

**Community News**

**Kenneth D. Colen**

**21st Annual Ocala Open**

**By Matt Hibbs**

**Standards for Live Performances**

Volunteer resident performance groups have been a hallmark of On Top of the World Communities for decades. Certainly, community-based performances are well-liked and supported by residents. That said, some standards must be adhered to.

Copyright Collectives (CMOs) such as the American Society of Composers and Performers (ASCAP, BMI, SESAC, etc.) are “umbrella” organizations that are responsible for enforcing music copyrights and disbursing collected fees to the composers.

Before any music can be performed live, regardless of a fee, donation, or free performance, the venue where the music/concert is performed must have a license that covers all music under copyright. ASCAP and BMI both have an extensive catalogue of works. SCA Marion Amenities LLC (SCA) carries the license for such performances.

That said, CMO licenses do not cover music used in dramatic performances; for that, you need a license from a Performance Rights Organization (PROs). A dramatic performance is any musical performance or stage production that involves acting, movement, costumes, and the performance of music under copyright. All Broadway and movie tunes (yes, even “Over the Rainbow”) fall into this category, where the organization performing the music must obtain permission from the copyright holder to use/perform, or otherwise use the works.

Purchasing the music does not convey the performance rights. Generally, there is a nominal fee for granting permission to perform, although for current works (such as “Wicked”), fees can be quite high. Besides compensation to the composers of the work, they also exercise control over the integrity of the represented work being performed.

Simply put, SCA wants to keep all parties on the right side of the law. The industry has become focused on performance and copyright enforcement. I am thinking about a case involving a high school performance: Tresona Multimedia, LLC v. Burbank High School Vocal Music 953 F.3rd 638 (2020). The ruling went against the high school. Seems an educational institution is an “apple pie” issue, but apparently it was not.

The primary performance copyright groups are:

- Dramatic Publishing, Inc.
- Music Theatre International
- Pioneer Drama, Inc.
- Concord Theatricals

**Community Updates**

**THE SUMMIT:** Progress continues at Longleaf Ridge, with this 20,000-square-foot amenity nearing completion. The cart path connection is completed, and the landscape was installed in February. The interior has received furniture and artwork. Please observe all posted construction warning signs and refrain from using the pathway until it has been officially deemed safe. The signs will continue to remain in place until Marion County formally accepts the cart path and determines it is safe and ready for use. Due to delays in completing sitework, the grand opening will be rescheduled to April.

**AZURA FITNESS CENTER:** In early March, the roof structure should be fully erected, and most of the work will focus on the interior. SCA Marion Amenities remains on track to deliver this state-of-the-art facility featuring top-of-the-line fitness equipment and a 5,000-square-foot pool. The project is estimated to be completed by the end of the year.

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

This work will be completed in phas-

**Continued on Page 4A** ▶

How would you like to be standing over a 10-foot putt with a chance to win \$17,000? Year after year, that’s what the Ocala Open presents to up-and-coming professional golfers.

From Wednesday, March 25, through Friday, March 27, Candler Hills Golf Club will host its 21st annual Ocala Open. The Ocala Open is a professional golf tournament run by Rick Hendershot, director of the Florida Professional Golf Tour. Each year, a field of 144 professional golfers competes for a chance to win the first-place prize of \$17,000.

We have had many great players come to Candler Hills to compete in this prestigious event. PGA Tour player Ted Potter Jr. won back-to-back championships in 2010 and 2011. Current PGA Tour player Eric Cole finished T2 in 2011, and Dan McCarthy, currently playing on the Korn Ferry Tour, won back-to-back Opens in 2015 and 2016.

Mickey DeMorat is this year’s defending champion. Can he become the fourth player to successfully defend his title?

For a true first-class experience, spectators can visit the VIP tent adjacent to the 18th green. This beautiful viewing area allows fans to relax under a tent while watching these talented golfers compete for the Ocala Open championship. Tickets for this luxurious seating area are available for purchase in the Candler Hills Golf Shop, with a portion of the ticket proceeds benefiting local charities.

The most important part of the Ocala Open is the charity Pro-Am, which is annually the biggest fundraiser in Ocala. With the support of local vendors and residents, the event raised \$90,000 for charity last year, presenting Interfaith Emergency Services and Empath Hospice of Marion County with \$45,000 checks each. To date, the Ocala Open has donated over \$1.183 million to local charities. This event has not only become a tradition at On Top of the World but also a staple of our community.

Interested in participating in the Pro-Am to help support these great organizations? This year’s Pro-Am will be played

on Tuesday, March 24, with Monday, March 23, added if more than 32 teams register. The entry deadline is Monday, March 9, and the limit is 64 teams. If you would like more information, please visit [ocalaopen.com](http://ocalaopen.com) or contact Director of Golf Matt Hibbs at 352-854-2765.

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

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

Candler Hills Golf Club is proud to host the Ocala Open each year. After more than two decades, the tournament has become one of the best professional golf events in Ocala and all across Florida. Please take time out of your busy schedule to come watch these players compete for this year’s Ocala Open title.



Photo courtesy of Colen Built Development

Mickey DeMorat is this year’s defending champion. Can he become the fourth player to successfully defend his title?

**HOME**  
IMPROVEMENT EXPO

**SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026**  
10 AM – 2 PM | CIRCLE SQUARE CULTURAL CENTER

**Get Your 'Honey-Do' List Done**

**By Shannon Prince**

Homeowners looking for fresh ideas, expert advice, and inspiration to enhance their living spaces are invited to attend the Home Improvement Expo on Saturday, March 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center. The event is free and open to the public, making it an ideal opportunity for anyone considering updates – big or small – to their home.

The Home Improvement Expo brings together a wide range of professionals showcasing the latest trends in home design, décor, and remodeling. From sim-

ple upgrades to full-scale renovations, attendees will discover how thoughtful improvements can dramatically change the look, comfort, and functionality of their homes.

Visitors can explore a variety of specialties, including remodeling, windows, flooring, home security, insurance, screen enclosures, home entertainment, and solar power solutions. Whether you’re interested in boosting energy efficiency, enhancing curb appeal, or modernizing interior spaces, the expo offers valuable resources and

real-world solutions all in one place.

Representatives from World Home Improvements will be on-site to answer questions and provide guidance on home modifications and improvement options. Their expertise can help homeowners better understand what projects may be right for their needs, lifestyle, and budget.

Beyond gathering ideas, the Home Improvement Expo is also a chance to connect directly with trusted local professionals, compare services, and learn about new products and technologies shaping today’s homes. Attendees can ask questions, collect information, and leave feeling confident and informed about their next steps.

Whether you’re planning a major renovation or simply exploring possibilities for the future, the Home Improvement Expo offers inspiration, education, and expert insight – all under one roof.

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# On Top of the World NEWS

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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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## Is It Legal?



Colen & Wagoner, P.A.

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

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

To attend, please register at [MasterthePossibilities.org](http://MasterthePossibilities.org).

**SCAM ALERT:** I received a random phone call a while ago from someone with a foreign accent who claimed to be from Bank of America and said someone had attempted to open an account in my

name. When I said I did not even have an account with that bank, the caller said they would decline to open an account and hung up. He did not ask for any personal information, and of course, I did not provide any. Well, you might say that I acted properly because whatever the purpose of the call was, he didn't get any personal information from me. You'd be wrong to think that he didn't get any personal information from me, because he called my number and I answered, so he knew it was a "live" phone number. And you'd also be wrong if you think I acted properly.

Besides answering the call, I did at least four other things very wrong.

1. I answered the phone when my caller ID only said it was from Bank of America, and I hadn't called them beforehand and wasn't expecting any call from them. I should have let them leave a message.
2. I did not immediately ask the caller for his name and have him spell it out. Even if his name were Joe Jones, I still should have required him to spell it for me.
3. I was wrong to say anything – anything – about not having an account at that bank.

So, now, he knows there's a "live" number, and I don't have an account at

Bank of America. Worst of all, when I received a random call, I was wrong not to immediately hang up when he said he was from Bank of America. Banks are not going to make a random call to you. I know that, and you should, too.

In other words, I, who have come to think I am too smart to get hooked, simply let my guard down. Bad. After that, I checked with the three credit reporting agencies, TransUnion, Experian, and Equifax, to make sure my credit reports were all locked. Good. Then, even though the accounts were locked, I still arranged for an alert to be sent. Also, good.

I messed up, but I moved quickly and took the steps necessary to secure my private information. We should not blame ourselves too much if we let our guard down. It can happen to any of us. But we must not fail to take all the steps we can take, burdensome though it might be, to protect ourselves. We must not wait to see if anything will happen. We must be proactive.

**Q.** I am a widow with no children and no blood relatives. I am going to have some surgical procedures that will require a lengthy rehab stay, maybe as long as three months. My doctor thinks I can have a full recovery. My deceased husband's niece called me and said she spoke to her lawyer (who was also my late husband's lawyer), and he said I should transfer my home to the niece to protect it for me. Does that seem like a good idea?

**A.** Um ... not a good idea, actually, in my opinion, it's a bad idea. How does transferring it to the niece protect you? This is your homestead, so it's already protected for you. See your attorney to discuss this.

**Q.** My husband and I have been married for 19 years. He's 82, and I'm 67.

He has six children, and I have a wonderful stepson from my first marriage, whom I love deeply. He wants nothing from me but to be happy. My present husband and I have a lengthy prenuptial agreement signed before our marriage, which protects my stepson. My husband said he would like us to celebrate our anniversary by signing an agreement to start over and then have an actual second wedding, as if we were getting married for the first time. Seems like a neat idea, but what do you say?

**A.** Random comments:

1. What's broken that needs to be fixed?
2. The devil is always in the details.
3. What, precisely, is in this "agreement to start all over again?"
4. Besides your husband, who else did he discuss this "agreement" with? And why?
5. Will your stepson be as protected as he already is?
6. You've been married 19 years. How do you start over from that?
7. You should urgently sit down with your separate attorney.

*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](mailto:info@colenwagoner.com) or visit [colenwagoner.com](http://colenwagoner.com).*

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## 2026 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

# On Top of the World NEWS

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

\* Deadline at noon.

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

Red indicates variation in schedule.

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**Veterans Club**

**Charles Calhoun**



War Veterans Day.

We have many veterans and families whose lives were shaped by this war.

Please, when you see a veteran wearing a military hat, especially one that says Vietnam veteran, thank them for their service and say, "Welcome home." They may not know how to respond, but it means a lot to them.

There will be celebrations, events, and special deals across the state. Please find one that you can participate in.

"Buddy check" – these two simple words can mean the difference. Make sure you check on everyone you know who may need a kind word of encouragement. Everyone matters. This world is a better place with them in it. Tell them they matter to you.

I was amazed when Fran sent a simple email to our 550 Veterans Club members. She asked for food donations for

Veterans Helping Veterans USA. I have spent the last six days delivering two or three carloads of food and monetary donations per day to Veterans Helping Veterans USA. Thank you for your donations!

The Veterans Club meets on the third Thursday of the month at 3 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV.

**Lifelong Learning**

**Michelle Shideler**

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ing how Flagler's Florida East Coast Railway transformed the state's coasts, built cities from Palm Beach to Key West, and created world-famous hotels that turned Florida into a premier winter retreat. On Wednesday, March 11, from 10 to 11 a.m., co-authors Peter S. Onuf and Francis D. Cogliano present "Jefferson's Moment," a fresh interpretation of Thomas Jefferson's revolutionary vision and the enduring challenges of building a nation committed to liberty and democracy. These experts contributed to the History Channel series on Jefferson that Master the Possibilities offered in February. Come hear more from the experts themselves!

Other highlights include Rick Kistner's remote presentation on "Mount Rushmore: A Monument to Greatness" on Thursday, March 19, at 2 p.m., exploring the monument's surprising history and its unfinished story, and Greg Clements' "America and Space...Reaching for the Stars" on Friday, March 20, from 3 to 4 p.m., offering insights into NASA's influence on scientific innovation and international relations. Finally, award-winning historian Allen Pietrobon, Ph.D., presents "A History of American Dining" from 1 to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, taking students on a visual journey through the dramatic shifts in American food culture over the last century.

For more information on these events, including pricing, visit masterthepossibilities.org, where registration is available 24/7. These programs provide an unparalleled chance to learn from leading experts, engage with history, and experience remarkable stories that shaped America. Continue your journey through the America 250 celebration with Master the Possibilities and explore the people, places, and moments that define our nation. A lineup like this comes but once in a lifetime.

March at Master the Possibilities offers students an extraordinary lineup of classes that takes them on a journey through some of America's most fascinating history and achievements. As part of the America 250 celebration, participants can explore 250 years of the nation's story in Ocala through unique opportunities that blend scholarship, storytelling, and expert insight.

The month's standout event is a rare opportunity to hear from Fredrik Logevall, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and Harvard professor, in a remote presentation titled "JFK: The Making of a Leader." Logevall is one of the foremost experts on John F. Kennedy and is past president of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations. His revelatory biography, "JFK: Coming of Age in the American Century, 1917-1956," a New York Times Notable Book of the Year, draws on Oval Office tapes, interviews with Jackie Kennedy, and declassified CIA documents to bring fresh insight into the life of America's 35th president. Students will have the rare chance to learn about Kennedy's formative years, the forces that shaped his leadership, and how his vision continues to resonate today. The class will be on Thursday, March 12, from 6 to 7:15 p.m. in Live Oak Hall. Members pay \$8, and the general public \$13.

March also features other exceptional programs. On Monday, March 9, at 1 p.m., students can join Christopher Daley for "Steel Rails to Sunshine State: Henry Flagler and the Railroad That Built Florida," a dynamic lecture explor-



Photo by Charles Calhoun

Lewis Alston, Vietnam veteran and member of the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard, was inducted into the Marion County Veterans Hall of Fame posthumously.

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## Community News

### ► Continued from Page 1A

es and will include landscaping and improvements to golf cart parking.

**IRONS 9 PITCH & PUTT:** The cooler weather will delay turfgrass establishment, so look for a late summer opening. The deep cold is especially hard on the greens. We anticipate the cold will not severely damage the turf, but it will be shocked.

**NEW WEYBOURNE LANDING GATED ENTRY:** Design is underway for a new entry off the SW 74th Terrace extension, which will include an automated gate system and a monument sign. This will be along the new construction section of SW 90th Terrace Rd and SW 74th Street Road. We are still waiting for the building permit to be issued for the structure. Site work has started in anticipation of expediting the process once the County issues the

permit.

The exit-only entry at SW 69th Place Road is being eliminated in favor of an auxiliary gated exit, available only for emergency usage. This is a practicality because an additional automated gated exit is unnecessary and costly for residents to maintain. This emergency exit at SW 69th Place Road has been fenced and gated as of Tuesday, Feb. 3. This new fence will be planted with a hedge to match the existing fence/landscape.

### Roadway Improvements

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

Work is winding down on the extension of SW 90th Terrace from SW 79th Street Road, north to SW 63rd Street Road. The major roadway construction has been completed. The delay in opening is due to site cleanup, completion of the reuse irrigation connection, and landscaping installation.

The reclaimed water irrigation extension is scheduled to be live in early March. Despite the delays, the road will

remain fully operational before Marion County widens SW 80th Avenue.

**SW 92ND COURT ROAD:** The construction of the Phase 2 extension remains on schedule, thus connecting SW 80th Street to SW 94th Street. Significant progress has been made, with both landscaping and paving activities now finalized. The project is currently in its final clearance phase, verifying all necessary approvals and inspections. By the time this article is published, this road will be fully operational.

The construction permit was issued for the gated entry. By the time you read this column, we should be starting on the foundations of the building.

**SW 80TH AVENUE:** As you are aware, Marion County is widening SW 80th Avenue, which is broken into two phases (Segment 1A & 1B). Segment 1A is from SW 90th Street to North of SW 80th Street, and Segment 1B picks up from where 1A leaves off and continues to SW 38th Street.

The widening work has begun, but you may not have noticed it because it primarily involves relocating underground utility services, including fiber and electrical lines. This is very slow work because the various contractors need to avoid creating service interruptions.

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

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

**MELODY PRESERVE:** This new housing development north of Indigo East has officially begun the sales phase. Melody Preserve will be a 55-plus HOA community but will not be a member associa-

tion of the Circle Square Ranch Master Association or affiliated with any other homeowner association. Melody Preserve will have its own self-contained amenities and services. We are pleased to confirm that the project is advancing on schedule.

### Winter Weather & Shrubbery

March can be a challenging month for the weather. We may have wonderfully warm days and cold nights. Do not remove plants that appear damaged prematurely. Plants affected by the cold may surprise you with their recovery. Withhold pruning back until mid-April. There may be additional periods of cold and frost. Pruning at this point will spur growth that is vulnerable to cold. Instead, wait until mid-April to consider any pruning or owner-added plantings. Central Florida generally experiences one cold snap with light frost between March 15 and Easter, so be forewarned.

When the ground temperature rises above 65 degrees, lawns and shrubs will break dormancy and begin growing, albeit very slowly. That said, watering requirements are significantly less during the cooler months.

### Water Conservation Tip

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

### Safety First



Jonathan Miller

### Everything Gets Old, Except Safety

I can pop my chops every month about safety or precautions, but after a while, all the stories become routine, and you don't want to hear them anymore. So, how do we continue to talk about your safety without becoming cross-eyed and yelling, "Enough is enough?" Well, here is a great reason for you: your health and well-being. Can we discuss that for a moment?

Your personal safety is a pretty good subject, don't you think? I am confident that you would vote for yourself when it comes to choosing your safety. So, if I make you want to holler and throw up both your hands, please, hear me out first.

Month after blessed month, here I am hounding you about safety. Changing the stories, mixing the scenario, repeating different outcomes with improper safety procedures, and the story goes on and on like a never-ending road.

### Where is the End?

Truth is, we can't afford to stop talking about safety! The impact of an injury can linger in our memories for a very long time, if not for the rest of our lives. Well, I'm here to say, you are not expendable, and I'm willing to continue bombarding the safety aspect of keeping you without injury as long as I can. So, here is the next safety story.

### True Story

Buck Rockafellow, a 22-year-old welder in Manhattan, New York. Two years on the job, he had a life-changing accident. He is working on the third floor of a four-story building. A coworker below yelled up, "Time for lunch!" Buck started making his way down. He unclipped his fall protection and took a small leap - about a foot and a half over a piece of equipment. He had made that maneuver maybe a dozen times in a day. But today, his foot slipped on the wet surface. He fell 57 feet. Miraculously, Buck survived. Even more miraculously, he walked again. No, it wasn't a brilliant idea to take off his harness so soon. He had done this daily, so what's the big deal ... until!

### Single Mistake

Two years of safe procedures, one single mistake. The unsafe moment of removing his harness gear before he should have. So, my repeated safety message this month is: I will continue to repeat safety to you as long as I can, in hopes of diverting you from creating an unsafe moment. Maybe reading this column today, before you go out to the store or work in the garage on that project, will plant a work-safe, live-safe train of thought. If it does, you just won a self-safety moment in time. And that is what this column is all about.

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**Resident Services**



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

**AppFolio**

We kindly request that all residents activate their Owner Portal in AppFolio. You can access AppFolio via the mobile app or on your desktop. Resident Services will need to send you an activation link. Please reach out to request one.

Effective Wednesday, April 1, all owners will be required to make their association assessment payments directly through the AppFolio Owner Portal.

This transition allows each owner to securely control and manage their banking payment information in AppFolio, ensuring faster, more efficient processing. You may sign up for ACH or pay by credit/debit card through AppFolio.

If you have not already done so, please log into AppFolio and set up your payment preferences before April 1 to ensure uninterrupted processing of your association assessments. A step-by-step "how-to" guide was enclosed in the annual mailing to assist you with setting up your account and payment options.

For additional assistance with your AppFolio Owner Portal or setting up automatic payments, please contact Resident Services at otowservice@otowfl.com or 352-236-6869. We will be happy to help guide you through this transition.

**AppFolio Training Classes**

For those needing additional assistance or simply wanting to learn more about AppFolio, training classes will be offered as follows:

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

**Enforcement Committee**

Each Association board is seeking vol-

unteer members for the Enforcement Committee. The Enforcement Committee is an independent committee established under Florida Statute 720.305 to provide homeowners with a fair and impartial review of certain covenant enforcement matters.

The primary purpose of the Enforcement Committee is to review proposed fines or suspension of use rights and determine whether the HOA's governing documents have been violated. The committee acts as a safeguard to ensure enforcement actions are reasonable, consistent, and compliant with Florida law.

The Enforcement Committee does not initiate violations or impose penalties. Its authority is limited to:

- Confirming or rejecting fines and/or suspension of use rights proposed by the board of directors.
- Conducting hearings in a fair, neutral manner.
- Ensuring due process is provided to affected owners.

**Candler Connection**

**Debra Keirn**



The Valentine's Day event with The Flying Ivories (dueling pianos) brought 222 Candler Hills residents and guests together to enjoy great musical talent and a sumptuous dessert bar. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this event a success.

The Craft and Trunk Sale will be on Saturday, March 28, from 9 a.m. to noon. Coffee, water, and snacks will be for sale. The crafters will be in the Ballroom. The trunk sale will be in the parking lot. You can purchase a space for your crafts for \$10 per table and chair, and a space for selling your unwanted treasures for \$10 for two spaces and \$15 for three (limited). There will also be raffle baskets. Contact Nancy Klapetzky at 757-647-4228 to see if tickets are still available. Remember, you are welcome to come to this event no matter where you live in On Top of the World.

The Candler Hills potluck dinner will be on March 30, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The theme will be "The Tastes of Ireland." Residents with last names beginning with A-H should bring a side dish or salad; I-P, a dessert; and Q-Z, a main

Key responsibilities include:

- Review alleged violations referred by the board
- Conduct hearings where owners are allowed to appear in person or by a representative and present testimony, evidence, or written statements.
- Determine whether a violation occurred based on governing documents, HOA rules, and policies. Evidence presented
- Vote to approve or reject the proposed fine or suspension.
- Issue written decisions following the hearing.

The committee may not:

- Levy fines or suspend use rights on its own.
- Hear disputes involving monetary damages, assessments, or architectural approvals (unless tied to a fine or suspension).
- Modify or waive governing documents.

Committee decisions are final regard-

ing fines and suspensions, subject to applicable legal remedies.

Committee composition:

- Members must be owners or residents of the community.
- Members may not be board members, officers, or spouses of board members.
- Committee members must act impartially and disclose conflicts of interest.

The Enforcement Committee exists to balance the HOA's responsibility to uphold community standards with homeowners' rights to due process. Its role helps ensure consistent enforcement while promoting transparency, fairness, and compliance with Florida law.

If you are interested in joining the Enforcement Committee, or have any questions, please reach out to your association email: indigoassociation@otowfl.com, weybourneassociation@otowfl.com, candlerassociation@otowfl.com, or centralassociation@otowfl.com.

dish. The cost at the door is \$1 per person and includes tableware, plates, decaf coffee, creamers, and centerpieces. Please contact Deb Keirn at 352-414-5737, text 814-571-7908, or email arthurkipdeb@verizon.net to be added to the attendee list. Please label your dish with its ingredients to help those with food allergies.

The Memorial Day event will be on Monday, May 25, from 2 to 6 p.m. The Marion County Memorial Honor Guard will begin the afternoon with a commemorative ceremony, followed by a meal featuring Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken, macaroni and cheese, potato salad, green beans, coleslaw, biscuits, and cupcakes. Palomino Blonde will provide music and games. Ticket sales run from Tuesday, April 14, through Thursday, April 30, for \$15 per Candler Hills resident and \$17 per guest.

Our annual ice cream social will be on Father's Day, Sunday, June 21. You will have a choice of five ice cream flavors, a variety of toppings to create your sundae, and root beer or creamsicle floats. The price is \$6.50 per Candler Hills resident and \$7.50 per guest. You can even go back for seconds.

All events and ticket sales occur at The Lodge at Candler Hills (unless otherwise noted). Ticket sales occur from 10 a.m. until noon; you must present your resident ID. If you are purchasing

tickets for other residents, please have their resident ID and telephone number available. Candler Connection events are outlined in The Happenings, our Facebook page (Candler Connection), and on the OTOW App.

Future events to add to your calendar:

- Saturday, July 4: Picnic.
- Friday, Sept. 18: Cheeseburger in Our Paradise (Jimmy Buffett-themed event) with The Caribbean Chillers. Cheeseburgers, salads, and desserts will be provided.
- Saturday, Oct. 31: Halloween Party.
- Saturday, Dec. 12: Holiday Party.

The Candler Connection Social Committee is looking for volunteers with new ideas. We meet on the last Wednesday of the month in Meeting Room 1 at 4 p.m.

See you around the neighborhood and at future events.

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### Indigo East Social Club

Teresa Davis



After a colder-than-usual start to 2026, warmer days are finally returning, bringing renewed energy to Indigo East.

In case you don't already know her, we would like to introduce and recognize Nora Dominguez, Indigo East's Recreation Program Supervisor. Most days, you can find Nora in the Indigo East Fitness Center office, supporting the community behind the scenes. Her dedication goes far beyond scheduling activities. Nora truly cares about our residents and is always attentive to those who may need extra help or have ideas

they'd like to explore. We are very fortunate to have someone who is not only an employee but a friend to so many. Thank you, Nora, for all you do.

Calling all gardeners! Last month, a small group of residents met with Tim Carroll to learn more about growing and making the best use of available garden plots. The shared goal is to create a welcoming community garden, one where plots are well cared for, and neighbors support one another as thoughtfully as they tend their plants. We currently have several open plots available. Whether you're interested in starting something new, learning the basics, or showcasing your green thumb, please call the office at 352-387-9060 to express your interest.

Our neighborhood is filled with residents who quietly and consistently make Indigo East a better place to live. This month, we are pleased to recognize

Frank and Ronnie Pignataro for their outstanding contributions.

Frank, known by many as "Mr. Congeniality," always has a smile and brings warmth wherever he goes. As DJ Frank, he generously hosts music and activities throughout the community, creating opportunities for neighbors to connect. He has also volunteered his time and talents to build and install beautiful birdhouses along the walking path, small touches that bring joy to many.

Ronnie is equally admired for her positivity and welcoming spirit. She volunteers her time hosting line dancing instruction for dancers of all levels. Her calm, encouraging teaching style makes everyone feel comfortable and included. Thank you both for your dedication and genuine neighborly spirit.

The care committee is coming together, with Athena Drewes and Sandra Gir-

oux volunteering to serve as co-coordinators. They will reach out to interested parties to share what is needed and help align assistance for neighbors in need.

I'm looking for a few additional households to participate in an Indigo East neighborhood tag sale. Each tag sale will be held at your individual home, right from your garage, an easy way to declutter and participate in a fun community event.

Ladies That Lunch will hold their monthly gathering at The Braised Onion this month. Find them on Facebook (Ladies That Lunch OTOW) to join the group and get details.

Please submit your ideas, subjects, or information to me at [teresadavisindigo@gmail.com](mailto:teresadavisindigo@gmail.com). You can also text or call me at 757-593-5133. I look forward to hearing from you.

### Blue Indigo East Democrat Club

Lydia Kuust



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

We started this club in 2024 to provide up-to-date political information, offer convenient meeting times and locations, and share our views with like-minded people. Over the past two years, our officers and board of directors laid the foundation for this club by establishing committees and completing all required work to obtain certification with the Marion County Democratic organization.

It is time to look forward. As some in leadership positions desire to step down, it is time to hold elections to fill these positions for the next two years. If you are willing to step up and lead, you will have support and backing, including the mentorship from those stepping down. Please use the contact information below to reach us, or contact any of the officers or the board of directors.

Thank you in advance for your interest in serving and preserving the Indigo East Blue Democratic Club.

Our community outreach programs continue with Isaiah's 117 House. This is a facility that is a less traumatic environment for children in transition waiting to be placed into foster care. They need lemonade mix and cups, so please consider bringing some to our next meeting. Isaiah's 117 House offers lemonade to visitors who stop by their booth at farmers' markets and other local events to learn about the organization. The second organization is Interfaith Emergency Services. They are continually in need of non-perishable food donations. There is a table at each meeting designated for collecting donated items for both organizations.

