

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.

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 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).



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

Photos courtesy of Colen Built Development

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.

INDEX

Our World 1A-14A
Publication Schedule 2A

Lifestyle 15B-28B
Recreation 29C-46C

Fitness & Pool Schedules 37C
Arts & Entertainment 47D-64D

Community Bus Schedule 46D
Classifieds 63D



Publisher: Kenneth D. Colen
Editor: Petra Schmidt

Production Staff

Writers/Photographers

Ray Cech · Dave DeAngelis · Paul DiSclafani · Elaine Morrison · Phil Panzera

Distribution

The Villages Media Group

Proofreaders

Margitta Claterbos · Allison Cranmer · CJ Daane
 Michelle Migdal · Lennie Rodoff · Judy Shuster · Jerry Thompson

Read all the good news at ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala

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

The World News is partially subsidized by advertising, and advertisers appreciate your patronage. On Top of the World Management and the World News do not endorse or sanction any product or service by advertisers contained within this publication. Management reserves the right to accept, deny or edit content of ads and requests for advertising space by advertisers. For advertising rates, please call 352-387-7466 or email otownews@otowfl.com.

The World News, On Top of the World Communities, LLC
 352-387-7466 · otownews@otowfl.com

Is It Legal?



Colen & Wagoner, P.A.

Our upcoming Tuesday classes at Master the Possibilities are as follows:

- Feb. 3: Medicaid in Florida
- Feb. 17: Documents Needed for Estate Planning
- March 10: The American Civil War
- April 21: Probate and Estate Administration in Florida
- April 28: Sex, Scandals, Murder: Hooray for Hollywood
- May 19: Wills and Trusts and Ladybird Deeds – Which Works Best For You

To attend, please register at MasterthePossibilities.org.

SCAM ALERT: A few months ago, I

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Pick up after your pet.



Free Estimates · Veteran Discounts
 #CGC1529823 · Insured
252-367-0818

MENTION THIS AD FOR \$100 OFF*

*Minimum purchase \$2,000. Expires 06/30/24.

EVERYTHING ALUMINUM ... AND MORE!

Pavers · Textured Concrete Floors
 Screen Enclosures · Sunrooms · Garage Screens
 Power Screens · Gutters · Pergolas

was told that my scam alerts are "just preaching to the crowd" and that at On Top of the World, everyone is already aware of scams.

So, why go over them again and again? Yeah. Well. No. Not everyone is always aware, and even those of us (note that I include myself) who think we are smarter than scammers get caught for myriad reasons.

Romance scams target men and women who, for various reasons, seek to interact with and then rely on someone who appears kind, caring, and sympathetic. Folks with many different and very complex needs are easy targets. They are being groomed, but they deny it. The scammer promises to visit, but somehow, they just can't make it. Then comes the request for money. The story is old. We've heard it often.

Then there's the pop-up on your computer that says your system is infected. Or there's the threat that comes in a text or phone call, saying you've failed to do this or that, or failed to be in court, and that you must pay money and not tell

anyone.

It's never-ending and hard, but as we try, now and then, we let our guard down. So, if this column helps anyone avoid a scam, it's worth it to me to write about scams over and over and over.

Q. I'm upset, and so here goes: Why is it so difficult for folks who need Medicaid to be able to get it in Florida? It seems to me that a married couple, where one needs Medicaid while the other can continue with his or her life, should not have to impoverish themselves to get Medicaid.

A. As it happens, and for a married couple, particularly, but even for a single person, in the State of Florida, it is not anywhere near as difficult to obtain Medicaid as people have come to believe. My law partner, John Beck, and I will be discussing "Medicaid in Florida" in greater detail at Master the Possibilities on Tuesday, Feb. 3, from 3 to 4 p.m.

Q. What do you think of the governor's idea of doing away with homestead real estate taxes? How should voters react?

A. Well, of course, there aren't a lot of people who like the idea of paying taxes, and you can count me as one of them. However, I sense that there is a secondary part to your questions that would then lead me into a political discussion, which is not going to happen. I want everyone to enjoy my column without any concern that I have a "hidden" political agenda to push. That's why I stay away from political questions and will never endorse any politician or any political position. I am fond of telling folks that if from something I write, or from some lecture I give, you think you know what my political views are, you'll probably be wrong. Let's keep it that way.

Q. I am 83 years old, female, and a widow. Neither my late husband nor I had any relatives other than faraway

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.

Tuscarilla Sculpture Stroll
Feb. 21 | 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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

FREE! New sculptures, guided tours, interactive games, live music and local vendors
www.ocalafl.gov/sculpturestroll



2026 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

On Top of the World NEWS

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





Master the Possibilities
Leading in Lifelong Learning

EXPLORING 250 YEARS OF AMERICA

Lifelong Learning

Michelle Shideler
352-387-7571
michelle_shideler@masterthe possibilities.org

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.

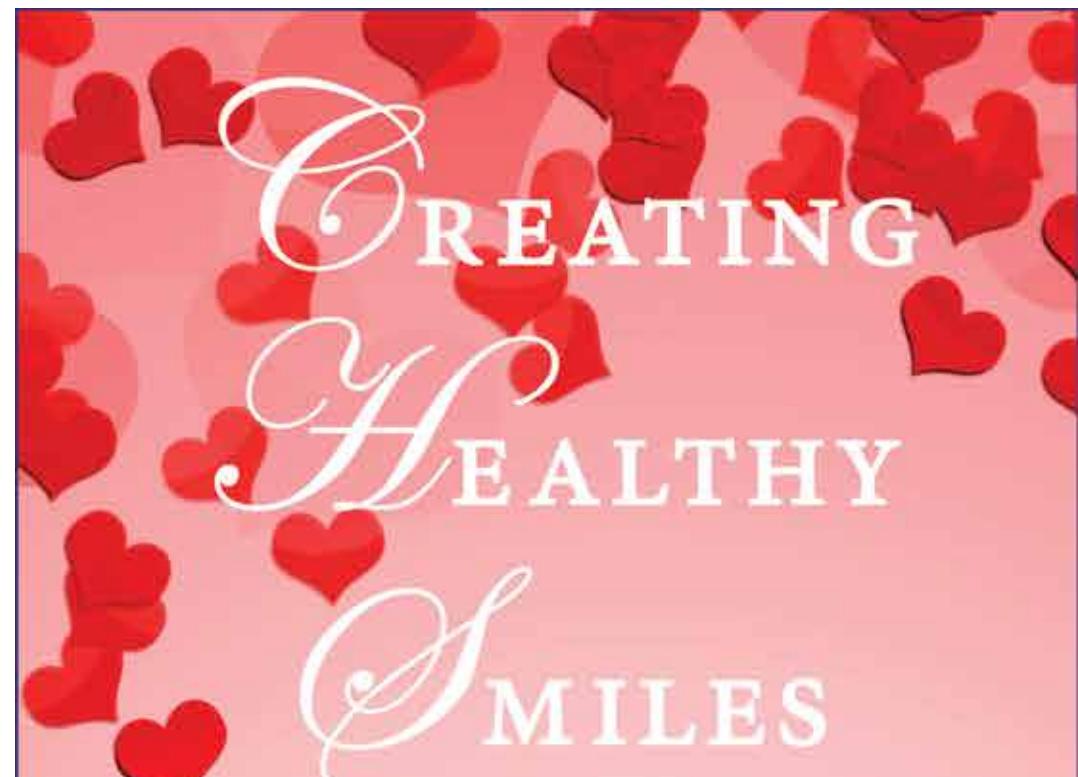
Don't forget our America 250-themed memorable field trips. These include Visit Titanic: The Artifact Exhibit, priced at \$82 for members and \$87 for the general public, and a VIP tour of the Orlando Auto Museum at Dezerland Park, priced at \$85 for members and \$90 for the general public. Both include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

There is much, much more happening this month. Visit masterthe possibilities.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.

**FREE ARBOR FITNESS CENTER
ORIENTATIONS**

Orientations
Thursdays, at 1 p.m.

352-854-8707 ext. 7638
Space is limited. Call for an appointment.



CREATING HEALTHY SMILES

A Marriage of Art & Technology

Boutique Dental Office Exclusively 65 and Older

Providers for:

Humana®

**United
Healthcare**

aetna®

Medicare Plans

A MASTER OF THE ACADEMY
OF GENERAL DENTISTRY



Barbara DeLucia, D.M.D.
COMPREHENSIVE DENTISTRY

FRIENDSHIP CENTER DENTAL OFFICE

8441 SW Hwy. 200, #115

(352) 854-6633 • DeLuciaDentistry.com



GOLF CART ACCESSIBLE!

Located right outside of On Top of the World

"Quality Dentistry, Not Corporate Production"

OTOW LIONS CLUB PRESENTS CASINO NIGHT!



SUNDAY,
MARCH 22, 2026

5 - 8 PM

CIRCLE SQUARE
CULTURAL CENTER

Gaming includes roulette, craps, blackjack, and Texas Hold 'em. Must be 21 to play.

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

**On Top of
the World**

Where the Cool Kids Retire®



For more information,
call Carol at 352.300.3995
or Sherri at 704.975.4573



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



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 6.6% 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.

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.

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

I'm here to help you bundle your home & auto



State Farm

Scott Cameron ChFC®
Agent
6333 SW S.R. 200
Ocala, FL 34476

Bus: 352-861-2266
www.scottcameron.com

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®



I can save you time and money when you bundle your home and auto insurance. Call, click or stop by for a quote today.

Availability and amount of discounts and savings vary by state.

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
State Farm Indemnity Company
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company
State Farm General Insurance Company
Bloomington, IL

State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas
State Farm Lloyd's
Richardson, TX

State Farm Florida Insurance Company
Winter Haven, FL

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

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

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-

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

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.

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.

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.

RESIDENT ID CARD

Carry it with you at all times.

FIRST CHOICE
WINDOWS
First choice is the right choice...

- Highest Quality Hurricane Rated Windows
- Double Strength Low E Glass
- Single & Double Hung Windows
- Sliders, Picture Windows & More
- Double Lifetime Warranty
- Sunroom/Lanai Enclosures
- Interest-free Financing

(352) 433-0343

www.firstchoicewin.com

Visit our showroom at

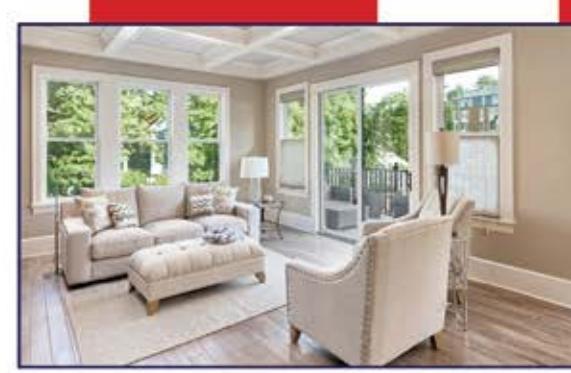
1510 SW 17th Street, Unit 100, Ocala, FL 34471



facebook.com/FirstChoiceWindowsFL

LOWER YOUR ENERGY USAGE

New windows and doors enhance and add beauty to your home!



License #CRC1329118

FREE Consultation & Estimate · Professional Installation
Quality Workmanship · Energy Efficient Products
Best Price Guarantee · Family Owned & Operated
Unmatched Customer Service · Made in USA

★ AMERICAN CLASSIC TOURS

**Special Offer on National Park Tours
Save \$300 When You Book By March 1st**



ROCKY COAST OF MAINE

Autumn sweeps like wildfire across the beautiful state of Maine. Acadia's garnet-red maples turning forests into sparkling treasure chests of color. From Portland to Bar Harbor, charming New England scenes of seaside villages, lighthouses and lobster fisherman.



YELLOWSTONE, GRAND TETONS & GLACIER

View snow-capped mountains, wildlife, dramatic waterfalls, and landscape sculpted with canyons, clear alpine lakes, winding rivers and virgin forests. Cruise the Snake River and Gates of the Mountains, and see the famous geyser, Old Faithful.



SMOKY MOUNTAIN SPRINGTIME

Stroll through colorful gardens during Biltmore Estate's annual Festival of Flowers. Visit the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Experience the excitement of Nashville at the Country Music Hall of Fame, Grand Ole Opry and the amazing Opryland Hotel!



SOUTHWEST NATIONAL PARKS

Marvel at the natural beauty of the American Southwest on this exceptionally designed trip. Take in the beauty of the Grand Canyon, Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon, Arches National Park, Canyonlands National Park, Monument Valley, and Dead Horse State Park.



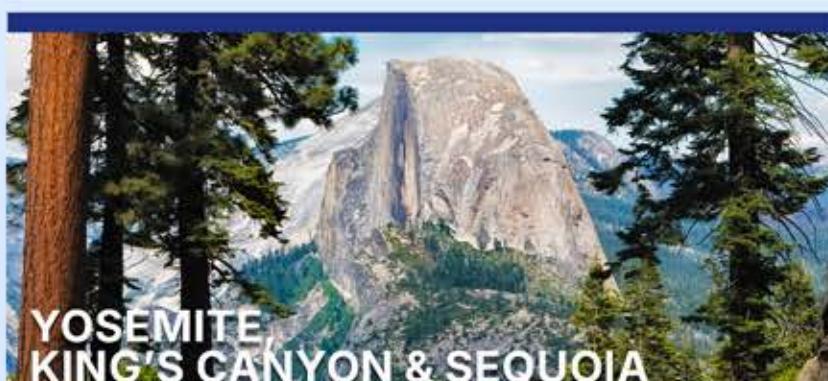
SEDONA & GRAND CANYON TRAINS

Stunning Red Rock Country mountain peaks appear on the horizon! Pink Jeep Tour through the Red Rocks, Grand Canyon, and a Stargazing Program. Two scenic train excursions on the Grand Canyon Railroad & Tanque Verde Railroad.



ALASKA

Embark on this special journey to America's last frontier - Alaska. The first part of this trip will be by land as we fly into Fairbanks and travel to Denali and Anchorage. The second part of this trip will be by sea as we cruise on Discovery Princess through Alaska's Inside Passage.



YOSEMITE, KING'S CANYON & SEQUOIA

This 8-day tour begins in Sacramento and takes you through California's most iconic natural wonders, including a guided visit to Yosemite National Park, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks with expert-guided tours and scenic drives.



DEATH VALLEY & JOSHUA TREE

Explore America's most beautiful deserts as you travel from Las Vegas to Palm Springs. Take in the otherworldly landscapes of Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks featuring huge sand dunes, technicolor rocks and canyons, majestic mountain peaks, rare wildlife, badlands, salt flats and more!

Why American Classic Tours?

- ★ **Artfully Designed Itineraries:** Discover the most beautiful places in America & Europe
- ★ **All Arranged & All Inclusive:** Sit back, relax, and enjoy as we take care of all the details
- ★ **Journey in Comfort:** Premium hotels, transportation, and well-paced itineraries
- ★ **Door to Door Service:** Offering home pickup service in your community & roundtrip airfare
- ★ **Family-Owned Since 1988:** See hundreds of 5-star reviews on our website



Get Our Free Tour Catalog In The Mail

Scan QR code to receive our new Tour Catalog
Call 847-548-3333 to speak with a tour specialist today!
americanclassictours.com

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-

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 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!

