

Community News

Kenneth D. Coleen

Fiscal Year 2024-25

On Top of the World (Central) Owners Association fiscal 2024-25 operating budget begins in March. All other Associations have a Jan. 1, start date for their budgets.

The Tuesday, Feb. 13, annual budget meeting will take place at Circle Square Cultural Center, at 2 p.m. (not 10 a.m. as noted in the mailed letter). Residents may consider joining by registering via Webcast as well. Information on how to join by Webcast will be included in the meeting materials that will be mailed. The proposed budget for fiscal year 2024-25 was also included in this mailing.

Each new fiscal year presents its own considerable challenges. The proposed budget is heavily influenced by the present economy. Key expenses, insurance, labor, and petroleum products for example, are increasing. The increase in community service fee is anticipated to reflect those realities.

In addition to budget matters, the board will be considering roof replacement special assessments on specifically designated dwellings for fiscal year 2024-25. A post card will be mailed to all affected owners advising of the board meeting.

The board will also be considering rule amendments, which can be reviewed at OTOWInfo.com > Associations > OTOW Central.

Community Updates

The Recreation Center pool renovation is under construction. We are on track to have this completed and open for use in March. There is limited access to this jobsite, so contractors are using the service road to access the jobsite. We are doing our best to keep the parking spaces available for the pickleball courts. There may be some closings as needed to complete the work.

The Town Square dance floor project is underway and should be ready for residents to cut the rug in March. The Circle Square Commons Farmers Market will continue every Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot behind The Ranch Fitness Center & Spa.

The Summit will be the new amenity in Longleaf Ridge. It has passed all its building permit reviews and is waiting for the Marion County Development Review Committee to approve. We are hopeful to begin construction soon.

On Top of the World has begun the conceptual design of a new Candler Hills gated entry off SW 80th Street. This will replace the temporary gate house that is currently being used.

By now you may have noticed work happening to the lift station backing up to the boundary fence. This is a replacement for a much older lift station located in the middle of the field along the Canopy Oak access road.

On Top of the World has entered into an agreement with Continental Properties, Inc. to sell approximately 32 acres for the purpose of developing and building an apartment community in this area. Continental is planning approximately 312 two-story apartments. This property will be self-contained with its own amenities including a clubhouse with pool, 24-hour fitness center, a leash-free pet park, dog wash, and park areas.

This new community is expected to be a welcome addition to the area. Continental has a proven history of owning and operating their communities long term. Continental provides in-house property management and operations at each location. This new development will not be part of On Top of the World Communities, nor will it have access behind the gates. They are nevertheless anticipated to be good neighbors. Watch this space for more details about this project coming soon.

Trending Real Estate Values

Despite the increase in mortgage rates, the local home resale market continues to hold property values amid a reasonably short supply of listings. According to the Ocala Marion Board of Realtors statistics for the first 11

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Winter Benefit Concert

By Robert Coleen

Prepare for an enchanting afternoon of soulful melodies amidst the serene surroundings of Sholom Park. Join us

on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 2 to 4 p.m. (gates open at 1 p.m.) for an unforgettable Winter Benefit Concert featuring



Photo courtesy of Cliff Dorsey

Cliff Dorsey will perform at Sholom Park on Saturday, Feb. 24.

rising country music star, Cliff Dorsey. Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased at masterthepossibilities.com or by calling 352-861-9751.

Immerse yourself in the distinctive baritone of Cliff Dorsey, whose musical storytelling complements Sholom Park's serene ambiance. Dorsey promises to captivate the audience with emotionally charged performances, featuring hits like "Raise One" and "No Love."

This musical celebration not only promises a foot-tapping good time, but also supports Sholom Park's mission of providing a haven for peace and tranquility. As an integral part of our community, Sholom Park aims to continue fostering an atmosphere of serenity for all who visit.

Sholom Park was recently recognized as the number two "Most Peaceful Tourist Spot in the United States" by Casago, based on a survey of all TripAdvisor reviews. Sholom Park welcomes over 100,000 visitors annually. Its Japanese Style Zen Garden, labyrinth, formal garden, and myriad serene vistas and walking trails contribute to the park's reputation as a peaceful oasis in the heart of Marion County.

The park, normally open and free to the public, graciously invites you to be part of this special Winter Benefit Concert. By attending and contributing through the \$20 per person registration fee, you directly contribute to the continued success of Sholom Park and its dedication to providing a tranquil escape for all.

Join us on Saturday, Feb. 24, at Sholom Park for an afternoon of harmony, community, and support for a cherished local gem. Let the melodies of Cliff Dorsey, including his popular hits, and the tranquility of Sholom Park create lasting memories in the heart of Ocala.

February is Brimming with Educational Opportunities

By Michelle Shideler

Even though it holds the title of the briefest month, February is brimming with educational prospects owing to its distinctiveness and cultural importance. As education takes center stage at Master the Possibilities, I'm eager to highlight a few fantastic learning opportunities available at our Education Center and "out and about" this month.

In recognition of Black History Month and its profound significance, Master the Possibilities is extending an invitation to participants to explore the Black History Museum right here in Ocala, where the compelling story of Howard Academy unfolds. Throughout its history, Howard Academy has earned acclaim as one of the preeminent Black schools in the state. The building underwent a transformative change in 2004, becoming the Black History Museum of Marion County.

Within its walls, visitors can engage with exhibits that vividly portray Florida's diverse history, showcasing key aspects such as Fort Mose, Black Seminoles, Federal Troops, Paradise Park, and other pivotal moments and notable figures from more recent history. This Tuesday, Feb. 6 educational destination from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. costs \$20 for members and \$25 for the general public and includes a boxed lunch. Participants will travel on-own to Howard Academy. If interested, it is recommended to register soon. There are only a few spots left.

Embark on a virtual exploration with Tim Van Cleave, a park ranger from the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park, as he unveils from the park virtually the intricate narrative of the Underground Railroad and its profound impact on the quest for human freedom. This historical presentation will reveal a dynamic tapestry woven by diverse groups. Through the perspectives of Harriet Tubman, Free Black communities, Quakers, and Abolitionists, participants will hear about the complex network of connections

empowering freedom seekers toward Canada or Mexico and learn about the strategies of the Underground Railroad. Although there is no cost to attend this dynamic presentation, registration is required. Sign up now for the Thursday, Feb. 15 lecture from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in Live Oak Hall.

Another visiting speaker virtual presentation this month will take place Wednesday, Feb. 7 from Park Ranger Christopher Reid with the Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical

Park. Reid will give a virtual presentation and guided discussion about the history of Charleston, South Carolina. His presentation will include the Revolutionary War Battle of Sullivan's Island, the opening shots of the Civil War against the U.S. Army at Fort Sumter, the colonization of North and South Carolina, and many of the modern landmarks. There is no cost to attend this presentation. Registration for this event from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in Live Oak Hall is required.

But wait, there's more! I strongly encourage you to explore masterthepossibilities.org for a comprehensive list of classes this month. With over 60 new classes available each week, there are numerous opportunities for you to participate and expand your knowledge. For registration help or questions about our classes, call our main office 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at 352-861-9751, or visit our office at 8415 SW 80th Street.

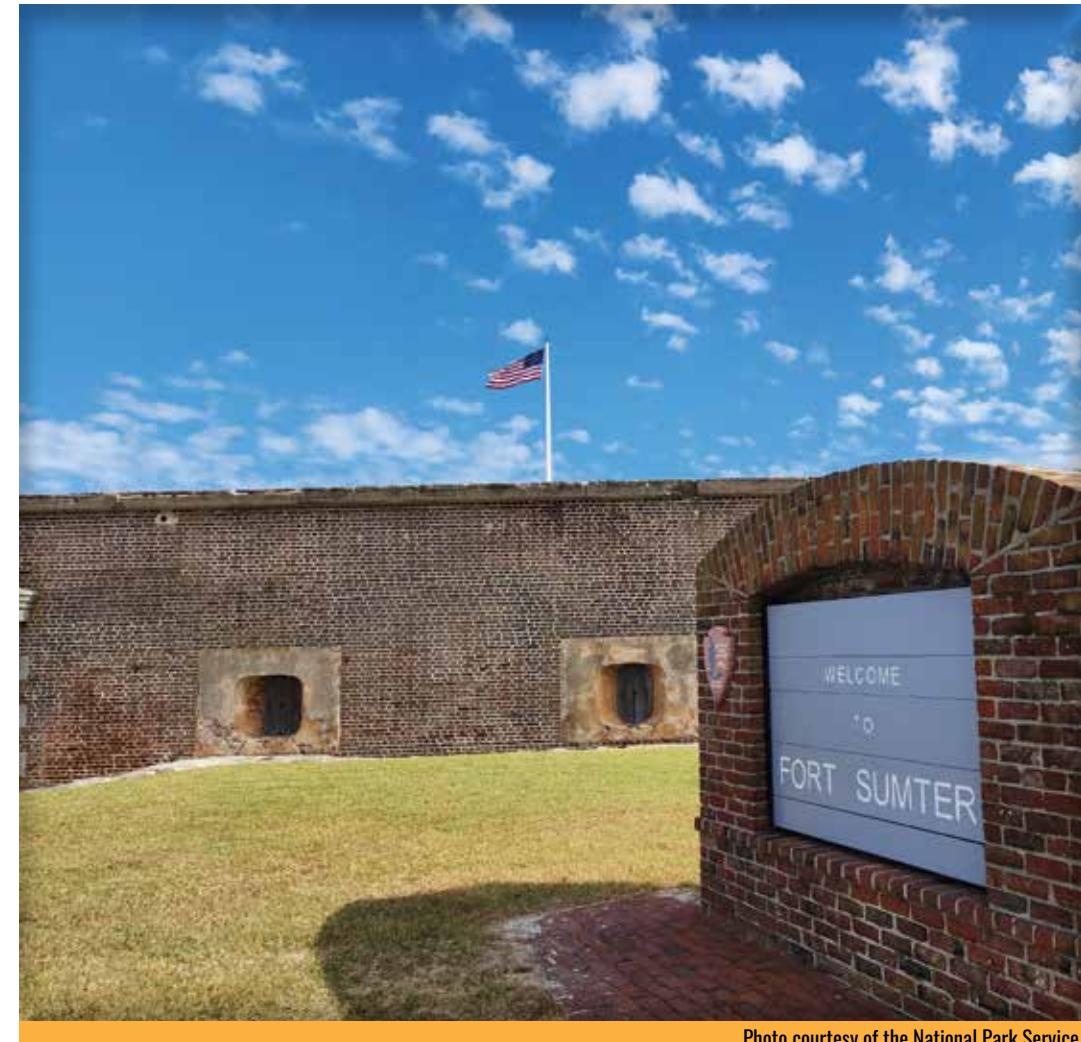


Photo courtesy of the National Park Service

Park Ranger Christopher Reid with the Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park will present the "The History of Charleston" on Wednesday, Feb. 7.

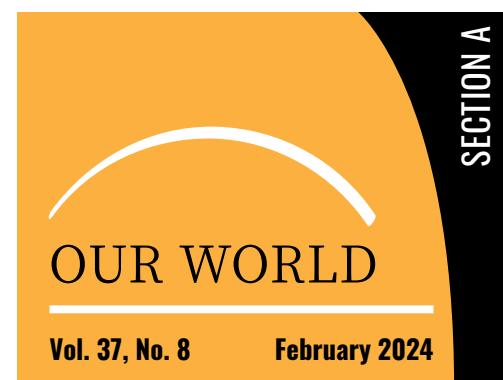
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Is It Legal?



Colen & Wagoner, P.A.

The following scam alerts come from the FBI.

SCAM ALERT #1: Do not use free charging stations, such as those we see at airports and elsewhere. Apparently, scammers have figured out how to put malware and monitoring software onto devices that use these free charging ports. The FBI suggests we bring our own chargers with a USB chord. Use an electrical outlet instead of free charging ports.

SCAM ALERT #2: Never click a link on an unsolicited email or text message where you are asked to update, check, or verify your account information. Just don't do it.

If you have any questions about any of your accounts, call the bank or brokerage firm and only use a phone number that is not in the link or message. Better yet, go to the bank, or the brokerage firm (if you can), and speak to someone there.

Be extra cautious about any message, text or request that asks for immediate payment. Make online purchases with a credit card rather than a debit card. This gives you extra protection.

SCAM ALERT #3: Never send money to someone you meet online. This is tied to romance scams but there may be other folks asking for money, such as charities. Check out the charity through the internet. Send a check and don't use your credit card unless you are 100% sure that it is a valid site.

Q. What is your thought on lady bird deeds?

A. A lady bird deed (enhanced life estate deed) permits the transfer of real estate, such as a homestead to beneficiaries who are named in the deed, without any probate proceedings upon the passing of the owner (the grantor). Additionally, this type of deed keeps control of the property with the owner during his/her lifetime. However, a deed is required from the owner to his/her children or other beneficiaries. Thus, there could

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be adverse consequences to doing it, so this must be discussed with an attorney.

Sometimes, a friend, neighbor, or relative tosses out a concept (such as a lady bird deed) as though it were a "silver bullet" for estate planning. It is my opinion that there rarely is an estate planning "silver bullet." Thus, it is necessary to speak with your attorney, to learn the advantages and the disadvantages of a lady bird deed.

Q. My boyfriend and I are in our 80s and planning a cruise in the Caribbean. At some of the ports, he intends to purchase erectile dysfunction (ED) drugs. He says it's for us, but he wants to purchase quite a lot of them. I told him it could be illegal to bring them into the U.S. What do you say?

A. I am not aware of any legal prohibition on purchasing such drugs, so long as they are legal to possess and are not proscribed by any law, either of the U.S., or any country you visit. If his plan is to bring them back and resell them, there may be serious issues with that. It's one thing to purchase or possess legal drugs for personal use and quite another to purchase or possess them for resale.

To my mind, a more significant matter is whether what he purchases contains the drug he thinks he's buying. Why not just ask his physician for a prescription, which seems to make good sense to me?

Q. My 90-year-old uncle is taking a European cruise with an 85-year-old woman who he says is his girlfriend. He's paying for everything. I think there is something wrong with this. What do you think?

A. I think that I wish them a bon voyage.

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

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

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2024 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

On Top of the World NEWS

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

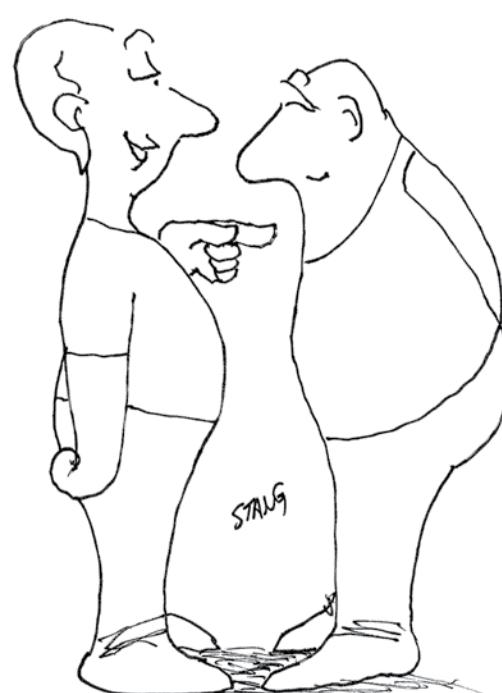
* Deadline at noon

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



GOLDEN OLDIES HUMOR

By Stan Goldstein



No day is so bad that it can't be fixed with a nap.

Annual Food & Toy Drive Delivers

By Ray Cech
World News Writer

It has been a tradition now for more than six years. The On Top of the World new home sales team, led by Office Manager Vanessa Andujar, once again, loaded up trucks and filled storage facilities with food and personal care items that went to Interfaith Emergency Services (IES). They in-turn, will distribute it to families in need.

Vanessa and her team of nine volunteers kicked off the 2023 food drive on Nov. 27 and called it a "wrap" on Dec. 11. In that period, residents responded with nearly 7,000 pounds of donations - not quite a record, but close.

The team established 17 drop-off locations for residents to leave their donations. The Arbors and Recreation Center turned out to be the magnet for the most donations collected. Every day, volunteers went to all locations and gathered up dropped off donations and took them

to storage sites for IES pickup. All in all, there were two full truckloads that went to IES.

As in years' past, in addition to the food drive, Vanessa and her team also gathered donations for Toys for Tots. The U.S. Marines were short on help, so the team chipped in and picked up three vans of toys and delivered them to Market Street at Heath Brook Toys for Tots central location - what a team!

Vanessa Andujar said, "This was another good year. "Residents reached deep to make our annual food drive an event that will help so many families have a more pleasant holiday."

Vanessa went on to say, "I want to thank all our generous residents and give a special shout-out to the volunteers who worked so hard to make the 2023 food and toy drive such a success. Thank you, and to you all, a very happy new year."



Food drive volunteers sorting 7,000 pounds of donations in December 2023.

Photo by Ray Cech

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Community News

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months of 2023, in Marion County new sales volumes increased by 2.41% over the same 12-month period in 2022. The average home sale price decreased .97% for that same period. Interestingly, cash sales were down 17% over the same period.

From where On Top of the World Real Estate of Marion County sits it continues leading the market in resales for the first 11 months of 2023 at 29.65% of the resale market in On Top of the World.

The number of resale transactions in all the On Top of the World neighborhoods decreased -11.5% over 2022, following the general trend of the slowing market. The change in average home resales price in On Top of the World decreased by 7.44% compared to 2021.

Winter Weather & Shrubbery

We love our landscaping, but now is the time to be patient. It is ill advised to trim off seemingly dead foliage, at least until mid-April when the chance of a hard-cold snap is past. Hand water a little bit if you wish, most of the planting will return from the shock once the temperatures come up to 75 degrees Fahrenheit. Once the weather decides whether it wants to be winter or summer, the Management Company will decide when to start mowing again or service equipment for the coming growing season. It has been a typical winter so far, fluctuating between short cold snaps and warm periods.

I've been holding out hope for a very chilly spell for only one reason: the cold knocks back pest populations that get into the landscape, limits the food supply for rodents (depressing the population), and gives a pleasant reminder of why most people moved to Florida in the first place.

So, if I get what I have asked for (to be determined) ... what to do with shocked and droopy plants in your landscape

beds? The original plantings installed in your neighborhood at the time of construction were selected for their cold and drought hardiness. Sudden and severe cold weather may cause some plants to brown and leaves to curl.

Do not uproot plants affected by the cold. They will surprise you with their recovery. Sometimes we are too quick to prune frost damage from plant material shortly after cold temperatures have gone but we need to be careful. Pruning plant material too soon can cause plants to want to flush back out creating more problems when the next frost or hard freeze hits. Wait one to two weeks after the cold damage has occurred then look to prune back your plants. Central Florida generally experiences one cold snap with light frost between March 15 and Easter, so be forewarned.

Safety Tips

If you are using a space heater, make sure it is well away from any combustible object. Avoid overloading an electrical outlet with appliances, extension cords, and especially a space heater. Overloading any electrical outlet can be a sure prescription for a fire.

Proper service on your heating and air conditioning systems (HVAC) is a must do. Improperly operating heat strips (on reverse cycle units/heat pumps) can malfunction and may become a fire hazard. These need to be checked by a licensed and insured air conditioning and heating professional, ideally prior to the cooler weather, but after a chill is a strong reminder as well.

Like to conserve electricity? February is a good time to clean out your dryer vent pipe. Lint can become clogged in the vent pipe, reducing dryer efficiency (so that's why it takes an hour to dry a

20-minute load!). Even more to the point, collected lint can become a fire hazard!

Cleaning is not complicated. Moving the dryer may be the hardest part. Disconnect the vent hose from the dryer and the wall vent. Use a vacuum cleaner to suction the vent hose, or you may choose to replace the vent hose entirely. Use the vacuum to suction the wall vent as well. If you've never done this before, the vent pipe may need a top-down cleaning.

Above all, have a functioning fire extinguisher in your kitchen! Read the instructions and be ready to use it, especially on a grease fire.

Common Sense Courtesy

All the On Top of the World family of communities are distinguished for their friendliness for dogs.

Maybe you've noticed as I have, that people who regularly walk their pets are in generally good physical condition. The question is: who is helping who here? The pets love the walk, and the owners improve their cardiac and overall health. It's a great arrangement.

As a point of common courtesy, please curb your dog(s) or walk them in the common areas, avoiding private spaces such as lawns. And yes, carry several bags to clean up behind your pet immediately.

Drone Use

Please make note that drones may not be operated over private property of residential areas of any of the communities. All residents have an expectation of privacy. Drones may violate the privacy of residents.

Drone owners are encouraged to join the R/C Flyers Club. They have the safeguards in place to help ensure safe operation.

Community Patrol

Rocky Pizzarello



in years, some parts are missing (radar) and some parts changed out (white and yellow lights instead of blue), and all had a slight makeover with "Community Patrol" replacing "Marion County Sheriff's Office" on the side. Although they have some mileage on them, they are well-maintained, reliable, and ready for action.