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

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

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

### Williamsburg Neighbors

Carmel Kessler



What a wonderful afternoon! Over 60 neighbors and friends were entertained for several hours by Rae of Light, who were visiting their Williamsburg family, Deb and Dave Sackett. Megan Rae, Norman Light, and Dennis Bernard delighted everyone with their outstanding musical talents, playing their original music as well as a wide range of oldies but goodies.

Calling all golfers! Want a chance to win a complimentary 18-hole play for a foursome? Williamsburg is sponsoring a golf raffle. The courses participating are Candler Hills Golf Club, Stone Creek Golf Club, Ocala Golf Club, Golf Central Golf Club, Ocala National Preserve Golf Club, and Spruce Creek Golf Club. Tickets for this raffle are \$10 each or three for \$20. Contact Brian McDonald at 518-253-2046, Carmel Kessler at 336-253-1250, or Ghina Siddiqui at 240-367-3033 for tickets and further information. The drawing will be held on Sunday, April 5.

Nancy Meininger, who has served as president/chairman of Williamsburg for the last four years, has stepped down. We thank her for her many innovative activities and leadership in making Williamsburg "rock."

As you read this column, Williamsburg elections are in progress. Nominations for neighborhood president, vice-president, and secretary are underway. You are welcome to nominate yourself, or someone else (with their permission) by Saturday, Feb. 28. Text Lynn Phelps 508-317-1269 with nominations and questions. Voting will be open from Monday, March 2, through Sunday, March 8. You can text Lynn your choices. Election results will be emailed on Tuesday, March 10.

Take a field trip to experience dinner out with neighbors in March, where you can visit Yankeetown and see the Gulf before enjoying a mid-day meal of two-for-one delicious appetizers! This takes place on Thursday, March 19, at 2 p.m. at Blackwater Grille. Reservations are a must! Contact Linda McDonald at 518-441-1682 to secure your spot.

The Williamsburg men's luncheon group meets on the second Wednesday of the month at noon at the Hobby Building Event Room. All gentlemen are welcome! Bring your own lunch and beverage, and join in lively conversations. Join us on Wednesday, March 11.

Plans are underway for an Easter luncheon to share a fantastic meal and fellowship with all our neighbors. Please be on the lookout for further information via email.

For additional information about Williamsburg, please visit [williamsburgneighborsotow.com](http://williamsburgneighborsotow.com).

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Newcastle Social Committee

Nancy Monaghan



Newcastle celebrated love in February with a get-together at The Lodge at Candler Hills. Neighbors with an odd-numbered address brought a savory treat, and neighbors with an even-numbered address brought something sweet for the Valentine-themed buffet table. As always, the buffet was wonderful, and everyone enjoyed a relaxing evening visiting with friends.

The Newcastle Social Committee also held the first meeting of 2026 at the Candler Hills Community Center. The meet-

ing was led by President Brett Sinclair, who confirmed that the current leadership team will remain in place through the end of 2026. Special thanks to Brett, Vice President Mike McCauley, Treasurer Jeff VanDyke, Scribe Anne McCauley, and Sunshine Lady Candace Almers, for volunteering your time and talent to make Newcastle such a special place to live.

The coming year promises to be another busy one for the neighborhood. Spring highlights include the Easter potluck on Saturday, March 28, and a Memorial Day event with the other Candler Hills neighborhoods. Newcastle's Charles Dodge, a member of the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard, has announced that the Honor Guard will be in attendance.

The ever-popular murder mystery will return to Newcastle on Saturday, July 25. So far, we have had a murder in Margaritaland, a luxury island resort (the pool boy did it!), a murder in a wild west town, complete with a jail, the Deadwood Saloon, and plenty of saloon girls, and last year, there was a tragedy in the trailer park! Ahoy mateys, stay tuned for details to help solve the murder mystery at the next crime scene.

In October, the competition heats up with Newcastle's cornhole tournament and chili cookoff. Cornhole practice begins in March; details will be shared soon. The end of October brings the annual Halloween festivities, possibly a progressive walk or a move indoors.

We will wrap up the year with lighting up Newcastle at the end of November,

followed by the holiday party on Friday, Dec. 4.

Newcastle events continue at The Lodge at Candler Hills (unless noted otherwise):

- Mondays (5:30 p.m.): Samba.
- Wednesdays (12:45 p.m.): Mah jongg.
- Saturdays (8 a.m.): Pickleball at the side courts.
- Last Wednesday of the month (6 p.m.): Book club.
- First Thursday bi-monthly (6 p.m.): Social club meetings at the Candler Hills Community Center. The next meeting will be held in April.

Stay informed on Newcastle's Facebook page (OTOW Newcastle Neighbors). Happy spring!

Longleaf Ridge Friends

M. Migdal, S. Ritchie, K. Taylor, D. Vitale, & J. Walsh



Despite the cold, January was filled with many fun activities.

Sandy Ritchie led an essential oils class for 20 women. She covered what essential oils are, their benefits, uses, and where to buy them. Guests enjoyed refreshments, asked questions, and shared their experiences.

Thirty-five women attended a dinner at Las Margaritas for a ladies' night out. The evening featured ample food, beverages, and conversation. New connections were formed, and previous acquaintances were renewed. Due to the event's success, attendees agreed to organize another gathering in the spring.

Gary and Liz Kutty held a driveway concert featuring The Crescent Four to mark Elvis' 91st birthday. Bruce Wissler, Cindy, and Paul Kranz warmed up the audience before Elvis, who is the group's fourth member, made a grand entrance.

One of our book clubs enjoyed a mystical "evening with Ivan." Ivan Obolensky is the author of "Eye of the Moon," our reading selection for the month. Ivan fascinated us with stories of his background, family history, and the inspiration for his novel series. Cat Yokum and Delaine Walker were our hosts for the literary repast. Delaine prepared an evocative setting inspired by the novel and dazzled us with a buffet of savory delicacies and sweet confections.

The cold weather was a perfect time for a chili potluck! Our host, Sonnie Chong, couldn't have planned much better. Neighbors enjoyed pleasant conversation, a variety of chili recipes, side dishes, and desserts.

Isaiah Zirkle, CEO of HCA Florida West Marion Hospital, gave a presentation to the men's group at their monthly luncheon. He spoke about the hospital and plans for the new emergency department opening just outside the On Top of the World gates. Many thanks to Joe Ferris for arranging these informative luncheons.

Another men's group traveled by bus to the Mecum Car Auction in Kissimmee, Florida, the world's largest car and motorcycle auction held annually in January. On that day, 1,200 vehicles were up for auction, with one fetching \$1 million. Attendees included Joe Lynch, Pete Kiziu, Roy Siegfried, Jack Prather, and Don Waselewski. This group meets monthly for lunch in the Derby Room.

For information on upcoming events, please contact a member of the social committee in your phase. As our neighborhood continues to grow, we look forward to welcoming all the new neighbors to Longleaf Ridge. Please remember to join our private Facebook page (OTOW Longleaf Ridge Friends) and provide your phase, lot number, and address. Please send questions to otowlongleafridge@gmail.com.

Balfour Buzz

Kurt Larson



Many newcomers are moving in, and everyone looks forward to meeting you. I have noticed many gatherings within our neighborhood, and I'm so happy to see this. Making new friends and sharing time is why so many of us came here.

There is a social gathering coming up in March. Come and meet your neighbors. Check our Facebook page (Balfour in Candler Hills in OTOW) for further details.

Many of us have found clubs that fit our interests. I encourage anyone who wants to join a club, get a group together or just get involved to post their ideas. See you soon.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR  
Pick up after your pet.

Ashford Happenings

Debbie Troise



As we head into spring, our neighbors in Ashford have been busy planning events for 2026. Many have joined up to create activities to bring our neighborhood together. Please consider volunteering, as all are always welcome, and help is always needed.

For those who have participated in Ashford's St. Patrick's Day pub crawl last year, you can appreciate the planning and creativity that went into that event. This year, on Saturday, March 14, from 2 to 6 p.m. at The Lodge at Candler Hills, we will have a pub crawl with five stations serving green and traditional beer as well as Irish noshes. Try your luck at the outdoor games that are planned for this event. So, grab your kilts and join in on the fun.

Did some say tequila? I hope so because Sunday, May 3, is Cinco de Drinko day in Ashford. More information to follow.

June's weather is perfect for a pool party. So, bring your towels and swim noodles to attend Ashford's first pool party on Friday, June 5, at The Lodge at Candler Hills. Do not forget your bathing suits; sorry, no skinny dipping is permitted!

Our third annual Oktoberfest is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 27. Details will be posted on Ashford's Facebook page.

Also, our third annual Halloween party will be held on Saturday, Oct. 24. Come join the party to see what Ashford's ghosts and goblins are brewing for this year's event. Costumes are encouraged but not required.

Ending the year, we will be decorating our two monument entrances with Christmas lights and Hanukkah candles on or about Sunday, Nov. 29. Ashford's annual holiday party will be held at The

Lodge at Candler Hills on Saturday, Dec. 12. Join your neighbors for a golf cart parade through On Top of the World on Tuesday, Dec. 15 to see the beautiful Christmas decorations throughout our community.

Please visit our Facebook page (Ashford in Candler Hills) before each event for ticket sale dates and to sign up to volunteer. Please note that the dates and times listed above are subject to change.

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**Crescent Ridge Happenings**

Carol Lewis



Valentine's Day came early for Crescent Ridge residents attending the social on Sunday, Feb. 8. Residents provided foods special for Valentine's, including heart-themed desserts. After the meal, George Ostrom drew raffle tickets, with winners receiving special Valentine's candy.

Our next social will be on Sunday, March 8, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Large Card Room from 3 to 5 p.m. Bring a beverage of choice and a dish to share if you choose, or just come for the fellowship. Let's go for a St. Patrick's/Irish food theme and see what good stuff will be brought.

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

**LEASH LAW**

Dogs must be on a leash at all times.

**Kestrel Knowings**

Lyn Yanss



Are you smelling something delicious? Kestrel ladies are creating a new cookbook and want your recipes. They are collecting recipes from residents across categories such as appetizers, desserts, main courses, snacks, and family favorites. The cookbook will be ready in November, and we plan to host an event to showcase it. Since it's holiday time, this would make a great gift for friends and family. If you want to be part of it, send recipes to Sherrie Sibley via email at allmighty259@comcast.net or drop them off at 8465 SW 93rd Circle. When submitting a recipe, include: your name, recipe category, ingredients, and instructions.

The cookbook categories will be: appetizers and drinks; soups and salads; vegetables and sides; main dishes; breads and rolls; desserts; cookies and candy; and other.

So, check those cookbooks, dig out those old recipes from "mom," and start submitting.

See you all around the neighborhood. Wait ... do I smell freshly baked chocolate chip cookies?

**Active Newcomers Club**

Linda Baker



The Active Newcomers Club board has been busy! We have planned many events and activities for 2026. Our more than 285 (and growing) members have a wide selection of small groups to join. We have activities planned for almost every day of the week. If you have lived in On Top of the World for four years or less and have not joined us, what are you waiting for?

We started February with "Doing Donuts." Over 40 people braved the record-breaking low temperatures to learn about the Active Newcomers Club. We appreciate all who came out on that chilly Sunday morning - we enjoyed meeting our new neighbors and welcoming them to the club.

The hiking group met at the Landbridge Trailhead on Saturday, Feb. 7, and enjoyed a 3.5-mile hike on the Cross Florida Greenway.

The Club Fair at Circle Square Cultural Center in February provided another opportunity to speak with newcomers about all our club has to offer. This event was well attended, and we recruited additional residents to join our club.

Our "Winterfest" celebration at The Lodge at Candler Hills is on Friday, Feb. 27. We plan to enjoy a delicious chili bar and dance to tunes by Howlin' at the Moon. We will end the evening with another epic snowball fight!

Watch our Facebook page and website

for information about upcoming events. We will host a "Hello Spring" party on Sunday, April 19, and a "Sizzling Summer" party on Saturday, June 6. Both events will be held in The Lodge at Candler Hills Ballroom.

The lunch, dinner, gourmet, and wine groups started meeting in February. Foodies will start in March. These groups are led by volunteers who plan gatherings and ensure our members have the opportunity to meet new friends. When you receive an event invitation, please be courteous and respond to let the host know you are attending.

The golf group is playing on Thursdays. Janet and Michael Buonantony have volunteered to lead our bocce group, which will start meeting soon.

If you signed up for a small group but have not yet received an invitation, please be patient. Our volunteers are still placing new members into groups. If it has been more than four weeks since you submitted your application and you have not received any emails, please email us at activenewcomers34481@gmail.com.

Membership applications for 2026 are available on our website. Membership is open to anyone who has lived in the community for less than four years. Dues are only \$15 per person. Members receive invitations to our small group activities and large events. To join, you must have a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

To learn more about the Active Newcomers Club, visit activenewcomers.org. Members can also visit our Active Newcomers Facebook page. Email us at activenewcomers34481@gmail.com for more information.

# Spring Band Jam

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Photo by Suzie Lehman

Hiking group at the Landbridge Trailhead.

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**Citizens on Patrol**



Rocky Pizzarello

Members of the Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) Citizens on Patrol (COPS) met in the Hobby Building Event Room for our monthly meeting. Community Safety and Loss Prevention Manager Geoff Oldberg brought the group

up to date on several safety issues. Geoff mentioned that several cars were broken into during the holiday season in the southwest area's 55-plus communities. None, however, were in On Top of the World. In most cases, the vehicles were unlocked. Please remember to lock your vehicles and bring your valuables with you when you leave. Geoff mentioned that deputies are again patrolling all retirement communities and have cited drivers for speeding and unsafe driving. Geoff introduced the newest member

of the Community Safety and Loss Prevention Department, Alan Hart. Like Geoff, Alan retired from the Marion County Sheriff's Office after serving in a wide range of capacities. At MCSO, Alan was the "go to" deputy for his knowledge, considered one of their best trainers, and now a very welcome addition to our community.

per Cops." Chief Pilot and Commander Darren Bruner, assisted by the other pilots, led the tour, explaining how the Aviation Unit assists the deputies on the ground, showing us all the "choppers" and answering a multitude of questions. Thanks to Sheriff Billy Woods for arranging the tour.

COPS are your neighbors and have a vested interest in keeping our community among the safest in the state. There are also some extra benefits. While patrolling and keeping our eyes and ears open, one of our members driving through Weybourne Landing saw a bald eagle flying back to the nest in the preservation area. What an awesome way to end a shift!

On Friday, Feb. 6, several members of COPS and CERT toured the MCSO Aviation Unit at Ocala Airport. The Aviation Unit was established in 1974 with the purchase of three surplus helicopters. Since then, the Aviation Unit has grown into a multi-mission unit and has four helicopters. They are also featured on the Paramount+ show "Chop-

**Community Emergency Response Team**



Debbie Snyder

When disaster strikes, every second matters. Firefighters, law enforcement, and EMS are the backbone of our community's response system, but during large-scale events, they can't be everywhere at once. That's where our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) steps in. CERT volunteers are trained to handle the immediate low-risk tasks that help stabilize a situation until professional responders arrive.

CERT members learn to assess a scene, extinguish small fires, perform basic first aid, conduct light search-and-rescue, and relay information via radio when cell service is unavailable. These skills don't replace professional training; they simply buy time. By handling minor issues and gathering accurate information, CERT frees first responders to focus on the most critical, life-threatening needs.

In a disaster, CERT members can check on their neighbors and assess damage throughout the community. We can clear small debris or set up a safe gathering point, all while maintaining communication when phones are down. The partnership is simple: CERT supports, professionals lead, and together we create a stronger, more resilient community. None of that replaces the fire department or EMS - it supports them.

Twenty of our CERT members have a GMRS radio license, which allows them to use radios with extended range. This support goes a long way during emergencies. GMRS radios are one of those simple tools that earn their keep when

the lights go out. They allow trained neighbors to stay in touch when cell phones are out, and we can pass along clear, accurate information such as who needs help, which areas are safe, and where first responders are needed most.

Community ham radio operators can assist us from home by tuning into Simplex frequency 146.565. When deployed during a disaster event, we need neighborhood reports on building damage, blocked roads, medical emergencies, and other vital information. Our ham radio operators meet at our designated Command Center and establish contact with Marion County Emergency Management. For information regarding ham radio operations, contact Bruce Twiss at brucetwiss@yahoo.com.

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

We request prospective members attend the monthly meetings before, during, and after their training class. Attend one of our meetings to learn more. In 2026, we changed our meeting date to the second Wednesday of the month and moved our meeting location to the Hobby Building Event Room. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 11, from 9 to 11 a.m.

Applications for training and additional information are available at each meeting. For more information about CERT or upcoming meetings, please email [ontopoftheworldcert@gmail.com](mailto:ontopoftheworldcert@gmail.com).



Photo by Marion County Sheriff's Office

Tour of the Aviation Unit.

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**Republican Club**

Margaret Nodine



Happy St. Patrick's Day to our members, friends, and residents. After the unusually cold weather, it is nice to feel the touch of spring.

Tom Hauck, our communications chair, presided over the election of officers at our February meeting. Our current slate of officers wished to remain for the 2026 cycle; however, any member who wished to run for an executive committee office needed to submit their request by Jan. 23. With no submissions, the present slate of officers remains for 2026. Congratulations to Charles Dodge, president, Liz Woodard, vice president, Margaret Nodine, secretary, and Linda Dodge, treasurer.

At our January meeting, we were pleased to welcome Paul Renner, former Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives and GOP candidate for governor. He will be running against Byron Donalds in the August primary. Mr. Renner served as Speaker of the Florida House from 2022-24, from 2015-

24, and he represented the 19th District, which includes Flagler and parts of St. Johns County. He is a Navy veteran, former state prosecutor, and conservative legislator. He discussed his platform. If schedule and time permit, we hope to have Mr. Renner return for another meeting.

Our February guest speakers were Mike Crumi and Brien Weidemiller, who are vying for the County Commissioner, District 2 seat currently held by Kathy Bryant, who is retiring. Each candidate was given equal time to state their platform, followed by a group question-and-answer session with the membership. Due to a prior commitment, Matt Cretul was unable to attend.

The Club Fair took place on Thursday, Feb. 19. Thank you for stopping by to learn more about us.

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

We hope to see you. New members can register at any meeting. Any resident is welcome to attend up to two meetings



Photo by Rocky Pizzarello

Republican Club executive committee members: Charles Dodge, president, Liz Woodard, vice president, Linda Dodge, treasurer, and Margaret Nodine, secretary.

as a guest before deciding to join.

We remain committed to supporting Operation Shoebox and the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard. Both groups give of their time and are dedicated to helping our troops and veterans.

One last congratulations to Retired Army Captain Stephen Petty, a proud member of our club as well as the Veterans Club, for the honor of his induction into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame. Well done!

**Democratic Club**

Mark Miller



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

Our first meeting for 2026, on Thursday, Jan. 22, featured a representative from the League of Women Voters and an inaugural presentation from our new committee - the FLAG team. Our members enjoyed the presentations and participated in several question-and-answer sessions. We'll no doubt have these presenters back again to speak to our club!

The Club Fair was a success again, held on Thursday, Feb. 19. We had several attendees sign up to join our club at the event.

On Thursday, Feb. 26, we are holding our annual world-famous trivia game, presented by Dan Lack, during our meeting. His questions are very difficult to answer, and historically (or hysterically), we as a group miss more than we answer correctly. Prizes will be awarded to the first- and second-place teams.

Then, on Thursday, March 26, our meeting will feature speakers from the Democratic Progressive Caucus of Marion County as our main presenters. Additionally, we will hold our annual elections for officers and board members. Please participate and enter your name to help guide our club for the upcoming year!

We continue to support the Ocala Ritz Veterans Village. The veterans residing there need our support for many items we all take for granted. Priority for donations is laundry detergent. Other required items include pillowcases, twin-size sheets, twin comforters, a 1.7-cubic-foot refrigerator, a small microwave, men's razors, deodorant,

shampoo, toothpaste, lotions, shaving cream, and toilet paper. The following food items are needed: canned meat, canned chili, ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese, microwavable rice, boxed milk, cereal, canned fruit, crackers, individual snacks, and coffee. They do not require clothing other than shoes. Please bring your donated items to our meeting.

If you are unable to attend any meetings, please let us know, and we'll do our best to deliver your donations to the Ritz. Alternatively, you can drop them off before the meeting starts. If you'd like, you can go online and have the items delivered directly to the Ritz. Please email us to obtain the shipping address and other details.

If you need a ride to any meeting, please call or email the club to arrange it at least three days in advance.

For more information, contact Mark Miller at 443-848-8549 or demclubotow@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you at our meeting on Feb. 26.



Photo by Leslie Miller

Lynn Miller, Tom Allen, and Mark Miller at the Club Fair representing the Democratic Club.

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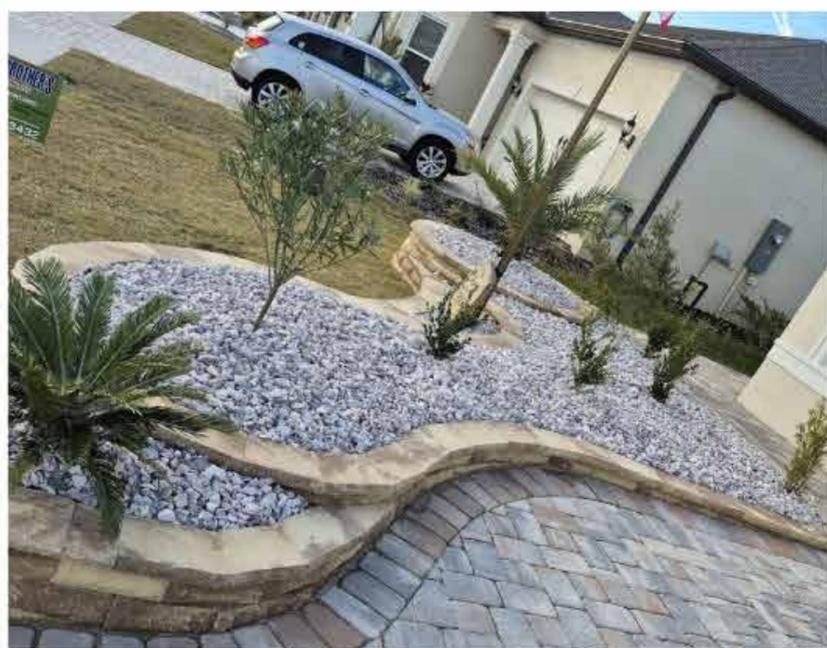
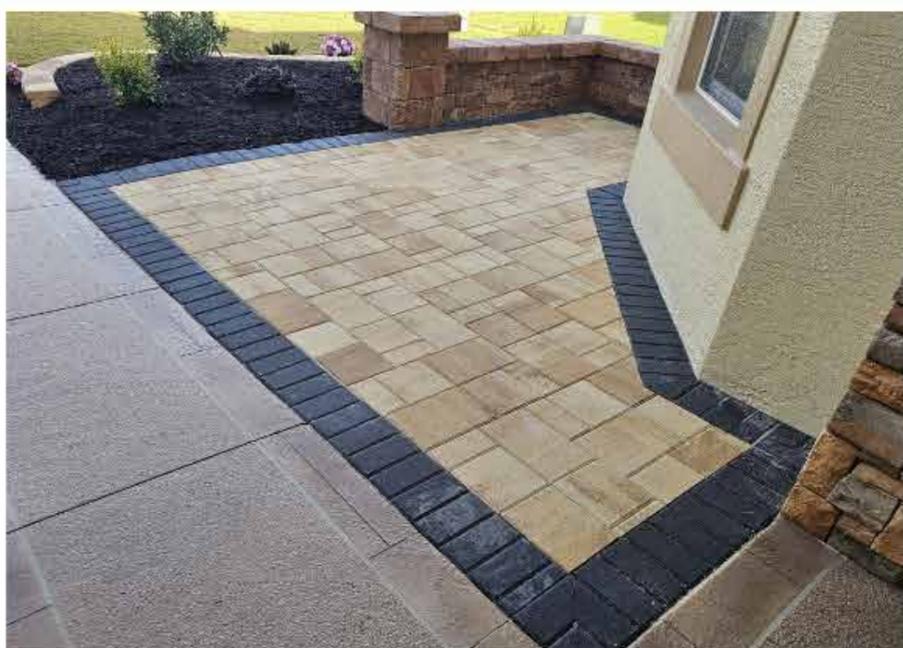
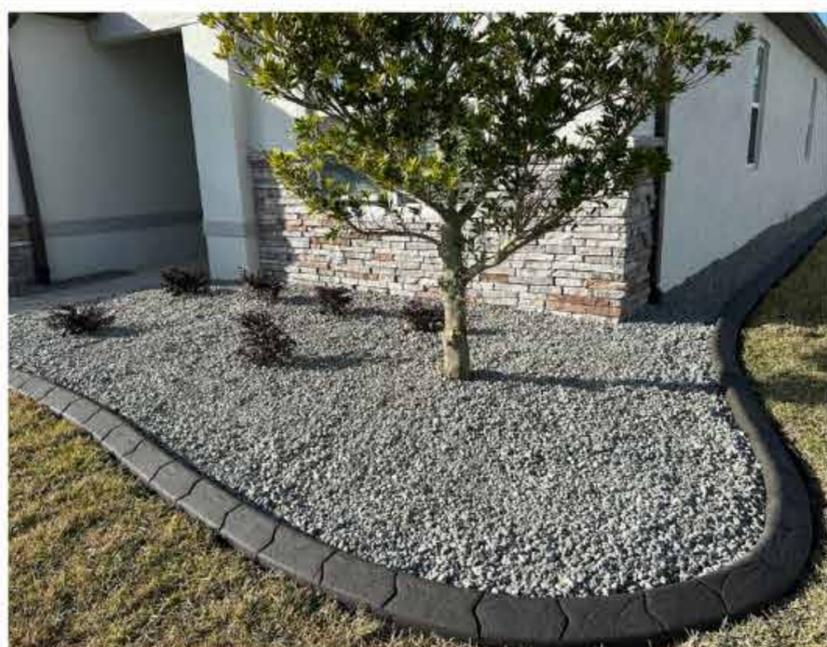
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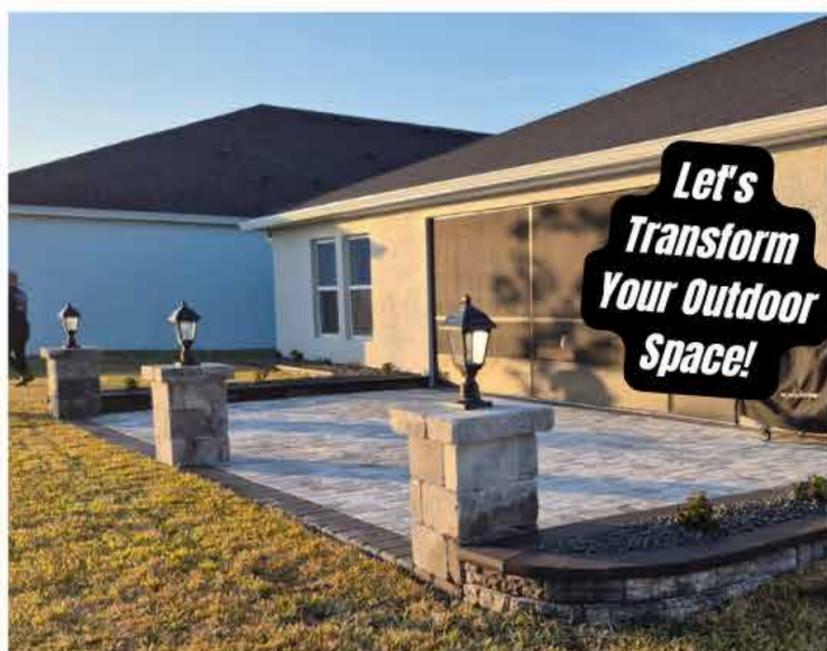


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## Help the 'Paws'

By Heather Tahan

A big thank you to the Candler Hills residents who recently presented Friends of SPCA with a generous donation from the raffle at their January potluck event. In addition, a few residents, including President Marlene Hatch, are collecting donations and supplies for Friends of SPCA. While we would love to have you join Friends of SPCA, there are other ways to support our mission to make a difference in the lives of pets and pet owners in Marion County. As always, we are humbled and inspired by the kindness of our community.

