

## Community News

**Kenneth D. Coleen**

### Project Updates

The replacement of the dance floor at The Town Square at Circle Square Commons has been completed and is ready for you to come and shake a leg. The overhead lighting has also been updated for evening events. The Farmers Market has been relocated back to its original location at The Town Square every Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Recreation Center pool is under construction and we are expecting it to be completed in late March. This work will completely renovate this pool and give it a brand new look with all new finishes. Keep an eye out for an official announcement about the pool's reopening date.

The pools at The Landing, The Lodge at Candler Hills and Candler Hills Community Center will also be receiving repairs this year, which will also require closures. Dates for these closures will be posted once determined.

The Summit (amenity in Longleaf Ridge) has started construction with the sitework. This project is currently being contracted out and the estimated completion date is the summer of 2025. This will include a 5,000 square foot main pool and an innovative resistance pool that will be a unique amenity in On Top of the World. We are excited about this project and know you will love it.

Design development of the new amenity in the Balfour neighborhood of Candler Hills has concluded and is proceeding into working drawings. We have heard what residents of Candler Hills have requested and this amenity will be geared towards indoor fitness activities and will also include an outdoor pool focused on aquatics fitness. This amenity will be for use by Candler Hills residents only, more details to follow as plans progress.

The temporary construction gate on SW 80th Street will soon be replaced with a permanent gatehouse, plans are in the conceptual design phase.

The Candler Hills Community Center will be receiving a makeover in April, after the Ocala Open. This will include an update to the entry, card room, kitchen, and restrooms.

On Tuesday, Jan. 30, Marion County hosted a community information meeting at West Port High School to discuss the SW 38th Street and SW 80th Avenue projects. They provided an update mostly focused on the 38th Street project but did explain that the desire of the county is to have the improvements on 80th Avenue and 38th Street completed in sequence so that the area around West Port and the northern portions of On Top of the World would only be impacted once. The county is anticipating a Q4 of 2025 or Q1 of 2026 to begin the heavy construction activity and anticipate the corridor will be under construction for approximately 18 months.

We are acutely aware of precisely what an inconvenience this will pose to On Top of the World residents. With that in mind, we are proactively working with Marion County to provide an alternate route that will allow for access to SW 60th Avenue, bypassing the majority of the project while they are making a mess. Watch this space for more on this topic as details develop.

### On Top of the World (Central) Owners Association Annual Board Meeting

The On Top of the World (Central) Owners Association annual meeting followed by a board of directors meeting was held on Tuesday, Feb. 13, with approximately 900 residents in attendance and another 200 attending online. The annual meeting provided reports from the board as well as guests on the Association's AppFolio software owner portal roll out on Friday, March 1, proposed budget, roof replacements, insurance and golf cart safety information. Lieutenant Robbins of the Marion County Sheriff's Office addressed the gathering and provided an update on law enforcement in the SR 200 corridor.

The board addressed numerous questions from residents, some of which

**Continued on Page 4A ▶**

OUR WORLD

Vol. 37, No. 9

March 2024

## Ocala Open

By Matt Hibbs

How would you like to be standing over a 10-foot putt with a chance to win \$15,000? Year after year, that's what the Ocala Open presents to up-and-coming professional golfers.

Wednesday, March 20 through Friday, March 22, Candler Hills Golf Club will host its 19th annual Ocala Open. The Ocala Open is a professional golf tournament run by Rick Hendershot, director of the Florida Professional Golf Tour. Each year, a field of 144 professional golfers competes for a chance to win the first place prize of \$15,000.

We have had many great players come to Candler Hills to compete in this prestigious event. PGA Tour player, Ted Potter Jr. won back-to-back championships in 2010 and 2011, Dan McCarthy, currently playing on the Korn Ferry Tour, won back-to-back Opens in 2015 and 2016, most recently, Seth Fair, won back to back Ocala Opens in 2021 and 2022. Blake Maum is this year's defending champion, can he become the fourth player to successfully defend his title?

For a true first-class experience visit the VIP tent adjacent to the 18th green. This beautiful viewing area is setup for spectators who wish to relax under a tent while watching these spectacular golfers compete for the Ocala Open championship. Tickets for this luxurious seating area can be purchased in the Candler Hills Golf Shop. A portion of the ticket proceeds goes to the charities.

The most important part of the Ocala Open is the charity Pro-Am. Annually, the Pro-Am is the biggest fundraiser in Ocala. With the support of local vendors and residents, we were able to raise \$100,000 for charity last year and presented both Interfaith Emergency Services and Hospice of Marion County a check for \$50,000 each. To date, the Oca-

la Open has donated over \$993,000 to local charities. This event has not only become a tradition at On Top of the World, but a staple to our community.

Interested in participating in the Pro-Am to help support these great organizations? This year's Pro-Am will be played on Tuesday, March 19. The entry deadline is Friday, March 8, and is limited to 32 teams. If you would like more information, please visit [ocalaopen.com](http://ocalaopen.com) or contact Director of Golf Matt Hibbs at 352-854-2765.

To orchestrate an event of this stature, you must have exceptional employees, and that's something we certainly have at On Top of the World. Every year, our employees put in countless hours to ensure the event's success. Andy Jor-

gensen and his maintenance staff do a wonderful job preparing the course. The players rave about how well maintained Candler Hills Golf Course is and in particular the greens. We can't forget about the 30 volunteers who so graciously donate their time to make sure the players have an enjoyable experience. Thank you to all for your continued support of this charitable event.

Candler Hills Golf Club is proud to annually present the Ocala Open. We have fine-tuned the event over the years and it has become not only one of the best professional golf events in Ocala, but all of Florida. Please take time out of your busy schedule to come watch these players compete for this year's Ocala Open title.



Photo courtesy of Coleen Built Development

Ocala Open 2023 winner – Blake Maum.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024**  
9 AM - 1 PM

## Spring into Home Improvement

By Dave DeAngelis  
World News Writer

Spring cleaning. When looking around your home, do you find yourself more and more thinking that you are tired of the old stuff? Non-human, that is. The dated carpet. The once-luxurious Larry landscaping that now could use a Moe, or perhaps a Curly haircut? Time for new windows or blinds? A retractable garage screen ... hmmm ... easy-peasy.

Wanna alter or replace the old stuff? Make the old stuff new stuff? Just want to make more room around the old and new stuff? Want to learn about creative options that are available? (This is not a quiz.)

Well, just so happens that you can have your questions answered, and address your curiosities on Saturday, March 16, at the Home Improvement Expo at Circle Square Cultural Center, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. And the cost to attend is like ... peanuts. Almost nothing. Now wait, it is nothing. Stop the madness, it's free!

At the Home Improvement Expo, you will find addition, improvement, repair and replacement options from air conditioners, window tinting, flooring, to room additions, new installations, hip replace ... er, uh, countertop replacements, and oh so much more! Oh, you

know the drill about a Home Improvement Expo. Get there early and be sure to allot plenty of time to take it all in. You will find a plethora of great stuff, not only relating to products, but also services and education. Ask questions and you will get answers from industry professionals. They do this stuff for a living.

Come on, you don't want to spend another year looking around your house, with arms folded, rubbing your chin in creative thoughts of changing what you see, do you? Even if you are satisfied with what you see, take a look around this year's Home Improvement Expo to maybe get some ideas for the future. Enjoy a couple of hours there. Compare notes with neighbors and vendors. Meet new people. Welcome the arrival of spring a few days early.

If you would like to be a vendor, please call 352-854-8707 x7413 for more information.

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## Is It Legal?

Colen &amp; Wagoner, P.A.



creditor protection, and not get into the comments about a trust. He's right about one thing; Your homestead rights do end at your passing. How could they not since you are not here any longer? However, your creditor protection rights still inure to, or pass on to your heirs, which in this case, you say are your children.

Put another way, if there is a judgment against you, and you pass on but have left your homestead to your six children, even though your homestead has ended, your homestead protections for your homestead are passed on to those children.

Look, folks, the laws dealing with Florida homesteads are probably the most complex of any area within Florida's legal structure. This is why, for many years I have warned people that if you reside in a state, it is best to have an attorney who not only is licensed to practice law in that state, but who, himself/herself, is a fulltime resident of that state.

**Q.** My 75-year-old father intends to marry a woman who said she won't get married unless he promises to leave her something "substantial in his will," so she can "make up for lost benefits." He reads your column so my question to you is would you marry someone like that?

**A.** I wouldn't marry her; but then, I'm already married, and my wife would take a rather dim view of me if I did that. **Q.** Do you have any funny anecdotes about your uncle, Sidney Colen, who was the developer of On Top of the World?

**A.** Once, after an annual meeting, a rather elderly lady came up to Sid, and said, "Why can't people have children here?" And Sid, said "If they can have them, I'll let them."

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

## Bay Laurel Center CDD

## IRREGULAR WATER USAGE\*

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

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

## Special Events

## FARMERS MARKET



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MARCH 7, 2024

Music by SmileTime DJ  
10 am - NoonMini-Massages by The Ranch Fitness Center & Spa  
10 am - NoonRaffle Drawing  
Noon

For each purchase made at the Farmers Market, you will be entered to win two tickets to see Jenene Caramelo - Celebrating Celine Dion at Circle Square Cultural Center on April 20, 2024. Raffle winner will be drawn at noon and must be present to win. In the event of inclement weather, the winner will be announced on Facebook.



MARCH 14, 2024

Springhill Equine Veterinary Clinic  
9 am - 1 pm

The mobile vet care-a-van will be on site for veterinary care services for your pet. Book an appointment online at [springhilequine.com](http://springhilequine.com) or by calling 352-472-1620.

Live Music by Tropic Steel  
10 am - Noon

MARCH 21, 2024

Live Music by Jeff Brown  
10 am - Noon

MARCH 28, 2024

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

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## 2024 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

## On Top of the World NEWS

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

\* Deadline at noon

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



## GOLDEN OLDIES HUMOR

By Stan Goldstein



Extra pounds kind of just "snacked up" on me.



Photo courtesy of Don Soledad Music

Don Soledad Music – Strings of Passion takes the stage on Saturday, April 13 at Sholom Park.

**Finding Zen**

**Robert Colen**  
info@sholompark.org



Do you adore Sholom Park as much as we do? Breathe in the fresh air, revel in live music – come, immerse yourself in support of Sholom Park!

Sholom Park is thrilled to unveil an extraordinary cultural extravaganza: the annual Spring Strings event, featuring Don Soledad Music – Strings of Passion. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 13, as the tranquil park transforms into a vibrant haven resonating with soulful Spanish strings and captivating Flamenco dance.

Embark on an afternoon steeped in cultural richness, as Don Soledad Music – Strings of Passion transports you to the heart of Andalusia, Spain, promising an authentic taste of its musical and dance

traditions.

Enhancing the allure is Chef Pablo from Paella Anywhere, tantalizing taste buds with authentic Spanish dishes. From mouthwatering paellas to tapas, his creations complement the cultural ambiance of the event.

Join Sholom Park on Saturday, April 13, from 4 to 6 p.m. for an unforgettable experience of music, dance, and the spirit of Andalusia. This event echoes Sholom Park's mission of enriching lives through cultural experiences.

Purchase your \$30 tickets at SholomPark.org or MasterthePossibilities.org or call 352-861-9751.

A haven in nature, Sholom Park fosters cultural experiences, bringing the community together.

Don Soledad Music – Strings of Passion promises to be a cultural celebration. Join us for an afternoon transcending boundary with music, dance, and the spirit of Andalusia, embodying Sholom Park's mission of enriching lives through cultural experiences.



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## Community News

► Continued from Page 1A

pertained to roof replacements, rising labor and material costs and how that has continued to impact the community. It was noted that the same inflationary pressures in the commercial construction markets have also shaped the proposed 2024-25 budget.

The Association does not carry reserves for roof replacement because replacement is an obligation of the individual owner and not the Association at large. A good rule of thumb is to set aside 1/15th of the estimated cost of replacement, using the last cost information you have on the roof replacement. Inflate that number 2% each year.

The fiscal year 2024-25 community-wide improvement work was reviewed and the program was explained in detail. Your board is committed to providing an expansive bundle of services available for residents. We strive to provide access to numerous fitness, recreation, en-

tertainment, and educational programs good for both the body and soul. Your board strives to build and reinforce the sense of community, enhance the opportunity to make friends, and enjoy the peace of mind of living in a safe and clean community.

Following the board meeting, Continental, the developer of Advantix, a 312 unit rental community was on hand to present information on the vision for their community, as well as answer resident questions.

### AppFolio Owner Portal

On Friday, March 1, all owners in On Top of the World (Central), Candler Hills, Indigo East and Weybourne Landing will receive an email from AppFolio inviting you to set up your owner portal. AppFolio is the Management Company's software where community service payments and service requests may be made. The AppFolio email will unveil an owner secure portal that many owners have asked for over the years.

This is a completely voluntary program, if owners wish to enroll, please ensure that the Association has your email address. You may submit your email address to [associationinfo@otowfl.com](mailto:associationinfo@otowfl.com) with that information or stop by

Resident Services to update your contact information, and while you're at it, it might be a good time to also update your emergency contacts.

Should owners choose to enroll in AppFolio, this secure portal will provide the ability to remit payments for Community Service Fees (or other assessments) via eCheck or credit/debit cards (AppFolio service fees apply). In addition, owners may update bank account information, should you wish to continue with the automatic debit service provided by the Management Company. Owners will also be able to submit maintenance service requests and communicate with Resident Services thus alleviating an in-person visit. Please watch for the email from AppFolio that will be sent on March 1.

### Winter Weather & Shrubbery

March can be a tricky month when it comes to the weather. We may have wonderfully warm days and cold nights. Do not remove seemingly damaged plants prematurely. Plants affected by the cold may surprise you with their recovery. Withhold pruning back until mid-April. There may be several more periods of cold and possible frost. Pruning at this point will spur plant growth that is vul-

nerable to the cold. Rather, wait until mid-April to consider any pruning of owner added plantings. Central Florida generally experiences one cold snap with light frost between March 15 and Easter so be forewarned.

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

### Conservation Tip

Depending on the type of irrigation system, shaving two minutes off each irrigation run time yields 18 to 26 gallons per zone per run cycle, which can save 77 to 112 gallons per month per zone for once per week watering and 155 to 224 gallons per month per zone for twice per week watering. Overall, on a monthly basis you have the potential to reduce your water consumption from 721 gallons to 2,170 gallons depending on the time of year and specific run times on each zone, assuming seven zones. Monthly water savings for seven zones may cost in a range of \$1.41 to \$7.67 for once-per-week watering and \$2.82 to \$15.34 for twice-per-week watering depending on the rate tier. Savings can add up.



Photo courtesy of Master the Possibilities

Dr. Giovanni Aloi will present Botanic Gardens on Wednesday, March 27.

### Lifelong Learning



**Michelle Shideler**  
352-387-7571  
[michelle\\_shideler@masterthe possibilities.org](mailto:michelle_shideler@masterthe possibilities.org)

The month of March in Central Florida offers an excellent opportunity for outdoor exploration, and Master the Possibilities has leveraged this great outdoors time with its "Learning Outside the Classroom Walls" theme. We welcome all participants to embrace the great outdoors while engaging in enriching educational experiences by attending one of our "Out & About" educational destinations.

A packed bus of eager participants is scheduled to embark on a remarkable journey to the Southeastern Guide Dog Campus in Palmetto, Florida on Tuesday, March 12, promising an extraordinary multisensory experience. Although this trip is currently at full capacity, our curriculum offers five equally enticing

destinations to explore this month.

Among the options, participants can delve into the vibrant atmosphere of Asian markets in Gainesville under the guidance of instructor Shizuka Campagna. Alternatively, they can embark on a tour of EARS in Citra, Florida, a haven for endangered animals in need of refuge from neglect and abuse. This trip includes a 35-minute guided tour of lions, tigers, cougars, bears, and other primates.

For those craving a taste of farm life, there's the opportunity to discover the charms of Amber Brook Farm in Williston, Florida and indulge in the simple pleasure of fruit picking. After a guided tour, participants will have the chance pick berries. Alternatively, participants can embark on a self-guided tour of the enchanting Cedar Lakes Woods & Gardens after a short presentation. There are more than 50 gardens, numerous waterfalls, birds to watch, and koi ponds to sit by and relax at this 100-year-old retired lime rock quarry.

There is also an opportunity to gain

valuable insights into blueberry cultivation while exploring the Abshier Farm with owner Emery Abshier. This just happens to be the best time of year for blueberry picking, and one cannot get much fresher than right off the bush.

To discover more about these engaging off-campus experiences, refer to page 60 of the Master the Possibilities January through June print catalog, or visit the "Out & About" section on our website at [masterthe possibilities.org](http://masterthe possibilities.org). Registration is required to attend these destinations, and trip cost is listed with each event. Given that some of these destinations are nearing capacity, it is recommended to register soon to not miss any of these experiences.

Our visiting speaker this month is Dr. Giovanni Aloi and he will be facilitating an amazing presentation on the Botanic Gardens of the Kew Botanic Garden in London, the New York Botanic Garden in New York, the Chicago Botanic Garden, and will talk about the botanic garden that used to be at the West Wing of the White House.

Dr. Aloi is an author, editor, and art curator specializing in the history and theory of photography, representation of nature, and everyday objects in art. He has contributed to BBC radio programs, worked at Whitechapel Art Gallery and Tate Galleries in London, is USA correspondent for Esse Magazine, and a regular public speaker at the Art Institute of Chicago. Cost to attend this presentation is \$11 for members, and \$16 for the general public.

For additional information, visit [MasterthePossibilities.org](http://MasterthePossibilities.org), or call 352-861-9751 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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### On Top of the World NEWS

#### GOOD NEWS TO SHARE?

Email [otownews@otowfl.com](mailto: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.

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## Around the World



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

The first quarter of this year seems to be in a hurry. Wasn't it just Christmas? Let's see what's special about March. March is called the "Month of War." The meaning of March comes from ancient Rome: In Latin, it was called martius mensis, or the month of Mars, the Roman god of war. March was the first month in the early Roman calendar because war would start again after the winter. March is also Women's History Month.

**Keeping You and Your Pet Safe**

To limit your encounters with wildlife, coyotes especially, it is important to keep all pet food in storage containers inside your home or garage. Safeguard your garbage and take care as to your bird feeders to prevent food spillage, attracting prey to your home.

When walking, keep your pets leashed and do not leave them outdoors alone. What should you do if approached by a coyote? Coyotes are not large animals and rarely pose a threat to people. If a coyote approaches you, immediately use a noisemaker, shout, or wave your arms. You can make a coyote shaker by placing a few washers, pebbles, or pennies in an empty drink container.

Please remember as you are walking about with your pets, pick up after them. In particular, postal centers are not doggy restrooms.

**Daylight Saving Time**

On Sunday, March 10, at 2 a.m., daylight saving time begins. Clocks are set ahead, one hour.

Many fire departments encourage people to change the batteries in their

smoke detectors when they change their clocks as daylight saving time provides a convenient reminder. If you have trouble replacing your batteries, you may set an appointment with Marion County Fire Rescue personnel to replace the batteries by calling 352-291-8000. You must provide the batteries.

You may also want to consider cleaning out expired medications at this time.

**Be Aware**

Solicitors are ramping up their efforts within the community so be vigilant. They are getting in by doing legitimate work for a resident and taking advantage of that access and also, by walking in, avoiding the gates. When you are approached, get as much contact information as you can to report to law enforcement and/or Resident Services.

**Ocala Open**

Don't miss the Ocala Open at the Candler Hills Golf Course. The charity Pro-Am will be held Tuesday, March 19, and the Pro Tournament will be held Wednesday, March 20 through Friday, March 22. The event will showcase the golf course and highlight some of the world's best men's professional golfers while benefiting local charities specifically, Hospice of Marion County, Inc., and Interfaith Emergency Services.

**Health and Safety**

As you know, Florida is experiencing unprecedented population growth, and On Top of the World Communities and Marion County are experiencing this exponential growth as well. Our beautiful active adult community is growing daily, and we are on a mission to grow the safety of our community as well! Having a bystander trained in "hands only CPR" can make all the difference and possibly save a life.

On Top of the World Communities realizes this and has made it their mission to invest time, money, and much effort

in order to achieve the prestigious designation of a "Heart Safe Community," by training employees and residents to do their part. On Wednesday April 3, we are planning a huge "hands only CPR" class for residents at The Lodge at Candler Hills. This event will help us reach our goal of training 15% of our residents and put us over the top for our "Heart Safe Community" certification! So far, we have over 150 people who have pre-registered for April 3 and we need more to join us to meet our goal.

We will have professional first responders from the Marion County Fire & Rescue (MCFR), the Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) and of course the Florida Department of Health assisting us in this life-saving event. Please come and bring your friends and neighbors to help make our community a safer place to live! We hope to see you there!

**Resident Services**

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

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

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

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

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

**After Hours Non-Medical Emergencies**

On Top of the World (Central) Owners Association members, please notify Resident Services first before contacting an outside contractor for repairs such as roots in water lines, sewer backups, sprinklers damaged by mowers, etc. If it is after normal business hours and you experience some manner of a non-medical emergency, we ask that you please call 352-236-OTOW (6869) for assistance.

Even though Resident Services is closed, the number is answered 24 hours a day and you will be able to speak with an after-hours representative, who, based on the reason for the call, will provide direction or dispatch an after-hours person.

