

Community News

Kenneth D. Colen

Healthy Boundaries

No one likes an unsolicited phone call, a knock on the door, a note wedged in the door, and, yes, a threatening voicemail. If you're like me, you consider these actions an invasion of your right to privacy.

Recently, I learned from a few board members that some residents, who, shall we say, have poor boundary controls, have been directly approached in this manner. Yes, there are limits to what one may do to assuage one's burning curiosity.

Board members are private citizens first and volunteer board members second. They enjoy life in this community and value their privacy, as most residents do.

More to the point, questions about rules, practices, and procedures or any other topic relating to the Association should be addressed in writing to the chairman. This procedure has certain practicalities.

First, all communications regarding Association matters need to be logged so they can be tracked and responded to and, if appropriate, maintained in the Association's records. A telephone call does not meet that test.

Second, written correspondence (handwritten notes or emails) sent to the chairman will meet that requirement. The writer will receive a written response in short order. Contacting Resident Services by email or visiting the office in person will serve the same function of starting a written record of the transaction or request.

Leaving a threatening voicemail on a board member's phone may get you a visit from the Marion County Sheriff's Office and possibly an introduction to the judicial system.

In other words, the violator will win loads of unwanted and negative attention that may follow that violator for a very long time.

Same with posting someone else's private telephone numbers or home addresses on Facebook chat groups or Nextdoor, as this may be viewed as harassment or stalking, which may also create more problems for the violator than for the intended victim.

A third legitimate way to contact a board member is to request time to address the Board at a duly noticed meeting of the Association. Informal, verbal communications are not logged because the conversation amounts to hearsay (he said, she said) and cannot be relied upon.

It must also be pointed out that no board member may speak on behalf of the entire board or otherwise commit to taking a board action.

Please respect your neighbor's privacy. Avoid being impetuous and letting people know what you are really all about.

Community Updates

THE SUMMIT IN LONGLEAF RIDGE: The steel is complete; drying in the roof is the next step in constructing the building. Rough mechanical work will begin once the building is protected from the weather. This will be a 20,000-square-foot amenity with a 6,000-square-foot ballroom, card room, a large main, and a resistance pool. The estimated completion of this project is forecasted for this winter.

AZURA FITNESS CENTER IN CANDLER HILLS:

This project has begun. In February, a construction fence was installed around the job site. Construction is estimated to begin this summer. We love your interest in the project, but we ask that you stay outside the construction fence. This 8,000-square-foot facility will have a large pool and will be completed before the end of the year.

RECREATION CENTER: Three construction projects are in the works for this amenity. A "facelift" and update of the building and landscape in the front are in the works. A small pavilion near the pickleball courts will be added. Also in the works is a design to cover the eight

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By Ray Cech
World News Writer

On Monday, Feb. 10, at Circle Square Cultural Center, President Kenneth Colen took the audience down memory lane and then on a journey into the future of On Top of the World.

The venue was standing-room only, and residents were anxious to know more about our history and what lay ahead. Mr. Colen's presentation did not disappoint. It was a lively, fact-filled, and often humorous conversation that started with the genesis of On Top of the World in St. Petersburg and Clearwater, Florida. The timeframe was in the mid-'50s and '60s when Sydney Colen began his dream of building practical and affordable communities.

The first homes were priced in the \$7,000 to \$8,000 range, which Mr. Colen made clear was with airflow technology – that is, if you opened all windows and doors – voila, you had air conditioning. Swimming pools and "real" air-conditioning were added as the communities grew. Sydney Colen saw the possibility of developing a community as large as 40,000 acres. His dream led him on a tour around the world, scouting for an ideal location and a deal he could afford. But nothing he saw was just right.

It was in 1971 when Sydney Colen was put in contact with Circle Square Ranch in Ocala, Florida. It was then a Brahma cattle ranch. Colen fell in love with Ocala and the ranch property – even though it was less than 13,000 acres.

Seeing the potential, he wasted no time closing the deal and bringing in the bulldozers. It was to be the beginning of what is now Americana Village. Of course, there were obstacles along the way, and one that Mr. Colen enjoys telling is rescuing the woodpecker population. Florida Conservation was concerned that land development would further exacerbate woodpecker sustainability. As the story goes, Ocala had mostly male woodpeckers, and the Ocala National Forest had the most females. If the Americana Village project were to get approval, Sydney Colen was told he would have to move some male woodpeckers to meet some females in the Forest. He acquiesced and ensured that enough males were transferred to the Ocala National Forest and introduced to the prettiest woodpeckers. It was a successful introduction; the woodpecker population propagated beyond expecta-

tions, and Americana Village rose from the ground.

In the winter of 1976, Sydney Colen realized he was surrounded with more brawn than brain. His solution was to pick up the phone and call his son Ken, who, at the time, was attending a university in Boston. Although he was concerned about leaving his studies, Ken responded. He packed his Pinto wagon with books, unfinished papers, personal belongings, and German shepherd. He left the frigid New England weather for the warmth of Ocala, Florida, and a new and unexpected career.

Mr. Colen then took the audience to present-day On Top of the World and Calesa Township. Calesa Township continues to grow with new homes and amenities.

He was happy to report that Ina A. Colen Academy continues to receive a

rare "A" rating and that Florida Aquatics Swimming & Training (FAST) sent a swimmer to last year's Olympics.

Mr. Colen addressed the present growth and plans for On Top of the World, which include new clubhouses, swimming pools, and Azura Fitness Center in Candler Hills.

But when it came to the largest and most aggressive expansion plan, Mr. Colen told us that we needed to look westward. On Top of the World will be expanding all the way to Highway 484. New communities are planned that will include two equestrian centers and, to everyone's cheer, Irons 9, a nine-hole golf course. Mr. Colen stressed the importance of the hiking trails and the protection of natural green space. During this part of his presentation, he projected a map of the westward plans. There were plenty of "wows" from the audience.

The 75-minute talk received a standing ovation.

If you missed this presentation, the video is available through Master the Possibilities. Please register at <https://catalog.masterthe possibilities.org/mtp/course/course.aspx?c=2482>.



President Kenneth D. Colen presenting at the history and future of On Top of the World Communities at Circle Square Cultural Center.

Photo by Ray Cech

Health Tech: Wearables & Apps Can Help You Stay Active & Healthy

By Shane Bobson

Staying active and healthy is essential at any age, but it becomes even more crucial for those aged 55 and above to maintain mobility, strength, and overall well-being. Fortunately, advancements in health technology, such as wearables and apps, are making it easier than ever to take control of your health. These tools are designed to help you monitor your activity, track your progress, and stay motivated – all from the convenience of your smartphone or wrist.

Wearables: Your Health Companion

Wearable devices like smartwatches and fitness trackers have become invaluable tools for monitoring health. Fitbit, Apple Watch, and Garmin can track steps, heart rate, sleep patterns, and blood oxygen levels. These features are particularly beneficial for the 55-plus community.



For example, heart rate monitoring can help you stay within a safe range during exercise. At the same time, sleep tracking can provide insights into improving rest quality – a key factor in maintaining energy and cognitive function.

Many wearables also offer fall detection and emergency SOS features, providing peace of mind for users and their loved ones. These devices can automatically alert emergency contacts if a fall is detected, ensuring help is on the way even if you cannot call for assistance.

Health Apps: Your Pocket-Sized Coach

Health apps complement wearables by offering personalized guidance and tracking. Apps like MyFitnessPal help you monitor nutrition, while others like Strava or MapMyWalk encourage physical activity by tracking walks, runs, or

bike rides. For those managing chronic conditions, apps like Glucose Buddy (for diabetes) or Blood Pressure Monitor can help you keep tabs on vital metrics and share them with your healthcare provider.

Meditation and mindfulness apps, such as Calm or Headspace, are also gaining popularity among older adults. These apps can reduce stress, improve mental clarity, and promote emotional well-being – key healthy lifestyle components.

Staying Motivated & Connected

One of the biggest challenges of maintaining an active lifestyle is staying motivated. Wearables and apps often include goal-setting features, reminders, and progress reports to keep you on track. Many devices also allow you to connect with friends or join online communities, fostering a sense of accountability and camaraderie. For example, you can challenge a friend to a step competition or share your achievements on social media.

A Healthier Future at Your Fingertips

Health tech is not just for the young – it's a powerful tool for the 55-plus community to stay active, informed, and engaged in their health journey. You can take proactive steps toward a healthier, more vibrant lifestyle by leveraging wearables and apps. Whether tracking your daily steps, monitoring your heart health, or practicing mindfulness, these technologies support you every step of the way. Embrace the future of health tech and discover how it can help you live your best life.

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Is It Legal?

Colen & Wagoner, P.A.



one inherits the residence, the younger person can continue to occupy the residence.

Q. My disabled child lives with me. She is under age 55. She can take care of herself, but I want her to have a home when I pass. Will she have to leave my residence at On Top of the World because of her age?

A. Your child will not have to leave On Top of the World. See my answer above.

Q. I am a veteran who has been in Vietnam. I have no spouse and am disaffected from my son. I do not need financial help now, but I don't know what the future will be like. More to my point is I have no idea what I need to do to plan. Suggestions from you, Mr. Attorney?

A. Of course, the Veterans Administration will be very helpful. Veterans' organizations are always available if you contact them. Within On Top of the World, the Veterans Club is eager to help all veterans.

Q. Where do you get the questions you use in your newspaper column?

A. I get them from client meetings and, equally, from people who are not clients. I get them from folks I meet who might stop me and ask me something. I get them from realtors and financial planners, who were asked questions they would like me to address. I speak to folks at my lectures, and frequently, someone in the audience comes up after the lecture and asks me something. I get them from emails I receive. I get them from internet posts on the listservs of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and the Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys. I am always looking for something that might interest the people who read this column. The Q and A format works best.

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.

A. Your realtor is incorrect about On Top of the World Communities. In a 55-plus community, 80% of the residences must be occupied by at least one person who is 55 or older. That means that 20% can be less than 55. In Ocala, when a person over 55 passes, and the younger

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On Top of the World NEWS

Publisher: Kenneth D. Colen
Editor: Petra Schmidt

Production Staff

Writers/Photographers

Ray Cech · Dave DeAngelis · Elaine Morrison · Phil Panzera

Distribution

The Villages Media Group

Proofreaders

Cecelia Adams · Gitte Agarwal · Margitta Claterbos
CJ Daane · Lennie Rodoff · Judy Shuster · Jerry Thompson

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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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352-387-7466 · otownews@otowfl.com

2025 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

On Top of the World NEWS

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

*Deadline at noon

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



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By Dave DeAngelis

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Lifelong Learning



Michelle Shideler
352-387-7571
michelle_shideler@masterthepossibilities.org

April always feels like a fresh start to me. The world is in bloom, the days are getting longer, the weather is beautiful, and this change brings adventure and curiosity.

If you've taken classes at Master the Possibilities before, you already know the joy of learning something new and the friendships that grow along the way. There's nothing quite like the energy of a great discussion, the thrill of mastering a new skill, or the connections made over shared interests. As spring unfolds, it is the perfect time to continue that journey, challenge yourself in new ways, and reconnect with fellow lifelong learners. After all, learning never gets old – and neither do we!

Every class brings a fresh perspective, a new challenge, or a deeper appreciation for the things we love. Maybe you have already explored history, dabbled in art, or found joy in a fascinating science lecture. In saying that, there is always another discovery waiting. The beauty of lifelong learning isn't just in gaining knowledge; it is in the conversations that spark new ideas, the friendships that form along the way, and the sense of accomplishment that comes with trying something different.

One of the most exciting parts of lifelong learning is exploring topics that shape our world in real time. This April, Master the Possibilities offers a fascinating opportunity to do just that with

Newcastle Social Committee

Brett Sinclair



Newcastle social committee met for their bi-monthly meeting in January. Special thanks were given to our officers for their dedication and hard work. New officers were nominated and approved.

The third annual Newcastle murder mystery, "Trailer Park Tragedy," commenced on Friday, Jan. 31. The event was hosted by fellow neighbors Sherry

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a visiting speaker presentation: "Introduction to Artificial Intelligence," on Tuesday, April 22, from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Speaker Tiffany Vincent will be presenting remotely to cover this topic. She will touch upon the history of artificial intelligence (AI) and mention how computers can learn from it. Vincent will talk about the latest trends and challenges with AI and even offer suggestions for what this technology may look like in the future. The cost to attend this presentation is \$5 for members and \$10 for the general public, and it will be held in Live Oak Hall.

If you are like me and want to take advantage of this gorgeous weather, why not attend the "Cross Creek: The World of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings" kayak tour with local legend Lars Andersen? This kayak/canoe tour will cover parts of Cross Creek and Orange and Lochloosa Lakes. Those who join the tour will have a chance to explore the area made famous by this Pulitzer Prize-winning author who wrote "The Yearling." The kayak/canoe rental is part of the course fee, which is \$51 for members and \$56 for the general public. Seating for this event is extremely limited. For more information, including the launch time, visit masterthepossibilities.org.

Still looking for that perfect class or activity? Check out our April offerings on the Master the Possibilities website or in our print catalog. With more than 150 options, I am sure you will find the perfect one to spark that interest, become engaged in a current events conversation, or learn how to dabble in a brand-new art. For registration assistance or questions, call our office from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at 352-861-9751.

Bright, Meg Kajewski, and Debbie Bianchi. Everyone was in costume and character for this trailer park barbecue. All participants enjoyed a night of ill-mannered, double-crossings, and illegal happenings.

Our next event will be an Easter potluck held at The Lodge at Candler Hills on Sunday, April 13. Jeff and Cindy Vandyke will host this event.

Newcastle weekly events include samba, cornhole, and pickleball. We are looking to add mah jongg to our weekly events.

Newcastle's monthly events include a book club.

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Community News

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pickleball courts.

WOODSHOP: The new, expanded woodshop building is planned for the parcel of land just north of the existing Bay Laurel Center CDD Water Plant #1. This new 8,000-square-foot building will be constructed where the Eco Gardeners Club garden is currently located, providing more space for our growing woodshop membership.

SW 99TH STREET ECO GARDENS: As mentioned previously, a new, convenient location has been selected to rebuild the current SW 99th Street Eco Gardens. This relocation offers the added benefit of additional garden plots. Management recognizes that it takes a great deal of time to build up the tilth of soils, especially for organic gardeners. To this end, management has been working with the

Eco Gardeners Club to establish clean soils with high fertility. Construction on the new garden is expected to be completed by late July.

EXPANSION OF MULTI-MODAL PATHS: The addition of multi-modal paths along the west side of SW 90th Terrace Road has been submitted to Marion County for plan review and permitting. This project also includes roadway improvements, which will include underground utilities and roadway pavement from the entrance at Weybourne Landing north to SW 63rd Street, opposite the intersection with Stone Creek.

CANDLER HILLS GOLF CLUB AND THE CLUB
AT CANDLER HILLS: This amenity will see landscape enhancements during the summer golf course renovation.

IRONS 9 GOLF COURSE: Construction has begun on the new pitch-and-putt golf course near SW 80th Street and SW 92nd Court Road. This exciting addition will open in late summer.

GATEHOUSE: A new, automated gatehouse will be erected along SW 92nd Court Road to replace the temporary

gate at SW 80th Street. The design team has been chosen, and work has begun on the permit drawings for this project. This automated gate will include a dedicated lane for guests to interact with the virtual gate attendant and a bypass lane for resident owners.

Roadway Improvements

SW 92ND COURT ROAD: Underground utilities are currently being installed, including water, sewer, and data lines. By the end of April, this project will become more recognizable as curbs are formed and the roadway takes shape. Please avoid transiting in this area, yes, even "sightseeing." Use caution in the adjacent work zones. Large equipment is operating in the area. I'd be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to remind you that the workers in those large pieces of equipment cannot see or hear golf carts or pedestrians. Don't allow your curiosity to put yourself at risk. Please use extra caution around work areas.

SW 52ND STREET: Permission has been granted from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to move forward with the east-west SW 52 Street improvements through Calesa Township. This improvement may offer much-needed traffic relief while SW 80th Avenue and SW 38th Street are under construction by Marion County. An adjacent developer will complete SW 52nd Street from Calesa to the intersection at SW 60th Avenue (including a new traffic signal). On Top of the World Communities will continue to work with the county and the neighboring developer to ensure this much-needed project continues to make progress in a timely manner.

SW 90TH TERRACE: Plans are substantially complete and will be sent out to bid by March 28. Once bids are received and reviewed, the project will be contracted to start by mid-April. This work will also include an extension of the multi-modal path from Weybourne Landing, south along SW 90th Terrace Road, creating a connection to the SW 80th Street crosswalk opposite the main entry gate at Candler Hills.

AppFolio Owner Portal

This section received numerous email changes last month; therefore, this is being repeated from last month.

On March 1, 2024, all owners in On Top of the World (Central), Candler Hills, Indigo East, and Weybourne Landing received an email from AppFolio inviting them to set up their Owner's Portal. AppFolio is the management company's software that allows community service payments and service requests, among many other things. The AppFolio Owner's Portal is secure, and you can manage your account by creating your password. If Owners have not enrolled, please ensure the Association has your current email address. You may submit your email address to associationinfo@otowfl.net with that information or stop by Resident Services to update your contact information. Once you do so, a link to your portal will be sent to that email address so owners can register their portals completely.

Owners who have set up their portals can now remit payments for Community Service Fees (or other assessments) via eCheck or credit/debit cards (AppFolio service fees apply). They may also update their bank account information to continue with the management company's automatic debit service. Owners can also submit maintenance service requests and communicate with Resident Services, thus alleviating the need for an in-person visit.

In addition, under Florida HOA Statutes, all official records must be uploaded to a secure portal by January 1,

2025. You will find all these records in the saved documents appearing on every owner's portal. More information about the modification submittal process for your dwelling and landscape will be coming soon. Stay tuned; if you have not signed up for this valuable tool, please do so!

Travel Season

If you are willing to venture out for a journey, the summer travel season is approaching. We know many residents take extended trips around the country. Experience teaches that added steps must be taken before going on that extended trip to avoid possible disasters in your home when you are gone. Below is a short list of things to do:

- Leave your contact number with at least two trusted neighbors or friends.
- Update the Association as well with emergency contact information.
- Have the home's interior checked at least once a week by a trusted neighbor or friend, or arrange for an inspection service.
- Check in regularly with a trusted neighbor or friend while you are gone.
- Arrange for a regular irrigation check if you are going away for an extended term.
- Turn down the heat setting on your water heater to conserve energy.

Make sure your homeowner's insurance policy is current and covers damage from wind, water, and mold. In most cases, this is now an added rider on the policy.

Before departing, make sure the air conditioner is properly serviced by a professional. This includes a drain line flush. Air filters require monthly attention and can be changed by the owner.

Leave the thermostat set at between 78 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit. This helps regulate humidity in the home and prevent the occurrence of mold or mildew.

If you plan on being gone for several months, you may wish to consult an air conditioning professional about adding a humidistat to ensure optimal humidity levels in the home.

If the air conditioning system is not properly maintained by an owner, mold and mildew may result and become a serious problem for the owner. Please remember that the proper maintenance or repair of your HVAC unit, water heater and drain pan, and ice maker line (if any) is always the owner's responsibility.

Republican Club

Margaret Nodine



Hoping St. Patrick's Day brought luck and good cheer!

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond her control, Brigitte Smith, the chair of the Marion County Republican Club was not able to speak at our last meeting. She promises to attend another meeting in the future.

Two veterans and members of the club picked up the slack! Bob Levenson, US Marine Corps, retired, and director of fund development for the Marion County Honor Guard, addressed the members first. Bob asked members and veterans to assist at Live Oak International in March. He also hoped that any members who are veterans would take the opportunity to volunteer with the Marion County Honor Guard.

Steve Petty, a retired Army captain who served in Vietnam, shared his army experiences. Steve was a helicopter pilot who flew over 1,261 combat hours and 1,000 assault missions. He received 55 awards and decorations, including the Silver Star, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and 41 Air Medals with V device.

Both veterans agreed that military service is hard since you obey the laws of the country and the code of military justice; your superiors judge you and not your peers. The uniform tells your story. We all thanked Steve and Bob for their insightful and honest presentations.

In support of Operation Shoebox, we asked members to bring items and fill the bins with much-needed supplies for the troops. Thank you for your generosity.

Hoping to see you throughout 2025: April 11; May 9; June 13; July 11; Aug. 8; Sept. 12; Oct. 10 and Nov. 14. Doors open at 4 p.m. Look for our banner at Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. God bless America.

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Veterans Club

Charles Calhoun



vice on one side and a current photo in uniform, if possible, or patriotic gear on the other. This is to show the community's support for our veterans who have served our country and community with honor.

If you know of a veteran who deserves this recognition, please contact the Veterans Club at 352-556-6004. We will include a QR code to tell their whole story. Please let us know if you or your organization would like to sponsor a banner.

The Veterans Club meets the third Thursday of the month at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV at 3 p.m. All are welcome to attend. We always have coffee and Fran's homemade cookies.



Hometown Heroes banner project.

Friendship Connection

Ellen Lee



Welcome spring! Friendship Connection is busy brewing up an event for Aug. 16. Mark your calendar and keep an eye

out for information coming soon!

Friendship Connection is open to all residents of Friendship Colony, Friendship Park, and Friendship Village. If you are interested in volunteering to help plan, set up, clean up, or serve at the events, please contact Denise Sherman at 704-650-7066 or OtoFriendshipConnection@gmail.com. You can also find us on Facebook (Friendship Connection-OTOW)!

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lio Homeowner's Portal. Documents that are required to accompany your application may also be found on the portal.

Spring compliance inspections are now underway. Areas that residents may address before these inspections would be trimming, replacing plants (those that did not survive winter), and pressure cleaning your home, gutters, and driveways.

Envera

Providence will be the next neighborhood scheduled to receive their decals on Tuesday, April 22, and Wednesday, April 23, from 8 a.m. to noon in the parking area behind Circle Square Cultural Center.

Additional information about our new gate system may be found at OTOWInfo.com > Resident Information > Community Gates. Search for the RFID decal form, complete the front, and sign the back. Print this form and bring this completed document with you when your neighborhood is scheduled. Doing this ahead of time will expedite the process.

You may also remove your existing On Top of the World decal (just before arriving for your new replacement). If you are unable to do this, staff will assist you.

Upcoming dates for acquiring your new decal will be posted at OTOWInfo.com and the World News. If you cannot attend on your neighborhood's scheduled date, contact Resident Services. Only residents arriving on the specified date for those neighborhoods will be accommodated.

Do you still have questions about the Envera gate system? Email otowgates@otowfl.com. You may also contact Resident Services by calling 352-236-OTOW (6869) or visiting in person Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. We are in Friendship Commons, 9850 SW 84th Court, Suite 500.

Something to Ponder

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds that you plant." – Robert Louis Stevenson

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Democratic Club

Mark Miller



With few exceptions, the Democratic Club generally meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios II-IV.

Our last meeting was held on Thursday, Feb. 27. Deborah Daniels presented a deep dive into Florida politics: structure, how bills pass through Congress, and how we can participate in those processes. It was a good, detailed view of our state's political structure. Our members found that the information provided a better understanding of the system's workings.

Our Marion County Democratic Party held its annual fundraising event in March. The event's highlights were good food, good prizes/auctions, and featured speakers.

Crescent Ridge Happenings

Carol Lewis



There was a small group this month for our Crescent Ridge social, but there was good conversation around the tables. It's always nice to spend some uninterrupted time visiting with our neighbors. The food was good as usual, including Irish potatoes (candy), which I've never experienced below.

For 2025, our monthly socials will be held in the Arbor Activity Center Event Room I from 3 to 5 p.m. Bring a beverage of choice and a dish to share. Easter falls in April, so think of traditional Easter foods and colors.

To stay informed, you may join our Facebook page (OTOW Crescent Ridge Neighbors) or send an email to crneighbors@yahoo.com to be added to our email list. You will only receive emails regarding Crescent Ridge happenings.

LEASH LAW

Dogs must be on a leash at all times.

Blue Indigo East Democratic Club

Lydia Kuust



The Blue Indigo East Democratic Club meets on the fourth Monday of every month at 2 p.m. in the Indigo East Community Center Ballroom. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 28. Please share news of our meetings and related political events with others on the OTOW app or OTOWInfo.com.

To honor Black History Month, our guest speaker at the February meeting was Narvelia A. Haynes, a youth activist and family engagement liaison with Marion County. She spoke about her early life in Ocala and her present work with disadvantaged youth, commenting that "it takes a village to raise a child."

As a new club, we continue growing and expanding our community outreach. At the recent board of directors meeting, we continued identifying a few organizations we would like to support. More information will be provided at upcoming general meetings.

We currently have a complete slate of

many items we all take for granted. The priority for donations is laundry detergent. Other items are pillowcases, twin-size sheets, twin comforters, 1.7 cubic foot refrigerators, small microwaves, men's razors, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, lotions, shaving cream, and toilet paper. Food items needed include canned meats, 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 attend any meetings, let us know, and we'll do our best to get your donations to them. You can also drop them off before the meeting starts.

If you need a ride to any meeting, please call/email the club to arrange that at least three days before the meeting. For more information, contact Mark Miller at 443-848-8549 or demclubotow@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

Finding ZenRobert Coleen
info@sholompark.org

Spring is in full bloom at Sholom Park, and with it comes the joy of gathering under the open sky, listening to great music, and celebrating the beauty of nature. This April, we invite you to join us for two unforgettable concerts – events that bring people together and help sustain the park as a place of peace, reflection, and cultural enrichment for the entire community.

Park After Dark: 1990s Night

Our Park After Dark series kicks off the month on Thursday, April 3, with a nostalgic journey back to the 1990s. The talented Gypsy Sparrow will take the stage, performing beloved hits from the decade that gave us everything from classic rock ballads to pop anthems. Initially scheduled for February, this event was postponed due to weather, but we're excited to bring it back for an evening of music and fun beneath the stars.

No need to worry about dinner – Blazin' Bites Food Truck will be on-site, serving up mouthwatering burgers, chicken sandwiches, and other tasty treats. Gates open at 5:15 p.m., with music beginning at 6 p.m. Bring a chair, bring a friend, and prepare for a night of great tunes and good company. Tickets are only \$20 a person and can be purchased at masterthe possibilities.org.