Pets can be an incredible source of companionship and purpose for anyone, especially seniors. Many local rescues offer special programs for seniors and their pets that promote a better quality of life for both. Senior pets and seniors still have much to give.

For example, Sheltering Hands has a "Love for a Lifetime" program that pairs individuals over 75 with cats over eight years old. Sheltering Hands covers the cost of any medical issues while the owner provides the home, love, and companionship. The psychological benefits of having a pet are well known. Caring for animals improves cardiovascular health by lowering blood pressure, stress levels, and loneliness.

The 2026 annual membership dues of \$20 (cash or check) are now due. Please bring your dues to the next meeting or to the Circle Square Commons Farmers Market, or mail them to: Friends of

SPCA, 11100 SW 93rd Ct Rd, Ste 10-115, Ocala, FL 34481. Checks can be made out to "Friends of SPCA." Sign up to join our 2026 committees. Join us for another year of fun while helping On Top of the World/Marion County pets in need. Stop by our coffee and donuts table at the Home Improvement Expo on Saturday, March 14, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center.

As a reminder, our monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in The Landing Ballroom. We welcome you to attend a meeting or visit our table at the weekly Thursday Circle Square Commons Farmers Market. Our next meeting is on Thursday, March 19. To learn more, please visit [SPCAofMarionCounty.weebly.com](http://SPCAofMarionCounty.weebly.com), follow us on Facebook (Marion County FL SPCA), or email [spca.marion.county@gmail.com](mailto:spca.marion.county@gmail.com).

If you have any non-expired food that your pet doesn't like or was shipped to you in error, please consider donating it to the SPCA. Donations will be accepted on the porch of Evelyn Sarns Holiday. Her address is 8880-C SW 94th St, Ocala, FL 34481. We accept all pet-related items, including food, blankets, sheets, and other supplies. To prevent accidental ingestion by pets, please do not use staples to close open bags. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity!

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



Photo by Victoria at Patriot Service Dogs

SPCA-sponsored Patriot Service Dog Carver graduated from the Women Offering Obedience and Friendship (WOOF) training at the Lowell Correctional Facility and was presented to his veteran.



Photo by Sherri Fink

Walmart Store Manager Josh McAdams and Lions Club President Ken Vaudo.

## Casino Night Fundraiser

By Gail Morris

Our Lions Club is accepting checks in all sizes. In January, several of our club members braved unseasonably cold temperatures to help the newest Walmart on Maricamp Road in Marion County celebrate its grand opening and receive a \$4,000 check from its Spark Good grant program. What a help that will be as we continue to support the local elementary schools and provide scholarship funds to graduating seniors.

Although it's been a colder than usual January and February our club members keep active serving our community. Several of our members have been trained to monitor blood sugar and blood pressure, we demonstrated those skills at the Health & Wellness Expo in January.

Our largest fundraiser, Casino Night, is scheduled for Sunday, March 22, from 3 to 6 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center. The event is open to the public.

The proceeds from this event will allow us to continue serving our com-

munity as we have over the past year. Your ticket purchase will help us to continue to support Marion County Public Schools, Veterans Helping Veterans, Isaiah House, and our quarterly donations to a variety of sight-saving organizations such as Dogs, Inc., Lions Saving Sight, Florida Center for the Blind, and others.

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

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

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

## Rhode Islanders Meet Up

By Judy Parisi

The Rhode Island Group met for lunch at Stone Creek Grille in early January. As usual, it was an enjoyable get-together where we shared information on recent and upcoming trips and, of course, memories of our time in Rhode Island.

A behemoth in retail is Walmart, founded by Sam Walton in 1962. Some of the ideas for the Walmart shopping experience came from a 1961 visit by Sam Walton to one of the first self-service discount department stores – Ann & Hope in Cumberland, Rhode Island. Ann & Hope sold appliances, apparel, home goods, toys, and more, along with in-store eateries. It was an early user of big basket shopping carts, a central checkout, and large parking lots.

The Ann & Hope chain operated from 1953 to 2020, using practices later adopted by the big box stores.

Ann & Hope was founded by Martin Chase, who, with his family, immigrated to Providence from Kiev, Ukraine, around 1912. Unlike his father and brothers, who worked in the auto repair business, Martin Chase worked in retail. In 1946, he purchased an old, sprawling 450,000-square-foot brick mill in Cumberland that had been used as a cotton-weaving textile mill. Several years later, Martin, along with his son, opened their first retail outlet in the mill, selling

goods at 20 to 30% below competitors' prices. The philosophy was to buy big, sell cheap, and run lean. They later expanded to other locations in Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts.

Unfortunately, over time, they faced strong competition from stores with more aggressive marketing and resources, such as Target and Walmart. They began shuttering some of their stores

in the 1990s, shifting their focus to the garden store and kitchen and bath store. Regrettably, the operation ceased in 2020.

For so many Rhode Islanders, Ann & Hope brings back many fond memories of shopping in their stores with their families. They started as innovators and found that when what made them a great place to shop was adopted by bigger entities, they could no longer compete. They remain one of the places we miss.

A unique tendency in Rhode Island when giving directions is to indicate a

place is near where something used to be. So, to direct someone toward the airport on Post Road in Warwick from the north, it would not be unusual to say, just go by where Ann & Hope used to be.

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



Photo by Judy Parisi

Rhode Island Group.



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Photo by Colleen Rocafort

A traditional Japanese doll.

**Global Diversity Asian Social Club**

Rosalina Norita



resents not only an artistic display but a rich historical and ethnographic tapestry, inviting all attendees to embark on a journey of global discovery and appreciation.

We were honored to dedicate a significant portion of our event to recognizing the profound contributions of PICU, Pediatric Nurse Amanda Bradshaw. Amanda embodies exceptional dedication and compassion at UF Health Shands Children's Hospital, Gainesville, where she provides critical care to some of our community's most vulnerable members. Individuals like Amanda, along with collective support from communities like ours, are instrumental in fostering resilience, preserving dignity, and instilling hope during challenging journeys. Her work stands as an inspiring testament to the power of human kindness and professional devotion.

To further enhance our collective experience, the event incorporated a raffle. Beyond the thrill of potential prizes, this initiative provided a valuable opportunity to cultivate connections and strengthen camaraderie within our community. The enthusiastic participation elevated the atmosphere of collective joy and made the occasion truly unforgettable for all.

It is through these shared culinary, social moments, imbued with an open heart and communal spirit, that the enduring power of togetherness is most elegantly realized.

**Silver Rainbow Club**

Becky Bivins



Silver Rainbow Club's "singo" charity event is back on Sunday, March 15, from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Tickets are \$10 per person and may be purchased on Ticket Tuesday at the Arbor Activity Center Card Room III, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., or by texting 512-825-0181. To attend, you must have a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

What else? Glad you asked! All proceeds will be divided between Interfaith Emergency Services' Food-4-Kids Backpack Program and the Silver Rainbow Club.

There will be multiple cash drawings. Tickets will be \$5 for five tickets.

**Genealogical Society**

Sid Levine



We had an early Halloween celebration in February. Karen Fortin gave us a history lesson on the Salem Witch Trials and showed us how to search for ancestors from that era. We are not sure whether any of our members are descendants of witches or warlocks, but we can now search for those skeletons in our closets with confidence.

This month's meeting will feature Kate Howard via Zoom. She will show

Singo is just like bingo, but you play songs instead of numbers. Don't worry about knowing the song; we will tell you what it is ... eventually. It is really fun, and everyone sings along.

Bring your own food and beverage to enjoy during the fun. Alcohol is not permitted. The Pub holds a liquor license; alcohol is available for purchase there.

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

us how to use our DNA matches to help grow our family tree. That meeting will be on Monday, March 16, at 10 a.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. It will also be available via Zoom.

Our education chairperson, Deb Baker has assembled a strong lineup of speakers and events for the remainder of the year. There will be programs on census reports, how to organize them, and how to use alternative search methods.

As a club, we are committed to helping people interested in researching their family histories. Our meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. For more information about our society, email Otowgens@gmail.com.

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**Tech Tips from Bridgenet Communications**

**Shane Bobson**  
info@mybridgenet.com



**What is a "Merged" Network?**

Many modern routers now use a feature called Smart Connect or Merged Networks. Instead of seeing two names (like Smith\_Home\_2.4 and Smith\_Home\_5), you only see one.

- How it works: Your router acts like a traffic controller. When you move near the router, it prioritizes your phone on the fast 5GHz band. When you walk to the backyard, it automatically switches you to the 2.4 GHz band.
- The Pro: You don't have to manually switch settings; the router thinks for you.
- The Con: Occasionally, "smart" routers aren't as smart as they claim and might keep your laptop on the slower lane even when you're sitting right next to the plug.

**Which One Should You Use?**

- 2.4GHz: Older printers, smart plugs, and surfing the web in the backyard. Excellent (through walls).
- 5GHz: Streaming movies, Zoom calls, and gaming. Short (better in the same room).
- Merged: People who want a "set it and forget it" experience. Variable (router decides).

**The Bottom Line**

If your home is large and has many walls, 2.4GHz is your best option. If you're sitting in the living room trying to watch a movie, 5GHz is the way to go. If you value simplicity, let your router merge them.

**Technology Club**

**Chris Kilbride**



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

With our various technical devices used every day, we eventually question their age and whether to replace them. Holding on to something well past its prime might put your device in jeopardy and leave you missing out on new technology.

Operating systems for devices actually reach an end of support date, where there will not be software updates, technical assistance, nor security fixes. At that point, new programs and hardware will not function on an older device. Devices have a lifecycle too!

Depending on usage and maintenance, the average lifespan of an Apple computer, iPhone, and iPad is typically between five to seven years, receiving updates and security patches. Then, classified as vintage, they still offer limited repair options and security updates for up to 10 years.

Microsoft provides support and servicing for products under the Fixed Lifecycle Policy for a minimum of 10 years, including five years of Mainstream Support and up to five years of Extended

Support.

Android phones run on an open-source operating system; however, manufacturers often don't provide a standard, fixed schedule of Android OS updates. A few of the companies like Google and Samsung offer up to seven years of OS updates, while other companies offer between two and five.

When an update is available for any device, it is best to go through the process as soon as possible. Not only new app features are available, but they also include security updates and bug fixes to keep you safe. For whatever you choose, you can search the company's website for the device's model to see whether it is supported for the latest operating system, servicing, and repair.

When purchasing a new device, it may be wise to choose the latest model or at least last year's. When calculating costs over seven years, it's beneficial to use the latest technology and avoid putting your data at risk.

Before selling, recycling, or giving away your device, follow the correct steps to back up your device, then reset it to factory settings. Check out our Android, Apple, and Windows website pages for instructions, including our Local page for recycling options.

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

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

**Making Sense of Your Home Wi-Fi: 2.4GHz vs. 5GHz**

If you've recently upgraded your internet or purchased a new router, you may have noticed confusing labels such as 2.4GHz and 5GHz. You might even see two different network names in your settings, or perhaps just one.

Understanding the difference isn't just for "techies" - it's the secret to getting your iPad to stop buffering in the bedroom. Here is the simple breakdown of how these airwaves work.

**The Two "Lanes" of Wi-Fi**

Think of your router like a radio station broadcasting a signal throughout your home. It usually uses two different frequencies:

- 2.4GHz (The Long-Distance Runner): This signal is slower but very strong. It can travel through thick walls and reach the furthest corners of your home. It's perfect for basic browsing or smart devices like your doorbell camera.
- 5GHz (The High-Speed Sprinter): This signal is much faster and provides a "cleaner" connection for things like Netflix or FaceTime. However, it's a bit "fragile" - it struggles to move through solid walls or furniture.

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**SHORT GAME: AIR TIME VS GROUND TIME**  
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9 - 10 AM

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9 - 10 AM

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**Scandinavian American Club**

**David Wesenberg**



The Scandinavian American Club has begun another season of fellowship, conversation, and learning about our Scandinavian American brothers and sisters. Our club meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room II. This month's meeting will be on Tuesday, March 24.

In February, we were entertained by the Ukulele Club. We have enjoyed being entertained by several musical groups from On Top of the World, including the Dulcimer Club and Toppers Banjo Band. These groups really add to the fun at our meetings.

My wife's grandmother emigrated to the United States from Sweden when she was three years old and visited relatives in Sweden after retirement. She traveled throughout Norway, Sweden, and Denmark and could speak and write to people in their native languages. She could also survive in German. She never attended school and taught herself.

All of these languages are descendants of Old Norse and are forms of Plattdeutsch spoken around the Baltic,

including southeastern England and the Netherlands.

Many of our English words come from this heritage, such as "dirt," "sky," and "anger." Structurally, they also relate to English. Most Scandinavians who speak their native languages can read publications in other languages, but pronunciation and vocabulary differ enough to make their speech difficult to understand.

One can think of the difference as the regional accents in different parts of the United States before the leveling effect of radio and television, and the mobility of people moving from one part of the country to another. I remember Southern accents that were very hard for me, a northerner from Minnesota, to understand. That is no longer true.

In our meetings, people discuss their experiences, hopes, origins, successes, and failures with one another. Are you part Scandinavian? Or are you just interested in the Scandinavian contributions to American society? What a great opportunity to hear and see from those who have gone through the immigration process.

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

For more information, contact Arlene Chilcott at 352-304-8779.

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**Birders' Beat**

Linda Monaco



Sugar Cane Postal Station. The final list of sites will be determined just before the walk to ensure the most interesting route with the greatest abundance and variety of birds.

If you would like to learn more about some of the excellent birding sites located in The Villages, follow Brownwood Birders on Facebook. Although The Villages has many entry gates, a resident or visitor pass is not required for admission. Just proceed along the visitor lane and press the button to activate the gate.

If you would like to join the group for this trip to The Villages on Monday, March 23, please email Margitta Claterbos at mclaterbos@gmail.com. We will meet in the parking lot of Friendship Center just outside the SW 99th Street

gate for On Top of the World at 7:15 a.m. This is the parking lot by the Big Lots store and the Bank of OZK. Plan to wear comfortable shoes and bring your hat, binoculars, sunscreen, water, camera, and bug spray. We will eat lunch at one of the area restaurants, and relevant

information will be provided before we leave town. We hope you can join us on this adventure to experience some birding hotspots in The Villages. All of the sites we plan to visit have paved trails and are handicap accessible.



Photo by Nancy Stephens

Wood duck.

**Eco Gardeners**

Phil Karcheski



**OneBlood Bloodmobile**

Sara Sommer



Starting a garden in Florida starts with planning. Make a list of supplies and purchase seeds early if you intend to grow your own transplants. Vegetables that are difficult to transplant should be seeded directly into the garden or started in containers first.

Improve the garden plot by adding organic matter. Perform a soil pH test. Self-test kits and meters are inexpensive and easy to use. The optimal pH range for vegetable gardens on sandy soil is 5.8-6.3. If it's between 5.5 and 7.0, adding acidic organic matter will help, temporarily. Jeremy Rhoden, from IFAS/Master Gardeners, recommends a fertilizer containing micronutrients to maximize nutrient uptake.

Control pests. Pesticides can harm people, pets, beneficial insects, and the natural environment, and should be used only after all other integrated pest management steps have been taken. Rotate vegetables so that the same vegetable is not planted repeatedly in the same areas. Till or hand-turn the soil well in advance of planting to discourage soil insects.

Weed control is best achieved by mulching with newspaper and covering it with straw or fallen leaves, or by hand-pulling.

Choose adapted plant and seed varieties with resistance or tolerance to nematodes and common diseases. Information is usually on the seed packet. Purchase healthy transplants free of insect damage and disease symptoms. Resist plants with blossoms. Healthy plants resist insect attacks.

Regarding fertilization, too much nitrogen can make plants more attractive to aphids and whiteflies. Identify beneficial insects (praying mantis, spiders, big-eyed bugs, assassin bugs, lady beetles [also called ladybugs or ladybird beetles], and all wasps). Plant flowers in the vegetable garden to provide nectar and pollen that attract beneficial insects. Remove large insects by hand and destroy them.

Watch for early disease symptoms. To protect bees and other pollinators, apply insecticides late in the day when they are less active. Malathion, carbaryl, and parathion are especially harmful to bees. Spray the plant thoroughly, covering both the upper and lower leaf surfaces.

March planting recommendations from the Marion County Extension Office include:

- Transplant arugula, cabbage, ginger, kohlrabi, peppers, and Swiss chard.
- Transplant carefully celery, long squash, pigeon peas, seminole, spinach, pumpkins, and sweet potatoes.
- Starting from seed beans (bush, lima, and pole), carrots, corn, cucumbers, cantaloupes, okra, bunching onions, southern peas, radishes, squash, and watermelon.

The new board is working with the Recreation Department to ensure our garden club remains in compliance. A representative from the Recreation Department will conduct monthly inspections of the Eco Gardens to ensure we remain independent through self-monitoring and enforcement of our regulations.

More gardening information is available on our Facebook page or at eco-gardeners.org. Our next monthly meeting is at 1:15 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room.

Contact us via email at gardenc58@gmail.com.

The Big Red Bus® was here on Monday, Feb. 2. It was a great drive. We collected 44 units of whole blood, six units of double red cells, and two units of red blood cells with plasma. Each donation can save up to three lives. Even though no reward was necessary, each donor received a \$20 ecard and a long-sleeve T-shirt. I want to thank everyone who came out, even though it was cold.

The next blood drive will be on Monday, April 6. The buses will be parked in the Recreation Center parking lot from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. No appointment is necessary. Walk-ins are welcome. If you would like to schedule an appointment, visit oneblood.org. Look for the On Top of the World drive. Select the type of donation. Then select a time that is convenient for you. You will receive a confirmation email.

I hope you had time to stop by the OneBlood table at the recent Club Fair. It's always nice to meet new faces.

Please eat a good meal and drink plenty of water before and after your donation. A picture ID is also needed.

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

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**Pennsylvania Club**

Linda Casey



member, and Valentine's trivia. Future monthly club themes, speakers, and entertainment are currently being planned to keep our meetings engaging and fun.

If you are from the great state of Pennsylvania or have a connection, please visit us. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio, starting at 5 p.m. If you are interested in serving as a guest speaker or providing entertainment at one of our meetings, please contact Susan Linton, club secretary, at selc4clj@gmail.com. For further info on becoming a member, please use the same email address.

**Southern Connection Club**

Darlene Stevens



together with friends at Southern Connection.

Our meeting will be on Sunday, March 8, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II. Bring a dish to share and a beverage, or enjoy sweet tea, lemonade, or water. The entertainment will be our annual horse races. We will need jockeys and two people to run the gaming tables, so please consider helping. Join us for a fun-filled and memorable evening.

Don't forget that daylight saving time starts on Sunday, March 8, so remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour. Newcomers are always welcome. See you there.

**Freethinkers**

Kathy Bell



"When I have been listened to and when I have been heard, I am able to re-perceive my world in a new way and to go on." - Carl Rogers

Our quote is from Carl Rogers, an American psychologist, author, and agnostic. This month, the Ocala Gazette invites Freethinkers to a listening session. Ever wish you had the opportunity to let the local newspaper know what you'd be interested in seeing as a headline? On Sunday, March 8, our friend Jennifer Hunt Murty, owner/publisher of the Ocala Gazette, will return to present "OG Listens," a feedback series she debuted with readers in January. Many Freethinkers will remember Jennifer from her presentation last October about the Gazette's investigative reporting. What issues would you like to highlight? Bring your best suggestions!

On Sunday, March 29, instead of our regular meeting, we will hold Freethinkers Florida's first annual picnic at the Veterans Park pavilion. This is a good way for us to sit down and talk with those we see only briefly at meetings. Bring a chair and a picnic-type dish to share.

Freethinkers is open to all individuals on the freethought continuum, from religious skeptic to avowed atheist. If this fits for you, please join us at one of our Sunday meetings, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. Once you

become a member, you can participate in all club events.

Other programs and activities open to members in March include three dining out opportunities (secular lunch, dining out together, and freethinking women's lunch), and, looking forward, our book club, which will next meet on Monday, April 13, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., when we will discuss "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood.

Freethinkers also hold a monthly Socrates Café on the third Thursday evening of the month. This is based on the international model, which includes a 90-minute intensive discussion of a philosophical or contemporary topic. This month, Socrates will meet on Thursday, March 19, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Both the Socrates Cafe and book club meetings will be in the Hobby Building Event Room.

At one of our February meetings, Dr. Rod Broker regaled us with "(un)Holy Humor." Rod has been with us several times since Freethinkers' inception in 2023, presenting a variety of topics. This presentation was on the lighter side. Humor can break boundaries, challenge the status quo, and serve as an effective tool for social commentary. Dr. Broker is a former Lutheran pastor who served in ministry for more than 30 years before critical thinking led him to embrace freethinking.

For more information about our organization, please email FreethinkersFlorida@gmail.com or visit FreethinkersFlorida.com. If you have been looking for a freethought community, we welcome you.

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Dr. Rod Broker spoke to Freethinkers on (un)Holy Humor in February.

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Tall Tale Travelers

Cyndee Schaub



From Friday, March 13, through Monday, March 16, we have a buddy camping event planned in St. Augustine, Florida. We plan to watch the St. Patrick's Day parade and attend the Scottish Highland Games.

In April, we have a buddy camping event planned at Belle Parc RV Resort in Brooksville, Florida.

These organized camping events always turn into fun adventures for everyone who comes. It's a great club for meeting people who share a love of RV camping and making new friends.

If you are interested in being a part of our club or if you need further information, the Tall Tale Travelers meet every third Wednesday of each month at the Hobby Building Event Room at 4 p.m.

Hope to see you there!

Travel Toppers

Mary Lamp



tions at 352-854-8536 for the Suncoast Dinner Theater production of "Rock of Ages," to be performed on Saturday, April 18. This is a five-time Tony Award-nominated musical that tells the story of a small-town girl, a city boy, and a rock-and-roll romance on the Sunset Strip. Tickets for this show are \$100 per person and include the performance, dinner and dessert, transportation, and tips for the driver and servers. As with all our trips, payment must be made by check only and is non-refundable unless there is a waitlist.

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

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

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

Reservations for Travel Toppers trips can be made Monday through Friday 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; guests will be placed on a waitlist. As this is a resident club, the board wants to give our own residents the first opportunity to attend. If there is availability, guests on the waitlist will be asked whether they remain interested in attending the trip.

Two of our March bookings are now waitlisted: Miss Saigon on Saturday, March 14, and Tampa Bay Downs on Saturday, March 21. If interested in being placed on our waitlist for these trips, contact Diane Knox at 352-390-2386 for the first trip and Sharon Stetson at 207-838-3776 for the second. Please do not call Sharon on Mondays.

Linda Uhley is still accepting reserva-

World Traveler

Bill Shampine



It was in the year 366 in what we now call the Common Era (CE) or Anno Domini (AD) that a Chinese Buddhist monk named Le Zhan was walking along what is now known as the "Silk Road" - the famous network of trade routes between China, Central Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. As he was passing by the Mingsha Sand Dunes, located near the village of Dunhuang in the northwestern part of China, he had a vision of a thousand Buddhas!

The vision convinced him that the area had to be a sacred Buddhist site, so he decided to create a physical representation of the extraordinary scene he witnessed. He then started gathering a group of people to help him start carving out the first cave in a local mountain.

The work he started continued for the next 1,000 years and became known as the Mogao Caves. These caves cover about one mile of the face of a mountain and are arranged in five tiers that resemble a giant beehive. There are 735 caves in total, divided into two main areas. The southern area contains 492 caves that serve as places of worship, whereas the northern area contains 243 caves, primarily where monks live and practice their religion.

Why would anybody continue to carve caves at this site for 1,000 years?

Presumably, the main reason was the prosperity of the "Silk Road." The traveling merchants faced numerous dangers along this network of routes, including traversing the world's second-largest desert and encountering bandits. Many traders prayed at Buddhist sites in Dunhuang for protection and a safe journey. Others would donate money to build statues and caves as offerings to the deities. The vast body of artwork in these caves clearly reflects cultural transformation, as artistic techniques and skills developed over the centuries. Today, there are over 484,400 square feet of stunning murals on the walls of these caves.

By the 14th century, the importance of the "Silk Road" had begun to wane, which led to less maintenance of the caves. They were mostly forgotten until 1900, when a Taoist monk named Wang Yuanlu discovered the hidden "Library Cave."

This cave contains thousands of ancient documents and manuscripts dating from 406 to 1002. Mr. Wang found layers of about 1,100 closely packed bundles of scrolls, over 15,000 paper books, and shorter texts. It is estimated that 50,000 ancient documents were discovered within it, covering topics such as literature, philosophy, art, and medicine. Can you just imagine that discovery?

The library also contained textiles and other Buddhist paraphernalia. The cave had been sealed at some point, possibly when it came under threat. The date of sealing is controversial and ranges from 1002 (the date of the oldest manuscript found) to the early to mid-13th century.



Photo by Haihongu KWAM LaunEC 800

The display in cave number 045 in the Mogao Caves, located in Dunhuang, China.

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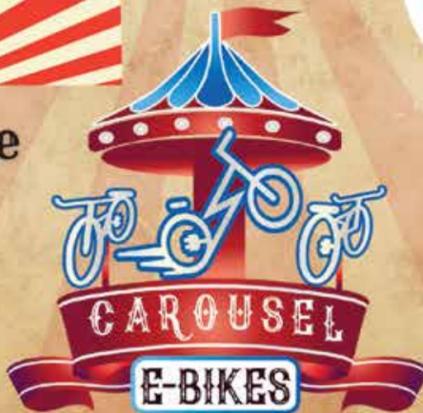
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**The Jewish Club**



**Bruce Kanner**

Jeopardy answer reads: Gert Fröbe. Question: Who was the German actor and former member of the Nazi party who played Goldfinger and who actually saved two people during the Holocaust?

Club member Bill Nicholls shared Fröbe's interesting story during the "moment in time" segment at the January meeting. Nicholls pointed out that the movie "Goldfinger" had been banned in Israel when Fröbe's Nazi past (he had left the party before the war) was uncovered. Years later, the ban was lifted after Mario Blumenau came forward with the revelation that Fröbe hid both him and his mother from the Nazi's during the war.

Here's another tidbit from Nicholls: Fröbe spoke very little English at the time of the filming of "Goldfinger," the third installment in the James Bond series. Most of the lines spoken by Goldfinger were dubbed into the movie after filming.

Have you checked the back of your smoke detector for the manufacturer's date lately? Among the advisories from Battalion Chief Pam Driggers of Marion County Fire Rescue (MCFR), the 54 in attendance learned that the lifespan of these potentially life-saving devices is only 10 years. Most knew to replace the batteries, but many were unaware of the device's lifespan. She cautioned that the battery could be fine in the detector and may activate when the test button is pressed, but the sensor inside could be bad.

She advised that anyone who needs a smoke or carbon monoxide (CO) detector installed or replaced can call MCFR at 352-291-8000 to schedule an appointment for personnel to replace batteries and the smoke or CO detectors.

"We don't want you up on ladders," she quipped.

She also noted that CO detectors should be installed no more than three feet above the floor, as CO is heavier than air and tends to accumulate near the floor, while smoke is lighter than air

**SWANS**



**Lois Nix**

When the SWANS (Single Women Active Networking System) was first formed, it marked the beginning of a new generation of single women moving into On Top of the World. We are now at the beginning of another generation of single women who hope to create new ideas and events so that SWANS will continue for the next 20 years. Our mission should remain the same: to promote social interaction and to enrich, support, encourage, and respect one another.