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## Community Patrol

Rocky Pizzarello



The Community Patrol received two questions during the month. Thank you for asking.

**Q.** Can I ride in the "cop" car?

**A.** For liability reasons, the only people allowed in the Community Patrol car are the volunteers who have applied, been vetted by the Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) and trained for the Community Patrol. However, if someone is caught in the act of misbehaving, we are in contact with MCSO during our shifts and can call for a deputy who might give you a ride in a real cop car! Short answer, apply, get vetted and you can ride in the Community Patrol car.

**Q.** How much does the Community Patrol add to my monthly maintenance fee?

**A.** Absolutely nothing! Because we are MCSO volunteers, the cars, insurance, maintenance, training, gas, etc. are paid for by MCSO. The drivers are all residents and give freely of their time. As an example, during December 2023, the Community Patrol had 33 volunteers driving 67 shifts and contributing 137 hours. For the year 2023, there was a total of 3,665 volunteer hours for the Community Patrol - almost the equivalent of two full time employees!

In December 2023, On Top of the World generously sponsored a volunteer

appreciation luncheon with about 70 people attending, including the Community Patrol, CERT, and MCSO. Mary Anne Lynum thanked the groups for their partnership with On Top of the World for the common goal of keeping all of us safe. Sheriff Billy Woods lauded the groups for all they do on behalf of MCSO.

During our monthly January meeting, Lieutenant Robbins from MCSO discussed call statistics from 2023 for Marion County, the SW Regional District, and On Top of the World. We are a safe community for several reasons, including controlled access, awareness and vigilance of our own neighbors, the Community Patrol, and the proximity of MCSO. He also revealed that MCSO recently hired a motorcycle patrol unit dedicated to enforcing traffic laws, especially on SR 200. The deputy also patrols On Top of the World roads, so drive as if you don't want to personally meet him! We were reminded that there is no construction allowed on Sundays, so if we or you see someone at a construction site, call the MCSO with details of what was observed.

If you'd like to join the Community Patrol and help keep On Top of the World safe, visit [marionso.com](http://marionso.com) > Become a Volunteer. There you'll find a page with descriptions of volunteer activities and a link to the volunteer application. Or, if you'd like to check us out before deciding, please join us at our monthly meeting on the fourth Monday of each month at 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. For more information, please contact Allison Cranmer at [otowcommunitypatrol@gmail.com](mailto:otowcommunitypatrol@gmail.com).



Photo by Mark Miller

Democratic Club board members Jenn Stebbins, Lynn Miller, and Jim Stormer getting prepared for our "Get Out the Vote" event for our March meeting.

## Democratic Club



Mark Miller

tant November elections.

As always, we will be supporting the Ocala Ritz Veterans Village with much needed donations. Following are the most-needed items: pillowcases, twin size sheets, twin comforters, 1.7 cubic ft. refrigerators, small microwaves, men's razors, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, lotions, shaving cream, and toilet paper. Food items needed include canned meats, canned chili, ramen noodles, mac & cheese, microwaveable rice, boxed milk, cereal, canned fruit, crackers, individual snacks, and coffee. They do not need clothing except for shoes. Please bring your donated items to our meeting.

If you can't come to the meeting, let us know and we'll do our best to get your donations to the Ritz, or you can drop them off before the meeting starts!

If you need a ride to the meeting, please call/email the club (info below) to arrange that at least three days before the meeting.

For more information, contact Mark Miller at 443-848-8549 or [demclubotow@gmail.com](mailto:demclubotow@gmail.com)

Hope to see you at our March 28 meeting!

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Photo by Dick Cowan

Marion County Memorial Honor Guard presenting the Colors at the Wawa grand opening.

## Veterans Club

Charles Calhoun



Honor is a key factor in a veteran's service to this country. For our Thursday, March 21 meeting we will have speakers from The Villages Honor Flight program. The program is now focusing on veterans who served during the Vietnam war. While still accepting World War II and Korean War veterans the largest portion of flights going forward will be predominantly from the Vietnam era.

All veterans who have gone on an Honor Flight say it was the most un-

## Community Emergency Response Team

Andrea La Fave



We welcome new members to this volunteer club. Learn more about the Community Emergency Response Team at [sites.google.com/view/otowcert/home](http://sites.google.com/view/otowcert/home).

You are invited to come to one of our meetings to look us over. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month, from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room. Call Debra at 412-443-2930 to confirm the next date.

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

## In the News

Petra Schmidt  
[otownews@otowfl.com](mailto:otownews@otowfl.com)



Each household in On Top of the World should receive a complimentary copy of the World News home delivered every month. On the day of publication (see schedule on page 2), home delivery begins early in the morning with completion around 1 p.m.

If you did not receive home delivery or you wish to stop delivery, please email (do not call) [otownews@otowfl.com](mailto:otownews@otowfl.com) with the following information:

- Neighborhood name
- House number and street name

On the afternoon of home delivery, a copy of the World News may be picked up at newspaper racks located throughout the community:

- All postal centers
- Resident Services
- New Home Sales Center
- Recreation Center
- Arbor Fitness Center
- The Club at Candler Hills
- The Lodge at Candler Hills
- Candler Hills Community Center
- Master the Possibilities
- On Top of the World Real Estate of Marion, LLC
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- The Ranch Fitness Center & Spa
- Indigo East Community Center
- Indigo East Fitness Center

Visit [ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala](http://ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala), to read the World News online or to view the publication schedule.

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forgettable experience of their life and just can't stop talking about it. Whether you are an Honor Flight guest or escort you will fondly remember this experience. This organization treats veterans like the true heroes they are, with police and patriot guard escorts to and from the airports both here and in Washington D.C. Spending the day touring the monuments that were built to honor our servicemen and women they will experience a day like no other.

The American Legion Post 354 will be supporting one of these flights along with other organizations and individuals. If you would like to get involved in this effort and support our local heroes, come to our Thursday, March 21 meeting at 3 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV.

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**United Healthcare**





Williamsburg neighbors enjoy the opportunity to meet and socialize with each other.

**Williamsburg  
Neighbors**

Nancy Meininger



The result of the annual planning meeting/brainstorming session was an amazing discovery – a wealth of ideas and talent no one expected was hiding right here in our neighborhood!

The secret that unlocked the treasure was the forming of the neighborhood's new steering committee. When people jumped in to offer their ideas, enthusiasm grew quickly and implementation of these ideas took place on the spot!

Plans moved forward quickly with an ambassador team to welcome new residents and inform all of activities coming up or ongoing throughout the year. The ambassadors each picked a street to oversee and within two days had stopped to visit all the residents under their domain. What they discovered was by caring about others and sharing what they had, brought great meaning to the task. Their energy was unstoppable! This activity was spearheaded by Tina Ross and Dee Null, assisted by Chris Belonger, Lynn and Bob Phelps and Charles Jacobs.

A new website, created by Nancy Meininger and brought to life and action by Earl Cook, webmaster, offers residents an opportunity to check an activity calendar, post pictures, make comments and reservations for the popular monthly night on the town neighborhood dinners. The website is williamsburgneighborsotow.com

The neighborhood also has its own Facebook page (Welcome to Williamsburg-OTOW) created by Sandy Matlock.

New events added to the already energetic roster were a Super Bowl game event overseen by Randy Ross and Tom Meininger, and a luau planned for Saturday, April 13 governed by the entire steering committee. Tickets for this highly anticipated event will be \$5 per person.

Brian McDonald's suggestion for a bocce group turned out to be a popular ongoing event – Wednesdays, at 4 p.m. This activity is overseen by Carmel and Dave Kessler who originated crazy miniature golf which meets at 4 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Adding to the fun, Bob Phelps arranged for a new cornhole meet every first and third Tuesday, at 4 p.m.

Hot summer days will offer cool movie nights thanks to Bob who will also be manning the projector for each of these events this summer.

Not scheduled yet, but slated for the calendar, are a couple of poker runs and bake sales plus several driveway happy hours and band concerts.

The neighborhood motto, "Williamsburg Rocks" continues to play out for 2024.

If you would like more information about this great neighborhood, please call or text Nancy Meininger at 352-554-0757.

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

Our next event is scheduled for Monday, March 11, at 5:30 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios. We will be presenting "The Mike Palma Show" with a little bit comedy, a little bit magic, a little bit ventriloquist. And, of course, there's 50/50.

Your \$18 per person reservation will include Mike's 75-minute show and a boxed dinner of sub sandwich, chips, cookies, and a small drink (bring additional beverages, as desired).

Reservations were due by Monday, Feb. 26. If you still would like to go, please email [avalonsocialclub@gmail.com](mailto:avalonsocialclub@gmail.com).

com to see if seats are still available.

Are you new to Avalon or our social events? There are three ways to keep informed of upcoming events: Email, our Facebook group, or posting at the postal center. If you would like to be added to our email list or to verify that you are on the list so that you can be notified of future events, please email your request to [avalonsocialclub@gmail.com](mailto:avalonsocialclub@gmail.com)

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

**GOING OUT OF TOWN?**

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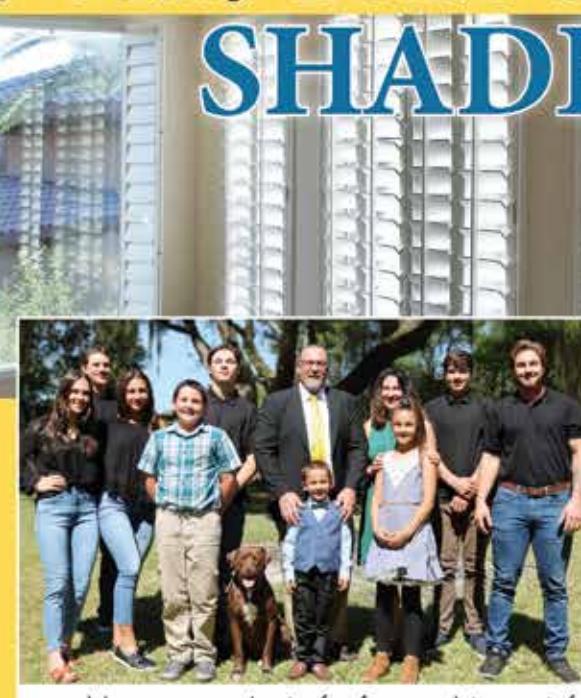
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**Newcastle Social Committee**

Nancy Monaghan



Howdy readers! Newcastle turned back the hands of time with a wild west murder mystery dinner at The Lodge at Candler Hills in February. Set in 1874, nearly 60 participants poured into the Deadwood Saloon for Deadwood's biggest event ever - a high stakes poker tournament, planned to bring much needed revenue to the saloon. Rumors, romance, cheating, gossip, greed, lies, suspicions, and accusations were flying as the tournament progressed.

Was the saloon going to be sold or would Banker Bob foreclose? Who would be the next owner if Harry High Stakes could not retain the saloon? The Saloon girls - very hard-working girls, did their best to keep the saloon afloat. They used every tool in their arsenal to sell dances to the gamblers, outlaws, travelers, and saloon patrons. The girls were able to relieve the gentlemen of what little money they had left by convincing the men to buy them drinks from Billy the bartender, who charged \$50 per drink and no freebies!

The evening took a criminal turn when the lights went out and a gunshot was heard. When the lights came back on, Mitch Maverick, a traveling businessman known to be sneaky, suspicious, and able to talk his way out of anything, lay on the floor. The accusations and lies went into overdrive as everyone tried



Deadwood Saloon girls 2024.

Photo by Nancy Neate Monaghan

to figure out "whodunit." After Marshal Dalton investigated and reviewed the evidence, Montgomery Money, a ruthless land investor who made some bad investments, was found guilty and Sheriff Sam locked him up.

As always, a great time was had by all. Deadwood had a very authentic saloon complete with a bar and swinging doors, thanks to Wolfgang Langer and his assistant Al Reisinger. Thank you to the Deadwood townspeople who prepared a delicious barbecue buffet. Special thanks to Alexis Dunwell and her team for their hard work planning and executing a fun,

well organized evening. Soon Newcastle residents will need more closet space for costumes and props!

Did you know wild west entertainment is not new to our area? Family friendly Six Gun Territory opened on State Road 40 in Silver Springs on Feb. 2, 1963. The Western-themed attraction drew thousands of visitors to the Ocala area during its 20-year lifespan. Six Gun and the nearby Silver Springs attraction were among the premier stops in pre-Disney Florida.

Six Gun Territory consisted of 40 actual buildings, not just front pieces

like you would find on a movie set. The property included a train, a mountain, a courthouse, saloons, jail, bank, hotel, cafeteria, schoolhouse, and a non-denominational church which was packed every Sunday. Shootouts, bank robberies, train robberies, can-can dancers, an Indian town, a Mexican town, horses, carnival rides and more were also part of Six Gun. Although Six Gun is now a shopping plaza, the Kirby Family Farm in Williston will host Six Gun Territory Wild West Weekend and Reunion in November. Road trip, Newcastle?

Happy trails to you ... until we meet again!

dent ID is required to attend bingo.

In addition, the Indigo East ladies luncheon committee is planning a Cinco de Mayo party on Thursday, May 2. More information to come.

Here are a few facts about the month of March. First and foremost, happy new year! Well, if you were born before 150 B.C., the month of March was the first month of the year on the ancient Roman calendar. Back then as it is now, December was the last month of the year. January and February were unnamed winter months. Today, March is the third month of the year on the Gregorian calendar.

March is the best month for basketball but the worst month for productivity. March is Women's History Month. We also celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17. St. Patrick was credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland in the fifth century. There are several tales and customs associated with St. Patrick. Nowadays, we celebrate St. Patrick's Day by wearing green in support for the Irish people. Some bars dye beer green because green is the national color of Ireland. Those from Illinois are familiar with the Chicago River dyed green every St. Patrick's Day courtesy of the Chicago Journeymen Plumbers Local Union 130 UA.

March 19 is the first day of spring. Time to get your clocks ready to spring ahead on Sunday, March 10, at 2 a.m. Enjoy all the month of March has to offer and as usual, I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood.

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- Friday, Mar. 29: Good Friday Service (2 pm)

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 Recreation Center

**Longleaf Ridge  
Friends**

Michelle Migdal, Kathleen Taylor, Debra Vitale &amp; Judi Walsh



Longleaf Ridge neighbors have reason to celebrate! The Summit, our long-awaited pool and recreation amenity, is finally on its way. To the excitement of everyone in our neighborhood, heavy equipment began clearing and moving dirt in early February. The new facility, scheduled for completion in 2025, will include two pools and a spacious multi-use clubhouse.

It's been over three years since the first Longleaf Ridge residents moved into our neighborhood. In addition to the adventure of making selections, furnishing, and decorating our brand-new homes, we enjoyed the excitement of meeting new friends and exploring all of the activities available to us at On Top of the World. There's golf, pickleball, tennis, fitness activities, billiards, games, dancing, educational opportunities, entertainment opportunities, clubs galore and so much more.

Many of us are retired and are enjoying hobbies that were shelved during our working lives. Many are pursuing interests and activities for the very first time. Many neighbors have decided to employ their newfound gift of time to give back by volunteering for worthy causes. Nan and Ken Key, Pat and Don Wright, as well as Donna and Roy Siegfried are a case in point. They embarked on two separate projects and produced two cookbooks with recipes gathered from neighbors. All time, supplies,



Photo by Stan Taylor

Robert Hilton addresses the Longleaf Ridge men's group about golf cart maintenance and safety.

printing, and design were donated. After four months of work, the second edition of the cookbook was recently made available for sale. The net proceeds of the project totaled \$2,600 and will be donated to Tunnels to Towers Foundation, an organization that provides assistance to the families of Gold Star recipients and fallen first responders.

In other news, the dining club continues to bring new neighbors together with "older" ones. Thanks to Eric Anderson for organizing this monthly get together. Carol Fiedler organized a new ladies' walking group. Each time they

meet, the distance traveled increases as well as the number of walkers. Book club members brought their spouses to Jane Stona's house for a holiday potluck dinner. Ladies also branched out into the world of mah jongg. Thanks are due to Anna McGonical for providing lessons to novices.

With the changing of the men's group guard in 2024, Joey Ferris and Joe Kennedy have switched things up. Golf carts were the topic of discussion on a sunny, blustery day at an outdoor lunch with guest speakers Robert and Kristi

Hilton who gave pointers on golf cart maintenance and safety.

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

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Carron Janssen

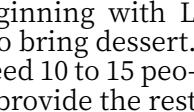


Friendship Connection is open to all residents of Friendship Colony, Friendship Park, and Friendship Village only. Our events are scheduled three times a year, on the second Saturday of the month, from 4 to 6 p.m.

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

**Americana  
Village**

Julie Sloat



Our community is such a great place to be! Many enjoyed a fun ice cream social and trivia game in February. Thank you to all who helped! Many helpers really made this gathering a success!

Our upcoming events and news will be posted at the postal center. Please be on the lookout. The Easter event will be Thursday, March 28, at the gazebo.

There are many opportunities to reach out and get involved. What a great way to meet people, help others and make a difference!

Call Julie Sloat with any questions at 814-720-5377.

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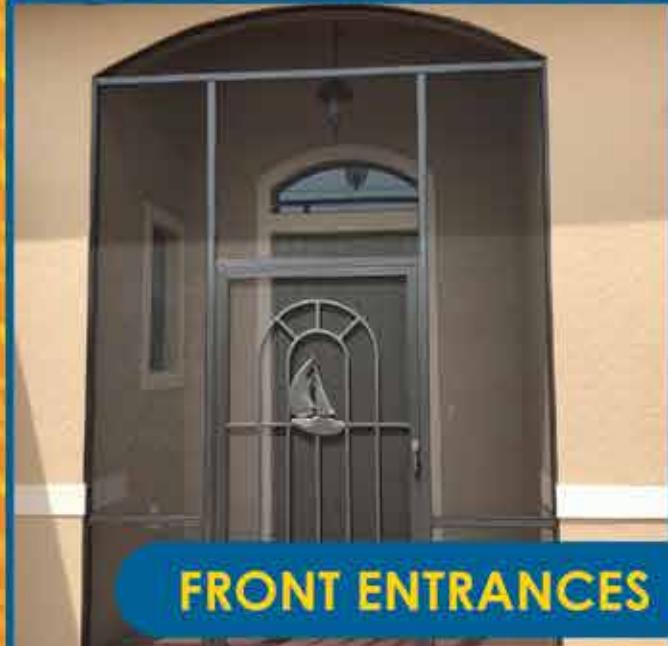
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**Active Newcomers Club**

Lori Lund



The Active Newcomers Club activity calendar is filling up fast. Our first members only large group activity of the year will be our "Spring Fling" on Saturday, March 16, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Recreation Center Ballroom. We will have a catered meal from Pasta Faire which will include one entree choice of either roast beef, chicken parmigiana, or vegetarian option. There will also be salad, rolls, mixed vegetables, penne marinara, and dessert. Iced tea and lemonade will also be included for only \$28 per person.

We will have Weybourne's own DJ, Howlin' at the Moon, dancing, photo booth, and raffle. We hope to have a great turn out of new and returning members.

Our small group activities are also growing. In addition to our dinner and lunch groups, wine group, bunco, games, and crafting groups, we have recently added a foodie group, men's golf group, and mah jongg groups for all learning levels. Our hiking group is off and moving. They plan two hikes per month, one easy and one more dif-



Photo by Suzie Lehman

Active Newcomers hiking group on the landbridge on the 49th Avenue Trailhead.

ficult. Brief descriptions of some of our small groups are at [activenewcomers.org](http://activenewcomers.org). Our small group director is Nancy Nowacki. If you are a club member and would like more information about joining one of our current small groups or being a leader of a new small group, you may reach out to her at the club email: [activenewcomers34481@gmail.com](mailto:activenewcomers34481@gmail.com).

If you are interested in joining the Active Newcomers Club, you can visit [activenewcomers.org](http://activenewcomers.org) and download an application. Each person in your household will need to fill out an application and include a copy of their resident ID or Gateway of Services pass, along with your check for \$20 per person.

You can then mail the form, with payment, and a copy of your Gateway of Services pass or resident ID to Active Newcomers Club c/o Dianna Gagliardi, Treasurer, 10591 SW 93rd Pl Ocala, Florida 34481 (Longleaf Ridge). If you would rather drop off an envelope containing

your registration materials, you can put the envelope in the lockbox on the porch of 10591 SW 93rd Place (Longleaf Ridge) or 8910 SW 75th Loop (Weybourne Landing).

The 2024 board of directors voted in at our annual membership meeting held in January are Ellen Attenson - president; Kathy Repenning - vice president; Dianna Gagliardi - treasurer; Anne McDowell - secretary; Terri Albright - membership director; Lori Lund - marketing director; Nancy Nowacki - small group director; and Noreen Wilson - at-large officer.

**Kestrel Knowings**

Elaine Morrison



included a talent show, a murder mystery dinner, a wine tasting, a block party, and several costume themed parties. Ticket sales for these events will now include a Saturday. The door-to-door flyers advertising each event will continue as they have proved to be very effective.

Chris Hofman introduced a new initiative which will be called "Kestrel cares." This will be a register of resident volunteers who can offer assistance and aid to their neighbors. Some of the needs might include driving for shopping and doctor appointments, cooking, taking care of plants and pets and providing respite for caregivers. Please contact Jan Eaton for forms and more information.

