

Community News

Kenneth D. Colen

A Gym to Train Your Brain

By Cammy Dennis

Move over treadmills and dumbbells, a new kind of fitness destination is emerging, and it's designed to strengthen your mind. A growing trend in wellness and active aging is the rise of cogni-

tive training. Launching this year at the Recreation Center is a brain gym! This immersive space is designed to help residents engage in interactive cognitive workouts.



Photo by Cammy Dennis

BrainGym AI will be located in the Recreation Center.

At the center of this movement is innovative equipment from BrainGymAI, a next-generation system blending artificial intelligence, neuroscience, and gamified exercise to create a full-body mental workout. On Top of the World is proud to be the first community in North America to have BrainGymAI machines. Unlike traditional brain games or apps, the BrainGymAI experience is highly physical and social. Users step up to interactive training stations that challenge reaction time, coordination, balance, and focus through engaging exergames. Each station is designed to stimulate multiple cognitive functions at once, turning brain health into an active, hands-on experience.

The concept is simple: just as the body benefits from regular exercise, the brain thrives on consistent stimulation. Our new BrainGymAI system uses artificial intelligence to personalize each session, adapting exercises to the user's abilities and tracking progress over time. Participants can log in using digital access tools and receive insights into their performance, helping them stay motivated and engaged.

One of the standout features of the BrainGymAI platform is accessibility. The equipment is designed for people of varying physical abilities, including those who use mobility aids or wheelchairs. This inclusive design makes brain gyms particularly appealing to active-aging communities. Beyond memory and focus, the system emphasizes real-world cognitive skills, including reaction time, spatial awareness, and decision-making. By combining physical movement with mental challenges, the training aims to support everyday independence and confidence.

As longevity becomes a global focus, brain health is taking center stage. Wellness leaders increasingly recognize that cognitive fitness is vital, especially for adults looking to stay sharp, independent, and engaged as they age. This is the perfect time to "flip the switch" on how we view aging and performance: not as decline, but as an opportunity for proactive growth. On Top of the World's brain gym will look and feel less like therapy and more like play. Residents won't even realize they are training their brains; they will just be having fun.

Community Updates

THE SUMMIT: The newest addition in Longleaf Ridge — The Summit — is awaiting approval from Marion County. Therefore, an opening date has not been determined.

This 20,000-square-foot clubhouse features a spacious ballroom that can be divided into three separate rooms, along with a dedicated card room designed for resident activities and social gatherings. The Summit also offers a variety of outdoor spaces focused on recreation and wellness, including a large main pool, the first resistance pool at On Top of the World, an activity lawn, and outdoor fitness equipment.

AZURA FITNESS CENTER: As of April, the roof structure is fully dried in, and interior framing, electrical, and HVAC are in progress. Construction efforts will focus primarily on interior detail work in May. 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 Azura Fitness Center will be completed by the end of 2026, and will be open to the residents of Candler Hills only.

RECREATION CENTER: Planned major renovations to the front of the main building are continuing. Marion County approved the permit for this renovation in March. With this approval in place, we are evaluating the best time to begin the project to minimize disruption to this popular amenity, as some building access will be restricted during construction. Once work begins, please be mindful of all posted safety signs and remain outside of designated construction areas.

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

IRONS 9 PITCH & PUTT: The colder weather in February and early March delayed turfgrass establishment, so the course is now anticipated to open in late summer. Deep cold temperatures are especially hard on the greens; however, we do not anticipate severe damage to the turf, though it may experience some shock. Construction on the building has begun, with framing completed and the roof now dried in. The facility is currently expected to be completed and open for play in early fall.

NEW CANDLER HILLS ENTRY: The new Candler Hills entry (off of SW 92nd Court Road) project has begun, with roadwork and utilities currently being installed. We are hopeful this new entry will be operational by this summer. Once the gate is active, the existing construction gate on SW 80th Street will be removed.

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

WOODSHOP: Plans for a proposed woodshop facility had been explored during preliminary design discussions. However, after reviewing the projected costs for development, construction, and ongoing operations, has been placed on hold. A facility of this scale serving a single club would represent a significant long-term financial commitment for the Association.

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Battle of the Paddle Strikes Again

By Mykenzie Hager

The courts at On Top of the World were buzzing with excitement as players, spectators, and volunteers gathered for the second annual Battle of the Paddle Pickleball Tournament, held Friday, Feb. 27, through Sunday, March 1. Building on the success of last year's inaugural event, this year's tournament returned even bigger and more competitive, delivering three days filled with action, camaraderie, and unforgettable matches.

Over the course of the weekend, more than 330 players competed across 31 brackets, playing over 490 matches. From the first serve to the final medal rounds, the courts were alive with fast rallies, impressive shot-making, and spirited competition.

The tournament began Friday with men's doubles, where teams battled through fast-paced games and tightly contested matchups. Saturday brought an exciting day of women's doubles, including a standout three-set match that kept spectators on the edge of their seats. The weekend wrapped up on Sunday with mixed doubles, where strategic play and strong teamwork led to thrilling finishes and dramatic final points.

Players traveled from across the United States — and even from outside the U.S. — to compete, highlighting the continued growth and popularity of pickleball. The round-robin format ensured players had plenty of time on the courts and multiple opportunities to compete throughout the weekend.

The event was about more than just competition. It was a celebration of the pickleball community. Spectators lined the courts, cheering on friends, neighbors, and family members, while

volunteers and staff worked behind the scenes to keep the tournament running smoothly from start to finish. Despite some overnight rain, the maintenance team worked each morning to prepare the courts and keep the tournament on schedule.

Adding to the weekend's special moments was local favorite Lauren Henricke, who has participated in pickleball

with the Marion County Special Olympics for the past three years. She was there to support her mom during the tournament and brought lively energy to the courts.

Thanks to strong participation and incredible community support, the Battle of the Paddle is quickly becoming an annual favorite tradition at On Top of the World.

As medals were awarded and the final matches wrapped up, the 2026 tournament closed out a memorable weekend of competition, connection, and community spirit.

Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, and supported the event. We look forward to seeing everyone back on the courts next year!



Photo courtesy of Colen Built Development

Players from around the country competed in Battle of the Paddle

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Read all the good news at ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala

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

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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.

Is It Legal?

Colen & Wagoner, P.A.



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

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

To attend, please register at MasterthePossibilities.org.

SCAM ALERT: Social media is tricky, isn't it? There's a lot of good in some of those platforms – we can communicate with friends and family, see what's happening in the news, follow celebrities or folks who are nationally known, or even meet interesting folks who are worthy of our acquaintance.

Yeah. There's a lot of good in social media platforms. There's a lot of bad, really bad, on social media, too. Isn't there? There are scammers, fraudsters, and criminals, and they are hunting for us – you and me. We confront them every time we respond to a direct message on a platform like X, Facebook, or Bluesky. It never ends, does it?

I'm on X. I post on it, now and then, not too often, but just enough so that I get direct messages from folks who want me to subscribe to an OnlyFans page, or folks who want me to let them show me the best way to quadruple my money by letting them show me how to invest with them. One lady is a crypto expert, like Bitcoin. Another guy knows just how I can make 50% on my money. Wanna meet hot girls? So, and so has just the OnlyFans page for you, and the price is as low as possible.

You feel sad, alone, or lost? There's someone just like you to talk with. Just move to a different platform like Telegram or WhatsApp, where the talk is private and (for them) inexpensive. I know.

I've looked into it for you.

Here are my thoughts. First and most important, always, always, always, always, always, remember that every time you click on something, be it a direct message or to express your view on a topic of the day, you are vulnerable to a scammer. They are lurking to see what you do. I'm not interested in pretty girls. I've been married to one for 60 years. But if I want to read a story about Sidney Sweeny or see what's being said about a singer such as Dolly Parton or Reba McEntire, or George Strait, sure as I'm writing this, next thing I'll be getting ads or messages all about them, well, who knows what, but it won't be just information.

And then, there are the lurkers who hunt for vulnerable men or women, seeking to lure them into conversations that more often than not lead directly to losing money. I've learned about that, and in future columns, I hope to share my experiences on social media, where I try to learn what's happening. For now, I just want to remind you that although there is a lot of good in the various social media platforms, there's a lot of bad, and everyone needs to remember that every single time you use Facebook, X, or Bluesky, Tinder, or any other media.

If you don't know someone, don't assume they are looking to help you or be your friend. Be careful what you write back, because I can assure you that messages can easily be faked, just as identities. Simple example: WhatsApp messages can easily be faked to look just like they came from you. I know. I've researched it. My message is, don't believe what you read without checking.

Q. It seems to me that lawyers can charge a lot for a service and yet, a different lawyer might charge less. How are we to know where we get the best value for our money when we need to

use a lawyer?

A. In all the years I've written this column, this is the first time I've had this question, and it's a very good one. I'll try my best to answer it. More than likely, except for the mega-law firms with mega overhead, most fees are going to be within a certain, identifiable range. That range may bother a client.

I mean, if one lawyer charges, say, \$100 more than another, that can certainly be significant, especially if you get the same or similar advice and documents.

So, what do you do? First, of course, you try to see what your friends might say about a specific attorney. If you hear that so-and-so is more expensive but took all the time needed, answered every question, and gave us something to think about that we hadn't before, maybe that's important. Or, if you learn that an attorney charges less, but seems to see you as just another client, maybe that means something. It's really a matter of feeling comfortable with the person who is going to handle something significant for you.

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

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Photos courtesy of Master the Possibilities

Upcoming speakers include Julia Ott (left) and Colin Calloway (right).

Lifelong Learning



Michelle Shideler
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Step into the stories behind the headlines and discover history as you've never seen it before. This April, Master the Possibilities brings some of the nation's leading historians, journalists, and scholars to you, presenting remote lectures that illuminate pivotal moments in American history for our "Exploring 250 Years of America" curriculum. From the making of an iconic president to the untold stories of Native Americans in the early United States, these events offer fresh insights, rare documents, and expert perspectives that deepen understanding and spark curiosity.

On Thursday, April 2, from 1 to 2 p.m., historian and author Paul Sparrow, former director of the FDR Presidential Library, will be covering the "Awakening the Spirit of America: FDR's War of Words with Charles Lindbergh and the Battle to Save Democracy." Sparrow will examine how Roosevelt's rhetoric, media strategy, and political acumen overcame isolationism and positioned the U.S. as a global leader during World War II.

Rescheduled to Thursday, April 9, from 3 to 4:15 p.m., this visiting speaker event features Fredrik Logevall, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and Harvard University professor, presenting "JFK: The Making of a Leader." Drawing on previously unseen materials, including Oval Office tapes, interviews with Jackie Kennedy, and declassified CIA documents, Logevall explores Kennedy's childhood, Harvard education, and World War II experiences, offering fresh

insights into the influences that shaped his leadership.

Don't miss expert Colin Calloway on Wednesday, April 15, from 11 a.m. to noon, when he will bring a discussion on "Native Americans and the New Nation," restoring Native Americans to their central role in the Revolution, George Washington's presidency, and the early development of the United States.

Then on Thursday, April 23, from 10 to 11 a.m., investigative journalist Craig Whitlock, author of the #1 New York Times bestseller "The Afghanistan Papers," will be giving a lecture on "At War with the Truth: How U.S. Officials Misled the Public About the War in Afghanistan." In this presentation, Whitlock will reveal the hidden truths behind America's longest war and examine, in his opinion, how military strategy lost direction after 2001. He will touch on the gap between official messaging and on-the-ground realities.

Last but not least in our amazing lineup of visiting speakers this month, Dr. Julia Ott, associate professor of history at The New School, will speak about "Rethinking the Great Crash of 1929" on Thursday, April 30, from 1 to 2 p.m. Ott will explore how 1920s financial speculation, World War I bond drives, and societal promises of prosperity shaped the economy, providing a fresh understanding of one of the most pivotal financial events in U.S. history.

All of these events will be held in Live Oak Hall, and the cost for each event is \$8 for members and \$13 for the general public. Registration is available 24/7 at masterthepossibilities.org, or by calling 352-861-9751 for assistance Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Don't miss this chance to learn from leading experts and gain new perspectives on history this April.

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Community News

► Continued from Page 1A

Roadway Improvements

SW 90TH TERRACE: The roadwork and landscaping for the Weybourne Landing multi-modal path extension is complete from the gate to SW 80th Street. However, currently this roadway segment is not open for use by residents and contractors. Work on the extension of SW 90th Terrace from SW 79th Street Road, north to SW 63rd Street Road, is completed, except for the final landscape and irrigation walk, scheduled for Marion County approval and official opening at the end of March. This connection will provide residents with an additional route, helping improve access and traffic flow in the area.

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 now fully operational.

The construction permit for the gated entry was issued. By the time you read this column, the foundations of the gate operations building should be poured and ready for the vertical phase of construction. Please use caution while driving in this area.

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.

Last month, we noted that initial work had begun, primarily focused on relocating underground utility services such as fiber and electrical lines. This type of work progresses slowly because contractors must carefully avoid service interruptions.

Since then, the project has contin-

ued to advance. The Notice to Proceed for Phase 1A was issued on Monday, March 9, and road work began on Monday, March 16. I should note that underground fiber and electrical line work is continuing into this phase.

To help avoid construction-related travel delays when driving into Ocala, we strongly encourage residents to use the new SW 90th Terrace Road extension to reach SW 63rd Street Road, which connects to SW 80th Avenue 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. Presently, 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: Sales have been brisk in this new community located just north of Indigo East. Designed as an independent 55-plus HOA neighborhood, Melody Preserve will not be a member of the Circle Square Ranch Master Association or affiliated with any other homeowner association. Instead, it will feature dedicated amenities and services, creating a self-contained, thoughtfully planned living experience for residents.

Market response has been exceptionally strong, with 13 homes sold during the first month of sales, reflecting the demand for this new offering. The project continues to advance on schedule as development progresses.

Construction is scheduled to begin in April, marking the next milestone for the community.

Water Conservation Tip

Rain continues to be below average for this time of year. Marion County has issued an outdoor burn ban. Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) water conservation standards are in effect, with irrigation limited to once per week for residential properties.

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.

Travel Season

If you are willing to venture out for a journey, the summer travel season is approaching. We know many residents take extended trips around the country. Experience shows that additional steps must be taken before taking that extended trip to avoid potential disasters at home while you are away. Below is a short list of things to do:

- Leave your contact number with at least two trusted neighbors or friends.
- Update the Association as well with emergency contact information.
- Have the home's interior checked at least once a week by a trusted neighbor or friend, or arrange for an inspection service.
- Check in regularly with a trusted neighbor or friend while you are gone.
- Arrange for a regular irrigation check if you are going away for an extended period.
- Turn down the heat setting on your water heater to conserve energy.
- Before departing, make sure a professional properly services the air conditioner. This includes a drain line flush. Air filters require monthly attention and can be changed by the owner.
- Leave the thermostat set between 78 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit. This helps regulate humidity in the home and prevents mold or mildew.
- Make sure your homeowner's insurance policy is current and covers damage from wind, water, and mold. In most cases, this is now an added rider on the policy.

If you plan to be gone for several months, you may wish to consult an air conditioning professional about installing a humidistat to maintain optimal humidity levels in your home.

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

Safety First



Jonathan Miller
safetydepartment@otowfl.com

My brother, three years my senior, took my bike from me while I was working on it when we were pre-teens. He snatched it right from my hands, and no, I was not happy. I yelled at the top of my lungs that the front tire bolt was not tight. He kept going! I was nine, and yes, I hoped that he got hurt. He popped a wheelie as he rode off, and that's when the front tire bounced away in a different direction. My eyes lit up ... until.

When you see safety warning signs (and I'm not talking about a poster), listen to yourself. It is your experience level that is trying to keep you safe. The been there, done that, got the T-shirt, kind of experience. Which means, you have seen the unsafe condition before, and somebody should listen, including yourself.

As parents and teachers of life, we give safety instructions automatically, through the hard knocks and experience. When we say I told you so (like we want to say), it increases tension, and the safety message can be dismissed.

Safety also takes patience. Sometimes it takes a lot of patience! Please don't give up sharing your safety knowledge because of a few deaf ears. Taking the stance of "If you're not going to listen, you're on your own" can have a negative result.

When someone refuses to listen, yes, it may hurt them, but the person next to them, whom you didn't know was there, did listen to your safety message, and your words on safety were not lost. It is one of those cases when it is safe to assume that somebody "is" listening to your words of safety. You can blindly help someone you didn't even see who was there. It may not save all, but it will save some. Saving just one will put you ahead of the game. Let's call it, "My brother's keeper."

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Resident Services



Heather Ray
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associationinfo@otowfl.net

We would like to inform you of an important update regarding how your association assessments and related communications will be handled moving forward.

Effective immediately, all association assessment payment services and assessment-related communication will be managed through Resident Services. As a result, the accounting office will no longer accept association assessment payments or respond to account inquiries.

For any of the following, please contact Resident Services:

- Association assessment payment processing
- Questions about your account or balance
- Payment confirmations or receipts
- General assessment-related inquiries

ries
This change is intended to streamline services and ensure that all homeowner requests are handled efficiently through a single point of contact.

We kindly ask that you direct all future association assessment payment matters and communications to the Resident Services office (9850 SW 84th Court, Suite 500). You may also contact Resident Services at 352-236-6869 or at otowservice@otowfl.com.

AppFolio

We kindly request that all residents activate their AppFolio Owner Portal. 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 are highly encouraged to make their association assessment payments directly through the AppFolio Owner Portal.

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

If you have not already done so, please log in to AppFolio and set your payment preferences 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.

Electronic Cash Payments & Check Payments

For those who choose not to pay directly through AppFolio, electronic cash payments are an option. If you choose this payment method, we will provide you with a reusable PaySlip that you can use at Walmart, Walgreens, 7-Eleven, CVS, Casey's, Ace Cash Express, or the Kroger Family of Companies to pay your dues in cash (a transaction fee applies). Payment transaction limits are in effect and vary by location. Please refer to your PaySlip for details.

While payments by check are highly discouraged, if you choose to pay by check, all payments must be submitted to the following:

- On Top of the World (Central): Please make check payable to Management Enterprises, Inc., and mail to P.O. Box 771029, Ocala, Florida 34477-1029.
- Indigo East: Please make the check payable to Indigo East Neighborhood Association, Inc., and mail it to P.O. Box 771029, Ocala, Florida 34477-1029.
- Candler Hills: Please make the check payable to Candler Hills Neighborhood Association, Inc., and mail it to P.O. Box 771029, Ocala, Florida 34477-1029.
- Weybourne Landing: Please make the check payable to Weybourne Landing Neighborhood Association, Inc., and mail it to P.O. Box 771029, Ocala, Florida 34477-1029.

Resident Telephone Directory

The 2026 resident telephone directory was delivered to all residents on March 24, 2026. If you did not receive a copy, please stop by Resident Services to pick one up.



Photo by Fran Calhoun

The American Legion Post 354 at its new location – The Elliot Center.

Veterans Club



Charles Calhoun

The Veterans Club is proud to announce that the Vet Resource Center has partnered with the Marion County Hospital District to bring an extensive health and wellness event to our community. Please mark the date and bring your family to Circle Square Cultural Center on Wednesday, April 22, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Three hours that could improve your wellness and keep you happy, healthy, safe, and wealthy. Save money and get the best preventative

care available to veterans and their families. Plan for a better life.

The American Legion Post 354 now meets on the second Monday of every month at the Elliot Center (3231 SW 34th Avenue, Ocala, Florida 34474) at 2 p.m.

We are still collecting non-perishable food and other items for our veterans and the community.

The Veterans Club meets in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. Fran's cookies, coffee, and water are always available, along with military hats.

For information or to drop off donations, please contact Charlie Calhoun at 352-556-6004 (9735-B SW 92nd Court, Ocala, Florida 34481).

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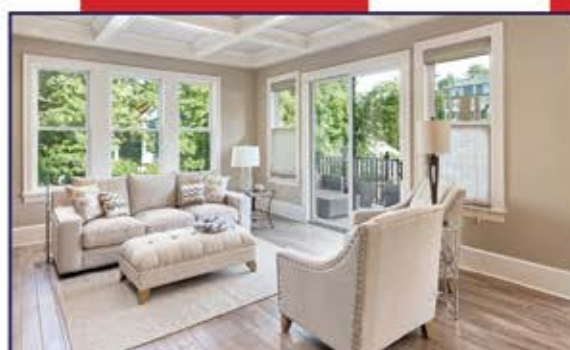
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Republican Club

Margaret Nodine



independent). At the meeting, each candidate was given 10 minutes to present their platform, followed by a five-minute question-and-answer session with the members. Any candidate may attend a future meeting if they wish.

Please note that our April meeting will address the school board elections. These candidates will be invited to address the club. I will update you in the next issue.

The Club Fair was a great success for our club. Thank you to all who stopped by, to our officers, and especially to Toni Jaeschke for her hard work and welcoming spirit.

Our Friday schedule is as follows: 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 as a guest before deciding to join.

We happily continue to support Operation Shoebox and the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard. We have received many letters of thanks from the troops for the packages and wishes we sent to them. Both groups give of their time and are dedicated to helping our troops.

We made it through the winter! By the time you read this, we will have changed the clocks (more sunlight for all) and celebrated St. Patrick's Day. Spring truly has arrived!

As I promised, the Republican Club has been busy keeping our members informed about the current local, county, and state elections and their candidates. In February, we hosted the candidates for the County Commissioner seat in District 2. At the March meeting, we welcomed the candidates for the County Commissioner seat in District 4. This district encompasses Northeast Marion County: Ocala, Silver Springs, Citra, Fort McCoy, Salt Springs, Ocala National Forest, and the surrounding rural communities. This is certainly a vast area, both economically and culturally.

At this time, five candidates are contending to run in the Aug. 18 primary, and Carl Zalak, the current commissioner for District 4, has not declared a reelection bid. The four Republican candidates are Jeff Bairstow, Sherri Meadows, Clint Barkley, Randall Alvord, and Anthony Barriner-Massa (running as an

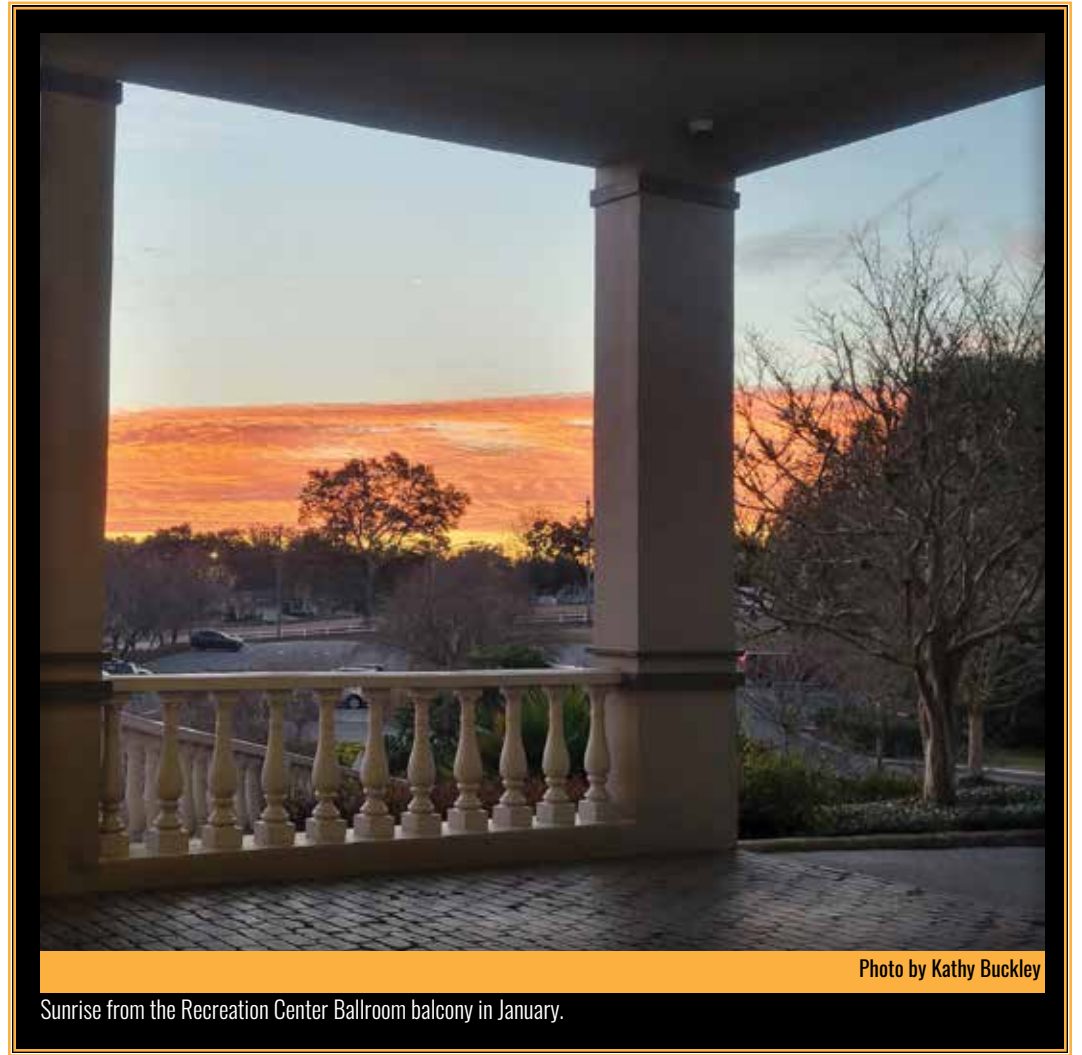


Photo by Kathy Buckley

Sunrise from the Recreation Center Ballroom balcony in January.



Photo by Leslie Miller

Democratic Club's trivia contest winners.

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 February meeting featured our annual trivia game presented by Dan Lack. His questions were very difficult and tested our political and historical knowledge. Prizes were awarded to the first- and second-place teams.

March's meeting featured speakers from the Democratic Progressive Caucus of Marion County as our main presenters. Additionally, we held our annual elections for officers and board members starting on April 1.

