

Community News

Kenneth D. Colen

**Water Conservation**

Central Florida has had precious little rain since mid-October 2025. Because this is technically winter in Florida, lawns and shrubbery are in dormancy and, as such, require greatly reduced watering. If you haven't already done so, don't forget to check and dial back your irrigation clocks if you have a manual clock to one day per week. If you have the latest ET or Hydro-wise™ technology, it automatically adjusts water times and volumes.

**Landscape Cold Damage**

Although we experience some warmer weather in January and February, North Central Florida is still susceptible to frosts. There were two frost days in late December and early January, if you recall. The point is that February and March are not the time to prune back cold-damaged plants. Pruning encourages new plant growth that is susceptible to additional damage, and possibly plant death, when another frost or cold period arrives in February and March. Instead, wait until the risk of frost passes, usually after April 15.

I know you moved to Florida for the cost of living and beautiful weather, but yes, we do still get cold weather. The good news is that it lasts only a few days, not weeks or months. Take a break from balmy Florida weather and enjoy a little cold weather. It can remind you why you moved here.

**Construction Activity**

**THE SUMMIT:** Progress continues at Longleaf Ridge as this 20,000-square-foot amenity nears completion. The multi-modal path connection is complete, and the landscape installation will take place in February. The interior model merchandising will begin once all interior finishes have been completed. Please be mindful of all construction warning signs, and do not use this pathway until it has been deemed safe.

**AZURA FITNESS CENTER:** Masonry walls should be completed by the time this issue is published, and the structural steel and bar joist installation for the roof will follow along. This will be a state-of-the-art facility featuring top-of-the-line fitness equipment and a 5,000-square-foot pool. The facility, which is for residents of Candler Hills only, is estimated to be completed by late fall.

**RECREATION CENTER:** Planned major renovations to the front of the main building are in the works. The plans are still in review for permitting due to Marion County's new permitting process. This permit is taking longer than expected. Once we have permit approval, we hope to display elevation plans in the work area.

The work will be completed in phases and will include landscaping and improvements to golf cart parking.

**IRONS 9 PITCH & PUTT:** Momentum is building at the future Irons 9 location, where essential site work is now well underway. The project has officially transitioned into a new phase, with crews commencing the first lift of paving for the main parking lot. Once this foundational work is complete, the focus will shift immediately to integrating the final landscape features. Construction should begin once the sitework is complete. The cooler weather will delay turfgrass establishment, so look for a late summer opening. The permit was just issued, and by the time this column is published, you should see us working on the foundations.

**NEW WEYBOURNE LANDING GATED ENTRY:** A design is underway for a new entry off the SW 74th Terrace extension, which will include a gate system and monument sign. This will be along the new construction section of SW 90th Terrace. We are still waiting for the structures permit to be issued, but we have started sitework and anticipate starting the gatehouse and gate system very soon. The proposed entry at SW 69th Place Road is being eliminated in favor of an auxiliary gated exit, available only for

Continued on Page 4A ▶

Love, Bites, & Beats

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT | DANCING | FOOD TRUCKS  
SWEETS & FLOWERS | EQUESTRIAN ACROBATICS\*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026 | 3 - 9 PM

FREE | OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Romance, Rhythm, & Entertainment

By Jessica Marshall

Valentine's Day gets a vibrant twist this year as The Town Square at Circle Square Commons hosts Love, Bites & Beats on Saturday, Feb. 14, from 3 to 9 p.m. This free, family-friendly celebration invites the community to enjoy an afternoon and evening filled with live music, dancing, food trucks, sweet treats, flowers, and awe-inspiring entertainment.

Designed as a festive gathering for couples, families, and friends alike, Love, Bites & Beats offers something for everyone. Throughout the afternoon and evening, a variety of food trucks will serve crowd-pleasing favorites from 3 to 9 p.m., making it easy to graze, snack, or enjoy a full meal while soaking in the atmosphere. For those with a sweet tooth – or a romantic gesture in mind – Baked by Rosie will be on hand with irresistible

desserts and Mr. B's Big Scoop with ice cream, while Poetic Pieces offers beautiful Valentine's Day flower bouquets available for purchase.

Guests can also enjoy refreshments throughout the event, with a The Town Square Kiosk offering beer, wine, water, and soda for purchase.

As the sun begins to set, The Town Square will come alive with music and movement. From 6 to 9 p.m., guests are invited to dance along to live music by The Sweet Talkers, a popular act known for their energetic performances and crowd-friendly sound. Whether you prefer dancing under the stars or simply tapping your toes from the sidelines, the music sets the perfect tone for a memorable Valentine's celebration.

Adding an extra layer of excitement to the day are special performances by

Cirque Ma'Ceo, an internationally acclaimed equestrian acrobatics show. Featuring incredible acts, stunning horses, and gravity-defying feats, Cirque Ma'Ceo will present two performances inside the Big Top at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. These breathtaking shows require separate tickets, available for purchase online at [cirquemaceo.com](http://cirquemaceo.com).

Cirque Ma'Ceo will take place in the grassy field behind the Colen Built Design Studio (8435 SW 80th Street, Ocala, Florida 34481) at Circle Square Commons.

Cirque Ma'Ceo will offer additional performances from Feb. 13 through Feb. 22, providing even more opportunities to experience this extraordinary event. Visit [cirquemaceo.com](http://cirquemaceo.com) for show schedules and ticket details.

Love, Bites & Beats promises a Valentine's Day filled with connection, celebration, and unforgettable moments – making it the perfect place to share the love this February.

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



Photos courtesy of Colen Built Development

Chef Kevin Spencer, director of culinary, (left) and Chef Michael Hefler (right).

Raising the Bar

By Justin Garner

At On Top of the World, dining has always been more than a meal – it's a place to gather, celebrate, and enjoy the vibrant lifestyle our community is known for. As we kick off a new monthly series highlighting restaurant and hospitality updates, we're excited to share some big news that marks an important next chapter for food and beverages at On Top of the World.

We are proud to welcome Chef Kevin Spencer as the director of culinary for Colen Built Development. Chef Spencer brings more than two decades of culinary leadership experience, spanning resort dining, private clubs, and large-scale foodservice operations. Known for building strong teams and elevating dining programs across multiple venues, he has led culinary operations that emphasize quality, consistency, and

guest-focused innovation. In his new role, Chef Spencer will oversee all food service operations at our existing restaurants while guiding future culinary development at Calesa Township. His thoughtful approach blends creativity with operational excellence – ensuring that every dining experience reflects both care and craftsmanship.

Also joining the team is Chef Michael Hefler, who has stepped into the role of chef de cuisine at the newly reopened Whistling Duck at Candler Hills Golf Club. Chef Hefler's background includes years of hands-on experience in upscale dining and club environments, where he has earned a reputation for refined technique, attention to detail, and approachable, flavor-driven menus. His culinary style balances comfort and creativity, making him an ideal fit for

The Whistling Duck as this exciting new chapter begins. Under his leadership, guests can look forward to thoughtfully prepared dishes that feel familiar yet elevated – perfect for both casual lunches and memorable evenings out.

Bringing chefs of this caliber into On Top of the World reflects a continued investment in people, talent, and experiences that matter to our residents. Their leadership raises the bar for food and beverage offerings across the community. It reinforces Colen Built Development's commitment to making On Top of the World the most livable active adult community in the country.

February promises plenty to look forward to in our restaurants. We encourage residents to follow their favorite dining venues on social media and through the OTOW App for updates on Valentine's Day specials, pre-theater dinner features during the Cirque de Ma'Ceo show dates, and other limited-time offerings throughout the month.

We look forward to welcoming you – and sharing many more culinary updates in the months ahead.

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# 2026 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

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

\* Deadline at noon.

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

Red indicates variation in schedule.

cousins, with whom we rarely communicated and had no desire to do so. I am sure, though, they'll just pop up when I pass and declare how much my husband and I loved them all. I've looked at several charities, but worry that whatever they get from me—which is a decent sum—will be wasted on administrative expenses and their lawyers' attorney fees. I also need an executor. I love your lectures and would appreciate your thoughts.

**A.** What's the saying: "Where there's a Will, there's relatives." Unless there's a specific direction for a charitable distribution, the charity can pretty much use its donations as it sees fit. However, a properly drawn Will or Trust can specify how the funds must be used. I once drew up a Will for a client who disliked attorneys (except me!). I wrote in language stating that none of the funds could be used to pay any attorney's fees, and that the charity had to certify to that or be cut out. You really need to sit down with your estate planning attorney, who can help you and could even serve as your personal representative (executor) if you want.

*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.*



# Tuscaawilla Sculpture Stroll

## Feb. 21 | 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Tuscaawilla Park and Art Park | 800 NE Sanchez Ave. and 213 NE Fifth St.

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[www.ocalafl.gov/sculpturestroll](http://www.ocalafl.gov/sculpturestroll)

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Master the Possibilities is proud to continue its involvement in America 250, a once-in-a-lifetime national commemoration marking the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. This celebration invites all of us to reflect on the people, ideas, conflicts, and creativity that shaped our nation and to better understand how that history continues to influence our lives today.

The celebration began in January with engaging and well-received programs, and the momentum only grows stronger in February. This month features an exciting mix of dynamic classes, visiting speaker presentations, and special events that bring history, culture, and exploration together in meaningful ways.

Kicking off February is a presentation from the U.S. Postal Service on “Revolutionary Communications: American Independence and the Postal Service” on Monday, Feb. 2, at 10 a.m. in Live Oak Hall. This free presentation explores how Congress created the Army and the post office even before the Declaration of Independence, and how the Postal Service played a critical role in securing freedom. Colorful commemorative postage stamps help illustrate the fascinating stories of the men and women who risked everything for the cause.

On Thursday, Feb. 12, at 1 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center, William and Sue Wills step into character as Abe and Mary Lincoln for a compelling 60-minute look at one of America’s most intriguing first couples. This program examines Abraham Lincoln’s leadership during the War Between the States and Mary Lincoln’s personal struggles and public responsibilities. Pricing is \$8 for members and \$13 for the general public.

Another America 250 highlight is “George Washington: Man of Peace” on

Monday, Feb. 23, at 10 a.m. in Live Oak Hall. Award-winning historian Edward G. Lengel, PhD, presents Washington not only as a victorious military commander but as a leader who understood the high cost of war and the value of peace. This is a once-in-a-lifetime presentation from a National Humanities Medal recipient who has written 14 books on American history and makes frequent television and radio appearances. Lengel will be presenting remotely. Pricing is \$8 for members and \$13 for the general public.

Participants can also experience history in an immersive way through “A Virtual Tour of the Signers’ Hall at the Constitutional Convention” on Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 2 p.m. in Live Oak Hall. Led by a National Constitution Center museum educator, this program explores the debates, compromises, and personalities behind the Constitution’s signing. Cost is \$8 for members and \$13 for the general public.

Don’t forget our America 250-themed memorable field trips. These include Visit Titanic: The Artifact Exhibit, priced at \$82 for members and \$87 for the general public, and a VIP tour of the Orlando Auto Museum at Dezerland Park, priced at \$85 for members and \$90 for the general public. Both include transportation.

There is much, much more happening this month. Visit masterthepossibilities.org for a full list of upcoming courses, or to register 24/7 for classes you don’t want to miss. For registration assistance, visit the main office from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday or call 352-861-9751.

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SUNDAY,  
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5 - 8 PM

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Tickets are a \$50 donation. Included with your ticket:

- \$300 in fun money for the games of chance.
- Hoagies, drinks, and snacks.

Gaming prizes include an electric adult tricycle and a large screen smart TV.

In addition, raffles for gift baskets, a liquor wagon, and a 50/50 drawing will be available.

Purchase tickets at:

- Circle Square Commons Farmers Market | Thursdays, 9 am to noon
- Ticket Tuesdays | 9 am to noon | Arbor Activity Center Card Room III
- OTOW Lions Club Members
- First Federal Bank (Circle Square Commons) Wednesdays/Thursdays

Your charity donations benefit children's and veterans causes in Marion County.

Additional fun money can be purchased at the event. Cash bar available. NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR!

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# Community News

► Continued from Page 1A

## emergency usage. Roadway Improvements

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

Work is ongoing on the extension of SW 90th Terrace from SW 79th Street Road, North to SW 63rd Street Road. The contractor’s goal is to complete this roadway before major construction of SW 80th Avenue begins, providing an alternate northbound route. Construction of this road is scheduled for completion in late December.

The crucial objective of opening this thoroughfare before the County’s planned expansion of 80th Avenue remains firmly on schedule. The project

has now transitioned into the final landscaping phase, marking the completion of major paving and site preparation. Concurrently, the realignment of the SW 63rd Street Road intersection is underway and is scheduled for completion in tandem with the adjacent 90th Terrace project. Paving operations have been completed. The project is now focused on landscape and irrigation installations. We anticipate the full opening of this road to residents in the near future.

**SW 92ND COURT ROAD:** The construction of the Phase II extension remains on schedule. Significant progress has been made, with both landscaping and paving activities now finalized. The project is currently in its final clearance phase, verifying all necessary approvals and inspections. The road should be fully operational by the time you read this.

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

38th Street.

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

As Segment 1A is completed and Segment 1B is commenced, the path of travel may be reversed to avoid the worst of the construction. As I’m writing this, I’m thinking that the most impacted access will be Sholom Park, especially in the Segment 1B stage. Fortunately, the cart path should remain open, so you can walk, run, bike, or drive your cart to Sholom Park.

**MELODY PRESERVE:** This new housing development north of Indigo East has officially begun. Melody Preserve will be a 55-plus HOA community, but will not be a member association within the Circle Square Ranch Master Association or any other homeowner association. Melody Preserve will have its own self-contained amenities and services. We are pleased to confirm that the project is advancing on schedule.

## Trending Real Estate Values

According to the Ocala Marion Board of Realtors’ statistics for 2025, total sales volume in Marion County decreased by 3.6% over the same 12-month period in 2024. The average home sale price increased by 0.7% during that same pe-

riod. The volume of available listings in Marion County has increased by 25.9%. The average time to sell listings in Marion County increased by 23.8%.

On Top of the World Real Estate of Marion continues to lead the resale market in 2025, accounting for 32.13% of resales in On Top of the World.

The number of resale transactions across all On Top of the World neighborhoods decreased by 6.69% from 2024. The average home resale price in On Top of the World declined by 6.9% compared to 2024.

## Common Sense Courtesy

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

Maybe you’ve noticed, as I have, that people who regularly walk their pets are generally in good physical condition. The question is: who is helping whom here? The pets love the walk, and the owners improve their cardiac and overall health. Either way, 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 or residential areas of any of the communities. All residents expect privacy. Drone overflights may violate residents’ privacy.

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

## On Watch

Geoff Oldberg



The On Top of the World family of communities has an excellent record for resident safety. Living in a gated community with a perimeter fence, state-of-the-art surveillance cameras, Citizens on Patrol (COPS), and regular patrols by the Marion County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO). All of these measures work together to help keep On Top of the World one of the safest communities in Florida. But that

doesn’t mean we are immune from an occasional criminal act.

In my years in law enforcement, I learned that less than five percent of the population is responsible for over 80% of serious crime. Most people will never commit serious crimes like theft or burglary. We were raised to respect other people’s property and to expect the same in return.

However, even among the majority of generally law-abiding citizens, there are moments when someone may be tempted to do something they usually wouldn’t. As deputies, we used to refer to these rare incidents as “crimes of opportunity.”

For example, a shopper standing in line at a grocery store notices that the gentleman ahead of him accidentally drops a \$50 bill. The shopper steps on the bill, waits until the man leaves with his cart, and then pockets the money. In another example, a teenager walking past a parked car sees a purse lying on the front seat. After checking the door and finding it unlocked, he quickly takes the purse and walks away. These are “crimes of opportunity.”

The goal is to deter the small percentage of people inclined to commit serious offenses and to reduce the temptations for the rest of us. I already mentioned some of the deterrents in place: gated entries with high-speed cameras, COPS, MCSO patrols, and lots of cameras.

But what about limiting temptation? Whether you are out shopping or just leaving your car overnight, below are a few simple and effective suggestions:

- Always lock your doors and vehicles.
- Don’t leave valuables in your vehicle where they can easily be seen.
- Leave exterior lights outside your home on at night (make sure your lighting is not annoying your neighbors with excess glare).
- Don’t allow newspapers or packages to pile up in your driveway.
- Don’t set your purse or wallet down unattended in restaurants or stores.
- Avoid posting vacation photos on social media until you return home.

I encourage everyone to think proactively about ways to remove temptation, because prevention is always better than response.

On the lighter side and by way of historical context: On May 9, 2011, burglars broke into HMP Sudbury prison in Derbyshire, England. You read that correctly – they broke into the prison. The burglars cut a hole in the perimeter fence and pried open a heavily secured door. Once inside, they stole welding and metal-cutting tools, most likely to be used in future burglaries.

One inmate was quoted as saying, “How can they be expected to keep the prisoners in if they can’t keep the burglars out?”

I imagine the prison warden and staff were pretty embarrassed by this incident, and you can be sure immediate steps were taken to prevent any future “break-ins.”

## LEASH LAW

Dogs must be on a leash at all times.




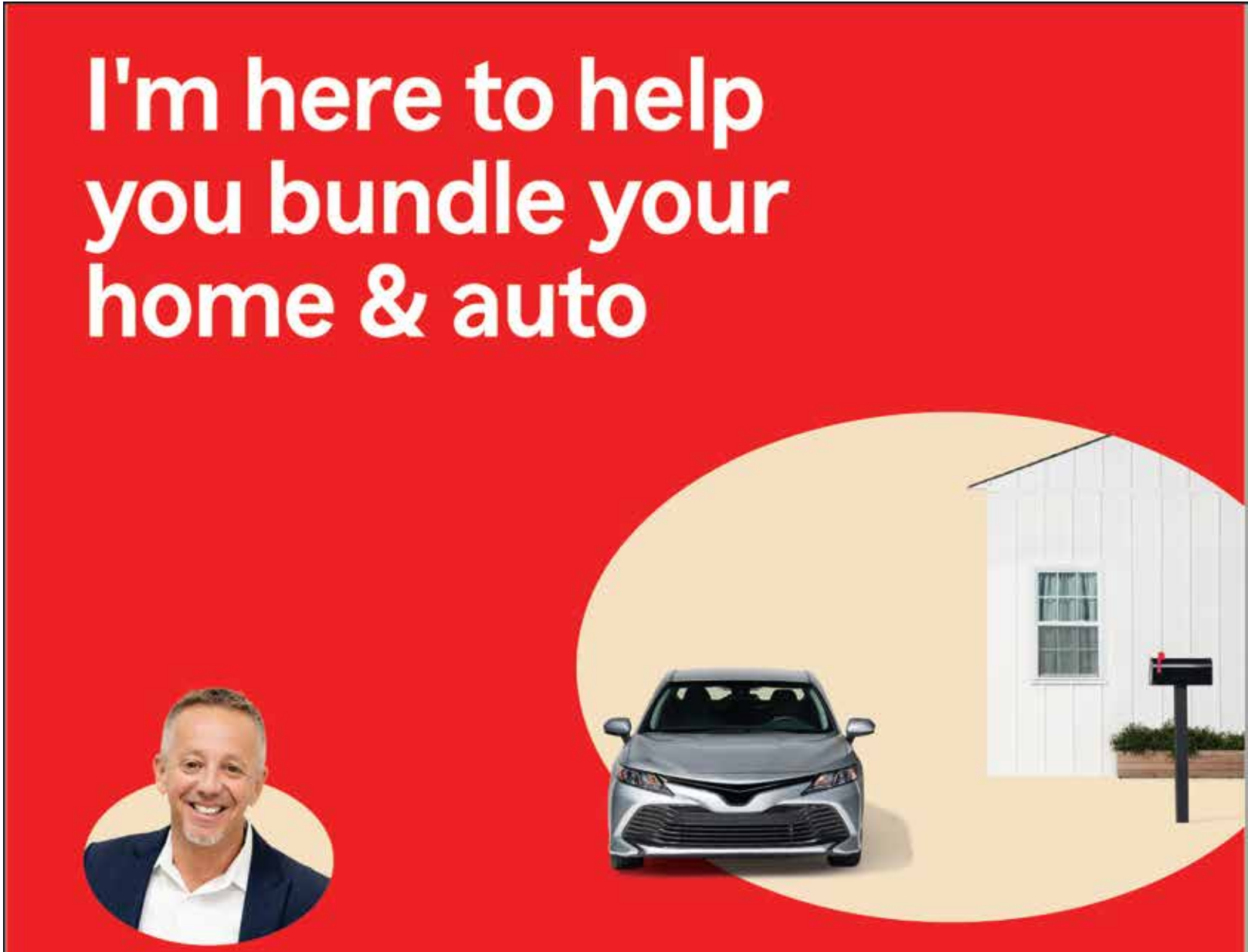
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Resident Services

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



Association Meetings

The On Top of the World (Central) board meeting and budget adoption are scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 10 a.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center.

AppFolio

We kindly request that all residents activate their Owner Portal in AppFolio. You can access AppFolio via the mobile app or on your desktop. Resident Services will need to send you an activation link. Please reach out to request one. Effective Wednesday, April 1, all owners will be required to make their association assessment payments directly

through the AppFolio Owner Portal. This transition allows each owner to securely control and manage their banking payment information in AppFolio, ensuring faster, more efficient processing. You may sign up for ACH or pay with a credit/debit card via AppFolio. If you have not already done so, please log into AppFolio and set up your payment preferences before April 1 to ensure uninterrupted processing of your association assessments. A step-by-step “how-to” guide was enclosed in the annual mailing to assist you with setting up your account and payment options. For additional assistance with your AppFolio Owner Portal or setting up automatic payments, please contact Resident Services at otowservice@otowfl.com or 352-236-6869. We will be happy to help guide you through this transition.

**AppFolio Training Classes**

For those needing additional assis-

tance or simply wanting to learn more about AppFolio, training classes will be offered as follows:

- On Top of the World (Central) in the Recreation Center Ballroom from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursdays, Feb. 19 and March 26.
- Candler Hills in The Lodge at Candler Hills, 10 a.m. to noon on Thursdays, Feb. 5 and March 12.
- Indigo East in the Indigo East Community Center from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays, Feb. 3 and March 17.
- Weybourne Landing in The Landing from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays, Feb. 10 and March 10.

Golf Cart Rule Changes

Reminder: golf cart rules have changed for On Top of the World (Central), Weybourne Landing, and Candler Hills. Resident Services will no longer conduct golf cart inspections or issue golf cart decals. Please note that if you

own a golf cart or low-speed vehicle, you will need to complete a waiver and release of liability form. These forms can be sent out via email, or you may stop by Resident Services.

**Gateway of Services Pass Purchase & Renewal**

Residents of Weybourne Landing and Indigo East may now renew their Gateway of Services for 2026 at Resident Services.

First-time participants may be eligible for a one-time prorated rate for the remainder of the year.

Appointments are not required but are recommended to reduce wait times.

Gateway of Services includes access to On Top of the World (Central) golf courses, clubs, social activities, fitness centers, trails, courts, The Summit, and more. For details, contact Resident Services at 352-236-6869 or otowservice@otowfl.com.

Safety First

Jonathan Miller



What do you know about neighborhood safety? Striking up a conversation on this subject can be a challenge with neighbors. It can really open up a can of worms that can go south, which is why it should be handled delicately. However, it is a necessary subject that should be addressed. Decades ago, everyone seemed to know everyone, so communication was not a problem, and it was very common for neighbors to drop by without prior notice. Today, we give more thought to being involved with folks. If I may share a few neighborhood safety tips, they may bridge some gaps that can really benefit your community. You may already have a neighborhood group that corresponds with each other. Take some time to explore it. Here is why. There may come a time when you may have to travel unexpectedly. You will need someone you feel comfortable with watching after your home in your absence. It has been proven that neighborhood watch programs increase surveillance and enhance social control. Having a trusted neighbor to pick up mail and newspapers if delivery hasn’t been paused. Checking on doors and

windows to make certain everything is in order. You don’t want just anyone caring for your interests. Seek out and explore the possibilities of a trusted neighbor and make an effort to get to know them and give them a chance to get to know you. A good remedy for a safer neighborhood is for residents to work together. You can share ideas, tips, and simply look out for one another. Another tip for a safe neighborhood is a block party. This pulls everyone together for a great time. At the same time, it gives you the ability to communicate

and key in to specific people whom you may feel comfortable with. Use this event to your advantage. Having a good time and interviewing prospects, as they interview you, to watch your home in your absence at the very same time is the key. Finding out as much as you can about your neighbors can be very beneficial for you and for them. Common questions are a good start – “Where do you live in the community? How long have you been here? How do you like the hood? Where did you live before this?” The more questions you ask, the more

information you can gather to make good, sound decisions. It is not a time to get too personal with your questions. Generic questions can give you an indication of whether a second interview is warranted if their personality is sound. This is what a block party is designed to do. Get involved with your community. Find out who, what, when, where, and why you all chose this neighborhood. Work together, protect each other, and become your brother’s keeper in a time of need. Please feel free to reach out at safety-department@otowfl.com.

Avalon Social Group

Laura Gavey & Sharon Hall



The Avalon Social Club kicked off another year of food, fun, and fellowship on Monday, Jan. 12, with our kickoff dinner. Attendees were treated to dinner catered by La Casella and entertainment by DJ Anthony and the Uniqueles. The group also took this opportunity to collect non-perishable food items for donation to Interfaith Emergency Services. Thanks to all who donated. Don’t know who we are? Stop by the

Club Fair at Circle Square Cultural Center on Thursday, Feb. 19, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Be sure to stop by our table for information on our events and sign up for emails. Ready for more entertainment? We will be back on Monday, March 9, with dinner and a show. He entertained us in 2024, and many of you asked for him to come back. Get ready for Mike Palma, comedy magician and ventriloquist (one man, a cast of characters, non-stop laughs) with an updated 75-minute show and lots of new material. Come and join us for pizza, salad, and dessert before the entertainment begins. Where can you go for food and entertainment for less than \$20? Be on the lookout for more information via email or on our

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

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Active Newcomers Club

Linda Baker



The Active Newcomers Club started 2026 with our annual meeting on Thursday, Jan. 15. We reviewed the club’s 2025 activities and presented our plans for the upcoming year. The 2026 board was introduced and approved by the members in attendance. Door prizes were presented at the end of the meeting. Our 2026 board: President Ellen Attenson, Vice President Liz Allen, Treasurer Michelle Corder, Secretary Debbie Haddad, Marketing Linda Baker, Small Groups Sandie Butler, Membership Mitzie Jewitt and Public Relations Andrea Wallet.

The wine club gathering, held on Friday, Jan. 9, at The Lodge at Candler Hills, was a great success! Over 80 members enjoyed wine and appetizers. DJ Scott Bolton provided the tunes. The evening concluded with the awarding of door prizes.

We will host Doing Donuts on Sunday, Feb. 1, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Large Card Room. Bring your beverage of choice and enjoy donuts on us. This event is open to all residents who have lived here for four years or less and all current members.

We look forward to meeting you at the Club Fair at Circle Square Cultural Cen-

ter on Thursday, Feb. 19. If you are not a member of our club, you can fill out an application at the event. We will also have information about our small group activities.

Check your email and our Facebook page for details about our Winterfest, which will be held on Friday, Feb. 27, at 5:30 p.m. at The Lodge at Candler Hills. Howling at the Moon will be supplying music, and there will be door prizes. Don’t miss this opportunity to show us your dance moves and meet new friends!

