

## Community News

**Kenneth D. Coleen**

### Safety Check-Up

January is a great time for a safety check-up. The holidays are over, the family and guests are back wherever they came from, and it is just you and your home (finally!). Ask yourself a simple question: What do I do if ...?

Ask yourself, do I enjoy walking or biking in the community in the evening or early morning hours? If the answer is yes, do you wear reflective clothing, carry a flashlight for signaling oncoming traffic, or have proper red/white lights on your bicycle? I enjoy walking in the community in the cooler weather, and I am the first to admit that sometimes I forget to take precautions. Note to self: practice what I preach!

Another lifesaving question to ask is, "If I were to have a kitchen fire, do I have a fire extinguisher handy and could I use it? If I had a water leak into my unit, would I know what to do or who to call?"

If I am getting out of the tub or shower, is my bathmat absorbent and non-skid? Do I have a properly installed grab rail in my tub or shower?

Have I overloaded any extension cord with too many plug-in items? This is much more common than you think!

Do you have a first aid kit in the home? How old is it? Do you maintain an up-to-date emergency contact list? Do you remember where it is? When was the last time you checked it? Do you keep a clearly legible list of current emergency contacts, your primary physician, and any medications you are taking in a clearly identified vial in the refrigerator? You will also want to post a reminder on the refrigerator door that vital information is stored there. This can be a life-or-death difference to you should emergency responders be needed.

### Annual Association Meetings & Board Meetings

The annual Master Association meeting was held on Dec. 4, 2023, in Live Oak Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to familiarize residents of all member Associations of the purpose and operational areas of the Master Association, and to adopt an annual operating budget. Approximately 30 people were in attendance.

The annual meeting of Weybourne Landing was held on Dec. 5, 2023, at Circle Square Cultural Center. There were approximately 200 residents in attendance and this meeting also had some residents attend by Webinar. The purpose of the meeting was to present a general update on the community and for the board to adopt an operating budget and proposed rule changes. Both the budget for 2024 and the proposed rules changes were adopted by the board.

The Indigo East annual meeting was called to order on Dec. 12, 2023, at Circle Square Cultural Center. When it came time to announce the results of the board election, it was determined that the Association did not attain a quorum (or 30% of the membership to attend the meeting in person or by proxy). Therefore, the meeting was adjourned but before adjourning, the chairman stated a new mailing would go out with a new proxy to vote for the board of directors. Please mark your calendar to attend the next meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 30, at 10 a.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center. A new mailing will be sent to all owners that will contain a new proxy/ballot to vote in this important matter.

The Candler Hills annual meeting was also held on Dec. 13, 2023, at Circle Square Cultural Center. This meeting was well attended by approximately 300 members. Some residents also joined the meeting by Webinar. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss community updates. An update on the extension of SW 80th Street and the construction of SW 92nd Avenue was also presented. The proposed operating budget for 2024 and proposed rule changes were presented to the membership. Both the budget for 2024 and the proposed rule changes were adopted by the board.

Most amenities come to be based on the demand for their use within any

**Continued on Page 4A ▶**

# Health & Wellness EXPO

## Make Those New Year's Resolutions Happen

By **Dave DeAngelis**  
World News Writer

So how did last year's resolutions work out for ya? Liar, liar, pants on fire! Mine went well since my only resolution was to not make one. Enough stress already! Heck, writing this story makes me feel healthier and weller (is that a word?). But I'm not stopping here! Let's all make a change this year!

The countdown to a healthier lifestyle in 2024 is about to begin. The launch date is Saturday, Jan. 13, for the annual Health & Wellness Expo which will take place at Circle Square Cultural Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This step-in-the-right-direction event is sponsored by On Top of the World and AdventHealth Ocala. What's the cost? Only the time you wish to invest. So, what's this event gonna do for us? Whatever we take away from it. Not a bad investment ... for free.

On the stage, On Top of the World

fitness instructors will show us how to break a sweat by demonstrating the newest exercises offered by the many fitness classes that are available to our community. And the instructors, who practice what they preach, really make fitness fun at your own pace! Do what you can do. The Health & Wellness Expo will be fitness for the body and mind. So how does the mind fit in? Knew you'd ask.

A whole bunch of companies and services have registered to exhibit at the time of this writing, with more to follow. Learn about products and services from exhibitors including home health, labs, hospice, insurance, clinical trials, vision, tax preparation, Medicare health, dental, eye, orthopedic and rehab, holistic health providers, quality products from B-Healthy, and ... well (there's

that word again), just stop by to learn from many other professional exhibitors. Have you been delinquent, okay lazy, in monitoring your blood pressure? No problemo at the Health & Wellness Expo! The Lions Club will gladly take your blood pressure! Yes, they will return it to you.

Come on now, if you are able to, monitor on over to this event. If you can't, ask someone to grab some flyers for you. Excuses like - "oh, I'm attending a pre-school graduation ceremony for my great-great-granddaughter" is lame. Or "I have to sign for an important delivery from myself" just doesn't cut it. Forget, "my other brother Darryl is visiting and the last time I saw him was on television" - nice try.

Be there. Saturday, Jan. 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center for the annual Health & Wellness Expo. Free to attend! Free fitness instruction! Free learning and a stress-free time! Get sweaty ... uh, ready for it!

My doc says that I need more calcium. So, I'm gonna visit Mr B's Big Scoop for some ice cream after the event.

## Recycling – A Primer

By **Ray Cech**  
World News Writer

We've all been there. An empty can sits on the counter and we're not sure if it's tin, steel or aluminum. Maybe it's even paper but looks like tin. Where does it go — trash or recycle bin?

In the above example, the can should get tossed in the recycle bin — all four are acceptable materials for recycling. Now, what if you just finished a large smoothie and had no idea whether it was any of the above. Do you recycle or trash? When in doubt, say the experts, opt for the trash bin. Often, too often, drinks and take-out meals are served in Styrofoam-type containers. The word "never" comes to mind, as in never does Styrofoam go into a recycling bin.

Picture this, you're on the way home from the cleaners and you stop at Publix. Your milk, orange juice and can of tuna fish are put in a plastic bag. And then, since it's lunchtime, and you stop for pizza (pepperoni, naturally).

Once home, you take your clothes out of the plastic cover and off the wire hanger. You put the container of milk and juice in the fridge, and the can of tuna in the pantry. You then sit down, pop a can of beer and enjoy the pepperoni pizza.

Eventually, every container you bought will go into either a trash or recycle bin. What goes where — your guess?

Here are the good-guess answers: The plastic clothes cover, and the wire hanger do not go to recycling; the tuna fish can, milk, and juice container go into the recycle bin, as well as the box that your pizza came in. The can of beer — after being well drained — of course, gets recycled. The plastic Publix bags do not — best to return them to Publix. And if by chance, you finished reading "War and Peace" over your beer and pizza, do not toss Tolstoy into the recycle bin — books, hard or softcover, are not recyclable.

It was also stressed by the experts at Waste Management and Premier, that all items should be free of food prior to going into recycle bins. "Food just really mucks up the machinery."

Surprisingly, aerosol cans are recyclable once they've been emptied, and the cover removed. The key word is "empty."

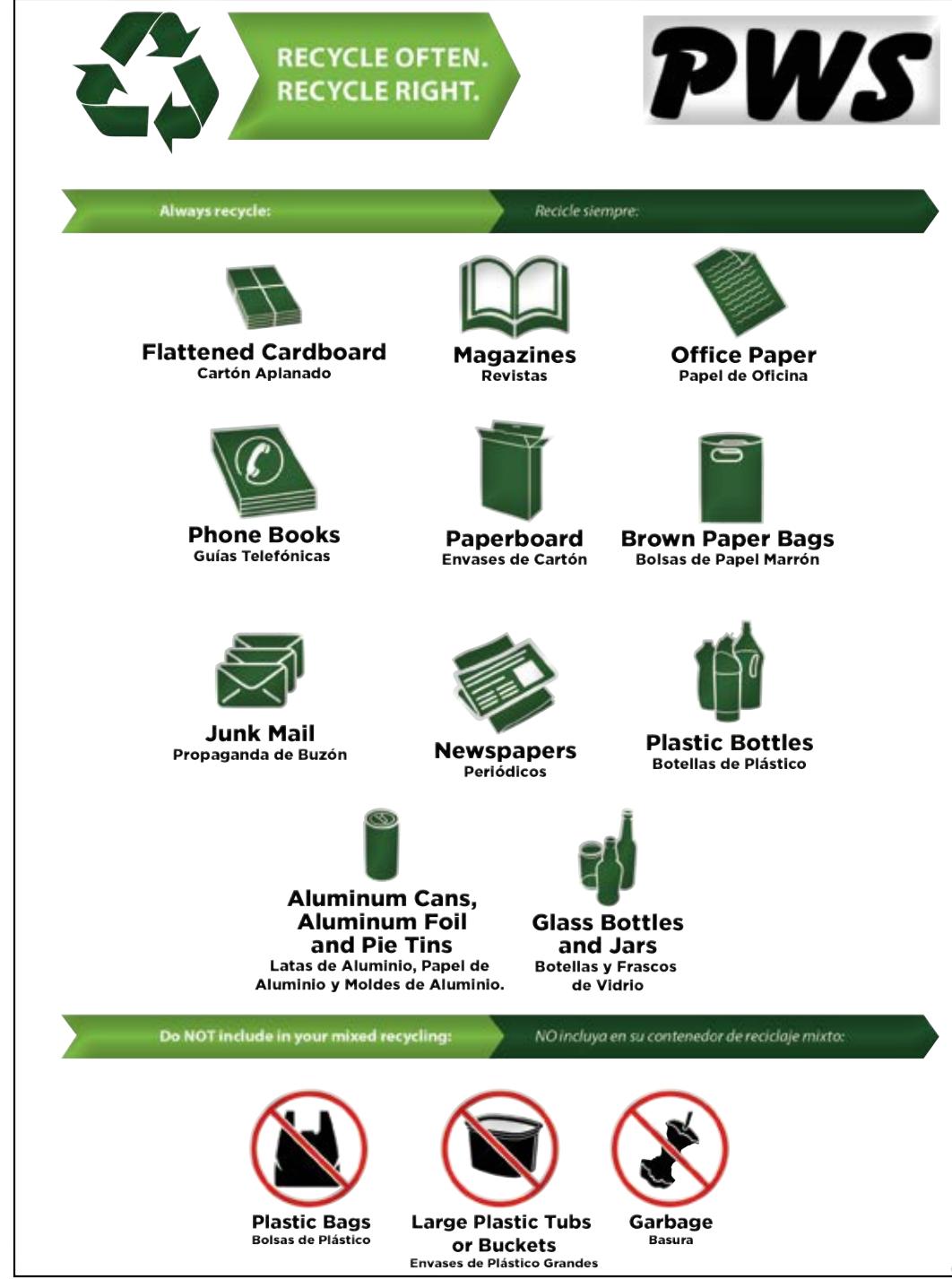
Then there is something that the re-

cycling folks call "tangibles." These can be anything that will wrap around other items to be recycled, such as hoses, hangers, strings of Christmas lights, and electrical wire. These, and like items, can be extremely intrusive, and will often shut down the processing equipment and be untangled by hand. We

were told that, "Just about everything in a garage will usually go into trash — or to special pickup."

On Top of the World management and residents take pride in practicing good husbandry, and it's up to every individual in our community to participate. Remember the general rule of thumb when thinking — recycle or trash — if it's a bottle, can, paper or cardboard, opt for the recycling bin.

For more detailed guidance on whether to recycle or trash, visit [wm.com](http://wm.com) and click "Recycle Right."



**RECYCLE OFTEN. RECYCLE RIGHT.**

**Always recycle:** **Recicle siempre:**

- Flattened Cardboard** **Carton Aplanado**
- Magazines** **Revistas**
- Office Paper** **Papel de Oficina**
- Phone Books** **Guías Telefónicas**
- Paperboard** **Envases de Cartón**
- Brown Paper Bags** **Bolsas de Papel Marrón**
- Junk Mail** **Propaganda de Buzón**
- Newspapers** **Periódicos**
- Plastic Bottles** **Botellas de Plástico**
- Aluminum Cans, Aluminum Foil and Pie Tins** **Latas de Aluminio, Papel de Aluminio y Moldes de Aluminio**
- Glass Bottles and Jars** **Botellas y Frascos de Vidrio**

**Do NOT include in your mixed recycling:** **NO incluya en su contenedor de reciclaje mixto:**

- Plastic Bags** **Bolsas de Plástico**
- Large Plastic Tubs or Buckets** **Envases de Plástico Grandes**
- Garbage** **Basura**

## Is It Legal?



Colen &amp; Wagoner, P.A.

**SCAM ALERT #1:** The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is warning about something called an “offer in compromise.” This occurs when folks receive emails, texts, and, frequently, see TV advertisements, or hear radio ads, etc., where a taxpayer is led to believe a debt to the IRS can be settled for pennies on the dollar. The IRS calls these “OIC mills.” There are technical requirements for meeting an offer of settlement and the IRS sees many instances where a taxpayer does not meet the needed requirement for settlement. To check to see if you qualify for an offer of settlement, visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and search for the “IRS Offer in Compromise Pre-Qualifier Tool.”

Look folks, if you see an advertisement that such and such can settle your debt to the IRS, or to any company, for pennies, it’s probably a scam.

**SCAM ALERT #2:** Most of us want to be charitable if we can afford it. We all hate to see veterans, children or animals suffering, as they are frequently portrayed in the TV, radio, or social media ads. Me too. But we live in different times than when we were young. We must question every request for money. So, if there’s a charity that interests you, before you donate, try Googling the charity and what I often do is Google the charity and add the word “scam” after its name. We must be vigilant.

**SCAM ALERT #3:** Perhaps the single worst scam is the “romance scam.” A widow or widower finds a friend on social media. The friend is kind, very sympathetic and says he/she has problems that are very similar to the widow/widower. A friendship is developed over time – not a lot of time, though. Soon, the friend suggests going to a separate or private email or private social media page where they can discuss their needs in private conversations. Then, in one way or another and for one reason or another, the friend needs money. And money is sent because the widow or widower has come to need that friendship. The friend, of course, is a scammer, and a particularly slimy one at that.

I once had a client tell me that she knew she was being scammed but she had someone to talk to and she needed to keep that friendship for that reason. Folks who have never gone through that kind of loneliness can’t fully understand it.

Bay Laurel  Center CDD

## IRREGULAR WATER USAGE\*

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

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

**A.** “Judge not, that ye be not judged” – Matthew 7:1. Abraham Lincoln quoted this in his second inaugural speech, which many, including me, consider to be the best speech ever by an American president. Maybe, it’s the best speech by anyone.

*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](mailto:info@colenwagoner.com) or visit [colenwagoner.com](http://colenwagoner.com).*



## ICAA NuStep Beacon Award

By Cammy Dennis

On Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023, On Top of the World was named as one of the winners of the ICAA NuStep Beacon "Best in Wellness" award. Each year ICAA (International Council on Active Aging) and NuStep honor 25 senior living communities as the "Best in Wellness." On Top of the World was number seven on that list. This award was designed to highlight organizations that embrace wellness as a way of life for all residents and staff.

These awards recognize outstanding commitment, creativity, and culture. Jane Benskey, marketing communications specialist at NuStep, notes, "By growing and sustaining a culture of wellness that not only serves, but also engages their entire community, the award winners truly exemplify what it means to be a beacon, lighting the way for other communities." Congratulations On Top of the World, what an honor!

Early in my role at On Top of the World, I realized that wellness was an encompassing philosophy that I needed to adopt. I think of wellness as a path that leads to optimal aging. Wellness is a state of maintaining health in the body, brain, and spirit especially as the result of deliberate effort. In other words, our

lifestyle, the choices we make every day play a huge role in dictating the state of our health and wellbeing. Wellness is multidimensional.

There are many different wellness models, but I subscribe to the one presented by the ICAA. This wellness model has seven dimensions: physical, social, emotional, spiritual, intellectual, vocational, and environmental. The science on longevity acknowledges that genetics play a factor in our health; however, many factors that influence our health and longevity come from the environment we create.

On Top of the World provides numerous ways to engage in the multiple dimensions of wellness. Our beautiful community makes it easy to exercise, make social connections, learn, express creativity, enjoy green spaces and so much more! "Aging well involves more than simply programs and special events, aging well requires an intentional, ongoing pursuit of potential and possibilities," says Colin Milner, ICAA founder and CEO. That is exactly what On Top of the World has accomplished by winning this special award. Happy new year to all!

### CURBSIDE LANDSCAPE DEBRIS PICK-UP SCHEDULE

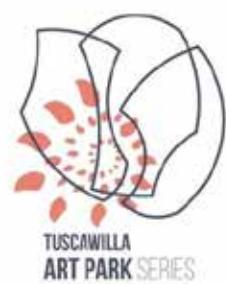
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## Community News

► Continued from Page 1A

community. Adding amenities is always welcomed by residents, but it is important to remember that the added operational costs of amenities is paid for by residents through their monthly community service fees. Ideally, the timing of additional amenities paces with the addition of new homes to keep monthly fees in line.

### Commercial Construction

As mentioned last month, The Town Square will be closed for the month of January due to construction to repair the pavement (the area will be fenced off). The work is expected to be completed in February 2024. All businesses on The Town Square will operate as usual. There will be designated walking areas to help you get to your destination.

During construction, dancing and live entertainment will be suspended for the month, but the Farmers Market will continue every Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. but move to a temporary location in the northeast parking lot of The Ranch Fitness Center & Spa. Maps will be available at CircleSquareCommons.com or facebook.com/cscitownsquare.

For the January shows at Circle Square Cultural Center, please utilize the rear parking lot as normal. In addition, deputies from the Marion County Sheriff's Office will be onsite to direct concert traffic. Maps will be available at CSCulturalCenter.com, or facebook.com/circlesquareculturalcenter.

The Recreation Center pool will be closed for use beginning Wednesday, Jan. 3, to refinish the pool, including the equipment and a new screen wall. Work is projected to be complete by March 2024.

The Landing and The Lodge at Candler Hills pools will be closed for about two weeks to do some required maintenance. This will occur after the Recreation Center pool project has been completed in March.

The Summit in Longleaf Ridge is in permitting. We anticipate having the permit in early January. We are currently working on budgets and contracting out this project. We are still on track to

start this in February. Completion date is estimated to be around the middle of 2024.

The Candler Hills Community Center is going to get a renovation this year. We are going to update the flooring, cabinets, and bathrooms. This project is projected to begin in April and will take approximately two months to complete.

The Balfour amenity planned for Candler Hills is still in rough concept design. We hope to be able to share more details on this project soon.

We are also working on conceptual plans for a new guard gate off SW 80th Street to replace the temporary construction gate house. This project is projected to start and finish in 2024.

### Construction Sites

On Top of the World is a growing community with new neighbors moving in every day. Throughout these new neighborhoods, there are houses under varying stages of construction. We have a strong desire to protect On Top of the World residents and visitors from the potential hazards that can be found on a construction site. That is why we ask that all unauthorized persons avoid entering a construction site. An example of an authorized person would only be employees of the builder directed to enter the construction site, or employees of the contractors who are directed to construct the house.

As you drive around the community, you may notice "No Trespassing" signs posted at construction sites for new houses. These signs are in place in accordance with Florida Statute 810.09 (2) (d) 2. This statute states that the no trespassing signs say: "This area is a designated construction site, and anyone who trespasses on this property commits a felony." Florida Statute 812.014 (2)(C) 10, further states, "It is grand theft of the third degree and a felony of the third degree" if property of any value is stolen from a construction site.

The Florida statute is very strict for a reason. Trespassing can lead to injuries that are otherwise avoidable. Additionally, losses from job site theft impact everyone including the contractors and consumers due to delays in construction, increased prices, and higher insurance premiums.

Over the past few years, we have seen an increase in job site trespassing and theft that has impacted all stakeholders. This trespass notice not only covers the

home site, but everything on it including the construction dumpsters. The Marion County Sheriff's Office takes all crimes very seriously, including construction site trespassing and theft, because they are concerned about your quality of life.

We encourage you to notify the Marion County Sheriff's Office or Resident Services if you see something suspicious going on in or around a construction homesite.

### Winter Weather & Shrubbery

As December has been cooler than normal so goes January which can be a tricky month when it comes to the weather. We may have wonderfully warm days, cold nights, and an occasional hard frost. Do not remove seemingly damaged plants prematurely. Plants affected by the cold may surprise you with their recovery. Withhold pruning back until mid-April. There may be several more periods of cold and possible frost before mid-April. Pruning at this point will spur plant growth that is vulnerable to the cold. Rather, wait until mid-April to consider any pruning of owner added plantings. Central Florida generally experiences one cold snap with light frost between March 15 and Easter so be forewarned.

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

### Personal Home & Contents Insurance

Fire events or water damage are cautionary reminders for each resident to check in with your insurance agent and make sure the insurance coverage on your unit and contents is adequate. If you feel "lucky" and go without insurance, or believe you can self-insure any loss, please reconsider. The cost of repair or reconstruction, as well as loss of use (being displaced pending restoration), may well exceed the purchase price of your home many times over. It is the obligation of every owner to insure the contents of their dwelling, including loss of use coverage. Loss of use coverage will cover expenses for living and lodging should you become displaced. Displacement after a fire may be between six and 18 months!

This is a good point to segue into the limits of coverage that individual dwelling owners may wish to have. Contents coverage may vary greatly depending on what you own. As a basic point though, you need adequate limits to cover furnishings, personal items, floor coverings, appliances, and cabinetry. All carriers write an HO6 rider that provides for loss assessment coverage in the event of a special assessment from the Association to cover unforeseen shortfalls or losses.

In the On Top of the World (Central) Owners Association, buildings are insured under a master policy in the name of the Association. The deductible is \$10,000 for any casualty event per occurrence including wind/hail related damage. Named storm events carry a separate deductible of three percent of the total value at the time of loss, at each location involved in the loss, subject to a minimum (community wide) deductible of \$250,000 for any one occurrence. With respect to flood (rising water), earthquake, and flood resulting from a named storm, all loss, damage, and/or expense arising out of any one occur-

rence shall be adjusted as one loss, and from an amount of each such adjusted loss there is a five percent of location total insured value subject to a \$250,000 deductible per occurrence.

For more information, please visit OTOWInfo.com > Associations > OTOW Central then locate Insurance Requirements and Forms and download the PDF document entitled: Insurance Responsibility of the Individual Homeowner.

Residents of Candler Hills, Indigo East, and Weybourne Landing may be seeing higher homeowner insurance rates again this year. This is a state-wide phenomenon driven largely by insurance fraud. The latest flavor of which is storm related roof damage.

The scam works like this: A homeowner is contacted by an insurance adjuster offering a "free" roof replacement. They are then offered an "authorization form" to sign. That form is an assignment of rights letter to the roofer, who then pursues a claim together with an attorney. Once the replacement work is completed, the law firm sues the homeowner's insurance company for inflated costs of the work. This has become such a widespread practice, that the cost is being returned to homeowners in the form of higher premiums.

This problem was not addressed in the last legislative session, as it was an election year, and the legislators were busy off campaigning. As a result, the markets for homeowner insurance have worsened with the insolvency of several insurers and the catastrophic losses from Hurricane Ian. I'm not optimistic they will get much right. I predict they will just kick the proverbial insurance can down the road, yet again.

Besides casualty insurance, other steps to protecting your home are testing your smoke detector regularly and having an operable BC fire extinguisher at easy reach. Read the extinguisher operating instructions when you first purchase the unit and at least twice a year thereafter is also recommended. In this recent event, a homeowner having and using an operable fire extinguisher may have greatly limited the damage.

### Safety Tips

For those of you who use dryer sheets, now is a good time to scrub your lint vent with a brush and hot soapy water. Some dryer sheets emit a waxy substance that adheres to the mesh lining of the lint trap screen. If you run hot water over your lint vent and the water does not pass through the mesh, then it is a good idea to clean your lint vent. Consider using wool or plastic dryer balls instead of the dryer sheets.

### Conservation Tip

Depending on the type irrigation system, shaving two minutes off each irrigation run time yields 24 to 36 gallons per zone per run time which can save 103 to 155 gallons per month per zone for once per week watering and 206 to 310 gallons per month for twice per week watering. Monthly water savings for seven zones may cost in a range of \$1.20 to \$15.95 for once per week watering and \$1.80 to \$23.93 for twice per week watering depending on the rate tier.

Please remember to turn your irrigation controllers back to one day per week during Eastern Standard Time (first Sunday in November until the second Sunday in March) as required by the St. Johns and Southwest Florida Water Management District to aid in water conservation.

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## Around the World



**Mary Anne Lynam**  
352-236-OTOW (6869)

Happy new year! 2023 seems like a blur – it went so fast. Your holidays, were they full of joy? I certainly hope so. Now, let's keep all those promises we made for the new year.

## Trash

You've got lots. All those boxes, left-over wrapping paper, food that you never want to see again and other stuff. For the white goods, furniture or other large items, please contact Waste Management at 866-684-3142. For curbside collection, live Christmas trees, left by



Photo by Kay Milush

Americana Village's hidden gem at Christmas!

## Americana Village



Julie Sloat

Happy new year! Our neighborhood held a successful and fun holiday party in December 2023. A light dinner of soup, bread and crackers was served. Thank you to our talented soup makers. It was delicious! We played "pass the present" game and had Christmas trivia.

Then we enjoyed delicious, hot chocolate and cookies at the gazebo. We were entertained by Donna Smalley and Larry with many Christmas songs and caroling. Lots of fun and merriment made this party a success. So many kind and

helpful people really made this evening possible. Your time and help are really appreciated. As always, many hands make the work less.

Our gazebo was decorated with many lights. We had a lot of people help with that, as well. The result was magnificent! Thank you to all! We hope all residents were able to drive by and enjoy the gazebo.

An old-fashioned ice cream social is coming up on Thursday, Feb. 1, in the Hobby Building Event Room at 4 p.m. Come and be part of a great community. Our neighbors are so friendly!

Please pay attention to the postal area bulletin boards for details of upcoming events.

Again, many thanks to all who help make Americana Village an active and fun neighborhood.



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the roadside, will be picked up by Parkway on the regular scheduled debris day. Please remember that starting on Tuesday, Jan. 2, curbside recycling will move to Thursday pick up along with household wastes, eliminating the separate Tuesday pickup for recycling.

## Holiday Lighting

Please remove all lights, and decorations by Monday, Jan. 15. Christmas trees may be placed on the curb in front of your home for pick-up on your neighborhood's regularly scheduled yard debris pick-up day. All tinsel must be removed from the trees.

## Modification Requests

This is the beginning of a new year, and you may have plans to renovate or update your home. Occasionally, we receive complaints about vendors and

make note of them. If warranted, those vendors would be pulled from our list, either temporarily to cure the complaint or permanently.