The women of the SWANS were very generous, supporting the original Women's Crisis Center. When our coordinator received an email asking for a donation, the women were ready to respond. One year, 55 children were going to celebrate Christmas at the shelter with their mothers. SWANS responded, and one SWAN bought gifts for 55 children. SWANS began donating suitcases years ago; two of us were at the center when a family was being admitted. Their personal belongings were in black plastic bags. We looked at each other and said, "We need to collect suitcases so the families can leave with some dignity."

Over these 20 years, SWANS chose to remain quiet about their generous hearts and their love for others, especially the children in need. Additionally, SWANS has supported the Arnette House, Romeo Elementary School, and Interfaith Emergency Services, among others.

We continue to have an active social life, hosting in-home appetizers, lunches, and dinners in groups. We continue to go out for breakfast/brunch, lunch, and dinner monthly. I remember when everyone thought that all the SWANS did was to eat out. Today, most clubs do the same. Over the years, we have shared joys and sorrows.

To join, you must have a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

Join us for card games, shuffleboard, billiards, and/or cornhole. We also have barbecues, join in on Travel Toppers Tours, and participate in other social activities.

Our membership meeting is on Saturday, March 7, at 9:30 a.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-III. We welcome all single women at any time of the year. At this meeting, we will discuss our upcoming events, beach trips, and cruises for singles.

SWANS are never alone. SWANS are never forgotten.



Photo by Mark Frankel

Marion County Fire Rescue Battalion Chief Pam Driggers at the Jewish Club meeting in January.

and rises to the ceiling. Therefore, she said, a combination smoke and CO detector on the ceiling is ineffective at detecting CO.

Thank you to Shelley Kline, who kept our now former coffee maker going for the meeting. A new one has been purchased. The meeting also included the installation of Harriet Pinchouck, Staci Girsch, and Jay Wallet, who were re-elected to the board.

The monthly lunch bunch - where members get together to eat and socialize - was back on Wednesday, Jan. 14, at the new Miller's Ale House. Lunch bunch is organized by Marcy Frankel, Andrea Wallet, and Rhonda Liedtke.

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

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

**Joy in the Mourning**



**Deb Thompson**

Springtime! My favorite time of the year is right around the corner! When the portulaca flowers open and grace the earth with their beautiful colors, my heart is filled with exuberant joy! Truly, this is a happy season for me, but it wasn't always.

For some folks, first entering a bereavement season, their world is temporarily void of color. Color representing joy, wonder, and excitement that puts a smile on one's face. This joy can resurface given the right antidote. There is hope for the hurting. A mission and goal I have possessed since the inception of Joy in the Mourning.

An unrelenting passion for helping people move from gloom to discovering their new blooms in life, figuratively speaking. Merriam-Webster defines bereavement as "the state or fact of being bereaved ... of something or someone." Friends, does this describe you?

Recently reflecting on changes the group has encountered, I see the need to customize. Over time, a significant variation in how the group addresses the needs of newcomers versus veterans is apparent. A solution to target individual concerns and challenges requires restructuring the class.

Having reviewed how other bereavement support groups operate successfully, I will implement their strategies.

I believe that specifically tailoring to people's needs where they are will lead to more positive changes that help them comfortably accept their new identity, if they so desire.

Friends, this is a major change. Everyone considering attending Joy in the Mourning must contact me, preferably before visiting. For those already in the group, I will explain the change so they can determine where they best fit. This change does not exclude anyone; it simply determines the week they may attend.

Joy in the Mourning is a bereavement support group for residents. Our meetings are held on Fridays at the Arbor Activity Center Music Room from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Please call me at 352-445-4860 in advance so your monthly placement is tailored to you.



Photo by Deb Thompson

Everything blooms in its time.

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**Latinos Club**

**Silvia C. Garcia**



¡Hola Amigos! Come join us – you do not have to be Latino to join. We have established a reputation for having fun at our many events, including socials with entertainment and dancing, monthly dinners, weekly game nights, Chicas Latinas get-togethers, Mi Casa Su Casa, and Café con Leche.

The chilly weather did not keep away over 100 of our members from gathering at The Town Square to enjoy Stella Beat's music. We chatted, laughed, ate, drank, and danced until the band stopped playing.

Our next event, "Greet, Meet, Rotate & Dancing," will provide you with the opportunity to make new friends on Saturday, March 28, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. You can purchase tickets via Ticket Tuesday on Tuesdays, March 10 and March 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Arbor Activity Center Card Room III. Please note that no sales will be made at the door.

Our executive committee board members were highlighted in our February column. Now let's read about our mem-

bers at large and board advisors.

Jackie Colucci, born in Uruguay and raised in Argentina, is a New York University graduate and lived in Jupiter, Florida, until 2021. She works as a Medicare insurance specialist. Jackie enjoys cooking, reading, walking, and game nights with club members.

Micky Crawford, our "grape-stomping queen," and her husband, George, married in 1991 and had a family while following George's 20-year military career across the U.S. and abroad. After retiring, George served another 20 years as a state trooper. Today, they enjoy walking, reading, and traveling.

Beatriz Kelemen was born in Venezuela and holds a master's degree in project management. Alongside her husband, glassblower Warner Whitfield, she creates fused glass art inspired by nature and coastal waters. Their work has been collected by notable figures and institutions worldwide.

Karen Ramos was born in Ohio and holds a master's degree in Spanish language and literature. She has been instrumental in launching our Mi Casa Su Casa, a new social program that fosters connections through small home gatherings, among other initiatives. Karen loves traveling with her honey, Doug Slattery.

Nilva, born in Panama, and her hus-

band, Jose Torres, born in Nebraska, are both board members and are well known in our community for their warmth and dedication. As they say, "Come check out our club – you'll be welcomed with open arms, no matter where you're from."

Board advisors include Jesus M. Alvarez, born in Cuba, who is an accomplished educator, entrepreneur, and certified prosthetist/orthotist; he's married to Luz Alvarez. Yamila Code, who, with her husband Steven, retired from Homeland Security and happily settled

in Ocala in 2020.

Mark your calendar for upcoming events:

- Saturday, April 25: Stella Beat at The Town Square.
- Saturday, May 30: Murder mystery dinner and dancing.
- Saturday, June 27: Luau Latino and dancing.

Visit our Facebook (OTOW Latinos Club Ocala) to stay updated on our upcoming events and view photos. For more information, call Silvia C. Garcia at 561-801-8188, Ivan Vazquez at 727-403-9629, or Micky Crawford at 352-207-7153.



Photo by Silvia C. Garcia

Latinos Club members at The Town Square.

**Women of the World**

**Lois Rowland**



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

Our meeting on Thursday, Feb. 12, featured Cynthia Moody from Marion County Senior Services. Our charity was Perpetual Care. Their mission is to give pet owners the assurance that their pets will be cared for and loved when they are no longer able to care for them. Emails were sent to members listing items that could be donated to help this charity.

There will not be a Women of the World meeting in March because all our efforts will be going toward preparing for the 23rd annual Fashion Show. The Fashion Show will be held on Wednesday, March 18, at 10:30 a.m. Thanks to Ruth Santman from The Baldwin Group, the show will once again be held at Circle Square Cultural Center.

All proceeds from this event will go to Empath Hospice of Marion County and the Nancy Renyhart Dementia Education Program. Tickets are on sale now at Ticket Tuesdays in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room III from 9 a.m. to noon and at the Circle Square Commons Farmers Market on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. If you are unable to purchase tickets at any of the locations listed above, please contact a board member.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, April 9, at noon in the Recreation Center Ballroom. It will feature Dee Collier, who brings history to life through her presentations on a variety of historical women. The charity for the meeting will be Isaiah 117 House, which provides physical and emotional support in a safe, loving home for children awaiting more permanent placement. Donation items will be included in emails.

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

**Active Singles Club**

**Jan Lindell**



Welcome March – with hopefully warmer days and nights to revisit our outside activities and events.

In February, our dining group enjoyed meals at Golden Spoon Diner, The Legacy Restaurant at the Nancy Lopez Country Club, and Stone Creek Grille.

March will find us visiting Mama B's, Mojo's, and the Salted Brick. Our members always look forward to dining out together three times each month.

Bunco night had a large number of members enjoying themselves. Be sure to check out our calendar for all of our activities so you can join in the fun.

We have an active travel committee that is planning cruises, bus trips, short trips, and day trips for our mem-

bers. While you read this column, 30 members are on our first group cruise. Many singles find it difficult to travel solo, so this new travel committee is working hard so we now have friends or can make new friends to travel with. We have an Alaskan cruise/tour, a New England tour, and a European adventure trip to Italy, Switzerland, and Germany, all scheduled on our calendar for our members and/or guests.

Of course, we still have all our regularly scheduled activities, including bocce, darts, bowling, mini golf, cards, Mexican Train, and more.

We hold our regular meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. The doors open at 7:15 p.m., and the meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing our own members there and many new potential members as well.

Visit us at [otowactivesingles.com](http://otowactivesingles.com). Thank you for visiting it!



Photo by Mike Meyers

Active Singles Club game night.

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## Parkinson's Foundation Walk at Sholom Park

By Kinley Rogers Bedard

The Ranch Fitness Center & Spa will host the Parkinson's Moving Day Community Walk on Saturday, March 7, from 8 to 10 a.m. at Sholom Park. This event is part of the Parkinson's Foundation National Moving Day Program, which brings communities together to celebrate movement, raise awareness, and support individuals and families affected by Parkinson's disease.

Moving Day Community Walks are held across the country to highlight the importance of physical activity in managing Parkinson's symptoms and to raise funds to support the Parkinson's Foundation's mission to improve quality of life for those living with the disease. Every dollar raised through the walk directly supports research, education, and care initiatives.

Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurological disorder that affects dopamine-producing neurons in the brain. While symptoms vary, many individuals experience movement-related challenges such as tremors, slowness, and muscle stiffness, as well as non-movement

symptoms including hallucinations and cognitive impairment.

The Ranch Fitness Center & Spa is proud to support the Parkinson's community not only through this walk, but also through its ongoing commitment to wellness. The facility offers weekly fitness classes specifically designed for individuals with Parkinson's disease, focusing on improving strength, balance, and overall function. Classes such as "Punch Out PD!" and "United Against Parkinson's!" are led by supportive coaches trained to help participants combat symptoms through movement.

By hosting the Moving Day Community Walk, The Ranch Fitness Center & Spa aims to foster awareness, encourage healthy movement, and unite the community in support of those impacted by Parkinson's disease. For more information about the event or how to participate, please visit <https://www.parkinson.org/events/2026/mdcw-ocala>. To donate or learn more about improving the lives of those living with Parkinson's disease, visit [Parkinsons.org](https://www.parkinsons.org).



## Tiny Cars, Big Thrills

By John Schoenherr

Every Tuesday the R/C Car Club slot car drivers meet in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II to race

their digital cars. Since the rooms are multi-use, the drivers must set up their track for each meet.

The track includes a refueling station and an automatic tracking system that reports each car's position in the race. Six cars can race simultaneously on two tracks, and the drivers can switch lanes with the controller. The racing system is a Carrera Digital 132 computerized system which the club provides.

Drivers must buy their own cars; the

cost of each car starts at \$50 and can be purchased online or at several hobby shops in the area. There are four classes of cars that race: NASCAR, muscle cars, touring cars, and open-wheel Formula 1. Many of the cars have headlights and taillights and there is even one police car with a full set of emergency lights

Many slot car enthusiasts have been collecting cars for years and still enjoy racing analog cars. The club can switch the track to analog for these vintage cars.

For more information about slot car racing, call Brian Allard at 603-252-7766. Digital slot car racers meet every Tuesday at 1 p.m. Vintage slot car racers meet on third Monday and last Friday of the month from 3 to 6 p.m.

R/C outdoor 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.

Crawler drivers meet every Monday at 1 p.m. at the crawler track.

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

### January

Traxxas-Chuck Walls. Two-wheel buggy-Doug Stansbury. Pan car-Doug Stansbury. Touring-Jim Siltman. Two-wheel truck-Bob Melzer. Limited-Mike Main. 17.5-Mike Main. Sportsman-Phil Paquette. Truggy-Mark Busch. NASCAR-Mark Busch.

### Winter Season

Traxxas-Larry Ericksmoen. Two-wheel buggy-Chuck Frederick. Four-wheel buggy-Sam Murphy. Pan car-Bob Paxson. Touring-Terry Altman. Two-wheel truck-Bob Melzer. Four-wheel Truck-Bob Melzer. Limited-Mike Main. 17.5-Dave Johnson. Sportsman-Larry Ericksmoen. Truggy-Rean Morse. NASCAR-Larry Ericksmoen.



Photo by Ray Baker

Tuesday slot car racing drivers.

## Mixed Doubles National Championships

By Rob Schween

In November 2025, the Tennis Club secretary, Rob Schween, and his wife, Mo, attended the USTA's 40-and-over Mixed Doubles National Championships at the USTA National Campus in Lake Nona, Florida. This two-and-a-half-day tournament determined the USTA mixed doubles national champions at the 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, and 9.0 levels (8.0 is two 4.0-rated players; 9.0 is two 4.5-rated players, etc.)

The USTA National Campus has 98 fully lit courts on its 64-acre campus. The event featured 16 sectional winners from across the United States, including Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

The tournament matches began at 8 a.m. each day and continued throughout the day. Each sectional team played four matches on Friday and Saturday, with eight teams advancing to the quarterfinals on Sunday. We paid particular attention to the 9.0 level teams. The winning four 9.0 teams (Texas, Florida, New England, and Mid-Atlantic) advanced to the semifinals. The national champions at the 8.0 and 9.0 levels are listed below.

Our impressions from watching the talented mixed doubles team may assist our club's players and others interested in playing doubles, mixed, men's, or women's. We noticed that when receiving, the team's strongest player was positioned on the side of the court with his/her forehand in the middle. Left-handers, if they were the dominant player, invariably played the deuce side. The teams usually used signals when serving and generally played one-up, one-back, with the net person frequently poaching. The back player had to cover a large area of the court (probably not a great strategy for senior players). But they would also rush the net when the opportunity arose. We further observed that these players were not only very hard hitters but also not hesitant to lob, both offensively and defensively.

We were impressed by many of the 4.5-level players, particularly some of the women, who could hit as hard as the men. At that level, the women players were generally as talented and versatile as the men players.

The event was very exciting to watch and well run by USTA volunteers. We highly recommend visiting the USTA National Campus at Nona Lake (Orlando) if you have the opportunity. The facility hosts various events throughout the year, including men's and women's college matches.

Tennis Club members have access to ball-machine drills, personal or small-group lessons, round-robin and open play, and a committee to answer questions and support their needs. Annual dues are only \$10. Email Brenda Foster for additional information at [brenda@gcfoonline.com](mailto:brenda@gcfoonline.com).



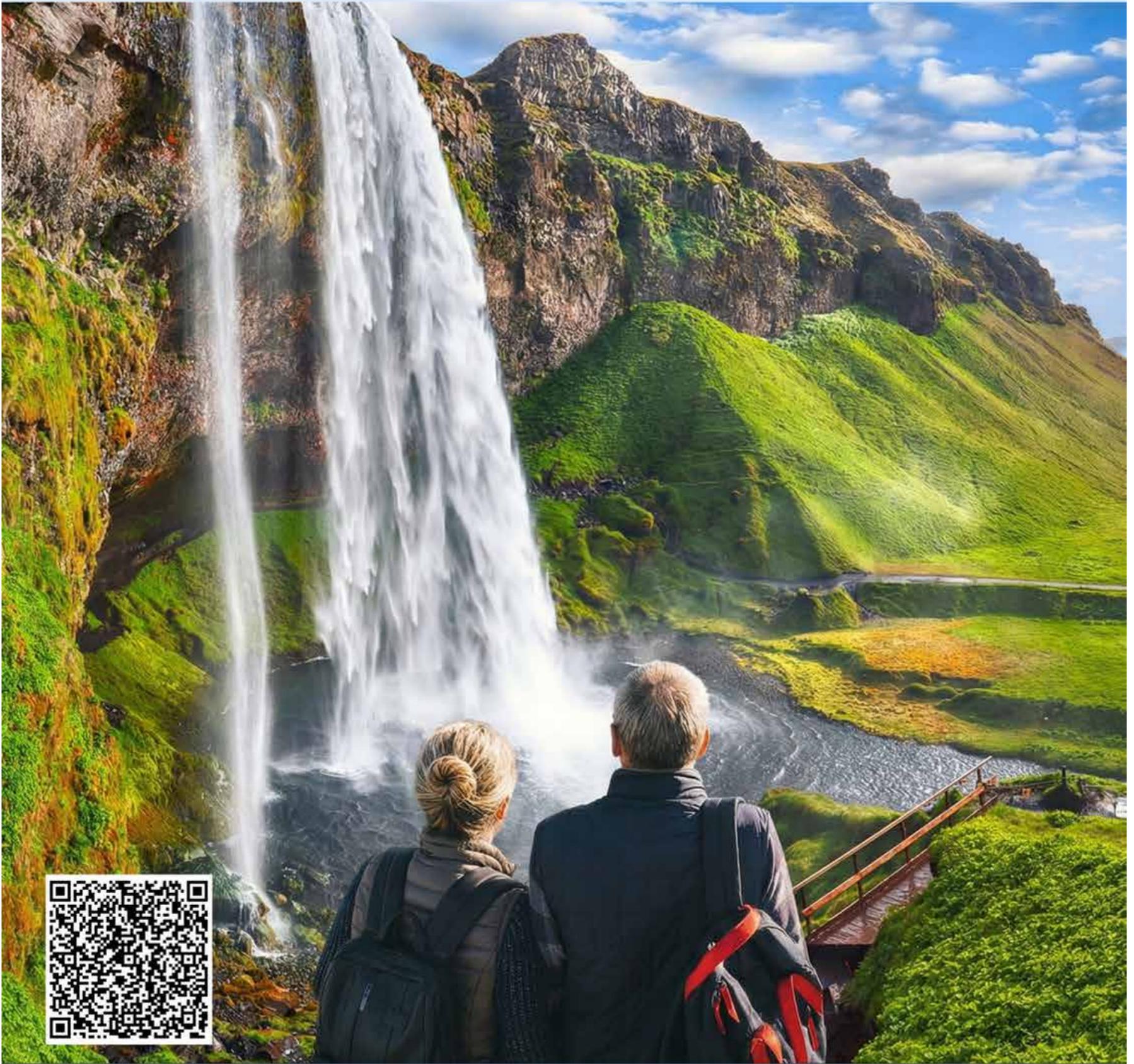
Photo by Mo Schween

Rob Schween at the Mixed Doubles National Championships at the USTA National Campus in Lake Nona, Florida.

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**Golf**

**Matt Hibbs**  
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pate in the Pro-Am: \$1,650 for a three-person team paired with a pro. The entry fee includes a \$200 gift package from our golf shop, breakfast before play, and a barbecue lunch after the event.

The charities benefiting from this year's event are Empath Hospice of Marion County and Interfaith Emergency Services. Last year, we raised \$90,000, split between the two charities. We are hoping to make this year's event even bigger and better. Admission is free Wednesday through Friday, with VIP tickets available for \$40 or three for \$105 in the Candler Hills Golf Shop. For more information regarding VIP tickets and the Ocala Open, visit [OcalaOpen.com](http://OcalaOpen.com).

Also being held this month is the annual On Top of the World Club Championship, open only to On Top of the World golf members. This is a two-day event, with round one on Friday, March

13, and round two on Saturday, March 14. Both days will be 8 a.m. tee times. Good luck to our defending champions, Joe Moenter, Sandy Snyder, and Lynne Dickson. Please see the On Top of the World Golf Shop for more details.

**Upcoming Events**

- Friday, March 13 & Saturday, March 14: On Top of the World Club Championship
- Monday, March 16: Shamrock Open at Candler Hills Golf Club
- Monday, March 23 & Tuesday, March 24: Ocala Open Pro-Am at Candler Hills Golf Club
- Wednesday, March 25 through Friday, March 27: Ocala Open at Candler Hills Golf Club

**World Accolades**

**CANDLER HILLS:** Jeff Richardson, eagle #15. Bob Mondore, eagle #7. Tom Mansfield, eagle #2. Susan Rhodes, eagle #7.

**THE LINKS:** Susan Rhodes, eagle #3. Charlie Dove, shot his age - 74. Mike Mackowiak shot 75, two strokes under his age, and eagled #4. Bob Mondore shot 73, nine strokes under his age.

**THE TORTOISE & THE HARE:** Randy Kajsowski, albatross #9. Congratulations to all!

**Golf Tip of the Month**

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

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

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



Photo by Anthony Morris

President Kevin McGuinness stands with Stacey Perlmutter and Meredith Rogers of the Hospice of Marion County, and MGA Treasurer Bob Kuhl during the February Chicken Day check presentation.

**Men's Golf Association**

John Yenne



The Men's Golf Association (MGA) - in its 40th year of charitable giving - continued its strong tradition of community support by donating \$3,000 to the Empath Hospice of Marion County during its February Chicken Day Scramble.

The large turnout of 149 players required that both The Links and The Tortoise & The Hare golf courses be used for the popular monthly event, which is the main driver of charitable giving for the MGA.

Members contribute through their entry fees for the event, which is held on the first Wednesday of each month and culminates in a fried chicken lunch. This anniversary year, new food options are being introduced to the menu. The Chicken Day tradition of giving began years ago with members "buying" mulligans, with the proceeds going to the hospice. Even today, members get two mulligans apiece for use during the competition.

MGA fundraising of the last three years has raised about \$8,000 for the new Nancy Renyhart Dementia Education Center, which opens in March. The 40th anniversary MGA handbooks are now available in the players' lounge in the On Top of the World Golf Shop and online. For more information on the MGA, visit [otowmga.com](http://otowmga.com).

Total membership stands at 255 players.

Put these upcoming Wednesdays in your calendar:

- March 4: Chicken Day
- March 11: Individual Quota Points (The Tortoise & The Hare)
- March 18: Step Aside Scramble (The Links)
- March 25: Four Clubs & a Putter (The Tortoise & The Hare)

**Chicken Day Scramble Feb. 4**

The Links Flight: 52-Randy Keller, Ed Vasoli, Mike Carver, Mike Stanford. 54-Scott Smith, Rick Plesea, Kevin Broderick, John Divito. Tie at 55-Thomas Mansfield, Rusty Zarrell, Mike Erickson, James Thompson; John Herman, Wally Wohlleber, Pete Markish, Carl Zeiler. Tie at 56-Doyce Mathis, Dale Budd, Donnie Perkins; Robert Walker, Guy Stiebing, Tom Mullaly; Dan Goggin, Dennis McCourt, Ralph Norton, Thomas Kujawa; John Paul, Mike Ball, Ken Hittmeier. The Tortoise & The Hare Flight: Tie at 57-James McCormack, Joseph Mendola, Greg McMillan; Greg McDowell, Charlie Taylor, Tom Nutt, Rick Lilly; Larry Manion, Jay Bouton, Karl Scharf, Leonard Ruble; Robert Kuhl, Dennis Kerkhoff, Bruce Rothenberg. Tie at 58-Eugene Paradis, Robert Jorgensen, Howard Gluckman, David Bauer; Don McCrimmon, Jim Bobowski, Rick Deroven, Michael Dwyer; Kenneth Franks, Don Channell, Robert Meyer, Curt Bingham; Tim Carlisle, Steve Wrazen, John Parnau, David Jeffries; Tom Neville, Gary Kohls, Stuart Martin, Larry Skoch.

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**Ladies 18-Hole Golf Association**

Jo Della Penna



**Aces & Deuces Wild (Individual)  
Jan. 6/The Tortoise & The Hare**

Flight 1: 67-Linda Taylor. 68-Gayla Aldridge. 71-Sharon Fairclough. 73-Lori Pizzini.  
Flight 2: 70-Marcella Nunez. Tie at 74-Mary Smith, Jill Strey, Lynn Colomb.  
Flight 3: 66-Joanne Woolery. 73-Karen Schroeckenthaler. 74-Janette Sheil. Tie at 78-Vickie Noltenmeyer, Katie Schriewer.  
Flight 4: 64-Cho Yulan. 72-Ellen Brinn. 75-Debra

De Matteo. 77-Lorie Anderson.  
Flight 5: 63-Marla Bennett. 76-Joann Ropel. 77-Nancy Zeilinski. 79-Joann Delmar.  
Flight 6: 67-Jacquelin Randour. 72-Pamela Robison. Tie at 77-Roxiann Dwyer, Terry Lemesh.  
Have you lost sight of the group ahead and are holding up those behind? Here are some tips to keep up with the group ahead and speed up play without rushing:

- Be ready when it's your turn (sometimes that means walking over to your ball while your partner is hitting).
- After you hit, leave your head cover off (you will have plenty of time to replace it while others in your group are hitting).

- If you are chipping up to the green, bring your putter with you so you don't have to go back to the cart to get it.
- Once on the green, mark your ball and look at the putt you have at hand while others are putting.
- When it is your turn to putt, try not to mark a two-inch putt. Continue to putt out. You would be surprised how much time this saves.
- Flag out, flag in? If a player in your group prefers the flag out (if the game permits, i.e., individual play), have the others in your group putt with the flag in, then pull it for the one who prefers it out. Then replace it and head for

- your carts. Again, this is a time saver and will prevent your group from falling behind.
- Do you have someone in your group playing from the black tees? Give that person the option of riding as a passenger. This allows her to walk to her tee box, if able (using caution), to be ready to hit when it is her turn.
- Someone having a bad day? Patience is always the key. We have all been there at one time or another.
- If all else fails, just do the best you can to try to stay with the group ahead. You can apologize to the group behind at lunch.

**Candler Hills Ladies 18-Hole**

Beth Wolinsky



It's always pleasant to play golf in beautiful weather. When it's cold, windy, and overcast, it isn't nearly as enjoyable. We have, unfortunately, been experiencing rare weather, with frost delays and league cancellations, which have made play more challenging. Here's hoping for mild temperatures and sunshine in the coming weeks.

A pizza party was held in January. It was a great success, and we can't wait for the barbecue on Thursday, March 5,

after golf at The Lodge at Candler Hills. Thank you to the board for planning these fun events after golf.

The Red Green Challenge will be a year-long event in the league. Each player has been assigned to either the Red or Green Team, and we will play games throughout the year, recording each player's scores. The culmination will be our Red and Green Match Play on Thursday, Dec. 10, to decide a winning team.

Looking forward to an exciting year of competition.

We have two new members: Angie Jingco, a former member, and Vickie Noltenmeyer, who plays in the On Top of the World LGA-18. Welcome, ladies.

I heard someone say we should play golf like a kid, carefree and with a joy-

ous heart. We can often get it into our heads and make it harder on ourselves. Overthinking and negative thoughts can creep in very easily. If only we could just relax and have a good time, we'd feel like kids again.

The Candler Hills LGA-18 is open to all women residents. If you wish to join, you may contact our president, Sandy Snyder, at freesand@icloud.com. It's a great way to meet some new ladies and play golf.

Finally, be careful out there. As always, believe, achieve, and enjoy golf.

**Las Vegas Scramble (Team)  
Jan. 22**

60-LuLu Kerkhoff, Ellen Brin, Joann Ropel, Nancy Zielinski. Tie at 61-Peggy Ellenberger, Janette Sheil, Marlena LaClair, Susanne Mullineaux. Linda Taylor,

Mary Smith, Judie Anderson, Karen Demaree, Faun Doctor, Brenda Hofmann, Peggy Weichmann, Terry Lemesh. Tie at 62-Karen Schroeckenthaler, Janelle Gluckman, Beth Wolinsky, Roxiann Dwyer. Diane Boston, Yuhlan Cho, Angelita Jingco, Carol Carney. Sandy Snyder, Katie Schriewer, Teri Stecker, Eileen Gustavus.

**T.O.E.S. (Individual)  
Feb. 5**

Flight 1: 53-Gayla Aldridge. 58-Sandy Snyder. 59-Faun Doctor. 60-Dawn Carroll.  
Flight 2: 47-Mary Smith. 52-Kathleen Goodwin. Tie at 56-Brenda Hofmann, Karen Schroeckenthaler. 59-Janette Sheil.  
Flight 3: Tie at 55-Angelita Jingco, Teri Stecker. 57-Karen Campbell. 59-Patty Whitley.  
Flight 4: 53-Beth Wolinsky. 55-Cynthia Gersten. 56-Marlena LaClair. 63-Carol Carney.