Discussion about the holiday dinner dance, which will be held on Saturday, Nov. 30, brought forth some new thinking about the event. Mark the date and stay tuned for further details. All queries should be directed to Jan Eaton at [jeaton1000@comcast.net](mailto:jeaton1000@comcast.net).



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LIFESTYLE

Vol. 37, No. 9

March 2024

SECTION B

## Pets of OTOW 2025 Calendar

By Dave DeAngelis  
World News Writer

Make your pet(s) famous!

Do birds line up outside on your window to catch a view of your stunning pet bird? Is your dog such a looker that it turns the heads of cats? Lemme guess ... cute little Smoochie would melt a camera lens, right? Does your cat intently stare at "Wild Kingdom" on television (and hopefully not at your pet bird)? Ah, this is your day! (Fade in ... "Hooray for Hollywood.")

Colen Built Development is thrilled to announce the call for entries for the "Pets of OTOW" 2025 calendar! We're looking for our pets who link us together as a community - connections that are made through dog walking, or conversations about the things we commonly experience with them.

This will not be just another beautiful places calendar. This will be a showcase for beautiful faces, ones with beaks, whiskers, feathers, fur and whatever. It's a stage for our pets to be stars and a channel for us to support the incredible work of Patriot Service Dogs, a local Marion County charitable organization founded in 2009 - [www.patriotservicedogs.org](http://www.patriotservicedogs.org).

For a small fee of \$5 per pet photo submitted, your beloved companion could become one of the celebrated faces gracing each month of the upcoming year. The smiles and warmth that you enjoy can now be shared with so many others, all year round. Here's what your pet needs to know. Be certain that they understand. Okay, I hear rumblings.

Never mind. Here's what you need to know:

**SUBMISSION WINDOW:** March 1 through March 31, 2024. Your pet simply will not forgive you if you pass this up.

**HOW TO ENTER:** Take a high-quality photo of your pet that showcases its charisma and charm. Visit [ontopoftheworldinfo.com/pets-of-otow-calendar](http://ontopoftheworldinfo.com/pets-of-otow-calendar) to upload your photo and share a little snippet about what makes your pet a superstar. Remember, the \$5 fee is for each photo of your pet submitted and directly contributes to Patriot Service Dogs, aiding their vital community work.

**COMMUNITY VOTES:** After the submission period closes, it's up to the community, to, oh boy, pick their favorites. Decisions, decisions. Rally your friends and neighbors to vote and help choose the pets that will become the celebrated faces of our 2025 calendar! The "Pets of OTOW" 2025 calendar is

more than a collection of dates. It's a celebration of the pets that fill our lives with joy, and a commitment to enrich our wider community through support for Patriot Service Dogs. Pre-orders for the calendar will begin in June and will cost \$20 each. Every calendar sold turns the page to a new chapter of support and care for those in need, thanks to your participation. Whether it is colorful, cute, playful, entertaining, or whatever look or talent your pet is gifted with - well, bring it on! Fame awaits! Not for my dog, though. Old Bernie has about as much charisma as the Easter Island heads.

Let's make this calendar a vehicle by which to convey the spirit and caring of our community with our very special pets leading the way. Grab your camera today (if Smoochie didn't melt the lens) and start taking photos of what you think are your pet's unique star qualities. No doubt, it will take a while for you to choose the best one. Oh, there are so many, so so many. Let's turn the spotlight on the pets and make our community a bright place for all! (Fade out ... "Hooray for Hollywood.")



## Who's Chili?

By Kathy Cornell

If you didn't make it to our January chili cook-off, you missed some fine vittles and great fun. Our cook-off winners were:

1: Peggy Taylor. 2: Jimmy Owens. 3: Gary Chilton. Runners up (in no order): Gregg Troy, Joe Marquis, and Linda Byrd.

Their culinary concoctions were varied and all very tasty. A skit about a chili cook-off at the state fair was our entertainment. Pat Casey showed off his over-the-top acting skills with Linda

Byrd and Kathy Nastally doing a fine job as supporting cast. It was a hoot and a half!

Football reigns supreme in Texas and we opted to skip our February meeting since it fell on Super Bowl Sunday. Though there wasn't a Texas team in the big game, there was a Texas Connection since Patrick Mahomes was the winning quarterback. For those of you who don't know, Patrick was born in Tyler, raised in nearby Whitehouse, and graduated

from Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

On Sunday, March 10 our room will once again be transformed into Armadillo Downs Racetrack for our annual horse races. Since the 13th and St. Patrick's Day follows soon after we will have a superstitious Irish meets Texas theme. We meet in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II beginning at 6 p.m. Feel free to arrive any time after 5:30 p.m. Please bring a snack to share (appetizer, munchie, dessert, etc.), your own beverage (alcohol is permitted) and dollar bills for betting on the races if you choose to participate. All race money goes to the winning ticket holders. We'll have our usual 50/50 drawing too.

Texas Connection is a club for residents who have a connection to Texas by being born and/or raised there; living there for work, college, or military service; spending time there for vacation, competitions, or for professional reasons; or having family living there. Spouses or partners who haven't been to Texas are considered honorary Texans by association. We have a great group of folks who are ready to welcome you and share our Texas hospitality and fun-loving spirit. For more information about the club contact Kathy Cornell at 352-300-3729, 352-562-2801 or [kcornell54@cfl.rr.com](mailto:kcornell54@cfl.rr.com).



Photo by Kathy Cornell

Chili cook-off competitors Gary Chilton, Jimmy Owens, Peggy Taylor, Joe Marquis, Gregg Troy and Linda Byrd.



Dee Collier, as Corrie ten Boom, performed at the Jewish Club meeting in January.

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She was eventually released on what was a clerical error. She was the only member of her family to survive the war.

Jay Wallet delivered the moment in time discussing the UN International Day of Commemoration to remember victims of the Holocaust, which this year was on Jan. 27. His thoughtful presentation also touched on other important reminders of the Holocaust and the contributions of famous Jews in that era.

Twenty club members enjoyed lunch bunch Tuesday, Jan. 23 at Mimi's Café. Attendees reported the food was great and catching up with fellow club members was even better.

Mother Nature interfered with the original date for bunco, but the night out was rescheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 30, with 16 members appropriately shouting out their "bunco" proclamations.

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

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

## The Jewish Club

Bruce Kanner



Dee Collier performed in front of 107 members and guests as Dutch woman, Corrie ten Boom, who with her family hid more than 700 Jews and Jewish sympathizers during World War II and helped them escape the Nazis. The performance at the first club meeting of 2024, held at the Arbor Conference Center, was timed to coincide with the annual UN Day of Commemoration to remember victims of the Holocaust.

Appearing in costume from the grey wig atop her head and laced-up pumps on her feet to the black clutch she carried, Ms. Collier – who has performed at the Jewish Club in the past as other characters – enthralled the crowd.

Ms. ten Boom (1892-1983) lived with her non-Jewish family in Haarlem, which today is the capital of the North Holland province of the Netherlands. Ms. Collier, as Ms. ten Boom, explained working with the resistance to acquire identification papers and the steps she and her family went through to build and secure a hidden room at their home. She was captured after the Nazis found the identification papers and imprisoned.

## Freethinkers

Ellen Callahan



The Freethinkers Club meets biweekly on Sundays, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room for educational programming followed by small group discussion.

In January, resident and club member Bob Layne presented "Effective Altruism" and "Giving Circles" to our members.

In February, resident and club member Paul Jenkins presented the history and current state of student loans and student loan debt in the U.S. We also welcomed Kevin Bradley, an educator, and a representative of the Final Exit Network (FEN).

This month brings two new programs that are sure to educate and inform (Sunday, March 3, and Sunday, March 17 with no meeting on Sunday, March 31). The Freethinkers Club also meets twice a month for lunch and dinner or ice cream! We meet weekly for bocce ball and have a monthly women's lunch group. We welcome all people on the secular spectrum from questioners to religious skeptics, humanists, and atheists. If you have any questions, please email us at [freethinkersflorida@gmail.com](mailto:freethinkersflorida@gmail.com).

## Christian Women's Club

Sandi Kemp



We meet on the fourth Saturday of every month for a delicious potluck, fun and fellowship. We have inspirational speakers and beautiful piano music provided by two of our talented members!

We meet in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II. Doors open at 11 a.m. and the meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. No reservations are needed! Just bring your potluck; drinks are provided.

We collect items every month for Interfaith Emergency Services, so if possible, bring something for this wonderful organization that helps so many people. Everything is needed, canned goods, instant milk, dog and cat food, personal products, cleaning products and clothes.

I encourage you to come to our next potluck! If you have any questions, call Sandi at 352-237-9073 (no texts, please).

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**Michigan Club**

Nancy Meininger



Michigan Club potluck meet and greet will be Sunday, March 3, at 5 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-III.

Put your Irish on (or wear your green Michigan Club shirt) and bring your favorite Celtic dish to share. Dance a jig around the Blarney Stone when you kiss a leprechaun under the rainbow on your way to this pot of gold meeting of fun and friends! You'll be entertained by the Dulcimer Group presented by member Carolyn Abramovich.

Bring a joke or two to share, Irish or otherwise, written on a 3x5 card. We love to hear our standup comedians!

If your name begins with A-K bring a protein dish to serve eight with a twist of Irish in it. Last name L-R bring dessert. Last name S-Z bring a vegetable or salad. Also, please remember to bring your personal place settings and beverage of choice (alcohol is permitted).

Many thanks to Sherry Kremer for organizing a lovely Red Heart Day in honor of St. Valentine. We all had a chance to clap and tap our toes to music of yester-year played by the Toppers Banjo Band.

Also, many thanks to Sherry and Alan Irvin, Carolyn Abramovich, Sandy Madincea and Terri Anne Dewery for setting up our serving and guest tables and cleaning up after each meeting. Their effort has been a huge gift to our



Photo by Nancy Meininger

Members wore red to celebrate their love of the Mitten State!

club!

Our Coney Island barbecue picnic is just one month away! It is our most anticipated event of the year! Mark your calendar - Sunday, April 7, at the Veterans Park. Get your tickets at this meeting. \$5 each. Sign up for your picnic side dish.

Michigan Cub is open to anyone with a tie to the Mitten State. If you have questions, please call or text Nancy Meininger at 352-554-0757.

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Deb Thompson

**New York/New Jersey Club**

Eileen Stewart



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

Only you can answer the first question. A resounding "yes" answers the last two questions.

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

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

**EMERGENCY AFTER-HOURS PHONE NUMBER**  
352-236-0TOW (236-6869)

The New York/New Jersey Club had a potluck to celebrate Mardi Gras and Valentine's Day. A game like Left, Right, Center was played using chocolate kisses. Items were collected for pets in need. We collected food, toys, cleaning products, and soap. A representative of Voices of Change Animal League (VO-CAL) made a presentation to the group.

April is our second annual poker run with golf carts. Members will collect cards at each stop and will hunt for eggs. The person with the best poker hand wins!

Our planned activity for March is a game night. There will be a variety of board games and card games available for use.

The New York/New Jersey Club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. We meet at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us.

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## Birders' Beat

Linda Monaco



Binoculars are probably the most important piece of equipment used by birders. If you are new to birding, you might be wondering what type of binoculars are best for bird watching. The Audubon Guide to Binoculars (found at Audubon.org) is a good reference guide for anyone wanting information about binoculars in all price ranges. Many birders prefer an 8x42 optic size because it provides a wide field of view and a bright image so it's easier to spot birds and follow them in flight. Our next group outing to Sweetwater Wetlands in Gainesville, Florida, on Thursday, March 28, would provide a wonderful opportunity to try out some old or new binoculars.

This city recharge park is a 125-acre habitat consisting of wetlands and ponds that was created to improve the water quality in the Floridian Aquifer and Paynes Prairie. In the park there are 3.5 miles of crushed gravel trails, wooden boardwalks and wildlife viewing platforms. There is very little shade in this park. The wetland park is located at 325 SW Williston Road, Gainesville, Florida, and is open from 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. There is a \$5 per car self-pay entry fee.

Our lunch restaurant will be the 43rd Street Deli located very near I-75 at 3483 SW Williston Road, Gainesville. Before we leave the parking area at Friendship Center, printed driving directions will be distributed for both destinations. The park and restaurant are approximately a 45-minute drive from On Top of the World. Plan to wear comfortable shoes and bring your hat, binoculars, sunscreen, water, camera, and bug spray. We hope you can join us on this adventure to a favorite area birding hotspot.

bers, have been an accountant or treasurer of an organization or club? You would be perfect to be our treasurer.

Are you good with Microsoft Word? Maybe you can be our publicity person and take over writing this column. It's not hard, I just look up some interesting or important facts on animals and write them in my own words. You may have some great ideas from other animal groups that you were in that would make us more successful.

Come to one of our meetings on the third Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Friendship Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, (9510 SW 105th St, Ocala 34481) to find out more about what we do and how you can help. You can also visit SPCAofMarionCounty.weebly.com; find us on Facebook (Marion County FL SPCA); or you call us at 352-362-0985.

This month I'd like to discuss some of the misconceptions and/or concerns



Photo by Tom Murray

Snowy egret.

## SPCA of Marion County

Melanie Vittitow



The SPCA is looking for a few animal lovers who want to help. I'm not talking about fostering. I know many of you already have one or two dogs or cats in your home and can't add another.

I'm talking about other positions in the group that are needed to keep us running smoothly. Do you like to talk and meet new people? You might like to be one of our greeters at the table we have at the Circle Square Commons Farmers Market on Thursdays.

Are you good with spreadsheets or emails? Maybe you could be our membership person. Are you good with num-

bers, have been an accountant or treasurer of an organization or club? You would be perfect to be our treasurer.

One common question concerns canned food versus dry. Both must adhere to governmental standards for vitamins and nutrition. Canned food has more water and fat than dry and is more expensive, but may be needed for picky eaters, older animals with fewer teeth, or for those with certain health problems, such as kidney disease. Dry foods might help with the tartar build up on teeth and are better for controlling calories in over-weight animals. Personally, to be on the safe side, I give my dog both.

Next, there is the question of "premium" brands. There are no standards, just what the manufacturer wants to claim. Many have no grains or added vegetables, but they come with no guar-

antee or proof that they are healthier than non-premium versions. Most claim "no by-products" but organ meats are by-products, and they often have more nutrients than muscle meats. Also, hair, hooves hide, horns, and intestinal contents are already banned by the Association of American Feed Control Officials, so that's not a consideration. My main caveat is to always buy products made in America, not China.

This information comes from the Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine. They have a blog where you can get information on the best diet for your pet. Check out [vetnutrition.tufts.edu/pet-foodology](http://vetnutrition.tufts.edu/pet-foodology).

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

## Southern Club



Melanie Vittitow

Our entertainment in March will be the Dulcimer Group. They have performed for us before, and we enjoyed it so much that we ask them back every year. They specialize in folk songs and mountain music but also play some favorites that we can sing to. With this being the month of St. Patrick's Day, we will probably be entertained with some Irish music as well. I certainly am looking forward to it.

Following the music will be a short business meeting. We must discuss the remainder of the year and especially ask for members to take up the running of the club since the current board will be retiring this year. The voting will be in April and installation in May, which is the last meeting for this club year. The new board has the summer to plan for next year. To end the meeting we have a 50/50 drawing for those who feel lucky.

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

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

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## Active Singles Club

Kathleen Flynn



Our first meeting of the new year got off to a rousing start. Fifteen new members introduced themselves and shared a little of their backgrounds. Several new and interesting activities will be available this year. A few of them are listed below.

Looking to discover our local parks? On Thursday, March 21, we will meet at Tuscarilla Park. From there, we will tour the Tuscarilla Historic District. We will walk by 17 historic houses. The walk will cover two and a half miles at a leisurely pace. The walk will take approximately two hours. After the walk, we will have lunch at Depot on Magnolia. Bring water and sunscreen as much of this route is on sunny sidewalks. This activity will be cancelled in case of rain.

Interested in kayaking but don't have a kayak? On Tuesday, March 26, we will

kayak with Lars Andersen. Our launch site begins near the main spring - Mammoth Spring - one of the largest springs in the world. We should see plenty of water birds, turtles, gators, and other reptiles. This will be an easy paddle. We'll be in the water for approximately two hours. Lars will discuss the natural wonders that line every inch of this run. We will only cover a couple of miles which will allow us plenty of time to drift, observe, and learn about the river's plants, animals, archaeology, history, and other wild lore. Wear clothing and shoes that you don't mind getting wet and dirty. Someone will contact you a few days before the trip to obtain your weight and height so Lars will be able to select an appropriately sized kayak for you.

On Wednesday, April 3, we will visit the Endangered Animal Rescue Sanctuary (EARS). Founded in 2001, EARS is a not-for-profit organization in Citra, Florida that exists specifically to provide excellent living conditions for previously malnourished, abused and even abandoned big cats and other domestic and exotic animals. We will see a variety

of animals on our one-and-a-half-hour tour. We will be walking on an uneven dirt path. After our tour we will have lunch at The Yearling Restaurant.

Be sure to sign up for Sunday lunches at Cody's Original Roadhouse. This is a popular event that fills up fast.

Want to visit a new location but would prefer to do this as a group? Our four activities committee members value your suggestions and would love to hear from you. Neil Sorenson, Norma Micheroni, Linda Wall, and Kathy Simens need your

input to help put together future events. Look for them at the next meeting or contact them via the club website.

Many thanks to Catherine White who authored the column for 2023.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 20, at 5:30 p.m. in the Indigo East Community Center. Our happy hour is directly after the meeting. Feel free to bring your favorite drink and a snack to share. Looking forward to seeing you there!

## SWANS

Sandi Dickerson



Hello all single women residents! If you are interested in joining a group exclusively for you, join us on Saturday, March 9 at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-III. You will learn about the history of the SWANS and hear what we have planned for the coming year. Please join us at 10 a.m. and find out about our beach, Biloxi, and monthly trips.

To obtain a membership form ahead of the meeting, please call Lois Nix for more information.

Breakfast out in February was held at Scrambles Cafe. Cheryl Whitely was the hostess and everyone who went said that the food was great! Lunch out for February was held at Mojo's. Shirley Handel was the hostess for the first one on Tuesday, Feb. 20 and Theresa Dougherty was the second hostess a week later Tuesday, Feb. 27. Mojo's is always very good and most of us love the atmosphere!

Pat Nice and Laura Lasky hosted a February dinner out at Chili's on Thursday, Feb. 15. This event was well attended, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves!

Many "thanks" to Cheryl, Theresa, Shirley, Laura, and Pat for arranging these outings for the SWANS. These events don't happen without our volunteers!

A group of SWANS got together to go to the Ocala Golf Club and see The Edwards Brothers on Tuesday, Feb. 6. Everyone was amazed at the level of talent exhibited by these two. The Cher impersonation was particularly impressive.

After the show the group went to Mesa de Notte for dinner. Dinner was enjoyed by all, as usual!

In April, we will be heading to Biloxi, Mississippi! On Saturday, May 11, we will host our spring barbecue at the pavilion by the softball field. Also, in May, we will be heading to Daytona Beach for one of our three outings to Daytona each year. These trips are always lots of fun with plenty to do. Such nice getaways!

The generous SWANS support women and children in need all over Marion County. Our support has been given to the Ocala Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Center, Interfaith Emergency Services, Brother's Keeper, Arnette House, Romeo and Dunnellon Elementary Schools, Helping Hands, Ina A. Colen Academy, The Rock, Operation Shoebox, and Hospice of Marion County.

Our next membership meeting is Saturday, March 9, at 10 a.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-III. To remain a member a new membership form needs to be returned. Please remember that you may join the SWANS at any time! We always welcome new members and new ideas! If you are interested in joining us, please contact Lois Nix for more information. SWANS are never alone and never forgotten!

## What's Cookin'?

Elaine Morrison



Anyone who was born and bred in the South most likely cut their eye teeth on this dish. For those of us whose culinary repertoire did not include the delicious combination of spices, ingredients, and method of preparation of this lovely chicken dish, you are in for a treat. Serve it over white rice with an accompanying green salad and you will have some kind of feast.

**TIP:** Make a day ahead for even more developed flavor.

## Country Captain Chicken

12 bone-in, skin on chicken thighs  
1/4 cup all-purpose flour  
1/2 teaspoon paprika  
1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper  
2 teaspoons kosher salt, divided  
1/4 cup butter, divided  
2 tablespoons vegetable oil  
1/2 cup chopped flat leaf parsley  
2 cups chopped onion  
3 cups chopped bell pepper  
2 garlic cloves, minced  
1-1/2 teaspoons curry powder  
1 teaspoon black pepper  
1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg  
2 (14.5oz) cans chopped tomatoes, undrained  
1/2 cup raisins  
Toasted slivered almonds for garnish

Combine flour, paprika, cayenne and one teaspoon of salt in a large Ziploc bag. Place chicken thighs, a few at a time, in the bag, and shake to coat. Discard bag when all thighs are coated.

Heat oil and half of the butter in a heavy pan. Add chicken thighs, a few at a time, and brown on both sides. Remove to plate.

Add onion, parsley, peppers, garlic, curry powder, black pepper, nutmeg and remaining butter and one teaspoon salt to reserved drippings in the pan. Cook over medium heat, stirring often, until onion is tender. Stir in tomatoes and raisins.

Bring the mixture to a boil, reduce heat to medium and return chicken to pan. Cover and simmer 15 minutes, or until chicken is cooked. Garnish with parsley and slivered almonds.

