linda Monaco.

Why bother with an annual bird count? Researchers use CBC data to track patterns and answer a variety of questions, including habitat locations and the effect of climate change on bird

populations. In the United States, bird populations have decreased by more than one-third over the past 50 years. The main reasons are habitat loss, outdoor cats, pesticides/herbicides, and collisions with glass windows.

The bird census data will be aggregated across sites using the eBird app. This app allows users to easily record the birds they see in the field and link individual observations to those of other users in a global, online database. The app is free in your app store, and there are plenty of YouTube videos to help you become proficient with it.

How can you help? If you have lots of birds at your feeder in the days leading up to the count, please email [lmonaco47@gmail.com](#) so one of the teams can include your home in their travels. Include your address and phone number in the email. If you see lots of birds at your feeder or anywhere else in On Top of the World on Dec. 20, the day of the count, please text or call Linda Monaco at 214-587-0905. If you might be interested in participating in a future Christmas Bird Count, send an email to Linda Monaco. The team is always on the lookout for new members.



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Michigan Club

Nancy Meininger



Our meeting, Sunday, Dec. 7, features a homegrown Michigan gal with an incredible voice and a sleigh full of talent – Linda Sisco. Linda, from Holt, Michigan, near East Lansing, is a retired housing administrator. Her property management career spanned 35 years.

A Michigander of great accomplishment, Linda is a former Ms. Michigan and Ms. South Carolina. She was also among the top 10 candidates for Ms. Senior America in 2015. She has performed across the country and in the cruise industry.

We are so proud to have Linda Sisco at the mike singing holiday favorites to our membership! Please join us at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II for our holiday meet-and-greet at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 7.

We will have a grab bag gift exchange. Please bring a wrapped gift for \$5 or less.

Rhode Island Group

Judy Parisi



What do the songs “You’re a Grand Old Flag,” “Yankee Doodle Dandy,” and “Over There” have in common? They are all patriotic songs written by the late George M. Cohan.

Cohan was born in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1878. While born on July 3, he claimed his birthday was July 4th, making him like the Yankee Doodle Boy of his song. Cohan was flamboyant and talented, being an actor, singer, dancer, songwriter, playwright, and producer.

His parents were in vaudeville, and when he joined them along with his sister, Josephine, they were known as “The Four Cohans.” They toured from 1890 to 1901, spending summers at Cohan’s grandmother’s house in North Brookville, Massachusetts. His memories of these summers inspired his 1907 musical, “50 Miles from Boston,” and his song, “Harrigan.”

In 1901, Cohan wrote, directed, and produced his first Broadway musical,

If your name begins with A-K, bring a main dish casserole with protein; L-S a vegetable or salad dish; and T-Z a dessert.

Also, please bring your personal setups and beverage of choice. Alcohol is permitted.

In November, we were entertained by the Dulcimer Club, which has adopted a more contemporary sound, echoing some of today’s artists, even though it began in Appalachian America.

On the docket for 2026 is a surprise guest at our Sunday, Jan. 4, meeting. On Sunday, Feb. 1, 2026, Dee Collier, in full costume, will present the legend of Annie Oakley and how she became Central Florida’s sweetheart gunslinger. On Sunday, March 1, we celebrate leprechauns, rainbows, and blarney stones by wearing green with a wee bit of tongue-in-cheek trivia. Then, on Sunday, April 5, we salute the Detroit Tigers with our annual Coney Island hot dog barbecue. You won’t want to miss a one!

If you are from Michigan, went to college there, or visited your long-lost relatives, you are welcome at our meetings. Please call or text Nancy Meininger at 352-554-0757 for more information.



Photo by Nancy Meininger
Dulcimer Club plays Appalachian melodies with a contemporary twist.

many.

If your travels take you to Rhode Island, consider visiting the statue of George M. Cohan on Wickenden Street in Providence’s Fox Point section. You will be near Benefit Street, which boasts a “Mile of History,” featuring a myriad of 18th- and 19th-century homes with beautifully preserved Colonial and Victorian architecture. You will also find unique shopping, dining, and art galleries in an area popular with local artists, professors, and students from Brown University and the Rhode Island School of Design.

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



Photo by Judy Parisi
Statue of George M. Cohan.

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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Tech Tips from Bridgenet Communications

Shane Bobson
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Stay Scam-Safe: Smart Tips

Scammers are getting smarter, but so can we. Whether it’s a phone call, email, or social media message, fraudsters often target older adults with schemes that sound convincing but are designed to steal your money or personal information. Here’s how to stay one step ahead.

Trust Your Instincts – and Pause

If something feels off, it probably is. Scammers often create a sense of urgency: “Act now or lose your chance!”

Take a breath. Legitimate organizations won’t pressure you to make snap decisions or share sensitive information.

Be Wary of Unsolicited Contact

- Phone calls: Hang up on robocalls or anyone asking for money, gift cards, or personal details.
- Emails and texts: Don’t click on links or download attachments from unknown senders.
- Social media: Be cautious of friend requests from people you don’t know or messages that seem out of character.

Guard Your Personal Information

Never share your Social Security number, banking details, or Medicare ID unless you initiated the contact and trust the source. Scammers may pose as government agencies, tech support, or

even family members in distress.

Spot Common Scams

- Tech support scams: A pop-up or caller says your computer has a virus and asks for remote access.
- Grandparent scams: Someone pretends to be a grandchild in trouble, needing money fast.
- Prize scams: You’ve “won” a contest you never entered – but must pay fees to claim it.
- Romance scams: A new online friend quickly professes love and asks for financial help.

Strengthen Your Defenses

- Use strong, unique passwords and change them regularly.
- Enable two-factor authentication on accounts when available.
- Keep your devices updated with

the latest security patches.

- Consider a call-blocking app or service to reduce spam calls.

Talk About It

Scammers thrive on silence. If you’re unsure about a message or call, talk to a trusted friend, family member, or community resource. Reporting scams helps protect others too.

If you suspect a scam, report them to:

- Contact the Federal Trade Commission at reportfraud.ftc.gov.
- Call your local law enforcement or AARP Fraud Watch Network at 877-908-3360.

Staying safe doesn’t mean living in fear – it means staying informed, connected, and confident. You’ve got the wisdom and life experience to outsmart scammers. Let’s keep our community safe, together.

Technology Club

Chris Kilbride



Every Saturday at 9 a.m., the Ocala Tech Club meets for an hour through our weekly online Zoom meeting. We aim to help resident members stay informed about the ever-changing technology surrounding us through discussions on Android, Windows, and Apple devices, including current issues. OcalaTechClub.org offers a wealth of valuable information about our group.

The holidays bring a time to reflect on the past year. Shopping for family, friends, and ourselves for the new year is also prevalent during this season, whether in-store or online. For one resource to help in this purchasing spree, you might turn to barcodes.

On any product, you’ll see a unique

pattern of stripes and numbers. Optical readers can scan these codes to easily look up a product within a database.

Around the world, large marketplaces require online sellers to include product UPCs, EANs, ISBNs, JANs, or ITF-14 barcodes in their searchable databases. These five formats are known as Global Trade Item Numbers (GTINs).

The Universal Product Code (UPC) is used in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and many other countries, and it uses a 12-digit barcode format. European merchants and others worldwide use international Article Number (EAN). An International Standard Book Number (ISBN) is for every book edition and variation. JAN is the Japanese Article Number, and ITF-14 Interleaved 2 of 5 is used when products are sold in multipacks and different packaging configurations.

Great, so how does this help my quest? Entering a product’s barcode number will give you its name, manufacturer,

model number, photos, description, and reviews. You’ll find links to stores that sell it, more details, and competitive prices, making your buying decisions easier.

It is hard to compare prices when each company uses different words in the title. Fortunately, an older model, without the new features you want, will have a different barcode.

So search online for the exact item you’d like, and find the barcode in their product description. Then search online for free barcode lookup websites and enter all the numbers, including those before and after the lines. Or do an online search for the barcode number itself, and see what pops up. The links featuring online stores selling this item go right to that exact product, saving you lots of time.

Please be wary of unknown stores, links, or pricing that seems too good to be true. That low price temptation might lead you to an unsavory website.

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 Thursday in-person help sessions in the Hobby Building, where they can discuss issues with their Windows or Apple computers, smartphones, or tablets. In-person classes are held on the first Friday and Saturday of each month, with online Zoom meetings on other Saturdays.

What’s Cookin’?

Elaine Morrison



You won’t mind eating your veggies if you prepare them like this.

Sauteed Asparagus

- 1 pound asparagus, ends removed
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon low-sodium soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon crushed pepper

Combine all ingredients in a zip-lock bag. Mix well and add asparagus. Coat thoroughly, shaking the bag a few times. Then, in a warm pan or grill, cook for approximately five minutes on each side. They should be bright green and slightly crunchy.

Zucchini Parmesan Fries

- 4 zucchinis
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 cup shredded parmesan cheese
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 teaspoon paprika

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees. Line a baking sheet with foil and spray it with olive oil. Trim ends of each zucchini, cut in half crosswise, and then cut each half lengthwise into four strips for a total of 32 pieces.

Place on a baking sheet, spray with olive oil, sprinkle with salt, pepper, garlic powder, parmesan cheese, and paprika. Bake for 20 minutes until nicely golden. May be served with a red sauce.

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December 2 OTOW FAVORITES Dance to your heart's desire! 5 - 8 PM	December 3 BOOTS & BEATS Live music with a twist! 5 - 8 PM	December 4 APPEAL 5 - 8 PM	December 5 DBH 5 PM	December 6 HOLIDAY CELEBRATION 5 PM
December 9 OTOW FAVORITES Dance to your heart's desire! 5 - 8 PM	December 10 BOOTS & BEATS Live music with a twist! 5 - 8 PM	December 11 ZAC PETTY 5 - 8 PM	December 12 Pippen 5 PM	December 13 Lillian's 5 PM
December 16 OTOW FAVORITES Dance to your heart's desire! 5 - 8 PM	December 17 BOOTS & BEATS Live music with a twist! 5 - 8 PM	December 18 MARK RAISCH 5 - 8 PM	December 19 Fat 5 PM	December 20 Vasquez 5 PM
December 23 OTOW FAVORITES Dance to your heart's desire! 5 - 8 PM	December 24 BOOTS & BEATS CANCELLED	December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY TUNES CANCELLED	December 26 TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED	December 27 EXIT LEFT 5 PM
December 30 OTOW FAVORITES Dance to your heart's desire! 5 - 8 PM	December 31 BOOTS & BEATS CANCELLED			DOUBLE TIME WITH T.M. HARGIS 5 - 8 PM

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Freethinkers

Kathy Bell



“The greatness of humanity is not being human, but being humane.” – Mahatma Gandhi

To learn more about underserved and vulnerable groups, Freethinkers hosted Continuum of Care Manager Roberta Cincotti from Marion County’s Homelessness Initiatives on Sunday, Nov. 2. Their mission is to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. There is a wide range of support available for individuals, couples, and families who are only one paycheck away from losing their place of residence; supportive housing and medical assistance for those suffering from addiction and mental health issues who cannot manage housing by themselves; and also, importantly, aid for those who are already living on the streets or in the forest. Outreach workers must earn the trust of those who might benefit from available programs and also respect each individual’s right to refuse any services.

While Florida law does not criminalize homelessness, it does restrict associated activities by banning camping or sleeping in public places such as sidewalks and parks, so the county must provide temporary shelter. Primitive camping is permitted in the Ocala National Forest with some restrictions. Thanks to our volunteers who make time every week to care for the homeless by providing meals and sleeping mats, and thanks to those who donate food, clothing, and camping gear to make life a little easier for those who are unhoused in our community. We call it doing good, for good’s sake.

On Sunday, Nov. 16, Freethinkers held our third annual Friendsgiving. While food is always front and center at a potluck, we took time to socialize and express gratitude for our growing freethought community. We number well over 100 freethinkers and continue to grow every month.

The Freethinkers Club began in July 2023 with the specific purpose of creating a welcoming, safe, comfortable space where atheists, secularists, humanists, deists, agnostics, the nonreligious, religious skeptics, and those questioning faith traditions could gather to express views, question, and learn together. If this is a good fit for you and you would like more information, visit FreethinkersFlorida.com or email freethinkersflorida@gmail.com or just join us at our December meeting.

Our last meeting of the year will feature the presentation “The Shroud of Turin: Separating Fact from Faith” on Sunday, Dec. 7, 1 to 3 p.m., in the Hobby Building Event Room. Few artifacts have inspired as much fascination – or controversy – as the Shroud of Turin. It is the most studied object in history, examined through decades of scientific testing in fields from chemistry to forensics. Yet its deep religious significance makes objective evaluation difficult. Come hear our own Domenica Genovese explore what science has revealed, why debate still rages, and what mysteries continue to defy explanation despite rigorous investigation.

In 2026, Lars Andersen, renowned naturalist and expert on the ecology of Florida rivers, will be speaking on Sunday, Jan. 4. Mark your calendar!

Silver Rainbow Club

Jeanne Bennett-Bailey



Warm holiday greetings! Our final event of the year will be our annual holiday/Friendsgiving potluck on Wednesday, Dec. 3. Please check our website for details.

Congratulations to our new board: President Becky; Vice President/Treasurer Nan; Secretary John; Activities Teresa; Members at Large Don, Jim, Mary Ann, and Sanders!

We gather for coffee, food, and fun conversation at 10 a.m. every Wednesday at the Bob Evans near the Super Walmart. Come and join us.

The Silver Rainbow Club is a welcoming and affirming social group open to all. We are LGBTQ+ allies providing a space to gather, socialize, and enjoy each other’s company. We host various activities throughout the year, including coffee gatherings, luncheons, cookouts, dances, and other social gatherings. To get the latest information about all our events, visit SilverRainbowClub.com and our Facebook page (Silver Rainbow Club). Our annual club fee is \$10 per person.

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Joy in the Mourning

Deb Thompson



With anticipation and celebration of Thanksgiving, whether consciously or spontaneously, many folks develop an attitude of gratitude. This thankfulness seamlessly spills over to joy in one’s life and becomes contagious if conveyed to others.

So that was the game plan for the November luncheon. After our meal, the group was given a chance to share a joy they had discovered for which they were thankful.

Here was an exercise to validate the progress one is making and extend hope to their listeners. Encouragement was shared. Flexibility is a must in our group. Our new path in life encounters obstacles that need to be addressed, not buried.

This understanding group can pause to give ear. True, my agenda for the group is to find joy in our mourning, yet authenticity is necessary. My vision is for people to grasp hope in the midst of their hurt. To know their path can proceed from miserable to mediocre to ultimately magnificent!

December is here, and with that, we are approaching another luncheon! At this time, we will include our traditional crazy gift bag exchange. All for fun, but tissue will be on hand for those who want to cry over their silly gift! Gifts and giving are likely to be on our minds this time of year. Drawing on that, I propose our topic be about how our loved one was a gift to us. Stories and photos are welcome to exhibit our precious memories. Time will be reserved to focus on how to survive the holidays.

Four members recently enjoyed a boat excursion on the St. Johns River. All highly recommend this trip offered by On Top of the World. Another member recently organized a luncheon at a nearby restaurant. Seems like we eat a lot! I am very thankful for all the marvelous ways everyone in the club has contributed, each in their own unique way, that benefit all.

So that’s a snapshot of things the Joy in the Mourning Club is about. Here’s what we are not about. Not a dating service nor cry fess. No registration or fee required. Whatever position or reason

you find yourself in, know there are others to walk alongside you. You need not do this alone. I guarantee you will make a friend and have the opportunity to eat

lots of good food! Find us every Friday at the Arbor Activity Center Music Room from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Questions? Contact Deb 352-445-4860.



Photo by St. Johns River Boat staff

Joy in the Mourning friends enjoying an afternoon together.

Pennsylvania Club

Linda Casey



The Pennsylvania Club resumed the season with our annual Thanksgiving feast in November. A wonderful evening was had by all, reconnecting and sharing a special dinner, with lots of great conversation and a fun activity, not to mention the delicious food.

Please come out and join us for our Christmas party on Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 5 p.m. at the Candler Hills Community Center. You may bring a wrapped \$10 gift for the exchange if you wish. Hope to see you there!

For additional information, contact Lacinda Hobbs at hobbslw319@gmail.com.

Friends of Bill W Group



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

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Latinos Club

Silvia C. Garcia



¡Hola Amigos! Important reminder: the 2026 membership renewal fee of \$20 is due by Monday, Dec. 15. Please be sure to reply to Ivan Vazquez’s recent email, which includes detailed instructions for submitting your payment. We kindly ask all members to renew on time. Those who miss the deadline will be required to pay an additional non-member fee for upcoming events, as well as a \$5 late re-statement fee.

Karen Ramos sent emails inviting members to participate in “Mi Casa Su Casa,” a wonderful way for us to socialize and connect in the warmth of one another’s homes through small-group gatherings. Don’t miss the chance to be part of these fun-filled evenings – please respond to Karen’s email.

The “Parranda Navideña” group, which will be visiting club members in December, is still seeking musicians and singers.

The club hosted its first “Honoring Our Troops and Veterans” ceremony. Emotions ran high as stories of service and sacrifice were shared. The heartfelt event was led by our club’s vice president, Petty Officer First Class Ivan Vazquez of the U.S. Navy, whose words carried both pride and reverence. A special note of gratitude to Major Charles R. Dodge, U.S. Army, Retired, for his meaningful contribution that helped make the



Photo by Silvia C. Garcia

Latinos Club members during the Honoring Our Troops and Veterans event.

ceremony a truly memorable tribute. Congratulations to our newly elected board of directors members, Micky Crawford and Karen Ramos, whose dedication and leadership will help guide the club into another successful year. We also welcome Yamila Code as our new board advisor, bringing her insight and enthusiasm to the team.

Our social committee is now led by an outstanding group – Yamila Code, Micky Crawford, Vicky Pacheco, and Nilva Torres – whose teamwork and creativity promise to make our future events even more vibrant and engaging. Beatriz Kelemen will now serve as the social committee advisor, offering her valuable experience and guidance to the committee.

In addition, we extend a warm wel-

come to our new social committee members, Eileen Grier and Lourdes Rasco, whose enthusiasm and fresh ideas will add even more sparkle to our events. Last but certainly not least, Ceci Marsh, our new welcome ambassador, contin-

Southern Connection Club

Darlene Stevens



Christmas reflections and memories often shimmer with the warmth of simpler times –pumpkin pie, fruit-cake, hymns echoing through candlelit churches, and family and relatives gathered around long tables. The scent of pine from freshly cut trees mingled with the aroma of ham baking in the oven. The stockings “all hung with care,” and visiting grandparents with aluminum Christmas trees and light wheels.