MUSICAL MOSAIC CONCERT SERIES

DUELING PIANOS EXTRAVAGANZA

DUELING PIANOS

Sholom Park
Master the Possibilities

PARK After DARK

**Advanced registration is required.
Register at SholomPark.org/park-after-dark**

**7110 SW 80TH AVE., OCALA, FL 34481
352-861-9751 EXT. 1**

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 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. Members can also visit our Face-

book page. Email us at activenewcomers34481@gmail.com for more information.



Photo by Joel Attenson

2026 Active Newcomers Club board of directors.

CONSERVATION FUN FACT

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



PALM TREE TRIMMING SERVICES
\$50-\$250 PER PALM TREE
Depending on size, type, and condition.
Cleanup and removal of trimmed fronds included.

Yearly palm tree trimming will lessen dead foliage falling and cleanup by 90%!
We are happy to trim one palm tree or dozens!

Ocala Palm Tree LLC - Richard Ryerson
352-445-1594 or ocalapalm@yahoo.com
www.ocalapalmtree.com

**SAVOR THE STORY
IN EVERY SIP!**



ALLEGORY COFFEE CO.



We bring you the finest Arabica beans from the mountains of Nicaragua, expertly roasted to perfection right here in Ocala — and available online for your home brewing.

Order our freshly roasted coffee grounds or whole beans anytime at AllegoryCoffeeCompany.com and have the rich, handcrafted flavor delivered straight to your door.



Scan the QR code or visit AllegoryCoffeeCompany.com to order now.

Crescent Ridge Happenings

Carol Lewis



We will have a table at the Club Fair on Thursday, Feb. 19, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center. If you would like to help staff the table for an hour or so, please let me know at the email address below. If you are at the Recreation Center or wherever the flyers are displayed; take a few to share with your neighbors.

For our new Crescent Ridge neighbors, our monthly socials are held on the second Sunday of the month at the Arbor Conference Center Large Card Room from 3 to 5 p.m. Bring your beverage of choice and a dish to share if you choose, or just come for the fellowship.

To get faster information for Crescent Ridge/Crescent Green residents, you may join our Facebook page (OTOW Crescent Ridge Neighbors) or email crneighbors@yahoo.com to be added to our email list. You will only receive emails regarding Crescent Ridge happenings.

Although the weather for our social was not as chilly as January can be, the 30-plus attendees still enjoyed tasting and voting for the best chili from six pots provided by Crescent Ridge residents, along with many side dishes. All pots of chili received votes, but the majority favored the chili prepared by George Ostrom. Congratulations, George!

In February, we will have a Valentine's Day theme. So, think of a special dish you might prepare for your own Valentine and share it with your neighbors.

Thanks to George Ostrom, Crescent Ridge Neighbors is now an official club.



Crescent Ridge chili cook-off in January.

Blinds • Shutters • Draperies • Top Treatments

Schedule a **FREE** in-home consultation **TODAY!**

GRABER



Ocala Interiors

Serving Ocala for 17 years!
We offer military discounts!

352.351.4000**Come visit our one-of-a-kind showroom!**

8810 SW Hwy 200, #126
Ocala, FL 34481

www.OcalaInteriors.net

Indigo East Social Club

Teresa Davis



Indigo East recently marked the retirement of a familiar and trusted voice in our community. After years of dedicated service, longtime resident Janice Liberton has stepped away from writing our neighborhood columns. Her thoughtful reporting, consistency, and commitment to keeping residents informed have meant a great deal to Indigo East. While we hope to hear from Janice again, we extend our sincere thanks for her time, care, and devotion to our community.

We are also pleased to introduce the Indigo East Spirit Award, a new monthly recognition celebrating neighbors who help make Indigo East such a special place to live. Each month, a resident will be spotlighted for selfless actions, kindness, or a willingness to lend a helping hand; qualities that truly embody the spirit of our neighborhood. If you notice someone going above and beyond, we encourage you to "see something, say something." Residents may nominate a neighbor for the award by emailing the nominee's name and a brief description of their contribution to teresadavisindigo@gmail.com.

In the spirit of compassion, especially for our four-legged friends, Voices of Change Animal League (VOCAL) is re-

questing community support. VOCAL provides care for dogs and cats awaiting loving homes and is currently accepting donations of pet food, treats, toys, office supplies, and cleaning items. Donations may be dropped off at the Indigo East Community Center or Fitness Center during the week leading up to Valentine's Day (Feb. 8-14). Residents are also encouraged to watch for additional information about the upcoming Indigo East Animal Companions Network.

Looking ahead to Valentine's Day, Indigo East singles are invited to attend a Valentine's Day Singles Mingle on Saturday, Feb. 14, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Indigo East Community Center Ballroom. The evening will feature music by DJ Frank, icebreaker games, food, and drinks. Additional details will be shared via email and Facebook.

The care committee met in January to begin developing ways to better support neighbors. This initiative is ongoing to ensure all residents feel supported and connected. Updates will be shared as plans continue to take shape.

Several additional events are in the works, including a neighborhood tag sale, craft shows, an open mic night, a driveway party, a scavenger hunt, and the launch of a welcome committee. Residents interested in helping with any of the initiatives are encouraged to call or text Teresa Davis at 757-593-5133 or email teresadavisindigo@gmail.com.

Together, Indigo East continues to grow as a caring and connected community.

Blue Indigo East Democrat Club

Lydia Kuust



While the Indigo East Blue Democratic Club continues to meet on the fourth Monday of every month in the Indigo East Community Center Ballroom, we are changing our meeting time. We will now meet at 4 p.m. throughout 2026. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 23. Spread the news, tell your friends, there is room in our club for all to gather and support one another. Let's help this club grow stronger!

Over the next few months, we have scheduled a variety of speakers to keep

you well informed, including discussions of state legislative issues that impact all of us, voting issues, a representative from the Florida Springs Council speaking about water issues, and many others. These discussions are always informative and keep everyone up to date, with the aim of addressing many of your concerns.

Our community outreach program includes two organizations. Isaiah's 117 House will be building a facility soon to provide a more supportive, less traumatic environment for children in transition, waiting to be placed into foster care. Before the house is built, they need lemonade mix and cups, so please consider bringing some to our next meeting. Isaiah's 117 House offers lemonade to visitors at farmers' markets and other local events, as people stop by their booth to learn about this organization. Teddy bears, winter hats, and youth afghans for the children have already begun to be handcrafted and donated. In the future, this organization will need other things. Keep watching this monthly column for further information as those needs change.

The second organization that we will support is Interfaith Emergency Services. They are continually in need of food donations. There is a table designated at our meetings for collecting these non-perishable donated food items, with members arranging their delivery.

In this time of uncertainty, we need to connect and support one another. Attending and participating in our meetings, regardless of your party affiliation, offers an opportunity to be with others who share similar beliefs. Since our inception, our member roster has grown each time we meet. Democrat or not, you will be welcomed.

If you need a ride to this meeting, please let me know a few days beforehand by calling or texting 802-345-0669. I do not answer my phone if I don't recognize your number, but leave me a message and I will return your call. You may also email ldrincal@yahoo.com.

OneBlood Bloodmobile

Sara Sommer



The Big Red Bus® was here for its Friday blood drive on Jan. 2. We received 21 units of blood. That can help up to 63 people. Way to go, heroes. The Friday drive will be back on May 1.

The Big Red Buses will be here on Feb. 2, for their usual first Monday of every even month schedule. The time is 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Recreation Center parking lot. Each donor will receive a mini-physical that includes blood pressure, temperature, and cholesterol screening. Each donor will also receive a \$20 e-card redeemable at local businesses and online. Please bring a photo ID and eat a good meal before and after donating. Drink plenty of liquids, too.

The Club Fair will be on Thursday, Feb. 19, at Circle Square Cultural Center. OneBlood will have a table. Please stop by with any questions you may have about donating.

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

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.

REPLACEMENT CAR RFID(s)

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

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

ORTHOPAEDIC CARE for a life on the move.

Sometimes it can be hard to tell the difference between a minor sprain and a major issue. The UF Health Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine experts at World Equestrian Center can help with both. For everything from walk-in care to complex surgeries, choose the expert team of providers who care for Team USA. Our full-range of comprehensive orthopaedic services include imaging and lab services; noninvasive, minimally invasive and complex surgeries; and physical therapy and rehabilitation.

Visit UFHealth.org/WEC-Ortho or
call 352.820.7380 to schedule an
appointment today.

UF Health
ORTHOPAEDICS AND SPORTS MEDICINE -
WORLD EQUESTRIAN CENTER

Conveniently located at World Equestrian Center
Find expert orthopaedic care for:

Bone cancer | Complex spine, foot, hand and shoulder conditions

Equestrian-focused care | Joint, soft tissue and sports injuries | Pediatrics orthopaedics

Get moving again with UF Health Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine –
World Equestrian Center. Easily accessible off Northwest 80th Ave.

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.

ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala

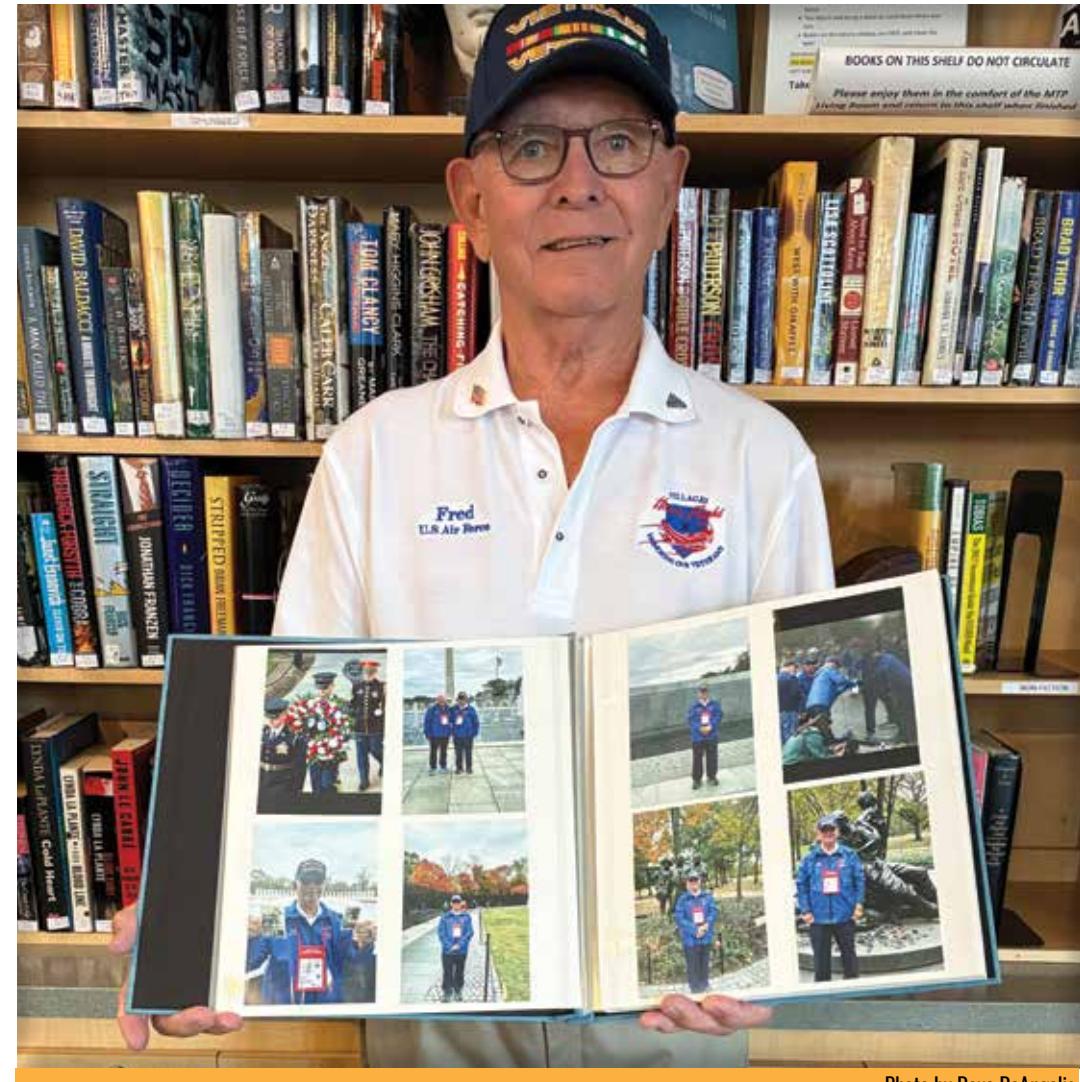


Photo by Dave DeAngelis

Frederick Jankowski was selected to participate in Honor Flight.

In the News

On Top of the World NEWS
Petra Schmidt
otownnews@otowfl.com

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

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

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

All postal centers

Arbor Fitness Center

- Candler Hills Community Center
- Circle Square Commons: The Ranch Fitness Center & Spa, Master the Possibilities, and On Top of the World Real Estate of Marion
- 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 ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala.

RESIDENT ID CARDS

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

WATER TREATMENT

Call for your FREE water analysis!

352-228-2200

SERVICING MARION, CITRUS, LAKE, & SURROUNDING COUNTIES

The only system that does not require expensive service calls!

CHECK & ADJUST

Yearly check-up ensures that your softener is running at peak efficiency, saving money, and valuable water!

\$59.95

Reg. \$89.95

Set times, clean screens, adjust settings, check regeneration cycles, and water testings.

Coupon required.

Not valid with any other offer.

WHOLE HOUSE CHLORINE REMOVER AND WATER SOFTENER

\$2,100

Clack 

AMERICAN-MADE. BUILT TO LAST.

Coupon required. Not valid with any other offer.



Non-Chemical Systems & Monthly Operation Reports Available



**Pure Water
Systems Inc.**

www.purewatersystemsincfl.com · Mon-Sat 9 am-8 pm · Sun 12-4 pm

Locally Owned & Operated · 30+ Years Experience · Licensed & Insured · Residential & Commercial

Department of Environmental Protection Lic. #0010008 · Class C Drinking Water Treatment Operator

Licensed Under Provisions of Chapter 403, Florida Statutes



SUNSHINE

AIR CONDITIONING

AND ELECTRICAL

Brighten Your Day the Sunshine Way!

**COMFORT
FOR
HEROES**

**10% Off
Up to \$1,500**

Honoring Those Who Serve – With the Comfort You Deserve!

NOW is the time to get a mini-split dehumidification system and upgrade your lanai or escape space!



* One (1) discount per hero (military, first responders, and educators). Offer cannot be combined with any other discount such as other rebates. Utility rebates are allowed. Participating contractors only. Residential single family homes only. Limited to FL, AL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN and VA. Excludes WR/WX.

HVAC

- Financing Available for HVAC Replacements – 0% Interest & No Payments for 12 Months!
- 15-Year Parts & Labor Service Warranty
- Free Estimates & No Lemon Guarantee on System Replacements
- 24-Hour Service
- Indoor Air Quality Solutions
- Duct Sealing & Cleaning

TOTAL WATER SOLUTIONS

- Water Heaters
- Water Filtration Systems

SCAN TO CONTACT US TODAY!



ELECTRICAL SERVICES

- Generators & Tesla Powerwalls
- Above & Under-Counter Lighting
- Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers
- Surge Protection
- Hot Tub Circuits
- Remodels/Additions
- Smart Panels & Upgrades
- And More!

Proudly Serving Marion, Lake, and Sumter Counties Since 1990

352-415-3008 • sunshineac.com

LIC#: CAC1821436 / EC13014171 / CFC1431296



Powerwall
Certified Installer

KOHLER | Generators

SPAN
AUTHORIZED
INSTALLER



BBB Rating: A+

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.