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## Eco Gardeners

Phil Karcheski



(bush, lima) cantalope, carrots, corn, cucumbers, okra, onions (bunching), southern peas, radish, squashes, and watermelon.

The topic of "no till" gardening is becoming popular as a labor and money saving option for weed suppression in gardens. Tilling a garden brings weed seeds to the surface to sprout and grow, is detrimental to the earthworms, microorganisms, and helpful bacteria that work together to bring life to the dirt you grow in. Earthworms and other ground dwellers work through soil, creating channels for air, water, and nutrients to easily pass through.

Better options for weed control include mulching. Using mulch in your garden will stop weeds and help plants, the decomposing mulch adds texture and nutrients to the soil and will suppress weed germination and reduce the time it takes you to weed.

Another is weed barrier material, as the fabric suppresses the weeds. Low flow sprinklers or drip irrigation are very effective, as spot watering deprives the weeds of water.

Finally planting a cover crop during the off season mitigates weed growth. Before next crop planting you simply cut the cover crop down and plant your next crops right through to the soil below. These methods conserve water and improve the soil. Working with nature is easier and better for our environment. Be kind to your garden and it will reward you in return.

The next Eco Gardeners meeting is Monday, March 18, at 1 p.m. All residents are welcome to attend. More gardening tips and information are posted on our Facebook page (OTOW Eco Gardeners).

Keep digging and planting.

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Photo by Phil Karcheski

Pine straw mulch.

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**Scandinavian American Club**

David Wesenberg



Our thanks to District Commander Lt. Ryan Robbins of the Marion County

Sheriff's Office for bringing us up to date on criminal activity in Ocala during our January meeting.

Our February meeting was themed "patriotism," an apt topic for a Scandinavian American Club. We celebrated the coming of our ancestors to America and the contributions they have made.

To help us celebrate, we were enter-



Photo by David Wesenberg

Lt. Ryan Robbin, district commander from Marion County Sheriff's Office at the January meeting of the Scandinavian American Club.

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tained by the Toppers Banjo Band with American songs from every genre from the Civil War to today.

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Our Tuesday, March 26 meeting will

be a special Scandinavian program prepared by Paul Knol. If you have seen previous programs planned by Paul, you know we will be in for a treat.

What a great opportunity to meet new people, share stories and experiences, and have a great time.

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

**Lions Club**

Gail Morris



Time is running out!

Lions Club Casino Night is happening at Circle Square Cultural Center on Sunday, March 10, from 5 to 8 p.m. It promises to be a fun evening. We've added an extra table this year. There will be roulette, craps, Texas hold'em and black jack. Casino Party Planners of Florida will be supplying the tables and dealers. The dealers will be happy to show you the ropes of whatever game or table you would like to try (you must be over 21 to play).

Tickets are \$50 per person, which includes \$300 in fun money and light snacks from Wawa, and a cash bar will also be available.

There are four different tickets and four ways to win (must be present to win). There will be a 50/50 drawing (red - a raffle for a liquor wagon; blue - the contents not the wagon; and green - a basket raffle).

The gamers will be "paid out" in white tickets. On the gaming end we have been able to secure some great prizes: an adult trike, a large 55" TV, a one-person fold up kayak with accessories, Michael Kors and Tommy Hilfiger bags, a \$200 money tree, a lottery scratch off tree, a men's watch and a beautiful handmade cross stitch Afghan. Who knows, maybe

more?

Tickets will be available for purchase at the Recreation Center craft show on Tuesdays, from 9 a.m. to noon; Circle Square Commons Farmers Market on Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Recreation Center bingo on Wednesdays, from 3 to 6 p.m.; First Federal Bank (Circle Square Commons) on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; or from any Lions Club member. All tickets must be purchased before the event.

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

If you are not a big gamer then come and watch your friends play, socialize, and purchase some raffle tickets for the gift baskets which our very talented Lion Charlie Hassett has put together, including a couple of golfing baskets, a "back in the day" basket and others, or buy some tickets for our 50/50 drawing or for the liquor wagon. This event is our major fundraiser that helps us provide items such as school back packs (Stuff the Bus), Thanksgiving meals and other needs of Marion County veterans and children for the rest of the year.

The Lions Club is always looking for residents who want to help others and give back to our community. We meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 5 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room. Come visit and see what we are all about.

Contact P.D.G. Estelle Michelson, membership chair, at 352-861-7358.

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Chocolates for Valentine's Day!

## R/C LadyBirds



Linda Lohr

Twelve LadyBirds enjoyed a Valentine's Day meeting with chocolate! A luncheon has been arranged by Barbara Wright for Tuesday, March 5, 11:30 a.m. at the Depot on Magnolia.

The next luncheon planned will be in April at Southern Pig and Cattle Company. Details will be coming. Keep an eye out for emails regarding outings and more luncheons that will be set up in the future.

Gloria Scicluna has arranged for our group to see Jimmy Buffet's "Escape to Margaritaville" on Saturday, May 11, at 2 p.m. at the Ocala Civic Theatre. The tickets are \$30, but the club will provide \$10 for any member who chooses to attend. The upfront \$20 from each member is due as soon as possible to secure our seats. Contact Gloria for more information at 352-237-7439. We plan either an early lunch before the show or an early dinner afterwards.

Our club is open to all wives and significant others of the R/C Flyers. We will meet, for the 2023-2024 season, the second Friday of each month, September through May, at 10 a.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room. Please come, bring your choice of beverage, and join us! Our dues are \$10 per year. We are working on setting up adventures and guests for the coming year!

Our next meeting is Friday, March 8, at 10 a.m.

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We look forward to seeing you soon!

## Travel Toppers

Mary Lamp



and the Dora Canal on Saturday, April 27. The price is \$68 per person. Call her at 352-390-2386. The Father's Day St. Johns River cruise on Sunday, June 16, is still open. The cost is \$98 per person. If interested, call Allan Rickards at 352-216-0528 to reserve, beginning March 4.

The Cirque du Soleil performance on Sunday, March 3, and the Tampa Bay Downs trip on Saturday, March 2, have been sold out. If interested in being wait listed, call Linda Hein at 352-861-9880 for the first or Gail Ambrose at 954-614-0898 for the second.

All these trips include the event, transportation, and driver tip. All trips are to be paid by check only and are nonrefundable unless there is a wait list.

An additional trip still available is the trains and balloons trip to Colorado and New Mexico Oct. 7 to 19. The trip includes the International Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta. If interested, contact Linda Hein at 352-861-9880.

Also available is our 2025 Valentine's Day cruise aboard the Celebrity Constellation from Feb. 9 to 16, 2025, leaving from Tampa with ports of call in Mexico and Belize. Linda Hein is also your contact for this trip.

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

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 wait list. As this club is a resident club, the board wants to give the opportunity to attend first to our own residents and if there is availability, a guest from the wait list will be asked if they are still interested in attending the trip.

We were very pleased with the interest shown our club at the recent Club Fair and are appreciative of the opportunity to talk to our neighbors about our club.

To update our Suncoast Broadway Dinner Theater trips: The Saturday, April 6, performance of "Cats" is wait list only, as is the Sunday, May 12, performance of "South Pacific." If interested in being placed on their wait lists, call Marilyn Wilson at 828-699-7587 for the first and Allan Rickards at 352-216-0528 for the second. We have already booked six shows at this theater for the 2024-2025 season. Watch this column for more information on these shows.

Diane Knox is now taking reservations for a Mt. Dora boat cruise on Lake Dora

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Photo by Ray Cech

Fascinating cloud formations over Candler Hills Golf Course Hole #12 in January.

## Women of the World

Colleen Rocafort



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

At our February meeting, we had the tap and Broadway dance groups join us for some exciting entertainment. This group of beginners through advanced dancers gave a wonderful, exciting performance. Penny Barton and her dance troupe added so much enthusiasm to each dance that the audience was tapping their toes along with this wonderfully talented group.

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

Please note that there is no March member meeting.

The annual Fashion Show and Luncheon for Hospice of Marion County will be held on Wednesday, March 13, at Circle Square Cultural Center. Tickets are sold out! Thank you in advance for your support!

This event is the biggest charitable event for our club each year. Proceeds

from the event will go to Hospice of Marion County and earmarked for the Nancy Renhart Center for Dementia Education.

100% of the proceeds from the raffle gift baskets go directly to Hospice of Marion County. Please consider donating a basket or items to make up a basket for the event. For questions concerning the raffle gift baskets, please contact Barbara Kocha at 352-896-5438.

Our next member meeting will be Thursday, April 18. Linda Norman from Voices of Change Animal League (VOCAL) is our featured speaker and VOCAL is also our featured charity. VOCAL is pet rescue and offers pet adoptions. At this meeting, our members will be voting on which charities will receive monetary donations from Women of the World. Let your vote count, the top six charities will receive between \$500 and \$1,000 donations.

Our last member meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16. Yvonne Phillips from the Feng Shui Institute will speak about feng shui and clearing clutter. Our featured charity is Share the Love, an organization which provides summer camps for local youth in foster care.

The club is open to all women residents with a resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. Our annual membership dues are \$15. Since we only have two member meetings left for the 2023-2024 club year, we do not collect dues from new members for the rest of this club year. There will also be no charge for guests.

If you are interested in joining us, please attend our next meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 18.

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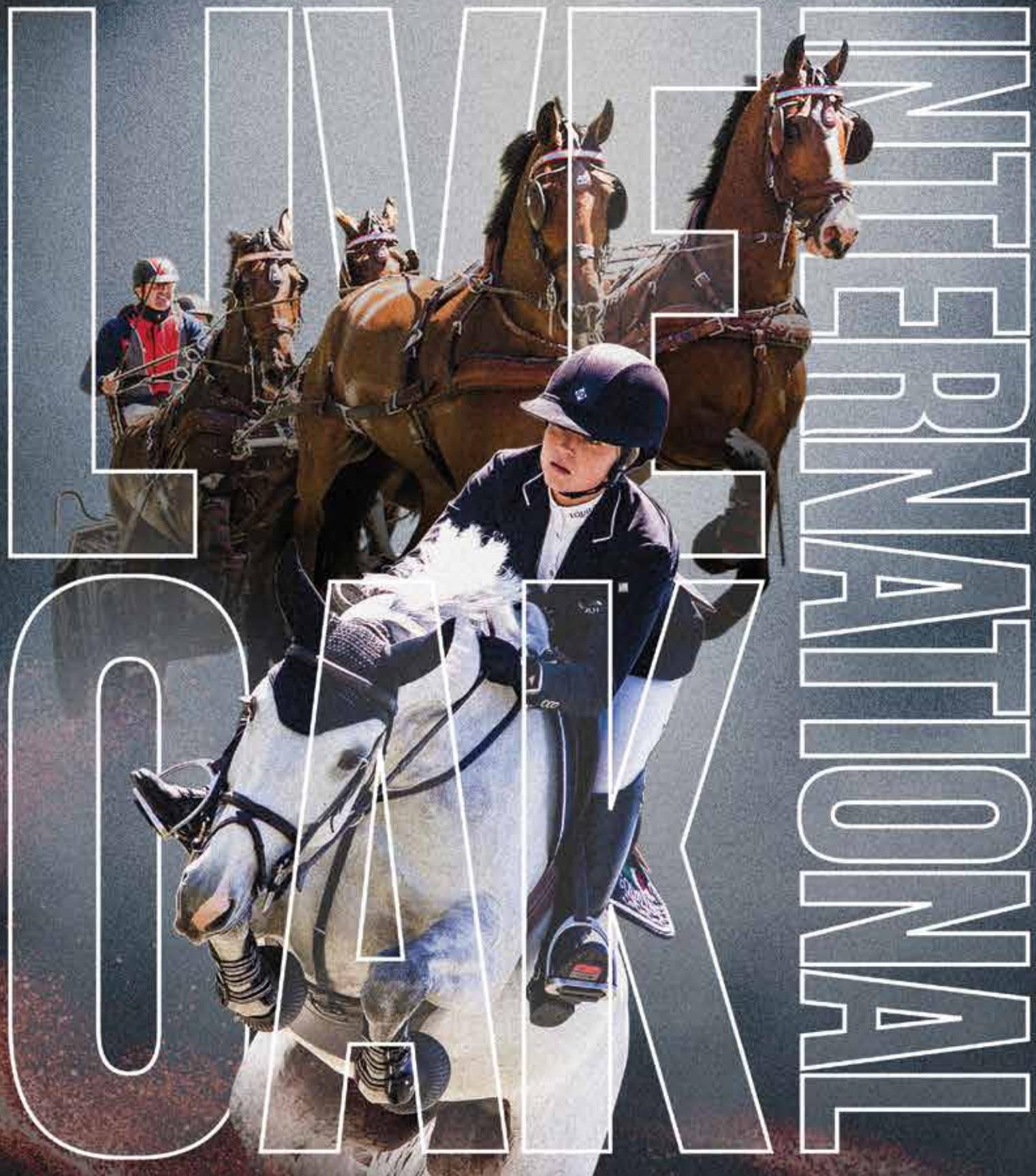
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## Fishing with the Hancocks

By Dave DeAngelis  
World News Writer

### Part II

If you read last month's Part I, you are ready for ... the rest of the story. If you didn't - Whaaat?

The sounds of the pitch-dark nights were simply those made by insects and frogs. Lurking around the darkness, one might encounter capybara and paca, both very large rodents, the giant river otter along with the eating machine caiman. Earl's son wore night vision aids to keep up with the activities.

Welcoming daybreak, parrots, parakeets, and macaws fought for center stage with their constant singing and yapping of their collective attempted individual arias. Then there were the howler monkeys with their behavior consistently predictive of howling when rain was imminent. Three-toed sloths? Yep. They joined in as animals to the party, perhaps party animals. Surprisingly, flies and other creepy insects that we deal with here don't exist there. There is nothing that would lure scavenging insects, the area is "so pristine." Even mosquitoes were absent.

Second rate fishing gear for this group? Fat chance. Gear for fishing on the Amazon from Amazon.com, perhaps. As mentioned, this isn't just about bringing a can of worms and a stick pole. We're talkin' sophisticated gear for some very interesting fishing. Team Hancock traveled with their personal fishing tools, specific to the type of fishing they would be doing. The rods are three to four pieces for travel purposes. You can't bring fish finders, drones, or a nightly news team because only

32-pounds of gear is allowed on the float plane. The right gear for the job. For this is an art - a challenge to one's concentration and patience.

Are those fish toying with me? Ha, just wait. A chess match. The guide nods and smiles. Your line suddenly hiccups. Get the camera ready. This one could be a dandy!

So, after a hard day of fishing, Team Hancock came back to their uncomfortable floating bungalows to slave over meal preparation. Yeah, right. Despite the remoteness of their location, the bungalows were equipped with a Wi-Fi hotspot, solar panels, air conditioning, running water for showers and cleaning, and plenty of bottled water. Their meals were prepared by a French chef! Fresh fish on the grill, beef, chicken, and desserts! Top Vegas acts followed - just kidding. About the Vegas acts.

On each trip, they visit indigenous schools. Pat brings coloring books and crayons to the children in the camps. Their fishing guide, in thanks, made a finely detailed necklace for Pat. The guide, born in Guyana, married a girl from a local tribe near their camp. His continuous thirst to read in English was sated by Pat, who brought publications in English for him to devour. He wanted to learn more of the team's residences, so Pat gave him a copy of ... yep, the World News! Thank you, Pat!

Okay, okay. What about the cliffhanger break in Earl's unplanned trip from Part I of Fishing with the Hancocks? Come on, the suspense has been building, yes? Picking up from where we left off, when Pat cast her line toward the wa-

ter, it got snagged in overhead growth. Coming to her rescue with the ultimate display of chivalry, Earl balanced on the side of the boat, reaching up to free her line. Oops ... he ended up in the cold, deep water, teeming with hungry fish with very sharp teeth. He admitted that, not knowing how close they could be, he was a bit apprehensive about the outcome of his chivalry.

Fortunately, the guide, uh ... fished Earl out of the water. Earl was good. All was good. Another successful and fun trip for our On Top of the World neighbors. Welcome back, and thanks for sharing your memories!

Oh yeah. Earl asked me if I'd be interested in joining them on a trip. Easy decision for me. No way. Nope. Nope squared. I get seasick typing seasick. And I just can't not envision, that, up ahead of the boat, that thing dropping down in front of me out of a Brazil nut tree isn't a clever timeshare salesperson in disguise - it is a really big, really unfriendly, really hungry smirking snake. And if I jump overboard ... well. All in my mind, they say. Nope. Wimpiness is the reality that's in my mind. I'll just enjoy viewing the gang's dandy photos right here on terra firma with Gerald who has been there, done that.



Photo courtesy of Earl & Pat Hancock

Earl Hancock with one of his many catches.

## And the Hits Keep Coming

By Dave DeAngelis  
World News Writer

Three years ago, Rick Munsell got wind of a guy, a self-described "simple grain farmer" from Wisconsin, whose profession is giving hitting clinics to softball players. The Wisconsin guy is such a successful batting instructor, with credentials par excellence (Senior Softball USA National Hall of Fame with 50 years of coaching experience) that the wait time to get into one of his clinics is three years!

Rick finally met this simple grain farmer, Ken Van Bogaert (Bogie) at his

hitting clinic in St. Pete Beach. Being so impressed with what he learned at the clinic, as well as being deeply committed to fellow veterans, Rick sent the Second Annual Veterans Softball Classic brochure, as well as a copy of the World News to Bogie hoping that he would consider bringing his clinic here to impart his highly successful batting techniques to the Veterans Softball Club. Despite the total of only six students normally accepted for Bogie's clinic, he, without hesitation said yes - absolutely no prob-

lem with 30, yep 30 veteran players attending. Bogie is a devoted supporter of veterans.

These 30 players, a little over three starting baseball lineups who attended the clinic on Jan. 6 at the softball field certainly got their share of batting swing adjustments, as well as the opportunity to meet a special guest, Gold Star Father Kevin Jensen. The clinic, normally one that spans two full days, was scheduled for three hours. It lasted six with Rick and Brad Youngberg of the Softball Club (who also attended one of Bogie's clinics) helping to teach the many technique-focused drills and exercises, with attention given to all players, individually. On hitting a softball. At each unique batting station. Techniques that would defy logic - at least, to this writer. Videos made of each player to critique their swing, before and after. All of this with

Bogie offering to continue to evaluate batting technique videos sent to him - for life - at no charge.

How about the costs incurred by Bogie by his drive from his clinic in St. Pete Beach, and costs associated with providing the clinic here? Nope, nada, nichts, onay argechay ... he did it gratis. The simple grain farmer from Wisconsin supports our veterans. He was also very impressed with On Top of the World, our community news and all the announcements and activities that are available to us as he read them in the World News.

Ocala is known as the Horse Capital of the World. Okay, some folks from Lexington, Kentucky would claim the same title. But heck, with the ever-growing softball programs here, who knows? We might, one day, claim two titles. Keep the hits coming!



Photo courtesy of Rick Munsell

Rick Munsell and Ken Van Bogaert (Bogie).



Photo by Rick Munsell

Wayne Kiser.

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## Golf

## Matt Hibbs

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Candler Hills Golf Club.

## World Accolades

**CANDLER HILLS:** Jim Shipley, hole-in-one #5. Betsy Maugherman, eagle #1. Lynn Maugherman, shot best round ever 79. Dave Metzger, hole-in-one #13.

**THE LINKS:** Rudy Normandin shot 80 four strokes under his age. Bob Monroe, eagle #16.

**THE TORTOISE & THE HARE:** Dwight Weirich, eagle #5.

Congratulations to all!

## Golf Tip of the Month

How many of you have a consistent pre-shot routine? This is critical to becoming a more consistent golfer no matter the circumstances. Take these steps to setup the perfect pre-shot routine.

- Pre-shot routines should be 30 seconds or less.
- Step behind the ball and visualize the shot.
- Take a deep breath and relax before addressing the ball.
- Find your target and address the ball.
- Waggle a few times before swinging to keep your muscles relaxed.

Remember everyone's pre-shot routine is unique in his or her own way. Use these five tips to help develop a consistent routine for every swing you make. Hopefully this will help you control your emotions and become a more consistent player.

## Shuffleboard

## Walt Lamp



The next introduction to shuffleboard class will be Saturday, March 9, at 11 a.m. at the Veterans Park. Paul Hodges is the instructor. He will highlight the rules, scoring, safety, and the basics of shooting the disc. Open-toed shoes are not permitted.

Our Ten Pin session had two new 30-plus members with Amy Kuzo and Robert Sapiro.

January  
Men/Women

Tuesday (p.m.): Lou Fisher & Johnny Pachin/Jane Boyer. 30-plus-Larry Anderson and Cassie Pachin. Thursday (a.m.): James Smith/Annette Hodges.

[ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala](http://ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala)

Candler Hills  
Men's Golf

Rick Pettit



Denise know if you are interested. They can always use extra people to help in some way.

## Two-Man Low Net

Jan. 9

A/B Flight 1: 66-Brian Gauthier, Billy Scholp. 68-Dave Falcone, Ray Christ.

A/B Flight 2: 62-Ken Franks, Tom Zimmer. 64-Tie-Robert Walker, Larry Gibson and Joe Schuberth, Mike Kelly.

C/D Flight 1: 67-Dennis Kissen, Joe Pruss. Tie at 68-Gerry Messenger, Bill McElroy and Ken Zwelback, Robert Dellapenna.