**Candler Hills Men's Golf**

Kevin Hermida



We've had a great start to the new year and look forward to all the great enhancements this year, including the par-3 course. The renovations and enhancements to the course are doubly aided by the outstanding weather we have started the year with. Enjoy the added health benefits of getting out and playing more golf.

We first thank the outgoing Candler Hills Men's Golf Association (CHMGA) board members for their time and talent: Mike Cunningham, Rick Pettit, and

Dave Falcone for their dedication and commitment, while also welcoming our new board members.

Connect with like-minded individuals, build lifelong friends, and find a consistent group to play with by joining the CHMGA. We welcome you to a supportive environment that offers camaraderie, structured competition, skill development, and easier access to play with flights for players of all skill levels.

Regular golf offers significant health advantages. Ask for details at the Candler Hills Golf Shop.

Does my swing affect what golf ball I should use? Ask our pros about the best golf balls to use based on your skill level and swing speed. Swing does affect distance, and using the correct balls can substantially increase ball flight and dis-

tant. Yes, what the pros use may not be the best. The most important factor is the number of layers in the golf ball. The number of layers in a golf ball can affect height, distance, spin, and feel. Two-piece, three-piece, and desired spin rate and attack level all have an effect on which balls are best to increase and maximize your play. Check the compression on the package.

Slower swings benefit from low compression balls for a more spring-like effect, while faster swings need higher compression balls to maximize energy transfer. That's why some people judge the quality of balls based on how they hit, though you may not agree with the opinion. And judging by the balls I find in my yard, we could all look into that.

Gerald Ford once said, "I know I'm getting better at golf because I'm hitting fewer spectators."

**Individual Quota  
Jan. 6**

Flight 1: 71-Jeff Richardson, 80-Mike Bernhardt, 79-Steve Parker, 77-Rick Pettit, 79-Jock Sneddon, 82-Larry Skoch.  
Flight 2: 76-Jon Hill, 80-Patrick Nagy, 80-Kenneth Franks, 82-John Paul, 81-Jeffery Holmes, 81-Mark Gumm  
Flight 3: 76-Donnie Perkins, 77-Bill Gurbisz, 83-Tom Presnick, 85-John Herman, 83-Steven Rudolph, 84-Ken Acox.  
Flight 4: 84-Patrick Whitley, 83-Mike Kelly, 85-Brad Best, 87-Michael Cunningham, 88-Doug Buckler, 89-Jeff Gerber.  
Flight 5: 81-Edward Galuska, 81-Paul Rubly, 85-Rick Plesea, 86-Jim Weaver, 88-Michael Altomare, 92-Gerry Messenger.  
Flight 6: 82-Dennis McCourt, 85-Steve Wrazen, 84-Virgil Jajalla, 84-Charlie Taylor, 87-David Metzger, 85-Gary Niland.  
Flight 7: 86-James Morgan, 94-Tom Nutt, 93-Howard Gluckman, 90-Tim Beaty, 90-Ken Zweiback, 95-Omer Fannin, 97-Kevin Hermida  
Flight 8: 102-Carl Forsberg, 85-Don Wheller, 90-Walter Knautz, 88-John Evans, 99-Ronald Imus, 95-Bill Kenyon.

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Photo by Shizuka Campagna

POP tennis celebrates the New Year.

**POP Tennis**



**Beth Smith**

POP tennis may be known for its fast pace and social vibe, but winter proves that dedication to the game doesn't hibernate. As temperatures drop, POP tennis players bundle up, adapt their strategies, and continue to enjoy the camaraderie that makes the sport so special.

Cold weather presents unique challenges for the POP tennis court. Balls don't bounce quite as high, hands stiffen faster, and muscles need extra time to warm up. Smart players adjust by allowing longer warm-ups, wearing layers that can be removed as play heats up, and focusing on controlled shots rather than pure power.

Footing also becomes more important in winter. Cooler mornings can leave courts damp or slick, so proper shoes and awareness are key. Many players find that rallies become more strategic during colder months, emphasizing placement, patience, and teamwork.

Despite the chill, there's something energizing about playing POP tennis outdoors in winter. The crisp air, quieter courts, and shared determination create

a sense of accomplishment that feels especially rewarding after a good match.

We meet every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8 a.m. at The Arbors lower courts. We have paddles for newcomers, so you can try it out or come by to observe.

For general inquiries or more information, contact Shizuka Campagna at shizukacampagna@gmail.com or Brenda Foster at brenda@gcfonline.com regarding coaching sessions and clinics.

The spirit of togetherness was on full display at our New Year's POP potluck dinner on Thursday, Jan. 22, held at the Candler Hills Community Center. Players and friends gathered off the court to celebrate the new year, share great food, and enjoy each other's company. The potluck was a reminder that POP tennis isn't just about matches and scores – it's about friendships and having fun together.

As winter continues, POP tennis players will keep showing up, proving that passion for the game doesn't depend on perfect weather. Whether it's a brisk morning match or a warm evening spent reminiscing at a potluck, POP tennis remains a year-round sport fueled by enthusiasm and community.

So, layer up, stretch a little longer, and keep playing. Spring will come soon enough – but until then, the POP tennis courts are still open!

**Ohio Buckeyes Social Club**

**Tami Rossignol**



On Wednesday, Jan. 21, the Ohio Buckeyes Social Club held its annual board and membership meeting with over 55 members in attendance. New bylaws were voted on and approved, along with the new two-year terms of board members: John Rossignol, president; Ron Lombardo, vice president; Dave Ruhlen, treasurer; Tami Rossignol, secretary; and Social Committee Co-Chairs Rita Boyce and Gwyn Pinson. A big thank you goes out to our past board members, Gregg Keidel, Chris Moretto, Amy Ingram, and Social Committee Chair Becky Green, for their excellent work. Dave Ruhlen has remained on as treasurer.

Be sure to save the date for our next big event, a Spring Forward Party with

a cookout, on Saturday, March 14, at the Veterans Park pavilion. There will be games and a large Ohio Buckeyes Club group photo, so don't miss out.

In addition, events for the year include a Final Four watch party, a derby party and bourbon tasting, an Independence Day cookout and ice cream social, a Halloween party, our annual holiday party, and many fall football game watch parties. The social committee is planning other smaller interest-driven social gatherings.

Do you have ties to Ohio, or do you love all things Ohio? 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 buckeyefans34481@gmail.com. Annual dues are \$20 per person, and the club is open to any resident with ties to or interests 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

Ohio Buckeyes Social Club new board members: Rita Boyce, Tami Rossignol, Ron Lombardo, Dave Ruhlen, and John Rossignol.

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**Broadway & Tap Dancing**

Elaine Voorhis



ishing with “Steam Heat” and “Roxie” from the Broadway play, Chicago. They got their sexy on, throwing kisses, winking, and waving to the audience! Many of us received compliments from vendors and attendees as we walked around after the show.

We look forward to the opportunity to do it again next year!

Currently, the Broadway classes are learning new dances and continuing to practice older routines for upcoming performances. We will be ready to put on our informal end-of-session performance for you on Friday, Feb. 27, at 1 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. All residents are welcome, and it’s free. Mark your calendar and watch for reminders here and on several community Facebook pages.

For these performances, we run through our routines a few times to make sure we’ve eliminated any kinks, and then we’ll be videotaped. These videos are very helpful to us because they are a great resource when we want to bring back an older routine.

Don’t forget, we’re available to perform for your club, neighborhood gathering, or event. If you’re interested, contact “Broadway Moves with Penny” (tap and Broadway classes) at [broadway-andtap@yahoo.com](mailto:broadway-andtap@yahoo.com). We’ll be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Lastly, I’ve seen this on several dancers’ T-shirts: “You don’t stop dancing when you get old; you get old when you stop dancing.” I think that says it all, so keep on dancing!

It’s been a long winter! Hopefully, the winter weather has returned to the north where it belongs. At least we didn’t have to shovel it! Soon enough, if it hasn’t happened already, we can trade our heavier jackets and long pants for our lighter clothing and sandals as the days get longer and the sun shines brighter. I’ll bet some of you brave souls out there never gave up your sandals, did you?

Since my last column, the “Broadway Moves with Penny” dancers performed at the Health & Wellness Expo. What a great time! Were you there? It was so exciting to be on stage and entertain the community with our routines.

Sure, it takes time and effort to learn our dances, but the physical and mental rewards are worth it. We take practice seriously, meeting once a week for class and once a week for practice. Then there’s the occasional dancing down the aisles of Publix when one of our songs comes on!

The tap dancers did “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy” by Bette Midler, drawing a lot of whooping and clapping, followed by a great routine to Ed Sheeran’s “Shivers.” The Broadway dancers performed “Friend Like Me” from Aladdin and Gloria Estefan’s “Get on Your Feet,” fin-



Photo by Joe Spencer

Dancers from Monday line dance classes dressed for Mardi Gras.

**Line Dancing**

Joe Spencer



Come join our fun family of line dance friends and learn the newest mainstream dances done throughout the world, as well as popular classics. We use all types of music. There are four class levels: the easiest is AB (Absolute Beginner), followed by Beginner, Improver, and Intermediate.

The first three levels are on Mondays in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Weber’s Intermediate class is on Tuesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Studio D. Many dancers purchase tickets for multiple levels to get more exercise and learn more dances.

The first three levels also have practice sessions on Wednesdays. Practice is the key. The more practice, the better. In addition to classes and practice sessions, there are also line dance socials. The next fun social will be on Sunday, March 22, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom, where dancers can dance the dances they learned in Monday classes.

There will also be another official line dance workshop in September with two top instructors and lunch.

If you would like to join the classes,

the next session will be in May/June. Tickets go on sale on the OTOW App from Tuesday, April 7, through Friday, April 17. AB, Beginner, and Improver classes are one hour on Mondays, plus practice on Wednesdays for \$25. Intermediate is a two-hour session on Mondays for \$50.

If you are just starting or are trying a new level mid-year (line dance year is September through June), please keep in mind that many of the others have been dancing since September, so there may be some dances that you may not know or need to catch up on. We always recommend that you focus on the new dances being taught; you will pick up the others eventually. Line dancing is not exact. Feel free to make variations. For example, if you don’t like turning, take out the turns. Do what works for you and just remember to have fun.

Line dancing is like therapy. It offers numerous significant health benefits, both physical and mental. Many dancers notice their statistics improving after only a few months of dancing. It keeps us moving.

Keep in mind that line dancing takes time to learn. On average, a new line dancer may take months to understand the basics. No partner needed. We laugh a lot and make “variations.” This is an effective way to meet new people.

If you have any questions, email [joeship1@yahoo.com](mailto:joeship1@yahoo.com) (AB-Improver) or [yfwen@yahoo.com](mailto:yfwen@yahoo.com) (Intermediate).



Photo by Steve Warren

Broadway Moves tap class performs “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy” at the Health & Wellness Expo.



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**Poms Dance & Cheer**



**Pamela Kalamaras**

January has flown by as we kicked off the new year by revamping our sock-hop theme. The 50s-style routine has been a hit throughout our community and in Ocala. We enjoyed performing this theme at the Health & Wellness Expo in January and the Club Fair in February.

In February, we started our performances at various senior retirement communities throughout Ocala. We hope to brighten the day with our lively dance and cheers. Our first stop was our annual visit to Brookdale Canopy Oaks. Our goal was to continue to spread joy and friendship as we head into spring. Stay tuned for future residence dates.

This month, we shine the spotlight on Glenda Munsell, also known as "Blondie." She started her early childhood in Kentucky before moving to South Florida. Glenda is a graduate of Riviera Beach High School and Palm Beach Junior College. She then pursued a 30-year career as a dental assistant. Glenda has been married for 25 years to her husband, Rick, a veterinarian, retired Navy captain, and our personal videographer and photographer. They started their retirement in The Villages, where Glenda participated as a 12-year member of the Silver Rockettes. She was also a Village Cheerleader and danced, for seven years, with the Orlando Magic Silver Stars. (The Orlando Magic is one of three teams in the NBA that have a senior dance squad.) Glenda, one of our original members, is passionate about fitness and visits the Recreation Center every morning.

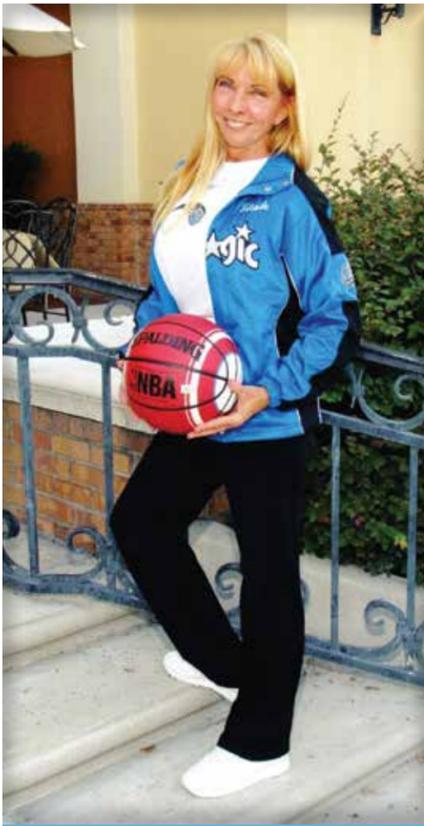


Photo by Rick Munsell

Glenda Munsell.

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

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

**Country Line Dancing**



**Judy Sullivan**

The cold front that swept through Florida in January and February was a harsh reminder that even the Sunshine State isn't immune to chilly weather! For those of us who moved here to escape the cold, it was a bit of a shock. Luckily, most of our dancing takes place indoors, so the only real challenge was braving the cold to get from the car to the building. Once inside, we warmed up in just one or two dances.

February was a blast with a disco-theme, transporting us straight back to the '70s and '80s. We learned new dances to "How Deep is Your Love," "Night Fever," and "Stayin' Alive," each danced to the music of the same name. We spent the rest of the class grooving to other classic disco hits we all know and love. My personal favorite was attempting the iconic John Travolta move from "Saturday Night Fever," where the arm moves diagonally up and down - you know the one! We may not have had Travolta's flair, but the energy and laughter in the room more than made up for it.

Looking ahead, we're gearing up for more fun at our upcoming social dances on Friday, March 20, and Saturday, March 28. Social dances are always filled with friends, laughter, and plenty of spinning, stepping, and twirling on the dance floor. With warmer weather in March, we'll have more opportunities to enjoy outdoor dancing. The popular Boots & Beats line dancing, led by Chuck and Donna, continues Wednesdays at The Town Square from 6 to 8 p.m. - perfect for those evenings when the chill has lifted.

Couples waltz classes are gaining momentum as well. Many beginners are blossoming into confident dancers, picking up steps and patterns faster than ever. At their request, we've even added some non-waltz couple dances, which are proving to be a hit! Some dancers find line dance rhythms easier, while others shine on waltz beats - no matter the style, the joy of movement is what counts.

As March unfolds, it's the perfect time to shake off winter blues and let the music move you. Whether it's trying a new dance style, perfecting a favorite move, or enjoying a lively social dance with friends, there's something for everyone on the dance floor this month. So, lace up your dancing shoes, step into the rhythm, and make March a month to dance and celebrate!

If you want to join the fun, please register for classes through the OTOW App. You can sign up for May and June classes during the April registration window (from the first Tuesday through the second Friday). I look forward to dancing with you.

For more information, visit our Facebook page (OTOW Country Line Dancing with Judy). The YouTube channel is Country Line Dancing with Judy. If you have any questions, please email CountryLineDancingWithJudy@yahoo.com.

**Billiards Club**



**Phil Panzera**

We're in between league and tournament results, social events, and other club happenings, so there's not much to report. Here are some fun facts and billiard trivia which you might find interesting.

The term "scratch," for pocketing the cue ball, came from pool's early days. The score was often kept on a chalkboard, and when a player pocketed the cue ball, his opponent "scratched" a point off the shooter's score.

The earliest documented record of a billiard table was made in 1470. In an inventory of French King Louis XI's possessions, his table was described as a bed of stone, a cloth covering, and a hole in the middle of the playing field, into which balls were driven.

The first billiard room was built in England in 1765. Played there was one-

pocket, on a table with one pocket and four balls.

The first coin-operated billiard table was patented in 1903. The cost of a game on the first pay-for-play table was one penny.

Throughout most of the 1800s, the chalk used on cue tips was carbonate of lime, better known as blackboard chalk. Most chalk used today is composed of fine abrasives and does not contain a speck of chalk.

At times, including during the Civil War, billiard results received wider coverage than war news. Players were so renowned that cigarette cards were issued featuring them.

Billiard balls were originally made out of ivory. Unfortunately, billiard balls had to be cut from the exact center of a tusk, and the average tusk yielded only three to four balls. Thankfully, plastics were invented, so we still have elephants!

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**Jazz Dance Club**



Liz Elliott Lieberman

It is such a joy to continue doing what I love here at On Top of the World. I want to thank all the wonderful ladies who attend the Monday 10 a.m. class in the Arbor Conference Center Studio D. We learn routines that some of the group will eventually perform. Still, I want to take this opportunity to emphasize that you do not have to perform if you come to the jazz dance classes.

The Ovation Dancers are the performing wing of this club, and we continue from 11 a.m. to noon to further rehearse and place dancers in their stage positions. Many of the ladies have performed in the Murder Mystery Club as The Ovation Dancers, but you are welcome to come and learn our routines without performing.

Last year, the Ovation Dancers were

truly remarkable in the “Haunting of Ashford High” and the “Haunting of Weybourne High.” They will appear in the new murder mystery, “At the Copacaloca,” for the Latinos Club on Saturday, May 30. Ticket information will be posted in the Latinos Club column.

The Ovation Dancers are planning to pay tribute to women’s roles in the military during the Memorial Day services and remembrances on Monday, May 25, at the Recreation Center. From those days as nurses during World War I to the iconic “Rosie the Riveters” of World War II and up to the present, these brave women will be celebrated through music and choreography, and we hope you will attend the ceremonies here at On Top of the World. Charlie Calhoun, of the Veterans Club, will be announcing the itinerary in the May issue of the World News.

If you are interested in dancing with us, please come and check out our classes and rehearsals: 10 to 11 a.m. for those just wanting to dance and learn new choreography; and 11 a.m. to noon for



Photo by Percy Millet

The Ovation Dancers.

The Ovation Dancers, every Monday at the Arbor Conference Center Studio D. You are welcome to come and watch a class with an appointment.

For any additional information, please contact Liz Lieberman at Lizzy-lieberman@gmail.com or 702-378-6300.

**Ballet**



Eugenie Martin

In February, we enjoyed participating in the Club Fair at the Circle Square Cultural Center. It is interesting to see so many different organizations participating and to meet so many new residents. This is our 20th year of operation, when

Cheryl Sloan and I started the club with one teacher – me – and two beginner classes per week.

We now have five teachers and five classes per week. Our classes are free, except for a one-time \$5 registration fee.

We enjoy socializing with each other, especially at our holiday party at Mimi’s Cafe, which member Pam Kalamaros beautifully coordinates each year. Our dancing helps work off any overindulgence at our parties!

All of our classes are geared toward more mature dancers. Since dancers

join our classes with varying levels of experience, we offer a range of classes from beginner to advanced technique. We also offer a Silver Swans class, created by the Royal Academy of Dance. It was created specifically for mature dancers and is taught by Liz Lieberman, a graduate of the Academy and licensed by the Academy to teach it.

Below is a list of our weekly classes:

- Beginner: Thursdays, 1 to 2:15 p.m.
- Advanced Beginner: Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

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

Our classes are held at the Arbor Conference Center Studio D. Ballet attire is not required for newcomers. All that is needed is exercise clothes, socks, and a bottle of water. For additional information, please call Eugenie Martin at 352-854-8589. Happy dancing!

**Meditation Group**



Domenica Genovese

If you’re skeptical that sitting quietly for 20 minutes could actually improve

your health, you’re not alone. Many of us came to meditation wondering if it was all just hype. Turns out, the research is pretty convincing.

Regular meditation has been shown to lower blood pressure, reduce stress hormones, improve sleep quality, and even boost immune function. Studies suggest it can help with chronic pain

management, sharpen focus, and reduce inflammation in the body. For those of us experiencing the particular joys of being 55-plus, meditation offers real, measurable benefits without a prescription or co-pay.

But here’s what the studies don’t capture: the relief of having one hour a week where nobody expects you to be anywhere else or do anything else. Just show up, sit down, breathe, and join in our discussion period.

Each Tuesday, our group gets together for a short reading, 20 minutes of silent meditation, and thoughtful conversation about how mindfulness shows up in daily life. No chanting, no incense, no

pressure to twist yourself into uncomfortable positions or achieve enlightenment by 2 p.m. Some of us have been meditating for years; others are brand new. All are welcome.

If you’ve been curious about meditation, or if your doctor has suggested ways to manage stress, consider joining us.

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

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**Archery Club**



Robin Schiltz

Mark your calendar for Thursday, March 26, at 10 a.m., when the Archery Club hosts its exciting spring open house at the Veterans Park pavilion. If you've ever wondered what it's like to send an arrow flying toward the target, this is your chance to channel your inner Robin Hood or Katniss Everdeen in a fun, welcoming environment.

Start your visit at the pavilion, where our members will greet you and register you. Then hop on a golf cart ride to the range at the back of the park for a guided tour.

The highlight of the day? You'll get to shoot a few arrows yourself (all equipment provided), with our experienced instructors by your side to help you aim for that satisfying bullsseye.

Afterwards, head back to the pavilion to chat with club members about your experience, ask questions, and enjoy some good company. This event is the perfect way to see what archery is all about - no experience or equipment needed, just enthusiasm!

The Archery Club manages the range at Veterans Park. We have members of all skill levels, from those who have never picked up a bow to competitively ranked archers. A wide range of equipment is available for those new to archery or returning after a long hiatus. We have a well-equipped maintenance shop to keep club and personal archery equipment tuned for top performance. We also offer workshops for members to learn how to care for their personal equipment and to assist with maintaining club equipment.

Additionally, we have practitioners of the martial art of kyudo. If you would like to learn more about this archery discipline, please stop by the range on Wednesdays from 2 to 4 p.m. or contact Brenda Foster (brenda@gcfonline.com).

Every Friday, we host "Freestyle Friday" from 9 a.m. to noon. Club mentors are at the range to assist our novice archers with skill improvement. If you are considering joining the club, this is a great opportunity to meet members, learn more about archery, and have fun. If you would like a quick introduction to the club, please stop by during Freestyle Friday. Membership is open to all residents with a valid resident ID or a Gateway of Services pass.

For more in-depth knowledge, Patty Hoppe hosts "Archery Fundamentals and Shooting" workshops for our mem-

bers at the range on the third Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. Topics vary

hoo, mackerel, marlin, tuna, roosterfish (catch and release), and bonita.

Locally, recent cold weather has led to a significant slowdown in fishing. Colder water affects fishing by causing fish kills and negatively affects spawning. The sub-freezing air temperatures also affect manatees and sea turtles.

Despite the cold weather, club members recently went 38 miles fishing offshore, catching hogfish, red grouper, grunts, porgies, and sea bass.

The Ocala Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring a free Spring Senior Citizen Fishing Derby on Monday, April 27, from 9 a.m. to noon. This is an annual event at Lake Tuscahilla in the City of Ocala. It is a "catch and release" event, free to those 50 and older. Lunch, prizes, bait, and limited tackle are provided. Spaces are limited, and registration is required.

OTOWInfo.com

**Call of the Wild Sports Club**

Steve Sekac & Wayne Phillips



The Call of the Wild Sports Club consists of 120 hunting, shooting, and fishing enthusiasts. Its members regularly participate in trap, skeet, sporting clays, and pistol shooting, as well as in freshwater and saltwater fishing outings. If this is your calling, please join us on the first Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. For more information, contact Wayne Phillips at 571-237-0520.

Four club members recently returned from a successful fishing trip to Cabo San Lucas on the southern tip of the Baja Peninsula. Tom Grasser, Ron Vessels, Rick Meister, and Steve Sekac spent five days fishing and caught mahi mahi, wa-

# MARCH 2026 FITNESS

## RECREATION FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

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

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

## ARBOR FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	STRONG* LILLIAN	STRONG* LILLIAN	HIIT RONA	STRONG* LILLIAN	STRONG* JOHN C.
9:00 am	Yoga SANDRA	Pilates Fusion JOE	Yoga JOE	Pilates Fusion LORI	Yin Yoga MELANIE
10:00 am	STRONG JOHN C.	STRONG* DENISE	STRONG JOE	STRONG* JOHN	STRONG RONA
11:00 am	Yoga* LILLIAN	Yoga SANDRA	Yoga* TRESH	Yoga SANDRA	ABC Yoga* TRESH
4:00 pm	Muscle Fit WICKA	Strong and Steady WICKA		Interval Training WICKA	Dance Fit WICKA

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

SCAN QR CODE TO VIEW THE ARBOR FITNESS CENTER INDOOR POOL SCHEDULE

monthly, and a fun shoot is held following each workshop.

Interested in becoming a member? Visit otowarcheryclub.org > New Members and download the application form and required waivers. For additional in-

formation or next steps to join the club, please contact Chuck at chuck-archery@strickland.net or 407-257-9668, or Suzanne at suzanne.shea61@gmail.com or 908-510-5714. As always, keep it in the yellow.

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# Sustainable LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

**Top Pickleball Club**

Nate Snook



point for our community. The sport's combination of light physical activity, friendly competition, and community engagement makes it an ideal recreational option for our residents seeking both wellness and social connection.

The Top Pickleball Club has grown into one of the largest and most active social clubs in the community, boasting more than 650 members. While many join for the love of the game, members often stay for the friendships and sense of belonging the club provides. Players do not need to be highly competitive or experienced to participate. Pickleball can be enjoyed purely for recreation, exercise, or social interaction, making it accessible to beginners and seasoned players alike.

The club hosts a wide range of activities throughout the year, including member appreciation days featuring donuts and snacks, social mixers, and organized play sessions. As the saying

goes, there is truly something for everyone. Members can choose to play casual, easygoing games or take part in leagues, tournaments, and other competitive events for those seeking a greater challenge.

One of pickleball's greatest advantages is how easy it is to learn. The rules are simple, the court is smaller than a tennis court, and the pace of play is manageable for most fitness levels. The sport also requires only basic equipment, typically a paddle, a ball, and appropriate shoes, making it an affordable option for newcomers.

To support players at every level, the Top Pickleball Club offers a comprehensive training program ranging from novice to advanced instruction. Our team of certified instructors and experienced volunteers helps members improve their skills, understand the rules, and gain confidence on the court.

For residents, the club offers an "Intro

to Pickleball" class held every Monday at 10:30 a.m. and on the first Saturday of each month at the upper courts. Participants do not need to bring a paddle, as equipment is provided, though personal paddles are welcome. The class is designed to introduce the fundamentals in a relaxed, supportive environment.

Those interested in learning more about the club can visit [toppickleball-club.com](http://toppickleball-club.com) or find the group on the OTOW App under "Residents Clubs & Groups" by scrolling to the Top Pickleball Club. New members are always welcome.

Whether you are looking for exercise, competition, or simply a way to meet new people, the Top Pickleball Club offers an inviting place to get involved. The club encourages residents to visit the courts, join a game, and see firsthand why pickleball continues to grow in popularity nationwide.

**Table Tennis**

Mary Jeannotte



the Club Fair. Many members offered to volunteer to man the booth.

Our growing membership is clear from the rising turnout at scheduled sessions and open play. To accommodate the increasing number of players, a session designated as singles may switch to doubles. So if you see a bunch of people in the Arbor Conference Center Table Tennis Room with balls flying around, don't be intimidated. Members find a way to make room for everyone to play. A schedule of all sessions is posted on the bulletin board inside the room.