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 ontophtheworldcert@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.

ontophtheworldnews.com/ocala

Download the **On Top of the World** **APP NOW!**

EVERYTHING YOU NEED, ALL ON YOUR PHONE:

- Navigate the Community
- Discover Activities & Clubs
- Resident Services Resources
- Access HOA & Service Fees
- & So Much More!

Download on the App Store GET IT ON Google Play

SCAN ME

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



Have Medicare questions? I have answers

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

- Take the confusion out of Medicare
- Get help comparing plans

- Receive one-on-one service
- Make enrolling in a plan easier

I look forward to helping you explore your Medicare options so you can enroll in a plan with confidence.

Call today to learn more about Medicare Advantage plans in your area

Vicki McGlamery
Licensed Sales Agent
352-239-5266, TTY 711
vlmcglamery@gmail.com
www.myuhcagent.com/vicki.mcglamery

©2024 United HealthCare Services, Inc. All rights reserved.
Y0066_SPRJ83891_C

**United
Healthcare**

SPRJ83891

TORRES BROTHER'S LANDSCAPING, LLC

- PAVERS
- RETAINING WALLS
- OUTDOOR LIGHTING
- CONCRETE CURBING
- PAVER SEALING
- MULCH
- ROCK
- TOP SOIL
- TRIMMING
- MOWING
- PRESSURE WASHING

* All landscaping modifications require prior review and approval by your association before commencing work
L22000309422



CONTACT US
(352) 400-3432
Santostores21@gmail.com



**FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK**



Where the amenities are endless!

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.

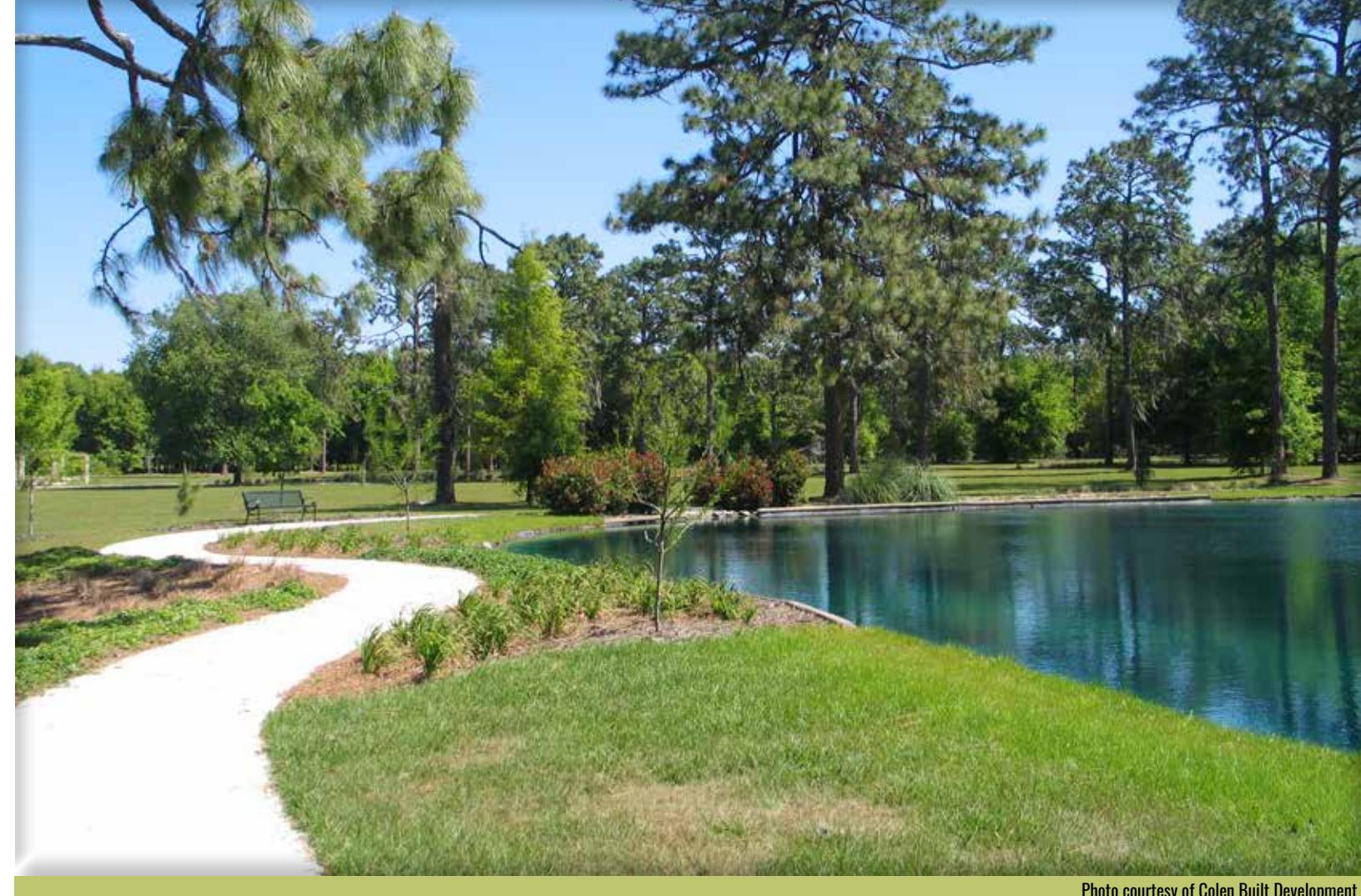
The journey continues on Friday,

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 Sholom 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.masterthe possibilities.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.



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

Photo courtesy of Colen Built Development

UPGRADE YOUR GOLF CAR GO LITHIUM! ALL MAKES & MODELS

\$1,995

ORIGINALLY \$2,795. **SAVE \$800!**

FASTER CHARGING | ZERO MAINTENANCE | LESS WEIGHT | BETTER

2026 NEW YEAR SPECIAL



0%
FOR
24 MONTHS

\$187
PER MONTH
NEW GOLF CAR

\$1,000
OFF ANY
GOLF CAR

JANUARY FEATURED NEW MODEL




DACH
2025 APOLLO
FOUR FORWARD
\$12,990

LITHIUM POWER | KEYLESS START
REAR STORAGE | 12" SCREEN
AUTOMOTIVE DESIGN
CRUISE CONTROL



SUNSHINE STATE GOLF CARTS

Canopy Oak
8075 SR 200, #113, Ocala, FL
(352) 355-3254

Timber Ridge Commons
9267 SR 200, #4, Ocala, FL
(352) 509-7293

www.sunshinestategolfcartsocala.com

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,



The Tall Ship Oliver Hazard Perry.

Thank you residents of On Top Of The World for allowing us to serve you!

With over 20 brands to choose from, our team is dedicated to helping you find the quality patio furniture you deserve. Enjoy the beautiful Florida weather year round!

FREE DELIVERY TO ON TOP OF THE WORLD!



Leisure Living
Furniture for Florida since 1974

2002 SW 17th STREET
Ocala, FL 34471

352.629.0984

**2002 SW 17th STREET
Ocala, FL 34471**

352-629-0984

Mon- Sat 10-5

Closed Sundays

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED QUALITY AND VALUE SINCE 1974

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.

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.

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.

Tech Tips from Bridgenet Communications

Shane Bobson
info@mybridgenet.com



In 2026, a new generation of "AgeTech" 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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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-



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

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 Chanukiah 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.

RECLAIM YOUR SUPERPOWERS

Advancing lifelong well-being through comprehensive, innovative, and results-driven care.



TIMBER RIDGE COMMONS
9121 SW SR 200, STE 1, Ocala, FL 34481

SCHEDULE A FREE CONSULTATION
352-512-9996

• TELEHEALTH
• PRIMARY CARE
• QUICK CARE

RECHARGE CLINIC
EXPERTISE MATTERS

CAT SITTING PROFESSIONALS
Custom Cat Care That Eases Travel Anxiety.

Schedule Now

OCALAPETSITTING.COM
352-354-2602

CRUISE PLANNERS
YOUR CRUISE & VACATION EXPERTS

Contact Me Today!

DIANNA MILLER
TRAVEL ADVISOR
(352) 322-1820
dianna.miller@cruiseplanners.com

RECHARGE CLINIC
EXPERTISE MATTERS



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 "unHoly 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.

OWN A LOW SPEED VEHICLE (LSV) OR GOLF CAR?

Residents are required to complete and submit a waiver form to Resident Services.

Resident Services
8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday

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 Empath 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.

**EMERGENCY AFTER-HOURS
PHONE NUMBER**

352-236-OTOW (236-6869)

AQUA WARRIORS

February 3, 2026 | 12:30 PM

Arbor Fitness Center Indoor Pool

A powerful fusion of martial arts techniques and water-based training, this shallow-water class blends kicks, punches, and core-strengthening movements with the natural resistance of water to build strength, agility, and balance. You will improve coordination, stamina, and overall body control all while being gentle on the joints. No martial arts experience required.

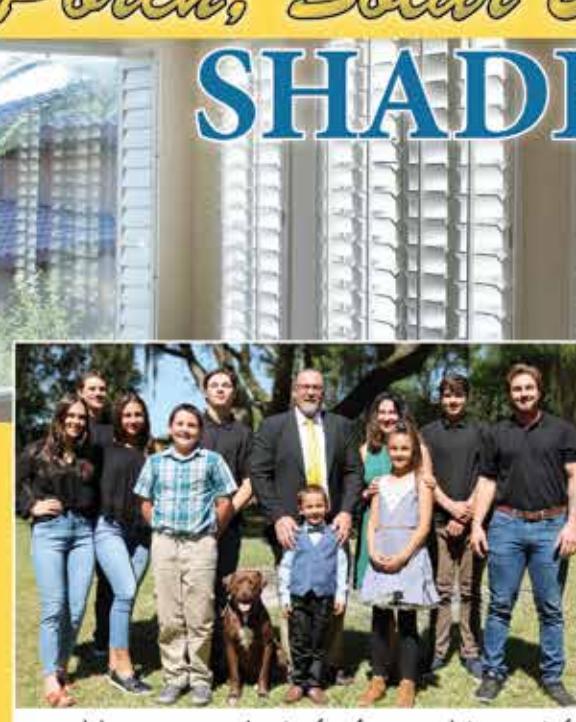
 Arbor Fitness Center

Mr. and Mrs. BLINDMASTER 352.245.0341

Serving Lake, Sumter and Marion Counties!

Specializing in

Porch, Solar & Roller SHADES



MADE IN THE USA

"Bobby D" and Christine Dobkowski

**Best Prices
Guaranteed!
Call Today!**

VETERANS DISCOUNT \$50 OFF

Applies to Veteran or Spouse

MR. AND MRS. BLINDMASTER
Must present coupon. Not valid with any other offers.

\$50 OFF

Any Porch Shade Order

MR. AND MRS. BLINDMASTER
Minimum \$250. Must present coupon. Not valid with any other offers.

FREE INSTALLATION

MR. AND MRS. BLINDMASTER
Plantation shutters excluded. Must present coupon. Not valid with any other offers.

FREE FAUX WOOD BLIND

MR. AND MRS. BLINDMASTER
Up to 24" with purchase of 7 or more. Must present coupon. Not valid with any other offers.

FREE SERVICE CALL

MR. AND MRS. BLINDMASTER
\$50 value. Must present coupon. Not valid with any other offers.



**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**

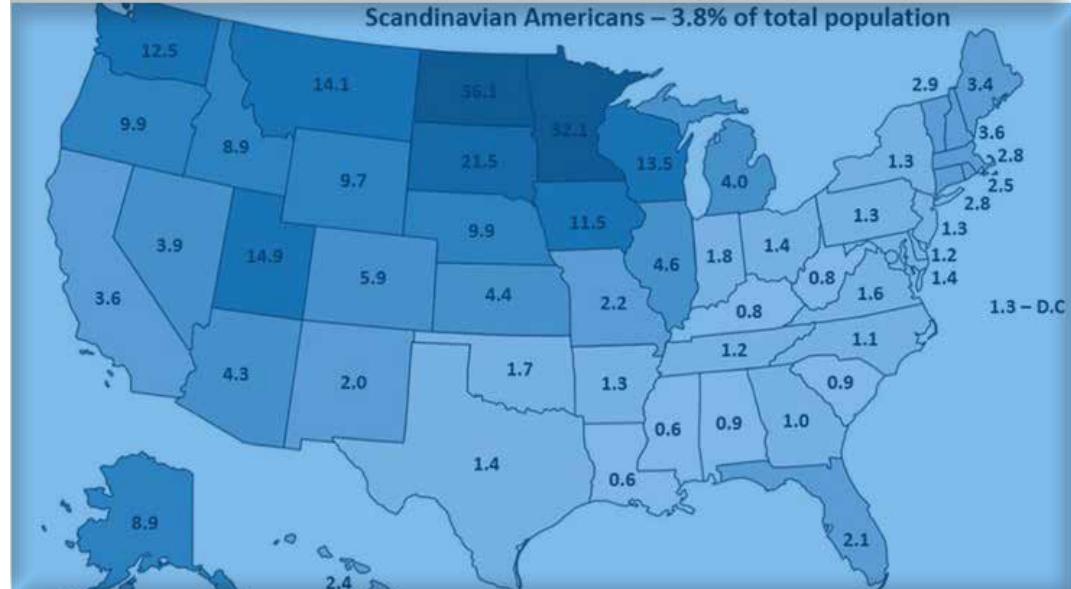
David Wessenberg



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.

Dermatology CLINICAL TRIALS

Clinical trials are essential to advancing treatment options for medical conditions of all kinds. Renstar Medical Research is currently enrolling for dermatology trials such as:

- Acne
- Eczema
- Hair Loss
- Hidradenitis Suppurativa (HS)
- Plaque Psoriasis

Benefits may include:

- ✓ Study-related care provided at no cost.
- ✓ Access to potential new treatment options before the general public.
- ✓ No insurance required

For More Information
352.629.5800
RENSTAR.NET





Photo by Linda Monaco

Snowy egret.

Birders' Beat

Linda Monaco



After the boat ride, we will have lunch at The Works Bistro (12169 S. Williams Street, Dunnellon, Florida), which is located a short distance from the boat dock. The restaurant and boat dock are about 20 to 30 minutes from On Top of the World. If it's a cool day, plan to wear warm clothes and, perhaps, even take a blanket. You will also want to bring binoculars, sunscreen, a water bottle, and a hat. The dock and boat are handicap-accessible. Public restrooms are located near the boat dock. We hope to see you on this birding adventure.

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.

**Iron Yoga**February 16, 2026 | 1 PM
Recreation Center

Iron Yoga combines the mindful flow of traditional yoga with the strength and power of light resistance training. This energizing fusion challenges both your muscles and your mind, helping you build balance, flexibility, and endurance. Perfect for those who want to stretch, strengthen, and sculpt all in one empowering class.



Recreation Center

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 otownnews@otowfl.com by the 12th of the month.

For ALL Your Plumbing Needs!

Fletcher PLUMBING INC.

(352) 509-7130
Lic/Ins. #CFC057986

GENERAL | RESIDENTIAL | COMMERCIAL

Back Flow Testing/Repair
Video Camera Inspection
Drain Cleaning • Water Heaters
& Many Other Services Offered

PREMIUM TOILET SPECIAL \$450
While supplies last.
Must present coupon.

UNIQUE GIFTS AT YOUR FINGER TIPS!