Why do you drive so slowly? Because we don't want to get a ticket! Our job is to be the eyes and ears of Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) in On Top of the World and surrounding shopping areas. We could drive faster (like some drivers we see), but we're trying to observe our surroundings, for example, looking for open gates, activity at construction sites when no one should be there, people waving us down, vehicles/people where they're not supposed to be (see construction note above!), looking for smoke (not related to a good barbecue), and anything where there might be an issue that we can either assist with or get help if needed. If we drove much faster, either we would miss most of what we need to look for or be dodging cars, trees, people, and potholes at the last second. Being cautious is good when driving someone else's car (or your own)! And as a reminder, the speed limit throughout On Top of the World is 25 mph.

How long are your shifts? Most members drive in two-hour shifts twice a month, sometimes more often. Many have two members in the car during the shift, one to drive and look, and the other to observe and record information. There is a police radio in the car, but virtually all our communications are with a cell phone. We also like to wave to our neighbors, so they know we're doing this to keep all of us safe.

If we have a Community Patrol, why does MCSO patrol the roads? While we're an extension of MCSO, we are not law enforcement officers. We are additional eyes and ears for MCSO and report anything unusual they should be aware of. The MCSO deputies patrol our roads for speeding, running stop signs and other traffic violations, as well as conducting wellness checks or responding to other calls for service. We have a common goal of making On Top of the World safe for everyone.

How can I get involved with the Community Patrol? For an application, visit marionso.com > Become A Volunteer. There you'll find a page with descriptions of volunteer activities and a link for an application. If you'd like to check us out before deciding, please join us at our monthly meeting. We meet the fourth Monday of each month at 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. For more information, please contact Allison Cranmer at otowcommunitypatrol@gmail.com.

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Around the World

Mary Anne Lynam
352-236-OTOW (6869)

Okay, we are one month into the new year already. How's the new year's resolution(s) going for you? I have an excuse for mine – the treadmill broke. It is a bit overwhelming to be in the year 2024. And it's a leap year. The last one was in 2020.

February was Julius Caesar's choice of month in which to add a leap day. Caesar introduced the Julian calendar, which included a leap year to align the calendar year with the solar year. Even after the Julian calendar evolved into the Gregorian calendar in 1582, the tradition of adding a leap day to February continued.

Popular upcoming days are Groundhog Day on Feb. 2; Random Acts of Kindness Day on Feb. 17; National Drink Wine Day on Feb. 18; and Presidents' Day on Feb. 19.

Trash

Let's talk trash. Please remember that curbside recycling has moved to Thursday pick up along with household wastes. So, Mondays are trash only and Thursdays are trash and recyclables. Do not be concerned about the trash and

recyclables collected on the same truck. They will be sorted out at their collection center.

Pets

All dogs must be on a leash when outside (even in backyards, unless fenced) and accompanied by their owner(s). Noisy, disruptive, aggressive, offensive, and threatening pets face the possibility of expulsion from the community. Please pickup after your pets during your walk-about.

Speeding

Indeed, 25 miles per hour is difficult to maintain on our community roads but consider the benefit – you get to hate it another day. Drive safely.

Golf Cart Courtesy Caught

Once more we have noticed and rewarded careful golf cart drivers. Our sincere appreciation goes to Richard and Bernadine Gomez, Terry Payne, and Karen Keator (not pictured) and Nippy (her dog) quite content with being photographed. Please remember to drive your cart as though your life depends upon it – because it does!

Ocala Open

The Candler Hills Golf Course will host the Ocala Open again this year. The charity Pro Am will be held Tuesday, March 19 and the tournament will be held Wednesday, March 20, through Friday, March 22. The event will showcase

the Candler Hills Golf Course and highlight some of the world's best men's professional golfers while benefiting local charities, Hospice of Marion County, Inc., and Interfaith Emergency Services. It is an event you won't want to miss – come out, be a spectator, and enjoy watching exciting golf.

Resident Services

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

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

You may wish to complete your maintenance request online versus stopping by the office. Visit 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 year. 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.

Something to Take with You

"It is still best to be honest and truthful; to make the most of what we have; to be happy with simple pleasures; and have courage when things go wrong." – Laura Ingalls Wilder

OTOWInfo.com



Photos by Pam Babbitt

Health and Safety Operations Manager Danny Childress, Terry Payne, resident, and Safety and Compliance Officer Jonathan Miller.

Safety and Compliance Officer Jonathan Miller, Bernadine and Richard Gomez, residents, and Health and Safety Operations Manager Danny Childress.

Nippy and resident, Karen Keator (not pictured) – sharing the road safely!

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Candler Connection

Debra Keirn



Our first event of 2024, the Sweeties Party, will take place on Friday, Feb. 16, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. This event is honoring sweets (which can be cakes, pies, cookies, and other desserts). 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 were sold in January. If interested in attending, please contact either Karen Gemberling at 352-789-8259, Deb Keirn 352-414-5737 or Linda Agerty 413-262-1985 to see if tickets are still available. Hope to see you at this new event.

The next potluck dinner will be on Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 5:30 p.m. and it will be "breakfast for dinner." We will be flipping pancakes at the pancake station. Residents with the last names beginning with A-H should bring a dessert (i.e. coffee cake, doughnuts), I-P a main dish (i.e. egg casserole, French toast) and Q-Z a side dish or salad (i.e. bacon, sausage, grits, fruit salad). Please bring the requested dish for 12 to 15 people and provide the ingredients to help those people with food allergies. \$1 at the door covers eating utensils, plates, napkins, decaf coffee, orange and apple juices. Please RSVP to Deb Keirn by phone at 352-414-5737, text at 814-571-7908 or email arthukipdeb@verizon.net.

The Candler Connection Board for 2024 is as follows: Russ Gemberling, President; Jay Wallet, Vice President;

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Indigo East Social Committee

Janice Liberton



The Indigo East ladies luncheon committee is planning a St. Paddy's Party on Thursday, March 21. The party will feature a baked potato bar, complete with all the trimmings, soup, and dessert. Ticket sales will take place on Monday, March 4, Friday, March 8 at happy hour, and Friday, March 15 at happy hour.

In addition, the Indigo East ladies luncheon committee is planning a Cinco de Mayo party on Thursday, May 2. The party will feature a taco bar and dessert. Ticket sales will begin in April.

The Indigo East Social Committee schedule of events will be forthcoming. In the interim, a potluck dinner is planned for the month of March. Also, bingo resumes on Monday, Feb. 5 and will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise indicated.

Presidents' Day is a federal holiday and is always celebrated on the third Monday in February. This year's celebration will be on Feb. 19. Have you ever wondered how Presidents' Day came about? To obtain some information, I turned to the 2023 version of History.com.

Presidents' Day began after George Washington's passing in 1799 and celebrated on his birthday every Feb. 22. In 1832, to commemorate the centennial of his birthday, construction began on the Washington Monument, in Washington D.C. Washington's birth was unofficially observed for most of the 1800s. In 1879 President Rutherford B. Hayes signed into law Feb. 22 as a federal holiday.

In 1873, Julius Francis, a shopkeeper from Buffalo, New York attempted to

create a holiday celebrating President Lincoln. While Lincoln was added to the February calendar, it was never a federal holiday. However, Lincoln's birthday, on Feb. 12, was celebrated in many states.

In the late 1960s, Congress proposed a measure known as the Uniform Holiday Act. The Uniform Holiday Act also included a provision to combine both President Washington and President Lincoln. The proposed Act was a novel way to create a three-day weekend for the American worker ensuring the holiday always fell on a weekday to reduce employee absenteeism. The uniform Monday act passed in 1968 and was officially signed into effect by President Richard Nixon by an executive order in 1971. Oddly enough, Presidents' Day never falls on the actual birthday of any American president.

Besides Presidents Washington and Lincoln, President William Henry Harrison, born Feb. 9, and Ronald Regan, born Feb. 6 all share February birthdays.

For such a short month, February has many holidays and special days. In addition, February 2024 is a leap year with 29 days in the month. To those born on Feb. 29, happy actual birthday.

I wish everyone a wonderful and peaceful February. While there are holidays to celebrate during the month, February is a good time to stop and reflect on the recent past holidays, relax, and prepare for the upcoming spring months. As usual, I'll see you around the neighborhood.

Kestrel Knowings

Elaine Morrison



With the hectic holiday happenings over, the neighborhood is gearing up for the next round of social activities.

Flyers announcing upcoming events have been distributed to residents. Headlining these is a "whole neighborhood" meeting on Monday, Feb. 5, at 3 p.m. in The Lodge at Candler Hills Ballroom. The purpose of this meeting is for residents to share their interests and ideas about future social activities with the social committee and ambassadors. All Kestrel residents are urged to attend.

The very popular jukebox bingo will reappear on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 5 p.m. in The Lodge at Candler Hills Ballroom. For those who have previously attended this event, no further explanation is needed. Those needing more information are encouraged to attend to find out for themselves why everyone loves to play the game. There are prizes and a 50/50 raffle to add to the enjoyment. Ticket sales started in January. They are \$10.

Future events include another jukebox bingo game on Friday, April 19 and a game night on Sunday, May 19. More details will be given in next month's column.

For more information about any events and activities, please contact Jan Eaton at jeaton1000@comcast.net.

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Newcastle Social Committee

Nancy Monaghan



An Easter potluck, a Memorial Day barbecue and a summer picnic will take us through spring and summer. Fall and winter activities include Newcastle's fourth annual Halloween progressive walk and fourth annual holiday party.

Ongoing activities include weekly pickleball, mah jongg and samba, and monthly social meetings and book club meetings. All groups welcome Newcastle residents to join their group at any time throughout the year.

This year additional first aid and CPR classes are being offered by Charles Dodge. Contact Charles directly for more information. As the year progresses additional activities will be added to the calendar.

Newcastle residents can keep up to date by joining our private Facebook group (OTOW Newcastle Neighbors).

If you wish to volunteer to help with Newcastle events, please contact Newcastle president, Sherry Bright.

Community Emergency Response Team

Andrea La Fave



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

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

For information contact Bruce Twiss at brucetwiss@yahoo.com.

As volunteers, he then emphasized that our job in relation to a hazardous material exposure would be to:

1. Move far upwind from the material.
2. Prevent others from getting close to the material.
3. Call 911 and describe the labels on the vehicle as much as can be seen from a safe distance.

Director Bowlin also reviewed the training we've been given to evaluate, organize, communicate, and provide care when called up to help first responders.

His descriptions of the challenges faced by first responders to protect themselves in events like house fires and car crashes opened our eyes to the importance of our "scene safety" training.

On Top of the World NEWS**ITEMS FOR SALE?**

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Photo by Joni Sinclair

Meg and Randy Kajewski rock the '80s with Jennifer Vincent.

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Crescent Ridge Happenings

Patti Doty



Longleaf Ridge Friends

Michelle Migdal, Kathleen Taylor, Debra Vitale & Judi Walsh



Welcome to February! The month brings us Groundhog Day on Feb. 2, Valentine's Day on Feb. 14, and Presidents' Day on Feb. 19. Always fun to celebrate special days!

Mark your calendar for our next monthly event on Sunday, Feb. 11, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the beautiful 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 the Crescent Ridge email database to receive notices, information, etc., by emailing Carol Lewis at 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!

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thanks are due to the hard-working potluck committee: Carolyn Chagoya, Laura D' Angelo, Lee Levine, Kris Shaw, Karen Snorek, and Michelle Migdal.

Four legged friends joined the holiday celebration with the second annual pet parade organized by Donna Siegfried. Even Santa made a rare appearance to see pets dressed for the holidays and to enjoy apple cider and cookies with proud pet parents after the parade.

Arlene and Fred Loepf hosted an elegant open house holiday affair with a lavish arrangement of delectable foods which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone in attendance. A short distance away, Lynn and Dan Jacobs hosted an open house for neighbors on Christmas Day with plenty of food, fun and fellowship.

There was dancing in the street at a New Year's Eve gathering hosted by

Carol and Jon Fiedler. Cold weather drove many indoors, but everyone enjoyed the excitement of counting down with friends and neighbors as the ball dropped.

Neighbors kicked off 2024 by celebrating a New Year's Day "Hair of the Dog" gathering at the home of Debbie and Kimberly Lynch. Neighbors feasted on numerous delicious brunch items and enjoyed mimosas and bloody Mary's while they mingled with friends and celebrated the dawning of the new year.

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



Photo by Terry George

Liz Lieberman, Robert Lieberman, and Michelle Migdal at the holiday potluck.

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**Williamsburg
Neighbors**

Nancy Meininger



Williamsburg has been a garden of activity over the past year, and seeds sown are sprouting beautiful friendships at nearly every doorstep.

It appears we are in for an abundant 2024, judging from the brainstorming happy hour held at the home of Nancy and Tom Meininger. The concept of a steering committee where every voice is heard and volunteers realize their value was recommended by Meininger, allowing many chances for neighbors to be involved.

Ideas discussed were more driveway happy hours with entertainment like the Andy Cheyne's Hwy 94 Band (Andy is a neighbor), the Toppers Banjo Band, and Rae of Light, a vocal group; more bocce ongoing each Wednesday at 4 p.m. with Carmel and Dave Kessler coaching; more goofy miniature golf, a

**Friendship
Connection**

Carron Janssen



Saturday, March 23 is the date for our next event, "Spring into Friendships." As usual, it will be held in the Recreation Center Ballroom from 4 to 6 p.m. 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, and L through Z are being asked to bring a dessert.

The cost of the tickets will again be \$10 and will be sold Monday, March 4 through Friday, March 8, and Monday, March 11 through Friday, March 15, 10 a.m. to noon in the upstairs hallway of the Recreation Center.

Music for dancing will again be provided by Kathy and Charlie Petrosky. One change for this event will be no games or contests. Instead, participants will have the opportunity to buy raffle tickets for baskets that will be displayed on a table along with the bags for collecting the tickets for each basket. Door prizes will

**Avalon
Social Group**Laura Gavey &
Sharon Hall

Our January welcoming the new year Roaring '20s event was another great night and a great way to kick off 2024! We enjoyed a delicious dinner catered by Pasta Faire and were entertained by Dee Collier as Irene Mabee (Al Capone's "business manager"). We also did the Avalon shuffle giving our 70-plus attendees a chance to meet their Avalon neighbors.

Our next event will be held on Monday, March 11, with a magician and a light dinner. Watch our Facebook group and your email for additional information.

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

If you would like to be added to our email list or to verify that you are on the list so that you can be notified of future events, please email your request to avalonsocialclub@gmail.com.

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

Activities and events will also be posted at the postal center.

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The World News

Kessler version; more poker runs with a twist originated by Gwen and Frank Fabian; more potluck trivia sessions like our Halloween Boo Party with music by DJ neighbor, Brian McDonald; and ongoing monthly dinners with neighbors.

New ideas discussed included the holiday party venue, a scavenger hunt, a bake sale, a cornhole competition fundraiser and a bake sale fundraiser, and several other ideas spontaneously submitted, all to be incorporated in the active neighborhood schedule.

Neighbors like Dee and Gary Null, Dawn and Steve Allen, Earl and Gail Cook and Dave and Carmel Kessler have opened their homes to neighborhood-wide parties which have been an amazing success. Most recently, the Kesslers did a pop-up potluck to celebrate 12th night, which is the eve of Epiphany and also the anniversary of George and Martha Washington. Carmel had great fun with a new game which teamed tables against tables of guests. The results were amazing!

For more information about Williamsburg and how to get involved, please text Nancy Meininger at 352-554-0757.

be picked from event tickets, so please remember to bring that ticket with you. There will be 50/50 as usual at the event. There may be other surprise changes so be sure to buy a ticket to learn what they are!

Did you stop by our table at the Club Fair? If you did, you were able to meet the new chair and vice-chair of Friendship Connection. You also had the opportunity to purchase your ticket for the March event.

Friendship Connection is open to all residents of Friendship Colony, Friendship Park, and Friendship Village only. Our events are scheduled three times a year, on the second Saturday of the month, from 4 to 6 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering to help plan, setup, cleanup, or serve please contact Denise Sherman at 704-650-7066 or Jodi Geer at 585-261-2867, email us at otowfriendshipconnection@gmail.com, or visit our Facebook page (Friendship Connection-OTOW).

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Fun was on the menu for the 12th night picnic at the Veterans Park.

Photo by Nancy Meininger

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Photo by Saddlewood Elementary Staff

Mike Nowacki, Russ Reppening, Nancy Nowacki, Kathy Repenning, Terri Albright, Kathy Schoenherr, Saddlewood Elementary School Principal Heather Lipira, Anne McDowell, Lori Lund, Eric Lund, and John Albright.

OneBlood Bloodmobile

Sara Sommer



The Big Red Bus® was here for its first Friday blood drive on Jan. 6. Our goal was 13 whole blood units. We got 15 units. Way to go, heroes! The Friday drive will be back on May 6.

The Big Red Bus will be here on Monday, Feb. 5 for their usual first Monday

of every even month schedule from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Recreation Center parking lot. Each donor will receive a mini physical that includes blood pressure, temperature, and cholesterol screening. Each donor will also receive a \$20 e-card to be redeemed at a local business and online. Please bring a photo ID and eat a good meal before and after donating. Drink plenty of liquids, too.

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

Active Newcomers Club

Lori Lund



The Active Newcomers Club began 2024 with their annual membership meeting where returning members could renew their membership applications and new members could fill out their membership applications for the first time. For only \$20 a year each member receives invitations to both large and small group activities throughout the year.

Some of the large group activities have catered meals, DJs with dancing, games, and of course time to meet and form friendships with other new residents.

Some of the small groups offered are dinner, lunch, craft, bunco, hiking, wine, game, and book club. The dinner and lunch groups took a brief hiatus over the busy holidays due to traveling and family time but should be back up and running this month.

The Active Newcomers Club also had a table at the Club Fair that was held at the Recreation Center at the end of January. It was a great time for residents to stop by and meet some of the club board

of directors and ask questions about the club, watch a computer photo montage of our activities throughout the year, and fill out applications.

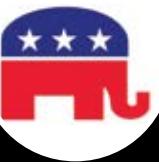
What are some of the new activities to look forward to this year you may ask? Well, let me tell you. Our first large group activity coming up is our member only spring event on Saturday, March 16; details will be posted on our members only Facebook page as we get closer to the day of the event. The next event will be our club picnic on Saturday, June 8. There are several more events being planned so stay tuned to social media for the details. For now, save these dates.

One final word regarding our annual Christmas Angel Tree project was the delivery of all wrapped gifts took six vehicles caravanning to Saddlewood Elementary School on Dec. 12, 2023. With the assistance of the school principal, school counselors, and staff all the gifts were moved from the vehicles into a secure area of the school to await distribution to the families. Needless to say, the Angel Tree project is near and dear to the hearts of many Active Newcomers members.

If you are interested in learning more about the Active Newcomers Club, please email activenewcomers34481@gmail.com.

Republican Club

Lizabeth Woodard



The Republican Club held its first meeting of 2024 on Friday, Jan. 12. The club president introduced Tom Hauck, nomination/election chair. He outlined the process for nominating candidates to run on the slate of officers. He also indicated that the election would be held at the next meeting scheduled for Friday, Feb. 9. Tom advised the members that he would be sending a follow-up email explaining the process, as well as instructions for the submission of nominations.

President Woodard announced the upcoming membership appreciation event to be held at the February meeting. Food, entertainment, and other surprises will commence after the election of new officers.

The featured speaker was Doug Hart

regarding "Seniors vs. Crime." He explained that the information provided was a special project of the Florida Attorney General in partnership with the Ocala Police Department. He shared telephone and computer safety rules and where to obtain help if one finds they have been compromised in any way.

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. (Upcoming dates: Feb. 9, March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, and Nov. 8) 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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Protecting Your Plants

By Phil Karcheski

It's early February. The Eco Gardeners have been harvesting arugula, beets, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, lettuce, and tomatoes.

IFAS and the Master Gardeners recommendations for February zone 9b include cool season crops such as beets, broccoli, kale, and spinach. Frost will be a threat until late March and being prepared is prudent. Some protection from frost is important except cold-hardy plants such as those listed above. But if your garden includes warm-weather plants, steps need to be taken to save them from frost.

For a short-term frost, typical for zone 9b, a frost blanket from most garden stores is sufficient. Remove coverings in the morning or once temperatures rise over 50 degrees Fahrenheit to give them extra light and warmth. Avoid keeping plants covered all day, as they need light.

Alternatives to frost blankets are tarps, old sheets, large towels, or blankets over container plants to protect them. Just make sure they're not too heavy or they'll weigh down your tomato plants and even break some branches.

Three of our most successful members have one thing in common, they attend to their plot daily and keep the plot producing year-round. Doing so allows them to address any issues such as diseases, pests and too little or too much water from rainfall. They have these and other practices in common that lead to success. Monitoring their

plants daily keeps pests and diseases at bay. Healthy plants are less likely to become infested.