The Democratic Party of Marion County's annual fundraiser will be held on Saturday, April 18. Please support our party and its efforts for this year. The featured speaker will be David Jolly, Democratic candidate for Florida governor. Several other speakers, silent auctions, and a wonderful meal will be included as well.

April's meeting will be held on an unusual day due to scheduling conflicts with our meeting rooms - Saturday, May 2. Please add this date to your calendar, as we normally have a meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month! The meeting will start at 6 p.m., in the same rooms as usual. Our speaker for that meeting will be talking to us about scams and senior abuse.

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, microwaveable 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 Saturday, May 2.

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Williamsburg Neighbors

Carmel Kessler



The new officers for the Williamsburg Neighborhood are President Mike Below, Vice President Vicki Hendricks, Secretary Carmel Kessler, and Treasurer Gwen Fabian. These officers look forward to implementing the neighbors' ideas and suggestions. Be on the lookout for an email with details of a neighborhood meeting.

Mike and his wife, Deanne, have lived here for about a year. Mike is a retired plumber who moved here from Indiana. Vicki, a retired librarian, moved here from northern New Jersey in 2021. Carmel, her husband Dave, and daughter Anne moved here from North Carolina six years ago. Gwen and her husband Frank moved here from Ohio five years ago.

Please join your neighbors for an Easter potluck luncheon on Sunday, April 5, at 1 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Event Room I. The ham will be provided. Come and enjoy a wonderful gathering. You are welcome to take a meal to any neighbor who may not be able to attend. Call or text Carmel on 336-253-1250 for further details.

Green, purple, and gold beads decorated the tables, and masks and festive wear added to the party atmosphere. The New Orleans food at the Mardi Gras potluck was delicious, as was the king cake. New neighbor Page Joyner found the baby in the cake and will be blessed with a year of good luck.

Attention golfers! Last chance to purchase a chance to win a complimentary 18-hole round of golf for a foursome at one of the following golf courses: Candler Hill Golf Club, Stone Creek Golf Club, Ocala Golf Club, Golf Central Golf Club, Ocala National Preserve Golf Club, and Spruce Creek Golf Club. Drawing will be held on Sunday, April 5. Contact Brian McDonald at 518-253-2046

The third annual Williamsburg Team Grimes National Multiple Sclerosis Society Walk will take place on Saturday, April 11, at 10 a.m., beginning at 9271 SW 91st Circle. This fun one-mile walk will go through the neighborhood. If you



Photo by Dee Null

Mardi Gras in Williamsburg.

cannot walk and would like to donate to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, or if you would like further information, please contact Cathy Stroot at 812-878-8209.

Dinner out with neighbors will take place at Stone Creek Grille for Sunday brunch at 11 a.m. on Sunday, April 26. Contact Linda McDonald at 518-441-1682 to make a reservation.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact Mike Below at 317-524-8003 or visit williamsburgneighborsotow.com.

CONSERVATION FUN FACT

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

Avalon Social Group

Laura Gavey & Sharon Hall



Boy, did you miss a great time at comedy night on Monday, March 9! After dinner with pizza from Milano Italian Grille, over 100 of the Avalon neighbors were treated to some laughs from Mike Palma and his friend Buddy. All had a good time!

Ready for more entertainment? We will be back on Monday, May 11, with Trivia/Family Feud by Wendy. Not good at trivia? Come anyway, it's all for fun! Be on the lookout for more information via email or on our Facebook page.

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

Kestrel Knowings

Lyn Yans



Last call for recipes. Kestrel ladies are creating a new cookbook and want your recipes. We 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 hold 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 your recipes to Sherrie Sibley at allmighty259@comcast.net or drop them off at Lyn Yans' house at 8465 SW 93rd Circle. When submitting a recipe, include your name, recipe category, ingredients, and instructions (below the ingredients). The recipe categories are appetizers and drinks, soups and salads, vegetables and sides, main dishes, breads and rolls, desserts, cookies and candy, and other.

So, this is your final reminder! If you make something good ... share it! You'll be glad you did.



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Candler Connection

Debra Keirn



ganza - Breakfast for Dinner." Those residents with last names beginning with A-H should bring a dessert (e.g., sweet rolls, coffee cake); I-P, a main dish (e.g., bacon, sausage, egg casserole); and Q-Z, a side dish or salad (e.g., fruit salad, French toast casserole). We will have a pancake station with blueberry and traditional pancakes. The cost is \$1 at the door, which covers tableware, decaf coffee, 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. in the Ballroom. The Marion County Memorial Honor Guard will start the afternoon with a commemorative celebration,

and a meal will follow, including Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken, macaroni and cheese, potato salad, green beans, coleslaw, biscuits, and cupcakes. Palomino Blonde will provide music and games. Tickets will be sold 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.

The Fourth of July party will start at 4 p.m. in the Ballroom, and we will have a pig roast (catered by Hill's Barbecue) with baked beans, coleslaw, and dessert, along with iced tea, lemonade, and cof-

fee. The cost will be \$30 per person, and tickets will go on sale in June.

Cheeseburger in Our Paradise (a Jimmy Buffett-themed event) will take place on Friday, Sept. 18, featuring the Caribbean Chillers. The meal will include cheeseburgers, salads, and desserts. Watch for more information.

October 31st will be our Halloween Party and December 12th will be the Candler Connection Holiday Party catered by Pasta Faire with music by Kathleen Kane so put these dates on your calendar. Again, more information will follow in future World News articles and in The Happenings.

If you are interested in planning events, why not join the Candler Connection Social Committee? 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.

Newcastle Social Committee

Nancy Monaghan



found out years later that she was caring for her father while teaching us. She eventually married for the first time at age 62. My sister always said, "Choose joy."

Mike L.: More related to work, but one of my early bosses said, "Always hire people smarter than you."

Eddie B.: My brother (14 years older) wrote in my sixth grade autograph book, "Always try." Simple and effective throughout my life.

Jimmy G.: Yes, the things we remember - "measure twice, cut once" and "work smarter, not harder." These were always in the back of my head, my entire career as an elevator tech!

Mary: One of my teachers used to re-

peat the golden rule, "Treat others as you would like to be treated." It made a big difference for the whole class and the way we treated each other.

Pat and Jimmy G.: "Burn the midnight oil" (going to night school for eight out of 10 years to get my bachelor's). "Mind your Ps and Qs" - never knew what that stood for but knew what it meant. If someone does a good job, always pat them on the back (Jimmy in the role of supervisor). "What goes around, comes around," parental advice from both sides.

Linda D: When I asked my dad, "Where's it at?" he would always say, "Just before the at, you don't end a sentence in a preposition." Another is "A little dirt never hurt," or when we would fall, we were told to "get up and brush ourselves off."

Charles D.: My drill sergeant said, "If you ever fall out of a run, it'll be easier

next time." I never fell out. And this is a perfect lesson for everything else in life.

Judy M.: "If it's too good to be true, it usually isn't."

Jan C.: New York TV public service announcement in the 1960s - "To get a good job, you need a good education." At six, I told my sister I was going to college, and I was the first person in my entire family to do so. "Don't put your shoes on the table, it is bad luck" - mom's way of keeping dirt off the table. "If you are looking for sympathy, you can find it in the dictionary," - New Jersey mom.

Ned M.: "Waste not, want not," mom's advice.

Nancy M.: Dad's advice, "If it's worth doing, it's worth doing right." Mom's advice: "If you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything at all."

In closing, "Whatever advice you give, be short." - Horace.

It is rare that Newcastle doesn't have activities galore to share, yet here we are. For a fun change of pace, Newcastle residents shared sage advice they received growing up. Read on for yesterday's advice that we never forgot!

Peggy L.: My daddy always told me, "When in doubt, don't!" I try to live by this. My high school math teacher said, "Into each life a little rain must fall." I

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Crescent Ridge Happenings

Carol Lewis



Our next social will be on Sunday, April 12, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Large Card

Room. Bring your beverage of choice and a dish to share if you choose, or just come for the fellowship. There are always good conversations going on.

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

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Photo by Rosalina Norita

The iconic Sultan Ahmed Mosque, known worldwide as the Blue Mosque, has officially completed its extensive five-year restoration project, which reopened in April 2023.

East Meets West

By Rosalina Norita

Turkey serves as Asia's gateway to Europe, presenting a unique blend of cultures and a tangible connection between continents. The country is undergoing rapid modernization, with change often unfolding before one's eyes. Characterized by its secular, Western-oriented outlook, Turkey also maintains a robust free-enterprise economy. The local cuisine is exceptional, the coastline is picturesque, and many Turkish cities feature remarkable mosques and castles. Notably, Turkey remains an affordable destination along the Mediterranean coast.

Istanbul is famously the meeting place between Europe and Asia, but I soon discovered that it is one thing to know this intellectually and another to experience it firsthand. We set out to explore the transition from one continent to another, and the geographic reality felt almost fantastical as the landscape shifted around us.

The Sultan Ahmed Mosque, often called the Blue Mosque, together with Hagia Sophia and the Grand Bazaar, is located within easy walking distance of one another. It was during my visit to Hagia Sophia that I realized the city, and indeed the nation, is best described as a historical palimpsest rather than a simple meeting point of two cultures. The many transformations of this structure mirror Turkey's layered past, shaped by successive empires.

Originally built as a church in the sixth century, Hagia Sophia was converted into a mosque in 1453 after Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Empire. More than a decade after the founding of the secular Republic of Turkey in 1923, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk decreed that Hagia Sophia would become a museum. In

2020, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan reconverted it into a mosque, while allowing the upper level to remain open to non-Muslim visitors. Traces of its earlier lives remain visible: when the church became a mosque, the faces of the seraphim were covered by gold stars, and when it later became a museum, one star was removed to reveal a single face. Our exploration continued at the

Grand Bazaar, where we sampled renowned Turkish delight in a setting where East and West converge, and tradition meets commerce. A complimentary tea often precedes a friendly sales presentation. The Turkish people possess a deep passion for food, composing lyrical odes to yogurt, poetic ballads about fish sandwiches, and playful verses describing epic battles between pastry and pilaf. They clearly delight in the act of eating itself. Their famous ice cream is so elastic that it can be stretched like a rope.

Istanbul Airport stands at the crossroads of East and West, serving as a

modern reflection of Turkey's cultural identity. As a major global hub, it connects more than 85 million passengers to over 330 destinations, linking Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. Beyond transportation, the airport functions as a lively cultural space, displaying contemporary art alongside symbols of Türkiye's enduring heritage. Together, these experiences reveal a nation confidently balancing innovation and tradition, inviting passengers to witness history, hospitality, and modern life coexisting seamlessly at the vibrant edge of two worlds with warmth, resilience, curiosity, openness, pride, and continuity.

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Photo by Debbie Lynch

Mardi Gras golf cart parade.

Longleaf Ridge Friends

Debra Vitale



Hello spring! The gentle warmth of the sun and the soft breeze remind us why we live in Florida.

Our newest contributor, Elizabeth Wright, jumped right in to cover the golf cart poker run! With neighbors revving up their carts, the event cruised through four stops before rolling into the Arbor Conference Center for a finale packed with games, giggles, and good times. Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken kept everyone fueled up, and the organizers sweetened the day with delicious des-

serts, making it a truly memorable ride from start to finish!

Judi Walsh delighted in sharing the latest news! Lent was kicked off with a Mardi Gras golf cart parade - decked-out carts, beads, treats, and a "king cake" party at the Marcinek's home. Now that's how this neighborhood rolls!

Kathleen Taylor gave us some news: Dr. Lucarelli from HCA Florida Ocala Primary Care brought some real heart to the men's group - literally! His talk on cardiac treatment kept the men's pulses racing (in a good way). Hats off to Joe Ferris, the behind-the-scenes maestro making these gatherings happen.

The book club took on "Anxious People" by Fredrik Backman, and it was anything but stressful - thanks to host Cat Yokum's hospitality and Jane Daubenspeck stirring up a lively chat. Who knew cardiac health and a quirky Swedish novel could be so entertaining?

Sandra Ritchie noted that neighbors enjoyed an evening at Las Margaritas for dinner, finding that margaritas truly warm the soul! Nights like these remind us why coming together is so special and make us feel at home in Longleaf Ridge.

Gloria Emmons brought us the scoop: Jim Lovejoy with the social committee turned the Primary Tavern into "party

central." The room buzzed with conversation, and Eddie Valvo wowed everyone with a surprise piano performance. His grand finale? A heartfelt original piece for his wife Linda! And just when you thought the fun was over, the Sunday, March 1, Blood Moon Howling attracted a crowd, adding a little Michigan magic to the night.

Michelle Migdal sent out a big "thank you" to Caroline Chagoya for hosting a book club night brimming with laughs and lively chatter as everyone dove into "The Rosie Project" by Graeme Simon. Michelle also gave a shout-out to Eric and Lisa Anderson for orchestrating a dinner at Frida's Taco and Tequila! Hats off to Heddy Racinowski for launching the ladies' lunch group. Here's to more pages turned, more tacos tasted, and more friendships sparked!

For information on upcoming events, please contact a member of the social committee in your phase. Join our private Facebook page (OTOW Longleaf Ridge Friends) and provide your phase, lot number, and address. Please send questions to otowlongleafridge@gmail.com.

Blue Indigo East Democratic Club

Lydia Kuust



While the Indigo East Blue Democratic Club continues to meet on the fourth Monday of every month in the Indigo East Community Center Ballroom, we have changed our meeting time. We will now meet at 4 p.m. (not 2 p.m.). Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 27, 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!

At our February meeting, we discussed having our club operate under a different leadership structure. We will continue that work to identify the guidelines for what our club might become.

At our March meeting, Peter Shaper, a member of the Marion County Young Democratic Club, spoke to our club, sharing political thoughts of those younger than we are. He discussed how his club works to involve young people in politics and shared perspectives on the main issues that interest young Democrats most.

In recognition of Earth Day, our April guest speaker will be Executive Director Ryan Smart of the Florida Springs Council. Mr. Smart will discuss his organization's efforts to protect Florida's springs through policy, legislation, and grassroots initiatives.

For our community outreach programs, we have chosen two organizations to support. The first is Isaiah's 117 House. This organization will be building a facility soon to provide a more supportive, less traumatic environment for children in transition waiting to be placed into foster care. Isaiah's 117 House offers lemonade to visitors at farmers' markets and other local events, as people stop by their booth to learn about this organization. They need lemonade mix and paper cups, so please consider bringing some to our next meeting.

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

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

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.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

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Photo by Barbara Katz

Hiking group at the Shangri-La Trailhead.



Photo by restaurant staff

An Active Newcomers Club dinner group exploring a new restaurant.

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Active Newcomers Club

Linda Baker

It is finally springtime in Florida! We have a few weeks of beautiful weather before the stifling heat arrives and the snowbirds head back north. The Active Newcomers Club has over 300 members who enjoy a variety of outdoor (and indoor) activities organized by dedicated group leaders.

Our small groups are the best way to meet new friends! Groups include buncos, games, mahjong, gourmet, foodies, lunch, dinner, wine, book, golf, bocce, and hiking. Dinner group members meet on the first Wednesday of each month to explore new restaurants with new and old friends. Lunch groups meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Hiking is a great way to explore nature's beauty. Group hikes are announced via email and Facebook page. About 20 of our members hiked from the Shangri-La Trailhead to SW Highway 484 and back on Saturday, March 7. It was a beautiful day and a great hike. The horses they saw at the end of the hike were an unexpected bonus. All Active Newcomer club members are welcome to hike – just join the group at the designated meeting spot.

The bocce group also started in March and is very popular. We can only accommodate a limited number of participants due to the availability of bocce courts. Respond to any emails you receive about events promptly for the best chance of joining us.

Are you interested in starting a new group or joining an existing group? Send a note to Sandie Butler, our small groups director, via activenewcomers34481@gmail.com. Include "small groups" in the subject of your email. You can also reach out to Sandie if you have signed up for a small group but have not yet received an invitation.

Our large events are always a fun evening out. We will host a Hello Spring Party on Sunday, April 19, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Lodge at Candler Hills Ballroom. The menu will include garden salad, roasted turkey with mushroom gravy, pasta primavera, green beans, roasted potatoes, and rolls, catered by Fresh Plates Creative Catering. Desserts will also be provided. DJ Scott Bolton will provide music for dancing. Please check our Facebook page or our website for more information.

We are hosting a wine tasting and potluck on Friday, June 19. We will have more information about this event soon.

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

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



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Community Emergency Response Team



Debbie Snyder

Congratulations to our 10 newest members, who put in the work, completed the five-week training program, and are now CERT-certified - Ray Carroll, Kathi Connell, Catherine Daane, Dennis Dust, Alain Fortier, Frank Matranga, Allen Rippy, Dave Smith, Terry Strey, and Laura Van Denburg. We proudly welcome them and thank them for their dedication to community preparedness and service.

Our booth at the February Club Fair was well-attended, attracting residents and non-residents interested in learning more about Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and our role in the community. Visitors stopped by to ask questions, explore opportunities to get involved, and express their appreciation for the work our volunteers do. We enjoyed the opportunity to connect with so many people in our community and would like to thank everyone who stopped by our booth.

During the final weekend of February, more than 20 CERT members volunteered their time to support the Battle of the Paddle at the On Top of the World pickleball courts. Volunteers provided directional assistance to participants, spectators, and staff and staffed a first-aid tent throughout the three-day event, which ran from Friday through Sunday. The tournament attracted resident and non-resident competitors, and CERT's presence helped ensure a safe and well-organized experience for all attendees. We appreciate the dedication of our members who supported this successful event and demonstrated CERT's ongoing commitment to community service.

CERT is a nationally recognized FEMA program, and we are trained locally by the Emergency Management Division of the Marion County Sheriff's Office and supported by On Top of the World. Members attend an initial five-week class on Saturdays and receive training 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 at-



Photo courtesy of Marion County Sheriff's Office

CERT leaders with 10 new graduates of the five-week training program through the Marion County Sheriff's Office.

tend 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, April 8, 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. 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.



Photo by Debbie Snyder

CERT leaders Nancy Giammarella, Jon Fiedler, Anthony Pressley, and Jane Belz are working the Club Fair.



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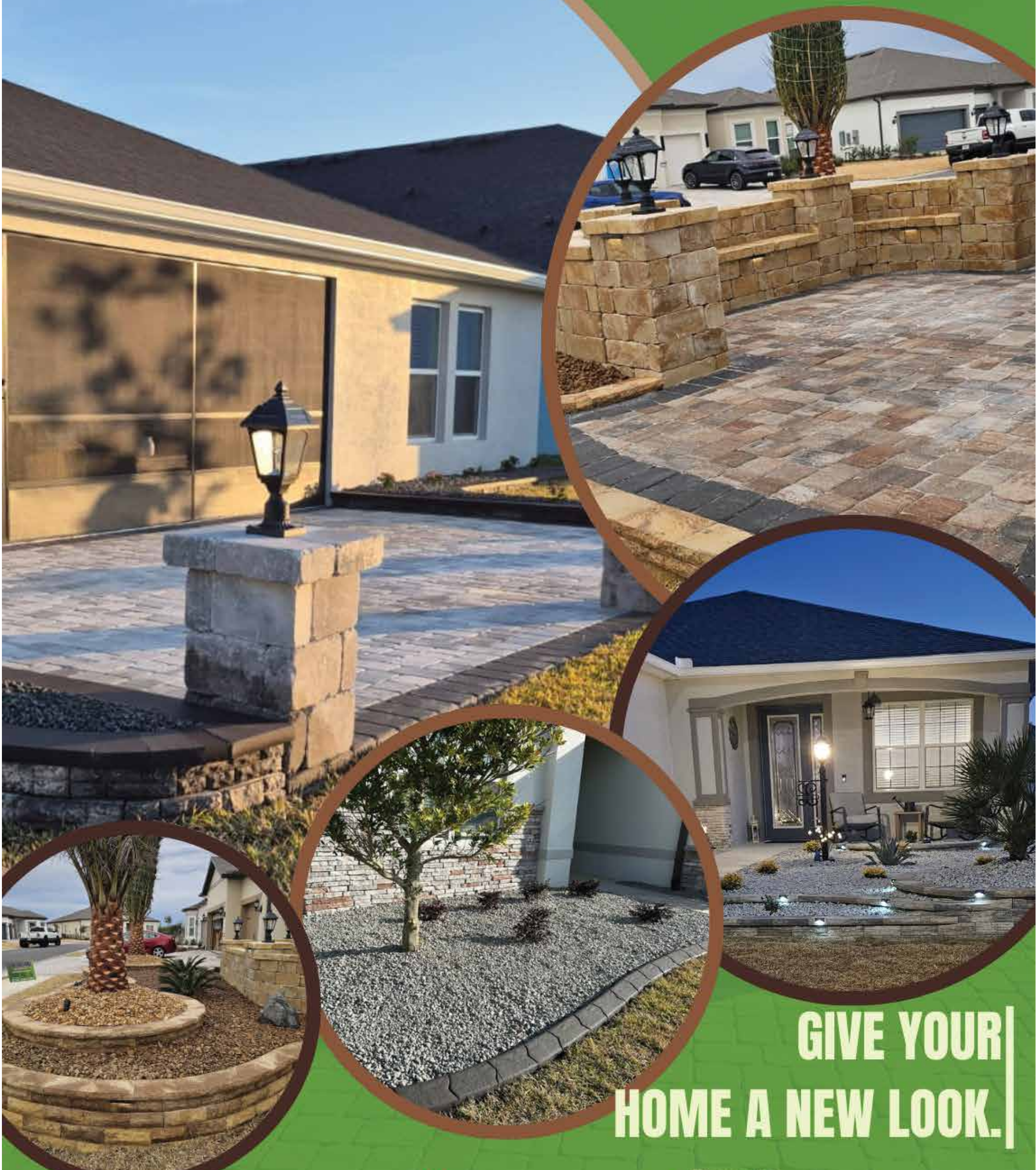
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The SWANS Anniversary Song

By Elaine Morrison
World News Writer

“People who need people are the luckiest people in the world.” You know those lyrics from the song “People”, sung so beautifully by Barbra Streisand in the show “Funny Girl.”

The same words, however, are also spoken by sociologists and health providers, who emphasize the importance of socialization for maintaining healthy lifestyles. But perhaps the most passionate and honest utterances of the message come from Lois Nix, coordinator of SWANS (Single Women’s Active Network System). This year, the club is celebrating its 20th year. Founded in

2006 by six single women homeowners who were unknown to each other, the club has grown to over 138 members to date. Its mission is to promote social interaction with enrichment, support, and respect.

Members enjoy the club’s many and varied activities as well as giving of their time and generosity to charitable organizations, among them the Women’s Crisis Center and the Interfaith Emergency Services.

Speaking with several members, a common thread runs through their stories. Beverly Lukowski told me,

“I needed camaraderie, so I attended a SWANS meeting that I read about in the World News. That was six years ago.” Beverly has, in that time, become a devoted SWAN participating in many activities, including field trips and dining experiences, and credits the club with giving her her very first visit to a casino. She also has learned to play some card games and calls Lois “a dynamo.” She added, “I am thrilled to have met so many loving and caring people.”

Michele Ciccazzo also read about the SWANS in the World News. “Suddenly, I found myself alone,” she said. “I joined SWANS and had the opportunity to meet so many people with whom I felt comfortable.” She participates in many of their activities and credits the SWANS with “changing her life.” “I feel I am home,” she added.

Rosemarie Hayes and Helen Hettrich had a different tale, having been long-time friends from Long Island, New York. They moved to the community at

the same time and bought homes near each other. They are enjoying the opportunity the club affords them to meet and make new friends, while also playing shuffleboard, going to the beach, and playing card games.

The club’s bi-annual general membership meeting took place recently. That is when the club plans its future activities. Small appetizer and dinner groups in members’ homes are quite popular, and many sign up to host these events. According to member Diane Knox, “I have never been a great cook, but I love to entertain. I can make five dishes well, and my guests tell me that they have never had a bad meal at my home.”

Lois Nix’s vision of support, friendship, and encouragement for single women, provided through the SWANS programs, gives special meaning to the words we started with: “People who need people are the luckiest people in the world.”



Photo by Sally Herrick

SWANS celebrating their 20th year.

Ready, Set ... Eclipse

By Cammie Fairburn

How does the man in the Moon cut his hair? Eclipse it.

Hope you were able to see the total lunar eclipse on Tuesday, March 3, when the Sun, Earth, and Moon aligned, with Earth between them. The Moon was in the Earth’s shadow and appeared reddish-orange, giving it the name Blood Moon. We don’t have a lunar eclipse every month because of the tilt in the Moon’s orbit.

The partial eclipse began in the western sky at 4:50 a.m., and totality began at 6:04 a.m. Totality lasted nearly an hour, but we could see only about 20 minutes of it because of the sunrise.

The Moon appears reddish-orange during an eclipse because the Earth casts a reddish shadow. At the club’s meeting in February, Glenn Cohen gave a perfectly timed Moon Minute talk on why the Moon appears to change color and to change size.

The Moon changes color mainly because Earth’s atmosphere acts as a filter, scattering blue light and making the Moon appear white or yellow. The Moon appears white when high in the sky because there is less atmosphere to filter the light.

The Moon appears to change size because of its elliptical orbit around the Earth. When the Moon is at perigee (supermoon), it is closer to the Earth and appears larger. When the Moon is at apogee (micro-moon), it is farther from the Earth and appears smaller.

The Moon also appears larger at the horizon compared to when it is high in the sky, due to an optical illusion. When

the Moon is near the horizon, your brain compares it to nearby objects, such as trees and buildings, making the Moon

appear larger.

The Moonstruck Astronomy Club meets on the second Thursday of every month from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. Our next meeting is on April 9. All residents and Gateway of Services pass holders can join the club, and new members are welcome! Club dues are only \$20 per year,

and they include a subscription to the quarterly Reflector Magazine.

For information or club registration, please contact club President Jim Di Paolo at moonastroclub@gmail.com. More information is also available at moonstruckastronomyclub.org.

Keep looking up!



Blood Moon.