What was your family tradition for decorating the tree and opening presents? Remember hand-making presents

ues to greet everyone with her bright smile and cheerful spirit.

Save the following dates for the first-half-of-the-year events. 2026 will be filled with events that will create new friendships and priceless memories:

- Tuesday, Jan. 6: Appleton Museum of Fine Art.
- Saturday, Jan. 24: Annual membership celebration and dancing.
- Saturday, Feb. 28: Wine tasting and dancing.
- Saturday, March 28: Greet, meet, rotate, and dance.
- Saturday, April 25: Oldiwed, Midwed, and Newlywed game and dancing.
- Saturday, May 30: Murder mystery dinner and dancing.
- Saturday, June 27: Luau Latino and dancing.

Weekly game nights and monthly dinners also continue throughout the year.

Be sure to visit our Facebook page (OTOW Latinos Club Ocala). Join us! For more information, call Silvia C. Garcia at 561-801-8188, Ivan Vazquez at 727-403-9629, or Micky Crawford at 352-207-7153.

for loved ones? Performing in the Christmas pageant?

Our Christmas wishes for all of you from Southern Connection are these: for health to hold on a little longer, peace in your life, love for yourself and others, wonderful friends, and happiness every single day. Christmas is not just a season – it’s a legacy of love, longing, and enduring hope.

Bring your wonderful memories to share with us at the next meeting of Southern Connection on Sunday, Dec. 14, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II. Bring a dish to share. For those wishing to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a gift of \$10 or less. Let’s make new holiday memories together. For more information, contact Bob Czopek at bobczopek@gmail.com or 904-540-1726. See you there.



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Lois Nix



SWANS is the acronym for Single Women Active Network System. Networking is strongly encouraged for our

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Lois Rowland



Our charity was the Help Agency of the Forest. It is a non-profit organization in Silver Springs that provides aid

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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Mal and Connie Press and Wayne and Raelynn Omel attend the Jewish Club meeting in October.

Travel Toppers

Mary Lamp



Travel Toppers Tours and its volunteers practice safety procedures for the residents of On Top of the World when participating in our tours. All residents (in golf carts and cars) are required to follow the direction of volunteers when entering and exiting the parking lot off 81st Loop. Anyone who does not follow the safety procedures will be denied a reservation on future trips conducted by Travel Toppers Tours.

Reservations for Travel Toppers trips can be made Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with the coordinators listed for each event. Reservations can be made for only two people at a time, and guests will go on a waitlist. As this is a resident club, the board wants to give the opportunity to attend first to our own residents, and if there is availability, guests from the wait list will be asked if they are still interested in attending the trip.

We are currently taking reservations for the Suncoast Dinner Theater production of “Come From Away” to be seen on Jan. 24, 2026. This is the story of the welcome the residents of Newfoundland gave those airplane flyers who were not allowed to fly further and were forced to land there after Sept. 11, 2001. To reserve your tickets, call Linda Uhley at 352-854-8536. Tickets are \$100 per person and include the performance, dinner and dessert, transportation, and tips for the driver and servers. Like all

our trips, payment must be made by check only and is nonrefundable unless there is a wait list. Two other Suncoast productions have been booked for 2026: “Miss Saigon” and “Rock of Ages.” More information on these will follow in a future column.

A trip to Tampa Bay Downs has been booked for March 21, 2026. It is their 100th anniversary. Our trip will include bus transportation, racetrack admission, a lovely buffet meal at the Skye Terrace, gratuities, and taxes. The cost is \$80 per person. The trip will depart at 9 a.m. and return at 6:30 p.m. If interested, call Sharon Stetson at 207-838-3776 beginning Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026. Please do not make calls on Mondays for this event.

An extended trip is planned for Sept. 18 through Oct. 4, 2026. Our “Get Your Kicks on Route 66” tour leaves from Chicago, then travels through eight states, ending in Los Angeles. The price is \$4,719 per person and includes escorted tours, accommodations, transportation from and to Ocala, prepaid gratuities, and travel insurance. The price does not include airfare. The deposit is \$649 per person with final payment due on June 30, 2026. Janet Wiles is your contact for this trip. Call her at 804-243-4008.

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

The Jewish Club

Bruce Kanner



With the Veterans Park pavilion serving as our figurative hut, about 50 club members and guests enjoyed the annual Sukkot Under the Stars wine, cheese, and fruit event on Thursday, Oct. 9. Member Andrea Wallet explained the Jewish agricultural holiday of Sukkot, when the Torah specifies the practice of dwelling and eating in the temporary dwelling called a sukkah, or hut. The club invited Jewish groups from Stone Creek, Oak Run, and Ocala Palms to join us for the event.

On Sunday, Oct. 19, club member Mark Robinson provided one of the most thought-provoking and talked-about presentations in recent club history when he spoke on the “Modern History of Israel and Divine Providence” at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. Robinson, who has been to Israel 32 times, is a frequent presenter at Master the Possibilities. He claimed that historical events in 1897, 1917, 1947, and 1967 showed “God is orchestrating history,” Robinson said. He used the 1st Zionist Congress in 1897, the Balfour Declaration in 1917, the partition of Palestine in 1947, and the Six-Day War in 1967 as evidence of God’s intervention in Israel’s history. “Historical chance or divine providence,” he asked.

Earlier in the meeting, no one raised their hand when Jay Wallet, at the start

of his moment in time, asked, “Who is related to Christopher Columbus?” Wallet went on to cite Professor José Antonio Lorente from the University of Granada in Spain, who in 2024 found DNA evidence that Columbus was Jewish. Wallet said both of Columbus’s parents were Jewish – although Columbus himself never claimed to be Jewish – and therefore was himself Jewish. “We are all related ... to Columbus,” Wallet said. “Good or bad, you have to claim Columbus as an ancestor.”

At the annual break-the-fast, the camaraderie and the buffet combined to make this year’s event on Thursday, Oct. 2, the success that members have come to expect. A few dozen members ended Yom Kippur with a traditional dairy meal donated by the attending members. The usual comfort foods included bagels, lox, cream cheese, onion, tomato, kugels, and desserts.

You do not have to be Jewish to belong to the Jewish Club. The club promotes understanding and respect for Jewish people and their history, customs, and culture through social and educational activities. Annual dues are \$18 per person.

For more information about the Jewish Club or for membership inquiries, please contact Audrey Wolotsky at audw27@gmail.com.

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World Traveler

Bill Shampine



I suspect many of you have heard of Patagonia, though you may be a bit fuzzy on where it is. First fact, Patagonia is not a country; it is a geographical region that encompasses the entire southern tip of South America. Although the region has been inhabited since about 10,000 BCE, early European exploration did not begin until Magellan went there in 1520.

A bit later, in 1534, Spain finally claimed the entire territory. The region’s boundaries have been contested by various groups ever since, particularly by Chile and Argentina. The latest agreement between these two countries was finally “resolved” in 1994 by the mediation efforts of the British Crown.

Personally, I think the origin of the name is interesting. Patagonia comes from the Spanish word patagón, which means “big foot.” Magellan used this term during his 1520 visit to describe the native Tehuelche people living in the region because they wore large, llama-skin shoes. Frankly, considering the weather in the region, it is easy to understand why they had very large shoes (trying to keep their feet warm!)

Patagonia is a beautiful land, with lots of mountains, lakes and streams, bays and islands at the tip of the continent, and lots of snow, ice, and glaciers.

Today, Patagonia is divided between

Scandinavian American Club

David Wesenberg



The Scandinavian American Club has begun another season of fellowship, conversation, and learning about our Scandinavian American brothers and sisters. Our club meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room.

On Tuesday, Oct. 28, this was the meeting of stories as members shared their experiences and artifacts over a light meal of Swedish delicacies. One special presentation was about the Swami people, reindeer herders in northern Norway and Finland. There were several fascinating pictures of these people, both in traditional roles and costumes and in modern settings.

Our November meeting was a smorgasbord celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas Scandinavian-style.

Yours truly comes from Minnesota, the state with the greatest Scandinavian heritage population in the USA. Smorgasbords have been very popular with churches, clubs, and restaurants. A lot of great food and camaraderie.

In our meetings, people share their experiences, hopes, successes, and

Genealogical Society

Sid Levine



The holiday season evokes memories of family gatherings filling out hearts with thoughts of good food, laughter, gifts, and togetherness. We recollect the good times we spent with our parents and grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, and close friends.

The Genealogical Society can help you document those good times. We can help you find historical records to get you started on your family tree, so you can share your family’s history with other family members and friends. It is a gift to yourself that keeps on giving.

Our club had a good year providing its membership with several informative programs designed to help us all locate and organize records and grow our family trees.

We meet on the third Monday of every month in the Hobby Building Event Room at 10 a.m. The meetings are also available via Zoom. If you are interested in joining us, please email otowgens@gmail.com.

We wish you all a wonderful and joyous holiday season and a happy and healthy new year.

Western Patagonia (Chile) and Eastern Patagonia (Argentina). However, several parcels of land remain in dispute, and each country continues to claim its perceived land rights. Western Patagonia is narrow and very mountainous with luxuriant vegetation. Eastern Patagonia is mostly a desert and a region of steppe-like plains, with very little vegetation.

It is now time for a short lesson in hydrology 101 (my profession). The high rainfall on the western mountains and the cold temperatures as winds rise over the mountains contribute to the massive ice fields and glaciers. Cold air cannot hold as much moisture as warm air, so it rains on the west side of the mountains, which leaves no more moisture in the air for the eastern side of the mountains. Thus, Eastern Patagonia lies in a rain shadow. The effect is that the rainfall in Western Patagonia ranges from 157 to 276 inches, whereas rainfall in Eastern Patagonia ranges from 31.5 inches to as little as 7.9 inches.

In the late 1800s, sheep farming was a principal component of the local economy. However, the decline in world wool prices and other factors seriously reduced the impact of sheep farming on the local economy. On the other hand, tourism has become an increasingly important component of the region’s economy. Historically, Patagonia was a remote backpacking destination, but times change. Today, the region is a big market for cruise ship stopovers while rounding Cape Horn on the way to Antarctica.

Frankly, visiting Patagonia is on my bucket list.

challenges. Are you at least part Scandinavian? Or are you just interested in the Scandinavian contributions to American society? What a great opportunity to hear and see from those who have experienced that immigration experience.

The Scandinavian American Club is a great place to enjoy fun, fellowship, and delicious Scandinavian food. Join us. We love to share the fun.

We will not meet in December. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, Jan. 27, at 1 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room.

Every meeting is an opportunity to learn more about our Scandinavian heritage and to share a meal and fellowship. For more information, contact Arlene Chilcott at 352-304-8779.



Photo by lamblukas

The “blue” ice delineates active glaciers in the Fitz Roy and El Chalten mountains in Patagonia, Argentina.

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Moonstruck Astronomy Club

Cammie Fairburn



What do you call an alien with three eyes? An aliiien!

In October and November, we had a visitor, comet c/2025 A6 (Lemmon). It was 46.5 million miles from the sun and will return in about 1,300 years. Comet Lemmon was discovered in January by the Mount Lemmon Survey in Arizona.

Sunday, Dec. 21 is the winter solstice in the northern hemisphere, and it is the shortest day of the year. The North Pole is at its maximum tilt away from the sun, so it is at its furthest distance from the sun, resulting in the shortest day.

At our club meeting on Thursday, Nov. 6, Ed Hayes recounted his October trip to the Deerlick Astronomy Village in Crawfordville, Georgia, about 100 miles east of Atlanta. He attended the annual Peach State Star Gaze.

The Deerlick Astronomy Village is rated as a Bortle scale three. The Bortle scale measures the night sky’s brightness on a scale of one to nine, where one is the darkest and nine is the brightest. The scale was created by John E. Bortle in 2001. Ocala is a Bortle scale six.

Glenn Cohen, in his moon minute presentation, got us pondering about

what the Earth would be like without the moon. The moon affects more than ocean tides, which would be much smaller. The moon’s gravitational pull also affects the length of our day. Without it, the Earth would spin faster, resulting in six to eight-hour days.

The moon also helps stabilize the Earth’s 23.5-degree tilt. Otherwise, the Earth would wobble more, leading to changes in our seasons and climate. The absence of the moon would also lead to darker nights and loss of both solar and lunar eclipses.

Our next meeting is Thursday, Dec. 4, and it will be our annual Christmas party. The club will provide the meal. Please bring your own beverage and a dessert to share.

Regular meetings of the Moonstruck Astronomy Club are on the first Thursday of every month from 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. All residents and Gateway of Services pass holders can join the club, and new members are welcome! Club dues are only \$20 per year, and they include a subscription to the quarterly Reflector Magazine.

For information or club registration, please contact club President Jim Di Paolo at moonastroclub@gmail.com. More information is always available at moonstruckastronomyclub.org.

Keep looking up!



Photos by Phil Karcheski

Fusarium wilt (left) and downy mildew (right).

Eco Gardeners

Phil Karcheski



This month, I’m highlighting common and persistent problems in Florida gardens – molds, fungi, and viruses.

Symptoms observed may be yellowing, black or brown spotting, curling, white powdery growth, and more. For identification, I use Google Lens; another option is Apple’s Visual Intelligence app to determine your course of treatment.

Combat mold and fungus in your vegetable garden with a combined approach of prevention through cultural practices and treatment using organic fungicides. Prevention is key. Fungal diseases thrive in cool, damp, and humid conditions. Your primary defense is to reduce moisture and improve air circulation.

Water properly: Avoid overhead watering. Use drip irrigation or soaker hoses to water the soil directly, keeping foliage dry. If you must use a sprinkler, water early in the morning so the leaves dry quickly in the sun.

Improve Airflow: Space plants adequately to allow good air circulation. Prune dense foliage, especially in vining plants like tomatoes and squash, to open up the canopy.

Sanitation: Remove and destroy all infected plant parts immediately. Do not compost severely infected debris. Clean up all crop residue at the end of the season.

Crop Rotation: Change the location of susceptible crops annually. Wait at least two to three years before planting the same plant family in the same spot. This disrupts the fungal life cycle in the soil.

Resistant Varieties: Choose vegetable varieties listed as resistant or tolerant to common local diseases when purchasing seeds or starts.

Examples: PM (powdery mildew), F (fusarium) wilt, A (anthracnose), or EB/LB (early or late blight).

Organic Treatment Options

For existing or developing infections, apply treatments safely.

Baking Soda Spray: Mix one tablespoon of baking soda, one teaspoon of vegetable oil, and a few drops of mild liquid soap into one gallon of water. Spray infected leaves thoroughly, ensuring the undersides are covered. Apply weekly, but test a small area first, as high concentrations can burn foliage. Potassium bicarbonate is often considered more effective and safer than sodium bicarbonate (baking soda).

Neem Oil: An extract from the neem tree, this oil works as a fungicide, insecticide, and miticide. Mix it with water and a mild emulsifying soap according to label directions. It is highly effective against powdery mildew. Avoid applying when temperatures are above 90 degrees or in direct hot sun.

Copper and Sulfur: Organic fungicides containing copper or sulfur are available at garden centers and provide broad-spectrum control. They work by preventing spores from developing and are best used as a preventative measure or at the first sign of disease. Always follow the product label instructions carefully.

Always apply sprays when the sun is not directly on the plants (early morning or evening) to prevent leaf burn and ensure complete coverage for maximum efficacy. Repeat applications are often necessary to protect new growth.

For more garden ideas, join our Facebook page (OTOW Eco Gardeners) or visit Eco-Gardeners.org.



Photo by Jim Di Paolo

Comet c/2025 A6 (Lemmon).

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Photo by Cammy Dennis

Line dancers in the Recreation Center Ballroom.

Step, Slide, Smile

By Joe Spencer

Line dancing offers many benefits, physical, mental, and social. We dance to all types of music. Line dancers become one big family of friends.

Learn the newest dances that are being done all over the world, as well as some of the classics. Throughout the year, we will have line dance socials where you can dance the dances that you learn in these classes to their original music. The next social with a holiday theme will be on Sunday, Dec. 21, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. The next one will be on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026, in the Arbor

Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV from 1 to 4 p.m.

January/February is the next session of classes. Tickets are on sale Tuesday, Dec. 2, through Friday, Dec. 12, on the OTOW app. Each session is eight weeks of classes. Levels are Improver (noon to 1 p.m.), Beginner (1:15 to 2:15 p.m.), and Absolute Beginner (2:30 to 3:30 p.m.) These three levels are on Mondays in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Each class is \$25 per person (for eight one-hour classes). Joe Spencer is the instructor for these classes. Email joeship1@yahoo.com with any questions.

Intermediate level line dance classes are on Tuesdays, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II with Weber Wen (\$50 per person for eight two-hour classes). This is the next level up after Improver. In this class, you may also learn low intermediate dances, which are almost the same level as Improver. Email yfwen@yahoo.com with any questions.

You may purchase as many classes as you wish. Many dancers take more than one class. Please keep in mind that if you join a new level mid-year, you will want to focus on learning the new dance(s) taught and move forward. Some of the dances reviewed may be from previous classes, but you will catch up eventually.

If you are a brand-new line dancer, the level to start is Absolute Beginner. Practice sessions are on Wednes-

days at the Arbor Conference Center. We are also excited to announce another line dance workshop with lunch in 2026 with two well-known choreographers/instructors. The workshop in October 2025 with Cody Flowers was such a fun event with over 100 line dancers of all levels in attendance. More details to come.

Some of the line dancers will also be performing at the Health & Wellness Expo at Circle Square Cultural Center on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026. Come cheer us on. This is a great opportunity to see if you would like to try this.

We offer four levels of classes, practice sessions, line dance socials, authentic workshops, themed parties, classes, and more. No partner needed. Come join the fun.

Game, Set, POP

By Beth Smith

Looking for a great way to stay active and meet new friends? Join the POP tennis crew at The Arbors' lower tennis courts!

POP tennis is an easy-to-learn paddle sport played on a shorter court that offers all the action and excitement of traditional tennis – but with a slightly softer ball that makes rallies longer and play more accessible for everyone. It's fun, fast-paced, and perfect for players of all ages and abilities.

We play every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday starting at 8 a.m., and everyone is welcome – from first-timers to seasoned players.

Want to improve your game? We also offer coaching sessions for all skill levels. To schedule a lesson or learn more, contact Brenda Foster at brenda@gcfon-line.com.

October brought out some competi-

tive spirit with our Funky Fall Tournament, and we're thrilled to congratulate our champions – Sandy Stroll and Rich Benedict – who were crowned the queen and king of the court!