John rotates his vegetables with the seasons and keeps weeds at bay with pine needles as mulch, which prevents diseases and pests from overwintering in the soil. Additionally, he harvests fresh all year around.

Ken has a passion for tomatoes that are always so bountiful that he has to share with his neighbors. He grows them in our sandy soil successfully using purchased fertilizers and supplements.

Frank uses a trenching method, digging in household waste near plants and under planted seeds and very little compost. Growing a variety of vegetables that are so abundant that they efficiently crowd out any weeds and require him to thin out his plants to allow light and water to penetrate.

I gave a presentation on useful apps that can identify plants, their diseases, and remedies to treat them organically and chemically at our February meeting.

Jeremy Rhoden from the Marion County Extension Office made a presentation on the importance of knowing your pH in gardens and creating better soil.

For more information on planting, caring, harvesting and more visit our Facebook page (OTOW Eco Gardeners) or eco-gardeners.org.

Until next month, keep digging and growing.



Photo by Arlene Smith

John's garden.



Little blue heron.

Take Your Tweethart Birding

By Linda Monaco

On Friday, Feb. 23, the birders will visit Wood Duck Drive in the Emeralda Marsh Conservation Area located at 36645 Emeralda Island Boulevard in Leesburg, Florida. In 1974, the National Park Service designated the area as a National Natural Landmark. The 6577-acre tract was formerly farmland, which has been purposefully restored to wetlands to help decrease the amount of excess nutrients flowing into Lake Griffin and the Ocklawaha River. The growth of submerged aquatic vegetation has been expanded to reduce the amounts of phosphorous and pesticides that remain behind from the years the land was used for farming.

This area is home to a large and diverse wildlife population especially wintering and migrating birds. Some of the birds commonly found at this site include sandhill cranes, white pelicans, wood storks, bald eagles, green-winged teal, limpkin, snowy egret, and several

varieties of duck including beautiful wood ducks. Alligators are found here in abundance and a handicap accessible wildlife viewing platform will be on our route. The six-mile drive is only open to the public on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from mid-February through late May.

If you would like to join the group for this trip to the Emeralda Marsh on Friday, Feb. 23, please contact Margitta Claterbos at mcclaterbos@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 marsh drive and the restaurant where we will enjoy lunch together. Emeralda Marsh Conservation Area is about an hour drive from On Top of the World. Plan to bring your hat, binoculars, and sunscreen.

Need Some Space?

By Jim Di Paolo

The Moonstruck Astronomy Club held their monthly meeting on Thursday, Jan. 11. The meeting started with Beverly Bergmann, club treasurer, presenting the club's financial report.

Jim Di Paolo, club president, read the minutes of the last meeting held in December 2023. He then informed members that 57 out of 93 members had paid their dues for 2024, plus three new members were added since the December meeting. However, after checking in members for today's meeting, the member roster now shows that 68 members have paid their dues for 2024.

Jim went on to review the results of the officer elections held last month. Jim remains president, Larry Isenberg remains vice president and Beverly Bergmann was elected to the club treasurer position. The secretary position remains open. Jim reminded members of this opening and asked to be notified if anyone was interested in taking on the secretary position.

Jim reviewed a copy of the club's column that appeared in the January edition of the World News. He mentioned that these monthly columns inform residents about the club and help drive their membership. Jim informed mem-

bers about this month's NASA Senior Outreach Webinar, presented by different speakers from NASA. He presented the night sky highlights for January and the top 10 stories of 2023 that were in the February issue of the Astronomy magazine. Jim concluded his portion of the presentation with a James Webb Telescope (JWST) update. The members were informed about the top discoveries made by JWST since its launch on Dec. 25, 2021.

Last, but not least, club member Doug George passed out a quiz with

seven questions relating to the December issue of the Reflector magazine, which is mailed to club members quarterly by the Astronomical League. Doug reviewed all seven questions and gave members additional information about each of the answers. Everyone seemed to have a great time participating in the quiz. Doug plans to do the quiz every four months, which is when members receive their copy of the Reflector magazine.

Club members are reminded to watch

for emails announcing more evening ob-

servations 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



Club members at the December 2023 meeting.

Genealogical Society

Ron Niebo



Our first meeting of 2024 included an informative presentation by representatives from the Ocala FamilySearch Center. This comprehensive review of the free services and support offered by this local group launched the Genealogical Society into a positive genealogical year!

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints supports the center which is open to the public. When visiting you will not need to bring your personal computer, you can access the center's portal via the onsite computers. In addition to the existing free genealogy resources, the portal also provides free access to premium family history software and websites that normally charge for subscriptions. The long list included these resources genealogist regularly use: FamilySearch™, Ancestry®, Newspapers.com™, Fold3®, JewishGen®, Find A Grave™, BillionGraves™, U.S. Census Bureau, National Archives and Records Administration, Library of Congress, and many more. These resources contain billions of records and images and are adding more new records each day.

The center also offers onsite assistance from experienced staff and has a library with 500-plus genealogy books and references. The center is located at 1831 SE 18th Avenue, Ocala, 34471. Call ahead for hours at 352-351-4163.

At the Monday, Feb. 19 educational meeting, member Paul Belter will dis-

cuss census history. Censuses began with the ancient Egyptians and since then most countries have followed suit. Paul's focus will be on the beginnings and evolution of the United States census. Additionally, he will briefly review several European census genealogy resources. Enjoy this informative review and learn how and why certain questions were asked, and how and who collected this census information.

Paul is our president and the genealogy support person who helps future candidates wishing to qualify for membership in the Ocala Chapter of the Son's of the American Revolution (SAR). Potential members must validate they are descendants of a Revolutionary War patriot ancestor. Census documentation plays a significant role in Paul's assistance. SARs overall efforts are directed towards serving our community and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our country.

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

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

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.

Ring, ring ... should I answer it? Be patient, if it is someone you want to talk to, they will leave a message. Enter all your important people and medical names and office numbers into your smartphone contact list, and their name will show on your screen – now you know who's calling.

Most cell phones let you choose to block calls from certain numbers in your contact list. During your quiet times, turn on the "do not disturb" feature, where calls go straight to voicemail.

Check your cell phone provider's blocking, alerts, or labeling services (calls shown as "spam" on your screen). Perhaps download a call-blocking app, some are free or with a monthly charge, and you'll need to give them access to your contacts list. After a call comes in, if your app allows it, block the number, and report it as spam.

Those calls with no live person are illegal robocalls, mostly trying to sell you something, and unfortunately, your caller ID can be faked to trick you into answering it. Don't answer it, or just hang up, don't call back, and don't press any

numbers on the phone. If you do, it leads to more calls! The Federal Trade Commission (ftc.gov/robocalls) has more information and a way to report robocalls.

The term "neighbor spoofing" is where scammers use your area code and first three numbers to make the call look like a local number, a clever trick to entice you to answer it. This number might belong to a real person, who isn't even aware of the misuse of their phone number. If your caller ID shows a government agency title, it is most likely a scam to make you think you owe money. When in doubt, look up the real phone number later and make the call.

When reporting a call only, when you didn't lose any money, go to DoNotCall.gov and fill out their form. In the case where you were scammed out of money, go to ReportFraud.ftc.gov and report the incident, or even when you have information about the scammer.

Perhaps not answer the phone at all. Call voicemails have more details and usually a text of the person's message.

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 and possible solutions to help our members.

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Women of the World

Colleen Rocafort



mation, resources, and support to meet the needs of individuals and their families. She provided us with an update of the program since introducing it to us last February.

Our featured charity was 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. Members brought cleaning supplies and hygiene packages for teens.

Several of our members represented the club at the Club Fair on Thursday, Jan. 25, where we had a table-top display highlighting our activities and sponsored charities. We had a lot of interactions and sold tickets to the upcoming annual Fashion Show and Luncheon.

The annual Fashion Show and Luncheon for Hospice of Marion County

will be held on Wednesday, March 13, at Circle Square Cultural Center. We began selling tickets in January. Anyone still interested in buying tickets, please call Betty Thayer at 352-361-1313. Cost is \$40 per person. Tables seat 10. You can purchase either a whole table or individual seats. This event is the biggest charitable event for the club each year.

In November 2023, Women of the World was recognized by Hospice of Marion County as a longtime supporter, and we received a plaque for our 20 years of support through the annual Fashion Show and Luncheon. 100% of the proceeds from the raffle gift baskets go directly to Hospice of Marion County. Please consider donating a basket or items to make up a basket for the event.

For our upcoming Thursday, Feb. 15, meeting, the Broadway and tap dance groups led by Penny Barton will provide

entertainment.

Our featured February charity is Transition Living Centers which provides safe, supportive, and structured transitional housing for men seeking long term recovery from addiction. Walmart, Publix, and gas gift cards are needed for their working needs.

Tickets for the fashion show will also be sold at the end of the Feb. 15 meeting at 2 p.m. Tickets sell out fast, so don't delay.

The club is open to all resident women with a resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. 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, Feb. 15.

SWANS

Sandi Dickerson



are looking forward to the next potluck! Breakfast out in January was held at Mama B's. Susan Eskritt was the hostess and there were 18 SWANS attending. As usual, the food was very good and the company was excellent!

Lunch out was held at the Equestrian Grill. Pat Nice was the hostess for the first one and Laura Lasky was the second hostess a week later. Everyone enjoyed themselves! Thank you, Susan, Pat, and Laura, for hosting! These outings don't happen without our volunteers!

We have several events and outings planned for the first half of 2024. On Valentine's Day, Susan Cross is hosting a special SWANS only luncheon at Ipanema. Should be very nice! In April, we will be going to Biloxi, Mississippi - an annual event.

On Saturday, May 11, we will have a spring barbecue at the pavilion by the softball field. Also, in May, we will be heading to Daytona Beach for one of our three outings to Daytona each year.

These trips are always lots of fun with plenty to do. Such nice getaways! Contact Lois for more information.

The generous giving hearts of the SWANS support women and children in need all over Marion County. Our support has been given to the Ocala Domestic Violence Center (SWANS started the giving of suitcases years ago), 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 to those in need and at the same time we will continue to support each other during our continuing journey of being single. The pioneers of On Top of the World set an example of generosity for those in need.

The next membership meeting is Saturday, March 9, at 10 a.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-III.

To remain a member, a new membership form needs to be returned. New members are always welcome.

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

Active Singles Club

Catherine White



Have you renewed your membership? If not, please do so now to continue receiving club information or to take advantage of club sponsored activities. Want to join? Find us at otowactivesingles.com and follow the directions. You can renew your membership or apply and pay for a new membership all online! Easy peasy!

January was a busy month for all our regularly scheduled activities, now in full swing. We had a lot of fun with weekly lunches at Cody's, a Sweetwater Wetland hike, darts, and bocce. The club is anxious to build up the number of participants for our monthly golf scramble so if you have a decent swing, please inquire on how and when to sign up.

Bowling is available twice a month. Look out for our trivia night, and a scheduled dinner at Ayuttaya's Thai restaurant. As our weather improves, we are pleased to offer a wellness walk at Sholom Park. The spring will ramp up with more outdoor activities including horseback riding, zip lining, and several Saturday dance parties. We hope you will join us.

Come and check out our next general membership meeting where you will get to hear more about scheduled activities as well as an opportunity to meet members at our happy hour which takes place at the end of every meeting. Bring your favorite beverage, including alcohol, and if inclined, a snack to share.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at The Lodge at Candler Hills at 5:30 p.m.

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Join Park Ranger Christopher Reid on a guided discussion through the history of Charleston, South Carolina. Topics include the Revolutionary War Battle of Sullivan's Island, the opening shots of the Civil War against the U.S. Army inside Fort Sumter, colonization of the Carolinas, and modern landmarks.

Christopher Reid is a park ranger and guide for Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park. He will be presenting virtually from Fort Sumter.

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R/C LadyBirds enjoying a Christmas luncheon at Cody's.

Photo by Leigh Workman

R/C LadyBirds

Linda Lohr



The LadyBirds enjoyed a great luncheon at Cody's restaurant on Friday, Dec. 8, 2023. We thank Lyn Titcombe for arranging this event. We collected Toys for Tots and brought them to the Marion County Fire Rescue Friendship Station 21 after the luncheon.

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!

Our next meeting is Friday, Feb. 9, at 10 a.m. Arbor Conference Center Event Room.

Scandinavian American Club

David Wesenberg



Our first meeting of the year was in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 23rd. We heard 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.

Our February meeting is themed "patriotism" – an apt topic for a Scandinavian American Club. We will celebrate the coming of our ancestors to America

and the contributions they have made.

To help us celebrate we will be entertained by the Toppers Banjo Band with American songs from every genre from the Civil War to today.

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

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

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

What's Cookin'?

Nancy Grabowski



Here are some make ahead Super Bowl recipes so you can enjoy the game with the rest of the crowd.

Hot Reuben Dip

1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
1-1/2 cups shredded Swiss cheese (6 ounces)
1/2 cup Thousand Island dressing
4 ounces deli sliced corned beef, chopped
1/2 cup well-drained sauerkraut
Pretzel crackers
Cocktail rye bread slices
Chopped fresh chives, garnish
Sliced radishes, garnish
Heat oven to 400 degrees.

Mix cream cheese, 1 cup of the Swiss cheese, the dressing and corned beef. Spread in pie plate, 9 x 1-1/4 inches, or quiche dish, 9 x 1-1/2 inches. Top with sauerkraut and remaining 1/2 cup Swiss cheese. Cover and refrigerate up to 24 hours if desired.

Bake about 15 minutes or until bubbly around edge. Serve hot with pretzel crackers, cocktail bread or other dippers. Garnish with chives and radishes.

Mini Pork Pies

Serves 10

1 tablespoon cornstarch
1-1/4 cups chicken broth
2 pounds ground pork
3 garlic cloves, minced
1-1/2 teaspoons salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper
2 packages (14.1 ounces each) refrigerated pie pastry
1 egg
2 teaspoons milk

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. In a small saucepan, mix cornstarch and broth until blended; bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Cook and stir 1-2 minutes or until thickened. Remove from heat.

In a large skillet, cook pork, garlic, and seasonings over medium heat, six to eight minutes or until pork is no longer pink, breaking up pork into crumbles; drain. Stir in broth mixture; cook and stir one to two minutes or until thickened. Cool slightly.

Unroll each pastry sheet. On a work surface, roll each into a 12" circle. Using floured round cookie cutters, cut 20 4" circles and twenty 2-3/4" circles, rerolling scraps as needed. Place large circles in ungreased muffin cups, pressing pastry onto bottoms and upside.

Fill each with three tablespoons pork mixture. Place small circles over filling; press edges with a fork to seal. In a small bowl, whisk egg and milk, brush over tops. Cut slits in pastry.

Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until golden brown. Carefully remove pies to wire racks. Serve warm.

Joy in the Mourning

Deb Thompson

Ladies, are you merely surviving the complex challenges of widowhood? Do you wonder if it is possible to grow through grief and even thrive? Are hope and healing attainable?

Only you can answer the first question. 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.

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Southern Club

Melanie Vittitow

**Rhode Island Group**

Judy Parisi



The Southern Club members are from all over the U.S., so it is always nice to learn more about Marion County, our new home. (We consider you an honorary southerner once you move to On Top of the World.) Mr. William Baker-Palenik, who is the volunteer coordinator at Fort King Historical Park, spoke to us at our last meeting. He came dressed as a captain who served at the fort, Ichabod Crane. Yes, he was a real person who managed to alienate Washington Irving, who then made him a fool in his story of "Sleepy Hollow." Mr. Baker-Palenik helps with the re-enactments presented at Fort King. He has done a lot of research on the history of the fort and the part it played in establishing Marion County and Ocala.

Fort King was an important outpost in the early 1800s, supposedly to control the Seminoles, and was the first large-scale attack when Chief Osceola decided he didn't want to be controlled. After the wars, Fort King became the county seat of Marion County and later housed the first Ocala courthouse. If you want to learn more, or just enjoy an excursion into the past, the fort is open daily, but the visitor center/museum is only open on Fridays and Saturdays. They host special events, re-enactments, and classes in pioneer crafting. You can find the dates and times at FortKingOcala.com.

This month, instead of a speaker, we are going to have some fun with card bingo. Never heard of it? Me neither. So, I looked it up. You lay your hand face up and turn them over when they are called. As you have already guessed, the first person who turns all his cards over calls "bingo." I wonder if there will be prizes.

The Southern Club meets on the first Tuesday of the month from September through May. 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, Feb. 6. 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 discounted to \$5 per person since the club year is half over. You will need to show your resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

After dinner, there will be a short business meeting, the rousing game of bingo, 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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is a delight to walk with many shops, interesting landmarks, and places to grab a meal as well as ice cream. Up the hill from the beach area are sprawling Victorian-style homes. Nearby, on Bluff Avenue, is a notable five-star resort, The Ocean House. It is certainly worth a drive-by to admire the architecture and grounds.

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



Photo by Judy Parisi

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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 speakers, travel trivia, and door prizes.

World Traveler

Bill Shampine



The Cinque Terre region of Italy is very high on my list of places you should visit. Margitta and I were there for four fabulous days in 2013. Located on the northwest curve of Italy, the region includes five small villages located along a seven-mile stretch of the steep, mountainous Ligurian Sea coastline. Today, I am going to write about one of those villages.

Vernazza has a population of about 850 people, and many people consider it to be one of the most beautiful places in Italy. Its picturesque location on the coast, its small natural harbor, its colorful houses sloping down to the sea, its medieval tower, and the total absence of cars, make Vernazza a truly charming place to visit.

Speaking of colorful houses, we all have seen pictures of coastal villages in Italy with brightly colored houses dotting the landscape. Have you ever wondered why that is? Originally, the fisher-

Freethinkers

Ellen Callahan



The Freethinkers Club exists to create a safe, welcoming environment for freethinkers to gather for socialization and education.

We welcome all on the freethinker spectrum from questioners, humanists, to avowed atheists. We exchange ideas/opinions through civil discourse/conversations. We work to be open-minded. We listen to and respect the individual no matter the viewpoint. We seek to understand and clarify when necessary.

We acknowledge personal biases and assumptions, recognizing how they cloud interpretations, and we work to overcome them.

We meet bi-weekly on Sundays from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room for provocative educational programming followed by small group discussion.

Join us Sunday, Feb. 4, for "My Journey into the Light" with Bert Gagnon. Born a Baptist in Caribou, Maine, Bert spent his formative years hiding personal truths while trying to fit into the expectations of church and family. He left the church at an early age and wandered through various spiritual encampments over the following decades, not fully fitting in anywhere. In this program, Bert entertains as he shares his personal and unique spiritual journey along a very winding path coming out of his upbringing in the Baptist church and coming into his understanding of personal truth.

Join us Sunday, Feb. 18, as Kevin Bradley presents "Your Life, Your Choice."

Our last meeting was in January. We watched a video on information about cruise travel which was informative. Ann Parker spoke about her recent trip to Australia and gave us tips on what to know when traveling there. Charlie Calhoun spoke about MSC cruises and the great experiences he has had with them. Our group exchanged experiences and ideas about different cruise lines. We learned some good information from each other.

We also went over fun destinations to go on Valentine's Day. Of course, we dis-

cussed our upcoming club trips.

We already have a few group trips scheduled for next holiday season. These are group discounted rates that are reserved for us. One is an 11-night Christmas/New Year's cruise from Dec. 22, through Jan. 2, 2025, on the Celebrity from Fort Lauderdale to Grand Cayman, Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire, Labadee, Haiti and Dominican Republic. Prices start at \$2,631 including port fees, gratuity, beverage package and Wi-Fi.

We are also working on an Alaska cruise for August.

There will be no meeting in February as we are cruising to the Caribbean. We are looking forward to our next meeting on Thursday, March 14. Meetings are held every second Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios III-IV. Please text or call Ina Kline at 301-728-9541 for information about our trips and club.

Trips, meetings, and membership are open to residents. There is no cost to join our club but you must present a resident ID or Gateway of Services pass to participate. Travel agents are not permitted to be members or attend meetings.

men painted their houses vivid colors so they could identify them while they were at sea fishing. In addition, the bright colors also helped merchant seafarers spot the docks from afar.

First mentioned in the records in 1080, Vernazza is an old village. Historically, it always has been known as a fishing village, however, in the 12th and 13th centuries, it played a vital role in defending against regularly occurring pirate raids. Being an Italian village, the economy also focused on wine making and olive oil production. Today, however, the main source of revenue is tourism. In 1997, Cinque Terre was recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, and in 1999, the National Park of the Cinque

Terre was created.

I mentioned earlier that there are no cars in Vernazza, which is true of most of Cinque Terre. The very few roads found in the region are in Riomaggiore, the southernmost village, and Monterosso al Mare, the northernmost village. Cars are a liability as there are very few roads and no place to park within Cinque Terre. People primarily travel around on a train that runs the length of the region. In addition to the train, there is a ferry and several regional hiking trails to facilitate movement amongst the five villages.