Spring Strings: Bluegrass for a Cause

On Saturday, April 19, the soothing sounds of bluegrass will fill the park as Remedy Tree, one of the most exciting bluegrass bands around, takes the stage for our Spring Strings concert. This event is more than just a musical experience – it's a benefit concert to help sustain Sholom Park's mission of providing a beautiful, clean, and tranquil space that remains open to the public 365 days a year.

Gates will open at 3 p.m., and the concert will begin at 4 p.m. To fully immerse in the moment, Four Smokes Southern BBQ will be on hand, serving up delicious barbecue favorites. By attending, you're not just enjoying an afternoon of incredible live music – you're also contributing to preserving this special place, ensuring it continues to serve as a haven for peace and cultural enrichment in Marion County. Tickets for this super fun event are only \$30 per person and can be purchased at masterthe possibilities.org.

Why Your Support Matters

Sholom Park is more than just a park. It's a sanctuary where visitors come to walk, reflect, and reconnect with nature. It's where families gather, friends meet, and the stresses of daily life seem to melt away with the rustling leaves and the gentle sounds of birdsong.

Keeping the park free and open to the public every day of the year takes effort, care, and community support. Events like these concerts not only bring people together in the spirit of music and joy but also help ensure that Sholom Park remains the serene, welcoming place we all cherish.

So mark your calendar, invite your friends, and be part of something special this April. Whether you're reliving the best of the '90s or soaking in the soulful sounds of bluegrass, your presence helps keep Sholom Park thriving for generations.

For tickets and more details, visit masterthe possibilities.org. We can't wait to see you there!

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Cody

Williamsburg
Neighbors

Nancy Meininger



What better way to kick off a season of fun than to dance an Irish jig around a Blarney Stone? Williamsburg rocks!

Neighbors gathered for a St. Patrick's Day dinner at Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios. It was a potluck to make a pseudo-Irishman proud, with Celtic music, Irish stew, corned beef and cabbage, Shepherd's pie, and even a Leprechaun or two to serve the crew!

In April, the hamburger hot dog grill fest will take place. Tina Ross oversees this event.

Meanwhile, neighbors are enjoying weekly bocce every Wednesday at 4 p.m. with Carmel Kessler, who promises another round of crazy miniature golf is on the horizon. Every third Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room III is game night with Lynn and Bob Phelps.

Tom and Nancy Meininger continue to host the neighborhood monthly dinners, most recently to Horse & Hounds and Ivy on the Square.

Earl Cook, our webmaster, maintains our website (williamsburgneighborsotow.com), where activities are listed on a rotating calendar, and dinners can be reserved. You can also stay connected with us on Facebook (Welcome to Williamsburg OTOW).

If you need more information about events or want to join in, please call or text Nancy Meininger at 352-554-0757.

Indigo East
Social Committee

Janice Liberton



The Indigo East Social Committee's March 15 potluck dinner was an overwhelming success. There are not any better cooks than those in Indigo East. Everything was delicious, and the attendees feasted on the food and loved the many nice door prizes.

The next Indigo East Social Committee event will be a Craft Fair in the Indigo East Community Center on Saturday, April 5, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be many types of crafts to admire and purchase. The Craft Fair is open to all residents.

An ice cream social is planned for August. However, that does not mean the residents must wait until August to gather and celebrate. Occasionally, resident volunteers will come together and plan a function.

The following ladies' luncheon will probably be in May. As of this writing, the venue is unknown. I know many of us are anxious about the next luncheon, as they are always well planned and run and have a tremendous amount of fun.

In February, the Indigo East Poms held a line dance party. Those who attended feasted on different salads, sub sandwiches, and desserts while dancing to the music provided by our very own D.J., Frank Pignataro. The Indigo East Poms is a group of people who love to line dance. They meet every Wednesday, and new members are always welcome. Rhondel Pignataro is the dance instructor.

On Friday, Feb. 14, the Indigo East Social Committee partnered with On Top of the World for the Happy Hour Valentine's Day party. The Indigo East Social Committee supplied the decorations and set up the dessert table with the necessary plates, napkins, and plasticware to prepare the desserts. Area 81 provided the entertainment.

Many embrace April as the actual new year. While Jan. 1 is widely recognized as the New Year, April brings new birth with blooming flowers, warmer days, and a burst of color into our lives. All of this revitalizes us with new optimism as our bodies and minds awake from the winter slumber.

April also brings forth new financial cycles of growth as many businesses initiate their fiscal year, evaluations, and appraisals. Some Academic Institutions kick off a new school year after the long-awaited and needed spring break. Culturally, April is steeped in many traditions, festivals to welcome spring, and prominent holidays.

So, as our world emerges from winter's hibernation, perhaps it is time to embrace April as the month of promises, growth, and new beginnings.

Passover begins on the evening of Saturday, April 12, and ends on Sunday, April 20. Easter falls on Sunday, April 20. Happy Pesach and Easter. Have a great month; fill it with many memorable moments. As usual, I'll see you around the neighborhood.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Pick up after your pet.

Ashford Happenings

Michelle Corder &
Julio Garrido

Spring is in the air for our Ashford neighbors. We are hoping for some good April showers for all of the beautiful landscaping our Ashford residents have put in to bring on May flowers. Our second annual St. Patrick's Day event took place at the Lodge. The event had plenty of shamrock shenanigans in place. We had over 150 neighbors partake in outdoor games and activities with fellow neighbors. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event happen and to everyone who attended.

The Ladies of Ashford held their Luncheon event at a local restaurant. Pasta and wine flowed as the ladies continued this great tradition of monthly gatherings.

The Paradise Players show, "The Platinum Gals Cruise Adventure," will be on April 26 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 27, at 2 p.m. in the Recreation Center. Come out and support our Ashford residents, Jodylynne Rowswell and Anabel Parra, who have featured roles in this show that will have you laughing in your seats. Can you say, Emmy? On Saturday, April 5, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., the R/C Flyers will host their Spring Fly-In. Currently, there are 21 Ashford R/C pilots; come support them.

Rock 'n' Roll Juke Box Revue presented by the Concert Chorus takes place on Sunday, April 6, at 3 p.m., and Monday, April 7, at 6 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center. Tickets can be purchased in the Recreation Center Ballroom. The ladies bunco group will meet on Wednesday, April 9, at The Lodge at Candler Hills. This event is held on the second Wednesday of the month. Social Hour starts at 5 p.m., and play is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Please visit our Facebook page (Ashford in Candler Hills—OTOW) for information on the ladies' luncheon, Mexican train, bocce, super samba/hand and foot, etc.

TRASH COMPACTOR FULL?

Please take trash to another location. Do not place trash outside of trash compactor.

Kestrel Knowings

Lyn Yanss



First, here's a quick introduction: I'm Lyn Yanss, one of your neighbors in Kestrel. I'm excited to announce that I'll be writing the Kestrel Knowings column moving forward. So, hello to everyone!

I'd also like to thank Elaine Morrison for starting Kestrel Knowings and her dedication to keeping our neighborhood informed over the past three years. I know I have big shoes to fill, and I truly appreciate all her efforts!

Kestrel received a thank you letter from Interfaith Emergency Services (IES) for the 400 pounds of food and toys we donated over the 2024 holiday season. IES, the families, and the children are so thankful!

Come on out and get your spring on! The Kestrel Social Committee will sponsor a Spring Fashion Show at The Lodge at Candler Hills Ballroom on Sunday,

May 18, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person and go on sale in April. Mimosas and goodies will be served. Fashions from the Jasmine Plaza Boutique will be modeled. There will be gift cards to the boutique that will be raffled. So, make it a girlfriend outing and enjoy some treats, a mimosa, and maybe some new clothes!

The Kestrel ambassadors are working on a presentation on home safety. Look for it in the summer. Watch this column for additional details.

The Kestrel Social Committee is planning a neighborhood driveway crafters event in the fall. Kestrel crafters will be invited to participate by displaying and selling their crafts. So, get ready to showcase your talents! More details to follow.

The Kestrel holiday party is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 18; we hope everyone can attend.

Need further information? Contact Jan Eaton at jeaton1000@comcast.net. See you around the neighborhood.

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Safety First

Jonathan Miller

**Traveling Abroad**

Are you traveling abroad this year? Here are some simple safety tips everyone should know. Let's prepare and have ourselves a good time!

1. Be smart about your money. Carrying huge amounts of cash is never a good idea. Don't pull out the whole wad when you pay for something in cash! The video phone cameras are rolling. Carry only what you will need that day. If you use an ATM, use only those attached to banks.
2. Research the places you visit, even

if you have been there before. Areas change all the time. In specific locations, people use their children to play on your sympathy. You will be less likely to fall for these scams if you've heard about them beforehand.

3. Know the emergency services phone number before you get there. It's also good to look up the number for your country's nearest embassy. Never, ever forget that the locals do not always welcome Americans.
4. Use the right bag! Cross-body bags are safer than shoulder or handbags.
5. Don't assume the locals are stupid because they are in need. They have had time to think about what they are doing and have a plan.
6. Bring and use travel locks. A travel lock can secure your bag to your seat or chair while dining or in

7. transit.
8. Keep digital copies of important documents. Your passport may be the most valuable thing you carry, and a digital copy will help make getting a replacement easier. Passports are targeted items.
9. Try to blend in and avoid being an obvious tourist. If you have friends who live there, ask them questions. You may get separated. Prepare for that.
10. Use reputable transportation companies. Verify the taxi driver's name before entering the car, especially if traveling alone.
11. Check in with family and friends at home often. Just do it! This could save your life!
12. Ask hotels for advice. They can recommend which neighborhoods are safe and which are not. Mark places to avoid on your map! Hotels are used to being asked

13. Stay aware of your surroundings. Pay attention! Trust your instincts. If someone or somewhere is making you uncomfortable, there is more than likely a reason you feel this way.
14. Drink responsibly. This has to be one of the most important safety tips for travelers. Remember that you don't know the terrain. Stay as "sober" as you can!

Now that you're armed with these simple safety tips for traveling, it's time to get out, explore the world, and get back to us safely! Please feel free to reach out to Jonathan Miller at safety-department@otowfl.com.

Community Patrol

Rocky Pizzarello



During our February meeting, Lt. Smith from the Marion County Sheriff's Office reported that scams are a concern. He mentioned that with the advances in artificial intelligence (AI), it is easier for criminals to prey on victims. Most of us have received fraudulent emails, calls, and/or texts asking for money, personal information, bank account information, credit cards, etc. If you receive a call, email, or text that you are unsure of, especially if it indicates that you need to take action immediately, be wary. If you're uncertain what to

do, ask for guidance from someone you trust or talk to someone at your bank if someone is asking for money.

Volunteer Coordinator Sarah Jenkins shared that there weren't many items donated for teens during the holiday donation drive for kids last year. She is spearheading a year-round donation drive to gather items that can be given to teens during the holidays.

She also mentioned that a new "MSCO Care" program is currently in the early stages of development. The program aims to have vulnerable citizens check in weekly with trained volunteers. Through these weekly check-ins, volunteers will offer a listening ear and help link individuals to the resources and support they may need.

The Kimberly's Center for Child Protection provides a safe environment for

children removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect. Trained counselors and care providers offer compassion and support to children during the necessary process of obtaining facts and information to be utilized in the prosecution of their abusers. After the initial intake, Kimberly's Center can remain in the child's life to serve as their primary source of healing. The Kimberly's Center 5K Race Against Child Abuse is their principal fundraiser on Saturday, April 26, at Calesa Township. If you'd like to participate or donate, visit kcrace.com. The Community Patrol will be supporting the event this year.

Solicitors are not allowed in On Top of the World. The Community Patrol diligently works with On Top of the World staff to remove solicitors when they are located. If a solicitor approaches you, do

not let them into your home. Tell them they are not allowed and ask them to leave. They can be persistent, so close the door or walk away.

Finally, when a multi-modal path is available, it should be used rather than the road, regardless of how fast your golf cart can go. On roads without a multi-modal path, follow the rules of the road and the speed limit. Also, golf carts should yield to pedestrians and bicyclists.

If you'd like to join the Community Patrol, visit marionso.com for an 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.

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Avalon Social Group

Laura Gavey &
Sharon Hall

Our March event was well attended with 68 Avalon neighbors joining in

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the fun. We enjoyed hot sandwiches from Scrambles and were entertained by The Uniqueles, a great group of musicians with a variety of music selections. Thanks to the committee for putting together this enjoyable night.

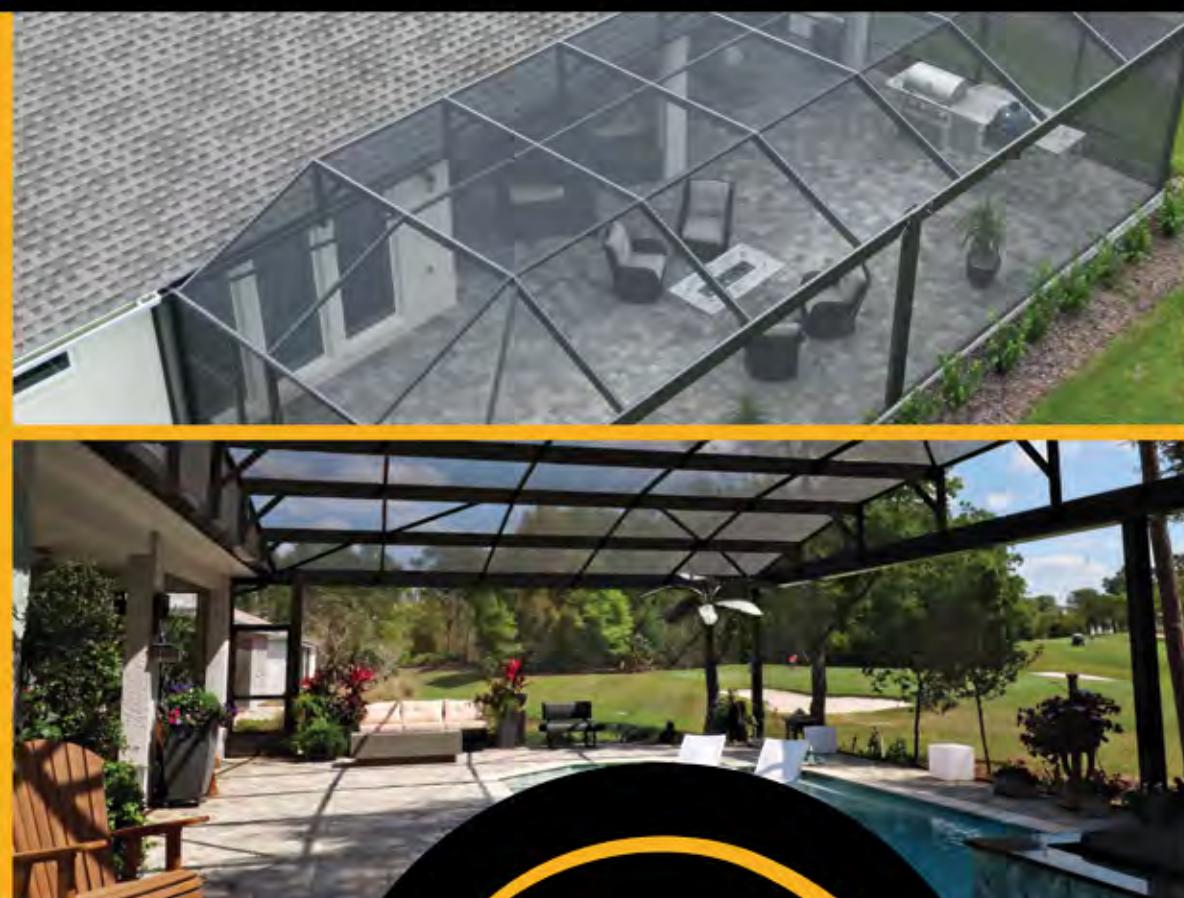
We look forward to our next event scheduled for Monday, May 12, which will be a fun murder mystery performed by a lovely group of your Avalon neighbors! Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more information.

Are you new to Avalon or our social events? Email or our Facebook group are

two ways to stay informed of upcoming events. 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.

We encourage you to join our private Facebook group (Avalon Social Club) for up-to-date Avalon news and upcoming events. 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 us, and we'll send you the link to the group.

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Longleaf Ridge Friends
Michelle Migdal, Sandra Ritchie, & Kathleen Taylor


Tucked between the northeastern edge of Longleaf Ridge and The Arbors, the Longleaf Pine Trail is a wonderful treasure. As one strolls along the winding paths, there is a sense of peace and enchantment. It's rumored that signs of gnome activity have been found. Whimsically painted stones are frequently placed near the trail to welcome and cheer those who venture along the way.

Save the date! The second annual ice cream social will be held on Wednesday, May 7, at Circle Square Commons. Get to know your Longleaf Ridge neighbors. Bring a lawn chair and beverages, and purchase some ice cream from Mr. B's Big Scoop. Drop in between 4 to 8 p.m. as your schedule permits.

Eric and Lisa Anderson organized another fun monthly dinner. This time, neighbors enjoyed delicious food and fellowship at Bella Cosa Italian Ristorante.

Rob and Kris Shaw hosted a "Spring Has Sprung" driveway party at their home. On a pleasant February evening, neighbors shared snacks, drinks, and stories.

A couple of dozen ladies gathered for a delicious lunch at Sweeties in Dun-

**OneBlood
Bloodmobile**

Sara Sommer

"Spring has sprung, the grass has riz, I wonder where the flowers is?" Just look outside. You will see all those flowers. You will see Big Red Buses® on Monday, April 7. You will also see a Big Red Bus for platelet donations. This will be a first for us. The mobile platelet bus had

**Candler
Connection**

Debra Keirn

Music trivia with ice cream and a Mardi Gras party were two wonderful events in March. Thank you to the volunteers who helped plan and carry out these events and made them successful.

The next potluck dinner will be on Tuesday, April 29, at 5:30 p.m. Bring your favorite dishes. No theme. Attendees with last names beginning with A-H bring a side dish or salad, I-P dessert, and Q-Z main dish. Please prepare your dish for 12 to 15 people and label it with the ingredients to help those with food allergies. The \$1 fee at the door covers tablecloths, eating utensils, plates, decaf coffee, creamers, and centerpieces. RSVP by phone to Deb Keirn at 352-414-5737, text at 814-571-7908, or email at arthurkipdeb@verizon.net.

Saturday, May 31, will be "A Thoroughbred Brunch" from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., catered by Scrambles Cafe and Catering. The menu will include scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage links, grilled potatoes, scrambled oats, western quiche, biscuits, gravy, French toast, and seasonal fruit. There will be a hat and a pony contest (both with prizes), so come dressed for the derby or not. Tickets will be sold every Tuesday and Thursday from April 22 through May 8 for \$25 per Candler Hills resident and \$27 per guest.

An ice cream social will take place on Sunday, Aug. 10, from 3 to 5 p.m. Tickets will be \$6.50 per Candler Hills resident and \$7.50 per guest. There will be vanilla, chocolate, strawberry, butter pecan, salted caramel, and no-sugar-added moose tracks to choose from. We will also have root beer and orange floats. You can even go back for seconds.

The fall picnic will be on Sunday, Sept. 21. You can choose two of three items (chicken, hamburger, or hot dog). There will also be picnic side dishes and desserts.

On Friday, Oct. 31, the Halloween Fright Night will be from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Our annual holiday party is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 12, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Gourmet Affair will cater, and Ross Getek will provide the music.

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

See you around the neighborhood and at future events.

nellon. Everyone agreed that it was a delightful experience – many thanks to Kathy Schoenherr for organizing the event.

Twenty neighbors took part in a mini golf play day in February. Organized by Donna and Ray Sherman, the festivities started in the late afternoon and were followed by dinner at The Club at Candler Hills. Trophies were awarded to Greg and Dina Kenny and Leslie and Dave Hegge for best overall lowest score, Leslie Hegge for three holes in one, and Ken Hittmeier for lowest strokes score. Last but not least, Rita Van Arsdale was awarded a trophy for the most strokes. Everyone agreed it was a fun fellowship event, and I can't wait to do it again.

Longleaf Ridge men welcomed Ben Marciano, the mayor of Ocala, as a guest speaker at their monthly luncheon. Mayor Marciano shared information on the city's current and future plans. Many thanks to Joe Ferris and his team for organizing these informative luncheons.

For those with cerebral interests, book clubs allow neighbors to meet and share perspectives after interesting reads. One of our groups enjoyed a lively discussion about a feisty octopus in "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby VanPelt. "Dear Edward" by Ann Napolitano, a story about a young sole survivor, was the selection for another book club in our neighborhood. Thanks to Jan Ruder for leading a thought-pro-


Photo by Ray Sherman

Longleaf Ridge mini golf play day participants.

voking discussion and Barbara Bennett for hosting.

As our community grows, we look forward to welcoming all the new neighbors to Longleaf Ridge. Please remem-

ber to join our private Facebook page (OTOW Longleaf Ridge Friends) and provide your phase and lot number / address. Please send questions to otow-longleafridge@gmail.com.

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Prototype Home Concept in Longleaf Ridge

By Linda Massarella

Colen Built Development is dedicated to staying at the forefront of invention by incorporating the latest technologies to enhance the performance of every home we build. Our research and development prioritize high-quality, climate-resistant components and sustainable materials, ensuring we identify the most eco-friendly building practices. This commitment allows us to deliver homes that offer homeowners unmatched comfort, energy efficiency, and long-lasting durability.

Many of you may have noticed a new home being constructed in Longleaf Ridge because it looks very different from the homes built around it. While it may look like it's made of traditional plywood, let me assure you that it is not! This home, which is being built as a single prototype to further our research and development, is a recent innovation in the building industry. With the "green revolution" in mind, this new product, pioneered by BamCore, is leading a paradigm shift in construction

practices without compromising quality, performance, or cost.

BamCore is a pioneer in developing building solutions with a zero carbon footprint. Using rapidly renewable, deforestation-free fibers and advanced industrial construction technology, BamCore shortens construction timelines, minimizes waste, and delivers stronger, quieter, and more energy-efficient buildings. BamCore's unique carbon-negative framing system, DuoShear, is ideal for up to five stories of low-rise commercial and residential structures.

This patented bamboo/Eucalyptus/wood hybrid system seamlessly integrates into all architectural designs and reduces thermal bridges by up to 90% for enhanced energy efficiency. Utilizing innovative Load Optimized Biogenic Industrialized Construction (LOBIC) and 3D Building Information Modeling (BIM) technologies, this framing system facilitates waste reduction, increases productivity, lowers project cycle time, and, from a labor standpoint, can be

erected without cranes.

Delivered as a kit of parts, the DuoShear panels arrive at the job site as palletized, sequentially numbered units. Each element, including doors, windows, outlets, and access panels, is precision-cut at the BamCore factory, eliminating onsite cutting, reducing waste, and maximizing efficiency. In terms of green, it's all about reducing the carbon footprint. To build carbon-negative, you must begin with fast-growing, biogenic materials that excel at sequestering atmospheric carbon.

Bamboo and eucalyptus are two natural materials that fit this bill; both are used in the BamCore System. Bamboo outshines wood in terms of construction properties. Timber bamboo can be twice as stiff and strong as wood, allowing for less material usage in building frames for equivalent structural loads. With the threats of deforestation, climate change, and a materials shortage crisis, timber bamboo emerges as a formidable solution.

In addition to bamboo, a recent study recognizes Eucalyptus as an environmental champion contributing to many advantages. For example, its speedy growth and regenerative capacity are vital in sequestering atmospheric carbon, a key weapon in the fight against climate change. Other advantages of eu-

calyptus include optimizing water usage and revitalizing unproductive or degraded lands. Its regenerative properties and extensive root system will mitigate soil ecology disruption and nurture sustainable biodiversity.

I am sure many of you may be thinking, that's great, but it is still wood, so how does it stack up against concrete block regarding energy efficiency, sound attenuation, and hurricane-force winds? Well, research has proven that it stacks up even better than block. When tested, Duo-Shear panels resulted in higher R-values (energy-efficiency ratings) with a score of 25.1. In contrast, block scored an 11, meaning it can contribute as much as 55% in energy savings. Regarding decibel ratings (quieter homes), DuoShear returned a decibel reading of 27, while the concrete block rated 50 (yes, lower is better). Lastly, BamCore materials have been tested to Miami-Dade standards, which speaks to their durability and ability to withstand intense wind-related events. These are the strictest building standards in the State.

Is BamCore the wave of the future for Colen Built? It's too soon to tell. This prototype home will need to prove itself first, and that will come with time—time to determine how it performs over the course of many months in quality, durability, livability, and lasting value.

Community Emergency Response Team

Jane Belz



our community in the event of a disaster and assist in a situation where emergency services are overwhelmed.

As a former teacher, new member Dee Dee Pressley recognizes the value of hands-on activities to enhance the learning experience. "It was fantastic!" she said. Pressley said she was motivated to join CERT after watching her husband work as a detective. "I like helping people and saw what my husband did," she said. "I saw how someone was cared for, like I'd like to see someone take care of me."

Paul Carr, another new graduate, joined CERT to get involved in his community. He described the training class as very informative. "The instructors were good; they answered all your questions," he said. He also enjoyed the hands-on activities, particularly the fire safety drill, where students practiced using a fire extinguisher to put out a fire.

Members review the training topics at each monthly meeting to keep their skills current. MCSO sponsors an annual

drill for all Marion County CERT groups every April to refresh their knowledge. On Top of the World CERT is using their March and April meetings as practice so we will be ready to participate. After the benefit of her initial training, Pressley is ready to learn other techniques. "It was amazing! We need to do it more often," she said enthusiastically.

You are invited to attend one of our meetings to learn more about our group. Snowbirds are always welcome. We meet on the second Tuesday of



Photo by Jane Belz

A new CERT class graduated from training sponsored by the Marion County Sheriff's Office.

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The Great Escape

By Dave DeAngelis
World News Writer

Part III

Day 8 – Peekaboo, I See You

Seven days had passed, filled with hope, followed by frustration that soon turned into nagging disappointment. Day number eight of Dobbie's disappearance began exactly the way the previous day ended ... people were running in circles searching for the little scamp, following the leads on sightings. It was like hide and seek. If chihuahuas are somewhat intelligent, then this one belongs in a chihuahua Mensa group.