Currently, our beginner-level session

is on Fridays from 3 to 5 p.m. Intermediate sessions are on Tuesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. and Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Advanced sessions are held on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Saturdays, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Women's group sessions are on Mondays and Fridays, from 1 to 3 p.m., and Wednesdays, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. All level doubles sessions are on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays from 5:30 to 7 p.m., and on Saturdays from 1 to 3 p.m. All level singles are on Wednesdays, 1 to 3 p.m.

For further information, contact President Paul Stadterman at [ptstadterman@yahoo.com](mailto:ptstadterman@yahoo.com).

**Cornhole Club**

Ray Nault



Open play has been well attended on all three days despite the unusually cold temperatures. Remember that annual dues were collected in January. \$10 per person will cover equipment and the picnic.

Monday and Wednesday are the most heavily attended, but Thursday is gaining popularity. Equipment will be set out at 4 p.m. for practice, with league play beginning when the first 20 players arrive. Please don't come before 4 p.m. If more than 20 players show, they will have the option to wait for the first available court (which usually doesn't take very long) or play in the grassy area next to the regular courts.

We welcome players of all skill levels. We offer a beginner's class to learn the techniques and rules of cornhole. The classes are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. To register for the class, please email Linda Nault at [Lnault52@gmail.com](mailto:Lnault52@gmail.com). Cornhole is played at the Veterans Park.



Photo by Mary Jeannotte

Players getting ready to play.

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**Weight Loss Group**



**Lori Beth Green**

positive reinforcement from the group. There are two opportunities to meet each week. On Mondays, we meet in the Hobby Building Art Studio. Weigh-in starts at 4:30 p.m., and the meeting begins at 5 p.m. The leader is Lois Trepper. On Tuesdays, we meet in the Arbor Activity Center Event Room I. Weigh-in starts at 9:15 a.m., and the meeting begins at 10 a.m. Beth Reynolds is the leader.

Visitors are always welcome. For questions and additional information about joining our group, please email Lois at ltreppe@att.net or Beth at doctroi@sbcglobal.net.

Are you ready to get healthier and reach your weight loss goals? Join the On Top of Weight Loss Group to find motivation and support alongside fellow members. You are welcome to use any food plan or exercise routine of your choice while receiving tips, suggestions, and



Photo by Cindy Frisch

On Top of Weight Loss Group members come together to celebrate at our annual winter party.

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**Bocce Club**



**Kathy Nastally**

We welcome March! We're hoping you got all your kisses for Valentine's Day, but if you didn't, here is a kiss for you! A kiss in bocce is where the pallina, the small ball, and the larger ball have been rolled and end up touching each other. This is supported by two opposing players who see no space between the balls. A kiss equals two points if another player's rolled ball does not displace it! Geometrically, a double kiss or a triple kiss is possible, but it is a difficult task to achieve. You might get lucky and get a bocce kiss, but it is not because of four-leaf clovers or the hiding leprechauns on the courts!

We are in the final quarter of our league season. We've missed some games due to cold weather. League representatives have worked hard to keep us out of inclement weather. We will cancel play if temperatures and/or wind chills are below 40 degrees. The anticipation of weather watching has been like waiting for that school snow day.

Our substitutes have been fantastic and busy this season. Our teams have been very appreciative of the substitutes' availability. Even our "bye" team members have been helpful. Thank you, everyone, for filling in.

League play ends early April, and the best-of-bocce tournaments are scheduled as follows: Monday, April 13 (Longleaf Ridge at 4 p.m.) and Tuesday, April 14 (Tuesday/Thursday leagues at 9 a.m.). The open play tournament will be held on Wednesday, April 15, at 8:30 a.m. We invite you all to come out to watch and support the players, especially if you're interested in seeing how the game is played.

The courts are located behind the Arbor Fitness Center near the tennis courts. Open play is on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday leagues play at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Thursday league plays at 10 a.m. If you're interested in bocce, come by during any open play time, play three times before paying dues. Club dues are \$15. Everyone must complete the hold-harmless forms and present a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

The courts are available to anyone outside of scheduled league or open-play times. Grab some friends and neighbors and come on up. Crated balls are under the benches. There is lighting for nighttime play. A drinking fountain is available. For safety reasons, closed-toe shoes must be worn to play; no sandals or flip flops. Rules are posted on the bulletin board courtside and on the shed.

For more information, please contact President Pam Brown, 970-531-1890. Let the bocce balls roll! We wish you a fun St. Patrick's Day, and may your shenanigans keep you out of trouble.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

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**Shuffleboard**



**Walt Lamp**

**January**

Lynn Nelson, Ed Kunzweiler and Gib Mattson. 30-plus: Lynn Nelson, Pam and Larry Anderson, and Ray Nault.

On Saturday, March 21, our free Introduction to Shuffleboard will once again be taught by Paul Hodges on the courts at the Veterans Park. It will include rules highlights, scoring, safety, and the basics of shooting the puck. Open-toed shoes are not permitted.

We finally held our skills challenge on Saturday, Feb. 7. The rules and scoring sheets were distributed, and Rick was asked to serve as the referee for the morning. But this one was different. This was only an individual competition. Although they still lined up two players on each side, with black and yellow, they didn't play as a team as in normal shuffleboard. They were given a series of shots and skill competitions, with individual scores only recorded. The shots were pre-selected first for specific boxes, then for combination shots within two boxes. As each foursome was finished, the one with the highest score was compared with the others, and an overall champion was declared. And he was Scott Lyons!

**Horseshoes Club**



**Vern Kessler**

In January, the club pitched a total of 3,480 shoes, played 87 matches, and threw 524 ringers. That puts the club's ringer percentage for January at 15.06%.

**January**

62 (14 ringers)-John Bunyak. 60 (9 ringers)-Kevin Cullinane. 58 (13 ringers)-Don Delany. 52 (10 ringers)-Dave Laliberte. 37-Bruce Rollins. 36 and Rusty Roby.

John Bunyak had a winning percentage of 77.78% and a personal high ringer percentage of 35% for the month.

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

The Horseshoes Club is free to join and all equipment is provided. Just come out and join the fun.

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

Horseshoes are the most fun you can have with two and a half pounds of steel. Contact Vern Kessler at 321-268-3179 or vkmicheal214@gmail.com with any questions.

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Purchase tickets at:

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

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

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

**R/C Flyers Club**



Ray Ihlenburg

trying to get on another plane's "six" to cut it. When the call "stop combat" is made, no further scoring is allowed, and everyone still flying must land.

Some events include the combat event, followed by a gloves-off, full-contact session to decide the ace of the day. This is like a last-man-standing oval demolition derby, with the option of using a figure-eight format.

As hectic as this may seem, the Academy of Model Aeronautics AMA has a 32-page rule book covering several different classes of models. However, they each follow the basic format.

Our club flies in the open class, which allows pilots to fly anything, including any size propeller, motor, speed controller, and battery power system. The most important consideration is speed and agility. The most popular model appears to be a design that uses foam board for cost, durability, and speed of construction. The design features an ingenious method to transfer the entire power system and receiver from a damaged airframe to another standby airframe, or a "spare for the air."

The combat pilots are practicing, and if there are enough planes remaining airworthy, we hope to feature combat during the lunch break at our Spring Fly-In scheduled for Saturday, April 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Since the field is being moved to a new location, watch for further notice regarding the event location.

Fly good, watch your six, and land better.

R/C models are used to scare crows from blueberry fields and to tow targets for skeet-shooting enthusiasts. A new twist in R/C flying is aerial combat at many flying fields across the country. The R/C Flyers has a group of pilots who live for this!

Aerial combat is a contest that pits a group of pilots against each other in a high-speed dogfight. The basic idea of R/C combat is that each pilot tows a 30-foot crepe paper streamer in the air and gets points for cutting other pilots' streamers, as well as for keeping their own streamer intact. Each pilot also receives points for taking off on time and surviving the combat round. A round of combat lasts five minutes, after the initial one and a half minutes to get into the air.

Our club's format has everyone in the air simultaneously. It all starts with a preflight to ensure all planes are ready, then the call to start your engines (motor, since we fly electric) and launch within the next 90 seconds. Once all planes are airborne, the call "start combat" initiates the five-minute round, during which the dogfight takes place. Each pilot flies to protect his streamer while

**Co-Ed Recreational Softball**

Pat Wilbert



March and April are the two most sought-after months for outdoor sports. Not too cold and not too hot. Co-ed Recreational Softball is the right sport to participate in, as it offers opportunities to meet new friends, learn a new sport, and connect with amazing men and women who share a love of the sport.

Co-ed Recreational Softball involves two teams made up of men and women who play eight innings. Everyone can hit, play the outfield, enjoy the outdoors, and get exercise. We have recently seen a strong turnout each Saturday, with new people attending each week. Some have experience, and some have not played in over 20 years. You never lose the skills, but it might take a couple of weeks to get back to where we were.

We provide the batting equipment and some gloves. Bring yours down if you have one. We meet every Saturday at 9 a.m. with warmups and team picks at 9:15 a.m. Try not to be late, as it is difficult to change teams once they are chosen. Hope to see you there.

**Ladies Shuffleboard**

Lois Nix



January was very cold, causing many shufflers to stay home with a hot cup of coffee. Those of us who did shuffle wore jackets, hats, and even earmuffs.

If you would like to join us when the weather is warmer, we shuffle on Mondays at 5:30 p.m., and on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. To participate, you must present a valid resident ID or a Gateway of Services pass. The club's play schedule is posted on the bulletin board by the shuffleboard courts.

**January**

7-Sally Herrick. 6-Marge Adragna, Cindy Engler, Sandy Welch, Diane Wanat. 5-Dee Caple, Kathy Carle, Jeanine Hargis, Diane Laney, Barbara Russell.

**Rec Softball Club**

Bryan Tully



Winter is upon us, and the Rec Softball Club has commenced its winter season. This reporter has been unable to play and has been participating strictly as an observer. What has been observed is quite impressive. The advancement in the quality of play from season to season has been nothing short of phenomenal. If one takes into account that, due to various circumstances, there have been missing players on any given day, then there's no doubt that play quality is destined to improve even more when the rosters are full.

The players in the league are dedicated to playing their best and supporting their teammates, fighting through strains, sprains, and lately, weather that would make an Eskimo want to stay in his igloo. The standings currently reflect their prowess, with four of the six teams tied and only a game separating the other two.

Watching the game while not being able to play it provides a clarifying perspective; from my standpoint, there is no doubt that many high-quality people in this community choose to step between the lines.

This column previously noted that there is a lot of fun to be had at the ballpark on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Are you a fan of the batted ball? Come to the softball field. You'll see them flying everywhere, with some heading to the street and some being spectacularly caught.

Do you like going to comedy clubs to have some laughs? Come to the softball field. There's no cover charge, you won't be forced to buy two watered-down drinks, and it's a good bet you'll have more chuckles in the same amount of time.

Do you like attending concerts to hear good music? Come to the softball field. There's no charge for tickets, and every seat is good; make sure to wear comfortable shoes that won't wear down from toe-tapping.

See you at the field.



Photo by Ray Ihlenburg

Combat pilots Bret Angoe, Kurt Larson, Mitchell Schaff, Steve Armstrong, and Alex Fedele with their combat planes.

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R/C Sailing Club

Gene Mangold



chill of salt spray kicked up by winter gusts. For these crews, winter racing is a test of endurance against the elements.

The sweet spot is winter racing at Tuscawilla Park. While the morning begins with a skim of ice on the birdbath, the midday southern sun transforms the pond, pushing temperatures into a comfortable 50° to 60° range.

The DragonForce 95 (DF95) is a legendary choice for these conditions. Even though they are "little," they are engineered with a balanced rig that handles high-energy states surprisingly well.

When you're racing in those conditions, a few specific dynamics come into play that differ from summer drifting.

Because the DF95 is relatively light, those "miniature waves" act as significant hurdles. When you try to tack (come about), the boat quickly loses forward momentum. If the bow hits a chop right as you're crossing the eye of the wind, it's easy to get "in irons" and start making sternway.

When those masts are touching the water (broaching), you're seeing the limit of the boat's righting moment. In a DF95, if you're frequently "dragging the stick," it might be time to switch to a smaller sail plan (B or C rig) to maintain steering authority.

Completing a 300-yard rectangular course in three minutes means you're averaging about three miles per hour and a burst of four to five. While that sounds modest on land, for a small one-meter boat, scale-wise, that is an absolute tear across the water!

If you're finding yourself pushed backward during tacks, here are two quick tricks.

1. Before you initiate the tack, "fall off" a few degrees to gain maximum speed. Kinetic energy is your best friend when fighting through a head-on gust.
2. Just as the boom crosses the centerline, ease the sails slightly. This prevents the wind from "pinning"



Photo by Kemp Howland

Healing to the wind.

the boat down before it has regained forward motion.

We race every Sunday at noon. at 600 N.E. Watula Avenue, across from the basketball courts at Tuscawilla Park. For information, text Gene at 772-678-5101 or call Bernie at 816-678-3817. Visitors welcome. Free test drives!

Velo Sport Bicycle Club

Nick Arkon



light is vital for visibility, even during daytime rides. Carrying a small tool bag with a spare tube, tire levers, and a mini pump or CO2 inflator helps prepare riders for minor roadside repairs.

**CYCLING ATTIRE:** Appropriate clothing enhances comfort and control. Padded cycling shorts reduce saddle pressure and friction, especially on longer rides. Moisture-wicking shirts or jerseys help regulate body temperature, while cycling gloves improve grip, absorb vibration, and protect hands in the event of a fall.

**HYDRATION:** Hydration is especially important during long rides and in hot weather. Riders should drink eight to 10 ounces of water before starting and continue drinking small amounts regularly during the ride. Carrying a water bottle is essential to prevent dehydration. In addition to water, electrolyte-based sports drinks can help replace minerals lost through sweat and support sustained performance.

**UNDERSTANDING CADENCE AND GEARING:** Cadence is the rate at which you pedal. Maintaining a smooth cadence - typically between 70 and 90 revolutions per minute - helps reduce fatigue and joint strain. Proper gear selection allows riders to maintain a smooth cadence on hills and flat terrain. Avoid pushing high gears, as this increases knee and joint

pain. Instead, use lower gears and allow your legs to "spin" more freely. This raises heart rate while placing less strain on the legs and back.

**OPTIONAL BUT HELPFUL EQUIPMENT:** A bicycle computer helps track speed, distance, time, and cadence, allowing riders to monitor progress and ride more efficiently. Sunglasses protect eyes from the sun, wind, debris, and insects, while sunscreen guards against prolonged sun exposure.

Velo Sport Bicycle Club encourages seniors to stay active and healthy through cycling. This informal group

has no dues, no officers, and no titles - just people who enjoy riding together.

Beginner and intermediate meet on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at the Power Park. For specific details, contact Dan Oaks at 401-663-7085, Dennis Cicotte at 561-339-3588, or Dean Fesette at 561-542-1930.

For information about the advanced cycling, contact Nick Arkon at nickarkon1247@gmail.com.

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## Not Your Average Ukes

By Dave DeAngelis  
World News Writer

So, I'm looking into the mirror, trying to identify the cause of the scratchiness in my eye. My thought pattern drifted off into thinking about writing this article, and I found myself saying the word ukulele to myself in the mirror. But my mouth wasn't moving. Again and again ... same thing. No movement.

So I tried Uniqulele, the name of the group that this article is about. Same thing, just as easy. Now I'm thinking, "Hmmm, a side job as a ventriloquist, maybe?" That idea crashed and burned when I tried saying pomegranate, pineapple, and blueberry banana bread. The mouth was going all over the place. Back to writing about this upbeat group, Uniqulele.

Three years ago, five highly talented musicians and performers decided to create their own ukulele group and name it Uniqulele. An appropriate name it is, as they are quite unique. I had the good fortune of having a personal performance for our interview, and I can say that if you're hoping to hear "Puff the Magic Dragon" or Hawaiian-type songs ... that ain't happenin'. The repertoire of Uniqulele covers a broad spectrum of music, including selections such as "California Dreamin'" by The Mamas & The Papas, "Nights in White Satin" by The Moody Blues, "Sunny" by Bobby Hebb, "Games People Play" by The Spinners, and the list goes on!

So, who are the Uniquleles, these five musicians who also sing solos and play instruments in addition to the ukulele?

Mike Gerbo started playing guitar at age 12 and eventually studied voice at Detroit Bible College. Mike is also a woodworker, a published author, and he teaches intermediate ukulele. In addition to the ukulele, he plays the lap cajo, harmonica, and banjolele with the

group.

With a bachelor's degree in music education from Eastern Illinois University, Vicky Ludwig taught music for 40 years and has played the ukulele for five years. She plays ukulele, bass ukulele, and flute for Uniqulele, and plays flute in the Kingdom of the Sun band.

David Stewart started playing guitar as a teenager and has been playing the ukulele for 20 years. He was in the advertising industry for 20 years and has a degree in philosophy from the University of Michigan. Dave also sold new homes for On Top of the World.

Dianna Kroll is probably the shyest

musician in the group (just kidding). Gifted with talent and an effervescent personality, Diana has played the trumpet since age eight, played the flute for 20 years, violin for two years, ocarina, and ukulele in the group. She also serves as the master of ceremonies and plays flute for Kingdom of the Sun Concert Band.

Jim Cleary is a graduate of Texas A&M in marine transportation and a retired captain in the Merchant Marine. He first began strumming the guitar in his early teens and picked up the ukulele in 2019. When you hear Jim sing, you'll think "George Harrison."

Their first performance as a bona fide music group was in Sholom Park, where they played for three hours straight. That duration wasn't planned at all. But as more visitors arrived at the park, a steady turnover of new listeners had the final say on when quittin' time was.

Achieving such success with their maiden performance set the path they travel on today. They play at venues such as Country Club of Ocala, The Lodge at Candler Hills, as well as churches, nursing homes, Kingdom of the Sun concerts, and various clubs, driveway chats, and neighborhood parties throughout the area. Avid musicians they are. Diana Kroll said that they will "play for food."

Check out Uniqulele. The next big concert for the general public will be at Countryside Presbyterian Church for their concert series on Wednesday, May 6, at 3 p.m., but they are available to book for smaller events.

You will not be disappointed and will want to see them again. Okay, I know, I know. You're gonna try the Uniqulele in the mirror thing now, aren't you?



Photo by Dave DeAngelis

Uniqulele consists of five highly talented musicians and performers.

## Spring Strings at Sholom Park

By Robert Colen

Sholom Park's popular Spring Strings concert series will present an electrifying headline performance featuring the internationally recognized Harp Twins joined by the Wolfgang Twins on Saturday, April 18, from 4 to 6 p.m. The event is presented in coordination with Master the Possibilities, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which is managing registration for the concert.

This unique production features two sets of identical twins on stage, combining dual electric harps, vocals, and Viking-inspired percussion for a visually striking, musically dynamic experience. Audiences can expect a wide-ranging program that moves from classic rock favorites such as The Rolling Stones and Metallica to haunting Celtic melodies, cinematic fantasy themes, and original Nordic-inspired compositions. Known for being "dazzling, comedic, and loved by audiences of all ages," the show blends humor, drama, and virtuosic mu-

sicianship throughout the performance.

Guests are invited to remain after the concert for a special meet-and-greet with both the Harp Twins and the Wolfgang Twins.

Gates open at 3 p.m., and no entry is allowed after 4:15 p.m. Admission is \$30 per person.

Advance registration is required and must be completed through Master the Possibilities at [masterthepossibilities.org](http://masterthepossibilities.org).

Attendees are encouraged to arrive early, bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets, and enjoy the beautiful garden setting before the performance begins. Given strong regional interest, early registration is recommended.

Proceeds from this event support Sholom Park's mission to remain open to the public free of charge year-round, helping preserve its gardens, walking paths, and peaceful natural spaces for the entire community.



Photo by courtesy of Harp Twins

Harp Twins are joined by the Wolfgang Twins on Saturday, April 18, from 4 to 6 p.m. at Sholom Park.



## Let's Jam at The Town Square

By Jessica Marshall

Spring is in the air, and The Town Square at Circle Square Commons is turning up the volume with the Spring Band Jam – a free, family-friendly evening of live music, dancing, and community fun on Saturday, March 21, from 5 to 9 p.m.

This lively outdoor event invites residents and visitors alike to enjoy a night of entertainment. The Spring Band Jam will feature multiple live band performances throughout the evening, including ShaToby from 5 to 6 p.m., Florida Hit Machine from 6 to 7:30 p.m. and Sugar Vibe from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Whether you love to dance or prefer to sit back and enjoy the music, there's something for everyone.

In addition to live music, guests can stroll through the cruise-in car show and admire an array of classic and custom vehicles. Families will appreciate the games and face painting available for kids, making this an easy win for parents looking for an evening that keeps everyone entertained. There will also be a 50/50 raffle benefiting Chuck's Piggy

Bank Inc., giving attendees the opportunity to support a meaningful local cause while having fun.

Food lovers won't be disappointed. A variety of food trucks will be onsite offering delicious options to satisfy every craving, from savory meals to sweet treats. Thirsty? The Town Square Kiosk will be serving beer, wine, soda, and bottled water, so you can stay refreshed throughout the evening.

Don't forget to stop by the photo kiosk by Sensational Selfies to capture the memories. Whether you're attending with friends, family, or as a date night, it's the perfect chance to snap a fun keepsake from the evening.

The Spring Band Jam is free, open to the public, and weather permitting. Bring your lawn chairs, your dancing shoes, and your love of good vibes for a night that celebrates music, community, and the joy of springtime at Circle Square Commons.

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

Recreation

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



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

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

**Social Committee**

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

**Recreation Center**

**Happy Hour (Free)**

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

- March 6: 4 for the Road
- March 13: Hwy 94
- March 20: Groove 41
- March 27: Area 81

**Music at the Pool Pavilion (Free)**

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

- Monday, March 2: Bill Billotti
- Sunday, March 8: Tim Hargis
- Saturday, March 14: Donna Carrier
- Wednesday, March 18: Tony T & Deb Owen
- Sunday, March 22: Tony Machicote
- Monday, March 23: Crescent 4

**Tropic Trivia Tickets**

If you would like to try your hand at Tropic Trivia, April tables will be on sale Tuesday, March 3, through Friday, March

13. A team representative can purchase a table for the entire team each month. Tables of eight sell for \$40 on the OTOW App. After your purchase, please visit the Recreation Department to select your table. First-come, first-served.

**Karaoke (Free)**

Karaoke is always fun! Sing your heart out or simply enjoy the music. Karaoke is the second Thursday of each month at the Recreation Center Ballroom from 5 to 8 p.m. A \$5 guest fee applies.

**Ladies Night (Free)**

Ladies, you are invited to join us on Tuesday, March 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. Curtis Frazier is the musical guest for this night. Bring your beverages and snacks. See you there! \$5 guest fee applies.

**Room Bookings Information Meeting**

This informative meeting will review policies and procedures and OTOW App usage for room bookings in 2026, on Thursday, March 19, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. If you have never attended or need a refresher, please feel free to attend. No sign-up needed.

**Movie Night (Free)**

Join us for a cinematic night out! The movie license covers only the Recreation Center Ballroom; therefore, we are unable to transfer its use to other buildings. Join us on Thursday, March 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. for "Anaconda" (PG-13, one hour and 40 minutes). Free popcorn and The Pub will be open. Feel free to bring snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. Please note that the ballroom will not be accessible as a cut-through to or from the pool or The Pub during this time. Please make your way around the building so that the darkness of the "theater" can be preserved and uninterrupted.

**Ballroom Dance Class**

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

**Home Improvement Expo**

Thinking of making changes or upgrades to your house? Need some good ideas or advice? Ask the pros! Visit the Home Improvement Expo at Circle Square Cultural Center on Saturday, March 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event is free. Representatives from On Top of the World and World Home Improvements will be there to answer questions regarding home modifications.

**Black and White Big Band Night (Free)**

Join us for an evening of the roaring '20s on Thursday, March 26, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. The music of Paul DeRitter and his band will lead the night of Great Gatsby-themed fun. Let your inner gangster or flapper out and dress for the evening if you're so inclined! \$5 guest fee applies.

**The Lodge at Candler Hills**

**Virtual & Live Fitness Classes (Free)**

Have fun, and get fit every Monday

and Wednesday.

- Mondays (9 a.m.): Chair Pilates with a "livestream" instructor.
- Mondays (10 a.m.): Chair Yoga with a "livestream" instructor.
- Wednesdays (9 a.m.): Total Body Conditioning with loop bands and a live instructor.

**Chair Volleyball (Free)**

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

**From the Top Line Dance Class (Free)**

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

**Open Game/Card Play (Free)**

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

**Kocktails & Karaoke (Free)**

Grab the microphone and feel right at home as you sing with your neighbors cheering you on! Join the fun on Thursday, March 5, from 5 to 8 p.m. with Charlie and Kathy Petrosky. Bring your favorite beverages and table snacks, and get ready for lots of laughs and great tunes. \$5 guest fee applies.

**Happy Hour (Free)**

Join us from 5 to 8 p.m. for Happy Hour with great company, good vibes, and live music! Bring your favorite beverage and some table snacks, relax, and enjoy the event. \$5 guest fee applies.

- Saturday, March 7: Area 81
- Saturday, March 21: Groove 21

**Safety Training Class (Free)**

The Colen Built Development safety team will conduct a hands-only CPR class on Wednesday, March 11, from 2 to 4 p.m. All residents are encouraged to attend. Registration is required.

**Girls Night Out (Free)**

Hey ladies - let's dance! Shake off the day and join us Thursday, March 12, from 5 to 8 p.m. for a fun-filled evening with Tim Hargis. Bring your favorite drink, some table snacks, and your dancing shoes - good times guaranteed! \$5 guest fee applies.

**Musical Game Night**

Enjoy this musical fun night on Wednesday, March 18, from 5 to 7 p.m. Come and enjoy the game "PRIZEO" along with trivia and "Name That Tune." Tickets cost \$5 per resident and \$10 per guest.

**Indigo East Community Center**

**Happy Hour (Free)**

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

- March 6: Sound Waves Band
- March 13: Stragglers
- March 20: Area 81

**Trivia**

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

**Wine and Cheese (Free)**

Join us for an easygoing evening of snacks, music, and great company with neighbors and friends on Wednesday, March 18, from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring your



own wine or favorite beverage. Fruit and cheese platters will be provided (while supplies last). Enjoy the music with Linda Sisco. \$5 guest fee applied.

**Karaoke (Free)**

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

**Poolside (Free)**

Join us for fun in the sun with live music with Bill Billotti on Sunday, March 22, from 3 to 5 p.m. Bring your swimsuit, a towel, and your best energy. Let's make it a splash!

**Music Trivia**

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

**The Landing**

**Karaoke (Free)**

Shake off the cold and have some fun with your neighbors at karaoke night with Cheryl Jensen! Bring your singing voice, or just come to cheer others on, and enjoy a relaxed, welcoming evening together. Join us Monday, March 2, from 5 to 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

**Poolside Live Music (Free)**

Looking for a little sunshine and great music? Head poolside for a live performance by Sandra & Alex. Relax, enjoy the tunes, and soak up the afternoon vibes on Sunday, March 22, from 1 to 4 p.m. All are welcome.

**Game On (Free)**

Board, not bored! Grab your favorite board game and your gaming spirit for a night of friendly competition with your neighbors and friends on Wednesday, March 25, from 5 to 8 p.m. Bring your own drinks and snacks - and game on.

**Virtual & Live Fitness Classes (Free)**

- Have fun and get fit.
- Mondays (9 a.m.): Chair Pilates with a "livestream" instructor.
  - Mondays (10 a.m.): Chair Yoga with a "livestream" instructor.
  - Wednesdays (9 a.m.): Chair Yoga with an in-person instructor.
  - Fridays (9 a.m.): World-Class Active Aging pre-recorded class.

Visit the OTOW App to view the wellness schedule and see what to bring for each class.

**The Summit**

Happy Hour will take place every other Friday in the Ballroom once the facility opens. More information to come as things develop.