The most popular hiking trail is called the Azure Trail, which lies near the coastline. Unfortunately, torrential

rains, massive flooding, and devastating mudslides in 2011 left Vernazza buried under more than 13 feet of mud and debris and blocked much of the trail. The village was cleaned up relatively quickly, but the trail has taken longer, and, finally, is scheduled to reopen in July 2024. When Margitta and I were there in 2013, we hiked on a trail that climbed up and over the hillsides. It was hot and tiring, but the hike offered spectacular views. We loved it. If you do visit the region and hike the hillsides, you need to be aware that it is against the law to do that, while wearing flip-flops, sandals, or pumps. Doing so makes you subject to a fine of more than \$2,700.



Photo by Bill Shampine

The small village of Vernazza, one of the five villages in the Cinque Terre region of Italy.



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at 1 p.m. at the Friendship Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 9510 SW 105th Street, Ocala, Florida 34481. Or you can always call us at 352-362-0985.

In 2022, the SPCA giving tree was so successful at the Arbor Fitness Center that in 2023 we set up a second tree in the Recreation Center Fitness Center. It was a great success. Our residents are so generous that Marcia and Pam had to go about every other day to pick up the donations of cat and dog food. The food is used to pack bags that we take to Marion Senior Services for their meals on wheels recipients who need help feeding their pets. It's one of our ongoing projects and when we get extra pet food, we don't have to buy it. So, thanks to all who donated.

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

I thought I might have a new doggie to post this month, but as often happens, the family who is fostering him has fallen in love with him and decided to keep him. That's one of the reasons I tell people that if you are looking for a new pet, you may want to sign up as a foster with the SPCA. You will be contacted and can meet the animal and decide if he/she fits in your home, short term or permanently. We have forms you can download at SPCAofMarionCounty.weebly.com.

Or you can come to one of our meetings on the third Thursday of the month

Lions Club

Gail Morris

Contact Leona Dzierzek at 845-649-0045 or Estelle Michelson at 352-895-7598 for tickets or more information.

All tickets must be purchased in advance as no tickets will be sold at the door.

If you are not a big gamer, then come along watch your friends play, socialize, 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 or for our liquor wagon.

This event is a major fundraiser for the Lions Club that helps us provide items such as school backpacks (Stuff the Bus), Thanksgiving meals and other needs of Marion County veterans and children for the rest of the year.

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, membership chair, at 352-861-7358.

Tickets are \$50 per person, which includes \$300 in fun money (must be over 21 to play) and light snacks from Wawa. A cash bar will also be available.

There are four ways to win and four different tickets (must be present to win). There will be a 50/50 drawing (red), a raffle for a liquor wagon (blue), a basket raffle (green) and gaming prizes (white).

Tickets will be available for purchase at the Recreation Center Craft Fair on Tuesdays, from 9 a.m. to noon; Circle Square Commons Farmers Market on Thursdays, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; First Federal Bank (Circle Square Commons) on Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or from any Lions Club member.

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Photo by Marcia VanDaele

The SPCA of Marion County giving tree at the Recreation Center Fitness Center.

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Fishing with the Hancocks

By Dave DeAngelis
World News Writer

Part I

Planning a vacation? Fishing for ideas? Well, check this out. How do you top a fishing trip into the bowels of the Amazon River, through the rainforests of Brazil, winding through strangling overgrowth and who knows what's hiding in it, with your trust committed entirely to your trip guide and your own expertise to catch exotic fish? Well, with confidence and proven success, you do it again ... again, and again. Ask Earl and Pat Hancock who just can't get enough of these adventures, trips that just about all of us haven't experienced or ever will.

Earl and his son, along with Earl's twin brother Gerald first embarked on these expeditions many years ago, with Earl's wife Pat soon joining the team. Heck, people much younger might not have the stamina, patience and daring to consider such endeavors. Not this fishing gang. They kept going and going. But, after so many wonderful trips, and so many caught fish, Gerald decided that marveling at Earl's memorable trip photos in the comfort of his living room would be one dandy of an option for him. And Earl even promised that they won't ever try to uh, ... lure ... him back into the jungle.

On their most recent getaway, Earl, Pat, their daughter and husband, son and another very experienced fishing friend flew from Orlando to Panama City to start this 10-day adventure from Oct. 13 through Oct. 23. Fly on Friday the 13th? Not this writer! But they are veterans, planning everything, almost (more

later), well in advance. From Panama City, their next stop was Manaus, Brazil, where they boarded a seaplane to Itapira where their fishing camp was located. Due to the rainy season from February to August, the fishing window of opportunity begins in September when the water recedes from some 29-feet in height to manageable levels for safe boat navigation through the rivers. Pat explained that the massive rise and fall of the water "cleanses the jungle yearly." Hidden rocks are a danger to the landings of seaplanes, so careful planning is a given. Upon an uneventful landing, they were met at their seaplane by their professional Brazilian guide who took them to their floating bungalows for a quick freshening up before gearing up, boarding the boats, and heading back out to a rendezvous with all kinds of fish ... and other critters.

They fished the tannic-water Rio Negro which is a tributary of the dark-water Amazon. Pat and Earl explained that there is a distinct dividing line between the two rivers that can be seen from the air. I asked Randy what kinds of fish are in the water. Earl, jumping in without missing a beat, replied - "ones with sharp teeth." Amid the prevalence of piranha ("all over the place"), the most populated of the 1,000 "catch-and-release" fish that they caught during their trip were the peacock bass, redtail catfish, and other species. However, they kept only a few fish for meals. Conservation is paramount. Also abounding in the Rio Negro were stingrays and pink dolphin to keep everyone company.

Any readers here wondering about big

snakes? No, just me? Okay, the resounding answer from the Hancock team was, yes. Anacondas, again - "all over the place." Other wild animals that "didn't get the memo to stay away" included jaguars and abundantly toothed caiman, all being a natural wild kingdom gathering.

This wasn't some lollygagging corn-cob pipe, stick pole bobber and worm boat ride. Amid ever present potential danger, Team Hancock traveled deep into the jungle where the natives reside. They learned that the closest they were to civilization was eight hours away by fishing boat. Their fishing digs hadn't been visited in years because this area

was leased by the coordinator of the trip, an "outfitter" from the United States. Therefore, the waters were loaded with fish, forever suckered by a lure.

After a hard day of fishing, it was time to head back to the bungalows for some food and sleep. The night would sing choruses of sounds of the ... peaceful wild ... and the next day would bring, well, an unplanned excursion by Earl. Jumpin' Jehoshaphat! What happened to Earl was darned scary! Here's what happened. When Pat ... nah, we'll pick this up in Part II of next month's World News. Don't miss it!



Photo courtesy of Earl & Pat Hancock

Pat Hancock with one of her many catches.



Photo by Domenica Genovese

Dedicated POP tennis players braved the cold morning temperatures to get out on the courts.

Pop on Over

By Domenica Genovese

POP tennis at On Top of the World is popular for several reasons. It's a low-impact sport that is easy on the joints, making it a great option for people of all ages and fitness levels. It's also a social sport and a great way to meet new people while staying active.

POP tennis isn't just about winning or losing - it's about having a good time, making connections, and embracing the spirit of friendly competition. Here are a few more reasons to come join in on the fun:

1. It's a low-pressure sport. We use green dot tennis balls that have 25% less pressure, meaning they bounce less and are a little slower.
2. Less is more. Our court size is roughly half the size of a standard tennis court ... so we run less and play more.
3. Take it or leave it. Play as long or as little as you like. Unlike tennis round robins which require you to play a set number of games, POP tennis players can come and go as they please.
4. We know how to take a break. Between sets you can sit on sideline benches, rest, hydrate, watch the action and cheer on your friends. Come join us and chat with some of the players in our group including "Big Dog," the "Colonel," "Rocket Man,"

"Pop Cop," and "Krispy Kreme."

5. No strings attached! We use EVA foam, carbon fiber skin paddles so you never have to worry about racquet strings again. We keep several paddles on hand for you to try out before buying your own.
6. Everything but the kitchen sink. Like pickleball, POP tennis is fast-paced and played on a smaller court. However, we don't have an off-limits kitchen to worry about.
7. We're older and wiser. POP tennis is historic. The game dates to 1898 and was known then as paddle tennis. The first tournament was played in 1922. The name was changed to POP tennis in 2015 to eliminate confusion with platform tennis, another paddle tennis sport.
8. Helping hands. We have instructors to assist newcomers with one-on-one instruction so come on over and give it a try! You will find a fun, supportive group of people who enjoy the sport and each other.

Just the facts. We are on the lower courts #7 through #10 at The Arbors. Group play is on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8 to 10 a.m.

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

New Year. New Officers. New Day.

By Ray Ihlenburg

Happy belated new year from the R/C Flyers Club! The January column did not run due to pilot error. The submission was found in a "drafts" folder, so this pilot didn't press the correct button. On that note, let's make 2024 a great year for flying, fun, and friendship.

The bi-annual Club Fair entailed several changes concerning the club's display. We moved the display to the Recreation Center Lounge, close to the AV podium. This year, the stage was left open for the Presentation of Colors followed by several clubs to present their exceptional talents. We were able to connect the R/C simulator to the house system and display the simulation on the big screen between acts. Since this was our first time in the Recreation Center Lounge, the decision was made to call for relatively small (less than 72" wind span) planes to be displayed. This decision was also made to appeal to those interested in their first step into the hobby. The quarter-scale and jets might be impressive, but they are so far beyond what a new pilot has to consider starting out; it's scary.

The 2024 club officers began the year on New Year's Day with the first business meeting. The R/C Flyers Club officers for this year are Don Wright, president; Ray Ihlenburg, vice president; Steve Schlesselman, secretary; Jack Kezelian, treasurer; Don Fields, field marshall; Steve Dudas and Tom Disanti, safety marshalls; and Mike Betz and

Wayne Nelson, directors.

The board will meet on the Monday prior to the monthly business meeting scheduled for the first Monday of each month. There is a standing invitation for visitors and club members to attend the board meetings to voice concerns or to suggest improvements and/or fun event ideas. Since the club does not elect a secretary of fun and games, it is up to the membership to come up with ideas to entertain ourselves. The board will assist in any way possible to support more events such as a dusk patrol with cookies, potluck gatherings with speaker or entertainment, cub day with pilots' choice award, and as always, a cookout can be included. New members will hopefully think back to their past clubs and bring ideas to the board for consideration. Have an idea? Present it to the board with any cost involved, and let's make it happen.

Our next Fun-Fly is Saturday, April 6. Jack Kezelian will once again be the CD and has started his call for volunteers. We have a great core of volunteers, but help is welcomed. This is a great way for new members to get involved and meet other pilots. The event usually starts with an early morning set up, registration about 8 a.m., pilots meeting at 8:30 a.m., and flying from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Of course, there will be coffee and donuts early and our fantastic cookout lunch beginning about 11 a.m.



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Golf

Matt Hibbs

352-854-2765

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Now that the stress of the holiday season is behind us, we can move forward and get back to some normalcy. The start of 2024 should be an exciting and eventful time.

Candler Hills and The Links will be hosting the annual World Sadie Hawkins golf tournament on Monday, Feb. 12 with a 9 a.m. shotgun start. This year's format will be two-person alternate shot on the front nine and scramble on the back nine. The cost is \$20 per player for awards and prizes. Please register in your respective Golf Shop.

With March right around the corner, we are proud to announce the return of the Ocala Open. The 2024 Ocala Open will be held Wednesday, March 20 through Friday, March 22, at Candler Hills Golf Club with a Pro Am scheduled for Tuesday, March 19. The benefitting charities will again be Hospice of Marion County and Interfaith Emergency Services. For more information visit OcalaOpen.com.

The On Top of the World staff would like to remind everyone to return all range balls and baskets to the respective Golf Shop after use. Please do not take these items home with you. Keeping these items in circulation avoids us from having to continue to purchase new equipment. This in turn helps keep range prices minimal. Also, to maximize the use of the grass on the driving range, please keep your divots in a linear pattern. This will help keep the driving range in better condition. We appreciate your understanding.

All shop credit expires Thursday, Feb. 29. Any credit won in February will not be posted to your account until Friday, March 1. It's time to shop!

Upcoming Events

- Friday, Feb. 2: Groundhog Day Open at Candler Hills Golf Club with 9 a.m. shotgun.
- Monday, Feb. 12: World Sadie Hawkins at Candler Hills and The Links with 9 a.m. shotgun.
- Saturday, Feb. 24: String Event at The Links with 9 a.m. shotgun.
- Tuesday, March 19: Ocala Open

On Top of the World NEWS

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Pro Am at Candler Hills Golf Club. Wednesday, March 20 through Friday, March 22: Ocala Open Tournament at Candler Hills Golf Club.

World Accolades

CANDLER HILLS: Cindy Gersten, hole-in-one #13. Lynn Colomb, hole-in-one #17. Tom Murray, eagle #7. Bill Seibert, hole #5. Joe Schuberth, shot 75 three strokes under age.

THE TORTOISE & THE HARE: Dennis McCourt, eagle #7. Bruce Green, eagle #9. Phil Shaw, eagle #18. Betsy Maugherman, hole-in-one #8.

THE LINKS: Doug Buckler, eagle #7. Tony Morris, eagle #3. John O'Hare, hole-in-one #6. Garfield Gray, eagle #9. Bill Searight, hole-in-one #14.

Congratulations to all!

Golf Tip of the Month

You're on the way to breaking 80 for the first time and you drive the ball in the fairway bunker on the 18th hole. I know how everyone hates the dreaded fairway bunker shot. Here are some tips to ensure you shoot your best round ever.

- Make sure to hit the ball first. Unlike a greenside bunker you need to hit the ball first.
- Take one extra club than you would from the fairway and slightly grip down on the club.
- Play the ball in the middle of your stance.
- Dig your feet into the sand just enough to build a solid foundation.
- Take a three quarters swing. You want to keep your body still to ensure a good solid strike.

Follow these five tips to improve fairway bunker play and gain the confidence you need to break 80.

Ladies 18-Hole Golf Association

Ladies 18-Hole Golf Association

Marte Dobosh



"We learn so many things from golf – how to suffer, for instance." – Bruce Lansky

It's true that golf has a lesson for us every time we play a round. We learn patience, etiquette, determination, and occasionally, a new curse word! These are lessons that will embed themselves in our memory and urge us forward as we try to conquer the game.

On Dec. 19, 2023, the LGA closed out the year with a fantastic contribution of \$1,339 to Michelle-O-Gram, the league charity for 2023. Consideration of the 2024 charity is now underway. The new year is starting with a fresh schedule of exciting events as well as the weekly Tuesday games. There was a raucous "Pairings Party" featuring chili and chips to kick-off the Player's Cup competition, and the Tuesday, March 12 Member/Member tournament and luncheon will not be far behind. Be sure to check ladiesgolfotow.com for a current calendar of events.

The new slate of officers (Jill Strey, president; Donna Herberger, vice president; Mary Jeannette, secretary; and Karen Schroekenthaler, treasurer) is now guiding the league, and working to make our year a great one. To start 2024, we have 94 paid members.

Stableford-2 Best Ball (Team)

Dec. 12, 2023/The Links

Lucky 4s

Jan. 2/The Links

Flight 1: 48-Bev Ovrebo. Tie at 50-Chris Giza, Mary Ann Livingston. 51-Marcela Nunez. Tie at 52-Lynn Colomb, Luanne Kerkhoff, Diane Boston.

Flight 2: 46-Page Falconer. 47-Yuhlan Cho. 48-Janette Sheil. 49-Joyce Jones. Tie at 51-Vickie Noltensmeyer, Joann Dellapenna.

Flight 3: 50-Peggy Weichmann. Tie at 51-Alexandra Rivera, Lorie Anderson. Tie at 53-Robyn Atwood, Eileen Gustavus.

Flight 4: 49-Roxiann Dwyer. Tie at 50-Cynthia Gersten, Jacqueline Randour. Tie at 52-Vickie Foster, Joann Delmar.

1, 2, 3 (Team)

Jan. 9/The Tortoise & The Hare

Flight 1: 27-Betsy Maugherman. Tie at 30-Linda Taylor, Marcela Nunez. Tie at 31-Diane Boston, Chris Giza.

Flight 2: 27-Katie Schriewer. 30-Karen Schroekenthaler. Tie at 31-Virginia Combs, Kathleen Goodwin, Ellen Brin.

Flight 3: 28-Susan Martin. 30-Liz Pruss. 32-Marlena Laclair.

Flight 4: 29-Jacquelin Randour. 30-Lorie Anderson. 32-Robyn Atwood.

LEASH LAW

Dogs must be on a leash at all times.

An Afternoon with Viking

Free Event

If you would like to learn more about Viking river, ocean and expedition cruises, **Viking** and **Cruise Planners** invite you join us for an exciting future cruises presentation.

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**Candler Hills
Ladies 18-Hole**

Beth Wolinsky



On Dec. 14, 2023, the Candler Hills LGA-18 was pleased to present a check for \$4,450 to Interfaith Emergency Services. This was the charity that was chosen by the members in 2023. We'd like to thank all the ladies who generously donated and participated in events to help this worthwhile charity. We couldn't have done it without you.

A Match Play event took place on Dec. 14, 2023. It was the red team versus the green team, and the red team just edged out the green team. Great job, ladies!

Our annual holiday dinner and awards celebration occurred on Dec. 12, 2023. It was a fun-filled evening with good friends and good food. Karen Schroeckenthaler headed the committee for this event. We thank her and her committee for doing a bang-up job. It was thoroughly enjoyable with laughter, singing, and a fabulous skit. It's not an easy task to organize a great evening like this. Karen and the committee should be commended for making it a fantastic evening.

We welcome two new members to our league. They are Mary Jo Lock and Donna Townsend. We look forward to playing with you.

We all like to look good when playing golf so golf apparel can be, for most of us, at the forefront of a golfer's mind. Well, what if you didn't have to worry

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Photo by Matt Hibbs

Charity check presentation.

about clothing and play in the nude? Yes, this is a real thing. There are courses in France, Australia, and New Zealand where naturists play golf in the nude. There is even one in Florida for anyone wishing to try this. Interesting!

The Candler Hills LGA-18 is open to any woman resident. If you wish to join, please contact our president, Lynn Columb, at coachlynn@aol.com. It's a great way to play golf and meet some new women.

Finally, believe, achieve, and enjoy golf.

Secret Santa (Team)
Dec. 21, 2023

Flight 1: Tie at 147—Christine Giza, Angelita Jingco.

Betsy Maugherman, Joyce Jones, 155—Dawn Carroll, Paula Lilly, Tie at 157—Lynn Columb, Donna Herberger, Gail Lagrange, Virginia Combs, Sandy Snyder, Liz Pruss.

Flight 2: 141—Judie Anderson, Joann Delmar, 150—Nancy Zielinski, Beth Wolinsky, 152—Debby Wilson, Pam Brown, 157—Cynthia Gersten, Kathy Zunica, 158—Alexandra Rivera, Liz Lang.

Silver Bells Scramble (Team)

Dec. 28, 2023

Tie at 55—Lisa Free, Ellen Brin, Liz Pruss, Carol Clark, Virginia Combs, Page Falconer, Marte Dobosh, 57—Peggy Ellenberger, Joyce Jones, Cynthia Gersten, Carol Carney. Tie at 58—Maria Fournier, Mary Ruff-

ner, Beth Wolinsky, Joann Delmar, Sandy Snyder, Judie Anderson, Chris McIntire, Rosann Ross. Tie at 59—Dawn Carroll, Janette Sheil, Alexandra Rivera, Mary Ann Livingston, Darlene DeBerry, Debby Wilson, Roxiann Dwyer.

2 Best Balls Net (Team)

Jan. 4

133—Betsy Maugherman, Darlene DeBerry, Alexandra Rivera, Rosann Ross, 134—Gayla Aldridge, Judie Anderson, Beth Wolinsky, Gloria Cullins, 137—Lisa Free, Virginia Combs, Mary A. Cunningham, Roxiann Dwyer. Tie at 138—Donna Herberger, MJ Strelec, Vickie Foster, Blind, Beverly Ovrebo, Katie Schriewer, Jana McElroy, Kathy Zunica.

assign you to the proper tee box.

Keep your schedule open for Tuesday, Feb. 6 as this will be our scramble and lunch event which is a way of thanking all our members. We will again run a 50/50 raffle as it was a big hit at our annual meeting.

Individual Stableford

Dec. 12, 2023

Flight 1: 38—Jeffrey Holmes. Tie at 35—Brian Henderson, Jeff Richardson. Tie at 33—Rick Pettit, Dave Falcone

Flight 2: Tie 37—Charlie Taylor, Mike Cunningham. Tie at 33—Robert Walker, Randy Kajewski.

Flight 3: 37—David Fosdick, 36—John Anders. Tie at 34—Don Edmond, Doug Buckler

Flight 4: 35—David Metzger. Tie 33—Larry Smallwood, Lynn Maugherman, Rusty Zarrell.