C/D Flight 2: 66-Mike Erickson, Bruce Rothenberg. 68-Lynn Maugherman, Dennis Huber.

## Quota (Individual)

Jan. 23

Flight 1: 5-Wes Wendt. 4-Dave Falcone. 2-Jeff Richardson.

Flight 2: 7-Jeffrey Holmes. 4-Patrick Mezyk. 0-Ron Wages.

Flight 3: Tie at 1-Larry Gibson, Mike Cunningham. 0-Steven Rudolph.

Flight 4: 7-Don Edmond. 4-Ira Burns; 3-Ray Christ.

Flight 5: Tie at 4-Virgil Jajalla, Larry Smallwood, Lynn Maugherman.

Flight 6: 1-Rick Ceroven. 2-Tim Beaty. Tie at 3-Howard Gluckman, Gerry Messenger.

Flight 7: 6-Hal Levine. 1-Jim Nicholson. Tie at 0-Joe Pruss, Robert Dellapenna.

Flight 8: 6-Richard Ross; 2-Dutch Schulze; Tie at 0-Dennis Huber, Paul Randles.

I leave you with this, " If you drink, don't drive. Don't even putt." - Dean Martin

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In-Patient Hospital	\$110 per day 1-6, Then \$0	\$175 per day 1-6, Then \$0
Comprehensive Dental Annual Dollar Maximum	\$3,500 Annual Mzx	\$2,500 Annual Max
Durable Medical Equipment costs	\$0 (Except 20% on motorized scooters & wheelchairs)	20% Coinsurance
Vision	\$300 Allowance per year for Eyewear	\$250 Allowance per year for Eyewear
Transportation	48 one-way trips annually to clinical and pharmacy and grocery locations	No
Over the Counter Items (OTC)	\$150 every 3 months	\$60 every 3 months
Dental, Vision and Hearing Flex Allowance	\$500 annual benefit	No
Prescription Drug Benefits	Standard Retail	Standard Retail
Preferred Generic Drug Copay (One month supply)	\$0	\$0
Generic Drug Copay (One month supply)	\$0	\$5
Preferred Brand Drug Copay (One month supply)	\$35	\$45
Moffit Cancer Center	Yes	No
The Villages Health	Yes	Yes
Shands Hospital / UF Health	Yes	Yes

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

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**Men's Golf Association**

John Yenne



Through its monthly Chicken Day event, the Men's Golf Association (MGA) donated \$2,501 to Hospice of Marion County in February as part of its historic fundraising effort. The MGA has contributed tens of thousands of dollars to Hospice over the years. During February's Chicken Day event in the Recreation Center Ballroom, Hospice of Marion County CEO Rick Bourne, and annual gift manager, Kari Hamende, individually greeted and thanked MGA members. Players contribute to the Hospice through their Chicken Day scramble entry fee, which includes a fried chicken lunch after the competition. The contributions to the Hospice first began years ago by members "buying" mulligans during Chicken Day, which is held on the first Wednesday of the month.

Even today, members get two mulligans apiece during the monthly scramble. Hospice of Marion County is a not-for-profit, locally operated charity. The MGA was founded in 1986 and has been a longtime contributor.

Put these upcoming Wednesdays in your calendar:

- March 6: Chicken Day Scramble (The Links)
- March 13: Four Clubs and a Putter (The Links)
- March 20: Candler Invite (The

**Candler Hills Ladies 18-Hole**

Beth Wolinsky



Before 1939, golfers could carry as many as 30 clubs. When steel-shafted clubs were invented, the 14-club rule came into effect. Before a numbering system was assigned to the clubs, the clubs had names like spoons – niblicks, lofting and mashie. It must have been fun to hear a golfer say, "I used my niblick to hit that shot."

Several new members have joined our league: Carol Avery, Laurel Staiger, Jill Strey and Pat Williamson. We welcome these ladies!

On Tuesday, March 19, the Candler Hills LGA-18 will be playing in a reciprocal event with the On Top of the World LGA-18. It is always a fun event. There is no league play on Thursday, March 21 due to the Ocala Open but it is a blast to watch these men play.

Our league is open to any woman resident. If you wish to join, please contact our president, Lynn Colomb, at coach-lynn@aol.com.

Finally, believe, achieve, and enjoy golf.

**Low Gross/Low (Individual)****Jan. 11****Gross**

Flight 1: 76-Betsy Maughman. 79-Sandy Snyder. Flight 2: 88-Lynn Colomb. 90-Faun Doctor. Flight 3: 90-Karen Schroeckenthaler. Tie at 92-Virginia Combs, Kathleen Goodwin. Flight 4: 85-Angelita Jingco. 89-MJ Strelec. Flight 5: 93-Janelle Gluckman. 100-Toni Stevenson. Flight 6: 98-Jan Christ. Tie at 105-Roxiann Dwyer, Joann Delmar.

**Net**

Flight 1: Tie at 76-Dawn Carroll, Gayla Aldridge. Flight 2: 77-Page Falconer. Tie at 79-Diane Boston, Donna Herberger. Flight 3: 75-Judie Anderson. 76-Janette Sheil. Flight 4: 69-Mary A. Cunningham. 73-Liz Pruss. Flight 5: 75-Alexandra Rivera. 82-Nancy Zielinski. Flight 6: Tie at 77-Brenda Hofmann, Beth Wolinsky.

**Middle Holes Count (Individual)****Jan. 18**

Flight 1: 37-Christine Giza. Tie at 39-Michele Otto, Sandy Snyder, Gayla Aldridge. Flight 2: 36-Donna Herberger. Tie at 39-Lynn Colomb, Dawn Carroll. Flight 3: 37-Virginia Combs. 40-Kathleen Goodwin. 41-Judi McGuinness. Flight 4: 34-Mary A. Cunningham. 35-Janelle Gluckman. Flight 5: Tie at 39-Cynthia Gersten, Eileen Gustavus, Beth Wolinsky. Flight 6: 35-Joann Delmar. Tie at 41-Rosann Ross, Roxiann Dwyer.

**Scramble (Team)****Jan. 25**

56-Gayla Aldridge, Peggy Ellenberger, Jane Hall, Vickie Foster. Tie at 60-Donna Herberger, Janette Sheil, Chris McIntire, Carol Clark, Mary Ann Livingston, Laurel Staiger, Mary A. Cunningham, Eileen Gustavus, Linda Taylor, Judie Anderson, Virginia Madura, Rosann Ross, Beverly Ovrebo, Maryjo Lock, Cynthia

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Tortoise & The Hare)  
March 27: Individual Quota Points  
(The Links)

**Black Tees 3 Best Balls****Jan. 31/The Links**

201-William (Bill) Truby, Mike Ball, Richard Deschenes, Tary Bole. 202-Rusty Rhodes, Paul Stoecklin, David Emmons, Michael Dwyer. 203-Marty Brown, Michael Almon, Paul Snyder, Lance Davsko. Tie at 204-Don McCrimmon, Gerry Messenger, Bruce Green, Raymond Hendrix; Joe Polizzotti, Art Olerud, Robert Kuhl1, Eugene Paradis. Tie at 205-John Spielvogel, David Fosdick, Paul Randles, Fred Visnaw; Lynn Maughman, Roger Sparks, David Wohlleber, Mike Clancy; Brian Henderson, Steven Rowell, David Hannasch, Clarence Higdon. 207-Joe Aldridge, Dwight Weirich, Stuart Martin, David Garland. Tie at 208-Anthony Morris, Mike Erickson, Frank Giordano, Jim Kurlapski; Charlie Taylor, Brian Wilder, Jim Nicholson, Thomas Kujawa; Ruben Alvarez, Marvin DeBerry, Larry Turner, Leonard Ruble; Bryan McCleave, David West, Gary Hassett, Bob Lang.

**Chicken Day Scramble****Feb. 7/The Links**

Tie at 54-Norm Hayworth, Gary Hassett, Rick Schriewer, Tim Williams; Larry Manion, Mark Beauchamp, David Hannasch, Bob Lieberman. Tie at 55-David Fosdick, John Parnau, Philip Petrozella, Tom Mullaly; William (Bill) Truby, Michael Almon, Robert Kuhl1, Clarence Higdon; Kent Johnson, Sam Feola, John Owen, Bob Lang; Thomas Mansfield, Dwight Weirich, Ralph Norton, Leonard Ruble; Kevin McGuinness, Stephen Scott, Tom Fragapane, Woodland Wilson. Tie at 57-John Atwood, Dale Budd, Danny Newby, Alan Theusch; Don Ropel, Brian Wilder, David Garland, William York. Tie at 58-Rusty Rhodes, Howard Gluckman, Gary Bugielski, Douglas Cannan-



Photo by John Yenne

The MGA board presents a \$2,501 check to the Hospice of Marion County at the February Chicken Day lunch.

201-William (Bill) Truby, Mike Ball, Richard Deschenes, Tary Bole. 202-Rusty Rhodes, Paul Stoecklin, David Emmons, Michael Dwyer. 203-Marty Brown, Michael Almon, Paul Snyder, Lance Davsko. Tie at 204-Don McCrimmon, Gerry Messenger, Bruce Green, Raymond Hendrix; Joe Polizzotti, Art Olerud, Robert Kuhl1, Eugene Paradis. Tie at 205-John Spielvogel, David Fosdick, Paul Randles, Fred Visnaw; Lynn Maughman, Roger Sparks, David Wohlleber, Mike Clancy; Brian Henderson, Steven Rowell, David Hannasch, Clarence Higdon. 207-Joe Aldridge, Dwight Weirich, Stuart Martin, David Garland. Tie at 208-Anthony Morris, Mike Erickson, Frank Giordano, Jim Kurlapski; Charlie Taylor, Brian Wilder, Jim Nicholson, Thomas Kujawa; Ruben Alvarez, Marvin DeBerry, Larry Turner, Leonard Ruble; Bryan McCleave, David West, Gary Hassett, Bob Lang.

201-William (Bill) Truby, Michael Almon, Robert Kuhl1, Clarence Higdon; Kent Johnson, Sam Feola, John Owen, Bob Lang; Thomas Mansfield, Dwight Weirich, Ralph Norton, Leonard Ruble; Kevin McGuinness, Stephen Scott, Tom Fragapane, Woodland Wilson. Tie at 57-John Atwood, Dale Budd, Danny Newby, Alan Theusch; Don Ropel, Brian Wilder, David Garland, William York. Tie at 58-Rusty Rhodes, Howard Gluckman, Gary Bugielski, Douglas Cannan-

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## R/C Car Club



John Schoenherr

Congratulations to the R/C Car Club 2024 board: John Schoenherr, president; Terry Altman, vice president; Fred Penichet, secretary; Linda Piscitelli, treasurer; Dave Johnson, race director; Mike Main, track manager; and Harry McKinley, safety officer. Running the R/C Car Club requires a lot of volunteers and hours of work. But the board is only one part of the whole team. To manage the racetrack, run the races and keep the club going requires many more volunteers.

The R/C Car Club conducts two organized races each week, Wednesday, and Saturday. Winter race times start at 1 p.m. Summer races start at 9 a.m. Preparing for race day begins the day before each race when the track maintenance team inspects the track for any hazards and fixes what is broken. The club owns several pieces of equipment that need periodic maintenance and repairs so that they are ready to run on race day.

Several hours before the start of the race this same team is at the track making any last-minute repairs and preparing the track for racing. This includes blowing debris off the track, setting up the marshal stations, hooking up the track gate that is connected to the computer system and testing everything.

Several volunteers serve as administrators for the races, preparing the sign-up sheets, posting race times, posting race results, and keeping the drivers informed of when their race will start. At the end of the races the results are printed and then uploaded to the club Facebook page.

During the race several members will take turns calling the races over the speaker system and letting the drivers know how the race is progressing and warning when there is a hazard on the track.

Each race requires three marshals in the field to monitor the race and to return crashed cars to the track. A starting team is also required at the start line to line up the cars, give the drivers notice that the race will begin and then communicating to the announcer/computer operator that drivers are ready.

And, of course, at the end of the day all the equipment needs to be put back into storage and the premises cleaned up.

For more information about the R/C Car Club races contact John Schoenherr at 608-477-3420. Happy racing.

**January**

MudBoss-Larry Ericksmoen. Truggy-Paul Burrey. Pan car-Doug Stansbury. Traxxas-Phil Paquette. Touring 17.5-Mike Main. Limited touring 17.5-Terry Altman. Two-wheel truck-Terry Altman. Four-wheel truck-Fred Penichet. Two-wheel buggy-Phil Paquette. Four-wheel buggy-Paul Burrey.

**Winter Season**

MudBoss-Tony Severino. Truggy-Tom Murphy. Pan car-Dave Johnson. Traxxas-Matt Corcoran. Touring on road-Bob Herbst. Touring 17.5-Roy Macomber. Limited touring 17.5-Dominic Papa. Two-wheel truck-Ron Kaulfersch & Bob Melzer. Four-wheel truck-Bob Melzer. Two-wheel buggy-Chuck Frederick. Four-wheel buggy-Jim Siltman.

**RESIDENT ID CARDS**

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

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



Photo by John Schoenherr

R/C Car Club volunteers.

**Ladies  
Shuffleboard**

Lois Nix



The Ladies Shuffleboard Club had a table at the Club Fair. We are looking forward to having some of the women who stopped at our table to join us on either Mondays at 5:30 p.m. or Wednesdays, at 9 or 11 a.m. Please no open toed shoes. We will assist any new member with the basic game and safety rules. We are open to all women with a resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

**GOLF CART REGISTRATION**

Bring golf cart, resident ID and insurance policy (stating amount of bodily injury). All residents in household must be present.

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

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

The weather has not been favorable for us to shuffle; we cannot shuffle if it rains, courts are wet, or the temperature is 40 degrees or below.

Our weekly scores are recorded and at the end of the month Dee Caple posts the winners who won most games, and who scored the most 30-plus for the month. These results are posted on the bulletin board by the courts. Lois Nix won honorable mention for having four 30-plus

scores in the month of January. Scoring 30-plus is a challenge and when it is accomplished you can hear the cheering. We do have a good time. So come join us.

**January**

8-Dee Caple & Kathy Harcup. 7-Barbara Russell, Diane Carlyon, Jane Dormanen & Sandy Welch. 6-Judy Huffman & Kathy Carle. 30-plus-Marilyn Berger & Lois Nix.

See you on the courts. Happy shuffling.

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**Tennis****Jorge Privat**

352-387-7539

As for traditional tennis, we are all doing better with the new committee which is organizing new activities and promoting tennis in different ways. Don't forget that starting March 3, the University of Florida men's tennis team is having a series of meets with other big schools. Admission is free for such a great entertainment.

Just to stress the importance of the receiver's job in doubles, I would like to give you this tip.

**Table Tennis****Athena Drewes**

Welcome back snowbirds! You are returning at a fun time of year with lots of opportunities to enjoy the many clubs and activities our community has to offer. Look at our Table Tennis Club and get back into the swing of things!

Our Monday and Tuesday doubles evening slots (6 to 8 p.m.) are the most popular times, but we also have lots of other opportunities with beginner level doubles, Tuesday, 1 to 3 p.m.; singles, Friday, 3 to 5 p.m. Ladies doubles/singles, Monday, 1 to 3 p.m.; doubles Wednesday, 10 a.m. to noon; singles, Friday, 1 to 3 p.m. All level doubles Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, 1 to 3 p.m. All level singles Wednesday, 1 to 3 p.m. Intermediate singles/doubles Wednesday, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Advanced Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

We all play table tennis for fun and enjoyment. If you are interested in joining, annual membership is \$10, with applications available in the Arbor Conference Center Table Tennis room. Contact Director President Paul Stadterman, [ptstadterman@yahoo.com](mailto:ptstadterman@yahoo.com) with questions.

Fact: James W. Gibb was a British enthusiast of table tennis. He discovered, while on a trip to the U.S. in 1901, nov-

**Be Consistent**

If you don't return serve, there is no service break, and if you don't break serve, you don't win matches. Returning serve successfully requires concentration, thoughtful planning, and careful execution.

Heroes need not apply: Be consistent, not flashy, and remember to hit shots in consideration of your partner's duties. Never become too predictable, sprinkle in a fair number of offensive lobs, a few balls at the net person and an occasional passing shot down the middle.

Stick to the shot that allows your partner to enter the point: The low, wide crosscourt that lands

no deeper than the service line. A deep service return in doubles is a poor choice if the server rushes the net because a deep ball is higher and easier to volley, in this situation you should hit the return at his feet. A low wide return is more difficult for the baseline hugger to reach.

Plan the return in advance: Realizing that if the serve is good enough to create an emergency, you cannot execute your planned return because of the speed, spin or placement of the serve, a defensive lob is the appropriate response. Players whose strength is their return of serve, always know they are having an emergency and do not foolishly stick to the plan

that is no longer an option. They never allow themselves to get too ambitious for the situation. If they can get their racquets on a ball, they put that ball in play using the defensive lob whenever necessary.

Don't be a "watcher" or a "wanderer": Don't stand around admiring your return. Follow it to the net, bearing in mind that even if the serve pulls you wide, if the server hits the next shot down the middle, it is your ball. Dirty looks at your partner are not permitted. He will enter the point when possible, but remember, he will not intercept low balls angling away from him.

See you on the courts.

elty celluloid balls. He found them to be ideal for the game of table tennis. Thus, the use of the current balls in table tennis. This change in the game was followed by E.C. Goode who, in 1901, invented the modern version of the table tennis paddle. He fixed a sheet of pimpled, or stippled, rubber to the wooden blade. Since then, rubber is used on all table tennis paddles, although many use smooth rubber rather than the stippled kind.

In the 1950s, a rubber sheet was combined with an underlying sponge layer applied to the paddles. This combina-

tion changed the game dramatically. This new combination introduced greater spin and speed to the game. These new paddles were introduced by sports goods manufacturer S.W. Hancock Ltd. Beginning in the mid-1980s, the use of speed glue increased the spin and speed even further, resulting in changes to the equipment to "slow the game down."

Table tennis has grown in popularity since 1901 to the extent that tournaments were being organized, books were being written on the subject, and an unofficial world championship was held initially in 1902. In those early days, the scoring

system for table tennis was the same as what was used in lawn tennis!

Scoring has come a long way since then, and we now play to 11, with a two-point edge over the opponent. A tied score of 10-10, is deuce, and serves change to one per side. Advantage is the score of one over 10. If the other side wins the next point, the score goes back to deuce. And the game continues back and forth until one side wins by two points over their opponent.

We look forward to seeing you. Come play table tennis and have some fun.



Photo by Athena Drewes

Saturday Table Tennis Club players.

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**Get Your Zzzs**

Human beings will spend approximately one third of their lives sleeping. Simply put, sleep is a cyclical process that allows the body and brain to rest. The concept seems straightforward, get comfortable, close your eyes, and drift off into a peaceful slumber.

However, simple as that sounds, sleep is a very complex process. Additionally, many people find that age related changes including retirement (less fixed schedule), medications and stress create barriers to quality sleep.

Fortunately, with advances in medical science, and a better understanding of sleep's complex process, there is more support to help you get your zzzzs. With the right balance of sleep quantity and quality, you can dramatically enhance your health and wellbeing. Here are some recommendations from the experts to help support both sleep quantity and quality.

1. Keep the bedroom cool, dark, and quiet. Your internal clock takes cues from the environment such as temperature and light exposure. As you begin to fall asleep, your body's temperature drops. Therefore, a cooler room signals your brain that it is time to sleep. The darkness will assist your brain in producing the sleep-inducing hormone melatonin.
2. Restrict caffeine and naps late in the day. If you absolutely need a nap, try to take it prior to 2 p.m. and keep it to 30 minutes or less. Naps decrease the body's "sleep drive" and makes it harder to fall asleep and stay asleep. Sleep drive stems from your internal clock, influenced by light and dark environmental cues. These are part of the circadian rhythm: the physical, mental, and behavioral forces we undergo in a 24-hour period.
3. Get regular physical activity. Exercise not only helps to mitigate stress, but it also increases your "sleep drive." It can help you fall asleep faster and stay asleep longer. However, exercising within three hours of your bedtime can have the reverse effect. Activity cues your body to stay awake and may interfere with sleep. For sleep promotion, exercise earlier in the day.



Photo by Cammy Dennis

Celebrating "Punch Out PD" one-year anniversary! PD fighters and their care partners came out to share support for one another while celebrating the one-year anniversary of the "Punch Out PD" fitness program.

**Cycling Club**

Dennis Baker



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

The club welcomes and accommodates all residents and guests interested in cycling regardless of cycling ability. Beginner, intermediate, or advanced? All are welcome!

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

Dust off your bike, grab your helmet, and let's ride!