**On Top of the World BUS SCHEDULE**  
Monday - Thursday

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

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

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

AFTERNOON ROUTE	PICK-UP LOCATIONS AND TIMES
The Lodge at Candler Hills	1:15 p.m. Candler Hills Community Center 1:20 p.m.
Friendship Colony Post Office	1:25 p.m. Providence Post Office 1:28 p.m.
Avalon Post Office	1:33 p.m. Crescent Ridge Post Office 1:38 p.m.
Recreation Center	1:43 p.m. Americana Post Office 1:48 p.m.
Friendship Post Office	1:54 p.m.

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

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

For information, call 352-789-5666.

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**ONE-DAY EXCURSIONS**  
prices per person

Mar. 12	Zoo Tampa	\$103
Mar. 21	Mt. Dora Festival of Arts & Crafts	\$55
Mar. 21	St. Augustine Seafood Festival	\$69
Mar. 27	Clearwater Sugar Sand Festival	\$72
Apr. 1	Mazarro's Italian Market	\$60
Apr. 5	Easter on the Barbara Lee	\$147
Apr. 11	Piano Men: Generations	\$137
Apr. 22	A Day in Winter Park	\$87

**MULTI-DAY ADVENTURES**

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

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**Model Railroaders**

**Jim Lynam**



February was a month of club field trips. Mike Sieben facilitated and organized a tour of participating club members' home layouts. The first stop was to view Larry Luke's combination Lionel O scale and an intertwined HO scale, appropriately designed to provide forced-distance perspective. Larry's collection includes vintage Lionel steam engines from the 1950s and newer MTH locomotives with modern electronics. The consist included passenger trains, freight trains, and interurban trolleys.

The second stop was to Bud Alderman's house to see his enormous HO layout. He included both traditional DC-powered engines with transformers and a modern digital command-control system that communicates directly with the locomotive's circuit board. Bud's layout features several mainline tracks for through trains, with ample sidings for businesses, providing prototypical railroad operations for delivery and switching.

The next stop was to appreciate Ken Wagner's Lionel layout. Ken chose to employ Lionel's "O 30 gauge" tubular track, electromagnetic operating accessories, and traditional "plasticville" buildings and houses. He has also added a modern passenger train using the Pro 10 system.

Clay Barritts' entire garage is filled with Lionel and O-scale trains! Clay has engineered an electrically operated system to raise and lower a layout component to allow him to park his vehicle. Not only are his layouts spectacular, but his shelves showing his train collection display are beyond description! He even devised a way to display his rolling stock on tracks attached to the garage door, which remain affixed when the door is raised. Incredible!

PC Carr's favorite rail line is the Penn Central (PC), and the PC flag in his yard proudly welcomes all visitors. He also models Lionel O gauge trains. PC's layout exhibits very detailed scenery, telephone poles, and buildings. The last stop on the tour allowed members to view a new HO layout in progress. Mike Sieben recently retired and is diligently designing and building his layout. Recently, he hosted seminars relating to electronics and scenery construction, as he incorporates these into his layout.

Members of the club were also invited to a private viewing of a seven-and-one-half-inch gauge railroad. The locomotives and rolling stock are about waist-high, and people actually ride on them. This layout is the largest of its kind in Florida, with over three miles of track. The replica steam and diesel locomotives are incredibly accurate, right down to the valves and rivets.

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

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Photo by Jim Lynam

Bud Alderman's home layout.

**Tesla Owners & Enthusiasts Club**

**Dan Lack**



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

The major news about Tesla is that the company is discontinuing its two higher-priced models, S and X. The factory that manufactures these models will be repurposed to build the Optimus robots.

The computer monitor on the dashboard displays cars and trucks that exist around the vehicle as it moves through

traffic. New computer updates rolling out now will enable the vehicle to recognize and display two additional modes of transportation common in Marion County: horses and golf carts. This is another feature that makes the car fun to drive.

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

**On Top of the Wheels Car Group**

**Lyn Yanss**



Welcome to On Top of the Wheels, a car club dedicated to automotive enthusiasts. Our organization emphasizes the importance of personal connections built on a shared passion for cars. Our motto, "If it's special to you, it's special to us," reflects our commitment to celebrating individual automotive interests and fostering a welcoming environment for all members and visitors.

We hold a monthly gathering on the second Friday of each month at 8 a.m. in the Candler Hills Community Center. These meetings provide an opportunity for members to socialize, enjoy meals, and discuss upcoming events. Our group

prides itself on being friendly and inclusive, encouraging new members and visitors to join us.

Our members possess a diverse collection of vehicles, including classic and modern cars such as Triumphs, Corvettes, Chevilles, Mercedes-Benz, Studebakers, 1931 Model A Roadsters, 1935 Fords, 32 Ford Roadsters, Buick Wildcats, Dream Cruisers, GTOs, Shelby Mustangs, and many others. This variety highlights the rich automotive history and the wide range of interests within our club. Visitors are often surprised by the variety of vehicles in our members' garages, making each meeting a unique experience.

If you are interested in our activities, please contact our club president, Chuck Granger, at 217-816-3807 or cgranger2724@gmail.com. We welcome all automotive enthusiasts to join us and become part of our vibrant community.

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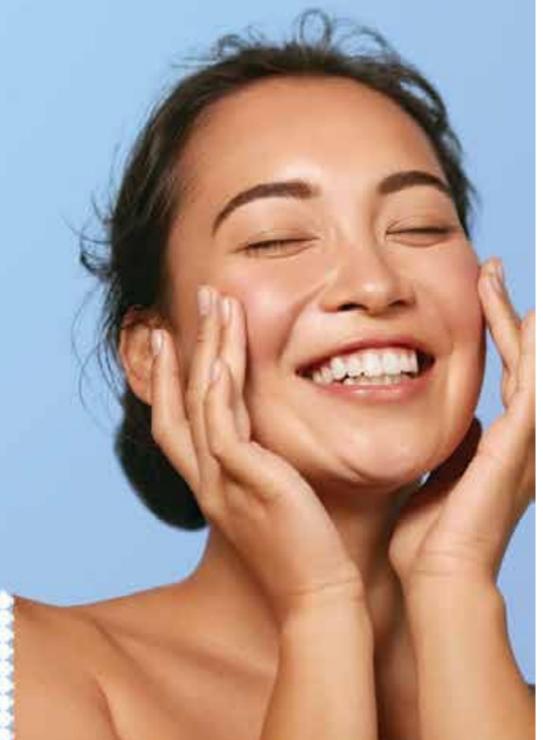
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**View from the Library**

Anne Merrick



I have been reading books from the On Top of the World Library for 15-plus years and always find something interesting. I have been a reader all my life, working at my local library as a teenager – filing, shelving, and repairing books. My parents asked me to choose books for them on a Saturday morning because I chose titles they wouldn't have thought of and that they enjoyed.

After taking a break from reading, I'm ready to get back into the swing. My first book is "Wicked Deeds, Krewe of Hunters" by Heather Graham in large print. That's new for me too. Regular print just got too small, and large print is so easy.

Eager to start their life together, historian Vickie Preston and Special Agent Griffin Price take a detour en route to their new home in Virginia and stop for a visit in Baltimore. Their romantic weekend was interrupted when a popular author was found unresponsive in the basement of an Edgar Allen Poe-themed restaurant. Because of the mysterious circumstances, the FBI's Krewe of Hunters paranormal team was invited to investigate.

As more bizarre incidents occurred, Vickie and Griffin were drawn into a case that had disturbing echoes of Poe's great works, bringing the horrors of his fiction to life. All the way through, you get glimpses of Edgar Allen Poe's life and the unknown cause of his passing, plus some of the history of his life and difficulties with other writers. The ghost of Edgar Allen Poe appears to Vickie and is instrumental in helping with the case.

I don't usually read paranormal fiction, but this was written convincingly. The counterplots and relationships of the other characters were fascinating as they twisted and turned. "Wicked Deeds" kept me fascinated for the 470 pages, with my mind constantly changing about who might be behind it all. A surprise at the end for me.

Heather Graham knows how to keep you interested.

**Indigo East Book Club**

Dawn Winblad



If you're a lover of books, please come read with us! The Indigo East Book Club, led by Dawn Winblad, meets every third Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. in Indigo East Community Center Meeting Room I. We are currently reading "Mad Honey," by Jodi Picoult, for discussion on Thursday, March 19. Next up will be "Lessons in Chemistry," by Bonnie Garmus, for discussion on Thursday, April 16.

If you've read with us before, but it's been a while, we would love to have you back. Please feel free to just pop in; there's no need to sign up. You can come even if you haven't read the book. You can always look forward to a great discussion with this group of ladies. We read all kinds of genres, both printed books and ebooks.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Dawn Winblad at dlwoncagain@comcast.net.

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



**CARDS & GAMES**



**Bingo**

Nancy Grabowski



Recently, a series of questions arose about bingo. Each Wednesday, in the Recreation Center Ballroom, there are 18 winning bingo pots based on the number of cards that have been sold. There is a cover-all minus one game for \$75 and a cover-all for a win between \$110 and \$250.

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

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

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

In answer to another oft-repeated question: the next super bingo will be held on Wednesday, April 15. There are a few changes to the format for this night only. Cards are sold in sets of three, priced at \$5 per trio. 17 games are played at \$75 each, and three jackpot games pay \$250. Valid resident IDs are required, and no guests are allowed. Given the popularity of super bingo, we always arrange extra seating to welcome the additional attendees.

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

**Bridge**



**Monday Afternoon**

By Carol Johnson

**Jan. 5**

1: Diane Robinson & Carol Johnson; 2: Phyllis Silverman & Judy Mackowiak; 3: Jack Heller & Darleen Field; 4: Linda Curtiss & Darlene Clark.

**Jan. 12**

1: Steve Sekac & Jack Heller; 2: Billie Anderson & Mary Bloch; 3: Craig Ford & Kurt Baumgartner; 4: Pat & Debbie Quinn.

**Jan. 19**

1: Darlene Field & Jack Heller; 2: Diane Robinson & Carol Johnson; 3: Donna Peters & Rad D; 4: Pat & Debbie Quinn.

**Jan. 26**

1: Diane Robinson & Carol Johnson; 2: Judy Mackowiak & Phyllis Silverman; 3: Mary Bloch & Billie Anderson; 4: Pat & Debbie Quinn.

**Tuesday Night Duplicate**

By Bob Kraus

We meet every Tuesday at 6 p.m. in

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

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

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

**Jan. 13**

**North/South**

1: Julian Wachs & Liz Wachs; 2: Jean Krueger & Sophie Redman; 3: Diane Turkin & Gary Moses.

**East West**

1: Bob Kraus & Virginia Collins; 2: Vera Mangold & Dan Lack; 3: Barbara Heller & Jack Heller.

**Jan. 20**

1: Linda Ryan & Bill Ryan; 2: Jean Krueger & Sophie Redman; 3: Bob Kraus & Virginia Collins; 4: Dan Lack & Vera Mangold.

**Jan. 27**

1: Bob Kraus & Virginia Collins; 2: Dan Lack & Vera Mangold; 3: Sharon Miller & Arlene Loepp; 4: Drew Brehm & Maureen Brehm.

**Feb. 3**

**North/South**

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

**East/West**

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

**Wednesday Afternoon**

By Debbie Quinn

**Jan. 7**

1: Marlene Floeckher; 2: Carolyn Higgins; 3: Linda Curtiss; Cons: Trudy Baumgartner.

**Jan. 14**

1: Billie Anderson; 2: Mary Bloch; 3: Dianne Robinson; 4: Kurt Baumgartner; Cons: Joan Keinitth.

**Jan. 21**

1: Linda Curtiss; 2: Billie Anderson; 3: Mary Bloch; Cons: Debbie Quinn.

**Jan. 28**

1: Phyllis Silverman; 2: Trudy Baumgartner; 3: Linda Curtiss; 4: Debbie Quinn; Cons: V. J. Hentz.

**Thursday Afternoon**

by Trudy Baumgartner

**Jan. 8**

1: Bev Merrick; Tie at 2: Dianne Robinson, Judy Mackowiak; 4: Craig Ford.

**Jan. 15**

1: Bruce Gillett; 2: Mary Bloch; 3: Kurt Baumgartner; 4: Phyllis Silverman.

**Jan. 22**

1: Judy Mackowiak; 2: Linda Curtis; 3: Debbie Quinn; 4: Pat Quinn.

**Jan. 29**

1: Dianne Robinson; 2: Craig Ford; 3: Debbie Quinn; 4: Linda Yon.

**Thursday Night**

By Penny Wagener

Join our friendly bridge group at 6 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Card Rooms I-II. All skill levels are welcome – whether you're fresh from lessons, returning after years away, or an experienced player. No partner is needed; we pair and rotate throughout the night. Bring 25 cents, a smile, and a good at-

titude. We play three rounds of seven hands, finishing by 9 p.m. Join us for fun and friendship, and you might even win the "2 prize" – a prize awarded for taking a trick with the two of trump that can be passed around throughout the evening.

**Dec. 18, 2025**

1: Chris Wachter; 2: Cherie Cunningham; 3: Penny Wagener; Cons: Jim Cunningham; 2 prize: Malcolm Levine.

**Jan. 8**

1: Jean Krueger; 2: Vera Mangold; 3: Carol; Cons: Herb Katz; 2 prize: Jeff Young.

**Jan. 15**

1: Chris Wachter; 2: Jean Krueger; 3: Sam Feola; Cons: Connie Feola; 2 prize: Brent Powell.

**Jan. 22**

1: Brent Powell; 2: Vera Mangold; 3: Jeff Bell; Cons: Stu Shaub; 2 prize: Bernadette Dellagro.

**Jan. 29**

1: Malcolm Levine; 2: Al Whitford; 3: Brent Powell; Cons: Bernadette Dellagro; 2 prize: Herb Katz.

**Feb. 5**

1: Herb Katz; 2: Carol; 3: Bernadette Dellagro; Cons: Dianne Perry; 2 prize: Herb Katz.

**Cribbage**



Judy Parisi

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

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

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

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

**Mah Jongg**



Angela Brady

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

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

**Pinochle**



**Tuesday Night**

By Herb Katz

**Jan. 6**

1: Ilene Casper; 2: Al Whitford; 3: Stephen Mintz.

**Jan. 13**

1: Bud Alderman; 2: John Bunyak; 3: Phyllis Jarsky.

**Jan. 20**

1: Andy Nuccio; 2: Marlene Floeckher; 3: Edith Bucci & Bob Hoerr.

**Jan. 27**

1: Elaine Conkling; 2: Andy Nuccio; 3: Diane Padgett.

**Friday Morning**

By Andy Nuccio

**Jan. 9**

1: Bruce Gillett; 2: Walter Hickenlooper; 3: Dawn Bunyak.

**Jan. 16**

1: Al Whitford; 2: Marilyn Whitford; 3: Walter Hickenlooper.

**Jan. 23**

1: Ilene Casper; 2: Abe Toubail; 3: Stu Shaub.

**Jan. 30**

1: Walter Hickenlooper; 2: Steve Mintz; 3: Marlene Floeckher.

**Feb. 6**

1: Edna Frye; 2: Marilyn Whitford; 3: Marlene Floeckher.

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Photo by Linda Holst

Joan Nicholson's "Jack's Jackrabbit" quilt is displayed in her home.

### Sunshine Quilters

Linda Holst



When you enter Joan Nicholson's home, your eyes gravitate to the walls. The home gives you the sense of entering a quilt gallery. Every room in the house has a quilt on a wall.

Joan's love of quilting began 35 years ago. A trunk show (a showing of quilts) was presented by a woman of Joan's church, which inspired her to take a quilt class. To date, Joan has made over 100 quilts, wall hangings, and table runners.

Scrapbooks on the coffee table have pictures of the quilts Joan has made. Quilts have been given to family and friends, including quilts made for various charities. Joan's favorite quilt is called "Dog Park."

Joan has hand-pieced and hand-quilted quilts; no sewing machine was used. Today, Joan uses a long-arm machine (which she won) to quilt the top, batting, and backing together. The long arm has an array of designs to choose from for the quilting.

Joan enjoys all types of quilts: traditional and modern. Some of Joan's quilts display her talent for hand appliqué. Most of the quilts are made of cotton, but Joan also enjoys using wool for small projects.

Quilting is part of Joan's daily routine. In the evening, she will do her handiwork, such as counted cross-stitch.

A quilter usually has more than one sewing machine, and Joan is no exception. She has her long arm and three Bernina machines.

Being organized is key to Joan's quilting projects: "Have it ready to go and get it done." Joan states, "If it's (quilting) not fun, you won't do it." Joan states that quilting takes practice, making mistakes will happen, and you will get better.

Joan enjoys being a member of the Sunshine Quilters Guild, "The women will help you learn and teach you." Joan states that the guild gives you the opportunity to see what others do; that's why she joined.

If you would like information about the Sunshine Quilters Guild, email our president, Joyce Utley, at barnieo48@gmail.com.

### Woodcarving Club

Linda Toner



The Woodcarving Club is having a lot of fun making beautiful wooden objects.

This month, we feature one of our eight women carvers, Carol Bride. She has been carving for about a year. She has made signs for her pantry and laundry room. She says she likes to carve because she can create something from a plain piece of wood and see it come alive.

She gets her inspiration from pictures in the newspaper, magazines, and calendars. She carves both in the round (a three-dimensional piece) and in relief (a two-dimensional piece). Her preferred wood to carve is basswood.

She says she has a funny story to tell about how she became a woodcarver. Her husband, David Bride, had carved a caricature figure of a cowboy, but he

didn't like it because one of the cowboy's eyes was "squinty." He asked Carol if she would carve a cigarette to go in his mouth, to explain the squinty eye.

She said she would try, so he gave her a small rectangle of basswood about two inches long. Carol picked up a carving knife for the first time and carved a cylinder one-eighth inch wide and three-quarters inch long. She painted the end red, the cigarette's body white, and glued it into the cowboy's mouth. That project started her interest in carving.

We have carvers and whittlers of every skill level, from beginners to advanced. We meet every Thursday in the Hobby Building Art Room from 3 to 5:30 pm. The first Thursday of the month, we have a teacher available for carving in the round. On the second Thursday, a relief carving teacher is available. We have tools available to get you started. For more information, you can call Tom at 352-586-1171, Rich at 404-558-3855, or stop by to see us on Thursdays. We welcome everyone.



Photo by Linda Toner

Carol Bride showing her relief carvings of a mandevilla and a magnolia flower, and a bluebird.

### Rubber Stamp Greeting Cards

Linda Lohr



On Thursday, Feb. 5, Sherry Lovelass showed us a great way to use scrapbook papers. Most of us have those papers, but we don't scrapbook! By using a frame-like template, Sherry showed us how to cut up different parts of a scrapbook page to make several cards. It was a great idea, and we all made great use of those scrapbook papers that we had hanging around. All the cards can be used for any occasion by changing the sentiment. We thank Sherry for sharing her ideas and for providing many papers for us to choose from.

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

Anyone can be a presenter; the cards do not have to be fancy or complicated. Our group is built on friendship, socializing, and mutual support.

Contact Connie Press using the email below for any class or general information.

Basic supplies, such as a trimmer, glue, scissors, and cardstock, are required. Everyone in the group shares their supplies, and everyone brings new ideas to the table. You are only limited by your imagination!

If you feel this might be a class you would enjoy, or if you have any ques-

tions, please contact Connie Press at connie.rubberstampclub@gmail.com. You can also find the information for each class on our Facebook page.

Our next class is on Thursday, March 5. Until our next meeting, keep on stampin'!



Photo by Linda Lohr

Cards presented by Sherry Lovelass.

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**Happy Hookers**

Jan Spielvogel



The cold weather this winter has kept our group quite busy. As quickly as we can make hats, scarves, and afghans, we deliver them to the agencies we support

that are in great need. This work continues to be possible thanks to the generous donations of yarn, funds, and clothing items we have received.

It's not all work, however. In February, several members of our group enjoyed lunch at Milano Italian Grille.

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 don't want that to hold you back.

We have a talented group of ladies busy with crocheting, knitting, needlepointing, card crafting, embroidering, and various other handicrafts. They are never too busy to help someone with a complicated pattern or stitch. We welcome newcomers with open arms. At-

tendees should bring their current projects or work.

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

**Artistic Crafts & Gifts**

Chris Kilbride



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

ArtisticCrafts.org offers a glimpse of our exceptionally talented crafters and artisans. The group began in the early 1990s, and the show has grown to more than 50 tables on Tuesdays. Over 100 crafters are online, offering unique, custom designs. All resident crafters are welcome to sell virtually on our website or inquire about a table.

We are featuring Jean Matua, who wrote her first pysanka over 50 years ago. Pysanky (or pysanka in the singular form) is rooted in the Ukrainian verb "to write" as in writing intricate patterns, symbols, and geometric designs on eggs. The skills she has developed over the decades in writing these Ukrainian Easter eggs bring Jean to her quiet, happy place in retirement.

The writing of pysanky is an art form that predates Christianity in Ukraine, as it was part of pagan spring rites. Believing that birds were the Sun God's chosen creation, eggs were decorated with symbols of nature. The pagan practice was absorbed into Christianity, and the symbols took on new meanings. Writing pysanky can be a rather frugal art form. The raw materials are fairly common and inexpensive: eggs, beeswax, dyes, candles, and writing tools.

For example, Jean might prepare a

dozen eggs: carefully selecting each one, cleaning it with vinegar, and plotting out (in light pencil) various designs to be written in melted beeswax. It is time-consuming and yet also exciting. The next day, she writes and waxes several egg designs in their natural state (white or brown) before dyeing them that afternoon. Progress is visible throughout the day. Eventually, she has several completed eggs, ready to melt the wax off, revealing all the bright colors underneath. The final step is a dip into a finish that seals and protects the colors.

Married to a Georgian (the country of Georgia, which lies across the Black Sea from Ukraine), Anton is her biggest fan. With degrees in French and Russian/Soviet studies, Jean speaks three languages and has a varied career spanning data processing, marketing, market research, patent law, antitrust law, medicine, and more than 25 years as a publisher/editor of a weekly community newspaper in Minnesota.

Jean approaches writing pysanky much like music, another of her passions, as a classical pianist. It takes practice, patience, and persistence to master anything. Dabbling in lacquer box painting and making her own ceramic egg stands, she is truly enjoying her home studio and creative ventures. Jean is a certified teaching artist available for classes. Individual eggs will soon be available for purchase on her website. Please view more of Jean's designs on our website.

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



Photo courtesy of Jan Spielvogel

Happy Hookers lunch at Milano Italian Grille.

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Photo by Jean Matua

Colorful and intricate pysanka egg designs by Jean Matua.

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March 5	TIM MARGIS 6-9 PM	Pépère Joe's 5 PM	Steak Shack Bistro 5 PM
March 12	GOOD OL' BOYS 6-9 PM	THE CAT 4 BAND 6-9 PM	GREG WARDEN BAND 6-9 PM
March 19	THE DIRTY BIRDS 6-9 PM	Fat Tiki 5 PM	VenRosas Rollin' Bistro 5 PM
March 26	THE PERMANENT VACATION BAND 6-9 PM	ROCKY AND THE ROLLERS 6-9 PM	Van Rosas Rollin' Bistro 5 PM
March 5	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED
March 12	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED
March 19	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED
March 26	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED
March 5	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED
March 12	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED
March 19	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED
March 26	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED
March 5	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED
March 12	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED
March 19	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED
March 26	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED	TRUCKS & TUNES CANCELLED

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Photo by Shutterbug Steve Allen

**Shutterbugs Photography**

Mark Holmes



If you grew up using film cameras, you remember sending off your rolls of vacation or family photos to be processed, hoping that at least some of them would be good. I recall wishing that five or six out of 36 exposures would be “good” photos. Sometimes I was pleasantly surprised by a few and disappointed with others.

With digital cameras and smartphones, those days are, of course, behind us. These days, it’s not unheard of for folks like club member Ron Rydell to take a photographer’s vacation and come back with thousands of great exposures. So now, the issue becomes how to sort and store all those images. It can be a daunting task, but there are solutions to make it easier.

A simple, consistent system keeps digital photo libraries manageable. Start by

creating folders for each year and event, then delete duplicates and low-quality shots. Add tags, ratings, and keywords so future searches are effortless. Modern software can automate much of this work.

Adobe Lightroom Classic offers powerful cataloging tools and seamless editing in one place, making it ideal for large collections. ACDSee Photo Studio Ultimate provides a similar all-in-one workflow while letting you browse folders without importing. For AI-powered tagging and fast facial recognition, Excire Foto is a strong choice. Casual users may prefer Google Photos or Apple Photos, which automatically group images by date, people, and location. With the right tool and a consistent routine, your photo archive stays organized, searchable, and enjoyable to revisit.

Visit the Master the Possibilities lobby in March to view a collection of photographs by Shutterbugs member Debby Wylie. Club members display their work at Master the Possibilities for 10 months of the year.

The club gladly accepts new members, and you don’t need to be some kind of expert to join. In fact, much of our club time is devoted to education, whether it’s for maximizing the capabilities of your DSLR or learning how to take better photos with your smartphone. We also feature instructions on how to use post-processing software such as Elements, Neo, and others. Remember, you’re never too old to learn something new.

Visit otowspc.org to view the club schedule, get a membership form, see member photos, and more. Visit us on Facebook (Shutterbugs OTOW Photography Club) as well, where we feature photos by members and page followers, club information, and online photo contests.

The club meets every Tuesday (four times), with the first of the month reserved for a morning group field trip to someplace interesting, usually followed by lunch. Regular meetings are held on the second, third, and fourth Tuesdays at 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. Sessions include show-and-tell featuring members’ photos, learning sessions for photo and post-processing techniques, and more. Stop in soon and learn more, or contact club president Harry Boyajian at 239-336-4804.

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**Poetry**



**Winter**

By Anne Merrick

Winter came and went so early  
Came and went again and more  
It’s March now, what will surprise us  
Let us hope it’s not too harsh  
The frost, severe, so many times  
Killed back our favorite plants  
Covering up did not avail but  
Those who thought ahead were smart  
Rooting cuttings to replace the dead  
Florida weather is a challenge  
But hardy roots rebound in spring

**Epiphany 2026**

By Janice M. Puta

Where are you going:  
where have you come from?

Who are you presenting:  
who are you looking for?

What do you want to receive:  
what gifts do you bring?

How is this experience transforming:  
Is this the moment of awakening?

**Cynic Conversion**

By Jim Kimes

If, on a walk, a known cynic you should meet,  
It could be the crest of your daily trod.  
So, sage advice would be: Don’t cross the street!  
The cynic needs your smile and blissful nod.  
Does a cynic’s perspective ever change?  
Do silver linings ever catch their eye?  
Something like: “Maybe we could rearrange.”  
Or perhaps: “Why don’t we give it a try?”  
Thomas A. Edison never gave up.  
A logical solution always loomed.  
If “half-empty” is how you view your cup,  
Some hopes and dreams could, feasibly, be  
doomed.

**Am I a Poet?**

By Linda Toner

Am I a poet?  
I don’t know,  
my mind is strange,  
and this is how it goes.  
I am asleep  
in my warm bed,  
then suddenly I awake  
with a word in my head.  
I write it down and go back  
to a deep sleep, and then  
another word comes  
until a sentence is written.  
This process  
is repeated  
until I have  
a poem that is completed.  
This goes on  
from 2 a.m.  
and before I know it  
it’s a quarter to 10.  
I try to doze  
but my mind won’t let it  
be at peace  
until I edit it.  
Then I am satisfied  
with what I’ve done  
and on the first  
of the month  
I submit it to the paper,  
I’ve done my deed,  
and there it is  
for all of you to read.

**Broadway Playhouse**



Elaine Morrison

Brisk ticket sales continue for “Oklahoma, Jr.” We are looking forward to selling out all four performances. If you missed the feature article about the show in last month’s paper, you might be missing the opportunity to see this full-length production of the award-winning, legendary Rodgers and Hammerstein musical that has been enchanting audiences since it debuted on Broadway in 1943.