Flight 5: 34—Joe Pruss. 33—Robert Dellapenna, 32—Rick Deroven.

Two Best Ball of Four

Dec. 19, 2023

Flight 1: 130—Patrick Mezyk, Ron Pratt, John Anders, Jeffrey Holmes, 138—Lonnie Page, Brian Bennett, Randy Kajewski, Ray Christ

Flight 2: 141—Henry Hunt, Joe Jingco, Don Wheeler, Richard Ross, 142—Howard Gluckman, Bill McElroy, Robert Dellapenna, Ken Zweiback.

Shamble 2 Best Balls

Jan. 2

Flight 1: 123—Randy Kajewski, Tom Presnick, Jeffrey Holmes, Paul Rubly, 124—Kevin Llewellyn, Greg Chaump, Joe Aldridge, Paul Randles, 127—Rick Pettit, Dave Keebler, Ron Wages, Greg Hofmann.

Flight 2: 119—Larry Gibson, Larry Smallwood, Harry Pelley, John Evans, 122—Gregg Keidel, Rusty Zarrell, Omer Fannin, Don Wheeler, 124—Henry Hunt, Doug Buckler, Lewis Plauny, Fernando Pallares.

"I never rooted against an opponent, but I never rooted for him either." — Arnold Palmer

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Men's Golf Association

John Yenne



On the heels of the election of three new board members, the following officers were named in January to the Men's Golf Association for the new year: Kevin McGuinness, president; Tom Neville, vice president; Rusty Rhodes, treasurer; Tony Morris, secretary; Jim McCormack, tournament director; Norm Hayworth, assistant tournament director; Doyce Mathis, food service director; Joe Polizzotti, membership director; Phil Shaw, at-large.

As a reminder, \$25 annual dues must be paid before you can play in 2024 events. Dues can be paid in the Golf Shop.

Mark these upcoming Wednesdays in your calendar:

- Feb. 7: Chicken Day Scramble (The Links)
- Feb. 14: 3, 2, 1 Best Ball (The Tortoise & The Hare)
- Feb. 21: Team Stableford (The Links)
- Feb. 28: Low Net/Individual (The Tortoise & The Hare)

Chicken Day Scramble**Horseshoes Club**

Vern Kessler



In our world today, it is rare to find an individual that when they see something that needs to be fixed, will use their personal time to do what needs to be done to correct the problem. But the Horseshoe Club is very blessed to have just that type of member within the club. The Horseshoe Club gives a great big "thank you" to Cliff Dallas.

Cliff, noticing some differences in the layout of the pits, took it upon himself to

Jan. 3/The Links

Tie at 54—Norm Hayworth, Mike Ball, Rino D'amico, Donald Wheeler; Irl Flanagan, Michael Almon, Dennis Kerkhoff, Bill Searight; Don McCrimmon, Bigelow Robinson, Danny Newby, William York. Tie at 55—Joe Aldridge, Roger Sparks, John Snyder, Richard Deschenes; David Hannasch, Dennis Kissen, Larry Turner, Gerald Schneider; Brian Wilder, Tom Fragapane, Marvin Jendro, Thomas Laclair; Dan Goggin, Joseph Dunnack, Thomas Kujawa, Raymond Hendrix; Rick Schriewer, Dale Budd, Mike Kurlakowsky, Bob Janssen; John Herman, Gerry Messenger, Jim Kurlapski, Michael Dwyer; Kevin McGuinness, Roger Lukas, Eugene Paradis, Bob Lang. Tie at 56—John Atwood, Steven Rowell, David Garland, Paul Rutkowski; Robert Walker, Art Olerud, Joe Pruss, Barry Barringer.

Quota Points (Team)**Jan. 10/The Tortoise & The Hare**

(-3)—Jim Kurlapski, Leonard Ruble, Tom Nicholl. Tie at (-8)—James McCormack, Tom Fragapane, Thomas Norris, Bob Lang; Joe Polizzotti, Jeff Rothwell, Joe Wong, Ron Lombardo. (-9)—Don McCrimmon, Steven Rowell, Bob Lieberman, Tom Mullaly. Tie at

(-11)—Philip Shaw, Marvin DeBerry, Robert Meyer; Irl Flanagan, Mike Erickson, James Thompson, Barry Barringer. Tie at (-13)—Charlie Taylor, Roger Lukas, Philip Petrozella, Tary Bole; Anthony Morris, Howard Gluckman, David Garland, Michael Dwyer. (-14)—Ruben Alvarez, Joseph Dunnack, David Hannasch, Ron Ouellette. Tie at (-15)—Tom Fuchs, Dennis Kissen, Jim Nicholson, Paul Randles; Patrick Moran, Larry Turner, Ed Vasoli, Raymond Hendrix.

work very hard to recondition the horseshoe pits. As a result of Cliff's efforts, the five pits are now at the regulation 40-feet distance. The pegs are set within the pit area at the prescribed distances from all sides of the pit along with the proper tilt and height for the pegs.

Individuals from the club practice on Thursdays, at 10 a.m. and everyone is welcome to join those club members and see how much fun we have.

The club reminds residents that the horseshoe pits at the Veterans Park are there for everyone's use any day of the week.

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

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Tennis

Jorge Privat
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If you hit your first serve deep and into a corner, that will give you enough time to get close to the service line before the ball comes back to you. So, don't hesitate, toss the ball a bit in front of you so your follow through automatically takes you into the court to continue moving forward trying to cover your opponent's possible angles of return.

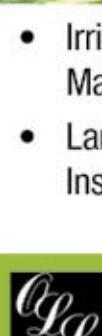
A successful transition game starts with taking advantage of the opportunity ball. Even if your baseline tactics are your forte, your ability to conduct business on the forecourt makes you a more polished and formidable player. The further you move inside the court, the greater the range of angles and options available to create offense. And a positive journey to the net starts with an intelligent approach shot.

When it comes to the approach shot, indecision is a killer. First, you need to establish a predetermined "short ball" region of the court, the green light to move forward. An area up to a few feet behind the service line is usually a good marker. That way, when you move in to hit the approach shot, you're already inside the court and closer to the net. The depth of this zone can vary depending on factors such as foot speed, aggression, and net proficiency. Whether it is by intent – drop shot, short angle or a faulty execution – when an opponent's ball lands in this space, that's an invitation to hit an approach shot and go on the attack. Recognizing the signals that a short ball is coming should prompt a spontaneous reaction to move forward and take advantage of the situation.

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Archery Club

Leslie McCormick



Mark your calendar for our open house! Are you interested in finding out about archery and our club? Join us on Thursday, Feb. 22, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (registration closes at 12:45 p.m.). Greeters will meet you at the Veterans Park pavilion where you will register first and then you will take a golf cart shuttle to the archery range. There you will be introduced to a few basic archery rules and safety procedures. Then you will be fitted with equipment, and you will be able to shoot a few arrows under the guidance of one of our archery instructors. Please wear closed-toe shoes and bring your resident ID. Think you can get a bull's eye? Come and try it out!

Over the past two months our newly elected club officers made a smooth transition of duties. We welcomed Chuck Strickland as our new president, Phyllis Shaw in her new role as vice president and Don Southard continuing as treasurer for another term. We want to thank our outgoing officers for their tremendous dedication over the past few years and look forward to seeing them relaxing at the range: Bob Papirer, Mark D'Addario and Tom Roach.

As with any organization such as ours,

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daily activities are run by volunteers who put their heart and soul into the club. In addition to our elected board positions, we have various board members who have active roles as appointed directors: range operations, safety, range events and social events. And then, of course, many thanks to our club volunteers who help these directors. April is National Volunteer Month and a time when we will fully recognize their contributions.

Congratulations to Patty Hoppe for her results at the USAA Nationals on Saturday, Jan. 6 and Sunday, Jan. 7. Patty shot at Newberry. There were two 30 arrow games each day and Patty shot her personal best with 267 and other rounds of 256+263+246 for a tournament total of 1,032. Final standings will not be available until the end of February.

We had a busy calendar in January with three club shoots. Each was at 20 yards with NFAA (blue) targets. Members also traveled on Saturday, Jan. 20, to a double Vegas round shoot at The Villages. Also on the calendar was our popular class on the compound bow. We will continue with club shoots in February and Phyllis is organizing a pizza lunch social after the open house on Thursday, Feb. 22 for current club members.

If you can't attend the open house but you are interested in becoming a member, visit 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 or 407-257-9668 or Phyllis at phyllisarchery@gmail.com or 606-384-1744. See you at the range!

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one court at a time, two players on each side and two on a team each.

The National Senior Games, over the last few years, have produced winners from our members. They include John Mataya, Paul Hodges, and Darryl Kenyon with collections of gold, silver and bronze medals.

Shuffleboard is a moderate physical activity involving fun with your teammates and opponents. So, come on over to the courts and help us keep the history going. So, now you have the history and the layout of the game plus the equipment (we have a box outside our supply room at the courts to get the feel of the game itself).

The next introduction to shuffleboard class will be Saturday, Feb. 10, at 11 a.m. at the Veterans Park. Paul Hodges is the instructor. He will highlight the rules, scoring, safety, and the basics for shooting the disc. Open-toed shoes are not permitted.

If you have any questions, please call me at 352-304-8711.

Shuffleboard

Walt Lamp



The Shuffleboard Club goes back to May 19, 1986, with initial membership of 55 residents. It was founded by Jack Huard, who was also the first vice president. Kenneth D. Colen addressed the first meeting and promised equipment assistance. They joined the Florida Shuffleboard Association and to abide by the same rules.

Shuffleboard is played on a two opposite pyramid-shaped court. With 10 on top (being the highest score) and in between seven- and eight-point boxes and on the bottom is "the kitchen" that stands for -10 points. Usually both sides play to the highest score of 75. The club supplies the sticks, discs, and score keeping materials, though some players have their own sticks. Four players in

**Ladies
Shuffleboard**

Lois Nix



supplies needed. The storage shed is for club members only. Non-club members have equipment available stored in a bin alongside the storage room.

Residents have been playing shuffleboard since it was established back in the '80s. We have been members of the Northern District of the Florida Shuffleboard Association (NDFSA) for many years. We've had many residents compete in the NDFSA tournaments; many champions live here. Paul Hodges is one! He also teaches classes. Check for his schedule on the bulletin board.

It is a game of skill and technique as well. Golf has the challenge of a hole-in-one, shuffleboard has the challenge of getting 30-plus. Honestly, getting 30-plus is much easier than a hole-in-one.

Many of our members have their own sticks, but management does supply sticks and discs for club members to use. The Shuffleboard Club and Ladies Shuffleboard Club purchase all the other

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Walking to Wellness

Walking is one of the best ways to check many of the “wellness boxes.” Walking recruits the big muscles of the lower body, which provides great exercise. When you walk outdoors, you get the mood boosting benefits from Mother Nature. If you walk with others, you all share in valuable and enjoyable social time. It is no wonder that Dr. Thomas Frieden, former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes, “Walking is the closest thing we have to a wonder drug.”

I recently caught up with Neil Sorensen who is a co-chairperson, along with Linda Wall, of the Active Singles Club. Neil has been a member of the club since 2017 and the Active Singles Club has been walking and hiking since its inception. Neil and Linda plan monthly hikes for the 300-member club. The walks are on pavement and the hikes are “off road” in local parks and forests.

Neil shared, "Club members normally get approximately 8,000 steps often with the additional cardiovascular challenge of varying elevations. We get to share fellowship and lively conversation while enjoying the beauty and serenity of many local parks and live oak forests. Some favorite hikes are on the local portions of the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway. We have recently seen deer, migratory birds and a geo-cache."

For more information on the Active Singles Club, visit otowactivesingles.com or email otowactivesingles@gmail.com.

The fitness team at On Top of the World recently led a "Wellness Walk" in beautiful Sholom Park. The group was given some guidance on posture, gait mechanics and fall risk reduction techniques. Then everyone set out to conquer the Prairie Trail together. Here are some posture, gait and balance tips that were shared with the group prior to the walk: stand tall and align your joints; head over shoulders, shoulders over hips; and knees over ankles. This promotes good posture and helps to manage your center of gravity.

Use a “heel – ball – toe” gait technique when walking. Advancing leg should be straight, then strike the ground with your heel and roll through the ball of your foot. This recruits the muscles of the ankle and helps to keep it strong and mobile.

Use a purposeful arm swing in op-



Active Singles Club enjoying one of their monthly hikes.

Poms Cheer & Dance



Pamela Kalamaras

Hello and welcome to our new dance and cheer squad – Poms Dance and Cheer. We are brand new, and we call ourselves the “pommies.” We are a small, committed group who loves dancing and cheering using pom-poms. We practice every week, sometimes twice a week, to music involving unison dancing with formations, some cheer basic arm and leg stances and motions, kicks, turns, and lots of movement. We also have the opportunity to perform at functions throughout the community. Our team uses high cardio fitness, and our dedicated members work very hard, all contributing with their hidden talents. At the time of this writing, the pommies will have performed at the annual Health & Wellness Expo. Thank you to all who have supported us. We have very few openings, but if you are interested, please email pammykal@aol.com. Go pommies!

FEBRUARY 2024 FITNESS

RECREATION FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	SPARC MAUREEN	STRONG DENISE	Remix Bootcamp CARRO	STRONG BETSY	SPARC CARRO
8:00 am Recreation Ballroom	Zumba® Gold-Toning AMY				Dance Aerobics DENISE B.
9:00 am	S.O.S. TRISH	Stretch, Flex & Balance CARRO	S.O.S. KITTI	Dance Aerobics CARRO	S.O.S. TRISH
9:00 am Recreation Ballroom			BEAT LORI		
10:00 am	Balanced Body LARRY	Chair Yoga KATHY	Balanced Body KITTI	Chair Yoga KATHY	Balanced Body TRISH
10:00 am Recreation Ballroom	Chair Yoga SANDRA		Chair Yoga CARRO		
11:00 am	Chair Dance LORI	Brain Power SP TEAM	Get Fit While You Sit JOE	Move to Improve Parkinson's SUE	Get Fit While You Sit KITTI
11:00 am Recreation Ballroom	Zumba® Gold JOSIE		Zumba® Gold KITTI		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 DANIE	
5:00 pm		Hatha Yoga KATHY		Yoga SANDRA	

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

*Fitness Orientations 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 MAUREEN	Intermediate/Advanced Tai Chi ART	Kardio Kickboxing MAUREEN	
9:00 am	Yoga SANDRA	Pilates Fusion GIB	Yoga JOE	Pilates Fusion MAUREEN	Yin Yoga HELENIC
10:00 am	STRONG MAUREEN	Yoga SANDRA	STRONG GIB	Yoga LORI	STRONG JOE
11:00 am	Roll & Recover MAUREEN		Yoga TRISH		Stretch, Flex & Balance DENISE 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. 7638

ARBOR FITNESS CENTER INDOOR POOL

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

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

**Fee-based class. For pool inquiries, please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7639.

position to the advancing leg. Elbows should be at a 90-degree angle and try to maintain a synchronous movement with arms and legs.

HANDICAP EQUIPMENT

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



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The advertisement features a large, stylized lightning bolt graphic in the center. To the left, the text "75 YEARS IN BUSINESS" is displayed in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Below this, the company name "Lenhart" is written in a large, blue, lowercase sans-serif font, with a yellow lightning bolt graphic integrated into the letter "n". Underneath "Lenhart" is the word "ELECTRIC" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. To the left of the main text is a circular logo for "Best of the Best" featuring a stylized flame and the words "style" and "WINNER". Below the main text, there is a small image of a white van with "Best Electrician" and "Lenhart Electric" branding. To the right, a large white Generac generator unit is shown. A red starburst graphic in the top right corner contains the text "\$100 OFF GENERATOR INSTALLS" and "Valid through Feb. 29, 2024". At the bottom, the text "WHOLE HOME GENERATORS" is written in large, bold, yellow letters. The background is a vibrant orange and yellow gradient with radiating lines.

New Circle Squares

Michele Vieira



round dance cuer.

Round dance is cued ballroom style dancing. Steps include waltz, two step, cha cha, rumba, jive, mambo, tango, west coast swing and many more.

Pauline had the dancers floating across the floor. Pauline comes from Alabama and performs at clubs and festivals across the United States.

The New Circle Squares next special is Saturday, May 18, at the Recreation Center Ballroom. Feel free to visit. The guest caller will be Scott Bennett, from Lawton, Oklahoma. The round dance cuer, Susan Snider, is from Jacksonville, Florida.

Resident square dance caller, Dave Vieira (squaredance4u.com) is available for club introductions or square dance parties. Keep an eye out for more lessons starting in the future. If anyone is interested in learning how to call square dances, calling lessons are on Wednesdays, at noon in the Arbor Conference Center Music Room. For additional information visit ocalaareasquaredancing.com.

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Line Dancing**Tamara Stanford**

On Top of the World line dancing offers many opportunities to learn new dances. On Mondays, Instructor Darlene Miller teaches new dances and reviews older dances. On Wednesdays, each class, Absolute Beginner, Beginner I, and Beyond Beginner, has a one hour practice session. The dances practiced are mainly those taught since September, the start of the dance year. Classic dances, those taught more than one year ago, are included as well. Not every

dance becomes a classic because there are many new dances taught every year. There are popular dances that are taught to new students and reviewed regularly. Classic dances are also included on the Thursday evening line dances at The Town Square.

There are also dance workshops. One of the purposes for a workshop is to prepare for an upcoming event, such as the monthly dances held on Saturday evenings. Beginner I and Beyond Beginner conduct workshops prior to dance practice on Wednesdays. There is also a Friday workshop that is open to all line dancers. The workshops include opportunities for dancers to request a review of a specific dance. The Friday workshop takes requests from 9:30 to 10 a.m.

From 10 to 11 a.m. the class follows the agenda.

The next all-level dance party is the Lad & Lassie Social on Saturday, Feb. 17, in the Recreation Center Ballroom from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The theme is "let's all dance and let's all smile" and the music will be songs about dancing.

The social will be held a few days after Valentine's Day, but we can still celebrate by wearing pink and red. Dressing with a theme in mind is just for fun and always optional.

Contact Darlene Miller at 352-259-3696 should you have questions about line dancing. Visit webuse.com/otow-dance/main for more information on line dancing. See Donna Gordon should you have questions about the website.



Photo by Tamara Stanford

Friday line dance workshop practice.

Table Tennis**Athena Drewes**

This is the time of year that many make new year's resolutions to become physically fit, exercise and reduce weight. Now is a good time to join the Table Tennis Club to help meet those goals.

Did you know that aside from being fun, playing table tennis offers surprisingly great health benefits? The average person can lose 270 to 400 calories an hour while playing. Like most sports, table tennis offers great mind-body stimulation, and it is a low impact aerobic exercise. It builds gross motor, eye-hand coordination, improved concentration, reflexes, helps your cardiovascular system, increases social interaction, and improves your overall fitness level. Wow! All that while having lots of fun and making friends. Club membership dues are \$10, payable to any director when you come in to play. Applications are available on the bulletin board.

Speaking of friends, our club is now 120 members, more than double the number from last year at this time. Our January membership meeting and pizza party, along with salads and desserts from members, allowed time to make and renew friendships. Election results were shared along with upcoming club plans.

Congratulations to the 2024 board:

President Paul Stadterman and Secretary Athena Drewes, return again in their positions and Michael Lowe joins as treasurer. We whole-heartedly thank Jim Swift for his many years of service as treasurer and honor his decision to step down. His dedication to the club and stewardship of finances has made it possible to grow the club and a solid treasury to obtain necessary supplies and hold events. Thank you! We will find lots for Jim to continue helping us with as well as enjoy playing table tennis with him.

This month features our new treasurer, Michael Lowe, club director. Welcome Michael!

When did you first start to play table tennis? I started playing ping pong in the early '70s. Why do you love table

tennis? It was a good opportunity to stay out of trouble! How long have you been a club member? I have been a member since March 2021.

Where did you live before moving here, and what did you do? I worked as a service technician with AT&T in Miami from 1999 and retired in 2020. What is your favorite time: doubles, singles? I just enjoy playing, depending on how many members are present.

Any favorite tips for newcomers? Table tennis is like riding a bike. Once you learn the basics all you have to do is practice. The more you practice, the better you get.

Come play! 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.



