

Community News

Kenneth D. Colen

Where Does the On Top of the World (Central) Owners Association Stand with Its Board?

The On Top of the World (Central) board has requested a new management agreement with Parkway. Parkway is very open to entering into a new agreement that is fair for both the Association and Parkway, and a draft agreement has already been provided to the board and their counsel for consideration.

The board may initiate a bid process to explore alternative management company options. Parkway is open to this step, as it is a standard and responsible way to better understand the services available in the broader market and to reaffirm that the Association is receiving appropriate value.

Parkway Maintenance and Management is confident that evaluating alternative options in the marketplace will reaffirm the unique benefits Parkway provides to On Top of the World (Central) and to all other communities it serves. With 86 staff onsite every day (80 of whom are primarily or exclusively dedicated to On Top of the World (Central)), Parkway provides full-service management and maintenance, an uncommon industry practice. There is no other company out there more dedicated and committed to supporting On Top of the World (Central).

Most management companies primarily offer only the baseline services required under Florida Statute 720. Under those models, key services such as maintenance, landscaping, and day-to-day operations are typically outsourced to multiple third-party vendors. This fragmented approach can result in reduced efficiency, diminished accountability, less transparency, and ultimately higher overall costs for residents. Parkway's integrated model enables streamlined operations, consistent service delivery, and cost efficiencies that are difficult to match in a piecemeal structure.

As these discussions continue, residents need to consider both the current level of service and the potential financial impact of any changes to the community's management structure. Residents deserve to be kept informed about decisions and actions by their board that may affect the community, and transparency remains essential to maintaining homeowners' trust and confidence.

We look forward to the opportunity to highlight the excellent work of the Parkway team and hope that the process will continue to strengthen trust and collaboration between your board and Parkway.

Community Updates

THE SUMMIT: The Summit officially opened its doors to residents in April during a well attended grand opening event. Food and beverages were provided during the opening, and many residents enjoyed spending time on the outdoor deck in the pools.

For those of you who have not had the chance to stop by The Summit, once there you will find that it features a variety of outdoor areas for recreation and wellness, including a large main pool, the first resistance pool in On Top of the World, an activity lawn, and outdoor fitness equipment.

The thing about the resistance pool is that it takes energy to walk against a variable current. That's how you burn calories, build muscle, and improve your cardiovascular fitness.

If, on the other hand, you are averse to even mild exercise and want to use the resistance pool as a lazy river, you are at the wrong facility. Resistance pool walkers take precedence for use during regular operating hours. You may be asked to vacate the pool for safety reasons.

AZURA FITNESS CENTER: In April, we completed the building's framing and began digging the new swimming pool. You should see some of the exterior finishes starting soon. Azura, located in Candler Hills, will feature top-of-the-line fitness equipment and a 5,000-square-

Continued on Page 4A ▶



Photo by Phil Panzera

Marion County Memorial Honor Guard Presentation of Colors in 2025.

Upcoming Memorial Day Ceremonies

**By Phil Panzera
World News Writer**

This year's Memorial Day ceremonies will be distinctive, recognizing the 250th anniversary of our country's founding. Please note that the main ceremony starts at a different time.

Each year, the Veterans Club hosts two remembrance ceremonies. In honor of our country's extraordinary milestone, Master the Possibilities has also advertised these ceremonies and made them available to non-residents (see page 41). In addition, Master the Possibilities will

present another event next month, "The Grand Finale, Exploring 250 Years of America."

This Memorial Day, on Monday, May 25, the club will conduct its traditional flag-raising ceremony at 8 a.m. at the Veterans Park. A very special Memorial Day ceremony will follow at 10 a.m. (an hour earlier than usual). We'll be trying something new and memorable, but to truly make it special, we'll need your help and participation.

If you can, please bring photos of your beloved veterans to be displayed in the Recreation Center Ballroom. These photos and many other exhibits will depict 250 years of honorable service and sacrifice. For those who've served, and their loved ones, it promises to be a heartfelt and poignant collection.

Speakers from various services will share special insights into their branch's contributions. Our Blue Star mothers and fathers will honor our active-duty service members. Our speakers will also highlight some of the traditions the military uses to commemorate its heroes.

This will be a distinctive and memorable ceremony, perhaps one of a kind? Please join us to remember our heroes - their sacrifice was the ultimate act of love for our country. Let us honor them.

Gather, Relax, and Connect

By Mykenzie Hager

There's something new to be excited about at On Top of the World, and it's designed with you in mind.

The Summit, our newest amenity center, is officially open and ready to welcome residents into a space built for connection, relaxation, and community. Spanning more than 14,000 square feet, The Summit offers a fresh, inviting environment where neighbors can come together, whether for events, casual afternoons, or simply a change of scenery.

At the center of it all is a stunning ballroom that sets the stage for some of our biggest and most exciting events. From live entertainment to community

celebrations, this space is designed to bring people together and create moments you won't want to miss.

Step outside, and you'll find two beautiful resort-style pools, including a unique resistance pool. Whether you're looking to enjoy a peaceful morning, spend time with friends in the afternoon, or just unwind in the Florida sunshine, the pool area offers the perfect setting to do it all.

The Summit was created to be more than just another amenity; it's a place where everyday moments turn into something special. It's where you can meet new neighbors, reconnect with

friends, and be part of everything happening in the community.

With flexible spaces and a welcoming atmosphere, The Summit will quickly become home to a variety of events, gatherings, and activities throughout the year. There's always something to look forward to, and this new space gives us even more ways to come together.

The Summit is open to residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass, creating even more opportunities to connect with neighbors across the community.