When you visit Resident Services to apply for a modification request, we verify that the vendor you have selected has provided proof of insurance, and, if required, a license to do business in the State of Florida. The vendor certificate of liability is kept on file until expiration. On Top of the World does not check backgrounds or vet other information regarding any vendor, nor do we recommend any vendor. We urge you to review any complaints from other residents about the vendor you are selecting. We recommend residents obtain at least two bids from vendors. "Too good to be true," often is.

## Resident Services

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

Resident Services is closed daily between noon and 1 p.m. The time begins when the last resident assisted before closing vacates the building as soon after noon as possible.

Please note that Resident Services will be closed Monday, Jan. 1.

You may wish to complete your maintenance request online versus stopping by the office. Visit [OTOWInfo.com](http://OTOWInfo.com) > Maintenance Request and enter your request. Be sure to scroll down to enter the service you are requesting and click submit. Please note that this method may

not be the best in order to report the full details of your request due to a limit in characters allowed, however, you may also call, email or come into the Resident Services office.

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

## After Hours Non-Medical Emergencies

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

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**Candler Connection**

Debra Keirn



2024 is here and we are excited about the events that Candler Connection has planned.

The first potluck dinner will be on Tuesday, Jan. 30, at 5:30 p.m. and it will be a soup, salad, and dessert night. Residents with the last names beginning with A-H should be soup or chili; I-P a side dish/salad; and Q-Z a dessert. Please prepare your dish for 12 to 15 people and provide the ingredients to help those with food allergies. Please bring the dish that is requested so that we have enough of each item. \$1 at the door covers eating utensils, plates, napkins, and decaf coffee. Respond to Deb Keirn by phone at 352-414-5737, text at 814-571-7908 or email [arthurkipdeb@verizon.net](mailto:arthurkipdeb@verizon.net).

Friday, Feb. 16, is the Sweeties Party from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. with a cost of \$10 per person. This event is honoring

sweets (which can be cakes, pies, cookies or cheese and cracker trays) so each attendee is asked to bring a dessert for 12 people and Butch Philips will provide the music. The committee will provide coffee, candies, and light appetizers. Tickets go on sale on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 10 a.m. to noon starting on Tuesday, Jan. 16 through Thursday, Feb. 1. Hope to see you at this new event.

The annual board meeting is on Wednesday, Jan. 3, at 1 p.m. The following people have expressed interest in being a part of the board: Jan Eaton, Dawn Fernandez, Chris Hoffman, Jay Wallet and Amy Waller for two-year terms and Linda Ellison for a one-year term to take over for Pat Diaz-Version who is leaving the area. Richard Steinfeldt is retiring so come and thank him for his many years of service to Candler Connection. He will be greatly missed.

Below are the dates for upcoming events:

Friday, April 5: Spring sock hop (new event) with a buffet of pizza from Pasta Faire and ice cream

sundaes with ice cream from Scoops. Tim Hargis will DJ.

Sunday, May 5: Cinco de Mayo (new event) with a Mexican buffet from La Hacienda and jukebox bingo.

Sundays, June 16, and Aug. 11: Ice cream social with various flavors of ice cream and toppings and ice cream sodas.

Thursday, July 4: Independence Day pool party and picnic.

Saturday, Sept. 14: Island party.

Sunday, Oct. 20: Annual fall picnic at the softball field pavilion.

Friday, Dec. 13: Holiday party catered by Pasta Faire and entertain-

ment by Kathleen Kane.

All events and ticket sales take place at The Lodge at Candler Hills (unless otherwise noted).

Signup at [candlerconnection.org](http://candlerconnection.org) to receive The Happenings and/or join our Candler Hills closed Facebook group to learn about our activities.

The next regular board meeting will be on Tuesday, Jan. 2, at 3 p.m. in Meeting Room 1. Any Candler Hills resident is welcome to attend.

Happy new year to all! May you experience good health and many blessings in 2024. See you around the neighborhood and at future events.

Show will be announced in the February column.

Do you make new year's resolutions? Do you keep them? Were they beneficial to you? Did you know that only nine percent of Americans keep their resolutions. Twenty three percent quit their resolutions by the end of the first week and 43% quit by the end of January. Thirty Five percent of people in 2023 saw that their goals were unrealistic. Other reasons for failed resolutions are not keeping track of the progress, forgetting about their resolutions and no accountability. The most popular resolutions are exercise more, lose weight, get organized, learn a new skill or hobby, live life to the fullest, save more money or spend less, quit smoking, spend more time with family and friends, travel more and read more. Whatever you choose to do for your new year's resolution in 2024, I wish you success in completing it. However, please know that if you can't keep your resolution, you are not alone.

On Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023, the Indigo East Social Committee holiday party was attended by 115 residents. There was an abundance of food, delicious desserts, many door prizes and so much more. Our very own DJ, Frank, provided the music. It was a beautiful festive evening for socializing with our Indigo East neighbors.

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, was the Indigo East holiday golf cart parade. Best in

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

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

**Kestrel Knowings**

Elaine Morrison



The Christmas spirit was in great abundance throughout the month of December 2023. Not only was the neighborhood regally decked out in holiday finery, but the many events held evoked joy, happiness and warm generosity, providing brightness and comfort to last long into the new year.

Festivities commenced on Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023, when the first annual cookie swap took place at the Candler Hills Community Center. Suffice it to say that hundreds of cookies were offered, the baking prowess of many residents quite evident. The delighted participants ate, drank and were very merry. Everyone attending was given a surprise gift of a beautiful "Mrs. Claus" apron, made by resident Linda Duncan. They also took home bags of holiday cookies.

The second annual holiday party took place on Monday, Dec. 11, 2023. The evening provided great food, dancing, and above all camaraderie. Many new friendships were formed as neighbors shared the festivities.

Topping things off, on Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, Nan and Ron Ashford opened their home and hearts with a driveway party, staging a "Ront a Claus" photoshoot. With a beautiful winter scene backdrop, Ron, a clone of Santa, posed with residents for pictures taken by Nan. The couple started doing this a couple of years ago to provide folks with much needed cheer. Hot chocolate and sweets were served. It was almost Christmas.



Photo by Nan Ashford

## Have Medicare questions? I have answers.

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

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## Community Patrol

Rocky Pizzarello



Around the turn of 2000, when the Community Patrol was started at On Top of the World, SR 200 was a two-lane road, and the Super Walmart was a field and a dream. The Community Patrol started as a joint idea between Kenneth D. Colen and the Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO). It originally was a combination of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Citizen Observation Patrol (COPS), which is now a separate group. There were about 35 members who not only drove around the community, but were trained for first aid, fire, and other emergencies.

This month, we introduce you to Jim Miller, one of the founding fathers of the Community Patrol team. Jim tells us when the Community Patrol started, there were four-hour shifts during which volunteers could drive every road in the Americana Village and Friendship neighborhoods multiple times and knew virtually every resident. The guard houses then were gates, members had two-way radios to keep in touch, and at

## Avalon Social Group

Laura Gavey &amp; Sharon Hall



Happy new year! The Avalon Social Club is wishing all residents a happy and healthy 2024!

2023 was a great year for our club as we offered Avalon residents multiple opportunities to meet their neighbors while enjoying food and entertainment. Our committee worked hard to provide these opportunities and has a packed lineup for 2024 as well.

Monday, Jan. 8, we will have our kickoff which will include a meal catered by Pasta Faire and a theatrical presentation by Dee Collier, historian, as Irene Mabee, Al Capone's "business manager." Get your tickets now! Contact Sharon Hall at 270-855-1354 no later than Jan. 1 for more information.

On Monday, March 11, we are plan-

ning a magic night! Be on the lookout for more information in February for this event.

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

If you would like to be added to our email list or to verify that you are on the list so that you can be notified of future events, please email your request to [avalonsocialclub@gmail.com](mailto:avalonsocialclub@gmail.com). For up-to-date Avalon news and upcoming events, we also encourage you to join our Facebook group (Avalon Social Club). This is a private group, and you will be asked for your address to verify that you are an Avalon resident. If you have trouble finding the group or getting in, please email to the address above and we'll send you the link to the group. Activities and events will also be posted at the postal center.

Come and join your neighbors for some food and fun in 2024!

On Monday, March 11, we are plan-

ning a magic night! Be on the lookout for more information in February for this event.

One of the early tasks when patrolling was to make sure the gates were operating properly. Due to a realignment of MCSO, CERT fell under Emergency Management and the Community Patrol and COPS stayed with MCSO. We now patrol in retired police cars, use cell phones and two-way radios, and have monthly training at our meetings.

The Community Patrol's main mission today is being visible to our community and acting as additional eyes and ears for MCSO. In November 2023, 41 volunteers patrolled throughout the community for 191 hours. We drive not only around On Top of the World's neighborhoods, but the adjacent shopping centers (Steeplechase Plaza to Lowe's) to observe and ensure a public awareness that the areas are being monitored. Lieutenant Robbins from the MCSO has often stated that the visibility of the Community Patrol has a significant effect in reducing crime.

If you'd like to learn more about the Community Patrol, we meet the fourth Monday of each month at 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. Or for more information, please contact Allison Cranmer at [otowcommunitypatrol@gmail.com](mailto:otowcommunitypatrol@gmail.com).



Photos by Rocky Pizzarello

Jim Miller receiving an award from Marion County Sheriff's Office.

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Philippians 4:13

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## Community Emergency Response Team

Andrea La Fave



## Newcastle Social Committee

Nancy Monaghan



May 2024 be a most safe and happy year for everyone! Be alert to your own limitations as well as those of your neighbors. If you need some help or advice, don't hesitate to ask people around you. This is such a friendly and helpful community - and that includes the On Top of the World staff.

Learn more about the Community Emergency Response Team at <https://sites.google.com/view/otowcert/home>.

You are welcome to come to one of our meetings which are held the second Tuesday of each month, from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room. Call Debra at 412-443-2930 to confirm the next date.

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

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Summer activities included a field

trip to A Novel Idea Used Bookstore and lunch at Betty Cakes for the book club. Adventurous neighbors took a group 20-mile bike ride. Several Newcastle ladies joined the newly formed Poms Cheer & Dance.

Fall kicked off with jukebox bingo. Everyone had a blast identifying the best music ever - the music we grew up with! October activities included Newcastle's cornhole tournament and chili cookoff and our third annual Halloween progressive walk. In November, neighbors attended the Athenian dinner at St. Mark's Church in Belleview and the third annual post-Thanksgiving coffee social at Bing and PJ's. Two hands only CPR and AED classes were taught by neighbor Charles Dodge.

In preparation for the holidays, we lit up Newcastle, and with the addition of luminaries, the neighborhood looked beautiful. A cookie recipe exchange was hosted by Debbie Bianchi. We wrapped up the year with the "It's a Wonderful

Life in Newcastle" holiday party. The themed displays were made by Newcastle, the catered dinner followed by a fabulous and fancy dessert buffet by Newcastle bakers, music and dancing, themed favors, charitable contributions to Veterans Helping Veterans, and over 200 photos on display of Newcastle's good times, contributed to a memorable and special celebration. Thanks to all elves!

Heading into 2024, I requested resolutions or new year's stories from Newcastle and my favorite came from Charles Dodge ... "My resolution is to stop hanging out with people who ask me about my new year's resolutions." - Anonymous

And from another neighbor, Alexis Dunwell, a wonderful sentiment, "May the new year bring you blessings in abundance of love, joy, health, peace, and prosperity. With some to spare!" Happy new year from Newcastle!

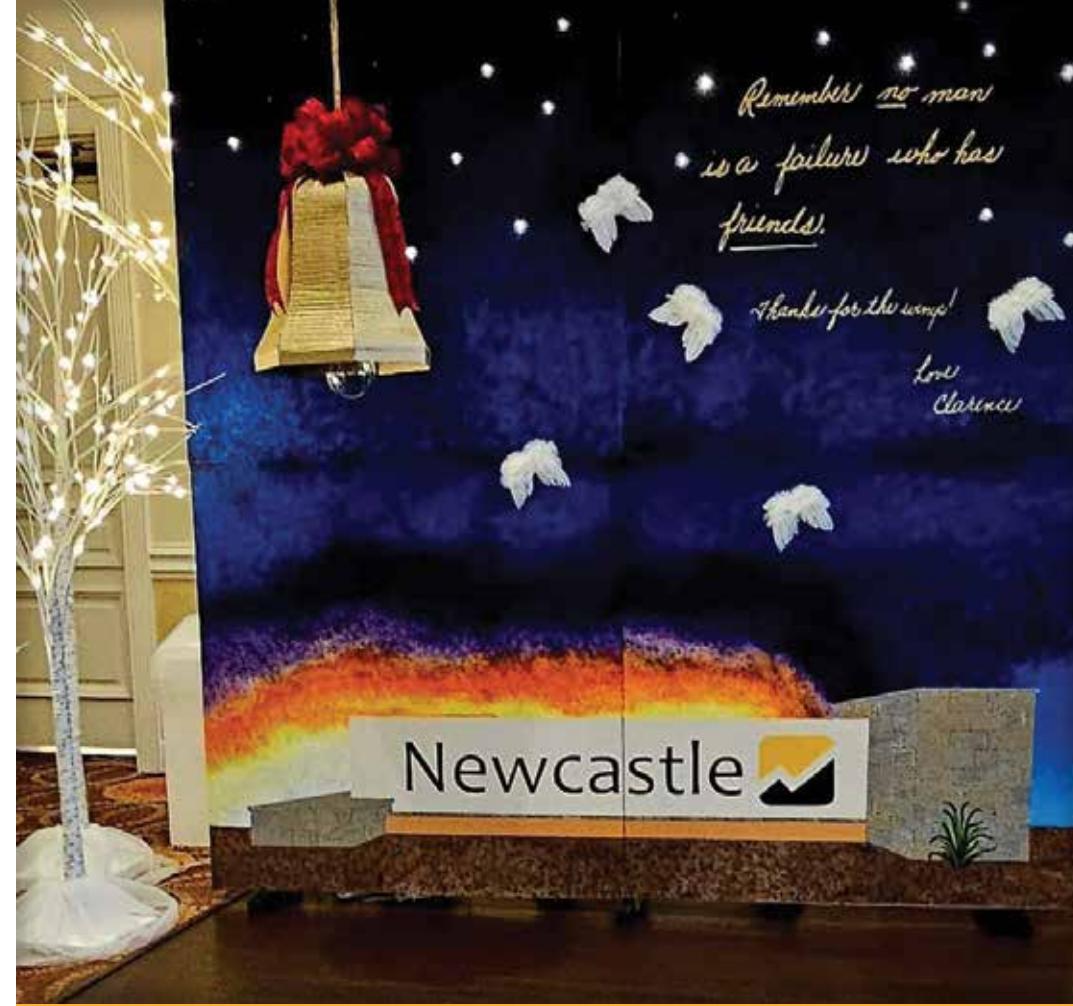


Photo by Charles Dodge

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Williamsburg  
Neighbors

Carmel Kessler



December 2023 started with a bang for Williamsburg. The creatively decorated golf carts from our neighborhood in the Holiday Golf Cart Parade stood out; not only because of their festive looks, but because of their identifying flags stating: "Williamsburg Rocks," which it does.

On the first Sunday of December 2023, our neighborhood gathered for the Winterfest holiday party. Singer Linda Sisco and her husband provided musical entertainment. Neighbors enjoyed a delicious catered meal. The scrumptious desserts were professionally made and donated by Williamsburg's own Tina Ross.

Neighbors sitting at the same table



Longleaf Ridge ladies' annual cookie exchange.

Longleaf Ridge  
Friends

Michelle Migdal, Kathleen Taylor, Debra Vitale & Judi Walsh

Welcome to 2024! Here in On Top of the World we follow the Gregorian calendar and celebrate the new year on Jan. 1. However, the new year is celebrated on different days all over the world. The Japanese new year also begins on Jan. 1, but continues for three days. The Chinese celebrate for a month beginning in late January or early February. The Jewish new year begins on Rosh Hashana between Sept. 6 and Oct. 5. The Muslim 354-day calendar begins the year with the month of Muharram. The Tamil in India celebrate the winter solstice while Tibetans celebrate in February. Thailand waits until March or April.

Year-end holiday activities were plentiful. Longleaf Ridge neighbors enjoyed the first annual Veterans Day ice cream social hosted by Pat and Paul McMellville. It was a wonderful turnout and a great way to honor our veterans.

December included the second annual snowman drive-through which challenged visitors to guess the number of snowmen. Twinkling lights, colorful decorations and luminaries brightened Longleaf Ridge and added a magical air to the holiday festivities. Many thanks to Nan Key, David and Linda Ackroyd, as well as Jon and Carol Fiedler for decorating the newly painted entry monuments throughout our neighborhood.

Dozens of holiday parties and open houses were held throughout Longleaf Ridge. A "kick-off party" was held for the new Longleaf Ridge holiday dessert recipe book with a delicious assortment of 80 tasty recipes. Proceeds from sales will be donated to the Tunnels to Towers Foundation.

Jane Daubenspeck hosted the annual ladies' bunch and cookie exchange. It was a delightful way for neighbors to kick-off the holiday season. The dining club met at Milano's Italian Restaurant and everyone enjoyed the food and the company. The men's group welcomed Buddy Head, personal trainer and fitness coordinator, as the speaker at their December luncheon.

Pedal power pals continue to meet on select Thursdays to explore On Top of the World, hang out and chat. Book clubs took a break in December but are planning exciting new reading for 2024.

How lucky are we! As our neighborhood continues to grow, we look forward to welcoming all the many new neighbors. Please remember to join our private Facebook page (OTOW Longleaf Ridge Friends) and provide your phase and lot number/address. Please send questions to otowlongleafridge@gmail.com. We wish everyone a happy and healthy new year!

had to put their heads together to answer trivia questions about On Top of the World and Williamsburg. The winners were some of our newer neighbors. Everyone participated in a fun "silent raffle" of donated items from many generous businesses and individuals. Marcia VanDeale, Tina Ross, and Linda Jones were responsible for securing the raffle items.

Many thanks to On Top of the World Realtors Christy Mann, Ada Peralta and Tammy Coughlin for their donations. Gift baskets were provided by Scott Cameron, State Farm; John Whipple, Foxfire Realty; and Linda Jones, Pet Sitter Extraordinaire. Generous gift cards and certificates were donated by the following businesses: Breakfast Station, Darrell's Dog Gone Good Diner, Milano's Italian Grille, Mama B's Diner, La Dolce Vita, El Mexcal Restaurant, Tires Plus, Ocala Golf Cart, Liquor King, Hair to Impress, Color Lounge, Cards and Such, and W Nails.

Neighbor Lynn Phelps provided several beautiful pieces of her handmade jewelry for the raffle. Neighbors Jim and Chris Belonger, Brian and Linda McDonald and Nancy Meininger also made donations. There were many happy neighbors who left the gathering with wonderful gifts. Heartfelt thanks go to everyone who worked on the party, especially Gwen Fabian who took care of all the paperwork, monies, tickets, and catering contracts. The celebration was a great success.

The corner of SW 91st Circle was hopping Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023, with music and merriment. Neighbors Gary Null and Lisa Kuehl had a party for all the neighborhood to enjoy. The music, provided by The Music Man, had people

singing, and dancing. The food was fantastic. What a great celebration!

The music in the air could be heard again on Monday afternoon, Dec. 11, 2023. Rae of Light, a dynamic professional musical trio from Michigan, entertained neighbors and friends with their beautiful singing voices, energy, and variety of musical genre. What a very special treat for the neighborhood.

Welcome new neighbors! Please contact Williamsburg President Nancy Meininger so that your contact information is added to our master list for email blasts. Neighborhood happenings can also be found on our Facebook page (Welcome to Williamsburg-OTOW). Come join the many wonderful activities going on in our dynamic neighborhood!



Photo by Carmel Kessler

Williamsburg neighbors enjoying the Rae of Light concert.

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Photo by Debra O'Connor

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Longleaf Ridge  
Friends

Michelle Migdal, Kathleen Taylor, Debra Vitale & Judi Walsh

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**Friendship Connection**

Caron Janssen



Now that we are welcoming 2024, plans are in the works to make it a banner year for Friendship Connection. Under the supervision of the new chair, Denise Sherman, the next event will be held in March. This is to give time for all the new officers to get acclimated to their positions.

Saturday, March 23 is the date for the event in the Recreation Center Ballroom. It will again be a potluck with participants bringing either an appetizer or dessert, depending on the first letter of their last name. Last names starting with A through K will be asked to bring an appetizer, last names starting with L

**OneBlood Bloodmobile**

Sara Sommer



The Big Red Buses® were here on Monday, Dec. 4, 2023. We had a great turnout. We collected 45 units of whole blood and 12 units of double red blood. We saved up to 171 lives. Each donor re-

ceived a cozy, warm blanket, and a \$20 E-card to be used at many places in the area and online. What a way to end the year.

To begin the new year, the Big Red Bus will be here on Friday, Jan. 5. We continue to provide Friday hours three times a year. The bus will be parked in the Recreation Center parking lot from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please give if you can. All types are needed.

See you on the bus!

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**Crescent Ridge Happenings**

Patti Doty



3 to 5 p.m. at the Veterans Park pavilion. Please bring a side dish to share for six to eight people, a beverage, and a folding chair (in case all the bench seats are full). Being outside in the beautiful Florida winter weather is always so enjoyable.

If you are new to Crescent Ridge or have a new neighbor, please encourage them to join our email database to receive neighborhood notices, information, etc., by emailing Carol Lewis at [crneighbors@yahoo.com](mailto:crneighbors@yahoo.com). Please note this is a new email address for our group. You can also join our Facebook group (OTOW Crescent Ridge Neighbors). We all enjoy communicating with our neighbors and seeing their posts!

All Crescent Ridge and Crescent Green residents are invited to join us at our regular monthly gatherings scheduled for the second Sunday of each month from 3 to 5 p.m., at the beautiful Veterans Park pavilion. Please mark your calendar. What a fantastic way to spend a Sunday afternoon!

Mark your calendar for our next monthly event on Sunday, Jan. 14, from



Photo by Patti Doty

Gift basket winner.

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**Veterans Club****Charles Calhoun**

The Veterans Club had a great 2023! We are so proud of all the new members and their contributions to our community and fellow veterans.

We have formed a strong alliance with the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard, Marion County Veterans Council, Blue Star Mothers of Ocala, American Legion Post 354, and the new American Legion Post 354 Auxiliary. These five organizations continue to grow and network with many other organizations and individuals who make such an impact on our region.

Yes, it's bigger than just our community. We are now helping and affecting more than just Ocala. I get calls daily from outside of Ocala asking for information on veteran issues and assistance. When a hurricane hit Northern Florida, we banded together and were the first to assist with disaster relief.

We ended the year by teaming up and presenting 278 blankets and bears, 1,500 toys to the Marion County Sheriff's Office donated by Mary Beth Bell. The Marion County Memorial Honor Guard

**Active Newcomers Club****Lori Lund**

The last large group activity of the Active Newcomers Club in 2023 was our annual holiday party called – the Jingle Mingle. It was the first time many of our members had been inside this beautiful facility. The decorations were very festive with garland, lights, and balloons. The catered meal was delicious, the selfie photo booth was well used throughout the night, and the dance floor was also busy from the great party music provided by the DJ.

One of the exciting events of the evening was a snowball fight. Nothing was more enjoyable to watch than adults of a certain age letting their inner child come out.

A heartfelt summary of our Angel Tree service project was given by Terri Albright, the membership chair and Angel Tree coordinator for the Active Newcomers Club. We surpassed last year's numbers with more families and children receiving gifts. In 2022, we served four families with a total of 17 children. In 2023, we served eight families with a total of 21 children. Something new added this year was giving each of the seven families \$100 in Publix gift cards to provide for a great holiday meal. The outpouring of support from our club members, Avalon, and the Ohio State Buckeye Social Club, this year's Angel Tree project would not have been as successful as it was.

All of this was accomplished in only 20 days from the first day of advertising the event to the collection of all the gifts. The Saddlewood Elementary School families who were adopted for this project hopefully had a more joyous holiday season because of the generous efforts of the great people associated with the Active Newcomers Club.

As they say, as one door closes another opens. Plans are already underway for 2024 activities for the Active Newcomers Club. The first being our annual membership meeting which will be held at The Lodge at Candler Hills on Tuesday, Jan. 23, at 4 p.m. A summary of 2023 events will be provided as well as sharing of some of the upcoming events for 2024. The new board of directors will be present to meet and take questions. This meeting is open to anyone who has lived in On Top of the World for less than four years and is looking for a way to connect to the community and meet new people and get involved in group activities.

If you cannot make this membership meeting, you can stop by our information table at the Club Fair in the Recreation Center Ballroom on Thursday, Jan. 25. We will have membership applications available at both events. Hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to email us at [activenewcomers34481@gmail.com](mailto:activenewcomers34481@gmail.com).

**On Top of the World NEWS****GOOD NEWS TO SHARE?**

Email [otowfl.com](mailto:otowfl.com) with your idea(s). If approved, a World News writer will be assigned.

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

delivered lunch from Mission BBQ donated by the American Legion Post 354.

We also arranged for a Christmas party for the National Guard units and donated over 500 toys to their children.

Our input is also making a difference in legislation both statewide and on a federal level. Three of our organizations have been consulting with legislators who affect veterans statewide and nationally.

Your concerns and opinions matter and are being passed on.

Yes, it's 2024! One of our prime efforts this year will be to prepare our veterans and families for planning ahead. We all need to make sure no family member gets blindsided when something happens. We need to make sure our affairs are in order and a seamless path is planned. Our January meeting will feature a speaker with expertise in elder estate planning.

I am also proud to announce that the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard will have an office in the Veterans Helping Veterans building on Silver Springs Boulevard in Ocala. Their goal will be to assist veterans using the resources of our great county and community partners.

Please join us at our monthly meeting on the third Thursday of the month at 3 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV.



Photo by Becky Green

Active Newcomer members dancing at the Jingle Mingle.



Photo by Mary Beth Bell

Bears and blankets donated to the Marion County Sheriff's Office by Mary Beth Bell and the toys donated by the American Legion Post 354 Auxiliary.

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Tickets start at \$35/person

## 'Tails' of Gratitude

By Melanie Vittitow

With the start of the new year, I would like to take this time to thank all of you who have donated to us over the last year. Maybe you stopped by our table at the Circle Square Commons Farmers Market, or dropped off beds, crates, or pet food at Evelyn Holiday's house (8880-C SW 94th Street) or sent us a check. We are an all-volunteer group and are not affiliated with the national association, so we rely on donations to be able to continue our mission of helping pets in need in Marion County and a few surrounding counties.

A special thanks goes to anyone who opened their home to foster or adopt one of our rescued animals. If you would like to know more about what we do and how you can help, come to our next meeting on Thursday, Jan. 18, at 1 p.m., at the Friendship Baptist Church, 9510 SW 105th St, Ocala, 34481. Or you can always call us at 352-362-0985.

While I am thanking people, I need to thank our intrepid volunteer members who give their time and energy to our various projects. We couldn't have a table at the Farmers Market if we didn't have people there each week, or those who man the "coffee and donuts" table at several On Top of the World functions.