Sandie Butler, our small groups director, has been working hard at organizing the 2026 groups. Sandie has been working with small group leaders to place members in the groups they selected on their membership application. Please send a note to Sandie (with “small groups” in the subject) via [activenewcomers34481@gmail.com](mailto:activenewcomers34481@gmail.com) if you have not received an email about the groups you signed up for. Please note there is a four-week lead time from when your application is received to when you are placed in some of the small group activities.

Membership applications for 2026 are available on our website. Membership is open to anyone who has lived in the community for less than four years. Dues are only \$15 per person. Members receive invitations to our small group activities and large events. Weybourne Landing and Indigo East residents must be part of the Gateway of Services pro-

gram.

To learn more about the Active Newcomers Club, visit [activenewcomers.org](http://activenewcomers.org). Members can also visit our Face-

book page. Email us at [activenewcomers34481@gmail.com](mailto:activenewcomers34481@gmail.com) for more information.



Photo by Joel Attenson

2026 Active Newcomers Club board of directors.

Candler Connection

Debra Keirn



The first event of the year will be on Valentine’s Day, Saturday, Feb. 14. The Flying Ivories will keep us entertained for the evening with their comedy and piano talent. You bring your own snacks, and we provide the delicious dessert bar. To check if tickets are available for this event, please contact Deb Keirn at 352-414-5737. The price is \$25 per Candler Hills resident and \$27 per guest. This event is from 5 to 8:30 p.m. We’re looking forward to celebrating Valentine’s Day with you!

The Candler Hills potluck dinner will be on Tuesday, Feb. 24, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The theme will be soup, salad, and dessert night. Those residents with last names beginning with A-H should bring soup; I-P, a salad; and Q-Z, a dessert. The cost at the door is \$1 per person, which covers the table utensils, plates, decaf coffee, creamers, and centerpieces. Please contact Deb Keirn at 352-414-5737, text 814-571-7908, or email [arthurkipdeb@verizon.net](mailto:arthurkipdeb@verizon.net) to be added to the attendee list.

The Craft and Trunk Sale will be on Saturday, March 28, from 9 a.m. to noon. Coffee and water will be for sale. The crafters will be in the Ballroom. The trunk sale will be in the parking lot. You can purchase a space for your crafts for \$10 per table and chair, and a space for selling your unwanted treasures for \$10 for 2 spaces and \$15 for three (lim-

ited). Tickets go on sale on Tuesdays and Thursdays from Feb. 17 through Feb. 26. There will also be raffle baskets. Last year’s sale was a huge success, and remember, you are welcome to come to this event no matter where you live in On Top of the World.

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

We also have the following events planned for the year:

- Monday, May 25: Memorial Day Ceremony with honor guard presentation.
- Sunday, June 21: Ice cream social from 3 to 5:30 p.m. with five different flavors, a variety of toppings, and floats. Price will be \$6.50 per resident and \$7.50 per guest.
- Saturday, July 4: Picnic.
- Friday, Sept. 18: Cheeseburger in Our Paradise (Jimmy Buffett-themed event) with The Caribbean Chillers. Cheeseburgers, salads, and desserts will be provided.
- Saturday, Oct. 31: Halloween Party.
- Saturday, Dec. 12: Holiday Party.

The Candler Connection Social Committee is always looking for volunteers. We meet on the last Wednesday of the month in Meeting Room 1 at 4 p.m. Your fresh ideas are welcome.

See you around the neighborhood!

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# Florida Veterans Hall of Fame Inductee

By Ray Cech  
World News Writer

“Texas was too hot in the summer and too cold in the winter.” Those were the thoughts of Joan and retired U.S. Army Captain Stephen Petty when they left Texas and settled in On Top of the World just four years ago.

In November 2025, Petty was inducted into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame – one of the state’s highest honors for veterans. He was recognized for his extraordinary contributions to veterans’ services, professional achievements, and community leadership.

His military record reads like a history of valor. Captain Petty served eight years in the U.S. Army and received numerous awards for flying more than 1,200 combat hours as a Huey helicopter flight commander in Vietnam (over 1,000 combat assault missions). He said, “We delivered to our fighting teams on the ground, everything from medical supplies and ammo to ice cream.”

Captain Petty’s bravery, particularly when facing enemy fire, has been recognized with some 55 awards, 46 combat-related – the Silver Star for gallantry in action, the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross for Heroism, and the Purple Heart.

Stephen Petty’s extraordinary energy,

combined with his passion for improving the lives of our veterans here in Marion County, is paying big dividends. His advocacy has been instrumental in expanding veterans’ access to medical care, mental health services, housing, and education. His efforts have been particularly rewarding in ensuring that medical services are provided to those veterans exposed to toxic environments.

Captain Petty is the president and director of the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard – under his leadership, the organization has achieved operational excellence, performing more than 212 military funerals at Florida National Cemetery.

He is the president and co-founder of the Vet Resources Center and the CEO and director of Veterans Helping Veterans, USA.

Captain Petty is an advisor and collaborator with our Veterans Club.

As an additional tribute to Captain Petty’s service to our veterans, the Marion County Board of County Commissioners had proclaimed Jan. 10 as “Steve Petty Day.”

Thank you, Captain, for your service and for all that you do for America’s veterans here in Marion County. We are proud to call you “neighbor.”

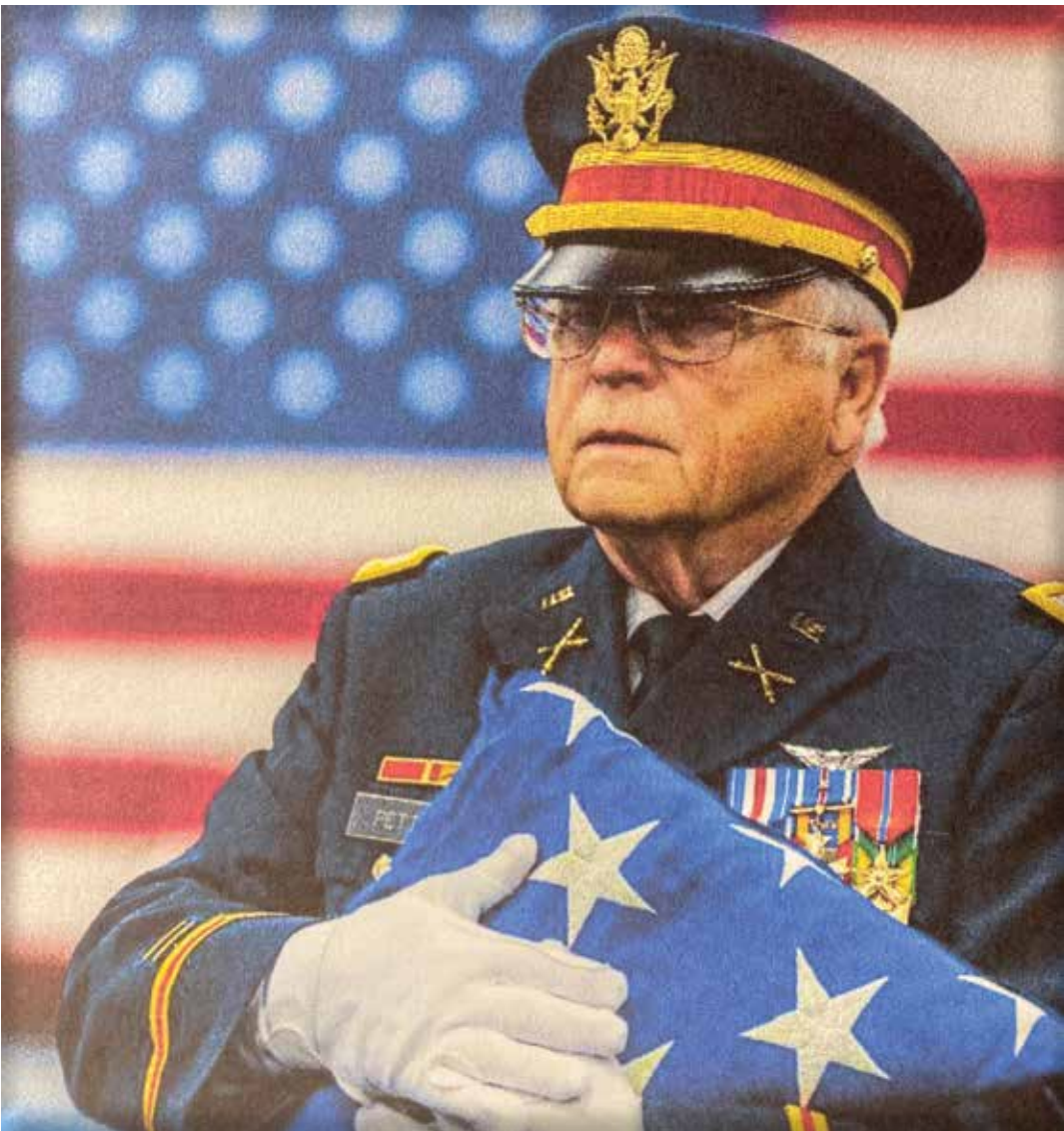


Photo by Ray Cech

Retired Army Captain Stephen Petty was inducted into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame.



Photo by Charles Calhoun

Veterans Club challenge coin.

## Veterans Club

Charles Calhoun



Volunteer recognition and appreciation are a challenge for any organization. Getting people to freely volunteer their time, motivate them in a good direction, and keep them involved is daunting. Communication is key, but it’s not easy.

As I get older, my memory gets shorter; it is easy to remember the last few people or organizations that helped out. A good friend of mine once told me, “S.T.P.” (same ten people).

I have been amazed over the last 10

years at how many people have reached out to offer help for our veterans and our community.. There are over 45,000 veterans in Marion County and more coming every day. Fortunately, only a small percentage need help.

I could never accurately recognize publicly all the groups and people who significantly help and impact our veterans. Please forgive our club and me if we fail in recognizing you and your organization. Most of us are volunteers, and we are working to get help to those who need it most. If I don’t get back to you promptly, please call or text me again. I am working on and asking for help to properly recognize all the volunteers and donors who help or reach out to us. This event is needed and will happen.

Join us at our monthly meeting at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV on the third Thursday of the month at 3 p.m. We always have Fran’s cookies and coffee. Free military hats as well.

Please contact Charlie Calhoun at 352-556-6004 with any questions.

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Longleaf Ridge Friends

Michelle Migdal, Sandra Ritchie, Debra Vitale, & Judi Walsh

December 2025 was filled with holiday festivities and wonderful memories. Mike and Mary Evans hosted a pre-holiday party at their home. Everyone enjoyed delicious food, fun games, and plenty of laughter.

The first golf cart scavenger hunt, organized by Barb and Jim Hollock and Dina and Greg Kenney, took place on a mild day. The activity strengthened bonds among participants, with Team Damifino (Paul and Cindy DeRosso, George and Laura VanDenburg) taking first place, closely followed by Team Confusin’ (Ray and Donna Morris, Tom and Leslie Doherty). Many decorated their vehicles and wore festive outfits to add extra cheer.

Stephanie Silber and Susan Clark orchestrated a golf cart parade followed by a snack time, where hot chocolate, eggnog, and seasonal treats were shared in a relaxed setting.

Jane Daubenspeck hosted a brunch and cookie exchange exclusively for the ladies, filled with laughter and culinary

discoveries. Special thanks go to all the volunteers, especially Delaine Walker, for her outstanding beverage buffet.

Friends and neighbors gathered for a festive celebration featuring a catered dinner, homemade cookies, prize drawings, music, dancing, and even a spirited snowball fight. A memorable highlight was the surprise visit from the “Good Santa” and the “Bad Santa.”

The snowmen delighted everyone, totaling 523-½ creations, while refreshments were offered to everyone – whether they arrived on foot, by bike, golf cart, or car.

Donna Siegfried and Tom Maves organized the fifth annual pet parade, where Maggie, the chihuahua belonging to Debbie and Pat Portegys, won first prize with her “Santa Baby” costume. Second place went to Izzy, belonging to David and Carol Monson. Third place went to Lola, belonging to Laurie and Tom Laskowski. Special thanks to Pat and Paul MacMelville for providing a delicious chili feast after the parade.

Neighbors celebrated New Year’s Eve at John and Michele Marcinek’s home with food, games, karaoke, a gift exchange, and a midnight champagne toast.

Debbie and Kimberly Lynch welcomed neighbors on New Year’s Day for



Holiday party hosted by Mike and Mary Evans.

a “holiday hangover” gathering at their home. Bloody Marys, mimosas, and a variety of brunch fare helped to cure any holiday overindulgence.

For information about upcoming events, please check with a member of the social committee in your phase. As our neighborhood continues to grow, we

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



Former Florida Speaker of the House and Republican candidate for governor of Florida, Paul Renner, speaking to the Republican Club.

Republican Club

Margaret Nodine

This month, we send Valentine greetings to our members and friends, along with a remembrance of Presidents’ Day. In the past, we celebrated two separate holidays honoring two remarkable presidents in our nation’s history, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Now we honor all those men who served this country as our leaders – never an easy job. They sacrificed much, many citizens questioning their decisions in war and peace. Let us be grateful for their leadership in making the United States what it is today.

In my last post of 2025, I was remiss in mentioning our November key speaker. We were happy to welcome Darren Bruner, chief pilot and aviation unit commander of the Marion County Sher-

iff’s Office. If you are familiar with this unit, it had the privilege of starring in the Paramount+ series “Chopper Cops.”

It was easy to say that Chief Bruner was a hit with our members. He discussed many of the scenarios this unit encounters and gave an inside look into the making of the show. Master the Possibilities (call the office or view the on-line catalog) offers a hangar tour at Ocala International Airport. Visit with the pilots and view the choppers.

At our January meeting, President Charles Dodge welcomed all to the new year. He highlighted some of the scheduled speakers and topics we will be discussing throughout the year. Our speaker’s slate will focus on county and state elections, as well as the mid-term elections affecting Florida. We were pleased to welcome Paul Renner, former speaker of the Florida House of Representatives and GOP candidate for governor. I will have more on his presentation next month.

Tom Hauck, our communications chair, will preside over the election of officers at the February meeting. Presently, our current slate of officers wishes to remain for the 2026 cycle. However, if any member in good standing wishes to run, a letter stating qualifications, background, and experience was to be submitted to Tom in January. Results will be posted next month.

Our Friday schedule is as follows: March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, Aug. 14, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, and Nov. 13. We continue to meet on the second Friday of each month, in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. Doors open at 4 p.m., meetings begin promptly at 4:30 p.m. Look for our banner.

We hope to see you. New members always sign up at each meeting, and guests are welcome.

Finally, we will happily continue to support Operation Shoebox and the Marion County Honor Guard.

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# A Flight with Honor

By Dave DeAngelis  
World News Writer

“Adrenaline junkies.” That’s how United States Air Force veteran Frederick Jankowski describes himself and those who completely understand why. “When the adrenaline is pumpin’, we’re jumpin’.”

This is a guy who received the New York State Attorney General’s Award for Heroism for rescuing a mother and her two children from a fully engulfed housefire. This is a guy who lettered in three sports, graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice, and served in various capacities in Poughkeepsie, New York, including selective enforcement and accident investigation, as a detective in the juvenile and special victims unit, and as a field training officer. This same guy, whose parents served as an Army Air Corps radioman and an Army nurse, volunteered to go to Vietnam. He wanted to serve his country.

Fast forward. On Oct. 29, 2025, having been selected for this trip named the Honor Flight, Fred and 74 other veterans of their “hub” (a group based upon their geographies), boarded buses at the American Legion in The Villages to begin “Mission 68.” Led by a police escort, they were on their way to Sanford, Florida, where, along with their “guardians,” a medical staff, and a flight director, they hopped on a plane bound for BWI Airport in Baltimore.

Upon arrival, they took another short bus ride to Arlington National Cemetery, where they witnessed the changing of the guard and the laying of the wreath. They visited the National Mall and the Vietnam Memorial Wall, where Fred etched the names of three of his high school classmates who gave their lives for our country.

Because of his dedication to serving our country and communities, Fred was selected for this Honor Flight, Mission 68, and his service was recognized by Governor Ron DeSantis, Florida Representatives Daniel Webster and Kat Cammack, and On Top of the World’s Kenneth D. Colen.

“The most organized group of people I have ever worked with” is how Fred described his interactions with the Honor Flight guardians on Mission 68, let alone

the entire organization. The guardians handled everything related to the trip, including medications, travel, clothing, and snacks, for four weeks leading up to the flight. Every aspect of the flight was covered. No questions were left unanswered by this profoundly thorough organization.

Fred’s hub was met by welcoming crowds at every stop of their travels. In fact, when they returned to their starting point in The Villages, 250 cheering people met them, along with a Corvette club, at 11 p.m. Fred credits his wife, Sandra, for orchestrating his place on Mission 68 by making preliminary introductions and helping with preparations for the flight.

Honor Flight Network is a national nonprofit organization comprised of independent hubs working together to achieve the Honor Flight mission: showing our nation’s veterans from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War the appreciation and honor they deserve. Participation in an Honor Flight trip allows veterans to share this momentous occasion with other comrades, remember the fallen, and share their stories and experiences with other veterans.

Ironically, as Fred and I were finishing our interview, a gentleman wearing his veteran’s cap happened to walk by. As we spoke with him, we learned that this 100-year-old gentleman is a World War II veteran who, five years ago, also made his mark in the history of the Honor Flight.

While listening to their remarkable stories, it was obvious to me that I fit into a group different from these heroes, a group aptly described by American humorist and social commentator Will Rogers – “We can’t all be heroes, because somebody has to sit on the curb and applaud when they go by.”

Fred and Sandra originally moved to On Top of the World in 2006 and were very active in Candler Hills. Family priorities led them to Lutz, Florida, from 2015 to 2017, and they returned here in 2019 to Indigo East, where they happily reside.

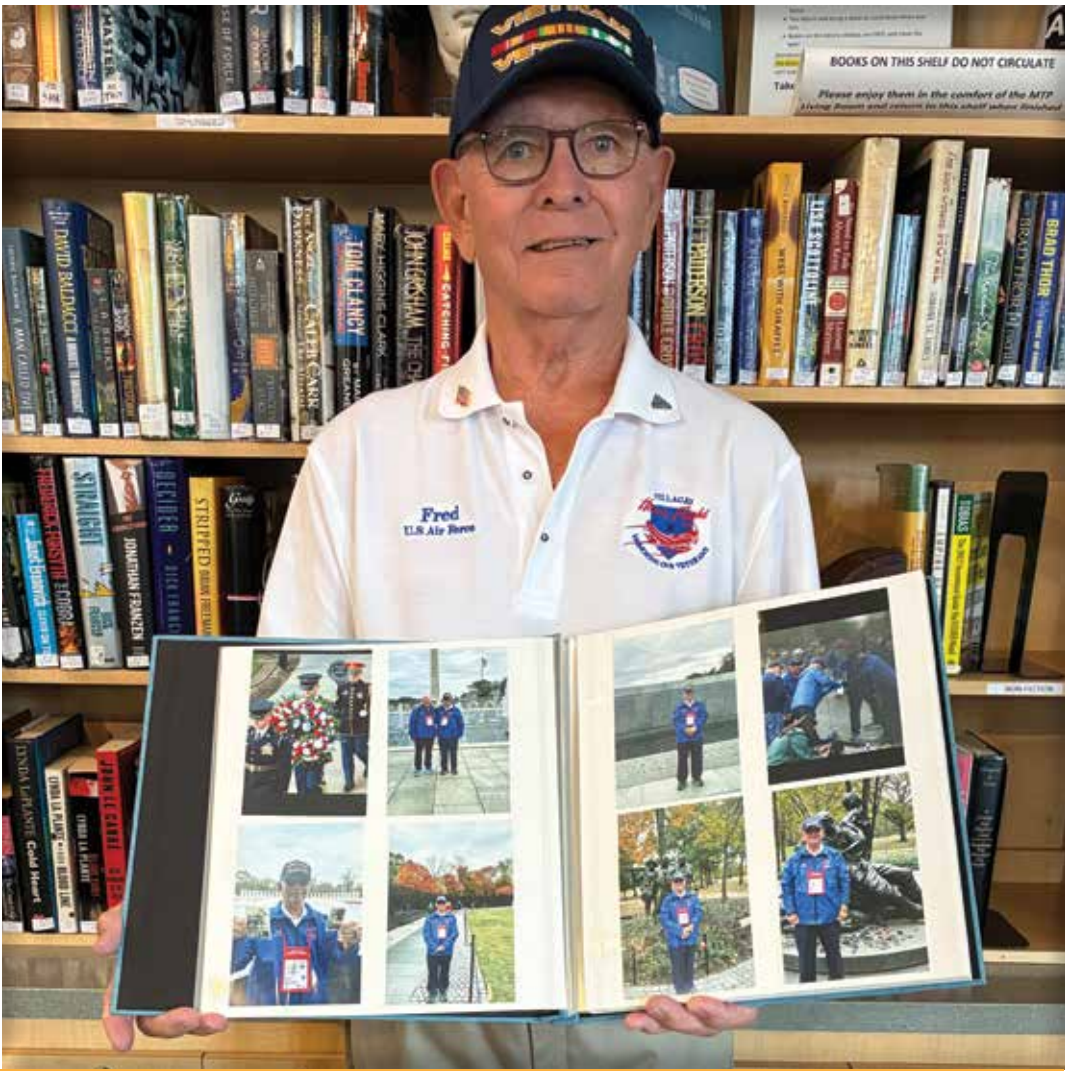


Photo by Dave DeAngelis

Frederick Jankowski was selected to participate in Honor Flight.

## In the News

Petra Schmidt  
otownews@otowfl.com

On Top of the World NEWS

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- Indigo East Community & Fitness Centers
- On Top of the World New Home Sales Center
- Recreation Center
- Resident Services
- The Landing
- The Lodge at Candler Hills
- The Whistling Duck

Read online or see the schedule at [on-top-of-the-world-news.com/ocala](http://on-top-of-the-world-news.com/ocala).

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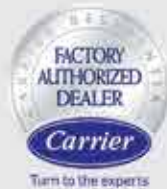
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Citizens on Patrol

Rocky Pizzarello



Now that the excitement of the holiday season is behind us, it's time to catch up on two significant events with Citizens on Patrol (COPS): Halloween and a recognition luncheon.

Once again, the Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), with assistance from about three dozen volunteers from COPS and CERT, hosted its annual Safe & Spooktacular Halloween Party for the children of Marion County at The Town Square at Circle Square Commons in October 2025.

An estimated 3,000 people attended and trick-or-treated for bagsful of candy



Photo by Debbie Snyder

Rocky Pizzarello receiving an award from Geoff Oldberg.

Community Emergency Response Team

Jane Belz & Debbie Snyder



In December 2025, our team members attended the annual appreciation luncheon sponsored by On Top of the World, a wonderful event honoring the contributions of both CERT and Citizens on Patrol (COPS). Kenneth D. Colen, president of Colen Built Development, and Marion County Sheriff Billy Woods each shared heartfelt remarks, expressing their gratitude for the dedication, service, and countless volunteer hours our members give throughout the year.

During the program, Geoff Oldberg, community safety and loss prevention manager, recognized our "double dippers" – residents who volunteer with both COPS and CERT. Congratulations to Gary Rodoff, Lennie Rodoff, Allen Abbott, Jan Abbott, John Gysen, Jon Fiedler, Anthony Pressley, Steve Minafri, Rocky Pizzarello, Michael Saunders, Paul Sullivan, and Randy Rahrig for their outstanding commitment. Each honoree received a gift card to Mr. B's Big Scoop as a token of appreciation.

Several individuals also received special recognition for their exceptional service. Jon Fiedler for creating detailed community maps used by CERT, COPS, Resident Services, and county emergency services; Allen Abbott for his willingness to teach, answer questions, and provide steady leadership during an unexpected transition; Bruce Twiss was thanked for keeping our radios charged and for always assisting members to ensure reliable communication; Gary Rodoff received appreciation for more than 20 years of service and for maintaining our equipment in ready-to-deploy condition; Allison Cranmer was acknowledged for taking lead of the COPS, her organizational skills and recruiting.

CERT closed 2025 with more than 50 active members who volunteered and trained for over 3,000 hours, making a significant impact in the community.

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

We request prospective members attend the monthly meetings before, during, and after their training class. You are welcome to attend one of our meetings to learn more. We have changed our meeting date to the second Wednesday of the month and moved our meeting location to the Hobby Building Event Room. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, Feb. 11, from 9 to 11 a.m. Applications for training and additional information are available at each meeting.

Community ham radio operators can assist us from home by tuning into Simplex frequency 146.565. When deployed

donated by citizens and corporate partners. In addition to the candy, a team grilled and wrapped 2,000 hot dogs, with snacks and water also provided. A couple of favorites were Albie, a kid-friendly police dog, and the mounted horse patrol, both of whom were happy to pose for memorable photos with the goblins, witches, and superheroes.

A special thank you goes out to the staff and management of Circle Square Commons and Colen Built Development for once again allowing the event to take place at The Town Square, providing additional lighting for added safety, and helping with the logistics of staging. The event would not be possible without their support.

In December 2025, Kenneth D. Colen and Geoff Oldberg hosted a volunteer appreciation luncheon. Joining management were members of the COPS,



Photo by Debbie Snyder

Bruce Twiss receiving an award from Geoff Oldberg.

during a disaster event, we need neighborhood reports on building damage, blocked roads, medical emergencies, and other vital information. Our ham radio operators meet at our designated Command Center and establish contact with Marion County Emergency Management. For information regarding ham radio operations, contact Bruce Twiss at [brucetwiss@yahoo.com](mailto:brucetwiss@yahoo.com).

Stop by our booth at the Club Fair on Thursday, Feb. 19, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center. For more information about CERT or upcoming meetings, please email [ontopoftheworldcert@gmail.com](mailto:ontopoftheworldcert@gmail.com)



Photo by Rocky Pizzarello

Citizens on Patrol and CERT volunteers are getting instruction.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and MCSO. About 80 people were in attendance.

Geoff Oldberg was the master of ceremonies and began with an invocation thanking everyone and wishing everyone a safe and good holiday season. After an awesome barbecue luncheon, Mr. Colen and Sheriff Woods individually thanked the groups for their dedication to planning and training to keep On Top of the World safe. Allison Cranmer and Jane Belz, leaders of the COPS and CERT, respectively, provided information and statistics on their groups' accomplishments during 2025.

Geoff Oldberg again took over and presented awards to various members. Special recognition was given to Jon Fiedler, Allen Abbott, Bruce Twiss, Gary Rodoff, and Allison Cranmer for their specialized contributions to the groups.

On Top of the World also recognized

several members of COPS for over 15 years of service. These included Gary Rodoff (21 years), Lennie Rodoff (21 years), Charlotte Wall (21 years), Jim Miller (20 years), John Gysen (19 years), Betty Chadwell (19 years), Elmer Greene (18 years), and Joy Greene (18 years).

There was a third group, which Geoff referred to as "double dippers" – those volunteers who are members of both groups. These included Gary and Lennie Rodoff, Allen and Jan Abbott, John Gysen, Jon Fiedler, Anthony Pressley, Steve Minafri, Rocky Pizzarello, Michael Saunders, Paul Sullivan, and Randy Rahrig.

Using an old cliché, a great time was had by all, and again, thank you to Mr. Colen and On Top of the World for a memorable event.