And that's not all – we've added evening play under the lights! Join us every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. to burn off those holiday treats and enjoy a fun night on the courts.

Don't forget to grab your club T-shirt featuring our brand-new logo! Made from breathable dry-tech fabric, these shirts come in both short- and long-sleeve options.

For general inquiries or to order your shirt, contact Shizuka Campagna at shizukacampagna@gmail.com.

Come out, play hard, and be part of our growing POP tennis community at The Arbors – where every game is a good time!



Photo by Beth Smith

Rich Bendick and Sandy Stroh win the October Funky Fall Tournament.



Photo by Beth Smith

Group dons their T-shirts with the new logo.

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Golf

Matt Hibbs
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The golf staff would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. Candler Hills Golf Club is officially open after a six-month renovation. Our team has been hard at work re-grassing tees, fairways, and putting surfaces with top-tier TifWay and TifEagle Bermudagrass – for smoother, more consistent play from tee to green. Please come out and experience the updated Candler Hills Golf Course today.

We will kick off the season with our third annual World Naughty or Nice Event on Friday, Dec. 12, at Candler Hills and The Links. The format will be two-person teams 6/6/6. First six holes best ball, second six holes alternate shot,

Men’s Golf Association

John Yenne



As of early November, Golf Genius showed that 258 players had logged 4,617 rounds of golf in the Men’s Golf Association (MGA) this year. That means each member has played, on average, about 18 rounds of golf with the MGA.

With a few weeks left in 2025, the top prize-winners are Philip Petrozella, Rich Sievers and Carl Zeiler.

Over 70% of our members have played 10 or more rounds, and the title of most dedicated player in 2025 goes to Norm Hayworth, who has logged an incredible 43 rounds of league play. Our member participation spans the full spectrum:

- Ultra-Committed (30+ rounds): 53 players (20.5%).
- Committed (20-29 rounds): 49 players (19.0%).
- Regular (10-19 rounds): 80 players (31.0%).
- Occasional (1-9 rounds): 76 players (29.5%).

Who’s making the most of their time on the course? The top earners on a per-round basis include Ron Ouellette, Randy Keller,

and last six holes scramble. Register as a twosome, and we will pair you based on your team’s handicap.

The golf staff would like to remind everyone to register or renew their 2026 golf memberships. If you’re renewing your membership or considering joining for 2026, please make an appointment by calling Margarita Rosario at 352-854-2765. We encourage everyone to register early in December, as the membership office will become very busy as we get closer to Jan. 1, 2026. Operating hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Need some gift ideas for the holidays? Well, we will be having our annual holiday sale from Monday, Dec. 8, through Wednesday, Dec. 31. There will be special discounts on apparel, golf bags, golf shoes, clubs, hats, gloves, and be sure to check out Santa’s lucky leftover table. If you spend \$100 in one transaction, you will be entered into a raffle to win a new golf bag.

David Hannasch, Mike Lane, and Robert Jorgensen.

Scoring excellence (average scores, minimum 10 rounds) goes to Kent Johnson (73.1 gross) and John Spielvogel (69 net). So, here’s to a strong finish in 2025 and an even better 2026!

To continue participating in our weekly events in 2026, please submit your \$25 membership dues by year-end.

You can access the most up-to-date data by going to the 2025 OTOW MGA section of Golf Genius and clicking on “Player Statistics.” Board elections will be on Chicken Day, Wednesday, Dec. 3.

For upcoming events and a tip of the month feature, visit otowmga.com.

Please note the following Wednesdays on your calendar.

- Dec. 3: Chicken Day Scramble (The Links)
 - Dec. 10: Team Stableford (The Tortoise & The Hare)
 - Dec. 17: Individual Quota Points (The Links)
 - Dec. 24: No play (Christmas Eve)
 - Dec. 31: Individual Net Score (The Tortoise & The Hare)
- Chicken Day Scramble**
Nov. 5

The Links Flight: 53–Anthony Morris, Bob Epps, Bob Lieberman, Denis Bricker. 54–Larry Skoch, Dale Budd, Mike Benes, Leonard Ruble. 55–Eu-

World Accolades

THE TORTOISE & THE HARE: Roger Sucece, hole-in-one #15. Larry Skoch, hole-in-one #8. John Sutherland, hole-in-one #8.

THE LINKS: Jeff Richardson, eagle #7. Andy Selkregg, shot his age 77. Dave Hannasch shot 76, one stroke under his age. Rudy Normandin shot 71, 15 strokes under his age. Shelly Karsnitz, eagle #18.

Congratulations to all for these fine accomplishments.

Upcoming Events/Holiday Hours

- Friday, Dec. 12: World Naughty or Nice Event, Candler Hills and The Links, 9 a.m. shotgun start.
- Wednesday, Dec. 24: Closing at 2 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 25: Closed.
- Wednesday, Dec. 31: Closing at 3 p.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026: Closing at 2 p.m.

Golf Tip of the Month

You hit your second shot in a greenside bunker; you need to get up and down to save par and win the match. You step up to the shot, dig your feet in, and take a swing. Next, you look up to see the ball sailing clear across the green. Does this sound familiar?

This is a common mistake that all golfers make. Most are defeated before they even set foot in the bunker. Bunker shots should be easier than any other shot in golf. The reason is you’re not actually trying to hit the ball.

When hitting a greenside bunker shot, you should open your stance and club. Swing a little harder than a typical shot from the same distance and try to hit an inch behind the ball. Never decelerate your swing. This will allow your club to dig into the sand, forcing the ball to pop out nice and soft. Next time, step into that bunker with confidence, trust the shot, and win the match.

gene Paradis, Marvin DeBerry, Omer Fannin, Bill Kenyon. Tie at 56–Rick Schriewer, Rino D’amico, Dennis Kissen, Paul Randles: Steve Parker, Thomas Parkinson, Philip Petrozella, Tary Bole: John Herman, Joe Aldridge, Mike Kurlakowsky, Bruce Venslavsky; Ray Kallai, Jim Bobowski, Gregg Keidel, Curt Bingham: Garfield Gray, Percy Millet, Gary Hassett, Donald Wheeler; Doug Buckler, Vernon Kessler, Bigelow Robinson, Richard Ross. The Tortoise & The Hare Flight: 54–Jerry Williams,

Guy Stiebing, Gerry Messenger, Gerald Schneider. Tie at 55–William (Bill) Truby, Ruben Alvarez, Ed Vasoli, Marvin Jendro; Norm Hayworth, Jay Bouton, David Hannasch, Harry Pelley; Philip Shaw, Greg Dietrich, William Cope, Bruce Rothenberg. 56–Robert Coughanour, Stephen Scott, John Spielvogel, Robert Fuqua. Tie at 57–Kevin McGuinness, Terry Hubbartt, Paul Stoecklin, Kenneth Gove; Patrick Nagy, Mike Ball, Bruce Green, David Green. 58–Robert Walker, Rick Deroven, Roger Sparks, Carl Zeiler.

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Ladies 18-Hole
Golf Association

Jo Della Penna



Congratulations to Sharon Fairclough, the LGA-18 champion, with a two-day total of 153!

LGA-18 Championship
Oct. 7 & 14
Gross

Flight 1: 154–Sandy Snyder. 161–Lisa Free. 166–Christine Giza.
Flight 2: 177–Marcella Nunez. 180–Page Falconer. 182–Beverly Ovrebø.

Candler Hills
Ladies 18-Hole

Beth Wolinsky



Welcome back, Candler Hills! It’s great to be back on this course again. It’s in good condition, so kudos to the entire staff for such a fantastic job done in the time promised.

We have two new members: Mary Smith and Rhonda Tyler. Welcome, ladies. We look forward to playing with you both.

The Member/Guest will be held on Friday, Dec. 5, and Saturday, Dec.6. If you wish to sign up, please do so in the Golf Shop.

The holiday/awards dinner for both 18-hole golf associations will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 10. The cost is \$25 per person. Please RSVP by Monday,

Flight 3: 179–Karen Schroeckenthaler. 182–Jill Strey. 186–Kathleen Goodwin.
Flight 4: 183–Ellen Brinn. 191–Brenda Hoffmann. 191–Judie Anderson.

Net

Flight 1: 142–Lori Pizzini. 146–Lind Taylor. 150–Laurel Staiger.
Flight 2: 156–Gayle Lagrange. 157–Virginia Combs. 160–Judi McGuiness.
Flight 3: 148–Katie Schriewer. 152–Janette Sheil. 158–Debby Wilson.
Flight 4: 145–Robyn Atwood. 150–Marla Bennett. 164–Christine McIntire.

Member + Pro One Best Ball Net
Oct. 21

Flight 1: Tie at 68–Falconer + Pro, Pizzini + Pro.

Dec. 1. You may pay online or in the Golf Shop, using red envelopes. It’s always a fun evening, so we hope to see everyone there.

As the weather changes, so does our golf attire. We’ll still have those warm days, but the mornings are cooler, and warmer clothing can be required. Have you ever thought about what women wore when they first started playing golf? Crinolines, bustles, petticoats, and long skirts and jackets are certainly a far cry from today’s golf apparel. That was definitely more restrictive than the fleece, spandex, and forgiving, cooling fabrics we wear today. Thank goodness we live in modern times.

The Candler Hills LGA-18 is open to any woman who is a resident. If you wish to join, please email our president, Janette Sheil, at sheiljanette@gmail.com. It’s a good way to meet some new ladies and play golf.

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

70–Aldridge+ Pro. 72–Lagrange + Pro. Tie at 73–Boston + Pro, Karsnitz + Pro.
Flight 2: 67–Schroeckenthaler + Pro. 70–Nunez + Pro. Tie at 72–Strey + Pro, Schriewer + Pro. Tie at 73–Bivins + Pro, Jones + Pro, McGuiness + Pro, Woolery + Pro.
Flight 3: Tie at 70–Goodwin + Pro, Wilson + Pro. Tie at 71–Noltensmeyer + Pro, Sheil + Pro. Tie at 72–De Matteo + Pro, Cho + Pro.
Flight 4: 67–Hofmann + Pro. Tie at 71–Hartman + Pro, Wiechman + Pro. 72–Chin + Pro. Tie at 73–Isacc + Pro, Mullineaux + Pro.
Flight 5: Tie at 73–Ropel + Pro, Williams + Pro. Tie at 74–Brunell + Pro, Robison + Pro. Tie at 75–Lemesh + Pro, Lukas+ Pro, Randour + Pro.

Halloween Scramble

Cycling Club

Nick Arkon



Modern bicycles look far more advanced than those of a few decades ago, and much of that evolution stems from professional road racing. The peloton has long served as cycling’s laboratory, where the demands of speed, endurance, and safety have driven innovations that now benefit everyday riders.

Helmets: For years, racers wore thin leather “hairnet” caps that offered minimal protection. That changed. Today’s designs – lightweight, ventilated, and highly protective – are standard not only for professionals but also for commuters and recreational cyclists.

Shoes and Cleats: In the 1980s, racing legend Bernard Hinault helped popularize clipless pedals. This system allowed riders to “lock in” to their pedals, transferring power more efficiently through each stroke. What began as a pro innovation soon spread to fitness and commuter bikes, making smooth, efficient pedaling accessible to all.

Brakes: For more than a century, rim brakes ruled the road. But as racing speeds increased, better stopping power became essential. By the 2010s, disc

Oct. 28
Tie at -18–Page Falconer, Debby Wilson, Linda Taylor, Rosann Ross, Lisa Free, Connie Sohl, Barbara Vincent, Donna Townsend. Tie at -16–Sharon Fairclough, Cho Yulan, Connie Norris, Renee Anchors, Peggy Ellenberger, Joann Della Penna, Donna Isaac, Margie Williams. -15–Virginia Coombs, Patty Whitely, Nancy Skoch, Brenda Hofmann. Tie at -14–Mary Jeannotte, Liz Pruss, Susanne Mullineaux, Jana McElroy, Gayle Lagrange, Joyce Jones, Jane Hall, Joy Geradi, Gayla Aldridge, Janette Sheil, Peggy Wiechmann, Terry Lemesh, Lori Pizzini, Karen Schroeckenthaler, May Chin, Carol Carney.

People will not remember what you said or what you did, but they will remember how you made them feel. Be kind on the course.

brakes began appearing in the professional ranks, offering superior control in rain and on steep descents. After UCI approval in 2018, disc brakes quickly became common on consumer bikes, giving everyday riders reliable stopping in all conditions.

Gearing: Early racers tackled climbs with only a few gears, demanding brute strength over finesse. Driven by professional needs, drivetrains evolved into 10- to 12-speed systems with compact chainrings, making hills more manageable. Electronic shifting, once a costly pro-only feature, now allows riders everywhere to change gears with effortless precision.

From helmets to gears, brakes to cleats, the comfort and safety of modern cycling trace back to the professional peloton’s relentless pursuit of performance. Every commute or weekend ride today carries the legacy of racing’s drive for progress.

Wheeling Around the World Club members meet on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 8 a.m., located at Power Park (intersection of SW 90 Terrace Road & SW90 Street). Contact Dan Oakes at 401-663-7085 or Dennis Cicotte at 561-339-3588 for specific details about membership, group rides, and destinations.

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

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R/C Car Club

John Schoenherr



“I feel the need, the need for speed.” – Maverick and Goose from “Top Gun”
These sentiments are also expressed by the R/C drivers who race in the touring class at the outdoor R/C car track.

Ron Kaulfersch holds the fastest single lap speed in the club at 13.806 seconds. This is very fast. Compare it to the fastest NASCAR single lap speed of 21.312 seconds. Where classes like NASCAR and Sportsman are also designed for the average skilled drivers, the timid need to beware of entering the touring class.

Racing in the touring class is not an inexpensive hobby. Several of the drivers have the ARC Chassis, which sells for \$600. Add a 5.5-turn motor and ESC for \$250, and the sport is getting into the \$1,000 range. Another popular chassis is the Serpent S411, priced at \$325 ready-to-run. The standard motor in the S411 is a nine-turn motor, so to be competitive, an upgrade to the 5.5-turn motor and ESC will be necessary.

Purchasing a car is only the beginning; tuning and testing are a labor of love for touring class drivers. Hours are spent preparing the car before each race. To properly set up a car, a set-up station is required. Hudy is a popular brand and costs about \$200. A set-up station precisely sets camber, tow, castor, and steering throw.

Of course, we must talk about tires when discussing precision driving. If you want hours of entertainment, just ask a driver what tire they prefer; the responses are intense and will vary by driver. When I talked to the drivers for this column, they were running on Carrelli foam tires. However, track conditions may dictate otherwise. Each driver comes to the race with a full supply of different tires and is known to change them between races.

If the “need for speed” is your passion, then racing in the touring class is your choice. For the rest of us who lack the skills required to run 13-second laps, the NASCAR and Sportsman classes are just fine. Although we still push our cars and abilities to the limit because, admit it or not, we also feel the need.

Slot car drivers meet every Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center

Weight Loss Group

Laura Gavey



Happy holidays! December is the hardest time of the year to keep your weight in check. A wide variety of foods are available that we don’t see all year long. You want to eat them, and that’s okay. You do not always have to say no. There are ways to eat what you want and still meet your weight loss goals. That’s where we come in.

Weekly, we review different scenarios that you can use to meet your goals. Healthy cooking, recipes, exercise, and tips are shared. Follow the food plan that works for you! It can be difficult to navigate, but we are here to provide help. Join the On Top of Weight Loss Group. Many of your friends and neighbors are already attending one of the groups, making better food and exercise choices, and reaching their goals!

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

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

Wellness Cancer Support Group

Robin Storch Scheraga



The group has disbanded. Please contact me directly if you need information about local or Zoom cancer support groups, or general treatment support. My contact information is listed in the telephone directory.

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Photo by John Schoenherr

Touring drivers with their cars: Terry Altman, Bob Herbst, Ron Kaulfersch, and Chuck Frederick.

Dance Studios I-II. R/C outdoor racing is every Wednesday and Saturday at 1 p.m. at the R/C car track. Legend car racing is every Thursday at 10 a.m. at the R/C car track.

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

October

Traxxas – Dave Johnson. Two-wheel buggy –Chuck Frederick. Four-wheel buggy – Sam Murphy. Pan car – Dave Johnson. Touring –Terry Altman. Two-wheel truck – Ron Kaulfersch. Four-wheel truck – Bob Melzer. Limited – Mike Main & Hank Henne. 17.5 –Dave Johnson. Sportsman – Larry Ericksmoen. Truggy – Rean Morse. NASCAR–Larry Ericksmoen.

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R/C Flyers Club

Ray Ihlenburg



It’s Christmas time once again. And what a great time to be in Florida with cooler days and crisp nights. Some of our best flying weather happens during our winter months. It is also a great time to build that new model under the Christmas tree.

Since the weather forced the cancellation of our Fall Fly-In, the club decided to have our own fun-fly on Saturday, Oct. 18, complete with events of flying skill (luck) and great food. Alex Fedelle was the event coordinator and designer. The event included the bomb drop, the limbo, and the milk run. His field assistants were Steve Bilcher, Dan Gaffin, Ray Ihlenburg, and George Sisti.

There were 29 for lunch, including the 10 pilots competing for prizes in the following three events.

The Bomb Drop: Strap a Dixie cup to the model, place a golf ball in the cup, fly over the target, and drop the golf ball. Closest to the target flag wins. Steve

Armstrong took the best bomber award with a slow roll to dump the golf ball.

The Limbo: Fly under the limbo tape at six- and three-feet above the ground. Additional points if flown upside down or inverted. Bob Krull won this challenge ... not sure if he was inverted – very likely.

The Milk Run: Doug Nasto had the best milk run time close to the two-minute target. He touched his plane to start timing, then immediately took off to circle the field twice, landed, and touched the plane to stop the timer. He was really hustling.

Our Spring Fly-In is in the planning stages, as is our next club fun fly. It will be announced just as soon as the date is established.

The club’s dues are coming in for 2026, and the club has just over 200 members. Becoming a member and a pilot is pretty easy and can begin with any of the following methods in any order. Visit otowrcflyers.com, come out to the field and talk with one of our members, or attend a club meeting at 9 a.m. on the first Monday of each month in the Hobby Building Event Room.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good flight!



Photo by Kenny Graham

The bomb drop set up.



Photo by Kenny Graham

The limbo – how low can you go?



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Tennis Club

Walter Galas



Doubles tennis and ballroom dancing share a surprisingly similar spirit, especially for seniors seeking physical activity and social connection. Forget the difference in grunting; both pursuits offer the thrill of movement, partnership, and mastery.