Our on-going project is providing bags of pet food to the county Meals on Wheels program for those seniors who need help feeding their pets. Every other

week our team gets together to pack and deliver these bags to Marion Senior Services. In addition, in December 2023, they go further by supplying and stuffing stockings for each of the pets that get a bag.

I also can't forget our foster coordinator, Dawn Case, who has the task of finding fosters, going out to collect animals that need help, and finding the right homes for them. And, finally, our telephone team, who spend hours answering and dealing with people and their pets.

I found an article in Your Dog newsletter that is very appropriate for this time of year. It's about new year's resolutions that include your dog. This is the time of year that we try to watch what and how much we eat. We should look at the dog's portions also, and not just guess at how much he needs. What about exercise? While we are making plans to be more active, let's include more walking time with the dog. It's not just a matter of burning calories, this is enrichment time for them when they check out what's going on in the world. And you might meet people and make new friends. One important resolution for you and the dog is to get an ID tag or printed collar. Now, not after he gets lost!

Always remember, "Pets are not our whole lives, but they make our lives whole."



Photo by Marcia VanDaele

Christmas goodies for the Meals on Wheels pets.



Toys for Tots donations.

## A December to Remember

By Gail Morris

Happy new year to all!

The Lions Club was very busy the last two months of 2023. In November 2023, our club, with the help of our community partner, Walmart, gathered and assembled the Thanksgiving baskets for those families in need, a total of 60. They were sent to Dunnellon Elementary school, Saddlewood Elementary and College Park Elementary as well as for the veterans at the Ocala Ritz Veterans Village and Vets Helping Vets.

This has become an annual commitment to our community in need, and we are grateful to all our members who support this activity. We are so very thankful to Publix for their generous \$150 gift card. Our fundraising event during the year helps our club provide such services to those in need.

Our club, with the help of our community, was able to collect and deliver to Toys for Tots over 1,054 gifts for boys and girls of various ages in Marion County. This is four times as much as we donated last year! A great big thank you from us and all those children to our On Top of the World Community.

Our members finished the year with a holiday party at the Golden Spoon Diner and a good time was had by all. Tracey Hodge, our "tail twister" was our MC for

the event and everyone left with a little something. Fellowship is just an extra with our club.

Lions will be out in force for the next two months selling tickets to our main fundraising event. We will once again have a Casino Night at Circle Square Cultural Center on Sunday, March 10, from 5 to 8 p.m. This event includes a cash bar and light refreshments.

Tickets are on sale now for \$50 each and will provide \$300 worth of funny money to purchase chips at the gaming tables. Casino Party Planner is our provider of the gaming tables and dealers. Casino tickets must be purchased in advance, there will be no ticket sales at the door.

Winnings will be in the form of tickets to enter drawings for prizes at the "gamers table." If you're not a big gamer, then come along and purchase some raffle tickets for the gift baskets which our very talented Charlie Hassett has been busy preparing or buy some tickets for our 50/50 drawing.

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

## A Karaoke Christmas

By Kathy & Charlie Petrosky

So many Christmas songs and so little time to sing them. We did our best to get many sung at our Christmas karaoke night. The room was full of holiday cheer.

Tom sang, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" wearing his Grinch shirt and dangling Christmas hat. Charlie reminded everyone that "Santa Looked a Lot Like Daddy." He still did not get his "Two Front Teeth." Fely sang, "Do You Hear What I Hear," a wonderful traditional carol. Nancy was not traditional with "Merry Christmas from the Family." It was a very dysfunctional group, but they still had time for "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree."

Karen gave us more modern songs "It Wasn't His Child" and "All I Want for Christmas is You." Laura Schnur sang for the first time. She sang about Rudolph and had the nose to go with it. Rose treats us with songs popular in the Philippines. We are glad she sings the English version. She sang "Christ-

mas in Our Hearts." We sang along as she did "Mele Kalikimaka" the Hawaiian Christmas song. Patty sang, "Let It Snow." We hope that is not our concern. She followed that with "My Grown-Up Christmas List."

I sang, "A Christmas Letter." That is Santa's wish for peace on earth. I had fun singing "Baby It's Cold Outside" with Steve. Darlene went country with "Christmas in Dixie" and Allan Jackson's "New Kid in Town" about the Christ child. Bernie sang "Drummer Boy" and "Let It Be Christmas." Fran sang the "Christmas Hallelujah" and John Lennon's wish for peace, "Imagine." Lorraine brought back Peggy Lee's "Winter Wonderland." She sang Buble's version of "I'll Be Home for Christmas."

Norma told us about a "Tennessee Christmas." Laura Z. was getting us ready to celebrate with "You Gotta Ring Them Bells." Ken brought back Nat King Cole's "Christmas Song." Steve reminded us that there are "Angels Among Us."

Bill sang "Silver Bells" and Mame's "We Need a Little Christmas." Peyton wished us all "A Holly Jolly Christmas." Phil is still stealing those "Christmas Cookies." He had us all singing about "Frosty." Dave joined us for the first time that night and got right into the spirit of things. He sang "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." His table dared him to sing "Grandma Got Run Over by a

Reindeer" and he did.

All are welcome to join in the fun. If you do not sing, we can never have enough clappers.

We meet in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room on the first and third Monday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. This month, we only meet Jan. 15. There is no karaoke Jan. 1.



A karaoke Christmas.

**The Jewish Club**

Bruce Kanner



tions.

Hospitality followed through on the Sholom Park theme delivering bags of good old raisins and peanuts (GORP) to all the tables. GORP is a snack food mix eaten by hikers and campers. Many know it as trail mix.

On Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023, a hearty group of 11 club members endured Ocala's first cold snap of the season for a round of miniature golf. Five of the players scored hole-in-ones. Everyone present said they would participate in another miniature golf outing with the club but suggested waiting for more moderate temperatures.

The club went up, up and away on Tuesday, Dec. 5 for lunch bunch at Elevation 89. It is located inside the Ocala International Airport but this was no airplane food. The good conversation and food were enjoyed by 32 people.

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

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



Hearty Jewish Club members braved the season's first cold snap for club miniature golf.



Photo by Nancy Stephens

Sandhill crane.

**Birders' Beat**

Linda Monaco



Just in case you are curious about how and when our birding group began, I'd like to provide a brief history. In February 1998, Roberta Campbell advertised and organized the first meeting of the Bird Watchers Club. Eighteen people showed up for that initial meeting which was held at the Recreation Center. The group decided to meet at the same location each month.

At the first regular meeting in March, Kay Chandler agreed to write the Birders' Beat column and other duties were divided up among the participants. At subsequent meetings the name of the group was changed to The Unique Birders and the first field trip was taken to the Lake Eaton Trail in the Ocala National Forest. Greg and Chris Guidas were also among the very active leaders during those first years as they led early morning and evening golf cart expeditions around the golf courses and settling pond on SW 90th Street. Educational meetings were held to learn about bird feeders and to improve the birding knowledge and skills of the attendees. Guest speakers presented on various topics of interest to the group.

Fortunately, we have a history of all the meetings and excursions taken by the group over the years. Sometimes they took boat rides and they often traveled quite long distances on their out-

ings including Tampa and Orlando destinations. So, this group has been active for over 25 years. Pretty impressive.

Back to today. The members of The Birding Group will journey to Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park in Micanopy on Thursday, Jan. 18. The park entrance is located at 100 Savannah Boulevard off of Highway 441. There is a \$6 per vehicle entrance fee if you don't have a state park pass.

Paynes Prairie is unique in many ways. There are very few places in Florida where you get to see herds of bison and wild horses running free on the prairie. There's a three-story observation tower that rewards climbers with an expansive view of the 22,000 acres that encompass the park. Approximately 300 different bird species have been seen here, along with deer, alligators, and numerous smaller animals. We will be hoping to see the wintering sandhill cranes on our trip.

If you would like to join the outing to Paynes Prairie on Thursday, Jan. 18, please contact Margitta Claterbos at [mclaterbos@gmail.com](mailto:mclaterbos@gmail.com). We will meet in the parking lot of Friendship Center just outside the SW 99th Street gate for On Top of the World. We will carpool and park remaining vehicles near Bank OZK. Before we leave the parking area at 7:30 a.m., printed driving directions will be distributed for both the state park and our lunch restaurant, Pearl Country Store & BBQ in Micanopy. The state park and restaurant are about 45 minutes from On Top of the World. Bring water, binoculars, bug spray, a hat and comfortable walking shoes.

tion. A resounding "yes" answers the last two questions.

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

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

**Joy in the Mourning**

Deb Thompson



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We look forward to seeing you soon!

**The Jewish Club**

Bruce Kanner



A hiking we will go, eh, we went, at the Jewish Club meeting in November 2023. Robert Colen figuratively walked us through his Uncle Sidney Colen's dream to give Ocala and On Top of the World Sholom Park, what it has become and what it may grow to be.

Colen, who serves as director of the park named after founder Sidney Colen's grandfather, Sholom, said more than a million people have visited Sholom Park and that more than 300 weddings have been performed there since it opened in 2004. The park is full of symbolism from more than 100 species of flowering shrubs and trees, the two rows of exactly 18 olive trees on each side of a shaded path, the clone of the fallen cypress tree called the Senator, and the new Zen Garden.

Our moment in time featured Gene Wolotsky who, in honor of Veterans Day the week before, explained how Jewish service members served in the U.S. Armed Forces in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I and II, Korea, Vietnam and the more recent U.S. military ac-



Hearty Jewish Club members braved the season's first cold snap for club miniature golf.

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**Computer Club**

Chris Kilbride

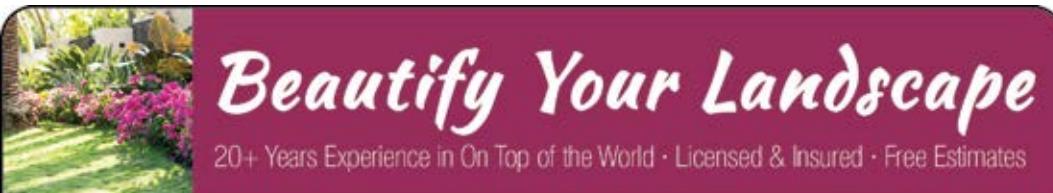


Every Saturday at 9 a.m. the Computer Club meets for an hour through our weekly online Zoom meetings. We discuss Windows and Apple issues regarding software and hardware. Our otowcomputerclub.org website will give lots of great information about our group.

They say that opposites attract. In some instances, that's great, for others, it could be a difficult situation. How about if one person has hearing issues, and the other can hear a pin drop. Technology might offer a worthwhile solution for both people.

If one of your favorite pastimes together is watching TV, perhaps consider the wireless Bluetooth® scenario. When each person has their own headphones, they can adjust a comfortable volume setting. A different option might be to set up a Bluetooth® transmitter and splitter to send TV audio to wireless headphones, and for the other person, connect the transmitter to the wireless speaker so that they can hear the TV without headphones, and easily hear the phone whenever it rings.

Search the internet for "best wireless headphones 2024" to get an idea of current prices and features like noise cancellation, battery life, comfort, clear sound for audiophiles, microphone, and taking phone calls. You might choose between over-ear headphones or earbuds.



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In your TV streaming video (or audio) device's manual or app, research pairing headphones or earbuds by Bluetooth® and follow the steps. Some older TVs might need you to hook up an adapter or transmitter, or your choice might be to connect a 3.5mm standard headphone jack or RCA audio jack and plug this long wire to the back of your TV. If you sit far from the set, remember that newer TVs all feature wireless connections, and Bluetooth® might save you from tripping over or getting tangled in the long wire, or pulling out the cable and breaking the set. These are things to consider in case you need to upgrade your TV and other devices.

If streaming on your computer, the majority support either wired or wireless headphones or headsets, just look for the 3.5 jack with a little headphone icon showing where to plug them in. Many people listen to podcasts and watch videos on their tablet, smartphone, or computer which offers Bluetooth® and it is only a matter of pairing the headphones or earbuds to your device.

So, enjoy the show together, but perhaps you still need separate snacks!

Residents are welcome to join our

club, with \$10 individual yearly dues or \$15 per couple. The Contact page on otowcomputerclub.org will get you in touch with us.

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

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

**Genealogical Society**

Ron Niebo



The Genealogical Society wishes all a 2024 full of adventures, good health, friends, family, success, joy, and laughter. As we begin 2024, a fun factoid is that this month's name is derived from the Roman god Janus, known as the protector of gates and doorways. Janus is usually depicted with two faces, one looking into the past and symbolizing endings, the other into the future and symbolizing beginnings. Question ... Doesn't a genealogist also do that?

Our first 2024 meeting will be an educational event on Monday, Jan. 15, at 10 a.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room and via Zoom. Visitors are welcome. A count of attendees is needed. Please

text Membership Chair Wilma Kelley at 352.206.1641 or email her at wkelleymt@outlook.com to let her know you are attending. Our guest genealogists (yes, there will be several) are from the Ocala FamilySearch Center. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints operates and supports the Center. Members of the Center will discuss how guests can use the Center's resources to freely access premium genealogical resources and family history/genealogy software and websites that normally charge for subscriptions. The center is open to the public and it is located at 1831 Southeast 18th Ave. in Ocala, Florida 34471. For hours and directions, call 352.351.4163 or visit [familysearch.org/en/wiki/Ocala\\_Florida\\_FamilySearch\\_Center](http://familysearch.org/en/wiki/Ocala_Florida_FamilySearch_Center).

Personally, I am looking forward to the informative presentations at the upcoming 2024 educational meetings. Education Chair Sid Levine is currently scheduling. Sid has a knack for understanding the support our members need. Highlights of what I learned in 2023 relating to accessing records include: Florida locations for national and international genealogy resources; the capabilities of the local Ocala FamilySearch Center; new access tools and tricks available in Ancestry genealogy

**Silver Rainbow Club**

Jeanne Bennett-Bailey



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

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

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

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

We hope to see you soon!

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**Active Singles Club**

Catherine White



horseback riding, zip lining, a bar crawl exploring some out of the way places in Ocala and a little kayaking. The club is also spicing up our regular weekly/bi-weekly activities with a little jukebox bingo, a singles group for pickleball and some shuffleboard.

You may be asking, "How are activities planned or selected for the club?" Any member can visit our website go to Events Page > Proposing Event/Activity/Gathering and fill out the form to submit to the activities committee. Our four committee members will review the submission and contact you with next steps. It's that easy.

Is there something you've always wanted to do but had no one to do it with? This is the perfect solution. New

son. Tickets are open to all residents and are non-refundable. If you are unable to attend, you are responsible for reselling your ticket. We have a few tickets left to purchase, please contact Colleen Rocafort at 352-615-9776 if you plan to attend.

Our next club membership meeting is on Thursday, Jan. 18 with featured speaker, Executive Director Lanie Shirley from Hospice of Marion County. She will provide an update on the Nancy Reinhart Center for dementia education programs. Our featured charity is the Amazing Foundation. This organization provides community meals once per month to homeless individuals struggling with hunger and hardship and access to basic food services.

The annual Fashion Show and Luncheon for Hospice of Marion County will be held on Wednesday, March 13, at Circle Square Cultural Center. We will begin selling tickets on Thursday, Jan. 18, to our members beginning at 10:30 a.m. and open sales up from 2 to 3 p.m. immediately after the member meeting. Anyone interested in buying tickets after these dates please call Betty at 352-361-1313. We will also be selling tickets at the Thursday, Feb. 15 member meeting.

The club is open to all women residents and Gateway of Services pass holders. Our annual membership dues are \$15. Guests of a member will be charged \$5 to attend a monthly meeting. If you are interested in joining us, please attend our next meeting scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 18, or give President Betty Thayer a call at 352-361-1313.

Our charity bunco will be held on Saturday, Jan. 6, in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. Please join us and roll the dice for a worthy cause! This event aims to bring people together in a fun environment as we raise money for local charities. Tickets are \$30 per per-

son. Tickets are open to all residents and are non-refundable. If you are unable to attend, you are responsible for reselling your ticket. We have a few tickets left to purchase, please contact Colleen Rocafort at 352-615-9776 if you plan to attend.

to Florida? Never been to St. Augustine? Daytona Beach? Sarasota Sand Art Festival? It's all possible if you let us know what's on your bucket list!

You also may have been wondering how to go about finding your "tribe," that is, other people who like or want to do similar activities. Sign in and go to Members Signing In > Profile > Business Card > Activities and start marking all the things you would like to do. You can do a query to see who else in the club is interested in that activity and then send them a message to see if they want to join in on some fun. Honestly, if you do it just once, you will soon realize how easy it is to find your "peeps."

Our four activities committee members need your input and would love

your help. Next time you run into Neil Sorensen, Norma Micheroni, Linda Wall, or Kathi Simens don't hesitate to talk to them about the type of club activities that are appealing to you or that you would like to volunteer for.

Want to join the club before the next general membership meeting? No worries, just visit [otowactivesinglesclub.com](http://otowactivesinglesclub.com) and sign up and pay by credit or debit card. And, of course, you can always come to the next meeting, which is Wednesday, Jan. 17, at 5:30 p.m. in the Indigo East Community Center. Our happy hour follows directly after the meeting. Feel free to bring your favorite alcoholic drink and if you desire, a snack to share. The club hopes that members will join us in making 2024 the best social experience ever!

**Women of the World**

Colleen Rocafort



Happy new year! We hope that you had a joyful holiday with your family and friends!

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

At our December meeting we learned about the Historic Ocala Preservation Society. Linda Letcher provided an overview of their activities around town. Holiday entertainment was provided by Kathy and Charlie Petrosky. Members joined into a sing along holiday activity.

The Pace Center for Girls was our featured charity. The center provides a safe and supportive environment for middle and high school aged girls (ages 11 through 17) to build healthy relationships, plan for their future and overcome histories of trauma. Our members were very generous, and several tables were filled with donated items requested by the center.

Our charity bunco will be held on Saturday, Jan. 6, in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. Please join us and roll the dice for a worthy cause! This event aims to bring people together in a fun environment as we raise money for local charities. Tickets are \$30 per per-

**SWANS**

Sandi Dickerson



The SWANS were established about 17 years ago for active single women to socialize, establish friendships, and be supportive to other single women in their time of need. We are a diverse group of women of different ages, different backgrounds, different likes, and dislikes, from different parts of the world, but we do have the same future journey of being single.

Our Christmas party and Chinese auction was held Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023. We had over 60 women in attendance. Everyone brought their best dishes for the potluck luncheon. There was quite an abundance of excellent food. The Chinese auction produced a lot of laughs! There were some very popular gifts as shown by the number of times they were "stolen" from their original owners. Thank you to all the ladies who helped set up and clean up afterwards! The charity raffle this year was as popular as always.

There was no breakfast out in December 2023, instead we had brunch out hosted by Renee Turner at Stone Creek Grille. As usual, the brunch was very good! Our ladies enjoyed the omelet station the best.

Lunch out was held on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2023, and hosted by Sally Pisano; and Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023, and hosted by

Betty Pane. They were held at Gator's Dockside and enjoyed by all of those who attended. Thanks Renee, Sally, and Betty for serving as hostesses for these outings!

We will be having a special event potluck in January hosted by C.J. Daane. This will be held at The Lodge at Candler Hills on Thursday, Jan. 18, from 5 to 7 p.m. The organization of who brings what foods will be done by the first letter of your last name. Those starting with A-L will bring a main dish, M-R bring a side, and S-Z bring a dessert. This should be fun!

The SWANS (Single Women Active Networking System) has been active and supportive to each other for over 17 years but the generous giving hearts of the SWANS is supporting women and children in need all over Marion County. Our support has been to the Ocala Domestic Violence Center (SWANS has been giving suitcases for years), Interfaith Emergency Services, Brother's Keeper, Arnette House, Romeo and Dunnellon Elementary Schools, Helping Hands, Ina A. Colen Academy, The Rock, Operation Shoebox and Hospice of Marion County. We will continue our support of those in need and at the same time we will continue to support each other during our continuing journey of being single.

Please remember that you may join SWANS at any time! We always welcome new members and new ideas. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Lois Nix for more information. SWANS are never alone and never forgotten!

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**Texas Connection Social Club**

Kathy Cornell



Our December 2023 meeting started out with our usual strapping on the feedbag (eating) and jackin' our jaws (chatting) before our first activity of "Name the Christmas Song from the Clue" which was (ahem) "borrowed" from our community trivia night. Each table played as a team and solved clues such as "The lad is a percussionist" for "Little Drummer Boy." There were 20 clues to solve. About halfway through my relating the answers a couple of our teams were either getting restless or just in the holiday spirit because they started singing the first verse of said answers. It became even more entertaining when we had a surprise visit of a spider descending from the ceiling. While he was being caught and dispatched, our singers broke out in a hearty rendition of "The Itsy-Bitsy Spider." What a hilarious, impromptu moment that was!

The main attraction of the evening was our traditional reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas Texas Style," edited to make it into a right-left pass-the-gift exchange of white elephant presents. These are defined as "amusing and sometimes impractical gifts," and we had quite the variety. Some that

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**Upcoming Activities**

- Sunday, Jan. 7: Ronnie & Mary Lou Warren Gospel Concert (6 pm)
- Tuesdays: Pastor's Porch Men's Gathering
- Thursdays: Bible Study
- Fridays: Men's Prayer Meeting
- Sunday, Mar. 10 thru Wednesday, Mar. 13: Missionary Conference
- Wednesday, Mar. 13: International Dinner

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Approx. Times: 12:20-12:30 pm & 7 pm

WTYG 107.1 FM / 91.5 FM

**The World News**
**R/C LadyBirds**

Linda Lohr



Our speaker in November 2023 was Dawn Corey, a resident who heads Angels Above. She told us the story of how she started the charity and how it continues across the country. Nancy Dreimiller and Linda Lohr gave Dawn their wedding gowns, as well as two other gowns to be used for the outfits. It was a very

interesting and moving talk. Her outfits are in our local hospitals as well.

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

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



Photo by Matt Corey

Dawn Corey with one of her angel gowns.

**Southern Club**


Melanie Vittitow

ik has always been interested in history and has been a re-enactor since he was 12-years-old. Since he lived in Louisiana at the time, his interest was in the Civil War, but since moving to Florida, he now concentrates on the Seminole Wars. He helps with the re-enactments presented at Fort King. It should be an interesting and informative presentation. If you are new to our area, it will be an enjoyable way to learn about the history of your current county.

We always welcome guests and new members. If you want to come, just show up at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-III from 5 to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 2. Dinner starts at 5:30 p.m. so you may want to get there a few minutes early to check in and get your drinks. We furnish coffee, tea, and lemonade. Bring a dish to share and if you plan to join, the dues are \$10 per member, and you will need to show your resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

After dinner and Mr. Baker-Palenik's presentation, there will be a short business meeting and a 50/50 drawing for those who feel lucky.

I hope to see you there. If I can answer any questions you may have about the Southern Club, please call me at 352-615-8997.

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**Rhode Island Group**

Judy Parisi



Here comes the judge! That is, Judge Judy. The judge and her husband, Judge Jerry Sheindlin, back in 2018 purchased a \$9 million estate in Newport known as the "Bird House." The home was previously owned by the late Dorrance Hill Hampton, a Campbell Soup heiress who summered in the city and built The Bird House in 2012.

Hamilton, who was known as Dodo, was an avid gardener and one of the founders of the Newport Flower Show. The home has a two-story entrance hall, floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace and breathtaking ocean views. It is one of the highest points in Newport and is called the "Bird House" for its high perch and its many avian features. It sits on 3.6 acres and has over 9,000 square feet of living space. While certainly a megamansion, the building has elements of 19th century shingle style architecture that give its exterior a warmth amidst the lush grounds and rock outcroppings.

**Michigan Club**

Nancy Meininger



Up, up and away is the theme for the Sunday, Jan. 7 meeting of Michigan Club at 5 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-III. We welcome resident Carl Schneider, a retired NASA engineer, who will give us the inside scoop on NASA from its early days to the active growing space program today.

Carl enthusiastically shares his knowledge with a broad range presentation which has received great reviews.

Join us at the potluck to meet, greet, and eat! Bring a dish to serve eight based on your last name: A-K bring a vegetable or salad; L-R main dish; and S-Z a dessert.

Also bring a place setting with silverware for yourself and your spouse and your beverage of choice. Alcohol is okay.

In December 2023, Michiganders went South of the Border to celebrate the holidays at a taco bar catered by the Breakfast Station for the Holiday Fiesta Party, Friday, Dec. 22, 2023. Members enjoyed munching and mingling while listening to the North Loop 4 Tet from Avalon who entertained us for the evening.

Michigan Club is open to anyone with connections to the Mitton State, i.e. family, college, vacation favorites. If you love the Great Lakes and want to meet more people who do, too, call or text Nancy Meininger at 352-554-0757.

**What's Cookin'?**

Elaine Morrison



How about stepping out of your cooking comfort zone to try something new for 2024? Here are two suggestions, one for a tasty side dish, the other a new take on an old reliable.

**Farro Pilaf**

1 small onion, chopped  
2 tablespoons butter  
1 teaspoon kosher salt  
1/2 teaspoon pepper  
1 cup farro (available in supermarkets)  
1/4 cup golden raisins  
2 cups water  
1/2 cup salted pistachios  
Chopped parsley

Sauté onion in butter until translucent. Season with salt and pepper. Stir in farro and raisins, add water and bring to a simmer. Cover and reduce heat to medium low. Cook until all water is absorbed, about 30 minutes. Stir, top with pistachios and parsley. Serve at room temperature.

**Brown Sugar Salmon**

1 1/2-pound whole salmon, skin on  
3 tablespoons butter, melted  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
1 tablespoons brown sugar  
1 teaspoon Italian seasoning  
1 teaspoon paprika  
1 teaspoon garlic powder  
3/4 teaspoon salt

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Place salmon, skin side down, on a baking sheet. Combine garlic and butter. Brush half on salmon. Combine sugar, seasonings, and salt in a small bowl. Sprinkle on salmon, drizzle with remaining garlic butter. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes. Allow to rest before serving.

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Interestingly, the "Bird House" is not ocean front, though it is just a few minutes from the ocean. It is on a side street - Beacon Hill Road - which most visitors to Newport would not traverse. A drive along that street however will show many lovely homes with exceptional landscaping.

The judge is just one of many celebrities who call Newport home. Newport is a must see for any visitor to Rhode Island, to include the spectacular Ocean Drive, cliff walk, elegant Bellevue Avenue and more. As with the "Bird House," taking random side streets can result in seeing some rather interesting properties. Don't worry about getting lost, Newport is on an island so eventually you'll find yourself by Narragansett Bay or the Atlantic and you can find your way to a major road.

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



Photo by Judy Parisi

The "Bird House."



Photo by Nancy Meininger

Port Canaveral launch recovery station.