Photo by Jim Di Paolo

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Silver Rainbow Club

Becky Bivins



Next up is our annual spring picnic on Sunday, April 19, from 2 to 5 p.m. at The Landing. The event is free to paid members. Cost for non-paid members is \$15. For more details, please visit SilverRainbowClub.com > Events.

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.

Friends of SPCA

Heather Tahan



Lastly, please spay or neuter your pets and encourage others to do so. Sterilization is the only way to control animal overpopulation.

As a reminder, our monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. in The Landing Ballroom. We welcome you to attend a meeting or drop by our table at the weekly Thursday Circle Square Commons Farmers Market to check us out. Our next meeting is on Thursday, April 16. Sign up to join our committees and get involved in helping Marion County pets in need. We are always in need of volunteers to staff our many events.

Stop by our coffee and donuts table at the Rags to Riches event on Friday, April 24, and mark your calendar for the second annual Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre Club event on Nov. 20, 21, and 22.

To learn more, please visit SPCAofMarionCounty.weebly.com, follow us on Facebook (Marion County FL SPCA), or email spca.marion.county@gmail.com.

If you have any non-expired food that your pet doesn't like or was shipped to you in error, please consider donating it to the SPCA. Donations will be accepted on the porch of Evelyn Sarns Holiday (8880-C SW 94th St, Ocala, Florida 34481). We accept all pet items, such as food, as well as blankets, sheets, and other supplies. All donations directly support Marion County pets. To avoid accidental ingestion by a pet, please do not use staples to close open bags. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity!

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

business or online.

The need is great, as always. One donation can save up to three lives and give comfort to the families of the recipients. There is no substitute for human blood, whether whole blood, platelet units, or double red units. Remember that all the blood donated in Marion County stays in Marion County. This is a great way to serve your community.

Please bring a photo ID. Eat a good meal and drink plenty of water before and after donating. See you on the bus.

LEASH LAW
Dogs must be on a leash at all times.

Thank you to all who helped make the Silver Rainbow Club's "singo" charity event a huge success! Proceeds went to the Interfaith Emergency Services' Food-4-Kids Backpack Program. The Food-4-Kids program is a charity that is near and dear to our hearts. And our club is all about giving back to our community and lifting each other up. So again, thank you!

Mark your calendar now! Our next Food-4-Kids Backpack Program charity event is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 20, at The Summit.

Welcome spring! It's a wonderful time for renewal, regrowth, and new beginnings. As nature comes reborn, so does the advent of kitten season. Every rescue is now preparing for the dramatic influx of orphaned kittens and pregnant mamas.

Orphaned neonate kittens are extremely frail and must be bottle-fed every two hours, kept warm, and monitored hourly for dehydration, weight loss, or other medical issues. The survival rate of orphaned neonates nationally is less than 60%, but in Florida, due to higher temperatures promoting a longer fertility season, it is often only 25% to 50%.

You can assist shelters during this very busy season by fostering or donating money and supplies. You can donate to Friends of SPCA, which supports local Marion shelters, or donate to local shelters' wish lists posted on each website. Kittens under eight weeks old need to be fostered until they are old enough to be spayed or neutered, and returned to the shelter for adoption. Although bottle-feeding is not for everyone, fostering weaned kittens (four-plus weeks) or a pregnant mom is less intensive. Older kittens need less care, and pregnant mamas only need a warm bed, love, and nutritious food.

OneBlood Bloodmobile

Sara Sommer



"Spring has sprung, the grass has riz, I wonder where the flowers is." - Anonymous

Just look outside. You will see all those flowers. You will see the Big Red Buses on Monday, April 6, in the Recreation Center parking lot from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. You will receive a mini physical and a \$20 E-card to be used at a local

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Rhode Island Group

Judy Parisi



the name given to Metacom, a sachem or tribal leader of the Wampanoags and Narragansetts. Native tribes were defeated in the war. Interestingly, the Colony of Rhode Island did not participate in King Philip's War due to its Quaker influence, though battles were fought there. The war was between colonists from Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth, and Connecticut Colonies and Native Americans.

Over the years, there have been continued disputes over tribal lands, and land conveyances have been controversial.

In 2004, the state officially recognized the wrongs committed against the Narragansetts, and later returned 400 acres that had been taken from them in the 1800s. The state continues to work with tribal authorities on issues such as land use, economic development, and resource management.

To see the history and culture of the native peoples, consider visiting the Tomaquag Indian Museum, one of the oldest tribal museums in the country. It is located in Exeter. The museum will provide insight into the history, culture, values, and resilience of the indigenous population of Rhode Island and demonstrate that our indigenous people remain a key part of our State.

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.parsi@gmail.com so we can ensure you are on our email list. We welcome all who have lived, worked, studied, or served in Rhode Island and their family members.

Murals on buildings can be fanciful or thought-provoking. In Providence, there is an 80-foot-tall mural of Lynsea Montanari holding a photograph of her tribal elder, the late activist and educator Princess Red Wing (Mary Glasko) of the Narragansett/Wampanoag tribe.

Montanari agreed to sit for the portrait but not in tribal regalia, saying she felt that would cloud the message of indigenous endurance. She wanted people to see that Native Americans are still a presence in our culture. The mural is titled: "Still Here."

Native tribes of Rhode Island include the Narragansett, Wampanoag, Pequot, Niantic, and Nipmuc. The arrival of European settlers impacted native tribes, whose history is complex. Yet the settlers benefited from the native tribes' sharing of knowledge of agriculture and medicine, particularly corn, beans, and squash.

Roger Williams, an English minister and the founder of Rhode Island, believed that land should be purchased from the Native Americans, rather than taken by force, which put him at odds with his contemporaries. English settlers took a different approach, giving rise to tensions due to competing land claims and disputes over the grazing of colonial livestock on hunting and fishing grounds. This led in part to King Philip's War in 1675. King Philip was



Photo by Judy Parisi

"Still Here" mural.

Women of the World

Lois Rowland



Christian Women's Club

Fran Acoba



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.

There was no meeting in March because all efforts were focused on preparations for the 23rd annual Fashion Show. Thanks to Ruth Santman from The Baldwin Group, the show was once again 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. Details of the success of the Fashion Show will be in next month's column.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, April 9, at noon in the Recreation Center Ballroom. It will feature Dee Collier, who makes history come alive with her presentations of a variety of historical women. The charity for the meeting will be Isaiah 117 House, which provides a safe, loving home and physical and emotional support to children waiting for a more permanent placement.

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.

Welcome to the Christian Women's Club! We are grateful that we continue what our founder, Sandi Kemp, began four years ago. We gather for a monthly potluck luncheon on the third Saturday at the Arbor Activity Center Event Room I, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

We kicked off 2026 on Jan. 17 with our speaker, Helen Allen, who shared about knowing and beholding God and experiencing his love. On Feb. 21, Liz Young spoke on overcoming adversity and the joy of living out God's purposes. On March 21, Karen Carlson shared about resting, trusting, and rejoicing in God. We were encouraged, uplifted, and inspired. We enjoyed reconnecting, praising God in song, and making new friends.

Our next gathering is on Saturday, April 18, at 11:30 a.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Event Room I. Please join us! Bring yourself, your favorite dish, and a friend or two.

For more information, please email joannelluu@yahoo.com, one of our administrators.

Friends of Bill W Group



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

For more information or to be notified of schedule changes, please email friendsofbillwocala@gmail.com.

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Photo by Mark Frankel

Marcy Frankel and Robin Scheraga laugh it up at the check-in table before the February Jewish Club meeting.

The Jewish Club



Bruce Kanner

Each month, the Jewish Club newsletter shares some motivational quotes apropos to club happenings. This month, we share them here as they seem to really apply to our goings on in the club (and On Top of the World):

“If you want to conquer fear, don’t sit home and think about it. Go out and get busy.” – Dale Carnegie

“Be so busy living your life that you have no time for hate, regrets, worries, or fears.” – Unknown

On Sunday, Feb. 15, local podiatrist Dr. Michael Wolosky made an educational and informative presentation to the club explaining that today’s modern podiatrist handles “anything that ails the foot from the knee down.” In addressing the myriad ailments that can affect feet, he pointed out, “we (humans) are not ... used to walking on hardwood, tile, and cement floors.” He touched on other foot ailments and said, “Stretching (the plantar muscle) is key.” Wolosky advised daily inspection of shoes and feet to ensure no rocks or other objects got into the shoes and that there were no new wounds on the feet. Wolosky was introduced by Yvonne Beckman, who had recommended the presentation to the club.

At the same meeting, Bruce Kanner presented the monthly moment in time on “Gematria,” in which numbers are ascribed to letters of the Hebrew alphabet or any alphabet. Some scholars have

drawn correlations between two words whose sums of letters are the same, thus indicating a connection between them. In one example, it was noted that the words “secret” and “wine” both have a gematria of 70, suggesting that wine and secrets are related. “And many of us know that if we drink too much wine, we may end up revealing our secrets,” he said.

On Sunday, Feb. 1, the club again went to the Ocala Civic Theatre (OCT) and enjoyed “The Little Shop of Horrors.” This was the second year in a row for the trip to the OCT. Social committee member Susan Daniels organized both successful trips.

On Wednesday, Feb. 11, the monthly lunch bunch enjoyed Indian food at Amrit Palace. Board member Mark Frankel reported in part, “And no, it was not spicy at all! Unless you wanted it that way.”

And on Thursday, Feb. 19, the club was again at the semi-annual Club Fair. Board members Harriet Pinchouck and Jay Wallet did the honors, manning the club table, greeting current members, and talking with prospective members about our club.

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

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

Lions Club



Gail Morris

At this writing, our annual fundraiser – Casino Night – has taken place, and our club members’ diligent ticket sales have been rewarded. I hope you enjoyed the fun and friendship.

If didn’t attend, then you won’t see your name in this column next month as the winner of the 65” smart TV or adult electric tricycle with a topper. Sorry you missed out, but maybe next year. Only the members will determine if the event happens again.

The funds raised will support many of our local charities, such as Interfaith Emergency Services, Veterans Helping Veterans, several Marion County elementary schools, and the Public Education Foundation of Marion County for Take Stock in Children. Lions have long supported many different sight-saving organizations, including Dogs, Inc., Lions Saving Sight, and the Florida Center

for the Blind.

Our services committee has been busy this month, contacting the elementary schools and shopping for the items the school liaisons have identified as needed to help the children be successful. It is amazing to us that clothing is such a need for the schools, but it is, and we do our best to support that need, as well as the extra learning tools the budget doesn’t cover.

The schools always have a way of encouraging their students to “do the right thing,” whether it’s doing homework and bringing it back to school or helping a fellow student who dropped something and needs help picking it up. They are teaching more than just the ABCs to make well-rounded, helpful, caring young people. Our club absolutely wants to support the teachers in their efforts. Come join us, we can always use more helping hands.

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

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Scandinavian American Club

David Wesenberg



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

In our meetings, people talk with each other about their experiences, hopes, origins, successes, and failures. Are you at least part Scandinavian? Or are you just interested in the Scandinavian contributions to American society? What a great opportunity to hear and see from those who have experienced that immigration experience.

The earliest Scandinavian settlements in the U.S. were Swedish along the Delaware River in 1638, only 18 years after the Plymouth, Massachusetts colony. The first president of the Continental Congress was John Hanson, a fourth-generation descendant of Swedish royalty. Early Swedish settlements were in Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

Kleng Peterson Hesthammer came to the U.S. in 1821 as a dissenter from the Norwegian Lutheran Church. He purchased a sloop named Restauration and became an immigration agent. He and others like him brought over 750,000 Norwegians and Swedes. By 1890, there were 400 towns in Minnesota with Scandinavian names, and more people in North Dakota spoke Norwegian than English.

Coming with them was their religion, the “Word alone, grace alone, faith alone” of Lutheranism that, despite all of the synodical politics, brought a cultural ethos of responsibility and honesty wherever they settled. Approximately a quarter of the population ended up in the U.S.

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

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

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Photo by cruise staff

Members of the Active Singles Club take a cruise.

Active Singles Club

Jan Lindell



Spring has arrived with much better weather for our many events. Be sure to check out the calendar for all events, activities, and trips. You can always find something you want to do!

Our first Active Singles cruise was a huge success. Thirty-eight attended, and we all had so much fun together. Many of the group went on great excursions, dinners were fabulous, and we all enjoyed wonderful shows. Our member Jan Lindell is putting a photo book together for all to enjoy. Thanks to both Marilyn Wilson and Sandy Wilson for organizing this cruise.

Our travel committee is working hard on many travel adventures. You can sign up for the Alaskan cruise/tour, a European adventure, a fall foliage tour in New England, now on the calendar, as well as a short trip to Biloxi, Mississippi, and a wonderful Christmas trip to Biltmore and Asheville, North Carolina. Our next day trip is Bridgerton High Tea on the Barbara Lee in May.

Many of our members enjoy our

breakfasts, lunch, and dinners on each month. In April, we will have breakfast at The Farmhouse in Belleview, lunch at The Whistling Duck, and dinner at The Braised Onion. Sign up early to avoid the waitlist.

The hiking group has some really nice hikes and walks this month, and many of those folks stay out for lunch together afterward.

We are seeing more of our members attending events at Grand Oaks Resort in Weirsdale. Our president reserves a VIP table or two for us right up front, so we always have front-row seats! We are going to enjoy a special free concert on Saturday, April 4, with dinner out beforehand, and on Saturday, April 11, we are going to "Just Desserts Murder Mystery." One of our committees is busy planning our annual golf cart poker run on Saturday, April 18.

The requirements to join our club are: you must present a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass and be single. Our member meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month at Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. Our doors open at 7:15 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing many of our members, as well as any prospective new members, at any of our meetings. See you on Wednesday, April 15!

Freethinkers

Kathy Bell



"One of the greatest problems for the liar is that he must keep track of his lies." - Sam Harris

On Sunday, April 12, from 1 to 3 p.m., Freethinkers will welcome an expert on lying, R. Lee Walters, president of Excalibur Private Investigations, who will present "Deception in Today's Society." A veteran of 24 years with the FBI, with the last five as a supervisory special agent, Mr. Walters led a multitude of fraud investigations in areas of banking, health care, investments, and public corruption. He was one of the first agents assigned to the Whitewater Investigation and was responsible for the conviction of the then-sitting Arkansas governor.

One of our favorite presenters, Freethinker Domenica Genovese, returns to the podium on Sunday, April 26, from 1 to 3 p.m., presenting "Photographer as Witness." These photographers bear witness to history as it unfolds, standing in the midst of events while historians write about them later. Photography doesn't just record history - it shapes our collective memory and understanding of our world.

Our book club will meet on Monday, April 13, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. to discuss "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood. Many of us are familiar with the premise, having read the book or watched the television series. Is it just a dystopian novel, or could it really happen? Let's talk about it.

Freethinkers is open to all individuals on the freethought continuum, from religious skeptics to avowed atheists. If this fits you, please join us at one of our Sunday meetings, held on the dates indicated above, to become a member. Afterward, you are welcome to all other events.


In addition to the book club, our Socrates Cafe meets on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. to discuss philosophical issues in depth. Our commitment as freethinkers to civil discourse does not preclude an interesting and rousing discussion!

All meetings are held in the Hobby Building Event Room on the days and at times indicated above. We also offer three dining-out opportunities monthly at local restaurants: secular lunch, dining out together (dot), and freethinking women's lunch.

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

CONSERVATION FUN FACT

On Top of the World has several notable species living here, such as fox squirrels, coyotes, turkeys, red cockaded woodpeckers and a bald eagle.



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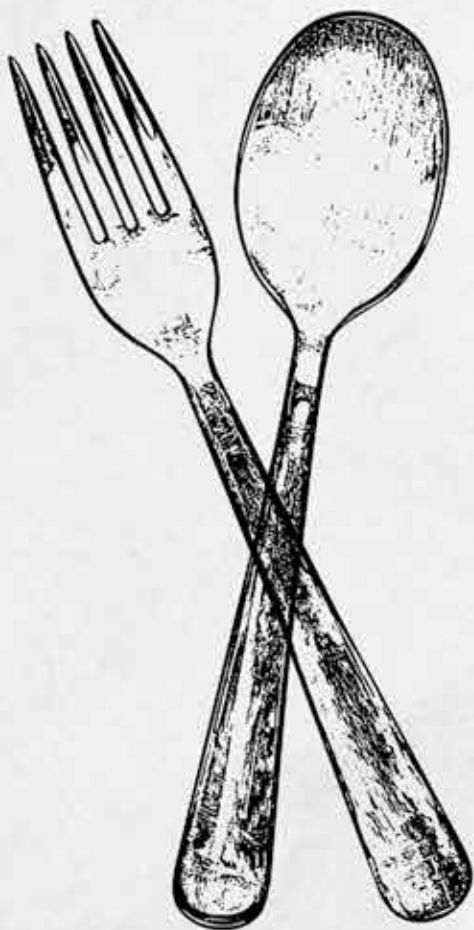
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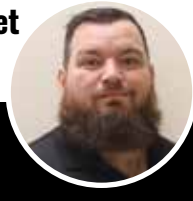
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How to Run a Proper Speed Test

We've all been there: you're right in the middle of a FaceTime call with the grandkids or settling in for a Netflix movie, and suddenly ... the spinning circle of doom appears. Before you call your internet provider to give them a piece of your mind, it's worth checking if you're actually getting the speeds you pay for.

Running a speed test is the digital equivalent of checking your tire pressure— it's quick, easy, and tells you exactly how much "oomph" you have under the hood.

PREPARE FOR SUCCESS: To get an accurate reading, you need to eliminate the "noise" in your house. If your smart TV is streaming in the other room and your spouse is downloading a massive update on their tablet, your test results will be lower than they should be.

- Close any extra windows or apps on your computer or phone.
- Make sure no one else in the house is streaming video or gaming.
- If you're testing via Wi-Fi, stand in the same room as your router. Physical walls are the natural enemy of high-speed internet.

CHOOSE YOUR TOOL: You don't need to

download anything fancy. Simply open your web browser and visit one of these gold-standard sites:

- Speakeasy.net: A popular and detailed option.
- Fast.com: Created by Netflix, this one is incredibly simple. The moment the page loads, the test starts automatically.

UNDERSTANDING THE "JARGON": Once the test finishes, you'll see three main numbers. Here is what they actually mean for your daily life:

- Download: How fast information comes to you. Affects Netflix, browsing, and downloading photos.
- Upload: How fast you send information out. Affects your clarity on Zoom calls or when sending emails.
- Ping/Latency: The "reaction time" of your connection. Low numbers are better; high numbers cause "lag."

THE "PRO" SECRET (THE WIRED TEST): If your Wi-Fi results seem sluggish, try the Ethernet test. Plug your laptop directly into the router with a cable and run the test again. If the wired speed is fast but the Wi-Fi is slow, the problem isn't your internet provider — it's likely your router or your home's layout.

What's a "good" score? For a typical household, a download speed of 50 Mbps to 100 Mbps is usually plenty for smooth streaming and browsing. If you're seeing numbers below 25 Mbps, you might find that things get a bit "clunky" when multiple devices are online.

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.

If you are planning on traveling outside the United States, you might want to do some homework ahead of time. By getting clearance as a pre-approved, low-risk traveler, you can expedite your wait time coming back.

One U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Trusted Traveler Program is called Global Entry, with an application fee of \$120, and membership lasting five years. Save by searching out credit cards that cover the cost of Global Entry.

The background check takes about two weeks to process. Visit cbp.gov/travel/trusted-traveler-programs/global-entry for access to Global Entry enrollment. First, submit and pay for each individual's application, and wait for CBP to complete the background check. Next, there will be an in-person scheduled interview, which is required the first time. Some benefits include modified screening and improved security.

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Travel Toppers



Mary Lamp

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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.

There is still availability for our "Get Your Kicks on Route 66" tour, departing from Chicago, traveling through eight states, and ending in Los Angeles. This is from Friday, Sept. 18, through Sunday, Oct. 4. 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 the final payment due on Tuesday, June 30. Call Janet Wiles at 804-243-4008.

Janet is also your contact for a Celebrity Apex cruise from Feb. 13 through Feb. 20, 2027. Ports of call will include Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic; St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; and Basseterre, St. Kitts and Nevis. We have a block of Concierge Class 2 rooms with prices depending on whether you wish to purchase the beverage package and Wi-Fi. With the beverage package and Wi-Fi, the price is \$5,776.04 per couple, and without, \$4,506.04 per couple. These prices include the cruise, taxes, port charges, travel protection, prepaid gratuities, and round-trip transportation to/from Port Canaveral. Not included are excursions or the beverage package/Wi-Fi as indicated in the different prices above. Pricing and availability are subject to change. The deposit is \$250 per person with final payment due Nov. 15, 2026. Contact Janet at 804-243-4008.

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's current status. Any non-resident who participates must be a guest of a resident club member.

GOING OUT OF TOWN?

View or download a PDF of the World News at ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala.

Today, I am going to talk about a very interesting work assignment I had in June 1991 in what was then Yugoslavia.

At the time, the Yugoslavian government was seeking money from the World Bank for two water-related projects. The World Bank asked the U.S. Geological Survey, my employer for 43 years, for technical support from an expert on the water quality of rivers and lakes. I was overjoyed to be selected.

There were two issues. First, Belgrade, the capital city of Yugoslavia, was dumping all of its raw sewage and industrial waste directly into the Danube River. The government was seeking money to build a secondary-level sewage treatment plant to treat the water before discharging it into the river. A secondary treatment system is designed to remove most of the dissolved and suspended organic matter from wastewater. The World Bank's question was, is building such a system worth the money? Duh! Frankly, I didn't need to travel to Belgrade to answer that question.

The second issue was the water supply for some of the popular tourist venues along Yugoslavia's Adriatic Sea coast. Although popular venues, the cities simply did not have enough local water to provide for the number of visitors. However, Skadar Lake, a huge, spring-fed lake, was nearby, but on the other side of a bunch of mountains. The question was, could water be piped from the lake to the cities without causing a disastrous ecological impact on the lake? In my opinion, that was an acceptable solution.

What made this assignment such an

adventure? First, the money. The inflation rate in Yugoslavia was 76% per year from 1971 to 1991. After that, it really got bad. The inflation rate peaked in January 1994 at an inconceivable 313 million percent per month! Think about that. At the time I was there, the currency included 10,000 dinar notes and "new" one-dinar notes that were equivalent. It was confusing.

Second, we had several high-level meetings with some Yugoslav politicians. What struck me as unusual and intriguing was that when we entered a meeting room, the place settings included a pad of paper, a pencil, and a small glass. The table also had several bottles of brandy scattered around. Basically, everyone started the meeting with a shot

of brandy and refilled as desired. Having been known to imbibe a tad now and then, I enjoyed this practice particularly since I had nothing to say at any meeting except to perhaps whisper some technical information to the World Bank representative.

Third, I left Yugoslavia on June 26, 1991. I had to catch a flight from the coast to Belgrade in eastern Yugoslavia to fly home. So, why is that significant? The "hot" war that culminated in the breakup of Yugoslavia actually started that morning! I wasn't sure I would be able to leave, but I managed to make it out without any serious problems. The country officially ceased to exist in 2006 after 15 years of internal warfare.

You never know what life is going to throw at you.



Photo by Peter Milošević

The confluence of the Sava River (right) and the Danube River (left) at Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

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Latinos Club

Silvia C. Garcia



¡Hola Amigos! Our club continues to grow as one of the many vibrant clubs in our community; it offers something especially unique – a welcoming group where members quickly feel like family rather than simply fellow club members.

You do not have to be Latino to join. We celebrate culture, friendship, and fun, and we welcome everyone who enjoys good company and lively events.

Our next get-together will be on Saturday, April 25, when we will gather at The Town Square to enjoy Stella Beat beginning at 7 p.m. Members are encouraged to bring their chairs, food, and beverages for a relaxed evening of music and socializing. And don't forget your dancing shoes – we're planning to have plenty of fun!

One of the highlights of last month was our club dinner at Elevation 89, where we were treated to a delicious meal and a wonderful evening overlooking the Ocala International Airport by Chef Jeremy. From our tables, we had a unique view of planes taking off and landing. The evening also included one of our favorite traditions – a gift card drawing generously provided by the restaurant. Congratulations to Norma Micheroni, the lucky winner of the gift card, and many thanks to Elevation 89 for their generosity and hospitality.



Ceci Marsh, Abelardo Burgos, Silvia C. Garcia, and Janet Gonzalez at the Club Fair.

We hosted a table at the Club Fair, which gave us a wonderful opportunity to meet many residents. It was a very successful day as we spoke with neighbors, answered questions about

the club, and shared information about our activities. We were thrilled by the interest shown by so many people. As a result, we received applications from

numerous new members who are excited to join our club and participate in upcoming events, including Renate Lipp from Austria! Congratulations to Garfield and Salian Gray, winners of the drawing, courtesy of our club.

Another interesting event was our wine tasting. We welcomed "Ricardo" Richard Kozicki, wine educator at Master the Possibilities, who joined us to guide the evening's tasting. Ricardo shared his knowledge and enthusiasm for wine, making the experience both educational and entertaining for everyone attending. Our members Steven Code, David King, John Menendez, and Doug Slattery served as our pourers for the evening. Members tasted a variety of wines while learning about the characteristics and flavors of each. Congratulations to the lucky winners of gift baskets, wine, plus more, including Maria Fernandez.

We are proud to bring people together through culture, food, and friendship. If you are looking for a group where laughter is plentiful and members truly care about one another, our Latinos Club is the perfect place for you!

Upcoming events include:

- Saturday, May 30: Murder mystery dinner and dancing.
- Saturday, June 27: Luau Latino and dancing.

Visit our Facebook page (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.

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Genealogical Society

Sid Levine



Have you taken a DNA test? DNA results offer a plethora of information. You can learn your ethnicity, find lost cousins, and, in some cases, learn about health and medical issues. At our March meeting, Kate Howard showed us how, using DNA results, we can confirm that some of the branches of our family trees are correct.

Our April meeting will feature Peggy Jude via Zoom. She will show us how to read census reports and squeeze more

out of them than just the names in your family. The census reports are the pre-eminent documents for genealogical research. If you were born before 1950, as many of us were, you will be listed in the 1950 census, which was released four years ago.