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**New Year. New You.**

By Elaine Morrison  
World News Writer

Growing up a shy, only child in Brooklyn, New York, Phyllis McNeal could never have imagined the exciting, diverse paths she would travel on her life journey. On Saturday, Feb. 14, at 1 p.m., at the Indigo East Community Center, she will share some of her experiences and expertise as a certified life coach

during an open dialogue forum. The free-to-attend event, entitled “Step into Your Power,” will entertain audience questions. “I get great joy speaking to and helping women,” she says, also adding, “I am so happy living in On Top of the World, where I have met some amazing women and made

some enduring friendships.” Feb. 14, Valentine’s Day, “Is exactly the appropriate day for us to be comfortable expressing our true feelings of love and feel comfortable loving ourselves.” After earning two master’s degrees, Phyllis became a New York City public school teacher, teaching grades one through eight for 25 years. Realizing that she wanted to pursue other interests, she relocated to Atlanta, Georgia, and soon an opportunity to teach English in Japan presented itself. Always up for a challenge, Phyllis

jumped at the chance, and the exposure to a totally new culture and environment proved to be inspirational for her. An outstanding memory of that time is her praying at Mt. Fuji. She continues to keep in touch with many of the kind, gentle people she met there. For some, this might have been a time to consider retirement and rest. For Phyllis, it was just the start of the next step. She quickly became involved as a consultant with Planned Parenthood, conducting workshops for teenage pregnancy prevention. She was also a court-ordered supervisor for children of divorce. Next, she managed mortgage loan contracts, a job that took her to many cities throughout the United States, including Chicago, Omaha, Austin, and San Diego. Still unsatisfied with her passion, she became a certified life coach. She realized she wanted to empower women, to show them how to be confident in themselves and believe in themselves. She wrote about her own life experiences in a book, “Sassy, Classy and Smart: The Path to Total Confidence,” which she published in 2017. This was an account of her own journey to date. “I saw a need to help women feel confident in their desires and themselves, and based on my own experiences and training, offer my best, helpful advice.” The book is presently being updated and republished. Phyllis credits daily journaling and meditation for fostering a positive mindset. “I would like to help other authors and business owners grow their ideas.” Mastering some of these behavioral techniques will be among the topics she will discuss. Phyllis has always admired butterflies. In some ways, her life mirrors their incredible journey. Come and meet her on Feb. 14, and you will understand her own summation of her life: “I am thankful, grateful, and blessed.” Please contact Gwenda Overstreet at o.gwenda@yahoo.com for more information about the event.



Photo by Pam Monk

Free-to-attend “Step Into Your Power” will take place on Saturday, Feb. 14.

**Find Your Winter Calm at Sholom Park**

By Misty Frye

February at Sholom Park invites the community to slow down, step outside, and experience the park in new and meaningful ways. From music under the evening sky to hands-on creativity and guided walks through some of the park’s most serene landscapes, this month’s events celebrate connection, discovery, and the simple joy of being present in a beautiful natural setting. On the first Friday in February, Sholom Park presents its L.E.A.F. Series (Learn. Explore. Appreciate. Focus.) On Friday, Feb. 6, participants can join a “Birdhouse Building” workshop from 10:30 a.m. to noon at Master the Possibilities Studio 2. Using pre-made kits, attendees will assemble and decorate wooden birdhouses, which can be displayed throughout the park during March. Participants may reclaim their birdhouse afterward or donate it for future enjoyment. The program fee is \$5, plus a \$12 supply fee payable to the instructor. One of the most anticipated evenings will take place on Thursday, Feb. 19, when Sholom Park presents Park After Dark: Musical Mosaic – Dueling Pianos as part of the Park After Dark Concert Series. As the sun sets and the park transitions into twilight, guests are invited to enjoy a lively outdoor concert featuring music, laughter, and high-energy entertainment. Presented by the Jimi Pappas Entertainment Group, this dueling pianos extravaganza features two talented pianists facing off in a dynamic performance that blends musical skill, comedy, and audience interaction. The gates open at 5:15 p.m., with the concert beginning promptly at 6 p.m. To preserve the intimate concert atmosphere, no entry will be permitted after 6:15 p.m. Guests are encouraged to arrive early, settle in, and enjoy the ambiance of Sholom Park after dark. Food and beverages will be available for purchase, and guests may also bring their own food and non-alcoholic drinks. Admission is \$20 per person, and advance registration is required. Sholom Park’s popular “Walk and

Talk” experiences also return in February, offering guided opportunities to explore the park’s history, hidden spaces, and thoughtful design. On Friday, Feb. 13, “Walk and Talk: Part I” invites participants to stroll through the park with Managing Director Robert Colen and Park Manager Brian DeVane, learning how Sholom Park came to be and discovering the vision behind its peaceful landscapes. The walk takes place from 10 a.m. to noon, with participants meeting at the pavilion near the restrooms. The journey continues on Friday,

Feb. 20, with “Walk and Talk: Part II,” which explores areas not covered in the first walk, including the enchanted forest, fragrance trail, food forest, and a behind-the-scenes look at park operations. This immersive experience offers a deeper appreciation for the care and intention that go into every corner of Sholom Park. The month concludes with “Walk and Talk: Part Zen” on Monday, Feb. 23, an experience designed to foster reflection and mindfulness. Guided by Robert Colen and Brian DeVane, participants will explore the Japanese Zen Garden, learning about its design, symbolism, and purpose. The morning also includes mindful meditations led by Park Administrator Misty Frye, creating a calm and restorative experience rooted in the park’s mission of inner peace. For full details on all upcoming Sho-

lom Park events, including schedules, locations, and event-specific guidelines, visitors are encouraged to explore the Sholom Park Events Calendar at sholom-park.org/calendar. Events that require advance registration through Master the Possibilities may be accessed directly at catalog.masterthepossibilities.org/mtp/course/course.aspx?catId=397, where participants can register each attendee individually. Registration assistance is also available by phone at 352-861-9751 ext. 1. This February, Sholom Park invites you to learn, explore, appreciate, and focus-whether through creative expression, music beneath the stars, or a mindful walk through nature. Each event offers a chance to experience the park in a way that nourishes the mind, body, and soul.



Photo courtesy of Colen Built Development

Sholom Park invites the community to slow down, step outside, and experience the park.



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Rhode Island Group

Judy Parisi



Visitors to Newport, Rhode Island, often focus on the beautifully maintained summer “cottages” of the Gilded Age and on spectacular Ocean Drive, which curves along the Atlantic.

To see another facet of Newport, a trip to Fort Adams is recommended. Entrance is from Harrison Avenue to Fort Adams Drive. The drive will take you out to a beautiful harbor area where, in the summer, you often see a ship from American Cruise Lines docked, plus a re-creation of the tall ship, The Oliver Hazard Perry.

The Oliver Hazard Perry was built to resemble American naval vessels of the 1880s. It was named for Commodore Perry, a native Rhode Islander who was a naval hero in the War of 1812. Tours are available.

Off to the side is Fort Adams itself,

a former U.S. Army post established in 1799 as part of the First System coastal fortifications. The current building was constructed in 1857 under the Third System of coastal forts. It is in the shape of an irregular star, built of masonry with heavy guns. The designer was Brigadier General Simon Bernard, a military engineer who served under Napoleon Bonaparte.

The building was first garrisoned in 1841 and served as an active Army post until 1950. It was active in five major wars. During the Civil War, the United States Naval Academy was moved from Annapolis to Fort Adams, then to another building in Newport for the remainder of the war. Over the years, Fort Adams was upgraded with more heavy artillery pieces and later anti-aircraft guns. Along with Fort Wetherill in Jamestown, it defended the East Passage of Narragansett Bay.

In 1953, the United States Army transferred ownership of Fort Adams to the Navy, and in 1965, the fort and surrounding land were given to the State of Rhode Island. It was later designated a Nation-

al Historic Landmark for its distinctive military architecture. In the 1990s, environmental remediation took place, and the Fort Adams Trust was formed, beginning to provide tours. Since 1981, it has hosted the Newport Jazz and Folk Festivals.

There is much to see in this area, Fort Adams itself with its rich military history, a tall ship, the Eisenhower House, and more. There is also a ferry that leaves from Fort Adams for Rose Island, where lighthouse tours are available, and then on to Jamestown. It is a great place to relax while watching ships and boats go in and out of Newport Harbor, and enjoy the great views of the East Passage of Narragansett Bay.

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

Genealogical Society

Sid Levine



Many of us who are active family history researchers have made a resolution to finally get our family trees organized and add those missing ancestors. Our January meeting allowed us to fulfill that goal. Club members brought in their laptops, while several of the more experienced researchers showed them the tricks of the trade for genealogical research.

Our February program features Karen Fortin, who has spoken to us before. Her subject is the “Salem Witch Trials” and how to determine whether we might be descendants of a sorceress or warlock. It’s a topic that might be more suitable for October, but it is never too early to bring some magic into our lives. This presentation will be done via Zoom.

The Genealogical Society meets on the third Monday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room and is available to members via Zoom. For more information, check out our Facebook page (OTOW Genealogical Society) or send an email to [otowgens@gmail.com](mailto:otowgens@gmail.com).

Friends of Bill W Group



You are not alone on this journey. We come together weekly to share our experience, strength, and hope. If you are in recovery or think you have a problem with alcohol, please join us. We meet weekly on Tuesdays from noon to 1 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room.

For more information or to be notified of schedule changes, please email [friendsofbillwocala@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbillwocala@gmail.com).

CONSERVATION FUN FACT

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



The Tall Ship Oliver Hazard Perry.

Photo by Judy Parisi

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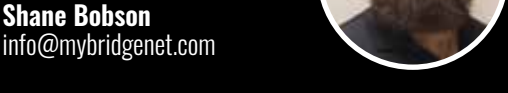
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Tech Tips from Bridgenet Communications



In 2026, a new generation of “Ag-eTech” is transforming senior care by shifting from reactive emergency responses to proactive, AI-driven prevention. As over 60 million Americans are now aged 65 or older, these technologies are becoming essential for maintaining independence and safety.

Proactive Wearables and Early Detection

The wearable market in 2026 has moved beyond simple step counting to deep health diagnostics.

- Dementia & Brain Health: Major tech companies like Samsung are

- introducing smartwatch features that analyze biomarkers – such as gait patterns and sleep changes – to provide early warnings for cognitive conditions like dementia.
- Frailty Detection: Researchers at the University of Arizona recently unveiled an AI-powered “soft mesh” leg sleeve. This device monitors leg acceleration and step symmetry to identify signs of frailty before a fall, enabling early intervention.
  - Non-Invasive Monitoring: New devices like the Vital Belt use millimeter-wave sensing to monitor vital signs via an abdominal belt, offering a seamless alternative to wrist-based sensors.

“Ambient” Care in Smart Homes

Smart home technology has evolved into “ambient” monitoring, where the

home itself acts as a caregiver.

- Routine Mapping: Discrete vibration sensors, some as small as a pill bottle, now plug into standard outlets to map a senior’s daily routine. They can alert families if a resident misses a meal or fails to get out of bed without using intrusive cameras.
- AI Assistants: Voice-activated systems like Amazon Alexa and Google Nest are now standard, managing everything from medication reminders through Hero Health dispensers to emergency voice-calling if a user cannot reach a phone.

Robotics and AI Companionship

To combat the isolation that affects many seniors, robotics is providing both physical and emotional support.

- Companion Robots: AI companions like ElliQ provide social in-

- teraction, while automated “busy-work” robots in care facilities handle supply deliveries, freeing human staff for more meaningful personal care.
- Navigation Aids: For those with visual impairments, AI-driven handheld devices like StellarTrek provide voice-guided GPS and object recognition to make independent travel safer.

Telehealth and Virtual Nursing

In 2026, telehealth will be fully integrated into the standard of care. “Virtual wards” allow doctors to monitor patients in their own homes using real-time data from wearables, significantly reducing the need for hospital admissions. Advanced AI “scribes” also handle documentation, giving clinicians more face-to-face time with their patients.

Technology Club

Chris Kilbride



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

Everyone has probably done the “highlight, copy, and paste” of information routine on their computer, tablet, and smartphone. It’s a great feature to move things around, but where is that information after your quick, clever moves? Guess what – even your personal and sensitive information you just moved is still sitting in what is called the Clipboard, and maybe for several days.

A Clipboard is a native built-in feature of our devices, whether Apple, Windows, or Android. On an Apple Mac computer, the Clipboard history is disabled by default. To enable, go to System Settings > Spotlight, then turn on Results from Clipboard. You’ll be able to choose how long to save your copied items, from 30

minutes to one week. The ability to clear the Clipboard history is also right there. The Clipboard can be viewed by opening Spotlight Search with Command + Space. Then press Command + 4.

On an iPhone, simply copy text or an image, tap and hold in any text field (like Notes or Messages) until the “Paste” option appears. The iPhone clipboard only stores the most recent item copied, and you cannot view it directly without pasting it.

Clear a Windows Clipboard by going to the Home tab, in the Clipboard group, selecting the Clipboard dialog box launcher, and choosing what to delete. Android 13 or newer uses the visual Clipboard by default. Copy or cut any text, then tap the small preview window in the screen’s bottom left-hand corner to open the clipboard. Now you can edit entries. After one hour, Clipboard entries are deleted; anything cut or copied is saved to the Android Clipboard.

Clipboards are a handy feature to copy text, graphics, phone numbers, screenshots, etc. – limited only by available memory and address space. You can search for something you copied days ago by using a keyword.

Copying passwords from a password management app will not show up in your Clipboard history. Saving personal or security-type information in a text file or messaging app definitely will. You can disable the Clipboard at any time.

If it’s just you using your device, don’t worry, but you might want to clear your Clipboard history weekly.

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

The Jewish Club

Bruce Kanner



Certainly, to the chagrin of cardiologists everywhere, celebrations of Chanukah include eating foods deep-fried in oil. This commemorates, according to the story of Chanukah, the one night of candelabra oil which miraculously lasted eight nights.

The Jewish Club surely participated in that rite at the annual Chanukah event held Dec. 14, 2025. More than 110 members feasted on three types of fried chicken from Lee’s Famous Rec-

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

ipe Chicken during the festival. Sides included seasoned fries, mashed potatoes, biscuits, gravy, coleslaw, and, for the faint of heart (or perhaps just to add color to the plate), loads of freshly made green salad. Desserts were two Chanukah sheet cakes (one chocolate and one white cake). Of course, there were bowls of (oil-fried) donut holes, as well as chocolate candy coins (gelt). There was coffee and, back by very popular demand, freshly made mimosas prepared by Mal Press. Orange juice was on hand as a non-alcoholic alternative.

Entertainment was provided by Fred Campbell, who, for the third year in a row, sang and spun the digital records.

Members were encouraged to bring their menorahs, and 87 different menorahs were counted at the 15 tables. One table had 14 menorahs, and each person at that table won blue plastic baby ducks emblazoned with the Jewish star, which Jean Krueger-Travis donated.

The party started with a moment of silence, the lighting of the electric Chanukah or menorah (led by Sara Yoel and Audrey Wolotsky), and the Pledge of Allegiance.

On Dec. 10, 2025, more than 375 people were in attendance as the Jewish Club joined several other clubs to perform at the 23rd annual Holiday Fest. Bruce Kanner explained the history and origins of Chanukah, Audrey Wolotsky added Chanukah customs (dreidel, latkes, and gelt), and Harriet Pinchouck led a choir of nine members in four Chanukah songs. Amy Maneval Wymer accompanied the choir on the piano.

On Dec. 3, 2025, Wellness Director Cammy Dennis enthralled and educated members during a presentation. Besides the science behind burning versus eating calories, topics included proper ways to stand, sit, and move from one position to another. Thanks to Sue Daniels of the social committee for helping put this together.

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

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



Photo by Mark Frankel

Wayne Omel is ready to party at the Jewish Club’s annual Chanukah party in December 2025.



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Lars Andersen (left) with Glenn Cohen of Freethinkers.

Freethinkers

Kathy Bell



“A day without laughter is wasted.” – Charlie Chaplin

Our quote today is from Charlie Chaplin, actor and agnostic. Laughter is on this month’s agenda for Freethinkers! On Sunday, Feb. 8, our dear friend Dr. Rod Broker will present “(un)Holy Humor” as a way to explore how humor can be an effective tool for social commentary. Humor can break boundaries, question the status quo, and unpack the complexities that challenge traditional beliefs and religious dogma. Dr. Broker is a former academic and Lutheran pastor who served in ministry for more than 40 years before critical thinking led him to embrace freethinking.

Open forum, one of our hallmark discussion programs, will return on Sunday, Feb. 22, under the direction of Freethinker Roger Mack. We will use the “six tables, six topics” facilitated discussion model, which allows members to choose the topic of their greatest interest. This allows us to learn from each other about current or controversial subjects.

Freethinkers is open to all individuals on the freethought continuum, from religious skeptic to avowed atheist. If this fits for you, please join us at one of our Sunday meetings, held on the dates indicated above from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room, to become a member. After that, you are welcome to all other events.

Other programs and activities open to members in February include three dining out opportunities and our book club, for which we are reading “The Giver”

Southern Connection Club

DarLene Stevens



February in the South brings familiar holidays like Valentine’s Day and Presidents’ Day, but Florida adds its own sparkle with quirky unofficial celebrations. It’s peak strawberry season, with Plant City berries overflowing at farm stands and bakeries turning out irresistible shortcakes. Mardi Gras pops up in colorful pockets across the state, and baseball fans feel the excitement as spring training begins.

The month is dotted with other fun observances – G.I. Joe Day and National Baked Alaska Day, Groundhog Day, The Day the Music Died, Ice Cream for Breakfast Day, and World Nutella Day. Add in Thank Your Mailman Day, Carrot Cake Day, and the buzz of Super Bowl Sunday, and February becomes a celebration all its own.

Join us for the Southern Connection Social Club on Sunday, Feb. 8, at 5:30 p.m. in Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II. Bring a dish to share, enjoy a fun evening, and we’ll wrap up in time for your personal Super Bowl festivities. See you there. And bring a friend.

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Resident Services  
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Women of the World

Lois Rowland



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

The January meeting featured Em-path Hospice of Marion County. “Reading Pals” of the United Way was our charity, along with Operation Shoebox.


Our next meeting will be on Thursday, Feb. 12, at noon in the Recreation Center Ballroom. All meetings going

forward will be on the second Thursday of each month (except March, when we will have the 23rd annual Fashion Show). The Fashion Show will be held on Wednesday, March 18. Tickets are on sale at Ticket Tuesdays, Women of the World meetings, and Circle Square Commons Farmers Market (Thursdays).

Our February meeting will feature a speaker from Marion County Senior Services. Our charity will be Perpetual Care. Their mission is to give pet owners the peace of mind that their pets will be cared for and loved when they are no longer able to care for them. Emails will be sent to members listing items that can be donated to help this charity.

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


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Global Diversity  
Asian Social Club

Rosalina Norita



From the ancient heart of Asia, a celebration of renewal and hope prepares to unfold across continents. Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is far more than a calendar date; it is a living tradition shaped by more than three millennia of history, mythology, and reverence for nature and ancestors. Rooted in the lunar calendar, the festival has long marked a turning point, when families cleanse away misfortune, honor the past, and welcome the promise of a new beginning.

Over the centuries, a rich mosaic of customs has emerged. Homes glow with red decorations symbolizing luck and happiness. Firecrackers echo to frighten away ill spirits. Reunion dinners bring families separated by distance and generations together.

Once confined to imperial courts and rural villages, these rituals have evolved into shared cultural practices that unite communities worldwide. In 2026, the Chinese New Year welcomes the Year of the Horse, a zodiac sign associated with energy, independence, perseverance, and forward momentum. The horse inspires hopes for resilience, ambition,

and dynamic progress in the year ahead. Time-honored rituals continue to define the celebration. Families thoroughly clean their homes to make space for good fortune. Prayers and offerings honor ancestors. Red envelopes are exchanged as symbols of prosperity and care. Festive meals feature foods rich with meaning, including dumplings for wealth and fish for abundance. Streets and public squares come alive with lion and dragon dances, while lanterns illuminate paths toward luck and renewal.

In the modern era, the Chinese New Year has grown into a global civic celebration. Major cities host parades, cultural performances, and educational programs. Schools teach children the stories of the zodiac, museums showcase calligraphy and traditional art, and neighbors of all backgrounds exchange greetings. The festival's lasting power lies in its adaptability: it preserves deep cultural meaning while welcoming newcomers, fostering understanding and connection through shared celebration.

This spirit of cultural exchange is reflected in Samuel Raditya's experience as an Indonesian student at New York University's Stern School of Business. His academic journey mirrors the adventurous spirit of the horse, pursuing opportunity far from home. Samuel explored Central Florida, seeking connection and insight into American community life, and discovered a genuine sense of welcome. During the winter break, he



Photo by restaurant staff

The fire horse celebration luncheon of the new year.

shared his musical talent by performing piano at a Christmas party, creating joyful intergenerational connections.

The spirit of community and celebration continues to thrive. Residents are warmly invited to the upcoming Club Fair on Thursday, Feb. 19, where the Global Diversity Asian Social Club will host table 41. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more, connect with fellow residents, and celebrate our shared

traditions.

Furthermore, mark your calendar for the Valentine's Day luncheon on Saturday, Feb. 14, at the Arbor Conference Center – an event with a heartwarming purpose, as proceeds will benefit the PICU (Pediatric Intensive Care Unit) at Shands Children's Hospital. To secure your spot for this meaningful event and continue a calendar filled with opportunities for togetherness, culture, and community, please call 352-414-0323.

Scandinavian  
American Club

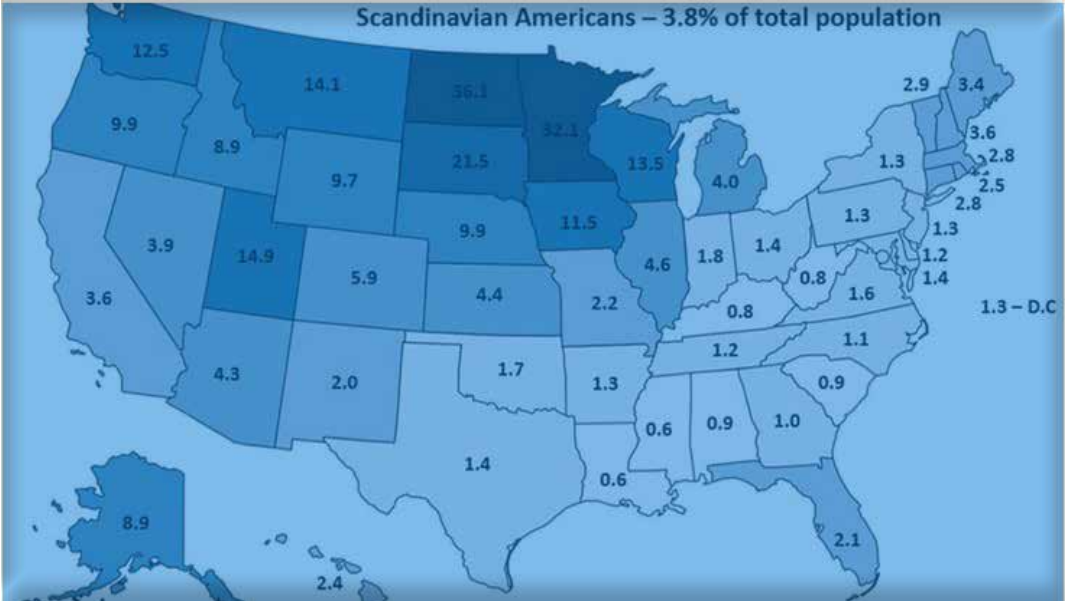
David Wesenberg



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

You may well have seen many Scandinavian surnames and not realized they were Scandinavian. For example, Walgren is the surname of Charles Walgren, the Chicago-based founder of Walgreens Drug Stores. It is a very Swedish name meaning "powerful branch."

Many Scandinavians have the suffix "son" in their surname. For example,



"Swanson" means "son of a swan." I know Swan seems like an unusual pa-

ternal name, but my wife's great-grandfather from Sweden was Swan Sandell.

In Minnesota, where I come from, there are sons of Ander, John, Neil, Nel, and many others.

In the U.S., many Scandinavians have settled in Utah, Washington, and other western and Midwest states, and not so many in the eastern part of the country.

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

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

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

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Snowy egret. Photo by Linda Monaco

Birders' Beat

Linda Monaco



Members of The Birding Group will take a covered pontoon boat ride with Captain Jon Semmes on the Rainbow and Withlacoochee Rivers on Tuesday, Feb. 24.

The two rivers are both beautiful but very different in appearance. The crystal-clear Rainbow River is light blue and spring-fed, while the Withlacoochee River, which originates in the Green Swamp, is a dark, mostly opaque body of water. The two-and-a-half-hour ride departs at 8:30 a.m. from the dock adjacent to the Dunnellon City Hall (20750 River Drive, Dunnellon, Florida 34431). The ride will include birding and educational commentary about the area’s history and ecology, as well as the two rivers.

These two rivers offer excellent opportunities to observe a wide variety of birds, including herons, coots, gallinules, anhingas, cormorants, egrets, ibises, and birds of prey. Turtles, otters, and alligators are also frequently seen in the weeds and along the shoreline. The spacious, comfortable boat can accommodate 20 passengers, and the cost will be \$25 per person. Please bring exact change or a check to give to the boat captain at the end of the ride. Tips are always appreciated.

If you would like to join the group for this boat ride on Tuesday, Feb. 24, please email Margitta Claterbos at mclaterbos@gmail.com. We will meet in the parking lot of Friendship Center just outside the SW 99th Street gate for On Top of the World at 7:30 a.m. This is the parking lot by Big Lots and the Bank of OZK.

Friends of SPCA

Heather Tahan



Calling all animal lovers: we introduce Friends of SPCA, an On Top of the World club, supporting SPCA of Marion County, a 501(c)(3) organization. We have created this new club for residents.

It might be a new year and a new club, but we still share the same mission: to improve the health and welfare of Marion County pets. Our monthly meetings will continue to be held on the third Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. but will be in the Recreation Center Lounge. However, please note that our next monthly meeting, while still on Thursday, Feb. 19, will be at 1:30 p.m. due to the Club Fair that day. We welcome you to attend a meeting or drop by our table at the weekly Thursday Circle Square Commons Farmers Market to check us out.

As a reminder to our members, the 2026 annual membership dues of \$20 (cash or check) are due. You may bring your dues to the next meeting or the Farmers Market, or mail them to Friends of SPCA, 11100 SW 93rd Ct Rd, Ste 10-115, Ocala, FL 34481. Checks can be made out to “Friends of SPCA.”

The board members of Friends of SPCA have been re-elected for another year: President Marlene Hatch; Vice President Paulette Bourgnon; Treasurer Julie Rojas, and Secretary Melanie Vititow. We will be looking for volunteers to serve on our 2026 committees. Join us for another year of fun while helping On Top of the World/Marion County pets in need.

While we collect many items for local Marion County shelters and feral cat colonies, our Meals on Wheels for Pets program is a major focus. We package and deliver food to about 70 pets each month through this program. We donate funds to local rescues to support spay and neuter costs and provide financial assistance for vet costs to those in need. So, by giving to or volunteering for the Friends of SPCA, you are supporting local shelters and pets. Our donors make a real difference in the lives of pet owners with limited means or foster pets waiting for their forever homes.

To learn more, please visit SPCAof-



Photo by Dawn Case

Siren is a three-year-old spayed female SPCA foster from Marion County Animal Services. Please email dcindc3@verizon.net if you are interested in adopting her.