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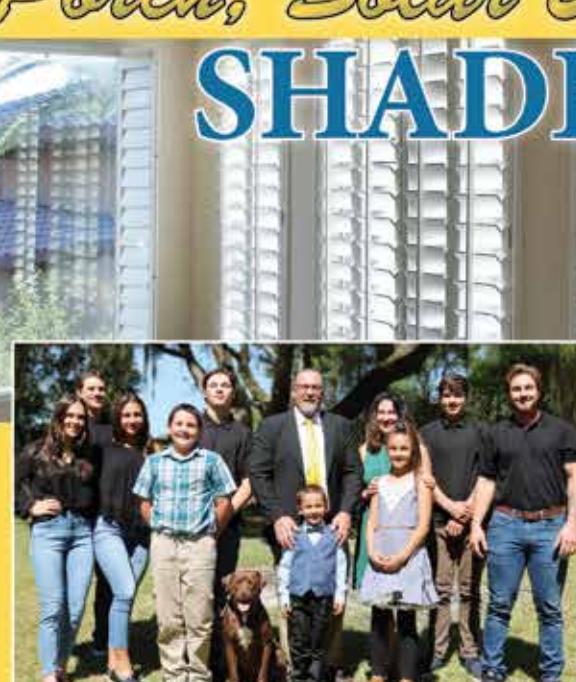
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**Scandinavian American Club**

David Wessenberg

**R/C Car Club**

Kathy Schoenherr



Our last meeting of 2023 was our Christmas party in November where we shared some terrific food with special dishes by our own members in the Scandinavian tradition of smorgasbord. We were entertained by a presentation of "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. Each scene was done by storyteller and actor Dee Collier.

Our first meeting of the year will be in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 23. We will be hearing from Marion County Sheriff's Office Southwest District Commander about local crime data, crime trends, crime safety and prevention. We have Paul Knoll to thank for this timely and important information.

Toppers Banjo Band will perform at our Tuesday, Feb. 27 meeting.

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

What a great opportunity to meet new people and have a great time.

Whether you have a Scandinavian background or not, join us for the fun. For more information, contact Arlene Chilcott at chilcottarlene21@gmail.com.

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R/C Car Club holiday party.

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talented group entertained us with traditional holiday music and some of their trademark songs. They are more than just Hawaiian music!

After dinner, everyone enjoyed the white elephant gift exchange. It took a while for guests to overcome their shyness and "steal" gifts from each other but once the ice was broken, the fun began.

We had lots of left-over food so it was delivered to the Friendship Fire Station. The men and women there were so grateful for the donation. We appreciate all the service they provide to our residents.

Many thanks to Nancy and Terry Alt-

man, Roseann and Ron Kaulfersch, Linda and Al Piscitelli, Becky and George Queen, John and Kathy Schoenherr, and Jim and Ginger Siltman for volunteering their time in making this gathering a success.

The R/C Car Club races on Wednesday and Saturday, at 1 p.m. All are welcome to come and watch. We love spectators!

**November 2023**

MudBoss-Bob Herbst. Two-wheel truggy-Jim Ellis. Pan car-Larry Fryer. Traxxas-Matt Corcoran. Touring on road-Terry Altman. Touring 17.5-Peter Martin. Limited touring 17.5-Roy Macomber. Two-wheel truck-Bob Melzer. Four-wheel truck-Linda Piscitelli. Two-wheel buggy-Chuck Frederick. Four-wheel buggy-Sam Murphy.



Photo by John Schoenherr

**Christian Women's Club**

Sandi Kemp

Ministries who will bring us an uplifting message!

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas with family and friends! Let's start 2024 with faith and hope for peace in the world! Please attend our next meeting on Saturday, Jan. 27 and bring a friend! Reservations are not required, just show up, and remember, this is a true potluck so bring anything you like!

Well, I hope to see you Jan. 27! Doors open at 11 a.m. and we start at 11:30 a.m. Call 352-237-9073 with any questions. No texts, please.

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#14968-12/23

## World Traveler

Bill Shampine



Located about six miles west of Rimini, Italy, San Marino is a microstate embedded in the Apennine Mountain range in north-eastern Italy. It is one of only three countries in the world to be completely enclosed by another country. The others are Vatican City, enclosed by Italy, and Lesotho, enclosed by South Africa. San Marino is the fifth smallest country in the world. It has a population of 33,600 in a land area of 23.5 square miles. The people of San Marino are called Sammarinese.

San Marino derives its name from Saint Marinus, a stonemason who built a church on Monte Titano (elevation of 2,457 feet) in AD 301 and founded what is now the city and state of San Marino. The borders of the country were enlarged for the last time in 1463, when four adjacent communities were accepted.

Over the centuries, several high-ranking members of the Catholic Church tried to take over San Marino, but the various Popes at the time intervened thus allowing the country to maintain its independence. During the Italian unification process in the 18th century, San Marino served as a refuge for many people who were being persecuted be-



Photo by Max Ryazanov

The Fortress of Guaita, built in the 11th century on Mount Titano in the Republic of San Marino.

cause of their support for unification. The country remained neutral for both World Wars and, again, served as a refuge for thousands of civilians during World War II.

Politically, San Marino is a parliamentary representative democratic republic based on the Statutes of 1600, the earliest written governing documents still in effect. Uniquely, San Marino's constitution dictates that its democratically

elected legislature must elect two heads of state every six months. Known as the Captains Regent, the two heads of state serve concurrently and with equal powers. Think about that a minute.

San Marino is one of the wealthiest countries in the world. Their economy is based mainly on finance, industry, services, retail, and tourism. About two million tourists a year provide over 22% of the GDP. Although not a member of the European Union, San Marino uses the Euro as their currency.

San Marino's military forces are among the smallest in the world and mostly devoted to functions such as ceremonial duties, patrolling borders, and guarding government buildings. One of their military branches is a Crossbow Corps, a group of 80 volunteers who provide demonstrations of their skill

at various functions. They also have a Company of Uniformed Militia. In former times, all families with two or more adult male members were required to enroll half of them into this company. Historically, the unit was the basic fighting force of the armed forces of San Marino, but it is largely ceremonial today. Nevertheless, the Company is a matter of civic pride, and many Sammarinese belong to the force.

Football (soccer) is the most popular sport in San Marino, but it is a game for them, and not a big deal professional activity. Their National Team, composed of part-timers, such as local plumbers and farmers, has won only one game in the last 25 years. Nevertheless, they are out there competing and enjoying every minute. What a bunch of great people!

## Travel Toppers

Mary Lamp



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

These updates apply to our trips to the Suncoast Broadway Dinner Theater. The Saturday, Jan. 20 performance of "Beautiful Carol King" is sold out. If you want to be placed on a wait list, call Diane Knox at 352-390-2386. Other productions that we have booked, the date of the show, the date a Travel Toppers coordinator can begin taking reservations, and their telephone number follow: "Cats", April 6 (Jan. 8, Marilyn Wilson, 828-699-7587) and "South Pacific", May 12, (Feb. 5, Lisa Adams, 407-325-9863).

"Moulin Rouge" has been selling well. The performance will be at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 8 for this Broadway performance at the Straz Theater in Tampa. The cost is \$114 per person. For this show only, any guests you may want to invite will not be placed on a wait list but will be sold a ticket when you reserve with Linda Hein at (352-861-9880). The Cirque du Soleil production "Bazaar" is now sold out. We will attend a 1 p.m. show on Sunday, March 3, under the Big Top in St. Petersburg. The cost is \$108 per person. If you want to be

placed on the wait list, call Lisa Adams (407-325-9863).

Gail Ambrose will begin taking reservations on Monday, Jan. 8 for our Tampa Bay Downs trip on Saturday, March 2. The cost is \$64 per person and Gail's number is (954-614-0898). A Mount Dora boat cruise on Lake Dora and the Dora Canal will take place Saturday, April 27. The price is \$68 per person. Diane Knox (352-390-2386) will begin taking reservations Monday, Feb. 5.

All these trips include the event, transportation, and driver tip. Except for the first trip mentioned above, only two tickets may be reserved, and guests will be wait listed. All trips are to be paid by check only and are non-refundable unless there is a wait list. We are in the process of organizing a 2025 Valentine's Day cruise onboard the Celebrity Constellation for Feb. 9 to 16, 2025. Look for updates either in this newspaper or online.

The Royal Caribbean's 2024 Valentine's Cruise has been sold out and the trains and balloons trip to Colorado and New Mexico for Oct. 7 to 19, 2024 is wait listed.

The club continues to consider possibilities for extended multi-day trips for 2024 and 2025 such as cruising on the St. Lawrence River or Great Lakes and/or a Christmas trip in 2024 to Branson, Missouri.

Visit [traveltopperstours.com](http://traveltopperstours.com) for up-to-date information. Trips sponsored by Travel Toppers Tours are open only to residents and Gateway of Services pass holders. Any non-resident who participates must be a guest of a resident club member.

MSC. We are looking forward to our next meeting on Thursday, Jan. 11. Meetings are held every second Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios III-IV. Please text or call Ina Kline (301-728-9541) for information about our trips and club.

Trips, meetings, and membership are open to residents or Gateway of Services pass holders. Travel agents are not permitted to be members or attend meetings.

## Around the World Vacation Club

Ina Kline



Join our Facebook page (Around the World Vacation Club). You can also join by attending our monthly meetings. Around the World Vacation Club is for people who like to travel, share travel trips, enjoy listening to experienced speakers, travel trivia and door prizes.

Our last meeting was in November 2023. We had a presentation to learn about travel insurance. There were 70 people at our meeting. Questions were asked and answered about getting travel insurance, what to do if you cancel a trip, etc.

Ina and Shelley shared some travel tips. Make sure you check your itinerary to see if your cruise port docking times changed. If you book excursions outside of the cruise line, then check to see if it still matches with the time the ship docks and leaves port. If there is a time change you may be able to contact the tour company and change your scheduling of the excursion.

We are looking ahead to next year as we are planning more vacations. We discussed some cruises for next year holiday season. Please bring your trip information to share for your upcoming trips for 2024 or 2025.

There was no meeting in December as we were cruising to the Caribbean on

## GOING OUT OF TOWN?

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John and Larry working member check-in.

**Moonstruck  
Astronomy Club**

Jim Di Paolo



Jim Di Paolo, club president, presented the meeting agenda for the day. He reminded members that the deadline to pay their \$20 dues for 2024 is Dec. 31, 2023. Any payments received after Jan. 31, may be subject to a \$5 late fee. Jim reviewed the topic of the next NASA Senior Outreach webinar, which features Garrett Hehn, flight director at NASA's Johnson Space Center as the speaker. He gave a brief presentation on the night sky highlights for December 2023, pointing out the upcoming Geminid meteor shower that will be at its peak on Dec. 14, 2023.

Both Jim and Larry Isenberg, club vice president, conducted an election for the four officer positions that will serve in 2024. The four office positions were president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

After concluding all the business and presentations, the members celebrated the holidays with a club party. Food was provided by the club and members were asked to bring their own beverages. During the party, Jim and Larry ran a "Name

that Astronomical Tune" contest. Short audio clips were played, and members were asked to name the tune and the artist. These tunes had astronomy related subjects and prizes were given out at the end of the contest.

Club members are reminded to watch for emails announcing more evening observation sessions in the coming weeks and months. Sessions will be announced on any day that weather conditions allow for an open sky and club members are willing to set up their telescopes to share observations. Members are welcome to arrive and stay if they wish throughout the evenings. All sessions are held adjacent to the R/C flying field.

Regular meetings of the Moonstruck Astronomy Club are on the second Thursday of every month from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. All residents and Gateway of Services pass holders can join the club, and new members are welcome! Yearly club dues are only \$20 per year, and they include a subscription to the quarterly Reflector Magazine.

For information or club registration, please contact club President Jim Di Paolo at [moonastroclub@gmail.com](mailto:moonastroclub@gmail.com). More information is always available at [moonstruckastronomyclub.org](http://moonstruckastronomyclub.org).

**Freethinkers**

J. Ashi Olshan



Did you hear about the dyslexic, agnostic insomniac, who would lie awake all night pondering if there really is a dog? We at our rapidly growing Freethinkers Club meet every other Sunday at the Hobby Building Event Room from 1 to 3 p.m. to offer opportunities to discuss a variety of topics. The club adheres to the principle of one humanity.

On Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023, we celebrated that humanity via a family-style friends giving potluck luncheon; where we enjoyed all our new-found friends, in mutual gratitude for the many hands, from fields to store to our tables, that made our feast possible. In between meetings, there are activities for individuals and couples to recreate together via dinners, cards, bocce, etc.

We support individual responsibility, intellectual freedom, compassion, and concern for each other and the world. "When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace." – Jim Hendrix

We understand that we the people, have more in common than not. It "feels so good" to have found a place where we can talk about issues with

open hearts and minds. Where everyone's opinion is both accepted and respected, without undue reprisal, as individualists, respecting all sentient beings at our home, planet Earth.

We pride ourselves in seeking "the essence" of all things. "Everything has appearance and essence, shell and kernel, mask, and truth. What does it say against the inner determination of things that we live appearance without perceiving the essence, that we finger the shell without reaching the kernel, that the mask of things so blinds us that we cannot find the truth." – Franz Mark, Aphorisms, 1917.

In January, we will offer the following presentations, followed by breaking into six to eight-member discussion groups, to ponder the talk. Sunday, Jan. 7, at 1 p.m. Bob Layne will present, "How Effective Altruism Seeks to Maximize the Effectiveness of Our Charitable Giving." How we can get the most satisfaction and maximize the impact of our charitable donations by using evidence-based critical thinking to make these decisions.

On Sunday, Jan. 21, the topic is "Giving Circles." Bob will give a talk on how the impact of charitable giving can be multiplied through forming groups of like-minded individuals and by using the principles of effective altruism.

Come on by. Check us out. Contact us at [freethinkersotow@gmail.com](mailto:freethinkersotow@gmail.com).

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<b>In-Patient Hospital</b>	<b>\$110 per day 1-6, Then \$0</b>	<b>\$175 per day 1-6, Then \$0</b>
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<b>Vision</b>	<b>\$300 Allowance per year for Eyewear</b>	<b>\$250 Allowance per year for Eyewear</b>
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<b>Dental, Vision and Hearing Flex Allowance</b>	<b>\$500 annual benefit</b>	<b>No</b>
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<b>Preferred Generic Drug Copay (One month supply)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Generic Drug Copay (One month supply)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$5</b>
<b>Preferred Brand Drug Copay (One month supply)</b>	<b>\$35</b>	<b>\$45</b>
<b>Moffit Cancer Center</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>The Villages Health</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Shands Hospital / UF Health</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>

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All benefits are not available on all plans. The Dental, Vision, and Hearing Flex allowance is a yearly benefit and any unused amounts do not roll over to the next year. The OTC allowance is a quarterly benefit and any unused amounts do not roll over to the next quarter.

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## A Great Day For a Ball Game

By Dave DeAngelis  
World News Writer

The second annual Veterans Day Classic Softball Tournament was a grand slam success! On Nov. 10, 2023, over 200 residents came to honor and cheer on our communities' Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force and Coast Guard veterans as they competed in a three-game playoff series for the president's trophy and to, of course, earn championship bragging rights. Compete for bragging rights? Oh yeah, they sure did!

Spectators toting lounge chairs, blankets, cameras, peanuts, and Cracker Jack gathered under the shade of beautiful palm trees and green grass to enjoy this spirited, sunny day of friendly softball fun. Yes, the competition was friendly, but the players sure were playing to win, dusting off and sharpening skills that they used so many times in the past. Of course, light-hearted jabs between the competitors flew around the ballpark, reminding each other who was the superior team.

As I roamed around the field taking photos, I listened to conversations between players sharing stories of their service days. These proud guys were there – wherever, whenever, however, for whatever, and thankfully they were. Amazing history on this day of camaraderie and sportsmanship.

Having won it in last year's inaugural Classic, hail to the members of the Air Force team as they rallied again to win the championship trophy. Led by team manager Mark Gatchell, Ray Tobey, Bill McElroy, Dave Rearick, Stu Martin, Pete Feliciano, Rob Iraci, Carlos Erazquin, Alan Gitersonke, Bruce Green, Kelly Henderson, Don Huston, Don Perrault, Danny Dean, and Joel Weaver, they retained bragging rights by besting the Navy team to raise the coveted trophy in victory to the cheers of the crowd.

The game wasn't the only show of the day, as players and fans enjoyed a military opening ceremony hosted by the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard, an admirable showing of support by 25 of our Ashford neighborhood golf carts lining the outfield fence, a delicious So Yummy BBQ lunch, complimentary dessert from Mr. B's Big Scoop Ice Cream, an "oh yeah - watch this" home run der-

by won by Chuck (what fence?) King and par excellence "play-by-play" announc-

ing by RayK - Mr. Ray Kallai.

Congratulations to Bill McElroy who was recognized as the MVP of the tournament for his outstanding play. To those who really didn't want to hear about my service in the Boy Scouts, I really do apologize. Just wanted to fit in.

Seizing the moment on this splendid day was On Top of the World's General Manager Mary Anne Lynam, as she sported an Air Force team jersey that

was spontaneously borrowed from one of the players, creating a priceless moment for the proud and victorious Air Force champions. Thanks, Mary Anne!

Our community sincerely thanks the planners, organizers, sponsors, volunteers, spectators, and On Top of the World's staff who all came together to make this successful event so special, and to Pete Feliciano for contributing to this story. More in store for '24!



Photo by Dave DeAngelis

Air Force team once again win the championship trophy.

## A Down-to-the-Wire Finish

By Phil Panzera

The Billiards Club 2023 fall league wrapped up with a down-to-the-wire finish between the top team in the Lions Division and the top team in the Wolves Division.

Captain John Greene's Team 6 had dominated their division and the league standings throughout the season, remaining in first place in the league from the first week to the 11th week. In the 12th and last week of the league however, Captain Bob Schmitt's Team 1 swooped in, matched their winning record, and edged out the league win on

tie break. It was thrilling finish to a very competitive season. Congratulations to all the players on both winning teams!

Thanks also to all the other players who made the league successful. It was a fun and exciting season, with new skills learned, and new friends made. The club runs three leagues each year, which are open to all club members. The next league starts soon, and details on signing up will be published during the first week of January.

If you're thinking of joining the league, I urge you to cast aside any wor-

ries about your skill level – or lack thereof – as so much irrelevant nonsense. Most of our league players are at a very basic level, and there are many players just starting out. The entire point of the league is to have fun and socialize, and to enjoy the camaraderie of team competition and a chance to climb the podium. Every Wolves team will have beginners on it. If you are free on Tuesdays, without missing more than three weeks in a 12-week session, then we'd love to have you join us.

Two more club events were held in December, both however after this column was submitted. Congratulations also to the winners of the Winter Medley Tournament. Results and a picture will appear in next month's column. We run four tournaments each year, and this event was a unique combination of eight-ball and nine-ball.

We also held our annual Christmas

dinner and dance, with almost 200 members attending. I expect that everyone had a great time and enjoyed probably the best menu of any social event in the club's history. Thanks to all who attended, as your board strives to realize one of the purposes stated in our Bylaws: to grow closer to other members and their families through social events.

A reminder to any members who have not yet paid 2024 dues. We must finalize the 2024 roster before the Jan. 8 quarterly meeting of the club (in the Hobby Building Event Room, at 3:30 p.m.). This is an important meeting, as the biennial election of officers is held. We will have light refreshments at the meeting.

Your board wishes everyone a season full of light and laughter for you and your family, and we hope you enjoy the gifts of the season – peace, joy and cabernet sauvignon.



Lions 2023 fall league champions – Joe Amigliore, Phil Franklin, Bob Kuebler, Bob Schmitt, John Marcinek and Mike Romano.



Wolves Division champions – David King, Michelle Marcinek, Don Wright and John Greene (not shown: Bob Stubbs and Cindy Ortiz).

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## Golf

## Matt Hibbs

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Happy new year to you and yours from the On Top of the World golf staff. We also would like to thank everyone for a tremendous 2023 and we hope 2024 will be even better.

If your resolution is an improved golf game, then we have the answer for you.

## Men's Golf Association

## John Yenne



On Chicken Day in December 2023, the Men's Golf Association (MGA) elected three new board members for three-year terms: Tony Morris, Doyce Mathis, and Norm Hayworth. They will join the board of directors beginning this month when board assignments will be made for the new year. The MGA has 254 members, and \$25 annual dues must be paid before you can play in 2024 events. Dues can be paid in the pro shop. Put these upcoming Wednesdays in your calendar:

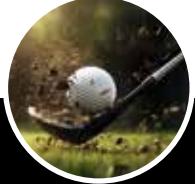
- Jan. 3: Chicken Day (The Links)
- Jan. 10: Team Quota Points (The Tortoise & The Hare)
- Jan. 17: Shamble 3 Drives (The Links)
- Jan. 24: Team 3 Best Balls (The Tortoise & The Hare)
- Jan. 31: Black Tees 3 Best Balls (The Links)

Team 3 Low-Net  
Nov. 22, 2023

203-James McCormack, Tom Fuchs, Joe Wilks, Carl Zeiler. 207-John Herman, Dennis Kissen, Ed Vasoli, Doyce Mathis. 209-Anthony Morris, Ruben Alva-

Candler Hills  
Men's Golf

## Rick Pettit



Your new board members are Brian Bennett, Pat Mezyk, and Jeff Richardson. Congratulations to these three.

The Candler Cup winners have been determined and we have 15 winners who will have 2024 dues paid. If you have already paid, please see a board member.

Also, the 2024 tournament schedule is out and now available at chmga.org. What a great day had by all members in attendance for our annual membership meeting after the scramble. What a great job by the committee as the food and camaraderie that was had was tremendous. Many tables stayed through the day and told stories about all the putts that were missed.

I mentioned in my last column that board member Dave Falcone was leaving but he had a change of heart and decided to stay on. Thank you, Dave!

Thank you all for your generous donations to the 50/50 raffle and to Steven Gersten for holding the winning ticket.

## Candler Cup

Tie at 55-Patrick Whitley, Brian Wilder, Mike Kelly, James McCormick; Rick Pettit, Ron Lombardo, Howard Gluckman, Thomas Kujawa; Wes Wendt, Kevin McGuinness, Steven Thesman, Jack Prather.

Championship  
Blue Tee Gross

Flight 1: Jeff Richardson.  
Flight 2: Mark Durso.

Flight 3: Anthony Morris.

## White Tee Gross

Flight 1: Joe Wilks.  
Flight 2: Jerry Schroeckenthaler.  
Flight 3: Ron Pratt.

Flight 4: Gregg Keidel.

White Orange Flight: Ken Zweiback.

## Blue Tee Net

Flight 1: Lonnie Page.

Flight 2: Brian Gauthier.

Flight 3: Tim Clarkin.

## White Tee Net

Flight 1: David Fritz.

Flight 2: Paul Rubly.

Flight 3: Rusty Zarrell.

Flight 4: Thomas Kujawa.

White Orange Tee Flight: Dutch Schulze.

Here are the highlights from October's league play: Joe Wilks and Ken Zweiback shot their age; Jeff Richardson eagled hole #7; Mark Durso and Rick Pettit eagled hole #10; and Ron Lombardo had a hole in one on #13.

Over the last year, membership has

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Our professional staff has created a wonderful and exciting golf clinic schedule for 2024. The season kicks off on Saturday, Jan. 6, with a clinic on "Pitch Shots" at the Candler Hills driving range at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. This clinic is \$15 per student. Please register in the Candler Hills Golf Shop no later than Friday, Jan. 5, at 2 p.m. Look for the complete 2024 clinic schedule in both the Candler Hills and On Top of the World Golf Shops.

A friendly reminder from the golf staff that all shop credits will expire Thursday, Feb. 29. All credit winnings to your account will be posted through the

January events. Any winnings during February will be held until the beginning of March to be posted.

The new year also brings our annual Jekyll & Hyde event on The Links and The Tortoise & The Hare Golf Courses. This event will be held on Friday, Jan. 26, at 9 a.m. This is a two-person scramble with nine holes setup very easy and nine holes setup extremely difficult. Registration is \$15 per player, and you may create your own foursome.

We also have an exciting 2024 golf event lineup. Here are the events we have scheduled:

- Monday, Jan. 15: Monday Couples at The Links, 2:30 p.m. shotgun.
- Friday, Jan. 26: Jekyll & Hyde at The Links and The Tortoise & The Hare.

## World Accolades

**CANDLER HILLS:** Karen Schroeckenthaler, best round ever 84. MJ Strelec, eagle #7. Jeff Holmes, hole-in-one #13. Ron Lombardo, hole-in-one #13. Kenneth Doctor, hole-in-one #13. Ellen Brin, eagle #12. Wes Wendt, hole-in-one #5. Bob Springmann, eagle #7. Virgil Rhodes,

eagle #7.

**THE TORTOISE & THE HARE:** Jeff Richardson, eagle #9. Norm Hayworth, eagle #9. Diane Hartman, hole-in-one #15. Larry Manion, hole-in-one #12.

**THE LINKS:** Jeff Richardson, eagle #16. Congratulations to all.

## Golf Tip of the Month

How many of you get frustrated and upset after each missed shot? Golf is a funny game that with one swing can manipulate your attitude and demeanor for not only your round, but the remainder of your day. Keep in mind that everyone hits bad shots, yes including touring professionals. Don't let one swing ruin your round or even your day.

Every round, take a minute to appreciate your surroundings, the birds chirping, the beautiful flowers and trees and the friends you have made playing this wonderful game. Don't let the wonderful things in life pass you by and remind yourself golf is just a game we all enjoy playing.

Everyone have a safe and exciting 2024!

rez, Joe Wong, 210-Irl Flanagan, Gerry Messenger, David Garland, Donald Noel. Tie at 211-Don McCrimmon, John Spielvogel, Steven Rowell, Michael Dwyer; Larry Manion, Ken Zweiback, David Hannasch, Philip Petrozella, 212-Brian Wilder, Marvin DeBerry, Mike Clancy, Leonard Ruble, 213-Eugene Paradis, Stephen Scott, Bl [Norm Hayworth], Richard Foltynewcz.

## Challenge Cup

Nov. 29-30, 2023

Red Team beats Blue Team by a score of 33-21.

## Chicken Day Scramble

Dec. 6, 2023

Tie at 53-David Emmons, Charlie Taylor, Joseph Dunnack, Loren Magsam; Wes Wendt, Mark Beauchamp, Norm Hayworth, Earl Guthrie. Tie at 54-Gary Bugielski, Bruce Venslavsky, Raymond Hendrix, Clarence Higdon; Robert Walker, Dennis Kissen, Jim Bobowski. Tie at 55-John Atwood, Mike Key, Bruce Green, Richard Foltynewcz; Greg McDowell, Steven Rowell, David Bauer. Tie at 56-Robert Coughanour, Bob Hilton, Ralph Norton, Michael Dwyer; James Gourlay, Dale Budd, Jim Nicholson, Bob Lieberman; Mike Altomare, Eugene Paradis, Leon Miller. Tie at 57-Rick Schriewer, Douglas Cannatella, David Hannasch, Jim Tolson; Ron Pratt, Steven Thesman, Ed Vasoli, Leonard Ruble. Tie at 58-Ron Lombardo, Paul Stoecklin, Gregg Keidel, Barry Barringer; Gary Kohls, John Yenne, Thomas Kujawa, Bob Janssen; Larry Gibson, Michael Almon, Alan Theusch, Robert Meyer; Brian Henderson, Dan Goggin, John Spielvogel, Marvin Jendro.

grown from 116 to over 180 strong! Thank you all for helping recruit new members.