Consider the word “love.” In tennis, it means zero, a starting point. “Love-fifteen!” might be exclaimed with a groan after a missed shot. In contrast, a dancer sighs, “Oh, I love the waltz!” with profound emotional significance. While one denotes an absence of points, the other signifies an abundance of feeling. Both ignite a passion within their participants.

Whether you’re executing the rhythmic sway of a cha-cha or chasing a lob on the court, the core movement principles are alike. Think of the precise footwork of a tango versus the sprints and pivots of covering the alley. The lateral shuffles, sudden adjustments, and synchronized motion with a partner – be it for a Viennese whirl or a baseline cross-court – require remarkably similar muscle memory. In both, you are constantly adjusting, anticipating, and reacting to your partner’s cues.

Partners are the foundation of both endeavors. In doubles, you are a dynamic duo, strategizing, communicating (even through exasperated hand gestures), and celebrating together. You learn to anticipate their moves and cover their weaknesses. The same trust and understanding are paramount in ballroom. A good dance partner is an extension of yourself, guiding and supporting. You learn to trust their lead and forgive the occasional misstep, both on the court and on the dance floor. The unspoken chemistry is what creates a



Image generated by Domenica Genovese

Walter Galas and Domenica Genovese.

beautiful tableau, whether it’s a victorious volley or a perfectly executed dip.

Finally, there is the sheer joy of execution. Imagine a flawless tennis point – a harmonious symphony of serves, volleys, and smashes – that ends in a triumphant high-five. The same elation washes over a dancer who nails a complicated lift or glides effortlessly through intricate steps. The feeling of accomplishment is a shared experience, a testament to teamwork, practice, and a healthy dose of competitive or artistic spirit.

Whether you prefer the ping of a racket or the melodious strains of an orchestra, remember you are engaged in a sophisticated dance. One just involves a fuzzy yellow ball and a bit more sweat.

If you’d like to waltz around the court with us, email Brenda Foster at brenda@gcfonline.com.

Top Pickleball Club

Teresa J. Armstrong



December is here, and there is much hustle and bustle to get things done. Don’t forget to take time out to enjoy this wonderfully cooler weather and get on the courts. Saturday, Dec. 13, will be the annual meeting of the Top Pickleball Club. New officers will be voted on, and other information will be discussed.

In October, we had the opportunity to vote for our preferred court allocation. Amazingly, the outcome was a tie, and the board had to decide. It was decided to continue the current court allocation and have another vote in January. Who would have ever thought the votes would be even? Wow!

The holiday season is in full force, and it might be time to think of gifts for your pickleball enthusiasts. There are lots of ideas to choose from. Some of the more popular ideas this year, according to Amazon, are: pickleball drink coasters, specialty paddles, Franklin X-4C balls, a crocheted pickle, a thermal drink holder gift set with key ring, socks and a straw cleaner, pickleball backpacks, towels, ball picker uppers, charcuterie boards, LED glowing pickleballs, cooling vests, ornaments, and the list goes on. There is no shortage of gift ideas. You can always circle your favorites and leave the article somewhere to be found by your favorite elf!

Pickleball is so much fun, and being in a social atmosphere makes it a great time to learn and meet new friends and neighbors. Top Pickleball Club would love to have you come out and give it a try. Every Monday and the first Saturday of each month, the training team holds a 10:30 a.m. PB101 class for new residents and beginners. No need to register, just show up at the covered lower courts and be ready to have fun. Please note that activities may change due to holiday schedules. Please visit toppickleballclub.com for more information on classes and joining the club.

I believe pickleball is a relatively safe and fun sport. There are many ways to increase your personal safety while playing, and our training team explains these and others at the beginning of every class. For example, wear court shoes (not running shoes), always wear eye protection, stay hydrated, never backpedal, and don’t be a hero (it’s only a point), since we are a social club and we focus on having fun.

Remember to save the dates for the Battle of the Paddle 2026, coming Feb. 27 through March 1, 2026.

Events will also be posted at toppickleballclub.com and on our Facebook page.

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Ohio Buckeyes Social Club members Ron Labbe, Amy Ingram, Tami and John Rossignol at the Halloween party.

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Ohio Buckeyes
Social Club

Amy Ingram

The logo for the Ohio Buckeyes Social Club, featuring a red circle with a white outline of the state of Ohio inside. The text "Ohio BUCKEYES SOCIAL CLUB" is written around the circle, and "Est. 2022" is at the bottom.

On Friday, Oct. 31, the Ohio Buckeyes Social Club held a Halloween party. There were many great costumes, good food, fantastic music, and lots of laughs. Our next social event will be our annual “Holly Jolly” party on Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Candler Hills Community Center. This catered dinner event will be filled with lots of holiday cheer, festive music, wonderful food, and friendships.

Archery Club

Robin Schiltz

The logo for the Archery Club, featuring a blue circle with a white outline of an archery target inside. The text "Archery Club" is written around the circle.

The Archery Club was excited to be part of a new, upcoming marketing video for On Top of the World. Quite a few of our members gathered at the range for the filming, filling the shooting line. With a drone soaring overhead and cameras rolling, we aimed and let our arrows fly. Members also gave video testimonials, sharing what the archery range means to them. Keep your eyes peeled for our smiling faces and a few perfect shots – coming soon to a screen near you. Mark your calendar for our holiday lunch social taking place at the range on Tuesday, Dec. 16, starting at 12:30 p.m. This follows our monthly archery workshop, which starts at 10 a.m. Sonny’s BBQ will cater a delicious lunch. Meal tickets are just \$5 for members and \$10 for guests. Tickets go on sale soon, so keep an eye on your email for the details. It’s that time of year again: renew your club membership and keep the fun going for another great season. We’ll start accepting renewals at the general club meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 9. You’ll also find us at the range or Sid’s Coffee Shop & Deli on select days from mid-December through early January. Watch your email for more information. The Archery Club manages the range at Veterans Park and welcomes archers of all skill levels, from novices to competitive. Plenty of equipment is available

The current board will finish out its term with the annual membership meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026. This will also be the time for existing and new members to either renew or join our club. We are looking for members to step up and volunteer for board and social committee positions. Please reach out to a board member if you are interested in serving. If you are not a member and would like to join, email us at buckeyefans34481@gmail.com. Membership is open to residents with any ties to the state of Ohio. Annual dues are \$20 per person. Also, look for us on Facebook (Residents of On Top of the World Buckeye Social Club).

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 top shape. In addition, we have practitioners of the traditional martial art of kyudo, which emphasizes the archer’s spiritual and mental development. Kyudo’s slow, deliberate movements help practitioners achieve mental focus and inner harmony. To learn more about this meditative archery discipline, stop by the range during the kyudo archer’s practice time every Wednesday from 2 to 4 p.m. except the fourth Wednesday of the month when kyudo practice is held at Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio IV from 4 to 7 p.m. For more information, contact Brenda Foster (brenda@gcfonline.com). Each Friday, we host “Freestyle Friday” from 9 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 great opportunity to meet members, learn more about archery, and have fun. For a quick introduction to the club, stop by. We offer a variety of archery workshops during the year for club members. Patty Hoppe hosts “Archery Fundamentals and Shooting” workshops at the range on the third Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. Topics vary monthly, and a fun shoot is held after each workshop. For more information, visit otowarcheryclub.org or contact us at info@otowarcheryclub.org. As always, keep it in the yellow!

Call of the Wild
Sports Club

Scott Bloch

The logo for the Call of the Wild Sports Club, featuring a stylized orange silhouette of a deer or antelope.

Instead of a meeting, the club held a picnic at the Veterans Park. Over 55 attended. We were entertained by Wednesday’s Rain, a classic rock band. All had a great time. Many of the freshwater lakes in the north-central area have been drawn down for the winter. This makes fishing harder. Still, crappie and blue are being caught. Just be patient. Out in the Gulf, red and black fish are being harvested, and so are hog fish. All great-tasting fish. There are gun shows throughout this central area. The next meeting is Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026, in the Hobby Building Event Room. Dues are \$15 per year. Visit cotw.springly.org. Have a happy holiday season. May there be peace and joy. May you catch your limits, whether fish or fowl, or deer.

Cornhole Club

Ray Nault

The logo for the Cornhole Club, featuring a circular image of a cornhole board with a blue cloth draped over it.

The men’s league is still on track to begin play on Friday, Jan. 2, 2026. We currently have enough players for eight teams, but have room for four more. If you are interested, please contact Ray Nault at rnault85@gmail.com. The open play hours on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday changed: equipment is set up at 4 p.m. for practice, and league play starts at 4:30 p.m. If more than 20 players show, they will have the option of waiting for the first available court (which usually doesn’t take very long) or playing in the grassy area next to the regular courts. We welcome players of all skill levels, including beginners and those new to the game. We offer a beginner’s class to learn the techniques and rules of cornhole on the first Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. To register for the class, please contact Linda Nault at Lnault52@gmail.com.

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Fitness Happenings

Leslee Stephens
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leslee_stephens@otowfl.com



As 2025 comes to a close, it’s the perfect time to reflect on what an incredible year it’s been for fitness and wellness across On Top of the World! From new programs and updated class schedules to the energy and enthusiasm residents have brought to every session, this year has been nothing short of inspiring.

At The Lodge at Candler Hills, live classes (wellness offerings schedule) have truly taken off, especially the recent Total Body class featuring the loop band! Residents showed up ready to move, challenge themselves, and have fun. This class combined strength, balance, and flexibility training in a format that was accessible and effective for all fitness levels. It’s been wonderful to see participants encouraging one another, celebrating milestones, and leaving class feeling stronger and more confident each week. That sense of community is what makes On Top of the World so special!

Several exciting enhancements were made to the group exercise schedule this year to serve residents better. The goal has always been to provide variety, accessibility, and quality instruction, so everyone can find something they love. Whether it’s strength training, aquatic fitness, yoga, or dance-inspired cardio, there’s truly a class for every interest and ability level.

The Arbor Fitness Center has been just as vibrant! Classes have been added throughout the week to meet growing demand and create more opportunities for residents to get active. The positive feedback from these changes has been wonderful, and it’s been great seeing so many familiar faces, and new ones, taking advantage of all that Arbor has to offer. Resident participation fuels continued success and helps build a program that reflects what this community values most: movement, motivation, and meaningful connections.

Looking ahead, 2026 is shaping up to be another exciting year! The upcoming January through June “Life in Motion” catalog will feature a fantastic lineup of special events, themed fitness weeks, and workshops designed to keep residents inspired and moving. From new specialty classes to community-wide challenges, there’s something for everyone to look forward to. Be sure to look out for your copy of the catalog and mark your calendar, these events are not to be missed!

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to every resident for the dedication, enthusiasm, and feedback shared throughout the year. Community input continues to guide program development and

Billiards Club

Phil Panzera



We hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving and is getting ready for a joyous holiday season. Our main club league will end next Tuesday, and after that, we’ll have a few tournaments before the end of the year. We have some new ideas that you might like, so be sure to look out for tournament announcements in your email and on flyers in the pool room.

Sign-ups for our next league start in

Shuffleboard

Walt Lamp



The courts are done! They are playing on the slow side, and only future playing will eventually solve the problem. But they are open for play. We are not keeping monthly scores, at least for a while.

October

30-plus: Bill Weir, Scott Lyons, & Steve Steinman.

Our free instruction class will still be held on Saturday, Dec. 13, at 11 a.m. at the courts. Paul Hodges will continue as the instructor. He will highlight the rules, scoring, safety, and the basics of disc shooting. Open-toed shoes are not permitted.

Guests are still permitted to use the courts. The equipment box, with all the equipment needed, is still outside our main equipment room, next to the courts.

CONSERVATION FUN FACT

Florida burrowing owls have 50 acres of designated conservation area, planned to ensure that their nesting areas are not disturbed during land development. On Top of the World builds artificial burrows to give them alternate nesting sites when new developments are started.

On Top of the World

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DECEMBER 2025 FITNESS

RECREATION FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	SPARC ULLIAN	Step DANIEL	Remix Bootcamp BUZZY	Step DANIEL	SPARC BUZZY
8:00 am <small>Recreation Ballroom</small>			Intermediate/Advanced Tai Chi ART		Dance Cardio AMY
9:00 am	S.O.S. RONA	Stretch, Flex & Balance ULLIAN	S.O.S. JOHN E.	Sculpt ULLIAN	S.O.S. DANIEL
9:00 am <small>Recreation Ballroom</small>	Chair Pilates ULLIAN		BEAT LORE M.		Stretch, Flex & Balance ULLIAN
10:00 am	Balanced Body LARRY	Chair Yoga ULLIAN	Balanced Body ULLIAN	Chair Yoga ULLIAN	Balanced Body ULLIAN
10:00 am <small>Recreation Ballroom</small>	Chair Yoga SANDRA		Chair Yoga SCOTT		Chair Yoga SCOTT
11:00 am	Get Fit While You Sit LESLIE	Brain Power SP TEAM	Get Fit While You Sit JOE		Chair Dance AMY
11:00 am <small>Recreation Ballroom</small>	Dance Aerobics LORE M.		Zumba® Gold AMY		Dance Aerobics LORE M.
12:00 pm		Parkinson's B.A.S.E. CINDY		Move to Improve Parkinson's SUE	NEW! SATURDAY ROTATION: Saturday 12/6/25 S.O.S. 9 am @ Recreation Center Saturday 12/13/25 Chair Yoga 9 am @ Recreation Center
1:00 pm		Chair Chi ART		Beginner/Intermediate Tai Chi KAREN	
3:00 pm	VYP Chair Yoga JOE	Balanced Body LORE E.	Chair Yoga ULLIAN	Balanced Body CINDY	
5:00 pm		Candlelight Yoga FRED		Candlelight 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	Inferno HIIT GIB	STRONG BUZZY	Inferno HIIT RONA	STRONG ULLIAN	Core & More JOHN E.
9:00 am	Yoga SANDRA	Pilates Fusion GIB	Yoga JOE	Pilates Fusion LORE	Yin Yoga RELAND
10:00 am	STRONG JOHN E.	STRONG DANIEL	STRONG GIB	STRONG BUZZY	STRONG JOE
11:00 am	Yoga SCOTT	Yoga SANDRA	Yoga TISHA	Yoga LORE M.	ABC Yoga TISHA
4:00 pm	Muscle Fit WCAA	Strong and Steady WCAA		Interval Training WCAA	Dance Fit WCAA

Arbor Fitness Center Hours: Monday-Friday 5:30 AM - 8:30 PM; Saturday 7 AM - 8:30 PM; Sunday 9 AM - 7 PM
*Fitness Orientations are on Thursdays at 1:00 pm. These are free but space is limited. To schedule an appointment, please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7638.

ARBOR FITNESS CENTER INDOOR POOL

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
5:30 am	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming
7:00 am	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim
8:00 am	Water Walk	Water Walk	Water Walk	Water Walk	Water Walk
9:00 am	**Deep Water Aerobics LARRY	**Shallow Water Aerobics SUE	**Deep Water Aerobics TISHA	**Shallow Water Aerobics DANIEL	**Deep Water Aerobics SUE
10:00 am	Open Swim	**Shallow Water Aerobics SUE	Open Swim	**Shallow Water Aerobics DANIEL	Open Swim
11:00 am	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming
12:30 pm	Aqua Aerobics Club	**Shallow Water Aerobics DANIEL	Aqua Aerobics Club	**Shallow Water Aerobics DANIEL	Aqua Aerobics Club
1:30 pm	Open Swim	Water Volleyball Club 1:30 - 3:30 pm	Water Volleyball Club 1:30 - 3:30 pm	Water Volleyball Club 1:30 - 3:30 pm	Open Swim
2:30 pm	Open Swim				
3:30 - 8:15pm	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim

Open Swim: Saturdays 7 AM - 8:30 PM; Sundays 9 AM - 7 PM
**Fee-based class For pool inquiries, please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7639.

ery resident for the dedication, enthusiasm, and feedback shared throughout the year. Community input continues to guide program development and

growth. The Fitness team values hearing ideas, experiences, and suggestions that help make On Top of the World a place where wellness thrives.

Let’s finish the year strong, stay active, and keep that On Top of the World spirit alive, because when we move together, we thrive together!

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Country
Line Dancing

Judy Sullivan



Dancing has a way of becoming part of you. Once it's in your heart, it never really leaves. Whether you're in a ballroom, your kitchen, or halfway across the country, somehow the rhythm finds you. You might hear a familiar song and catch yourself tapping your foot or snapping your fingers. Maybe a tune comes on that you've danced to before, and without even thinking, you remember the steps. Before you know it, you're moving with the music, smiling to yourself, and feeling that familiar spark of joy.

Recently, I took a short vacation – just a few days to unwind and recharge. I didn't expect anything particularly eventful; it was meant to be a quiet getaway. But as often happens in life, dance has a funny way of showing up when you least expect it.

While relaxing in the whirlpool at the resort, I struck up a conversation with two friendly women sitting nearby. As we chatted, I discovered that they were both line dance instructors – one from Pennsylvania and the other from Connecticut. What are the chances? It turns out they had been to that same resort before and were back for another visit. They mentioned that a local bar nearby was hosting a dance that very night.

Well, you can probably guess what happened next. Later that evening, I

found myself walking into that lively bar. I joined in, met some new faces, and learned a couple of dances I'd never seen before. There's something about dancing with a new crowd in a new place – it reminds you that this love for movement truly connects people everywhere.

What struck me most was how familiar it all felt, even though the faces and the setting were different. The steps varied slightly, and the local dancers had their own spin on the routines, but the spirit was the same. Everyone was friendly, welcoming, and happy to review the steps for anyone new to the floor. Within minutes, we were all moving together, laughing and enjoying the

Sidekicks
Western Dance

Richard Gautier



Sidekicks, a partner pattern dance club, continues to bring dancers together each week to enjoy movement, music, and camaraderie. Whether you're just starting or have some dance experience, Sidekicks offers a welcoming environment where couples can learn fun, easy-to-follow dance patterns without needing to focus on leading, following, or improvising.

Dancing provides more than physical exercise – it nourishes the mind and spirit. It can reduce stress, improve memory, and enhance posture and balance. Most importantly, it builds con-

nection and trust between partners.

Classes meet every Tuesday in the Recreation Center Ballroom. The Beginner class with Janet and Sean Amend runs from 4 to 4:50 p.m., followed by the Beginner Plus/Improvers class with Peggy and Alex Eizans from 5 to 6 p.m. Each session focuses on learning and relearning our popular dances.

For those wanting additional floor time, an open practice is held on Sundays from 5 to 6 p.m. in Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios III-IV.