Multiple sightings were reported early that morning around Windsor, from where he flew the coop. "I saw him, and he was looking right at me," said a patroller from Candler Hills. More traps with food were set, totaling five.

What's next in the playbook? Dobbie on a milk carton? Little Fifi the poodle in a bikini to lure him back? Two more hours of driving around by Heather, calling out his name, but no luck. There was only one more sighting alert at 8 p.m., with his location being near a retention area. Head on over to that area! Sorry. Gone. Time to call it a day, well, night.

Day 9 – Running Out of Steam

Since Dobbie was last spotted in Candler Hills, Heather and Team Dobbie patrollers from On Top of the World decided to start the morning of day nine back there. Wondering who would run out of steam sooner, Dobbie or the team, was a shared thought among the group. They waited patiently, eyes darting, calling for that crafty canine. A couple of calls were relayed to the team from Donna Smalley back at Camp Smalley.

Ay, chihuahua! Someone saw Dobbie crossing SW 80th Street, just two blocks away from them! More calls came in from the general area. Guess the dog wasn't running out of steam after all. Surely, he must be. Another hour driving around by the patrollers before calling it quits, knowing that the longer Dobbie is on the loose, less than positive things could happen.

Day 10 – Git Along Little Dobbie

In Windsor, Chris Spillane's neighbor

bor, Don Wright, called Heather to report that he had just seen Dobbie. This was great news since the dog was closing back in on his launch site. Running out of steam, little doggie?

Dobbie immediately froze when Don called his name, but then he wandered off while the team continued to search. Heather decided to use Dobbie's original crate with some of his cloth toys as a lure and brought it to Don.

Chris was cooking hot dogs at her home also as a lure to get him back to her house from where he originally split.

As the crate was being placed, Heather's phone rang. It was a woman offering prayer to bring Dobbie home. As they were praying on the phone, Heather felt a bump on her leg. Dobbie immediately jumped into her arms.

Imagine. Ten days running throughout our neighborhoods, most likely scared, tired, and hungry rather than taunting his pursuers as it sometimes seemed. How did he elude things that go bump in the night? Four-legged? Four-wheeled? Feathered? What did he eat? Confused, he did not realize that the two-legged pursuers were trying to save him. What was he feeling?

Ultimately, what he felt could have been measured by his jump into Heather's arms, and all the people on Team Dobbie who contributed to the search and rescue mission could finally share

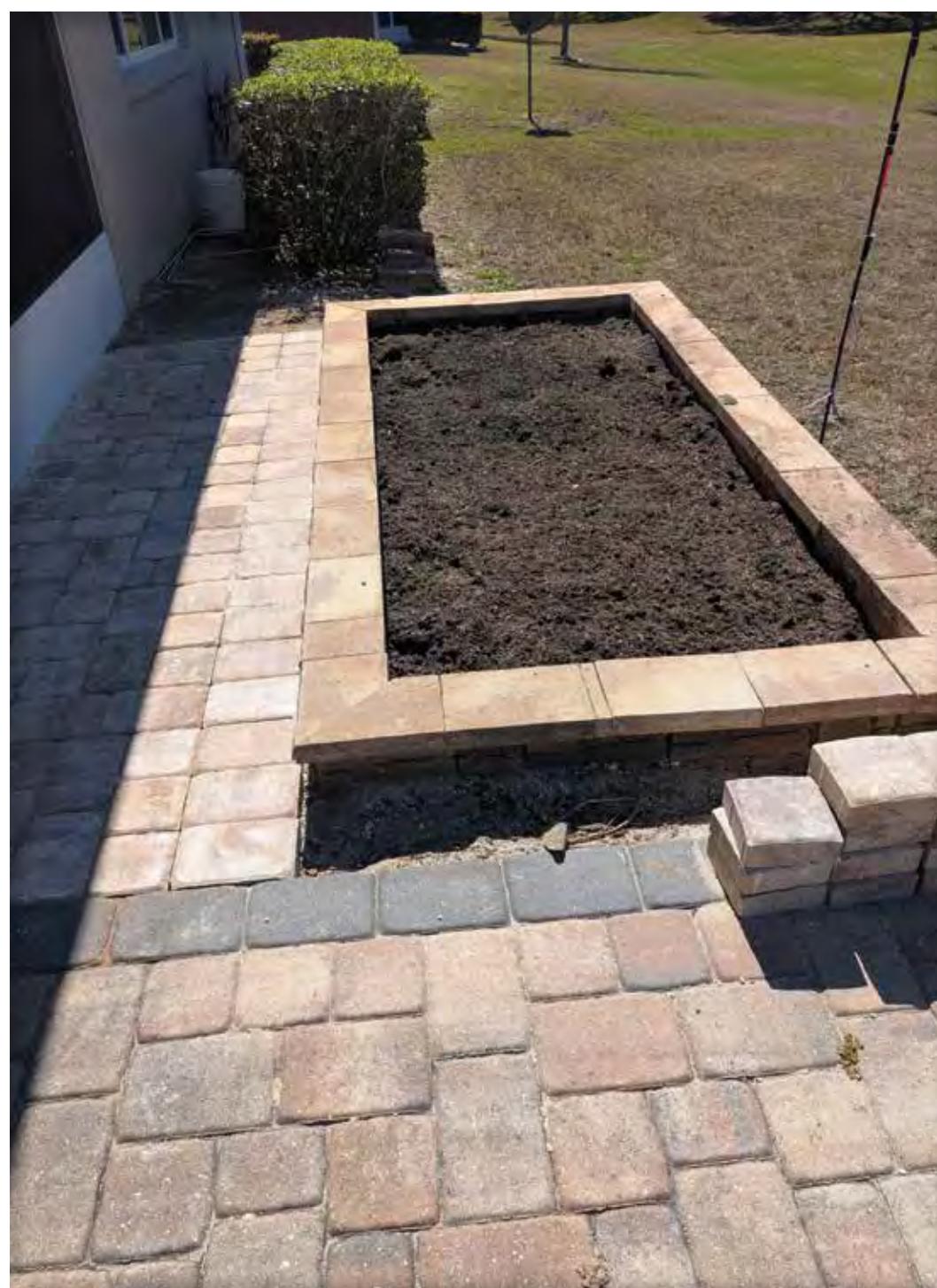
the feelings of joy, relief, and accomplishment. Together, our neighbors here in On Top of the World and other neighborhoods relentlessly spread a dragnet. A woman living in Indiana contributing. Flyers posted everywhere. The alert being spread by so many people over ten days. A coordinated team of caring, giving and determined people produced a very happy ending to ten nerve wracking days. So much effort.

In the end, Chris decided that Dobbie was too much for her to handle, and Heather reclaimed ownership of the escape artist. Endless thanks and kudos to all of you from Heather, who reports that Dobbie has regained the few pounds a chihuahua could possibly lose and is taking it quite easy. Welcome back, Dobbie. But no more of this Ferris Bueller stuff, okay?



Photo by Dave DeAngelis

Heather Newman and Dobbie with volunteers.



Phil's new backyard raised bed garden.

Raised Bed Gardens

By Phil Karcheski

Do you want to plant a home flower or vegetable garden this year? On Top of the World permits a garden with dimensions that shall not exceed an area of 40 square feet and shall be installed adjacent to back of the home/lanai. Garden shall not be installed further than 10-feet from the home and shall be parallel to the building or rear lanai. As a friendly reminder, please be sure to refer to Rules and Regulations for your association for exterior modifications and guidelines for herb and vegetable gardens. If you want to start growing, now's the time.

Raised bed gardens offer numerous advantages, such as improved drainage, better soil control, reduced weeds, and a location close to your house for convenience.

There are several material options available. I chose pavers and stone to compliment my patio. An optimal height for vegetables is six to 12 inches.

The bed soil mix should be light, well-drained, and rich in organic matter. It usually consists of topsoil and compost for nutrients and moisture retention. Add peat moss or cocoa coir for aeration and moisture. Cocoa coir is neutral and allows you to adjust your pH and nutrient level. When blending your soils, you're striving for a pH normally in the range of six to seven.

When filling the bed, I use a method referred to as lasagna gardening. I start with cardboard that is free of tape, staples, or printing laid directly on the surface, then layer leaves, peat moss, garden soil, and compost. They should be applied in several layers. The components will affect the pH, sustain worms, and provide nutrients essential to every garden. Compost improves soil fertility and structure.

Locate the gardens relative to the types of plants regarding exposure to

the sun. When watering your raised bed garden, it's best to use a moisture meter to avoid overwatering or preventing the soil from drying out. Popular options for controlling weeds include mulch, barrier fabric, straw, or even cardboard, which serves the dual purpose of keeping the soil moist and feeding worms.

Popular raised bed garden vegetables include carrots, which like loose, well-drained soil to prevent rotting or forking, and leafy greens such as lettuce, spinach, kale, and Swiss chard. Fruity vegetables such as tomatoes thrive in warm, well-drained soil. Peppers love the warm and consistent moisture and cucumbers that can be trained to climb trellises and pole beans to save space.

Many herbs thrive in raised bed gardens, especially those that prefer the well-drained soil. They add color, and many varieties repel detrimental insects.

Lastly, many flowers do well in raised bed gardens, especially those that benefit from good drainage. They add color and are often used as companion plants. My favorites are dwarf French marigolds. They're fragrant, add color, attract bees and other pollinators, and repel nematodes, which are prevalent in our soils.

I hope you find this information interesting and informative and it encourages you to start a raised bed garden. Although I consider myself a handyman that would normally undertake this type of project my body tells a different story. I want to start this before growing in season so I'm leaving constructing my garden to professionals building the retaining walls, laying the pavers and bringing in soils.

Information is coming soon about the new garden that On Top of the World is building for the Eco Gardeners Club!



Photo by Jim Di Paolo

Total lunar eclipse.

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**Moonstruck
Astronomy Club**

Jim Di Paolo



The Moonstruck Astronomy Club held its monthly meeting on Thursday, March 13. Jim Di Paolo, club president, kicked off the meeting by informing everyone that the club currently has 61 paid members. He went on to point out the nice spread the club's column received in the World News March edition. Jim feels these columns bring attention to the club and help drive overall membership.

Larry Isenberg, club vice president, and Jim reminded everyone about the upcoming total lunar eclipse. The eclipse will pass through the Earth's shadow between 1:09 a.m. and 4:47 a.m. on Friday, March 14. In Ocala, it will be visible in the southwestern sky. At the midpoint of the eclipse, the Moon will lie 57° above the horizon. The total eclipse will last from 2:26 a.m. until 3:31 a.m.

Member Doug George started his monthly night sky presentation by reviewing where all the planets are located throughout March. Jupiter will be visible straight overhead after sunset, and Mars will be visible in the East after sunset. Doug discussed what causes lunar eclipses and gave members a complete timetable for the upcoming eclipse that will be visible on Friday. He also pointed out the prominent constellations for the month and deep sky objects that can be seen through an amateur telescope. As always, Doug ended his presentation by pointing out the International Space Station flyovers for the month.

Larry's presentation was titled "Telescopes 101," the start of a series of presentations reviewing different types of telescopes. Today's talk covered the workings of a reflector telescope, which

was invented by Isaac Newton in the 17th century. Reflectors gather light using a primary mirror at the back of the telescope. This mirror reflects light up the telescope tube to a small, flat secondary mirror. This mirror is tilted at a 45° angle to redirect the light out the side of the telescope tube where an eyepiece is located for viewing.

Jim concluded the meeting with a presentation titled "Spectroscopy in Astronomy." Spectroscopy studies the absorption and emission of light and other radiation by matter. It reveals the chemical makeup of stars, planets, and interstellar gas. Spectroscopy can measure the temperature of stars and planets, along with their speed and direction.

The Moonstruck Astronomy Club meetings are on the second Thursday of every month from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. All residents with a resident ID or Gateway of Services pass can join the club, and new members are welcome! Yearly club dues are only \$20 per year, including a subscription to the quarterly Reflector Magazine. For information or club registration, please contact club President Jim Di Paolo at moonastroclub@gmail.com. More information is always available at moonstruckastronomyclub.org.

Technology Club



Chris Kilbride

Every Saturday at 9 a.m., the Ocala Tech Club meets for an hour through our weekly online Zoom meetings. We try to help resident members learn about the ever-changing technology surrounding us through discussions about Android, Windows, and Apple devices, including current issues. OcalaTechClub.org provides lots of great information about our group.

Holidays and birthday treats for others often spur a gift card purchase for a favorite store your recipient likes or a generic card with a certain dollar figure. If you're cleaning out the drawers or your wallet and find some unused gift cards given to you, are they still good?

Most gift cards, eGift cards, and date of last added funds to a card, can't expire for five years from issuance, under the 2009 federal law Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure (CARD) Act. Around 20 states are also passing laws regarding extended expiration dates. Check the packaging for a printed date, the issuer's website, or special expiration policy. When cards get lost, expire, or you fail to use the full amount — the company wins.

Perhaps you received a gift card for a company or products you never would want to purchase; now, what can you do? Consider re-gifting to family, friends, or someone in need. Try searching for "gift card exchange for cash," where you can exchange that card for 60 to 90% of the value.

A generic dollar-valued card can be used for anything, even groceries. Some eGift cards let you reload a new balance, which also extends the date of expiration. Ask a retailer if they will cash out a card that was purchased from them. Check with a company regarding an expired card and see if they have certain conditions under which you can still redeem it. Avoid scams by purchasing online from the company and not on an open store rack.

Be sure to note when cards are received, the dollar value, and the expiration date on the package. Place it in your wallet on top of your credit card to be used first. Save even more; use the card when the store runs sales. If possible, purchase gift cards from local businesses to help support the community. E-Gift cards can be sent by email or text to your recipient, who can load them into their digital wallet. Get creative and gift a variety of dollar bills folded in Origami shapes, where your recipient only needs to unfold them and spend as they wish.

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

Members enjoy Thursday in-person help sessions in the Hobby Building, discussing their Windows or Apple computer, smartphone, or tablet issues. In-person classes are on each month's first Friday and Saturday, with online Zoom meetings on additional Saturdays.

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The Jewish Club

Bruce Kanner



"I had just moved to Ramah to care for my elderly aunt" is how local first-person historical actress Dee Collier – portraying biblical character Hannah – began her presentation to the Jewish Club Sunday, Feb. 16, at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. Hannah, as portrayed by Ms. Collier, went on to tell the 106 attendees about her desire to have a child and how it "looked like G-d had closed my womb."

She eventually had a child and named him Samuel "because I had asked the Lord for him," she said. She explained that when Samuel, who went on to become a prophet, was 12 years old, he was called out to by G-d three times but did not answer the call until the fourth time, not knowing who was calling out to him.

Ms. Collier, who has performed other historical characters at the club in recent years, including sharpshooter Annie Oakley and a Dutch woman who hid Jews from the Nazis named Corrie ten Boom, looked the part of Hannah covered head to toe in what could be described as an Old-World Bedouin dress. Remaining in character, Ms. Collier even had an appropriate answer to a question about her red nail polish.

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Earlier at the meeting, Andrea Wallet delivered a moment in time on the holiday of Tu B'Shevat. While the name simply refers to the 15th Jewish month of Shevat, the holiday signifies a new year for trees. "Why now and not in spring?" Ms. Wallet asked. "Well, the rainy season is over in Israel, and the soil is best for planting new trees. In modern times, Tu B'Shevat has become associated with Jewish attachment to the land of Israel and sensitivity to environmental concerns," she said. "Many take this opportunity to contribute to the JNF (Jewish National Fund) to plant trees in Israel."

With Tu B'Shevat in mind, 25 club members donated to plant 30 trees in Israel on behalf of the Jewish Club, raising \$300 at the meeting. Keeping with the Tu B'Shevat theme, the hospitality committee provided nuts, olives, grapes, a large bowl of fresh fruit, and assorted pastries and cookies as after-meeting refreshments.

Lois Trepper reported that the "food was great" at Primary Tavern, as 17 members of the Jewish Club enjoyed their first lunch bunch at the new Ocala eatery on Tuesday, Feb. 18.

You do not have to be Jewish to belong to the Jewish Club. Through social and educational activities, the club promotes understanding and respect for Jewish people and their history, customs, and culture. Annual dues are \$18 per person. The Jewish Club holds meetings at The Lodge at Candler Hills and the Arbor Conference Center.

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



Jewish Club members attending lunch bunch at Primary Tavern in February.

SPCA of Marion County

Heather Tahan



The SPCA of Marion County is a 501(c)(3) organization always looking for new members and volunteers to support our mission to improve the lives of animals in Marion County. Examples of SPCA support are packing pet food and supplies for Marion County's Meals on Wheels program, supplying local shelters with food and supplies and assisting local clinics with emergency medical funds. Please join us (and bring a friend) at our monthly meeting every third Thursday at 1 p.m., at the Friendship Baptist Church, Fellowship Hall, 9510 SW 105th Street, Ocala, FL 34481. Our next regular meeting will be on Thursday, April 17. On Friday, April 25, look for our tables at the Rags to Riches sale.

Welcome to our newly elected treasurer, Julie Rojas. Julie was born and raised in a Denver, Colorado suburb, and pursued her career in various roles such as an administrative assistant, a paralegal, a membership director for a non-profit organization, a marketing specialist and a recruiter. During her career, she gained expertise in databases, technology, and advocating for and leading volunteers. At the age of two, Julie's grandpa passed on his love of animals when he held her up on his beloved horse, Dixie. Later he gave her one of his hunting dogs, a Brittany Spaniel, which started her love affair with dogs and puppies, as well as enjoying the outdoors.

Julie has lived in On Top of the World

for three years and enjoys pursuing her passion for animal welfare. After visiting a few of the local shelters and clinics that the SPCA of Marion County supports, she discovered what a significant problem stray and abandoned dogs are in Marion County. Lack of funds can prevent owners from spaying or neutering their pets as well as surrendering pets with medical issues. Many of these pet owners either can't, or choose not to, care for their animals when they're sick or dying. Julie's deep love for animals motivates her to have a big impact on improving the lives of as many animals as possible. Julie invites those in the community to join the SPCA of Marion County and hopes that "you will join us on this rewarding and challenging mission."

Donations of pet food and supplies will be accepted on the porch of Evelyn Sarns Holiday at 8880-C SW 94th Street, Ocala, Florida 34481. To avoid accidental ingestion by a pet, please do not use staples to close open bags. By giving items to the SPCA of Marion County, you also support local shelters.

In 2024, we provided meals for about 500 cats, 300 small dogs, and 300 large dogs through the Senior Services Meals on Wheels program. Since 80% of these recipients have pets, our efforts help not only animals but the seniors who love them.

To learn more about our organization, please visit SPCAofMarionCounty.weebly.com, follow us on Facebook (Marion County Fl SPCA), or email us at marion.county@gmail.com.

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." - Aesop

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Women of the World

Lois Rowland

Women of the World is a social and charitable organization. Our mission is to entertain, inform, educate, and inspire our members through our monthly

Genealogical Society

Sid Levine

If you like to solve puzzles or investigate a mystery, delving into your family history should satisfy your appetite. We at the Genealogical Society are dedicated to helping you answer those questions you forgot to ask your grandparents years ago.

Latinos Club

Silvia C. Garcia

Hola Amigos! April showers bring May flowers and opportunities to have fun! Let's get to know our members! Beginning with this issue, we are excited to introduce you to members of our club's board of directors and general members.

Silvia C. Garcia, our founder and president, was born in Cuba and moved to the U.S. in 1966. Silvia is a full-time realtor and entrepreneur passionate about making a positive difference in people's lives through volunteer work. Her hobbies include dancing, traveling, cooking, and entertaining.

Our vice president, Ivan Vazquez, is of Puerto Rican descent and hails from New York. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Claribel, and is a retired U.S. Navy veteran and customs marine agent. Ivan's hobbies include reading, playing dominoes, and watching football and baseball.

Marlene Hatch was born in Indiana, married to Phil Hatch, and worked in sales and marketing for food service

meetings and to contribute to the local community by providing much-needed goods to those in need in Marion County.

The kind support of Ruth Santman of Guided Medicare Solutions enabled us to have the 22nd annual Fashion Show at Circle Square Cultural Center. It was held on Wednesday, March 19. Tickets for the gift basket raffles were sold, and guests added their tickets to the baskets they wanted to win. The lunch was ca-

tered by Pasta Faire and enjoyed by all. Our 10 models wore fashions from Dillard's and the On Top of the World Golf Shop. Photos from the event will be published in the Marion Citizen. The event proceeds will be donated to the Nancy Renhart Dementia Education Program.

The next meeting will be at the Recreation Center Ballroom on Thursday, April 17. Mindy Morrow from Horse Farms Forever will speak. Our charities

will be Shepherds Light House and Operation Shoebox. Details for the charities will follow in emails.

Our monthly meetings are on the third Thursday of each month at noon. The club is open to all women residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. If you want to join us, please call Michele Croud, club president, at 586-872-1966.

We are well into our club's yearly program and have had some compelling programs. We have many more scheduled for the rest of the year. We will also provide one-on-one guidance for those who have hit a brick wall in their research or need help getting started.

In January, two representatives from the Family History Center in Ocala instructed us on how to use the FamilySearch.org website. February featured a presentation by Debbie Duay via Zoom. "King, Queens, Pilgrims, and Tavern Keepers. Who's in your family tree?" ex-

plored how we might be descendants of royalty or common folk.

March gave us some research tips on how to find clues to our family history in newspaper articles in a Zoom session with Annette Lytle.

In April, Deb Baker, our chairperson of education, will give us some tips on using the Family History Center in Ocala. The center provides access to many records that are not available on the internet.

We have a whole new board of directors this year – Sid Levine, president; Art

equipment manufacturers. She has volunteered with Kiwanis International since 2005 and is currently president of the SPCA of Marion County, which supports local animal shelters and supplies pet food for Meals on Wheels. Her hobbies include traveling, cooking, and social clubs.

Maria Adrian was born in New York, married Everett Adrian, and worked for a multi-media marketing company. She discovered her passion for drawing when her daughter, Alissa, encouraged her to take art classes at Master the Possibilities; she now creates commissioned artwork for residents. Her hobbies include cooking, sewing, and gardening. We recently enjoyed a fantastic evening of wine tasting and dancing. The Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios were beautifully decorated, and the bartenders were phenomenal. Pati and Jan Bean performed a ballroom dance, and our DJ, Ivan Vazquez, played great music. The Price and Gonzalez families won gift baskets.

Our monthly dining events are always a hit. We recently gathered at Azul Tequila. The food was delicious, and the service was fantastic! Hector Gonzalez won a gift card courtesy of the restaurant.

Game nights on Tuesdays from 6 to

8 p.m. are a favorite free activity for club members. They feature dominoes, cards, and board games. It's a great time to bring your favorite games and meet new friends!

Looking ahead, mark your calendar for some exciting events: socializing and dancing with DJ Imagine Entertainment on Saturday, April 12; Baila Caliente – dancing and socializing with DJ Petroski on Thursday, May 22; our Hispanic Heritage Celebration on Saturday, Sept. 13, with DJ Joe Ortiz; and honoring our

troops on Saturday, Nov. 1.

Our social committee is working hard to ensure that every event is even better than the last – we can't wait for you to join us!

For more information, call Silvia C. Garcia at 561-801-8188, Ivan Vazquez at 727-403-9629, Jesus Alvarez at 954-549-7953, or Beatriz Kelemen at 828-545-9277. We look forward to meeting you! You do not have to be Latino to join! Follow us on Facebook (OTOW Latinos Club Ocala).



Photo by Silvia C. Garcia

Bartenders Warner Whitfield, Steven Code, Ramon Miranda, and Jesus Alvarez serve at Latinos Club's wine tasting and dancing event.

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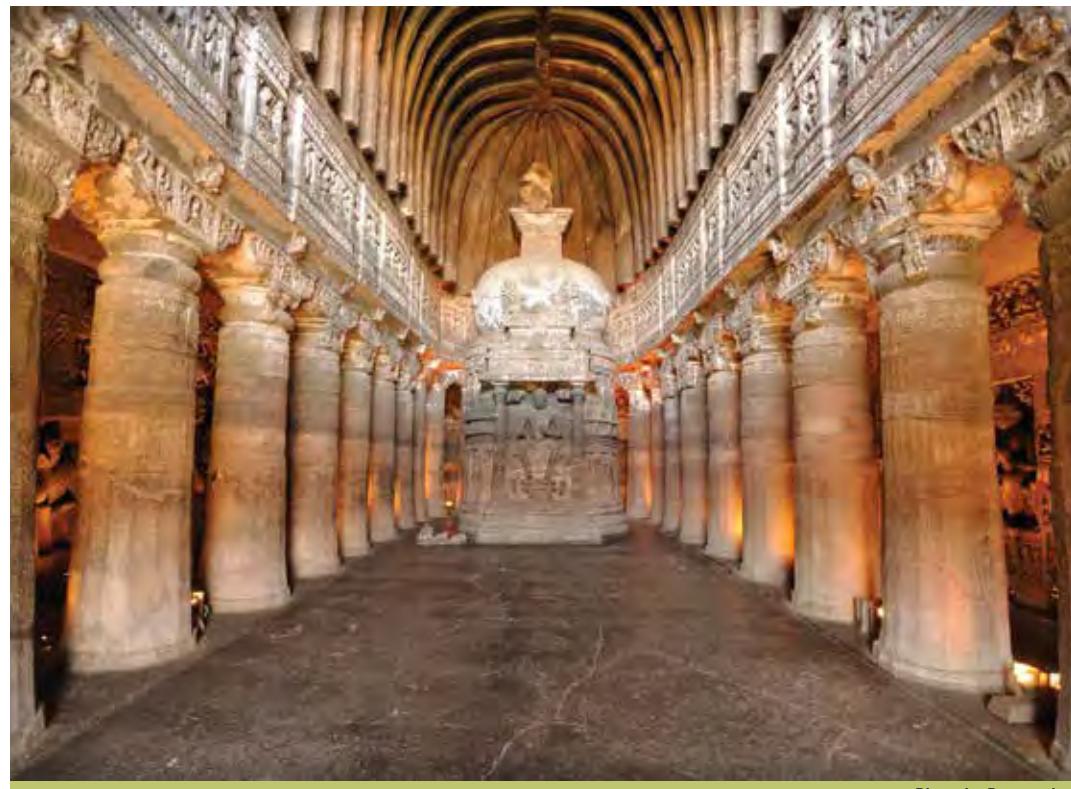
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A Buddhist prayer hall, Cave 26 in the Ajanta Caves located in the state of Maharashtra, India.