The Genealogical Society is dedicated to helping its members research their family histories. We offer educational programs on a variety of genealogy subjects. We will help those new to this hobby get started and offer help to more seasoned researchers get past those pesky brick walls that have stalled their efforts.

The club meets on the third Monday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. Meetings are also available via Zoom. Guests are welcome if you feel inclined to give us a try.

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Photo by Dick Jaeschke

Leonard Rivkin, Sonnie Chong, and Rosalina Norita showcase the Global Diversity Asian Social Club and Gentle Yoga and Meditation at the Club Fair.

Joy in the Mourning



Deb Thompson

first, we'll need to prepare our hearts by understanding and accepting books one and two. This will take courage, but you are worth the investment of the books and your time.

Dr. Haugk writes in book one, "Letting yourself feel is the best and healthiest thing you can do for yourself and those you love." Joel Bretscher adds, "Being honest about how you really feel is a sign of true strength."

If you are ready to do the best and healthiest thing for yourself, you may want to include a bit of Joy in the Mourning. We meet every Friday from 12:30-2:30 pm at the Arbor Activity Center Music Room. For further information, please call Deb at 352-445-4860.

The new, improved change has begun. We are focusing more specifically on the topic at hand. A famous motivational quote by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. states, "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."

Extending hope to those just entering a bereavement season or those presently working through the vast challenges is what Joy in the Mourning is all about. We glean from the literature of counselors, informed by their professional expertise and practices. Hope emerges, ushering in healing. A light at the end of the tunnel illuminates the journey as we grow through what we are going through.

Folks willing to move forward are intentional in healing and discovering their new path of life and fulfillment. Being alongside other understanding souls is a plus. "You alone can do it, but you cannot do it alone," O. Hobart Mower. Joy in the Mourning meets for this very reason.

For those interested in attending, the following is a breakdown of what to expect. Currently, we are reading and discussing a booklet freely provided by the Monarch Center for Hope & Healing. After that, we will begin a set of four short books by the founder of Stephen Ministries, Dr. Kenneth C. Haugk. The books are easy to read, straight to the point, and loaded with hope and encouragement. They build from one to the next, targeting the crucial times one will experience.

Here's a peek at what you can expect from book three, titled "Finding Hope and Healing." Book four concludes the journey with a beautiful title, "Rebuilding and Remembering." These are two desirable goals we will move toward, but

Global Diversity Asian Social Club



Rosalina Norita

Following the tremendous excitement generated at the recent Club Fair, we are thrilled to share more enchanting details about the much-anticipated Indonesian Extravaganza Night. This signature event is meticulously designed to immerse our cherished community in the vibrant spirit and rich heritage of Indonesia.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, Aug. 29, at The Summit Ballroom as we prepare to transform our space into a dazzling tapestry of Indonesian wonders. This isn't just an event; it's an exclusive invitation to explore the heart and soul of an incredible nation.

Imagine a land of emerald islands, where ancient traditions dance with modern vibrancy, and breathtaking landscapes stretch from volcanic peaks to azure seas. This is Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago consisting primarily of five main islands, Java, Sumatra, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, and Papua, and a mesmerizing mosaic of over 17,000 islands, each boasting its own unique heritage.

From the mystical rhythms of Java to the spiritual serenity of Bali, and the vibrant tribal arts of Papua, Indonesia is a treasure trove of cultural diversity, shaped by millennia of rich history and intricate civilizations. The Indonesian Extravaganza Night aims to offer a vivid glimpse of this unparalleled beauty and depth, delivered directly to your doorstep.

Prepare to be captivated by the mesmerizing melodies of kolintang orchestras and the graceful movements of tra-

ditional Indonesian dances. Adorned in resplendent costumes, our performers will weave stories through intricate choreography and expressive music, offering a powerful glimpse into the heart of Indonesian storytelling and celebration. Beyond the visual spectacle, delve deeper with insightful presentations that illuminate the historical tapestry and cultural nuances of these diverse islands, enriching your understanding and appreciation for this dynamic nation.

Experience the rich flavors and vibrant culture of Indonesia in an unforgettable evening of culinary delights and live performances. An abundant variety of authentic Indonesian dishes, featuring nasi kuning, beef rendang, chicken woku, urap salad, and assorted traditional sweets. The image showcases the vibrant colors and texture of the treats. Highlighting the rich culinary heritage of Indonesia.

This unique celebration is already generating significant buzz within our community! Beginning in June, tickets will be available on Ticket Tuesday from 9 a.m. to noon in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room III. Due to anticipated high demand, we strongly encourage you to secure your spot early for what promises to be an unforgettable evening.

The enthusiastic reception at the Club Fair confirmed our belief: the Indonesian Extravaganza Night is poised to be a highlight of our community's cultural calendar. It's an evening dedicated to fostering curiosity, deepening friendships, and celebrating the rich tapestry of global cultures. Join us as we build bridges of understanding and create cherished memories through the shared joy of discovery. We can't wait to share this magical journey with you.

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We combined the best of both worlds by blending land-based training with low-impact water exercises. On land, we will focus on building strength, stability, and endurance, with a chair available for support during exercises if needed. In the water, you will engage in resistance exercises that are gentle on the joints but challenging for your muscles, providing a full-body workout that is both enjoyable and effective!

Birders' Beat

Linda Monaco



wintering and migrating birds. Some of the birds commonly found at this site include sandhill cranes, white pelicans, wood storks, bald eagles, green-winged teal, limpkins, snowy egrets, and several varieties of ducks, including beautiful wood ducks. Alligators are found here in abundance, and a handicap accessible wildlife viewing platform will be on our route. The six-mile drive is only open to the public on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from mid-February through late May.

If you would like to join the group for this trip to the Emerald Marsh on Friday, April 17, please email Margitta Clatterbos at mclatterbos@gmail.com. We will meet in the parking lot of Friendship Center at 7 a.m., just outside the SW 99th Street gate for On Top of the World. This is the parking lot by Big Lots and Bank of OZK. Emerald Marsh Conservation Area is about an hour's drive from On Top of the World. Our lunch destination will be Eaton's Beach Sandbar and Grill (15790 SE 134th Avenue, Weirsdale, Florida). Plan to bring a hat, binoculars, water, snacks, and sunscreen.



Photo by Nancy Stephens

Bald eagle.



Photo by Phil Karcheski

Hydroponically starting plants from seed.

Eco Gardeners

Phil Karcheski



April is a pivotal transition month for gardening in Central Florida. As the pleasant spring weather begins to give way to the intense heat and humidity of summer, your strategy should shift toward heat-tolerant varieties that can handle the rising temperatures and the onset of the rainy season.

The "Last Chance" Cool-Season Crops

By April, the window for traditional "winter" vegetables like lettuce, spinach, and broccoli is closing rapidly. If you plant these now, they are likely to bolt (go to seed) and become bitter within weeks. However, you can still find success with:

- **Bush Beans:** These mature quickly (usually in 50 to 60 days), allowing you to harvest before the July heat arrives.
- **Carrots:** Look for "Nantes" varieties, which tend to handle the warming soil better than longer, tapering types.
- **Radishes:** Because they grow so fast (25 to 30 days), you can squeeze in one final harvest.

Warm-Season Heavy Hitters

April is the prime time to establish vegetables that thrive in the sun.

- **Sweet Potatoes:** These are the champions of Florida summers. They love the heat and will happily crawl across your garden beds while other plants wither. Plant slips now for a late summer or fall harvest.
- **Okra:** This is one of the few vegetables that truly thrives in 90°F-plus weather. It is drought-tolerant and produces beautiful hibiscus-like flowers.
- **Southern Peas:** Also known as cowpeas (including black-eyed

peas and zipper creams), these are excellent for building soil nitrogen and can withstand the humidity that usually triggers fungus in other plants.

- **Eggplant:** Varieties like "Black Beauty" or the long Japanese types are very resilient in the Florida sun.

Heat-Tolerant Greens

If you want salads through the summer, swap traditional greens for tropical alternatives:



- **Everglades Tomato:** While standard large tomatoes often stop setting fruit once nighttime temperatures stay above 70°F, these tiny, currant-sized tomatoes will produce all summer long.
- **Malabar Spinach:** This is a climbing vine, not a true spinach, but it has a similar flavor and thrives in high heat.
- **Seminole Pumpkin:** A native Florida squash that is resistant to the powdery mildew and vine borers that typically plague zucchinis.

Quick Tips for April Success

- **Mulch Heavily:** Use pine straw or wood chips to keep soil temperatures down and retain moisture as the sun gets stronger.
- **Pest Watch:** Keep an eye out for aphids and leaf-footed bugs, which become more active as the weather warms.
- **Watering:** Shift your watering schedule to early morning to prevent fungal issues caused by damp leaves sitting overnight.

The Eco Gardeners spent the cooler days of February preparing for the spring planting, building fences, and prepping the beds.

The Eco Gardeners will meet on Sunday, April 19, in the Hobby Building Event Room at 1:15 p.m. Guests are always welcome. Want to join or learn more about gardening? Visit eco-gardeners.org or Facebook (OTOW Eco Gardeners). To contact us, email gardenc58@gmail.com.


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Finding Zen

Robert Colen
info@sholompark.org



walking paths, and peaceful natural spaces for the community.

Sholom Park also recently became the site of a new 15-point orienteering course, installed as an Eagle Scout service project by Scout Amelia Schmeltz. For her project, Amelia designed and installed wooden control posts placed throughout the park, creating a course that encourages visitors to explore the grounds while learning basic navigation skills. Participants will be able to use a course map to locate each checkpoint as they navigate through the park. Instructions and the official course map will soon be available on the Sholom Park website, making it easy for visitors of all ages to try the course during their next visit.

After completing the project and fulfilling all required merit badges, Amelia earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest achievement in Scouting. Her Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held on Sunday, March 8, recognizing both her accomplishment and her lasting contribution to Sholom Park visitors.

us to pause, take notice, and appreciate the renewal happening right before us.

Our final Southern Connection meeting for the 2025-2026 season will be Sunday, April 12, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II. We'll wrap up the season with a catered party featuring requested food favorites. Please offer your suggestions for main dishes. It's a fun way to end the season with good food and good company. No need to prepare food for this meeting, it will be provided. Bring a beverage or enjoy sweet tea, water, or lemonade provided.

We will have an election of officers for the upcoming season. If you, as a member of Southern Connection, are interested in serving as president, treasurer, or secretary of our great club, please contact me at 954-789-3549 or Drmom43556@aol.com, or Bill Lomerson at wlomerson@gmail.com. See you soon!

Southern Connection Club

Darlene Stevens

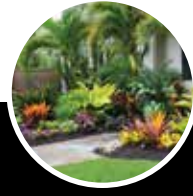


Look around our beautiful residences, and it's easy to see that April – and true Southern spring – are on the way. Azaleas are opening in bright pinks and corals, and the oak trees are putting out their soft new leaves. The air has warmed up after those longer cold spells, and the birds seem to be greeting the season a little earlier each morning. Everything around us is slowly returning to color and life.

These changes remind us that each season brings its own kind of beauty – longer daylight, fresh blooms, and the steady feeling that brighter days are ahead. Spring in the South encourages

Horticulture Corner

Bob Hollis
bob_hollis@colenbuilt.net



Crape Myrtle Pruning Guide

Crape myrtles are naturally elegant, long-blooming trees that require far less pruning than many people think. The goal of pruning is to enhance the tree's natural shape, encourage healthy growth, and improve flowering – not to cut it back harshly. When done correctly, pruning keeps the tree strong, balanced, and beautiful year after year.

WHEN TO PRUNE: Late winter to very early spring is the ideal time, when the tree is dormant and before new growth begins. Avoid pruning in the fall; it can stimulate tender new growth that may be damaged by cold. Light touch-ups (removing suckers or broken branches) can be done at any time.

TOOLS NEEDED: Hand pruners for small twigs; loppers for medium branches; and a pruning saw for larger limbs. Gloves, safety glasses, and disinfectant (optional) to clean tools between cuts.

PRUNING GOALS: The best pruning focuses on removing dead, damaged, or crossing branches, opening the canopy for better airflow, highlighting the tree's natural vase-shaped structure, and encouraging strong new growth and abundant blooms. The goal is refinement, not severe cutting.

STEP-BY-STEP PRUNING PROCESS: Start

with the basics by removing dead or diseased wood, branches rubbing or crossing, limbs growing inward toward the center, suckers at the base of the trunk, and small twiggy growth along the main trunks. This cleanup alone often dramatically improves the tree.

SHAPE THE CANOPY: Identify three to five strong main trunks and keep them as the structural base. Remove low branches to achieve a taller, tree-like form. Thin out crowded areas to allow light and air to move through the canopy. Make cuts just above a lateral branch or bud – not in the middle of a limb.

AVOID "CRAPE MURDER": Severely topping the tree (cutting large trunks back to stubs) weakens the plant and leads to weak, spindly new growth, fewer and smaller blooms, increased disease susceptibility, and knobby, unattractive branch ends. Instead, rely on selective thinning and shaping.

ENCOURAGE BLOOMS: Crape myrtles bloom on new wood, so moderate pruning can stimulate fresh growth. Focus on removing old seed heads, if desired, and lightly shortening overly long branches to maintain balance and preserve the tree's natural height and form.

AFTERCARE: Apply a light layer of mulch around the base (but not touching the trunk). Water during dry spells to support new growth. Fertilize sparingly – too much nitrogen reduces blooms.

A well-pruned crape myrtle looks effortless: tall, graceful trunks, an airy canopy, and abundant summer flowers. With a light, thoughtful approach, you can maintain a tree that stays healthy and beautiful for decades.

HANDICAP EQUIPMENT
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End-of-Session Dance Recital

By Elaine Voorhis

Is it my imagination, or has the grass finally turned green? Yes! Spring has arrived, and with it, new dance routines. Woo-hoo! Did you know March was Women's History Month? Former Presi-

dent Jimmy Carter declared National Women's History Week in 1980, leading to a month-long observance in 1987.

In our recent end-of-session recital on Friday, Feb. 27, the Broadway 2 class

performed "Powerful Women" (9 to 5), complete with great outfits. There were some amazing moves by business executives (in heels, no less!), a policewoman, teachers, medical workers, a baker, a construction worker (complete with vest and hard hat), to name a few, and even a referee who threw a yellow flag on the field! These ladies looked great and represented how far women have advanced over the decades.

Followed by these hard-working ladies were the, ahem, "good girls" of the Broadway 1 class dressed in their fin-

est gaudy costume jewelry – big pearly rings, sparkly bracelets, necklaces, and dangly earrings to glam up their sparkly shirts. Their burlesque moves to "But I am a Good Girl" were a lot of fun, providing a very energetic performance. The tap dancers also tapped their way into the show with lively performances of "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" and "Shivers."

Both classes worked hard on their routines while also rehearsing older ones to entertain the audience. We were very happy to welcome many of our "regular" audience members, as well as some new faces. We really appreciate all of you coming to watch us perform. You definitely energize us. We hope you enjoyed our little show and will return.

As mentioned above, we're already working on our new routines, choreographed and taught by Penny Berton, in anticipation of our next end-of-session recital on Friday, April 24. Details will be posted on several community Facebook pages. If you miss the information, just email us at the address below.

The Broadway 1 class is getting their sexy on, eliciting lots of laughs and giggles during practice! The Broadway 2 class is doing a great routine that will surely entertain you, and the tap dancers are always busy working on new combinations and steps to put together in new routines as well. Maybe you've seen us practicing in the Recreation Center Ballroom on your way into or out of The Pub?

The dancers in Broadway Moves with Penny look forward to entertaining you either at our recitals or performances for your neighborhood, club meeting, or any event. For more information, email us at broadwayandtap@yahoo.com. We'll be happy to answer any questions you may have about our classes. In the meantime, keep dancing!



Photo by Steve Warren

The Broadway Moves class performed "Powerful Women" at their end-of-session recital.

Ride to Thrive

By Nick Arkon

Cycling is one of the most effective and enjoyable forms of exercise available. Whether riding through your neighborhood or along scenic trails, cycling delivers powerful physical and mental health benefits for people of all ages.

STRONGER HEART AND BETTER CIRCULATION: Cycling is outstanding for cardiovascular health. It strengthens the heart muscle, improves blood flow, and can help lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels. Regular riding reduces the risk of heart disease and stroke. Because it is low-impact, cycling provides these heart-healthy benefits without placing excessive stress on joints.

WEIGHT REDUCTION: Cycling burns a significant number of calories, making it an excellent activity for weight management. Depending on pace and terrain, riders can burn hundreds of calories per hour. At the same time, cycling builds and tones muscles in the legs, hips, and core. Increased muscle tone supports metabolism and contributes to long-term weight control.

IMPROVE SLEEP AND REDUCE STRESS: Regular physical activity helps regulate sleep cycles. Many cyclists report falling asleep faster and experiencing deeper, more restful sleep. Cycling also releases endorphins – natural mood enhancers that reduce stress and anxiety. A steady ride can clear the mind, improve focus, and create a lasting sense of well-being.

JOINT FRIENDLY AND SUSTAINABLE: Unlike high-impact exercises, cycling is gentle on the knees and hips. This makes it ideal for older adults or those looking

for a safer way to stay active. Because it is enjoyable and adaptable to different fitness levels, many people maintain cycling as a lifelong activity.

The Velo Sport Bicycle Club offers residents a welcoming way to enjoy cycling together. The club operates with no board or club dues. It is open to all residents.

The emphasis is simple: stay active, ride safely, and enjoy the camaraderie. The club organizes rides for beginner, intermediate, and advanced cyclists. Beginner rides focus on building confidence and learning group riding skills. Intermediate groups maintain steady pacing and moderate distances. Advanced riders enjoy longer, more challenging routes. This structure allows members to ride at their level while improving over time.

Group cycling offers meaningful advantages, including greater motivation and consistency; increased visibility and road awareness; opportunities to learn from experienced riders; and strong social connections and friendships. Riding with others turns exercise into a social experience, making it more enjoyable and sustainable.

Beginner and intermediate cyclists meet on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at the Power Park (intersection of SW 90 Terrace Road and SW 90 Street).

For beginner and intermediate cyclists, contact Dan Oaks at 401-663-7085, Dennis Cicotte at 561-339-3588, or Dean Fesette at 561-542-1930 for specific details, group rides, and destinations. For the advanced group, contact Nick Arkon at 864-336-3399.



Photo by Brenda Foster

A small collection of Jorge Privat's racquets over the years.

Racket Refresh

By Ida Covi

In my tennis life, I have learned two reliable truths: the ball will always find my backhand at the worst possible moment, and Brenda Foster will always find a way to mention her racquet. This is how I ended up choosing a new one.

Technically, I bought a new racquet because my old one dated back to 2015, which in tennis years is basically an old boyfriend: deeply familiar, emotionally complicated, and oddly hard to let go of. It was the tennis equivalent of "we're fine," when everyone knows you're not. Realistically, I bought a new racquet because it was easier than hearing Brenda say, for the thousandth time, "Just try mine," with the persistence of a mosquito and the confidence of Wimbledon royalty.

So, I finally did the responsible thing. I went to Tennis Warehouse, ordered three demo racquets, and became the kind of person who says phrases like "swing-weight" and "string tension" as if I understand physics. Then I took them to Jorge for several lessons. Jorge patiently watched me try each racquet, gently guiding me through the subtle differences between frames, while I demonstrated the subtle differences between panic, overthinking, and sprinting for my life.

If I'm being brutally honest, my tennis strengths are not mysterious: I can

run. I can chase down balls like they personally offended me. My weak points? A long and poetic list. This is where I enlisted AI, which somehow managed to be supportive and brutally direct in the same sentence. It told me which racquet matched my current skill level, which I would describe as "enthusiastic recreational athlete with occasional flashes of competence," and it gave me stringing instructions so specific it felt like a prescription. Jorge did the stringing because, as we all know, Jorge is a wizard. He looked at my notes, nodded seriously, and said, "Nice. Now we aim somewhere besides, generally over there."

In the end, it came down to two racquets, and I chose the Head Gravity Team 600: forgiving, easy to swing, and friendly to my current skill level and future dreams.

Did my game instantly improve? Ha. But Brenda stopped campaigning, and honestly, that alone is a performance upgrade.

Her encouragement really was a tremendous help. Also, Jorge is the best teacher ever, and any improvement in my game is definitely because of him, not because I bought new equipment and expected the universe to reward me.

For information about joining tennis, email Brenda Foster at otowtennisocala@gmail.com or visit otowclub.wixsite.com/tennis.



Photo by Tanya Conover

Nick Arkon, John Worth, Shari Bernard, Fran Roman, and Tanya Conover are taking a break.

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Golf

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



April has finally arrived, which means it's time for The Masters. Who will win the year's first major championship? I would like to provide everyone with the On Top of the World Golf professional's picks: Matt Hibbs - Tommy Fleetwood, Denise Mullen - Collin Morikawa, Russ Smith - Collin Morikawa, Josh Wilson - Ludvig Aberg, and Kelsey Hummer - Scottie Scheffler. Stop by the Golf Shop and let us know who you think will win this year's Masters.

The 21st annual Ocala Open was a huge success, benefitting over \$100,000 split between Empath Hospice of Marion County and Interfaith Emergency Services. This brings the Ocala Open total to over \$1.2 million raised for local charities. Special thanks go out to all of our wonderful sponsors, volunteers, and staff for making this a spectacular event.

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

Upcoming Events

- Friday, April 24: Par 3 Event at The Links and The Tortoise & The Hare.
- Monday, April 27: Ladies World Cup Pairings Party

Friday, May 1 & Saturday, May 2: Ladies World Cup

World Accolades

CANDLER HILLS: Yuhlan Cho, hole-in-one #17. Tom Parkinson, eagle #7. Robert Kuhl, eagle #12. Ken Acox, eagle #7. Jeff Richardson, eagle #7. Mike Dorion, eagle #7. Kathy Zunica, eagle #7. Carol Avery shot her best round ever, 84. Pat Cioffi, hole-in-one #5. Lulu Kerkhoff, eagle #7. Brian Henderson, eagle #7. Samatha Phillips, eagle #7. Anne Kutzbach, eagle #7. Rhonda Tyler, eagle #7. Joe Davine, eagle #3. Ken Zweiback, shot his age 82. Dale Budd, eagle #10. Jeff Wood, eagle #3.

THE LINKS: Dave Hannasch shot his age at 79. Dave Almasy, eagle #18. Lowell Kutzbach, eagle #3. Steve Parker, hole-in-one #14. Rudy Normandin, hole-in-one #5.

THE TORTOISE & THE HARE: Dennis McCourt shot 78, one stroke under his age. Linda Taylor, hole-in-one #11. Tony Morris, eagle #9.

Golf Tip of the Month

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

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

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

Men's Golf Association

John Yenne



Make these additions to the Rules Reference in the back of your 40th anniversary Men's Golf Association (MGA) handbooks (available in the players' lounge of the Golf Shop):

1. During scramble competitions (such as monthly Chicken Day), players on the green may move the golf ball only within the size of a scorecard, a maximum of 11".
2. In all competitions, out-of-bounds shots must follow the stroke-and-distance relief rules of the USGA with a one-stroke penalty. For instance, if your tee shot goes out of bounds, you must re-tee it and count the next shot as your third stroke.

As always, provisional shots are recommended during league play to save time if you're unsure about the ball being out of bounds.

Speaking of Chicken Day, we had 147 competitors in March. Chicken fingers and macaroni and cheese have been added to the monthly event menu, and members can expect those items to continue.

Total membership stands at 263 players. For more information about the MGA, visit otowmga.com.

Put these upcoming Wednesday events in your calendar:

- April 8: Individual Stableford (The

- Tortoise & The Hare)
- April 15: Ryder (Red & Blue) six each (The Links)
- April 22: Individual Low Net (The Tortoise & The Hare)
- April 29: Team Quota Points-3 best balls (The Links)

Chicken Day March 4

The Links Flight: Tie at 54-Joseph Mendola, Dale Szymanski, Paul Stoecklin, Gerald Schneider; Ken Belcher, Geoff Oetjen, Bob Leiter, Raymond Hendrix. 55-Kevin McGuinness, Ray Kallai, Gregg Keidel, Thomas Kujawa. Tie at 56-Ray Parlato, Greg Dietrich, Rick Deroven, Tom Nicholl; Larry Skoch, Travis Karlin, Gerry Camp, Michael Dwyer; William Yokom, Randy Keller, Larry Turner, Joe Baumgartner; Joe Polizzotti, Kenneth Gove, Ken Zweiback, Patrick Nagy; Philip Shaw, James Morgan, Mike Kurlakowsky, Jerome Fawcett. Tie at 57-Tom Neville, Jerry Williams, Pete Markish, Tim Carlisle; Terry Hubbart, Doug Buckler, Bruce Green, Edwin Rodriguez; John Herman, Rusty Zarrell, Robert Meyer, Ken Hittmeier. The Tortoise & The Hare Flight: 51-Mike Bernhardt, Garry Gerlach, Bob Lieberman, David Bauer. Tie at 56-James McCormack, Mike Key, Garfield Gray; Eugene Paradis, Bob Epps, Jim Higgins, Tom Mullaly; Don McCrimmon, Ed Vasoli, John Spielvogel, Joseph Stefani; Larry Manion, Jeffrey Knittel, Paul Snyder, Richard Foltyniewicz; August Rosenberger, Robert Jorgensen, Mike Carver, Bruce Rothenberg. Tie at 57-Scott Smith, Larry Jeisy, Dennis Kerkhoff, Leonard Ruble; Don Livingston, Guy Stiebing, Rino D'Amico, Bruce Venslavsky; Anthony Morris, David Emmons, Mike Ball, Carl Zeiler; Steve Wrazen, Terry Thomas, Philip Petrozella, Mike Benes.

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Candler Hills Ladies 18-Hole

Beth Wolinsky



Golf is quite a challenging sport. There are so many things to remember but the most important thing to remember is to have fun. We can easily get bogged down in the minutiae of this game. We should just focus on being outdoors in (mostly) beautiful weather, the camaraderie of playing with other women, and the fact that we are able to play. That is a good thing.