Every four weeks, the club hosts an all-level dance on Tuesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. The next gathering is on Tuesday, Dec. 9, with a holiday party theme and offers everyone an opportunity to come together, dance what they've learned, and celebrate their progress in a relaxed, social atmosphere.

our classes, please check out the OTOW App. It opens on the first Tuesday of each month and runs for 10 days, closing on the second Friday of the month.

For more information, visit our Facebook page (OTOW Country Line Dancing with Judy). The YouTube channel is Country Line Dancing with Judy. If you are interested in dancing and have any questions on how to sign up, please email CountryLineDancingWithJudy@yahoo.com.

Line dancing and waltz both bring laughter, exercise, and joy. Whether you come for the music, the movement, or the friendships, there's a place for you on the dance floor. I hope to see you there!

Our website has a new look and now has connected dance step sheets and video links for your perusal. These will allow members to practice on their own or refresh their memories on dances over time.

Sidekicks continues to be a place for connection, movement, and shared enjoyment. New dancers are always welcome – no prior experience required, just a partner and a love of fun. Partner dancing is a great way to stay active, meet new people, and keep both body and mind engaged.

For details, questions, and registration information, email Sidekicks at partnerdancesidekicks@gmail.com. You may also visit partnerdancesidekick.wixsite.com/otow or our Facebook page (Sidekicks Partner Dance). We can't wait to see you there! Join the fun and keep dancing with Sidekicks!

Ballet

Eugenie Martin



The Ballet Club is ending the year by celebrating the holidays and welcoming some new members and teachers. Our new dancers come from the Club Fair, friends of existing dancers, and World News readers.

While we're sad to say goodbye to one of our teachers, we're delighted to welcome Cheryl Sloan, who helped start the Ballet Club in 2006.

Our classes are all free, with the exception of a \$5 registration fee, which puts some money in our "kitty" to buy new equipment, make an offering in the name of a family member, or buy someone a gift. As far as I know, the Ballet Club is the only place in Ocala that provides classes at all levels of adult ballet (except pointe classes). In addition, we charge nothing.

Here is our schedule in January 2026:

- Introductory/Beginner: Thursdays, 1 to 2:15 p.m. with instructors, Eugenie Martin and Cheryl Sloan.
- Advanced Beginner: Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. with instructor, Cheryl Sloan.
- Technique: Wednesdays, 1:15 to 3:30 p.m. with instructors Susan Stewart and Cheryl Sloan.
- Intermediate: Fridays, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. with instructor, Liz Liberman.
- Intermediate: Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. with instructor Cheryl Sloan.

All our classes are held in the Arbor Conference Center Studio D.

If you want to begin class without ballet leotards, tights, or shoes, that is not a problem. Just wear form-fitting exercise clothes and socks. And remember to bring something to drink.

For more information, please call Eugenie Martin at 352-854-8589. Happy dancing!

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9 am

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#16289-11/25

Jazz Dance Club

Liz Elliott Lieberman



“Dance is poetry with arms and legs!” – Charles Baudelaire

The fabulous Jazz Dance Club Ovation Dancers performed in the murder mystery, “The Haunting of Ashford High,” at The Lodge at Candler Hills in October. They also rocked around the clock at The Landing in November.

On Tuesday, Nov. 11, we performed the exacting and mind-boggling number, “Favorite Son” from the Broadway show “Will Rogers Follies” in the Recreation Center for Veterans Day, also known as the day World War I ended. It was on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month that the guns of war ceased, and peace was signed in 1918. In 1954, the name of Armistice Day was changed to Veterans Day to honor veterans of all U.S. wars. Thank you for

having us, Charlie Calhoun and the Veterans Club.

We will step ball change into the holiday period when the Ovation Dancers will perform at the Recreation Center’s holiday show on Friday, Dec. 19. Hope to see you there when Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer, will be running amok with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Then perhaps we will take a few days off to celebrate the holiday and forget about watching our waistlines!

Plans are exciting for next year. If you are interested in dancing with us, please come check out our classes and rehearsals every Monday from 10 a.m. to noon in the Arbor Conference Center Studio D. You are welcome to come and watch a class with an appointment.

I am planning a beginner jazz dance class in 2026, and times will be posted in next month’s column.

Wishing all residents a very happy holiday season and a healthy, joyous 2026.

For any additional information, please contact Liz Lieberman at Lizzy-lieberman@gmail.com or 702-378-6300.



The Ovation Dancers in “The Haunting of Weybourne High.”
Photo by Percy Millet

Broadway & Tap Dancing

Elaine Voorhis



Wow, what a busy month October was! We enjoyed performing for a Longleaf Ridge gathering, our end-of-session recital, and last but definitely not least, Bridgewater and Brookdale. We even did a quick performance at The Town Square! There was quite a variety of crazy looking ghouls skulking around, and I’m not referring to the audience!

Speaking of the audience ... thank you all so much for coming out to support us. Our Halloween recital attendance broke our previous record of 80 spectators for last year’s holiday recital. There were witches, prom queens, two Wednesday Addams, and how can we forget Cousin Itt! Who was that under all that hair? We hope you enjoyed our show. We were so happy to see everyone. You energize us!

In November, we prepared for our performances during the upcoming holidays. In December, we’ll be back to entertain the residents of Brookdale and Bridgewater again, plus strut our stuff at the December Women of the World

meeting. What an honor to perform for such a great group!

Looking forward to 2026, we’re also reviewing our routines for the Health & Wellness Expo. This event is always so exciting! It’s scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 24, at Circle Square Cultural Center. We are performing at 11 a.m. Come out and whoop and holler for us like last year’s crowd. What a blast that was!

If you would like to attend our holiday recital, mark your calendar for Friday, Dec. 12, at 1 p.m. Also, watch for postings on several of our community Facebook pages. For those of you who

have never attended one of our end-of-session recitals, it’s very informal and lots of fun. The Broadway classes learn a new dance during our seven-week session. At the end of that session, we perform it. That means we have six weeks to master it. The tap dancers, many of whom are also in the Broadway classes, join in and perform their routines too.

On the day of the recital, we review our dances several times before the audience arrives. We may practice it again if necessary, before our magician/photographer, Steve Warren, videos us and makes us look good! We work very hard

on these routines both at our weekly class and practice. Many of us also practice at home and possibly while standing in line at Publix or in the aisles of Walmart! We’re a very dedicated group and take pride in what we do. We hope it shows and makes our audiences smile.

Just a reminder, we’re available to perform for your club, neighborhood gathering, or event. If you’re interested, contact Broadway Moves with Penny (Tap and Broadway classes) at broadwayandtap@yahoo.com. We’ll be happy to answer any questions you might have about our classes or performances.



Broadway and tap Halloween recital.
Photo by Steve Warren

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Poms Dance & Cheer

Pamela Kalamaras



Poms Dance and Cheer worked hard this past November, performing at many events, not only at On Top of the World but also in the Ocala area. We also honored our veterans through patriotic-themed performances.

In the past few weeks, you may have seen us at the Veterans Classic Softball Tournament, where we performed right by home plate with our patriotic medley. And, for Veterans Day, we had a special presentation in the Recreation Center Ballroom. We consider it an honor to perform for all the men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces.

On Sunday, Nov. 16, we supported the Ocala community by opening the second annual Veterans Day Car Show, hosted by the Ocala Blue Star Mothers, with our patriotic performance.

We have our annual holiday dinner and secret Santa exchange on Thursday, Dec. 4. Then, on Wednesday, Dec. 10, we are looking forward to performing our new trio of holiday dances and cheers at the annual Holiday Fest in the Recreation Center Ballroom. This event starts at 5 p.m., so come early to get a seat and enjoy the impressive talent in our community.

If you would like Poms Dance and Cheer to perform at your next event, we are ready to dress up and sock hop for your party. We will be available for



Photo by JB Waggoner

Poms Dance and Cheer Squad at the Veterans Classic Softball Tournament in November.

future winter and spring dates. We also feature a patriotic medley with revolving cheers and dances to fit the occasion, any time of the year. It is a joy to foster patriotism in our community. We hope the love we have for what we do shines through in each performance. Our motivated group is committed to practicing many hours each week, working up a sweat, as we build new skills and stam-

ina. Teamwork is at the root of our accomplishments as we focus on communication, active listening, adaptability, and conviction. Go Pommies!

Please contact Pam Kalamaras at pammykal@aol.com to book our club for your next event. We can bring on the entertainment for you as you dance and sing along. Please email our club for more detailed information, videos,

pictures, or to view our rehearsals; you won't be sorry.

If you're interested in joining our team, I'd be happy to offer further guidance, information, and support. Entering this new world of dance and cheer is like no other dance in the community. We invite you to come and visit us to see what we are all about, and maybe even join in the fun.

Co-Ed Recreational Softball

Pat Wilbert



With daylight saving time, the Saturday Co-Ed Recreational Softball hours have been adjusted. This happens annually, and now the day begins at 9 a.m. with stretching and team selection, followed by games starting at 9:15 a.m. Games will now have eight innings instead of seven. Many members are excited about this change, as the cooler temperatures make playing even more enjoyable. If you're interested in joining, please note the updated start time.

A special thanks to Jeffrey Thomas, who comes out every Saturday – not to play but to share hitting tips and game advice. He also umpires and sells equipment, if needed. Although he doesn't play here due to other commitments, his dedication and support mean so much to everyone.

Recently, our games have been close and exciting. Teams are carefully selected, keeping runners' and ladies' positioning in mind. New members are always welcome! While we have gear available, we recommend bringing your own glove and bat if possible.

Softball is a fantastic way for men and women to enjoy camaraderie, friendly competition, and self-motivation. The fun never ends, and the community is amazing. You can find us in the resident directory under Co-Ed Recreational Softball, or simply show up. Hope to see you soon!

CONSERVATION FUN FACT

Endangered Florida scrub jays have a place here too. On Top of the World follows a plan to provide habitat needs for three banded and marked groups, and are attracting non-banded birds to the habitat.

Ladies Shuffleboard

Lois Nix



The shuffleboard courts were resurfaced, and we were able to continue our 2025-2026 season. The first couple of weeks, we had some difficulty with the flow of the discs; we had to wax them between games, and the courts had to be sprayed with silicone. Hopefully, our courts will then meet the standards.

We shuffle on Mondays at 5:30 p.m., and we ask that all players arrive around

5:15 p.m. to help set up the courts. We then play on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. We record our weekly scores, and at the end of the season, trophies are awarded to the top three players with the most wins.

Our ladies do not play with extreme force but with skill, strategy, and technique. Basic safety and play rules are given to all new players. All women residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass are welcome to play. We hope to see you on the courts.

October

7–Sandy Welch, Jane Dormanen, Linda Myers. 6–Dee Caple, Sally Herrick. 5–Marge Adragna, Joanne

Ahlert, Darlene Clark, Lois Nix.
30-plus: Linda Myers, Jackie Bogacki.
Happy shuffling.

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Windsor Luminary Celebration

By Bryan Cerutti

Windsor invites you to stroll or ride through our neighborhood on Sunday, Dec. 7, after 6 p.m., and bask in the glow of the candles at our 17th annual luminary event (rain date Dec. 8). If you cannot make it that day, a great many of the

luminaries will continue to be on display until Christmas. Come and enjoy! Many of our Avalon friends are lighting up their luminaries that night as well. Make a night of it and enjoy their display too!



Photo by Yvonne Beckman

Windsor luminaries.

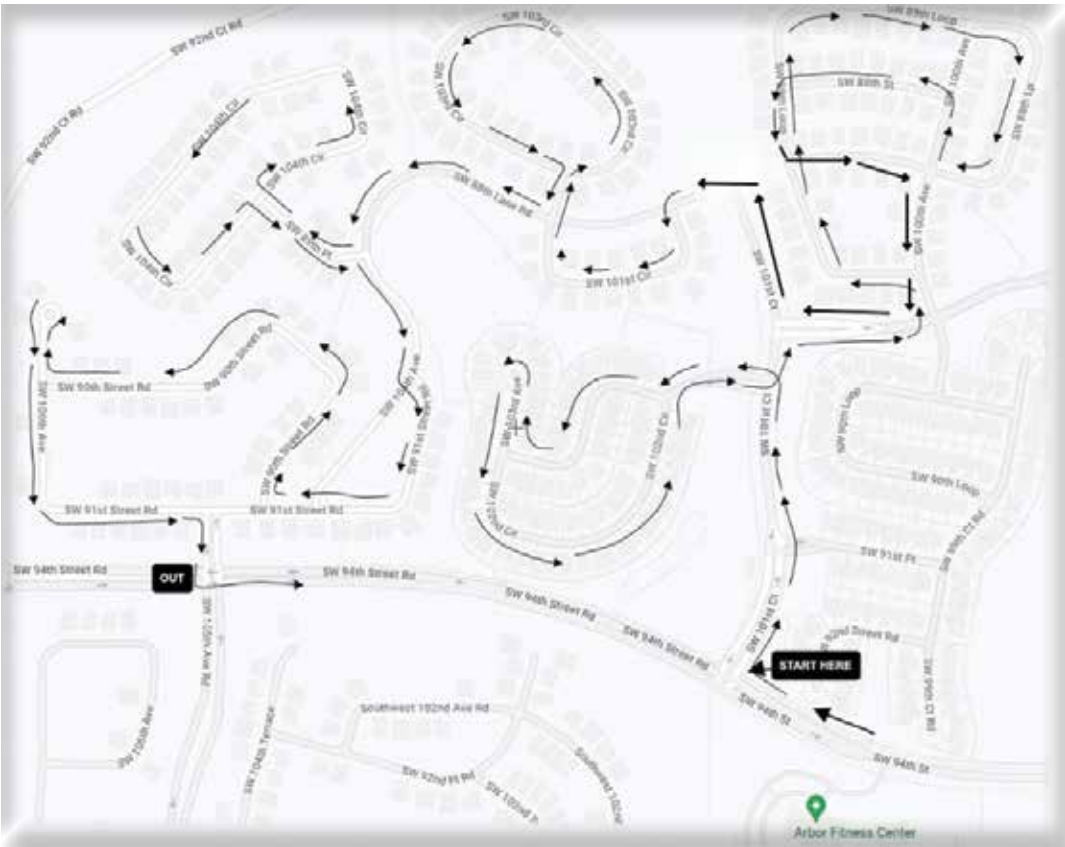


Image generated by Sharon Hall

Light Up Avalon map.

Light Up Avalon

By Sharon Hall

Avalon invites you to stroll or ride through our neighborhood on Sunday, Dec. 7, after 6 p.m., for our annual luminary event. We grow each year, adding new homes to the display. If you cannot make it that day, many of the luminaries

will remain on display throughout December. Come and enjoy! We are joining our friends in Windsor who are lighting their luminaries that night as well. Make a night of it and enjoy their display too!

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If you would like to view a YouTube.com video or have questions related to streaming or rebroadcasting at community facilities, please email shannon_prince@otowfl.com.

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Photo by Jane Bennett-Bailey

Concert Chorus elves.

Holiday Concert

By Joanne Houston

Two weeks and counting! The spectacular 92-voice Concert Chorus will present their winter holiday concert on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 3 p.m., and Monday, Dec. 15, at 6 p.m., at Circle Square Cultural Center. The concert selection will include a mix of popular, traditional, and holiday music to keep your toes tapping.

All tickets are \$10 general admission and may be purchased on Ticket Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to noon in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio III, or on Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 9 a.m. to noon in the Recreation Center Lobby.

You will be singing and dancing in your seats. We promise you a wonderful event that will put you in the holiday spirit. We are collecting food donations for Interfaith Emergency Services to help our Marion County residents during the holiday season. We can't wait to see you, so don't miss out on the best holiday concert of the year!

Down the Rabbit Hole

By Ray Cech
World News Writer

As is tradition on Halloween at Master the Possibilities, the staff prepared for a fun time of trick-or-treating. This year, they chose Alice in Wonderland as their theme. Well, at first glance, that doesn't sound very scary, but their annual Halloween walkabout is really meant to be more fun than spooky – and so it was!

Alice was accompanied by the Cheshire Cat, the Mad Hatter, the March Hare, the Queen of Hearts, the Heart Guard ... and of course, the White Rabbit, who was to guide Alice into Wonderland.

They didn't wander down the rabbit hole, but rather, through the many offices at Colen Built Development and Circle Square Commons. However, much to the surprise of Alice and her friends, the hard-working staff had stocked up on sugary sweets well before their visit. This brought lots of laughter to both staff and their "scary" visitors as they traded sweets for sweets.

"It was great fun," said Alice, as she and her friends returned to their office and traded in their costumes for business attire, and their fantasy names for reality – Michelle, Tim, Trish, Trey, Caren, and Richard.

But where did all those sweets go?



Photo by Ray Cech

Master the Possibilities as Alice in Wonderland.



Photo by Jim Lynam

Winter wonderland.

Snow Much Fun

By Jim Lynam

You are invited! The Model Railroaders are pleased to announce that the club will be providing a holiday train display at Master the Possibilities. The newly constructed layout depicts Christmas in Florida and will be open for viewing from Tuesday, Dec. 2, through Friday, Dec. 19. The Lionel gauge trains will be available for self-operation whenever the building is open. Just throw the switch and watch as the train begins to move and the layout lights illuminate!

The club will also be hosting its 14th annual holiday open house from Monday, Dec. 29, through Wednesday, Dec. 31, in the Hobby Building Model Train Room from noon to 4 p.m. each day.

Club members will have multiple trains running continuously on the Garden scale, Lionel scale, N scale, and the main HO layout. There will be passenger trains, freight trains, work trains, and yard trains operating simultaneously throughout the city and countryside. For those of you who remember "the good old days" of railroading, you will be amazed at the variety of steam engines that will be pulling the consists. There will also be diesel locomotives representing the modern era, running the mainline and performing yard-switching duties.

For all who are young or young at

heart, the club has added the Lionel Polar Express, with many of the sights and sound bites from the famous movie. Further, several winter-themed buildings have been incorporated into the O gauge display.

The entire room will be filled with the sounds of railroading, from the squealing of hot brakes on the turns, the bell of the engine working the yard, to the haunting and "throaty" steam whistle warning the automobiles at the crossings. The room will transition from daylight to twilight, and the layout lights will twinkle in your eyes, adding to the enjoyment.

The club encourages you to bring your friends, neighbors, children, and grandchildren to both displays.

The club also invites you to visit the Hobby Building Model Train Room on any Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. The Model Railroaders Club is always looking for new members, and you are welcome to join us. Our next club meeting is scheduled for 3:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 3, in the Hobby Building Event Room. If you have any questions, please text Jim Lynam at 352-861-2822.