Photo by Dey.sandip

World Traveler

Bill Shampine



Located in the west-central part of India, about 220 miles east-northeast of Mumbai, there is a mountain with a huge, bare rock face, something like Stone Mountain in Georgia. Centuries ago, the local population carved 30 caves into this mountain to honor and worship Buddha. These caves, known as the Ajanta Caves, constitute ancient monasteries and worship halls of different Buddhist traditions. They contain paintings and rock-cut sculptures depicting the past lives and rebirths of the Buddha. Textual records also suggest that these caves served as a retreat for monks during the monsoon season and a resting place for merchants and pilgrims in ancient India.

The Ajanta Caves are generally agreed to have been made in two distinct phases: first from about 100 B.C.E. to C.E. 100, and second from about C.E. 460 to 480. Over the centuries, the caves had been "lost" as they became increasingly engulfed by jungle. In 1819, however, a colonial British officer, Captain John Smith (honestly, that's his name), accidentally "discovered" them while at a tiger-hunting party. Appallingly, the "gentleman" almost immediately defaced one of the wall paintings by scratching

his name and the date on a painting of a bodhisattva. Vandals have been around for a long time!

Within decades of the rediscovery, the caves became famous for their exotic setting, impressive architecture, and their exceptional paintings. For the next hundred years, the societies that ruled over the area of the caves took steps to clean the debris out of them, enhance them by carefully restoring the paintings, and protect them from further damage. In 1983, the caves were listed among the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of India and have become the most popular tourist destination in the state of Maharashtra.

The more recent caves commonly resemble the Cathedral-style architecture of a Christian church. They usually have high ceilings and a central "nave" leading to the stupa, which is near the back but allows walking behind it. Walking around a stupa is a common element of Buddhist worship. By the way, a stupa is a Buddhist monument, a mound or dome-shaped structure used for meditation and prayer.

The Ajanta Caves were built in a period when both the Buddha and the Hindu gods were simultaneously revered in Indian culture. Consequently, many of the caves contain inscriptions and paintings depicting both Buddha and Hindu gods.

These caves are beautiful and of great historical significance, and if you were in the neighborhood, it would be worth visiting them.

SWANS



Lois Nix

Over 100 women met for the SWANS bi-annual meeting in March. At this meeting, we welcomed new members and great old friends. We encourage all members to attend two meetings a year. We invite all women residents to join us at any time.

Our new appetizer, lunch, and dinner in groups of six will start meeting in April and meet for the next six months. Each month, a SWAN will have a turn entertaining in her home.

SWANS has been around for 19 years, so I have participated in 228 appetizer groups! It's been so much fun! We also

have volunteers to arrange breakfast, lunch, or dinner out every month. Many years ago, it was said that we ate out a lot. Yes, it might appear that way; food is always part of celebrations (do not forget the wine), and we constantly celebrate friendship.

Sign-up boards were available for our mini-vacation to Daytona Beach Shores, Marjorie Keenan Rawlings, Ma Barker House, and nature walks.

Our mission is to be social and supportive of all single women. SWANS are never alone, and they are never forgotten.

Christian Women's Club



Sandi Kemp

We are a group of ladies who meet once a month on the third Saturday for a delicious potluck and wonderful fellowship! Most months, we have a speaker who brings us an inspiring message.

This month, we are in for a special musical treat – members from the Dulcimer Club will perform a wide range of musical numbers that will have us enjoying upbeat and soothing sounds.

Each month, we collect for Interfaith Emergency Services. In addition to food items, please remember that many other items are needed, including anything you use on a daily basis, like personal hygiene, first aid, and pet food.

Our next meeting is Saturday, April 19, in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II. We start at 11:45 a.m., but please arrive by 11:30 a.m. so we can start on time. We end between 1:15 and 1:30 p.m. Reservations are unnecessary; just show up with your potluck! Iced tea and water are provided. We ask for a \$1 donation to help with supplies. We are always happy to have new people come! I hope to see you there! If you have any questions, call me at 352-237-9073 (no texts, please).

Joy in the Mourning



Deb Thompson

"Good, healthy, recovery, healing, growth, grace, patience, heal, adjust, grow through, advantage, joy, progress, support, identify, and new reality" are just some of the objectives of Joy in the Mourning.

The Apostle Paul encourages with words from Philippians 4:6,8. "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Joy in the Mourning support group meets every Friday in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

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Christ in the Passover Seder

Friday, April 18, 2025 | 5 to 8 p.m. | \$16 per person

Friendship Baptist Church will host a Christ in the Passover Seder led by the Jewish believer Rev. Mark Robinson. Join us for this edifying and challenging evening as we share in a Passover Seder. The order of this Seder will be the same as that in a traditional Jewish home, with explanations about the traditions and insights into the Messianic understanding of the Passover.

Ticket price includes the Passover Haggadah book, a delicious dinner including a salad, vegetable, pot roast, dessert, and all the elements used in the Passover Seder.

For tickets, please call 352-237-2640. Seating is limited.



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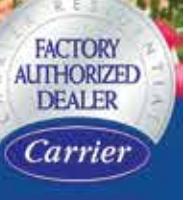
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Freethinkers

Kathy Bell



wood on Wednesday, March 12, to learn about this Black Homesteader Colony from descendants of the original settlers. Royal is one of only two communities still surviving in the U.S. These properties were awarded to formerly enslaved people in the Civil War era.

Our next meetings will be on Sundays, April 6 and 20, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. On April 6, we will have a speed meet-and-greet to get to know each other as our group grows. Then, two of our participants will discuss how they became Freethinkers. On April 20, we will watch a Seth Andrews video, "The Brick Wall Brain: Why Aren't Facts Changing Minds?" which will likely generate an excellent discussion.

Periodically we schedule an open forum where we divide into six to eight person groups to discuss diverse issues. We also delve into timeless topics such as the reality of free will, evolution, and the psychological need to be right. Even though some of these issues are controversial, we are committed to discussing them open-mindedly and rationally. This is not a debate or a trivial conversation but a thoughtful and respectful discussion of important and interesting topics.

On Thursday, April 24, our book club will meet in the same space from 6:30 to 8 p.m. to discuss 1984 by George Orwell. This will be a timely review of the classic and often banned novel.

Visit us at freethinkersflorida.org or email FreethinkersFlorida@gmail.com for more information. We welcome anyone from religious skeptics to avowed atheists.

ing to the Chapel," "Love Potion #9," and "Blame it on the Bossa Nova." They also did a fun shanty, "What do you do with a drunken sailor?"

We meet on the second Friday in the Hobby Building Event Room from September through May (no meetings from June through August), a change for all of 2025.

For our Friday, April 11 meeting, we will have a luncheon at the Mellow Mushroom. Times and details will be forthcoming.

Plan to come and support this great club comprised of some great ladies!

R/C LadyBirds

Linda Lohr



Our club is open to all wives and significant others of the R/C Flyers.

Our February meeting was held on Valentine's Day. Spouses were invited for treats. Entertainment by Janet Voyles and the Ukulele Club. It was a great success! Some tunes they played were "Go-

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Ohio Buckeyes Social Club

Amy Ingram



On Tuesday, March 4, the Ohio Buckeyes Social Club had a fun Mardi Gras-themed party. Members enjoyed great food, music, a scavenger hunt, a 50/50 raffle, and a costume contest. There was a large turnout, and everyone had a great time. Our social committee did an amazing job, and we are so grateful for their hard work.

The club also held its annual membership meeting on Saturday, March 8, with over 40 members in attendance. New bylaws were voted on and approved, and the current board of Gregg Keidel, president; Chris Moretto, vice president; Dave Ruhlen, treasurer; and Amy Ingram, secretary, was voted in for a one-year additional term.

Be sure to save the date for our next big event, a Cinco de Mayo party on Monday, May 5. In addition, events for the year include an Independence Day cookout and ice cream social, a Halloween and chili cookoff, our annual Christmas party, and the fall football game watch parties. Do not miss out on all the fun; the time to join the club is now.

If you are interested in joining or renewing your membership to the Ohio Buckeyes Social Club, email us at buckeyes34481@gmail.com. Annual dues are \$20 per person and the club is open to any resident who has ties or interest in the state of Ohio. You can also look for us on Facebook (Residents of On Top of the World Buckeye Social Club).



Photo by Marge Ruhlen
Ron Labbe and Amy Ingram at the Ohio Buckeyes Social Club Mardi Gras party.

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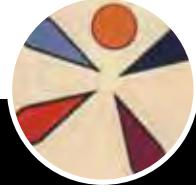
On Top of the World

World Tai Chi and Qigong Day is celebrated in hundreds of communities across the globe to bring people together. The event slogan, 'One Breath, One World' provides a unifying vision of health and wellness. Join Art Stalbow on this special day in beautiful Sholom Park to celebrate movement that calms the mind, energizes the body and inspires the soul.

No registration required. Meet at the Sholom Park Pavilion.
First-time participants are encouraged to join!

Active Singles Club

Catherine White



In Florida, they say, "Life is a Beach," and April is the month to start exploring a few. At the end of March, we started the season with a day trip to Ormond Beach, tailgating and enjoying the sand and surf. It was a beautiful day, and there are so many more beaches to experience.

Beach driving can be enjoyed just a few hours away in Daytona Beach and

Southern Connection Club

Patsy Dooley



What a special treat for the Southern Connection members/guests to be entertained by the lovely ladies of Dancing Jewels at the March meeting! The ensemble was formed several years ago and remains a popular community activity. Clever, quick-change costumes

Michigan Club

Nancy Meininger



It's Coney time! On Sunday, April 6, the Michigan Club will hold its annual picnic to salute the Detroit Tigers! We're grillin' those juicy franks shipped here from the Mitton State just for this celebration!

Terry Champion is our master grill chef, and his wife, Linda Luotonin, serves the world-famous national Coney Island chili sauce imported from Detroit. Sandi Madincea will top that with chopped onions and a squirt of yellow mustard. It's so yummy that it brings back those great Michigan memories all over again!

Club members will load the buffet table with plenty of sides, such as baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, vegetables, Jello salads, watermelon, cookies,

and cakes.

We'll be at the Veterans Park pavilion

from 3 to 6 p.m., singing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" and enjoying a few cold glasses of Vernors ginger ale, a Motor City favorite.

Plates and plastic silverware will be provided at this picnic—there is no need to bring set-ups. Tickets are available now for \$5 per person. Get them early while we still have some!

In March, we had the pleasure of

hearing Linda Letcher of the Historical Preservation Society give us an insider look at some of Ocala's secret places.

She was a terrific speaker who told us

about famous movies filmed at Silver

Springs, led us up hidden staircases to

floors above Harry's Seafood Bar and

Grille, and revealed what had occurred

there centuries before. She also told of

phosphate magnates from Dunnellon

who chose to settle here on 5th Street,

making it "Millionaires Row."

Michigan Club will take a summer

hiatus from May 1 to Sept. 30. Watch for

information on next season's Oktoberfest meeting on Sunday, Oct. 5.

sider a road trip in your future!

In our community, we have the golf cart poker run on Saturday, April 12 and a Memorial Day picnic on Saturday, May 24. We also have regular activities like bunco, pickleball, golf scrambles, card games, Mexican train, miniature golf, darts and bocce.

The Active Singles Club provides a structured way to meet new people, engage in shared interests, and build social connections. Through our activities schedule, we strive to connect our members who share similar passions, facilitating conversation and an opportunity to foster a sense of belonging and community.

Did you know that all our activities

are membership-driven? Do you have a great idea? Are you dying to visit anything and everything Florida offers but don't want to do it alone? Do you wish to travel outside Florida but desire a shared experience? Let us know, and we will help you plan it and find others who share your aspirations. Check out our new Travel Page on our website.

So, how do you join? Come to a monthly membership meeting on the third Wednesday evening of every month at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios. Visit otowactivesingles.com, where you can view our monthly calendar of events and join! Email us at otowactivesingles@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page (OTOW Active Singles Club).

Southern Connection Club

Patsy Dooley



enhanced the Jewel's delightful dancing. The master of ceremonies shared pertinent information about the organization and introduced each dance, including "Waikiki Cowboy," "Greased Lightning," "Then He Kissed Me," "Lord of the Dance," and service songs for the U.S. Armed Forces. The participants received a standing ovation after the program.

The next Southern Connection meeting will be Sunday, April 13, at 5:30 p.m. All residents are cordially invited to join our social potluck gathering as we enjoy

good food, fun, and fellowship. No prior notice is required; just show up at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-III with your resident ID or Gateway of Services pass and bring a dish to share.

Tacos are the culinary highlight of the evening, and you're encouraged to bring your favorite taco meat or fixings.

Should you join our merry band of diners, annual dues are \$10 per person and cover expenses, including paper

plates, napkins, utensils, and beverages.

Members are welcome to bring their dining paraphernalia and beverages if

they choose. If you have questions or require additional information about the club, please contact Bob Czopek, membership chairman, at 904-540-1726 or bobczopek@gmail.com.

The club activity director announced that a horse race game will be the featured entertainment event at the April meeting. This game promises to elicit cheers, jeers, and laughter. April is National Humor Month, so join us as we spread laughter!

information on next season's Oktoberfest meeting on Sunday, Oct. 5.

For more about the Michigan Club



Photo by Nancy Meininger

Michigan Club Coney Island picnic.

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Travel Toppers

Mary Lamp



Global Diversity Asian Social Club

Rosalina Norita



Travel Toppers Tours and its volunteers practice safety procedures for residents participating in our tours. All residents must follow the volunteers' directions when entering and exiting the parking lot off SW 81st Loop. Golf carts and cars follow the same rules. Anyone who does not follow the safety procedures will be denied a reservation on future trips conducted by Travel Toppers Tours.

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

Diane Knox is taking reservations for the Suncoast Dinner Theater production of "My Fair Lady" on May 11. This day is Mother's Day, and guests will not be placed on a waitlist.

You can reach Diane at 352-390-2386 to reserve \$94 per person tickets, including the show, dinner and dessert, bus transportation, and tips for the servers and driver. Like all our trips, payment is by check only and is nonrefundable.

Copyright laws protect any production at Suncoast Dinner Theater, and no video or pictures may be taken. If this is not adhered to, any violator will be denied a reservation on future trips conducted by Travel Toppers Tours.

Also open for guests is our St. Johns River Dinner Cruise for Father's Day on Sunday, June 15. The cost is \$100 per person and includes a narrated river cruise, dinner, music on board, bus transportation, and driver tips. Call Lisa Adams at 407-325-9863 to make your reservation.

Thirty-six residents enjoyed our recent Celebrity Constellation cruise. Most happily, five couples renewed their wedding vows on Valentine's Day aboard this cruise. A Valentine's cruise is planned for 2026 aboard the Celebrity Apex from Feb. 14 to 21. This is a Forbes Travel Guide 4-star rated resort at sea, departing from Port Canaveral with ports of call at Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, San Juan, Puerto Rico, St. Kitts and Nevis. If interested, call Linda Hein for more information at 352-861-9880.

Traveltoppertsours.com offers more details and up-to-date information about our trips. Trips sponsored by Travel Toppers Tours are open only to residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. Copies of Gateway of Services passes must be submitted with the resident's check to prove the resident is current for 2025. Any non-resident who participates must be a guest of a resident club member.

Friends of Bill W Group



There is an open weekly meeting on Mondays from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. Join us! There will be no meeting on Monday, April 21. For more information, please email friendsofbillwocala@gmail.com.

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Hills Ballroom. This Indonesian tradition from Bali offers a distinctive dining experience featuring an extensive range of meats, poultry, and vegetables. The event will be enhanced by traditional Balinese dances performed by Putri Mandalika, an Indonesian dance group in Florida, with notable past performances in Sydney, Australia, New York, Atlanta, Houston, Walt Disney World, and various cities in Florida.

The tradition of Megibung, a communal dining banquet, was initiated by King Anglurah Karangasem in 1692 AD to celebrate his triumphant expedition to the island of Lombok. Megibung is a peaceful tradition emphasizing eating, unity, socializing, respect, and bonding.

Chef Abe will orchestrate the culinary experience at our banquet, passionately preparing authentic Balinese and Indonesian cuisine with his celebrated seasoning blends. Every element will be carefully curated to provide diners an immersive experience, transporting them through flavor, visuals, and atmosphere. The distinctive flavor profiles, particularly from Abe's region of Indonesia, will be showcased. Chef Abe guarantees a delightful dining experience. For further information and the ticket purchase, please call 352-414-0323 or send a text message to 352-844-0999.

Scandinavian American Club

David Wessenberg



The Scandinavian American Club's next meeting will be Tuesday, April 25, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Event Room I. The Dulcimer Club will provide entertainment, and Scandinavian snacks and goodies will also be served.

The club encourages comradery and conversation about the Scandinavian countries and culture. This is an excellent opportunity to make new friends.

We ask members to be prepared to share their memories of their Scandinavian past and culture. Many of our members have visited the Scandinavian countries they or their ancestors have migrated from and returned with pictures and exhibits. Do you have a story to tell or a souvenir to share?

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

Silver Rainbow Club

Jeanne Bennett-Bailey



We are a welcoming and affirming social group open to all. We are LGBTQ+ allies providing a space to gather, socialize, and enjoy each other's company. We have various activities throughout the year, including coffee gatherings, luncheons, cookouts, dances, and other gatherings. To get the latest information about all our events, visit SilverRainbowClub.com or our Facebook page (Silver Rainbow Club). Our annual club fee is \$10 per person.

We will have our annual picnic in April at The Lodge at Candler Hills pavilion. For more information, check out our website.

EMERGENCY AFTER-HOURS PHONE NUMBER

352-236-0TOW (236-6869)

Photo by Rosalina Norita

Joseph Ford Cotto, DBA, the author of "What Happened to America?" in discussion of his book with mediator Janaki Ram Ray.

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Lions Club



Gail Morris

Casino Night was a huge success on all accounts. Over 200 guests gathered at Circle Square Cultural Center for a great gaming experience. Casino Party Planners provided us with expert dealers and some great table games, from blackjack to roulette.

Some of our guests came in groups, occupying a few tables of 10 and having a good time together. Several of our other guests were heard to say the Lions should do this sort of event twice a year. That spells success!

Raffles were going on as well so if you weren't a big winner at the gaming tables, you had the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets and win more prizes. We raffled a variety of beautiful baskets prepared by our Lion Charlie, who always does a great job of pairing and combining things, including those gift cards for food at Beef O'Brady's, Ipanema, and Latinos Y Mas as well as Milano's, Five Star Pizza, and Starbucks. Thanks to the Candler Hills Golf Club, we had two great golf baskets.

The liquor wagon, always a great crowd-pleaser, and 50/50 raffles were other opportunities to go home with a prize, and two lucky winners did just that.

Our members worked hard during the event, answering questions and helping



Casino gaming floor.

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1 lb of Brown Sugar Cured Ham
Pineapple Sauce - Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Mixed Vegetables - Cody's Roadhouse Salad
Sweet Yeast Rolls & Cinnamon Butter

PROTEIN ADD-ONS (PER POUND):

Ham - \$15⁰⁰ Turkey - \$18⁰⁰
Roast Leg of Lamb - \$20⁰⁰

Orders Must Be Placed By 4 PM on Saturday, April 19th & Picked-Up Between 10 AM & 2 PM On Easter Sunday, April 20th.

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Inaugural Pickleball Tournament

By Kinley Rogers Bedard

The first annual Battle of the Paddle Pickleball Tournament brought hundreds of players and spectators to On Top of the World Friday, Feb. 28 through Sunday, March 2. The three-day tournament featured a round-robin format for men and women players ages 50 to 70-plus, with player ratings starting at 3.0 to 5.0. On Top of the World hosted the event with the help of the Top Pickleball Club, and official scoring and tournament management were provided by PickleballMAX.

"We travel across the country for pickleball tournaments, and we are thoroughly impressed with the organization, atmosphere, and volunteers at On Top of the World – especially since this is the inaugural tournament. The feedback we've received from players has been extremely positive, and they can't wait to play again next year," said Todd Jungling, co-founder of PickleballMAX.

Although the tournament was hosted at On Top of the World, the 264 players traveled all over the East Coast to compete. Over 70% of the players traveled to Ocala for the tournament from Connecticut, Vermont, Pensacola, Okeechobee, Mt. Dora, Lady Lake, and Tampa. "14 of

our local pickleball members traveled to On Top of the World for the tournament. We are avid pickleball players and are very impressed with the communication and logistics of the Battle of the Paddle Tournament. The 12 pickleball courts are in excellent condition, and we look forward to participating next year," stated Matt, a Lady Lake, Florida resident.

Pickleball has proven to be a fast-growing sport among players of all ages. The sport combines elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong. An On Top of the World resident, Mary Kay, moved to On Top of the World from Minnesota due to the sunny Florida conditions and the 29 pickleball courts in the community. "I moved to On Top of the World because I love to play pickleball. The resident pickleball club is very active, with over 600 members. We meet seven days a week, and it's a great way to exercise and meet new friends!" says Mary Kay Ripp.

Recognizing the popularity among the residents, On Top of the World expanded from six pickleball courts to 29 active courts within the community. A selection of courts also has lights so residents can enjoy play from daylight to 9 p.m.



Photo courtesy of Culen Built Development

Residents John Massey and Laura Naida win gold in the mixed doubles division at the inaugural Battle of the Paddle Pickleball Tournament hosted at On Top of the World.



KAG ready for maiden mission.

R/C Flyers Spring Fly-In

By Ray Ihlenburg

The Spring Fly-In is just days away! Saturday, April 5 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to be exact. The models on display and flying are always great to observe; coffee and donuts will be followed by lunch from the famous R/C Flyers grill.

A World War I and II 'gaggle' is planned. A gaggle is when a bunch of planes from the same era fly together. The World War I planes fly slower, and it is easier to see them close together during a fly-by, but the World War II planes are impressive.

This writer needs to know a real-life subject when starting a new kit. The chance to buy an antique Sterling Kit of the Piper Tri-Pacer (PA-22) presented a challenge. On top of that, a warbird was needed for a future warbird fly-in. Some research found KAG, the fighting Tri-Pacer. The following 'facts' were taken from articles documenting the restoration of N2650A by owner/pilot Doug Kullick as an exact duplicate of the French Marine Corps aircraft of the squadron "KAG."

It is interesting to learn that five armies used the Tri-Pacer. Israel, South Africa, Kenya, Cuba, and France obtained Tri-Pacers in civilian livery and then militarized them. Twelve Tri-Pacers were flown by the French Marine Corps crews within the North African area of operations during France's Algerian War to preserve their colonial world from November 1, 1954, to March

19, 1962.

The French Marine Corps preferred the Tri-Pacer for its high wing, which protected the pilot and crew from the African desert and mountain sun. KAG was a FAC (forward air control) supporting the French Foreign Legion, calling in artillery and fast-moving bombing aircraft. M-18 smoke and frag grenades in mason jars were rumored to be dropped on targets of opportunity. In addition, the pilot and crew had 30 Cal. Carbines and Browning machine guns. The Fighting Tri-Pacers suffered only one loss when the wind collapsed its hanger.

This kit was a free-flight model designed for rudder only using a single channel rubber band escapement – really old school. The redesign included reducing the dihedral to prototype specifications, designing provisions for the ailerons and fully functioning tail feathers, steerable nose wheel requiring a separate servo, and the provisions for the installation of the electric motor, ESC, and battery compartment as well as access to the radio equipment. The maiden mission will happen as soon as the wind and nerve allow.

The model is covered with olive drab Monokote but will be weathered to resemble a plane operating in the desert sand and sun. The graphics are from Callie Graphics.

Don't forget the Spring Fly-In on Saturday, April 5!

Nine-Ball Tournament

By Phil Panzera

The Billiards Club recently held its first quarterly competition, an annual nine-ball tournament. Congratulations to the tournament champ, Debbie Radicchi! Debbie played smart and made many lovely shots, winning six of her seven matches. She also made several spot shots, winning crucial tiebreak shootouts.

Debbie lost only to Al Sable, who also had an outstanding performance. Al stormed through the winners' bracket undefeated, and Al and Debbie should have played in the finals. Unfortunately, Al had to leave, so he took second place honors.

Third place went to Ray Talkington, perhaps the event's most disciplined and careful player. Ray showed that a careful pre-shot routine and a thoughtful game approach can pay dividends.

Fourth place went to Dean Burden, who thanked me for advising players to practice their spot shots last week. That's exactly what he did, and he said he won several matches because of it. This is a great takeaway for future events since a sizable percentage of the matches were decided by who could make a spot shot.

Paul Stoecklin and Rick Casey tied

for fifth place, and Robin Greene and Art Keck tied for seventh place. With 42 competitors, finishing in the top eight was a terrific achievement.

Congratulations to all our top finishers and, incredibly, those few above who are basic players who have never finished highly in an event before. This results from a commonly used handicap system that levels the playing field.

As these results clearly show, anyone in the event can earn a spot with the top finishers. This was evident from the fact that higher rated players giving up a handicap made up one quarter of the tournament field, and exactly one quarter of those players made it into the top eight. That's as evenhanded as a handicap system gets.

The stronger players often think they're "supposed" to win, but that's neither right nor fair. In my view, all players should have an equal chance to win, and the top finishers are those who dig down and perform well on that day.

With this in mind, I offer special congratulations to Robin Greene, Dean Burden, Rick Casey, and Al Sable, who showed uncommon grit and determination in surpassing their limits and expectations. Very, very well done!



Photo by Phil Panzera

Annual nine-ball tournament champs: Debbie Radicchi, with Dean Burden and Ray Talkington.



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Golf

Matt Hibbs
352-854-2765
matt_hibbs@otowfl.com



April has finally arrived, which means it's time for The Masters. Who will win the year's first major championship? Here are our picks: Matt Hibbs - Justin Thomas, Denise Mullen - Xander Schaufele, Russ Smith - Collin Morikawa, Dean McCann - Rory McIlroy and Kelsey Hummer - Scottie Scheffler. Stop by the Golf Shop and tell us who will win this year.