Photo by Paul Stadterman

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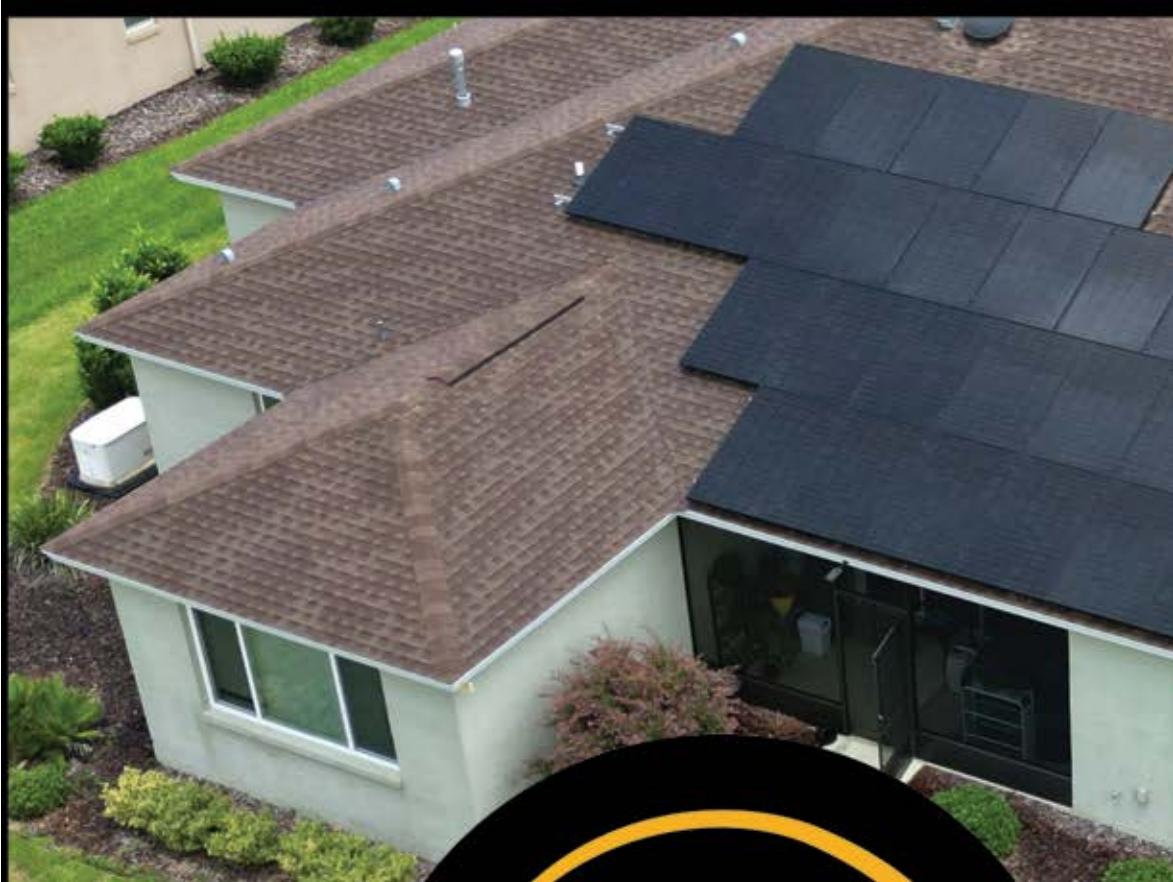
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Philippians 4:13

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Cornhole Club

Vincent Stevens



creasingly popular. All attendees at this session agreed that it's definitely not as easy as it may look on ESPN.

OPEN PLAY: Open play sessions, made possible with the generous assistance of our volunteer hosts Marie Reape, Bill Reape, and George Gross, continue with full house sessions on most occasions.

Open play periods are scheduled at 4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays throughout February, although we continue to assign player positions and begin play with the arrival of the first 20 players. Most club members tend to arrive at the cornhole courts prior to 3:30 p.m. as play may start earlier. Players arriving after play has started may have a short wait for an open lane, but wait time is always short, and often non-existent. Residents who have played cornhole at picnics, the beach, or backyards, and are familiar with rules, scoring, and protocols, may join us at any open play session (Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons). A fun-filled time is virtually guaranteed, and membership in our club is the best bang for the buck.



Photo by Vince Stevens

The first month of the year was eventful and somewhat exciting for the club. We started off the year with the introduction of new, double-sided bags, which hopefully will boost everyone's performance a bit, and make the competitions more exciting.

INTRODUCTION TO CORNHOLE: Our Introduction to Cornhole classes resumed in January after a two-month holiday hiatus. The session was once again conducted by our resident cornholeologist, Bill Ballweg, who never fails to provide attendees with an informative and entertaining hour consisting of approximately 30 minutes of instruction and 30 minutes of practice time. These sessions are specifically designed to provide attendees with a basic knowledge of the sport, and some tips, techniques, and strategies that make this activity in-

Full house plus six.

LEAGUE PLAY: Mixed league activity wrapped up at year's end with the Hokies' (Bruce Combs and Bill Ballweg) taking the top spot with a season record of only one loss. The Old Pokes (Bill and Brenda Andrews) finished close behind with a three-way tie for third place. The Gold Star of the season's mixed league activities goes to Rick DeRoven who

stepped in as the mixed league facilitator managing the season. We are planning on a spring season beginning later in the year.

The Ladies Golf Association will resume open play sessions on Feb. 6, meeting on Tuesdays at 3 p.m. throughout the season. League competitions will begin on the same date, at 4 p.m.

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Photo by Bryan Tully

Steve Pennell and John Herman.

Elite Men's Softball

Bryan Tully

When the Elite Men's Softball Club was formed last summer, the emphasis was squarely placed upon assembling a roster with the skill set to allow us to compete in the iconic Sun & Fun Tri County Senior Softball League. We had to quickly put together a known quantity of players with the talent and mindset that would prevent us from getting spanked by the well-established teams we would be up against.

As of this writing, we are tied for second place in the six-team Division 1. Every member of the team has contributed to our early success, not the least being two who not only were not part of the original roster but were also totally unknown to us.

John Herman came to us by way of Pennsylvania and the United States Navy. As a career officer, he traveled the world on different deployments before retiring and coming to Florida. After deciding he wanted to play ball again, he went out for the former national league.

In the middle of a three-week evaluation period, he and his wife, Teresa, happened to attend the September Club Fair and ran across the Elite Men's Softball Club booth, which was being manned at the time by members and twin brothers Randy and Ron Zalis.

John expressed interest in the new club and was invited to our open practices. He did so and made an immediate impression on our existing members; it was obvious to all that he would be an asset. He joined the team and besides holding down the hot corner at third base, he is currently behind only Andy Cheyne in home runs.

In our benchmark win against league leader Stonecrest, John led the way by belting three. With Andy, John, and Chuck King in the lineup, it's almost expected that a few balls are going to be flying out of the yard. John is also emerging as a team leader in more than just stats and it's a privilege to have him on the team.

Kentuckian Steve "Slingshot" Pennell originally was also trying to hook on with one of the other softball clubs. After his three-week evaluation period, it was determined that his work schedule conflicted with the league schedule a tad too often and he was informed that it wouldn't be a good fit.

Shortly thereafter, Steve was driving his golf cart past the field during one of our practices and he simply pulled up and asked if he could shag some fly balls. And again, since all Elite Men's Softball Club practices are open, he grabbed his glove and then unknowingly went through a 20-minute evaluation in which it was readily apparent that, like John, he had "the right stuff." His play in the infield and the outfield has been stellar; he has been an excellent addition to the team, and we are grateful he happened to be driving by that day.

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Photo by Bryan Tully

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Billiards Club

Phil Panzera



Our final competitive event in 2023 was the Winter Medley tournament, a fun combination of eight-ball and nine-ball. We had a full complement of 32 players, including a good number of ladies (about a sixth of the field).

When the smoke cleared, John Marcinek captured top honors, going through the event undefeated. He had a tough final with Ralph Szelenyi, and it came down to the very last ball. Ralph took a well-deserved second place.

Tom Marcotte won several matches to reach the semi-finals, but then had to forfeit to leave for an appointment. Tom still took home the third-place trophy. Pat Murphy had another strong tournament and finished in fourth place.

Our main club league has started again and will run through mid-April. If you missed the sign-up for this league, you could still join as a substitute. If you haven't played in our league before, it is a good way to see what the league is about, make new friends, enjoy the thrill of competition, and have some fun.

TIPT OF THE MONTH: How should you deal with sharking behavior? Regular players fall prey to many little unscrupulous tricks that increase your chance of missing. Some of these are deliberate, some not, but either way you must know

Co-Ed Recreational Softball

Pat Wilbert



Another year gone, a new year upon us and a chance to take on a new adventure.

Come join us on Saturdays, at 9:15 a.m. for some fun, exercise, and meeting new friends on the field. Everyone gets to play and don't worry if you don't have a glove or bat. We have extra equipment available until you decide you want to join us permanently. Then if you need help in purchasing a glove or bat, should you want to, there are several players who are willing to help and advise.

This past month, several new people are playing. Congratulations to Craig

Top Pickleball Club

Steve Carr



If you are a new resident and/or are looking for a fun and exciting activity to keep you in shape and be socially active ... look no further than pickleball.

The game of pickleball has quickly gained popularity as a fun and accessible sport for people of all ages.

Here are some reasons to consider trying pickleball ...

- It is easy to learn, and our club has exceptional volunteers who are driven to help new players learn how to play from day one.
- It is a wonderful way to meet new friends and enjoy a sense of community as the players always have fun activities and club activities and meetings.
- Playing pickleball is a great way to stay active and improve your fitness level, as it is a low impact sport.
- The cost of entry is very low. We will even loan you a paddle until you know which one you like.
- The volunteer training coaches at the Top Pickleball Club are very helpful and can take a new, unskilled player and turn them into a good player in a relatively short period of time.

So, if you are a current resident reading this and your interest is sparked, make your way to the pickleball courts adjacent to the Recreation Center Monday through Saturday, from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.

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how to deal with them.

Recognize the guy who always seems to be wiping his cue or cleaning his glasses or scratching his head, while in your line of sight when shooting. Your response is simple: just stand up. There's no need to be confrontational, as often the person may be unaware that they are seriously violating pool etiquette. I just look at them calmly and convey that I'm not shooting until they stop moving.

The same goes for talking. In serious games or money matches you can hear a pin drop. Talking can very easily be deliberate sharking, if it is done to break the shooter's concentration, or interfere with his or her shooting routine. The solution is the same - just don't shoot until the talking has stopped, and you can give your full concentration to the mechanics of making the shot.

There are also the "not so low" talkers, talking to others while you are down on the shot. This is both rude and unsportsmanlike. Unconsciously you try and follow their words, which breaks your concentration, and you are far more likely to miss. The solution? Yup, you're getting it now... stand up, continue focusing on your shot plan, and wait for the talking to stop. If it doesn't, I just turn and look at the impolite talker (or deliberate shark?) until the talking stops.

The flip side of this is don't be "that guy." Be aware of your behavior. Respect your opponent. Win with your skill, not with deceit. Play with honor and character, and you'll feel better about yourself, and be respected for the sportsperson you are.

Fox and Mike Bianchino who managed to hit several homeruns each game or two.

We really look forward to meeting some new ladies to the game and are always looking for some extra players on Saturdays. We welcome everyone to have fun with us.

If you are interested in participating in Co-Ed Recreational Softball or finding out more about it, please come to the softball field on Saturday. The game begins at 9:30 a.m., with warm-up at 9:15 a.m. Please arrive a little earlier to meet the other players and warm up before going out in the field.

Just remember, you may swing and miss, but the love of the game shall stay the same.



Photo by Phil Panzera

2023 Winter Medley champs: Ralph Szelenyi, John Marcinek, Pat Murphy and Tom Marcotte (not shown).

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R/C Sailing Club

Gene Mangold



In Ocala's Tuscawilla Park, the breeze from a grove of palm trees gently kisses the faces of its seated seniors racing R/C sailboats. Shouts of joy can be heard as a fleet of 10 one-meter sailboats round racing marks in the blue-green waters.

Gene has gracefully embraced the golden years of his life. Like many others his age, Gene has found solace in activities that bring joy and camaraderie. He has reveled in the thrill of driving R/C cars on a crowded racetrack and flying his R/C airplanes at the flying field.

As the years passed, Gene began searching for a pastime to provide the open-air freedom he cherished. That's when he discovered the world of one-meter R/C sailboats. These miniature vessels promised a unique blend of competition, relaxation, and camaraderie.

Years ago, Gene purchased a new

R/C Car Club

John Schoenherr



Setting up the radio transmitter is an important part of remote-control car racing. Proper settings on the transmitter can make the difference between winning a race or not. Many of the R/C Car Club drivers use the Spectrum DX5C transmitter, \$170 with receiver. This unit has 18 settings. Let's take a closer look at five of these settings.

Travel is used to set the end points of the steering and throttle. The value range is zero to 150. To set "travel" for steering, increase the value setting and observe the front tires, they will move for each adjustment. When the tires stop moving you have reached the maximum radius your servo can turn the tires. To avoid binding the servo back off the setting a couple of clicks. The same procedure works for the throttle. If the throttle value is set at the maximum of 150 the car will have more speed.

Sub-trim will adjust the servo movement left or right. If your car does not drive in a straight line, use "sub-trim"

to center the servo until your car drives straight.

Speed slows the response time of steering and throttle. This is also referred to as setting the sensitivity of these functions. If you have difficulty keeping the car straight when turning, reduce the "speed" steering setting. You are trying to match your response time to the signal sent to your car. Likewise, if your car swerves when you punch the throttle, try reducing the throttle speed setting.

Exponential (expo) affects the response rate of steering, throttle, and brake. The default value is zero, which creates the fastest response rate between your transmitter and the car. Increasing the value will slow down the response rate. For example, when you punch the car off the line and it veers right or left, you may be giving the car too much throttle too soon. You can try to slow down your pull on the trigger to delay this response or you can increase the "expo" value for throttle and let the transmitter, ESC and servo are all synchronized.

It is good practice to record your settings and date when each setting is changed. Also record the resulting performance change in your car. Try to



Photo by Toni Jaeschke

Start by Toni.

sense of liberation.

For a mere \$400, he had invested in a hobby and a lifelong companion that has carried him through the winds of time, providing a perfect blend of competition, relaxation, and the joy of re-

membering his time on the open sea.

Races are every Wednesday and Sunday at noon for two hours. Please call or text Gene at 772-678-5101 or Bernie at 816-678-3817 with any questions.

make one setting change at a time.

The last setting that you should be aware of is "calibrate" which is found in the settings menu. Whenever you change the steering, throttle, or brake settings you should re-calibrate your transmitter. This makes sure that the transmitter, ESC and servo are all synchronized.

The R/C Car Club meets the first Monday of the month at 10:30 a.m. in the

Hobby Building Event Room. For more information, contact John Schoenherr at 608-477-3420.

December 2023

MudBoss-Paul Beyer. Truggy-Ken Berry. Pan car-Phil Paquette. Traxxas-Steve Yamamoto. Touring on road-Bob Herbst. Touring 17.5-Tony Severino. Limited touring 17.5-Bob Herbst. Two-wheel truck-Bob Herbst. Four-wheel truck-Ken Berry. Two-wheel buggy-Ken Berry. Four-wheel buggy-Ken Berry.

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Transportation	48 one-way trips annually to clinical and pharmacy and grocery locations	No
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Prescription Drug Benefits	Standard Retail	Standard Retail
Preferred Generic Drug Copay (One month supply)	\$0	\$0
Generic Drug Copay (One month supply)	\$0	\$5
Preferred Brand Drug Copay (One month supply)	\$35	\$45
Moffit Cancer Center	Yes	No
The Villages Health	Yes	Yes
Shands Hospital / UF Health	Yes	Yes

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

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Sculptor, Artist, Writer, & Humanitarian

By Ray Cech
World News Writer

Jeffrey Ashi Olshan — sculptor, artist, writer, and humanitarian. It is difficult at times to define a person, particularly when their talents and accomplishments are so far reaching.

Ashi and his wife, Sheri, now reside in Windsor and spend their time enjoying all that On Top of the World has to offer. Ashi also continues to pursue his humanitarian goals through his art of sculpting.

A native of New York, Ashi graduated with honors from the High School of Art and Design and from Queens College. In the early '70s he was a freelance toy designer/sculptor and on staff with Ideal Toys. In 1976, he left the Big Apple for Woodstock, New York, but in 1986, he made the long-haul to Sonoma County, California. Utilizing his design talents, he founded True Construction Company — from design to build-out. But sculpting was always his passion, and his specialty was sculpting live models. "By working from life, I was able to capture a good likeness of my subjects, but also their essence and spirit. When the piece was finished, I would enjoy watching the model's reaction, often exclaiming with delight, 'Hey, that's me.'"

In 1980, using photographs and his memory, Ashi sculpted a 3/4 life-size bust of John Lennon. When the piece was completed, he saw not only Lennon's face in the work — but realized that John and Yoko Ono looked very

much alike, particularly when wearing their wire-rimmed glasses. He called the sculptured work, "The Spirit of John 'Ono' Lennon." Ashi offered the bronze piece to the curators of the John Lennon memorial, Strawberry Fields, in Central Park. Unfortunately, they demurred due to maintenance issues.

"How can I help humanity?" Maybe not quite an epiphany, but a question that has embodied Ashi's spirit since his very first sculptured pieces back in 1971. To that query, he has responded with his talent as a sculptor and writer. His first major work of art that champions that spirit is a life-sized sculpture, "Feed the People." It is of Nobel Peace Prize nominee, Chef Jose Andres, founder of World Central Kitchen. He sits on a bench in front of the Olshan home in Windsor — drive by and say, "hi."

Ashi's most current humanitarian work is a two-foot-tall sculpture, "Compassion." All Ashi's works can be seen at AshiArts.us.

Taking the idea to use art to help heal humanity, Ashi invites readers to visit ArtFeeds.us. It is designed to inspire artists to share their art to help feed the hungry. The site will also give you the opportunity to get involved. And as an incentive to join others in helping to feed-the-people, Ashi has committed to contributing a work of his sculptured art to those donating to philanthropic organizations helping to feed the people.



Photo by Ray Cech

Jeffrey Ashi Olshan in his studio.



Photo by Lennie Rodoff

"Another Opening, Another Show" will hit the stage on Friday, Feb. 2, Saturday, Feb. 3, and Sunday, Feb. 4 in the Recreation Center Ballroom.

Enjoy the Show

By Nancy Grabowski

Finally! It's February and The New Pretenders are so ready to entertain you on Friday, Feb. 2 and Saturday, Feb. 3, at 7 p.m., and a final performance on Sunday, Feb. 4, at 2 p.m. We have decorated the Recreation Center Ballroom to welcome you. Our ushers, headed by Jeanne Wise, are ready to escort you to your seats.

We have a bit of a pre-show planned which will begin about 10 minutes ahead of the scheduled start time. We will introduce our band director Fran Allen and director-emeritus Joe Furfaro for a number. The New Pretenders band, naturally, will provide the instrumental back-up to this arrangement. You won't want to miss this one!

"Another Opening, Another Show" will highlight our versatility as we engage our audience with song, dance, comedy, and a little bit more. We showcase various acts who might be auditioning for other entertainment venues. These virtual venues could be looking for the next big stars. We encourage you to sing along, tap your toes ... and applaud our efforts which inspires us to climb new heights! Recognizing standout individual accomplishments, particularly with the various instruments, is what we hope you'll add to the mix.

During January our sales were stupendous. We couldn't be more honored by the continued support you offer. This enables us to support local Marion County charities with the funds that remain after our bills have been met. Thank you!

We are continually on the lookout for new talent to join our ranks. If you are interested in finding out more about us, contact any current member or Nancy Grabowski at 352-209-4699.



Cards presented by Mary Kay Ripp.

Stamp It

By Linda Lohr

On Thursday, Jan. 4, Mary Kay Ripp presented several unique cards, highlighting the use of a Cricut machine. She offered a tunnel, shutter, and another versatile card — they were all done as Valentine's Day cards but would very easily be restructured for any occasion.

Rubber Stamp Greeting Cards thank Mary Kay for providing the Cricut as well as many stamps and papers to complete all the cards.

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 Thursdays of the month at 1 p.m. in 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.

Our next class is Thursday, Feb. 1. Until then, keep on stampin'!

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 above), the Recreation & Wellness Connections catalog, 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

Tropic Trivia Night*

Trivia takes place the first Thursday of every month. Sign-up for March through July trivia will begin in February. The cost is \$5 per resident and \$7 per guest attending with a resident.

January

1: Eight is Enough. 2: LaTriviata. Tie at 3: The Gym Rats & The Mockingbirds.

Happy Hour

Join us for Happy Hour every Friday from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. A cash bar is always standing by for your beverage needs. Enjoy the music, dancing, and delicious food from The Pub. Resident IDs will be required for entry into Happy Hour and anyone not producing a resident ID will be considered a guest. Guest fees are \$5 per person. Children under the age of 15 will not be permitted into Happy Hour. Please note that no outside beverages of any kind will be allowed.

The entertainment lineup is as follows:

- Feb. 2: No Happy Hour
- Feb. 9: Dave Shepard Band
- Feb. 16: Rock Solid
- Feb. 23: Joe Beddia

Happy Hour in the Recreation Center Ballroom has changed from 5 to 8 p.m. to 4 to 7 p.m. to limit competition/overlap that may occur between the music offered at The Town Square. Thank you for your understanding as these arrangements are designed to increase the opportunity to enjoy a variety of venues on the same day.