I leave you all with a quote from one of the greatest baseball players of all time. "The only sure rule in golf is he who has the fastest golf cart never has to play the bad lie." – Mickey Mantle

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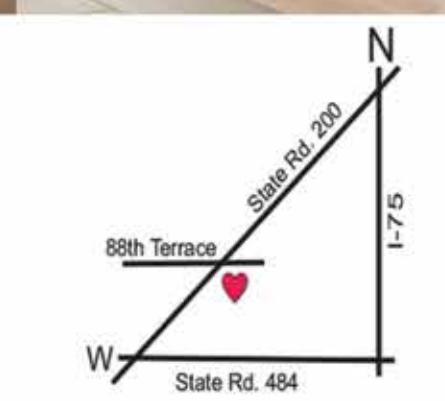
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**Candler Hills  
Ladies 18-Hole**

Beth Wolinsky



Our league's annual meeting was held on Nov. 16, 2023, and the new officers for 2024 were introduced. The new board is President Lynn Colomb, Vice President Janette Sheil, Secretary Janelle Gluckman, and Treasurer Katie Schriewer.

We cannot thank Shelly Karsnitz and Maria Fournier enough for all their hard work and dedication to the league. We also appreciate Lynn Colomb and Janette Sheil continuing the great work they have done by assuming different positions on the board. We also can't forget to thank Sandy Snyder for continuing her position as tournament chairperson. Her commitment to making the games fun and interesting is truly a gift to the league.

We all know that golf is a game of rules. Many players carry a rule book with them for quick reference. There

are, however, some unusual instances where rulings had to be made.

For example, Rule 23/10 states if your ball gets embedded in a piece of fruit, you must play the ball/fruit as it lies or declare it unplayable. Another example, Rule 1-2/10, states if the ball is hit next to a cactus, the player may wrap a towel around an arm or leg but may not cover the cactus. Interesting! So happy we don't have to worry about these wacky occurrences here.

If you wish to become a member of the Candler Hills LGA-18, you may contact our president, Lynn Colomb, at coachlynn@aol.com. It is a great way to meet some new ladies and play golf.

Don't forget to join the league by Monday, Jan. 1. You can join on the website or leave a check in the league mailbox.

Finally, a happy and healthy new year to all and enjoy golf.

**Threes & Fives (Individual)****Nov. 9, 2023**

Flight 1: 32-Michele Otto. 33-Christine Giza. Tie at 34-Shelly Karsnitz, Betsy Maugherman.

Flight 2: Tie at 30-Beverly Ovrebo, Mary Ann Livingston. Tie at 31-Peggy Ellenberger, Lynn Colomb.

Flight 3: 32-Angelita Jingco. 33-Joyce Jones. Flight 4: Tie at 31-Sara Nunn, Brenda Hofmann. Flight 5: 30-Vickie Foster. 31-Virginia Madura. 32-Beth Wolinsky.

Flight 6: 32-Anne Dahlen. Tie at 33-Roxiann Dwyer, Liz Lang.

**Low Gross/Net (Individual)****Nov. 30, 2023****Gross**

Flight 1: 75-Sandy Snyder.

Flight 2: 82-Mary Ann Livingston. 89-Lori Pizzini.

Flight 3: 93-Angelita Jingco. 96-MJ Strelec.

Flight 4: 97-Chris McIntire. 100-Nancy Zielinski.

Flight 5: 102-Carol Clark. 111-Liz Lang.

**Net**

Flight 1: 72-Michele Otto.

Flight 2: 77-Page Falconer. Tie at 81-Virginia

Combs, Lynn Colomb. Flight 3: 77-Joyce Jones. 83-Katie Schriewer. Flight 4: 77-Janelle Gluckman. Tie at 81-Eileen Gustavus, Vickie Foster. Flight 5: 79-Roxiann Dwyer. Tie at 85-Joann Delmar, Carol Carney.

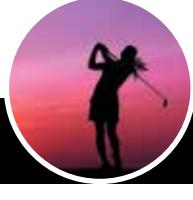
**Lucky Fours (Individual)****Dec. 7, 2023**

Flight 1: 39-Michele Otto. 40-Maria Fournier. 42-Donna Herberger. 43-Lynn Colomb.

Flight 2: Tie at 40-Kathleen Goodwin, Mary Ann Livingston. Tie at 42-Page Falconer, Virginia Combs.

Flight 3: Tie at 43-Brenda Hofmann, Judie Anderson, Janette Sheil. Tie at 44-Eileen Gustavus, Cynthia Gersten.

Flight 4: 43-Roxiann Dwyer. Tie at 44-Liz Lang, Carol Clark. Tie at 47-Laurel Rohrer, Beth Wolinsky.

**Ladies 18-Hole  
Golf Association**

Marte Dobosh

"A golf course is an island of peace in a world full of confusion and turmoil." – Billy Graham

It's easy to forget the peace when you're staring down that five-foot putt, but just look at your surroundings! Beautiful Florida winter weather? Check. Laughing with friends? Check. Getting some exercise? Check. Maybe Billy Graham was right!

LGA members have been taking advantage of the mild weather to take to the courses for some friendly competition. Member Virginia Madura made the most of her round on Nov. 7, 2023, when she aced hole #12 (shortened to a par three) on The Tortoise & The Hare. Congratulations!

The league welcomes new members Lorie Anderson, Luanne Kerkhoff and JoAnn Delmar. Glad you have joined us! Any golfer who is a resident and is interested in joining us for the new year, please feel free to contact an LGA board member or a Golf Shop staff member for details.

A fantastic Christmas luncheon held on Monday, Dec. 11, 2023, capped 2023 league play. Golfers enjoyed a delicious buffet and the festive event included awards for several skill competitions held throughout the year. A big thank you to Jan Christ and all the volunteers who worked hard to bring us such a

wonderful afternoon. Thanks also to all golfers who donated to the food drive and the Toys for Tots programs.

New officers for 2024 are now in place. We welcome President Jill Strey, Vice President Donna Herberger, Secretary Mary Jeannette, and Treasurer Karen Schroeckenthaler.

Many thanks to these LGA members who step up and volunteer countless hours of their time to guide our league and keep our schedules full with great games and activities. Please remember to check the website (ladiesgolfotow.com) for a current calendar of events.

**Beat the Pro (Individual)****Nov. 21, 2023/The Tortoise & The Hare**

75-Lori Pizzini. Tie at 76-Lorie Anderson, Bev Ovrebo, Sandy Snyder, Chris Giza and Linda Taylor. Tie at 77-Vadonna Hall, Virginia Combs, Page Falconer and Mary Ann Livingston. Tie at 78-Lisa Free, Janette Sheil and Maria Fournier. Tie at 79-Alexandra Rivera, Debby Wilson, Sandra Mansfield and Shelly Karsnitz. Tie at 80-Lynn Colomb and Karen Schroeckenthaler.

**Turkey Trot - 4 Clubs and a Putter****(Individual)****Nov. 28, 2023/The Links**

Flight 1: 72-Lori Pizzini. 75-Bev Ovrebo. 76-Shelly Karsnitz. 79-Mary Jeannette. Flight 2: 73-Page Falconer. Tie at 77-Ellen Brin and Marcela Nunez. Tie at 79-Virginia Combs and Mary Ann Livingston. Flight 3: Tie at 79-Karen Schroeckenthaler and Alexandra Rivera. Tie at 81-M.J. Strelec and Molly Lucieer. Flight 4: 71-Roxiann Dwyer. Tie at 77-Joann Delmar and Jacqueline Randour. Tie at 78-May Chin and Nancy Zielinski.

**Low Gross/Net (Individual)****Dec. 5, 2023/The Tortoise & The Hare****Gross**

Flight 1: 78-Lynn Colomb. 79-Sandy Snyder. 83-Betsy Maugherman. Flight 2: 84-Mary Ann Livingston. 91-Vickie Noltensmeyer. 93-Marcela Nunez. Flight 3: 91-Karen Schroeckenthaler. 95-Debra DeMatteo. 95-Connie Sohl. Flight 4: 91-Nancy Zielinski. 98-Robyn Atwood. 101-Alexandra Rivera. Flight 5: 95-Jan Christ. 100-Donna Brunell. 104-Sandy Chase.

**Bocce Club**

Paula Hammonds

Come out and join your fellow members in a game of bocce. Whether this is your first time playing or you have played for years, you are welcome to join in on the fun. Everyone is welcome and the competition does us well.

Now is the time of the year when the club reaches out to our members for volunteers to fill board positions. The previous board members will be stepping down so the following positions will need to be filled: president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. A brief description of each position is posted on the bocce bulletin board.

It is critical for these positions to be filled so that we can continue to function as a club. Please call Terry Connolly at 352-362-7284 if you would be willing to volunteer for one of these positions.

Open bocce is played Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, at 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Bocce courts are located at The Arbors. Anyone who shows up can play, however as a new player after three occasions you will be expected to join the league of open play, pay dues, and sign a "Release and Hold Harmless" consent form. Annual dues are \$12 and entitle you to play as many times as you want through league or open play.

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

The bocce banquet will be Sunday, March 3, from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. The best of bocce will be played at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 23, and open best of bocce will be played Wednesday, April 24, at 9 a.m.

For further information, call Terry Connolly at 352-362-7284. Come by and check out the game. All are welcome.

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## Softball Club

Pete Feliciano



As the author Ray Bradbury once said, "hard work pays off." Such were the dedicated efforts of our Softball Club Special Olympics volunteers, acting as unified partners (UP), they successfully journeyed the past few months with a unique team of special Marion County athletes. Together they successfully endured several statewide tournaments to earn a spot to compete for a medal at Walt Disney World's 2023 State Fall Classic Special Olympics competition held in November 2023, at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, Florida.

Volunteers Brad Youngberg, Ralph Mazzio, Tom Laccone, Rex Heitz, and Bryan Tully coached two Marion County softball team entries joining 1,500 other athletes and UPs to participate in gold, silver, bronze medal competition in six different sports, including softball.

Congratulations to Coach Youngberg as he reported, "Our two Special Olympics softball teams both came away with silver medals and a trophy." He also said, "The athletes played well but came up short for the gold."

Coach Mazzio commented, "The ceremonies, games, and treatment of the athletes was top notch. The joy and memories these athletes experienced was one they will treasure as will I."

In typical Disney fashion, the UPs, and spectators were treated to a spectacular opening ceremony, complete with fireworks and guest appearances by Mickey Mouse and some of his friends. Disney expressed their gratitude to all the coaches and volunteers who dedicated their time to make the event a success. Hats off to our club volunteers for making a big difference in the lives of our Marion County special athletes.

As a stalwart member of our club, Jeff Thomas exemplifies what it means to be a rockstar softball player exhibiting professional skill and talent well into his retirement days. Active in Florida's competitive circuit, Jeff played in eight International Senior Softball Association (ISSA) Winter World Championships and numerous Senior Softball USA (SSUSA) National tournaments.

In 2017, they won the SSUSA National Championship being named the "All

Tournament Team" in the 70s bracket. Then, in 2020 he led his ISSA team to win second place in an All World International competition. He was thereafter recommended for entry into the Florida Half Century Softball Hall of Fame. A decorated and honorably discharged U.S. Navy Seabee living here for 15 years, he is now devoting himself to playing as much neighborhood softball as possible. Let's cheer Jeff on as he "keeps swinging" for the fences.

Joining our club requires participation in our new player orientation (NPO) program which takes place every Wednesday, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Please email us at otowsoftball@gmail.com when you are ready to get started.

Opening day for the 2024 winter season is set for Monday, Jan. 8, with eight teams playing four games on every Monday and Wednesday morning through mid-May. A practice game series is planned for Wednesday, Jan. 3, to help players shake off the rust from the holiday layover. Please join us and cheer on your favorite team!

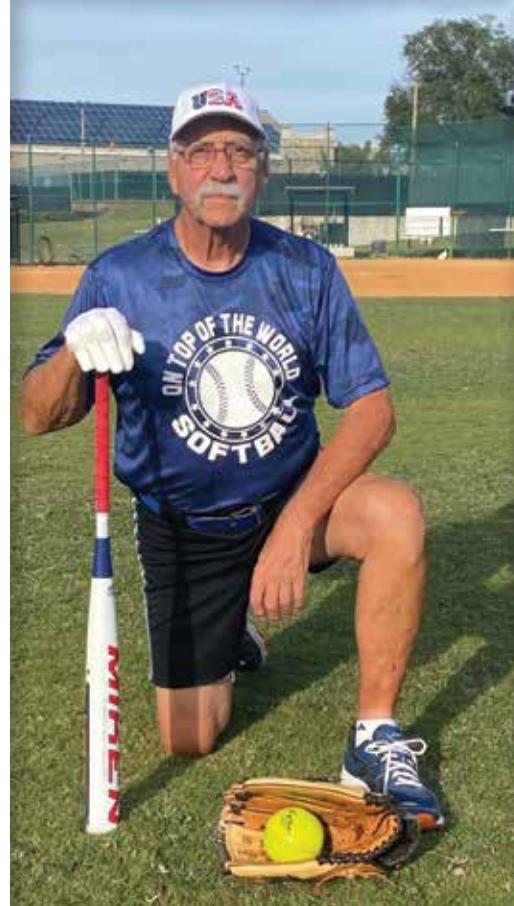


Photo by Pete Feliciano



Pat Wilbert at bat.

## Co-Ed Recreational Softball

Pat Wilbert



Where can you step upon an open field and be 12 years old again? Co-Ed Recreational Softball will give you that feeling every Saturday morning. Co-ed softball is a type of team sport that combines men and women of all ages and experience in the same game. Softball benefits both men and women and that is why it is becoming such an enjoyable pastime for all.

Playing co-ed softball provides opportunities for both men and women alike to come together and build relationships on the field while having fun at the same time. It is a popular recreational activity amongst individuals wanting to stay

active but still offering an exciting challenge suitable for all skill levels.

Whether you are looking for an affordable way to build relationships or simply want to spend some quality time outdoors, why not give Co-Ed Recreational Softball a try? You won't regret it.

We begin Saturdays, at 9:15 a.m. with warm up exercises led by Bea and Kelly. Teams are picked by women players first, then men by random numbers. We play four innings with everyone batting and having lots of fun. Hope to see you there. Batter up!

If you are interested in participating in the Co-Ed Recreational Softball or finding out more about it, please come to the softball field on Saturday. If you have any questions, please email otow-coedsoftball@gmail.com.

Happy new year! Remember, don't wait to do the things you want to do ... do them now.

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**Ladies  
Shuffleboard**

Lois Nix



Our wish for our community is peace, love and joy in 2024!

Every month we share the events of the month, the accomplishments of the shufflers, the fun we have, the winners of so many games, and our conversations with the discs as they flow down the courts.

This month, we want to share the generous giving hearts of our ladies. The Ladies Shuffleboard Club and SWANS (I am the coordinator of both) joined together to remember our men and women who were away from their families for the holidays. We collected close to \$1000 to help with postage to ship shoeboxes to these men and women. We also collected snacks (Slim Jims, peanut butter crackers, powdered drinks, etc.) to go

**Shuffleboard**

Walt Lamp



The Introduction to Shuffleboard class is Saturday, Jan. 13, at 11 a.m. at the Veterans Park courts. Paul Hodges will instruct the class highlighting the rules, scoring, safety and basics for shooting the disc. Open-toed shoes are

**PITCH  
SHOTS**

**Saturday,  
January 6th  
9 am**

Pre-register at the  
Candler Hills Golf Shop  
by 5 pm on  
Friday, January 5, 2024

**GOLF CLINICS**

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Maximum of 10 students to each golf professional.  
These clinics are structured to give the golfer advice on how to improve his or her technique.

**SCORING  
CLUBS**

**Saturday,  
January 13th  
9 am**

Pre-register at the  
Candler Hills Golf Shop  
by 5 pm on  
Friday, January 12, 2024

not permitted. We encourage residents to come to our class and see how much fun it is. For information, please call Walt Lamp at 352-304-8711.

**November 2023****Men/Women**

Monday (a.m.): Charlie Lentz/Vicki Lentz. 32-Mary Lamp: 30-Marian Mattson.  
Tuesday (p.m.): Larry Anderson, Johnny Sachin/Lynn Nelson  
Thursday (a.m.): James Smith/Annette Hodges. 30-Jim Vail.

**November 2023****Men/Women**

Monday (a.m.): Charlie Lentz/Vicki Lentz. 32-Mary Lamp: 30-Marian Mattson.  
Tuesday (p.m.): Larry Anderson, Johnny Sachin/Lynn Nelson  
Thursday (a.m.): James Smith/Annette Hodges. 30-Jim Vail.

**Rec Softball Club**

Pete Feliciano



There are new kids on the block – welcome to the Rec Softball Club!

Bringing a spirited, friendly, competitive, and above average softball game to the community is what On Top of the World's new Rec Softball Club is about.

Imagine tournament-level play without the travel – this is our vision.

Opening day is Thursday, Jan. 4, where five teams will play three games every Tuesday and Thursday through mid-May. A series of practice games are scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 2, at the ball field to help players shake off the rust from the holiday season. As the winter season gets underway, we invite anyone interested to join our club to email theresoftballclub@gmail.com.

Our goal is to bring together a fine collection of skilled ball players interested in having fun on the ball field, getting to know your neighbors, start new friendships, build camaraderie, while participating in organized social club events like occasional barbecues, casual golf

tournaments, community charitable events, and more ...

Led by our President Dave Clune, Vice President Mike Hoenie, Treasurer/Secretary Steve Perl, and Director at Large Joe Matriccino, the vibe of the club is meant to focus on keeping resident club members active in memorable and fun club events like challenge softball games with other local Ocala communities, hosting wood bat tournaments, conducting night games at Ocala Regional Sportsplex, or playing a Chicago style 16-inch softball (no mitts) game to name a few ... this will be a play at your leisure membership.

The club leadership is searching for volunteers to help us get off on the right foot by assisting with scoreboard management, scorekeeping duties, field preparation (chalk lining), web site development, and umpiring. If interested, please email theresoftballclub@gmail.com.

As of today, our club membership is at 65 with plenty of room for growth. There are no set expectations in terms of frequency of play, so if you are still working and can only get away from the office for one game per week – you've hit pay dirt!

We look forward to seeing everyone at the ball field ...



Photo by Bryan Tully

Santa scores with Rec Softball Club – Dave Clune, Steve Perl, Joe Matriccino, and Mike Hoenie.

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## Elite Men's Softball



## Bryan Tully

As this goes to press, the club will have completed the first third of its inaugural season. While we knew that the competition in the Sun & Fun Tri County Senior Softball League would certainly be a challenge, it's doubtful that any of our team members could foresee that we would be involved in the softball equivalent of Mr. Toad's Wild Ride.

The quality of play has been stellar across the board and whether on our behalf or to our detriment, no lead in any game is safe and no mistakes go unpunished. The label of "the new kids on the block" has been erased entirely; in less than a month from the start of the season we have earned the respect and admiration of the long-standing members of the league. They are fully aware that they must be at their best against the Elite Men's Softball Club if they want to avoid an "L" on their record. Come on out and support your favorite team.

What rises above the intense competitiveness of all the players in the league is a camaraderie and shared appreciation of still being able to play a game so loved for so long at a high level. The handshakes at the end of each game are not a mere formality but rather a mutual expression of gratitude. They represent the acknowledgement that while no one escapes Father Time, it's nice to make him wait in the lobby for a while. In a word, it's fun. In five words, it's really a lot of fun and fun is contagious. If you attend an Elite game in the Sun and Fun league and don't have fun, you may want to schedule an appointment with your physician. We'll see you at the ballpark.

If you're interested in officiating, the Sun & Fun Tri County Senior Softball League is conducting an umpire certification clinic on Wednesday, Jan. 3. For more information, contact 352-509-6212 or [elitemenssoftball@gmail.com](mailto:elitemenssoftball@gmail.com).

### Upcoming schedule:

Tuesday, Jan. 2 (9:30 a.m. at Holiday Travel): On Top of the World vs. Holiday Travel

Friday, Jan. 5 (10 a.m. at Pear Park): On Top of the World vs. Flatwoods

Tuesday, Jan. 9 (10 a.m. at home): Legacy vs. On Top of the World

Friday, Jan. 12 (10 a.m. at home): Plantation vs. On Top of the World

Tuesday, Jan. 16 (9:30 a.m. at Stonecrest) On Top of the World vs. Stonecrest

Friday, Jan. 19 (9:30 a.m. at Holiday Travel): On Top of the World vs. Holiday Travel

Tuesday, Jan. 23 (10 a.m. at home): Flatwoods vs. On Top of the World

Friday, Jan. 26 (9:30 a.m. at Legacy): On Top of the World vs. Legacy

Tuesday, Jan. 30 (9:30 a.m.): Rain-out Makeup Game (TBD)

The ladies only open play is Tuesdays, at 3 p.m. and wrapped up activities in early December 2023, and will resume in February. Women interested in these sessions can contact Vickie Foster at [poo2dog@verizon.net](mailto:poo2dog@verizon.net).

**LEAGUE PLAY:** Mixed league matches continued during December 2023 with the Old Pokes (Brenda & Bill Andrews) and the Hokies (Bruce Combs & Bill Ballweg), both teams with 17 to one records, battling for the top spot, with several other teams close behind, and hoping for an upset. Mixed league competition finalized for 2023 Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023.

The ladies league wrapped up their season in early December 2023 with Brenda Andrews, Robin Ballweg, Chris Lopez, and Bruce Combs leading the group with Barb Daughtry, Laurie Barsofti, Shelly Kroack and Vickie Foster close behind.

**Chicago, Illinois**

**JANUARY 18, 2024**

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## Cornhole Club



## Vincent Stevens

Despite less-than-optimal weather conditions and holiday interruptions, club activities remained at a relatively high level during the month. Our open play sessions enjoyed near maximum participation on most occasions, and league matches kept Tuesday and Thursday afternoons active. After a pause over the holidays, our Introduction to Cornhole classes will resume this month. Mixed and ladies leagues wrapped up during December 2023. 2024 will be starting with all new, double-sided bags.

**INTRODUCTION TO CORNHOLE:** Introduction to Cornhole will resume Tuesday, Jan. 16, at 1 p.m. For residents who would like to give it a try, this session is the perfect vehicle. As usual, it is presented by our resident cormmaster Bill Ballweg, who will explain the basic rules, protocols, scoring, and offer some useful tips and tricks. Bill's session consists of 30 minutes of practical information, followed by another 30 minutes of practice time to put the knowledge gained to use. To ensure that all attendees can get individual attention, class size must be limited. To join this session, please submit names and email addresses of attendees to [otowcornhole@yahoo.com](mailto:otowcornhole@yahoo.com) prior to Jan. 16.

**OPEN PLAY:** Open play slowed a bit during the Thanksgiving holiday but picked up again in December 2023 with overflow participation in nearly all sessions. Fortunately, our resident carpenter Bill Reape completed his overhaul of two donated boards, which gives us the capability of accommodating 28 players simultaneously. Open play continues on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, at 4:00 p.m. Actual start time will vary dependent on the arrival of the first 20 players, which is usually prior to the start time. Most club members tend to arrive at the cornhole courts prior to 3:30 p.m. with play beginning when the 20-player threshold is reached.

the 20-player threshold is reached. The ladies only open play is Tuesdays, at 3 p.m. and wrapped up activities in early December 2023, and will resume in February. Women interested in these sessions can contact Vickie Foster at [poo2dog@verizon.net](mailto:poo2dog@verizon.net).

The ladies league wrapped up their season in early December 2023 with Brenda Andrews, Robin Ballweg, Chris Lopez, and Bruce Combs leading the group with Barb Daughtry, Laurie Bar- sotti, Shelly Kroack and Vickie Foster close behind.

All Cornhole Club league competitive activity will resume in early 2024.



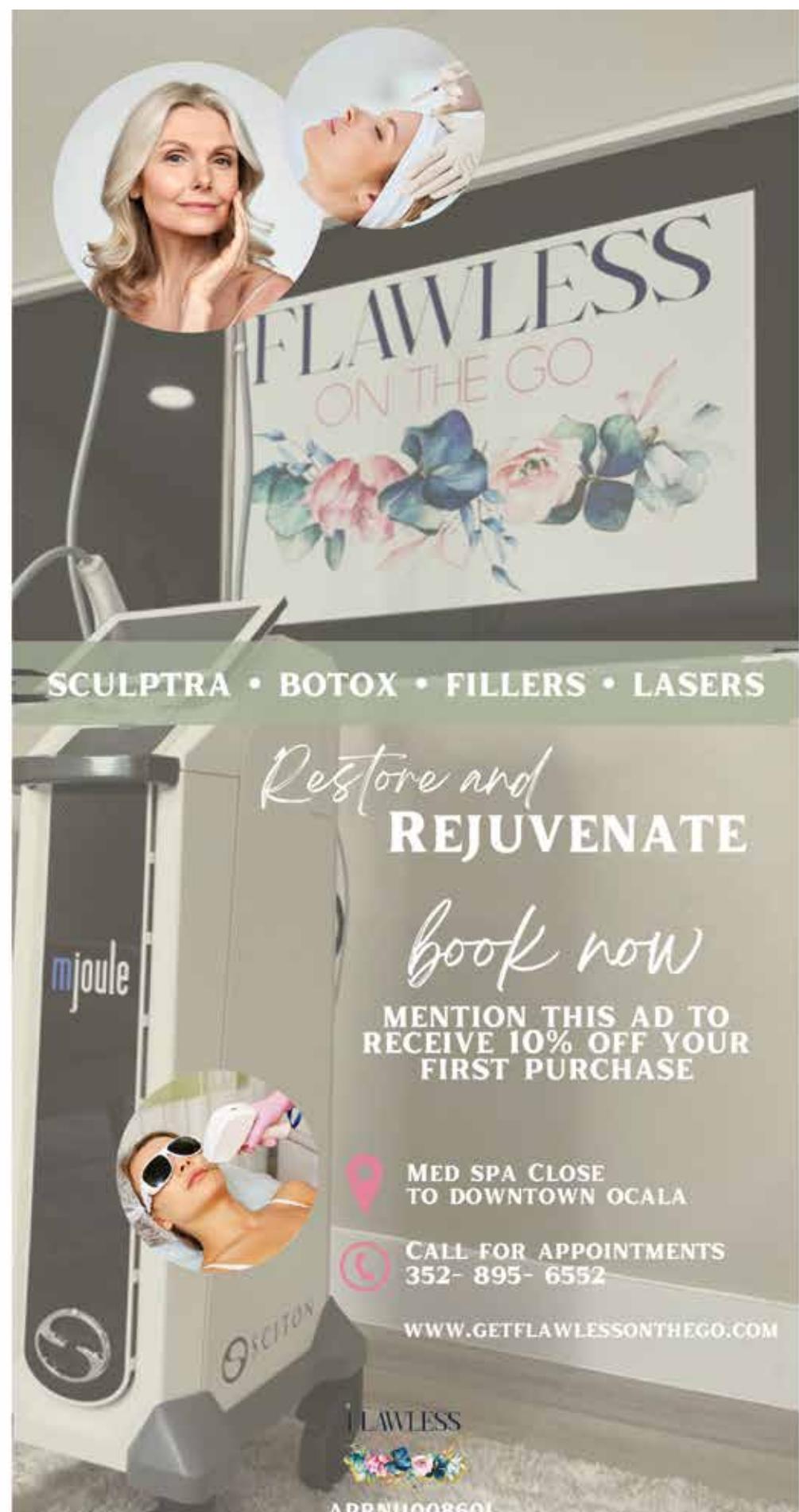
Photo by Vince Stevens

## Cornhole Club ladies league.

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The advertisement features a large blue header 'COMPUTER HELP' and a green phone number 'Arthur - 352-875-7878'. Below the header are four circular icons: 1) Two tablets floating in the clouds. 2) An older couple smiling while using a laptop. 3) An envelope with an '@' symbol and a smartphone. 4) A yellow power cord being plugged into a wall outlet.