May your present under the tree result in a train running around the tree! Wishing you the happiest of holidays!

Recreation

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



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

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

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

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

Social Committee

Looking to get involved and make a difference in your community? The On Top of the World (Central) Social Committee is always looking for enthusiastic resident volunteers to help shape the fun! The committee meets monthly to share ideas, offer feedback, and assist in planning, organizing, and decorating for upcoming Recreation events. Your input is a valuable part of creating activities that our community truly enjoys. Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Recreation Center Lounge. If you’d like to join us, call 352-387-7530 or email shannon_prince@otowfl.com. We’d love to have you on board. See you there.

Recreation Center

Happy Hour (Free)

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

- Dec. 5: Billy Buchanan
- Dec. 12: The BadKitty Band
- Dec. 19: Holiday Party with Rear View Mirror

Music at the Pool Pavilion (Free)

Enjoy some great music at the pool and pavilion area at the Recreation Cen-

ter from 1 to 4 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

- Dec. 5: Mark Raisch
- Dec. 13: Mike and Kathy Gallenberger
- Dec. 19: Ben Simmons

Tropic Trivia

If you would like to try your hand at Tropic Trivia, January tables will be on sale Tuesday, Dec. 2, through Friday, Dec. 12. A team representative can buy a table for the whole team every month. Tables of eight sell for \$40 on the OTOW App. After your purchase, please come to the Recreation Department to select your table. First-come, first-served.

Karaoke (Free)

Karaoke is always fun! Sing your heart out or just come and enjoy the music. Karaoke is the second Thursday of each month at the Recreation Center Ballroom from 5 to 8 p.m.

Ladies Night (Free)

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

Movie Night (Free)

Join us for a cinematic night out featuring, when possible, a newly released movie! The movie license covers only the Recreation Center Ballroom; therefore, we are unable to transfer its use to other buildings. Join us on Thursday, Dec. 18, from 6 to 8 p.m. Movie title to be announced. Free popcorn and The Pub will be open. Feel free to bring snacks and non-alcoholic beverages.

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

Ballroom Dance Class

Register for the January class and learn the West Coast with ballroom instructor Butch Phillips. Classes are held on the second, third, and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. The cost is \$30 per month for three weeks of classes. See OTOW App for details.

New Year’s Eve Party

You still may be able to get your tickets for the New Year’s Eve party on Wednesday, Dec. 31, from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Come dance and celebrate with friends! \$60 per person and \$65 for a guest. One guest per person. Register on the OTOW App. Ticket price includes hot and cold appetizers, a bottle of champagne for your table, party favors, photo booth, and the fantastic music of Area 81!

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

The Lodge at Candler Hills

World-Class Active-Aging Virtual Fitness Classes (Free)

Have fun, and get fit every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the Ballroom. Check the fitness schedule on the OTOW App to see what

to bring for each class.

Chair Volleyball (Free)

Have a blast in chair volleyball on Mondays at 10 a.m. in the Ballroom! Rules and teams will be determined on the day of the event. Come on out and participate in this exciting, new active aging sport.

From the Top Line Dance Class (Free)

You’re invited each Tuesday for our weekly line dance class at 10 a.m. in the Ballroom. Chuck and Donna Nelson host this instructional class.

Open Game/Card Play (Free)

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

Water Aerobics (Free)

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

Kocktails & Karaoke (Free)

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

Happy Hour (Free)

Cheers to a fantastic community! Join us for Happy Hour from 5 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6. Feel free to bring your own beverage and table snacks. \$5 guest fee applies. There will be an ugly holiday sweater contest and music by 4 for the Road.

Girls Night Out (Free)

Come on girls let’s dance! Join us Thursday, Dec. 12, from 5 to 8 p.m. with Randy Eaton. Bring your own beverage and table snacks, and have some fun. \$5 guest fee applies.

Annual Toys for Tots Drive

Your admission to this special event is an unwrapped gift for a child. Support our annual toy drive on Monday, Dec. 15, from 5 to 7 p.m. Sing along piano-side to your favorite holiday tunes with Prestine Allen. Refreshments will be served, while supplies last.

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

Indigo East Community Center

Happy Hour (Free)

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

- Dec. 5: Automatic
- Dec. 19: Crystal Vision

Trivia

Get in on some friendly and fun competition with your neighbors and friends at trivia on Monday, Dec. 1, from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring your favorite snacks and beverages to share with your team. The cost is \$5 per resident and \$10 per guest.

Jukebox Squares

Join us on Wednesday, Dec. 10, from 3 to 5 p.m. to play Jukebox Squares. The cost of the card game is \$5 and includes words related to songs, musicians, etc. A question will be announced, and Doug will play a piece of music, and you mark off the matching square. The first player to achieve a predetermined pattern (line, four corners, etc.) wins! We will play three games on each card, and will have two rounds, so you will have six chances to win a special prize.

Sing-Along Night

Come and spread holiday cheer with music, laughter, and community spirit! Enjoy Christmas cookies, hot chocolate, eggnog, and delicious appetizers while singing Christmas carols on Tuesday, Dec. 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. Please bring a



wrapped gift for a boy or a girl to donate to Toys for Tots. Let’s make this season brighter for every child!

Karaoke (Free)

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

New Year’s Eve Party

Ring in 2026 with friends, food, and fun on Wednesday, Dec. 31, from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Let’s welcome 2026 with great company, delicious hot and cold appetizers, and unforgettable memories. Bring a dish to share with your table. Enjoy Hwy 94 Band music and a champagne toast at midnight. Tickets are \$35 per resident and \$45 per guest. Purchase your tickets in the OTOW App!

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

The Landing

Holiday Social (Free)

Celebrate the joy of the season on Tuesday Dec. 2, from 1 to 4 p.m. Bring a batch of your favorite cookies to share (and the recipe if you’d like!) for the cookie exchange. It’s the perfect opportunity to show off your baking skills and taste new favorites. We will also hold a white elephant grab bag, a holiday favorite. Find something from home that you are ready to part with, wrap it up, and bring it along. You never know what old treasure might become your new gem! Share in the joy of the season. Bring snacks and drinks. The event is free for residents and \$5 per guest.

Holiday Happy Hour (Free)

Raise a glass to the holiday season on Thursday, Dec. 18, from 5 to 8 p.m., featuring Cheryle Jensen. She will lead some Christmas caroling and play tunes that are guaranteed to jingle your bells. There will also be an ugly Seater Contest, so, bedazzle, jingle, and light up your best festive fashions! Bring snacks and drinks. The event is free for residents and \$5 per guest.

New Year’s Eve Party

Countdown to midnight with friends and laughter. Our New Year’s Eve celebration is on Wednesday, Dec. 31, from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. with entertainment by Tim Hargis. Come join in a night of dancing, celebration, and community cheer! Cost is \$35 per resident and \$40 per guest. Includes appetizers, party favors, and a champagne toast at midnight.

World Class Active Aging Virtual Fitness Classes (Free)

Get fit with weekly fitness classes every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the Ballroom.

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

BUS SCHEDULE

Monday - Thursday

MORNING ROUTE

PICK-UP LOCATIONS

TIME

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

MORNING DESTINATIONS

Freedom Library (Tues/Thurs only)	Ollie's
Jasmine Square	Paddock Mall
VA Hospital	Walmart
Dillard's/Kohl's	Target
Sam's Club	Hobby Lobby/Shady Oaks Shopping Center
Home Depot	Gateway Plaza

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

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

AFTERNOON ROUTE

PICK-UP LOCATIONS AND TIMES

The Lodge at Candler Hills	1:15 p.m.	Candler Hills Community Center	1:20 p.m.
Friendship Colony Post Office	1:25 p.m.	Providence Post Office	1:28 p.m.
Avalon Post Office	1:33 p.m.	Crescent Ridge Post Office	1:38 p.m.
Recreation Center	1:43 p.m.	Americana Post Office	1:49 p.m.
Friendship Post Office	1:54 p.m.		

AFTERNOON DESTINATIONS

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

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

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

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• Concert Chorus "Winter Concert" Monday, December 15, 2025 | 6 PM | \$10

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Shutterbugs
Photography

Mark Holmes



Shutterbugs Photography Club members are focused on exploring the joys of creative photography, and in the Ocala area, there are dozens of places to explore, offering great photo opportunities.

Nature photography is a rewarding way to connect with the outdoors and express your creativity. Use your trusty digital camera kit or shoot with your smartphone – a powerful tool for capturing stunning landscapes, wildlife, and plant life. Whether you’re hiking through forests or strolling in your local park, here’s how to make the most of your nature photography journey.

Most smartphones offer features like HDR (High Dynamic Range), portrait mode, and manual controls for exposure and focus. Learn how to adjust these settings to suit different lighting conditions. Be sure to clean your lens regularly; it’s a simple step that dramatically improves image clarity.

Tesla Owners &
Enthusiasts Club

Dan Lack



I visited the State University of New York at Stony Brook for my graduating class’s 50th reunion last month. While I was in the neighborhood, I drove 30 minutes east to the village of Shoreham, where Nikola Tesla built a lab more than 100 years ago. The building that housed the lab is still there, as well as the foundation for his 187-foot-tall electrical tower. My visit inspired me to speak about the man at our November club meeting.

Tesla developed the alternating current electrical production system that

Natural light is your best friend. Early morning and late afternoon hours offer soft, warm light that enhances textures and colors. Avoid harsh midday sun, which can create strong shadows and wash out details. Overcast days are great for capturing subtle tones and even lighting, especially in forested areas.

Use the rule of thirds to create balanced, engaging images. Imagine your frame divided into nine equal parts – place key elements along these lines or at their intersections. Leading lines, like trails or rivers, guide the viewer’s eye through the photo. Get creative – crouch low for mushrooms or insects, or shoot upward to capture towering trees.

Nature is full of intricate patterns and textures. Zoom in on dew-covered leaves, bark textures, or insect wings and wait for the right moment, especially when photographing animals or moving elements like wind-blown grass.

Central Florida offers a diverse range of hiking trails, from scenic forest paths to wildlife-rich marshes where great photographs await. Ocala alone has over 38 trails that wind through its lush landscapes. One standout is the Florida Trail’s Ocala section, a 72-mile stretch through the Ocala National Forest, offering dry, sandy terrain ideal for back-

the world uses, overcoming Thomas Edison’s insistence on direct current. Tesla was a prolific inventor. The R/C Sailing, Flyers, and Car Clubs can thank Tesla for inventing remote control in 1898!

The measurement of magnetic flux density is named after Tesla. The strength of MRI machines is measured in Teslas. And of course, our electric vehicles bear Tesla’s name.

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

packing and wildlife spotting – including deer, wild turkeys, and even black bears.

The Holly Hammock Trail provides a gentle 2.4-mile loop through holly groves and marshes, perfect for families and casual walkers. The Spring Trail leads to the headwaters of the Silver River, offering a peaceful out-and-back route with access to kayaking spots. You’ll find plenty of other recommended places to shoot at otowspc.org, where you can also get a membership form, check our meeting schedule, and view member

photo galleries.

During December at Master the Possibilities, you’ll find a great selection of holiday photos on display from members.

Join us for monthly field trips, show-and-tell sessions, advanced learning, and more. From beginner level to pro, everyone is welcome, and as our motto says, “Those who don’t know should ask, those who do know should show and tell.”

Happy holidays! For more information, contact Harry Boyajian at 239-336-4804.



Photo by Mark Holmes

Amaryllis flower.

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On Top of the World Communities, LLC, Ocala, Florida a 55+ community. On Top of the World Communities reserves the right to change or withdraw any offer at any time.

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CONSERVATION FUN FACT

On Top of the World has several acres of wildflowers for pollinator protection and habitat.



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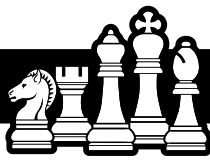
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CARDS & GAMES



Bingo

Nancy Grabowski



There will be no bingo in December. Bingo will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026.

Upon our return, raffle tickets are sold from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Prices are three for \$1 or 10 for \$3. Each winning ticket receives \$20. Cards will be sold from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. Prices remain \$1 per card. You must present your valid resident ID card. Guests are welcome when accompanied by a resident player.

There will be 18 winning bingo pots, based on the number of cards sold. There is a cover-all minus one game for \$75 and a cover-all for a win between \$110 and \$250.

Per Florida regulations, no alcohol is allowed. It can be purchased and consumed in The Pub or on the patio. You may save one seat in addition to your own. For safety, do not tip the chairs to save them. Please respect the volunteer signs while they work to make bingo happen.

The bingo volunteers wish you a joyous holiday season!

Contact Carl Folkers or Nancy Grabowski for any questions you might have.

Bridge



Monday Afternoon
By Carol Johnson

- Oct. 6**
1: Pat & Debbie Quinn; 2: Phyllis Silverman & Judy Mackowiak; 3: Donna Peters & Rad D; 4: Craig Ford & Mike Meirick.
- Oct. 13**
1: C.J. & Dennis Dust; 2: Pat & Debbie Quinn; 3: Diane Robinson & Carol Johnson; 4: Mar Valchin & Bruce Gillette.
- Oct. 20**
1: Trudy & Kurt Baumgartner; 2: Craig Ford & Mike Meirick; 3: Ron Smith & Al Kremer; 4: Judy Wallace & Rad D; Grand slam: Pat & Debbie Quinn.
- Oct. 27**
1: Donna Peters & Rad D; 2: Judy Mackowiak & Phyllis Silverman; 3: Pat & Debbie Quinn; 4: Barb Heller & Jean Krueger.

Tuesday Night Duplicate
By Bob Kraus

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

The boards are scored after the game, and the results are emailed to the group within a few days.

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

- Oct. 14**
1: Carolyn Higgins and V.J. Hentz; 2: Barbara Heller & Jack Heller; 3: Chris Wachter & Jeff Young; 4: Gary Moses & Diane Turkin; 5: Jean Krueger & Brent Powell.
- Oct. 21**
Tie at 1: Bob Kraus & Arlene Loepp and Barbara Heller and Jack Heller; 3: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; 4: Jean Kruger and Brent Powell; 5: Chris Wachter & Jeff Young.

- Oct. 28**
1: Dennis Wallace & Judi Wallace; 2: Linda Ryan & Bill Ryan; 3: Bob Kraus & Arlene Loepp; 4: Gary Moses & Diane Turkin; 5: Chris Wachter & Jeff Young.

- Nov. 4**
North/South
1: Linda Ryan & Bill Ryan; 2: Bob Kraus & Arlene Loepp; 3: Brian Lomasky & Carrie Kanosky; 4: Dan Lack & Vera Mangold.

- East/West**
1: Julian Wachs & Liz Wachs; 2: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; 3: Pam Bell & Jeff Bell; 4: Gary Moses & Diane Turkin.

Wednesday Afternoon
By Dianne Robinson

- Oct. 1**
1: Bruce Gillett; 2: Debbie Quinn; 3: Dianne Robinson; 4: Patrick Quinn; Cons: Bob Kraus.
- Oct. 8**
1: Kurt Baumgartner; 2: Carolyn Higgins; 3: Patrick Quinn; 4: Bruce Gillett; 5: Steve Sekac; Cons: Bob Kraus.
- Oct. 15**
1: Ron Smith; 2: Carolyn Higgins; 3: Bruce Gillett; 4: Marlene Floeckher; Cons: V.J. Hentz.
- Oct. 22**
1: Kurt Baumgartner; 2: Debbie Quinn; 3: Bruce Gillett; 4: Bob Kraus; Cons: Phyllis Silverman.
- Oct. 29**
1: Billie Andersen; 2: V.J. Hentz; 3: Bruce Gillett; 4: Phyllis Silverman; Cons: Joan Keinath.

Thursday Afternoon
By Trudy Baumgartner

- Oct. 2**
1: Ram; 2: Kurt Baumgartner; 3: Marlene Floeckher; Cons: Mike Meirick.
- Oct. 9**
1: Trudy Baumgartner; 2: Pat Quinn; 3: Craig Ford; 4: Judy Mackowiak; Cons: Bob Knowles
- Oct. 16**
1: Carolyn Higgins; 2: Billie Andersen; Cons: Dianne Robinson

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR
Pick up after your pet.

- Oct. 23**
1: Bruce Gillett; 2: Kurt Baumgartner; 3: Al Kremer; 4: Debbie Quinn; Cons: Phyllis Silverman.
- Oct. 30**
1: Judy Mackowiak; 2: Pat Quinn; 3: Mike Meirick; 4: Kurt Baumgartner; Cons: Al Kremer.

Thursday Night
By Penny Wagener

Join our friendly bridge group at 6 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Card Rooms I-II. All skill levels are welcome – whether you're fresh from lessons, returning after years away, or an experienced player. No partner is needed; we pair and rotate throughout the night. Bring 25 cents, a smile, and a good attitude. We play three rounds of seven hands, finishing by 9 p.m. Join us for fun and friendship, and you might even win the "2 prize" – a prize awarded for taking a trick with the two of trump that can be passed around throughout the evening.

- Oct. 16**
1: Jeff Young; 2: Pam Bell; 3: Dave Prosik; Cons: Stu Shaub; 2 prize: Pam Bell.
- Oct. 23**
1: Al Whitford; 2: Jean Krueger; 3: Chris Wachter; Cons: Jeff Bell; 2 prize: Chris Wachter.
- Oct. 30**
1: Al Whitford; 2: Pam Bell; 3: Chris Wachter; Cons: Jeff Young; 2 prize: Chris Wachter.

- Nov. 5**
1: Jeff Bell; 2: Pam Bell; 3: Malcolm Levine; Cons: Paul Claremont; 2 prize: Jean Krueger.

Bunco Babes Social Group

Michelle Malsch



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

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

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

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

The cost is \$3 per person (please have exact change), and all collected funds will be returned to the category winners at the end of the game. There are also two door prize drawings for those who did not win any of the cash prizes. Please bring your beverage and a small snack if you wish. After the first three sets have been played, there will be a short intermission.

Join in the fun and make new friends! For more information, please call Micki Malsch at 352-615-2790. Stay healthy and be safe until we meet again!

Cribbage

Judy Parisi



We meet in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room II on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 3 to 5 p.m.

We welcome new players to join us. We're a non-competitive group of all experience levels. We help each other out and do not do "muggins." Wins are for bragging rights only, and we are still waiting for one of the group to get that perfect 29 hand.

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

If you would like more information or would like to join us, please email judith.parisi@gmail.com or drop in during play.

Euchre



Friday Night
By Mary Bloch

Don't miss out on Friday night fun and some upcoming Christmas cheer! For more information, contact Mary at 614-806-6737 or marybloch@yahoo.com.