The 20th annual Ocala Open was a huge success, benefitting over \$90,000 split between Empath Hospice of Marion County and Interfaith Emergency Services. This brings the Ocala Open to over \$1.1 million raised for local charities. Special thanks to our wonderful sponsors, volunteers, and staff for making this a spectacular event.

Please help us maintain our beautiful golf courses by filling all divots, repairing all ball marks, parking no closer than 30 yards from greens, keeping all four tires on cart paths around greens and tees, and using the 90-degree rule when entering all fairways. Our golf courses are busier than ever, so these small details will go a long way in helping provide the best playing conditions to our residents.

Upcoming Events**Weight Loss Group**

Laura Gavey



Are you ready to join a group of your neighbors who are supporting each other in eating healthy and losing weight? The On Top of the Weight Loss group is here for you! We share discussions on ways to lose weight, recipes, and tips to help us meet our personal weight loss goals, exercise opportunities, and, most

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March 14	April 4	May 2
Joslyn and the Sweet Compression Funk/Soul	The Sweet Lillies New Americana	Nattali Rize Reggae
March 21 OKAN Afro-Cuban Jazz	April 11 The Dollyrots Pop/Rock/Punk	May 9 Larry & Joe Venezuelan Joropo & Appalachian Folk
March 28 The Mexican Standoff Tejano	April 18 Larry McCray Blues	May 16 McCravy Sisters Gospel
April 25 BettySoo Country		

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- Friday, April 11: Par Three at The Links and The Tortoise & The Hare.
- Monday, April 21: Ladies World Cup.
- Friday, April 25 & Saturday, April 26: Pairings Party.

World Accolades

CANDLER HILLS: Lulu Kerkhoff, eagle #7. Alice French, eagle #7. James Jones, eagle #15. Steve Czachor, eagle #7. Dennis Huber, Hole-in-One #5. Eileen Gustavus, hole-in-one #8.

THE LINKS: Mike Mackowiak shot 76 his age. Tony Morris, eagle #7 & #12.

THE TORTOISE & THE HARE: Tom Mansfield, hole-in-one #15. Steve Gersten, eagle #5.

Golf Tip of the Month

Do you ever step up to a shot thinking about all the negative outcomes that can unfold? Then you hit the shot only to dump it in the greenside bunker. This is a big mental problem for many golfers, even the tour players.

The most important thing you can do mentally is give yourself the best chance at success. Instead of considering all the adverse outcomes, focus on what you want to happen. Think about the positive outcomes of the shot and be confident in your approach. Create a preshot routine less than 30 seconds long and simple, then repeat it before each shot. This will help you focus on the shot, not the negative outcomes.

"Golf is a game that is played on a five-inch course, the distance between your ears." - Bobby Jones

of all, support for each other.

There are two opportunities to meet each week. On Mondays, we meet in the Hobby Building Art Room. Weigh-in starts at 4:30 p.m., and the meeting begins at 5 p.m. The new leader is Lois Trepper. The group thanks Linda Sisco for her leadership over the last few years. On Tuesdays, we meet in the Arbor Activity Center Event Room. Weigh-in starts at 9:15 a.m., and the meeting begins at 10 a.m. Beth Green is the leader. Visitors are always welcome.

For questions and additional details, please email Lois at loistrepper@att.net or Beth at tandbgreen220@gmail.com.



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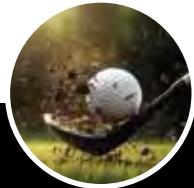
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Holly Johnson is an esteemed expert in the field of hearing healthcare, boasting an impressive track record of over 25 years of unparalleled experience. Her illustrious career has been forged from the ground up, starting at the grassroots level.

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Men's Golf Association

John Yenne



events, benefiting more members. Stay tuned for more details via email. You can also visit otowmga.com for updates on these and other upcoming events.

Additionally, the 2025 MGA Handbook is now available in the On Top of the World Golf Shop player's lounge.

Our membership has grown to 228 this year. Please welcome our newest members: Rick Lilly, Omer Fannin, Dave Metzger, Ray Parlato, Michael Stevens, Patrick Whitley, and Patrick Nagy.

Mark your Wednesday for these upcoming events:

- April 2: Chicken Day Scramble (The Links)
- April 9: 2-Man Teams 6-6-6 (The Tortoise & The Hare)
- April 16: MGA Open (The Links)
- April 23: Team Quota Points (The Tortoise & The Hare)
- April 30: Black Tees (The Links)

Chicken Day Scramble**March 5/The Links**

The Links Flight: 54-Randy Keller, Don Channell, David Woitek, Ralph Norton. Tie at 55-Robert Walker, Donnie Perkins, David Hannasch, Walter Knautz; Thomas Mansfield, Dennis Kerkhoff, Omer

Fannin, Carl Zeiler; Larry Skoch, Joe Aldridge, Rusty Rhodes, Joe Ferris. 56-Jerry Williams, Gary Niland, Howard Gluckman, Joseph Mandala. Tie at 57-Thomas Laclair, Terry Thomas, Tony Corvino, Mike Kurlakowsky; Anthony Morris, Kenneth Gove, Joseph Mendola, Loren Magsam. Tie at 58-Dan Goggin, Ed Vasoli, Stuart Martin, Walter Knautz; Tim Carlisle, Kevin McGuinness, Donald Wheeler, John DiVito. The Tortoise & The Hare Flight: 55-Irl Flanagan, Jim Bobowski, Tom Nutt, David Bauer. 56-John Herman, Ken Zweiback, Mike Erickson, Ron Ouellette. Tie at

57-William (Bill) Truby, Robert Jorgensen, Philip Petrozella, Doyce Mathis; Rick Schriewer, Tim Williams, Greg McMillan, Bob Lieberman; Michael Almon, Roger Lukas, Pete Markish; Steve Parker, David Fosdick, Dennis Kissen. 58-Rich Sievers, Bigelow Robinson, Norm Hayworth, Bob Lang. Tie at 59-Doug Buckler, Russ Christopher, Steven Sarkozy, Paul Randles; Robert Coughanour, Mike Key, Joseph Dunnack, Tom Nicholl; John Atwood, Sam Feola, David Hegge, Bill Kenyon.

For the first time, both The Links and The Tortoise & The Hare golf courses were used in March to accommodate the large number of players who signed up for our popular Chicken Day event.

Our weekly events are expected to become even more crowded as the Candler Hills course closes next month for renovations. We anticipate an additional 30 to 40 members from the Candler Hills Men's Golf Association joining us for the remainder of the year.

That's even more reason to sign up early – not just for Chicken Day but for all our weekly competitions.

The current hole-in-one reward program, which awarded \$250 to any player making a hole-in-one during an MGA weekly event, has been discontinued. Instead, those funds will be allocated toward future free food and beverage

events, benefiting more members. Stay tuned for more details via email. You can also visit otowmga.com for updates on these and other upcoming events.

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normally play during weekly league events. If you choose, you may move back to longer tee locations.

One last change is that since we will not be playing after May, we will hold off on looking into handicaps and tee locations for all members until October instead of July, just before the opening of our course.

Scramble**Feb. 4**

Tie at 54-Rick Schriewer, Tim Clarkin, Mike Inge, Donald Huston. Larry Skoch, Dick Emmons, Don Wheeler, Phillip Petrozella. Tie at 56-Lynn Maugherman, Bill Truby, Joe Pruss, Rick Deroven. Tom Presnick, Rusty Zarrell, Tim Beaty, Gregg Edwards. Jeff Holmes, Mike Cunningham, Bill McElroy, Danny Ball.

Individual Low Net**Feb. 11**

Flight 1: 70-Larry Skoch. 72-Jeff Holmes. 73-Tim Carlisle.

Flight 2: Tie at 72-Tom Presnick, Mike Gleason. 73-Mike Stevens. Tie at 74-Ray Parlato, Kenny Franks.

Flight 3: 68-Ray Christ. 74-Bill Gurbisz. 76-Mike Cunningham.

Flight 4: Tie at 69-Brad Best, Paul Rubly. 71-Tim Clarkin. 72-Jim Weaver.

Flight 5: 70-Steve Johnson. 73-Joe Aldridge. 75-David Metzger.

Flight 6: 70-Joe Pruss. 73-Gregg Keidel. 74-Robert Dellapenna.

Flight 7: 73-Rick Deroven. Tie at 74-Joe Wong, Don Wheeler.

Flight 8: 70-Philip Petrozella. 73-Thomas Kujawa. 75-John Evans.

To celebrate Masters week, I leave you with this. "The first time I played in the Masters, I was so nervous I drank a bottle of rum before I teed off. I shot the happiest 83 of my life." – Chi-Chi Rodriguez, 14-time Master's competitor

Welcome to April and the Masters golf tournament. Jim Nantz opens the broadcast with his familiar "Hello Friends" and the legendary opening phrase "A Tradition Unlike Any Other." The first of the four majors of the 2025 PGA Tour schedule. My pick is Patrick Cantley; who is yours?

We all know that very soon, we will be playing golf at both The Tortoise & The Hare and The Links as Candler Hills starts its renovation project. If you have not played those two courses lately, I highly recommend them, as they are in good shape and the greens are very quick.

Here are some highlights of our most recent March board meeting. As of the end of February, we had 164 members and 61 hole-in-one members. Please remember that our season ends in May, and we will still have our last luncheon during our annual meeting in October.

Denise and the golf staff do a wonderful job of making up our teams for Tuesday league days, but it takes a lot of time and effort. Please remember that if you need to cancel, please do so by notifying the Golf Shop the day before at the latest.

Your board has also voted on and passed new policies that say all members must play in at least six weekly league events before our League Championship, which is typically held in October. Members must also play from the tee locations they are qualified for and

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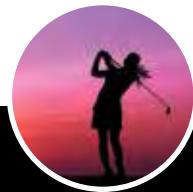
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**Ladies 18-Hole
Golf Association**

Jo Della Penna

**Two Best Ball of Foursome T&Fs
Feb. 4/The Links**

-8-Laurel Staiger, Darlene De Berry, Virginia Madura, Peggy Wiechmann, -7-Beverly Ovrebo, Joanne Woolery, Janette Sheil, Donna Brunell. Tie at -6-Diane Boston, MJ Strelec, Liz Pruss, Eileen Gustavus, Christine Giza, Jill Strey, Debby Wilson, Margie Williams, Marcella Nunez, Cindy Channell, Joann Della Penna, Jacqueline Randour, Sandra Mansfield, Katie

**Ladies
Shuffleboard**

Lois Nix



Ladies, have you ever considered playing shuffleboard? We have a ladies-only club that shuffles Mondays at 5:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 9 and 11 a.m.

Shuffleboard is a misunderstood game; on the contrary, it is a game of strategy, technique, and skill. Residents have been shuffling for over 40 years. Our ladies-only club has been shuffling for nine years.

Paul Hodges teaches the game on Saturday mornings. Check the bulletin board by the shuffleboard courts at the Veterans Park for his schedule. If you join the ladies, we will teach you the basic rules of play. We will even teach you how to talk to the discs once you push them down the court. Shuffleboard is a great game, and it has been played in Florida for over 100 years. We would love to have you join us. Residents must have a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass to participate.

February

9-Lois Nix, 8-Dee Caple, Sally Herrick, 7-Barbara Lewis, Linda Myers, Sandy Welch.

Shuffleboard

Walt Lamp



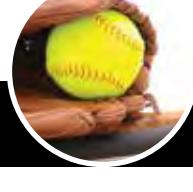
Our free introduction to shuffleboard class by Paul Hodges is scheduled for Saturday, April 12, at the Veterans Park courts at 11 a.m. The class will highlight the rules, scoring, safety, and the basics of disc shooting. Open-toed shoes are not permitted. The club would like to thank Paul for running the class and helping others enjoy the shuffleboard game.

Our annual end-of-season luncheon is on Saturday, April 19, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. It is free for members and \$10 per guest. There will be food, games, and good times with the entire shuffleboard family.

Monday (a.m.): Charlie Lentz/Vicki Lentz.
Tuesday (p.m.): Tom Getts and Ron Daughtry/Lynn Nelson.
Thursday (a.m.): Robert Sapiro and Rick French.
30-plus-Linda Nault, Vicki Lentz, Marian Mattson, Donna Foster, Robert Sapiro, Paula Gauthier, Bob Faherty, Ray Nault, Jane Boyer, Mike Widener, Joe Bartosh, and Henry Erikson.

Rec Softball Club

Bryan Tully



After seven weeks of play in the winter season, there have been the usual great games and subsequent scrambling for position in the standings. One team, however, has risen above the fray. First-time manager Luis Puentes has the Ball Busters playing consistently, basically winning three out of every four games. The cream appears to have risen to the top. Then again, softball is a funny game, and objects in the mirror are closer than they appear.

As of this writing, Mike Hoenie's Good Timers have surged within one game of the lead. Ironically, last season's championship manager, Joe "Matty" Matriccino, finds his Swinging As languishing in dead last, well behind the pack. Matty went from last to first in the fall season, and there's always the possibility of a repeat.

The games are always competitive, the bench jockeying is on target, the music is entertaining, and it's a great way to spend a sunny Florida morning. Come on out and join the fun.

**RECYCLE OFTEN.
RECYCLE RIGHT.**

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

Schriewer, Jean Czachor, Susan Yenne.
Best Nine (Individual)

Feb. 11/The Links

Flight 1: 39-Linda Taylor, 38-Carol Dawn. Tie at 36-Gayla Aldridge, Sharon Fairclough.
Flight 2: 40-Joanne Woolery, 38-Kathleen Goodwin. Tie at 37-Katie Schriewer, Darlene De Berry.
Flight 3: 42-Lorie Anderson. Tie at 36-Marlene Le Clair, Nancy Zielinski. Tie at 35-Cindy Channell, Connie Norris.
Flight 4: Tie at 35-Donna Issac, Kathleen Mansfield, Robyn Atwood, Joann Delmar, Peggy Wiechmann, Susanne Mulineaux, Jane Hall.
Flight 5: 37-Diane Hartman. Tie at 36-Connie Lukas, Nancy Skoch. Tie at 37-Carol Brown, Terry Lemesh.

Blind Draw for Partner Two Best Ball**Feb. 18/The Tortoise & The Hare**

Flight 1: 114-Betsy Maugherman, Robin Atwood, 115-Va Donna Gall, Lorie Anderson, 117-Laurel Staiger, Joann Della Penna, 118-Carol Dawn, Nancy Zielinski, 119-Page Falconer, Donna Isaac, 123-Virginia Combs, Christine McIntire.
Flight 2: 114-Bobbie Wiener, Carol Carney, 118-Janelle Gluckman, Diane Hartman. Tie at 121-Mary Dawson, Nancy Skoch, MJ Strelec, Teri Stecker, 122-Darlene de Berry, Terry Lemesh, 123-Cindy Channell, May Chin.

Step Aside Scramble**Feb. 25/The Links**

59-Joyce Jones, Ellen Brinn, Cynthia Gersten, Teri Stecker. Tie at 60-Beverly Ovrebo, Mary Dawson, Nancy Zielinski, Terry Lemesh, Judi McGuiness,

Christine McIntire, May Chin, Jacqueline Randour. Tie at 61-Sandra Mansfield, Joann Della Penna, Peggy Wiechmann, Nancy Skoch, Laura McMillan, Kathleen Goodwin, Donna Isaac, Carol Carney, Mary Jeannette, Connie Sohl, Marlene Le Clair, 62-Marcella Nunez, Susan Martin, Pamela Robison, Robin Le Master.

With tax time approaching, this golf story comes to mind: President Kennedy was playing with aide Chris Dunphy at Seminole Golf Club when he hit an approach shot to three feet, "Gimmie," asked Kennedy. "No," said Dunphy, "That's a character builder." "Okay," replied Kennedy, who looked at his watch and said he was having lunch with the IRS commissioner. Immediately, Dunphy knocked the ball away, saying, "It's good."

Elite Men's Softball

Bryan Tully



The Punishers won the Division One title in their second season of competing in the Sun & Fun Tri-County Softball League. The team started the season with five straight wins, then scuffled a bit thereafter.

After weathering that storm, they finished strong to catch perennial champion Stonecrest and tie them for first place. A look back at some of these columns will highlight the prediction many months ago that these two teams would likely battle to the end; that's exactly what happened.

At the end of the season, both teams had identical 18-to-6 records. The Punishers won the championship by virtue of the first tie-breaker, head-to-head competition. Of the six games played between the two teams, the Punishers won four and, therefore, captured the title.

It's doubtful, in the near future, that a team in any division of this league will win a championship in only its second season. Kudos to the 2025 Division One Sun & Fun Tri-County Softball League champions - the Punishers.

**STAY IN THE KNOW!
DOWNLOAD THE APP!**

The On Top of the World app is available in the Google Play and Apple Store (resident account required).

**Co-Ed Recreational
Softball**

Pat Wilbert



Spring is here, and so is the time to go outdoors and enjoy the beautiful weather Florida has to offer. We all look forward to playing the game we love: softball.

Co-Ed Recreational Softball is where men and women come together to play this fantastic game. Saturday mornings bring about the people who love this sport and show it by showing up at 9 a.m. for warmup and 9:15 a.m. games.

We pick two teams of men and women of all ages and experience. Lately, we have tried something new. We are

playing seven innings, balls, and strikes, which works out great. We discovered this would help us if we go on the road again to play against other teams like Stone Creek, as we did last month.

What fun we had competing with other men and women, playing two regulated games. A lot of fans came out to support us, which we really appreciated. The volunteering managers, Kelly and Bill, took care of their teams with great organization.

We do need more ladies to join us. It's only for a couple of hours on a Saturday morning, but it's well worth the time. Exercise and the meeting of some great people are an added bonus. What a great bunch of people. Just like a family, we help each other and have so much fun, which brings us back each week for the challenge. I hope to meet you and look forward to playing the game.

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**Country
Line Dancing**

Judy Sullivan



Are you bored? Do you need some physical activities in your life? Do you want to feel healthier? Line dancing offers numerous health benefits, including improved cardiovascular health, enhanced coordination and balance, and stress reduction, all while being a fun and engaging form of exercise.

If you search for the health benefits of line dancing on the internet, aside from being a fun activity, you will find that there are so many benefits.

Cardiovascular Health: Line dancing is a form of moderate aerobic exercise that gets your heart pumping and blood flowing, strengthening the heart, lowering blood pressure, and improving overall circulation.

Coordination and Balance: The choreographed steps and movements in line dancing improve coordination and balance, which can be particularly beneficial for older adults.

Muscle Strength: Line dancing engages various muscle groups, including legs, hips, core, and calves, promoting muscle strength and tone.

Bone Health: The weight-bearing nature of line dancing helps to strengthen bones.

Low-Impact Exercise: Line dancing is a low-impact activity, making it suitable for people of all ages and fitness levels.

Stress Reduction: Dancing releases endorphins, which have mood-boosting and stress-reducing effects.

Cognitive Function: Learning and remembering dance steps enhances memory and cognitive function.

Social Interaction: Line dancing provides a social environment where you can interact with other people and make new friends.

Improved Self-Confidence: As you learn and master new dance steps, you'll experience a sense of accomplishment and increased confidence.

Country Line Dancing with Judy is held on Sundays from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Recreation Center Ballroom. If you need additional help with the dance steps, please come at 1:30 p.m. to review them before the rest of the dancers arrive. We will add one or two every month going forward.

I encourage all dancers needing additional help to review the dances on YouTube. The best thing to do is to get as many dance practices as possible.

For more information, visit our Facebook page (OTOW Country Line Dancing with Judy). The YouTube channel is Country Line Dancing with Judy.

If you are interested in dancing, please text or email me your name, email address, and phone number to 973-903-8719 or spirit927@live.com.

Broadway Playhouse

Elaine Morrison



The hilarity continues at rehearsals for the spring show, "Once Upon a Time." The cast is having difficulty keeping straight faces as they act out the misadventures of Snow White, Prince Charming, the ugly stepsisters, and the dwarves, to name a few of the characters.

The plot of "Snow ... almost ... White" mixes several well-known fairy tales. The many twists and turns in the familiar storylines provide a fresh and fun experience for the audience.

The second act is another unique presentation in which familiar crayons voice many complaints. The script is from two children's books, "The Day the Crayons Quit" and "The Day the Crayons Came Home." Some singing and dancing will round out the show, which will have performances on Friday, May 16, Saturday, May 17, and Sunday, May 18, in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Ticket sales begin on Tuesday, April 8, at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio III and will continue every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to noon until sold out. Tickets are \$10.

For further information or questions, please email otowbroadwayplayhouse@gmail.com.

Line Dancing

Tamara Stanford



Purchasing line dancing tickets has been a lengthy process in the past. We are fortunate that On Top of the World has provided an app for residents to use. Using the OTOW app can streamline the steps to purchase badges or tickets for clubs and activities.

The first step is for residents to download the OTOW app onto a mobile device and register as an app user. Once registered, the resident can sign into their app account. The line dance pages are found on "OTOW Central Events" by searching for line dance using the app's search function. The dancer selects the page for their class, Absolute Beginner, Beginner, or Improver. The choice is made by pressing the "Purchase Class" button on the appropriate page. The credit card information is then added, and the purchase is finalized. The purchased badge is available at the Recreation Center office.

Ticket sales take place the first two weeks of the month before the line dancing session. A session is for two months; the next will be in May and June. The badge purchase can be made from April 1 to April 14. At the end of the sales period, dancers will obtain their badge for May and June at the Recreation Center office. A resident ID and prior session badge are required. If a dancer is enrolled in more than one class, badges for each class must be shown. Having your mobile device with you when you go to the office may be helpful as it could be used for reference.

In February, there was a dance social with the theme "Party HEARTY" to celebrate Valentine's Day. We had a fantastic time line dancing and visiting with friends. The attendance at the dance was excellent. Pictures and videos were taken at the dance and posted on our Facebook page. One of the dancers wrote in a Facebook comment, "So happy to have line dancing in my life." I think everyone who attended the dance social would agree.

Joe Spencer is the line dance instructor and one of the many people who work to make line dancing fun for everyone. You can contact Joe at Joeship1@yahoo.com for questions.



Photo by Charlie Petrosky

Line dance social.

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On Top of the World NEWS

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

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

Tennis

Brenda Foster



This month, I interviewed our tennis pro, Jorge Privat, to learn about his journey from Peru to On Top of the World.

Born in the Andean Mountains of Peru at altitudes as high as 18,000 feet, Jorge learned tennis while watching his father, who worked as an FBI agent for the Peruvian government. His father frequently played tennis with friends at an officers' tennis club. Jorge practiced using his father's discarded warped racquet against a backboard every afternoon after school. Over time, he acquired a new racquet and continued perfecting his game, often imitating his father's techniques.

Jorge Privat's tennis career began to take off as he entered junior tournaments, winning several. Inspired by a friend of his father who played like the legendary Roger Federer, Jorge was determined to hone his skills and become a smooth, talented player. His hard work paid off when he became the number one player at his high school in Lima.

After high school, Jorge learned to master the nuances of playing on red clay courts. The slower game taught him the importance of control and introduced him to new tricks, resulting in longer rallies. His impressive performance caught the attention of fellow players, including a mysterious stranger who offered to coach him. Unbeknownst

to Jorge, this kind stranger was a retired national champion.

Jorge's dedication to the sport was unwavering. He played for six to seven hours per day, working tirelessly to improve his game. He met his future wife, an American from Chicago while coaching tennis. Despite his success in Peru, political turmoil forced Jorge and his family to relocate to Chicago. But as one chapter closed, another opened.

After graduating from Loyola University Chicago, Jorge started working in finance. He traveled extensively for his job, always keeping his tennis racket close at hand. He found pick-up games at clubs worldwide, a testament to his dedication to the sport.

Jorge's transition to coaching began when he was asked to help coach tennis at his daughter's high school. He ea-

gerly took on the role and led the team to top-level championships. He played competitively, reaching a 4.5 ranking in the USTA leagues, often with 5.0-level players.

With his daughters following in his footsteps and playing tennis throughout high school and college, Jorge and his wife eventually moved to Florida. He initially settled in Citrus Hills, where he became a member of the local tennis club and was quickly recruited to teach. His skills and passion for the game were so impressive that a fellow player who happened to work at On Top of the World recommended Jorge to Kenneth Colen. Since 2005 he has been the certified tennis professional at On Top of the World, focusing on organizing tennis and teaching us ways to improve our game. Come out and join us for the joys of tennis!



Photo by Brenda Foster

Jorge Privat.

R/C Sailing Club

Gene Mangold



The elegance of their design and the way they glide effortlessly through the water are marvels. The evolution from traditional displacement hulls to modern designs like catamarans and foiling boats has brought the sport a new level of sophistication and performance.

The DF95, with its sleek and narrow hull, exemplifies this beauty. It's fascinating how even a gentle push can send it gliding across the pond, showcasing

the efficiency of its design. The pleasure of watching these boats move gracefully, even in light winds, is something special.

When looking for the best R/C sailboat models, several options stand out for their performance, quality, and popularity. Popularity equals a network of other things like boats, level races, regional and national regattas, and resale value. Our sailing club's most popular boat is the DF95 from Motion R/C.

The DF95 is a favorite in the R/C sailing community for its speed, responsiveness, and design. It has excellent build quality and a focus on performance. Larger sails and hulls allow for better handling in various wind conditions. There is also a strong racing community and support.

The 950mm (95 cm) hull length weighs 4.8 pounds, and the overall height is 58 inches, making it easily carried fully rigged in a car.

Look for models that are "ready to race" or come with easy-to-follow instructions for assembly. This ensures you spend more time sailing and less time setting up.

Sail adjustments familiarize yourself with how wind direction and sail trim affect the boat's performance. Practice adjusting your sails for different wind conditions.

Spend time on the water to get comfortable with controlling your boat, particularly in varying wind conditions. Focus on smooth, controlled maneuvers.

R/C sailing typically follows the Rac-

ing Rules of Sailing set by World Sailing, with some modifications for R/C boats. Understanding the basic rules about right of way, mark rounding, and penalties is crucial.

Watch experienced sailors and ask for advice. Many clubs have members happy to share tips on boat setup, tactics, and strategies.

As you gain experience, experiment with different sail settings, ballast positions, and other adjustments to optimize your boat's performance.

Once you've gained confidence, consider traveling to larger regattas. These events often attract a higher level of competition and provide an excellent opportunity to improve your skills.