# On Top of the World

# MARCH 2024 FITNESS

## RECREATION FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	SPARC MAUREEN	STRONG DENISE	Remix Bootcamp CARIN	STRONG BETSY	SPARC CARIN
8:00 am	Zumba® Gold-Toning ART				Dance Aerobics DENISE
9:00 am	S.O.S. TRISH	Stretch, Flex & Balance DENISE	S.O.S. KITTI	Dance Aerobics CARIN	S.O.S. TRISH
9:00 am			BEAT LORI		Chair Dance LORI
10:00 am	Balanced Body LARRY	Chair Yoga KATHY	Balanced Body KITTY	Chair Yoga KATHY	Balanced Body TRISH
10:00 am		Chair Yoga SANDRA	Chair Yoga CARIN		
11:00 am	Chair Dance LORI	Brain Power SP TEAM	Get Fit While You Sit JAN	Move to Improve Parkinson's SUE	Stretch, Flex & Balance CARIN
11:00 am	Zumba® Gold JOSE		Zumba® Gold KITTY		Dance Aerobics LORI
1:00 pm		Fitness Orientation*	Punch Out PD POPO COACHES	Balance Assessment*	
3:00 pm	VYP Chair Yoga JOE	Balanced Body SUE	Chair Yoga TRISH	Balanced Body DIANE	
5:00 pm		Hatha Yoga KATHY		Yoga SANDRA	

Recreation Fitness Center Hours: Monday-Friday 6:30 AM - 7 PM; Saturday 7 AM - 7 PM; Sunday 9 AM - 5 PM  
 \*Fitness Orientations and Balance Assessments are free. Space is limited. To schedule an appointment, please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7534.

## ARBOR FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	Beginner/Intermediate Tai Chi NANCY	Warrior MAUREEN	Intermediate/Advanced Tai Chi ART	Kardio Kickboxing MAUREEN	
9:00 am	Yoga SANDRA	Pilates Fusion CARIN	Yoga CARIN	Pilates Fusion HOLLY	Yin Yoga HELENE
10:00 am	STRONG MAUREEN	Yoga SANDRA	STRONG CARIN	Yoga LORI	STRONG JOE
11:00 am	Roll & Recover MAUREEN		Yoga TRISH		Fitness Orientation*
1:00 pm					

Arbor Fitness Center Hours: Monday-Friday 6:00 AM - 8:30 PM; Saturday 7 AM - 8:30 PM; Sunday 9 AM - 7 PM  
 \*Fitness Orientations are free. Space is limited. To schedule an appointment, please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7638

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

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

4. Be cautious with sleep medication and alcohol use. Sleep medications can have adverse effects

such as grogginess, confusion, and increased risk for falls. It is highly recommended that you consult with your health care provider for sleep medication guidance. Bear in mind that alcohol does not promote good sleep. That evening cocktail may help

initiate sleep, but it will likely interrupt your deeper sleep stages. This is because the body's ability to metabolize alcohol changes as we age and may cause waking in the middle of the night.

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**Cornhole Club**

Vincent Stevens



ner's session is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, beginning promptly at 1 p.m. To ensure individual attention, class size is limited, and reservations are required. Residents who would like to learn the basics of this very popular and exciting sport can submit names and e-mail address to otowcornhole@yahoo.com to reserve a slot in this session.

**OPEN PLAY:** All open play sessions continue to be busy with "full house" venue utilization at nearly every session. Effective Monday, March 11, open play times will change to 6 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. If participation levels continue at current levels, an additional open play day per week may be added. Ladies open play schedule has been amended to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays.

**LEAGUE PLAY:** We are hoping to start our mixed league competitions in early/mid-April, with options open for a men's league dependent on interest level. The ladies league individual matches are scheduled for 4 p.m. on Tuesdays.

**INTRODUCTION TO CORNHOLE:** The class conducted in February was successful despite the cold weather. Fortunately, the cold wind was tempered by bountiful sun which provided some relief. Fortunately, all participants survived to play another day. Our next begin-

**Elite Men's Softball**

Bryan Tully



In last month's update, we highlighted the outstanding contributions of team members John Herman and Steve Pennell.

After the update was published, I received some inquiries regarding his aka of "Slingshot." Steve's nickname was only recently acquired, coming during a game against team Legacy in which he was the victim of an extremely bad call by the base umpire. Despite the best of efforts in pleading his case, the call was not reversed.

As a result, with fiery indignation and contempt for the egregious error in judgment by the ump, Steve threw his cap out of total frustration. In that moment, the laws of physics and gravity ceased to exist at Legacy Field as his cap soared through the atmosphere. It was as if his baseball cap had been aeronautically engineered by Lockheed-Martin. Professional frisbee players would have been envious.

Years from now, when we are all feeble, we'll tell the story of how Steve Pennell got mad and threw his cap and swear it flew 80 yards. I was there, I witnessed it go up and over the first base

side fence, over the bleachers and then a second fence topped with barbed wire; by my estimation it was at least 23 yards. While Steve got bloodied by the barbed wire going over and coming back, the retrieval was a success. He didn't lose the cap and he's not going to lose the nickname, either.

Currently, presumptive league champion Stonecrest is running away with the division, sporting a 19 to 2 record. The Elite team is battling neck and neck for second place with Plantation, who has won multiple championships in the past. As this is our inaugural team in this incredibly competitive league, our position in the standings is truly remarkable. We highly encourage fans of the batted ball to come out and meet and mingle with our players. We're all available after a game to take photos, sign autographs, pet dogs, kiss babies or give sweaty hugs. There's a reason the league is called Sun and Fun. See you at the ballpark.

Upcoming schedule:

- Friday, March 1 (10 a.m.): Holiday Travel (home).
- Tuesday, March 5 (10 a.m.): Flatwoods (home).
- Friday, March 8 (9:30 a.m.): Legacy (away).
- Tuesday, March 12 (9:30 a.m.): Plantation (away).
- Friday, March 15 (10 a.m.): Plantation (home).

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## Weight Loss Group

Laura Gavey



Looking to lose weight and feel better while being supported by neighbors and friends? We have the group for you! The Weight Loss Group gets together once a week to share ideas on weight loss, healthy cooking, exercise and tips to meet our own personal goals. Follow the food plan that works best for you.

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

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

For questions and additional details, please email Linda at [lsisco@comcast.net](mailto:lsisco@comcast.net) or Beth at [tandbgreen220@gmail.com](mailto:tandbgreen220@gmail.com).

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**R/C Sailing Club**

Gene Mangold



Amidst the tranquil waters of Tuscarilla Park's race course, a new contender emerged, turning heads and setting hearts racing with excitement. It wasn't just any vessel, but the sleek and formidable International One Meter (IOM) sailboat. With 30% more sail area and a comparable displacement, it promised an exhilarating ride for any sailor daring enough to take it on.

The genesis of this newfound passion for the IOM came from an unlikely duo: Nub and Don Wright. Nub leaped by purchasing the first boat kit, while Don, a retired design engineer with a penchant for innovation, took on the assembly task. Little did they know this endeavor would lead to a revolutionary breakthrough in model sailboats.

Utilizing his expertise and a trio of professional 3D printers, Don set out not just to replicate Nub's IOM but also to enhance its design. With meticulous attention to detail and precision, Don crafted three hulls and an array of accompanying parts, from rudders to mast fittings.

The speed and agility of this newly minted IOMs on the Tuscarilla Park race course is breathtaking. It effortlessly outpaced the reigning champions of

**R/C Flyers Club**

Ray Ihlenburg



Pilot speak, Semaphore, Morse Code, the military alphabet, and radio protocol have one thing in common: consistency. Signal flags have certain meanings, dot-dot-dot is always S, bravo is always B and "over" means your turn to transmit.

The present-day fluidness in meanings does not work in arenas where precise meanings are important. This certainly holds true in aviation. I asked a good friend, and retired Navy P3 Orion pilot, Doug Juhl, about his thoughts on this topic. He responded: "The aviation community has always used a small vocabulary with words that have specific meanings. In the early days communication via radios that didn't work very well, limited by range, weather, and generally low fidelity, required communication using brevity and a set of common words."

Many R/C pilots have none of this type of training to draw on when we start out in this hobby. Additionally, an R/C pilot has no other means of communication than our ability to speak and hear. At the flying field, we can only listen for other pilot's verbal intentions and announce intentions in a loud manner audible at eight all pilot stations. This might be increasingly important when visiting another flying field. Once an R/C pilot takes a flying station, he essentially closes his "canopy" and becomes a pilot in command, responsible for the airplane and safety of those watching. His/her voice is the only means of communication between other pilots. Consistent terms, announced from the flight line, help to ensure the safety and understanding between the pilots.

If we listen to ourselves, there are phrases that can have several meanings such as "coming out" or "going up," especially when voiced as a question. Ask what do these phrases convey: Exiting the outhouse, asking a question, ready on a start-up table or on a taxiway/apron, getting on the runway? We typically understand the intension, but the words and equally short phrases listed below are pretty much as universal as dot-dot-dot or Bravo, whereas "coming out," "going up," or saying nothing, leaves room for wonder. Try the following and remember to wait for a response from the pilots in the air:

- Taxi out: Pilot wishes to taxi onto the runway.
- Taking off: Pilot is taking off.
- Full stop: Pilot will conclude flight following the landing.
- Low pass: Pilot wishes to pass the pilot stations over the runway at low altitude.

**On Top of the World NEWS**

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the fleet, the DF95s, and Focuses, leaving spectators and competitors alike in awe.

As word of the IOM's dominance spread, anticipation grew among the local sailing community. With the potential for a second start looming, the prospect of a dedicated fleet of IOMs became more compelling by the day.

Of course, challenges arose, as they often do in sailing. The onset of early spring brought gusty winds that tested the limits of all model boats, pushing them to their maximum capabilities. Rain showers threatened to dampen spirits, but resourceful sailors soon found simple solutions, like using plastic grocery bags to shield their transmitters and donning rain jackets to brave the elements.

Despite the obstacles, enthusiasm for the IOMs only continued to soar, fueling dreams of exhilarating races and thrilling victories on the horizon. With each passing day, the allure of the open water beckoned, calling forth a new generation of sailors eager to chart their course aboard these magnificent vessels.

Even though our "new girl in town" is turning heads, it is expensive, so the DF95 is the one we recommend for a new sailor. In addition, someone can find the popular Soling. Open Soling races are all over Florida, including The Villages and Inverness.

Racing every Wednesday and Sunday at noon for two hours; please call or text Gene at 772-678-5101 or Bernie at 816-678-3817.



Photo by Gene Mangold

IOM sailboat.

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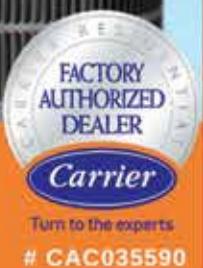


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Photo by Tamara Stanford

Black White Bling Ball in January.

## Line Dancing



Tamara Stanford

Line dancers began 2024 at a fast pace. We started preparing for the Black White Bling Ball soon after the new year by practicing the dances on the agenda. Some of the music had a 1920s vibe,

such as "Puttin' on the Ritz." Attendees were invited to wear outfits in keeping with the dance theme if they so chose. Kathy Cornell organized and hosted the event, held in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Many dancers volunteered to help arrange chairs, set up fans, distribute tickets for the drawings, and assist with dance steps. Turnout for the dance was great.

The Spring Hill Good Times Dance Social is an annual event popular with

central Florida line dancers. It is an opportunity to dance with friends from other communities. Line dance choreographers were in attendance to instruct the crowd on their newly released step sheets. It is especially interesting to be instructed by the person who designed the steps to the music they chose. The instructors provide insight on why specific steps work with the tempo of the music.

The dance workshops continue to

offer instruction on newly taught line dances and classic line dances. The Beyond Beginners workshop starts on Wednesdays at 9:15 a.m. Kathy Cornell's workshop begins on Friday, at 10 a.m. for one hour. There is also a 30-minute early bird class for requested dances.

Contact Darlene Miller at 352-259-3696 should you have questions about line dancing or visit [webuse.com/otow-dance/mail](http://webuse.com/otow-dance/mail). See Donna Gordon if you have questions about the website.

## Billiards Club



Phil Panzera

The Billiards Club will host a St. Paddy's Day dinner and dance at The Lodge at Candler Hills on Thursday, March 14. We've arranged some nice entertainment with a local dance class, who will put on an Irish dancing performance. Ticket sales at the billiard room end today, the date of home delivery, but we can still fit you in if you buy them no later than March 1.

You may wonder why we didn't we call it a St. Patrick's Day party? Paddy is

the shortened form of the original Irish spelling of Patrick, which is Pádraig, and for this reason is usually preferred over "St. Patrick's Day," or "St. Patty's Day."

Tip of the Month: Most of us would like to improve our game, but don't really have the time or patience to do drills or careful practice. But what if I told you that you could improve your game by at least 10% instantly, with no practice at all! I know, sounds too good to be true, but you do have to do one thing: read this tip carefully, remember it the next time you're playing, and then actually do it! Okay, make that three things.

The simple little tip is to just take more time aiming. It's not a race. You're not on a shot clock. Lining up until you feel "it's about there" is just not good enough! You need to dial it in, and fine

tune it like the radio stations when we were young.

Move the cue to "about there," but don't pull the trigger just yet! Continue to move the cue and both hands very slightly left and right until it "feels" precisely right. Visualize the ball not just going into the hole, but in the very center of the pocket. Like most professionals do, use several little micro-strokes (one to two inches) to confirm the alignment.

Longer strokes should not be done until you are perfectly aligned, and it "feels" perfect. Longer warm-up strokes are only used to warm up your arm and set your speed. If you do them before you're perfectly aligned, all you're doing is practicing sending the cue ball to the wrong place!

This is a super simple tip, but it takes

mental focus. If professionals generally take six to 10 seconds aiming, why are you shooting in three or four seconds? Are you better than them? Even professionals can't shoot accurately as fast as most all players shoot in our room.

Also, ironically many amateur players shoot even faster on harder shots! It's a bit of fear, coupled with, "I'm not going to make it anyway." Don't do that, fight harder, try harder, aim longer; "will to win" and all that.

So, do you want to improve your game by 10% almost instantly? Believe me that you can. Just take your time, and you'll be pleasantly surprised by how many more times you hear the words, "Nice shot!"

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Chloe Castellano, APRN





Photo by Jim Kalamaras

Poms Cheer & Dance performing at the Health & Wellness Expo in January.

## Ballet



**Eugenie Martin**

We all read articles that say something to the effect, "This form of exercise, dance, sport, etc. will keep you, the aging person, in better health and increase your longevity." I pretty much agree with that claim, unless, of course, your choice of exercise, dance, sport, etc. causes you to hurt yourself, or, for some reason, doesn't suit your body or way of life.

For example, you may not have the eyesight to play tennis well. Or, you may not feel comfortable working with exercise machines. I dislike most machines, including the computer on which I am writing this, so I steer clear of all exercise equipment.

However, many of us like to dance to beautiful music, and ballet is a wonderful way to do that. Our dancers are

## Bocce Club



**Paula Hammonds**

Bocce anyone? Bocce ball is going strong! Come see how the game is played, learn the rules, and have some good fun. You may have skills you didn't know you had.

We want to thank all the volunteers who stepped up to fill the officers' positions. The new officers for this year are Pam Brown, president; Bruce Trednick, vice president; Kathy Nastally, secretary; and Gary Schroeder, treasurer.

A special thanks to all outgoing officers for their hard work and dedication to the club.

We want to thank everyone who gets to the courts early. You do an amazing job of getting the courts complete and ready to play on.

Open bocce continues to be one of the hottest games in town. Open bocce play is Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, at 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Please arrive a few minutes early so that a count can be taken and numbers of players per court can be decided upon. Teams are decided by the luck of the draw. Anyone who shows up can play. However, as a new player, once you have played on three occasions you are expected to join the league or open play, pay dues \$12, and sign a "Release and Hold Harmless consent form.

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

The bocce banquet will be held Sunday, March 3, from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom.

The best of bocce will be played at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 23, and open best of bocce will be played Wednesday, April 24, at 8:30 a.m.

For further information, call Terry Connolly at 352-895-3866. Come by and check out the game.

## On Top of the World NEWS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthday, wedding or anniversary announcements may be emailed to [otownews@otowfl.com](mailto:otownews@otowfl.com) by the 12th of the month.

## Poms Cheer & Dance

**Pamela Kalamaras**



This month, our brand-new team of ladies are busy creating original and exciting dances and cheers. We are introducing more intricate formations while keeping technique clean and crisp. Flashy, professional pom-poms have been ordered to match our outfits and enhance our performances.

Pom dance requires precision. To achieve our exact, in-sync moves, we start off slow and gradually add more speed. Learning the words to our cheers and dances helps us to keep our heads turning and legs and arms moving at the same time. Our sport is all about communication and teamwork, with an emphasis on both fun and safety. We encourage laughter and having a good time while making sure to prevent injury.

Poms Dance and Cheer is available for short performances at club meetings, parties, and events. We would love to introduce our talented, hard-working team to the community. Or, if you are interested in being a pommie, please contact Pam at [pammykal@aol.com](mailto:pammykal@aol.com).

## On Top of the World NEWS

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Photos by Steven Carr

Pickleball color wars.

### Top Pickleball Club

Steve Carr



January has quickly become a distant image in our rearview mirror as we have worked through the cold, wet and windy pickleball play that January and February eternally brings.

### Meditation Group

Marilyn Wilson



Stillness! It often seems that stillness is an impossible task for many of us. It is challenging for us to take time to clear our mind's cobwebs, pause for deep cleansing breaths, or to gather with others for the health and wellness benefits of meditation.

To make this modality available exclusively to residents, we formed the Meditation Group. We meet every Tuesday, from 1 to 2 p.m. in the Arbor Activ-

In January, we had the fun of "color wars" and a social event. February also had a busy social roster full of activities.

New court usage including a better flow of players during busy play times from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday, was implemented in January and is waiting for additional input from a committee formed to find the best solutions.

Top Pickleball Club is also going to see transformable changes in the pickleball

training the club provides for free to all the members. The new approach will be implemented by our very experienced club training volunteers who are committed to providing a complete training program for all levels of play.

Additionally the board is looking to bring additional "outside" professional teachers to be used in the future to train in specific areas, augmenting the volunteer trainers in their pursuit to bring each member to their full playing potential.

So, if you are a current resident read-

ing this and your interest is sparked, make your way to the pickleball courts adjacent to the Recreation Center, Monday through Saturday from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Come see how the game is played. If you like what you see, come join us at one of our free introductory classes. These sessions are specifically for residents who want to learn about the fastest growing sport in the world!

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## The Art of Art Abandonment

By Ray Cech  
World News Writer

To walk into the home of resident, Elizabeth Copeland, might just give you the feeling that you're strolling the aisles of New York's Museum of Modern



Photo by Ray Cech

Elizabeth Copeland with some of her creations.

## The History of Shipping Perishables

By Jim Lynam

In the history of railroading, one of the biggest conundrums was trying to ship perishable goods via rail over long distances without spoilage. The first solution was perfect: only ship during the winter months!

The first companies to demand a better solution were the meat-packing industries. Chicago was the center for livestock processing, but the main market was over 1,700 miles to the east. In 1878, Swift and Company hired Andrew Chase to design a ventilated railroad car that was well insulated, and positioned huge chunks of ice in a compartment at the top of the car, allowing the chilled air to flow naturally downward. The ice was gathered from Lake Michigan during the winter and stored in warehouses until needed. The meat was packed tightly at the bottom of the car to keep the center of gravity low and to prevent the cargo from shifting.

Chase's design proved to be a practical solution, providing temperature-controlled carriage of dressed meats. This refrigerated car became known as a "reefer." This allowed Swift and Company to ship their products across the United States.

The fresh fruit and produce industry also required refrigeration of their products.

In 1875, Samuel Rumph, a Georgia peach grower, invented a refrigerated railcar and crates that allowed him to grow peaches on a very large scale and ship them to distant markets. His innovations created Georgia's fame for peaches.

California's fruit and produce industries also required reliable transportation to ship their products to eastern markets. By the turn of the 20th century, manufactured ice became more common. The Pacific Fruit Express with a fleet of 6,600 refrigerator cars was formed and operated 18 artificial ice production plants to supply the required ice. The Pacific Fruit Express was able to ship over one million tons of fresh fruits and vegetables on an annual basis.

In 1920 on the east coast, the Fruit Growers Express Company was established and was owned by a consortium of eastern railroads to serve the wholesale market for refrigerated produce de-

livered by railcar. In addition to operating and servicing refrigerated railcars, the company became a major manufacturer of insulated boxcars and mechanical refrigerated cars. In the latter half of the 20th century the ice-based system was replaced by mechanical refrigeration and chemical systems using nitrogen and "dry-ice."

In today's world the old "reefer" has disappeared, but in our world in the train room, the "reefers" are busy hauling perishable goods every day!



Reefer car being loaded with ice.

Very small pieces, like a painted stone or glass, might be left without an attached string.

Art pieces are left just about anywhere - a park bench, a walking path, dog park, restaurant, or left behind when checking out of a hotel room - all at the whimsy of the abandoning artist.

"Why do we do it?" Elizabeth Copeland said that it's all simple, really. "I do it and I believe my fellow artists do it because we feel it will bring a smile to someone who unexpectedly finds it. Maybe it's a cloudy day, or maybe the finder could just use a little boost. It is rewarding just picturing the finder's reaction," said Elizabeth.

Elizabeth's interest in the arts started when she was just a kid growing up in Texas. With her small Brownie camera, she loved taking pictures of people. "Whether they wanted their picture taken or not." But later on, a college instructor found her photographs to be exceptional and encouraged her to take it seriously - she did, and quickly found herself spending hours in her darkroom developing and editing photos.

Elizabeth started her ribbon-winning ways at the Texas State Fair. For more than 50 years she had been entering photo contests, and was regularly awarded ribbon honors for first place through honorable mention.

All the while, Elizabeth was a practicing nurse in obstetrics and gynecology and then hospice.

In 2012, Elizabeth Copeland and her husband Bud, retired to Sun City in Georgetown, Texas. With the advent of digital photography and the emphasis on art in Sun City, Elizabeth's attention turned to her second - now her first love, acrylic painting, concentrating on abstract and landscape subjects.