A new member has joined our league - Cindy Pursel. Please give her a warm welcome. We look forward to playing with her.

A barbecue took place on Thursday, March 5, after golf at The Lodge at Candler Hills. Judi McGuinness and her "elves" set this up for a wonderful time. It was delicious and we thank you, Judi, for organizing it.

The annual Denise Mullen Member-Member is Thursday, May 7. It will be \$30 a person with lunch, and a membership meeting following golf that day. You may sign up in the league book with a partner.

Don't forget to mark your calendar. The League Net and Gross Championship will be held on Thursdays, April 9 and April 16.

The Candler Hills LGA-18 is open to any woman resident. If you wish to join, you may contact our president, Sandy Snyder, at freesand@icloud.com. It's

a great way to play golf and meet some new ladies.

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

**Blind Partner Cupid (Team)
Feb. 12**

Flight 1: 66-Virginia Combs, Connie Norris. Tie at 67-Gayla Aldridge, Jane Hall. Lisa Free, Donna Isaac. Angelita Jingco, Mary A. Cunningham. 68-Peggy Ellenberger, Teri Stecker. Tie at 69-Mary Jeannotte, Rhonda Tyler. Laura McMillan, Chris McIntire.

Flight 2: Tie at 63-Janette Sheil, Roxiann Dwyer. Kathleen Goodwin, Susanne Mullineaux. Tie at 64-Mary Smith, Margie Williams. Janelle Gluckman, Robin LeMaster. 66-Judi McGuinness, Renee Middleton. Tie at 67-Carol Avery, Kathy Zunica. Joanne Woolery, Sandra Randles. Joyce Jones, Anne Dahlen.

**Stableford (Individual)
Feb. 19**

Flight 1: 39-LuLu Kerkhoff. Tie at 38-Shelly Karsnitz, Gayla Aldridge. Tie at 36-Linda Taylor, Sandy Snyder.

Flight 2: 50-Janette Sheil. 42-Virginia Combs. Tie at 41-Joanne Woolery, Dawn Carroll. Tie at 38-Lynn Colomb, Sandra Mansfield.

Flight 3: 48-Kathleen Goodwin. 41-Janelle Gluckman. 38-Liz Pruss. 36-Joyce Jones. 35-Mary A. Cunningham.

Flight 4: 53-Donna Isaac. Tie at 40-Cynthia Gersten, Paula Lilly. 38-Judie Anderson. Tie at 35-Brenda Hofmann, Karen Demaree.

Flight 5: 43-Tammy Seutter. 39-Carol Clark. 38-Roxiann Dwyer. Tie at 35-Margie Williams, Susanne Mullineaux.

**Survivor Series Two Person Best Ball (Team)
Feb. 26**

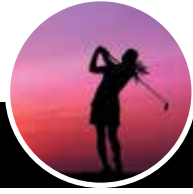
Flight 1: 64-Tammy Seutter, Janette Sheil. 65-Di-

ane Boston, Lynn Colomb. 66-Gayla Aldridge, Shelly Karsnitz. Tie at 69-Ellen Brin, Peggy Ellenberger. Angelita Jingco, Joyce Jones. Tie at 70-Dawn Carroll, JoAnn Delmar. Debby Wilson, Connie Norris. Flight 2: Tie at 64-Kathleen Goodwin, Robin LeMas-

ter. Karen Schroeckenthaler, Nancy Zielinski. Tie at 65-Carol Carney, Janelle Gluckman. Donna Isaac, Liz Pruss. Tie at 67-Margie Williams, Jana McElroy. Linda Taylor, Lynn Barber.

Ladies 18-Hole Golf Association

Jo Della Penna



Ts & Fs

Feb. 10/The Links

Flight 1: Tie at 36-Va Donna Hall, Gail Lagrange. Tie at 37-Shelly Karsnitz, Mary Jeannotte.

Flight 2: 36-Marcella Nunez. Tie at 37-Laura Mc Mullan, Linda Taylor.

Flight 3: 32-Jill Strey. 35-Diane Boston. Tie at 36-Joanne Woolery, Janette Sheil.

Flight 4: Tie at 35-Bobbie Wiener, Ellen Brinn. Tie at 37-Kathleen Goodwin, Connie Sohl, Youlan Cho.

Flight 5: 34-Patty Whitley. 35-Karen Campbell. Tie at 39-Janelle Gluckman, Debra De Matteo.

Flight 6: 35-Joann Delmar. 37-Joann Della Penna. Tie at 38-Christine McIntire, Teri Stecker.

Flight 7: 38-Donna Isaac. Tie at 41-Jane Hall, Pamela Robison, Rita Colpo.

Flight 8: 34-Susanne Mullineaux. Tie at 35-Robin LeMaster, Kathleen Mansfield.

Flight 9: 33-Terry Lemesh. 36-Carol Carney. 39-Margie Williams.

**One Low Gross/Net
Feb. 17/The Tortoise & The Hare**

+1-Va Donna Hall, Katie Schriewer, Patty Whitley, Terry Lemesh. +2-Linda Taylor, Janette Sheil, Terri Stecker, Robyn Atwood. +4-Dawn Carol, Becky Bivins, Joann Della Penna, Margie Williams. Tie at +5-Christine Giza, Sandra Mansfield, Connie Norris, Joy Geradi, Sharon Fairclough, Vickie Noltzenmeyer, Joann Ropel, Sandra Randles, Shelly Karsnitz, Joyce Jones, Christine McIntire, Nancy Zielinski. +6-Lisa Free, Kathleen Goodwin, Pamela Robison, Renee Anchors. +7-Sandy Snyder, Bobbie Wiener, Marlana La Clair, Renee Middleton.

Congratulations to Judi McGuinness on winning the naming contest for the pool pavilion. The "par-tee" pavilion is now the new home for the ladies' golfers to have lunch and socialize. Let the fun begin!

GOLF Clinics

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Saturday, April 11, 2026
9 - 10 AM



Photo by Tami Rossignol

Ohio Buckeyes Social Club was represented at the Club Fair by President John Rossignol and Treasurer Dave Ruhlen.

Ohio Buckeyes Social Club

Tami Rossignol



Kentucky Derby party and bourbon tasting, an Independence Day cookout and ice cream social, a Halloween party, our annual holiday party, and many 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 or interests in Ohio.

On Thursday, Feb. 19, the Ohio Buckeyes Social Club attended the Club Fair at Circle Square Cultural Center. It was fun to have so many visitors stop by the booth and share their connections to Ohio. We obtained a few new members and had several people interested.

Be sure to save the date for our "Final Four Watch Party" on Saturday, April 4, at the home of one of our club members. Other upcoming events include a

April

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| April 16 THE PEARLS MARONE BAND 7 - 10 PM | April 17 Van Cees 7 - 10 PM | April 18 Steak Shack Bistro 6 PM |
| April 23 DAN FLOK 7 - 10 PM | April 24 Clark Barrios Band 7 - 10 PM | April 25 The Secret Kitchen Latin Fusion 6 PM |
| April 30 40 YEARS LATE 7 - 10 PM | ROCKY AND THE ROLLERS 7 - 10 PM | STELLA BEAT 7 - 10 PM |

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Poms Dance & Cheer



Pamela Kalamaras

Spring is in the air. The weather is warming up, the grass is turning green, and Poms Dance and Cheer are putting on shorts and tees to practice our current sock-hop theme. The '50s-style routine has been a hit in our community and throughout Ocala. We enjoyed performing it at Brookdale Canopy Oaks and the Ocala Senior Activity Center. The residents danced in their seats, shaking the pom-poms we had handed out, as we cheered. Our goal is always to brighten days and spread joy and friendship with our lovely dances.

In April, we will perform for Windsor residents, and in May, we will present our patriotic medley at the Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 25, in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Please come and honor those who have served our nation. This month, we shine the spotlight on Kalyn Wagonmaker. Kalyn

grew up in a Tampa suburb when orange groves were the city's highlight. She started cheering at age five and was a cheerleader in high school. Her careers included being a financial planner and a stockbroker until the 2008 crash. She then sold Harley-Davidson motorcycles until she found her true passion: selling real estate. Fun facts about Kalyn include that she was a scuba instructor and motorcycle rider. She loves her dogs, boating, embroidery, sewing, clothes design, resin, glass fusion, and jewelry making. She surprised us by gifting all of us with her handmade, beautifully embroidered practice bags, complete with lots of pockets! She is one busy lady, and we are fortunate she makes time to be a part of our team.

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 building new skills and stamina. Go pommies!

Please contact Pam Kalamaras at pammykal@aol.com to book us for your



Photo by Rick Munsell

Poms Dance and Cheer are modeling our new practice bags, handmade by Kalyn Wagonmaker.

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.



Photo by John Schnur

Dancing Jewels performed "Grease" for a Master the Possibilities doo wop class in December 2025.

Dancing Jewels



Linda Meyer

The Dancing Jewels started in 2014 under the leadership of Laura Schnur, who danced professionally in Maryland and won many awards. Over the years, we have performed for nursing homes and clubs - the Veterans Club, Southern Connection, Scandinavian American Club, and many more. We have also performed at events such as the Patriotic Celebration, the Health & Wellness Expo, and the Holiday Fest, plus a class at Master the Possibilities. Two years ago, we performed "Thriller" in the Recreation Center Ballroom.

Our dances include jazz, hula, marches, and a variety of other dances. What sets us apart from other groups is that we change costumes for every dance! We always have fun when we are dancing. A dancing heart is a happy heart!

We would love to perform for your group! Please contact Linda Meyer at

linda_a_meyer@yahoo.com or 973-809-3338, or Laura Schnur at 352-817-7405, for more information about our group or if you are interested in booking us for your organization. If you would like to join our fun dance group, our rehearsals are on Thursdays at 10 a.m. in Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio I. Stop by and check us out!

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Ballet



Eugenie Martin

The Ballet Club had a lovely table at the recent February Club Fair. Several of our dancers - Laura Goodman, Jean Dross, Mary Ann Correira, June Weiner, Stella Sheng, and Rosalina Norita - helped me set up, run, and take down our display. Rosalina Norita, a singer, recently performed in "Oklahoma, Jr." at the Recreation Center.

At the Club Fair, we were happy to have some new dancers sign up to attend our classes, which are free except for a \$5 sign-up fee. We offer five classical ballet classes per week, all held in the Arbor Conference Center Studio D, and geared for more mature bodies. To my knowledge, we are the only organization in Marion County that offers this range of adult ballet classes, and we do so basically for no charge.

Here is our class schedule (please arrive early):

- 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.

Newcomers do not need ballet clothes to start; just stretchy exercise outfits and socks. And a bottle of water, of course. For any additional information on our classes, please call me, Eugenie Martin, at 352-854-8589. Happy dancing!

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Photo by Joe Spencer

Line dancing in the Recreation Center Ballroom.

Line Dancing

Joe Spencer



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 long for \$25 each. The intermediate class is two hours for \$50.

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

Line dancing is like therapy. It has so many tremendous health benefits, both physically and mentally. Many dancers notice their statistics improving after only a few months of dancing. It keeps us moving. Many dancers say that it helps their joints or flexibility. It strengthens the memory.

Keep in mind, line dancing takes time to learn at first. 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 a great way to meet new friends. If you have any questions, email joeship1@yahoo.com (AB, Beginner or Improver) or yfwen@yahoo.com (Intermediate).

Meditation Group

Domenica Genovese



Every week, someone in the Meditation Group brings in a quote or a short reading. It might be something they came across in a book, something a friend said, something they themselves wrote, or a line that stopped them in their tracks during the week. The quote is shared with the group, we then meditate silently for 20 minutes, and then something remarkable happens: the conversation takes off.

Recently, one of our members brought this: "Acceptance, dignity, compassion, and joyfulness keep you going in difficult times." Four words - acceptance, dignity, compassion, joyfulness - and we could have talked for hours.

What does it actually mean to accept something hard, rather than just endure it? Is there a difference between enduring difficult times and moving through them with compassion and dignity? The group had a lot to say, and nearly everyone had a personal story to bring.

Another week brought us this obser-

vation: "When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change." At first glance, it sounds like a riddle. But once we thought about it, it began to resonate. Several members shared moments when a shift in perspective completely transformed their experience of a situation. The quote wasn't telling us to pretend problems aren't real. It was pointing at something mindfulness teaches us all the time: our awareness shapes our experience.

This is what makes our discussions so alive. We're not analyzing quotes in the abstract - we're connecting them to our actual lives: the joys as well as the losses. We remember the moments when we handled something better than we expected, and the times we wish we'd taken a breath before reacting. Mindfulness gives us a language for all of it, and a quote or reading gives us a doorway in.

We meet every Tuesday from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Arbor Activity Center Event Room I. All are welcome - whether you're new to meditation or have been practicing for years.

For more information, feel free to contact Domenica Genovese at domenica@gcfonline.com, Brenda Foster at brenda@gcfonline.com, or Athena Drewes at Drathendrewes@gmail.com.



Photo by Domenica Genovese

Several members unwind after the Meditation Group meeting.

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Sidekicks

Rich Gautier



The Sidekicks Partner Dance Club brings couples together each week for an uplifting mix of movement, music, and community. As spring unfolds, the group continues to welcome new members, inviting couples to share in the fun and discover how dancing together can build confidence, coordination, and connection.

For many newcomers, taking that first spin on the dance floor can feel daunting – but Sidekicks is built around encouragement and laughter. The instructors emphasize enjoying the moment and learning at your own pace. With each class, couples gain a better sense of rhythm and teamwork, finding themselves more comfortable and confident in both their dancing and their social interactions.

Classes are held every Tuesday in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Beginners with Janet and Sean Amend meet from 4 to 4:50 p.m., and beginner plus/improvers with Peggy and Alex Eizans meet from 5 to 6 p.m. These sessions focus on making dance approachable and enjoyable, helping couples move in harmony while having fun.

Additional practice opportunities include Friday sessions from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in Arbor Conference Center Studio

D (formerly the Ballet Studio), and Sunday sessions from 3:45 to 5 p.m. in Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios III-IV. These relaxed get-togethers are a perfect chance to work on steps, try new patterns, and build confidence at an easy pace. All sessions continue weekly until the end of the dance season.

Monthly “all-level” dances are held every four weeks on Tuesday from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. These social dances bring everyone together in a welcoming atmosphere where each couple can practice what they’ve learned, meet other participants, and simply enjoy an afternoon of music and movement.

Sidekicks Partner Dance Club is about more than dancing – it’s about connecting with others. The group fosters friendships, strengthens teamwork between partners, and encourages personal growth through shared experience. Whether new to dancing or returning after time away, couples find that the confidence gained on the floor carries easily into everyday life.

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

Couples are invited to step into spring with Sidekicks and discover how dancing together can make you feel more confident, energized, and connected – one joyful step at a time.

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 classes on Mondays at 10 a.m. 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 my 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 the dancers in their stage or performing positions. Many of the ladies have performed in the Murder Mystery Club as The Ovation Dancers, but you are more than welcome to come and just learn the routines.

They will be appearing in the new murder mystery, “At the CopaOcala” for the Latinos Club on Saturday, May 30. Ticket information will be posted in the Latinos Club column.

Please note that we will pay tribute to “Women in the Military Services” on Veterans Day.

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 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 Lizlylieberman@gmail.com or 702-378-6300.



Photo by Percy Millet

Ovation Dancer, Kristin Millet, performing “Fever.”




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Cornhole Club



Ray Nault

The men's league finished its season with an exciting playoff match. The team of Ken Goodhue and Ray Nault won the final game against the second-place team of Ron Daughtry and Paul Lavieiere.

The coed league began play on Friday, March 6, with six teams.

Open play continues to be busy. Monday and Wednesday are still the most heavily attended, but Thursday is gaining popularity.

With daylight saving time, our hours changed to 4:45 p.m. for board setup and 5 p.m. for play to begin, or when we get 20 players. If more than 20 players show, they can wait for the first available court (which usually doesn't take long) or play in the grassy area next to the regular courts.

We welcome players of all skill levels, including beginners. We offer a beginner's class to learn the techniques and rules of cornhole 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. Cornhole is played at the Veterans Park.

Co-Ed Recreational Softball



Pat Wilbert

Spring has arrived, bringing earlier sunrises, warmer mornings, and a renewed energy to the community's beloved Co-Ed Recreational Softball League. With the time change now in effect, the league will begin its weekly Saturday games at 8:30 a.m., followed by warm-up until 8:45 a.m. Games will start immediately afterward.

If attendance reaches 30 or more players - as it often does - the league plans to field three teams and play up to seven full innings. The group continues to enjoy access to the field until 11:30 a.m., giving everyone plenty of time for friendly competition and camaraderie.

Co-Ed Recreational Softball has become a weekly highlight for many residents. Men and women of all ages and experience levels come together to play - some with years of competitive background, others returning to the sport after decades. What unites them is the laughter, the teamwork, and the joy of being active with friends old and new.

The league provides team bats and a limited number of gloves, though players are encouraged to bring their own equipment if they have it.

The community also extends heart-

Rec Softball Club



Bryan Tully

In last month's column, this reporter made some comparisons between the games here and other forms of entertainment. A month later, it seems that another comparison can be made.

Ironically, here in the Horse Capital of the World, our club's current season resembles an exciting horse race. After 16 games, only four games separate first place from sixth place.

Staying with the horse racing analogy, all six teams are currently in the

APRIL 2026 FITNESS

RECREATION FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

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

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* <small>BETSY</small> | STRONG <small>LILLIAN</small> | HIIT <small>RONA</small> | STRONG <small>LILLIAN</small> | STRONG* <small>JOHN C.</small> |
| 9:00 am | Yoga <small>SANDRA</small> | Pilates Fusion <small>VICKI/LILLIAN</small> | Yoga <small>JOE</small> | Pilates Fusion <small>LORI</small> | Yin Yoga <small>MELANIE</small> |
| 10:00 am | STRONG <small>JOHN C.</small> | STRONG* <small>DEBBIE</small> | STRONG <small>JOE</small> | STRONG* <small>JOHN C.</small> | STRONG <small>RONA</small> |
| 11:00 am | Yoga* <small>LEXI</small> | Yoga <small>SANDRA</small> | Yoga <small>TRISH</small> | Yoga <small>LEXI</small> | ABC Yoga* <small>TRISH</small> |
| 4:00 pm | Muscle Fit <small>WCAA</small> | Strong and Steady <small>WCAA</small> | | Interval Training <small>WCAA</small> | Dance Fit <small>WCAA</small> |

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

ARBOR FITNESS CENTER INDOOR POOL

| | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|----------|---|--|---|---|---|
| 9:00 am | Deep Water Aerobics <small>LARRY</small> | Shallow Water Aerobics <small>SUE</small> | Deep Water Aerobics <small>TRISH</small> | Shallow Water Aerobics <small>BARB</small> | Deep Water Aerobics <small>SUE</small> |
| 10:00 am | | Shallow Water Aerobics <small>SUE</small> | | Shallow Water Aerobics <small>BARB</small> | |
| 12:30 pm | | Shallow Water Aerobics <small>DIANE</small> | | Shallow Water Aerobics <small>SHERIE</small> | |

Open Swim: Saturdays 7 AM - 8:15 PM; Sundays 9 AM - 6:45 PM
 All Water Aerobics classes are an additional fee. Fitness Pass purchase required. Please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7639.

felt thanks to several dedicated volunteers. Charlie Wilbert, with the help of Craig Fox, prepares the field at dawn each week. Chris Lopez serves as a steady and supportive manager, and Jeffery Thomas umpires the games with consistency and good humor. Their ef-

forts - and the teamwork of all players who help clean up afterward - keep the league running smoothly.

This spirited group looks forward to another season of fun, fitness, and friendship on the diamond. As one favorite saying goes, "Your best game comes when you play with joy, not fear."

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backstretch and heading towards the clubhouse turn. While our players may not run as fast as your favorite thoroughbred, they have a much better sense of humor, you won't lose money on them, you don't have to feed them, and there's no mess to clean up afterwards. Therefore, we maintain that, compared to the cinema, the comedy club, the concert hall, or the racetrack, your best entertainment value as a resident continues to be the Rec Softball League.

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Top Pickleball Club

Nate Snook



pickleball nationwide. A total of 335 players competed in the tournament, with approximately 70% traveling from outside the community. Residents and members of the Top Pickleball Club fielded a strong presence on their home courts, entering 15 men's doubles teams, 16 women's doubles teams, and 28 mixed doubles teams.

The competition was organized by On Top of the World and supported by more than 100 volunteers, many of whom are members of the Top Pickleball Club. Volunteers assisted with tournament operations, player check-in, scorekeeping, and hospitality throughout the three-day event.

"What a spectacular weekend of pickleball at Battle of the Paddle," said Steve Brothers, tournament director for On Top of the World. "Players, spectators, and the volunteers made this tournament weekend a wonderful experi-

ence." Brothers also extended special thanks to members of the tournament committee, noting that months of planning and coordination went into staging the event. Organizers said the teamwork between staff and volunteers helped ensure matches ran smoothly and that visiting players felt welcomed.

Club members representing the host community performed well in medal play. On the opening day of competition, men's doubles teams earned six medals. Women's doubles competitors followed with five medals on the second day. The tournament concluded with mixed doubles teams capturing eight medals, including three gold medals.

Spectators filled the courts throughout the weekend, cheering on competitors and contributing to a festive atmosphere. Organizers said the strong turnout from both players and fans re-

flects pickleball's continued growth and the sport's appeal as a social and competitive activity.

Following what organizers described as overwhelming success, the On Top of the World marketing department confirmed plans for a third annual Battle of the Paddle tournament. The event is scheduled again at the same time next year, with expectations that participation will continue to expand.

If you are a new resident or new to pickleball, we offer an Introduction to Pickleball class held every Monday at 10:30 a.m., as well as the first Saturday of the month on the upper courts. You don't need to bring a paddle, but if you have one, bring it. We welcome all.

Please visit toppickleballclub.com, or you can find us on the OTOW App > Residents Clubs & Groups > Top Pickleball Club.



Photo by Shizuka Campagna

Table Tennis volunteers at the Club Fair.

Table Tennis

Mary Jeannotte



work, auto, and travel. And then there was table tennis. We were well represented thanks to all the volunteers (Jim Swift, Mary Jeannotte, Garfield Gray, Di Chen, Al Contarino, Abe Burgos, and Paul Schasel). All were kept busy fielding many questions about our club.

New residents were surprised to learn that there is such a vibrant table tennis venue in the Arbor Conference Center.

Also surprising is that table tennis, according to the National Institutes

of Health, is considered a top "brain sport," improving mental alertness, concentration, and quick tactical decision-making. It is an activity that provides a low-impact cardiovascular workout that burns calories, boosts agility, and strengthens muscles without stressing joints. It is also a highly social activity and a lot of fun.

Many of the new residents signed up as members on the spot. We look forward to seeing our new members participate in all our scheduled sessions. The list of member sessions is available inside the Arbor Conference Center Table Tennis Room.

Our first King/Queen of the Table

tournament was scheduled for March 21. It was a double elimination format that staved off swift elimination.

The Bridge to Advanced Session is underway, Tuesdays from 3 to 5 p.m. Many members attended the first session, with a great mix of intermediate and advanced players at each table, making for exciting games and a lot of learning.

Our membership continues to grow. So, inside that room up at the Arbor Conference Center, if you see a lot of balls flying around, don't be intimidated. Come in and join the fun. Pick up an application in the club room and submit it, along with \$10, in the tin box to join.

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Bocce Club

Kathy Nastally



ly busy this spring.

We are busy at the bocce courts too! Competition remains strong in all leagues and in open play. We all have up-and-down days. Some days we roll better than others. It is always good to see our friends, though, to be outside and enjoy camaraderie with our teammates.

If you're new, there is always someone available to help. As the league season comes to an end in mid-April, the Best of Bocce tournament times are as follows. The Longleaf Ridge tournament is Monday, April 13, at 4 p.m. Tuesday/Thursday leagues play Tuesday, April 14, at 9 a.m., and open play at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 15. Winners will be announced soon. We invite everyone to come out to support our players. If you're interested in seeing how the

game is played, this is a perfect time to come by and see the games.

League play will begin again in October. Open play is on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. These dates and times are consistent all year. We are limited to 48 players, with six courts of eight players each. We play two games to 16 points; the first team to 16 points wins. For the second game, you switch ends of the court and the color of the balls. We use a lottery format to determine courts and teams.

All members must complete the hold harmless forms. Dues are \$15, and we verify Gateway of Services passes and resident IDs. Dues are good through Sept. 30.

Remember to hydrate. A drinking fountain is courtside. The courts have

lighting for nighttime play. Closed-toed shoes are required on the courts. Court one is accessible to people with disabilities, and a portion of the wall is removable for access.

For any newcomers, the bocce courts are located behind the Arbor Fitness Center next to the tennis courts. Crated balls are available under the benches for anyone wishing to play outside league or open-play times. Individual groups are playing at various times, so swing by the courts and get in on some bocce action.

Please contact our president, Pam Brown, at 970-531-1890 with any questions or concerns. We would love to see you at the tournaments or anytime at the courts. Happy spring! Let the bocce balls roll!

Horseshoes Club

Vern Kessler



and threw 551 ringers. That puts the club's ringer percentage for February at 19.13%.

February

54 (13 ringers)—David Laliberte. 56 (12 ringers)—Gary Null.

The following members had a total of five wins for the month: Kevin Cullinane, Cliff Dallas, Vern Kessler, and Karen Lynn.

Cliff Dallas had the highest ringer percentage (52.50%) and the highest point average (60.08) for the month. He

and Betty DeLong had eight ringers in a row, giving them each another "triple double" achievement.

Two of our new members, Kevin Cullinane and Rusty Roby, increased their point average by 3.06 and 1.34 points, respectively, during the month.

The Horseshoe Club welcomes Ed Matthews to the club. New members are finding out that this is the most fun you can have with two and a half pounds of steel, so come out, join the club, and see for yourself.