Races are every Sunday and Wednesday at noon. Contact by voice or text Gene Mangold at 772-678-5101 or Bernie Bossert at 816-678-3817.

Archery Club

Suzanne Shea



Archery Club members have been testing their skills under the new shooting line cover. It's a fantastic addition to the archery range! The maintenance team has been making adjustments to ensure that the range and cover work best for all members.

On the third Tuesday of each month, Patty Hoppe will host "Archery Fundamentals and Shooting" workshops at the range. Topics will vary monthly, and a fun shoot will follow each workshop. Workshops begin at 10 a.m. and are open to all club members.

The next Archery 101 class will be held on Tuesday, April 29, at 10 a.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room and is open to club members and non-members. Jerry Hoppe will be presenting and discussing compound bows. This comprehensive class deals with all aspects of compound bows from top to bottom, including setting up and "tuning." This class suits beginner to intermediate archers or those interested in shooting a compound bow. However, regardless of experience level, any archer should gain a lot from this class. All aspects of the compound bow, from equipment descriptions to fine-tuning the bow for maximum accuracy and precision, will be covered. Set up, tuning, sight/scope, arrow rests, other accessories, adjustments, and stabilizers will all be covered.

The Archery Club manages the range at the Veterans Park. We have members of all skill levels, from novice to competitive. Plenty of equipment is available for those new to archery or returning after a long hiatus. We also have a well-equipped maintenance shop to keep club and personal archery equipment in good working condition. We also present workshops to members to train them to care for their equipment and club equipment.

Save the date: Saturday, May 10, will mark the fifth anniversary of the range's opening, and we're planning a day of celebration and fun.

We host "Freestyle Friday" from 10 a.m. to noon every Friday. Club mentors are at the range and available to assist our novice archers with skill improvement. If you are considering joining the club, this is a great opportunity to meet members, learn more about the sport, and have fun. If you are considering joining and would like a brief introduction to the club, we invite you to stop by any Friday. Membership is open to all residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

Interested in becoming a member? Visit otowarcheryclub.org > New Members and download the application form and required waivers. For additional information or the next steps to take to join the club, please contact Chuck at chuckarchery@strickland.net or 407-257-9668 or Phyllis at phyllisarchery@gmail.com or 606-383-1744. Keep it in the yellow!

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Photo by Cammy Dennis

Fitness Director Leslee Stephen.

Fitness Happenings



Cammy Dennis
352-854-8707 x7532
cammy_dennis@otowfl.com

New Fitness Director

Please join me in welcoming our new Fitness Director Leslee Stephens. Leslee brings vast education and experience to her new role here at On Top of the World. For the last 11 years, she has been the fitness director for Lakeview Terrace, an exclusive retirement community in Florida. Leslee was tasked with building an entire wellness program from scratch. As part of Lakeview's executive management team, she oversaw the operations and strategic planning for the fitness facilities and programs.

Leslee's leadership is rooted in whole-person wellness; she firmly believes that aging vibrantly includes physical, social, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, environmental, and vocational pursuits. We are very fortunate to have Leslee on our team, and I know she will bring many new and exciting ideas to our community. Welcome Leslee!

Q. What drew you to the fitness industry and your desire to work in an "active aging" environment?

A. My interest in the fitness industry began as a competitive athlete, where I developed a strong foundation in physical fitness. This sparked my desire to deepen my understanding of how the body responds to exercise and how I could use that knowledge to help others. Over time, I found an extraordinary passion for active aging wellness. I've seen firsthand how regular exercise can positively impact physical and mental well-being, leading to increased confidence and a greater sense of independence.

Q. You have extensive education and experience in older adult wellness. What excites you about working with On Top of the World residents?

A. What excites me most about working with On Top of the World is the incredible diversity within the population. It's inspiring to see a community that embraces fitness in all forms, with various options to cater to each individual's unique needs and goals. From specialized programs to state-of-the-art facilities, On Top of the World offers everything a resident could want regarding wellness. It's exciting to be part of a community that genuinely values comprehensive health and wellness for its residents.

Q. What advice do you have for residents to help them age vibrantly, preserve independence, and live with a high quality of life?

A. Regular exercise is key to maintaining strength, balance, and flexibility, which are essential for staying independent. Incorporating activities that challenge both the body and the mind – like strength training, walking, yoga, and even social engagement – helps maintain cognitive function, reduce stress, and improve overall well-being.

Additionally, prioritize nutrition, rest, and social connections, as these are all integral parts of aging well. Lastly, don't be afraid to try new things, whether learning a hobby or joining a fitness class you've never tried. A positive attitude and an open mind can go a long way in maintaining a vibrant and fulfilling lifestyle.



EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

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8:00 am Zumba® Gold-Toning (AMY)				Dance Aerobics (DEBIE)
9:00 am S.O.S. (TISH)	Stretch, Flex & Balance (JULIANA)	S.O.S. (JOHN C.)	Dance & Sculpt (CARIN)	S.O.S. (TISH)
9:00 am Chair Pilates (LEAHAN)		BEAT (LORI)		Stretch, Flex & Balance (JULIANA)
10:00 am Balanced Body (LARITA)	Chair Yoga (LEAHAN)	Balanced Body (GAYLE)	Chair Yoga (LEAHAN)	Balanced Body (TRAVIS)
10:00 am Chair Yoga (NANCY)		Chair Yoga (CARIN)		Chair Yoga (MATT)
11:00 am Chair Dance (AMY)	Brain Power (SARAH TEAM)	Get Fit While You Sit (JOE)	Move to Improve Parkinson's (SUE)	Chair Dance (AMY)
11:00 am Dance Aerobics (DEBIE)		Zumba® Gold (AMY)		Dance Aerobics (LORI)
1:00 pm	Chair Chi (AMY)	Punch Out PD (ROB CARRERA)		
3:00 pm VYP Chair Yoga (JOF)	Balanced Body (LORI B.)	Chair Yoga (SCOTT)	Balanced Body (CARIN)	
5:00 pm	Candlelight Yoga (FRED)		Power Yoga (SANDRA)	

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

*Fitness Orientations are on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm, and Balance Assessments are on Thursdays at 1:00 pm. These are free but 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)	STRONG (DUANE)	Intermediate/Advanced Tai Chi (JILL)	STRONG (CARIN)	Core & More (JOHN C.)
9:00 am Power Yoga (SAUNDRA)	Pilates Fusion (SARAH)	Yoga (CARIN)	Pilates Fusion (SARAH)	Yin Yoga (HELEN)
10:00 am STRONG (JOHN C.)	Power Yoga (SAUNDRA)	STRONG (CARIN)	Yoga (CARIN)	STRONG (JOHN C.)
11:00 am Yoga (CARIN)		Yoga (CARIN)		ABC Yoga (TRAVIS)
1:00 pm				Fitness Orientation*

Arbor Fitness Center Hours: Monday-Friday 5:30 AM - 8:30 PM; Saturday 7 AM - 8:30 PM; Sunday 9 AM - 7 PM

*Fitness Orientations are free. Space is limited. To schedule an appointment, please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7638.

ARBOR FITNESS CENTER INDOOR POOL

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
5:30 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 Aerobics (LARRY)	**Shallow Water Aerobics (JULIE)	**Deep Water Aerobics (TISH)	**Shallow Water Aerobics (BRIAN)	**Deep Water Aerobics (LARRY)
10:00 am Open Swim	**Shallow Water Aerobics (JULIE)	Open Swim	**Shallow Water Aerobics (BRIAN)	Open Swim
11:00 am Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming
12:30 pm Aqua Aerobics Club	**Shallow Water Aerobics (JULIE)	Aqua Aerobics Club	**Shallow Water Aerobics (BRIAN)	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 Open Swim				
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.

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Ballet

Eugenie Martin



Sidekicks Western Dance

Peggy Eizans



Ballet is one of the oldest art forms in the world. It started in Italy in the 1500s as part of the early Italian opera. At that time, opera singers did not move while they sang, and the operas were very long—some as long as four hours. Dancers of "Balletto," its name in Italian, were added to opera to make it more interesting. The dancers wore fairly heavy clothes and shoes and followed relatively low steps.

When she married King Henri II of France, Caterina de Medici took ballet to France and introduced it to the French court. The dances were performed in courtly form, and all the terms about the dance became French - hence, the name "ballet," which we use today. All dancers then were men, but women were added to ballet performances after the French Revolution to help make the new government more popular.

Over the centuries, ballet has remained a popular dance form that has adapted to other forms of dance, including folk, lyrical, ballroom, jazz, and Broadway. When done professionally, ballet is very athletic, including high jumps, multiple turns, and lifts. Ballet clothing is very light, and so are the soft shoes. Pointe shoes are a bit heavier but are used largely by professionals.

Our classes are for amateurs who want to have fun dancing ballet in an easier form and are held in the Arbor Conference Center Studio D. Here is the schedule:

- Introductory/Beginner: Thursdays, 1 to 2:15 p.m.
- Advanced Beginner: Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Intermediate I: Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Intermediate II: Fridays, noon to 1:15 p.m.
- Technique/Advanced: Wednesdays, 1:15 to 3:30 p.m.

To start, newcomers do not need ballet clothes. Exercise clothes and heavy socks are fine at first, and a bottle of water, of course. For additional information on our ballet classes, please contact me at 352-854-8589 or eugeniemartin@aol.com. Happy dancing!

R/C Car Club

John Schoenherr



lanes of the course are flagged, and the competitors must stay within the flags or be penalized. So, picking which obstacles to take on in the course is critical to successfully completing the competition.

Crawlers move slowly but deliberately. The tires claw at the obstacle. The driver maneuvers the tires to get the best traction while trying to control the vehicle's power to keep it from flipping over. Some competitions allow a winch on the crawler to get out of tough situations. If you ever had the urge to take on a mud hole (or a snow bank for us northerners) with your SUV but stopped short. Consider driving a crawler, and you will experience the same excitement.

There is a small obstacle course by the race track, but it needs some improvement. If you want to make the course more competitive and get involved with crawlers, let me know at 608 477-3420.

Slot car drivers meet every Tuesday at 1 p.m. at Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II.

R/C electric car racing is every Wednesday and Saturday at 1 p.m. at the car track.

Legend car racing is every Thursday at 10 a.m. at the car track.

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

January

Traxxas-Dave Johnson. Two-wheel buggy-Paul Beyer. Four-wheel buggy-Paul Beyer. Pan car-Dave Johnson. Touring-Terry Altman. Two-wheel truck-Bob Herbst. Four-wheel truck-J.D. Taylor. Limited-Bob Herbst. 17.5T-Mike Main. Sportsman-John Schoenherr. Truggy-Paul Beyer. Nascar-Peter Martin.

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Photo by John Schoenherr

Gene Mangold with his Traxxas Defender.

Bocce Club

Kathy Nastally



Hello, cool kids! Warmer weather is here, and the light of day is longer. Daylight saving time had some of us scrambling, thinking we overslept and missed out on coffee and donuts, or worse yet - morning tee time! I hope you didn't have bruises from your St. Patrick's Day pinch for not sporting green. Who likes corned beef and cabbage, and maybe a little Bailey's? Come on, raise your hands!

Is your winter gear long stored away? Are your drawers full of fresh-colored shorts and t-shirts, hats, sunglasses, and sun protection too? I'm packing the pool bag! It's wonderful to see the new growth of spring in our yards and landscaping. But did that green pollen dust breeze send you searching for allergy medicine and your allergist? Me too!

If you're looking to play outside, grab your closed-toed shoes, as they are required on the courts for safety, and come out to the bocce courts located behind

the Arbor Fitness Center next to the tennis courts. Everyone is welcome to play open bocce on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. These times are constant all year long.

Come by early; we are limited to 48 players, eight per court. We play two games to 16 points, and the first team to 16 points wins. We draw cards to determine courts, teammates, and opponents. All joining members must complete a Hold Harmless form, have a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass verified, and pay dues of \$15. Dues are good through Sept. 30. Check your resident ID card to be sure it is not expired.

The current leagues play Tuesdays at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. and Thursdays at 10 a.m. With league play winding down ahead of the summer months, league best of bocce is Tuesday, April 15 and open play on Monday, April 28. Winners will be posted in the June issue of the World News.

League play will start back up in October. In league bocce, teams consist of four people. Teams delegate a captain and choose a team name. Any member wishing to participate as a substitute or if anyone is looking to form a team, please contact a league representative or board member. Contact information, playing schedules, and team standings are posted on the courtside bulletin board. Rules are posted on our two bulletin boards. The annual member meeting is on Sunday, May 4.

Crated balls can be found under the benches for anyone wishing to play outside of scheduled league or open play times. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact Pam Brown, president, at 970-351-1890. We look forward to having you come out and join in the fun. Let the bocce balls roll!

Poetry

Barbara A. Scales

**Take With Me A Walk**

Fear gripped men's hearts
Thunder shook the ground
Heaven beckoned forth
Take with me a walk

Be carried, feet fail
Get messages absent of lips
Forgiveness is granted
Believe in the Word

Came a star projected birth
The blind saw, the lame walked
Though miracles witnessed
Blood was shed upon wood

Bend at the knee
Bow down the head
Enter my kingdom
For you my son was bled

Stay awake in the garden
Do not deny him by dawn
Trust me henceforth
Take with me a walk

Love is the greatest
Pray with faith and hope high
Call out to me Yaddah
Follow, walk by my side

The Lord is in child
The Savior is as man
Eternity is forever
Come walk with the great I am

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BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Pick up after your pet.

Horseshoes Club

Vern Kessler



Horseshoes is the most fun you can have with two and a half pounds of steel.

January Most Wins

10-Cliff Dallas. 8-Dan Ebbighausen. 7-Karen Lynn.

Most Ringers

200-Cliff Dallas. 138-Betty DeLong. 120-Vern Kessler.

Best Winning Percentage

91%-Dan Ebbighausen. 77%-Cliff Dallas. 50%-Karen Lynn.

Special recognition goes to Mike Hamlin for pitching his first "triple-double" or six ringers in a row. Also, along with that accomplishment, Mike had his highest score for a single game, with a total of 74 points.

February Most Wins

10-Vern Kessler. 8-Cliff Dallas. 7-Gary Null.

Most Ringers

180-Cliff Dallas. 143-Vern Kessler. 110-Gary Null.

Best Winning Percentage

77%-Vern Kessler. 69%-Gary Null. 66%-Cliff Dallas.

Special recognition goes to Vern Kessler for pitching his first "triple double" or six ringers in a row and his highest score for a single game with 64 points.

One highlight of the clubs' games was the ending between David and Karen. All tied with one pitch each, David pitches a double ringer, and Karen tops it with her double ringer, for what is called in horseshoe parlance, "four dead" shoes, to end the game with a tie.

The club has set Tuesday, April 8, as the date for the second annual Farewell Party for members leaving for the summer. The gathering will be held at the Veterans Park pavilion from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The club has returned to pitching horseshoes on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at the pits in Veterans Park. Practices on Thursdays are from 9 to 10 a.m., and all members are encouraged to come out. During practice, each member helps each other with the method of pitching the shoe for points and ringers.

Everyone is invited to join our club members and see how much fun we have at the horseshoe pits in Veterans Park.

Contact Vern Kessler at 321-268-3179 with any questions about the club activities.

Top Pickleball Club

Steve Brothers



The first annual Battle of the Paddle Pickleball Tournament at On Top of the World was held on Feb. 28 through March 2 at the Recreation Center pickleball courts. This event was sponsored by On Top of the World and hosted by the Top Pickleball Club (TPC). The tournament committee was made up of club members who put in months of planning to make this event successful. More than 80 members volunteered their time throughout the three days of the tournament to ensure that the players had the best possible experience at our inaugural event.

The Battle of the Paddle Pickleball Tournament had approximately 264 registrants who filled about 340 spots in the men's doubles, women's doubles, and mixed doubles events offered over the three days of the tournament. There were pickleball players from all over central Florida and other states, with about 70% being non-residents. We hosted 27 different events at various age levels and ratings, and 411 matches were played during the three days of the tournament.

This first pickleball tournament, with so many players from the outside, was a tremendous success. Everyone, including players and spectators alike, commented on how much they enjoyed the tournament and will be back for next year's.

Are you interested in joining the Top Pickleball Club? The Top Pickleball Club is a social club that uses pickleball as the common denominator. We have many social activities, such as "healthy snack day" and our main social event, picklenick, which will be held soon.

Our "off the court" activities provide fellowship and fun, allowing our members to meet new friends and reconnect with past acquaintances.

New players orientation sessions are on the upper courts every Monday and the first Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. For information, visit TPC.pickleball.plus and begin playing immediately.

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Cornhole Club

Vincent Stevens



Once again, the month was characterized by cancellations and marginally playable weather conditions, although, being the rugged group that we are, we managed to play through most of the weather with the exception of rain.

Open play sessions continued to attract full-house crowds on most occasions. The men's league completed competitions. The coed (mixed) league began competitions on Friday, March 14.

Planning for the annual Cornhole Club picnic on Saturday, April 12, at noon is very close to completion, with volunteers, games, food, and other amenities lined up.

OPEN PLAY: Open play sessions have continued at full-house levels throughout the month, with a few exceptions. Mondays and Wednesdays are the most popular, with Thursday evenings slightly less. With the arrival of daylight saving time, our "nominal" open play times have been amended to 5 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, although, to avoid unnecessary wait times, play will begin as soon as the first 20 players (venue capacity) are on-site, often as early as 4:30 p.m. Members arriving after play has started have the option of a short wait until a lane opens or playing on the grass adjacent to the courts.

LEAGUE PLAY: The men's league wrapped up competition on Friday, March 7, with the expected Goodhue/Daughtry team grabbing the top prize, followed by the Half/Gove team in second place. Our coed (mixed) league kicked off competitions on Friday, March 14, with seven teams competing.

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Photo by Marie Reape

Lined up for battle against the winds.

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Table Tennis

Athena Drewes



table tennis?

A. I developed a love for the game while working as a distribution center manager. We thought purchasing a table for recreational use during off hours would be great. It became a hit with our employees and me! After work, we would all stay and play. Everyone found a new passion. I enjoy playing singles and doubles. Singles is a real challenge. Playing advanced singles leaves me exhausted, exhilarated, and sweaty! Doubles play is all about playing to our partner's strengths and weaknesses while they play to yours. It is so much fun, as you are challenged by the other players to play in a unique way.

Q. Do you have any favorite table tennis stories and tips for newcomers?

A. My wife suggested I take workout classes when I joined the club. At first, I resisted. Eventually, I tried a couple and quickly learned how much they helped me move and use footwork. I am still taking many weekly classes.

As for tips, many newcomers say they haven't played for 20 or 25 years. We tell them not to let that hold them back. I would also let potential new members know the board works very hard to create fun sessions for all players, and they will find the one that feels best for them.

Intermediate singles/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, Friday, 5:30 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, 1 to 3 p.m.; singles, Wednesday, 1 to 3 p.m. Intermediate/advanced singles/doubles, Wednesday 5:30 to 7 p.m. Advanced, Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Contact President Paul Stadterman at ptstadterman@yahoo.com.

Q. Where did you live before moving here?

A. We lived in Glover, Vermont. For a brief while, we were snowbirds, splitting time between Glover and Bushnell, Florida.

Q. What did you do professionally before moving here?

A. I retired from Ethan Allen Furniture as corporate transportation manager.

Q. When did you first start playing table tennis?

A. I started in my mid-20s.

Q. Why and when do you love to play

table tennis?

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Entertainment Trivia a Hit

By Elaine Morrison

As they arrived at the Recreation Center Ballroom, which had been transformed into a movie theatre lobby, the lively, melodic strains of the tune "That's Entertainment" provided background music.

Players were attending the first-ever production of the Broadway Playhouse Club's entertainment trivia show, produced and directed by club members Pamela Monk and Elaine Morrison. A cast and crew of many club members adeptly aided them.

Twenty tables, each seating six team members, held placards assigning their team names. Stylists, Lyricists, Producers, and Directors competed against Emmys, Tonys, and Oscars. The winning teams were rewarded with prizes and bragging rights for their excessive knowledge of all things theatrical.

There were five rounds of questions in categories that included movies, theater, dance, music, and television. Each round had three questions, some multiple choice, and others you know it, or you don't. There was also a bonus question in each round in which you could wager all or none of your points, de-

pending on the certainty of the answers.

As the players munched on the provided popcorn and candy, they pondered their answers to such questions as "What was the name of Hop-Along Cassidy's horse?" "Who was the first host of the Tonight Show?" and "Which famous dancer directed the movie Hello Dolly?" They were also asked to name the chipmunks in "The Chipmunk Song (Christmas Don't Be Late)" and their human leader.

The inability to correctly answer some of the questions provided an opportunity for some frustrated responses, including "Where's the porta potty?" to "We struck out." and "Go Hawks."

At the contest's end, the Composers took top honors, with the Announcers and Stylists coming in at second and third place.

Here is a suggestion ... you might want to reread this article to familiarize yourself with the name of the overture that was used as entrance music. A question about it may well be one that will be used when entertainment trivia is held again this spring. Please don't tell anyone about this tip.



Photo by Garry Voith

Winning team, Composers, and popcorn vendor at entertainment trivia.

Meet Author Filomena Abys-Smith

By Ray Cech
World News Writer

A writer and master chef of Italian cuisine, Filomena Abys-Smith recently held book signings for her two memoirs and a novel of historical fiction: "A Bit of Myself," "A Bit of Herself," and "At the Lord's Table." The signings were held at the Arbor Activity Center Event Room I.

Filomena and her husband Peter moved to Ashford less than a year ago. Her passion for writing started when she was very young – making notes of events, maybe just a birthday party or hanging out at the beach with friends. Then, with maturity, her memoir takes on more serious events. She shares with her readers the excitement and disappointments of coming to America and settling in the South Bronx, New York City. She was just six years old when she saw the Statue of Liberty for the first time.

Filomena's first book, "A Bit of Myself," takes the reader to the small town of Bagnoli, outside of Naples, Italy. It is a charming bit of history as the now-mature Filomena reflects on those simple and happy times. The memoir then tells of her Americanization and how she coped with often complex and, at times, tumultuous relationships. She shares her frustration when publishers insisted, she edit out what they called "raw" language and scenes.

She refused. Wanting to be true to herself and her readers, what is left in "A Bit of Myself" is a very real, factual memoir. Happily, it also includes many memorable photos and, not-to-

be-missed, some of her favorite Italian recipes – many handed down from her mother and grandmother.

While cleaning up after a water main break, Filomena's husband, Peter, discovered her writings and notes. It was

all just stuffed in a large envelope in a dry (luckily) cardboard box.

Peter took a time-out and started reading. He then convinced Filomena that she should publish her stories so that family, friends, and interested readers could enjoy and share her experiences. "It would be a lasting legacy," he told her.

In her second memoir, "A Bit of Herself," the author introduces the reader to her mother and grandparents. They share stories of their lives and, of course, their recipes. Her third book, "At the Lord's Table," is historical fiction that

follows an Irish family from their survival of the famine years to their arrival and struggles in America. The story is a long stretch from her memoirs but demonstrates Filomena's writing flexibility.

For those interested in meeting fellow authors, Filomena is planning a monthly roundtable for "Those of Kindred Spirits." This will be a time for authors and writers to enjoy sharing stories of their writing and publishing experience and helping those who may just be starting on a writer's journey. Resident authors can email Filomena at fabys2@aol.com.



First book signing by author, Filomena Abys-Smith.

Photo by Ray Cech

Spring Fling Art Show

By Marianne Hoffman

Come one, come all to the annual resident artists and carvers show, which will be held on Saturday, April 5, from 9 a.m. to noon in the Hobby Building Art Room.

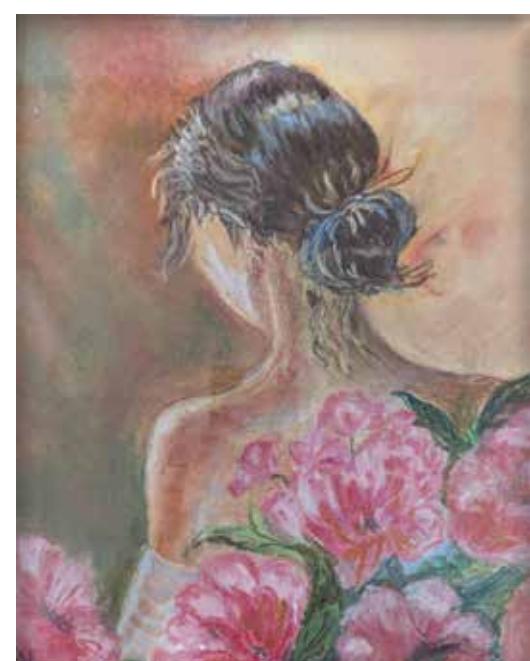
"Our Spring Fling Art Show will have you losing yourself in the creative displays of oil, pastel, and watercolor paintings, as well as Prismacolor pencil drawings," says Freda Klump, director of the show's sponsoring Art Group. "And, as an additional treat, members of the Carvers Club are also displaying their fantastic talent."

Freda not only encourages residents to attend the show but also to join the Art Group. "Our resident artists meet in the Hobby Building Art Room three days a week: Wednesday, from 1 to 4 p.m. and

Thursday and Saturday, from 9 a.m. to noon." Freda adds, "We happily welcome new members!"

Freda has been a member since 2014 and has served as director on and off for five years. Her love of art began in the third grade when she won an art contest by creating a Halloween mask. Later, her passion for art and school spurred her to become an elementary school art teacher. It's no wonder that, in retirement, she encourages and inspires others to express themselves through the Art Group. She loves exploring new mediums and sharing ideas with her fellow artists.

For more information about the Art Group, contact Freda at 615-336-6863 or fredaklump@gmail.com.



Artwork by Freda Klump

Left: Work in progress. Right: Study in pastels.

Recreation



Shannon Prince

352-854-8707 ext. 7530
shannon_prince@otowfl.com

Stay in the Know

Event and trip details are available in several locations for your convenience. This information is found on the event calendar, OTOWInfo.com, the Life in Motion Wellness Connections catalog, and the OTOW app. Please also refer to the monthly event calendar (home-delivered with every issue of the World News).

Community Updates

We have some great news for you! As of March 1, the following changes will be implemented to improve the ease and enjoyment of using amenities.