On Top of the World

Show your community pride with On Top of the World branded items:

- Where the Cool Kids Retire®
- You Deserve the World®
- OTOW Logo
- Live Life to the Fullest

OTOWMarketplace.com

CONVENIENT, SECURE WEBSITE. MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED.

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 accidently

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.

Dog Grooming and Boutique
Conveniently located 10 minutes from
On Top of the World (on SW Hwy 200 before SW 60th Ave)

Bubbles N Biscuits
 (352) 547-0064

6230 SW Hwy 200, Suite 3, Ocala, Florida 34476
We look forward to serving you and your dog!

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.

Traveltoppertours.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.

bridgenet communications

STAY IN THE LOOP
Call to Subscribe to Text Updates!

Sign up for Bridgenet Communications text alerts and get timely updates on outages and repairs....straight to your phone!

Here's how:
Call 352-873-4817
and press "Option #1" to enroll today.

MyBridgenet.com | 352-873-4817 | 8413 SW 80th Street, Suite 1, Ocala, FL 34481

@bridgenetcomm #16289-11/25

© 2025 Bridgenet Communications. All Rights Reserved. Visit directv.com for details and terms and conditions.

EASTER ON THE BARBARA LEE
APR. 5
\$147 pp

LAMERS
TOUR & TRAVEL
Fla. Seller of Travel Reg. No. ST38282

1410 Industrial Dr. Wildwood
(352) 461-0980 Ext 12519

TOURS.GOLAMERS.COM

ONE-DAY EXCURSIONS
prices per person

Feb. 15	Daytona 500 (incl. admission)	\$260
Feb. 15	Daytona 500 (transportation only)	\$63
Feb. 18	AQS Quilt Show	\$75
Feb. 22	Something Rotten	\$89
Feb. 28	Kennedy Space Center	\$150
Mar. 4	Chain of Lakes Cruise	\$98
Mar. 8	Gatornationals Drag Race	\$115
Mar. 12	Zoo Tampa	\$103

MULTI-DAY ADVENTURES

CLUES & CARS
Feb. 2-7, 2026
\$499 pp/dbl

AMELIA ISLAND GETAWAY
Mar. 9-12, 2026
\$905 pp/dbl

KEY WEST
Mar. 15-19, 2026
\$1,849 pp/dbl

CASINO TRIPS

Seminole Hard Rock
\$35 pp
Feb. 18, Mar. 11

Victory Cruise
\$60 pp
Feb. 17, Mar. 17

BRING YOUR WHOLE GROUP!

Choose Lamers Bus Lines for your next group outing, whether it be a club trip, cruise transfer, baseball game, or any time you need to transport a bunch of people. You can trust our 80 years of excellence with experienced drivers, office staff, and mechanics.

Lions Club



Gail Morris

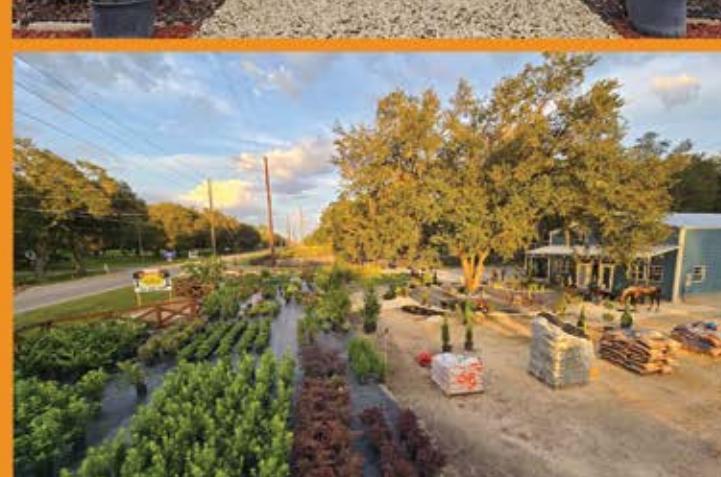
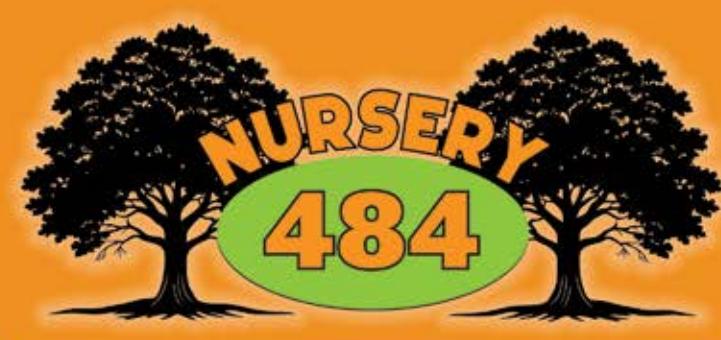
Did you see it? I did. New Year's Day – Rose Parade, the theme was "The Magic of Teamwork." I always love to see the marvels they work with flowers, bark, seeds, and all types of foliage. This year, I was proud to see our Lions Club International float titled "In Harmony We Serve." It won the Tournament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



Lions Club International float titled "In Harmony We Serve."



12450 SW Highway 484

Dunnellon, FL

(located 2 miles west of SR200)

352-897-4491

nursery484@gmail.com

All landscaping modifications require prior review and approval by your Association before commencing work.

License #48034587

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.

Eco Gardeners

Phil Karcheski



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 or Facebook (OTOW Eco Gardeners). To contact us, email 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.

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.

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.

On Top of the World NEWS

MISSING DELIVERY?

If you are not receiving home delivery, please email otownews@otowfl.com. Please include your house number, street name and neighborhood.

ENHANCE YOUR OUTDOOR LIVING SPACE

Digital Landscape Design · Plant Delivery & Installation
Hardscapes & Softscapes

PLANTS

Trees · Palms · Hedges · Ground Cover · Fruit & Citrus Trees

MULCH

Bagged (all colors) · Pine Bark (bulk & bagged)
Red (bulk) | Natural (bulk)

ROCK

57 Stone (bulk) · 57 Concrete (bulk) · Crushed Concrete (bulk)
Decorative (bagged)

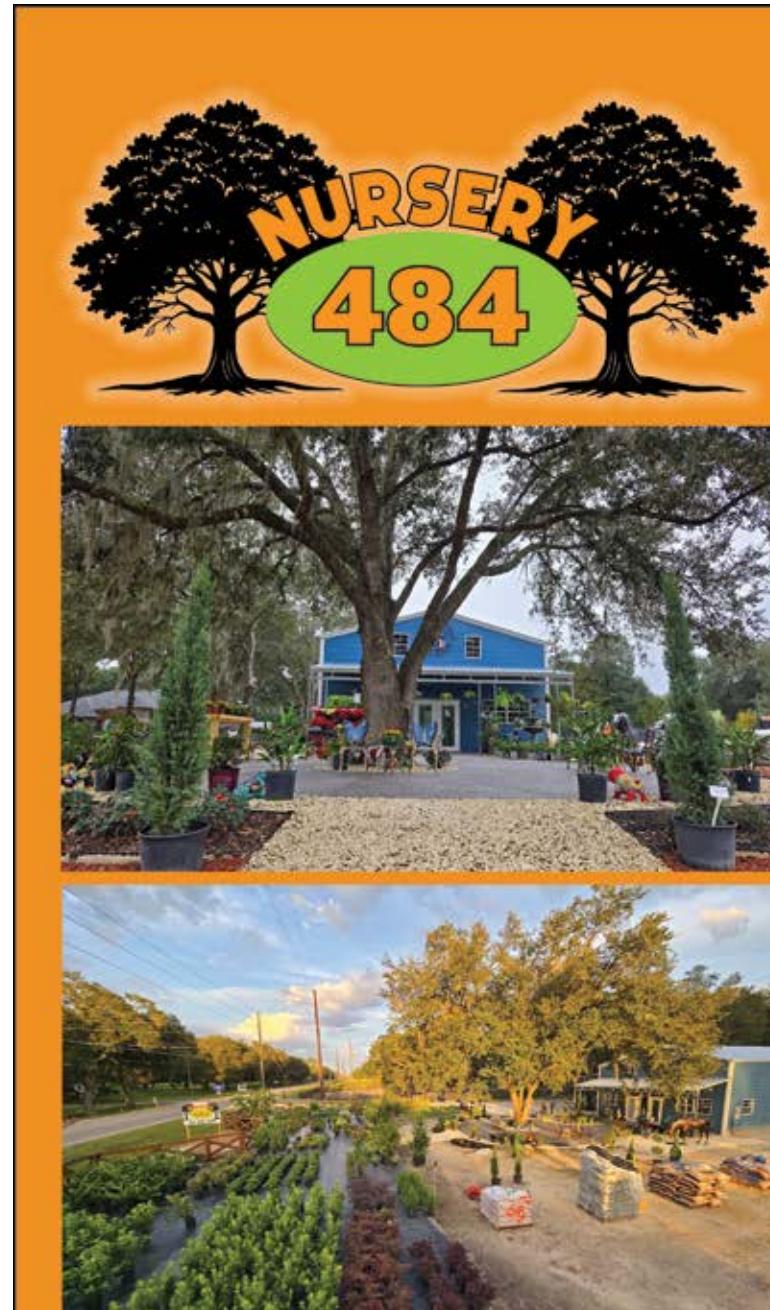
DIRT

Fill | Top Soil (bulk & bagged) · Composted Manure
Overburden

5% Discount for Veterans & First Responders

\$50 Delivery to On Top of the World

Same Day Delivery (for orders placed before 2 pm)



12450 SW Highway 484
Dunnellon, FL
(located 2 miles west of SR200)
352-897-4491
nursery484@gmail.com

All landscaping modifications require prior review and approval by your Association before commencing work.

License #48034587

FEEL THE MUSIC. LIVE IN THE MOMENT.



Circle Square
Cultural Center

FEB. 1, 2026



**THE BRONX
WANDERERS**

THEBRONXWANDERERS.COM

FEB. 13, 2026



**REZA
EDGE OF ILLUSION**

REZALIVE.COM

**JUNE 2026
SHOWS GO ON
SALE 2/4/26,
AT 11 AM!**

FEB. 20, 2026



STAYIN' ALIVE
ONE NIGHT OF THE BEE GEES
DOORS OPEN 2 PM | SHOW BEGINS 3 PM
DOORS OPEN 6 PM | SHOW BEGINS 7 PM

STAYINALIVETRIBUTE.COM

FEB. 28, 2026



YELLOW BRICK JOEL
THE ELTON JOHN &
BILLY JOEL TRIBUTE
PRESENTED BY STELLAR ENTERTAINMENT

YELLOWBRICKJOELTRIBUTE.COM

MAR. 12, 2026



**CLASSIC
STONES LIVE**

THEGLIMMERTWINS.COM

MAR. 16, 2026



**CELTIC ANGELS
IRELAND**

CELTICANGELS.COM/CELTIC-ANGELS-IRELAND

MAR. 20, 2026



**A TRIBUTE
CELEBRATING THE
LEGENDS OF MOTOWN**

ROBSCHNEIDER.COM

MAR. 26, 2026



**JEFFREY
OSBORNE**

JEFFREYOSBORNE.COM

APR. 2, 2026



**LEONID &
FRIENDS**

LEONIDANDF.COM

MAY 23, 2026



THE WALRUS
A NEW ORLEANS
BEATLES EXPERIENCE

WALRUSNOLA.COM

MAY 29, 2026



ROB SCHNEIDER
"RESCUE HUSBAND"

ROBSCHNEIDER.COM

JUN. 6, 2026



**MAGICAL
MYSTERY DOORS**
BEATLES | ZEPPELIN | DOORS

MAGICALMYSTERYDOORS.COM

JUN. 7, 2026



OPERA TAMPA
DOORS OPEN AT NOON
SHOW STARTS AT 1 PM

STRAZCENTER.ORG/OPERTAMPA/ABOUTOPERTAMPA

JUN. 25-27, 2026



**ELVIS
THE SUMMER FESTIVAL**
PRESENTED BY ETA FESTIVALS
SINGLE SHOW TICKETS FROM \$15
WEEKEND PASS FROM \$250

ELVISTHESUMMERFESTIVAL.COM



**SCAN TO VIEW THE
ENTIRE SHOW LINEUP!**

Purchase tickets at CSCulturalCenter.com | 8395 SW 80th Street, Ocala, FL 34481 | (352) 854-3670

ALL SHOWS BEGIN AT 7 PM & DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM (EXCEPT AS NOTED) | BOX OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - SATURDAY, 11 AM - 2 PM | GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Schedule and prices are subject to change without notice. Reduced ticket prices are available for On Top of the World Community and Stone Creek residents (with valid residence ID) for Circle Square Cultural Center-produced shows only.

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



©2026 CSC

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.

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

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-



Colorful sunrise.

Photo by Deb Thompson

For the Love of Music

Presented by:
Kingdom of the Sun Concert Band, Inc
Under the direction of J. Craig Lilly

February 21st @2pm and February 22nd @ 3pm

Marion Technical Institute Auditorium
1614 E. Fort King Street Ocala, FL

JOIN US FOR PRECONCERT MUSIC BOTH DAYS 1 HOUR PRIOR TO CONCERT.

PRESENTED BY OCALA LATIN JAZZ GROUP

FREE!
Donations Accepted

Kingdom of the Sun Concert Band is an all volunteer, non profit 501(c)(3) organization.
For more information please call 352-390-0491 or visit us at <https://www.kingdomofthesunband.org>

THIS PROJECT IS SUPPORTED IN PART BY
mca
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT
for the ARTS
ARTS.ED.GOV

Hiers-Baxley Community Care



Photo by Silvia C. Garcia

Latinos Club members at the Appleton Museum of Art.

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.

Meet the Savior. Make a Friend.

Men's & Women's Bible Studies
Men's & Women's Ministries · Nursery · Choir
Congregational Singing · Community Outreach



Worship Times

Sunday · 10 am | Sunday · 6 pm | Wednesday · 6 pm

Sunday School

Sunday · 9 am

*We are a Bible teaching, Christ affirming independent Baptist church.
We believe that the Bible is the truth, inspired by the Holy Spirit.*

**Pastor Rob Fletcher
Associate Pastor Don Williams**



**Friendship
Baptist Church
Ocala, FL**

Meet the Savior. Make a Friend

9510 SW 105th Street, Ocala, FL 34481 (located about 3/4 mile off SR 200)
352-237-2640 | fbcocala9510@gmail.com | www.friendshipbaptistocalafl.org

LOVE YOUR FACE & NECK AGAIN!



*Results are typical and do vary.

FLORIDA'S TOP-RATED, BOARD CERTIFIED FACIAL PLASTIC SURGEONS

- ✓ Gentle Numbing & Oral Sedation
- ✓ Luxury, In-Office Treatment
- ✓ No General Anesthesia, No Hospitalization

Safer, Faster Recovery!



You Are Invited!

Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 2 pm

Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 2 pm

Waterfront Inn | 1105 Lake Shore Drive | The Villages

EVENT EXCLUSIVE SPECIALS | REFRESHMENTS SERVED

Please call to RSVP or visit www.imagelift.com/events

CALL (352-227-1501)

WEBSITE: WWW.IMGELIFT.COM

FB: IMAGELIFT | IG: @IMAGELIFTNOW

 **IMAGELIFT®**

The Villages & Tampa, FL

SWANS

Lois Nix



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.

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-



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 otowacivesingles.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.