We are now pitching horseshoes

on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at the pits at the Veterans Park. Open practices are on Thursdays at 10 a.m.

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

Contact Vern Kessler at 321-268-3179 or vkmicheel214@gmail.com with any questions about club activities.

POP Tennis

Beth Smith



ners while still offering plenty of challenges for experienced players. Doubles play also encourages teamwork and community building, which has helped the sport grow quickly among residents.

Residents are invited to join regular POP tennis sessions on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 8 a.m. and on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. (weather permitting).

These sessions welcome players of all skill levels and provide a friendly, supportive environment to enjoy the game. We also have paddles on hand, so no need to run out and buy one until you've decided it's for you.

For general inquiries, coaching sessions, or clinic details, please contact Shizuka Campagna at shizukacampagna@gmail.com or Brenda Foster at brenda@gcfonline.com.

POP tennis is growing fast – and there's never been a better time to join the fun.



Photo by Shizuka Campagna

POP tennis players take part in the Club Fair.

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Front End Alignment
 Check Front End Components . Adjust Camber/Caster/Toe If Needed. Check Tire Pressures . Reset T.P.M.S systems if Needed.
\$34.99*
Must present coupon at time of write up. Not valid with any other coupons or discounts see facility for details. Most cars and light trucks.

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

Tire Rotation
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\$9.99*
Must present coupon at time of write up. Not valid with any other coupons or discounts see facility for details. Most cars and light trucks.

Archery Club



Robin Schiltz

On Thursday, March 26, the Archery Club welcomed prospective members to

Call of the Wild Sports Club



Steve Sekac

This winter's cold weather has negatively impacted saltwater fishing. Location and quantities of various species have made it harder to locate fish, particularly inshore. Offshore fishing has been better, but it depends on the weather and tides, often requiring a 30- to 35-mile run.

Club members participated in several local inshore and offshore saltwater fishing trips. Among them were Steve Johnson's group, which caught sheepshead, speckled trout, hogfish, and grunts (also called Key West snapper). Tom Grass-er's group caught red grouper, hogfish, and grunts. Tom caught and released a 19-pound gag grouper measuring 35" long. Steve Sekac's group caught red grouper, sheepshead, hogfish, grunts, and porgies.

Paul Jorgensen recently took a group of club members to the Blackjack Sport-ing Clays for some fun and camarade-

a hands-on open house. Club volunteers led tours of the range and facilities and gave guests the chance to step up to the line, release a few arrows, and hit the targets themselves.

If you weren't able to attend or if joining the club has been on your mind, now is a great time to get involved with a great group of archers. All equipment

is included in your annual dues, along with instruction and mentoring from some of our state- and nationally-ranked members.

Membership is open to all residents with a valid ID or a Gateway of Services pass. Please note that range use is reserved for members only.

To become a member, visit otowarcheryclub.org > New Members. Then, download and complete the application form and required waivers and bring them to the range on Friday mornings during Freestyle Friday. Or, for additional information, please contact Chuck at chuck-archery@strickland.net or 407-257-9668 or Suzi at suzanne.shea61@gmail.com or 908-510-5714.

The Archery Club manages the range at the Veterans Park and welcomes archers of all skill levels, from novices to competitive. As mentioned, plenty of equipment is available for those new to archery or returning after a long hiatus. We also have a well-equipped maintenance shop to keep club and personal archery equipment in top shape.

In addition, we have practitioners of the traditional martial art of kyudo, which emphasizes the archer's spiritual and mental development. Kyudo's slow, deliberate movements help practitioners achieve mental focus and inner harmony. To learn more about this meditative archery discipline, stop by the range on Wednesdays from 2 to 4 p.m. or contact Brenda Foster (brenda@gcfonline.com).

Each Friday, we host "Freestyle Friday" from 9 a.m. until noon. Club mentors are at the range and available to assist our novice archers with skill improvement. If you are considering joining the club, this is a great opportunity to meet members, learn more about Archery, and have fun. For a quick introduction to the club, we invite you to stop by during Freestyle Friday.

For more in-depth knowledge, we hold workshops for members on various aspects of the sport. In addition, Patty Hoppe hosts Archery Fundamentals and Shooting workshops at the range on the third Tuesday of each month. Topics vary monthly, and a fun shoot is held after each workshop. Workshops begin at 10 a.m. and are open to all club members. As always, keep it in the yellow!

Billiards Club



Phil Panzera

We've had no recent club events, league, or tournament results, so there's not much to report. Here are four fun billiard anecdotes that you might find interesting.

Captain Mingaud, the inventor of the leather cue tip, was imprisoned for political reasons during the French Revolution. With the help of a fellow prisoner, he had a billiard table installed in his cell. While developing his new leather tip, he became so obsessed with the game that, when his term ended, he actually asked for a longer sentence so he could complete his study of it. Now that's dedication!

Charles Goodyear invented vulcanized rubber, which revolutionized pool cushions and countless other industries.

He profited little from his breakthrough invention, though. His company failed, he was imprisoned for debt, and he was left as a virtual pauper.

Until almost 1920, American billiards was dominated by the carom games of straight rail and three-cushion. Pool was a dead or dying sport. When the first championship pool tournament was held in 1878, the winner and the event itself all but went unnoticed.

Precisely 200 years ago, John Quincy Adams had the first pool table installed in the White House. He also owned a pet alligator, which he kept in the East Wing. Both two centuries ago and now, the East Wing remains in the news, and one might think it impossible to top the incredulity of keeping an alligator there, but somehow we have.

Weight Loss Group



Lori Beth Green

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 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 Trep- per. 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 ltrep- per@att.net or Beth at doctroi@sbcglobal.net.

Shuffleboard



Walt Lamp

Our season, which began in September 2025, will be ending this month.

February

High scores—Lou Fisher, Tom Gettis, Scott Lyons. And Jane Boyer. 30-plus—Mary Getts, Tom Getts, Pam Anderson, Steve Steinman, Robert Sapiro, Lynn Nelson, Ray Sherman.

On Saturday, April 18, at 11 a.m., we will have our last Introduction to Shuffleboard at the Veterans Park courts until next season. Paul Hodges will review the rules, scoring, safety, and the basics of disc shooting. Open-toed shoes are not permitted.

We will continue to play at our regular time until the season begins again in September. During this time, scores are not recorded.

Residents are welcome to play. The equipment box is located on the side of the shed. Enjoy!

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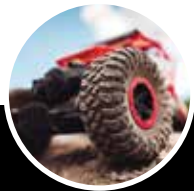




Marty Levine, Dave Ackroyd, and Jim Printer crawling.

R/C Car Club

John Schoenherr



An earlier column announced that the R/C Car Club was building a rock crawler course in the field next to the race track. Much has been added to the two sand hills that were the start of the course, and the number of crawler enthusiasts has grown.

Thanks to the donation of "crawling" materials, there are now many different challenges for drivers. Everything from insane rope bridges to vertical obstacle tracks up and around the sand hills. The group has been meeting weekly on Mondays, and it seems there is a new crawling challenge every week.

The history of R/C rock crawlers traces back to the early 1990s, evolving from modified trucks meant for flying around dirt tracks into sophisticated designs ideal for grabbing traction from rocks. The journey from early modified trucks to today's rock crawlers showcases a remarkable evolution in technology. Initially, hobbyists would tweak standard R/C vehicles, adding weight and improving suspension to tackle rough terrains.

As demand grew, manufacturers began designing dedicated crawlers with enhanced capabilities. Drivers have noticed a shift toward tougher materials and more powerful motors, enabling better performance and durability. Innovations like remote locking differentials, articulating long-travel suspension arms, specially designed tires, and precision steering have transformed the

crawling experience, giving greater control on challenging surfaces. With the development of brushless motors and LiPo batteries, today's crawlers offer impressive speed control and longer run times.

There is a wide range of companies that build crawlers. Traxxas is known for durability and ease of use. Axial offers a wide range of customizable options. Redcat Racing offers great budget-friendly options without sacrificing quality. Losi focuses on high-performance models that tackle tough terrains. Element R/C encourages modifications, offering parts compatibility across different models, making it easy for users to upgrade their rigs. Team Associated is available as a kit and features higher ground clearance and behind-the-axle steering.

Crawlers range in price from under \$200 to over \$600. Most come ready to run and can use commonly available transmitters and batteries.

Digital slot car racers meet every Tuesday at 1 p.m. Vintage slot car racers meet on third Mondays and last Fridays of the month from 3 to 6 p.m. At the R/C car track, outdoor racing is every Wednesday and Saturday at 1 p.m., legend car racing is every Thursday at 10 a.m., and crawlers meet every Monday.

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

February

Traxxas-Jim Printer. Two-wheel buggy-Paul Beyer. Four-wheel buggy-Sam Murphy. Pan car-Phil Paquette. Touring-Terry Altman. Two-wheel truck-Gene Chicoine & Ron Kaulfersch. Four-wheel truck-Bob Melzer. Limited-Hank Henne. 17.5-Terry Altman & Mike Main. Sportsman-Phil Paquette. Truggy-Mark Busch. NASCAR-Chuck Walls.

R/C Flyers Club

Ray Ihlenburg



Radio-controlled unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are turning up in so many places, from our flying field to the battlefield. They were recently used to document a different kind of battle against the timing clock of winter sports.

The winter Olympics added a new R/C twist in Milan, Italy. It was difficult to see, but occasionally, the sound was a dead giveaway.

R/C drones were on most courses to put the TV viewer in the bobsled, on a luge or skeleton sled, and in most skiing events. This was possible thanks to First Person View (FPV) technology, which puts the pilot "on" the drone, allowing them to follow and match the competitor's speed.

Drones have been used during previous Olympics, but not to the level as in 2026. This year, over a dozen special FPV drones revolutionized TV broadcasting by capturing high-speed, up-close images at amazing resolution.

The drones weigh under a pound, are extremely maneuverable, and can reach speeds of 70 mph or more. The pilots are professionals who started flying drones as a hobby! But this is serious business.

The pilots practice for weeks on the course they will be flying with and without athletes. Sometimes they fly up to 60 runs to learn the course, whereas the competitor may get one practice or in-

spection run. This has to be nerve-racking, since the drones are flown entirely manually with no collision safeguards. The pilots learn their limits and fly below them as they must follow behind the competitor and not disrupt the competition.

The cameras are incredibly small and lightweight while still providing broadcast-quality pictures. Each drone has two cameras: the broadcast camera, which the broadcast director manages, and the FPV camera, which the pilot uses to navigate the course. There were also drones used for cinematic views of the mountains and villages. This gave the viewer a wonderful sense of the surroundings and venues.

Each flight takes about five minutes, with maybe two minutes at high speed. The temperature and power draw significantly affect the batteries. For this reason, the batteries are stored in heated containers until it's time to fly, and dedicated team members are responsible for their condition and maintenance. Surely don't want a dead drone on a bobsled run.

The pilot also has a spotter, and spotters are along the entire course in case a drone goes down. Safety is paramount.

Closer to home, the Spring Fly-In is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch will be available with plenty of free parking. Bring a lawn chair and spend an hour or two watching all types of airplanes. The luncheon demonstration has been a hit at previous events. This time, we will be flying combat, so there really may be a different sort of hit in the cards. See you there. Fly good, and land better.

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'Oklahoma, Jr.!' A Triumph!

By Elaine Morrison
World News Writer

Did you get to Oklahoma when it came to Ocala? If you did, by golly, you sure did have "a beautiful day." You, along with several hundred residents and guests, attended the four sold-out performances in March.

The dream of the Broadway Playhouse was to present a full-length show, which became a reality under the direction of Joanne Houston and Cheryl Richardson. Retired theatrical and music teachers agreed to work with the club to help them make their dream come true.

After purchasing the rights to the youth edition of "Oklahoma," the process moved quickly, with auditions in September 2025.

After the decision to double-cast the lead roles, the rehearsal process began. Rehearsals were long and arduous through the winter, culminating in two dress rehearsals the week before opening.

The players grew more excited, and a magic moment of complete confidence that the show would be a hit came during the dress rehearsals. It was then that all the parts, sets, sound, and costumes were in alignment. The directors were so pleased at this point that they told the cast to go home, rest, relax, and not come back until it was showtime.

The beautiful voices of Carolyn Hoffman and Jeanneane Palczewski in the roles of Laurey and Randy Schmid and

Harry McKinley as Curly were thrilling.

For veteran Broadway Playhouse actors, Dave Wesenberg and Russ Kaye, their respective roles of Jud Fry and the Peddler presented some new challenges. They performed the roles in both casts. Russ enjoyed having to adjust his performances to the two different actors he played against. In the case of Jud, Dave said, "It felt good to play a bad guy."

The roles of Ado Annie and Will Parker were taken by a real-life married couple, Ina and Shelly Kline. Of their performances, they were told they were "two seeds that turned into flowers." Teri Penichet and Ken Hull also filled the roles, and Teri's husband, Fred, was in the show's ensemble. Teri and Ina both agreed that they benefited from seeing each other's performances to help them develop their own.

Both Aunt Ellers, Marilyn Leeds and Jane Bennett-Bailey, had great fun performing the role of the matriarch, while Sharon Voith and Carole Beauchamp alternated the role of Gerti with the irritating laugh.

An ensemble of townsfolk, farmers, and cowmen rounded out the cast, and their combined renditions of "Oh What a Beautiful Morning" and "Oklahoma" were rousing and joyous.

No attention to detail was spared. The sets included cornfields and a smokehouse, and of course, a surrey with the



Photo by Garry Voith

Ina Kline, Shelley Kline as Ado Annie and Will Parker.

fringe on the top. Kudos to Jeanne Bennett-Bailey and crew for their execution, and to stage manager Gail Scarbrough for their placement and movement. Awesome, as was the sound and lighting provided by Steve Schlesselman.

Comments from the audience rang with "marvelous voices," "delightful production," and "a happy and energetic

show." Many were familiar with the music, having seen previous productions.

The directors both agreed that the performers exceeded their expectations. "Our cast told us that they didn't want to disappoint us." They most certainly did not.



Photo by Suzie Baylis

Members of the April Fools' Art Group: M.C. Escher, Mary Cassatt, Georgia O'Keeffe, Frida Kahlo, Grandma Moses, Yayoi Kusama, Louise Bourgeois, Andy Warhol, and Salvador Dali.

Masterpieces & Mischief

By M.A. Baylis

Art is no laughing matter – unless, of course, it is April Fools' Day and I am tasked with writing the monthly "Art Tickle." I asked our members to provide some highlights from their creative journeys. Freda Klump immediately warned me that many artists in this group don't know where to draw the line, but I persisted nonetheless.

We are fortunate to have several members with formal art degrees. While the old joke says that if you want to see people with art degrees at work, you usually head to Walmart, our retired teachers prove that theory wrong at the studio. They bring a wealth of art history knowledge – or at least, their own version of it.

According to our resident experts, Vincent van Gogh only turned to oil painting because he didn't have an ear for music. They also reminded me that Michelangelo chose to sculpt from marble simply because he didn't take it for granite. Even the transition to modernism has a backstory here: apparently, Pablo Picasso started as a realist until he caught his girlfriend kissing an abstract painter. She reportedly told him, "It isn't what it looks like!"

Even global events are seen through a chromatic lens here. There is a persistent theory in the back of the studio that not much painting got done during World War II because a ship carrying red paint and a ship carrying blue paint were both torpedoed, leaving both crews marooned.

Of course, the heart of our group lies in the personal stories of our members.

Helen Klocko recently recounted her years working for a custom needlepoint store. In those days, customers brought in photos, and Helen would hand-draw the designs onto canvas. She recalls that the most popular motto was, "Dull women have immaculate homes," a sentiment that still resonates with many of us who would rather be at an easel than holding a vacuum.

The "peak" of her career, however, was a six-foot-long latch hook rug featuring a customer's pet potbelly pig. Helen admits that using permanent magic markers on such a massive scale for hours on end left her feeling a bit... lightheaded. We suspect there was something not quite "kosher" about that particular workday, but the result was certainly a hog-sized success.

Reflecting on these stories brought back memories of my own art school days. I'll never forget my instructor telling me my self-portrait looked absolutely horrible. I was offended until she followed up by saying it was "extremely realistic and lifelike." That teacher once had Jackson Pollock in her class; she said he passed with flying colors. My own roommate at the time had a much more narrow focus – he only drew Ford F-150s. He was known on campus as a pickup artist.

If you're looking to add some laughs and color to your life, join us Wednesdays, from 1 to 4 p.m., Thursdays, and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, contact Director Freda Klump at 615-336-6863 or fredaklump@gmail.com.

Easter Weekend Open House

By Jim Lynam

Happy Easter and Passover to all!

Astronomical phenomena determine the dates of both Easter and Passover. Passover begins on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which coincides with the first full moon after the vernal equinox and lasts seven days. Passover commemorates the biblical story of the Israelites' liberation from slavery in Egypt.

Easter falls on the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox. Easter is a Christian holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It also incorporates ancient traditions celebrating spring, fertility, and renewal, such as the symbolism of the egg and the hare.

The Easter bunny originated in German folklore in the 1600s. This tradition involved the hare hiding colored eggs in gardens for children to find. It blends fertility symbols of rabbits and eggs with Christian spring celebrations. The German children made nests, often in hats or bonnets, for the rabbit to lay its colored eggs. This tradition migrated to Pennsylvania in the 1700s and is celebrated throughout the United States.

The Model Railroaders are depicting a miniature Easter egg hunt on their HO layout. Set in the 1950s, the passenger trains, trolleys, cars, and buses brought families from the countryside to the towns. The tradition of the ladies wearing their new Easter bonnets to church was a special spring spectacle! After church services, the children would line up with their Easter baskets, eagerly awaiting the signal to start the hunt and fill them with colored prizes.

Be sure to stop in to the Hobby Building Train Room on Friday, April 3, or Saturday, April 4, from 2 to 4 p.m. to view our Easter celebration. We welcome children of all ages to come in and witness the golden age of railroading.

The club also 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, May 6, in the Hobby Building Event Room. If you have any questions, please text Jim Lynam at 352-861-2822.



Photo by Jim Lynam

Children's Easter egg hunt.

Recreation

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



ply at \$5 per person. Children under the age of 15 are not permitted. Upcoming entertainment is as follows:

- April 3: Kathleen Kane
- April 10: Mark Raisch
- April 24: 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:

- Sunday, April 5: Dan Flok
- Saturday, April 11: Ben Simmons
- Friday, April 17: The Joes
- Sunday, April 19: Ron Harvey
- Saturday, April 25: Donna Carrier

Tropic Trivia

If you would like to try your hand at Tropic Trivia, April tables are on sale. A team representative may purchase a table for the entire team each month. Tables of eight sell for \$40 on the OTOW App. After the purchase is made, it is preferable that the person buying the table come to the Recreation Department to select their table. First-come, first-served.

Karaoke (Free)

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

Ladies Night (Free)

Ladies, you are invited to join us on Tuesday, April 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. Tony Machicote is the musical guest. Bring your beverages and snacks. See you there! \$5 guest fee applies.

Movie Night (Free)

Join us for a cinematic night out featuring, when possible, a newly released movie! Join us on Thursday, April 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. This month's movie title will be announced soon. The movie title is displayed on the movie sign in the Recreation Center lobby, on the virtual calendar, and on the OTOW App. The Pub will be open, and free popcorn will be served. You are welcome to bring snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. Please note, the ballroom will not be accessible as a cut-through to and 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 the movie can be shown uninterrupted.

Comedy Night

Come laugh along with comedian, Harley Worthit, on Thursday, April 30, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Harley's comedy is clean, hilarious, and presented in a unique style. Reservations are \$15 per resident and \$20 per guest through the OTOW App. Includes light snacks and drinks. The Pub will be open.

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.
- Visit the OTOW App for the wellness schedule.

Chair Volleyball (Free)

Have a blast in chair volleyball on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Ballroom. Teams will be determined on the day of the event, and rules will be reviewed. Come share the fun in this exciting, new active aging sport.

From the Top Line Dance Class (Free)

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

Kocktails & Karaoke (Free)

Sing your heart out! You'll feel right at home singing with your neighbors to cheer you on. Enjoy the fun on Thursday, April 2, from 5 to 8 p.m. with Charlie and Kathy Petrosky. Bring beverages and table snacks. \$5 guest fee applies.

Happy Hour (Free)

Cheers to a fantastic community! Join us for Happy Hour from 5 to 8 p.m. Feel free to bring your own beverage and table snacks. \$5 guest fee applies. The entertainment schedule is as follows:

- Friday, April 10: Cherokee
- Saturday, April 18: Pure Magic

Musical Game Night

Enjoy this musical fun night on Wednesday, April 15, from 5 to 7 p.m. Come and enjoy the game "PRIZEO" along with trivia and "Name That Tune." Reservations cost \$5 per resident and \$10 per guest.

Country Western Hoedown

Back by popular demand - Country Western Hoedown - on Friday, April 24, from 5 to 9 pm. Enjoy a delicious Sonny's BBQ buffet with all the trimmings, along with iced tea and lemonade. Have fun line dancing or just singing along to some live music provided by Dan Flok. Tickets are \$25 per resident and \$30 per guest. Reservation sales end Friday, April 10.

Poolside Entertainment (Free)

Join us poolside under the pavilion for live music with Steel Drum Randy on Sunday, April 26, from 1 to 4 p.m. Relax in the sun, or swim in the pool, and make it a day with great music. On-site, the Mobile Munchies food truck will be present to sell food/beverages for your enjoyment. No glass containers allowed.

Indigo East Community Center

Happy Hour (Free)

Plan for a great time out with your friends and neighbors on Fridays from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring your favorite cocktails and snacks. Dance, socialize, relax, and enjoy! The entertainment schedule is as follows:

- April 3: Don Flok
- April 10: Donna Carrier
- April 17: Hwy 94

Trivia

Get in on some friendly and fun competition with your neighbors and friends at trivia on Monday, April 6, 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.

Cheese and Cheers (Free)

Join us for an easygoing evening of snacks, music, and great company on Wednesday, April 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring your own wine or favorite beverage.



age. Fruit and cheese platters will be provided (while supplies last). Steven Lazarus will provide the music.

Karaoke (Free)

Grab the mic and take center stage, or cheer on your neighbors for sing-along fun! Choose your song and share your voice at karaoke on Thursday, April 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring beverages and snacks. Feel free to sing solo or in a group.

Live Poolside Music (Free)

Join us for fun in the sun with live music with Steel Drum Randy on Sunday, April 19, from 3 to 6 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, April 30, 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

Poolside Live Music (Free)

Join us for live music poolside on the following dates:

- Thursday, April 9 (1 to 4 p.m.): Fred Campbell
- Monday, April 13 (5 to 8 p.m.): Tim Hargis
- Sunday, April 26 (1 to 4 p.m.): Kathleen Gallenberger

Game On (Free)

Ready to get your game on? Bring your favorite board game for a night of laughter, friendly competition, and community fun on Wednesday, April 29, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Virtual & Live Fitness Classes (Free)

Have fun, and get fit every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

- 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 a live instructor.
- Fridays (9 a.m.): Virtual, pre-recorded World Class Active Aging.

Visit the OTOW App for the wellness schedule!

The Summit

Happy Hour will be held in the ballroom on Fridays, May 1, May 15, and May 29, from 5 to 8 p.m. In June, Happy Hour, currently hosted at the Recreation Center Ballroom, will be held at The Summit.

Starting July 1, trivia, karaoke, ladies' night, and themed events will be held in The Summit Ballroom. Feel free to bring snacks, drinks, and alcoholic beverages to these events. We are delighted to present these events in our newest amenity.

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| Avalon Post Office | Parking Lot | 8:51 a.m. |
| Windsor East | 94th Pl. - 94th Lp. | 8:55 a.m. |
| Windsor West | 95th St. - 95th Lp. | 8:58 a.m. |
| Crescent Ridge | 97th Lane - Post Office - 99th Ave. - 96th St. | 9:01 a.m. |
| Recreation Center | At Bus Stop Sign in Parking Lot | 9:04 a.m. |
| Americana Village | 89th Ct. Rd. - Post Office - 85th Ter. Rd. | 9:08 a.m. |
| Friendship Village | Post Office - 84th Ter. - 93rd St. | 9:12 a.m. |
| Friendship Colony | 83rd Ter. - 90th Pl. - 87th Ave. - 97th St. | 9:16 a.m. |
| Friendship Park | 97th St. - 94th Lane | 9:20 a.m. |
| Friendship Village | 89th Ct. Rd. - 92nd St. | 9:22 a.m. |
| Friendship Colony | 90th St. - Post Office | 9:26 a.m. |
| Candler Hills Community Center | At Bus Stop Sign in Parking Lot | 9:31 a.m. |
| Indigo East Community Center | Parking Lot | Call one day in advance for pick-up |
| Weybourne Landing | Parking Lot | Call one day in advance for pick-up |
| Longleaf Ridge Model Center | Parking Lot | Call one day in advance for pick-up |
| Exit Community | | 9:36 a.m. |
| MORNING DESTINATIONS | | |
| Freedom Library (Tues/Thurs only) | Ollie's | Arrival and pick-up times for morning destinations will vary according to the number of passengers. The bus driver will announce the pick-up time at each destination for that day. |
| Jasmine Square | Paddock Mall | |
| VA Hospital | Walmart | |
| Dillard's/Kohl's | Target | |
| Sam's Club | Hobby Lobby/Shady Oaks Shopping Center | |
| Home Depot | Gaitway Plaza | |
| Return to On Top of the World to begin drop-off/pick-up for the afternoon run. | | |
| AFTERNOON ROUTE | PICK-UP LOCATIONS AND TIMES | |
| The Lodge at Candler Hills | 1:15 p.m. | Candler Hills Community Center 1:20 p.m. |
| Friendship Colony Post Office | 1:25 p.m. | Providence Post Office 1:28 p.m. |
| Avalon Post Office | 1:33 p.m. | Crescent Ridge Post Office 1:38 p.m. |
| Recreation Center | 1:43 p.m. | Americana Post Office 1:49 p.m. |
| Friendship Post Office | 1:54 p.m. | |
| AFTERNOON DESTINATIONS | | |
| Friendship Center | Bravo Supermarket | Arrival and pick-up times for afternoon destinations will vary according to the number of passengers. The bus driver will announce the pick-up time at each destination for that day. |
| 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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Sewing Bees



Ann Gallo

Happy spring! We have been busy making small quilts and blankets for these very special and fragile babies at AdventHealth Ocala NICU. We expect to be making a delivery in a couple of weeks. If you have any baby print flannel or quilt fabric, no matter how small, we would be happy to have it.