- Room reservations are no longer restricted by group size. You no longer need a minimum of 10 people to reserve a room.
- The \$100 room deposit will no longer be required for groups with less than 100 participants.
- A valid resident ID may be used by your family and friends, 15 years and older, to access the pool and other amenities. Under 15 needs to be accompanied by an adult.
- The Landing, Indigo East Fitness Center, and The Lodge at Candler Hills will be staffed Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. These amenities will now close at 10 p.m.
- Arbor Fitness Center opens at 5:30 a.m. Monday through Friday.
- Pool monitors will no longer be scheduled at the Recreation Center and Candler Hills pools.

If you have any questions about these improvements, please call Shannon Prince at 352-387-7530.

OTOW App

The new OTOW app is available for download through the Apple Store or Google Play! If you haven't already done so, download it today. Account approval can take up to 72 hours to verify resident status. With the OTOW app, you can easily purchase tickets, reserve rooms or seats, and pay for trips and classes – all from your phone, tablet, or computer, at your convenience. Online registration for all Recreation Department activities/events is live, so sign up soon.

Starting Tuesday, April 1, the OTOW app will be the only way to register for Recreation Department activities and events.

If you experience login issues after 72 hours, please contact Resident Services for assistance. If you don't have the technology to access the OTOW app, stop by the Recreation Center and check out the new OTOW app kiosks. Register, pay for classes, and check out Recreation Department events and club schedules. Register today to take advantage of all the excitement On Top of the World has to offer!

Social Committee

The social committee meets monthly

and welcomes residents to contribute ideas, provide constructive feedback, and assist with planning, organizing, and decorating events. The Recreation Department highly values your suggestions for improving recreational activities. If you are interested in joining the committee, meetings are held every last Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom Lounge. RSVP by either calling 352-387-7530 or emailing shannon_prince@otowfl.com.

Recreation Center

Registration and ticket purchases for all Recreation Department events/trips must be made via the OTOW app. Resident IDs or Gateway of Services passes must be presented at all events; if not given, guest fees may apply. No refunds will be issued 14 days or fewer before the registered event.

Happy Hour

Join us for Happy Hour every Friday from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. A cash bar is always standing by for your beverage needs. Enjoy music, dancing, and The Pub. This event is free to residents. Valid resident IDs will be required to attend Happy Hour. Free for residents with a valid resident ID; \$5 guest fee for non-residents. Children under the age of 15 are not permitted.

The entertainment lineup is as follows:

- April 4: Crossfire
- April 11: Rock Solid
- April 18: Suncoast Band
- April 25: The BadKitty Band

Music at the Pool Pavilion

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

- Saturday, April 5: Donna Carrier
- Friday, April 11: Billy Buchanan
- Saturday, April 13: Lou Gagliardi
- Saturday, April 19: Fred Campbell
- Sunday, April 27: Tony T and Debbie Owen

Ladies Night

Ladies, you are invited to join us on Tuesday, April 8, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. Bootleggers will be the musical guest. Bring your beverages and snacks. Free for residents with a valid resident ID; \$5 guest fee for non-residents.

Karaoke

Karaoke is always fun! Sing your heart out, or just come and enjoy the music. Karaoke is every second Thursday of the month at the Recreation Center Ballroom from 5 to 8 p.m. Free for residents with a valid resident ID; \$5 guest fee for non-residents.

Shred Event

Clean out your filing cabinets, collect those old paper bills, and bring any paper documents you choose to be shredded, which will cost \$6 per cubic foot. The shred event will occur Friday, April 11, from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Recreation Center parking lot. The next shred event won't be until Friday, July 11.

Movie Night

Join us for a cinematic night on Thursday, March 17, to watch "A Complete Unknown" (Bob Dylan story) from

6 to 8 p.m. This newly obtained movie license covers only the Recreation Center Ballroom and cannot be transferred or used at any other building. Free for residents with a valid resident ID; \$5 guest fee for non-residents. Popcorn will be for sale, and The Pub will be open. Feel free to bring your snacks and drinks. The Ballroom will not be accessible as a cut-through to and from the pool or The Pub. During these times, please make your way around the building so as not to disrupt the movie.

Social/Game Night

Bring your favorite games, cards, snacks, and non-alcoholic drinks to the Recreation Center Ballroom on Thursday, April 24, from 5 to 7 p.m. Enjoy a fun evening of games, music, and conversation – without the hassle of hosting at home! Play Monopoly, Mexican Train, dominoes, Parcheesi, or just come to chat. Free for residents with a valid resident ID; \$5 guest fee for non-residents.

Rags to Riches*

The community sale will take place on Friday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center. Be sure to stop by and grab yourself a deal! The cost of renting a table for this event and selling your things is \$15. You can purchase your table through the OTOW app and then visit the Recreation Center to pick your location. Mark your calendar!

Ballroom Dance Class*

Register for the May class and learn to "night club" with ballroom instructor Butch Phillips. Classes are held every second, third, and fourth Wednesday of each month from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. The cost is \$30 for three weeks of classes per month.

The Lodge at Candler Hills

Registration and ticket purchases for all Candler Hills Recreation Department events/trips must be made via the OTOW app. Candler Hills resident ID must be presented at all events; if not given, guest fees will apply. No refunds will be issued 14 days or fewer before the registered event.

Kocktails & Karaoke

Sing your heart out! You'll feel at home singing with your neighbors to cheer you on. Enjoy the fun on Thursday, April 3, from 5 to 8 p.m. with Charlie and Kathy Petrosky. This event is free for residents and \$5 per guest when accompanied by a resident.

Open Game/Card Play

Join your neighbors and friends every Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Card Room for open game day. Bring your games and have some fun. Remember, only water is permitted.

Happy Hour

Happy Hour will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 5, with music by Hwy 94. Bring your beverages and snacks. This event is free for residents and \$5 per guest when accompanied by a resident.

Safety Training Classes*

The Colen Built Development safety team is conducting safety classes. All residents are encouraged to attend. You can register using the OTOW app.

- Wednesday, April 9 (2 to 4 p.m.): Basic First Aid
- Wednesday, May 14 (2 to 4 p.m.): Active Shooter
- Thursday, June 19 (4 to 6 p.m.): Hands-Only CPR

The Landing



prizes will be awarded. Enjoy this musical challenge. The cost is \$5 per resident and \$10 per guest when purchased by a resident. Seating is limited.

Indigo East Community Center

Registration and ticket purchases for all Indigo East Recreation Department events/trips must be made via the OTOW app. Indigo East resident ID must be presented at all events; if not given, guest fees will apply. No refunds will be issued 14 days or fewer before the registered event.

Trivia

Join in some friendly competition with your neighbors and friends at trivia night on Monday, April 7, from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring your favorite snacks and beverages to share with your team. The cost is \$3 per resident and \$8 per guest.

Rock Music Night

Join us Wednesday, April 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. for a fun evening of rock music favorites by Bill Billotti. Bring your favorite drinks and snacks to share. This event is free for residents and \$5 per guest when accompanied by a resident.

Karaoke

Do you sing? Choose your song and share your voice at karaoke on Thursday, April 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring your beverages and snacks. Feel free to sing solo or in group. This event is free for residents and \$5 per guest when accompanied by a resident.

Happy Hour

Come for a great time with your friends and neighbors on Fridays from 5 to 8 p.m. Bring your favorite cocktails and snacks. Dance, socialize, relax and enjoy! This event is free for residents and \$5 per guest when accompanied by a resident. Upcoming entertainment includes:

- April 4: Area 81
- April 11: Johnny Lobo
- April 25: Hwy 94

The Landing

Registration and ticket purchases for all Weybourne Landing Recreation Department events/trips must be made via the OTOW app. Weybourne Landing resident ID must be presented at all events; if not given, guest fees will apply. No refunds will be issued 14 days or fewer before the registered event.

Pool Social

Mingle at The Landing pool on Sunday, April 6. Fred Campbell will perform at 1 p.m., so bring your drinks and snacks for a fun afternoon!

Trivia

Trivia hosted by Doug Carbaugh takes place Wednesday, April 16, at 5 p.m. in the Ballroom. The cost is \$3 per resident and \$8 per guest.

Happy Hour

Get ready for a fantastic happy hour in the Ballroom on Thursday, April 24, at 5 p.m. The amazing Sal and the Gal will provide entertainment, so bring your snacks and drinks for a night of fun and dancing! This event is free for residents and \$5 per guest when accompanied by a resident.

Monthly Music Series

Get ready to disco and boogie on Monday, April 28, at 5 p.m. Dress to impress in your '70s best and enjoy the fun with Cheryl Jensen! Let's spring into some retro fun! This event is free for residents and \$5 per guest when accompanied by a resident.



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	Al 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		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.
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	Gullway Plaza	

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

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

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

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

For information, call 352-789-5666.

Artistic Crafts & Gifts

Chris Kilbride



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

ArtisticCrafts.org will give you a glimpse of our very talented crafters and artisans. The group started in the early 1990s, and the show has grown to over 50 tables on Tuesday, with over 90 online for their visual presence, with unique and custom designs. All resident crafters are welcome to sell virtually on our website and inquire about a table at our Tuesday show.

This month, we're featuring Susan Bez. With degrees in graphic design and early childhood education, her artistic journey has evolved from acrylic painting to collage art. More recently, it has included the fascinating world of encaustic painting – an ancient technique using pigmented melted wax.

Susan's career began in graphic design. She worked extensively in the semiconductor industry as a marketing communications manager, shaping corporate identities, developing advertising campaigns, trade show graphics, and sales materials, and even producing an extensive 400-page product catalog. Her expertise in visual communication, branding, and exhibit design helped establish a strong corporate presence in an ever-evolving industry.

After 20 years in graphic design, Susan transitioned to early childhood education, combining her artistic talent with teaching. As an art studio teacher, she introduced young children, infants



Inspirational nature and fantasy art by Sue Bez includes collage and encaustic formats.



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Rubber Stamp Greeting Cards

Linda Lohr



On Thursday, March 6, Dawn Winblad presented several cute Easter cards and all occasion cards.

We thank Dawn for these great cards, and for providing punches, papers, dies, and cardstock for use by the members.

Our group is open to all crafters, whether beginners or more experienced. Each month, one or two people will present. The group meets on the first and third Thursdays at 1 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room.

Anyone can be a presenter; the cards

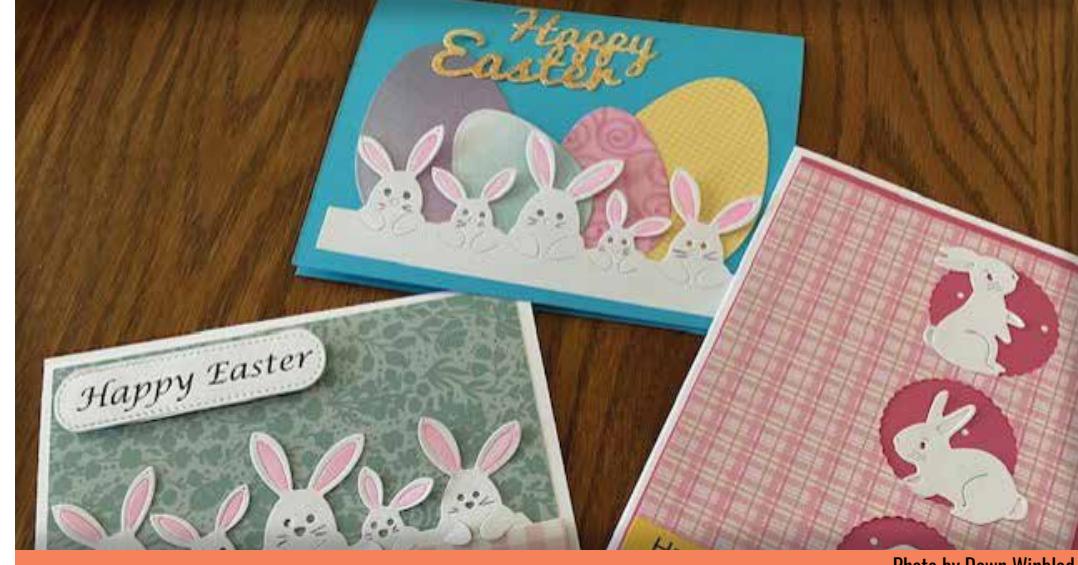


Photo by Dawn Winblad

Cards presented by Dawn Winblad.



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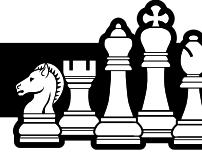
do not have to be fancy or complicated. Our group is based on friendship, socializing, and helping each other.

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

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



CARDS & GAMES



Bingo



Nancy Grabowski

Wednesday is synonymous with bingo. Join us in the Recreation Center Ballroom for a fun-filled evening that might be profitable, too!

Beginning at about 4 p.m., raffle tickets are sold. The prices are three for \$1 or 10 for \$3. When the tickets are pulled from the tumbler one at a time, around 5:30 p.m., each winner receives \$20. This fortunate person gets to draw the next winning ticket until we've exhausted the pot. Lately, there have been about 30 winners each night!

Bingo cards are sold for \$1 each; there is no limit on how many you can play. The cards are available at 4:30 p.m.; sales conclude at 5:35 p.m., allowing us time to prepare the prize money. Cards are equipped with sliders, so no dabbers are needed; large-number cards are also available.

Wednesday, April 9, is super bingo, a twice-yearly event with bigger payouts. Florida law caps the dollar amount at \$250 for each of the three jackpots, a change from previous games. The remaining 17 games are also larger than normal.

While the timing remains the same for super bingo, the card price is slightly different. Cards are purchased in increments of three; each set is \$5. No guests are allowed at super bingo.

Bingo is open to all residents and their guests who are signed in at the time of purchase. Players must be 18; no one younger is allowed to attend. The ballroom is an alcohol-free zone during the games. Wine, beer, or other alcoholic beverages must be consumed in The Pub or on the patio.

Volunteers arrive early to make this a fun evening! Please help us by respecting the signs at our spots while we work to have everything in place and ready to let the fun begin. If you want to become a volunteer, speak with Carl Folkers or Nancy Grabowski.

Bridge



Monday Afternoon

By Carol Johnson

Feb. 3

1: Pat & Debbie Quinn; 2: Jack Heller & Steve Sekac; 3: Mar Valchin & Bruce Gillett; 4: Mary Bloch & Connie Feola.

Feb. 10

1: Barb Heller & Barbie Trebilcock; 2: Bruce Gillett & Mar Valchin; 3: Donna Peters & Rad D; 4: Steve Sekac & Jack Heller.

Feb. 17

1: Billie Anderson & Mary Bloch; 2: Bruce Gillett & Mar Valchin; 3: Jack Heller & Steve Sekac; 4: Judy Mackowiak & Phyllis Silverman.

Feb. 24

1: Steve Sekac & Ron Smith; 2: Carol Johnson & Linda Yuen; 3: Carolyn Higgins & V.J. Hertz; 4: Debbie & Pat Quinn.

March 3

1: Donna Peters & Rad D; 2: Linda Yuen & Carol Johnson; 3: Jack Heller & Steve Sekac; 4: C.J. Daane & Dennis Dust; Grand slam: Linda Yuen & Carol Johnson.

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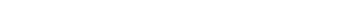
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View from the Library

David Wessenberg



One might assume some pretty dry content by looking at the book title, "Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant." Nothing could be further from the truth. President Grant writes in a straightfor-

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 many songs.

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

The bluebirds are back
nesting in my birdhouse,
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.

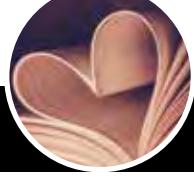
The pelicans,
what a strange bird,
do not call out,
nary a word.

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

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

Poetry

Janice M. Puta



New Day

I greet the dawn with you:
leap into a new day!

Oh the joy to be alive
with wisdom to do
and greatness to be.


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ward, simple style that comports very well with the modern reader. Always concise and clear, the author grabs the reader and takes them on a life journey through some of the most significant military events in the history of the United States: the Mexican War and the Civil War.

Grant wrote these memoirs for money, having just survived a cataclysmic financial misfortune: being caught up in a Ponzi scheme. His friend Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) encouraged him to allow Clemens to publish the book using a door-to-door subscription service where retired soldiers sold it, resulting in 350,000 copies sold in 1885.

The memoirs comprise two volumes and start with Grant's boyhood. His father was uneducated but was self-taught in history and politics and was an active debater. He was in the business of hides and leather. Grant was independent and traveled extensively on horseback, including trips from Ohio to Kentucky,

which spanned over 100 miles, to buy or trade horses. He was appointed to West Point Military Academy and graduated as a second lieutenant in 1843, hoping to obtain an assignment as a mathematics professor at the academy. He graduated in the middle of his class but was the best horseman at the academy.

After his assignment to St. Louis, Missouri, where he met his wife, he served with distinction as a first lieutenant in the Mexican-American War. During that conflict, he met and befriended many of the officers he later served with or against in the Civil War. He later served in California without his family because of the danger of circumnavigating South America and eventually left the army in 1854. He experienced a series of failures in business and farming, ultimately ending up working for his brother in the tanning business in Galena, Illinois.

He rejoined the Army in 1863, drilling an Illinois regiment and preparing them for combat. He rose quickly with a ma-

yor victory at Vicksburg, defeating three armies through mastery of geographical detail and coordinating with the U.S. Navy. He was promoted to lieutenant general by Abraham Lincoln, commanding all Union Armies. When Lincoln was told that Grant tended to drink, he said, "Well, I wish some of you would tell me what brand of whiskey Grant drinks. I would like to send a barrel of it to my other generals." Lincoln said, "He is the quietest fellow you ever saw."

Dry historical facts don't portray the excitement of his battle descriptions, the twists and turns of success, the suspense of battle, and the courage and perspicacity of his personality, facing danger, taking risks, and eventually succeeding in winning the civil war. I am saving that for the reader of this engaging and fascinating memoir, which many consider one of the greatest ever written since Caesar's "Gallic Wars." It would only be a disappointment if you did not read it. Enjoy!

Poetry Club

Barbara A. Scales & Bruce Tredinnick



On Sunday, Feb. 2, Poetry Club member Lloyd Howell recited passages from his newest publication, "Smorgasbord, Food for Thought," and selections from his upcoming work, "Senioritis," at the Indigo East Community Center. Over 30 attendees enjoyed his performance. The Poetry Club is proud of Lloyd and wishes him the best in his upcoming endeavors. Contact Lloyd Howell at 1950poet@gmail to obtain a copy.

The Poetry Club vice president Bruce Tredinnick contacted the St. Augustine/Jacksonville Chapter of the Southeast Haiku Association. Our poetry club intends to visit them during one of their

summer meetings to enjoy the fine art of haiku, a short poem honoring nature's beauty. Anyone wishing to listen to this lovely lyrical language can contact Bruce for further instructions at 352-857-7938.

Buzzards

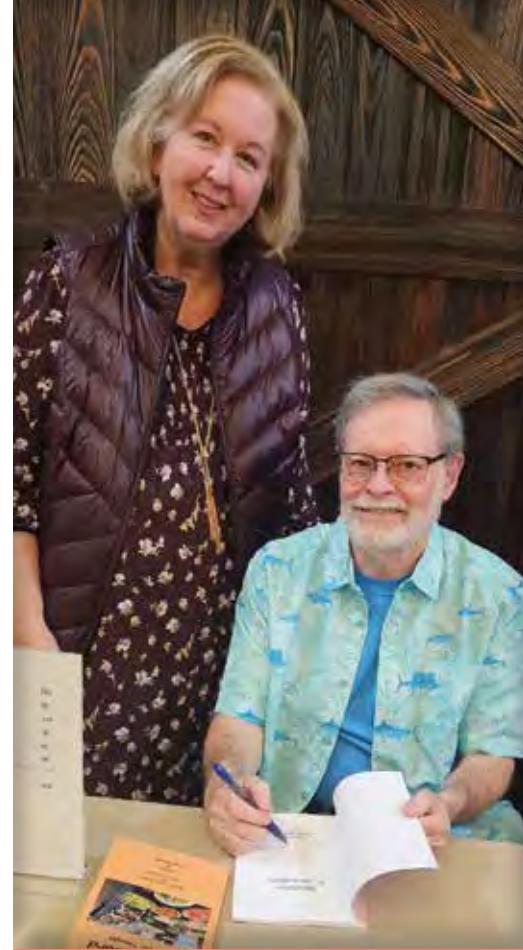
By Lloyd Howell

Buzzards
Circling above me
Wasting their time

The Poetry Club welcomes its newest members. Several write poetry, and others enjoy the music of the spoken word. The club recently changed its date and venue. We now meet at the Recreation Center Lounge on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 1 to 3 p.m. No reservation is necessary. There is plenty of comfortable seating. Please join us.

HANDICAP EQUIPMENT

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



Lloyd Howell and guest at an Indigo East poetry recital.

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Karaoke Friends**Kathy & Charlie Petrosky**

endorphins that help to reduce stress levels and make you feel happier.

We have been highlighting our singers, but there is another important group at karaoke. We call them our clappers. I asked some supporters why they like to come.

Donna said, "I love music. I can hear some new songs. When I come, it is a happy time."

Rose said, "Singing is really in Donnie's soul. I like hearing him and other people sing. Some songs are sad, happy, religious, funny, and sometimes you just want to get up and dance. All the years I have been coming to karaoke I have never seen this many new and wonderful singers. I'm just one of the many clappers who enjoys karaoke."

Luci says, "I walk into a room of smiling faces. You can sit anywhere. People are chatting and laughing. I enjoy the music and people."

Carmen says, "I enjoy the Monday group. I feel it is a special, friendly group. I go to socialize and meet nice people."

You, too, can come and see for yourself. We meet on the first and third Mondays of the month in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room. Singing starts at 5:30 p.m. Upcoming dates are April 7 and 21. Join the fun.

Karaoke is most popular in Asia, especially in Japan, the Philippines, and South Korea. This makes sense since it was invented in Japan and the Philippines in the 1970s.

In the U.S., in 2021, the karaoke bar industry generated over \$1 billion, surpassing other nighttime favorites like comedy clubs.

So, what goes on at karaoke? People can sing and dance. Singers can sing as a group or perform their favorite song solo. Sometimes, the audience joins in singing. Singers like it when the audience listens. Hearing applause at the end of the song acknowledges the effort of the person singing.

Some suggested easy songs to try at first are "Sweet Caroline," "Hey Jude," and "Stand by Me" because they have simple melodies and repetitive lyrics.

Whether singing with friends or making new ones, karaoke is a fun activity that encourages social interaction. Singing can be a great way to relieve stress and relax. When you sing, you release



Donna, Rose, Luci, and Carmen at Karaoke Friends.

**Concert Chorus****Joanne Houston**

Rock your socks off at the Concert Chorus spring concert - "Rock 'n' Roll Jukebox Review," - on Sunday, April 6, at 3 p.m. and Monday, April 7, at 6 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center. General admission tickets are \$10.

Tickets are on sale Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday through Friday, April 4, in the Recreation Center Ballroom from 9 a.m. to noon. They will also be sold at the doors one hour before the concert begins.

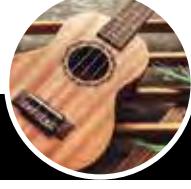
The 90 talented Concert Chorus members will perform popular music from the 1950s through to the 1990s

with many popular styles such as swing, doo-wop, rock, the Beatles, Elton John, Three Dog Night, and from the hit movies "Wicked" and "Lion King."

A spectacular patriotic grand finale will be dedicated to the USA, and our veterans will be performed, honoring those who have served our nation.

We are asking for donations from audience members to bring new socks (white, black, or gray) to be donated to several veterans organizations in Florida - Veterans Helping Veterans and Warm Feet for Warriors. Socks are one of the most requested items to be sent to our troops!

Let's rock your socks off for our veterans and service men and women and have fun. For more information, please contact joanne.houston57@gmail.com or deboraasmith@gmail.com.

Ukelele Club**Carol Himes**

Ukelele players of all abilities hone their skills as we "strum and sing" many of our favorite tunes. More advanced players can increase their skill in the Intermediate session at 4 p.m. There is something for everyone wanting to join the ukulele experience.

Recently, some members of the Ukelele Club shared our Strum and Sing skills with the LadyBirds Club during their Valentine's Day meeting. All had a great time. On St. Patrick's Day, we took our ukuleles to play for the residents at Brookdale Assisted Living. Ukeleles don't just play Hawaiian music, so we included a bit of Irish music for them as well.

We enjoy taking the fun of our ukulele music out and about, sharing it with our neighbors in and beyond.

If you would like to learn more about the Ukelele Club, please stop by the Arbor Activity Center Music Room any Wednesday afternoon. Membership is free and open to residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

If you want to join the fun, our beginning session, Uke 101, begins at 2:30 p.m. where we will get you started in your ukulele adventure. Following at 3 p.m. is our Strum and Sing, where uku-

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Photo by Robert Lieberman

The Golf Father cast.

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Murder Mystery Dinner Theater

Liz Elliott Lieberman



A brand-new club has formed for tongue-in-cheek fun and entertainment. Calling all lovers of Agatha Christie and similar mystery writers! We promise a lot of silliness and fun with our talented actors, singers, and dancers, who may create a lot of unusual activity in your neighborhood, including murder, mystery, and mayhem.

The success of the initial performances has led to the formation of this new club. We performed for residents of Kestrel and Weybourne Landing. Ashford is in the planning and writing stages for a Halloween "haunting." I would love to hear from the leaders of the various social groups so you can book a murder mystery event for your entertainment calendar. It is a complete evening of entertainment, and audience members are encouraged to dress appropriately and are often caught up in the proceedings!

At Weybourne Landing, characters like the aviatrix Amelia Airtart and the silent screen star Norma Despot dropped in for dinner. Flapper Gigi La Bijou was accompanied by Aristote Onhisassis, while opera star Barbara of Seville and Russian exile Boris Ripshiscorsetsoff were also in attendance, along with the international crime-solver extraordinaire Inspector Clueless.

There is very little audience improvisation, but it is always welcome. The shows are two-act plays, so audiences just sit back and relax. The last performance at Weybourne Landing had a fabulous cast of 28, and it was hilarious.

Special thanks to Dexter and Theresa Vance, as well as Pati Bean, for their hard work and unfailing support. See you soon with more shenanigans!