EMERGENCY AFTER-HOURS PHONE NUMBER

352-236-0TOW (236-6869)

ENHANCE YOUR LIFESTYLE

SPECTACULAR BY DESIGN AND QUALITY!




DEMTRY CREATIONS•LLC

*Solutions & Creations for
Your Needs & Desires*



\$250 OFF
Gutter &
Gutter Guard
Installation

Photos depicted are actual completed projects.

Serving Florida Residents for Over 30 Years!

Call Demitry Creations, the Screen & Glass Room Specialists, for a **FREE** In-Home Evaluation & Quotation!

www.demtrycreations.com

352.397.0200

License #CBC1264264

Services offered include sunrooms, additions, replacement doors & windows, birdcages, pool enclosures, fencing, flooring, painting, concrete & landscaping.

WE SERVICE & SELL ALL MAKES & MODELS

Residential & Commercial HVAC • Pool Heaters Sales, Service & Maintenance

24/7 Service with NO overtime charges for Care Club members

*Proudly Serving the Ocala,
Marion County &
Central Florida Areas
Since 1964!*



Residential/Commercial Heating & Cooling Systems Exhaust Systems

Pool Heaters

Duct & Dryer Vent Cleaning
Indoor Air Quality & Filters



3695 SE 58th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34480

Email: service@ocalaheatingandair.com

Website: www.ocalaheatingandair.com

LIC#CAC056996



Ocala
HEATING
&
AIR CONDITIONING
Phone 629-3731

352-629-3731



Like, follow and share us on Facebook!

facebook.com/Ocala-Heating-Air-Conditioning-LLC-370970711375

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.



Photo by Domenica Genovese

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 hold-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 courtside 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!



Photo by Kathy Nastally

Mark Linse point challenge winner Dec. 16, 2025.



Photo by Jim Wolfer

Mo Gauthier point challenge winner Dec. 26, 2025.



WE PROUDLY SERVE HOSPITALITY!

VALENTINE'S SPECIALS

AVAILABLE ALL DAY ON FEBRUARY 14TH!

Specials Include: Cody's Bottomless Salad, Hot Yeast Rolls with Cinnamon Butter & A Side Choice

PICK YOUR FAVORITE ONLY \$30 EACH!

Choose One Of Your Favorite Entrees Below!



**6oz Bacon-Wrapped
Filet Mignon Steak &
Broiled Lobster Tail**

Fresh Seafood Trio

A Broiled Lobster Tail, Grilled Scallops (4) & Grilled Gulf Shrimp (4)

1-Pound Slow Roasted Prime Rib

ALL Ladies Receive A FREE Carnation On Valentine's Day While Supplies Last!

OTOW Residents Receive 15% OFF Their Food!*

Must Present Valid OTOW Resident ID - Cannot Be Combined With Any Other Offers, Promotions Or Discounts

8169 SW Highway 200 - (352) 877-2393

Golf



Matt Hibbs

352-854-2765

matt_hibbs@otowfl.com

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.

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 Kurlakowsky.

at 16.21%.

Members with personal high scores and ringers were: 78—Cliff Dallas (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 Guterman, 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.

RESIDENT ID CARD

Carry it with you at all times.

Executive Automotive

Service of Ocala, LLC.

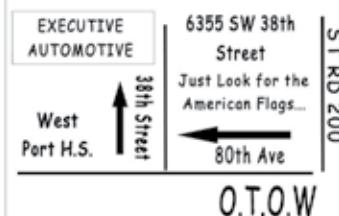
(352) 875-0975

Service Department & Body Shop

"Had An Accident, We

WE WORK WITH
ALL INSURANCE
COMPANIESOPEN 8 AM TO 5 PM MONDAY
THRU FRIDAY

Can Fix It"

LIFETIME
WARRANTY ON
ALL BODY SHOP
REPAIRS*See facility for details—most cars and light trucks
SATURDAY HOURS 9
AM TO 3 PM

Coupons And Service Specials

Synthetic Blend Lube Oil / Filter &
Nitrogen Tire FillChange oil and filter, top off all underhood
fluids, 27pt visual inspection. Reset all reminder
and T.P.M.S systems.

\$24.99*

Must present coupon at time of write up. Up to 5 qts of oil.
Synthetic oil extra. Not valid with any other coupons or discounts.
see facility for details. Most cars and light trucks.ACTIVE AND RETIRED MILITARY
PERSONNEL UP TO
30% OFF
ANY MAJOR MECHANICALMust present coupon at time of write up. Offer good on labor
only. Not valid with any other coupons or discounts see dealer for
details. (Most cars and light trucks)

Tire Rotation & Balance

Rotate and Balance Tires, Inspect for Abnormal
Wear. Reset all reminder and T.P.M.S systems.

\$29.99*

Must present coupon at time of write up. Not valid with any other
coupons or discounts see facility for details. Most cars and light
trucks.

Front End Alignment

Check Front End Components. Adjust
Camber/Caster/Toe If Needed. Check Tire
Pressures. Reset T.P.M.S systems if Needed.

\$34.99*

Must present coupon at time of write up. Not valid with any other
coupons or discounts see facility for details. Most cars and light
trucks.

Front Brake Job

Remove and Replace Front Brake Pads, Install
Ceramic Pads, Turn Rotors If Needed, Inspect
All Hardware and Components:

\$159.99*

Must present coupon at time of write up. Not valid with any other
coupons or discounts see facility for details. Most cars and light
trucks.

Tire Rotation

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

\$9.99*

Must present coupon at time of write up. Not valid with any other
coupons or discounts see facility for details. Most cars and light
trucks.

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.

LOVE AT FIRST ADJUSTMENT

CALL TODAY FOR AN APPOINTMENT!

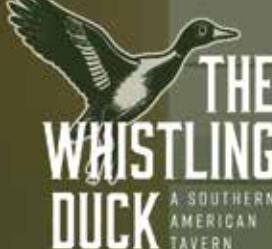
- Neck & Back Pain
- Shoulder & Arm Pain
- Pinched Nerves/ Numbness
- Migraines/Headaches
- Low Back & Leg Pain
- Disc Problems
- Joint Pain
- Dizziness
- Auto Injuries
- School & Sports
- Physicals

Medicare & Most Insurance Accepted

Massage & Decompression Therapies Available (MM13191)

SWINSON CHIROPRACTIC & TOTAL HEALTH CENTER5481 SW 60th Street, Suite 302 · Ocala, FL 34474(352) 840-0444 · www.swinsonchirofl.com

THE PATIENT AND ANY OTHER PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT HAS A RIGHT TO REFUSE TO PAY, CANCEL PAYMENT, OR BE REIMBURSED FOR PAYMENT FOR ANY OTHER SERVICE, EXAMINATION, OR TREATMENT THAT IS PERFORMED AS A RESULT OF AND WITHIN 72 HOURS OF RESPONDING TO THE ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE FREE, DISCOUNTED FEE, OR REDUCED FEE SERVICE, EXAMINATION, OR TREATMENT.



Valentine's Day

An indulgent four-course dinner for two, meant to be savored

→ \$110 per couple ←

Includes tax, gratuity, and a sparkling wine toast for two



Scan the menu

352.861.9720 whistlingduckocala.com**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

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.

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 Hofmann, Beth Wolinsky, Jana McElroy, Gail Lagrange, Laurel Staiger, Terri 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 Jeannette, 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 reassemble 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!

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

\$45 NEW PATIENT EXAM

Includes consultation with doctor, any necessary x-rays, complete initial examination and report of doctor's findings.

Offer valid for new patients only. Must present coupon before examination. Expires 02/28/26.

\$55 MASSAGE

No examination or x-rays included.

Offer valid for new patients only. Must present coupon before massage. Expires 02/28/26.

Love, Bites, & Beats

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026 | 3 - 9 PM

FREE | OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

FOOD TRUCKS
3 - 9 PMDANCING & LIVE MUSIC
BY THE SWEET TALKERS
6 - 9 PMCIRQUE MA'CEO
PERFORMANCES
4 PM & 7 PM

A BREATHTAKING EQUESTRIAN

ACROBATICS SHOW INSIDE THE BIG TOP

*TICKETS REQUIRED AND CAN BE PURCHASED AT CIRQUEMACEO.COMALSO AVAILABLE
FOR PURCHASE:VALENTINE'S DAY
FLOWER BOUQUETS
BY POETIC PIECESSWEET TREATS
BY BAKED BY ROSIEBEER, WINE, WATER,
AND SODA AT THE KIOSK

THE TOWN SQUARE

8405 SW 60th Street, Ocala, FL 34474

352-854-5670

www.CirclesquareCommons.comSCHEDULE, PERFORMANCE, AND FOOD VENDOR(S)
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

An indulgent four-course dinner for two, meant to be savored

→ \$110 per couple ←

Includes tax, gratuity, and a sparkling wine toast for two



Scan the menu

352.861.9720 whistlingduckocala.com

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!

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-

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. We'll be happy to answer any questions you might have about our classes or performances.

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-



Photo by Joe Hilchey

Broadway Moves holiday get-together.

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 or visit partnerdancesidekick.wixsite.com/otow or our Facebook page (Sidekicks Partner Pattern Dance Club).

OWN A LOW SPEED VEHICLE (LSV) OR GOLF CAR?

Residents are required to complete and submit a waiver form to Resident Services.

Resident Services

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

Hair to Impress Salon & Spa

8441 SW State Road 200, Suite 109, Ocala, FL 34481

Friendship Center at On Top of the World Entrance

(352) 854-2111

Haircuts for Men/Women • Color • Highlights

Lowlights • Perms • Keratin Treatments

Manicures • Pedicures • Facial Waxing



Josie & Bry
Hair Stylists



OUR FAMILY
IS GROWING!

Please join us in
welcoming Josie,
Bry, and Bryanna!

We look forward to
seeing you soon!



Bryanna
Nails

GOLF Clinics

Candler Hills Golf Club

Facebook: /candlerhillsgolfclub Instagram: /candlerhillsgolfclub

8137 SW 90th Terrace Road, Ocala, FL 34481
352.651.9712 | CandlerHillsGolfClub.com

\$15 per person per clinic, minimum of 5, maximum of 20 golfers per session.
Maximum of 10 students to each golf professional.
These clinics are structured to give the golfer advice on how to improve his or her technique.

PITCH SHOTS
Saturday, February 7, 2026
9 - 10 AM

Pre-register at the Candler Hills Golf Shop by 5 PM on the Friday before the Saturday clinic you would like to attend.

Hefner PLUMBING COMPANY, INC.

• Water Heaters • Water Conditioning • Toilet Repair and Replace • Re-piping Specialist • Faucet Repair and Replace • Shower Remodeling • Handicap Fixtures

352 620-2883

HefnerPlumbing.com

5 Star Rating

Since 1976

Sean **LIC: CFC1430542**

Cody

\$50 OFF COUPON!
Excludes Service Fee

Want A Landscape That Lasts?

Designed for Life. Built to Endure. The Bella Way.



- Lighting • Pavers • Walls • Plants/Trees
- Rock/Mulch • Irrigation • 3D Design
- Water Features • Concrete Curbing

*All landscaping modifications require prior review and approval by your Association before commencing work.



Bella Design
— LANDSCAPES —

352-484-7588
www.belladesignlandscapes.com



Schedule a
free consultation
today!



Photo by Joe Spencer

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 sew-

ing, 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 pom-pomies!

Please contact Pam Kalamaras at 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.

phy. 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 or 702-378-6300. Happy dancing!

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 choreogra-



Join us for a bountiful selection of fresh seasonal produce from local growers as well as baked goods, plants, handmade products and much more!

LOCATION:
The Town Square at
Circle Square Commons
8405 SW 80th St., Ocala, FL 34481

FREE PARKING
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Every Thursday • 9 am - 1 pm

[f /cscommons](https://www.facebook.com/cscommons) [i /cscommonsfl](https://www.instagram.com/cscommonsfl)



CIRCLE SQUARE Commons

CircleSquareCommons.com

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.

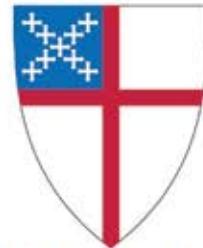
On Saturday, Jan. 31, there will be a line dance social at Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV from 1 to 4 p.m., featuring many of the dances from the Monday and Tuesday classes.

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 (AB-Improver level) or yfwen@yahoo.com (Intermediate).

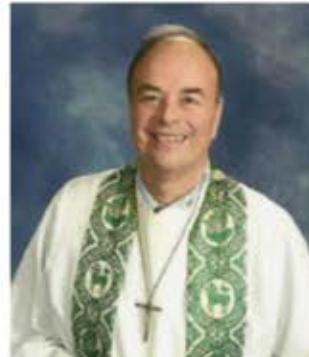
OTOWInfo.com



Calling All Episcopalians! Come and join us at the EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

A Community of Faith that has Endured for Generations

11251 SW Hwy 484 (1 Mile West of SR 200)
(352) 465-7272 | AdventEpiscopal.net



Reverend William Barret
Priest in Charge

Sunday Holy Eucharist | 9 AM
Followed by coffee hour and adult Bible study.



Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday-Friday | 8:30 AM - NOON
Tuesday | 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

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



Photo by Brenda Foster

Shizuka Campagna.

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 or Shizuka at 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 or email info@otowarcheryclub.org.

As always, keep it in the yellow.



Brenda Foster.

The World News**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, sheepshead, 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.

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 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.

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.

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.

Photo by Shizuka Campagna.

BUYING & SELLING

GOLD : SILVER

PAYING TOP DOLLAR!

- GOLD & SILVER COINS, BARS, & BULLION
- GOLD, SILVER, & PLATINUM JEWELRY
- STERLING SILVER FLATWARE
- SCRAP GOLD

D&R COIN SHOP

8602 SW Hwy 200, Ocala, Florida 34481 | 352-817-6564

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

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.



352-861-6629

info@signaturepoolpros.com

Full Service Pool Specialist Offering

WEEKLY POOL SERVICE

www.signaturepoolpros.com

KITCHEN WISE. | CLOSET WISE

HOME ORGANIZATION SOLUTIONS



FREE Consultations & FREE Installations
kitchenwise.com | 352-619-4849 | closetwise.com

Locally Owned & Operated



SCAN HERE
to book your appointment



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.


THE RANCH
FITNESS CENTER & SPA

Register Here!



RanchOcala.com | 8385 SW 80th St, Ocala, FL 34481 | 352-861-8180



TheRanchOcala



TheRanchFitnessSpa

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.com, 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.

Mortgages with a *Personal* Touch!



Laura Bessoni
Mortgage Loan Officer
NMLS# 546271



SCAN TO
LEARN MORE

**CITIZENS
FIRST BANK**

A Division of Seacoast National Bank

Start your journey with us today!

Serving Lake, Sumter, Marion and
Citrus Counties for more than 30 years!

MyCitizensFirst.com | 352-753-9515

Member
FDIC



BAUERFINANCIAL 5-STAR
RATED BANK, SINCE 2014

NMLS# 608046

©2023 Citizens First Bank, Inc. All rights reserved. CFB184 1225

POP Tennis

Beth Smith



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 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.

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.

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



Photo by Shizuka Campagna

Christmas Eve POP in action.

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!

CONSERVATION FUN FACT
On Top of the World provides and preserves prairie, scrub, hardwood and sandhill micro habitats to attract species to their natural environments and protect them.

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. 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.



Photo by Marge Ruhlen

Ohio Buckeyes Social Club members at the Christmas party.