**Top Pickleball Club**

Steve Carr



As we close out 2023 and turn the page to 2024, we can look back at the fun, comradery, good exercise, and accomplishments we have all shared over the past year on the courts and special club activities.

One very memorable event was having our volunteer members work with, trained, and enhanced the lives of the local athletes with the Special Olympics.

Each volunteer walked away in the end knowing that they learned and benefitted more than they ever thought possible.

Through the power of sports, people with intellectual disabilities discovered new strengths, abilities, skills, and success.

Our athletes find joy, confidence, and fulfillment on the playing field and in life. They also inspire people in their communities and elsewhere to open their hearts to a wider world of human

**Horseshoes Club**

Vern Kessler



All the members of the Horseshoe Club wish everyone a blessed new year. As we all welcome in 2024, may it be even a greater year than 2023.

Pitching ringers is a notable feat for anyone who pitches shoes. For an individual to throw six ringers in a row, commonly referred to in the horseshoe world as the "triple double" is even more worthy of recognition. This feat was accomplished by club member, Paul Lariviere. Congratulations Paul as

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Ladies table tennis holiday potluck.

Photo by Athena Drewes

**Table Tennis**

Athena Drewes

Wishing you a happy and healthy 2024! Yearly club dues renewal of \$10 begins in January. Members can pay at our club meeting Saturday, Jan. 20 (new members can join then too) or when you come to play. Please be sure to leave your name and give your money to a club director or member to lock away.

Did you get a new paddle for the holidays? Having the right paddle thickness and rubber can aid in your play. Here are some suggestions for choosing rubber for your paddle.

**Rubber Types**

- Smooth: Most players use this type with a layer of sponge underneath. It provides the most spin and used by 85% of tournament players.
- Short Pips or Pimpled: The rubber has a bumpy surface and usually a layer of sponge underneath. Used by players who do not have a great deal of spin and provides more control if you have difficulty playing against spin.
- Long Pips: Extra-long pips reverse the spin of the opponent. It is dif-

ficult to play offensively with long pips, so most players use it on one side only.

Anti-Topsin: Rubber has a smooth surface and does not generate much spin/speed. It neutralizes the opponent's spin. Most players use anti-block with it and a different rubber on the other side.

Speed versus Spin: Offensive players using topspin, loop and smash prefer rubber with a high speed rating. Defensive players using underspin, chop, push, and block prefer slower rubber. The faster the rubber, the harder it is to control and more affected by the opponents' spin.

Sponge Thickness: Affects speed of the rubber. The thicker the sponge the more speed and more spin. The thinner the sponge the more control. Thicker sponge adds more weight to the paddle and gives a more cushioned feel. Thinner sponge is lighter and gives a woodier feel. Offensive players prefer thicker sponge while defensive players prefer none or a thinner sponge.

Sponge Hardness: Affects spin, speed, control and feeling. A soft sponge offers most control and feeling and suits beginners and intermediate players. Medium sponge suits players with an all-around game who appreciate touch/control but also like to place powerful strokes. Harder sponge brings the most power and speed and is favored by aggressive, well-practiced, higher-level players who need additional power when playing back from the table.

Ratings: Rubbers are assigned ratings for speed, spin, and control on a scale of 10 to 99. The higher the rating the higher the attributes.

Come join us and have some fun! Don't have a paddle? Paddles are available for use. Beginner doubles, Tuesday, 1 to 3 p.m.; singles, Friday 3 to 5 p.m. Ladies doubles/singles, Monday 1 to 3 p.m.; doubles Wednesday, 10 a.m. to noon; singles, Friday, 1 to 3 p.m. All level doubles Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, 1 to 3 p.m. All level singles Wednesday, 1 to 3 p.m. Intermediate singles/doubles Wednesday 5:30 to 7 p.m. Advanced Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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## Fit Tips



James "Buddy" Head  
352-387-7559  
james\_head@otowfl.com

Happy new year! This is the perfect time to set an intention for making your wellbeing a priority. Unfortunately, New Year's resolutions often carry a reputation for failure due to lofty, unrealistic goals. Instead of trying to revamp your lifestyle with weight loss as the primary objective, consider a broader, holistic approach to wellness. Consider simple, everyday practices that can have a huge impact on your health!

**FIT TIP #1:** Practice mindfulness – think about what you put into your body and how you use your body. Food journaling is a great way to help you think about what you are eating. When you pause to be mindful about what, where, when, and why you are eating, you will likely be more inclined to make healthy choices and skip the extra junk food. In addition, it is easy to combine exercise and food journaling to keep track of both!

**FIT TIP #2:** Commit to a healthy sleep routine – take steps to improve your sleep hygiene by going to bed at the same time every night, quit your "screen time" at least two hours prior to bedtime, limit caffeine, alcohol, and naps.

**FIT TIP #3:** Move more every day – exercise will not only help you to maintain muscle and function, but it will also support disease prevention. Additionally, more movement will help to reduce stress and improve sleep.

## Tennis



Jorge Privat  
352-387-7539

First, I want to wish the entire tennis community a year filled with good health, enthusiasm for the game, desire to improve, and have more fun on the tennis courts.

Now that the holidays are behind us, it is time for us to get together and form a committee that will schedule fun activities during the year.

## The Mindset

Why do some tennis players keep improving while others plateau or digress? Is it because they were more talented than the rest? There are two schools of thought: people with a growth mindset and those with a fixed mindset.

The growth mindset is based on the idea you can improve your capabilities through learning, experimentation, and training. By focusing on learning and effort, this mindset has the belief that a human can continually improve their mental and physical capabilities. They believe that they can be anything with persistent hard work.

The fixed mindset believe that their capabilities and abilities are pre-determined. They believe that they have a limited amount of intelligence, athletic talent, etc. A person either can hit a tennis ball with topspin and move correctly and efficiently on a tennis court or he/she can't.

A person with a fixed mindset avoids challenges, gives up easily when faced with obstacles, views efforts as a waste of time, ignores feedback, blames others for their failures and sees failure as permanent and defining.

On the flip side is the growth mindset in which a person believes that ability can be developed. A person with a

## Women's Softball



Annette Bunc

The Diamond Divas meet weekly at 8 a.m. on Saturdays. Weather has been great, and we have had some good practices. Come out and join us ladies.

For additional information, call Annette at 352-615-2882.

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# JANUARY 2024 FITNESS

## RECREATION FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	SPARC NANCY	STRONG BUDDY	Remix Bootcamp BRENDA/CAROL	STRONG BUDDY	SPARC CAROL
8:00 am Recreation Ballroom	Zumba® Gold-Toning AMY				Dance Aerobics DENISE R.
9:00 am	S.O.S. TRISH	Stretch, Flex & Balance CAROL	S.O.S. TRISH	Dance Aerobics CAROL	S.O.S. TRISH
9:00 am Recreation Ballroom			BEAT LORI		
10:00 am	Balanced Body LINDY	Chair Yoga KATHY	Balanced Body KATHY	Chair Yoga KATHY	Balanced Body KATHY
10:00 am Recreation Ballroom	Chair Yoga SANDRA		Chair Yoga CAROL		
11:00 am	Chair Dance LORI	Brain Power SOPHIA	Get Fit While You Sit JOE	Move to Improve Parkinson's SUE	Get Fit While You Sit KATHY
11:00 am Recreation Ballroom	Zumba® Gold JOSE		Zumba® Gold KITTY		Dance Aerobics LORI
1:00 pm		Fitness Orientation*	Punch Out PD POPO COACHES		Balance Assessment*
3:00 pm	VYP Chair Yoga JOE	Balanced Body SUE	Chair Yoga TRISH	Balanced Body DIANE	
5:00 pm		Hatha Yoga KATHY		Yoga SANZIA	

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

\*Fitness Orientations and Balance Assessments are free. Space is limited. To schedule an appointment, please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7534.

## ARBOR FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	Beginner/Intermediate Tai Chi NANCY	Warrior HAILEEN	Intermediate/Advanced Tai Chi KATHY	Kardio Kickboxing HAILEEN	Warrior SUE
9:00 am	Yoga SANDRA	Pilates Fusion SUE	Yoga JOE	Pilates Fusion HAILEEN	Yin Yoga HELEN
10:00 am	STRONG KATHY	Yoga SANDRA	STRONG SUE	Yoga LORI	STRONG JOE
11:00 am	Roll & Recover HAILEEN		Yoga TRISH		Stretch, Flex & Balance EDWINE B.
1:00 pm				Fitness Orientation*	

Arbor Fitness Center Hours: Monday-Friday 6:00 AM - 8:30 PM; Saturday 7 AM - 8:30 PM; Sunday 9 AM - 7 PM

\*Fitness Orientations are free. Space is limited. To schedule an appointment, please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7634.

## ARBOR FITNESS CENTER INDOOR POOL

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

Open Swim: Saturdays 7 AM - 8:30 PM; Sundays 9 AM - 7 PM

\*\*Fee-based class For pool inquiries, please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7634.

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## Line Dancing

Tamara Stanford



Happy new year and welcome to 2024. There is a new line dance class - Introduction to Line Dancing. The first class begins at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 9 in the Arbor Conference Dance Studios II-IV. The one-hour class will last for 12 weeks. The instructor is Patty Hainzl. Patty requests that residents wishing to participate in the class call her at 352-861-6572 to register. There is no fee to attend the class. Join Patty to learn basic steps danced to popular music.

In December 2023, a holiday dance social was hosted by Nancy Carmack. We danced to beautiful music and the festive outfits worn by the dancers added to the holiday mood. Spending a few hours dancing with friends is a fun way to celebrate the season. Thank you, Nancy, for organizing the event.

Attending a line dance workshop is a great way to practice dances recently introduced by instructor Darlene Miller. It is also an opportunity to review classic dances. There is a Beyond Beginner workshop on Wednesdays, at 9:45 a.m. in the Arbor Conference Dance Studios. The workshop ends before the practice begins at 10:30 a.m. Rose O'Rourke is the dance leader.

There is also a Friday workshop held in the Arbor Conference Dance Studios and is open to all levels of dancing. From 9:30 to 10 a.m. requested dances are re-



Photo by Charlie Petrosky

December dance social.

viewed. Kathy Cornell organizes the workshop, and a list of planned dances is distributed for dancing from 10 to 11 a.m.

There are fun dance events scheduled for January. Many local dancers will attend the annual Good Times Winter Workshop, held in Spring Hill, Florida. It is open to all dancers who purchase a ticket, and it is so popular that the dance has been sold out since last spring. On Top of the World line dancers are always well represented. It is fun to meet others who love line dancing and to dance with clubs that we don't see often.

The Black White Bling Ball dance social will take place Saturday, Jan. 20, in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Attendees are encouraged to wear black and

white colors with bling added. Kathy Cornell is hosting the dance. She added a unique idea for the social by encouraging everyone to vote for their favorite dances. The most popular dances will be on the playlist for the social.

The Town Square at Circle Square

Commons is scheduled for repairs in January. The area used for dancing will not be open. Please refer to webuse.com/otowdance/main for further information. For detailed information regarding line dancing, contact instructor Darlene Miller at 352-259-3696.

## New Circle Squares

Michele Vieira



The New Circle Squares hosted a special dance back in September 2023! We continued to receive donations and were happy to report that \$500 was donated to Brother's Keeper Soup Kitchen along with some canned goods! Thanks to the dancers along with Texas Caller Mike Bramlett and his wife "D" for all the work and fun!

Square dance lessons began Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023. The new dancers are dancing so well and learning quickly!

In December 2023, we celebrated the holidays with a party! Dancers outdid themselves with amazing appetizers, sides, and desserts! There was trivia with prizes and, of course, we danced to Christmas tunes! We had a special caller visiting from San Antonio, Texas, John Kephart and his wife Sherry and he tuned in with Dave for a fun time!

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Photo by Michele Vieira

Dave Vieira presenting a donation check to Brother's Keeper Soup Kitchen in Ocala.

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**Sidekicks  
Western Dance**

Judy Sullivan



Happy new year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday time with family and friends. We ended the year with a fabulous holiday party. Lots of good food prepared by Jean and Jack Hester, and many volunteers to help set up, decorate, serve food, and clean up afterwards. We ate turkey, ham, green beans, stuffing, cranberry sauce, and a yummy slice of cake. To wash it down, there was iced tea, lemonade, and good old water.

What a fun night it was dancing to holiday music. Everybody had such a good time. Most of our dancers were dressed up in festive holiday colors. Music included the following favorites "Mele Kalikimaka," "Blue Christmas," "Run Rudolph Run," "Hanukkah Oh Hanukkah," "Christmas in Kilarney," and "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" and "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer." We even managed to get a waltz in with The Angel City.

We had the raffle ticket drawing and there were several winners who got to go home with a heavier pocket than they

**Ballet**

Eugenie Martin



Now that the holidays are over, it is time for new year's resolutions. These often include losing weight or becoming more fit in some way. Some of our dancers do exercise other than ballet, but many of us, myself included, prefer ballet. It is good exercise with a slow start. We stretch first, and then a long series of standardized exercises holding on to the ballet barre. Then, we stretch again at the barre, and put away the barres. After the barre exercising, we dance in the middle of the floor without holding on to anything. The class is one hour and

**Cycling Club**

Dennis Baker



The Wheeling Around the World Cycling Club meets on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays (weather permitting) for meet and match rallies, where rides are set up on the spot according to the abilities and desires of those who show up. Most rallies originate from the Power Park on SW 90th Street. Special rides or excursions are occasionally scheduled by group members. The Santos Trail here in Ocala, and the Withlacoochee Trail in Dunnellon, Hernando, and Inverness are favorite haunts of the wheelers.

The Wheeling Around the World Cycling Club welcomes and accommodates all residents and guests interested in cycling regardless of cycling ability. Beginner, intermediate, or advanced? All are welcome!

For information, contact Dennis Baker at [dbaker@laposte.net](mailto:dbaker@laposte.net) or 352-562-0088, or join our Facebook group (Wheeling Around the World Cycling Club).

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Photo by Judy Sullivan

Sidekicks Partner Dance Group members at the holiday party.

came with. Sadly, I can't say that my pocket was heavier though. Congratulations to all you winners.

At the end of 2023, we took a short two week break. We will resume our regular weekly dancing on Tuesday, Jan. 9. Friday practices will resume on Friday, Jan. 5.

If you wish to join the club, please text or call Judy 973-903-8719 or email Paula at [sidekickspartnerdance@gmail.com](mailto:sidekickspartnerdance@gmail.com).

com.

Hope to see more new faces. See you on the dance floor!

- Tuesdays (4 p.m.): Beginners class with Peggy and Al in the Recreation Center Ballroom.
- Tuesdays (5 p.m.): Weekly group dance in the Recreation Center Ballroom.
- Fridays (11 a.m.): Teach/review class with Judy and Jim in the In-

digo East Community Center Ballroom.

Fridays (noon): Absolute Beginners class with Judy and Jim in the Indigo East Community Center Ballroom.

Sundays (5 p.m.): Practice/review with Bill and Lois at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio IV.

and patterns.  
Improver (10:30 to 11:30 a.m.): Has danced at the Beginner II level and has a thorough understanding of line dance steps and patterns and is looking for more dances to learn, rather than learning steps and patterns.

Beginner II (11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.): Understands the basic steps and patterns and is ready to add syncopated step patterns and faster dances to enhance their dance skills.

Beginner I (12:15 to 1 p.m.): This level is after Absolute Beginner. Is ready to add more steps to build slightly more challenging dances.

Absolute Beginner (1 to 1:45 p.m.): Has no line dance experience or very little and wants to learn!

**Country & Western  
Line Dancing**

Judy Sullivan



Country & Western Line Dance Classes are available Thursdays, in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios II-IV. Please contact Sheryl Bradley, guest instructor, at [sbradley057@yahoo.com](mailto:sbradley057@yahoo.com) or 207-632-0252 for more information.

Here's the new schedule with class descriptions:

- Intermediate (10 to 10:30 a.m.): Accomplished dancer. Has mastered improver level dances and is capable of learning new dances with minimal explanation of steps

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Ticket prices do not include sales tax. Refreshments available for purchase at events. To arrange for handicap seats, call or visit the ticket office.

\*Free tickets not available online. Tickets must be picked up at the Circle Square Cultural Center box office during normal business hours. Limit two per household. \*\*Online tickets subject to a convenience fee. ALL TICKET SALES FINAL.



100037 - 1/24

**Archery Club**

Leslie McCormick



at Candler Hills and included a catered dinner and DJ entertainment provided by Ben Simmons.

The 2023 Florida Senior Games in archery were held in Wesley Chapel on Dec. 2, 2023, and attended by 80 archers with seven members competing from our club. This was a 900-round shoot, 30 arrows at 55, 50 and 60 yards. As with all these offsite shoots, archers are matched against other archers in the same gender, bow style and age group. Receiving medals were:

1: Patty Hoppe. 2: Tom Weiss. 3: Sam Scarbrough.

We need to give a shout out also to Dan Powell, Jerry Hoppe, Mike Bantz and Charlie Dove for great shooting that day.

The next event for our competitive archers will be the 55th USAA Nationals Jan. 4 and 6, with the local Florida site being the Easton Newbury Archery Center. This event will include all ages from youth to seniors and also para-archers who hold a national classification card.

Our 20-yard club shoot was held for all members to participate in but also to get practice in as a group for the USAA Nationals. Good luck to our members who are participating in the USAA Nationals.

Now that the weather is cooler it is a great time for an outdoor activity such as archery. If you are interested in becoming a member, visit [otowarchery.com](http://otowarchery.com) > New Members and download the application form and required waivers. For additional information or to schedule your initial safety/training session, contact Chuck at [chuck-archery@strickland.net](mailto:chuck-archery@strickland.net) or 407-257-9668 or Phyllis at [phyllisarchery@gmail.com](mailto:phyllisarchery@gmail.com) or 606-384-1744. See you at the range!

Our social events for the year ended with a holiday celebration at The Lodge

**Weight Loss Group**

Laura Gavey



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

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

For questions and additional details, please email Linda at [ljsisco@comcast.net](mailto:ljsisco@comcast.net) or Gail at [gbhopper@yahoo.com](mailto:gbhopper@yahoo.com).

**BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR**

Pick up after your pet.

**Call of the Wild Sports Club**

Franko Chagoya



Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023, presented a cooler than usual afternoon but the Call of the Wild Sports Club made the best of it with our annual holiday party and charity drive at the Veterans Park pavilion. As a live three-piece band, R&B Rock Trio, played holiday and classic rock music, we enjoyed a summer style meal under the warming sun's rays. With over 80 people in attendance, af-

ter the meal, we had a great raffle with a large array of prizes including boat/fishing trips. There was plenty of excitement when the winning tickets were called out!

With a membership of over 120, the Call of the Wild Sports Club is a group for outdoor enthusiasts which currently focuses on fresh and saltwater fishing trips, hunting and shooting, and other outdoor activities. We also engage speakers from various related interest and provide teaching workshops.

If you are interested to learn more about our active club, please stop by to see us soon! We meet the first Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room.



Photo by Polly Class

Fishing trip raffle winners.

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## Confectionary Convention

By Elaine Morrison  
World News Writer

I don't think it is a stretch of imagination to call a gathering of hundreds of cookies a cookie convention. Because on Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023, a humdinger of an event, just like that, was held at the Candler Hills Community Center. How about that? A CC at the CCC? This was the first annual Kestrel CC! Wow, who wouldn't want to go to something like that?

I can tell you who did get to go ... more than 30 Kestrel bakers and some of their friends. The room, decorated in holiday gear, set the tone. Each place at the tables had a gift bag, which held a surprise gift. A Rice Krispie treat, in the shape of a palm tree with a cinnamon pretzel trunk, made by Lynn Homenick, also appeared at each place.

The serving tables held huge platters for the cookies, and a large dispenser of holiday punch, provided by Donna Miller, as well as water bottles supplied some beverages. There was another drink that seemed to get a lot of traffic, something which was like an apple cider with another word that I seem to remember started with an "m" and ended with an "e." It must have been very delicious, because I heard folks, coming back to refill their cups, talking about how smooth it was. The supplier of this delight was Lyn Yans.



Kestrel cookie exchange.

## Holiday Display

By B.J. Leckbee  
World News Writer

It took a lot of effort for Linda Hudgens to set up her North Pole holiday display this year. It also took three days, three plywood boards and horses, a bookshelf, and a lot of holiday cheer. The display includes 90, yes, 90 lit pieces



Linda Hudgens' Department 56 North Pole Village.

All participants were asked to provide three dozen cookies, for onsite consumption and to share. They were also asked to provide recipes for their goodies. The variety was colossal, with treats ranging from shortbread cookies in the guise of Christmas trees and snowflakes, to pecan sandies and brownies, to macaroons and pizzelle, to every kind of chip cookie, to nut bars and chocolate drops.

After consuming and drinking, it was time to open the surprise gift. Kestrel resident Linda Duncan's generosity provided an embroidered apron, and all attendees became members of "Mrs. Claus' Cookie Team" as they donned their gifts for a photoshoot.

Throughout the afternoon, Lynette Perk could be seen videotaping the party which was wonderfully orchestrated by Jan Eaton.

There is a silly trope that states, "that is how the cookie crumbles." I can tell you, that when the conference ended, there was nary a crumb anywhere, not in a lap, not on a plate and not on the floor. At the conclusion of the CC at the CCC, every crumb had been consumed. And as the participants trotted home, laden with bags filled with cookies, they agreed there would indeed be a second annual cookie convention, perhaps even sooner than at holiday time.



Photo by Lennie Rodoff

Joe Wood, Larry Domnitz, Ron Fulton, and Russ Kaye.

## A Little Music, Comedy, and More

By Nancy Grabowski

From each of The New Pretenders to each of you - happy new year! It seems this holiday rolls around faster and faster, doesn't it?

With the turn of the calendar page into 2024, Wednesday, Jan. 3, is straight ahead. On that day, members of The New Pretenders will begin selling tickets for our upcoming performances. While the sale does not open until 8:15 a.m., early birds will receive a number about 7:30 a.m. so we can serve you in an orderly manner.

Reserved tickets are \$10 and general admission tickets are \$8. The shows are Friday, Feb. 2, and Saturday, Feb. 3, at 7 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom; the Sunday, Feb. 4 show is at 2 p.m. Because no tickets are sold at the door, we return every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to make tickets available. We're in the Ballroom from 8:15 to 10:15 a.m.

Our program is entitled, "Another Opening, Another Show" and combines music, comedy and a little more to provide just over two hours of non-stop entertainment. Of course, we have a brief intermission to stretch and move around a bit. As a new wrinkle, we've developed a pre-show to highlight our

band leader emeritus: Joe Furfaro. This will begin about 10 minutes beforehand.

Once again, we encourage our audiences to get involved with the singing. If you don't fancy yourself as a singer, clap along or even tap your toes. You'll be amazed at how much this adds to your enjoyment of it all! Your applause adds to our enjoyment and encourages us to be "better than all the rest" (stealing a line from Tina Turner)!

We can't express our thanks too often for the support we have been shown by the community over the years. The money we raise through ticket sales, pays our bills, and then allows us to support local Marion County charities! We are steadfast in our convictions that "it takes a village" and we love being able to help. Our members volunteer, too ... not just deliver the checks that help so much.

We look forward to seeing you in the Ballroom when we raise the curtain on "Another Opening, Another Show." Perhaps it will help you decide to become a member. Contact any of the troupe or Nancy Grabowski at 352-209-4699.

## Up Close and Personal

By Norm Crouse

Many in On Top of the World know Norm Crouse from his one man shows that combines history, personal interest commentary, and music. He likes to refer to the shows as History with a Back Beat. He has performed his shows, Focus on the Fifties, Before the Beatles, Beyond the Beatles, and Me and Mr. Sinatra in various venues in the community. Audiences enjoy the richness that Norm's commentary brings to the music.

Over the years, Norm has been involved in various forms of musical entertainment. He sang in a barbershop chorus, played King Pellinor in "Camelot," and appeared in the chorus for a production of "The Music Man." He developed and started performing his one-man shows while living in upstate South Carolina.

Since moving here in 2021, Norm has established himself as a performer of popular favorites. But many have never heard his original music. Well, that's about to change. On Sunday, Jan. 28, from 2 to 4 p.m. Norm will be singing his original songs at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios. During the show, Norm will introduce each number and give the background on what inspired him to write the song.

Norm has released four albums of original music, which are available on all major streaming services.

The show will feature selections from each of those albums. The facility is small so it will be an intimate evening.

Hence the title of the show: Up Close and Personal. Because it is a small venue, reservations are required, even though the show is free. The show is bound to fill up, so reserve a seat today.

For reservations or inquiries, email [SongmanShows@gmail.com](mailto:SongmanShows@gmail.com).



Photo courtesy of Norm Crouse

## Recreation



## Shannon Prince

352-854-8707 ext. 7530  
shannon\_prince@otowfl.com

## Stay in the Know

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

## Recreation Center

## Insider's VIP Horse Farm Tours\*

Join us on Friday, Jan. 5, for a trip that gets you up close and personal with horses and the people who handle them. Learn about the history and fun facts about Ocala's horses and points of interest. After the tour, we will stop at the World Equestrian Center for lunch (on your own). The cost is \$38 per person and includes transportation, museum, and farm tours. The bus departs at 8 a.m. and returns at 3 p.m. Please note that there is a lot of walking on this tour.