- Oct. 3**
1: Phyllis Jarskey; 2: Dan Brady; 3: Kurt Bumgartner.
- Oct. 10**
1: Mary Bloch; 2: Phyllis Jarskey; 3: Robert Moravec.
- Oct. 17**
1: Karen Jacob; 2: Kim Wisecaver; 3: Lou Pine.
- Oct. 24**
1: Jim Brogan; 2: Jack Taylor; 3: John O'Brien.
- Oct. 31**
1: Bob Kraus; 2: Angela Brady; 3: Lloyd Beitel.

Mah Jongg

Angela Brady



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

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

Pinochle



Tuesday Night
By Herb Katz

- Oct. 7**
1: Bud Alderman; 2: Phyllis Jarsky; 3: Ilene Casper.
- Oct. 14**
1: James Tomaszek; 2: Abe Touball; Judy Fries.
- Oct. 21**
1: Jackie Nuccio; 2: Jae Kallas; 3: Michelle Pritchard.
- Oct. 28**
1: Andy Nuccio; 2: Marlene Floeckher; Robert Moravec.

Friday Morning
By Mary Hannon

- Oct. 17**
1: Marlene Floeckher; 2: Ilene Casper; 3: Herb Katz.
- Oct. 24**
1: Andy Nuccio; 2: Mary Hannon; 3: Judy Fries.
- Oct. 31**
1: Herb Katz; 2: Oscar Friedman; 3: Andy Nuccio.
- Nov. 7**
1: Gayle Argano; 2: Walter Hickenlooper; 3: Andy Nuccio.

CONSERVATION FUN FACT
Endangered gopher tortoises have over 400 acres of habitat at On Top of the World.

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.

	Day After Thanksgiving (Friday, Nov. 28)	Christmas Eve (Wednesday, Dec. 24)	Christmas Day (Thursday, Dec. 25)	New Year's Eve (Wednesday, Dec. 31)	New Year's Day (Thursday, Jan. 1)
Accounting	CLOSED	8 AM - 3 PM	CLOSED	8 AM - 3 PM	CLOSED
Arbor Fitness Center	9 AM - 5 PM Morning Classes	5:30 AM - 4 PM Morning Classes	CLOSED	5:30 AM - 4 PM Morning Classes	CLOSED
Bridgenet Communications	CLOSED	8 AM - 4 PM	CLOSED	8 AM - 4 PM	CLOSED
Candler Hills Golf	7 AM - 5 PM Normal Hours	7 AM - 4 PM	CLOSED	7 AM - 4 PM	8 AM - 2 PM
Circle Square Cultural Center	11 AM - 2 PM Normal Hours	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
The Town Square	6 PM - 9 PM	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
The Whistling Duck	11 AM - 8 PM Normal Hours	11 AM - 4 PM	CLOSED	11 AM - 4 PM	11 AM - 4 PM
Resident Services	CLOSED	8 AM - 4 PM	CLOSED	8 AM - 4 PM Normal Hours	CLOSED
Indigo East Fitness Center	8 AM - 4 PM	8 AM - 4 PM	CLOSED	8 AM - 4 PM	CLOSED
The Lodge at Candler Hills	8 AM - 4 PM	8 AM - 4 PM	CLOSED	8 AM - 4 PM Normal Hours	CLOSED
The Landing at Weybourne Landing	8 AM - 4 PM	8 AM - 4 PM	CLOSED	8 AM - 4 PM	CLOSED
Master the Possibilities	9 AM - Noon	CLOSED	CLOSED	9 AM - 4 PM	CLOSED
On Top of the World Golf	7 AM - 5 PM Normal Hours	7 AM - 4 PM	CLOSED	7 AM - 4 PM	8 AM - 2 PM
On Top of the World Real Estate of Marion (Resales)	CLOSED	9 AM - 4 PM	CLOSED	9 AM - 4 PM	CLOSED
The Pub	11 AM - 7 PM Normal Hours	11 AM - 4 PM	CLOSED	11 AM - 7 PM Normal Hours	11 AM - 7 PM
The Ranch Fitness Center & Spa	5:30 AM - 4 PM Morning Classes Spa/Salon 8 AM - 2 PM	5:30 AM - 4 PM Spa/Salon 8 AM - 12 PM	CLOSED	5:30 AM - 4 PM Morning Classes Spa/Salon 8 AM - 12 PM	CLOSED
Recreation Center	Office Closed Fitness 9 AM - 4 PM Morning Classes	Office 8 AM - 4 PM Fitness 6:30 AM - 4 PM Morning Classes	CLOSED	Office 8 AM - 4 PM Fitness 6:30 AM - 4 PM Morning Classes	CLOSED
Sales Center	CLOSED	9 AM - 4 PM	CLOSED	9 AM - 4 PM	CLOSED
Sid's Coffee Shop & Deli	7:30 AM - 3 PM Normal Hours	CLOSED	CLOSED	7 AM - 3 PM	CLOSED

Sewing Bees

Ann Gallo & Susie Clauson



Merry Christmas and happy Hanukkah.

If you’ve been reading this column or following our Facebook page, you know how much sewing is done. This includes four sewing groups and hundreds of women in our community. The Sewing Bees alone have provided thousands of quilts to the children of Marion County.

As the holidays approach and temperatures have dipped, we have been very busy making and distributing quilts. We distributed 240 quilts in October. Our latest distribution went to Shands Pediatric ICU. There is no pediatric ICU in Marion County, so the children are sent to Shands.

We delivered 50 quilts to Marion County Children’s Alliance, 50 quilts to Casa Marion, 50 quilts to Pay It Forward, 50 quilts to Shands Pediatric ICU, and 40 quilts to Children’s Home Society of Florida. There are still more deliveries to be made before the end of the year.

Join our Facebook page (Sewing Bees Club Inc.) and see what magic takes place at the hive.

Questions? Call or text Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178 or Susie Clauson at 904-422-5135.



Delivery of quilts and blankets to Shands Pediatric ICU.

Photo by Ann Gallo

Rubber Stamp Greeting Cards

Linda Lohr



Our presenter for Thursday, Nov. 6, was Mary Kay Ripp. We were charged with making thank-you cards for veterans to be used by Operation Shoebox to thank our veterans for their service. We thank Mary Kay for inspiring us to provide over 200 cards! That’s a lot of red, white, and blue!

Our group is open to all crafters, whether you’re a beginner or more experienced. Each month, one or two people will present. The group meets on the first and third Thursdays at 1 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room.

Anyone can be a presenter; the cards

do not have to be fancy or complicated. Our group is built on friendship, socializing, and mutual support.

Contact Connie Press using the email below for any class or general information. Basic supplies, such as a trimmer, glue, scissors, and card stock, are required. Everyone in the group shares their supplies, and everyone brings new ideas to the table. You are only limited by your imagination!

If you feel this might be a class you would enjoy, or if you have any questions, please contact Connie Press at connie.rubberstampclub@gmail.com. You can also find the information for each class on our Facebook page.

Our next class is on Thursday, Dec. 4. Until our next meeting, keep on stampin’!

Have a blessed Christmas or Hanukkah and a happy 2026!



Cards by Mary Kay Ripp for Operation Shoebox.

Photo by Linda Lohr

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View from the Library

Walt Lamp



“Tracing Florida’s Journey” by Leslie Kemp Poole follows the travels of a group of well-known people from Florida. This takes place at an earlier time, though in locations we all know of today. William Bartram traveled through Florida from 1774 to 1777, as well as through other states – North and South Carolina, Georgia, and elsewhere – for shorter periods. His famous book, “Travels,” depicted these travels and was published in 1791. It has been referred to by other travelers after him. He explored the St. Johns River, Lake George, Astor, and Paynes Prairie, noting the geography, plants, the land, and the wildlife. He kept very accurate records.

Speaking of wildlife, he had two close encounters. First, with two alligators, and secondly, with a grizzly bear. He saw and traveled much, especially in Florida.

Our next traveler, named in honor of the Audubon Society, was John James Audubon. Believing that Florida was loaded with all kinds of birds, he went there from 1831 through 1832. Birds he encountered included cranes, pelicans, herons, curlews, and black birds heading overhead to their roosts. He used paintings of all the birds to add to his collection. Unfortunately, the only way he could accomplish this was to shoot them down and wire them to create a pose, hopefully in their natural areas. Prints are now stored at the Museum of Arts and Sciences (M.O.A.S.) in Daytona Beach. He visited St. Augustine, along with the King’s River, near Bulow Village, up and down the St. Johns River, Indian Key, and the Dry Tortugas.

Leaving Indiana sometime in September 1867, naturalist John Muir arrived in Florida on Oct. 15, 1867. He first walked across the 156-mile “Florida railroad” from Fernandino on the Atlantic Coast to Cedar Key on the Gulf. His interests, like William Bartram’s, included geography, wildlife, plants, and how they intertwined to produce Florida itself. He marveled at the wildlife and wondered why they were victims of humans.

He had pen ink and a journal into which he inscribed his identity, “John Muir, Earth-Planet Universal.” That journal, its edited contents published as “A Thousand Mile Walk to the Gulf.” In 1868, he hopped aboard a schooner bound for Cuba. In Cuba, he canceled his trip to South America, revised his plans northward, and finally ended up in California. The rest is history.

This book also contains the adventures of Harriett Beecher Stowe, Stephen Crane, Marjorie Kennan Rawlings, the Ingraham Everglades Expedition, and more.

Poetry Club

Bill Burton



Poetry is an exercise in artistic expression. Like any exercise, we loosen up and gain some flexibility as we expose ourselves to more of it. The more we read poetry, or speak it, or write it, the more proficient we become in creating it or simply appreciating that which others have made. Watching Poetry Club members loosen up and mature in the process has been especially pleasing to me. I find myself musing on this very thought and contrasting it to a cattle drive of the 1860s somewhere along the old Chisholm Trail between Texas and Kansas, only our club is herding words instead of longhorn cattle.

Woodcarving Club

Richard Aber



The Woodcarving Club is growing! We welcomed six new members – beginners and experienced carvers – who found out about us through this column. This month, we feature Linda Toner, the writer behind all of our columns. Linda is an accomplished wood carver who works in bas-relief. Bas-relief is a low-relief carving, also called a raised drawing. She has been carving off and on for 50 years. Her preferred woods for carving are pine and basswood. She gets her inspiration from magazine advertisements, paintings she has seen, and adult coloring books, among other things. She likes to carve because it is a peaceful hobby and “all your worries melt away when you are carving.” Carving isn’t quick; not a brush stroke here or there, each sliver of wood must be removed with great care. Sometimes it takes more than a month to carve a good piece that is up to par. The carver must have patience to bring out in the wood the object they envision that no one else could. That block of wood, that

We want to guide our words, keep them orderly as we venture from here to there. We don’t always know the specifics of what we will encounter along the way, nor when we will start or end the day. The twists and turns, storms and droughts, and obstacles to overcome are as yet unknown. The challenge is to complete the drive with as many of the herd as possible intact. There is a sense of satisfaction when we reach our destination, a finished work, but just getting there is the real adventure. During the cattle drives of old, not everyone was riding and herding. Some cowboys scouted while others guarded the supplies. Some prepared the food. Similarly, each poetry club member contributes something. Some come to listen and enjoy, and in the process become wonderful encouragers. Some are honing old word skills or developing new ones. Some enter the club a bit shy, dusting off sonnets and verses of past

rhymes in the hope that their word treasures will be pleasing or interesting to someone new. Usually they are. My own journey was similar. I also began by revisiting past poems, but soon the urge to write new ones was rebirthed, and I found myself back in the saddle again, writing, creating, and enjoying the process. I get to watch others, likewise, come, reticent at first, almost peeking in the door to see what’s going on before stepping in, and wondering whether they should stay. Among those who do, many are soon polishing off the old and working on the new. They find a home with what has become a happy bunch and fit right in. We don’t do criticism very well, but we do excel at encouragement. If you’re ready to peek in the doorway and wondering whether you can still or should try, the answer is yes. Call me, Bill Burton, at 352-492-8626 for more info. I’m sure we have a place on the drive for you.

square or flat piece, becomes a thing of beauty, at least that is the goal of every carver’s heart, and that is what sets the wood carvers apart from other artists whom you may meet, so look upon the wood carver’s craft because it’s special indeed.

So come on by and see what we do; we will teach you to become an accomplished wood carver, too. We meet every Thursday in the Hobby Building Art Room from 3 to 5:30 p.m. For more information, you can call Rich at 404-558-3855 or Tom at 352-586-1171.



Photo by Richard Aber
Linda Toner displaying her relief carving wall.

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Eddie Martin playing banjo.

Photo by Herbert Young

Toppers Banjo

David Wesenberg



Toppers Banjo Band meets every Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room. An instrumental practice subgroup meets at 12:15 p.m. on Mondays. This provides plenty of opportunities to join us and explore the banjo as a means of entertainment.

Meet one of the founding members, Eddie Martin! Eddie began his banjo-playing journey in 1972 with the Woodland String Band in Philadelphia, where he played for 10 years. He then played sporadically until his retirement in 1996.

Eddie paraded up Broad Street every New Year’s as part of the String Band Group, dancing and playing in costume, comprised of 22 bands of 60 persons, each who played all kinds of instruments. They all competed for prizes for costumes, dancing, and music. They were called Mummers.

Eddie played in other parades in New Jersey and New York. They played halls and stages over the summer to raise money for the annual Philadelphia New Year’s Day parade.

After retirement, Eddie played with the Gloucester City String Band, the Philadelphia Banjo Society, and the Knights of Columbus String Band. They played

at retirement communities, nursing homes, picnics, and church carnivals. They wore jackets and T-shirts instead of costumes. They rode on parade floats pulled by pickup trucks, making many friends and having lots of fun.

In 2014, Eddie and his wife moved to On Top of the World and, luckily, met Barry Ripple through Theresa, another banjo player. The three of them played together for several years. They combined Barry’s New Orleans music with Eddie’s Philadelphia music and have grown the band over the last 11 years to about a dozen players. Eddie says he will play until he can’t.

Some of our banjo players have been playing for a long time and can advise you on banjos and accessories. They would be delighted to show you how to hold your banjo, how to tune your banjo, and ultimately how to play your banjo. Your part in all this is to start.

This is a great time to join us if you have an interest in banjos and banjo music. We welcome new active or aspiring banjo, acoustic guitar, and other musicians to join us in playing and singing banjo music. If you like to play, come and join us. If you have any ideas to improve performance values and presentation, we’d love to hear them. If you like to listen, join us and enjoy the music and conversation. Everyone is welcome.

For more information, contact Eddie Martin at udeddie2@gmail.com or David Wesenberg at dpw@mastersoftware-inc.com.

Happy Hookers

Jan Spielvogel



December, the final month of 2025, is upon us. Hope all who read this had a great Thanksgiving.

Our group continues to support all of our charities. In November, we took on a new project to make lap blankets for the Bay Pines VA Elder Care group in St. Petersburg, Florida. In December, there will be a change in the leadership of our group. Ann Gallo and Jan Spielvogel will co-lead. We are grateful to Naomi Berman for her 12 years as president of Happy Hookers and are glad that she will continue to remain with the group. Happy Hookers is open to all residents. We meet on Mondays from 1

to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Art Room. There are no dues, agendas, or penalties for missing a meeting, arriving late, or leaving early. Life can and does sometimes interfere, and we don’t want that to hold you back.

We have a talented group of ladies busy with crocheting, knitting, needle-pointing, card crafting, embroidering, and various other handicrafts. They are never too busy to help someone with a complicated pattern or stitch. We welcome newcomers with open arms. Attendees should bring their current projects or work.

If you have questions about our club, call Jan Spielvogel at 919-274-6191 or Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178. We always appreciate donations of yarn, pattern books, knitting needles, crochet hooks, or other crafting tools. Please bring them to our Monday meetings, or contact Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178 to arrange pickup.

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GARY R. MORMINO

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On the eve of Pearl Harbor, Florida was the smallest state in the South (smaller than Arkansas or South Carolina). Today, Florida is the third largest state in the nation. World War II represents a watershed and a revolution. Florida was home to hundreds of World War II military bases. The war left a legacy of a commitment to higher education (the GI Bill) and the beginning of the Sunbelt revolution powered by air conditioning, interstate highways, and a flood of senior citizens who flocked to the Sunshine State. Professor Mormino is writing a book on Florida and World War II.

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Fun with Golf Carts

Susan Pulling Robinson



The Veterans Day parade on Saturday, Nov. 8, is always a favorite, with many resident veterans participating. Designated charities included Operation Shoebox, Chuck’s Piggy Bank, Dannelon Elementary School, Interfaith Emergency Services, and Veterans Helping Veterans. Thank you to the many folks who turned out to make generous donations to these causes.

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

- Dec. 6: Holiday Golf Cart Parade
- Dec. 20: Holiday Season


Membership in our Facebook group (OTOW Fun with Golf Carts) has now surpassed 600 members! If you have a golf cart, please consider jazzing it up (or not) and joining in as we “parade for a cause.” Each parade benefits one or more local charities. For more information and to receive emails about this club, please email otowfunwithgolfcarts@gmail.com. We all have a lot of fun cruising around in our “mini-floats.”

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




Photo by Margaret Ruhlen



Veterans Day-themed golf car by Carolyn Helms and Cheryl Crites.



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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.

Dulcimer Club

Sharon Bruno



There are now four lonely dulcimers looking for their person. They are the Fab Four, the Four Seasons, the Four Elements, the A-Team, Ghostbusters, the Fantastic Four – I think you get it. The Dulcimer Club loans these out to new members who do not have a dulcimer of their own and those who are interested in noodling around with the instruments to see if they like playing its three strings.

Most people are captivated by its notoriously melodic sound. Having a chance

to take it home and get comfortable with its simple playing techniques – picking and strumming – is always fun. No musical experience or knowledge of reading notes is needed. The club has an instructor for beginners, Karie Dawkins, who can provide just-in-time help to get started.

To schedule the Dulcimer Club to play at one of your meetings or events, contact Patricia Gift at 717-798-4085 or pamgift@earthlink.net. Interested in joining us? Contact Rich Furlong at 352-237-8734 or richieretired@gmail.com.

Have a listen to the Dulcimer Club, which meets Tuesdays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room. Beginners meet for additional help immediately after from 3 to 4 p.m. in the same room with Karie Dawkins.



Four lonely dulcimers.

Photo by Karie Dawkins

Karaoke Friends

Kathy & Charlie Petrosky



The holidays are here. You will hear holiday songs in karaoke for sure.

We will continue introducing our singers to you. This month, John "Toto" Shaw was asked to share.