REFRESH

Your Everyday Routine

Transform your bathroom into a calming retreat with a custom shower upgrade from World Home Improvements. Whether you prefer sleek glass doors, modern tile, or a luxurious walk-in design, we'll help you create a space that feels refreshing, relaxing, and beautifully crafted for daily comfort.

World

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE CONSULTATION
TODAY TO GET STARTED!

352.387.7479

remodeling@otowfl.com

WorldHomeImprovements.com

License #CGC 1505760



Cycling Club

Nick Arkon



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.

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.

Weight Loss Group

Laura Gavey



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.

FREE RECREATION FITNESS CENTER ORIENTATIONS AND BALANCE ASSESSMENTS

Orientations
Tuesdays, at 1 p.m.

Balance Assessments
Thursdays, at 1 p.m.

352-854-8707 ext. 7534
Space is limited. Call for an appointment.



Photo by Nick Arkon

Dr. Jim DeSalvio and his ultra-advanced bicycle.

FREE ARBOR FITNESS CENTER ORIENTATIONS

Orientations
Thursdays, at 1 p.m.

352-854-8707 ext. 7638
Space is limited. Call for an appointment.



Dr. John Stabler, MD
Family Medicine, Board Certified



Dr. Nidhi Kaul, MD
Family Medicine, Board Certified



Enroll Now

CALL (866) 492 3627 | WWW.GWCMEDICAL.COM

Florida's PREMIER CONCIERGE HEALTH CLINIC

At GWC Medical Group, our providers are handpicked for their expertise, compassion, and dedication to patient-first healthcare. We're proud to bring together some of the best in family medicine and personalized care.

Now accepting new patients in Ocala

- ✓ Same-day or next-day appointments
- ✓ Longer visit/clinical time with doctors who know you
- ✓ 24/7 access via phone, secure messaging, or telehealth
- ✓ Transparent membership model – price transparency
- ✓ Preventive, wellness-focused care tailored to you and your family members

Customize Your Healthcare Needs Today - Call Us

Dr. John Stabler, MD – Family Medicine, Board Certified
With over 35 years in family medicine, Dr. Stabler delivers patient-centered care rooted in compassion and clinical excellence.

Dr. Nidhi Kaul, MD – Family Medicine, Board Certified
A board-certified family physician with 22+ years of experience in preventive care, chronic disease management, and wellness strategies.

CALL (866) 492 3627 | WWW.GWCMEDICAL.COM

*Discount Available on Annual Payment and for Healthcare Workers, Military, Law Enforcement, First responders, Ex-government employees (county, state and federal), and Teachers. Prices are subject to change. Always Call to verify for specials



ReStore
Habitat for Humanity of Marion County
Shop Our Thrift Store
For Below Retail Prices!

352-401-0075

habitatocala.org/restore

19 SE Wenona Ave.
Ocala, FL 34471414 HWY 466
Lady Lake, FL 32159

Wall Beds Plus



CUSTOM DESIGN PROJECTS READY TO BE INSTALLED IN JUST 4 WEEKS!

Murphy Beds | Custom Offices | Custom Walk-In or Reach-In Closets
Entertainment TV Units | Pantries | Custom Dry Bars | Sewing Rooms

4095 CR106, Oxford, Florida

(Next to Bargains & Treasures, near the intersection of CR466W & 301)

wallbedsplusthevillages.com

352-259-8444

Locally Owned & Manufactured in The Villages | Serving Marion County for 29 Years

Monday - Friday, 10 AM - 5 PM | Saturday 10 AM - 2 PM



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 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, Brenda Foster at brenda@gcfonline.com, or Athena Drewes at Drathenadrewes@gmail.com.

RECYCLE OFTEN. RECYCLE RIGHT.

Visit OTOWInfo.com for a list of acceptable items to recycle.

GARAGE SCREEN DOORS

RE-ROLL
YOUR VINYL
WINDOWS

NEW 16' x 7'
STANDARD 2-CAR
GARAGE STARTING AT
\$1795

Installation prices may vary
Call to Schedule a
FREE Consultation!

352-362-5277

WE WILL BEAT
ANY WRITTEN
ESTIMATE!
GUARANTEED!

GIVE YOUR WINDOWS *New Life* WITH CUSTOM LOCALLY-MADE TREATMENTS



**DRAPE • SHEERS • CORNICES • VALANCES
ROLLER SHADES • SLIDER TREATMENTS
LANAI SOLAR SCREEN SHADES
VERTICAL & HORIZONTAL
BANDED/ZEBRAS • SHUTTERS**

**20% OFF
ALL ORDERS OVER \$1500**

Expires 2/28/26

VETERANS DISCOUNT • 50+ YEARS INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE



**DESIGN REVELATION
OF FLORIDA**

**CALL TO SCHEDULE A FREE IN-HOME CONSULTATION > 352-533-0407
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE & REVIEWS > DESIGNREVELATIONOFFLORIDA.COM**

MONDAY - FRIDAY 10 AM - 5 PM • SATURDAY 10 AM - 3 PM



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 "Prous" 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 authen-

tic 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

MISSED DELIVERY?

If you are not receiving home delivery, please email otownnews@otowfl.com. Please include your house number, street name and neighborhood.

(352) 732-4296

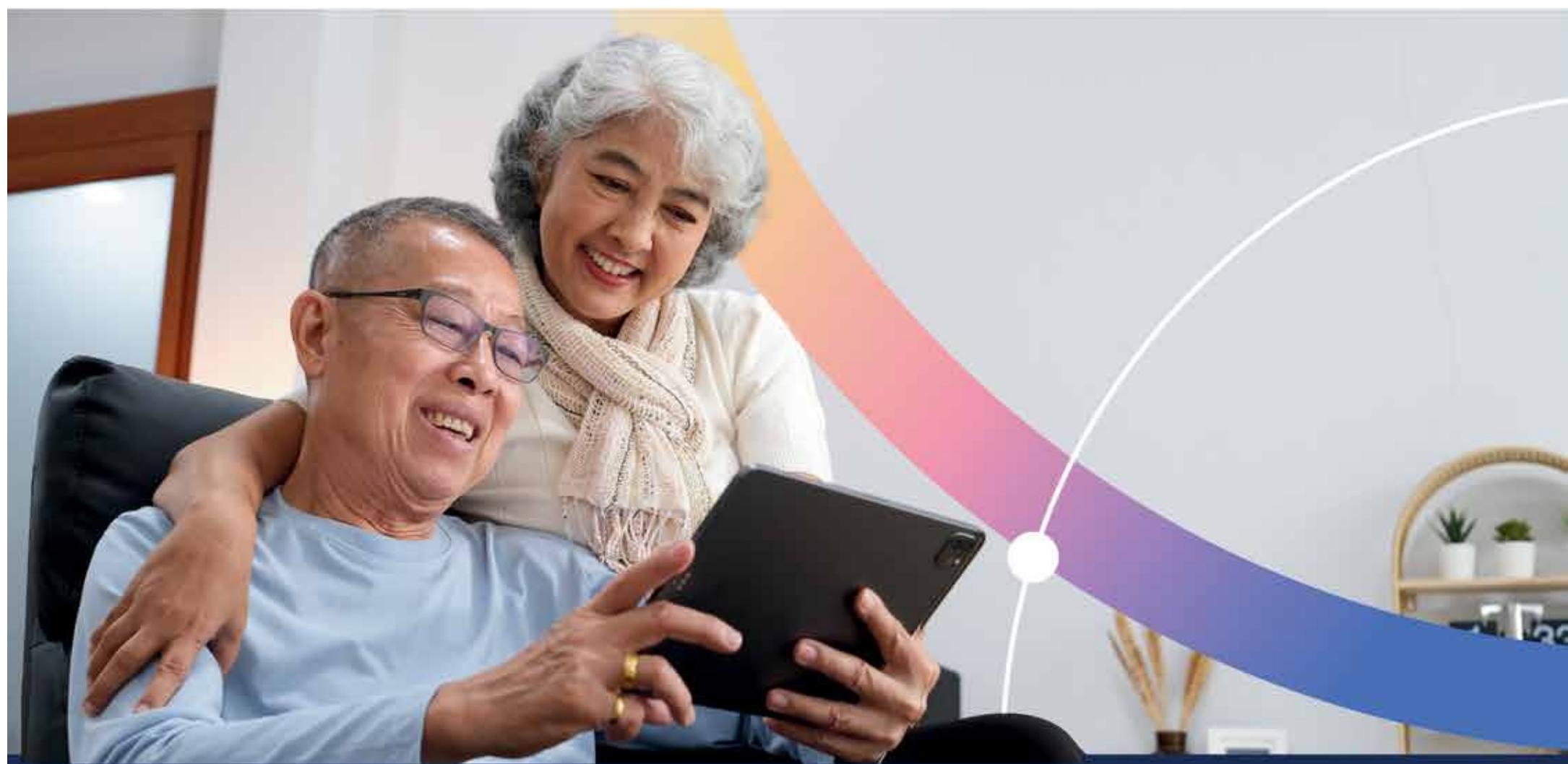
BlockersFurniture.com

2402 SW College Road
Ocala, Florida 34471

MON - SAT
SUNDAY
10AM - 6PM
12PM - 5PM

WE ALSO SPEAK
Portuguese & Spanish
Nós Falamos Português
Se Habla Español

UP TO 60 MOS.
FINANCING
AVAILABLE



Got Medicare questions? **We've got answers!**

**Your one-stop shop for all things
Medicare include:**

- Independent, local, and trusted Medicare experts
- Wide variety of plans that fit your needs
- FREE plan check-ups

Schedule your free consultation today!

(855) 529-2855 (TTY: 711)

OFFICE LOCATIONS

910 SW 1st Ave, Suite 201, Ocala, FL 34471
8399 SW 80th St, Suite 17, Ocala, FL 34481

Monday - Friday 9 am - 5 pm

baldwin.com/medicare



**The
Baldwin
Group**
Health Insurance

We do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE, or your local State Health Insurance Program to get information on all of your options. The Baldwin Group is not affiliated with or endorsed by Medicare or any government agency. The Baldwin Group does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. Calling this number will direct you to a licensed agent. No obligation to enroll. All health insurance services are the responsibility of The Baldwin Group Health Insurance, LLC, NPN 17680298 and The Baldwin Group Health Insurance II, LLC, NPN 17320005.

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-

erything'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 otwbroadwayplayhouse@gmail.com.



Photo by Joanne Houston

"Oklahoma, Jr. Edition" rehearsal.

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.



Photo by George Bausewein

The New Pretenders.

Recreation

Shannon Prince
352-854-8700 ext. 7530
shannon_prince@otowfl.com



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.

CURBSIDE LANDSCAPE DEBRIS PICK-UP SCHEDULE

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

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	Gaitway Plaza

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

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

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

AFTERNOON DESTINATIONS

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.

For information, call 352-789-5666.

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 Culen 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)

Sing 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

Window Cleaning — Pressure Washing

Softwash
Roof Washing
Solar Panel Cleaning

Gutter Cleaning — Gutter Brightening

Low Pressure House Washing

Concrete Cleaning
Paver Cleaning — Paver Sealing

CLEAN
WINDOW CLEANING
SOFTWASH
PRESSURE WASHING

Local, Bonded, Insured, Veteran-Owned/Operated

352-788-1111
www.CleanWindowCleaningLLC.com



SCAN ME

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.

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.



Photo by Jim Lynam

New N-scale layout.

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.

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

Email otownnews@otowfl.com with your idea(s). If approved, a World News writer will be assigned.

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

ELECTRIC BIKES HERE

Carousel E-Bikes

Bike Sales, Maintenance and Repair

(352) 792-4533

8075 SW HWY 200
Unit 105
Ocala, FL 34481

VELOTRIC
OFFICIAL
DEALERSHIP

Ride Times
Monday-Saturday
10:00 am-5:00 pm

**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.

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.

CARDS & GAMES

information, 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 Campbell & 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 ag-brady@peoplepc.com. Jokers to ya!

Pinocchio**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: Vicki 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.

**JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST**

Sign up to receive emails pertaining to news, events and activities happening at On Top of the World!

Visit OTOWInfo.com > Join Our Email > Opt in > Subscribe

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.

Untie the cords that used to bind, yours is the freedom and peace to find what a way to start your day!

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

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

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 Szepelak, 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 Szepelak 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!

ebrete 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

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."

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

pays homage to the six or seven days we keep faithful to our new resolutions before life's distractions parallel the attention span of a happy sheepdog seeing a squirrel.

Jim Kimes has formal training in poetry, and his variety reflects it. He is perpetually thought-provoking. Today he handed out a work he calls "Prophetic but Hardly Nostradamic" which reflects a special kind of challenge. It is somewhat Haiku in structure, but with five lines of text and 12 to 14 syllables per line. A complete story is told from start to finish in five lines total, not an easy task, and with every last word in perfect rhyme.

Janice Puta read from her newly pub-

lished book, which reveals a metaphysical loveliness not only on the written page but also in the soothing, dramatic delivery with which she recites her work. Following her, Joe M. offered up a softer side of a societal appeal to help our fellow man when they obviously need it. He calls his poem "Homeless," and it is strong and compassionate.

We usually have a dozen or so of our 20 members on the first and third Tuesdays, with new stuff coming from a variety of friendly poetry enthusiasts. We come to read, write, recite, listen, and encourage one another. Join us sometime for "la-de-da-de-de." Call Bill Burton with any questions at 352-492-8626.

shed book, which reveals a metaphysical loveliness not only on the written page but also in the soothing, dramatic delivery with which she recites her work. Following her, Joe M. offered up a softer side of a societal appeal to help our fellow man when they obviously need it. He calls his poem "Homeless," and it is strong and compassionate.

We usually have a dozen or so of our

FREE RECREATION FITNESS CENTER ORIENTATIONS AND BALANCE ASSESSMENTS

Orientations
Tuesdays, at 1 p.m.

Balance Assessments
Thursdays, at 1 p.m.

352-854-8707 ext. 7534
Space is limited. Call for an appointment.

Castle Carpets & Interiors
YOUR FLOORING SOURCE

Carpet • Ceramic • Wood • Laminate
Vinyl Plank • Vinyl • Blinds • Shutters



Showroom Hours
Monday - Friday, 9 AM - 4 PM

6715 SW Hwy 200, Ocala, FL 34476

Family Owned & Operated



(352) 854-3939

castlecarpets@aol.com

www.CastleCarpetsandInteriors.com

Philippians 4:13

Everything for the Backyard Bird Feeding Hobby!



Wild Birds Unlimited®
Nature Shop



Come see us for a relaxing shopping experience

and expert advice for the best in:

Bird Food • Feeders • Unique Gifts • Garden Accents

5400 SW College Rd, Suite 112, Ocala, FL 34474

(352) 509-4001 www.wbu.com/ocala

On Top of the World NEWS

GOOD NEWS TO SHARE?
Email otownews@otowfl.com with your idea(s). If approved, a World News writer will be assigned.

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

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™ 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.

CALL OR EMAIL TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE ON SERVICES OFFERED!

- Mowing
- Trimming (trees and shrubs)
- Weeding
- Planting (trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals)
- Landscape design
- Mulching
- Tree work
- Fertilization (turf, trees, shrubs, and perennials)
- Chemical applications (turf, trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals)
- Seasonal clean-ups
- Irrigation installation and service
- Commercial and residential services



For a FREE ESTIMATE, scan the QR Code, call 352.816.1562, or email sustainable_landscape@otowfl.com!