MarionCounty.weebly.com, follow us on Facebook (Marion County FL SPCA), or email spca.marion.county@gmail.com.

If you have any non-expired food that your pet doesn’t like or was shipped to you in error, please consider donating it to us. Donations are accepted on the porch of Evelyn Sarns Holiday, 8880-C SW 94th Street, Ocala, Florida 34481. We accept all pet items, including food, as well as blankets, sheets, and other supplies. To avoid accidental ingestion by a pet, please do not use staples to close open bags. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity!

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

On Top of the World

NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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World  
Traveler

Bill Shampine



Bolivia is a landlocked country in the heart of South America. Located just west of the center of the continent, it is nestled in the corners of Peru, Chile, Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil. It is a beautiful country, noted for stunning mountain landscapes and a vibrant indigenous culture. Because its geography includes many mountains ranging up to 20,000 feet, Bolivia is often referred to as the Tibet of South America. It is also the most indigenous country in the Americas, with 60 percent of its population being of predominantly Native American ancestry.

Historically, what is now Bolivia was ruled by the Inca Empire from about 1440 to the late 1530s when the Spanish conquistadores, led by Francisco Pizarro, defeated the Incas. In 1545, the discovery of immense silver deposits spurred massive Spanish settlement and exploitation, making Spain one of the world’s richest countries. Spain dominated the region until 1825, when the locals finally declared independence. They then named the region Bolivia after Simón Bolívar, the pivotal military and political leader who helped secure their freedom. Since independence, there has been significant political instability. Conditions did stabilize somewhat under the presidency of Evo Morales from 2006 to 2019; however, claims of a fraudulent election in 2019 created a stir.

Historically, Bolivia is renowned for its vast mineral wealth, even though the country is relatively underexplored geologically and mineralogically. Nevertheless, they produce huge quantities



Some dancers in the Diablada (Dance of the Devils) as part of the Oruro Carnival held every year in Bolivia.

of silver, tin, antimony, zinc, lead, tungsten, and gold. The major agricultural products are coca, sugarcane, and soy, but the farmers still produce significant amounts of maize, potato, sorghum, banana, rice, and wheat.

Tourism income has been increasing and is now an important part of Bolivia’s economy. The most popular sites to visit include Nevado Sajama, Torotoro National Park, Madidi National Park, and the city of La Paz. Another popular

tourist site, and an example of the country’s amazing geography, is Lake Titicaca. Because they are located at their borders, Bolivia and Peru share control of the lake. At an elevation of 12,536 feet, it is the world’s highest navigable lake.

If you visit Bolivia, you need to be wary of renting a car. Only about five percent of all roads in Bolivia are paved; mostly those between the major cities. Many of the roads in the mountains are very narrow (as narrow as 12 feet wide), do not have guardrails, but do have falls of as much as 2,000 feet if you acciden-

tally slip off the road.

With 60% of Bolivia’s population being predominantly of Native American ancestry, it has a very rich folklore. The regional folk music is distinctive and varied. The “devil dances” at the annual carnival of Oruro are one of the great folklore events of South America, as is the lesser-known carnival of Tarabuco. If you do choose to visit Bolivia, you might want to go there during carnival time. I bet that would be an experience to remember.

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Travel Toppers

Mary Lamp



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

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

Regarding Suncoast Dinner Theater productions, “Miss Saigon” on Saturday, March 14, is sold out. If interested in being placed on our waitlist, call Diane Knox at 352-390-2386. Linda Uhley will begin taking reservations on Monday, Feb. 2, for “Rock of Ages” on Saturday, April 18. This is a five-time Tony Award-nominated musical that tells the story of a small town girl, a city boy, and a rock ‘n’ roll romance on the Sunset Strip. If interested, call Linda at 352-854-

8536. Tickets for these productions are \$100 per person and include the performance, dinner and dessert, transportation, and tips for the driver and servers. Like all our trips, payment must be made by check only and is nonrefundable unless there is a waitlist.

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

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

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





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Lions Club

Gail Morris



Did you see it? I did. New Year’s Day – Rose Parade, the theme was “The Magic of Teamwork.” I always love to see the marvels they work with flowers, bark, seeds, and all types of foliage. This year, I was proud to see our Lions Club International float titled “In Harmony We Serve.” It won the Tournament Volunteer Award.

Our club members indeed display the “magic of teamwork,” especially as we begin the year preparing for our largest fundraiser, Casino Night. The date is Sunday, March 22, from 3 to 6 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center. The event is open to the public.

This event’s proceeds allow us to continue serving our community as we have over the past year. Your ticket purchase will help us to continue to support some of our Marion County schools, Veterans Helping Veterans, Isaiah House, and our quarterly donations to a variety of sight-

saving organizations such as Dogs, Inc., Lions Saving Sight, Florida Center for the Blind, and others.

Tickets are \$50 each and include \$300 in gaming money, food, and drink. Lions will be selling tickets at the following locations:

- Circle Square Commons Farmers Market: Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon
- Arbor Activity Center Card Room III: Ticket Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon.
- First Federal Bank (Circle Square Commons): Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Lions Club members are also selling tickets. Our ticket limit is 300, so do not miss out on a fun night. Come join us. Buy your tickets early. As a matter of fact, it might be a nice Valentine’s Day gift – a night out, \$300 in fun money, and the prospect of winning a large-screen smart TV or an electric adult tricycle.

Lions Club meetings are on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room at 5 p.m. If you would like further information, you can contact Bert Perkins, who is our membership chair, at 909-262-8407.



Photo by Gail Morris

Lions Club International float titled “In Harmony We Serve.”

Eco Gardeners

Phil Karcheski



Diseases in the Eco Gardens are a major frustration we combat each year. Chemical and organic remedies are available but have limited success for several reasons. The proximity of other infected gardens spreads fungi and molds via wind, improper disposal of infected plant debris, or rain that splashes them onto leaves, thus the problems persist, continuing the cycle of contamination.

I have tried several products with limited success, then sought help from Rich DeWild, owner-operator of Harmony Valley Organic Farm in Veroqua, Wisconsin. I worked for Rich in 1996 when it was a small operation. He now farms 75 acres, employing 60 seasonal workers who are skilled in growing and harvesting crops in accordance with organic certification standards and who use quality inputs and disease-prevention measures. Rich supplies vegetables for restaurants, his 100 CSA subscribers, Whole Foods stores, and many others in the Midwest.

I consulted with Rich regarding our situation, and he explained that protecting and harvesting organic vegetables starts with buying hybrid seeds that have been selectively cross-bred to resist diseases. The organic aspect is that insects sense sick and weak plants and forage on them. Planting hybrid seeds (often labeled as F1) is important for a home food garden, especially if you have limited space or have struggled with pests and diseases in the past.

While heirloom seeds are cherished for their history and seed-saving potential, hybrids are essentially the “performance athletes” of the plant world. You should consider them for your garden because breeders cross-pollinate specific varieties to create offspring that are naturally resistant to common killers like Verticillium wilt, Fusarium wilt, and Tobacco Mosaic Virus.

Hybrid offspring often grow faster, stronger, and larger than either of their parents. You’ll often see better germination rates, more robust stems, and plants that can handle environmental stress better than heirlooms.

Hybrids are bred for productivity.

While an heirloom tomato might give you a few massive, irregularly shaped fruits over a long period, a hybrid is often designed to produce a heavy “flush” of uniform fruit. Many hybrids are “bush” or “determinate” varieties, meaning they stay compact and don’t take over your entire yard.

Hybrids often cost more, but “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

For 2026, our new board members are President Jimmy Weaver, Vice President Chuck Bonner, Treasurer Janet Dugre, and Secretary Mike Zeller.

The next Eco Gardeners meeting will be Monday, Feb. 16, in the Hobby Building Event Room.

If you’re interested in joining or would like to find out more about us, visit [eco-gardeners.org](http://eco-gardeners.org) or Facebook (OTOW Eco Gardeners). To contact us, email [gardenc58@gmail.com](mailto:gardenc58@gmail.com).

In February, plant seeds for beans, cantaloupe, carrots, corn, cucumbers, peas, radish, squash, turnips, and watermelons. Transplant beets, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, eggplant, lettuce, peppers, and tomatoes.

Michigan Club

Nancy Meininger



Michigan Club will celebrate their annual Coney Island picnic and salute to the Detroit Tigers on Sunday, April 12. The event will take place at the Veterans Park pavilion, starting at 4 p.m. You must have tickets to attend.

Tickets for this event will be available in February. Contact Nancy Meininger by calling or texting 352-554-0757.

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Latinos Club

Silvia C. Garcia



¡Hola Amigos! Everyone is welcome – you do not have to be Latino to join, just come ready to have fun!

Enjoy wine tasting and dancing with fabulous DJs Pati and Jan Bean on Saturday, Feb 28. Buy your tickets on Tuesdays, Feb. 17 and Feb. 24, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Arbor Activity Center Card Room III. Please note that no tickets will be sold at the door.

Among other things, our members enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon at the Appleton Museum of Art, celebrating the Day of the Three Kings, which included a private tour and an art-making session.

Listed below is part of the dedicated board of directors’ leadership team, committed to creating meaningful experiences for our members: Silvia C. Garcia, founder and president, was born in Cuba and called Wellington, Florida, home until 2022. She is a full-time realtor and entrepreneur with a passion for making a positive difference in people’s lives. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, cooking, traveling, and dancing.

Ivan Vazquez, vice president, hails from New York and is of Puerto Rican descent. Ivan is married to his high school sweetheart, Ivy, and is a retired U.S. Navy veteran and customs marine agent. Ivan’s hobbies include reading, playing dominoes, and watching football and baseball. Mari Soler, treasurer, was born in Miami and is happily married to her teenage sweetheart, John Soler. Her career includes administrative assistant for the

Greater Miami Host Committee, which hosted the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Big Orange New Year’s Eve celebration. Mari works as a bookkeeper. She enjoys crafting, scrapbooking, playing games, staging, and decorating. Gloria Bell, secretary English, was born in Puerto Rico. She studied at Notre Dame of Maryland and Clemson University. Her 36-year career in natural resources conservation included being a wildlife biologist at the public relations department of Natural Resources and working with endangered species conservation at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Gloria loves to read, cook, and travel.

Claribel “Ivy” Vazquez, secretary Spanish, was born in Puerto Rico. She has been married to Ivan Vazquez, her high school sweetheart, for 39 years. Ivy was a document administrator and quality assurance specialist. She enjoys spending time with her family and loves drawing and reading.

Next month, you will read about our club’s members-at-large and board advisors.

Looking ahead, mark your calendar for some exciting events:

- Saturday, Feb. 28: Wine tasting and dancing.
- Saturday, March 28: Greet, meet, rotate, and dancing.
- Saturday, April 25: Oldiwed, Midwed, and Newlywed game and dancing.
- Saturday, May 30: Murder mystery dinner and dancing.

Tuesday game nights and monthly dinners continue throughout the year. Visit our Facebook (OTOW Latinos Club Ocala) to stay updated on our upcoming events and view photos.

For more information, call Silvia C. Garcia at 561-801-8188, Ivan Vazquez at 727-403-9629, or Micky Crawford at 352-207-7153.



Latinos Club members at the Appleton Museum of Art.

Joy in the Mourning

Deb Thompson



A new day. A new dawn. A new year! A Greek philosopher once said, “The only constant in life is change.” Some changes we choose and look forward to. Other changes happen beyond our control. These are considered intruders. Whatever challenges may arise, they need to be managed if they are to be suc-

cessfully overcome. This is reality. This was and is my personal agenda and reason for establishing a bereavement support group that began in September 2023.

Obstacles initially viewed as insurmountable can be conquered. People will find encouragement and know there is hope for their future. The foundational principles presented in the literature by professionals will enable one to be on a path toward positive change. Wisdom is knowledge applied. This is key.

Joy in the Mourning isn’t a social event. It is a recovery to secure one’s

footing, redefining a new life as being suddenly single.

What may you discover on this new path? What awaits you around the bend if you courageously invest in yourself? Soak in Gary Roes’ words as he explains in his best-selling book, “We need to recognize that one of the best gifts we can give to the world is the healthiest us possible. The healthier we are mentally, emotionally, physically, spiritually, and relationally, the more we can engage in our ultimate mission and purpose.”

Could this be the direction you desire for your life? If so, wait no longer. I personally invite you to Joy in the Mourning every Friday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Arbor Activity Center Music Room. There isn’t a fee or prior registration, but you may find bringing a notepad and pen helpful.

I look forward to welcoming you and rejoicing with you as you progress on your life-changing journey. Please call or text Deb at 352-445-4860 with any questions or for additional information.



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SWANS

Lois Nix



The years have gone by, 20 to be exact, since the Single Women Active Networking System (SWANS) was formed. On Top of the World was growing, society was changing, and single women were becoming homeowners.

Six women who bought homes in On Top of the World met and discovered that there were many clubs to join, but none just for single women. With the help of the Recreation Department, SWANS was created.

During the initial setup, it was decided that there would not be scheduled monthly meetings, nor would we collect dues. We would have a membership meeting once a year.

Our mission is to promote social in-

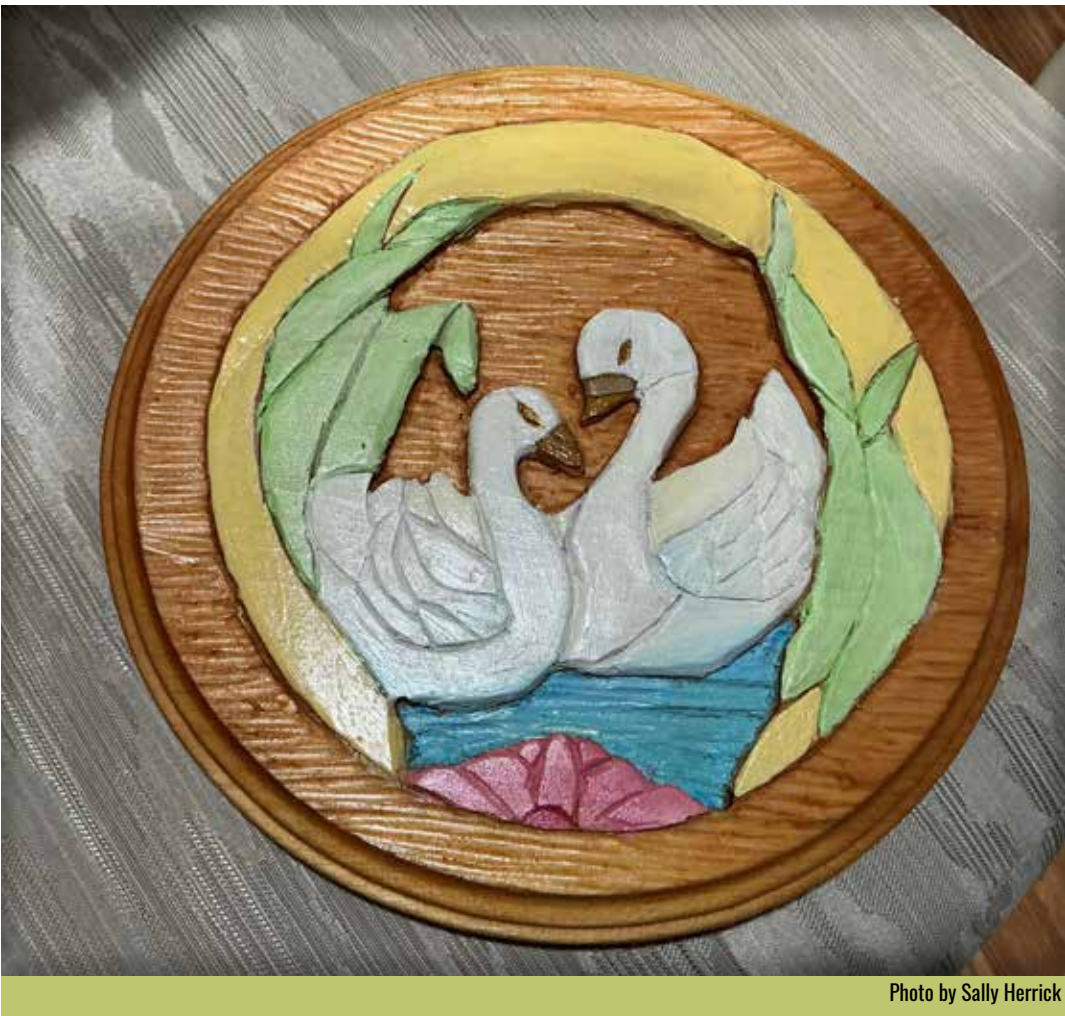
teraction and to enrich, support, and encourage single women to be active. At that time, our social life involved joining Happy Hour, as well as appetizer-in, dinner-in, and dinner-out gatherings. We were a small group then, yet some of these gatherings still exist today.

On Top of the World and SWANS have grown, and many changes have been made. In the beginning, we did not have Circle Square Commons, Indigo East, Weybourne Landing, and Master of Possibilities. So much has changed!

Not only has this growth added more residents, but many more single women have joined SWANS. I have been asked quite often how I have managed to remain a coordinator for all these years.

It is when a SWAN goes out of her way to create a gift of appreciation for me. I look around my office, and I see so many beautiful SWANS sitting on my shelves. I realize that what I do is so appreciated by so many single women.

SWANS are never alone. SWANS are never forgotten.



Handcrafted by Linda Toner.

Photo by Sally Herrick



Photo by Mike Meyer

Active Singles Club New Year's Eve party.

Active Singles Club

Jan Lindell



We welcomed 2026 with a great New Year's Eve party attended by nearly 100 of our members. We had a great evening dancing to DJ Ben Simmons' music, and all our members brought snacks/sweets to share.

If you are single and not going out for fun activities and events because you don't want to go alone, visit [otowactivesingles.com](http://otowactivesingles.com) to see all the fun activities on our calendar.

Our members are always working on adding new activities or events for us to enjoy as a group. Our many recurring activities include dining out, playing cards, bocce, darts, bowling, miniature golf, and hiking, among others! You

don't have to be a pro at any of them, so try one to see how much fun it can be.

The travel committee has been working on 2026-2027 for same-day, a few days, or long-distance trips. Their first quarterly informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb 11. Sign up for this meeting to see what the possibilities are.

Our first Active Singles cruise adventure is just around the corner, Sunday, March 1 through Sunday, March 8. There are still cabins available, so sign up and don't miss the fun!

To join our club, you must be a resident with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass and be single. Our meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. Our doors open at 7:15 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

We look forward to seeing many of our members, as well as several new members, each month.

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# Table Tennis Members Compete in the Florida Senior Games

By Mary Jeannotte

Located behind the Arbor Fitness Center are two long buildings – the Arbor Conference Center and the Arbor Activity Center – with the first containing the Table Tennis room. The main room features three premium ping-pong tables. This room is expanded to two rooms with the addition of two more tables, Friday through Monday. If you pass by, feel welcome to come in and join in the fun of table tennis. Paddles and balls are provided for those without equipment. The rooms are open for anyone to play except during times reserved for the Table Tennis Club.

To join the club, annual membership is \$10. Members are friendly and inviting and are happy to provide any information about the club. Depending on your skill level, members will help direct you to the best times to play with others of similar skill or, for those interested, to sessions that focus on game improvement.

There are beginner, intermediate, and advanced sessions in both singles and doubles throughout the week and into the evenings. There is a ladies’ only session on Wednesdays.

The club hosts various social events. One of these is the regularly scheduled board meetings to review the club’s status, entertain new ideas, share a meal, and afterward participate in organized social table tennis play.

There are inter-community tournaments, where the focus is on meeting new people outside of our community

and having fun playing table tennis. So there is plenty of time and opportunity to make new friends.

For our more competitive club members, advanced-level sessions are held on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. There are opportunities in the community to compete in tournaments.

Every September, many of our members caravan to Gainesville, Florida, for a Florida Senior Games qualifier. These tournaments are set up so that you play against people of similar age. If you place in the top four, you qualify for the state-wide Florida Senior Games.

Most recently, two members participated in these games, held in Clearwater, Florida. Mary Jeannotte won the gold medal in singles, and she and her sister Rose Carreno won the gold in doubles. They now qualify for the National Senior Games to be held next year.

The club has also started in-house tournaments where members compete against each other. There are plans in place to increase opportunities for teaching sessions. The club also plans to participate in this year’s On Top of the World Games to be held in the fall.

The Table Tennis Club is growing. So if you see a bunch of people in the Table Tennis room with balls flying around, don’t be intimidated. Come on in and try it out. You won’t be disappointed. For further information, contact President Paul Stadterman at ptstadterman@yahoo.com.



Florida Senior Games gold medal winners.

# Bocce Celebrates Two Point Challenge Winners

By Kathy Nastally

Happy February! While researching interesting information to share with you, I found that the National Retail Federation, as reported by Google, stated that Valentine’s Day spending in 2025 hit \$27.5 billion! The average American spent \$189 per person, with the younger generations driving the spending. Don’t worry, boomers, it was reported that our average spending for this holiday was \$53! Stay thrifty, my “average” friends! Don’t forget your sweeties!

Bocce club dues are \$15 for membership, and are good through Sept. 30. If you’re not sure bocce ball is your thing,

come try it out and play three times before you pay dues. All players must complete the club and community harmless forms and present a valid resident ID.

Open bocce plays all year, pending weather, on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. Please come a little early to sign in, as we are limited to 48 players. We use a luck-of-the-draw format, meaning we draw cards to determine your court and team. We play two games to 16 points each; the first team to 16 wins. In the second game, you switch ends of the court and

color. Your teammates today might be your opponents the next time you play.

League play is already mid-season and runs through mid-April. A Best of Bocce tournament in April concludes our league year. We play Tuesdays at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., and Thursdays at 10 a.m. In league play, you are committed to a team at the designated times. As a reminder, league representatives do their best to avoid subjecting you to inclement weather. We will cancel play if the temperature and/or wind chill is below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Of course, rain and lightning are always safety factors.

In December 2025, we had two point challenge winners. The first was Mark Linse, Tuesday league, 11 a.m. on Dec. 16, 2025. Our second was Maurice “Mo” Gauthier, from open play, on Dec. 26, 2025. The challenge: roll the pallina to the point without calling for it to be

placed on the point, and if it comes to rest with at least half of the pallina covering the point, and the action is verified by two players and/or a league representative, you win! It is much harder to do than it sounds. Congratulations guys! Way to roll!

The bocce courts are located behind the Arbors Activity Center next to the tennis courts. Everyone is welcome to play outside of the posted league times; information is listed on our court-side bulletin boards. Crated balls are under the court benches. Court one also has a removable wall section for handicap accessibility. For your safety, closed-toe shoes are required for play; no sandals or flip-flops. For questions or concerns, please contact our club president, Pam Brown, at 970-531-1890. See you soon for fun at the courts. Let the bocce balls roll!



Mark Linse point challenge winner Dec. 16, 2025.



Mo Gauthier point challenge winner Dec. 26, 2025.





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Golf

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The start of 2026 is an exciting and eventful time! Candler Hills and The Links will be hosting the annual World Sadie Hawkins Golf Tournament on Saturday, Feb. 14, with a 9 a.m. shotgun start. This year’s format will be a two-person alternate-shot on the front nine and a scramble on the back nine. The cost is \$20 per player for awards and prizes. Please register at either Golf Shop.

With March right around the corner, we are proud to announce the return of the Ocala Open from Monday, March 23, through Friday, March 27, at Candler Hills Golf Club. The Pro-Am is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24 with Mon-

Men’s Golf Association

John Yenne



This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the On Top of the World Men’s Golf Association (MGA). The 2026 MGA handbook will feature special modifications and additions commemorating four decades of golf and camaraderie at On Top of the World. The anniversary also marks a long tradition of charitable giving to Empath Hospice of Marion County. The board has proposed increasing our annual contribution to \$3,000 for 2026.

Members can expect special benefits throughout the year to mark the anniversary. Membership remains strong, with 301 golfers signed up. Members who haven’t yet renewed should submit \$25 in the appropriate envelope in the Golf Shop player’s lounge. Golfers should monitor several developments. The Summit may host some MGA events this year, offering variety to the tournament schedule.

Here’s to a great 40th anniversary season!

Please note the following upcoming Wednesdays on your calendar:

day, March 23 added if there are more than 32 teams. The benefiting charities will again be Empath Hospice of Marion County and Interfaith Emergency Services. For more information, visit OcalaOpen.com.

The golf 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. Keeping them in circulation helps us avoid having to continue purchasing 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 straight line. This will help keep the driving range in better condition. We appreciate your understanding.

All shop credit expires on Saturday, Feb. 28. Any credit won in February will not be posted to your account until Sunday, March 1. It’s time to shop!

**Upcoming Events**

- Saturday, Feb. 14: World Sadie

- Feb. 4: Chicken Day Scramble
- Feb. 11: Low Net-Low Gross Individual (The Links)
- Feb. 18: Team Stableford Three Best Balls (The Links)
- Feb. 25: White-Yellow-Orange Two Best Balls (The Tortoise & The Hare)

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

**Chicken Day Scramble Jan. 7**

The Links Flight: Tie at 53–Donnie Perkins, John

Horseshoes Club

Vern Kessler



The Horseshoe Club is a free club for residents. No monthly dues, and everything needed to pitch shoes is provided. All anyone needs to do is come out and join the fun.

Once again, the club thanks Bruce Rollins for taking the time to paint the horseshoes. All the club members appreciate this.

In December 2025, the club pitched a total of 6,630 shoes, played 169 matches, and threw 1,031 ringers. That puts the club’s ringer percentage for December

Hawkins at Candler Hills and The Links, 9 a.m. shotgun.

- Monday, Feb. 23: String Event at The Links, 9 a.m. shotgun start.
- Monday, March 23 & Tuesday, March 24: Ocala Open Pro Am at Candler Hills Golf Club.
- Wednesday, March 25 through Friday, March 27: Ocala Open at Candler Hills Golf Club.

**World Accolades**

**CANDLER HILLS:** Mike Renzi, hole-in-one #13. Omer Fannin, eagle #7. Steve Gersten, eagle #7 & #15. Steve Bassett, hole-in-one #13 and eagle #7. Brent Brown, eagle #7. David Metzger, hole-in-one #17. Gene Czachor, eagle #7. Larry Smallwood, eagle #7. Shelly Karsnitz, eagle #7. Rick Kramer, eagle #7. Brad Best, eagle #7. Brenda Hofmann, eagle #7. Ellen Brin shot best round ever, 83.

**THE TORTOISE & THE HARE:** Charlie Taylor, eagle #18. Steve Gersten, eagle #5.

**THE LINKS:** Lori Pizzini shot the lowest

round ever, 77. Rick Kramer, eagle #7. Mike Mackowiak shot 72, two strokes under his age. Jeff Richardson, eagle #3. Congratulations to all!

**Golf Tip of the Month**

One of the easiest ways to improve your game is to focus on your tempo. Most golfers overswing, which leads to poor contact and missed shots. Think smooth and steady, rather than trying to hit it farther.

A good rule of thumb is to count one, two, three, or use a three-syllable word to improve tempo. Count one in your backswing, two at the top of the swing, and three on the downswing. This rhythm helps you stay balanced, square the clubface more consistently, and strike the ball solidly. This often finds you hitting the ball straighter and farther.

Next time you practice or play, prioritize tempo over speed. This will lower your scores much more than swinging harder ever will.