"I remember in the early 1990s hearing music blasting out and the song "Love Shack" being sung in a slightly off-key rendition. As I turned the corner, I only saw a guy, a microphone, and a screen. This was my introduction to karaoke. I had done my share of singing along to songs with original artists in the car or using my shampoo bottle as a microphone in the shower. I found this a way to further my love of singing.

I bought my first home karaoke machine in 1991. The CDs were often hard to find, with a very limited selection of songs. My very first songs were mainly Garth Brooks songs. I wore that CD out singing to "Friends in Low Places," "The Dance," and "Much Too Young To Feel This Damn Old."

Since then, karaoke has exploded. You can find anything on YouTube nowadays and practice at home, annoying your significant other. My song catalog has since grown from the three Garth Brooks songs to triple digits and all kinds of genres. I still like singing the country tunes of the likes of George Strait ("The Chair"), but also will occasionally warble in rock 'n' roll with Billy Joel ("You May Be Right, I May Be Crazy"), or just traditional pop sounds of Frank Sinatra ("My Way").

My wife, Venus, and I have been coming to Karaoke Friends since we moved here at the beginning of the year. When

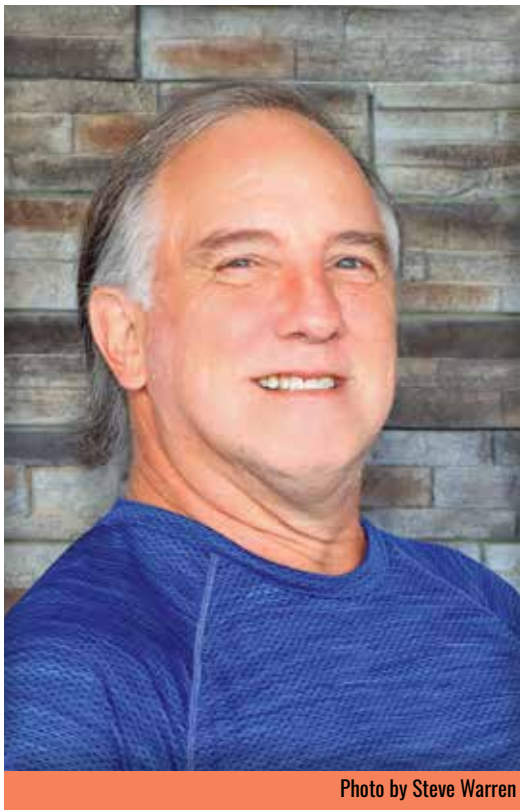


Photo by Steve Warren

John Shaw with Karaoke Friends.

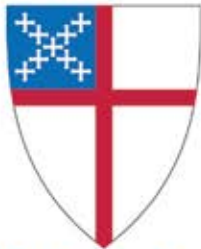
I went to sign in for our first karaoke session, there was another singer with my name. So, I picked the stage name Toto since I am originally from Kansas. My first song always goes to Venus because she is my barometer for how I sound, and she puts up with my home practice sessions. These are always fun events, often catching you tapping your foot to the beat. We have met many good singers and made friends along the way. It's always interesting to see all the different song choices people make and have even learned a new song or two."

We meet on the first and third Mondays in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room, from 5 to 8 p.m. This month, we meet on Dec. 1 and Dec. 15.

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Photo by Mary Moosman

Mary Moosman celebrates stylish and unique jewelry.

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 will continue through May.

ArtisticCrafts.org offers a glimpse of our exceptionally talented crafters and artisans. The group started back in the early 1990s, and the show has grown to over 50 tables on Tuesdays. Over 100 crafters are online, offering unique, 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 Mary Moosman, whose creativity has always been a key part of her narrative. The journey began in Detroit with nursing school. After obtaining a nursing license, a move to Florida in 1982 offered respite from the cold weather. While nursing provided a fulfilling career, party planning, decorating, and crafting became an additional passion. The ability to envision designs and bring them to life for weddings and gatherings was present.

Upon retirement, woodworking was embraced. Each creation brought a sense of accomplishment. A personal event in 2022 led to a change, and the wood shop dissolved. A new beginning was sought in Wisconsin, but the harsh winters prompted a return to Florida, settling here in 2023.

A visit to a friend and seasoned jewelry maker marked the start of a new creative chapter. In guiding her to step away from her current craft, Mary’s desire for artistic expression led her to request new knowledge. Initial kits and mentorship were provided. Videos were watched, techniques were mastered, and books were studied. Transforming beads into jewelry became a source of peace, a form of therapy.

Soon, the collection reached approximately 250 pieces, prompting requests. Eyeglass lanyards and ID lanyards were requested, along with ankle and ankle-toe bracelets. Beaded dog necklaces were designed to allow pet parents to express their pets’ personalities. Young-

er patrons sought mini coin purses with beaded wristlets, keychains, lipstick holders, and beaded cell phone lanyards. The goal is to craft beaded jewelry and accessories that enhance appearance and bring stylish organization.

Distinctive luggage tags were sought for an upcoming trip. Lacking inspiration, a decision was made to create personalized identifiers. This led to cruise ship tags as well. These items make ideal holiday gifts.

During the autumn and winter months, her creations are showcased at local art and craft fairs and festivals. She has attended many in Inverness, Orlando, the World Equestrian Center, Crystal River, Brooksville, The Villages, Altamonte Springs, and Dunnellon, with many more scheduled for the upcoming year. Please review Mary’s beautiful creations on our Jewelry page.

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

Art Group

Marianne Hoffman



There is at least one person in every aspect of your life who truly inspires you. I’d like to introduce you to mine from the Art Group: Carole Lopez.

Carole says that art is her form of communication. “My art is not unlike the cave drawings that tell stories and celebrate life,” she explains. “When I complete an art challenge, I almost feel sad; it’s like the feeling you get when you finish reading a good book.”

She uses various media and surfaces for her creative storytelling. “I used to love painting with oil,” she says, adding, “I find watercolor a challenge, but I love pastel because it is so forgiving.” While she says she is honing her skill with acrylics, she doesn’t just paint on canvas. Her creations are on stones, wood, tiles, and even palm tree fronds.

According to Carole, her inspiration

comes from the architecture of a house, the story an old barn tells, and even color. “I do love color!” she emphasizes.

Carole started drawing at a young age, following in her dad’s footsteps. “The small town I grew up in had almost no art examples. I was fascinated by the paintings in my piano teacher’s home and later by a priest who started teaching oil painting in the rectory to anyone who wanted to learn. However, a ‘wonderful pastel portrait artist’ I took lessons from later in my college town truly inspired me.”

She joined the Art Group to be with others. “Helping others and getting feedback is better than talking to myself,” she explains. Just watching Carole at work is inspiring. She will help anyone who asks, and we are all grateful for her.

Come find your inspiration in the Art Group. Members meet in the Hobby Building Art Room two days a week: Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information about the Art Group, contact Freda Klump, director, at 615-336-6863 or fredaklump@gmail.com.



Watercolors by Carole Lopez

Sunshine Walk (left) and Key West house (right).

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The New Pretenders

Nancy Grabowski



The New Pretenders’ upcoming show is entitled “Tonight’s Going to Be a Good Night!” The 2026 performances will take place in the Recreation Center Ballroom on Friday, Feb. 6, and Saturday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m. and on Sunday, Feb. 8, at 2 p.m. Sunday’s show coincides with the Super Bowl; however, there is no time conflict, and we’ll all be home in plenty of time to party!

Tickets will be sold on “Ticket Tuesday” in Arbor Activity Center Card Room III beginning Tuesday, Jan. 6, from 8 to 11 a.m. We will also adhere to those times on Jan. 13, 20, and 27. Reserved tickets are \$12, and general admission tickets are \$10 each. We will also have tickets available for purchase before bingo each Wednesday, beginning Jan. 7, from 3:30 to 5:45 p.m. and during intermission.

With tickets in hand, we encourage you to take your seat about 15 minutes before the actual start time. This will enable you to relax and enjoy our pre-show warm-up. It isn’t the same old, same old either. We have a bold new concept to present to you!

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Murder Mystery Dinner Theater

Liz Elliott Lieberman



Our last three performances were met with laughter, applause, and many comments such as,

“When and where is the next murder mystery going to be?”

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This group of dedicated performers began rehearsing in July and spent many hours learning lines and delving into the characters they brought to life at The Lodge at Candler Hills for Ashford residents on Friday, Oct. 24. Many thanks to Jean Thibeault and the Ashford Social Committee for inviting us. They provided some incredible decorations depicting the 1950s era in which the mystery was set.

The shows were repeated at The Landing on Friday, Nov. 7, and Saturday, Nov. 8, to a most appreciative and fun-loving crowd. These two performances were fundraisers for the SPCA of Marion County, led by the indomitable Marlene Hatch and her lovely ladies. It was a resounding success, and we thank Mary Parra and her crew at The Landing for their invaluable help.

The next murder mystery performances will be announced in January, so if you want to be entertained in a smaller, more intimate environment by some unique and talented residents, please contact me as soon as possible for 2026 bookings at the email or phone number below.

The Murder Mystery Dinner Theater Club members wish you all very happy holidays. May the merriment of the season bring you all that you desire and fill your hearts with joy, love, and happiness.

For more information or to book a time, please contact Liz at Lizzylieberman@gmail.com or 702-378-6300.



Photo by Lennie Rodoff

Dale Wright, Nancy Jennings-Fair, Gloria Emmons, Phyllis Pastore, Mary Ann Berardi-Schmitt, and Kim English.

curs within the band, which has stylized some terrific music. The singers, too, have some new presentations for you, our loyal fans. One thing that hasn’t changed is our hope that you’ll sing and clap along, get into the spirit of the program.

A standard aspect of our program is the use of a variety of music spanning the ages. We have some oldies, some goldies, some goodies, and some things new! While we have added some different approaches, you won’t hear us doing rap because we don’t have suitable ma-

terial. We’ll keep looking, even though the prospects are limited. Naturally, if you have requests, send them along for us to consider.

We wish you the happiest of holiday seasons!

Broadway Playhouse

Elaine Morrison



Nervous chatter and showtune music filled the air of the Recreation Center Ballroom on Sunday, Nov. 2, as contestants filed into the space to compete in the Broadway Playhouse’s second-ever entertainment trivia event.

More than 120 participants took their seats at assigned tables, upon which were bags of goodies and an icebreaker sheet with 20 entertainment questions,

which they were advised would be collected during intermission for extra points. Buzzing all around the room commenced immediately as they pondered the answers to “Name the country in which the dance, tango, originated” and “What Broadway show featured a suicidal dog named Evita the Akita?”

At gametime, the moderators went over the rules, and the contest commenced, ending with a big, beautiful bonus question that enlisted the aid of some club members, who delivered memorable lines from the movie “The Godfather.” Contestants were asked to identify the character that spoke to them from the list of names they had

been given. With the movie’s musical theme playing in the background, this truly was a unique and beautiful moment for the game to end on.

Three teams took home prize money and bragging rights about their extensive knowledge.

Stay tuned for information about the spring production of “Oklahoma, Jr. Edition” with all weekend matinee performances on Saturdays, Feb. 28 and March 7, and Sundays, March 1 and March 8. All shows will begin at 3 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Tickets are \$10. Please contact otowbroadwayplayhouse@gmail.com for additional information.

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Furniture: 48" wood dining set with four padded chairs, \$475. 561-358-5489.

Golf Car: 2013 E-Z-GO, 4-seater with back seatbelts, new tires, 48-volt, batteries 1-1/2 years old. 352-804-2188.

Golf Car: 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 Car Equipment: 48-volt charger for Club Car. Lead acid batteries. 352-804-1888.

Holiday Décor: LumaBase electric luminaria lanterns with snowflake design, count of 30, \$40. 845-467-7238.

Home Décor: Tiffany-style table lamps (2) with blue-toned metal bases, \$75 for both. Gaming chair, \$50. 941-377-3611.

Misc. Items: 21.5-quart water bath canner with jar rack and lid canning preserving pot, \$25. Active 8' x 30' outdoor round frame above-ground pool with filter pump and type D filter cartridge, blue with pad, \$75. 610-721-1424.

Misc. Item: 600-pound motorcycle carrier, \$200. 561-358-5489.

Misc Items: Chico's ladies' tops, sizes 2 and 3, \$5 each. Handbags, \$5 each. 941-377-3611.

RESIDENT ID CARDS

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

Misc. Items: Portable drafting board, 20" x 26" with sliding straight edge, \$28. Custom utility trailer, 4' x 6', \$280. 352-854-8094.

Musical Instrument: McSpadden (4FH26WW) walnut dulcimer with micarta fretboard and black pegs; includes tuner, McSpadden foam case, tripod sheet music stand, plus extras. \$400 firm. 401-418-1153.

Musical Instrument: Yamaha PSR410 keyboard, \$15. 352-509-7147.

Sports Equipment: Ladies 7-speed Schwinn bicycle, with helmet, tire pump, basket, and accessories, \$150 cash. 609-206-0582.

Sports Equipment: ZuGo Rhino e-bike, step-through, 48-volt, 750-watt, LCD display, Kenda 20" 4.0 tires, 20" frame, 4-6 hours to charge, 15-38 mile range, max speed 31 mph. Electra ladies Cruiser 1 bicycle with steel frame, single speed with coaster brake, and 24" alloy rims with classic knobby tires. 610-721-1424.

Tools: Shopsmith Mark V with standard accessories. Wood-working tools, including chisels, planes, furniture clamps, and more. 813-920-3487 or 813-695-1789.

Yard Equipment: Greenworks self-propelled walk-behind mower, 21" cut, with side chute, bagger, 40-volt lithium battery, and heavy-duty charger, \$200. 850-716-3496

Tag Sales

Friday, Dec. 5 & Saturday, Dec. 6: 8500-H SW 93rd Lane, 8966-B SW 94th Lane (Friendship Park), 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. · 9206 SW 93rd Circle (Providence), 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. · 9300-A SW 90th Court (Friendship Colony), 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 6: 9837 SW 99th Loop (Crescent Ridge), 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. · 9749 SW 97th Street (Crescent Ridge), 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 12: 9049 SW 91st Circle (Williamsburg), 8 a.m. to noon.

Friday, Dec. 12 & Saturday, Dec. 13: 9720-B SW 95th Terrace (Crescent Ridge), 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 16 & Wednesday, Dec. 17: 9781 SW 97th Lane (Crescent Ridge), 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Services

American Junk Removal & Demo: One call, we haul – one item, room, or total clean-out. Total kitchen & bath demolition. Lawn/landscape clean-up. Dumpster rental. Call/text Garfield 561-306-6969. Quality work, competitive prices, licensed & insured.

Andy Dahms Interior Painting: Your local professional painting contractor. Turn your place into a showpiece. Quality Sherwin-Williams products. References available. Free estimates. Call or email at 941-730-1381 or andygooddeats1@gmail.com.

OWN A LOW SPEED VEHICLE (LSV) OR GOLF CAR?

Residents are required to complete and submit a waiver form to Resident Services.

Resident Services
8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday

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.

Cash4Carts: Sell your golf cart today for cash. Fast, friendly, and fair with same-day pick-up. 352-812-5630.

Cat Sitting: Provided by loving experienced Cat Nanny (resident) 352-854-8589.

Computer Help: Arthur Burditt, 352-875-7878. House calls, \$60/hour. Tutoring, setups, installations, Windows upgrades, PC cleanups, security software, internet connections, email access, printers, wireless devices.

Geller Lawn: Mowing, irrigation, bushes, mulch & much more! Starting at \$50 per month (no contracts). Insured. 352-390-7454.

Handyman: Insured. JAO Home Improvement & Repair – all your home's needs – carpentry, built-ins, roll-out shelves, moldings, faux painting, tile, and furniture touch ups. Visit JAO Home's page at www.ashiarts.us or call 707-280-3823 (resident).

Handyman: Repairing sliding glass door rollers/tracks, sliding garage screen doors, window balances, sliding shower doors/guides, doors & locksets, door seals. Installing handicap grab bars. One call does it all! Steve, S&T Quality Services 352-207-8682.

Jordan's Golf Cart Batteries: 6-6v installed \$780. 6-8v installed \$860. 4-12v installed \$900. Free battery check. Call 352-789-2812 with any questions.

Maid in America by Ann: Quality cleaning services. Pet sitting available. Insured & reliable. 609-276-1099.

Music Lessons: Piano, cello, organ, composition, and conducting. Contact Johnathan Couch at 352-425-9148 or johnathan.couch@aol.com. Accepting students aged 7 to adult. Discounts available for families enrolling multiple students.

Notary (Mobile): Same-day service by appointment. Will come to your home, workplace, or hospital. Call/text Larry 352-509-5211 (resident).

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Paint Time LLC: Interior & exterior painting. Quality is our goal! Also offering power washing. Let's spruce up your home inside & out. Call/text Matt at 352-640-6467.

Rikki's Cleaning Service: For all your domestic needs, from cleaning to errands and more. Call Rikki 352-509-4488.

Transportation: Doctor's appointments, shopping, hair, surgery center, hospital, etc. Diane 352-854-9999 (resident). Please leave message (no texts).

Transportation: Excellent, safe, and friendly service to Tampa, Orlando, Sanford, and Gainesville airports, as well as Port Canaveral. Drop-off/pick-up. Sue's Transportation 352-446-7425 (resident).

Transportation: Local doctors' appointments, shopping, etc. Anna 352-873-4151 (resident). Leave message.

Transportation: Professional ride-share driver since 2014. Comfort class XL SUV. All airports and local destinations. Call/text Larry 352-509-5211 (resident).

Weed Pulling: Yard work, mowing, topsoil for lawn/garden and haul away. Offering organic weed/grass killer. Insured. 352-454-2009.

Wanted

Donations: Dog or cat food [Friends of SPCA 352-362-0985] · Electric golf carts in full working condition for use by volunteers for local park. [Barbara btsprigg@gmail.com] · Men's and women's bicycles for local church homeless ministry [Carol 419-601-1322]. · Non-perishable food for food bank, and cards for veterans [Anne 843-504-0032] · Personal hygiene, & school/craft supplies for homeless; pet food/supplies for animal shelters; musical instruments for troops/veterans; socks, underwear & men's clothing [Donna 352-237-3062] · Yarn for VA hospitals, children, and newborns [352-843-6519].

Ham Radio Operators: Support the Community Emergency Response Team in the event of a disaster. Please email brucetwiss@yahoo.com.

Pet Foster Parents: Temporarily open your home to a pet in need. Call Friends of SPCA at 352-362-0985.

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PHONE NUMBER
352-236-OTOW (236-6869)

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