Sustainable
LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Ukulele Club

Janet Voyles



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.



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

Toppers Banjo

David Wessenberg



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 guitar.

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,

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

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.

This is a great time to join us if you have an interest in banjos and banjo music. We welcome new active or aspiring banjo, acoustic guitar, and other musicians to join us in playing and singing banjo music. If you like to play, come and join us. If you have any ideas to improve performance values and presentation, we'd love to hear them. If you like to listen, join us and enjoy the music and conversation. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Eddie Martin at udeddie2@gmail.com or David Wessenberg at dpw@mastersoftware-inc.com.



Photo by Herbert Young

Pat Ryan playing banjo.

fun and entertaining show. For more information about the Concert Chorus, please email joanne.houston57@gmail.com or 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.

We can't wait to see you at our next



Photo by Garry Voith

Rockin' around the world at the holiday concert.

SW Ocala Estate Sales
Neighbors Helping Neighbors
352-550-4058
Lacy Hornberger

Tuesdays
6 - 9 PM
OTOW
FAVORITES
DANCE TO
PRE-RECORDED MUSIC

Wednesdays
6 - 8 PM
BOOTS & BEATS
LINE DANCE WITH INSTRUCTORS
TO PRE-RECORDED MUSIC

THURSDAYS
6 - 9 PM
TUNES

FRIDAYS
6 - 9 PM
TRUCKS & TUNES

SATURDAYS
6 - 9 PM
TRUCKS & TUNES

February 5
TIM HARGIS
6 - 9 PM

February 12
LAYLA BRISBOIS
6 - 9 PM

February 19
MARK RAISCH
6 - 9 PM

February 26
JIFFY FEET
6 - 9 PM

February 6
VenRosa's Rollin' Bistro
5 PM

February 13
Lucky's Kitchen
5 PM

February 20
Steak Shack Bistro
5 PM

February 27
Pepé Joe's
5 PM

February 7
Brynn's Bytes
5 PM

February 14
Love, Bites, & Beefs
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT & DELICIOUS
FOOD TRUCKS
INVITATION ADMISSION*

February 21
BILLY BUCHANAN & HIS ROCK N SOUL REVUE
6 - 9 PM

February 28
TRIPWIRE
6 - 9 PM

February 8
Groove Slayers
6 - 9 PM

February 15
THE Voodoo Gypsies
6 - 9 PM

February 22
Food Trucks
6 - 9 PM

February 16
Lucky's Kitchen
5 PM

February 23
Leilani's Flavor Fusion
5 PM

February 17
BILLY BUCHANAN & HIS ROCK N SOUL REVUE
6 - 9 PM

February 24
Food Trucks
6 - 9 PM

February 18
Lucky's Kitchen
5 PM

February 25
Ultimate Santa
Tribute Band
6 - 9 PM

February 19
BILLY BUCHANAN & HIS ROCK N SOUL REVUE
6 - 9 PM

February 26
Food Trucks
6 - 9 PM

February 20
Leilani's Flavor Fusion
5 PM

February 27
CurbSide
Cuisine
5 PM

February 28
TC & SASS
6 - 9 PM

THE TOWN SQUARE
8405 SW 80th Street, Ocala, Florida 34481 | (352) 854-3670 | CircleSquareCommons.com
Follow us on social media for the latest information on entertainment/events.
[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/circlesquarecommons) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/circlesquarecommons/)

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Bay Laurel Center CDD**IRREGULAR WATER USAGE***

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

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



**MAKING IT EASY TO
FIND TICKETS TO YOUR
FAVORITE EVENTS!**

Find tickets sold by On Top of the World clubs and neighborhood groups.

EVERY TUESDAY | 9 AM - 2 PM
ARBOR ACTIVITIES CENTER CARD ROOM III

UPCOMING TICKETS FOR SALE:

- The New Pretenders present "Tonight's Going to be a Good Night"**
Friday, February 6, 2026 | 7 PM | \$10
Saturday, February 7, 2026 | 7 PM | \$10
Sunday, February 8, 2026 | 2 PM | \$10
- Women of the World present their annual Fashion Show**
Wednesday, March 18, 2026 | 11:30 AM | \$40
- The Lions Club Present: Casino Night!**
Sunday, March 22, 2026 | 5 - 8 PM | \$50
- Paradise Players Present: Mystery Cruise Adventure**
Saturday, April 18, 2026 | 2 PM
Sunday, April 19, 2026 | 2 PM
Premium Seating - \$12.50
General Seating - \$10



For more information, contact Shannon Prince at 352-387-7530 or shannon_prince@otowfl.com

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

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



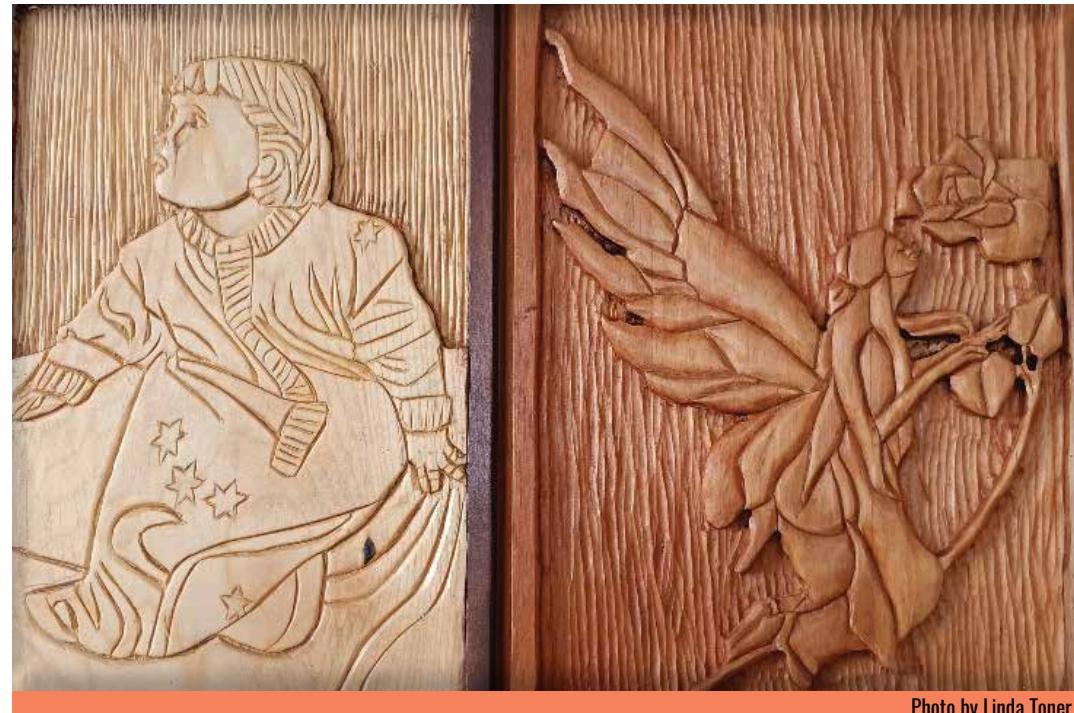
Photo by Mark Holmes

Hasselblad 503cx.

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

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

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

CONSERVATION FUN FACT

Florida burrowing owls have 50 acres of designated conservation area, planned to ensure that their nesting areas are not disturbed during land development.

On Top of the World builds artificial burrows to give them alternate nesting sites when new developments are started.

HURRICANE PROTECTION
• Impact Hurricane-Rated Windows
• Impact Patio Doors

SEE OUR COMPLETED PROJECTS

LOWER YOUR ENERGY BILLS
Enhance efficiency with one of these offers

REPLACEMENT WINDOWS
STARTING AT **\$385** COMPARE AT **\$600**
ASK FOR DETAILS.

Hurricane Rated Double Hung
 White Vinyl Max Size 3ft. x 5ft.

REPLACEMENT WINDOWS
\$550 COMPARE AT **\$800**
ASK FOR DETAILS.

Low-E Coated Glass Double Hung
 Hurricane Rated ENERGY STAR® Qualified
 White Vinyl Max Size 3ft. x 5ft.

HOUSE FULL OF WINDOWS INSTALLED
\$126 PER MONTH* JUST 48 MOS.

Six Hurricane Rated Windows ENERGY STAR® Qualified
 ENERGY STAR® Rated Glass No Hidden Fees

WINDOWS • PATIO DOORS • INSULATED SIDING • HURRICANE PROTECTION

LIMITED TIME ONLY!
SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE

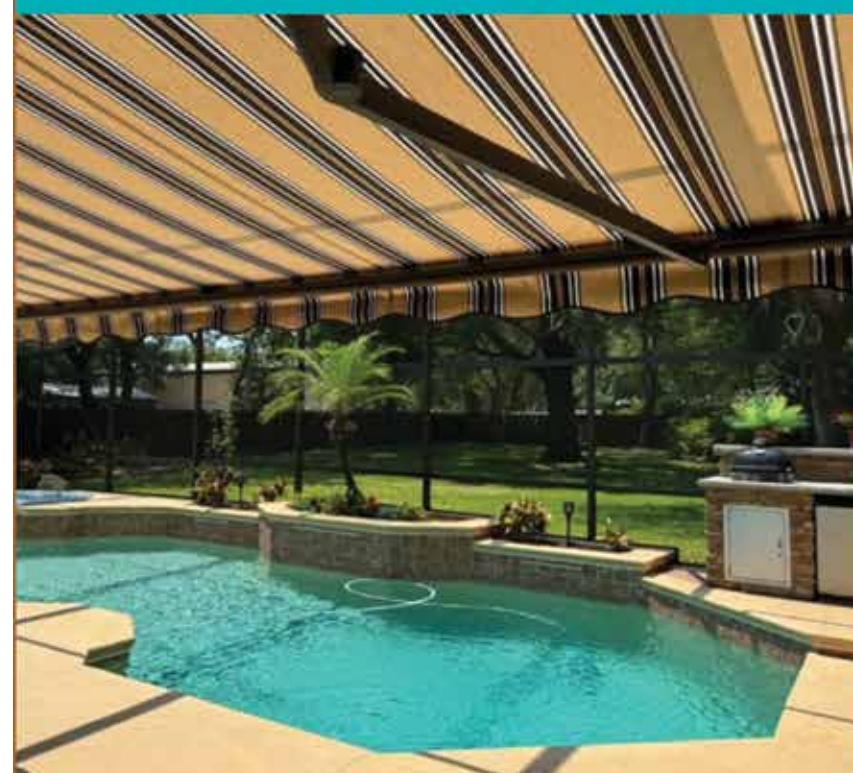
Lifetime Limited Warranty
Guaranteed Low Pricing

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
WE SELL THE STAR

MADE IN USA
20,000 HOME INSTALLED
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

"Not only do we stand behind our windows...we stand on them!"
- Angela & Brian Wall, Local Owners

FREE IN-HOME QUOTES!
352-820-3176
WindowWorldOcala.com
35 SW 57th Ave., Ocala, FL

RETRACTABLE AWNINGS

AwningAuthority.com • (352) 605-3570

Awning Authority**RETRACTABLE AWNINGS
HURRICANE SCREENS
PRIVACY SCREENS
GARAGE SCREENS***Locally Owned. Locally Made.***UP TO
\$750 OFF**

Must present coupon. Coupon expires 06/30/26.

HURRICANE SCREENS

PROVIDING PEACE OF MIND SINCE 1978

BATES
Exterminating

LAWN TREATMENTS HOUSEHOLD PESTS TERMITE CONTROL

HOUSEHOLD PEST TREATMENTS

- Conveniently Scheduled Treatments
- No Smelly Sprays Inside
- Perimeter Treatments
- Environmentally Friendly
No pesticides applied in your breathable air space
- **FREE RE-TREATMENTS**

WITH THIS HOME & GARDEN PACKAGE STARTING AT

\$258

A YEAR WITH PACKAGE

LAWN TREATMENTS

- Comprehensive Fertilization
- Granular Fertilization
- Liquid Nutrient Fertilization
- Weed Control
- Pre and Post Emergent
- Chinch Bugs, Army Worms and other Insects Treatments
- **FREE RE-TREATMENTS**

WITH THIS HOME & GARDEN PACKAGE STARTING AT

\$336

A YEAR WITH PACKAGE

PACKAGE SPECIAL OFFER

FREE

SHRUB and ORNAMENTAL INSECT CONTROL

With This
Home & Garden PackageSAVE **\$288** TOTAL COST ONLY**\$594**

A YEAR WITH PACKAGE

VILLA PACKAGES starting at **\$456**
TERMITE PROTECTION starting at **\$99**

HOUSEHOLD PEST CONTROL starting at only **\$39** per month
LAWN SERVICES starting at only **\$45** per month

No package necessary. Some restrictions apply.

Special monthly pricing above for household pest control or lawn service are performed "every other month" with annual service agreement, subject to an initial treatment fee and require credit card on file. No billing available with these services.

Package pricing requires payment in full one year in advance.



Call today.
352-259-2818

FL Lic. #JB125103



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 feed sack 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.



Terry Poznanski's "quilt as you go" table topper.

Our "Angels" can help with:

Companionship
Light Housekeeping
Meal Preparation
Med Reminders
Walking Assistance
Transfer Assistance
Respite for Families
Bathing/Dressing
Errands/Shopping
Grooming

90% of seniors want to remain in their homes as they age...
Visiting Angels can help.



352-620-8484



Suite 14

America's Choice in Homecare.
Visiting Angels
LIVING ASSISTANCE SERVICES



FL Lic. #299994357

www.visitingangels.com/ocala

MAXIMIZE YOUR RENTAL INCOME, MINIMIZE YOUR STRESS

We have over **200** RENTAL properties in our program

On Top of the World Real Estate, Inc. Rentals

TRUST THE EXPERTS

Your investment deserves the best care—and we deliver that with a hands-on approach designed for maximum returns. At On Top of the World Property Management, we handle everything from tenant screening to maintenance, so you can sit back, relax, and watch your income grow. With our team of local experts and personalized service, you'll have peace of mind knowing your property is in trusted hands.

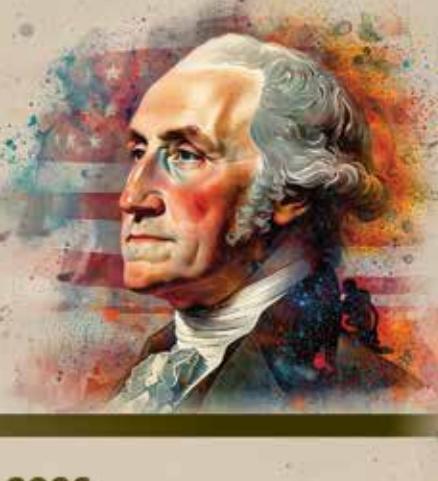
KEY BENEFITS:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hands-On Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shorter Vacancies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low Management Fees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Expertise
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Experienced & Trusted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular Inspections	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maximize Rental Income	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reliable Returns

8447 SW 99th St Rd, Ocala, FL 34481 • 352-854-2394 • OTOWPM.COM
Facebook.com/OTOWREINC.PropertyManagement

Master the Possibilities
Leading in Lifelong Learning

GEORGE WASHINGTON: MAN OF PEACE

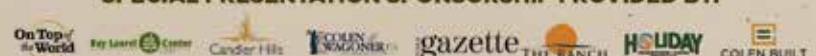



FEBRUARY 23, 2026
INSTRUCTOR: EDWARD LENGEL | 10 - 11 AM | LIVE OAK HALL
COURSE #: SPE310

Members: \$8 | General Public: \$13

George Washington, our nation's greatest military leader, won the Revolutionary War and secured independence. A seasoned combat veteran since the French and Indian War, he knew both the costs of battle and the value of peace. As president, he drew on this knowledge to safeguard the nation's future. Award-winning historian Edward G. Lengel, Ph.D., author of General George Washington: A Military Life and former director of the Washington Papers Project, brings Washington's story to life. A National Humanities Medal co-recipient and frequent media commentator, Lengel offers a vivid portrait of Washington as soldier and statesman. He will present remotely.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION SPONSORSHIP PROVIDED BY:

REGISTRATION AVAILABLE ONLINE 24/7 AT MASTERTHEPOSSIBILITIES.ORG OR CALL (352) 861-9757.