## Mecum Auction\*

Tickets for a trip to Mecum Auction on Wednesday, Jan. 10, may still be on sale! Mecum Auction is the world leader in collector and classic cars, vintage and antique motorcycles and road art sales. Mecum is host to the world's largest collector car auction held in Kissimmee, Florida. If you like auctions and collector/classic cars, this is an event you won't want to miss. There will be a lot of territory to cover as you walk around and browse the different auction vehicles. When you are ready to relax, you'll be able to sit down and enjoy a fun-filled afternoon of high-intensity bidding and see what some of those dream vehicles will sell for on the auction block. The cost is \$47 per person, which includes transportation and admission only.

## Get Acquainted Coffee

A welcome for all new residents will take place on Thursday, Jan. 11, at 9:30 a.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. This brief presentation will help familiarize you with the amenities and services available. After this event, for those interested, we will take a short walk around some of the facilities and amenities surrounding the Recreation Center. There will be coffee and light refreshments provided.

## Health &amp; Wellness Expo

Stop by Circle Square Cultural Center on Saturday, Jan. 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and see what's new and interesting in healthcare. There will be health care providers with information, answers to questions, screenings, and demonstrations. This event is sponsored by On Top of the World and AdventHealth Ocala. This event is free and open to the public.

## Shred Event

Shred Express will be onsite for a

BUS SCHEDULE  
Monday - Thursday

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

## MORNING DESTINATIONS

Freedom Library	Ollie's
Jasmine Square	Paddock Mall
VA Hospital	Walmart
Dillard's/Kohl's	Target
Sam's Club	Hobby Lobby/Shady Oaks Shopping Center
Home Depot	Gaitway Plaza

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
Publix	Big Lots
Walmart Neighborhood Market	Beall's & 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.

\*All times are approximate

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

The Community Bus will be running according to schedule as long as the Governor's requirements are allowing. We continue to direct you to the www.otowinfo.com, www.cdc.gov, and www.floridahealth.gov websites for the most current and accurate updates on socializing and transportation.

## Jan. 26: Highway 94

## Karaoke

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

\*To register, visit the Recreation Center office Tuesday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Payment is required at the time of registration. No refunds will be issued 14 days or fewer prior to registered event. Resident ID must be presented at all times and when purchasing tickets. Guests must be accompanied by a resident.

## The Lodge at Candler Hills

## Happy Hour

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

- Saturday, Jan. 6: Fred Campbell
- Friday, Jan. 12: Sal & Gal
- Saturday, Jan. 20: Dan Flok

Bring your own beverage and appetizers. This event is free for residents and a \$5 guest fee applies when accompanied by a resident.

## Social Night

This is a great opportunity to meet your fellow residents. Join us in this bring-your-own beverage (BYOB) event on Tuesday, Jan. 9, from 5 to 7 p.m. Enjoy some light appetizers (while supplies last) while listening to some tunes by Paul De Ritter. This event is free for residents and a \$5 per guest fee applies when accompanied by a resident.

## CPR Training\*

On Top of the World's very own safety department will be conducting "hands only" CPR training on Wednesday, Jan. 10, from 1 to 3 p.m. The class is free but seating is limited.

## Music Bingo

We hear you like bingo. Music bingo adds a fun element to this traditional game. Prizes will be awarded to the first bingo called in each game. Join us on Thursday, Jan. 25, from 5 to 7 p.m. with Doug, from Imagine Entertainment, and be ready to yell "bingo!" Bring your own beverage and appetizers. This event is free for residents and a \$5 per guest fee applies when accompanied by a resident.

\*To register, visit The Lodge at the Candler Hills office Sunday through Monday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Payment is required at the time of registration. Resident IDs must be presented at all events and when purchasing tickets. No refunds will be issued 14 days or fewer prior to registered event.

## Indigo East Community Center

## Pool Party

Join us in your own backyard pool on Sunday, Jan. 14, with entertainer Nathan Leslie who plays a great variety of music at the Indigo East Fitness Center from 1 to 4 p.m. Bring your favorite beverage and snacks. This is a free event for residents and \$5 per guest. Guests must be accompanied by a resident.

## Karaoke

Sing your heart out! You'll feel right at home singing because we all support and cheer each other on. Enjoy the fun with DJ Frank on Thursday, Jan. 18, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Indigo East Community Center. This is a free event for residents and \$5 per guest.

## Happy Hour

Come and join us for a good time with

## REPLACEMENT CAR DECALS

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

Resident Services  
8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday  
No decals issued during inclement weather.

Resident Services is closed daily  
from noon to 1 p.m.



SCAN ME

your friends and neighbors. This is a free event for residents and \$5 per guest. Bring your favorite cocktails and snacks. Enjoy the upcoming entertainment:

- Jan 5: DJ Frank
- Jan 12: Fred Campbell
- Jan 19: Cherokee
- Jan 26: Sandra and Alex

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

## The Landing

## Ladies Night Out

Ladies do you need a night out? Cut loose and have some fun with Automatic as your entertainment on Wednesday, Jan. 10, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Ballroom. Bring your own beverage and snacks. This event is free to residents and \$5 per guest fee applies when accompanied by a resident.

## Sunday Fun Day

Come and join us for a fun filled day! Weybourne Landing's very own Cheryl and Bruce Jensen will be your entertainment. This event takes place on Sunday, Jan. 14, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Ballroom. This event is free for residents and a \$5 guest fee applies when accompanied by a resident.

## Music Bingo\*

We heard that you want bingo. Music bingo with Wendy Peterson starts on Monday, Jan. 22, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Ballroom. Music will add a fun twist to the traditional bingo game. Bring your own drinks and snacks and be ready to yell "bingo!" This event is \$3 per resident and \$5 per guest accompanied by a resident.

## Happy Hour

Come join us for a night of dancing and socializing with your friends and neighbors. Happy Hour takes place on Thursday, Jan. 25, from 5 to 8 p.m. Curtis Frazier is your entertainment for the evening. Bring your own beverage and table snacks. Let's have some fun! This event is free for residents and a \$5 guest fee applies when accompanied by a resident.

## Potluck Brunch\*

Have lunch with your friends and meet your neighbors. This event will happen on Saturday, Jan. 27, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Ballroom. Everyone brings a dish and their own beverage. Seating is limited. This is free for residents and \$5 per guest accompanied by a resident.

## Social Hour

This is a great way to meet new people. Join us on Sunday, Jan. 28, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Ballroom with musical guests Sal and The Gal. There will be light refreshments with catering by Fresh Plates Creative Catering, and you can bring your own beverage. This event is free for residents and \$5 per guest accompanied by a resident.

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

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**Fun with Golf Carts**

Susan Pulling Robinson



the local charities that we support. Residents congregate to make donations of cash and supplies, and then they watch our parade head out. We all have a lot of fun cruising around in our "mini floats."

The Fun with Golf Carts Facebook group is now at 550! Follow us Facebook for the latest information (OTOW Fun with Golf Carts).

If you have a golf cart, please consider decorating it (or not) and joining us. For more information and to receive emails about this club, please email [otowfunwithgolfcarts@gmail.com](mailto:otowfunwithgolfcarts@gmail.com).

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 Chat Room). If the parade is not coming by your house, please come see the action as we leave the Recreation Center.

Once again, our club members entered masterfully decorated carts in last year's Holiday Golf Cart Parade. Their participation and creativity resulted in the Fun with Golf Carts Club winning the coveted club trophy for the second year in a row!

The next holiday-themed parade will take place Saturday, Dec. 30. So, expect some creative carts, including some of the carts from the Holiday Golf Cart Parade.

The Fun with Golf Carts motto is "parade for a cause." The parade starting point serves as a location for donating to



Elf express.

Photo by Theresa Bassing

Photo by Larry Fransen



Dorothy Fransen and her Appalachian Mountain dulcimer.

**Dulcimer Group**

Sharon Bruno



Lots of new dulcimer players have joined the Dulcimer Group.

Some are as new as their dulcimers, others have had dulcimers in their past and now have more time to play, and others have been playing for years and just found our very welcoming group.

Karie Dawkins' husband, Barry, bought her a mahogany, teardrop style dulcimer for an anniversary gift back in 1995. But she never had a chance to take lessons, and her dulcimer remained safely in its hard protective case. One day, while house shopping in On Top of the World, she was reading the World News, and noticed there was a dulcimer group. New home (check). Warm climate (check). Dulcimer group (check). They bought their house that day.

Another member is Dorothy Fransen and her brand-new dulcimer. She started by using a loaner provided by the group, and really enjoyed playing. Soon after

her husband bought her a dulcimer as a gift on her most recent birthday. Dorothy enjoys learning how to play and explains the concentration needed to play is stress-relieving, because you can only concentrate on the music instead of anything else. She is also very eager to tell everyone how lovely, friendly, empathetic, and supportive the members are to the new players.

One of the newest members, Rich Hadden, has a passion for stringed instruments. He started August 2023 by building his first dulcimer from a kit he found online. He liked the way it sounded and has since bought two more dulcimers. Rich told me my first dulcimer joke, "How many dulcimers does a dulcimer player need? Just one more." Rich also plays the ukulele, also called a uke, and is a member of the Ukulele Club. Currently, Rich owns five ukuleles. I'm sure there's a joke for that. (How many ukuleles does a ukulele player need?)

To schedule the Dulcimer Group to play at a club meeting or event, contact Patricia Gift at 717-798-4085 or [pamgift@earthlink.net](mailto:pamgift@earthlink.net).

Come have a listen. The group meet Tuesdays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room.

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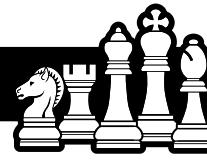
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## CARDS &amp; GAMES



## Bingo



Nancy Grabowski

Tradition has us wishing each of you a happy and healthy new year! Another tradition, that of making resolutions, is offered: resolve to join us at bingo!

Beginning on Wednesday, Jan. 3, the Recreation Center Ballroom will once again be transformed into our bingo digs. By law and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards, we cannot be in the Ballroom while the tables and chairs are set into place. Once our maintenance staff leaves (about 3:30 p.m.), we can come in to claim a seat. You are also permitted to save one seat for someone else.

Then, once the volunteers are ready, sale of the 70/30 raffle tickets start ... that should be around 4 p.m. Tickets are three for \$1 or 10 for \$3 for the chance to win \$20 with a lucky pull of your ticket.

When 4:30 p.m. rolls around, playing cards will be sold for \$1 each. Resident IDs must be presented, and guests are allowed to attend. No one under 18 is permitted in the hall nor is any beer, wine, or alcohol; this is by state law.

We play 20 games with an intermission between game 10 and game 11. The winning purse is determined by the number of cards we sell. Game #10 is always played for \$75 and game #20 starts at \$110 and climbs by \$10 until it is won, or we reach the \$250 cap.

Parking on the hill is quite limited but there is golf cart parking behind the outdoor pool. There is a flat walk in to make it easy for most folks. If you choose to park in the parking lot, please use the sidewalk to enter the building and use the elevator.

Above all, we stress safety! Please don't tip the chairs to save them. Use the sidewalks rather than the driveway when exiting at night. We encourage you to do these little things, so you'll come back to play again!

The bingo volunteers would love to have you become part of the team. Speak with Carl Folkers or Nancy Grabowski at 352-209-4699 for more information.

## Bridge



## Monday Afternoon

By Carol Johnson

## Nov. 6, 2023

1: Donna Peters & Rad D; 2: Steve Sekac & Bob Derst; 3: Judy Mackowiak & Rik Saffol; 4: Mar Valchin & Bruce Gillette.

## Nov. 13, 2023

1: Pat & Debbie Quinn; 2: Jack Heller & Steve Sekac; 3: Rik Saffol & Judy Mackowiak; 4: Bruce Gillette & Mar Valchin.

## Nov. 20, 2023

1: Rad D & Donna Peters; 2: Carol Rosenberger & Barb Heller; 3: Judy Mackowiak & Rik Saffol; 4: Darlene Clark & Linda Curtiss; Grand slam: Barb Heller & Caryl Rosenberger.

## Nov. 27, 2023

1: Deb & Pat Quinn; 2: Shirley Stolly & Carol Johnson; 3: Caryl Rosenberger & Carolyn Higgins.

## Dec. 4, 2023

1: Mar Valchin & Bruce Gillette; 2: Barb Heller & Caryl Rosenberger; Tied at 3: Debbie & Pat Quinn and Carol Johnson & Shirley Stolly; Grand slam: Bruce Gillette & Mar Valchin.

## Ladies Christmas Luncheon

1: Donna Peters; 2: Linda Yuen; 3: Barb Heller.

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## Tuesday Night Duplicate

By Bob Kraus

The group begins play at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room I-II. Please arrive by about 5:50 p.m. to sign in and allow us to set up the game appropriate for the size of the group. Bring your partner and \$0.50 per person.

The boards are scored after the game and the results emailed to the group. The prizes are distributed the following week to the top teams.

You can also play occasionally as a substitute. For more information or to become a substitute, contact Bob Kraus at 352-492-8525.

## Nov. 14, 2023

1: Bob Kraus & Arlene Loepp; 2: Caryl Rosenberger & Barbara Heller; 3: C J Daane & Carolyn Higgins; 4: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; Tied at 5: Dan Lack & Paul Agarwal and Diane Turkin & Gary Moses.

## Nov. 21, 2023

## North/South

1: Caryl Rosenberger & Barbara Heller; 2: Linda Ryan & Bill Ryan; 3: Dan Hall & Jeff Bell.

## East/West

1: Dan Lack & Paul Agarwal; 2: Bob Kraus & Maureen Brehm; 3: Brian Lomasky & Drew Brehm.

## Nov. 28, 2023

## North/South

1: Caryl Rosenberger & Carolyn Higgins; 2: Dan Hall & Dean Samuel; 3: Linda Ryan & Bill Ryan.

## East/West

1: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; 2: Sophie Redman & Jean Krueger; Tie at 3: Gary Moses & Diane Turkin and Bob Kraus & Arlene Loepp.

## Dec. 5, 2023

1: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; 2: Sophie Redman & Jean Krueger; 3: Bob Kraus & Arlene Loepp; 4: Diane Turkin & Gary Moses; 5: Dan Hall & Jeff Bell.

## Wednesday Afternoon

By Dianne Robinson

## Nov. 1, 2023

1: Bruce Gillett; 2: Rik Saffol; 3: Vern Sieber; 4: Mike Meirick; Cons: Dianne Robinson.

## Nov. 7, 2023

Bruce Gillett; 2: Joan Keinath; 3: Rik Saffol; 4: Vern Sieber; Cons: Bob Durst.

## Nov. 14, 2023

1: Pat Quinn; 2: Steve Sekac; 3: Craig Fod; 4: Mar Valchin; 5: Shirley Stolly; Cons: Joan Keinath.

## Nov. 21, 2023

1: Marlene Floeckher; 2: Bruce Gillett; 3: Linda Curtis; 4: Mar Valchin; Cons: Dianne Robinson.

## Nov. 29, 2023

1: Mar Valchin; 2: Pat Quinn; 3: Vern Sieber; Cons: Debbie Quinn.

## Thursday Afternoon

By Marlene Floeckher

## Nov. 2, 2023

1: Phyllis Silverman; 2: Carolyn Higgins; 3: Mary Bloch; Cons: Marlene Floeckher.

## Nov. 9, 2023

1: Billie Andersen; 2: Mike Meirick; 3: Al Kremer; 4: Rik Saffol; Cons: Linda Curtiss.

## Nov. 16, 2023

1: Rik Saffol; 2: Steve Sekac; 3: Marlene Floeckher; Cons: Mary Bloch.

## Nov. 30, 2023

1: Judy Mackowiak; 2: Linda Yuen; 3: Bruce Gillett; Cons: Carolyn Higgins.

## Thursday Night

By Jeff &amp; Pam Bell

We are a welcoming, relaxing bunch of party bridge players. We meet weekly at 6 p.m. in the Recreation Center Event Room. If you haven't played for years, just finished the bridge classes at Master the Possibilities or are a great player who just likes a "no-stress" bridge game and getting to know some nice folks, our

group is for you.

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

Take a trick with the two of trump and you may even end up with a prize to take home.

We will not meet Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023, but will resume Thursday, Jan. 4.

## Nov. 16, 2023

1: Steve Sekac; 2: Paul Agarwal; 3: Jeff Bell; 2 prize: Bob Durst.

## Nov. 30, 2023

1: Drew Brehm; 2: Betty Schaff; 3: Mar Valchin; 2 prize: Jean Krueger-Travis.

## Dec. 7, 2023

Tie at 1: Pam Bell & Larry Bernier; 2: Arthur; 3: Jeff Bell; 2 prize: Al Whitford.

## Bunco Babes Social Group

Michelle Malsch



The group meets in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios III-IV, on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The next scheduled game is Tuesday, Jan. 23. Registration is at 6:45 p.m.; games begin at 7 p.m. You do not have to call to register. You need only show up. You may bring a guest. The room is set up for 48 players. Please make sure you arrive on time to reserve your spot. It will be first come, first served. Always check the World News for the latest updates for our group.

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

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

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

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

## Cribbage



Judy Parisi

As we start into the new year, our cribbage group will be playing on the first and third Thursday of each month from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room I. Please note the slight change in time and location.

We welcome new players to join us. We have players of all levels, and it is casual play - no "muggins." We play for bragging rights only.

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

## Mah Jongg



## American

By Angela Brady

This weekly game of American mah jongg is open to all eligible residents. All

## On Top of the World

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

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 II. Please arrive a few minutes early as we will draw chips for table assignments. After three or four games, we will switch tables so we can make new friends and change up the game play. Come join us for a couple hours of fun.

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

## Junkies

By Joan Castellucci

Come join us for a day of Mah Jongg Saturday, March 2, in the Arbor Conference Center Large Card Room. Doors open at 9 a.m., but you're welcome to come any time during the day. Doors close at 4 p.m., but you may leave at any time.

You're welcome to bring your lunch or dine out if you prefer. If you bring a bagged lunch, be sure to clean up after yourself and take all leftovers home.

Bring your set and Mah Jongg card. We play according to National Mah Jongg League rules; regular (American) and Siamese. You're welcome to bring your own group of four. No perfumes or scents, please.

Please call Joan at 352-304-2149 with any questions. Hope to see you then.

## Nickel Nickel



## Phyllis Sands

This card game is a great way to meet people, make new friends and have lots of fun!

We moved to On Top of the World in early 2023. I met a wonderful and fun resident who invited me to play Nickel/Nickel. I then invited a friend, and they invited another friend, etc.

For me, the game is a mix of Go Fish and poker (with wild cards). It is easy to learn if you like having fun and laughing. You tend to toss in a wild card without thinking and the person on your left picks it up and with a big smile and says, "Thank you!" It has happened to me more than once and it happens to everyone as the wild card changes on each hand.

You don't need to wait to be invited by someone, just come to any of the scheduled games, bring two quarters and 22 nickels.

- Monday & Friday, at 1 p.m. at The Lodge at Candler Hills.
- Tuesday, at 5 p.m. at the Arbor Activity Center Event Room.
- Wednesday, at 12:30 p.m. at the Arbor Activity Center Poker Room.

How do you become a Nickel/Nickel member? Attend up to two sessions to make sure you like the game and the new friends you will make. At your third session, pay the once in a lifetime initiation fee of \$5 and the yearly dues of \$1.

I hope to see you at a game!

## Pinochle



## Tuesday Night

By Herb Katz

## Nov. 7, 2023

1: Judy Black; 2: Kathie Dushary; 3: Audrey Stark.

## Nov. 14, 2023

1: Bernard DiGregorio; 2: Andy Nuccio; 3: Larry Black.

## Nov. 21, 2023

**Rubber Stamp Greeting Cards**

Linda Lohr



the Hobby Building Event Room.

Anyone can be a presenter and the cards do not have to be fancy or complicated. Our group is based on friendship, socializing, and helping each other.

For information on any class or for general information, contact Connie Press at the email below. There are basic supplies that are needed, such as a trimmer, glue, scissors, and card stock. Everyone in the group shares their supplies and everyone brings new ideas to the table. You are only limited by your imagination!

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

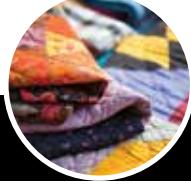
Until then, keep on stampin'!

Sherry Lovelass was our presenter on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023. She offered pre-die cut frames to make beautiful stained glass-like cards. They were perfect for Christmas but could be modified for any occasion. She also provided paper strips to demonstrate how to make paper bows with our scraps. We thank Sherry for her lovely cards and for providing the pre-cut pieces, background paper, and strips to make the bows.

Our group is open to all crafters – beginners or those more experienced. One or two people do a presentation each month. The group meets the first and third Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. in

**Sunshine Quilters**

Donna Boyajian



lin and Ginny Fairhurst for the wonderful holiday luncheon that followed our December business meeting. The decorations were so festive, the games and prizes were fun, and of course the food was over the top delicious. Thank you to all.

Our group is growing with new members each week. Some are just diving into the joy that quilting can bring, some are returning after a hiatus, and some have been quilting for years. We encourage all levels of quilting knowledge and experience. After all, we all had to start somewhere. We are often told that one of the high points of our club is the friendliness of our members and their willingness to help and teach others. So, if you find yourself wanting to learn the art of quilting or to sew alongside like-minded women, please stop into the Hobby Building Art Room on Tuesdays, from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Another year of quilting is in the history books for the Sunshine Quilters members, and the group is abuzz with new and exciting projects to look forward to. However, before we move on to the new year, we must first extend a heartfelt thank you to our outgoing officers: President Gail Shultz, Vice President Margie Rantala, Secretary Nicky Mestre, and Treasurer Vicky Sanders. These ladies have done a wonderful job keeping us moving along and providing us with several learning opportunities. We are so grateful for their dedication to the guild and to its members.

And so, we welcome our new officers: President Katie Kramer, Vice President Donna Boyajian, Secretary Tammy Trunek, and Treasurer Sparrow Karcheski. Have a fun year, ladies!

We would also like to thank and acknowledge Brenda Huffman, Kay Ham-

**Art Group**

Marianne Hoffman



Happy new year! Time for resolutions, new experiences, and babies.

If you would like to try something new, you might want to make a resolution to join the Art Group. Our resident artists meet in the Hobby Building Art Room three days a week: Wednesdays, from 1 to 4 p.m. and Thursdays and Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to noon. Some are new to art; others have a lot of experience. Either way, they are all very welcoming and helpful to new members.

To me, it feels like I have a new family. One artist truly made me feel welcome. Elizabeth Wales has been part of the Art Group for years. She uses her talent to create watercolor portraits of friends and family within a couple of hours.

"Art is a very special way to make people smile," says Elizabeth. "I paint surprise portraits and mail them to family and friends." She adds that she is tickled if it looks like the subject, annoyed if it does not. Elizabeth need not worry, every painting I have seen her create captures the subject's spirit in the eyes. She is simply amazing!

Elizabeth explains that her watercolors are a labor of love that bring her joy. She adds, "And, being part of the Art Group provides me with regular time to share with friends of a like-mind. To me, that's awesome!"

Elizabeth's works and contact information, along with that of other artists, can be found at artgroupotow.org. For more information about the Art Group, contact Freda Klump at 615-336-6863 or fredaklump@gmail.com.

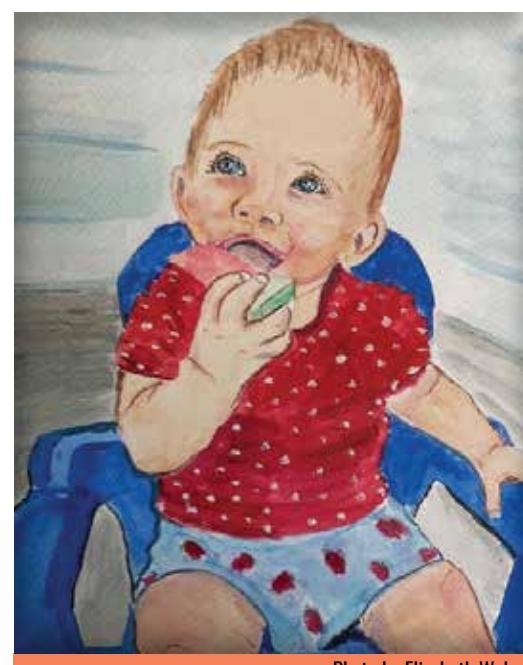


Photo by Elizabeth Wales

Lilly.



Photo by Linda Lohr

Cards presented by Sherry Lovelass.

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**Artistic Crafts & Gifts**

Chris Kilbride



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

ArtisticCrafts.org will give you a glimpse of our very talented crafters and artisans. The group started back in the early 1990s, and the show has grown from seven crafters to over 50 on Tuesday, with even more online for their visual presence. All resident crafters are welcome to sell virtually on our website and inquire about a table at our Tuesday show.

This month we feature Elizabeth Copeland who had never lived anywhere else except Texas but looked forward to the new adventure here with her husband Bud, including a large studio in their new home.

Elizabeth was a registered nurse, with a career spanning from labor and delivery to her last years as a director of nurses in hospice, but with a lot in between. They also owned several retail businesses around the Dallas area including a chocolate shop!

Elizabeth acquired her love of art at six years old, receiving a plastic camera. As she matured, so did her cameras and equipment. She had her own dark room and processed her own film while taking photography classes in college. Her professor told her she had a "good eye" and encouraged her to ex-

hibit her work. The big leap was the Texas State Fair. She was not expecting to place with so many other photographers competing, but over 30 years of entering her photographs, she won almost that same number of ribbons. As digital photography began to take over, she transferred into painting. While in Texas, as a member of a very large art group, she sold many pieces, won ribbons at juried art shows, and even taught a very beginner class in acrylic painting and alcohol ink.

Her business name, Art the World, is how she feels about art. She gives some of her art away in connection with the worldwide Art Abandonment program, posting a photo and location of the artwork on their Facebook page. The group's vision is based on giving away pieces left randomly for people to find, which someone can keep, give away, or just leave it for someone else.

She has broadened her skills to include epoxy resin creating "functional art" and resin paintings. This medium comes with some difficulty and higher cost, but the results are worth it.

For those who have never visited on Tuesday, please take an hour, and go by to see the wide variety of quality items for sale. All vendors are now part of our virtual website, so you can see everyone's crafts even if you can't get to the weekly show. Any vendor can make arrangements for you to purchase items throughout the week.

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



Elizabeth Copeland's creative enhancements feature epoxy resin.

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Photo by Jim Lynam

Winter wonderland.

featured the opening scene from the "Polar Express" movie, complete with the Polar Express train, fog and soundbites from the movie.

To continue the progress into 2024, the club wishes to congratulate the elected officers: President Jim Lynam; Vice President Al Lohr; Secretary Lee Robertshaw; Treasurer Charlie Vartanian; and Director Larry Luke.

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

The Model Railroaders Club is always looking for new members, and you are welcome to join us. Our next club meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 3, in the Hobby Building Event Room. If you have any questions, please call Jim Lynam at 352-861-2822.

Wishing everyone the very best for the new year!

**Happy Hookers**

Jan Spielvogel

Happy new year from Happy Hookers. May 2024 be everything you desire and more.