Disney Springs*

Disney Springs in Orlando, Florida is truly an amazing place featuring an eclectic mix of unique boutiques, one-of-a-kind eateries and jaw-dropping entertainment that will have you wondering where the day went. You may wander through vibrant walkways and uncover fashionable finds inside more than 50 brand name and Disney-themed shops, boutiques and kiosks. Savor a variety of culinary delights among a collection of waterside cafes, world-class restaurants, and quick service counters. Why not join us in this fun filled trip on Wednesday, Feb. 7? Tickets are \$35 per person.

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



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	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.
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	
<i>Return to On Top of the World to begin drop-off/pick-up for the afternoon run.</i>		
AFTERNOON ROUTE	PICK-UP LOCATIONS AND TIMES	
The Lodge at Candler Hills	1:15 p.m.	Candler Hills Community Center.....1:20 p.m.
Friendship Colony Post Office	1:25 p.m.	Providence Post Office.....1:28 p.m.
Avalon Post Office	1:33 p.m.	Crescent Ridge Post Office.....1:38 p.m.
Recreation Center	1:43 p.m.	Americana Post Office.....1:49 p.m.
Friendship Post Office	1:54 p.m.	
AFTERNOON DESTINATIONS		
Friendship Center	Bravo Supermarket	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.
Publix	Big Lots	
Walmart Neighborhood Market	Bealls & Dollar Tree	
ALDI/Lowe's	Walmart	

*All times are approximate

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

guests accompanied by a resident.
Winery Trip*

We will be starting a monthly bus tour to a local winery. Our first winery tour is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 9. Destination details will be announced soon. The cost is \$35 and covers transportation. Tours, lunch, and wine not included.

Girls Night Out

Join us for Girls Night Out on Tuesday, Feb. 13, and again on Tuesday, March 12, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. This event is free to residents and \$5 for guests. Bring your own snacks and beverages. Additional dates can be found in the Recreation & Wellness Connections catalog. See you there!

Friday Day Trip*

Our monthly Friday trip will be to the Silver Springs State Park on Friday, Feb. 16. The main attraction is the glass bottom boat tour. There are walking and hiking trails and lots of wildlife to see. A stop for lunch at Sonny's BBQ will follow (on your own). The cost is \$25 per person plus park admission of \$2 and \$11 for the 1.5-hour boat tour.

Bok Tower Gardens*

Bok Tower Gardens, a national historic landmark, is a 250-acre contemplative garden and bird sanctuary located atop Iron Mountain, north of Lake Wales, Florida. Created by Edward Bok in the 1920s and formerly known as the Bok Mountain Lake Sanctuary and Singing Tower, the gardens' attractions include: the Bok Exedra, the 20 room Pinewood Estate now known as El Retiro, the Pine Ridge Trail, and the Visitor Center. It also features two hiking trails, 50 acres of gardens and the 205-foot art deco and neo-Gothic Singing Tower carillon. Join us on this unique central Florida landmark destination on Wednesday, Feb. 21, for \$64 per person. The flowers are significantly in bloom this time of year.

Victory Casino Cruise*

Join us for an afternoon of fun on Wednesday, March 6! You can enjoy 600 slot machines, bingo and a Sportsbook. Play at one of the 27 live gaming tables that include blackjack, craps, roulette, three card poker, ultimate Texas hold 'em, Let it Ride and EZ Bad. An a la carte menu is available for lunch and live music will also be available for your listening pleasure. No smoking is allowed. Government issued photo ID will be required. Tickets are \$55 per person.

Dress the PART-y Night*

Join us for live entertainment, dinner catered by Fresh Plates Creative Catering, dancing, and good times with friends on Friday, March 8 from 4 to 7 p.m. Dress the part for Latin night. Music will be performed by Tim Hargis. A taco bar is included in the \$15 per resident fee and \$20 for guests. The Pub will be open for this event. The deadline for ticket purchase is Thursday, Feb. 1, unless it is already sold out. Get your ticket today!

Cruise-in Mystery Happy Hour

Due to parking concerns, the Cruise-in Mystery Happy Hour dates have changed to Tuesdays, March 12; April 16; and May 7, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the

Recreation Center. This is a free event for residents.

Ballroom Dance Class*

Register for this month's class and learn the dance steps to a new type of dance with ballroom instructor Butch Phillips in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Classes are held every second, third and fourth Wednesday of each month from 12:30 to 2 p.m. The cost is \$30 per person for three weeks of class per month.

Line, Tap, & Broadway Dance Classes*

Going forward, tickets for all line, tap, and Broadway dance classes will go on sale the month prior to the start of class. Tickets go on sale the first Tuesday through the third Tuesday of the month. For March classes, tickets will be sold Feb. 6 through Feb. 20. No tickets for March classes will be sold after Feb. 20.

Room Booking Meeting

There will be an informational room booking meeting on Thursday, March 28, at 10 a.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. This meeting is a review for all those who wish to continue booking in 2024 and 2025. Room booking forms will be accepted at the Thursday, Aug. 15, room booking meeting.

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

The Lodge at Candler Hills

Happy Hour

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

- Saturday, Feb. 3: Ben Simmons
- Friday, Feb. 9: Robert France
- Saturday, Feb. 17: Crossfire

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

Golf Cart Safety Class*

The Colen Built Development safety team is conducting a very important golf cart safety class on Wednesday, Feb. 7, from 2 to 4 p.m. This is a free class to all Candler Hills residents. Seating is limited.

Girls Night Out

Come on girls, let's dance! Join us Thursday, Feb. 8, from 5 to 8 p.m. with entertainer Tim Hargis. Bring your own beverage, table snacks, and have some fun. This event is free for residents and a \$5 guest fee applies when accompanied by a resident.

Valentine's Day*

Show some love and bring along your sweetheart to The Lodge at Candler Hills for a romantic night of dining and dancing on Wednesday, Feb. 14, from 5 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$40 per resident and \$45 per guest accompanied by a resident. Dinner will be catered by Fresh Plates Creative Catering and the entertainment is by Sal and the Gal. You are welcome to bring your own wine or alcoholic beverage.

Kocktails & Karaoke

Sing your heart out! You'll feel right at home singing with your neighbors to cheer you on. Enjoy the fun on Thursday, Feb. 22, from 5 to 8 p.m. with entertainers Charlie and Kathy Petrosky. This event is free for residents and a \$5 guest fee applies when accompanied by a resident.

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

Indigo East Community Center

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 Thursday, Feb. 15, from 5 to 7 p.m. This is a free event for residents and \$5 per guest.

Happy Hour

Come and join us for a good time with 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:

- Feb. 2: Crystal Vision
- Feb. 9: Linda Sisco
- Feb. 16: Tim Hargis
- Feb. 23: Reese Norris

Sassy Ladies Night

Join us for two hours of dancing with your friends on Wednesday, Feb. 21, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Indigo East Community Center. Bring your own snacks and beverages. This is a free event for residents and \$5 per guest. Guest must be accompanied by a resident.

**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

'70s Party*

Come get your groove on with us for a '70s party on Friday, Feb. 9, from 5 to 8 p.m. with one of your favorite musical guests Cheryl and Bruce Jensen. Bring a dish to share and your own beverage. This event is free to residents and a \$5 per guest fee applies when accompanied by a resident.

Chili Cook-Off

Winter is here and what better way to chase away the cool weather than with some good homemade chili? Bring a crock pot of your very best chili with your own serving spoons and favorite drinks. We will supply the chili condiments. This event takes place on Sunday, Feb. 11, from 1 to 4 p.m. Rock Solid will be here for your entertainment. This is free for residents and \$5 per guest accompanied by a resident.

Valentine's Day Party*

Come spread some love! This event takes place on Wednesday, Feb. 14, from 5 to 8 p.m. with your favorite D.J. Cheryl and Bruce. Fresh Plates Creative Catering will cater the meat and everyone can bring their favorite dish to share. This event is \$8 per resident.

Ladies Night Out

Ladies do you need a night out to yourselves? Join us on Wednesday, Feb. 21, from 5 to 8 p.m. Cut loose and have some fun with your entertainment - Dave and Kenny. Bring your own beverage and snacks. This event is free to residents and \$5 per guest fee applies when accompanied by a resident.

Social Hour

Come meet new people on Sunday, Feb. 25, from 1 to 4 p.m. with musical guests Debbie Owen and Tony T. Light refreshments will be offered, and you can bring your own beverage. This event is free to residents 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, Feb. 29, from 5 to 8 p.m. Fred Campbell 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.

**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.*

CIRCLE SQUARE Commons

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Receive information about Circle Square Commons including the Farmers Market, special events, entertainment, The Ranch Fitness Center & Spa, Circle Square Cultural Center, Master the Possibilities, Mr. B's Ice Cream Shop, Sid's Coffee Shop & Deli and more!

Sign up at CircleSquareCommons.com

Artistic Crafts & Gifts

Chris Kilbride



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

Our website ArtisticCrafts.org will give you a glimpse of our very talented crafters and artisans. The group started back in the early 1990s, and the show has grown from seven crafters to over fifty 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 Diana Hanna, a Bulgarian designer and watercolor artist making waves in Florida. Hailing from the picturesque landscapes of Bulgaria, her artistic journey has been shaped by her deep love for traveling and the influence of her upbringing on the coast of the Black Sea. Together with her husband Alan, they left the beautiful but chilly climes of Maine, embarking on a new chapter.

Diana's artistic prowess is a fusion of her diverse experiences, blending over 15 years of expertise in graphic and web design with her passion for painting, and an unwavering love for sea glass. The convergence of these elements led her to the inspiration of Creative Sea Glass Journey, a unique venture that transforms forgotten sea glass pieces into intricately handcrafted gifts.

Diana's journey into our community found a perfect outlet in the Artistic Crafts & Gifts show, where she has recently made her debut. The show has become a platform for her to share her watercolor and acrylic paintings, and the story behind little sea glass art pieces she made.

Her Creative Sea Glass Journey is more than just an artistic endeavor for Diana, it's a labor of love that brings smiles and kindness into the lives of those who encounter her work. The magic lies in the way Diana breathes new life into discarded sea glass, turning what was once forgotten into cherished mementos. Her story reminds us that beauty can emerge from unexpected places,



Photo by Diana Hanna

Heartfelt messages highlight Diana Hanna's sea glass framed art.

and with a touch of creativity, we can turn forgotten fragments into enduring works of art that bring joy into our lives.

Diana just added a new Facebook page (The Daughter of the Sea) featuring her little handcrafted sea glass pieces. She welcomes customized orders, where you may submit your own special wording to fit any occasion. In the vibrant world of artistry, Diana Hanna stands out as a constant provider of creativity and inspiration.

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.

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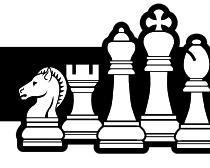
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CARDS & GAMES



Bingo

Nancy Grabowski



January kicked off the bingo season with huge crowds and much merriment! Naturally, we expect that will carry on through the entire year with your help. Come and join us every Wednesday in the Recreation Center Ballroom.

The doors open for our use once the maintenance staff has arranged the tables. We cannot enter as it would be against OSHA mandates and it's for the safety of all of us. The usual time is about 3 p.m. At that point, the bingo volunteers set up the equipment and we're ready to roll.

The 70/30 raffle tickets begin the session about 4 p.m. The tickets are sold three for \$1 or 10 for \$3. The payoff is \$20 per lucky pull which begins about 5:35 to 5:40 p.m., depending on the number of winning packets to be distributed. Often, we have lucky multiple winners!

Cards, which require no daubers or cover chips, go on sale at 4:30 p.m. Each is sold for \$1 and there is virtually no limit to how many can be purchased ... although most people choose between three and eight. You must show your resident ID card. Guests may attend with a resident and be signed in; however, there is no charge for guests. Your chair plus one more only can be saved. Please respect the volunteer signs that allow us to handle the details before, during, and after the games.

We play 20 games with an intermission between game 10 and game 11. The 10th game is a cover-all minus one, anywhere on the card, for \$75. The 20th game is a jackpot which begins at \$110 if you bingo in 51 numbers or less. It continues to grow until it is won with a monetary cap of \$250.

Refreshments are permissible or you can choose to eat at The Pub, enjoying its new menu items. No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the bingo hall per Florida law. This includes wine and beer as well as the liquor varieties. Violations of this puts the entire season in jeopardy for everyone.

We ask that safety considerations be applied: no tipping chairs, clean up spills, use the sidewalks rather than the driveways. Hope to have you join us often! For further information, contact Carl Folkers or Nancy Grabowski.

Bridge



Monday Afternoon

By Carol Johnson & Rik Saffol

Dec. 11, 2023

1: Pat & Debbie Quinn; 2: Phyllis Silverman & Steve Sekac; 3: Mar Valchin & Bruce; 4: Craig Ford & Mike Meirick.

Dec. 18, 2023

High/Low Split: Caryl Rosenberger & Barb Heller, Mar Valchin & Bruce Gillett.

Tuesday Night Duplicate

By Bob Kraus

Play begins at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays in the Arbor Activity Center Card Rooms

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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 if that's what you prefer. Contact us and we'll put you on our list. For more information, you can contact Bob Kraus at 352-492-8525.

Dec. 12, 2023

North/South

1: C.J. Daane & Carolyn Higgins; 2: Caryl Rosenberger & John Baru; 3: Dan Hall & Jeff Bell.

East/West

1: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; 2: Bob Kraus & Arlene Loepp; 3: Gary Moses & Paul Agarwal.

Dec. 19, 2023

North/South

1: Dan Hall & Jeff Bell; 2: Dan Lack & Paul Agarwal; 3: C.J. Daane & Carolyn Higgins.

East/West

1: Bob Kraus & Arlene Loepp; 2: Bill Ryan & Linda Ryan; 3: Barbara Heller & Jack Heller.

Jan. 2

North/South

1: Sophie Redman & Jean Krueger; 2: Caryl Rosenberger & Barbara Heller; 3: C.J. Daane & Carolyn Higgins.

East/West

1: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; 2: Dan Lack & Paul Agarwal; 3: Drew Brehm & Brian Lomasky.

Jan. 9

North/South

1: Brent Powell & Jean Krueger; 3: Caryl Rosenberger & Barbara Heller; 3: Dan Hall & Jeff Bell.

East/West

1: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; 2: Diane Turkin & Gary Moses; 3: Paul Agarwal & Dan Lack.

Wednesday Afternoon

By Dianne Robinson

Dec. 6, 2023

1: Debbie Quinn; 2: Bruce Gillett; 3: Bob Durst; Cons: Joan Keinath.

Dec. 13, 2023

1: Phyllis Silverman; 2: Carolyn Higgins; 3: Bev Meirick; Cons: Bruce Gillett.

Dec. 20, 2023

1: Pat Quinn; 2: Arthur Johannes; Cons: Bruce Gillett.

Dec. 27, 2023

1: Arthur Johannes; 2: Carolyn Higgins; 3: Rik Saffol; Cons: Dianne Robinson.

Thursday Afternoon

By Marlene Floeckher

Dec. 7, 2023

1: Carolyn Higgins; 2: Mary Bloch; 3: Debbie Quinn; Billie Andersen; Cons: Linda Yuen

Dec. 14, 2023

1: Debbie Quinn; 2: Rik Saffol; 3: Judy Mackowiak; Cons: Pat Quinn.

Dec. 21, 2023

1: Steve Sekac; 2: Marlene Floeckher; 3: Bruce Gillett; 4: Mike Meirick; Cons: Dianne Robinson.

Dec. 28, 2023

1: Pat Quinn; 2: Debbie Quinn; 3: Carolyn Higgins; Cons: Bruce Gillett.

Thursday Night

By Jeff & 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.

Dec. 14, 2023

1: Paul Agarwal; 2: Craig Ford; 3: Gary Schroeder; 2 prize: Al Whitford.

Dec. 21, 2023

1: Arthur Johannes; 2: Paul Agarwal; 3: Jean Krueger-Travis. 2 prize: Dianne Perry.

Jan. 4

1: Steve Sekac; 2: Mike Brody; 3: Ron Smith; 2 prize: Larry Bernier.

Jan. 11

1: Steve Sekac; 2: Betty Schaff; 3: Pam Bell 2 prize: Lulu Kerhoff.

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, Feb. 27. Registration is at 6:45 p.m.; games begin at 7 p.m. You do not have to call to register. You need only show up. You may bring a guest. The room is set up for 48 players. Please make sure you arrive on time to reserve your spot. It will be first come, first served. Always check the World News for the latest updates for our group.

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

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

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

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

Cribbage

Judy Parisi



We're pleased to see a nice increase in cribbage members. We've moved our location for 2024 to Arbor Activity Center Card Room I and play on the first and third Thursday of the month from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

We welcome new players to join us.

We're a non-competitive group of all experience levels. We help each other out, and don't do "muggings." Wins are for bragging rights only. As we enter the new year, we're hoping to see one or more of our players get that perfect hand of 29!

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

Euchre



Friday Night

By Mary Bloch

Do you like to play euchre? Email mary.bloch@yahoo.com or call 614-806-6737 for information.

Oct. 6, 2023

1: Karen Jacob; 2: Mary Bloch; 3: Robert Moravec.

Oct. 13, 2023

1: Phyllis Jarskey; 2: Jean Gillette; 3: Robert Moravec.

Oct. 20, 2023

1: Pete Jacob; 2: Phyllis Wall; 3: Edith Kolb.

Oct. 27, 2023

1: Diane Rickard; 2: Edith Kolb; Tie at 3: Nancy Kowsky & Cindy Turek.

Nov. 3, 2023

1: Mike Erickson; 2: Lawrence Remer; 3: Gary Whitacker.

Nov. 10, 2023

1: Jim Wells; 2: Bob Krause; 3: Scott Bloch.

Nov. 17, 2023

1: Mary Bloch; Tie at 2: Gary Whitacker & Jim Wells; 3: Bob Krause.

Dec. 1, 2023

1: Pete Jacob; 2: Deni Whitacker; 3: Jean Gillette.

Dec. 8, 2023

1: Judy Lynch; Tie at 2: Mary Bicknell & Phyllis Jarskey; Tie at 3: Edith Kolb & Phyllis Wall.

Dec. 15, 2023

1: Jean Gillette; 2: Lawrence Remer; Tie at 3: Phyllis Jarskey & Jim Wells.

Mah Jongg



American

By Angela Brady

This weekly game of American mah jongg is open to all eligible residents. All skill levels are welcome. While the game will not be taught during this time, players are willing to help beginners. The games begin at 1 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.

Karaoke Friends**Kathy & Charlie Petrosky**

Karaoke has been a popular form of entertainment beginning first in Japan, then the rest of East Asia, since at least the 1980s, and has since spread to other parts of the world. "Kara" Japanese for empty. "Oke" Japanese abbreviation for orchestra. "Karaoke" empty orchestra recorded music with live vocals.

The music is typically of a well-known song in which the voice of the original singer is absent or reduced in volume. Lyrics are usually also displayed, sometimes including color changes synchronized with the music, on music video to guide the sing-along. We would like to continue highlighting

our singers. Here is what Bill would like to share with you.

"My name is Bill Lomerson and I have a twin sister Sally, who currently lives in Texas. We were born in Long Beach, California, but were raised and spent much of our lives in Fort Worth, Texas. We lived at a lake and had a 40-minute commute each way to school and to see friends. This gave me a considerable chunk of time to listen to the radio and sing along to the songs. During my fraternity years at Texas Tech, I was involved in a singing group performing "serenades," whereby our fraternity would go to a sorority and serenade a brother's love interest when they were pinned or otherwise seriously committed. After graduating, I spent two years with the Peace Corps in Kenya. In the following years, I participated in a variety of business activities including consulting, oil exploration and gold mining. Later, I went back to school at the University of North Texas where I graduat-

ed with my PhD in 1992. I was a college professor of information systems until I retired in 2010. I know many of the '50s, '60s, '70s and '80s songs. I really enjoy country music and the stories they tell. I sang for several years in church choirs. Darlene and I play this game of listening to a snippet of a song and identifying both the song and the artist, which keeps me on my toes. We also listen to music and sing songs prior to going to sleep. I am hip on YouTube music and karaoke, for sure. I am involved in the Concert Chorus, as well as pickleball. Karaoke allows me to capture memories of "yestersongs" gone by as well as most of the country offerings. Most importantly, I enjoy being with a fun group of people with a like interest."

We meet in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room on the first and third Mondays from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. This month, we meet Feb. 5 and 19. We would like to have you come!