MASTERTHEPOSSIBILITIES.ORG OR CALL (352) 861-9757.



Valerie and George Ostrom.

Photo by 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 the World NEWS
MISSED DELIVERY?

If you are not receiving home delivery, please email otownews@otowfl.com. Please include your house number, street name and neighborhood.

a time of need.

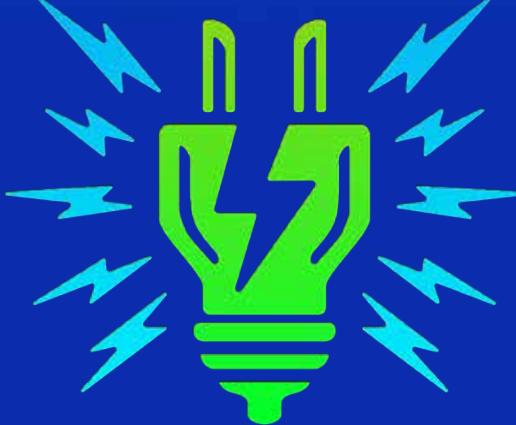
A subsequent delivery was made to the donor relations department at AdventHealth Waterman on Oct. 29, 2025, intended for patients requiring assistance. The Waterman staff expressed gratitude for the handcrafted items produced by the Ocala team, acknowledging the significant time, skill, and dedication 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.

Photo by Janet O'Neil



Electrical Solutions

A solution for every electrical problem

Commercial and Residential

Mike Sallee
(352) 871-3117

EC #13015365
Family Owned & Operated

**Fun with
Golf Carts**

Susan Pulling Robinson



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. We all have a lot of fun cruising around in our "mini-floats."

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



Photo by Janet O'Neil

Donations provided to AdventHealth Waterman.

**OUR
SERVICES**

- Diagnostic & troubleshooting
- Electric system upgrades & panel improvements
- Emergency repairs
- Indoor & outdoor lighting
- Under counter lighting
- Switches/outlet installation & relocating
- Home surge protection
- Electrical monitoring system for high bills
- Generators & battery backup installation

SO MUCH MORE!
&

15% off to all service members & law enforcement



Photo by Mark Holmes

Mark Holmes' writing ranges from poetry to military stories.

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



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. 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.

THE OLIVE OIL MARKET

EXCEPTIONAL PRODUCTS

(352) 512-0177 | www.theoliveoilmarket.store

- **ZOI KALAMON** a Premium Extra Virgin Olive Oil with ULTRA HIGH POLYPHENOLS (1397 mg/kg), Life Altering Health Benefits.
- **Extra Virgin Olive Oils** Without seed oils or blends.
- **Extraordinary Balsamic Vinegars** Low Acid, Reductions, and Distinct Flavor.



AVAILABLE IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD AT THE
CIRCLE SQUARE COMMONS FARMERS MARKET!

Every Thursday | 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

On Top of the World NEWS
ITEMS FOR SALE?

Email your ad to otownews@otownfl.com by noon on the 12th of the month. See Classifieds page for more information.

VAS (SRINIVASA) MURTHY, MD

Board Certified in Family Practice

Assistant Professor of Family Medicine UCF College of Medicine

- Diabetes
- Blood Pressure
- Elderly Care
- In-Office Testing & Blood Draw
- Heart Disease
- Lung Problems
- Complete Physical

Accepting New Patients · Office, Hospital and Nursing Home Care

On Staff at AdventHealth Ocala, HCA Ocala and HCA West Marion Hospitals

ACCEPTING MEDICARE, BCBS, UHC, CIGNA, FREEDOM, WELLCARE, COVENTRY, TRICARE, HUMANA, AND MORE

CALL FOR APPOINTMENT
(352) 873-1010

10238 SW 86th Circle, Suite 200, Ocala, FL 34481 | Mon-Thur, 9 am - 5 pm · Fri, 9 am - noon

AudioNova !

Experience the AudioNova difference



EXPERT HEARING EVALUATIONS



PERSONALIZED SOLUTIONS



RISK-FREE TRIALS



LATEST HEARING TECHNOLOGY

One simple visit to an **AudioNova** hearing clinic can not only help get your hearing back, but part of your life back.

AudioNova !

Elite Hearing Centers
of America

[Hometown Hearing Centers](#)
[NextGen Hearing](#)
[Tri-County Hearing Services](#)

Visit one of our convenient Ocala locations!

2775 NW 49th Ave.
Unit 20
352-708-7480

3405 SW College Rd.
Suite 207
352-671-2999

9311 SW Highway 200
(Located in Premier Medical)
352-801-3224

Call us today to schedule your
FREE HEARING SCREENING
or visit us online at [AudioNova.com](#)

**WE CAN
MAKE YOUR
Landscape Dreams
COME TRUE!**

LANDSCAPE WALLS



OUTDOOR LIVING



CURBING



LIGHTING



**PAVERS ☀ LANDSCAPING ☀ ROCK & MULCH
YARD CLEANUPS ☀ PALM & HEDGE TRIMMING
AERATION TOP DRESSING**



**CENTRAL FLORIDA CURB APPEAL
(352) 861-2462 ☀ CURBS4U.COM**

**GET IT DONE LANDSCAPING
(786) 554-1600**



[FACEBOOK.COM/GETITDONESCAPING](https://www.facebook.com/GetItDoneScaping)

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED | SERVING ON TOP OF THE WORLD FOR 15 YEARS | HOMEADVISOR 5-STAR RATING

FIND IT IN THE ... CLASSIFIEDS!

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

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

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

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

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

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

For Sale

Appliance: 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.

Golf Cart: Loco EV Mojo 2+2, low miles, 9.4HP brushless 7kW motor on 84AH lithium battery, built-in smart charger, LED lights, multi-media player, 500W Bluetooth sound bar, accessory 12v & USB ports, backup camera, marine-grade seats, carbon fiber trim, independent coil suspension, 6" lift kit with 14" rims, 22" off-road/street tires, and hydraulic disc brakes. Text 813-344-6899.

Golf Cart: Refurbished Club Car 2024, 48-volt with deluxe package. 352-547-9901.

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.

Services

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

Andy Dahms Interior Painting: Your local professional painting contractor. Turn your place into a showpiece. Quality Sherwin-Williams products. References available. Free estimates. Call or email at 941-730-1381 or andygoodeats1@gmail.com.

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

Bathroom & Flooring: Tile and LVP installation. Five stars on Google. Many satisfied customers in On Top of the World. Free quotes. Insured. Innovate - Home Renovation (L20000157682), Gabriel 352-216-2202.

Cash4Carts: We buy golf carts. Fast, friendly, fair. Will beat dealer offers. Cash paid. Same-day pick-up. 352-812-5630.

Cat Sitting: Provided by loving experienced Cat Nanny (resident) 352-854-8589.

OTOWInfo.com

Winter SALE

Special Normally \$189.00
\$169.00

Our Annual Comfort Club Maintenance plan includes:
Two precision tune-ups (6 months apart)
Priority Scheduling
15% off Labor & Parts and additional services



INSTALLATION
REPAIRS

\$300 OFF
One Hour Single UV Light
Additional savings with Comfort Club!



UV lights work inside your HVAC system to zap bacteria, mold spores, and viruses before they ever reach your living room. It's a game-changer for families looking to stay healthy this season.

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

MAINTENANCE AND TUNE-UPS
SYSTEM UPDATES AND REPLACEMENTS

\$200 OFF
One Hour PCO+UV Kit
Additional savings with Comfort Club!



Special
25% DUCT CLEANINGS

ONE HOUR
AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING®

Always On Time...Or You Don't Pay A Dime!

352-629-0075

Follow US onehourairocala onehourocalca

CMC1249436

Computer Help: Arthur Burditt, 352-875-7878. House calls, \$60/hour. Tutoring, setups, installations, Windows upgrades, PC cleanups, security software, internet connections, email access, printers, wireless devices.

Drywall Repairs & Interior Painting: Experienced professional & reasonably priced. For a free estimate, call 352-857-8367 or text 203-482-8050. josephdonofriodrywallandpainting.com

Eagle Carpet Cleaning: Carpet, tile & grout, and upholstery cleaning. 25 years serving the residents of On Top of the World. Call 352-369-4494. Senior discounts.

El Dorado Services: Home cleaning, pressure washing, errands, plus handyman services, bathroom, kitchen, flooring, painting, & sliding glass door/window repair. Free estimates, licensed & insured. 352-628-0913 (#L250009-8885).

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

Handyman: Insured. JAO Home Improvement & Repair - all your home's needs - carpentry, built-ins, roll-out shelves, moldings, faux painting, tile, and furniture touch ups. Visit JAO Home's page at www.ashiarts.us or call 707-280-3823 (resident).

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

Home Cleaning by Valeria: Houses, deep cleaning, move outs. Over 20 years caring for homes. Licensed & insured. Free quote 352-361-6850.

Junk Removal: Standard truck load \$99 plus dump fee. Call Matt at 352-640-6467.

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

Notary (Mobile): Same-day service by appointment. Will come to your home, workplace, or hospital. Call/text Larry 352-509-5211 (resident).

Paint Time LLC: Interior & exterior painting. Quality is our goal! Also offering power washing. Let's spruce up your home inside & out. Call/text Matt at 352-640-6467.

Professional Tax Service by Tom: 20 years' experience. Please call 631-215-9819 (resident).

Rikki's Cleaning Service: For all your domestic needs, from cleaning to errands and more. Call Rikki 352-509-4488.

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

Transportation: Professional ride-share driver since 2014. Comfort class XL SUV. All airports and local destinations. Call/text Larry 352-509-5211 (resident).

Transportation & Pet Services: Pet sitting, dog walking, rides to appointments with assistance getting in and out of the vehicle, shopping & odd jobs. Rob 954-557-4178 (resident).

Weed Pulling: Yard work, mowing, topsoil for lawn/garden and haul away. Offering organic weed/grass killer. Insured. 352-454-2009.

Wanted

Caregiver: Reliable, committed to a wheelchair-bound resident. Reading, conversation, walks, and feeding. Hours and days are somewhat flexible at this point. Call Richard at 352-620-4233 (before 11 a.m. or after 6 p.m.).

Donations: Dog or cat food [Friends of SPCA 352-362-0985] · Electric golf carts in full working condition for use by volunteers for local park. [Barbara btspriprg@gmail.com] · Men's and women's bicycles for local church homeless ministry [Carol 419-601-1322] · Non-perishable food for food bank, and cards for veterans [Anne 843-504-0032] · Personal hygiene, & school/craft supplies for homeless; pet food/supplies for animal shelters; musical instruments for troops/veterans; socks, underwear & men's clothing [Donna 352-237-3062] · Yarn for VA hospitals, children, and newborns [352-843-6519].

Ham Radio Operators: Support the Community Emergency Response Team in the event of a disaster. Please email brucetwiss@yahoo.com.

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

LOST OR FOUND A PET?
Call the Friends of SPCA hotline at 352-362-0985.

Mention this ad. Expires 2-28-26



Construction Concepts Group of Ocala, LLC

OVER 45 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

OVER 125 COMPLETED PROJECTS IN
ON TOP OF THE WORLD

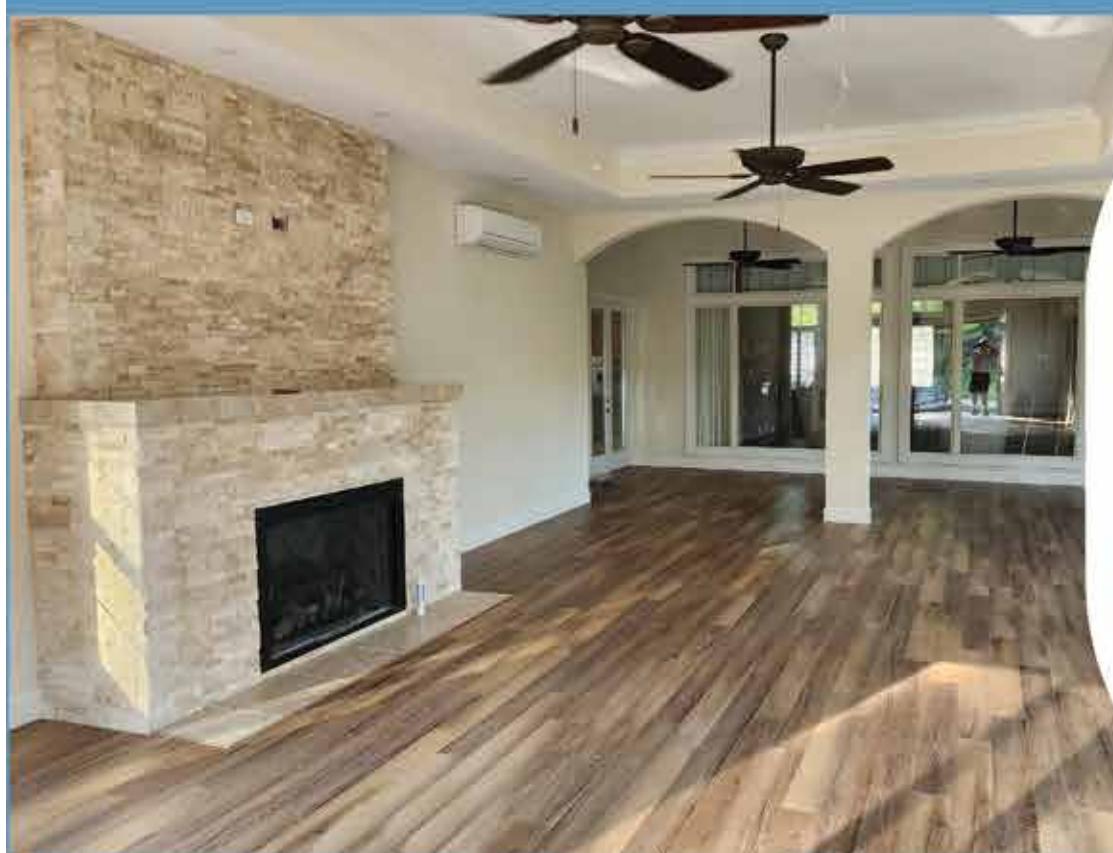


CCG IS YOUR TRUSTED RESIDENTIAL GENERAL CONTRACTOR!

Room Additions | Enclosed Lanais
Custom Fireplaces | Carpentry | Flooring | Bird Cages



Deal directly with the licensed contractor.
Personal job site supervision guaranteed!



**NO MONEY DOWN!
FREE IN-HOME DESIGN
CONSULTATION!
(352) 789-6900
www.ccgflorida.net**

1301 SW 37th Ave, Suite 110, Ocala, FL 34474
CGC #1526250