Yenne, Tom Nutt, Bruce Rothenberg; Robert Walker, Larry Manion, Bill Dobbins, David Bauer; Joe Polizotti, John Herman, Steve Wrazen, Howard Gluckman. 54–Doyce Mathis, David Vincent, Vernon Kessler, Joseph Mendola. 55–William (Bill) Truby, Randy Keller, Jim Lefaver, Tary Bole. 56–Greg McDowell, Gary Niland, Gregg Keidel, Richard Ross. Tie at 57–Patrick Nagy, Joseph Dunnack, Mike Clancy, Donald Wheeler; Thomas Laclair, Bob Epps, Mike Ball, Charles Lombardo.

The Tortoise & The Hare Flight: Tie at 55–Anthony

Morris, Jeffrey Knittel, Philip Petrozella, John DiVito; August Rosenberger, Robert Meyer, Terry Rizer. Tie at 56–Rick Schriewer, Don Channell, Charlie Taylor, TOM MULLALY; Doug Buckler, Sam Feola, Stuart Martin, Bruce Venslavsky; Robert Coughanour, Jim Tait, Marvin DeBerry, Curt Bingham; Dan Goggin, Larry Turner, David Green. Tie at 57–Steve Parker, Jerry Williams, Percy Millet, David Jeffries; Eugene Paradis, Rick Plesea, Dennis McCourt, Joe Ferris; Dick Emmons, Rino D’amico, Mike Benes, Mike Kur-lakowsky.

at 16.21%.

Members with personal high scores and ringers were:

78–Cliff Dallals (22 ringers). 68–Vern Kessler (17 ringers). 61–Mike Hamlin (16 ringers). 53–Paul Lariviere. 51–Dave Laliberte. 47–John Bunyak. 45–Karen Lynn.

Cliff Dallas had a winning percentage of 66.67% and a personal high ringer percentage of 55% for the month.

Paul Gutterman, one of our new members, increased his point average by 9.28 points during the month.

The Horseshoe Club welcomes our new members, Nancy and James, “Rusty”, and Roby. The club’s new members are finding out that this is the most fun you can have with two and a half pounds of steel, so come out, join the club, and see for yourself.

The club has moved pitching horseshoes on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. due to the cold weather. The club pitches at the pits in the Veterans Park and has open practices on Thursdays at 10 a.m.

The horseshoe pits are available most every day for residents. Shoes, brooms, and dustpans are available at the pits. Please remove the white PVC pipe covering the steel stake before pitching any shoes. Replace the PVC pipe when done, sweep up around the pits, and put away all the equipment used.

Contact Vern Kessler at 321-268-3179 or vkmicheal214@gmail.com with any questions about the club activities.

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Ladies 18-Hole Golf Association

Jo Della Penna



Please welcome the 2026 board: President Karen Schroeckenthaler, Vice President Chris McIntire, Secretary Peggy Wiechmann, Treasurer Patty Whitley, Tournament Chair Gayla Aldridge, handicap Peggy Ellenberger, website Debby Wilson, social Sandy Mansfield, and publicity Jo Della Penna.

Two Person Scramble  
Nov. 25, 2025/The Links

Flight 1: 61–Page Falconer, Renee Anchors. Tie at 66–Beverly Ovrebo, Marla Bennett, Peggy Ellenberger, Pamela Robison. 67–Lynn Colomb, Connie Lukas. Tie at 68–Gayla Aldridge, Carol Carney, Gail Lagrange, Donna Brunell, Laura McMillan, Jacqueline Randour.  
Flight 2: 68–Karen Schroeckenthaler, Eileen Gustavus. 69–Ellen Brinn, Brenda Hoffmann. 70–Debby Wilson, Peggy Wiechmann. 71–Cho Yuhlan, Jane Hall. Tie at 72–Terri Stecker, Christine McIntire, Becky Bivins, Virginia Madura, Judie Anderson, Diane Hartman.

Sucker in a Basket  
Dec. 2, 2025/The Tortoise & The Hare

Tie at 57–Sandy Snyder, Cho Yuhlan, Ellen Brinn, Margie Williams, Donna Herberger, Karen Schroeckenthaler, Robyn Atwood, Pamela Robison, Page Falconer, Marcela Nunez, Eileen Gustavus, Nancy Zielinski. 58–Lisa Free, Becky Bivins, Donna Isaac, Terry Lemesh. Tie at 60–Gayla Aldridge, MJ Strelec, Debra De Matteo, Lynn Colomb, Katie Schriewer, Kathy Sisti, Virginia Madura, Christine Giza, Kathleen Goodwin, Joann Delmar, Marla Bennett.

Four Clubs and a Putter  
Dec. 9, 2025/The Links

Flight 1: 76–Lisa Free. 77–Lori Pizzini. 78–Christine Giza.  
Flight 2: 72–Page Falconer. 74–Gail Lagrange. 75–Diane Boston.

Flight 3: 74–Beverly Ovrebo. 75–Vickie Noltzenmeyer. Tie at 79–Katie Schriewer. Becky Bivins, Karen Schroeckenthaler.  
Flight 4: 73–Kathleen Goodwin. Tie at 74–Christine McIntire, Liz Pruss.  
Flight 5: 75–Peggy Wiechmann. 78–Teri Stecker. 85–Eileen Gustavus.  
Flight 6: 76–Roxiann Dwyer. Tie at 78–Connie Lukas, Ronda Richley.  
Flight 7: 71–Margie Williams. 77–Jacquelin Randour. 79–Carol Carney.

Grinch Scramble  
Dec. 16, 2025/The Links

56–Laurel Stauger, Joyce Jones, Donna Isaac, Rosann Ross. 57–Peggy Ellenberger, Janette Sheil, Ellen Brinn, Marla Bennett. 58–Lisa Free, MJ Strelec, Robyn Atwood, Carol Carney. 59–Sharon Fairclough, Debra De Matteo, Rita Colpo, Terry Lemesh. Tie at 61–Lori Pizzini, Patty Whitley, Judie Anderson, Lynn Colomb, Connie Sohl, Joann Delmar, Donna Brunell, Debby Wilson, Jean Czachor, Liz Pruss, Roxiann Dwyer, Sandra Mansfield, Brenda Hofmann, Kathy Sisti, Jacquelin Randour.

Secret Santa Team  
Dec. 23, 2025/The Links

Flight 1: 63–Marcella Nunez, Nancy Zielinski. 65–Karen Schroeckenthaler, Joann Ropel. Tie at 66–Lisa Free, Margie Williams, Beverly Ovrebo, Liz Lang. Tie at 67–Lynn Colomb, Roxiann Dwyer, Virginia Combs, Donna Brunell.  
Flight 2: Tie at 67–Vickie Noltzenmeyer, Cynthia Gersten, Debbie Wilson, Joann Delmar. Tie at 68–Debra DeMatteo, Patty Whitley, Kathleen Goodwin, Connie Norris, Joyce Jones, Rhonda Tyler, Joanne Woolery, Robyn Atwood.

Some thoughts to play by, per Dr. Bob Rotella, there is no such thing as perfect, so there are no limits. Because there are no limits, there is no such thing as perfect.

Golf, by definition, is a game of mistakes, and if you think you must play perfectly, you either don’t like golf or you think the other competitors are gods.

Candler Hills Ladies 18-Hole

Beth Wolinsky



We welcome 2026 with hopes for pars, birdies, eagles, and hole-in-ones. Here’s to another great year for the Candler Hills LGA-18.

The holiday party was a great success, and we need to thank several ladies. Donna Townsend, Lynn Colomb, Jill Strey, Sandy Mansfield, Deb DeMatteo, Janette Sheil, and Janelle Gluckman worked with Patty Whitley to ensure a wonderful time for all. We appreciate their hard work. Thank you, ladies!

Red & Green Team Match Play took place on Dec. 11, 2025. It was an exciting event, and the Green Team prevailed. Congratulations!

We would like to welcome three new ladies to the league: Karen Campbell, Rita Colpo, and Tammy Seutter. We look forward to playing with you.

Golf can be frustrating, especially if we let it get to us. It’s just as important to develop a routine in golf as it is in life. Davis Love, Jr. once said, “A routine is not a routine if you have to think about it.” When playing, we should let our muscle memory take over and swing naturally. This can help achieve a more

Ballet

Eugenie Martin



2026 will mark the 20th anniversary of the Ballet Club. In 2006, Cheryl Sloan and I started the club in a large studio, then located next to the indoor swimming

successful round.  
The Candler Hills LGA-18 is open to any woman who is a resident. If you would like to meet some new ladies and play golf, you may contact our president, Sandy Snyder, at [Freesand@icloud.com](mailto:Freesand@icloud.com).  
Finally, be careful out there. As always, believe, achieve, and enjoy golf.

Silver Bells Scramble (Team)  
Dec. 18

53–Lisa Free, Karen Schroeckenthaler, Chris McIntire, Rita Colpo. Tie at 56–Dawn Carroll, Brenda Hoffmann, Beth Wolinsky, Jana McElroy. Gail Lagrange, Laurel Staiger, Teri Stecker, Margie Williams. Tie at 57–LuLu Kerkhoff, Virginia Combs, Judie Anderson, Virginia Madura. Lori Pizzini, Darlene DeBerry, Janelle Gluckman, Donna Townsend. Tie at 58–Janette Sheil, Karen Campbell, Mary A. Cunningham, Eileen Gustavus. Mary Jeannotte, Diane Boston, Liz Pruss, Carol Clark.

2 Best Balls of 4 Net (Team)  
Jan. 8

132–Laura McMillan, Judi McGuinness, Cynthia Gersten, Tammy Seutter. Tie at 134–Linda Taylor, Mary Dawson, Ellen Brin, Carol Clark. Sandra Mansfield, Liz Pruss, Virginia Madura, Nancy Zielinski. Tie at 136–Peggy Ellenberger, Kay Budd, Janelle Gluckman, Eileen Gustavus. Donna Herberger, Beverly Ovrebo, Jean Czachor, Terry Lemesh. LuLu Kerkhoff, Brenda Hofmann, Carol Carney, Karen Schroeckenthaler. 138–Dawn Carroll, Patty Whitley, Mary A. Cunningham, Anne Dahlen. 139–Lynn Colomb, Joanne Woolery, Judie Anderson, Roxiann Dwyer.

pool in the Arbor Fitness Center. Twice each week, we brought our own ballet barres, which we had dismantled and put in the trunks of our cars, and carried them into the studio. We then had to re-assemble the barres for each class, and reverse the process when class was over. In 2008, we gave our first performance at Circle Square Cultural Center as part of the first Health & Wellness Expo.

In the intervening years, our group has grown from two to five classes per week, from beginner to advanced technique classes, and has added three teachers. We also have 10 barres, which remain in the studio when we are not using them.

One of our teachers is Liz Lieberman, a Royal Academy of Dance-trained dancer and a licensed Silver Swans teacher, who began teaching the curriculum in January. Silver Swans is specially designed for more mature dancers. Our other classes follow regular ballet curricula, but some are conducted at a slower pace.

Newcomers do not need ballet clothes to start class. All that is needed are stretchy exercise clothes, socks, and a bottle of water. Our schedule follows:

- Beginner: Thursdays, 1 to 2:15 p.m.
- Advanced Beginner: Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Technique: Wednesdays, 1:15 to 3:30 p.m.
- Silver Swans: Fridays, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Intermediate: Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

All ballet classes are held in the Arbor Conference Center Studio D. For more information about our classes, please call Eugenie Martin at 352-854-8589. Happy dancing!

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Broadway & Tap Dancing

Elaine Voorhis



Happy February! I hope 2026 has been good to you so far and continues to do so.

It is said that it’s good to stay busy. That we have been for sure! What a busy December 2025 we had!

We had our annual Christmas recital with both tap and Broadway classes strutting their stuff with their fancy footwork. Plus, who could forget the special appearance by Santa? If that wasn’t enough, the next day we performed for Brookdale and Bridgewater, and Santa showed up there too! We’re not sure, but we think he may have been stalking us!

We were really surprised by a special “little” treat at Bridgewater when an adorable three-year-old girl with the cutest pigtails danced along with us. She was quite the natural and just added to the fun and smiles, not only from us, but the residents as well. She was thrilled to see Santa and couldn’t take her eyes off him. I hope she’ll remember this day because we certainly will!

Several residents were also singing, clapping, and tapping their toes. Always good to see! The compliments from the residents, several of whom now recognize us, make us so happy. It was a great way to spend a beautiful day!

Rounding out our year-end performances was for Women of the World, one of our favorites, for sure. They are such a great organization. Thanks for inviting us, and to all who came to watch us.

Somewhere in between our dance classes, practices, and performances, we managed to squeeze in some shopping, lunches, and a holiday party. After a brief vacation from classes in early January, we’re now focusing on our next new dances.

To start the year off, we performed at the Health & Wellness Expo. We hope you had a chance to stop by and watch us dance. We always have a lot of fun and really appreciate the support of our audiences.

Our end-of-session class recital is currently scheduled for Friday, Feb. 27, at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV at 1 p.m. It’s very informal, and it’s lots of fun. Oh yeah, and it’s free. We go over our routines several times before we are videoed to make sure that we work out any bloopers or “solo moments” that may unexpectedly pop up. Mark your calendar and watch for reminders here and on several community Facebook pages.

Don’t forget, we’re available to perform for your club, neighborhood gathering, or event. If you’re interested, contact Broadway Moves with Penny (Tap and Broadway classes) at [broadwayandtap@yahoo.com](mailto:broadwayandtap@yahoo.com). We’ll be happy to answer any questions you might have about our classes or performances.



Broadway Moves holiday get-together.

Photo by Joe Hilchey

Sidekicks Western Dance

Richard Gautier



If you’ve ever thought, “Dancing isn’t for me,” I know exactly how you feel. I said the same thing to my wife when she wanted to try Sidekicks. It turns out I didn’t need fancy moves, perfect rhythm, or even confidence. All I needed was a willingness to learn, laugh, and share a little joy along the way.

There’s something wonderfully simple and intimate about partner dancing. It starts as just a few steps and turns, but before long, you’re in sync, smiling together, and rediscovering what teamwork really feels like. Dancing isn’t about performing for anyone; it’s about connecting. Each pattern gives couples a chance to learn, listen, and trust, both on and off the dance floor.

Those first sessions may feel awkward, but soon you’ll be surprised by how much fun you’re having. You might even start looking forward to each session as “your time” that belongs just to the two of you.

The best part? Sidekicks is built for beginners. Nobody’s judging, and no-

body expects perfection. Everyone remembers what it’s like to learn for the first time. You’ll see lots of smiles, hear plenty of laughter when someone takes a wrong turn, and feel the genuine encouragement of people who want you to succeed.

There are classes for all levels. The instructors are patient and friendly, and you’ll have plenty of chances to practice together. Every time you practice a dance, you’ll be more confident than when you started.

Sidekicks isn’t just a dance club, it’s a community. You’ll meet other couples who come for the same reason: to spend time together, stay active, and have fun. Everyone remembers what it was like to take that first leap, so helping new members feel at home is second nature. Whether you’re celebrating a small victory or laughing your way through a missed step, you’re surrounded by supportive friends who make every session worth it.

Enjoy a lively evening of learning and fun every Tuesday in the Recreation Center Ballroom:

- Beginner (4 to 4:50 p.m.) with Janet and Sean Amend.
- Beginner Plus/Improver (5 to 5:50 p.m.) with Peggy and Alex Eizans.

Join us for an upbeat practice on Fri-

days at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio D from 9:30 to 11 a.m. for all levels.

Enjoy a fun afternoon of dancing and improving together on Sundays in Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios III-IV:

- Beginner Focus (3:45 to 4:15 p.m.)
- Beginner Plus/Improver (4:15 to 5 p.m.)

The next monthly dance event will be on Tuesday, Feb. 24, in the Recreation Center Ballroom.

Show up once. Take a deep breath. Look at your spouse, smile, and say, “Let’s give it a try.” You might just find that Sidekicks becomes your favorite part of the week and your favorite way to connect as a couple.

For details, questions, or registration information, email [partnerdancesidekicks@gmail.com](mailto:partnerdancesidekicks@gmail.com) or visit [partnerdancesidekick.wixsite.com/otow](http://partnerdancesidekick.wixsite.com/otow) or our Facebook page (Sidekicks Partner Pattern Dance Club).

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Line dancing in the Recreation Center Ballroom.

Poms Dance & Cheer

Pamela Kalamaras



What a great start to the new year for the Poms Dance and Cheer! We returned to practice after a well-deserved break on Tuesday, Jan. 6. The ladies prepared for the Health & Wellness Expo. We performed our newly revised sock hop medley. The audience gave us a warm reception, and they saw how our routines enhance health and well-being through both mental and physical workouts.

We look forward to the next big event, the Club Fair, which will be held at Circle Square Cultural Center on Thursday, Feb. 19. Please come and say hello, chant a cheer with us, and learn how to host us for your next event or become a member.

Throughout the spring, we will continue to perform for our neighbors in assisted living and retirement communities. We hope to spread joy with our dance and cheer.

This month’s featured “pommie” is Mary Romano. She was born and raised in New York and was a junior varsity and varsity cheerleader in high school. She has been married for 47 years. Mary’s hobbies include golf, baking, and sewing,

to name a few of her many talents. She also loves playing the guitar and taking new dance classes. Mary loves to create choreography and helps in so many ways to make our team superb. We call her “Mother Mary” because she is always making sure we look our finest. Mary helps put our costumes together by adding all the extra touches that make us shine from head to toe.

If you would like Poms Dance and Cheer to perform at your next event, we are available for future dates. We hope the love we have for what we do shines through in each performance. Our motivated group is committed to practicing many hours each week, as we build new skills and stamina. Teamwork is at the root of our accomplishments as we focus on communication, active listening, adaptability, and conviction. Go pommies!

Please contact Pam Kalamaras at [pammykal@aol.com](mailto:pammykal@aol.com) for booking the Pommies for your club or next event. Please email our club for more detailed information, videos, pictures, or to view our rehearsals. If you are interested in joining our team, I can offer further information, guidance, and support. Entering this new world of dance and cheer is unlike anything else in the community. We invite you to come and visit us to see what we are all about, and maybe even join in the fun.

Jazz Dance Club

Liz Elliott Lieberman



After the holidays and busy performances in October, November, and December 2025, the Jazz Dance Club will resume classes on Mondays at 10 a.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Studio D. The first hour will be devoted to a warm-up and learning new choreography. Everyone is welcome. At 11 a.m., there will be rehearsals for The Ovation Dancers with more intricate choreography.

If you just want to come and dance, 10 a.m. is the time slot for you. We will take a five-minute break at 11 a.m. in preparation for the second class.

On a side note, I am also starting to teach a new class called Silver Swans on Fridays at 11 a.m. Eugenie Martin will write more about this simple ballet-based program for the over-55 demographic in her Ballet Club column. Silver Swans is a trademarked name from the Royal Academy of Dance based in London, U.K., and I have completed the certification to teach this class.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [Lizzylieberman@gmail.com](mailto:Lizzylieberman@gmail.com) or 702-378-6300. Happy dancing!

Line Dancing

Joe Spencer



Come join our fun family of line dance friends and learn the newest mainstream dances done throughout the world, as well as popular classics.

There are four levels of classes to choose from. The easiest is AB (Absolute Beginner), then Beginner, Improver, and Intermediate. The first three levels are on Mondays in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Intermediate is on Tuesdays at Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II with Weber Wen.

The first three levels also have practice sessions on Wednesdays. There also will be line dance socials.

There was recently a really fun line-dance workshop with top instructor/choreographer Cody Flowers. There will be another workshop, possibly with two top instructors and lunch.

If you would like to line dance, the next eight-week session will be in March/April. Tickets go on sale on the OTOW App on Tuesday, Feb. 3, through Friday, Feb. 13. Each class is eight weeks. AB, Beginner, and Improver classes are an hour each on Mondays with practice on Wednesdays, for \$25. Intermediate is on

Tuesdays, for two hours, for \$50.

If you are just starting or are trying a new level mid-year (line dance year is September through June), please keep in mind that many of the others have been dancing since September, so there may be some dances that you may not know or need to catch up on. We always suggest that you focus on the new dances being taught, and you will pick up the others eventually.

On Saturday, Jan. 31, there will be a line dance social at Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV from 1 to 4 p.m., featuring many of the dances from the Monday and Tuesday classes.

On Saturday, Jan. 24, a few of the line dancers performed a demonstration of several line dances (showing each level) at the Health & Wellness Expo, since line dancing offers tremendous health benefits, both physical and mental.

On Sunday, March 22, from 5 to 7 p.m., there will be another line dance social in the Recreation Center Ballroom to dance your favorite dances from the Monday and Tuesday classes. No partner needed. We laugh a lot and make "variations." This is a great way to meet new friends.

Questions? Contact [joeship1@yahoo.com](mailto:joeship1@yahoo.com) (AB-Improver level) or [yfwen@yahoo.com](mailto:yfwen@yahoo.com) (Intermediate).

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Archery Club

Robin Schiltz



Within the Archery Club is a very special subgroup where members can learn and experience kyudo, the traditional Japanese art of longbow archery. Kyudo – the way of the bow – is one of Japan’s oldest and most honored martial art traditions. For over 2,000 years, Japanese longbows were used for hunting, ceremony, and warfare. While no longer used as a weapon, the practice of kyudo continues to thrive as a path to physical health, self-awareness, and spiritual growth. Nidan-level archers Shizuka Campagna and Brenda Foster founded Golden Years Kyudo to share the meditative and technical aspects of this martial art with our community. All equipment is provided to club members who wish to learn kyudo, along with instruction to get you started. The group practice balances disciplined focus and fun as we learn the fundamental movements of this archery form. You are welcome to drop in to observe kyudo in action. Golden Years Kyudo practices at the range every Wednesday from 2 to 4 p.m., except for the fourth Wednesday of the month. In addition, you can learn more about the art of kyudo through classes at Master the Possibilities (registration is required). Come

see how rewarding and exciting the drawing of a longbow is, and connect to the Samurai spirit. For more information about Golden Years Kyudo, please contact Brenda at [brenda@gcfonline.com](mailto:brenda@gcfonline.com) or Shizuka at [shizukacampagna@gmail.com](mailto:shizukacampagna@gmail.com). The Archery Club manages the NFAA-certified range at the Veterans Park and welcomes archers of all skill levels, from novice to competitive. Plenty of equipment is available for those new to archery or returning after a long hiatus. We also have a well-equipped maintenance shop to keep club and personal archery equipment in top shape. Each Friday, we host “Freestyle Friday” from 9 a.m. to noon. Club mentors are at the range and available to assist our novice archers with skill improvement. If you are considering joining the club, this is a great opportunity to meet members, learn more about archery, and have fun. For a quick introduction to the club, we invite you to stop by during Freestyle Friday. We offer a variety of archery workshops during the year for club members. Patty Hoppe hosts Archery Fundamentals and Shooting workshops at the range on the third Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. Topics vary monthly, and a fun shoot is held after each workshop. For more information, visit [otowarcheryclub.org](http://otowarcheryclub.org) or email [info@otowarcheryclub.org](mailto:info@otowarcheryclub.org). As always, keep it in the yellow.

Shizuka Campagna.

Brenda Foster.



Call of the Wild Sports Club

Steve Sekac



Guest Speaker Katie Jo Davis, certified charter boat captain out of Yankeetown, briefed club members on fishing in the Gulf. Weather conditions permitting, inshore fishing catches include black drum, snook, speckled sea trout, redfish, pompano, and cobia. Offshore fishing results in catches of hogfish, sheephead, mangrove snapper, Spanish mackerel, and a variety of grouper. Be sure to know the fishing limits (size and number) and what is in or out of season. Cedar Key Pier is open and is a very

nice facility for pier fishing with ample space, cleaning stations, restrooms, and is within easy walking distance of downtown restaurants and shops. Freshwater fishing for black crappie is in full force with reports of limits being caught at Lake Lochloosa. Stop in at a local marina or bait store for up-to-date fishing information. There are multiple gun shows in the near future, and our club website has a list of shooting clubs in the Central Florida area. For more information, visit [cotw.springly.org](http://cotw.springly.org). Our club will have a table at the next Club Fair on Thursday, Feb. 19, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room.

Ladies Shuffleboard

Lois Nix



The weather and the holidays affected our days of shuffling in December 2025. We do not shuffle if it is raining, if the courts are very wet, or if the temperature is below 40 degrees. We might change that; we have shufflers who will play when it is cold. They wear gloves, ear muffs, and warm jackets. All women are invited to join us on Mondays at 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 9 a.m., or 11 a.m. Residents must present a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass to play. When you join us, you will need to sign a Hold Harmless agreement waiver. Shuffleboard is a great game; you do not need to know how to play. You will receive a list of basic rules of play and safety rules. All equipment is supplied. If you want to play before joining our clubs, equipment is available on the side of the building. December 2025 6-Joanne Ahlert. 5-Sandy Welch, Lois Nix, Cindy Engler Wanat. 4-Jane Dormanen, Sally Herrick, Barbara Lewis, Diane Laney, Marge Adragna. 30-plus-Kathy Carle, Donna Gilmore, Diane Laney, Diane Wanat. Hope to see you on the courts! Happy shuffling.

Shuffleboard

Walt Lamp



The courts are playable and in good condition. We’re keeping all scores again. December 2025 Monday: Bill Weir. Tuesday: Tie-Nancy Chatham and Tom Getts. Thursday: Tie-Robert Sapiro, Scott Lyons, and Ben Travis. 30-plus: Ben Travis, Denise Mitchell, Lou Fisher, Annette Hodges, Jane Boyer, Paul Genereux, Jim Vail, Charlie Lentz, and Tom Getts. On Saturday, Feb. 14, our free Introduction to Shuffleboard will once again be taught by Paul Hodges on the courts at the Veterans Park. It will include rule highlights, scoring, safety, and the basics of shooting the puck. Open-toed shoes are not permitted. We are planning the second annual Skills Challenge for Saturday, Jan. 31, at 10 a.m. at the courts at the Veterans Park. This is open to all club members, and the entry fee is \$2. Players will attempt to successfully compete and complete 10 skill tasks. The high scorer will receive a cash prize. Besides the regular members, residents who practice (when no one is looking) can try their luck. So, let’s all start 2026 in a different, fun way.

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Fitness Happenings

Leslee Stephens  
352-387-7415  
leslee\_stephens@otowfl.com



Staying Active, Staying Sharp

Good news for older adults: staying physically active doesn't just benefit the body, it also helps protect the mind. Recent research shows that regular exercise can significantly reduce the effects of mental fatigue, helping older adults stay sharper, stronger, and more resilient in daily life.

Mental fatigue is a common experience, especially after long periods of concentration or problem-solving. For older adults, mental fatigue can sometimes make physical tasks feel more difficult, slow reaction times, or reduce focus. However, new findings suggest that an active lifestyle can help counteract these challenges.

Researchers from the University of Birmingham and the University of Extremadura studied groups of older adults to understand how aging, physical activity, and mental fatigue interact. Their goal was to determine whether regular exercise could reduce the negative effects of mental fatigue on both cognitive and physical performance.

In one part of the research, sedentary men aged 65 to 79 performed worse on mental and physical tests than younger participants. These differences became even more noticeable when participants were mentally fatigued. However, a second study yielded encouraging results: physically active older adults aged 66 to 72 consistently outperformed sedentary peers of the same age, both when mentally rested and when mentally tired.

The takeaway was clear: age alone was not the most important performance factor. Instead, regular physical activity played a key role in maintaining both mental clarity and physical ability. Active older adults demonstrated better focus, stronger endurance, and greater resilience when faced with mentally demanding situations.