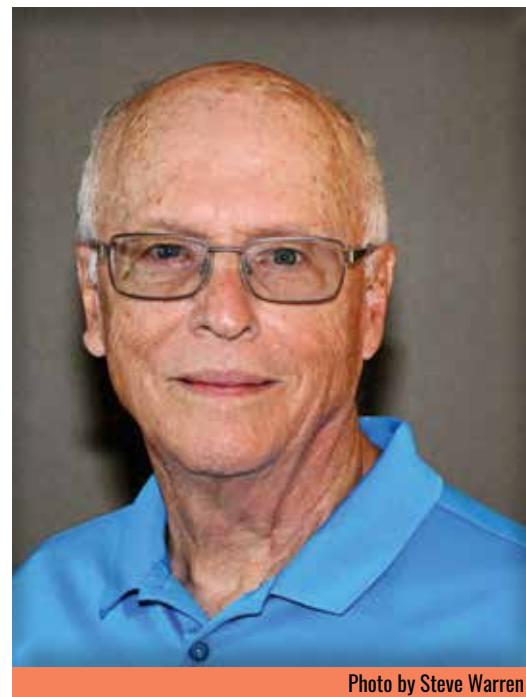


Photo by Steve Warren

Bill Lomerson.

Concert Chorus**David Wessenberg**

Wow! The chorus met Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 9 a.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Music Room and seems to have grown in numbers and excitement. We all had a chance to listen to the music planned for our April spring concert. The theme

is "Made in the USA." The music will be challenging and will sound terrific.

We began with the first of 13 rehearsals in January under the direction of Joanne Houston and Cheryl Richardson. Randy Schmid will provide technical support and Peggy Bumatay will be a supporting piano accompanist. Let the hard work and fun begin.

We have a great group of singers, many of whom will be new members. Some of our numbers are from past choruses. And of course, some faces will be

sorely missed. But the Concert Chorus has a wonderful collection of voices be they soprano, alto, tenor, or bass.

Now is the time to join us before February to prepare for the spring concert. 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. Our dues are \$15 per season. If you plan to join us, contact Mary Ann Majni

at flmam68@aol.com for further information.

As for our wonderful audiences, you will be in for a treat when you attend our performance of "Made in the USA" on Saturday, April 6, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 7, at 3 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom.

The Concert Chorus is open to all residents. Please be sure to bring your resident ID or Gateway of Services pass to every rehearsal.

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Photos by Cynthis Scholl

Concert Chorus Co-directors Joanne Houston and Cheryl Richardson..

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ShutterBugs Photography

Connie Filip



ShutterBugs are proud to present our blue-ribbon winner in the still life category from the photo contest at the end of 2023.

Kim Rothwell found her winner at the World Equestrian Center while touring the area with another ShutterBug and a friend. "We were leaving and walked through the lobby of Arena 1. I spotted metal sculptures of horses and had to stop and look. They were sculpted by Karen Adamek and were quite amazing. She had done the metal horse sculptures that are displayed around the main arena. I took the photo of the horse's head that was displayed on a stand."

When I brought the photo up on my monitor at home, the background was bright and white. I used Photoshop Elements 2022 to replace the background with something more appealing.

Paradise Players

Liz Elliott Lieberman



As the new year began, the Paradise Players continued to rehearse their original play, "The Platinum Girls' Las Vegas Adventure." They will be encountering all sorts of hilarious situations on their way to the Entertainment Capital of the World, not the least of which will be the actual getting there and surviving the rigors of airport security.

The indomitable three friends, a feisty Ma, and you, the audience will all experience some fabulous sets, costumes and comedy, great singing and dancing, and who knows what Las Vegas legendary performers will make an appearance?

Keep May 4 and 5 marked in your calendar as the dates of our next performances at the Recreation Center. There will be more information regarding ticket sales in next month's issue of the World News.

Now for some theatrical terms for your erudition. Just in case you were wondering!

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ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala

It was a pleasant surprise to see a blue ribbon on my photo during the 2023 ShutterBugs' photo contest. I've been in the ShutterBugs Photography Club for a couple of years and have enjoyed the other members as we share a common interest. I've also enjoyed the great field trips we take to use our cameras."

Many of our blue-ribbon winners, along with Kim's, will be on display for the month of February in the lobby of Master the Possibilities. Stop in and take a look!

If you missed seeing our photo display, you can still view all our entries at otowspc.com.

Want to learn more about digital? ShutterBugs president, Harry Boyajian continues to facilitate our sharing of photography tips to improve our skills in camera use and editing.

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

"You don't take a photograph, you make it." – Ansel Adams

- In is down. Down is front.
- Out is up. Up is back.
- Off is out. On is in.
- Right is left. Left is right.
- A drop shouldn't and a block and fall does neither. A prop doesn't. And a cove has no water.
- Tripping is okay.
- A running crew rarely gets anywhere.
- A purchase line will buy you nothing.
- A trap will not catch anything.
- Strike is work (in fact, lots of work).
- A green room, thankfully, usually isn't.

Now that you're fully versed in theatrical terms, "break a leg" – but not really!

For more information, please contact Lee Smith at 913-539-5520 or otowparadiseplayers@gmail.com.



Photo by ShutterBug Kim Rothwell

Metal horse sculpture.

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January donations to Hospice of Marion County.

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Happy Hookers

Jan Spielvogel



Happy Hookers had their first meeting of the year on Monday, Jan. 8. We were glad to get back together and enjoy our group fellowship and see what everyone is or had been working on. We also had a large amount of donated yarn to go through and use for new projects. Speaking of yarn, since October 2023, we have sent 52 afghans and 12 shawls to Hospice of Marion County. Since Hospice has approximately 500 patients in their care, these items are welcomed and needed.

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

penalties for missing a meeting, arriving late or leaving early. Life can and does interfere at times, and we would hate for that to hold you back. What we do have is a group of ladies busy with crocheting, knitting, needlepointing, card crafting, 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 at 917-597-2178 or Kathleen Frost at 925-960-5945 to arrange for pickup.

Art Group

Freda Klump



Members of the Art Group were privileged to show their creative works throughout January in the Master the Possibilities lobby. More than 30 works were displayed by different artists in various mediums - China painting, acrylic, oil, pastel and Prismacolor pencils. If you missed it, the Art Group will display their art again during the entire month of February at the Freedom Branch Library (5870 SW 95th Street, Ocala, Florida 34476). It will be worth your effort to visit.

Recently, one of our artists, Pat Mc-

Nulty, took first place in competition for her work in China painting. Cindy Kolodinsky, one of our newest members, works in Prismacolor pencils. Her efforts have resulted in a beautiful purple flower arrangement. We have many talented people in the Art Group, but the greatest reward of all is the personal satisfaction that we receive through our efforts.

We welcome and challenge you to come join us. There are no fees or attendance records. Just bring your work and supplies and have fun with us in the Hobby Building Art Room on Wednesdays, from 1 to 4 p.m. and both Thursdays and Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to noon. If you have any questions about the Art Group, you can contact me, Freda Klump, director, at 615-336-6863 or fredaklump@gmail.com.



Photo by Freda Klump

Art Group work on display.

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The Sewing Bees celebrating the holidays at a luncheon at Stone Creek Grille.

Photo by Ann Gallo

Sewing Bees

Ann Gallo



What an amazing 2023 the Sewing Bees had. In 2023, we became a 501(c)(3). We made and/or distributed 839 afghans, 98 doll blankets, 565 totes, 562 pillow friends, 48 Beanie Babies, 22 toys, 102 burp pads, 95 stuffed stockings, 822 pieces of children's clothing, 280 books, 32 toiletries and 126 pillows and cases. These items were distributed to 12 agencies throughout Marion County that serve disadvantaged children.

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 these children. Without you, we would never have been able to accomplish this.

Thank you to all who have donated to our group. The fabrics, threads and

Crafters Anonymous

Connie Harrington



The crafting community came alive with colors, textures, and a sense of camaraderie at the recent Crafters Anonymous Club meeting held in the Hobby Building Art Room on Tuesday, Jan. 9. Craft enthusiasts from all walks of life convened for an afternoon of creative expression, skill sharing, and the joy of making something beautiful with their own hands.

Crafters Anonymous, formerly known as Polymer Claymates, is a local initiative started by passionate crafters and has been growing steadily in popularity. Its latest meeting, our first for the 2024

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Original Theatre Group

Richard Rosen



While at this writing, the Original Theatre Group has cast its musical theater revue, "Two for One"; we are still welcoming in new cast members for choral roles through the end of February. We are always on the lookout for positive, energetic, unselfish, and reliable people to join our wonderful ensemble.

"Two For One" will be performed Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28, and is divided into two acts. Act one will present some of the great musical numbers from composer Richard Rodgers' collaborations with Lorenz Hart and Oscar Hammerstein. Act two is a tribute to Broadway's "Jukebox Musical." Excerpts from "Motown," "Beautiful" featuring the music of Carole King, ABBA's "Mamma Mia," and our grand finale, "Swing," where the Original Theatre Group will pay tribute to the great popular music of the '30s and '40s.

We are also on the lookout for both experienced and novice swing dancers as well!

We rehearse mainly on Mondays and Thursdays, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in various locations in the Arbor Conference Center. For further information, contact Richard at upstage111@yahoo.com.

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www.friendshipbaptistocalafl.org

Radio Program Twice Daily on Weekdays
Approx. Times: 12:20-12:30 pm & 7 pm
WTYG 107.1 FM / 91.5 FM



Some of the diaper bags donated to Alpha Center for Women by the Sunshine Quilters Guild.

Photo by Teri Penichet

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Sunshine Quilters Guild

Teri Penichet



The Sunshine Quilters Guild supports several local charities, one of which is the Alpha Center for Women in Ocala. For those unfamiliar with it, the Alpha Center for Women is a local nonprofit resource center that provides counseling and assistance for women (and men) experiencing unplanned pregnancies. The services they offer are free and con-

fidential.

During the year, members of the Sunshine Quilters Guild work on various projects to donate to the Alpha Center for Women. These have included numerous baby quilts, many burp pads, and most recently, diaper bags. Under the guidance of Donna Boyajian, with assistance from Sparrow Karcheski, the members of Sunshine Quilters Guild completed more than 20 diaper bags, which were donated to the Alpha Center for Women in December 2023. We were very pleased to be able to provide an essential every mother/parent needs!

Fun with Golf Carts

Susan Pulling Robinson



The holidays are over, and Santa has gone fishing, but the Fun with Golf Carts Club never rests. On Saturday, Dec. 30, 2023, intrepid club members braved 40-degree weather to entertain residents one last time in 2023.

The Valentine's Day parade will take place on Saturday, Feb. 10. Grab your sweetheart and join the fun!

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

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.



Photo by George Ostrom

Gone fishing cart owned and decorated by Shelley and Ina Kline.

LOSE FOR LIFE

Tuesdays @ 1 PM
February 6, 2024 – March 12, 2024
Recreation Fitness Center
Registration Required - \$20

A comprehensive, 12-week course to help you lose those extra pounds for life! This weight loss support group meets weekly to address topics such as; nutrition, exercise and sustainable lifestyle change. 'Lose for Life' was designed to provide you with the information and tools you need to successfully lose weight and/or maintain a healthy weight.

It is well documented that support groups can help you to stay motivated, accountable and on track to achieve your goal!

 Recreation Center

Register at the Recreation Fitness Center.
For more information, please call 352-387-7532

Poetry

Barbara A. Scales



Poetry

Linda Toner



Love of Ages

Embers burn at night
Perhaps not quite as bright
As when the sun did shine
Once when you were mine.

But deep down within
Holds the spark your heart did win
And tender kept in there
When you were young and fair.

Now we face tomorrow
Etched by pain and long gone sorrows
Of love felt in past
Recent passion we have fast.

Blow the wind of years
Tame tendered tears and tilled fears
Kindle fires below
To let those embers glow.

Flame the passion heat
Love is not mere treat
But a treasure safe locked in chest
And cherished tight to breast.

View from
the Library

Mary Lamp



In this review of "Their Eyes Were Watching God" by Zora Neale Hurston, I want to introduce you to Janie Mae Crawford and her life as told in this novel written in 1937. The author was born in Alabama in 1891 and graduated from Barnard College. Her field of study was cultural anthropology and involved field trips to study Black folklore. During her lifetime, she published four novels and two books of folklore among additional works. She became a key contributor to the Black Renaissance in Harlem, its symbolic capital. This book is a novel in that it's a story of peoples' lives but it is drawn from actual observations and conversations that Ms. Hurston witnessed.

Janie's story begins when she is 16 and is pushed into a marriage she doesn't want. It is a loveless one and when given the opportunity, Janie leaves to live with another man whom she did feel love for. However, in time, this man also belittled her, and the spirit of their union was gone. She was lonely in spirit once again and wanted to leave but to where or to what she didn't know. Vergie Woods, also known as "Tea Cup," now entered her life. Even though quite a few years younger than Janie, their union was very emotionally fulfilling. They moved to the area around Lake Okeechobee so he could gain work as a planter/picker of produce. They made a happy life for themselves, living there in the community and company of other "pickers."

A storm approached and rather than leave the area, Janie and Tea Cup felt they could handle it and would ride it out. But this was no ordinary storm. As the hurricane built and intensified, they and others who remained with them prayed for deliverance and "their eyes were watching God" and the wrath of God's storm. They waited too long and the dikes and walls around the lake couldn't hold the water back and as the novel was coming to its end, so was the happiness and love Janie had found with Tea Cup. He had helped her grow and mature into a confident woman who knew what she wanted, love and support, and who had received both with him.

This book's narrative is written in standard English. The dialogue among the book's characters is written in Black Southern vernacular speech which can make it a little challenging when starting to read the book. Ms. Hurston puts so much emotion into the telling of this story that you feel you are present, listening to the characters' words, not just reading them. Janie is such a strongly written character that it is quite easy to feel her pain as well as her joy and resolve to live her life as she wanted and needed to.

LOST OR FOUND A PET?

Call the SPCA of Marion County
hotline at 352-362-0985.

My Valentine

You don't give me candy
or flowers, but
I know you still love
me a lot.

You show your love
in different ways,
by all the little things
you do each day.

You're honest, you're caring,
and you're very loyal
even though you don't treat me
like the queen royal.

And how do I know
that you love me?
because you're kind, you respect me
and you give me the freedom to be.

The very best person I can be,
you support my desires,
and it doesn't take much
to rekindle those fires.

I don't say it often,
but I've held your heart
close to mine
from the very start.

So, I don't need flowers
or candy to
just know that you'll always
love me too.

You wake with a smile,
never a frown,
and you lift me up
when I am down.

I'm true to you,
you're true to me,
and that's the way
it will always be.

LEASH LAW

Dogs must be on a leash at all times.

Toppers Banjo

David Wesenberg



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

We had a wonderful time playing and singing for the Ukelele Club in December. The meeting and performance were well attended and the audience joined in the fun as we performed some blues, standards and Christmas songs. What a great time!

Toppers Banjo is planning future performance dates including for the Scan-

dinavian American Club at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 27, in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room.

If you would like to book a performance email Eddie Martin at udeddie2@gmail.com or David Wesenberg at 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 recent weeks several banjo and acoustic guitar players have joined us in playing and singing banjo music. If you like to play, come, and join us. If you just like to listen, join us also and enjoy the music and conversation. Everyone is welcome.

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Vicki McGlamery
Licensed Sales Agent
352-239-5266, TTY 711
vlmcglaemery@gmail.com

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

SERVICE ADS: Will be accepted from residents and non-residents and may be emailed to otownnews@otowfl.com. For advertising rates, visit ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala and click on "Advertising Rates."

AD DEADLINE: Noon on the 12th of the month. If the deadline falls on a weekend, then it's noon on the Friday before. For more information, call 352-387-7466, email otownnews@otowfl.com or visit ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala

The publisher reserves the right to reject any ad which, in his judgment, would not be in the best interest of the residents of On Top of the World Communities.

For Sale

Computer Equipment: HP Office Jet Pro 8725 all in one printer/scanner with ink cartridges (952XL black (2), magenta (2), yellow (2), and cyan (1)), and manual, \$225. Dell 3477 Inspiron computer with keyboard, mouse, 24" display, 12 GB Ram, Windows 10, \$225. Dell 3455 Inspiron computer with keyboard, mouse, 24" display, 8GB Ram, Windows 10, \$225. 610-721-1424.

Electronics: 30" LG TV, black. 352-207-0733.

Furniture: Canadel dining room table with chairs (4). Table 48" x 48" x 36" with 20" leaf. Table with leaf 68" x 48" x 36". 610-721-1424.

Misc. Item: F9 concrete rust/battery acid stain remover, 1/2 gallon, \$35. 617-842-9500.

Misc. Item: Rollator stand up straight walker. 352-207-0733.

Misc. Items: Movie one sheets (posters) from the '80s. Email moorepaula1214@gmail.com for a list.

Sports Equipment: 24" Komodo Rouge (7002) 3-wheel bicycle, 6 speed, two hand brakes, basket, and bell, \$110. 707-280-3823.

Sports Equipment: Portable tennis ball hopper, holds 70 balls, \$10. 617-842-9500.

Sports Equipment: Premier trunk bike rack, holds two bikes, \$85. 352-509-4942.

Tag Sales

Saturday, Feb. 3: 8533-F SW 93rd Place (Friendship Colony), 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 8 & Friday, Feb. 9: 8851-C SW 97th Street (Friendship Village), 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 9 & Saturday, Feb. 10: 9235 SW 90th Street (Williamsburg), 8 a.m. to noon · 9330 SW 93rd Circle (Providence), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 23 & Saturday, Feb. 24: 8712-E, 8745-F SW 92nd Place (Friendship Colony), 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Services

Airport Drop-off/Pick-up: Orlando, Tampa, and others. Newer vehicle, dependable, safe, friendly service. Call for rates/availability. Keith 352-239-8765 (resident).

American Junk Removal & Demo: One call, we haul - one item, room, or total clean-out. Total kitchen & bath demolition. Lawn/landscape clean-up. Dumpster rental. Call/text Garfield 561-306-6969. Quality work, competitive prices, licensed & insured.

Andy Dahms Interior Painting: Your local professional painting contractor. Turn your place into a showpiece. Quality Sherwin-Williams products. References available. Free estimates. Call or email at 941-730-1381 or andygoode1@gmail.com.

Applied Pressure Exterior Cleaning: Pressure washing for your house, roof, driveway, and lanai. Special - \$69 house wash with the purchase of a driveway cleaning. 352-444-9552. appliedpressure.org.

Bates Lawn Services LLC: Family owned & operated. Mowing, weeding, pruning, mulch, stone & plants. All landscape needs. Fully insured. Senior discounts. Mike or Daisy 352-207-7221.

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Ceramic Tile: All types of installation and repair. 30+ years' experience. Lic. & ins. References available. Call Bob Adkins 352-274-8678.

Computer Help: Arthur Burditt, 352-875-7878. House calls, \$40/hour. Tutoring, setups, installations, Windows upgrades, PC cleanups, security software, internet connections, email access, printers, wireless devices.

OTOWInfo.com

Tools: Keller 16' aluminum extension ladder, \$75. 315-744-0790.

Five Star Pro Cleaning LLC: Residential and commercial cleaning (standard, deep clean, move in/move out). Free quote. Licensed, fully insured for all your cleaning needs. Call 352-209-4685 or email fivestarprocleaningllc@gmail.com.

Geller Lawn: Mowing, irrigation, bushes, mulch & much more! Starting at \$50 per month (no contracts). Insured. 352-390-7454.

H&H Pressure Cleaning: Soft washing houses, driveways and lanais. Driveways starting at \$55. Insured and free estimates. 352-843-0719.

Handyman: Repairing sliding glass door rollers/tracks, sliding garage screen doors, window balances, sliding shower doors/guides, doors & locksets, door seals. Installing handicap grab bars. One call does it all! Steve, S&T Quality Services 352-207-8682.

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Income Tax Preparation: CPA and former IRS agent with 30 years income tax experience. Marcia 918-704-7015 (resident).

Maid in America by Ann: Quality cleaning services. Pet sitting available. Insured & reliable. 609-276-1099.

House Cleaning: Standard, deep clean, move-in/out. References available. Reliable & reasonable. Free quote 352-361-8861.

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 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.

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 for a free quote.

Transportation: Doctor's appointments, shopping, hair, surgery center, hospital, etc. Diane 352-854-9999 (resident). Please leave message (no texts).

Transportation: I am still delivering my friends and neighbors to and from Florida airports and cruise ports, as well as other out of town destinations. Safe, secure, and private. Call Terry (resident) at 615-513-8240.

Transportation: Local doctors' appointments, shopping, etc. Anna 352-873-4151 (resident). Leave message.

Wallpaper Hanger: Professional with 36 years' experience. Interior painting services available. Donald Rhoades 518-482-2234 or donaldrhoades1@gmail.com (resident).

Wanted

Bible Club Members: Victorious Last Days Bible Club meets in Arbor Activity Center Event Room every Thursday, at 1 p.m. For questions, contact Tom Harrington at 385-816-1099.

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 btsprigg@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.

Pet Foster Parents: Temporarily open your home to a pet in need. Call SPCA of Marion County at 352-362-0985.

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