Then somewhere along the way, she discovered that artists would often share their work anonymously. The art of Art Abandonment caught her interest, and, as they say, the rest is history.

For the rest of us - keep an eye out.

For more information, follow Art Abandonment Florida on Facebook.

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

The 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, March 6, in the Hobby Building Event Room. If you have any questions, please call Jim Lynam at 352-861-2822.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

**Recreation****Shannon Prince**352-854-8700 ext. 7530  
shannon.prince@otowfl.com**Stay in the Know**

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

You must be a resident with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass to register for a trip or event.

**Recreation Center****Happy Hour**

Join us for Happy Hour every Friday from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. A cash bar is always standing by for your beverage needs. Enjoy the music, dancing, and The Pub. Resident IDs will be required for entry into Happy Hour and anyone not producing a resident ID will be considered a guest. Guest fees are \$5 per person. Children under the age of 15 will not be permitted into

**SCAN ME****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. Candler Hills Community Center 1:20 p.m.
Friendship Colony Post Office	1:25 p.m. Providence Post Office 1:28 p.m.
Avalon Post Office	1:33 p.m. Crescent Ridge Post Office 1:38 p.m.
Recreation Center	1:43 p.m. Americana Post Office 1:49 p.m.
Friendship Post Office	1:54 p.m.

**AFTERNOON DESTINATIONS**

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

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

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

#9801 - 2/24

For information, call 352-789-5666.

Happy Hour. Please note that no outside beverages of any kind will be allowed.

The entertainment lineup is as follows:

- March 1: Groove 41
- March 8: Tim Hargis
- March 15: The BadKitty Band
- March 22: Solid Gold
- March 29: The Mudds

**Cruise-In Mystery Happy Hour**

The Cruise-In Mystery Happy Hour is Tuesday, March 12, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Recreation Center. Bring a lawn chair. Bar and food truck will be available onsite. This is a free event.

**Ladies Night**

Join us Tuesday, March 12, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. This event is free to residents and \$5 for guests. Bring your own beverage and food. See you there!

**Tropic Trivia Night\***

Trivia takes place the first Thursday of every month. The cost is \$5 per resident and \$7 per guest attending with a resident.

**February**

1: Gray Matters. Tie at 2: Bold & Brassy and 9 is Enough.

**Karaoke**

Karaoke is always fun! Join us every second Thursday, from 5 to 7 p.m. This event is free to residents and \$5 for guests accompanied by a resident.

**Ballroom Dance Class\***

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

**Room Booking Meeting**

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

**Dress the PART-y Night\***

The themed Latin PART-y Night has been rescheduled from Friday, March 8 to Friday, May 24, from 4 to 7 p.m. with Groove 41 as the entertainment. Your \$15 ticket covers three tacos, your choice of beef, chicken or pork, beans, and rice, all the taco fixings and a queso fountain with chips. A margarita cash bar will be available in addition to drinks at The Pub. Dress the part!

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

**The Lodge at Candler Hills****Happy Hour**

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

- Saturday, March 2: Solid Gold
- Friday, March 8: Double Trouble
- Saturday, March 16: "Disco Night" with Groove 41
- Friday, March 22: Dennis Dobash

Bring your own beverages and snacks. On disco night come dressed for the occasion in your favorite disco attire (optional). A prize will be awarded to the best disco outfit. This event is free for residents and a \$5 guest fee applies when accompanied by a resident. Children under the age of 15 are not allowed.

**Golf Cart Safety Class\***

The Colen Built Development safety team is conducting a very important golf cart safety class on Wednesday, March 6, from 2 to 4 p.m. This is a free class to all residents.

**Social Night**

Let's get social on Tuesday, March 12, from 5 to 7 p.m. with Dave Shepard. Enjoy light appetizers (while supplies last). Bring your own beverages and sit back and enjoy the sound of music. This event is free for residents and a \$5 guest fee applies when accompanied by a resident.

**Trivia\***

How much do you think you know? Come test your knowledge by joining

us in a night of trivia fun on Thursday, March 28, from 5 to 7 p.m. with the Palomino Blonde, Wendy Petersen. This event requires the purchase of tickets - \$3 per resident and \$5 per guest when purchased by the resident.

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

**Indigo East Community Center****Happy Hour**

Come and join us for a good time with your friends and neighbors from 5 to 8 p.m. This is a free event for residents and \$5 per guest. Bring your favorite cocktails and snacks. Enjoy the upcoming entertainment.

**Pool Party\***

Join us in our own backyard pool with the entertainer Johnny Lobo who plays a great variety of music at the Indigo East Fitness Center on Tuesday, March 19, from 1 to 4 p.m. Bring your favorite beverage and snacks. This event will be catered by Fresh Plates Creative Catering. The menu includes assorted sandwiches, potato salad, coleslaw, cookies, brownies, and beverage station. The cost is \$17 per resident and \$20 per guest accompanied by a resident.

**Karaoke**

Sing your heart out! Enjoy the fun with DJ Frank Thursday, March 21, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Indigo East Community Center. This is a free event for residents and \$5 per guest.

**Social Hour**

Join us for two hours of easy listening with Casey Young while socializing with friends and neighbors on Wednesday, March 27, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Indigo East Community Center. Cheese and fruit will be offered to enjoy (while supplies last). This is a free event for residents and \$5 per guest. Guest must be accompanied by a resident.

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

**The Landing****Pool Party**

Have some fun in the sun with pool-side entertainment by Dynamic Duo on Saturday, March 9, from 1 to 4 p.m. and Friday, March 15, from 1 to 4 p.m. with Crystal Vision. Bring your snacks and your favorite drinks. Please note no glass bottles are allowed in the pool area.

**Hawaiian Luau\***

Come and celebrate the arrival of spring at the Hawaiian Luau on Sunday, March 10, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the ballroom. Dress to impress with grass skirts and Hawaiian shirts. Entertainment will be provided by Cheryl & Bruce Jensen. Bring your favorite summer dish to share. This event is free to residents and \$5 per guest accompanied by a resident.

**Social Hour\***

Come meet new people on Sunday, March 24, from 1 to 4 p.m. with musical guest Ben Simmons. Light refreshments will be offered, and you can bring your own beverage. This event is free to residents and \$5 per guest accompanied by a resident.

**Music Bingo\***

Music bingo with Tropical Trivia is on Monday, March 25, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the ballroom. Music bingo has six rounds, \$1 per round for your bingo card. The money goes into the pot and the winner of each round wins the pot. You can buy more than one bingo card if you choose. This event is \$3 per resident.

**Happy Hour**

Come join us for a night of dancing and socializing with your friends and neighbors. Happy Hour takes place on Thursday, March 28, from 5 to 8 p.m. Automatic is the entertainment for the evening. Bring your own beverage and table snacks. Let's have some fun! This event is free for residents and a \$5 guest fee applies when accompanied by a resident.

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



Photo by Mervyn Paz

Mervyn Paz displays one of her colorful handmade quilts.

### 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 through May.

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

This month we feature Mervyn Paz who has been a crafter since the first day she could hold a crayon in her hand. It's in the family, with her grandmother and mother both excellent seamstresses making play clothes to wedding gowns, for her as well, in their little town of Waycross, Georgia. Her Aunt Irma was a magician with the handwork needle arts; so, crochet, cross stitching, and embroidery were also on her plate from a very early age. Add to that the drawing, coloring, finger painting, and brush stroke painting in school, and you have a busy little crafter!

One day she was seen buying an armful of yarn (again) and the director of classes in the Michael's store asked if she would be interested in teaching needle arts. Classes were set up for cro-

chet, cross stitching, and embroidery right away. They made quite a few blankets which were donated to local homeless shelters. Soon she was asked if she would teach knitting classes - staying just a chapter ahead of the ones who thought she had been knitting for years.

One early morning TV quilting show featured the Friendship Star pattern, which the designer said is a good one for beginners. She took copious notes, bought some fabric, and made a Friendship Star quilt. She was hooked! Mervyn was so smitten with the quilting bug, that she left Michael's to buy a quilt shop where she could delight in fabrics, patterns, classes and longarm quilting every day. She has been piecing and hand quilting for about 25 years.

Having moved here in 2015, she enjoys playing golf and samba, including quilting in her home studio. Her long-arm machine is not computerized, so all quilting is done freehand. She has several baby/toddler quilts, larger lap quilts, and other quilted things for sale each week. She also enjoys making bed quilts and welcomes custom orders.

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

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

### The World News

#### Rubber Stamp Greeting Cards

Linda Lohr



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

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

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

Our next class is Thursday, March 7. Until then, keep on stampin'!

On Thursday, Feb. 1, Betty Webb presented two different cards as well as a gift card holder. One card featured a faux shutter, and the other card was made using up some scraps. Each card could very easily be restructured for any occasion.

We thank Betty for providing all the items, including stamps and papers, to complete all the cards.

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



Cards and gift card holder presented by Betty Webb.

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#15234 - 3/24

**Bingo**

Nancy Grabowski

Bingo continues to be a popular destination for residents on Wednesdays. The average attendance has been 220 folks who are eager to cash in on the winnings.

The bingo volunteers ready the Recreation Center Ballroom about 3 p.m. Our timing works in conjunction with the maintenance staff, who for safety issues, need the work space without impediments.

Once we're cleared to enter, the raffle ticket table is manned. The sales begin about 4 p.m. Tickets are sold in strips of three for \$1 or 10 for \$3. When the winning numbers are pulled from the tumbler, each one comes with \$20 to the holder of the ticket!

Bingo playing cards are sold, beginning at 4:30 p.m. Each one is \$1 and the number you purchase depends on you! The cards have sliders, so no daubers or chips are needed to play; however, you do need your resident ID card to begin the purchase process. There is no charge for guests who wish to play and attend with a resident.

We play 20 games; game #10 is a cover-all minus one for a \$75 payout to the winner. Game #20 is a cover-all and the payout depends on how long it's been waiting to go home with someone; the minimum is \$110 while the maximum is \$250!

People arrive early to play; some can be seen reading, talking, playing cards, or munching on a favorite snack. Still others head to The Pub for an early dinner. Florida law prohibits alcoholic beverages from the bingo playing area. Beer, wine, and liquors can be enjoyed in The Pub or on the patio.

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, April 17, our next super bingo where winnings begin at \$75 for 16 different games and \$250 for four others. A baked sale, provided by Mary Beth Bell, will benefit the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard.

Hope to see you at Bingo real soon. If you need more information, contact Carl Folkers or Nancy Grabowski at 352-209-4699.

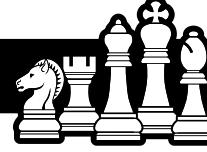


**EVENTS/ACTIVITIES**  
Events and activities that take place behind the gates of On Top of the World are for residents and Gateway of Services passholders only.

**BOTANIC GARDENS:  
A WORLD IN BLOOM****MARCH 27, 2024****INSTRUCTOR: DR. GIOVANNI ALOI****10 - 11:15 AM | LIVE OAK HALL | COURSE #: SPE252****MEMBER \$11 | GENERAL PUBLIC \$16**

In this talk, Dr. Giovanni Aloi explores the history of botanic gardens in the west, focusing on key historical moments, new technological advancements, and not so known important roles these institutions played in the history of colonialism. The presentation focuses on the Kew Botanic Garden in London, New York Botanical Garden, Chicago Botanic Garden, and the now-lost botanic garden that until 1902 completed the West Wing of the White House.

**REGISTRATION AVAILABLE ONLINE 24/7 AT  
MASTERTHEPOSSIBILITIES.ORG OR CALL (352) 861-9751.**

**CARDS & GAMES****Bridge**

Nancy Grabowski

**Monday Afternoon**  
By Carol Johnson & Rik Saffol**Jan. 8**

1: Mar Valchin & Bruce Gillett; 2: Craig Ford & Mike Meirick; 3: Jack Heller & Ron Smith; 4: Donna Peters & Rad D.

**Jan. 15**

1: Caryl Rosenberger & Barb Heller; 2: Steve Sekac & Jack Heller; 3: Carolyn Higgins & C.J. Daane; 4: Linda Yuen & Marlene Floeckher.

**Jan. 22**

1: Mike Meirick & Craig Ford; 2: Bruce Gillett & Mar Valchin; 3: Carol Johnson & Shirley Stolly; 4: Mary Bloch & Billie Anderson.

**Jan. 29**

1: Jack Heller & Steve Sekac; 2: Marlene Floeckher & Linda Yuen; 3: Carolyn Higgins & C.J. Daane; 4: Rik Saffol & Judy Mackowiak.

**Tuesday Night Duplicate**

By Bob Kraus

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

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

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

**Jan. 16****North/South**

1: Caryl Rosenberger & Barbara Heller; 2: Sophie Redman & Jean Krueger; Tie at 3: C.J. Daane & Carolyn Higgins and Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen.

**East/West**

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

**Jan. 23**

Tie at 1: Dan Hall & Jeff Bell and Dan Lack & Paul Agarwal; 3: Diane Turkin & Gary Moses; Tie at 4: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen and Dennis Wallace & Judi Wallace.

**Jan. 30****North/South**

1: Caryl Rosenberger & Barbara Heller; 2: Diane Turkin & Gary Moses; 3: C.J. Daane & Carolyn Higgins.

**East/West**

1: Dennis Wallace & Judi Wallace; 2: Bob Kraus & Drew Brehm; 3: Pam Bell & Gina Andrejak.

**Feb. 6**

1: Dennis Wallace & Judi Wallace; 2: Bob Kraus &

**CARDS & GAMES**

John Baru; 3: Diane Turkin & Gary Moses; 4: Linda Ryan & Bill Ryan; 5: Paul Agarwal & Dan Lack.

**Wednesday Afternoon**

By Debbie Quinn

**Jan. 3**

1: Carolyn Higgins; 2: Bob Durst; 3: Linda Curtiss; 4: Debbie Quinn; Cons: Ram Ray.

**Jan. 10**

1: Rik Saffol; 2: Art Johannes; 3: Bruce Gillett; Cons: Bob Durst.

**Jan. 17**

1: Carolyn Higgins; 2: Billie Andersen; 3: Art Johannes; 4: Rik Saffol; Cons: Steve Sekac.

**Jan. 24**

1: Billie Andersen; 2: Shirley Stolly; 3: Bob Durst; 4: Art Johannes & Mary Bloch; Cons: Joan Keinath.

**Jan. 31**

1: Marlene Floeckher; 2: Diane Turkin; 3: Joe McKeown; 4: Linda Curtiss; Cons: Al Kremer.

**Thursday Afternoon**

By Marlene Floeckher

**Jan. 4**

1: Carolyn Higgins; 2: Pat Quinn; 3: Phyllis Silverman; Cons: Beverly Meirick.

**Jan. 11**

1: Rik Saffol; 2: Bruce Gillett; 3: Mary Bloch; Cons: Judy Mackowiak.

**Jan. 18**

1: Debbie Quinn; 2: Phyllis Silverman; 3: Pat Quinn; Cons: Bruce Gillett.

**Jan. 25**

1: Debbie Quinn; 2: Bruce Gillett; 3: Judy Mackowiak; Cons: Billie Andersen.

**Thursday Night**

By Jeff &amp; Pam Bell

Our welcoming, relaxed bunch of party bridge players continues to grow! We are consistently running five to six tables for the last six weeks.

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

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

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

**Jan. 18**

1: Mary Bloch; 2: Bob Durst; 3: Billie Anderson.

**Jan. 25**

1: Bruce Gillette; 2: Ron Smith; 3: Bob Durst.

**Feb. 1**

1: Bruce Gillette; 2: Paul Agarwal; 3: Rik Saffol; 2 prize: Brent Powell.

**Feb. 8**

1: Sharon Miller; 2: Penny Wagener; 3: Steve Sekac; 2 prize: Brent Powell.

**Bunco Babes Social Group**

Michelle Malsch



The group meets in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios III-IV, on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The next scheduled game is Tuesday, March 26. Registration is at 6:45 p.m.; games begin at 7 p.m. You do not have to call to register. You need only show up. You may bring a guest. The room is set up for 48 players. Please make sure you arrive on time to reserve your spot. It will be first come, first served. Always check the World News for the latest updates for our group.

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

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

The cost is \$3 per person (please try to have exact change) and all monies collected are returned at the end of the game to the category winners. There are also two drawings for door prizes for

those who did not win any of the cash prizes. Please bring your own beverage and snack if you wish. There is a short intermission after the first three sets have been played.

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

**Cribbage**

Judy Parisi



The Cribbage Group is meeting in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room I. We play on the first and third Thursday of the month from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

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

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

**Mah Jongg**

**American**  
By Angela Brady

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

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

**Junkies Day**  
By Joan Castellucci

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

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

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

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

**Pinochle**

**Tuesday Night**  
By Herb Katz

**Jan. 2**  
1: Audrey Stark; 2: Bud Alderman; 3: Dawn Bunyak.

**Jan. 9**  
1: Larry Black; 2: Phyllis Jarsky; 3: Paul Jenkins.

**Jan. 16**  
1: Judy Black; 2: Walter Hickenlooper; 3: Charles Budd.

**Jan. 23**  
1: Judy Wagnitz; 2: Andy Nuccio; 3: Gayle Argano.

**Jan. 30**  
1: Judy Black; 2: Doug Hines; 3: Andy Nuccio.

**Friday Morning**  
By Mary Hannon

**Jan. 12**  
1: Herb Katz; 2: Dawn Bunyak; 3: Bruce Gillett.

**Jan. 19**  
1: Bruce Gillett; 2: Andy Nuccio; 3: Larry Black.

**Jan. 26**  
1: Bruce Gillett; 2: Judy Black; 3: Bob Moravec.

**Feb. 2**  
1: Judy Black; 2: Al Whitford; 3: Jim Magoon.

**Feb. 9**  
1: Dan Ebbighausen; 2: Jim Magoon; 3: Bob Moravec.

**Original Theatre Group**

Richard Rosen



Broadway's best is on the way! The Original Theatre Group continues its tradition of sharp, sophisticated, and witty musical theater entertainment with its upcoming Saturday, April 27, 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 28, 2 p.m. production of "Two for One" in the Recreation Center Ballroom.

The first act, "Rodgers and ..." will feature the genius of composer Richard Rodgers and his collaborations with lyricists Lorenz Hart and Oscar Hammerstein. With songs, scenes, and production numbers from "South Pacific," "Pal Joey," "The King and I," "Carousel," "The Sound of Music," and much more. "Rodgers and ..." will be a delightful first act for our program.

The second act is called "Pop Goes

**Paradise Players**

Liz Elliott Lieberman

Rehearsals for the original production of "The Platinum Girls Las Vegas Adventure" are well underway with our talented and hardworking cast of actors, singers, dancers, live pianist, and some surprise Vegas guest performers! It is going to be a show full of laughter, glitz, and glamor!

I'm excited to announce that the

shows will be performed on the stage at the Recreation Center on Saturday, May 4, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, May 5, at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased at the Recreation Center on Thursdays, beginning Thursday, March 7, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Tickets are \$10 for general seating and \$20 for premium seating.

We are still accepting new members for small walk-on parts, and we are also recruiting backstage and technical staff, publicity and those people who can help with front of house duties.

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

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KINNEY - 3/24

**Karaoke Friends**

Kathy &amp; Charlie Petrosky



“Since then, we have been going regularly. We made and continue to make friends there who we see outside of karaoke. We still don’t sing, but we sing along and have much admiration for the singers who get up, put themselves out there, and put their hearts into it. It’s often an inspiration to watch. Standing ovations are common. It’s amazing how much talent there is right here in our community.

“Songs include all eras and genres of music, and guessing the original artist has been fun too. It’s like name that tune and music bingo. Sometimes people can’t help themselves and just have to dance. It can be a lively event and it’s always fun.

“We’ve been to karaoke at multiple On Top of the World venues. The Lodge at Candler Hills is our favorite.”

For the singers it is great to have listeners who enjoy what they sing. They are correct. It is a fun night.

Karaoke Friends meet the first and third Mondays of the month – March 4 and 18. Singing starts at 5:30 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room.

Very often someone will say to me, “I would love to come to karaoke, but I do not sing.” My response is that you do not have to sing. Most of the people come to enjoy the music and visit with friends. You know singers love the clappers.

This month I would like to highlight one of our clapping couples. Here is what Tom and Paula would like to share with you.

“In November 2021, family was visiting, and they saw a notice about karaoke in an On Top of the World activities calendar. One of our family members sings. We don’t and never had any interest in going at all. So we went, and she sang, we clapped and had a wonderful time. People there were so welcoming and friendly. You can bring your own drinks. Snacks were shared and everyone had a good time. It was a happy hour only better.



Technical Director Randy Schmid and Backup Director Peggy Burnatay.

**Concert Chorus**

David Wessenberg



The Concert Chorus has already conducted six rehearsals, nine when this column is published. During those rehearsals we have grown to 61 members with a full complement of all voices, sopranos, altos, tenors and basses. We rehearse sopranos and altos in one section and tenors and basses in another for about an hour. Then we combine all sections for another hour. We are progressing through our musical performance pieces one at a time. As we work on each piece one can hear the product of our efforts which are strong and encouraging.

We have a great group of singers, many of whom are new people. Some of our numbers are from past choruses. And of course, some faces will be sorely missed. But the Concert Chorus has a wonderful collection of voices be they sopranos, altos, tenors, or basses.