If you have not already purchased tickets, they are being sold on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to noon at the Arbor Activity Center Card Room III. General admission is \$10. Performance dates are Saturday, March 7, and Sunday, March 8, at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom.

**The New Pretenders**

**Nancy Grabowski**



It's simply amazing that we are already a month past The New Pretenders show! Our audiences were as wonderful as ever, and the pre-show format was a huge success. In it, Bob Wroblewski reprised his George Burns number, "Old Bones," Janet Becker yodeled during her "Second Fiddle," and Ron Fulton sounded just like Billy Joel when he sang "Uptown Girl!"

Our imaginations were tested during the main body of the program. These flights of fancy had us play blackjack in a casino, fly down to Rio, star in a western revue, and that was the first three acts! There were many more stops along the way, totaling about 27. We were visited by celebrities such as Lucille Ball, Neil Diamond, and Carol Burnett at their television studios, no easy feat!

The list could go on and on, but we must look to the future and our next production! Yes, we already have a committee in place whose task is to find music, comedy, and even a theme. We welcome suggestions from our fans who might

have an idea or two.

Our work doesn't stop there, either. Costumes are challenging to find that match each number. Stage decorations must also fit the theme.

Our eager beavers begin practicing their assigned roles on their own or in small groups; those practices continue in the summer and fall, refining them to perfection.

Naturally, the band is following a similar path. They practice every song, sometimes changing from one instrument to another to another. The band sessions are relaxed and focus on the fun aspect of The New Pretenders.

With what seems like a heavy load for our "off time," we still find time for quite a few fun activities. Our third annual bowling party will most likely be held in August, with challenges for various titles on the line. Quickly put together meet-ups for lunch, dinner, or a trip to the Orange Blossom Opry, and finding spots on our calendar for recreational fun, too!

We also had a table at the Club Fair in February. We spoke with interesting people, some of whom might appear in our cast next year. If you're interested in learning more about being in our troupe, contact any current member or Nancy Grabowski on 352-09-4699.

**Paradise Players**

**Lyn Yanss**



Join Paradise Players for an engaging performance entitled "Mystery Cruise Adventure." The show will feature suspense, entertainment, and community involvement on Friday, April 17, at 6 p.m.; Saturday, April 18, at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.; and Sunday, April 19, at 2 p.m. The immersive production aims to captivate audiences with a classic whodunit narrative that keeps viewers guessing until the final reveal.

Tickets may be purchased at Ticket Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room III, through cast members, or via email at otowparadiseplayers@gmail.com. At-

tendees can pick up tickets at the will-call area. Two seating options are offered for the four performances: general seating at \$10 and premium seating at \$12.50.

In addition to the performances, the organization is seeking walk-on actors to participate in scenes. Walk-ons do not need to memorize lines but will perform simple movements such as observing a painting, waving, or exiting the stage. This opportunity is ideal for individuals interested in acting without long-term commitments or extensive preparation. Interested participants are encouraged to join rehearsals on Mondays at 6 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom or on Wednesdays, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio III.

Participants are invited to support their local community theatre by joining this dynamic cast and crew, contributing to a memorable theatrical experience for everyone involved.



Members of Paradise Players.

Photo by Lyn Yanss

**Murder Mystery Dinner Theater**

**Liz Elliott Lieberman**



The Murder Mystery Dinner Theater Club is preparing for their upcoming screwball comedy for the Latinos Club. We are currently rehearsing "At the Copacalca," and ticket information will be posted in their column in the April issue. The performance will be on Saturday, May 30, in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV.

As we begin rehearsals for this show, we are also planning a new show for later in the year, and we hope to see you at one of these hilarious and fun productions. We perform for smaller groups of under 120 people within our community. This results in more intimate and engaging shows where the audience gets to guess "whodunnit!" We believe that laughter is the best medicine, so the audience can giggle along with our "over the top" characters. We write all original scripts with our team: Pati Bean, Bruce Wisser, Dexter Vance, and me, Liz Li-

eberman. (Our creative meetings are a show in themselves!)

We rehearse on Mondays from 4 to 6 p.m. in Arbor Conference Center Studio D, and our first read-through of the script was in February.

For more information, please contact Liz Lieberman at Lizzylieberman@gmail.com or 702-378-6300 or Pati Bean at pbean5678@gmail.com or 253-278-1661. Please state your level of interest, either as an actor or to book a murder mystery for your neighborhood or club.



Photo by Percy Millet

Ina & Shelley Kline as Cynthia & Sidney Snoop in "The Haunting of Weybourne High" murder mystery.

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Art Group



M.A. Baylis

When you drop by the Art Group, you never know who you will have a "brush" with. While we are a down-to-earth group, we are also home to serious talent. Take regular member Patricia McNulty, whose work "Waiting for the Tour Bus" was recently awarded "best of show" by the Fine Arts Society of the Southern Tier in New York - a prestigious nod to a journey that began with a ruler and a dream.

Patricia's creative path started at the Fashion Institute of Technology, where she studied interior design. "I learned how to draw straight lines with the proper tools," Patricia laughs, "but not how to paint actual paintings." While those technical skills fueled a lifelong career, her true artistic revelation didn't happen until decades later.

"It took almost another 20 years before I discovered that classes and workshops existed in my community that taught step-by-step painting," she says. "It was a revelation!"

Patricia dove in headfirst, exploring decorative "tole" painting on wood, oil, acrylic, and delicate porcelain. Today, her home is a gallery of that evolution. "I now have an attic full of early examples," she says. "But I also have framed paintings that I actually enjoy seeing on my walls."

Since moving to On Top of the World 12 years ago, Patricia has found encouragement in the Art Group to transition from following instructions to creating original designs. She progressed from pencil drawings to colored pencils, eventually finding her stride in acrylics.

Patricia's journey has left her with some practical - and hilarious - advice for anyone intimidated by a blank page: Can't draw a straight line? Use a ruler. There's no shame in the precision game.

Unhappy stick people? Put some meat on their bones! And remember, stick people need clothing, too.

The "alien" dilemma: If your dog drawing looks like a mini-monster from outer space, you can either own it - be the best alien artist in Florida - or trace a photo of a dog repeatedly. Eventually, muscle memory takes over, and you'll have a dog (or a very realistic alien).

Patricia discovered that the old cliché is true: Paint every day and you will im-



Photo by Patricia McNulty

Waiting for the Tour Bus.

prove. Forty years after her first class, she continues to create and love the results.

As residents, we are lucky to have world-class resources at our fingertips. Whether you take formal classes at Master the Possibilities or join our "great bunch" in the Hobby Building, there is a seat for you. We meet three days a week to share ideas, offer gentle critiques, and encourage one another.

Whether you're a seasoned pro like Patricia or haven't picked up a pencil since grade school, come by and see us. You might just find a new passion - and you'll definitely find a friend.

The Art Group meets Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information, contact Director Freda Klump at 615-336-6863 or fredaklump@gmail.com.

Sewing Bees



Ann Gallo

Top of the morning and happy St. Patrick's Day!

Our second delivery for 2026 was 80 quilts to the Families in Transition Program through Marion County Public Schools. We reached out to Thomas Butler, who heads this program of almost 400 homeless students. With the unprecedented cold weather, he was thrilled to receive them. In addition, the Happy Hookers provided 100 handmade knitted/crocheted hats.

Our newest agency is AdventHealth Ocala NICU. We will be making small

quilts and blankets for these very special and fragile babies. If you have any baby-print flannel or quilt fabric, no matter how small, we would be happy to accept it.

The Sewing Bees enjoyed their annual holiday luncheon in January at Milano Italian Grille. This was a celebration of our record-breaking year, during which we made 1,193 quilts for children.

Did you know that patchwork quilts were common in areas where women had few resources to make them? Using leftover fabric from earlier projects, old

clothing, or other cheap materials was very common.

Would you like to be a part of this group? There are lots of things to do. We especially need people who can sew and tie a quilt. If you do sew you don't have to complete every phase in the quilt-making process. If you do not sew, you can tie a quilt. This can be done sitting down. You can learn to sandwich a quilt and cut fabric. Many hands are a part of the final quilt. We have sewing machines available for your use. Dues are \$15 for the year.

We are always in need of children's-themed cotton, solid-color cotton, or flannel fabric. Financial donations and gift cards, especially from Hobby Lobby and Michaels, are always welcome. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

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

Questions? Call or text Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178 or Susie Clauson at 904-422-5135.



Photo by Susie Clauson

Thomas Butler and assistant are receiving 80 handmade quilts for homeless children.

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 10 AM - 2 PM**

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 GATE OPENS 5:15 PM | CONCERT BEGINS 6:00 PM  
 NO ENTRY AFTER 6:15 PM | END TIME 7:30 PM  
 PRICE: \$20 | OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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Celebrate the songs that defined generations during this special "Greatest Hits of All Time" evening. Mark Smythe, performing as Gypsy Sparrow, brings the most recognizable and beloved classics from across the decades to life in a dynamic, high-energy live show. From timeless favorites to crowd-pleasing anthems, the performance features a carefully curated playlist filled with unforgettable hits, audience-requested songs, and moments that invite sing-alongs, nostalgia, and pure musical enjoyment from start to finish.

Advanced registration is required.  
 Register at [SholomPark.org/park-after-dark](http://SholomPark.org/park-after-dark)

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**Dulcimer Club**

Sharon Bruno



New year, new members! Welcome to the club, Bonnie Eckelberg and Sandra Anderson!

Bonnie Eckelberg has a genuine love for most music, especially '60s, classical, and Big Band music. She has also played a wide variety of wind, percussion, string, and brass instruments. Thus far, Bonnie has played the clarinet, oboe, drums, saxophone, baritone horn, and bass guitar. Now she is learning to play the mountain dulcimer on one of the club's loaner instruments. Bonnie enthusiastically mentioned that one of the best things about the club is the people, who are the friendliest, most helpful, and genuinely nice group she has ever met.

Sandra Anderson enjoys the music of Led Zeppelin, Cat Stevens, Motown, and the Eagles. Sandra also has a passion for hiking wilderness trails and mentioned that although she is down to three to six miles daily from a whopping 15 to 20, she still loves walking trails. Sandra explained she first experienced the dulcimer at a retreat held at the Steven Foster Cultural Center in White Springs, Florida. When she moved to On Top of the World, she was delighted to learn of our club. Now she is enjoying learning in a "warm, kind, welcoming, and encouraging group of very friendly, talented people."



Bonnie Eckelberg and Sandra Anderson.

Photo by Sharon Bruno

To schedule the Dulcimer Club to play at one of your meetings or events, or if you are interested in joining us, contact Rich Furlong at 352-237-8734 or richiere-tired@gmail.com.

Have a listen, the Dulcimer Club meets Tuesdays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room. Beginners meet for additional help immediately after, from 3 to 4 p.m. in the same room with Rich Furlong.

**Fun with Golf Carts**

Susan Pulling Robinson



On Saturday, Feb. 14, our members wore their hearts on their carts and decorated for Valentine's Day. Selected charities included Operation Shoebox, Chuck's Piggy Bank, Veterans Helping Veterans, and Dunnellon Elementary School. Many generous folks turned out to donate to these causes. Thank you!

Don't miss a parade; mark your calendar for the following Saturdays:

- March 14: Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day
- April 4: Easter
- May 30: Memorial Day
- June 13: Flag Day
- July 4: Independence Day
- Aug. 8: Summer Fun
- Sept. 5: Labor Day
- Oct. 31: Halloween
- Nov. 7: Veterans Day
- Dec. 5: Holiday Golf Cart Parade
- Dec. 19: Holiday Parade
- Dec. 26: Evening Lights

Membership in our Facebook group (OTOW Fun with Golf Carts) has now surpassed 600 members! If you have a golf cart, please consider jazzing it up (or not) and joining in as we "parade for a cause." Each parade benefits one or more local charities. For more information and to receive emails about this club, please email otowfunwithgolfcarts@gmail.com. We all have a lot of fun cruising around in our "mini floats."

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



Photo by George Ostrom

Valentine's Day cart.

**Ukelele Club**

Janet Voyles



The ukulele's journey through time is a testament to its enduring charm and adaptability. From its humble beginnings in Portugal to becoming a global phenomenon, the ukulele has woven its way into the fabric of many different musical traditions. Created for the sole purpose of learning, playing, and enjoying the ukulele in a relaxing and non-competitive atmosphere, the Ukelele Club embraces this little instrument and becomes part of its enduring history.

As we strum through the instrument's history, it is evident that the ukulele's story is far from over – it continues to evolve and resonate with musicians and audiences worldwide, ensuring its place in the musical tapestry of the future.

We are fortunate to have the Ukelele Club! It doesn't matter whether one is new to the ukulele and music or a seasoned player; there is something for everyone in the club. We meet every Wednesday at the Arbor Activity Center Music Room, beginning at 2:30 p.m. with Uke 101, a session tailored for the novice player. Following at 3 p.m. is Strum and Sing, where we work together on selected songs and activities that further our musical journey. That's not all, though – there is even more for the ukulele player who wants to advance their playing more with the Intermediuke session at 4 p.m., designed to help the player learn more intricacies and patterns of ukulele playing.

Even more, the Ukelele Club often takes its fun out and about in what we call "pop-up concerts," literally popping up and playing in surprising places throughout our community and beyond. The Ukelele Club is open to all residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. There is no membership fee, and we can help you choose a ukulele if needed. Please contact Janet Voyles at artemisclarinet@gmail.com, or better yet, stop in on a Wednesday afternoon and see for yourself what we are all about.

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



**No-Cook Nutrition:  
Meals That Wow Without Heat**

March 20, 2026 | 1 PM

Hobby Building Event Room

Celebrate National Nutrition Month! Discover how to make fresh, flavorful dishes that nourish your body, no stove required. Packed with color, crunch, and clean ingredients, these easy recipes make healthy eating effortless, delicious, and fun.

Registration will run from March 2 - March 11, 2026. Please call the Recreation Center Fitness Desk at 352-854-8707 ext. 7534.



Recreation Center

**2026 CHARITY PRO-AM**  
MARCH 23 - 24, 2026  
**PRO TOURNAMENT**  
MARCH 25 - 27, 2026

REGULAR ADMISSION IS FREE FOR SPECTATORS

**CHARITY PRO-AM EVENT SCHEDULE**

Benefiting Interfaith Emergency Services and Empath Hospice of Marion County, Inc.

**Monday, March 23, 2026 - 9:00 AM**  
**& Tuesday, March 24, 2026 - 9:00 AM**  
Scramble Format, Shotgun Start  
1 Professional & 3 Amateurs.

**PROFESSIONAL TOURNAMENT**

**Wednesday, March 25, 2026**  
First Round

**Thursday, March 26, 2026**  
Second Round

**Friday, March 27th**  
Final Round

PLEASE REMEMBER: NO CELL PHONES

**KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**

**VIP AREA**  
Enjoy VIP privileges in our reserved seating area, such as food, beverage offers, and more! Also, get member pricing on golf shop purchases! VIP ticket required. Tickets available for purchase at the Candler Hills Golf Shop.

**FOOD**  
The Whistling Duck, Sid's Coffee Shop & Deli and Mr. B's Big Scoop Ice Cream will be open.

**PARKING**  
Golf cart parking for residents is located at the Candler Hills Community Center behind the gate.

**Candler Hills Golf Club**

For more information, a registration form or partnership opportunities, visit us online at [OcalaOpen.com](http://OcalaOpen.com) or call 352-861-9712.

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**Toppers Banjo**

**David Wesenberg**



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

I would like to introduce our bassist, Carolyn Milhan. You may think of a bassist as a bass fiddle player, or a bass guitar player, but Carolyn is a bass dulcimer player. She has been playing with us for about a year and really helps us maintain the rhythm, in addition to filling out the lower part of the audio spectrum.

Her presence demonstrates the broad spectrum of possibilities when different instruments are combined in a banjo band, with positive results.

Carolyn started playing the mountain dulcimer about 20 years ago. She started taking lessons with her sister-in-law and a friend. As her skill developed, she moved to the bass dulcimer, and ultimately her interest shifted to the double bass dulcimer after her brother purchased one. She tried to purchase one for herself, but none were available.

After moving to On Top of the World in 2022, she learned that a two-year wait for a double bass dulcimer was over, and after careful thought, she purchased one. Then she wondered whether she could play.

She met one of our members, who suggested she attend a session to see what she could do. She has been playing for us for about a year and feels welcomed. She is learning and growing in the band and is a welcome addition.

If you play an instrument, this could be you, having a great time and growing in skill and fellowship.

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

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

For more information, contact Eddie Martin at [ueddie2@gmail.com](mailto:ueddie2@gmail.com) or David Wesenberg at [dpw@mastersoftware-inc.com](mailto:dpw@mastersoftware-inc.com).

**Concert Chorus**

**Joanne Houston**



Forty-two days and counting until the fabulous 105 voice Concert Chorus takes the stage at Circle Square Cultural Center on Sunday, April 12, at 3 p.m. and Monday, April 13, at 6 p.m. The title of our spring concert is "We the People," and it will be an entertaining trip down memory lane, celebrating the music of our great country and our 250th anniversary.

Tickets will go on sale the first week of March and will be available for purchase through Circle Square Cultural Center. Monday through Saturday. Reserved seating will be \$15, and general admission will be \$12, and may be purchased at [CSCulturalCenter.com](http://CSCulturalCenter.com), in person at the box office, or by phone.

There will be a wide variety of American music, including today's popular music, patriotic music from yesteryear, and everything in between, such as country, rock, spirituals, Dixieland, and Broadway favorites. We will be celebrating our military with the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard posting the colors while singing "Salute to the Armed Forces." You will have a wonderful night at the concert and will be singing all the way home afterward.

For further information, please email [joanne.houston57@gmail.com](mailto:joanne.houston57@gmail.com) or [deborasmith@gmail.com](mailto:deborasmith@gmail.com).

This concert will support our Marion County veterans. Please plan to bring non-perishable food donations, personal toiletries, and new warm socks to the concert.

As always, thanks for your generous support. See you at the concerts!

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

**Karaoke Friends**

**Kathy & Charlie Petrosky**



The singers like to have a prop night now and then. It gives them a chance to get creative with a song. The singer selects a song and either dresses for it or brings a prop. It is very entertaining to see what they come up with.

Charlie sang "Shaving Creme." I was the barber with the cream, brush, and oversized razor. He got a shave while singing. Fran dressed as Dorothy. She even had her little basket with Toto in it. The red shoes were great as she sang "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

Nancy Warren is all about cats! She had the whiskers, ears, and tail. She sang "What's New Pussycat" and "Cats in the Cradle." Vince, Peyton, and Carmen teamed up to sing "Little Red Riding Hood." Carmen had the red cape and basket for her walk in the woods. She met up with Vince and Peyton in scary wolf heads.

Nina is new to the group, but she got right into it. Wearing a man's shirt and a short skirt and her hair pulled up, she sang "Man, I Feel Like a Woman." It was great when she let her hair fall as she sang about it. I relived a song from childhood, "Suzy Snowflake." I carried Suzie in my hand and had a jacket with snow on it.

Ed did a take-off on "The Sound of Silence." It was "Sounds of Starbucks." He wore a pothead shirt, coffee pot that is. John had his table set up like a bar and wore red solo cups, too. That was the song he sang. Donnie had his hat and holster with guns. He sang about "Billy the Kid." Lorraine was funny. She sang two songs with illustrations. It was fun watching her try to turn pages as she sang.

Rocco really outdid himself. He created an astronaut outfit. He sang "Space



Photo by Steve Warren

First prop night of 2026.

Oddity." He had a prize for the first person who could name the singer. Nancy Warren won.

We have a lot of fun at karaoke. It is a pleasant way to spend the evening. We meet on the first and third Monday

of the month in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room from 5 to 8 p.m. Come and join us. Karaoke is at The Lodge at Candler Hills on the first Thursday of the month. It is in the Recreation Center Ballroom on the second Thursday.

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

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

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**Furniture:** Beige wing sofa chair. Call/text 707-280-3823.

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**Golf Cart:** 2009 Club Car. Call/text 704-495-0978.

**Golf Cart:** 2023 Star, 2-in-1 combo (holds 2 golf bags and 2 people or 4 people) includes canopy, seat belts, light package, turn signals, mirrors, regular batteries and cover. Make offer. 203-451-4226.

**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.

**Golf Cart:** LocoEV 2+2, low miles (1550 miles), 9.4HP brushless 7kW motor on 84AH lithium battery, built-in smart charger, LED lights, multi-media player, 500W Bluetooth sound bar, accessory 12v & USB ports, backup camera, diamond pattern marine grade seats, carbon fiber trim, independent coil suspension, 6" lift kit with 14" rims, 22" off-road/street tires and hydraulic disc

brakes. Text 813-344-6899.

**Home Décor:** Variety of mirrors, big, slim (2), embroidered, and gold frame with gold embroidery. Call/text 707-280-3823.

**Misc. Items:** Active 8' x 30" outdoor round-frame above-ground pool with filter pump and Type D filter cartridge, blue with pad, \$75. 610-721-1424.

**Misc. Items:** Heavy-duty Worker's Mate folding table. Insulated 8' glass with roll down screen front storm door. Deep laundry sink with high faucet. 9' x 5' picture window unit with two side sliders and screens. Chain link fence, 17' long x 4' high. Round porcelain bath sink with faucet. Call/text 707-280-3823.

**Musical Instrument:** Conn trombone (6GH870154), silver plated with hard case. 203-451-4226.

**Sports Equipment:** ZuGo Rhino e-bike, step-through, 48-volt, 750-watt, LCD display, Kenda 20" 4.0 tires, 20" frame, 4-6 hours to charge, 15-38 mile range, max speed 31 mph. Electra ladies Cruiser 1 bicycle with steel frame, single speed with coaster brake, and 24" alloy rims with classic knobby tires. 610-721-1424.

**Tools:** Air compressor. Call/text 707-280-3823.

**Yard Equipment:** 21" Greenworks self-propelled walk-behind mower with side chute, bagger, 40-volt lithium battery, and heavy-duty charger, \$200. EGO heavy-duty handheld edger with 56-volt lithium battery, heavy-duty rapid charger, new blade, \$225 (firm). 850-716-3596.

**Tag Sales**

**Friday, March 6:** 8737-C SW 97th Lane Road (Americana Village), 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Friday, March 6 & Saturday, March 7:** 8326 SW 82nd Circle (Candler Hills), 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. · 8437-B SW 90th Street (Friendship Colony), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Saturday, March 7:** 9033, 9250 SW 91st Circle (Williamsburg), 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. · 9117 SW 91st Circle (Williamsburg), 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. · 9169, 9177 SW 91st Circle (Williamsburg), 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. · 10192 SW 96th Loop (Longleaf Ridge), 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. · 9105 SW 90th Street, 9209 SW 91st Circle (Williamsburg), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. · 8360 SW 84th Loop (Candler Hills), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. · 9044 SW 91st Circle (Williamsburg), 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. · 9121 SW 91st Circle (Williamsburg), 1 to 3 p.m.

**Sunday, March 8:** 9177 SW 91st Circle (Williamsburg), noon to 3 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 11:** 10598 SW 91st Street Road (Avalon), 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Friday, March 13:** 8951 SW 104th Circle (Avalon), 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Saturday, March 14:** 8961-E SW 96th Lane (Friendship Park), 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Sunday, March 15:** 8961-E SW 96th Lane (Friendship Park), noon to 4 p.m.

**Thursday, March 19 & Friday, March 20:** 8693 SW 76th Lane (Weybourne Landing), 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Saturday, March 21:** 10570, 10598, 10816 SW 96th Lane Road, 10565, 10605, 10634 SW 98th Lane, 10559 SW 101st Lane Road · 10557 SW 98th Lane, 9878 SW 104th Avenue, 9305 SW 106th Avenue (Longleaf Ridge), 8 a.m. to noon · 10428 SW 92nd Place Road, 9703 SW 96th Street, 10802 SW 101st Loop

(Longleaf Ridge), 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. · 9221, 9245 SW 102nd Avenue Road, 9223 SW 104th Terrace (Longleaf Ridge), 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. · 10309 SW 105th Court (Longleaf Ridge), 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. · 9169 SW 91st Circle (Williamsburg), 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. · 9196 SW 106th Avenue (Longleaf Ridge), 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. · 10330 SW 96th Loop, 9250 SW 102nd Avenue Road, 9309 SW 106th Avenue (Longleaf Ridge), 9 a.m. to noon · 10727 SW 99th Place (Longleaf Ridge), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. · 10062 SW 106th Circle (Longleaf Ridge), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. · 10525 SW 93rd Loop, 10327 SW 96th Loop (Longleaf Ridge), 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. · 9343 SW 102nd Lane Road (Longleaf Ridge), 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. · 10528 SW 96th Lane Road, 9862 SW 104th Avenue (Longleaf Ridge), 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Friday, March 27:** 9859 SW 97th Street (Crescent Ridge), 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. · 8787 SW 90th Lane (Friendship Colony), 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Services**

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

**Andy Dahms Interior Painting:** Your local professional painting contractor. Turn your place into a showpiece. Quality Sherwin-Williams products. References available. Free estimates. Call or email at 941-730-1381 or [andygooddeats1@gmail.com](mailto:andygooddeats1@gmail.com).

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

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

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

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

**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.

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

**El Dorado Services:** Home cleaning, pressure washing, errands, plus handyman services, bathroom, kitchen, flooring, painting, & sliding glass door/window repair. Free estimates, licensed & insured. 352-628-0913 (#L2500009-8885).

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

**Handyman:** Insured. JAO Home Improvement & Repair – all your home's needs – carpentry, built-ins, roll-out shelves, moldings, faux painting, tile, and furniture touch ups. Visit JAO Home's page

at [www.ashiarts.us](http://www.ashiarts.us) or call 707-280-3823 (resident).

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

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

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

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

**Mobile Notary Public:** Taking pride in my duty as a notary in Ocala. Nancy Faucher, 352-497-8201 (call or text anytime).

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

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

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

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

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

**Transportation:** Excellent, safe, and friendly service to Tampa, Orlando, Sanford, and Gainesville airports, as well as Port Canaveral. Drop-off/pick-up. Sue's Transportation 352-446-7425 (resident).

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

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

**Wash & Wax:** Completed at your home. \$60 most vehicles. \$80 pickup, van, & 3rd row seating SUV. Interior & exterior. 40 years in service. Mark Anthony (text) 352-239-5702.

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

**Wanted**

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

**Cat to Adopt:** Must be house-trained. Call 352-509-4593 (from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.).

**CONSERVATION FUN FACT**  
On Top of the World has several acres of wildflowers for pollinator protection and habitat.

# THE PERFECT MOVE at the *Perfect Price.*

NEW HOMES FROM THE LOW \$200s

**NOW SELLING!**



**HURRY,  
OVER 15  
HOMES  
SOLD!**

**55+**  
For Only a  
**\$55**  
Low HOA

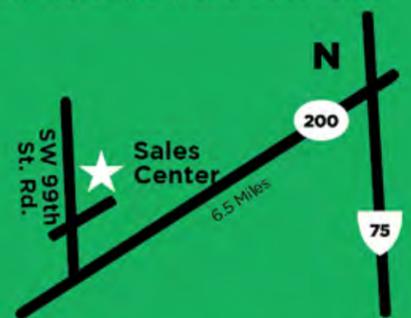
## Introducing Melody Preserve, Ocala's newest intimate community for active adult living, crafted by Colen Built Development.

Melody Preserve is an enclave created for active adults who value connection, comfort, and craftsmanship. Here, neighbors become friends, and every street feels like home. At Melody Preserve, residents will find more than a place to live - they'll discover a community that feels like it was made just for them.

- Gated community with neighborhood trail and dog park
- Quality built new homes with exceptional attention to detail
- Walking distance to dining, farmer's market, nightlife, shows and events of Circle Square Commons

### Where to go!

Melody Preserve is selling out of the On Top of the World Sales center



**8447 SW 99th St. Rd., Ocala, FL 34481**

From I-75 take SR 200 west 6.5 miles.  
Turn right at SW 99th St. Rd.

**NOW IS THE TIME!  
BE FIRST TO GET THE  
BEST HOMESITES!**



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