We start this year as we ended the last one — working on projects that support our charities and also doing projects for our friends and family. It is great to know that most everything we create finds a home somewhere. We also want to make you aware of a change to our meeting start time. Effective January, Happy Hookers will begin meeting at 1 p.m. (instead of 1:30 p.m.). The meeting location remains the same — Hobby Building Art Room.

Happy Hookers is open to all residents. We meet on Mondays, from 1 to 3 p.m. There are no dues, agenda, or penalties for missing a meeting, arriving late, or leaving early. Life can and does interfere at times, and we would hate for that to hold you back. What we do have is a group of ladies busy crocheting, knitting, needlepointing, card crafting, embroidery, and handcrafting of all kinds. This is a very talented group that's never too busy to help someone with a difficult pattern or stitch. We welcome newcomers with open arms. Attendees should bring whatever they happen to be working on.

If you have any questions about our club, you may call Naomi Berman at 352-873-4328. If you have yarn, pattern books, knitting needles, crochet hooks or other crafting tools that you no longer have a use for, donations are always appreciated. Please bring them on Mondays during our meeting time or contact either Ann Gallo (917-597-2178) or Kathleen Frost (925-960-5945) to arrange for pickup.

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## ShutterBugs Photography

Connie Filip



Thanks to everyone in our community who voted in this year's people's choice award winner.

Our winner was announced at our holiday party ... and it is Terry George's photo of her dog Trinket. It won by a landslide. I'll be honest, I voted for it as well, because I love a photo that tells a story or stirs an emotion in us. I could just about feel her little dog's tail wagging and her level of excitement wanting to go see her friend.

ShutterBugs are proud to present our blue-ribbon winners in the landscape category from last year's photo contest.

Dave Schultz captured this shot of the lighthouse in Portland, Maine. Because there were so many folks taking the same shot, Dave and Gail decided to board a Casco Bay boat tour. Good decision, Dave! He was able to get this blue-ribbon winner that's now earned a place on his wall at home.

Steve Evans found his landscape in the Collegiate Peaks of the Sawatch Range of the Rocky Mountains. It's a chain of 14,000-foot peaks all named af-

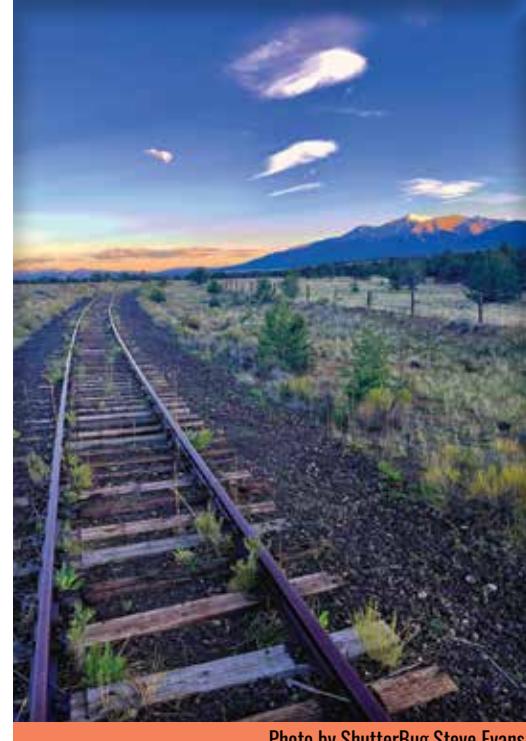


Photo by ShutterBug Steve Evans



Photo by ShutterBug Dave Schultz

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munity and we welcome members. If you have a long arm or embroidery machine, we would love to have you join our group. Dues are \$15 for the year. Everything we sew is donated to disadvantaged children in Marion County.

We are currently in need of 54" shoe-laces. These are used on draw string bags we make to put the quilts in.

The Sewing Bees meet every Thursday from 12:30 to 3 p.m. and the second and third Saturday of the month from noon to 4 p.m. in the Hobby Building Art Room. We provide sewing machines, if necessary, and all supplies to make a quilt.

Visit our Facebook page (Sewing Bees Club Inc.) to stay up to date and see the magic that takes place at the hive.

May the coming year bring more happiness to you than last year. Happy 2024!

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

## Sewing Bees

Ann Gallo



Happy new year! Is it really January already?

We were quite busy during the holiday season. We made 79 Christmas quilts and stuffed 105 stockings. These were distributed throughout Marion County to disadvantaged children. Thank you to the Happy Hookers who donated 105 scarves to help stuff our stockings.

Thank you to all who have donated to us throughout the year. But a special thank you to all the Sewing Bees who bring their talent, generosity, and love to our group by giving of themselves to bring love and warmth to the disadvantaged children of Marion County.

There is so much talent in our com-



Photo by Ann Gallo

Sewing Bees holding some of the 105 stuffed Christmas stockings.

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## Poetry

Barbara Scales



## Poetry

Linda Toner



## The Winter Solstice

We go on foot to a place back home, of hilly timberlands tilled in rows.  
With autumn's harvest safely tucked beneath,  
caressed below are seed and leaf.  
By the crisp snow blanket the ground lays hushed,  
tis a silent night from air, from bush.  
And the forest fills my soul with glee, with cranberry reds and evergreens.

Come. Nestle beside me, atop a log.  
Your eyes into the forest peer, until the twig strewn  
fog has cleared.  
Revealed from Nature's snuggled breast come  
forth the doe, the buck, and cardinal from its  
nest.

Clasp my hand into thine, and gently trace your lips  
with mine.  
Draw me close, with gentleness and care, texture  
the richness of my hair.  
And when all the world has drift away, meld our  
hearts this winter day.  
Bind our future blessed by God, there we kneel and  
thank him for our gift of love.

## On Top of the World NEWS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## Democratic Club

Mark Miller



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

There was no club meeting in December 2023, as the holiday season was upon us, and all were busy with family, friends, and other activities. We hope you all had a wonderful holiday and will have a safe and joyous new year!

Our November 2023 meeting had a short presentation by Nancy Carp to update us as to recent developments in Tallahassee, as well as open discussion time regarding subjects important to the club and to the individual members. We had some very insightful discussions with the group.

We will have our regular meeting on Thursday, Jan. 25, at our normal time of 6 p.m. This meeting will feature the famous U.S. government/civics/history/geography/audio-visual trivia presented by our past president, Dan Lack, who

has always challenged us with his ability to confound us with little-known facts and figures from our great country's past and present. This will be a fun and enjoyable way to kick off 2024!

As always, we will be supporting the Ocala Ritz Veterans Village with much needed donations. Following are the most-needed items: pillowcases, twin size sheets, twin comforters, 1.7 cubic foot refrigerators, small microwaves, men's razors, men's deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, lotions, men's shaving cream, and toilet paper. Food items needed include canned meats, 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 can't come to the meeting, let us know and we'll do our best to get your donations to the Ritz, or you can drop them off before the meeting starts!

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

For more information, contact Mark Miller at 443-848-8549 or [demclubotowf@gmail.com](mailto:demclubotowf@gmail.com)

Hope to see you at our next meeting on Jan. 25!



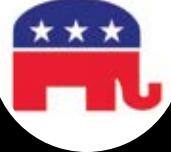
Photo by Leslie Miller

Past President Dan Lack, President Mark Miller, and board member, Jim Stormer, prior to our November 2023 meeting.

#11457 - 1/24

**Republican Club**

Elizabeth Woodard



The Republican Club did not hold a monthly meeting for November or December 2023. However, despite the meeting cancellations, November 2023 was a very busy month for the membership.

The Marion County Republican Executive Committee (REC) held its annual fundraising event in November 2023, entitled Victory's Call - Making the Difference. The focus of the REC's vision is to fortify and empower conservatives in Marion County. Proceeds from the gala were used to help fund their efforts.

The welcome was given by Commissioner Michelle Stone, Congresswoman Kat Cammack and Radio Show Host Bob Rose. The National Anthem was led by Commissioner Kathy Bryant. Keynote speakers were Senator Rick Scott, Congresswoman Kat Cammack, and Congressman Mike Waltz.

Six individual veterans were honored, each representing one of the following wars: World War II 1939-45, Korean War 1950-53, Vietnam War 1955-75, Gulf War 1990-91, War in Afghanistan 2001-21, and Iraq War 2003-11. Each veteran was given a standing ovation from grateful citizens in the room.

Performance artist Dale Henry, known as The Paintman, created two paintings live on stage. One painting depicted John Wayne representing a true patriot and one of a horse representing the Horse Capital of the World - Ocala. These paintings were part of the live auction conducted later in the evening.

During the month of November 2023, Professor Alan Altany conducted four weekly sessions on political Islam. Members were very excited to hear Professor Altany share his expertise on the subject matter. Members have requested further sessions to increase their knowledge on the topic.

Meetings will begin again in January. A call for club officer nominations will be conducted by our Nomination/Election Chair Tom Hauck and a First Amendment night will give members the opportunity to share their views on events, candidates, elections, etc. The February meeting will be membership thank-you night with food, entertainment, and other fun surprises! This will also include a brief amount of time to elect a new slate of club officers for 2024.

The Republican Club meets the second Friday of each month at 4:30 p.m. (doors open at 4 p.m.) in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. For more information regarding the Republican Club, please leave a message at 518-534-0201; your call will be answered as soon as possible. Come join the stimulating, positive political conversation with like-minded, friendly, and patriotic people.

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Richard Rosen



The Original Theatre Group opened their 2023-2024 season on Dec. 10, 2023, with the delightful and touching musical, "Boiled Peanuts." Our two appreciative audiences were treated to a genuine theatrical experience as we followed the "Peanuts" main character, Charlie Brown, along with Lucy, Linus, Snoopy, Schroeder and the rest of the gang through a typical day with all its disappointments, and challenges.

On Wednesday, Jan. 17, at 7 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II we get back to work, as our wonderful group of troupers hold an informational meeting and auditions for the April 27 and 28 production, "Two For One."

Most rehearsals will be held on Mondays and Thursdays, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center. While we have a superb and talented group



The cast of Dec. 10, 2023, production of "Boiled Peanuts."

of dedicated performers, we are always ready to welcome new members to our ensemble. We need actors, singers, tap and swing dancers, and anyone else who wishes to join us. As long as you show up to scheduled rehearsals, you will be given a stage role that best utilizes your talents and enhances our company.

Everyone who shows up to this Jan. 17 meeting and audition will be given a part in the show. Only if you want a solo number, will you be asked to audition with a song of your choice. Other new candidates just need to show up and let us make you a star!

This dynamic musical revue will be

divided into two acts. Act one, "Rogers and ..." will feature the timeless Broadway musical collaborations of Richard Rogers with Lorenz Hart and Oscar Hammerstein. Act two is called "Pop! Goes the Musical!" Four great "jukebox" Broadway musicals will be featured, including numbers from "Motown, the Musical," "Beautiful" featuring the music of Carole King, ABBA's "Mamma Mia", and the joyous toe-tapping and poignant music of the '30s and '40s, as we present excerpts from "Swing" the musical.

Email Richard at [upstage111@yahoo.com](mailto:upstage111@yahoo.com) with any questions.

**Concert Chorus**

David Wessenberg



Wow! We experienced full houses for our two performances in December 2023. Thank you to our wonderful audiences for your strong support. Also thank you for your kind comments on the selection of music and enjoyment of the performance. We are grateful.

Now it is time to look forward to our spring performances on Saturday, April 6, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 7, at 3 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Our talented directors Peggy Bumatay, Joanne Houston, Cheryl Richardson, and Randy Schmid are already preparing for the return of the Concert Chorus on Tuesday, Jan. 2.

This is the time to join us to prepare for the spring program. It is fun, but it is also a lot of hard work spanning 13 rehearsals, a dress rehearsal and two performances. Believe me when I tell you the result will be worth it. As Len Goodman said on Dancing with the Stars, "If

you want to shine, you've got to polish!"

We have a great group of singers, many of whom are new. Some of our numbers are from past performances. And of course, some faces will be sorely missed. But the Concert Chorus has a wonderful collection of voices be they sopranos, altos, tenors, or basses.

For you who love to sing, it is not too late to join us Jan. 2, at 9 a.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Music Room to begin rehearsals for our spring pro-

gram. Our dues are currently \$15 per concert season, which provides us with music, props, and technical audio support at our concerts.

The Concert Chorus is open to all residents and Gateway of Services pass holders. Please be sure to bring your resident ID card to the first rehearsal you attend and every rehearsal thereafter.

If you plan to join us, contact Mary Ann Majni at [flmam68@aol.com](mailto:flmam68@aol.com) for further information.



Photo by Susan Oliva

The 2023 Concert Chorus holiday performance.

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**Lifelong Learning****Michelle Shideler**

352-387-7571

michelle\_shideler@masterthe possibilities.org

For the past few months, our staff has been excited about starting 2024. You see, way back in August, we began to build the curriculum for classes this January through June, and now that 2024 is finally here, we get to share these amazing learning opportunities with our participants.

What are these opportunities that I am talking about? Too many to mention in this column. I can say that in just the month of January alone, there are at least 225 class and learning possibilities

right here in our Education Center. Take our first visiting speaker event as an example.

Classroom favorite Greg Clements, the Chief of the Strategic Implementation Office in the Exploration Research and Technology division at the John F. Kennedy Space Center in Florida, will continue "History of NASA Part II" on Friday, Jan. 12, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in Live Oak Hall. This second part of a three-part series will touch on the early days of the Apollo program, and then focus on the space Shuttle program from the years 1976 to 2011. There is no cost to attend this presentation. However, registration is required, and it is recommended to register early, since Clements' presentations fill quickly.

As part of our learning theme this semester, there are quite a few of our

presenters who will be helping our participants "learn outside the classroom walls." Our Wednesday, Jan. 31, presenter will be doing just that. Dr. Giovanni Aloi will be presenting all the way from the Art Institute of Chicago. He will give insight into the unique collection and the history behind that collection of what he calls one of the most prestigious and exciting art museums in the world. The best part – our participants get to experience a piece of this museum and its history right here in Ocala.

Dr. Giovanni Aloi is an author, editor, and art curator specializing in the history and theory of photography, representation of nature, and everyday objects in art. He has contributed to BBC radio programs, worked at Whitechapel Art Gallery and Tate Galleries in London, is USA correspondent for Esse Magazine,

and a regular public speaker at the Art Institute of Chicago. Aloi has curated exhibitions in the United States and Europe.

He currently teaches modern and contemporary art at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Sotheby's Institute of Art New York and London. Cost to attend his presentation is \$11 for members and \$16 for the general public. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity.

There are a few hundred endless learning opportunities at Master the Possibilities this month to start the new year off with a bang. For a complete listing of upcoming courses and events, visit our website at [masterthe possibilities.org](http://masterthe possibilities.org). With registration assistance, feel free to visit or call Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 8415 SW 80th Street, or by calling 352-861-9751.

**Finding Zen****Christina Shearer**

info@sholompark.org

Happy new year! Another year has passed, and a new year begins. The sounds of the holiday season are slowly fading. But wait, do you hear what I hear? It's the sound of a new fun-filled season of live musical entertainment at Sholom Park.

Sholom Park is excited to announce the 2024 entertainment lineup for the

**Toppers Banjo****David Wessenberg**

Toppers Banjo meets every Thursday, from 10 a.m. to noon in the Arbor Conference Center Music Room. At the time of this writing, the band will have performed for the Ukulele Club.

Toppers Banjo is planning future performance dates including for the Scandinavian American Club in February. If you would like to book a performance email Eddie Martin at [UDEddie2@gmail.com](mailto:UDEddie2@gmail.com) or David Wessenberg at [dpw@mastersoftwareinc.com](mailto:dpw@mastersoftwareinc.com).

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

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

**EMERGENCY AFTER-HOURS PHONE NUMBER**

352-236-OTOW (236-6869)

Park After Dark: All-American Music Tour. Our musical journey continues through the heart and soul of America featuring three iconic U.S. cities with rich musical heritage. Each city has played a significant role in music's history, and we're proud to bring these diverse influences to the Sholom Park stage. In addition to the outstanding music, attendees can savor the flavors of these cities with participating food vendors serving local dishes that share the city's history and define its geography.

The journey continues Thursday, Jan. 18 as we experience the Windy City of Chicago, Illinois. Chicago is the birthplace of Urban Blues, aka Chicago Blues, a more sophisticated sound enriched by electrified instruments. Beautiful Bobby Blackmon is a master blues musician and guitar wizard based in Central Florida. The rich rhythm and sultry sounds of Beautiful Bobby Blackmon and the B3 Blues Band will electrify the stage and exhilarate the audience.

The next stop, on Thursday, Feb. 15 takes us to Memphis, Tennessee, and the birthplace of rock 'n' roll. Get ready to rock with the Memphis Rub Band, a four-piece blues-rock ensemble from Florida's Suncoast. Their music effortlessly blends blues, rock, funk, and R&B. Despite their geographic origins, each band member deeply respects the musical heritage of Memphis, and they bring it to life with a soulful rock & roll performance.

Our finale on Thursday, March 21 pays tribute to New Orleans, Louisiana – a city renowned for Mardi Gras festivities, Bourbon Street nightlife, and the birthplace of jazz. The Jazz Phools, a remarkable Tampa Bay-based group will perform traditional Dixieland Jazz to the modern-era 2nd Line Brass, Funk, and Zydeco styles that take you on a mesmerizing journey of New Orleans. Improvisation and the interplay among The Jazz Phools members make the music come alive with spontaneity, embodying the

city known as the Birthplace of American Jazz.

The Park After Dark: All-American Music Tour promises to be an unparalleled musical experience, featuring a stellar lineup of exceptional musicians who will infuse Sholom Park with unique musical cultures of America's best-known cities. To secure your spot, we encourage you to register early through our event partner at Master the Possibilities Education Center.

Sholom Park will also host a Winter Benefit Concert on Saturday, Feb. 24, featuring rising country singer-songwriter Cliff Dorsey. Spring into spring with the sound of music on Saturday, April 13, featuring Don Soledad's Strings of Passion at Sholom Park's annual Spring Strings Concert.

For more event details and to register, visit [sholompark.org](http://sholompark.org). Stay updated on the latest developments by following Sholom Park on Facebook and Instagram.



Featuring Connie Regan-Blake, Tim Tingle, Eva Abram, Chris Kastle, Mary Lou Williams

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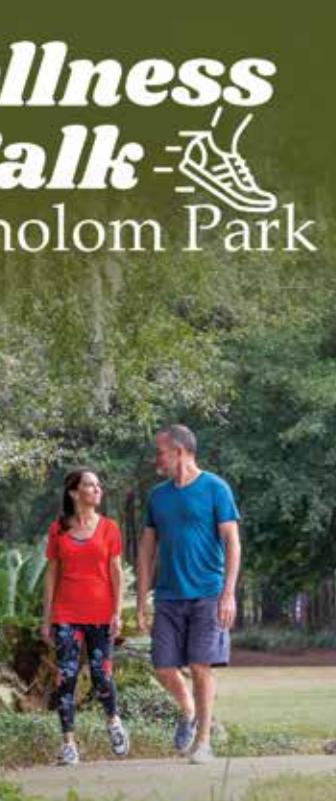
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## Wellness Walk at Sholom Park



**Wednesday, January 17, 2024 @ 9 AM**

This event is FREE!

The OTOW fitness pros will lead you in a wellness walk at the beautiful Sholom Park. A brief discussion on posture and gait mechanics will precede the walk. We will venture around the large loop through the Enchanted Forest, which is approximately 1/2 a mile. Shortcuts are available! Meet at the pavilion in Sholom Park at 9:00 am.

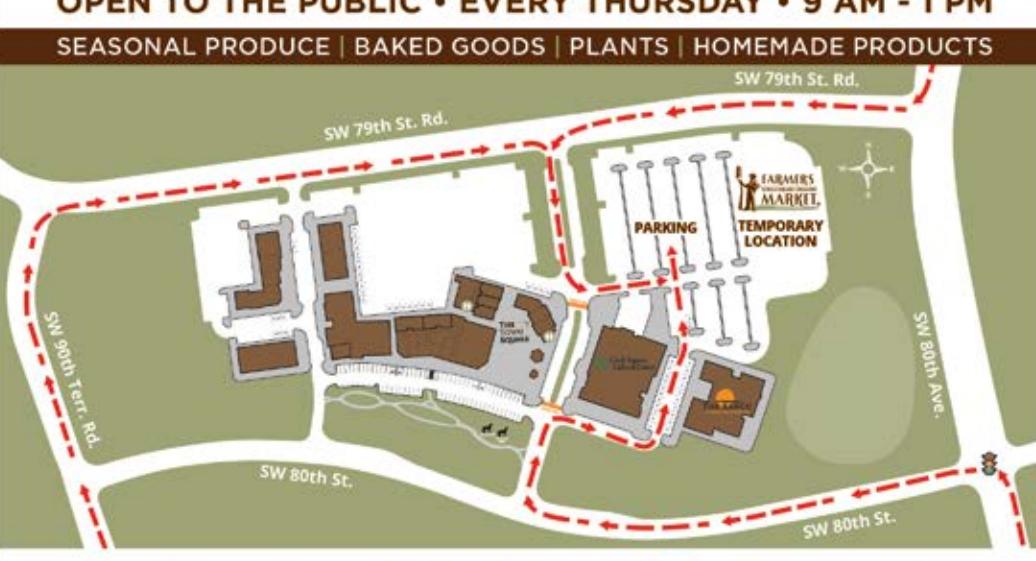
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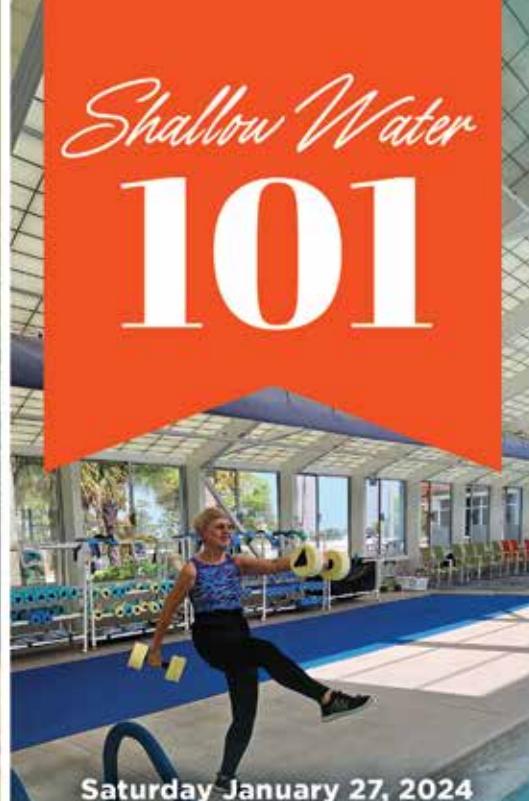
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## Shallow Water 101



**Saturday January 27, 2024 @ 10 AM**

Arbor Fitness Center Indoor Pool  
This event is FREE!

Calling all H2O newcomers! Take the plunge in this introductory shallow water aerobics class. The buoyancy of water lifts you up and reduces impact; you can rev up your workout without jarring your joints! The class will include a warm-up, cardio, strength-training exercises, and a cool-down. This is intended for first-time water aerobics participants, swimming skills are not necessary. All fitness levels are welcome.

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**AD DEADLINE:** Noon on the 12th of the month. If the deadline falls on a weekend, then it's noon on the Friday before. For more information, call 352-387-7466, email [otownnews@otowfl.com](mailto:otownnews@otowfl.com) or visit [ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala](http://ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala)

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**Tag Sales**

**Friday, Jan. 6:** 9665-A SW 92nd Court (Crescent Ridge), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Friday, Jan. 12 & Saturday, Jan. 13:** 8726-C SW 95th Street (Friendship Village), 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Saturday, Jan. 13:** 10418 SW 96th Loop (Longleaf Ridge), 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. · 9340 SW 106th Avenue (Longleaf Ridge), 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. · 10262, 10346 SW 93rd Place, 10575, 10595 SW 94th Lane Road, 9227, 9317, 9327 SW 102nd Avenue Road, 9337 SW 102nd Terrace Road, 9235, 9318 SW 104th Terrace, 9196, 9244, 9305 SW 106th Avenue (Longleaf Ridge), 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. · 9322 SW 102nd Avenue Road (Longleaf Ridge), 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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**Medina Pressure Cleaning & Sealing:** We specialize in paver cleaning & sealing, concrete staining & landscape curbing restoration. 30 years' experience. Ask for discount. 352-246-3674.

**Mobile Notary Public:** Taking pride in my duty as a notary in Ocala. Nancy Faucher, 352-497-8201 (call or text anytime).

**Painting & Drywall:** Interior painting & drywall repair. Experienced, affordable & professional. Insured. Free estimates. References available. Visit [josephdonofriodrywallandpainting.com](http://josephdonofriodrywallandpainting.com) or call 352-857-8367.

**Sonshine Delivery LLC:** We deliver groceries right to your door. Call, text, or WhatsApp 352-713-8478 or email [sonshinedelivery77@gmail.com](mailto:sonshinedelivery77@gmail.com).

**Tax Preparation:** Enrolled agent (EA) with 40 years tax experience. Federal and State returns e-filed. Louise 941-661-5079 (resident).

**The Tidy Tribe, LLC:** Residential & commercial cleaning & lawn care services. Licensed & insured. Call 786-420-9639 or email [hello@thetidytribe.us](mailto:hello@thetidytribe.us) for a free quote.

**Transportation:** Doctor's appointments, shopping, hair, surgery center, hospital, etc. Diane 352-854-9999 (resident). Please leave message (no texts).

**Wallpaper Hanger:** Professional with 36 years' experience. Interior painting services available. Donald Rhoades 518-482-2234 or [donaldrhoades1@gmail.com](mailto:donaldrhoades1@gmail.com) (resident).

**Wanted**

**Cameras:** Used or old Nikon DSLRs and lenses. Cash paid. 631-291-1298.

**Donations:** Bicycles for local homeless ministry [Carol 419-601-1322]

· Dog or cat food [SPCA of Marion County 352-362-0985] · Electric golf carts in full working condition for use by volunteers for local park. [Barbara [btspriigg@gmail.com](mailto:btspriigg@gmail.com)] · Non-perishable food for food bank, empty ink/laser cartridges and cards for veterans [Anne 843-504-0032] · Personal hygiene, school/craft supplies & small appliances for homeless; pet food/supplies for animal shelters; used cell phones, computers & musical instruments for troops/veterans; theatrical costumes & props; socks, underwear & men's clothing [Donna 352-237-3062] · Yarn for VA hospitals, children, and newborns [352-843-6519].

**Ham Radio Operators:** Support the Community Emergency Response Team in the event of a disaster. Please email [brucetwiss@yahoo.com](mailto:brucetwiss@yahoo.com).

**Model Trains:** G gauge model train track. 325-598-3964.

**Pet Foster Parents:** Temporarily open your home to a pet in need. Call SPCA of Marion County at 352-362-0985.

**CURBSIDE LANDSCAPE DEBRIS PICK-UP SCHEDULE**

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