As for our wonderful audiences, you will be in for a treat when you attend our performances of “Made in the USA” on Saturday, April 6, at 7 p.m. or Sunday,

**Poetry**

Barbara Scales

**The Measure**

The measure of night lays within the splendorous stars ushering of the gentle clouds passing by. And the measure of night rests upon the billowing branches swaying low and then placidly floating up high.

The measure of a day is weighed upon the smiles of those who run, and of those who saunter the miles.

And the measure of a day is composed of your touch which soothes me and tenderly lingers there a while.

The measure of a lifetime is the treasure trove of stories shared of that which this world holds for you.

And the measure of a lifetime is a gathering of miracles, the little ones, and those both bold and beautiful.

The measure of our love is the family we built together and of the love waiting to be discovered still.

And the measure of our love is in the lifting of each other over the valleys, the creeks, and the hills.

The measure of our legacy will be in what we leave behind, pray it be a legacy sweet and kind.

And the measure of our legacy can only be measured through the next generations and in God’s tilling of time.



Photo by Steve Warren

Tom and Paula Graser.

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Photos by Cynthis Scholl

April 7, at 3 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom.

The Concert Chorus will be seeking new members for our winter program starting in September. If you plan to join us, contact Mary Ann Majini at [flmam68@aol.com](mailto:flmam68@aol.com) for further information. Believe me when I tell you the result will be worth it. The Concert Chorus is open to all residents with a resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. Our dues are \$15 per season.

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## Happy Hookers

Jan Spielvogel



Our group continues to do fabulous work for Hospice of Marion County, the homeless and agencies that assist disadvantaged children. Every week blankets, hats, and shawls are brought in by our members who have created them. We are proud to do this work and happy to meet those needs. To see further pictures of our work please see our Facebook page (OTOW Happy Hookers).

However, we do not just work on these projects. Our group also enjoys some social time – not only on Monday afternoons, but also at our bi-monthly luncheons. In February, our group enjoyed lunch at Crazy Cucumber.

Happy Hookers is open to all residents. We meet on Mondays, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Art Room. There are no dues, agenda, or penalties for missing a meeting, arriving late, or leaving early. Life can and does interfere at times, and we would hate for that to hold you back. What we do have is a group of ladies busy with crocheting, knitting, needlepointing, card crafting, embroidery, and handcrafting of all kinds. This is a very talented group

that's never too busy to help someone with a difficult pattern or stitch. We welcome newcomers with open arms. Attendees should bring whatever they happen to be working on.

If you have any questions about our club, you may call Naomi Berman at 352-873-4328. If you have yarn, pattern books,

knitting needles, crochet hooks or other crafting tools that you no longer have a use for, donations are always appreciated. Please bring them on Mondays during our meeting time or contact either Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178 or Kathleen Frost at 925-960-5945 to arrange for pickup.

## Sewing Bees

Ann Gallo



During the months of January and February we distributed 103 quilts, toys, and pillows to two agencies that assist children. 103 disadvantaged boys and girls will be wrapped in the warmth and love of these quilts.

Stop by and see our program in action in the Hobby Building Art Room. We meet every Thursday, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. and every second and third Saturday of the month from noon to 4 p.m. If you have a long arm or embroidery

machine, we would love to have you join our group. Can't sew? No problem. We have many tasks that are essential to our program. Come meet an amazing group of ladies and gentlemen. Dues are \$15 per year.

We are currently in need of 54" shoelaces and thread. The shoelaces are used on the drawer string bags we make to put the quilts in. We are always in need of children's themed cotton or flannel fabric.

Join our Facebook page (Sewing Bees Club Inc.) and see what magic takes place at the hive. Stay up to date on what we are working on and what our current needs are.

Call or text Marsha Schneer at 813-920-3487 or Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178 with any questions you may have.

Denise Morell displaying a blanket made by her as a donation.

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Marilyn Whitford packing up 36 quilts for distribution.

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Ann Dallas displays one of her lovely quilts.

**Sunshine Quilters  
Guild**

Teri Penichet



Our featured quilter for March is Ann Dallas. Ann was born in Massachusetts and grew up in Connecticut. She has spent most of her adult life in Marlow, New Hampshire, a very small town with a population of approximately 500 people.

Ann earned a degree in nursing from New Hampshire Technical Institute. She is a registered nurse and has worked in intensive care units in the Keene, New Hampshire hospital, as well as the recovery unit at the Dartmouth Medical Center. She continues to work as a nurse when she returns to New Hampshire for the summer months.

Ann is married to Clifford Dallas, a retired truck driver. She met her husband while attending a hometown fair. They have been married for 42 years and moved to On Top of the World in December 2022.

So that she could make clothes for her family (and because the nearest stores were 20 or more miles away), Ann taught herself to sew. She began quilting on her

own about 10 years ago, and has made bed-sized quilts for family, her camper, and her home here in On Top of the World. Ann has also made quilts that she has donated to charities.

Ann uses different Janome machines to complete her quilts: a straight sewing machine for piecing and quilting, an embroidery machine to embellish quilt blocks and clothing, and a serger. She previously owned a long arm quilting machine but sold it prior to moving into her new home.

In 2019 Ann visited the International Quilt Festival in Houston and was awed and amazed by all of the quilts she viewed. She continues to get inspiration from visiting quilt shows and exhibits. Ann considers herself a beginning quilter (although, having seen her work, one could easily dispute that!), and is taking classes and working on building her skills to attempt more challenging designs.

Ann says she likes being a member of the Sunshine Quilters Guild because there is a "multitude of knowledge in this club, and the members are very willing to share what they know." We are very pleased to have Ann as a member of our guild and look forward to seeing more of her lovely quilts!

**View from  
the Library**

David Wessenberg



When I was 10 years old, I bought a paperback book at school entitled, "The 1,000 Year Plan" by Isaac Asimov. Renamed for young readers, its adult title was "Foundation," and it is a trilogy considered to be one of the best science fiction series ever written by one of our most well-regarded science fiction authors, Isaac Asimov.

Imagine my delight when I found the book, "Prelude to Foundation" in our Library. This book explains what happened before "Foundation."

The story begins with Harry Seldon, an outworld mathematician who presents a paper suggesting that history can be predicted mathematically. Powerful figures pounce upon this idea, some wanting to use the tool to direct history, some who simply want to get Harry to fake a forecast to their advantage.

Quoting from the book: "Seldon shook his head and turned his face away. To think only 48 hours ago he had been just an insignificant, virtually unknown outworld mathematician, content only to spend his remaining time on Trantor sightseeing, gazing at the enormity of the great world with his provincial eye. And now it was finally sinking in.

He was a wanted man, hunted by imperial forces. The enormity of the situation seized him and he shuddered."

And the journey begins. Dodging from community to community on Trantor with the mysterious Hummin guiding his journey and having the beautiful and enigmatic Dors protecting him at all costs.

This story is full of surprises and unexpected turns of story. Chased by the Emperor Cleon's henchman, Demerzel, entering and ultimately exiting hideout after hideout, trying to develop the mathematics of history from what he sees during this hazardous journey is what the story is all about. Will he find the ultimate robot with 30,000 years of history stored in its positronic brain to provide data for his theory? Can he avoid each powerful figure seeking him long enough to finish? Who is Dors really and why does she protect him? Who is Hummin and why is he directing Harry's escape?

The answers are totally surprising, but totally understandable and reasonable once discovered. I am not going to ruin the surprise, but believe me, you will be delighted when you find out.

This is just the beginning of the story of "Foundation." The main tale is the "Foundation" trilogy. There are four books besides the trilogy by Asimov extending the story. Start with "Prelude to Foundation" and you won't be disappointed.

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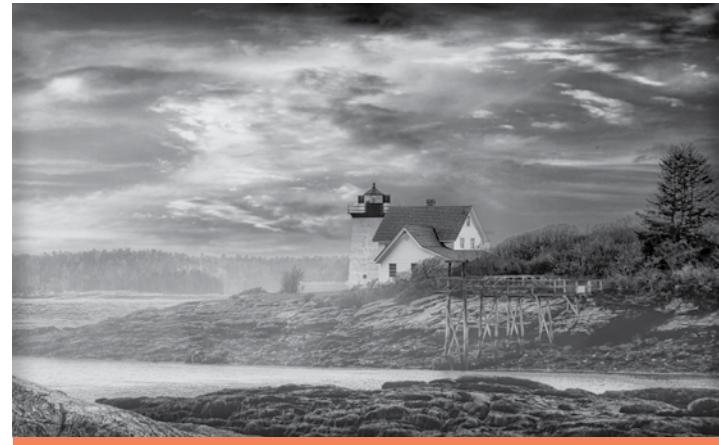


Photo by ShutterBug Harry Boyajian



Photo by ShutterBug Harry Boyajian



Photo by ShutterBug Luis Cruz

Foggy Morning at Low Tide.

**ShutterBugs  
Photography**

Connie Filip



ShutterBugs are proud to present our blue-ribbon winners in the black and white category from last year's photo contest.

Luis tells me he's always been fascinated with sculptures and statues. He said "When I went to the Bayfront Gar-

dens at the Ringling Museum in Sarasota, the garden was filled with many old statues. I was attracted to this statue of Zeus. The sunlight gave his face strong details, so when I took the photo, I visualized the image in black and white to give it a stronger impact."

Our president, Harry snagged blue ribbons on both of his black and white entries. The first one is a winter morning at Cape Cod Canal.

Harry grew up in New England, not that far from this Cape Cod Canal. He went by it, as well as over it many times.

there is much work involved. Just think about the wealth of material to listen to and view. Another difficult selection is matching our personnel to the body of work. Listening critically to each musical number helps us to match our band with it. We address stage decorations and costumes, too.

During the summer, individuals or small groups begin to practice and practice and practice! Each of these sessions generates ideas that can be refined and polished.

In September, we begin organized practices for the entire troupe. Our focus is on perfection; that, of course, takes time and effort which we happily put forth.

In a finger snap, the tickets will go on sale and unbelievably, we'll be back on stage!

We are continually on the lookout for new members. Some people express the nervousness they'd have performing; we can help you overcome that. If you are interested, contact any current member or Nancy Grabowski, director, at 352-209-4699.

The end of the canal, where this picture was taken, is called Buzzard's Bay. The Mass Maritime Academy is located there. Tourists won't see this snowy, dramatic image in the summertime.

The second photo is called A "Foggy Morning at Low Tide." It's a lighthouse in Maine called Hendrick's Head. It was erected on the western side of Southport Island in 1829 by Joseph Berry to guide vessels up the Sheepscot River.

Harry tells me "I spent most of my adult life as a professional photographer. I photographed over 3,500 weddings and thousands of portraits. Now photography is really a passion. Both images were originally taken in color. Then they were converted to black and white."

This month, in the lobby of Master the Possibilities, Pam Schmitt's photos will be on display. Stop in and look at her 2022 trip in Italy "off the beaten path."

Pam said, "I have cousins in the Emilia Romagna region and have made several trips to visit them, as well as seeing the major cities. I also revisited the nearly abandoned mountain villages where my grandparents were born."

If you missed seeing our photo display in the Recreation Center in November 2023, you can still see all our entries at [otowspc.com](http://otowspc.com).

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

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

"Photography helps people to see." - Berenice Abbott

**The New  
Pretenders**

Nancy Grabowski



The New Pretenders presented "Another Opening, Another Show!" the first weekend in February. We played to vibrant and enthusiastic audiences for each of the three performances. Those sold-out crowds will enable us to support more local Marion County charities.

We will hold a meeting in March to decide which of those charities will be selected. Past recipients include the Sewing Bees, Hospice of Marion County, Ocala Ritz Veterans Village, Backpacks-4-Kids, Interfaith Emergency Services, Brothers Keeper Food Kitchen, Mind and Motion Parkinson's Group, and more worthy nominees.

Our members stay busy! We have already chosen a music committee to begin searching for material to highlight in the 2025 show. It sounds early but



Thank you to our audiences!

Photo by Darryl Kenyon

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Philippians 4:13

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## Toppers Banjo



David Wesenberg

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

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



Toppers Banjo Band rehearsal.

If you would like to book a performance email Eddie Martin at [UDEDdie2@gmail.com](mailto:UDEDdie2@gmail.com) or David Wesenberg at [dpw@mastersoftwareinc.com](mailto:dpw@mastersoftwareinc.com).

For folks who just want to come and listen to some good music, we have about 600 songs in our repertoire from all sorts of sources covering the civil war until now. We play every week, and we welcome visitors in the Arbor Conference Center Music Room at 10 a.m. every Thursday.

In recent weeks several banjo and acoustic guitar players have joined us in playing and singing banjo music. If you like to play, come, and join us. If you just like to listen, join us also and enjoy the music and conversation. Everyone is welcome.



Photo by Sharon Bruno

Ed Smith, B.J. Leckbee, and Sue Layne.

## Dulcimer Group

Sharon Bruno



and easily identifiable banjo sounds. Sue wanted everyone to know that it's very easy to learn and play both instruments, and the camaraderie of playing with a group is a lot of fun.

Ed Smith has been a member of the club for 10 years. Ed plays both the dulcimer and the guitar which complements the sound of the dulcimers. Ed owns three guitars, two ukuleles, a baritone and six-string, and an Appalachian Mountain dulcimer. His first electric guitar, a Fender Telecaster, was a Christmas present when in his high school rock band. His second electric guitar was a steel stringed Guild Starfire. While serving in the Air Force stationed in Trier, Germany, the neck of his Yamaha 12-string guitar warped, due to the weather, and he met a classical guitarist and owner of the music/repair shop in town. The shop owner collected American coins and Ed needed a new guitar, so they eventually made an exchange suitable to both. Ed also learned to play the banjo while in Germany. Ed's most cherished instrument is his now three-year-old, nylon stringed Taylor Grand Auditorium guitar.

To schedule the Dulcimer Group to play at one of your meetings or events, contact Patricia Gift at 717-798-4085 or Rich Furlong at [richieretired@gmail.com](mailto:richieretired@gmail.com).

Come have a listen, the Dulcimer Group meets Tuesdays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room.

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## Art Group

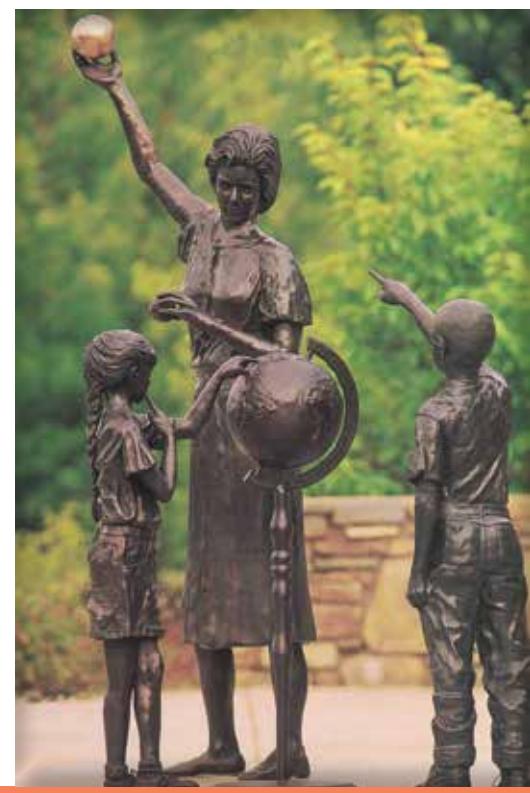
Marianne Hoffman



rizons" that is now located at the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching in Cullowhee.

Bill enjoys working in various 2D and 3D media with cast bronze and pen and ink being his favorites. As a teacher, he truly believes drawing is the foundation to art. "A lot can be done with a #2 pencil," he says. He recently backed those words with an amazing drawing he completed in the Art Group. "This group provides me with a forum to create artwork with like-minded people," he says. "It's there that others can look at my work with an educated eye. I learn a lot from them. We inspire one another."

Bill is a strong advocate that anyone can learn to draw using learned skills and observation. Why not try it? Art Group members are happy to welcome you and share what they have learned. There is no cost. Just bring your own supplies and have fun with us in the Hobby Building Art Room on Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m. and Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. If you have any questions about the Art Group, contact Freda Klump, director, at 615-336-6863 or [fredaklump@gmail.com](mailto:fredaklump@gmail.com).



Photos by Bill Eleazer

Pencil drawing and Expanding Horizons sculpture.

## Fun with Golf Carts

Susan Pulling Robinson



Golf Carts and OTOW Chatroom). If the parade is not coming by your house, please come see the action as we leave the Recreation Center.



Photo by Susan Pulling Robinson

Terri Michlig and Amy Kuzo.

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## Poetry

Linda Toner



## Birds

I see the finches,  
they flit and flutter  
from bush to bush  
so quickly, I mutter.

The hummingbirds  
are feeding at my station  
hovering mid-air,  
it's quite a sensation.

The mockingbird  
stays all year long,  
I like to hear  
their lovely songs.

The robins show up,  
a herald of spring,  
the warmer weather  
is here, they sing.

The bluebirds are back  
nesting in the bird house,  
raising their chicks  
who are smaller than a mouse.

And don't forget  
our many crows,  
what they mean when they squawk,  
nobody knows.

The swallows are back,  
catching insects mid-flight.  
they fly so fast,  
it's quite a sight.

The pelicans,  
what a strange bird,  
do not call out,  
not nary a word.

And finally, there is  
the regal hawk,  
silent in flight,  
the smallest of prey, they stalk.

The birds grace our state  
and bring us pleasure,  
seeing all the birds  
is a sight I'll treasure.

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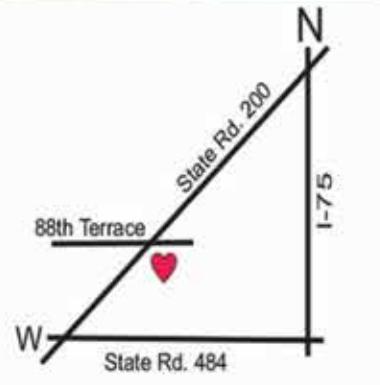
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**Sports Equipment:** Cross Current S men's e-bike, 52-volt, 19.2 aH, 2 amp 52 volt, standard charger, thumb throttle, 28 mph top speed. 610-721-1424.

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**Saturday, March 2:** 9897-A/C SW 88th Court Road (Americana Village), 9 a.m. to noon · 8016 SW 81st Loop (Indigo East), 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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**Saturday, March 9:** 9282 SW 89th Street Road (Sanctuary), 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. · 8296, 8308, 8350, 8356, 8368, 8374, 8380, 8393, 8417, 8446 SW 82nd Circle (Candler Hills), 9 a.m. to noon.

**Monday, March 11:** 9865-B SW 90th Avenue (Americana Village), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Friday, March 15:** 9697-C, 9727-A SW 94th Court (Crescent Ridge), 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Saturday, March 16:** 8961-B SW 96th Lane (Friendship Park), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

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

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

**Weed Pulling:** Yard work, mowing, topsoil for lawn/garden and haul away. Insured. 352-454-2009.

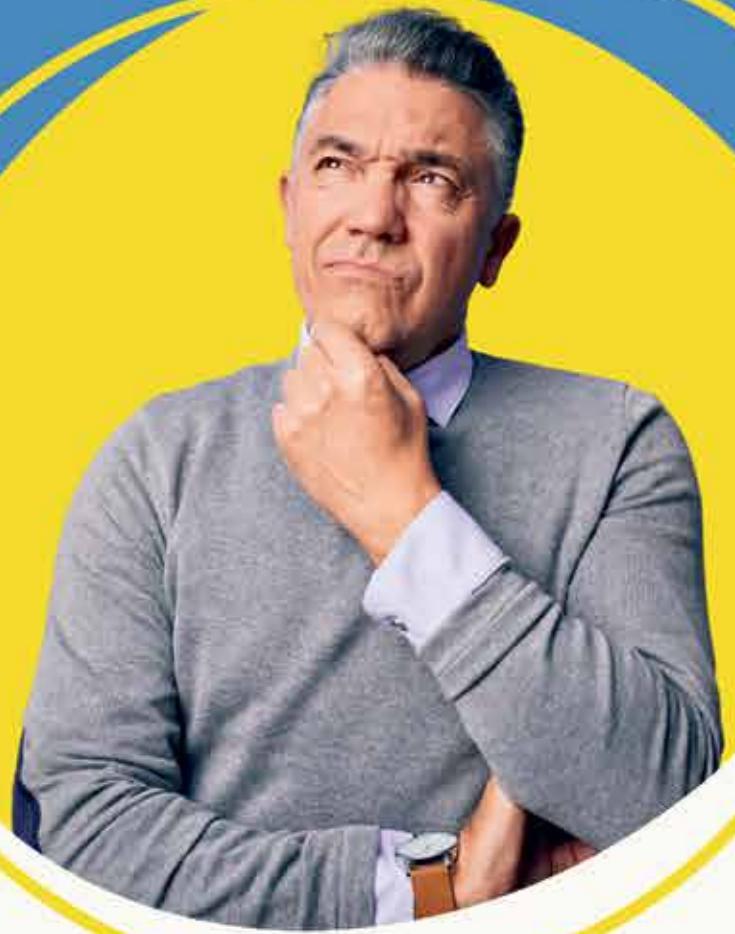
**GOLF CART REGISTRATION**

Bring golf cart, resident ID and insurance policy (stating amount of bodily injury). All residents in household must be present.

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

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

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