For more information and booking times, please contact Lizzylieberman@gmail.com or 702-378-6300.

REPLACEMENT CAR DECALS

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

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

AcaBella

DeAnne Blueter



Have you ever sung in the shower? If so, you are not alone, as 52% of the world's population also does. Don't ask how we know this to be a fact; you'll just have to take our word for it.

Aside from being a fun activity while getting clean, there are many other benefits! Shower singers improve their vocal skills due to the ideal acoustics and humidity level the shower provides. Singing also releases dopamine (the chemical in your brain responsible for making you feel good and alert). When you sing, you also take in more oxygen, improving blood circulation. In terms of breathing, it's almost like a meditation session. Just be careful not to turn into a prune and run out of hot water!

Singing isn't just a joyful activity; it can also be incredibly fulfilling when you hit the right notes! It has the power to elevate your confidence and self-esteem, which are essential tools for tackling feelings of anxiety, sadness, and loneliness.

Did you know that belting out your favorite tunes triggers the release of a feel-good chemical called oxytocin? So, next time you sing, remember that you're not just making music but also boosting your mood and well-being.

Singing is also an opportunity to engage your brain. As you belt out your favorite tunes, whether at home or singing along to the radio in your car, chances are you're either nailing those lyrics or making a serious effort to recall them. Did you also know that singing can be a powerful antidote to stress? That's right! Singing helps combat the stress hormone cortisol, which can ramp up blood pressure, elevate blood sugar levels, and even spark inflammation in your body.

As you've just read, there's proof that singing is good for you! But you don't need to only sing in the shower or while listening to the radio to enjoy its benefits. You can join the women who sing in AcaBella and add the benefits of social interaction, camaraderie, and healthy fun! You'll find us every Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Music Room. For more information on visiting, contact our director, Holly St. John, at agreatsound@gmail.com.

Drum Circle

J. Ashi Olshan



Drum what you feel. You don't have to be an experienced (hand) drummer to drum out whatever energy wants to be discharged in some creative, productive way – while enjoying the natural highs of drumming in a circle of 15 to 20-plus new friends.

When we lifted the ban on interior gatherings back in 2021, Ruth Greenfield, like many of us, had pent up stress just dying to be expelled in some positive, relaxing way. So, she started her coed Drum Circle Club, still going strong after three years, with surprisingly more women than men.

If you have not drummed before, then start out by playing along softly – letting your volume build as the contagious syncopated rhythm in the room fills your bones and transports that energy to your fingers. Everyone has rhythm inherently embedded in their DNA, just needing a little push to let it confidently flow out – naturally. In fact, drumming was the original music, dating back to the beginning of mankind, and still joyfully practiced for fun and relaxation – and as rituals in many tribes – around the world.

One hand or two, it's up to you, no one is keeping score. And if you don't yet own a pair of bongos, a djembe, a conga drum, tambourine, or maraca – to keep the beat, we have all kinds of extra drums and percussion instruments to give you a taste and get you started.

The Drum Circle Club is still being offered for free - no club dues - on the second Thursday of each month, from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room. Come check it out, you might just be surprised by your inner drummer, as you turn off your mind for an hour of relaxing drumming meditation. Ruth Greenfield can be contacted at 201-887-5547.

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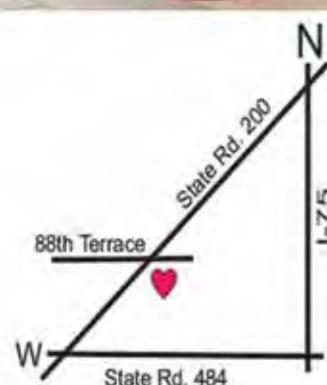


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Fun with Golf Carts

Susan Pulling Robinson



On Saturday, March 15, our members "wore green" and decorated for St. Patrick's Day with a little Mardi Gras. Our selected charities included Operation Shoebox, Chuck's Piggy Bank, Bears and Blankets and Interfaith Emergency Services. Many folks with big hearts made generous donations to these causes. Thank you!

Mark your calendar for the following Saturdays so you won't miss the parade:

- April 19: Easter and Spring
- May 24: Memorial Day
- June 14: Flag Day
- July 5: Independence Day
- Aug. 30: Labor Day
- Sept. 20: Dog Days of Summer



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MAY 30, 2025  THE MUSIC OF HANS ZIMMER & OTHERS A CELEBRATION OF FILM MUSIC DOORS OPEN AT 7 PM SHOW STARTS AT 8 PM TICKETS FROM \$50	JUN. 7, 2025  DANCE PARTY ROCKY AND THE ROLLERS ROCKYANDTHEROLLERS.COM	JUN. 8, 2025  OPERA TAMPA DOORS OPEN AT NOON SHOW STARTS AT 1 PM STROZCENTER.ORG/OPERATAMPA/ABOUT-OPERA-TAMPA	JUN. 18, 2025  JON ANDERSON and THE BAND GEEKS JONANDERSON.COM
JUN. 26-28, 2025  ELVIS THE SUMMER FESTIVAL PRESENTED BY ETA FESTIVALS SHOWS AT 2 PM & 7:30 PM ELVISTHESUMMERFESTIVAL.COM	JUL. 12, 2025  DANCE PARTY LATIN AMBITION LATINAMBITIONBAND.COM	AUG. 9, 2025  DANCE PARTY ROCKY AND THE ROLLERS PART II ROCKYANDTHEROLLERS.COM	AUG. 22, 2025  THE JERSEY TENORS THEJERSEYENORS.COM
AUG. 23, 2025  VOICE EXPERIENCE VOICEXPERIENCEFOUNDATION.ORG	AUG. 24, 2025  A CLASSICAL CABARET WITH MARIA ZOUVES DOORS OPEN AT NOON SHOW STARTS AT 1 PM VOICEXPERIENCEFOUNDATION.ORG	SEPT. 6, 2025  SHARPE FAMILY SINGERS PRESENTS THE BEST OF BROADWAY SHARPEFAMILYSINGERS.COM	SEPT. 20, 2025  JOHN CAFFERTY AND THE BEAVER BROWN BAND JOHNCAFFERTY.COM
SEPT. 26, 2025  THE GRASS ROOTS PRESENTED BY ROCKY PRODUCTIONS THE-GRASSROOTS.COM	<div style="text-align: center;">  SCAN TO VIEW THE ENTIRE SHOW LINEUP! </div>		

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

Schedule and prices are subject to change without notice. Reduced ticket prices are available for On Top of the World Communities and Stone Creek residents (with valid resident ID) for Circle Square Cultural Center-produced shows only.
 Ticket prices do not include sales tax. ALL TICKET SALES ARE FINAL. Call or visit the box office to reserve handicapped seats. Refreshments are also available for purchase at events.

*Free tickets are not available online. They must be picked up at the box office during regular business hours. There is a limit of two tickets per household.



4/20/25

Tesla Owners & Enthusiasts Club

Dan Lack



Tesla vehicles have up to nine cameras. The onboard computer uses the exterior cameras to warn the driver of oncoming vehicles, pedestrians, or lane departures and to guide the vehicle during full self-driving mode.

The interior camera may monitor the driver for sleepiness. If the vehicle travels faster than 40 mph, it counts the driver's blinks and yawns. When drowsiness is detected, it delivers a visual warning on the computer screen and an audible warning.

The exterior cameras are also engaged during "sentry mode." This computer setting allows monitoring of the outside of the vehicle if any movement is detected. The videos are preserved in the computer's memory. The Tesla phone app will alert the driver if the sentry mode is triggered. This feature discourages vandalism and theft.

During our club meetings, we discuss our vehicles and answer questions. Occasionally, there is a guest speaker. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room II. Come and learn about these amazing computers on wheels.

On Top of the Wheels Car Group

Lyn Yanss



Gear up, car enthusiasts! The On Top of the Wheels Car Club is thrilled to announce its highly anticipated car show, set to take place at The Lodge at Candler Hills on Saturday, April 19, from 3 to 7 p.m.

This event promises to be a feast for the eyes, showcasing a stunning array of vehicles spanning diverse eras and styles. Whether you're a classic car aficionado or a fan of modern marvels, there's something for everyone. With Easter just around the corner, this car show offers the perfect opportunity to enjoy a delightful afternoon before the holiday festivities begin.

"We're excited to invite the commu-

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

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Toppers Banjo

David Wesenberg



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

We have added several new members who give us a bigger sound. We are experimenting with harmonicas and trying to grow our skills and presentation. We welcome new members and look forward to performing a fuller music presentation.

We are rehearsing and revising performance playlists and incorporating new members' musical genres into our performances. This is a great time to join us if you are interested in banjos and banjo music.

We have also been welcoming visitors to listen to the band, which increases our joy in playing and their joy in listening. Wonderful musical moments are taking place.

We welcome new active or aspiring banjo and acoustic guitar players to join us in playing and singing. If you like to play, come and join us. If you have ideas to improve performance and presentation, we want to hear them. If you like to listen, join us and enjoy the music and conversation. Everyone is welcome.

nity to join us for an afternoon of automotive splendor," said George Hill, On Top of the Wheels Car Club president. "Our members have put in tremendous effort to prepare their vehicles, and we can't wait to share their passion with fellow car lovers."

Adding to the vibrant atmosphere, the Poms Dance & Cheer Squad will be on hand to entertain visitors with their energetic routines. Attendees can also indulge in delectable food by Blazin' Bites Food Truck, ensuring a satisfying culinary experience. Live music will fill the air, creating a relaxed and enjoyable ambiance as guests stroll among the impressive machines.

In addition to the stunning car displays, the event will feature exciting gift basket raffles, offering attendees the chance to win fantastic prizes just in time for Easter.

So, start your engines, and we will see you there.



Toppers Banjo Band in February.

Photo by Herbert Young

On Top of the World**PROVIDENCE
Vehicle Decal Event****Attention Providence Residents!**

You are cordially invited to attend the scheduled RFID Vehicle Decal Drive-Through Event for your neighborhood.

This drive-through event will occur in the Circle Square Cultural Center parking lot from 8 AM to 12 PM on the specified dates below. Entrance to this event will begin on SW 79th Street Road. Please follow all directional signs to ensure a proper flow of traffic. For an expedited experience, you may remove your existing decal before arriving at the event.

Residents should arrive on their assigned day to facilitate seamless distribution:

Tuesday, April 22, 2025 (Last names A-L ONLY)
Wednesday, April 23, 2025 (Last names M-Z ONLY)

Residents with different last names in the same household, can collect their decal(s) on either date.

Can't attend on your assigned day? Please reach out to otowgates@otowfl.com for rescheduling information. As a reminder, your barcode will continue to work while we integrate all communities.

*Future dates have been scheduled for other OTOW neighborhoods.

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SCAN ME

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TUNES

THURSDAYS

- April 3: MARK RAISCH 7 - 10 PM
- April 10: BILLY BUCHANAN 7 - 10 PM
- April 17: STEEL KICKIN' BAND 7 - 10 PM
- April 24: EVOLUTION 7 - 10 PM

FRIDAYS

- April 4: Curbside Cuisine 6 PM
- April 11: Fat Tiki 6 PM
- April 18: BORDERLINE 7 - 10 PM
- April 25: VenRosas Rollin Bistro 6 PM

SATURDAYS

- April 5: Big Lee's 6 PM
- April 12: Lucky's Kitchen 6 PM
- April 19: Tailarico's Pizza 6 PM
- April 26: Lady Boss Chef 6 PM

TRUCKS & TUNES

FRIDAYS

- April 4: CURBSIDE CUISINE 6 PM
- April 11: FAT TIKI 6 PM
- April 18: LIVE EFFECT 7 - 10 PM
- April 25: SECOND SLICE 7 - 10 PM

SATURDAYS

- April 5: BIG LEE'S 6 PM
- April 12: LUCKY'S KITCHEN 6 PM
- April 19: GROOVE 41 7 - 10 PM
- April 26: YACHT-A-ROCK 7 - 10 PM

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FAVORITES

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

6 - 9 PM

Sewing Bees

Ann Gallo



Happy Easter and Passover!

It was another busy month at the Hive. In February, we distributed 91 quilts to three agencies. We are excited to have added a new agency to our growing list, Helping Hands.

Thirty-one quilts, 32 pieces of clothing, and 30 drawstring bags were given to Arnette House.

Twenty quilts and 20 drawstring bags were given to the Interfaith Emergency Services homeless shelter.

Forty quilts, 45 pieces of clothing, and 25 burp cloths were distributed to Helping Hands.

The Bees were thrilled to receive a check for \$500 from Rita Miller from The New Pretenders. Thank you to Nancy Grabowski, president, and all the members of this very talented group. This support helps us continue our mission of providing hand-made quilts to

disadvantaged and homeless children in Marion County.

Did you know that the United States has approximately 21 million quilters at an average age of 62?

See our program in action in the Hobby Building Art Room A & B. We meet every Thursday from 12:30 to 3 p.m. and on the second and third Saturdays of the month from noon to 3 p.m.

Can't sew? No problem. Our program requires many sewing tasks. We have sewing machines available, or you can bring your own.

Meet an amazing and talented group of ladies and gentlemen. Dues are \$15 for the year.

We always need cotton fabric with a children's theme, solid cotton, or flannel. Hobby Lobby gift cards are also welcome.

Join our Facebook page (Sewing Bees Club Inc.) to see what magic takes place at the hive. You can also stay current on what we are working on and our current needs.

If you have any questions, call or text Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178 or Susie Clauson at 904-422-5135.

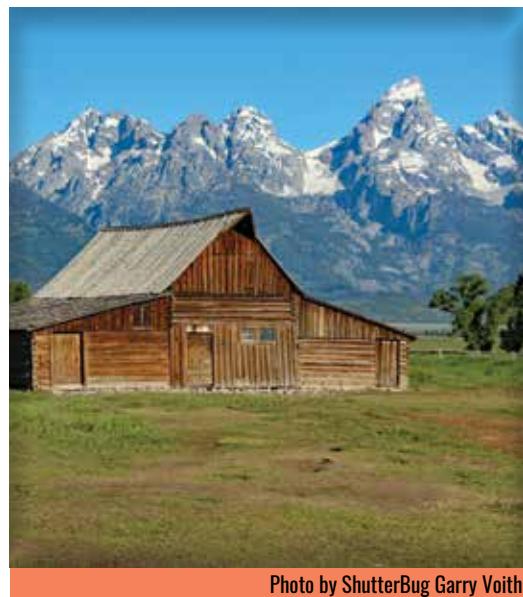


Photo by ShutterBug Garry Voith

Grand Tetons.



Photo by ShutterBug Jan Jordan

Samurai Soldiers.

ShutterBugs Photography

Kathi Simens



We are continuing to highlight the first-place winners of our annual photo contest. This month, the ShutterBugs Photography Club highlights Jan Jordan, the winner of the still life category.

Jan Jordan says that her photo, "Samurai Soldiers," was taken at the Asian Lantern Festival at the Sanford Zoo. The challenge she faced photographing these stunning soldiers was getting all of them in one picture. There were so many soldiers that she decided to focus on just a few of them, and the result is spectacular.

In April, the photos on display in the Master the Possibilities lobby were taken by Garry Voith. Please stop in and check them out! Like many of us, Garry started taking photos at a young age, starting with a Kodak X-15 film camera. These days, his camera gear is more so-

phisticated. He uses a mirrorless Canon R6 Mark II and a DSLR Canon 6D. Garry likes to photograph landscapes, architecture, thoroughbreds, and equestrian competitions.

If you missed seeing our annual photo contest or our prior photo displays at Master the Possibilities, you can still view all our photos at otowspc.com.

Want to learn more about photography? ShutterBugs President Harry Boyajian continues to facilitate our sharing of photography tips to improve our camera use and editing skills. Our club motto, "Those who don't know should ask, and those who do know should be willing to show and tell."

We generally meet for a field trip the first week of each month, ShutterBug Solutions (where members can get camera and computer assistance) the second Tuesday, show-n-tell the third Tuesday, and an educational class the fourth Tuesday at 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. For more information, contact Harry at 239-336-4804.

"Photography takes an instant out of time, altering life by holding it still." - Unknown

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Active Newcomers Club

Linda Baker



Spring is in the air, the weather is beautiful, and the Active Newcomers Club is blooming. We have over 250 members who enjoy many activities organized by dedicated group leaders.

We had a great time celebrating spring at our Saturday, March 22 picnic. We enjoyed lunch from Mission BBQ, then danced to the sounds of R&R Trio. Thank you to all the board members and volunteers whose hard work made this event successful.

Our next event is Spring Fling on Saturday, May 3, in the Recreation Center Ballroom, starting at 5:30 p.m. Attendees will enjoy a delicious meal catered by Pasta Faire. Dessert and sweet tea will be available. Tim Hargis will provide entertainment for the evening. This popular event will sell out fast! Check out our Facebook page or website for more information.

Mark your calendar for a pizza party on Saturday, June 7, at The Lodge at Candler Hills Ballroom and doing donuts on Saturday, Aug. 23, at the Veterans Park pavilion.

Small groups are up and running!

Happy Hookers

Jan Spielvogel



Welcome to April! We hope that everyone will have a blessed and happy Easter. We hope that you celebrate with a camaraderie of friends. The meaning of camaraderie is a spirit of friendly, good fellowship.

In the crafting world, the camaraderie of crafting is defined as the sense of community and support that crafters share. This can include exchanging ideas, helping with projects, and learning from one another. It is a "language everyone can speak." An example is when one of our members recently traveled on a cruise and met several ladies who met to knit, crochet, and do embroidery. This situation showed the universal appeal of crafting and how it can bring people together regardless of background.

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, agendas, or penalties for missing a meeting, arriving late, or leaving early. Life can and does sometimes interfere, and we would hate for that to hold you back.

We have a talented group of ladies busy with crocheting, knitting, needlepoint, card crafting, embroidering, and handcrafting. They are never too busy to help someone with a complicated pattern or stitch. We welcome newcomers with open arms. Attendees should bring whatever they happen to be working on.

If you have questions about our club, call Naomi Berman at 352-873-4328. We always appreciate donations of yarn, pattern books, knitting needles, crochet hooks, or other crafting tools. Please bring them on Mondays during our meeting or contact Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178 to arrange pickup.

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activenewcomers34481@gmail.com. Include "small groups" in the subject line.

Membership applications for 2025 are available on our website. Dues are only \$20 per person. When completing your application, please read the descriptions and requirements for small groups before making your selections. Residents

must have a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass to join.

To learn more about the Active Newcomers Club, visit activenewcomers.org or our Facebook page (Active Newcomers). You can also email us at activenewcomers34481@gmail.com.



Photo by Wanda Keller

Happy winners at our monthly bunco game.

**BUNKER
PLAY**
**Saturday,
April 5th
9 am**

Pre-register at the Candler Hills Golf Shop by 5 pm on Friday, April 4, 2025

GOLF CLINICS
**Candler Hills
Golf Club**

8137 SW 90th Terrace Road, Ocala, FL 34481
352.861.9712 | CandlerHillsGolfClub.com

**BALL
STRIKING**
**Saturday,
April 12th
9 am**

Pre-register at the Candler Hills Golf Shop by 5 pm on Friday, April 11, 2025



Whether it happens on the golf course or during your morning walk, an injury shouldn't keep you from enjoying life and staying active. The board-certified specialists at University of Florida Health ORTHOcare in Ocala can provide the expertise you need to get moving and have you on top of the world again. For sprains, strains, and minor fractures, turn to UF Health ORTHOcare. Conveniently located at the World Equestrian Center.

Our services include:

Examinations • X-rays • Casting • Splinting • Referrals for other orthopaedic specialties, if needed

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

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

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

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

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

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

For Sale

Electronics: Record turntable with speakers (2). 352-390-3407.

Furniture: Outdoor rocking chairs (2), \$50. 845-467-7238.

Furniture: RST Brands outdoor set with Sunbrella cushions and covers, ginkgo green, bronze aluminum - dining table, dining chairs (4), coffee table, chaise lounges (2), end table, chairs (2), ottoman, loveseat, and accent pillows (4). Polywood patio furniture, green - glider chair, fixed chair, ottomans (2), and double chair with table unit. 610-721-1424.

Golf Cart: 2020 Onward with lithium battery and many extras. 479-295-9874.

Golf Cart: 2023 Club Car Onward with all options. 352-300-8995.

Golf Cart: 2023 Star EV Classic, black and tan with two seats, lights, and signals. 608-469-6940.

Golf Cart: 2023 Star Sirius, 2-in-1 combo golf cart, holds 4 people or holds 2 people plus 2 golf bags, lithium battery, includes canopy top and sunbrella curtain, seat belts, light package with turn signals. 610-721-1424.

Home Décor: Wall decorations. 352-390-3407.

Misc. Item: 8' aluminum step ladder, \$35. 410-652-5257.

Misc. Items: Extensive book collection of Civil War, Revolutionary War, World War I & II, John Grisham, and cookbooks. 352-509-4570.

Misc. Item: Generac pressure washer, gas, 2500 psi, all nozzles, \$150. 813-505-8999.

Misc. Items: Gladiator garage workshop metal cabinets, power tools and machines, and workbench. patomtul1939@gmail.com

Misc. Items: Ladder (folding). Generator (small). 352-390-3407.

Misc. Item: Motorcycle lift, air-powered 1,000 lb. capacity with ramp and frame jack. Best offer. 662-346-6843.

Misc. Item: Shark rotator pet plus upright vacuum (NV255) with owners guide, \$75. 610-721-1424.

Misc. Items: Viasox compression socks, cats design, medium, \$15 each. Viasox diabetic socks, mystery design, large, \$15. 352-229-8720.

Sports Equipment: E-bike - step-through, 48-volt, 750-watt, LCD display, Kenda 20" 4.0 tires, 20" frame, 4-6 hours to charge, 40-60 km range, max speed 31 mph. 610-721-1424.

Sports Equipment: Surf fishing rods (2). 352-509-4570.

Tools: Drill press tabletop, 5-speed, new wen, \$35. 410 652 5257.

Tools: Workbench top, stainless steel, 2' wide x 8' long, \$50. Benchtop sonic cleaner, \$50. 662-346-6843.

Tag Sales

Friday, April 4 & Saturday, April 5: 8831-B SW 94th Lane (Friendship Village), 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. · 8929-E SW 94th Street (Friendship Colony), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. · 8966-B SW 94th Lane (Friendship Park), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. · 9660-C SW 92nd Court (Crescent Ridge), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. · 8305, 8317, 8325, 8334, 8336, 8365, 8381, 8414, 8450, SW 82nd Loop (Candler Hills), 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. · 8402 SW 82nd Loop (Candler Hills), 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 5: 9545, 9555 SW 92nd Street Road (Providence), 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. · 8959-A SW 96th Lane (Friendship Park), 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. · 8241 SW 86th Court Road (Candler Hills), 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. · 7762 SW 86th Loop (Indigo East), 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. · 9596 SW 93rd Loop (Providence), 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. · 9452, 9590, SW 93rd Loop, 9189 SW 96th Court Road (Providence), 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. · 9862 SW 104th Avenue (Longleaf Ridge), 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 6: 8959-A SW 96th Lane (Friendship Park), noon to 4 p.m. · 8241 SW 86th Court Road (Candler Hills), noon to 4 p.m.

Thursday, April 10 & Friday, April 11: 9535 SW 93rd Loop (Providence), 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Friday, April 11 & Saturday, April 12: 9668 SW 93rd Loop (Providence), 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, April 26: 10528 SW 96th Lane Road, 10191 SW 98th Place Road (Longleaf Ridge), 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. · 9196 SW 106th Avenue (Longleaf Ridge), 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. · 10441 SW 99th Lane (Longleaf Ridge), 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. · 8891 SW 85th Loop (Stirling Meadow), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. · 9862 SW 104th Avenue (Longleaf Ridge), 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 26 & Sunday, April 27: 8864 SW 85th Loop (Stirling Meadow), noon to 4 p.m.

Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cleaning by Evelyn Lee: House & deep cleaning, move-outs. Licensed, bonded & insured. Sunshine Cleaning Service of Ocala, LLC. 352-286-6055.

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

Estate Sale Services: Ready to sell the contents of your home? Community resident providing estate sale services for all neighbors. I'm here to help. SW Ocala Estate Sales 352-219-6799.

Folding Table Rentals: Daily rate includes up to five 6' tables plus drop off/pick up in On Top of the World. Multi-day discounts. Deposit required. SW Ocala Estate Sales 352-219-6799.

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

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

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

I Buy Golf Carts: Fast, friendly, fair. Will beat competitors' offers. Cash paid. Same day pick up. 352-812-5630.

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

Miles & Miles Cleaning Service by Wendy: We will give you an old fashioned cleaning! Hourly rate. Licensed & insured. 352-895-0940 or www.milesandmilescleaningservices.com.

Painting & Drywall: Interior painting & drywall repair. Experienced, affordable & professional. Insured. Free estimates. References available. Visit josephdonofriodrywallandpainting.com or call 352-857-8367.

Paint Time LLC: Interior/exterior painting. Let's freshen up inside & out. Experienced & conscientious. For free consultation & estimate, call Matt at 352-640-6467. Quality is our goal!

Power Wash: From grime to shine - patio, driveway, outdoor furniture, house exterior, or just trim and gutters. Call Matt 352-640-6467. Quality is our goal!

Tax Service: Professionally done in my home. 20 years experience as an Enrolled Agent. Tom 631-215-9819 (resident).

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

Transportation: Private car service anywhere in Florida - airports, cruise ports, theme parks, sporting events, beaches, etc. Visit www.mytransportationtv.com or call 404-569-2647 or 352-430-8262.

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

Wanted

Donations: Dog or cat food [SPCA of Marion County 352-362-0985] · Electric golf carts in full working condition for use by volunteers for local park. [Barbara btspriprg@gmail.com] · Non-perishable food for food bank, and cards for veterans [Anne 843-504-0032] · Personal hygiene, school/craft supplies & small appliances for homeless; pet food/supplies for animal shelters; used cell phones, computers & musical instruments for troops/veterans; theatrical costumes & props; socks, underwear & men's clothing [Donna 352-237-3062] · Yarn for VA hospitals, children, and newborns [352-843-6519].

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

Meditation: Residents come learn and practice 30 original, enjoyably, pain-free, active and passive meditations in water. Ashi 707-280-3823.

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

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