According to the researchers, regular exercise supports improved cognition, increased exercise capacity, and a stronger ability to cope with mental fatigue. In other words, movement helps the brain and body work together more effectively. This means older adults who stay active may find it easier to handle everyday challenges, remain engaged in activities they enjoy, and maintain independence.

The research also highlighted several practical strategies older adults can use to enhance these benefits. Increasing regular physical activity, such as walking, strength training, or participating in

Co-Ed Recreational Softball

Pat Wilbert



As winter settles in across most of the country, residents are reminded how fortunate we are to enjoy beautiful Florida weather – perfect for outdoor activities like Co-Ed Recreational Softball.

Every Saturday at 9 a.m., players gather at the field to warm up, then choose mixed teams and play an eight-inning game filled with hitting, running, and plenty of camaraderie. The group has recently welcomed several new couples and individual players, all of whom have quickly embraced the fun and friendly atmosphere.

group fitness, is an important first step. Warming up with activities that gently engage both the mind and body can also help prepare for more demanding tasks. Additionally, combining movement with

“Even if you haven't played in years, it comes back to you just like riding a bike,” organizers say. Participants are encouraged to bring their own gloves, but extra gloves and bats are available for anyone who needs them.

The league also celebrates standout performances. Jim Ramussen and Brian Pfister have been on a hot streak, hitting home runs in every game over the past two weeks. Both are known for their impressive speed on the bases, adding excitement to each matchup.

The group invites men and women of all skill levels to join in the fun. Whether you're looking for exercise, friendly competition, or simply a great way to spend a Saturday morning, co-ed softball offers something for everyone. We look forward to seeing even more new faces on the field.

mental challenges, such as learning new exercises or following structured fitness routines, may further boost mental endurance.

This research reinforces a powerful message: healthy aging is not about slowing down, it's about staying engaged. For older adults, regular exercise

provides an accessible and effective way to support both mental sharpness and physical vitality.

At On Top of the World, this is truly good news. Staying active isn't just about fitness; it's about maintaining energy, confidence, and quality of life at every age.

# FEBRUARY 2026 FITNESS

## RECREATION FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	SPARC LILLIAN	Step DEBBIE	Remix Bootcamp	Step DEBBIE	SPARC
8:00 am <small>Recreation Ballroom</small>	Walk Fit VIDEO		Intermediate/Advanced Tai Chi ART		Cardio Fitness
9:00 am	S.O.S. RONA	Stretch, Flex & Balance LILLIAN	S.O.S. JOHN C.	Body Burn* DEBBIE	S.O.S. DEBBIE
9:00 am <small>Recreation Ballroom</small>	Chair Pilates LILLIAN		BEAT LORI H.		Stretch, Flex & Balance LILLIAN
10:00 am	Balanced Body LARRY	Chair Yoga LILLIAN	Balanced Body LILLIAN	Chair Yoga LILLIAN	Balanced Body LILLIAN
10:00 am <small>Recreation Ballroom</small>	Chair Yoga SANDRA		Chair Yoga SCOTT		Chair Yoga SCOTT
11:00 am	Get Fit While You Sit*	Brain Power BP TEAM	Get Fit While You Sit JOE	Sculpt* LILLIAN	Chair Dance
11:00 am <small>Recreation Ballroom</small>	Dance Aerobics LORI H.		Cardio Fitness		Cardio Fitness
12:00 pm		Parkinson's B.A.S.E.* CINDY		Move to Improve Parkinson's SUE	SATURDAY CLASSES:  S.O.S. 9 am Chair Yoga 10 am
1:00 pm		Chair Chi ART		Beginner/Intermediate Tai Chi NANCY	
3:00 pm	VYP Chair Yoga JOE	Balanced Body LORI H.	Chair Yoga LILLIAN	Balanced Body CINDY	
5:00 pm		Candlelight Yoga FRED		Candlelight Yoga SANDRA	

Recreation Fitness Center Hours: Monday-Friday 6:30 AM - 7 PM; Saturday 7 AM - 7 PM; Sunday 9 AM - 5 PM  
Fitness Orientations are on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm, and Balance Assessments are on Thursdays at 2:00 pm.  
These are free but space is limited. To schedule an appointment, please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7534.  
\*Seasonal classes run from October-April.

## ARBOR FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	Inferno HIIT* GB	STRONG*	Inferno HIIT* RONA	STRONG* LILLIAN	Core & More* JOHN C.
9:00 am	Yoga SANDRA	Pilates Fusion GB	Yoga JOE	Pilates Fusion LORI	Yin Yoga MELANIE
10:00 am	STRONG JOHN C.	STRONG* DEBBIE	STRONG JOE	STRONG*	STRONG RONA
11:00 am	Yoga* LILLIAN	Yoga SANDRA	Yoga* TRISH	Yoga SANDRA	ABC Yoga* TRISH
4:00 pm	Muscle Fit WCAA	Strong and Steady WCAA		Interval Training WCAA	Dance Fit WCAA

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

## ARBOR FITNESS CENTER INDOOR POOL

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9:00 am	Deep Water Aerobics LARRY	Shallow Water Aerobics SUE	Deep Water Aerobics TRISH	Shallow Water Aerobics BARR	Deep Water Aerobics SUE
10:00 am		Shallow Water Aerobics SUE		Shallow Water Aerobics BARR	
12:30 pm		Shallow Water Aerobics DIANE		Shallow Water Aerobics SHERRE	

Open Swim: Saturdays 7 AM - 8:15 PM; Sundays 9 AM - 6:45 PM  
Fitness Pass needed, questions call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7639.

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# JOIN THE WALK!

## PARKINSON'S FOUNDATION WALK AT SHOLOM PARK

**SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026 | 8 - 10 AM**

Get out and move with your community! Every dollar raised supports the Parkinson's Foundation mission to make life better for people affected by Parkinson's disease (PD). At Moving Day Community Walks across the country, we're fighting Parkinson's and celebrating movement — proven to help manage Parkinson's symptoms — and we're doing it together. The Moving Day Community Walk Program is a complement to the Parkinson's Foundation Moving Day, A Walk for Parkinson's. These walks are family-friendly and help the Foundation make life better for people with PD.

The Community Walk program offers volunteers an opportunity to organize a walk in their own community that does not have a Moving Day event. The program leverages the personal experiences and community leadership of passionate volunteers to promote Parkinson's awareness and raise funds for the Parkinson's Foundation.

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Top Pickleball Club

Teresa J. Armstrong



The whole area is abuzz with news of the return of the Battle of the Paddle Tournament. The tournament will be on Feb. 27, 28, and March 1. The tournament will be in a round robin format; registration is \$60 for the first event and \$10 for subsequent events. On the bulletin boards are flyers with all the details of this three-day event, which will feature approximately 400 matches. There

will be vendors, sponsors, and even yummy food trucks. Meanwhile, as we lounged on the new veranda and admired the AED and the new water fountain, I overheard a discussion about which player levels would be represented. They said players from 3.0 to 5.0; if you're a 3.0 or higher, you should check it out and register. If you're unable to play, volunteering is a great gig. Volunteers are vital to the tournament. Just check out the bulletin boards and website for details. While we are discussing volunteering, Top Pickleball Club (TPC) needs you! I wanted to put it out there that we need leadership volunteers for the events and social committees. Please consider

either of these opportunities. Just send your contact information to John Maggio, board president at TPC@pickleball. plus, for more information about the open positions. The TPC training team has a lot to offer the new or returning player. We have five certified trainers thus far and plans for more. We have classes that start with PB101 (an introduction to the game) and go up to lessons for higher-level players looking to enhance their skills. The PB101 class is held at the upper courts every Monday and the first Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. No need to sign up, just show up, and the training team will be there to assist you. The people on the training team are so cool, they will

help you no matter what your level of experience. There is also a hosted play on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. on the upper courts for new folks. The TPC events committee works really hard to arrange local tournaments and leagues. The men's league and ladies' round robin are both great examples of the fun events we have here at TPC. Please check the events calendar on our website for signup. Don't forget: if you want any information, the bulletin boards and the web page are the places to go. I really want to thank you all for making this a great place to live. See you around the courts.



Photo by Judy Sullivan

Community country western line dance social.

Country Line Dancing

Judy Sullivan



2026 – here we are! One month down and 11 more to go as we step into a brand-new year together. January started beautifully, and it's been wonderful to see our dance group continuing to grow, slowly but surely. Seeing new faces join us alongside the dedicated,

seasoned dancers who have been with me from the beginning – or for many months now – truly warms my heart. Dancing is about so much more than learning steps. It's about joy, movement, laughter, and the friendships that naturally form when we come together on the dance floor. Our holiday social dance was a perfect example of that spirit – a final hoorah to close out 2025 with a blast of music and a celebration of so many dances we've learned together. The energy, smiles, and shared moments made it a night to remember. We're already looking forward to our

next social, which is just around the corner. These gatherings are special times to reconnect with friends and fellow dancers, share our love of dance, and enjoy specially prepared foods together. It's also a joy to meet spouses and friends who join in on the fun – even if dancing isn't their thing. These moments remind us that our dance community is truly a circle of friendship, support, and shared happiness. Here's to another year of dancing, growing, and making beautiful memories together. If you want to join the fun, please reg-

ister for classes through the OTOW App. You can sign up for March and April during the February registration window (from the first Tuesday through the second Friday). I cannot wait to dance with both familiar faces and more new ones. For more information, visit our Facebook page (OTOW Country Line Dancing with Judy). The YouTube channel is Country Line Dancing with Judy. If you are interested in dancing and have any questions on how to sign up, please email CountryLineDancingWithJudy@yahoo.com.

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POP Tennis

Beth Smith



On Christmas Eve, the weather was optimal for Santa and many of his elves to come out to the POP tennis courts and work off some of those favorite holiday candy and cookie calories!

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

We play every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday starting at 8 a.m. at The Arbors lower tennis courts. Everyone is

welcome – from first timers to seasoned players.

No paddle, no worries. We have paddles on hand so you can try the sport.

You can also improve your fitness level without feeling like you’re working out. It’s low-impact and joint-friendly with a built-in social connection.

For those who want to develop their skills or learn the basics before jumping into group play, coaching sessions and clinics are available. Contact Brenda Foster at [brenda@gcfonline.com](mailto:brenda@gcfonline.com) for details. We also welcome anyone who would like to come and observe.

For general inquiries or more information, contact Shizuka Campagna at [shizukacampagna@gmail.com](mailto:shizukacampagna@gmail.com).

If your resolution is taking up a new sport, getting exercise, social connection, lots of laughter, making new friends, or all of the above, there’s a place for you here.



Christmas Eve POP in action.

Photo by Shizuka Campagna

Tennis

Jorge Privat  
352-387-7539



I hope everyone had a great holiday season! And yes, it is winter, but we still have good days with mild temperatures. Isn’t that why we live in Florida?

2025 was a year full of tennis activity, and our committee is working hard to organize more fun events.

The first event this year is a Mixed Doubles Tournament open to all resident players. We will have two categories. Basically, all players here are divided into four levels of play using USTA ratings: 2.5s, 3.0s, 3.5s, and 4.0s; therefore, we will combine 2.5s and 3.0s into one group and 3.5s and 4.0s into another. You should ask someone at your same level who you feel comfortable with to be your partner and sign up as a team. The date has not been determined yet, but it will be late in February. Sign-up sheets will be available until the week

before the tournament, and the fee will be \$5 per player. We will award prizes to the winners and runners-up in each category.

The tournament will use double elimination, which guarantees you a second match if you lose in the first round. Winners will advance to the main draw, and runners-up will move to a feed-in draw for their second match. The start time is tentatively 9 a.m. I hope this gives you a pretty good idea of how we will run the tournament. Remember, this is a fun event, and there should be no pressure on anyone.

Aside from that, we have other club projects, events, and ideas in the works, such as trips to the National Tennis Campus in Lake Nona, Florida, trips to the University of Florida to watch good tennis for free, and inter-community play with Spruce Creek and Stone Creek. I am hoping to launch a new club website, run a women’s tennis group, and more!

Remember that tennis fosters better mental, emotional, and physical health and helps develop new friendships, relationships, etc. Therefore, I hope that all of you will remain very active this year.

See you on the courts!

Ohio Buckeyes Social Club

Amy Ingram



Ohio Buckeyes Social Club finished out 2025 on a high note with over 100 members joining the club. As we look forward to 2026, we will also be welcoming new board members. Our annual membership meeting was held in Janu-

ary. The club provided submarine sandwiches, chips, and cookies. Our members look forward to 2026, with all new social activities planned, as well as our football game-day watch parties.

If you are not a member and would like to join, email us at [buckeyefans34481@gmail.com](mailto:buckeyefans34481@gmail.com). Membership is open to any resident with any ties to the state of Ohio. Annual dues are \$20 per person. Also, look for us on Facebook (Residents of the On Top of the World Buckeye Social Club). Do not miss out on all the fun. Join now.



Ohio Buckeyes Social Club members at the Christmas party.

Photo by Marge Ruhlen

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Cycling Club

Nick Arkon



Cycling has evolved dramatically over the past few decades, transforming from a simple human-powered activity into a sport and mode of transportation deeply shaped by technology. From materials science to digital connectivity, modern innovations have made cycling faster, safer, more efficient, and more accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

One of the most visible changes is in bicycle materials and design. Traditional steel frames have largely been replaced or complemented by aluminum, carbon fiber, and titanium. These materials are lighter, stronger, and better at absorbing road vibrations, allowing cyclists to ride longer distances with less fatigue. Aerodynamic frame shapes, refined through wind tunnel testing, reduce drag and improve efficiency.

Drivetrain technology has also seen major advancements. Electronic shifting systems have replaced mechanical cables, delivering faster, more precise gear changes with minimal maintenance. Wide-range cassettes and improved derailleur designs allow cyclists to handle steep climbs and fast flats with ease. Disc brakes have become the standard due to their superior stopping power and consistent performance in all weather conditions.

Safety technology has seen some of the most impactful innovations. Modern helmets are lighter and stronger, incorporating advanced impact protection systems. High-powered LED head and tail lights are now standard equipment, improving visibility in low-light conditions, during dawn and dusk rides, and at night. Many lights feature daytime flash modes, automatic brightness ad-

justment, and long-lasting rechargeable batteries. Rear traffic radar systems, often paired with cycling computers or smart rearview mirrors, alert cyclists to vehicles approaching from behind with visual and audible warnings. Enhanced rear-view mirrors – both traditional and digital – allow riders to monitor traffic without turning their heads.

Digital cycling computers now serve as the control center of the modern ride. Mounted on the handlebars, these devices display and help regulate critical data, including heart rate, speed, distance, time, cadence, and elevation. By syncing with heart rate monitors and power meters, cyclists can train within specific intensity zones, improving fitness while reducing the risk of overexertion. GPS navigation and route planning features also help riders explore new roads with confidence.

Electric-assist technology has expanded cycling’s reach even further. E-bikes use pedal-assist motors to support riders on hills and longer distances, making cycling more accessible for commuters, older adults, and those recovering from injury.

In essence, technology has reshaped cycling into a safer, smarter, and more inclusive activity. While the fundamental joy of riding remains unchanged, innovations have elevated the riding experience and empowered cyclists to ride with greater confidence and control.

If you are interested in joining the leisure or intermediate cycling groups, Wheeling Around the World members meet on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at the Power Park. Contact Dan Oaks at 401-663-7085 or Dennis Cicotte at 561-339-3588 for specific details about group rides and destinations.

The advanced cycling group meets at various meeting places. For the Advanced Cycling group information, contact Nick Arkon at nickarkon1247@gmail.com. Please note that no e-bikes are permitted with the advanced group.

Weight Loss Group

Laura Gavvey



Are you ready yet? Have you been thinking about being healthier in 2026? Come join the On Top of Weight Loss Group as we help each other to reach our goals. Use the food plan and exercise of your choice, and get suggestions and positive reinforcement from your neighbors, who will become friends. Join us and get yourself back on track.

There are two opportunities to meet each week. On Mondays, we meet in the Hobby Building Art Room. Weigh-in starts at 4:30 p.m., and the meeting begins at 5 p.m. The new leader is Lois Trepper. On Tuesdays, we meet in the Arbor Activity Center Event Room I. Weigh-in starts at 9:15 a.m., and the meeting begins at 10 a.m. Beth Reynolds is the leader. The group thanks Beth Green for her leadership and helping the group lose over 400 pounds in 2025!

Visitors are always welcome. For questions and additional details, please email Lois at ltrepper@att.net or Beth at doctroi@sbcglobal.net.

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Photo by Nick Arkon

Dr. Jim DeSalvio and his ultra-advanced bicycle.

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Photo by Domenica Genovese

Several meditators pause after our meeting.

Meditation Group

Domenica Genovese



Each week, we gather for something both simple and powerful: 20 minutes of shared silence. In a world that often asks us to move faster, react sooner, and stay endlessly plugged in, choosing to sit still together can feel almost radical. Yet that stillness is where many of us find the grounding we need to meet life with a little more clarity.

Each meeting begins with a short quote from an inspiring teacher or thought leader, followed by 20 minutes of silent meditation. The quotes aren’t meant to be lofty pronouncements or perfect answers, but springboards into a theme or focus for discussion.

Sometimes a phrase will resonate with someone who’s been navigating a difficult week. Other times, it sparks a lively exchange about how mindfulness helps us stay present through everyday joys, frustrations, responsibilities, and the unpredictable moments that test our patience.

What makes these discussions meaningful isn’t that we all agree or reach neat conclusions. It’s that they allow us to hear different experiences, to reflect together, and to discover that mindfulness isn’t something that happens only on a cushion. It shows up in small choices: taking a breath before speaking, listening more carefully, recognizing emotions without letting them run the whole

Gentle Yoga & Meditation

Sonnie Chong



As we settle into the rhythm of 2026, many of us are seeking ways to bring more balance and calmness into our daily lives. Whether you are a longtime practitioner or a beginner, having a dedicated space to breathe and stretch can transform how you navigate the week.

Residents are invited to join our ongoing Gentle Yoga & Meditation sessions. These gatherings provide a friendly, calming, and accessible environment for everyone, regardless of prior experience.

In our fast-paced world, it is easy to forget the importance of simply “being.” Our time together focuses on gentle movements that honor the body’s limits, followed by breathwork and meditation. The goal is simple: to help every participant leave feeling more relaxed, grounded, and refreshed than when they walked in.

We meet in Arbor Conference Center Studio D every Monday and Thursday from 8 to 9:45 a.m. There is no cost to attend, as this is a community offering intended to support our collective wellness.

If you have been looking for a way to incorporate more mindfulness into your routine, or if you simply want to meet neighbors in a peaceful environment, please join us. Please bring a yoga mat, meditation shawl, and a small neck pillow to ensure your comfort during the session.

I look forward to meeting you on the mat and sharing this journey toward wellness. For more information, you can reach me at [gentle-yoga@chosonn.simplelogin.com](mailto:gentle-yoga@chosonn.simplelogin.com) or stop by one of our sessions.

show. Many participants find that simply having a regular practice helps them stay more connected throughout the week.

Our group is relaxed and low-pressure. There’s no expectation to be “good” at meditation (as if that were a thing), and no need to share unless you want to. Some weeks, people speak at length; other times, a few sentences are enough. What matters is that we come together to explore what it means to live with intention and awareness, one breath at a time.

If you’ve been curious about meditation, or simply want an hour set aside for quiet reflection in good company, we invite you to join us.

We meet every Tuesday from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Arbor Activity Center Event Room I. For more information, please contact Domenica Genovese at [domenica@gcfonline.com](mailto:domenica@gcfonline.com), Brenda Foster at [brenda@gcfonline.com](mailto:brenda@gcfonline.com), or Athena Drewes at [Drathenadrewes@gmail.com](mailto:Drathenadrewes@gmail.com).

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R/C Flyers Club

Ray Ihlenburg



What are those big orange yard flags? They are windsocks. We have three orange windsocks at the flying field (one is orange and white).

These are the most reliable local indicators of prevailing wind direction, and by understanding their positions, one can estimate wind velocity. When extended horizontally, the wind speed is at least 17 mph. We like to see them at one-quarter to one-half extended, indicating winds between three and seven miles per hour.

What is that little mushroom-looking thing on that pole? That is the Tempest weather station that provides the conditions at the flying field to club members' phones. This includes temperature, wind speed, and direction forecasts, relative humidity, etc. It is very convenient to check the temperature, wind direction, and velocity from home.

Are those cameras? Sure are. They provide security so members can view field conditions from home. Very helpful on foggy mornings.

What are model retrieval bags? Those are large black plastic bags that help to collect and deliver crash debris to the dumpster. Do they crash often? Usually just once. Can you fix them? Depends on the crash. Are they easy to fly? Yes, with an instructor.

The club has a cadre of instructors

who are dedicated to training new pilots. This is absolutely the fastest (and cheapest) way to learn.

How much do they cost? Initially, less than golf clubs but more than a bat. Club members, especially an instructor, can make sound recommendations to a new pilot.

Where will the new field be located? The new field will be located about two miles (as the crow flies) north of the existing field. There will be paved access, with a good chance of water service for irrigation and power for lights, fans, charging stations, and the essentials we presently must use solar power to operate.

The existing field will remain in operation, but some structures may be moved as construction of the new field progresses. This is good news as the Spring Fly-In is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 18. More information will be published when the details are firm.

Another date to save is the Club Fair on Thursday, Feb. 19, at Circle Square Cultural Center. The club will have a number of models on display, and, of course, the hands-on display will be there so anyone can get a feel for the "sticks."

We have recently welcomed several new members to the club. If you have been thinking of joining our club and learning to fly, and made a resolution to do so, visit otowrcflyers.com, come out to the field and talk with one of our members, or attend a club meeting at 9 a.m. on the first Monday of each month in the Hobby Building Event Room. "Fly good and land better."



Photo by John Schnur

Dancing Jewels practicing for their performance at the Health & Wellness Expo.

R/C Car Club

John Schoenherr



The R/C Car Club is looking forward to a great year in 2026, building on the success of 2025. At the start of the year, new board members were elected: President John Schoenherr, Vice President Terry Altman, Treasurer Bob Paxson, Secretary Fred Penichet, Race Director Dave Johnson, Track Managers Bob Herbst and Ron Kaulfersch, and Safety Officer Mike Main. A special thank you to Sam Murphy and Jim Printer, who served as track managers in 2025.

The club is also privileged to have chairmen who keep the racing groups going. Brian Allard – slot car, Cliff Dallas – rock crawler, Fred Fryer – legends, and Dave Johnson – race day committee.

All the R/C car venues saw improvements last year that made racing/crawling more fun. Changes were made to the slot car to improve the track's operation. Several track sections were replaced, and the control unit was replaced so that all sound functions are working. Jumper wires were added to evenly power the track. In addition, a separate control unit is now available to test and set up the car's braking and speed before the race. Also, a second day of racing was added for analog cars. These races are held from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio II on the

third Monday of the month and the last Friday of the month.

The biggest change was made to the crawler course. Thanks to the donations of course material, there are now many obstacles in the course to test drivers' skills.

In 2025, a new outdoor racing class was added: the NASCAR class of 1/12 racing cars. These cars were introduced by Losi in 2024 and adopted by the club last year. They are inexpensive, ready to run, and easy to drive and maintain. All of these features have made the cars very popular among new and experienced drivers alike.

Be sure to visit us at the Club Fair on Thursday, Feb. 19, at Circle Square Cultural Center.

Slot car drivers meet every Tuesday at 1 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II. R/C outdoor racing is every Wednesday and Saturday at 1 p.m. at the R/C car track. Legends car racing is every Thursday at 10 a.m. at the R/C car track. Rock crawlers meet every Monday at 1 p.m. at the crawler course.

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

November 2025

Traxxas-Bob Herbst and Larry Ericksmoen. Two-wheel buggy Sam Murphy. Four-wheel buggy-Jim Siltman. Pan car-Bob Paxson. Touring-Ron Kaulfersch. Two-wheel truck-Roy Macomber. Limited-Ron Kaulfersch. 17.5-Ron Kaulfersch. Sportsman-Dave Ackroyd. NASCAR-Peter Martin.

December 2025

Traxxas-Hank Henne. Two-wheel buggy-Lane Rudiger. Pan car-Phil Paquette. Touring-Bob Herbst. Two-wheel truck-Lane Rudiger. Limited-Bob Herbst and Dave Johnson. 17.5 - Bob Herbst. Sportsman-Paul Beyer and John Schoenherr. Truggy-Neil Sorensen. NASCAR - Larry Clark.

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Photo by Rosalina Norita

Exemplifying the Romano-Byzantine style, the interior is resplendent with exquisite mosaics and marble striped in red and white, where ships and the sea recur as recurring motifs in the decorative design.

# The Multifaceted Charm of Marseille

By Rosalina Norita

Marseille is a city where ancient history coexists with a bold, forward-looking spirit. For more than 26 centuries, this dynamic Mediterranean metropolis has been a crossroads of cultures, constantly evolving while remaining deeply rooted in its heritage. Every winding street and sunlit square tells a story, blending timeless character with contemporary transformation.

Exploring Marseille’s diverse districts from the lively Vieux-Port to the elevated neighborhoods overlooking the sea reveals a city firmly committed to sustainability. Marseille is not simply adopting sustainable tourism; it is actively shaping it. The town prioritizes environmental protection, heritage preservation, and the quality of life of its residents. Nature plays a vital role in the urban landscape, visible in expansive green spaces, tree-lined avenues, revitalized public areas, and innovative urban farms. Most striking is the proximity of the Calanques National Park, where rugged natural beauty feels inseparable from city life.

Marseille’s origins are steeped in legend, said to have begun with the love between the Greek sailor “Prou” and the Ligurian princess “Gyptis.” Today, the Vieux-Port remains the city’s beating heart. Fishing boats share the harbor with modern yachts, framed by the shimmering Mediterranean. Nearby, visitors can immerse themselves in history at the Marseille History Museum and the Ancient Port, admire architectural landmarks such as the Vieille Charité, or wander through historic neighborhoods that retain their authentic charm.

Towering above the city is Notre-Dame de la Garde, Marseille’s spiritual symbol. Known affectionately as “La Bonne Mère,” this Romano-Byzantine basilica crowns the city’s highest point. Once a lookout and later a refuge for sailors, it now offers sweeping panoramic views across Marseille, the sea, and the surrounding Provençal landscape. Its presence is deeply woven into local identity, serving as both a landmark and a source of comfort.

Beyond the city lies the extraordinary Calanques National Park, a protected landscape of limestone cliffs plunging into turquoise waters. This exceptional natural sanctuary supports remarkable biodiversity, with thousands of plant species and rare wildlife, including Bonelli’s eagle. The park is open to exploration but requires careful stewardship to protect its fragile ecosystems. Hidden beneath its waters is the Cosquer Cave, an underwater painted cave discovered in 1991 and dating back to 27,000 BC. This prehistoric site, now a protected Historic Monument, offers a powerful glimpse into humanity’s earliest artistic expression.

Marseille invites visitors to explore at their own pace, offering enriching and profoundly moving experiences. Welcoming over two million visitors each year, it stands among France’s most captivating destinations. Those who journey here are rewarded with a city that surprises, inspires, and leaves an enduring impression; one that lingers long after the Mediterranean horizon fades from view.