A very big thank you to The New Pretenders for their generous donation to our group. This allows us to continue our mission of bringing warmth and comfort to disadvantaged children in Marion County.

We have been busy making deliveries. Casa Marion, which serves victims of domestic violence, received 60 quilts. UF Health Shands Children's Hospital PICU received 58 quilts.

Did you know that dedicated quilters spend almost eight hours online per week visiting quilting sites and groups centered on quilting techniques, sup-

plies, and news?

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 meet every Thursday in the Hobby Building, from 12:30 to 3 p.m., and on the second and third Saturdays of every month from noon to 3 p.m.

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 Ann Gallo

Working on small quilts and blankets for AdventHealth Ocala NICU.

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.

This month, we are featuring Theresa Sendrowski, the eldest daughter in a family of seven, who began her sewing passion at around age 12, making clothing for school. She started sewing with her mother's old, unused machine that lay dormant in a closet, and used her babysitting money to buy the fabric and supplies to begin designing her own wardrobe. As her sewing skills devel-

oped over the years, Theresa included costuming, a wider variety of garments, and custom drapery.

Being self-taught, she developed skills in puppetry, papier-mâché, watercolor, acrylic painting, clay sculpting, jewelry making, and woodworking. She enjoys the fundamentals of designing and the creation of all types of crafts. Having always been involved with nature, she often bases her crafts and art projects on it.

There is both a wonderful excitement and a challenge in working with many artistic media, molding something new and different each time.

As a child, her family was helped by the local church and community, so as an adult, she values giving back by donating her time and skills. While living in Georgia, she had the opportunity to help build homes, work with neighborhood food groups, assist with her local church community through her puppetry, and volunteer as a local Girl Scout troop leader for over ten years.

After she and her husband retired and moved here, Theresa has donated time to sewing quilts for local charities through the Sewing Bees. She has as-

sisted the Ashford neighborhood with decorating The Lodge at Candler Hills for events and parties.

Theresa is looking forward to sharing her crafts with the community every Tuesday and meeting other great artisans and crafters. Please view the va-

riety of Theresa's designs on our website's Wood page.

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 by Theresa Sendrowski

Theresa Sendrowski lends a helping hand to nature.

SENIOR HEALTH RESOURCE FAIR

Hosted by: Vet Resource Center



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April 22, 2026

10am - 1pm

Marion County Veterans, register for the FREE Galleri multi cancer screening and detection test at the Health Fair!



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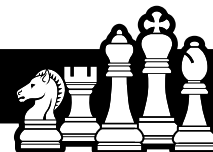
Join us for a free community event connecting seniors with local health resources, wellness services, and educational opportunities focused on healthy aging.

light snacks will be available during the event

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no registration required



CARDS & GAMES



Bingo

Nancy Grabowski



emailed within a few days.

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

Feb. 10

1: Julian Wachs & Liz Wachs; 2: Jean Krueger & Sophie Redman; 3: Linda Ryan & Bill Ryan; Tie at 4: Sharon Miller & Arlene Loepp; and Vera Mangold & Dan Lack.

Feb. 17

1: Dan Lack & Vera Mangold; Tie at 2: Bob Kraus & Arlene Loepp; and Linda Ryan & Bill Ryan; 4: Barbara Heller & Jack Heller; 5: Carolyn Higgins & V.J. Hentz.

Feb. 24

1: Jack Heller & Barbara Heller; 2: Jean Krueger & Brent Powell; Tie at 3: Bob Kraus & Gary Moses; and Chris Wachter & Jeff Young; 5: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen.

**March 3
North/South**

1: Chris Wachter & Jeff Young; 2: Jeane Krueger & Sophie Redman; 3: Sharon Miller & Arlene Loepp; Tie at 4: Julian Wachs & Liz Wachs; and Drew Brehm & Brian Lomasky.

March 10

1: Barbara Heller & Jack Heller; 2: Jean Krueger & Sophie Redman; 3: Dan Lack & Vera Mangold; 4: Bob Kraus & Virginia Collins; 5: Drew Brehm & Maureen Brehm.

Wednesday Afternoon

By Dianne Robinson

Feb. 4

1: Dianne Robinson; 2: Phyllis Silverman; 3: Bruce Gillett; Cons: Marlene Floeckher.

Feb. 11

1: Bruce Gillett; 2: Billie Andersen; 3: Kurt Baumgartner; 4: Pat Quinn; Cons: Bob Knowles

Feb. 18

1: Dianne Robinson; 2: Kurt Baumgartner; 3: Linda Curtiss; Cons: Trudy Baumgartner.

Feb. 25

1: Carolyn Higgins; 2: Billie Anderson; 3: Kurt Baumgartner; Cons: Bob Knowles.

Thursday Afternoon

By Trudy Baumgartner

Feb. 5

1: Craig Ford; 2: Mary Bloch; 3: Al Kremer; 4: Kurt Baumgartner.

Feb. 12

1: Billie Andersen; 2: Debbie Quinn; 3: Craig Ford; 4: Trudy Baumgartner.

Feb. 19

1: Phyllis Silverman; 2: Debbie Quinn; 3: Kurt Baumgartner; 4: Pat Quinn.

Feb. 26

1: Bruce Gillett; 2: Marlene Floeckher; 3: Debbie Quinn; 4: Craig Ford.

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. No partner is needed; we pair and rotate throughout the night. Bring 25 cents, a smile, and a good attitude. We play three rounds of seven hands and finish by 9 p.m. Come for fun and friendship, and you might even win the "2 prize," a prize given out for taking a trick with the two of trump that can be passed around throughout the evening.

Feb. 12

1: Dave Protsik; 2: Stu Shaub; 3: Jeff Bell; Cons: Carol.

Feb. 19

1: Jeff Bell; 2: Brent Powell; 3: Al Whitford; Cons: Jeff Young; 2 prize: Vera Mangold.

Feb. 26

1: Brent Powell; 2: Pam Bell; 3: Stu Shaub; Cons: Dave Protsik; 2 prize: Pam Bell.

March 5

1: Al Whitford; 2: Malcolm Levine; 3: Pam Bell; Dianne Perry; 2 prize: Penny Wagener.

Bunco



Bunco Babes Social Group

By Michelle Malsch

We meet in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The next scheduled game is Tuesday, April 28.

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

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

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

Prizes will be awarded at the end of the game for most buncos, minis, wins, and losses. There are also two door prize drawings for those who did not win any of the category prizes. We will no longer play for cash prizes. Please bring your beverage and small snack if you wish. After the first three sets have been played, there will be a short intermission.

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

Candler Hills Bunco Group

By Cindy Arkebauer

Candler Hills residents are welcome to join us for a fun and relaxing evening of laughs, camaraderie, and bunco! We meet on the first Wednesday of each month. So, our next roll of the dice will be on Wednesday, May 6, starting promptly at 6 p.m. at The Lodge at Candler Hills Meeting Rooms I-II. There is no fee to participate. Bring a beverage or snack to share if you wish. See you soon!

March

Most buncos: Katherine Falk & Linda Kozlowski.

Most wins: 14-Pam Brown.

Mini buncos: Paul Disclafani.

Most losses: Ruth Matthews.

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 attended the Club Fair and provided your email but have not received the Cribbage Scoring Aid or Guide, please email me directly. I had about five bounce-backs on the email blast I sent.

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

Euchre



Friday Night

By Mary Bloch

December, January, and February have been busy for our card club! Here are the deserving winners for the last few months. Come join us for an evening of fun cards and great company. Info: mary.bloch@yahoo.com.

Dec. 5, 2025

1: Bob Moravec; 2: Linda Brown; 3: Joe Winterrowd.

Dec. 12, 2025

1: Cindy Arkenbauer; 2: Cindy Turek; 3: Bruce Tredinnick.

Dec. 19, 2025

1: Dan Brady; 2: Bob Moravec; 3: Jim Brogan.

Dec. 26, 2025

1: Bob Kraus; 2: Laverne Pine; 3: Dennis Dust.

Jan. 2

1: Laverne Pine; 2: Angela Brady; 3: Sande Caton.

Jan. 9

1: Lou Pine; 2: Linda Brown; 3: Jack Taylor.

Jan. 16

1: Pam Brown; 2: Trudy Baumgartner; 3: Wanda Crossman.

Jan. 23

1: Jim Brogan; 2: Kathy Fletcher; 3: Joe Winterrowd.

Jan. 30

1: Sande Caton; 2: Kathy Fletcher; 3: Jean Gillette.

Feb. 6

1: Trudy Baumgartner; 2: John Baranski; 3: John O'Leary.

Feb. 13

1: John Baranski; 2: Laverne Pine; 3: Linda Champion.

Feb. 20

Tie at 1: Laverne Pine & Mary Speck; Tie at 2: Dan Brady & Mary Bloch; Tie at 3: Tom Nutt & Judy Lynch.

Feb. 27

Tie at 1: Kathy Fletcher & Bob Kraus; 2: Lou Pine; 3: Kurt Baumgartner.

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

Feb. 3

1: Bob Hoerr; 2: Jackie Nuccio; 3: Ilene Casper.

Feb. 10

1: Marlene Floeckher; 2: Walter Hickenlooper; 3: Andy Nuccio.

Feb. 17

1: Al Whitford; 2: Walter Hickenlooper; 3: Ilene Casper.

Feb. 24

1: Walter Hickenlooper; 2: Paul Jenkins; 3: James Tomaszek.

Friday Morning

By Andy Nuccio

Feb. 13

1: Abe Toubail; 2: Cheryl Adams; 3: Mary Hannon.

Feb. 20

1: Cheryl Adams; 2: Marlene Floeckher; 3: Ilene Casper.

Feb. 27

1: Bruce Gillett; 2: Andy Nuccio; 3: Stu Shaub.

March 6

1: Ilene Casper; 2: Herb Katz; 3: Al Whitford.

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Bridge



Monday Afternoon

By Carol Johnson

Feb. 2

1: Jean Krueger & Craig Ford; 2: Dennis & Judi Wallace; 3: Jeff & Pam Bell; 4: Jack Heller & Darlene Field.

Feb. 9

1: Beverly Meirick & Craig Ford; 2: Darlene Clark & Linda Curtiss; 3: Mary Bloch & Billie Anderson; 4: Bruce Gillette & Linda Yuen.

Feb. 16

1: Craig Ford & Beverly Meirick; 2: Pat & Debbie Quinn; 3: Sharon Miller & Arlene Loepp; 4: Steve Sekac & Jack Heller; 5: Diane Robinson & Carol Johnson.

Feb. 23

1: Barb Heller & Barbie Trebilcock; 2: Linda Curtiss & Darlene Clark; 3: Billie Anderson & Mary Bloch; 4: Jack Heller & Steve Sekac; 5: Dennis & C.J. Dust.

Tuesday Night Duplicate

By Bob Kraus

In duplicate bridge, all pairs play the same hands. This emphasizes the importance of good bidding and play. If you are an experienced bridge player and haven't tried duplicate, we will show you all you need to know in a couple of minutes.

We meet every Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Card Rooms I-II (please arrive by 5:50 p.m.). We can set up up to nine tables. Bring your partner and \$0.50 per person.

Boards are scored, and results are

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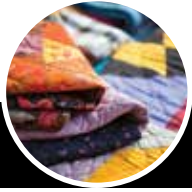
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On Top of the World NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Sunshine Quilters



Linda Holst

shine Quilters Guild for three years, while she has been a snowbird from Philadelphia. This past December, she bought a home here, making her a full-time member. Sandy says the home she bought is perfect because it has space for her quilting room.

Sandy's daughter got her interested in making quilts for veterans. They are called "Quilts of Valor" and are given to veterans in a special ceremony. The quilts are usually made of patriotic fabrics and panels.

Sandy shared two stories of quilts made for veterans. Her son served in the Army with a platoon of 20 men. Sandy made a Quilt of Valor for each serviceman. The quilts were presented to each serviceman at Fort Bragg in North Carolina. She has also made quilts from uniforms.

Sandy's advice to anyone wanting to quilt is, "Don't be afraid, start with making squares and later progress to other designs."

If you would like information about the Sunshine Quilters Guild, email our president, Joyce Utley, at barnieo48@gmail.com.



Photo by Linda Holst

Sandy Edinger's quilt was made from her husband's plaid shirts.

What do you do when Florida throws a curveball of freezing temperatures? You make a quilt!

That's what Sandy Edinger's daughter suggested.

Sandy used her husband Bob's plaid flannel and cotton shirts to make a quilt. Sandy designed and sewed the top, and her daughter long-armed the quilt top to the batting and backing. The quilt has kept Sandy wrapped in love and warmth many a chilly night.

Sandy has been sewing for years, but she began quilting about 12 years ago. Sandy's quilt tops began as simple designs that have expanded into more complex patterns.

Ten baby quilts, made by Sandy, await being given to newborns. Sandy donates or gifts most of her quilts.

Sandy has been a member of the Sun-

Happy Hookers



Jan Spielvogel

Happy Hookers wishes everyone a blessed and joyous Easter!

We would like to share with you the amazing work our group has done in the first two months of this year. We have distributed 250 hats since January. In ad-

dition, 175 hats are being stored, ready for distribution when the colder weather reappears later in 2026. We have also distributed 30 scarves. Since January, 110 Afghans have been distributed to Bears & Blankets, UF Health Shands Children's Hospital PICU, Empath Hospice of Marion County, and VA nursing and assisted living. As of March 1, the Bay Pines VA received 81 hats, 106 blankets, and 16 quilts - all in red, white, and blue.

Happy Hookers is open to all residents. We meet on Mondays, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Art Stu-

dio. There are no dues, agenda, or penalties for missing a meeting, arriving late, or leaving early. Life can and does interfere at times, and we would hate for that to hold you back. What we do have is a group of ladies busy with crocheting, knitting, needlepointing, card crafting, embroidering, and handcrafting.

This is a very talented group that's never too busy to help someone with a difficult pattern or stitch. We welcome newcomers with open arms. Attendees

should bring whatever they are working on.

If you have any questions about our club, you may call either Jan Spielvogel at 919-274-6191 or Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178. If you have yarn, pattern books, knitting needles, crochet hooks, or other crafting tools that you no longer use, donations are always appreciated. Please bring them on Mondays during our meeting time or contact Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178 to arrange for pickup.

Indigo East Book Group



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 "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, printed, audio, and ebooks.

If you have any questions, please email Dawn Winblad at dlwonceagain@comcast.net.

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Poetry



Poetry Club



Bill Burton

The Tuxedo Cat

By Linda Toner

My name is Oscar, I am a tuxedo cat, dressed for any occasion, intelligent but a bit fat. Let me give you an example of what comes to me naturally. There was a bowl of cheese squares unattended, and actually, my nose quivered in delight, so I jumped up and ate six cheeses, and hopped back down with ease. Mom comes into the room, she sees some cheese gone from the bowl. Now she's mad and stares at me with a scowl. "Oscar, did you eat some of my cheese?" As I give her my look that says, "I'm innocent, please." I sit on the floor, sated and smug, orange bits of cheese on my whiskers, and this is where she gets a twist in her knickers, because my stomach starts churning from lactose intolerance, out of my mouth comes a vomit so liquid and magnificent. Onto the carpet I spew the cheese, she goes to grab me, and as sure as you please, she slips on the vomit, and lands on it squarely, she's covered in it, and I could barely hear her say, "Oscar, you're a devil in black and white." and calls poison control to see if a cat can survive in spite of eating the forbidden dairy. Meanwhile, I sit calmly, purring away, cheese on my whiskers, giving me away. So, get yourself a tuxedo cat, your life will be more exciting, and that's a fact!

A Tribute to Conscientious Craftsmen

By Jim Kimes

Competent craftsmen are rare, like gold dust. Thus, underpinning this tribute to you. The aggregate world needs those they can trust. So, applause is likely way overdue.

For certain, many feel the same as I, But verbalizing praise is not their style. And, too, it's a given: some folks are shy. They prefer, instead, a tip and a smile.

Whatever, take pride in all that you do. Set the bar high and don't settle for less. Remember this, and it will see you through: You are the one you want most to impress!

You Got Me Hooked

By Janice M. Puta

Ah, the sweetness in life! You got me hooked on staying alive, keeping the contract seeing it through the end.

A bit of sunshine, a taste of ice cream, bird song and blooming bromeliads! You got me hooked on keeping the faith, doing the job walking the journey.

An unexpected compliment, a warm hug and tender moments! You got me hooked on trusting the bigger picture while holding the vision in my heart.

Angel Wings Triple Fold

By Barbara A. Scales

I awaken deep in the night. Your touch causes my heart to leap. Melding we into one, consumed by passion's delight. My desire affects me to weep.

The satin of your inner lip. Your flesh, your strong sinew, Carries me off into the enraptured unknown, On angel's wings triple fold.

not. But it will get you to the starting line, and even the greats had one.

Need to match a word like "vinegar?" Good luck. Instead, a phrase like "winning her" might do the deal. It's usually more important to match the syllable count, rather than force an exact word, to help achieve form and flow. Let it flow and feel good.

Here's your homework. Write three lines to make your significant other or someone smile. Three lines of three words. "You look sweet, take a seat, now let's eat." You're done. We'd love to hear what you came up with, and we've got a starting line right here. Call or text Bill Burton 352-492-8626.

Tesla Owners & Enthusiasts Club

Dan Lack



If you were a fan of the Knight Rider TV series, you'll be pleased to know that Artificial Intelligence (AI) has arrived in Tesla vehicles that were purchased in 2022 or later. Grok is the name of Tesla's AI.

Grok's voice can be male or female with an American or English accent. Tesla drivers can talk to Grok and tell it to change the originally programmed

destination. Grok can tell you a story, have a conversation, or playfully argue with you while you drive. Grok can recommend a good restaurant or hotel and then take you there. Grok can help you learn a foreign language or play trivia. This definitely makes your trip a lot more entertaining.

The Tesla Owners and Enthusiasts Club meet 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.

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Bryanna Nails

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Woodcarving Club

Linda Toner



sions or body language. Caricature carving is popular among carvers, allowing them to create something fun while using their skills. Caricatures can be as intricate or as simple as you wish and can be of any figure or style.

A cowboy bronco buster, a wizard, and an Indian face were carved by our member, Gary Dormanen. David Bride carved a “squinty-eyed” cowboy with a cigarette in his mouth, and his wife, Carol, carved for him the “squint” in the cowboy’s eye, and also the carving of “Old Man Rufus” and his wife, “Sadie.” Vicky Larson contributed her Santa face, and Jim Carmack carved Frankenstein, “Old Rufus the Hunting Dog,” and a Santa.

Carving caricatures is fun. There are soft-cover books on how to carve caricatures, with many patterns to choose from.

We meet every Thursday from 3 to 5:30 p.m. in the Hobby Building Art Room. For more information, call Tom at 352-586-1171 or Rich at 404-558-3855. On the first Thursday, we teach the basics of carving in the round, and on the



Photo by Linda Toner

Caricature carving.

second Thursday, we teach the basics of relief carving. Everyone is welcome to join our club. Woodcarving is creative and fun. Why don’t you give it a try?

Rubber Stamp Greeting Cards

Linda Lohr



On Thursday, March 5, Cathy Lewandowski presented three cards – a partial die-cut flip card, a pop-out fancy fold, and a basket weave, using scraps of white cardstock. All the cards could be used for any occasion, just by changing the sentiment. The first two cards were a challenge, but we were up to the task!

We thank Cathy for supplying the dies, embossing folders, stamps, and ink pad to complete the three cards.

To participate, you will need basic supplies, such as a trimmer, glue, scissors, and cardstock. Everyone in the group shares their supplies, and everyone brings new ideas to the table. You are only limited by your imagination!

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

Our next class is on Thursday, April 16. Until our next meeting, keep on stampin’!



Photo by Linda Lohr

Cards presented by Cathy Lewandowski.

Paradise Players

Lyn Yanss



with tickets priced at \$12.50 for premium seating (nearly sold out) and \$10 for general admission, both selling quickly.

Don’t miss your chance to enjoy this comedy adventure on the high seas, with showtimes 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. Tickets are available at Ticket Tuesday in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room III, via email otowparadiseplayers@gmail.com for will-call, or through cast members. Secure your spot now and avoid missing out on this entertaining event. Reserve your tickets today and be part of the mystery!

lication day (see schedule, page 2).

If you don’t receive your copy or wish to stop delivery, email otownews@otowfl.com with your neighborhood, and address.

After delivery day, copies are available in newspaper racks at postal centers, fitness and community centers, Circle Square Commons locations, the New Home Sales Center, Resident Services, and other key community spots. For the full location list, visit ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala/circulation/.

You can also read online and view the schedule at ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala.

Broadway Playhouse

Elaine Morrison



Rave reviews are pouring in from theatre-goers who jammed into the four sold-out performances of our recent production of “Oklahoma!” youth edition in March.

The beautiful, familiar music from the 1943 groundbreaking Rodgers and Hammerstein prize-winning show was performed brilliantly by the cast, many of them making their debut performances.

The sets and costumes were awesome, and many in the audience who were aware of the time and energy required to produce a spectacle of this magnitude were deeply moved.

The expertise of directors Cheryl Richardson and Joanne Houston not only enabled performers to bring out qualities they never knew they possessed but also encouraged others to do the same.

We want to invite you to join us so you too can be part of the next Broadway Playhouse production. Email otowbroadwayplayhouse@gmail.com for information.

In the News

Petra Schmidt

otownews@otowfl.com



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Photo by George Bausewein

Fran Allen, Gloria Emmons, Tom Miller, Kim English, Bob Wroblewski, Janet Becker, and Ron Fulton.

The New Pretenders

Nancy Grabowski



The New Pretenders cannot believe how much we loved the show in February! It was over the top, just like the audience, each one outdoing the others in spirit and laughter. It certainly spurred us on to perform for you.

As we have often said, after we pay our expenses with the money we earn from ticket sales, we, as a group, decide which local Marion County charities to support. This year, our recipients are Sewing Bees, Veterans Helping Veterans, Chuck's Piggy Bank, Pidge Spring, Ocala Ritz Veterans Village, Interfaith Emergency Services, and Empath Hospice of Marion County.

In September, when we hold our kick-off social, we'll take a look at the budget. It may be feasible to allocate additional funds then. Time will tell!

You might wonder what we do once our shows have been completed. As the saying goes, "There's no rest for the wicked" (wicked like "wicked good" in Boston!). First, the membership com-

mittee begins the interview process by meeting with prospective candidates. Should you decide, even at this point, that you want to be considered, contact one of our members or Nancy Grabowski at 352-209-4699. Maybe you're a fantastic drummer, or you play the saxophone or something as different as the accordion, marimba, or ukulele!

Meanwhile, the music committee has a most difficult task ... finding the 28 to 30 numbers that will make up our program next February. Each year, we strive to do more enhanced acts, which is quite the challenge.

Once that process is complete, our music engineer Randy Schmid searches out the best, clearest copy of the selections and readies them for each of our members. The director gathers the lyrics and presents them to those who will perform a particular number.

Then, the process moves on to finding the proper costumes, designing the set, and practice, practice, practice. Our commitment to our craft and our audiences makes this a year-round activity with many social events thrown in as well.

Have we attracted your interest yet? Give us a call, we'd love to have you join our troupe!

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 now rehearsing "At the Copa Ocala," and ticket information will be posted in their column. The performance will be on Saturday, May 30, in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-III.

As we begin rehearsals for this show, we are also planning a new one for later in the year, and we hope to see you at one of these hilarious, fun productions. We perform for smaller groups of under 120 people within On Top of the World. This results in more intimate and engaging shows where the audience gets to guess "whodunnit!" Dinner is often included in the ticket price, too. We believe that laughter is the best medicine, and so the audience gets to giggle along

with our "over the top" characters.

We rehearse on Mondays from 4 to 6 p.m. in Arbor Conference Center Studio D.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the directors, cast, and crew of the Broadway Playhouse's recent production of "Oklahoma, Jr." It was a really uplifting experience for the community, and it made me realize the exceptional talent we have here. The crew built an incredible set for the show, and we were all transported to another world, and that is the prime aim of the theater.

Now for a cheeky request. We really need a black-box theater here to host such wonderful productions!

For more information regarding the Murder Mystery Dinner Theater Club, please contact me at Lizzyliberman@gmail.com or 702-378-6300 or Pati Bean at pjbean5678@gmail.com or 253-278-1661. Please state your level of interest, either as an actor or to book a murder mystery for your community or club.



Photo by Percy Millet

Shea and Ralph Koscheka in "The Haunting of Weybourne High."

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THIS SPRING LET SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT DO WHAT NEEDS DONE!

As spring arrives at On Top of the World, it's the perfect time to refresh and protect our community's beautiful landscapes. The Sustainable Landscape Management (SLM) team takes a thoughtful, comprehensive approach to caring for our 13,000-acre community, guided by more than 65 years of stewardship focused on protecting native habitats, enhancing resident lifestyles, and preserving our environment for generations to come.

Through practices such as Florida-Friendly Landscaping, Florida Water Star standards, solar energy initiatives, and responsible water conservation, SLM ensures sustainability that benefits both nature and our community.

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- Mulching services to refresh landscape beds
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- Weed prevention and landscape clean-ups
- Tree and shrub care
- Soil enrichment and sustainable landscape practices



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

This spring, simple landscape care practices can make a lasting difference while supporting a healthier environment and a more beautiful community for everyone to enjoy!



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View from the Library

Marjorie Ferrer



Richard Powers has been writing award-winning fiction since 1985. I had not read any of Richard Powers' works until my book club selected his 2024 fiction "Playground" last fall. I found his plot construction exceptionally clever, and yet when it ended, I felt personally challenged as a reader.