On Top of the World NEWS

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# Everything's A-Okay in Oklahoma

By Elaine Morrison  
World News Writer

If you are at all familiar with the legendary, prize-winning 1943 Rodgers and Hammerstein Broadway show “Oklahoma,” you will have no difficulty in fitting the words of this headline into the first line of the verse of its spirited song, “Ev-

everything’s up to date in Kansas City.” If you are unable to do this, take heart. Oklahoma is coming to Ocala very soon. The show, “Oklahoma, Jr. Edition,” is in its final rehearsal stages and will have its much-anticipated opening

in March. The performances are scheduled for Saturday, March 7, and Sunday, March 8. There will be two performances each day at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. According to Broadway Playhouse President Carole Beauchamp, “This will be the first time a full-length theatrical production will be performed in On Top of the World.” She goes on to say, “We are so fortunate to have such experienced directors, whose knowledge of the material has made it possible for many of our members to perform in ways they would not have believed possible.”

When Rodgers and Hammerstein made theatrical history with “Oklahoma” in 1943, musical theater up to that point had mostly been a collection of variety acts. This show, for the first time, combined dramatic play with music, dance, and comedy to further the plot. This led to the creation of a new genre of musical theater, one beloved by audiences for decades. At a recent rehearsal, the cast was being put through their paces by director Cheryl Richardson, learning dance steps for the number, “The Farmer and the Cowman.” “I love to see them surprise themselves when they get out of their comfort zone,” she said. “That makes them able to say ‘I still got it.’ That is so rewarding.” Director Joanne Houston agrees that it can be challenging, “But when you explain that taking on the challenge by seeing a broader picture than just the lines in a script, you can make magic happen.” The decision to double-cast the lead roles was necessary, “Because you can’t know what might happen. We need to be certain that our audiences will see a professional performance.” Stage manager Gail Scarbrough has been working with the production since the beginning of rehearsals in September 2025. “I am so excited seeing the show come alive, week after week,” she said. “It is quite amazing.” “Oklahoma” provides many wonderful moments for audiences. They will get to know how lovely a morning can be, take a ride in a detailed surrey with a fringe on top, and understand what it means to really be in love. History was made when “Oklahoma” opened on Broadway in 1943, and a ticket cost under \$5. And history will be made in On Top of the World in March, when “Oklahoma, Jr. Edition” makes its appearance for \$10 a ticket. Don’t miss the opportunity to be a part of history. General admission is \$10, and reserved is \$15. Tickets are on sale throughout February, on Tuesdays in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room III from 9 a.m. to noon, and on Sundays in the Recreation Center Ballroom from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. For more information, please email otowbroadwayplayhouse@gmail.com.



“Oklahoma, Jr. Edition” rehearsal.

Photo by Joanne Houston

# It's Showtime!

By Nancy Grabowski

It’s showtime! Dim the lights, cue the music, bring on the new program: “Tonight’s Going To Be a Good Night!” The New Pretenders are attempting an innovation borrowed from entertainment venues everywhere, such as the undercard at a boxing event or a new comic warming up the audience for a headliner.

When we take the stage, we will also have a pre-show! While the actual program is slated to start at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 6, and Saturday, Feb. 7, we will start at 6:45 p.m. The time for Sunday, Feb. 8, is 1:45 p.m. We hope you’ll be in your seat to enjoy this segment featuring three well-known former Pretenders! You will note as we get underway that

the band will be offstage tuning up, and the singers will be doing last-minute costume checks. Then, the transition to the next portion of the show will be so seamless, you won’t notice it at all. Someone (who prefers to be unidentified) recently mentioned that “The New Pretenders just seem to have fun, always!” It is, indeed, true...we are a fun-loving bunch who want you to enjoy what we do as much as we do. Sing along with the music you know, clap with the rhythm, tap your toes, and applaud our efforts!

Please know that while we do have fun, our serious side keeps us grounded. We use our profits to support local Marion County charities as our way of giving back. It is always a group decision which charities we donate to. We believe in helping wherever and whenever we can. We hope we excite you! We hope we inspire you to join us! With that thought in mind, talk with any of us or join us at the semi-annual Club Fair slated for Thursday, Feb. 19, at Circle Square Cultural Center. Need more information? Call Nancy Grabowski at 352-209-4699.



The New Pretenders.

Photo by George Bausewein



Recreation

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



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

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

Social Committee

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

Recreation Center

Happy Hour (Free)

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

- Upcoming entertainment is as follows:
- Feb. 6: No Happy Hour
  - Feb 13: Crossfire
  - Feb 20: Cherokee
  - Feb 27: Billy Buchanan

Music at the Pool Pavilion (Free)

Enjoy some great music at the pool and pavilion area at the Recreation Center from 1 to 4 p.m. The schedule is as

follows:

- Monday, Feb. 2: Soundwaves
- Friday, Feb. 6: Crystal Vision
- Sunday, Feb. 8: The Stragglers
- Saturday, Feb. 14: The Joes
- Wednesday, Feb. 18: Mark Raisch
- Saturday, Feb. 28: Lisa Coan

With The Summit opening around the corner, the plan is to hold Happy Hour every other Friday in The Summit ballroom. More information will be coming to you in this column as things develop.

Tropic Trivia Tickets

If you would like to try your hand at Tropic Trivia, March tables will be on sale Tuesday, Feb. 3, through Friday, Feb. 13. A team representative can buy a table for the whole team every month. Tables of eight sell for \$40 on the OTOW App. After your purchase, please come to the Recreation Department to select your table. First-come, first-served.

Karaoke (Free)

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

Ladies Night (Free)

Ladies, you are invited to join us on Tuesday, Feb. 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. Donna Carrier is the musical guest for this night. Bring your beverages and snacks. See you there!

Movie Night (Free)

Join us for a cinematic night out featuring, when possible, a newly released movie! The movie license covers only the Recreation Center Ballroom; therefore, we are unable to transfer its use to other buildings. Join us on Thursday, Feb. 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. The movie title is announced on the Recreation Center Lobby movie sign, on the virtual calendar, and on the OTOW App. Free popcorn and The Pub will be open. Feel free to bring snacks and non-alcoholic beverages.

Please note that the ballroom will not be accessible as a cut-through to or from the pool or The Pub during this time. Please make your way around the building so the “theater” remains dark and the movie remains uninterrupted.

Ballroom Dance Class

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

Club Fair

Come to the Club Fair on Thursday, Feb. 19, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center and explore the different clubs available at On Top of the World. What a wonderful way to meet representatives, ask questions, visit with your neighbors, and make new friends. 65 clubs will participate in this event, with something for everyone!

Magic and Entertainment

On Thursday, Feb. 26, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom, Rudy Castle blends comedy, close-up magic, illusions, and mentalism into an interactive experience that has his audience laughing, engaged, and amazed. Cost is \$15 per resident and \$20 per guest. Fee includes magic show, snacks, and drinks.

Golf Cart Safety Class

Help keep your community safe! All residents are encouraged to attend free safety classes with Colen Built Development’s Senior Health and Safety Manager Jonathan Miller. On Thursday, Feb. 19, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom, learn how to drive a golf cart defensively; it may just save your life. You may register on the OTOW App or by calling 352-387-7533.

AppFolio Classes

Resident Services is hosting two AppFolio classes in the Recreation Center Ballroom. These classes will help residents sign up for and use AppFolio. Pick a date and mark your calendar: Thursday, Feb. 19 or Thursday, March 26, from 10 a.m. to noon.

The Lodge at Candler Hills

Virtual & Live Fitness Classes (Free)

- Have fun and get fit every Monday and Wednesday.
- Mondays (9 a.m.): Chair Pilates with a livestream instructor.
  - Mondays (10 a.m.): Chair Yoga with a livestream instructor.
  - Wednesdays (9 a.m.): Total Body Conditioning with loop bands and a live instructor.

Chair Volleyball (Free)

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

From the Top Line Dance Class (Free)

Join Chuck and Donna weekly on Tuesdays for line dancing classes that start at 10 a.m. These progressive lessons are for all levels of dance.

Open Game/Card Play (Free)

Every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Card Room is open for game day. Bring your games and cards and have a great time. Time ends at 2 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month.

Kocktails & Karaoke (Free)

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

Happy Hour (Free)

- Cheers to a fantastic community! Join us for Happy Hour from 5 to 8 p.m. Feel free to bring your own beverage and table snacks. \$5 guest fee applies. The entertainment schedule is as follows:
- Saturday, Feb. 7: Dan Flok
  - Friday, Feb. 13: Sounds Waves
  - Saturday, Feb. 21: Bootleggers

Musical Game Night

Enjoy this fun musical night on Wednesday, Feb. 18, from 5 to 7 p.m. Come and play PRIZEO, along with trivia



and Name That Tune. Registration fee is \$5 per resident and \$10 per guest.

Indigo East Community Center

Happy Hour (Free)

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

- Feb. 6: Dave & Kenny
- Feb. 13: Donna Carrier
- Feb. 20: Crystal Vision

Trivia

Get in on some friendly and fun competition with your neighbors and friends at trivia on Monday, Feb. 2, from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring your favorite snacks and beverages to share with your team. The cost is \$5 per resident and \$10 per guest.

Line Dance Party (Free)

Come to our line dance party that is going to be full of fun, great music, and amazing moves. Everybody is invited to join us. Show off your dance moves on Wednesday, Feb. 11, from 5 to 7 p.m. Tim Hargis will be our entertainment. \$5 guest fee applies.

Karaoke (Free)

Do you sing? Choose your song and share your voice at karaoke on Thursday, Feb. 19, 5 to 7 p.m. Bring beverages and snacks. Feel free to sing solo or in a group. \$5 guest fee applies.

Music Trivia

Challenge your mind by playing rounds of music trivia and Name That Tune on Thursday, Feb. 26, from 3 to 5 p.m. First, second, and third-place prizes will be awarded. The cost is \$5 per resident and \$10 per guest.

The Landing

Mardi Gras Celebration

Wear purple, green, and gold, and get ready to dance the night away Mardi Gras style to the music by Pure Magic. Bring your own drinks and snacks on Tuesday, Feb. 17, from 5 to 8 p.m. The cost is \$5 per resident and \$10 per guest.

Game On (Free)

Bored? Not on our watch! Grab your favorite board game and pack up your gaming spirit for a night of friendly competition. Bring your own drinks and snacks – and maybe a victory dance on Wednesday, Feb. 25, 5 to 8 p.m.

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

On Mondays, there is a livestream instructor for Chair Pilates at 9 a.m. and Chair Yoga at 10 a.m. Our WCAA classes on Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m. are pre-recorded. Visit the OTOW App for the wellness schedule and find out what to bring for each class.

CURBSIDE LANDSCAPE DEBRIS PICK-UP SCHEDULE

Visit OTOWInfo.com > Resident Information > Garbage and Recycling Services

On Top of the World

BUS SCHEDULE

Monday - Thursday

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

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

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

AFTERNOON ROUTE	PICK-UP LOCATIONS AND TIMES	
The Lodge at Candler Hills	1:15 p.m.	Candler Hills Community Center 1:20 p.m.
Friendship Colony Post Office	1:25 p.m.	Providence Post Office 1:28 p.m.
Avalon Post Office	1:33 p.m.	Crescent Ridge Post Office 1:38 p.m.
Recreation Center	1:43 p.m.	Americana Post Office 1:49 p.m.
Friendship Post Office	1:54 p.m.	

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

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

#9601 - 2/24

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# Model Railroaders

## Jim Lynam



The club recently completed the design and construction of an “N-scale” model railroad layout. With its completion, the club now provides an operating layout for each of the four major scales of model railroading: G (garden scale), O (Lionel scale), HO, and N. One of our members even has an operating Z scale, which has recently been developed.

The scale is determined by the ratio of the model's size to that of its full-scale counterpart. The ratios are G (1:22), O (1:48), HO (1:87), N (1:160), and Z (1:220). Gauge, on the other hand, is the distance between the rails. N gauge received its name because the rails are nine millimeters apart.

N-scale models were first commercially produced in 1962 by Arnold, a

company based in Nuremberg, Germany. Fortunately, the various manufacturers agreed on a standardized code for the physical dimensions of the track, locomotives, rolling stock, and accessories. This scale is popular with modelers worldwide and is second only to HO. In Japan, this scale is the most popular because home space is limited.

Being smaller in scale and gauge, the advantage is that the track can have tighter radii, allowing more track to fit in the same space. As a result, some modelers are using the scale because of their limited space, such as bedrooms or basements. However, other hobbyists choose the scale to create larger, more complex, or visually expansive layouts.

One of the most significant advantages of N scale is that modular layouts can be developed. A set of standards is created so that individual units can be built and attached, creating very large and intricate designs. Modelers develop and store their modules at home, then get together to attach all the units, creating a very impressive total layout.

One of the first standardized modular systems was created in California and became known as NTRAK. These layouts combine beautifully detailed modules with long trains running on two main lines, and a third track for serving industries and yards.

A newer modular system, called T-TRAK, has been developed. The “T” stands for table-top. This system uses a table for support, eliminating the need to attach legs to the modules and making storage much easier. In addition to precise specifications, Kato Unitrack is recognized as the track of choice and offers compatibility.

The club invites you to visit the Hobby Building Model Train Room on any Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. Come on in and run some trains with us! The Model Railroaders Club is always looking for new members, and you are welcome to join us. Our next club meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 4, in the Hobby Building Event Room. If you have any questions, please text Jim Lynam at 352-861-2822.

## Tesla Owners & Enthusiasts Club

## Dan Lack



Here are some of the topics of discussion at our last club meeting.

David Moss's Tesla Model 3, via its full self-driving (FSD) feature, drove him from the Tesla Diner in Los Angeles to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, without any driver intervention. According to Mr. Moss, there were no close calls during his 2,732-mile journey, as his vehicle not only guided him along the roadways but also parked at Tesla supercharging stations.

Teslas can be rented at reasonable rates from dealers in California, Texas, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Arizona with free supercharging, unlimited miles, and FSD included. There is a \$250 credit toward the purchase of a vehicle within seven days of renting.

Last year, the Tesla Model Y was the best-selling car for the third year in a row.

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



Photo by Jim Lynam

New N-scale layout.

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CARDS & GAMES

Bingo

Nancy Grabowski

Some things never change and bingo is one of them! The weekly games are held in the Recreation Center Ballroom on Wednesdays. There are 18 bingo pots based on the number of cards sold. There is a cover-all minus one game for \$75 and a cover-all for a win between \$110 and \$250.

Raffle tickets are sold from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Prices are three for \$1 or 10 for \$3. Each winning ticket receives \$20.

Cards are sold from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. Prices remain \$1 per card. Cards are equipped with sliders, so no dabbers or markers are needed. Cards for the visually impaired are available, too. You must present your valid resident ID card. Guests aged 18 or older are welcome when accompanied by a resident player.

Per Florida regulations, no alcohol, wine or beer is allowed in the Ballroom. It can be purchased and consumed in The Pub or on the patio. Contrary to an age-old myth, there are plenty of seats available; the only “reserved” seats are for our volunteers. Please respect the volunteer signs while they work to make bingo happen. You may save one seat in addition to your own. For safety, do not tip the chairs to save them.

We look forward to seeing each of you. If you have any questions, see Carl Folkers at Bingo or contact Nancy Grabowski at 352-209-4699.

Bridge

Monday Afternoon

By Carol Johnson

- Dec. 8, 2025

1: Jack Heller & Steve Sekac; 2: V.J. Hentz & Carolyn Higgins; 3: Phyllis Silverman & Judy Mackowiak; 4: Donna Peters & Rad D.
- Dec. 15, 2025

1: Pat and Debbie Quinn; 2: Bruce Gillett & Chris Baumgartner; 3: Judy Mackowiak & Phyllis Silverman; 4: Donna Peters & Rad D.
- Dec. 22, 2025

1: Phyllis Silverman & Judy Mackowiak; 2: Craig Ford & Jean Krueger; 3: Barb Heller & Barbie Trebilcock; 4: Diane Robinson & Carol Johnson; Grand slam: Barb Heller & Barbie Trebilcock.
- Dec. 29, 2025

1: Steve Sekac & Jack Heller; 2: Donna Peters & Rad D.; 3: Billie Anderson & Trudy Baumgartner; 4: Jean Krueger & Judy Mackowiak.
- Tuesday Night Duplicate

By Bob Kraus

We meet every Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Card Rooms I–II (please arrive by 5:50 p.m.). Games are set up as Mitchell or Howell, based on attendance, with up to nine tables. Bring your partner and \$0.50 per person.

Boards are scored after play, and results are emailed within a few days. New to duplicate bridge? We'll show you the basics in just a few minutes.

Substitutes are welcome – contact us to be added to the list. For more information, call Bob Kraus at 352-492-8525.

- mation, call Bob Kraus at 352-492-8525.
- Dec. 16, 2025

1: Bob Kraus & Virginia Collins; 2: Vera Mangold & Dan Lack; Tie at 3: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; and Jean Krueger & Sophie Redman.
- Dec. 23, 2025

1: Julian Wachs & Liz Wachs; Tie at 2: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; and Barbara Heller & Jack Heller; 4: Bob Kraus & Cathie Apgar.
- Dec. 30, 2025

1: Bob Kraus & Virginia Collins; 2: Connie Cambell & Billie Andersen; 3: Julian Wachs & Liz Wachs; 4: Barbara Heller & Jack Heller.
- Jan. 6

North/South

1: Linda Ryan & Bill Ryan; 2: Caroline Higgins and V.J. Hentz; 3: Brian Lomasky & Carrie Kanosky; 4: Chris Wachter & Jeff Young.
- East/West

1: Jack Heller & Barbara Heller; 2: Gary Moses & Diane Turkin; 3: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; 4: Dennis Wallace & Judi Wallace.

- Wednesday Afternoon

By Dianne Robinson
- Dec. 3, 2025

1: Trudy Baumgartner; 2: Kurt Baumgartner; 3: Al Kramer.
- Dec. 10, 2025

1: Sylvia Zelkin; 2: Billie Andersen; 3: Linda Yuen; 4: Phyllis Silverman.
- Dec. 17, 2025

1: Bob Kraus; 2: Craig Ford.

- Thursday Afternoon

By Trudy Baumgartner
- Dec. 4, 2025

1: Dianne Robinson; 2: Bruce Gillett; 3: Al Kremer.
- Dec. 11, 2025

1: Linda Yon; 2: V.J. Hentz; 3: Bob Knowles; 4: Kurt Baumgartner.
- Dec. 18, 2025

1: Al Kremer; 2: Phyllis Silverman; 3: Billie Andersen; 4: Kurt Baumgartner.

Bunco Babes Social Group

Michelle Malsch

We meet in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The next scheduled game is Tuesday, Feb. 24.

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

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

If you have never played before, 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 play begins.

The cost is \$3 per person (please have exact change), and all collected funds

will be returned to the category winners at the end of the game. There are also two door prize drawings for those who did not win any of the cash prizes. Please bring your beverage and small snack if you wish. After the first three sets have been played, there will be a short intermission.

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

Cribbage

Judy Parisi

We meet in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room II on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 3 to 5 p.m. In those months with five Thursdays, we also meet on the fourth Thursday. This month, we meet on Thursdays, Feb. 5 and Feb. 19.

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

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

If you would like more information or would like to learn to play, please email judith.parisi@gmail.com. An email will be sent to our players for any changes to room assignments.

Mah Jongg

Angela Brady

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

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

Pinochle

Tuesday Night

By Herb Katz

- Dec. 2, 2025

1: Norma Miles; 2: Ray Kallai; 3: Jai Kallai.
- Dec. 9, 2025

1: Ilene Casper; 2: Bruce Gillett; 3: Bob Hoerr.
- Dec. 16, 2025

1: Jai Kallai; 2: Bob Moravec; 3: Edna Frye.
- Dec. 23, 2025

1: Andy Nuccio; 2: Phyllis Jarsky; 3: Vicky Mattingly.
- Dec. 30, 2025

1: Marlene Floeckher; 2: Andy Nuccio; 3: Evelyn Ebbighausen.

- Friday Morning

By Mary Hannon
- Dec. 12, 2025

1: Andy Nuccio; 2: Al Whitford; 3: Ilene Casper.
- Dec. 19, 2025

1: Walter Hickenlooper; 2: Bob Moravec; 3: Marilyn Whitford.
- Dec. 26, 2025

1: Marlene Floeckher; 2: Al Whitford; 3: Walter Hickenlooper.
- Jan. 2

1: Al Whitford; 2: Bev Merrick; 3: Bob C.

On Top of the World

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Poetry

The Group

By Deb Thompson

Wasn’t too long ago a new group had been formed. Certainly not considered the norm. We have gathered as a result of one thing that matters.

To overcome life’s difficulties and succeed at being the best version of you and me.

Hadn’t known one another from the start, Yet, over time, we are filled with compassion in our hearts.

A plus for each other and humanity. We listen and learn, leading to prosperity. Consequently, our personal life then produces solace, not strife.

A change in time naturally permeates from our very being.

Might it be that our existence is for this very reason?

Start Your Day

By Janice M. Puta

Beautiful face, soul full place, what a way to start your day!

Open your heart to the best part, one with all-that-is here and now. The final bliss reveals itself, each day a deeper start. Life force shows you how.

My Valentine

By Linda Toner

When I met you I didn’t know which way our path would go. All I knew was, when I held you in my arms, I wanted to keep you from all harm. And as we began our life’s journey you’ve made me as happy as I could be. You’ve always been my best friend, and you’ve had my back ‘til the very end. We’re old and grey now but the love’s still there for each other and no matter where life takes us now, you, my beloved wife will always be the light of my life.

The Seamstress’s Love Song

By Barbara A Scales

When voices call from conflicted minds that sway the shaft of wheat, gently bend the ear to the soil to absorb the words complete.

Inhale the kindness carried on the air and let go of sorrow’s fearsome winds.

Grasping the sun, nurture words spoken with wisdom, and blind those you shun.

Be pure of heart and walk with me to see the whole day come true.

For today holds promise of embroidered kisses to weave a lifetime for two.

Beholding Beauty

By Jim Kimes

Dostoevsky said that Beauty captures Our minds, and, sometimes, can mesmerize. Beauty, a primal mystique, enraptures, Desiring that we see her soulful essence. In hopes that, gently, we will awaken. Then, in perfect form she displays quintessence, Often leaving us memorably shaken. She can create a watershed event. Behold Beauty fully! We have her consent.

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View from the Library

Mary Lamp



“The Devil in the White City” was a National Book Award finalist in 2003. It is historical non-fiction but far, far from any dry retelling of historical events. This book documents the trials and epic efforts of the people who brought to life the Chicago World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893 (as well as a darker side to the time).

There was quite a bit of infighting and competition among the players who wanted to guard their “turf” and their vision of what this exposition should encompass. The initial intent was to cel-

Poetry Club

Bill Burton



“Drums keep pounding a rhythm to the brain. La-de-da-de-de, la-de-da-de-da.”

For those old enough to remember Sonny Bono, Sonny was a beatnik, songwriter, vocalist with Cher, record producer, TV variety show host, Palm Springs mayor, U.S. Congressman, and, to me, an offbeat poet. His rhythm did indeed come pounding to the brain, and it made him an interesting person. Like Dylan or Kristofferson, he set his poetry to music.

We shuffle into the Recreation Center Lounge on the first and third Tuesday of

brate the 400th anniversary of Columbus’s discovery of the New World. The idea hadn’t gained much traction until France opened its Exposition Universelle, so big, glamorous and exotic that it was believed it could not be topped.

They saw a very special challenge in the Eiffel Tower that, at that time, was higher than any man-made structure in the world. Several American cities bid to be the one to try, and Chicago won and began the effort to outshine France.

An architect of a leading Chicago firm, Daniel Burnham, was designated by the exposition’s directors as their chief of construction. He, in turn, made his firm’s partner, John Root, supervising architect, and Frederick Law Olmsted the supervising landscape architect. Many architects were invited to submit their drawings for the buildings to be erected on a site on the shore of

the month, as we always do at 1:30 pm, to pleasantly greet each other, exchange ideas, and listen to who has come up with what to recite today. Can we rival la-de-da-de-da? We usually do. Our little group may not be famous, but they are interesting purveyors of word tapestry.

Anna Marie Commorato kicked things off with her rendition of “A Spider and A Fly,” a wonderful children’s poem from her own book that charms older folks as well. She finds a way of acknowledging predator and prey without harming either. She also recites a few Haiku poems and a personal remembrance in a piece titled “Fog.”

Our founder, Bruce Tredinnick, read “Taking Off Emily Dickinson’s Clothes,” written by Billy Collins, who rivals Shel Silverstein with variety and wit. A clever insight into the reclusive and now quite famous Ms. Dickinson. Glenn Cohen read “Resolutions.” It

Lake Michigan.

As construction tried to progress, there were so many problems that arose and had to be resolved: the swampy ground itself, ensuring adequate financing and construction materials, labor/union difficulties, fires, and the awful Chicago winter weather that at times totally halted work. There was doubt all along that four years would be enough and that they would be ready for their opening day, May 1, 1893.

Mr. Ferris proposed the idea to top the Eiffel Tower. Upon its completion, the world was in awe of the Ferris wheel that, at 300 feet above the ground at its highest point and 250 feet in diameter, could accommodate 60 passengers in each of 36 cars. This wheel fulfilled their hopes of besting the Eiffel Tower.

The author, Erik Larson, provides an extensive list of sources and notes,

as well as a bibliography. His research enabled him to give us so many details, not only of the massive construction undertaken but also of the efforts and emotions of the large cast of people with many skills needed to make the Exposition a reality.

The devil in the title was H. H. Holmes, who carried out murderous plans just a few blocks from the exposition grounds. There is also extensive information about him, including how his crimes were discovered and his outcome.

Yes, there is much detail, but the chapters are such an inviting read and speak to the mood of all the players involved in this Exposition that the reader wants to keep reading to find out how they brought this awe-inspiring project to its fulfillment. Mr. Burnham was true to his words: “Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men’s blood.”

Writers Club

Paul DiSclafani



If you missed the first meeting of the Writers Club in January, we hope to see you on Thursday, Feb. 19! The club meets on the third Thursday of every month at noon in the Recreation Center Lounge.

Chaired by authors Paul DiSclafani, who is a humor columnist for the Marion Citizen, and Lori Szepek, an author and writing instructor at Master the Possibilities, the Writers Club is a monthly workshop open to all writers living in On Top of the World. Each month, we will feature topics and speakers who will share their insights and tips on publishing your work.

February’s speaker will be Filomena Abys-Smith, an author and the founder of the Author’s Support Group. This group, comprised of published resident authors, also meets every month. Filomena is the author of “At the Lord’s Table,” which takes place during the Great Irish Famine and explores the impact the Irish population had on New York City. She’s currently writing a sequel, following the same characters as they live through the antebellum period and become abolitionists and suffragists.

Other upcoming speakers include author Mark Holmes, who will discuss using the free Amazon platform KDP, which allows authors to self-publish their books. Stephanie Larkin from Red Penguin Publishing in New York, is scheduled to have a Zoom conference with our group in April.

At our inaugural January meeting, author Barbara Scales handed out a guide with useful links to help writers navigate the self-publishing industry.

Lori Szepek informed the group about the Hay House Book Writers Boot Camp, a free, four-day online training hosted by industry experts and guest speakers.

Dust off that old manuscript and come on down Thursday, Feb. 19, at noon, to the Recreation Center Lounge. Residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass are welcome to join us!

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# LET'S GROW SOMETHING BETTER TOGETHER!



## OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES, PRESERVING NATURE, AND ENHANCING LIFESTYLE:

At On Top of the World Communities, sustainability is more than a practice—it's a promise. Our Sustainable Landscape Management team takes a thoughtful, comprehensive approach to caring for our 13,000-acre community. Guided by over 65 years of stewardship, we protect native habitats, enhance resident lifestyles, and preserve our environment for future generations. Through Florida-Friendly Landscaping™, solar energy initiatives, Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup> practices, and strong water conservation efforts, we ensure sustainability that benefits both nature and our community.

## MULCH MATTERS AT ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Proper mulching helps keep our community landscapes healthy and sustainable. Sustainable Landscape Management recommends 3-inch depth. Recycling natural materials like grass clippings, leaves, and pine straw, we enrich the soil, reduce waste, and protect water quality throughout the community. Simple mulching practices benefit both our environment and our lifestyle.

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Ukelele Club

Janet Voyles



As 2026 approached, many of us turned our thoughts to self-improvement. While common resolutions like “hitting the gym” or “eating healthier” are noble, they often fall by the wayside come mid-January. It is not too late to consider a genuinely fun resolution that promotes well-being, and opens a brand-new world of creativity: learn to play the ukulele!

The Ukulele Club is the perfect place to start on this new journey. We will help get you started on the road to playing this easy, affordable, and portable musical instrument that can bring you a great sense of accomplishment! We meet every Wednesday at the Arbor Activity Center Music Room, starting at 2:30 p.m. with UKE 101, a 30-minute ses-

sion designed for beginners, where we learn the basics of ukulele playing and share what we learn with each other. Following that, at 3 p.m., is our traditional Strum-and-Sing session, which is open to all levels of ukulele players, including newbies! In Strum-and-Sing, we increase our skill and fun by playing (and singing, if you want!) selections of songs from a wide, wide range of musical genres.

At 4 p.m., those who wish to advance their playing even more can join in the Intermediuke session. New skills are added to those already achieved, providing even more creativity and fun to your ukulele playing!

Intrigued? Feel free to come by and see for yourself what the Ukulele Club is all about, and see if this is a resolution you would like to pursue. There is no membership fee, and the club is open to residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

If you have any questions, contact Janet Voyles at [artemisclarinet@gmail.com](mailto:artemisclarinet@gmail.com).



Photo by Ukulele Club

Ukuleles used by our members, showing the variety of size, style, and shape.

Karaoke Friends

Kathy & Charlie Petrosky



A new year has dawned. It’s time to make good on those resolutions we promised we’d stick to this year.

Whatever your goals may be, we all need a little push sometimes. Wishing is easy. It’s the doing part that’s often difficult.

The first resolution is to be more confident. For inspiration, listen to “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough” by Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell. Most of the time, the obstacles we have are the ones we put there ourselves.

The second resolution is not give up. Listen to Kelly Clarkson’s song “Stronger.” The lyrics tell us that when something hasn’t gone our way, we should learn from it and get back on track.

The third resolution is to be happy. Pharrell Williams has a song just telling us to be happy. Bobby McFerrin has a song telling us “Don’t Worry Be Happy.”

The fourth resolution is to find people who will be there for you. Gladys Knight inspires us with “That’s What Friends Are For.” Remember Woody from Toy Story? He sang “You’ve Got a Friend in Me.” I think the Beatles had it right when they sang “I’ll Get By With a Little Help from My Friends.”

The fifth resolution is to be aware of others’ needs. Can you be like Bill Withers, telling someone to “Lean on Me?”

Rocco is a newer singer in the group. Here is what he wanted to share: “I started to sing out of a need. I was a youth pastor in an inner-city church back in 1992. At that time, the youth did not have their own worship, so I started to put together a small singing group. We just sang with track music, kind of like karaoke. As our youth ministry grew, we began incorporating musical instru-



Photo by Steve Warren

Rick Rocco.

ments. By 1997, we had a full band, and I was the lead singer. My young guitar player wanted to try singing a couple of songs, so I gave him the opportunity. He did so well that I made him the band’s leader. I really haven’t sung since then until I moved to On Top of the World. I found karaoke, and the rest is history. I have had so much fun, singing different songs, learning, and growing in my ability. It’s really a great release to sing in a no-judgment zone. I encourage anyone who just wants to have fun and sing to find a karaoke near you. It’s probably the best part of my week, meeting new friends and establishing lasting relationships.”

We meet on the first and third Mondays in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room from 5 to 8 p.m. Karaoke is also at The Lodge at Candler Hills on the first Thursday of the month. The second Thursday of the month, karaoke is in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Come join the fun.

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Toppers Banjo

David Wesenberg



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

I would like to introduce Pat Ryan, one of our newer members of the Toppers Banjo Band. Pat started playing guitar in 1953, after returning from the Korean War. He was inspired by groups such as the Kingston Trio, The Brothers Four, and the Banjo Barons. He found he liked the banjo even more than the gui-

tar.

Pat purchased his first classic banjo, a Paramount made in 1923. He lived on Long Island and was a member of the Long Island Banjo Society, a great group of 90 active banjo players. Pat was in a group of three who played every Saturday at the Skipper, a local bar, for about two years.

Pat filled in on banjo at New York City bars Your Father's Mustache and The Green Onion. The group of seven to 10 banjo players, three trombones, two tubas, three washboards, and two honky-tonk pianos was the most fun at Your Father's Mustache with such a great group of guys.

Pat moved to Dallas, Texas, where he joined the Dallas Banjo Band before moving to Fort Myers, Florida, where, unfortunately, there was no banjo band. However, after relocating to our community, he joined the Toppers Banjo

Band. He has enjoyed playing with our great group of gals and guys.

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

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

For more information, contact Eddie Martin at [udeddie2@gmail.com](mailto:udeddie2@gmail.com) or David Wesenberg at [dpw@mastersoftware-inc.com](mailto:dpw@mastersoftware-inc.com).



Pat Ryan playing banjo.

Photo by Herbert Young

Concert Chorus

Joanne Houston



The Concert Chorus has begun working on our spring concert music for "We the People," a celebration of the 250th birthday of the United States of America. This will be performed on Sunday, April 12, at 3 p.m., and on Monday, April 13, at 6 p.m., at Circle Square Cultural Center.

We will be celebrating a great variety of patriotic, popular, rock, country,

and Broadway show-stoppers that will have your feet tapping and your hands clapping. The 95-member chorus is excited to bring you across our spectacular country on a musical road trip with stops in Nashville, Chattanooga, New Orleans, New York City, and a visit to see Lady Liberty on Ellis Island.

The concert will celebrate our country and honor our veterans of all service branches and include some familiar audience favorites such as "Sweet Caroline," "Take Me Home Country Roads," "Shut Up and Dance," and outstanding arrangements of "New York New York" and "God Bless the USA," and much

more wonderful music.

Mark your calendar: tickets will go on sale during Ticket Tuesdays, beginning on March 3, in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room III.

We thoroughly enjoyed the sold-out audiences at our holiday concert in December 2025 and the generous food donations that helped to provide food for over 2,000 Marion County children over the holiday break. A huge thanks goes out to our residents! You are amazing!

We can't wait to see you at our next

fun and entertaining show. For more information about the Concert Chorus, please email [joanne.houston57@gmail.com](mailto:joanne.houston57@gmail.com) or [deboraasmith@gmail.com](mailto:deboraasmith@gmail.com) to become a member or a sponsor. We rehearse every Tuesday, from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios. If you love to sing, come on up and join us, bring your voice and \$20 membership dues. We'd love to have you and guarantee a fun and rewarding experience.



Photo by Garry Voith

Rockin' around the world at the holiday concert.

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February 20	February 21
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Woodcarving Club

Linda Toner



This month, we will discuss a type of carving called relief. Relief carving is the process of cutting into a flat surface. To create a raised, dimensional look in relief carving, the background area of the wood is lowered with chisels and gouges. The lower the background is carved into the blank, the higher the design area appears. The design is then worked in small, grouped element sections called levels or layers, which include the background or sky area, the midground area, the foreground area, and the highest, foremost element. Each layer of a design is carved to a predetermined depth based on its position in the design. The simplest form of relief carving is called “sgraffito,” meaning to scratch into the surface. Using the

bench knife and V-gouges, a design can be created by making thin, shallow cuts across the flat surface. Low-relief carvings, called “bas-relief,” use shallow changes in depth between the layers of the pattern. The side walls are vertical and smooth. High relief carvings are not necessarily cut deeper into the wood. Instead, a technique called undercutting places the joint lines between two levels underneath the higher element. The walls of an element can roll in convex or concave curves. Our club has several relief carvers and whittlers. We meet every Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Hobby Building Art Room. We have beginners to advanced carvers. We also have tools to lend, wood material, and teachers on hand for those who feel they would be interested in learning how to carve. For more information, call Tom at 352-586-1171, Rich at 404-558-3855, or just stop by to see what we do. Who knows, carving could be in your future!



Sgraffito carving (left) and bas-relief carving (right). Photo by Linda Toner

Shutterbugs Photography

Mark Holmes



We all have memories of photos taken long ago. For me, I remember having an old point-and-shoot Brownie Flash. It was a cute little square camera that produced snapshots which were returned in a grey-and-red-trimmed folder with the scalloped edges of the photos creating a distinct image. Some of these old photos live on today, tucked in a box on the shelf or visible in a small vintage frame on the back corner of a bedroom dresser. My first “serious” camera was an Olympus OM-10 35mm camera that was very capable, lightweight, and easy to use. I got some great shots with it and some not-so-great ones as I developed my skills, learning from the poor ones. As the years passed, I added a Rollei 35, a Minolta 5000, some Nikons, a Hasselblad, and, currently, a digital Nikon D7000. I’m not alone in these memories. For example, Kevin Woodbury, a fellow club member, had this to say about his growth in photography: “My first camera was a Canon AE-1 when I was 24 years old. I was always into art and wanted a creative outlet. Photography was of particular interest because I knew I couldn’t draw and loved old photographs. I went from there to a Canon A1 (my favorite SLR camera), where I started to win contests, which gave me more confidence. Over the years, I’ve owned many cameras, including every Canon 5D series digital camera, but my favorite digital camera was the Nikon D850. Since it was heavy, I switched to a mirrorless design, and the Canon R5 was the best out at the time, so

that is what I have today. I also have the Sony RX10 IV for travel. Looking back, I still love the Canon A1 the best.” Another Shutterbugs member, Garry Voith, remarked, “Inspired by vacations using a Kodak X-15 film camera and an 8mm movie camera at age 14, I started a lifetime love of photography and videography. Of course, these cameras only had a fixed-focal-length lens, and you were shooting with costly film that needed to be developed at a lab. Shooting photographs and home movies of vacations and family events helped me learn picture composition and got me hooked for a lifetime of fun.” If you are looking for an active, fun club, consider joining Shutterbugs. We have planned some exciting field trips and a series of educational presentations to help you learn more, grow in the hobby, and get the most out of your camera, whether it’s a state-of-the-art digital or simply your smartphone. Follow us on Facebook (Shutterbugs OTOW Photography Club) to view and share photos. What’s your story? Join our active club and share your love of photography. Learn more, get a membership form, and view our calendar of events online at otowspc.org or contact Harry Boyajian at 239-336-4804.

Happy Hookers

Jan Spielvogel



Wow! 2025 was an incredible year for Happy Hookers. As I stated in the January column, here are the final numbers for the 2025 efforts. We distributed 1,675 hats, 531 Afghans, and 403 Scarves. These numbers represent not only the amazing talent of our group but also those in the community who heard about our projects and either came to our door or contacted us, saying they had items to donate as well. We are grateful to the members of our group and humbled by those of you in this community who have donated funds and yarn to us. We hope to do even more in 2026. Happy Hookers is open to all resi-

dents. We meet on Mondays from 12:30 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Art Room. There are no dues, agendas, or penalties for missing a meeting, arriving late, or leaving early. Life can and does sometimes interfere, and we don’t want that to hold you back. We have a talented group of ladies busy with crocheting, knitting, needlepointing, card crafting, embroidering, and various other handicrafts. They are never too busy to help someone with a complicated pattern or stitch. We welcome newcomers with open arms. Attendees should bring their current projects or work. If you have questions about our club, call Jan Spielvogel at 919-274-6191 or Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178. We always appreciate donations of yarn, pattern books, knitting needles, crochet hooks, or other crafting tools. Please bring them to our Monday meetings, or contact Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178 to arrange pickup.

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Photo by Mark Holmes Hasselblad 503cx.

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Sewing Bees

Ann Gallo



Happy Valentine’s Day!  
After a three-week holiday break, it was so nice to see all of our many members back in the hive. Our room was definitely buzzing with activity. When we left, our quilt cabinet was empty, as we had distributed all the quilts to our agencies. We made and distributed 1,193 quilts in 2025. We have so many dedicated members who were sewing at home over our holiday break, just waiting to come back to the hive. We love our Sewing Bee members.

On the day we returned, it was almost full. So, it was time for our first distribution of 2026. We sent 15 quilts and 15 blankets to the Shands Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. Being a child away from home in a strange hospital environment is very scary. We hope that our quilts and blankets bring some comfort to these children.

Did you know that the Great Depression popularized the feedsack quilt? Cloth sacks in which animal feed, flour, and other staples were packaged were produced in a wide variety of cheerful prints.

Would you like to be a part of this group? There are lots of things to do. We especially need people who can sew and



Photo by Susie Clauson

Another busy day at the hive.

tie a quilt. If you do sew, you don’t have to complete every phase in the quilt-making process. If you do not sew, you can tie a quilt. This can be done sitting down. You can learn to sandwich a quilt and cut fabric. Many hands are a part of the final quilt. We have sewing machines available for your use. Dues are

\$15 for the year.

We are always in need of children’s-themed cotton, solid-color cotton, or flannel fabric. Financial donations and gift cards, especially from Hobby Lobby and Michaels, are always welcome. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

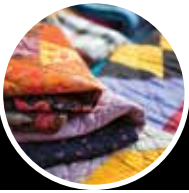
Join our page on Facebook (Sew-

ing Bees Club Inc.) and see what magic takes place at the hive. Stay up to date on what we are working on and our current needs.

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

Sunshine Quilters

Linda Holst



Terry Poznanski’s interest in sewing began at age eight when she sewed her own school garments. Sewing your own clothes was less expensive than buying clothes, and sewing offered more variety in style.

Terry began quilting 30 years ago. Terry states that work got in the way of quilting. But retirement now affords Terry many hours to quilt. Terry attests that quilters usually have

more than one sewing machine. Her machines include two Berninas, her mother’s Baby Lock, and a Serger. Terry has been a member of the Sunshine Quilters Guild for two years. She joined the club because of her interest in quilting and her desire to learn more about the art. Terry enjoys the group and what she is doing. She states she loves the group, the camaraderie, and bouncing ideas among other members.

The pattern Terry has been quilting of late is “quilt as you go.” She uses a hexagon template for the fabric pieces. The inspiration for the pattern comes from a past crochet pattern called “grandmother’s flower garden,” which Terry made into a bedspread.



Photo by Linda Holst

Terry Poznanski’s “quilt as you go” table topper.

Along with other members, Terry has made charity quilts which are donated to local groups. Members of the guild have the opportunity to share their skills. Terry recently taught the members how to make a paper-pieced church block.

Self-teaching and the guild are how Terry gains her quilting skills.

Terry’s advice to quilters is that the hobby can be trial-and-error; a mistake can be the next new best thing. Membership in the Sunshine Quilters Guild is open to all residents. For more information about the Sunshine Quilters Guild, contact Joyce Utley at barnieo48@gmail.com.

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Valerie and George Ostrom.

Angels Above  
Baby Gowns

Janet O'Neil



Remarkably, we are now submitting our activities for the final quarter of 2025, which has been an exceptionally busy period for the Angels Above team! On Oct. 27, 2025, HCA Florida, Orange Park in Jacksonville, Florida, submitted an urgent request for a package delivery after consulting with other HCA hospitals in the region. The materials provided by our organization fulfilled a specific need for their families. Upon receipt, the head nurse reported that her staff promptly distributed the items to a family, who expressed sincere appreciation to our team for supporting them during

On Top of  
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NEWS

MISSED DELIVERY?

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include your house number, street name and  
neighborhood.

a time of need. A subsequent delivery was made to the donor relations department at AdventHealth Waterman on Oct. 29, 2025, intended for patients requiring assistance. The Waterman staff expressed gratitude for the handcrafted items produced by the Ocala team, acknowledging the significant time, skill, and dedication each member invested in assisting families in need. In early November, our group delivered over 50 formal gowns to Covenant United Methodist Church in The Villages for the annual Tim Tebow “Night to Shine” prom, benefiting individuals with special needs. This donation will provide numerous women in the area with the opportunity to participate in an evening of entertainment and dancing in mid-February. In mid-November 2025, the team provided supplies to the Marion County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) for crisis managers to distribute to families in need on a case-by-case basis. We anticipate continuing this collaborative relationship with MCSO into 2026. The year’s final deliveries were completed at AdventHealth Winter Park and Morton Plant Hospital in Clearwater in December. Both institutions expressed appreciation for the donations and look forward to ongoing collaboration throughout 2026.

Fun with  
Golf Carts

Susan Pulling Robinson

A small circular photograph showing a group of people sitting in a golf cart, likely participating in a parade or event.

January is a month of rest, especially for our devoted parade organizers, George and Valerie Ostrom. Our club members wish each of you a wonderful New Year and look forward to seeing you along the parade route on Valentine’s Day. Don’t miss a parade; mark your calendar for the following Saturdays:

- Feb. 14: Valentine’s Day
- March 14: Mardi Gras and St. Patrick’s Day
- April 4: Easter
- May 30: Memorial Day
- June 13: Flag Day
- July 4: Independence Day
- Aug. 8: Summer Fun
- Sept. 5: Labor Day

- Oct. 31: Halloween
- Nov. 7: Veterans Day
- Dec. 5: Holiday Golf Cart Parade
- Dec. 19: Holiday Parade
- Dec. 26: Evening Lights

Membership in our Facebook group (OTOW Fun with Golf Carts) has now surpassed 600 members! If you have a golf cart, please consider jazzing it up (or not) and joining in as we “parade for a cause.” Each parade benefits one or more local charities. For more information and to receive emails about this club, please email [otowfunwithgolfcarts@gmail.com](mailto:otowfunwithgolfcarts@gmail.com). We all have a lot of fun cruising around in our “mini-floats.” All club parades start at the Recreation Center, with lineup and charitable donations at 9:45 a.m. and pullout at 10 a.m. The route for a given parade is posted on Facebook (OTOW Fun with Golf Carts and OTOW Chatroom). If the parade is not coming to your house, please meet us at the Recreation Center as we leave.



Donations provided to AdventHealth Waterman.

A stylized lightbulb icon with several lightning bolts emanating from it, set against a dark blue circular background.

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Photo by Mark Holmes

Artistic Crafts & Gifts

Chris Kilbride



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

ArtisticCrafts.org offers a glimpse of our exceptionally talented crafters and artisans. The group started back in the early 1990s, and the show has grown to over 50 tables on Tuesdays. Over 100 crafters are online, offering unique, custom designs. All resident crafters are welcome to sell virtually on our website and inquire about a table at our Tuesday show.

As published authors now have a presence selling their books at our craft show, this month we are featuring Mark Holmes who began writing mostly poetry in his 20s and accumulated a stack of legal pads with his handwritten poems over the years. Gathering up his faded folder, he crafted a book of poetry.

One day, while sitting at the computer with the front door open, he heard the rain falling on the tree outside through the screen door, stopped what he was doing, and wrote “Streams to Ford,” the poem that led to the book with the same title. Then he feverishly added many more poems and published them.

About 30 years ago, Mark wrote a short story about a harrowing rescue at sea from his time in the Coast Guard. It was such a moving story about the rescue of two parents and their infant son in mountainous seas off Fort Pierce on Christmas Eve that he had to record it. And there it sat until 2015, when he made it a core part of his anthology of eight years of service called “Always Ready – Coast Guard Sea Stories From the 1970s.”

Shortly after, he penned “Artifact – A B24 Crew, a Female Spy, and

Churchill’s Deadly Obsession,” a World War II novel inspired by bomber missions flown by Mark’s father. The next book, “Herb Lundy and the Magic Milk Truck – A Trip Through Time and Faith,” took two and one-half years to write as he brought a faith-based story to life, something he had yearned for.

Other titles include “Gideon’s Thunder – A B24 Bomber Pilot Diary” and “Motivated to Serve,” a collection of anecdotes from Coast Guard members and why they enlisted. In addition, there are several short military stories, two humorous books, “Mind Apples” and “Mind Apples 2,” and a book of Haiku, “One Hundred Haiku,” from which two poems were selected for the annual Japanese-based Haiku International Association publication.

His military service was followed by 30 years of corporate life in information technology and marketing. Mark formed Idea Depot, Inc. to support his commercial writing, marketing, and web design.

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.

Rubber Stamp Greeting Cards

Linda Lohr



On Thursday, Jan. 15, Linda Lohr presented three cards. One card featured burlap and cork for a great gay card. The sympathy card utilized 3D embossing folders. The last card used a large roll of wallpaper with cabbage-rose-like flowers. All the cards could be used for any occasion, just by changing the sentiment.

We thank Linda for supplying the cork, burlap, stamps, and dies to complete the cards.

Our group is open to all crafters, whether you’re a beginner or more experienced. Each month, one or two people will present. The group meets on the

first and third Thursdays at 1 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room.

Anyone can be a presenter; the cards do not have to be fancy or complicated. Our group is built on friendship, socializing, and mutual support.

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

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

Our next class is on Thursday, Feb. 5. Until our next meeting, keep on stampin’!



Photo by Linda Lohr

Cards presented by Linda Lohr.

On Top of the World

NEWS

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Art group members Freda Klump, Laura Sterrett and Maria Adrian.

Art Group

M.A. Baylis



The art community is thriving here at On Top of the World, and it all begins with the Art Group. Meeting three times a week in the Hobby Building, this vibrant collective serves as the pulse of local creativity. Here, artists from every imaginable media discipline come together to work freely on their projects, creating a workspace that is as much about friendship as it is about fine art.

Inside the Hobby Building, the diversity of styles is breathtaking. You will find abstract expressionism neighboring post-impressionism, while classical techniques mingle with the avant-garde. It is a creative melting pot unlike any other. This proximity leads to a unique kind of “cross-pollination” of skills. An oil painter might glance over at a neighbor working with watercolors or pastels and suddenly feel the itch to experiment with a new medium.

“If you run into a problem with your art, there is always someone around to help; it’s truly a non-judgmental atmosphere,” notes artist Laura Sterrett. “It certainly helps to have a different set of eyes offering to view your work.”

Our foundation is built on a wide spectrum of experience. The group includes everything from former professional art instructors and award-winning gallery artists to retirees who haven’t picked up a brush since grade school. This mix ensures that there is always someone to ask for advice and always someone to inspire.

“Everyone has their own unique style,” says Fran Delaney, a regular at the Art Group. “As a novice, I see various styles that allow me to be more creative and step out of my shell.”

The impact of the Art Group extends well beyond our community. Our members are active in the Florida art scene, participating in state-wide exhibitions, local fairs, and the Tuesday craft show in the Recreation Center Ballroom.

For residents looking to bring original art into their homes, the group offers several open houses throughout the year. Many of our artists also take commissions, specializing in portraits – a wonderful way to own a custom, original work at a nominal price.

The community has several opportunities to engage with our work throughout the year. We do four art shows a year. In April, we host a signature event. It’s the perfect time for residents to meet the artists, hear the stories behind the canvases, and purchase original pieces for their collections.

If you have ever felt the urge to express yourself through art, we invite you to come by and see what we are about. Art is fundamentally about inspiration. A visit to the Art Group might just challenge your perspective and help you find a rewarding new passion. As the saying goes, it’s never too late to have a creative second act. The Art Group meets on Wednesdays (1 to 4 p.m.), and again on Thursdays and Saturdays (9 a.m. to noon). For more information, contact Freda Klump, director, at 615-336-6863 or fredaklump@gmail.com

Murder Mystery Dinner Theater

Liz Elliott Lieberman



The actors, dancers, directors, writer, and choreographer are all hard at work devising some mysterious criminality at On Top of the World for your future entertainment. We are assured the writer is hard at work, but she seems to have disappeared on a Caribbean cruise. We sincerely hope she is not involved in any murderous schemes on board the ship.

Our next show is planned for Saturday, May 30, for the Latinos Club, when Lucy and Ricky Riccola will solve the murder of a certain showgirl in “At The Copa Ocala.” Ticket information and pricing will be made available in the March issue of the World News in the Latinos Club column.

Please contact me at Lizzylieberman@gmail.com or 702-378-6300 if you are interested in joining our fun-loving crew of actors, dancers, singers, and some decidedly odd individuals who all enjoy being part of this new and unique club.

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Broadway Playhouse

Elaine Morrison



“Oklahoma, Jr. Edition” will take place Saturday, March 7, and Sunday, March 8. There will be two performances each day, at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., in the Recreation Center Ballroom.

General admission is \$10, and reserved is \$15. Tickets are on sale throughout February, on Tuesdays in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room III from 9 a.m. to noon, and on Sundays in the Recreation Center Ballroom from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. For more information, please email otowbroadwayplayhouse@gmail.com.

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

**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](http://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](mailto:otownnews@otowfl.com). For advertising rates, visit [ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala](http://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](mailto:otownnews@otowfl.com) or visit [ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala](http://ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala)

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

For Sale

**Appliance:** Chest freezer, half size, \$50. 352-300-3043.

**Furniture:** 48" wood dining set with 4 padded chairs, \$475. 561-358-5489.

**Golf Cart Equipment:** 225/50/R14 golf cart tires (4) with wheels and center caps (no lug nuts). From a 2025 Evolution with 375 miles, \$400. 760-985-6020.

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**Holiday Décor:** Christmas dishes and goblets, \$25. 352-300-3043.

**Holiday Décor:** Christmas houses and people, strings (10) of lights with yard timers, two different-sized ceramic Christmas trees, battery-operated Santas (2), snowflake candles, and many extras, \$125. 561-939-9646.

**Misc. Item:** 600-pound motorcycle carrier, \$200. 561-358-5489.

**Misc. Items:** Blackstone grill with tank and cover, \$75. 352-300-3043.

**Sports Equipment:** Cannondale Super Six road bike. 352-861-8844.

**Sports Equipment:** Liberty electric trike with lights, mirrors, & spare battery. 352-547-9901.

**Sports Equipment:** Men's 26" Kent Bayside Comfort bicycle, 7 speed, \$60. Women's 26" Schwinn Fair Haven bicycle, 6 speed, \$60. Car hitch bike rack, \$50. 203-535-5886.

**Yard Equipment:** Toro self-propelled mower with a rechargeable lithium-ion battery pack

and detachable grass bag. Craftsman electric shears with guard for blade. 50' heavy-duty garden hoses (2). Text 352-445-4860.

Tag Sales

**Friday, Feb. 6:** 9788 SW 99th Avenue (Crescent Ridge), 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Friday, Feb. 6 & Saturday, Feb. 7:** 8966-B SW 94th Lane (Friendship Park), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Saturday, Feb. 7:** 9256-D SW 82nd Terrace (Friendship Village), 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Thursday, Feb. 19 & Friday, Feb. 20:** 8505-E SW 93rd Street (Friendship Colony), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Friday, Feb. 20 & Saturday, Feb. 21:** 9663 SW 92nd Place Road (Providence), 9 a.m. to noon · 7790 SW 80th Place Road (Indigo East), 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Saturday, Feb. 21:** 9697 SW 90th Street (Providence), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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