I had never read a book that surprised and stumped me at the end like that. How had the author "pulled one over on me," so to speak? I felt forced to flip back through the book immediately, then again the next day, until I almost had a full second reading! I was amazed at the deeper insights the quick reread brought me! I did a little research on this remarkable fiction writer and decided I wanted to read another of his novels.

I decided to see what Richard Powers' works were in our library and found three of his 14 novels. "The Echo Maker" won the 2006 National Book Award and was a finalist for the Pulitzer. Set against the Platte River's massive spring migrations, Powers explores a traumatic brain injury and the power of the human brain. "Bewilderment," published in 2021, was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and longlisted for the National Book Award. It explores astrobology, environmental crises, and life beyond Earth. The third library find, and the novel I chose to read, was Powers' 2018 "The Overstory," the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction winner.

"The Overstory" explores the lives of nine strangers, many of whom have significant early experiences with trees. If you ever climbed a tree as a child, those memories will re-awaken. If you have ever witnessed quivering golden aspens, you will see them again. If you have hiked through woodlands and explored what goes on in a fallen tree, you will re-experience the significance of every crawling and growing inhabitant. You will feel the wonders of living in a tree top and marvel at how trees communicate. Like the characters in other Powers' novels, they grapple with the effects of modern science and technology. No matter where your feelings lie about environmental issues, after reading "The Overstory," you will never see a tree in the same way again.

In "Playground," Powers brings the oceans and their inhabitants to life. In "The Overstory," the secret life of trees is fully revealed to the reader. I guess that no matter which of Powers' selections you choose, you will experience excellent and creative writing along with a deep, colorful dive into an area of science that you will find eye-opening.

Poetry



Dawn

By Anne Merrick

Peeping through the crack of dawn
The sun greets, greedily, the morn
Slanting rays leap cosmically
Cascading down to earth to see
The bounty of creation, stirring,
Waking to another glorious day

In My Kitchen is a Window

By Bill Burton

My kitchen has a window where the morning sun
arises
Warming every creature from the greatest to the
least
A maple overlooks my tiny world of sweet surprises
Someone brings the showers - arranges lovely
flowers - and shades the morning hours
In my garden to the east

I sip my morning coffee and regard it all serenely
Like a king reposing with his subjects at his feast
I watch it ever closely and survey it ever keenly
Lost in contemplation - a happy celebration - a
lovely compilation
In my garden to the east.

My hedges are like castle walls - a fortress of
protection
Guarding both the flower and the tiniest of beast
What nature has arranged, I tend to leave without
correction
My garden is well tended, seeds of joy are blended
- I feel so befriended
In my garden to the east.

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Writers Club

Paul DiScalfani



The Writers Club meets on the third Thursday of each month in the Recreation Center Lounge (in the back of the Recreation Center Ballroom), at noon. All residents interested in writing are invited to attend. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 16.

Stephanie Larkin, the founder and president of Red Penguin Books in New York, will be our April guest speaker (via Zoom) to discuss both traditional and self-publishing options. Red Penguin works with authors from all genres and produces books in all formats - printed, eBooks, and audio.

In May, New York/New Jersey author Jon D'Amore will discuss his books on organized crime, romance, and other topics (also via Zoom).

If you missed our March meeting, author Mark Holmes detailed how to use Amazon's self-publishing product, KDP. The product is free to use. We also discussed the process of writing effective dialogue.

Filomena Abys-Smith, the founder of the Author's Support Group, spoke to our members in February about her writing process in creating her novel, "At the Lord's Table." The novel is set during the Great Irish Famine and examines the Irish community's influence on New York City. Filomena is now working on a sequel that will follow the same characters as they experience the antebellum period and become abolitionists and suffragists.

Our meetings include discussions with our members regarding the writing process, getting work published, and marketing. Our members share their experiences, including pitfalls to avoid. We also share our experiences with helpful online resources.

If there is a writer buried deep inside you trying to get out, this is the group for you to be a part of! Our group is open to all published resident authors,

GOING OUT OF TOWN?

View or download a PDF of the World News at ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala.

We'd love to see you at our next meeting on April 16. If you're interested in joining our writing community, email me at pdisco23@aol.com, and I'll add you to our email list. Don't worry if you

can't attend in person; all discussions, URLs, and Zoom meeting replays are shared via our group emails after each meeting. Our members also have exclusive access to our Facebook page.



Photo by Paul DiScalfani

Author Filomena Abys-Smith discussing her writing at the Writers Club February meeting.

OTOWInfo.com

World Tai Chi & Qi Gong Day

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

Saturday, April 25, 2026
10:30 - 11:30 AM • Sholom Park • FREE

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Concert Chorus



Joanne Houston

Fresh off their tour of "Oklahoma, Jr.", Concert Chorus Directors Joanne Houston and Cheryl Richardson are heading to the Circle Square Cultural Center stage to direct the outstanding and talented singers from On Top of the World.

On Sunday, April 12, at 3 p.m. and Monday, April 13, at 6 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center, over 100 singers will celebrate the nation's 250th birthday in a concert entitled "We the People."

The concert is a musical tribute to our country and veterans with a thrilling night of American music across our great land. With stops in Chattanooga, Nashville, New Orleans, West Virginia, and many cities along the way, we reach our final stop at the Statue of Liberty at Ellis Island in New York. Featured songs will include popular music, country, Dixieland, swing, jazz, rock, Broadway, and patriotic music.

There will be a special presentation of the colors featuring the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard. We are asking all audience members to bring non-perishable food items such as macaroni and cheese, beans, vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, fruit cups, Chef Boyardee, canned soup, pasta, pudding, oatmeal, crackers, pretzels, candy, trail mix, protein bars and any other food to help support our veterans who may need some extra assistance along with toiletries and socks.

Tickets are currently on sale at CS-CulturalCenter.com or the Circle Square Cultural Center box office, Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., with \$15 reserved seats and \$12 general admission seats.

You won't want to miss out on this musical celebration of our nation's 250th birthday. You will have a wonderful time and go home singing so many memorable songs with a smile from ear to ear.

We can't wait to have you join the Concert Chorus for a show you will never forget! For further information, please email joanne.houston57@gmail.com or deboraasmith@gamil.com.

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Ukelele Club



Janet Voyles

The Ukulele Club is always strumming up fun, blending weekly practice with impromptu community performances. In March, the Ukulele Club went out of the community for a special event at Cody's Restaurant. Informally dubbed "snacks and strums," we enjoyed lunch and lively conversation before ending the event with a pop-up concert right there at the restaurant! It was a fun afternoon of music, food, and fellowship, highlighting the Ukulele Club's commitment to social engagement and musical joy.

Known for bringing together residents of all ukulele skill levels, the club has become a staple for fostering musi-

cal abilities and social connections. If you've ever wanted to pick up a ukulele, or if you already play, come to the Arbor Activity Center Music Room on Wednesdays and check us out!

Our Uke 101 section starts at 2:30 p.m., where beginners can get started on their ukulele journey with the basics. This is followed by our Strum and Sing Circle at 3 p.m., a session of playing both old and new songs, along with activities designed to enhance our ukulele skills.

And that's not all! For those ukulele enthusiasts who want to dive even further into their playing journey, our Intermediate Skills session starts at 4 p.m., where we work together to hone various nuances of more advanced playing.

Whether you are a seasoned performer or just learning your first chord, the Ukulele Club offers a welcoming environment to play and learn. For more information, contact Janet Voyles at artemisclarinet@gmail.com or 812-319-7761.



Photo by Janet Voyles

Ukulele Club members enjoying "snacks and strums" at Cody's Restaurant.

Author's Support Group



Paul DiSclafani

The Author's Support Group is open to all residents who are published authors and meets on the first Thursday of every month at 11 a.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room.

We are excited to announce that our authors are putting together a series of educational writing sessions at Master the Possibilities. The six-week course, titled "Writers in the Making: Learning from Published Authors," is currently under consideration, and we are hoping to announce its approval soon.

If you're on the Master the Possibilities email list, you can vote on the our submission, and it will be added to the course list. There's a feedback section in the email with a graphic that says, "Help us decide what courses interest you the most!" Select the "Click here for Course Interest Survey" button and scroll down to find our course title, "Writers in the Making: Learning from Published Authors," then select either "Yes" or "Yes, and notify me." There are also other courses you might be interested in, so please share your opinion! Remember to hit "submit" when you're finished.

Our six-week course will cover writing tools and components, including dialogue, scene setting, and character development. There will also be specific sessions on different writing genres, including fiction, nonfiction, and memoirs.

During each weekly session, students will be encouraged to bring writing samples for discussion. The final session will focus on using Amazon's free self-publishing platform, KDP.

Authors Barbara Scales, Paul DiSclafani, Lori Szepelak, Mark Holmes, Filomena Alys-Smith, Tammy Cope, Ada Budd, and Tom Nicholl will guide the students through the various sessions.

The course is designed for beginners and those who have long considered writing but felt unsure how to begin. The course helps participants move past common barriers such as insecurity and lack of direction. By learning directly from experienced, published writers who have navigated similar challenges, students gain the tools, confidence, and encouragement they need to develop their ideas and begin their writing journey.

The entire series of classes (which will run for six consecutive weeks) is just \$8 for members and \$13 for the general public.

With your help (and support), we hope to have the course approved for a possible July start date. We will continue to keep you updated every month in this space.

Don't forget to visit our author's table at the weekly Craft Fair in the Recreation Center Ballroom, every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to noon. Our authors rotate each week and have physical copies of their books available for sale. The last Tuesday of the fair is May 12, so you'd better hurry on down!

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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 Jacquelin McDonough. When she was growing up, some of her fondest memories were listening to her father play his guitar and singing songs at family gatherings. She loved listening to him sing and always admired the way he played his guitar and entertained. Those moments stayed with her.

Jacquelin didn't get her first guitar until much later, but once she did, she was anxious to learn. Initially, she taught herself to play, inspired by the music she had grown up hearing. After she and her husband moved from Cape Cod to The Villages, she joined a group called Sparky's Strummers – an all-acoustic group consisting of about 20 to 25 players and singers. She says, "For about 13 years, I played guitar with them, and later on, I played a banjolele, all the while holding down a full-time job." She may not have been a virtuoso, but she could play well enough to hold her own – and she loved every minute of it.

In some respects, she follows in her father's footsteps, as she still prefers playing acoustic instruments, singing, and listening to the older songs that first captured her heart.

Since moving to On Top of the World, she has joined the Toppers Banjo Band, a guitar group, and a ukulele group. She is happily continuing to learn each instrument, embracing new techniques and challenges taught by truly special music teachers here who inspire her every day.

Although she is active in several organizations, music remains her foundation – the steady thread that grounds her, connects her to her past, and continues to bring her absolute great joy.

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



Photo by Herbert Young

Jacque McDonough with her banjo.

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 or David Wesenberg at dpw@mastersoftware-inc.com.

Fun with Golf Carts

Susan Pulling Robinson



On Saturday, March 14, our members put on the green and decorated for St. Patrick'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:

- April 4: Easter
- May 23: Memorial Day
- June 13: Flag Day
- July 4: Independence Day
- Aug. 8: Summer Fun
- Sept. 5: Labor Day
- Oct. 31: Halloween
- Nov. 7: Veterans Day
- Dec. 5: Holiday Golf Cart Parade
- Dec. 19: Holiday Parade
- Dec. 26: Evening Lights

Membership in our Facebook group (OTOW Fun with Golf Carts) has now surpassed 600 members! If you have a golf cart, please consider jazzing it up (or not) and joining in as we "parade for a cause." Each parade benefits one or more local charities. For more information and to receive emails about this club, please email otowfunwithgolfcarts@gmail.com. We all have a lot of fun cruising around in our "mini floats."

All club parades start at the Recreation Center, with lineup and charitable

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



Photo by Charles Calhoun

A "wee bit" of Irish golf cart.

AppFolio Homeowner's Portal Activation Process

Check for an invitation email from your association and click "Activate Now."

If you did not receive an email, please contact On Top of the World Resident Services.

352-236-6869 otowservice@otowfl.com

The account must be activated before downloading mobile app.



AppFolio Portal



#8926 - 4/26

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



It's Still Bunco, Baby!

By Paul DiSclafani

There's been a lot of talk in the bunco world recently about eliminating cash prizes. Since bunco is a game of chance, Florida law restricts not only the amount of money collected from players but also how much can be awarded as cash prizes. Although these regulations haven't ended any of the different monthly bunco club games, participants at various March gatherings were left confused.

For those unfamiliar, bunco is a simple dice game played with rotating teams, where players roll three dice aiming to match a specific target number each round. The first round targets ones, the second targets twos, and so forth. Six rounds of rolling, each focusing on a different number from one through six, make up a complete game. You play as many games as time allows.

After each round, players switch tables and partners, giving everyone a chance to interact and play with nearly everyone before the night ends. Grab some dice, bring along some pads and pens to keep score, invite a few neighbors, and enjoy some laughs.

If any of the three dice you throw contains the target number for the round (let's say the target number is one, your team (there are four to a square card table, teammates sit across from each other) scores a point. Roll two ones, and your team scores two points. As long as you roll a one, you keep going. As soon as you don't roll a one, a player from the

other team rolls, and so on.

To juice things up a little, roll three of any number not the target number, you get a mini bunco, worth five points. Roll three dice containing the target number (in this case ones), and you get a bunco. Because target number buncos are so rare, your team scores 21 points. Each round ends when one team at the lead table reaches 21 points.

In the past, bunco players contributed a couple of shekels each, with all the money collected awarded at the end to the players with the most wins, losses, mini-bunco, and regular-bunco scorer. But no more.

Bunco players can now only enjoy laughs and reminisce about the good old days when they could proudly walk out with that top prize of \$25. Nope, the Bunco Babes and other community bunco players can no longer dream of using their winnings for lunch at The Whistling Duck.

But maybe it's a good thing. Without the pressure of trying to be the best winner or the worst loser, March bunco games were filled with laughs and a different vibe. We just had fun.

If you want to win money, you can fight the regulars for a table at Wednesday bingo. If you want a relaxed evening with a few laughs, come to bunco.

Just leave your wallet at home, but feel free to bring cookies. We love cookies ...

Shutterbugs Photography

Mark Holmes



Many of us travel to very interesting places, and quite often those places offer a great opportunity to practice landscape photography. If you'd like your snapshots to become compelling photographs, read on.

Quality landscape photos start with learning to see the world with intention. Great images are the result of preparation, patience, and a willingness to return to the same place until the light and composition are just right. Early morning and late afternoon, or as we call it, the golden hours, offer soft, directional illumination that adds depth and texture to a scene.

But don't overlook dramatic midday shadows or the cool, moody tones of overcast skies. Mastery comes from recognizing how each type of light shapes the landscape.

Composition is the next consideration. Strong landscape photographs guide the viewer's eye using leading lines, foreground interest, and a clear subject. Instead of simply pointing your camera at a beautiful scene, look for elements that anchor the frame: a winding path, a textured rock, or a lone tree. Framing a distant view with nearby bordering trees is another example. These details create dimensionality and transform a pretty view into a compelling story.

Use a tripod to ensure sharpness, especially in low light. Shoot at narrower apertures to maintain depth of field and learn to bracket exposures when deal-

ing with high-contrast scenes. Using "raw" gives you maximum flexibility in post-processing, where subtle adjustments to contrast, color, and clarity can elevate an image without distorting reality. Many great amateur photographers shoot only in raw for this reason.

Finally, be patient, be curious. Return to familiar locations in different seasons, weather conditions, and times of day. Study the work of photographers you admire, not to imitate them but to understand how they interpret the world. Landscape photography rewards those who slow down, observe deeply, and embrace the unpredictable beauty of nature.

Visit the Master the Possibilities lobby in April to view a collection of photographs by Jim Stewart to see how he views the world.

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. You'll also learn about post-processing software like Elements, Neo, and others. Remember, you're never too old to learn something new.

Visit otowspc.org to view the club schedule, obtain a membership form, view member photos, and more. Visit us on Facebook (Shutterbugs OTOW Photography Club) for members' photos and page followers, club information, and online photo contests.

The club meets every Tuesday, with the first of the month reserved for a morning group field trip, usually followed by lunch. The regular meetings are on the second, third, and fourth Tuesdays at 3 pm 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.



Photos by John Rossignol

Landscape photography.

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FOR SALE, WANTED AND LOST/FOUND

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

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

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

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

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

For Sale

Appliances: Rechargeable robot floor vacuum. Humidifier. Call/text 707-280-3823.

Appliance: Freestanding Sharp microwave oven (SMC-2265-GS), carousel, 2.2 cubic feet, 1200 watts, 24"x13"x19", \$75/obo. 352-861-0510.

Computer Equipment: Canon Pro-100 Professional printer. Call/text 352-300-8001.

Electronics: Bose radio, white with remote. Stereo amp and speakers. Call/text 707-280-3823.

Electronics: Canon Rebel T3i EOS 600D with case, battery pack, charger, stereo av cable, CD-ROM, and instruction manual, \$180 firm. 352-844-1394.

Electronics: Kenwood AM-FM receiver (A-5070) 100 watts per channel with 2 Infinity speakers (SM-105), black, \$200. 973-670-7577.

Golf Cart: 2016 E-Z-Go RXV Freedom, fold-down rear seat, 4-person, 2-year-old lithium battery, rain canopy, newer tires, blue. Call/text 918-346-9504.

Golf Cart Equipment: E-Z-Go and Club Car 48-volt new model battery chargers. 352-512-1787.

Furniture: Beige wing sofa chair. Call/text 707-280-3823.

Furniture: Black, leather-like waiting room chairs (2). Call/text 352-300-8001.

Furniture: Kincaid Weatherford cornsilk tables – end (2), cocktail, & console – and sideboard. 610-721-1424.

Furniture: Leisure Line Adirondack chair, weatherproof, white, \$75. 48-inch round wood dining set with 4 cushioned chairs, \$375. 561-358-5489.

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 sig-

nals. 610-721-1424.

Home Décor: Thomas Kinkade's Mountain Majesty lithograph #3666 on canvas, COA, framed 29x38. Perseverance limited edition #1740. Call/text 706-974-9986.

Home Décor: Variety of mirrors, big, slim (2), embroidered, and gold frame with gold embroidery. Call/text 707-280-3823.

Misc. Item: 1987 KSX SLR 35 mm camera (#37381) with 50 mm F20 lens, automatic with manual override, 70-210 mm 14.0 macro/one touch 200 mm lens and carrying bag. Best offer. 352-369-5825 (no texts, please).

Misc. Item: 24' aluminum extension ladder, \$75/obo. 973-670-6723.

Misc. Items: Bernina and Euro Pro-X sergers. Whitney Point wool blanket from England, full size. Call/text 352-300-8001.

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.

Misc. Items: Steel motorcycle carrier with ramp, 600-pound capacity, \$200. Queen metal box spring, \$100. 561-358-5489.

Pet Supplies: Small dog collapsible travel crate with soft cushion, 30" x 22", \$35. Steps for small dog, \$15. 561-358-5489.

Sports Equipment: Dahon Speed Uno adult 20" wheel folding bike. Nimble and steady on the road, the bicycle quickly and easily fits in a car hatchback or inside a closet, when folded, \$240. 724-406-8030.

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. 610-721-1424.

Tools: Air compressor. Call/text 707-280-3823.

Tag Sales

Saturday, April 4: 8532-A, 8533-F SW 93rd Place (Friendship Colony), 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Friday, April 10: 8437-B SW 90th Street (Friendship Colony), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday, April 10 & Saturday, April 11: 8978-B, 9005-C SW 95th Lane (Friendship Park), 9653-C SW 84th Terrace (Friendship Village), 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. · 8956-A SW 95th Lane, 9005-B SW 95th Lane (Friendship Park), 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. · 8956-B SW 95th Lane (Friendship Village), 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. · 10006, 10011 SW 90th Loop (Avalon), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. · 10027 SW 90th Loop (Avalon), 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 11: 10879 SW 101st Loop (Longleaf Ridge), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday, April 17: 9419 SW 94th Loop (Windsor), 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday, April 17 & Saturday, April 18: 9419 SW 94th Loop (Windsor), 9117 SW 93rd Circle, 9090, 9078, 9091, 9115 SW 94th Court (Providence), 8 a.m. to noon.

Saturday, April 18: 9440 SW 96th Court (Windsor), 8 a.m. to noon · 9714 SW 95th Loop (Windsor), 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. · 9637, 9655, 9700 SW 95th Loop (Windsor), 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. · 9649,

9734, 9746, 9763, 9901, 9914, 9919 SW 95th Loop, 9410, 9417, 9423, 9441 SW 98th Terrace (Windsor), 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Friday, April 24 & Saturday, April 25: 8650-A SW 92nd Place (Friendship Colony), 8 a.m. to noon · 9330 SW 93rd Circle (Providence), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Services

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

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

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).

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.

Wanted

Bocce Players: Progressive Thinkers' Bocce Group (not a league) on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. through May 6. Just show up or call Ashi 707-280-3823.

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

Friends: Looking to meet people who appreciate the philosophies and practices of Stoicism, Buddhism, and diversity. Ashi 707-280-3823.

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

Participants: Earn a \$30 Amazon gift card for a remote Dartmouth student research thesis using smartphone-based tasks for early Alzheimer's detection. The study takes about 1.5 to 2 hours. Sign up today! <https://realvision-webreach.lovable.app/>

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



EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

Events and activities that take place behind the gates of On Top of the World are for residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

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Carry it with you at all times.

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Experience the beauty and charm of Geneva, nestled in the mountains. Take a ride from Geneva to Lausanne, journey to Switzerland's Lavaux wine region to savor the local wines, ride the breathtaking Gornergrat Bahn, and more!

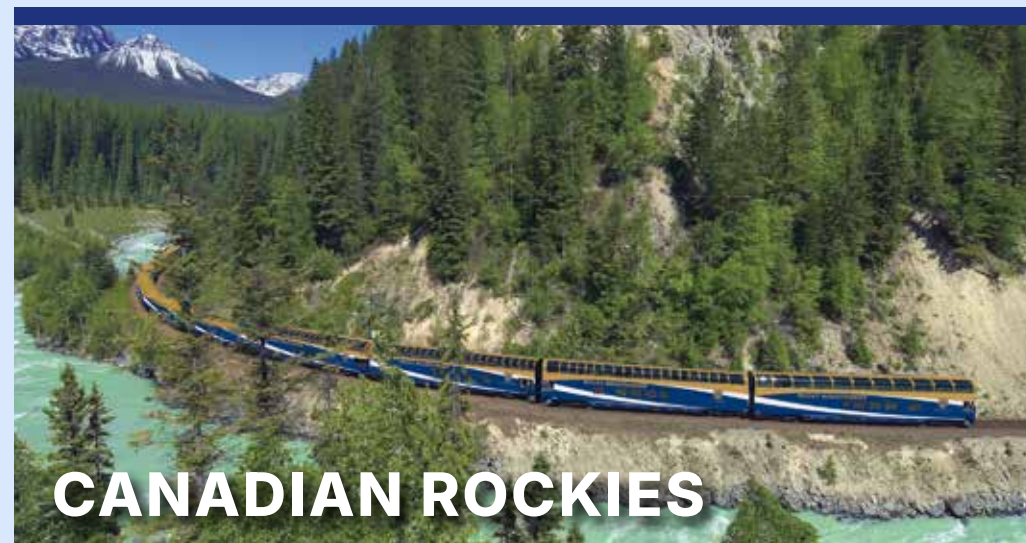
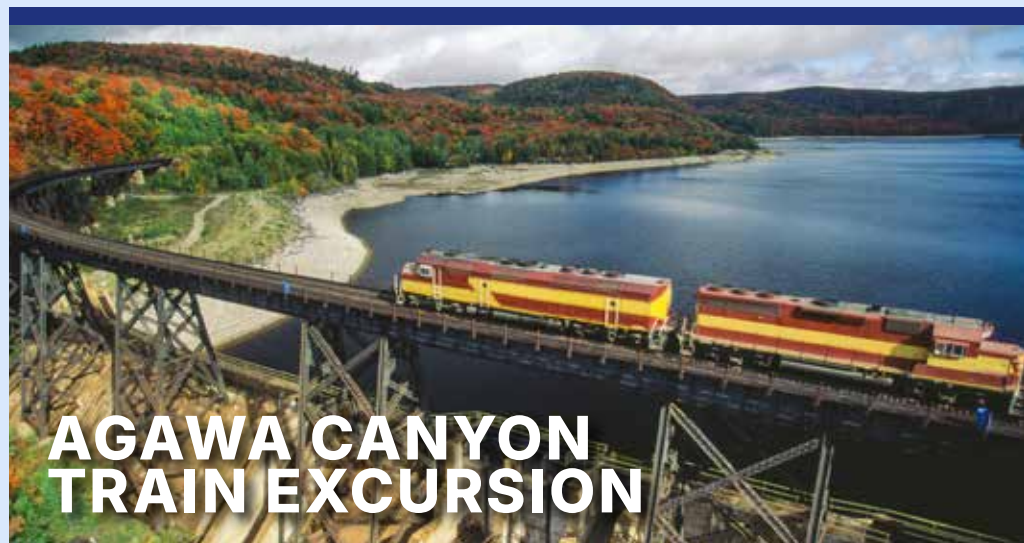


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Join American Classic as we embark on this special journey to America's last frontier - Alaska. The first part of this trip will be by land as we fly into Fairbanks and travel to Denali and Anchorage. The second part of this trip will be by sea!



AGAWA CANYON TRAIN EXCURSION

All aboard the Algoma Central Railway for the Agawa Canyon Train Excursion. View the Canadian wilderness of hills and ravines from the comfort of the train. Included: Mackinac Island tour!

CANADIAN ROCKIES

All aboard the Rocky Mountaineer Train for the experience of a lifetime on the "most spectacular train trip in the world!" Mountain scenery with glacial lakes, featuring: Banff National Park, Lake Louise, Jasper National Park, and more!



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