The facility is open daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., making it easy to stop by whenever it fits your day; whether that's in the morning, afternoon, or evening.

If you haven't had a chance to visit yet, now's the time. Come take a walk through, see the space for yourself, and experience everything The Summit has to offer.



Photo courtesy of Colen Built Development

The Summit - On Top of the World's newest amenity.

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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 last class for the winter/spring term at Master the Possibilities is on Tuesday, May 19, entitled "Wills and Trusts and Ladybird Deeds - Which Works Best for You." To attend, please register at MasterthePossibilities.org.

Scam Alert: Most social media platforms are loaded with garbage posts, from the filth of racism, and every kind of fear-mongering imaginable, to distortions about health, medicine, politics, and politicians. If there's a phobia, a poster wants you to have, or a hatred someone wants you to adopt, it's there.

And then, there are the scams - romance, financial, threats, intimidation, hacking, and identity theft. You want trouble? It's there, every time you click on a link or even look at a post, a tweet,

or whatever.

And hovering above it all is Artificial Intelligence (AI).

What can we do to protect ourselves? Must we delete all social media? Stop sending messages or posts? Should we stop answering our phones for fear that AI can generate a fake call from our children or friends? I don't think so.

And as for AI, it's important in my law practice.

I'm on X and Facebook. I use WhatsApp to call a relative who's not in the country. Can we protect ourselves while still enjoying or using X, Facebook, Truth Social, Tinder, and other social media? First, we must start with skepticism. And it takes patience. Yet every time we see an interesting post on any social media platform, we must ask ourselves, "Is it fake?"

If we get a direct message from a social media platform, and the question is "Can I ask you a question?", "Hi," or "You seem interesting," you must immediately raise your suspicion level to red hot. Make a couple of assumptions:

- This could be an AI-generated attempt to contact you.
- This could be an attempt to sell you crypto or stocks, or an attempt to have you subscribe to some OnlyFans page.

Just be on guard, always be on guard, because that's the start of protecting yourself, but it's only the start.

Most importantly, if someone you are messaging with wants you to send money, it's a scam. Disconnect and refuse further posts or messages. You are going to need courage to break free from scams, fake news, or all the other garbage you'll find. But you'll be the wiser and much better off.

Q. I don't want you to spend a lot of time looking this up, but can one state enter into a treaty with another country?

A. I don't have to spend time on this; I already know the answer. It's "no." Article I, Section 10 U.S. Constitution.

Q. I leased a home from a long-time friend, on a three-year lease, so he could show more income coming in when he and his wife applied for a car loan. It wasn't their home, just a rental property. Now, I'm in a financial pinch and want a moratorium on my lease pay-

ments. He won't cut the rent, and he will sue me if I don't pay in full. And I need a place to stay. Can he be required to give me a break on the rent? I'd even accept a reduction in it. Some friend, eh?

A. From Mark Twain: "If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principle between a dog and a man." I haven't seen your lease. I can only guess that, depending on what it says, he can evict you and maybe seek to collect unpaid rent.

Q. I am a 75-year-old woman. While on a cruise with a group of friends, one of whom was my church's minister, I met someone close to my age. We fell in love, and the minister married us on the ship. My children are furious, and my son wants to have the marriage annulled and claims it is not valid. Our marriage is consummated. My husband and I don't want to annul, but he'll agree if that's what I want. Your thoughts, please.

A. Tell your kids to buzz off. So long as your minister complies with Florida law about documents to be sent to the state, there should be no issue.

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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Sand & Sun Festival

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May 16 | 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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Photo provided by Bob Lechtenberg from LL Endeavors LLC

 artinfo@ocalafl.gov

 352-629-8447

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In 1943, an 18-year-old sailor from Ohio went to war in the South Pacific. He wrote 86 letters home — sitting at the nerve center of one of the largest naval operations in history.



The new lettersfromtheprairie.com launched on March 13.

Letters From the Prairie

By John Yenne

I'll be thinking about my father this Memorial Day. Harlan "Bud" Yenne Jr. enlisted at 18, spent two and a half years in the Pacific during World War II aboard the USS Prairie, and came home in 1946. He married and raised a family, but never talked much about the war. What he left behind were 86 letters. Written between 1943 and 1946, mostly typed in all-caps on the ship's typewriter, the letters were addressed to his parents, his sisters, and a girlfriend. I didn't know about them until about 2010, when my aunt passed them on to me.

I read every one of them — and then built a website at lettersfromtheprairie.com to memorialize them.

For 15 years, it offered what I had: PDF scans, no search, no transcriptions. Just images of those old pages. That was enough.

It isn't anymore. This year, I submitted the full collection to the Veterans History Project at the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress. In February, I received word that it had been formally accepted and archived — cataloged, preserved, and made permanently available to researchers and the public. Collection ID: AFC/2001/001/130667. So, I rebuilt the website from the ground up. The new lettersfromtheprairie.com launched on March 13. Every letter is now transcribed, annotated, and fully searchable. There's a Pacific War timeline showing where history was happening the same weeks Bud was writing home about baseball scores and Christ-

mas packages. He served at Ulithi Atoll, a remote anchorage that became the staging ground for the final drives against Japan. USS Prairie was the flagship of Service Squadron 10 — the logistical nerve center of the entire Pacific Fleet. As a Radioman Third Class, he processed classified communications at the center of the largest naval operation in human history. But his letters home discussed stuff like checkers tournaments. He never mentioned Ulithi. Censorship prevented it.

The location appears in only one letter, written after censorship was lifted in September 1945. It's as if a curtain suddenly opened, and for one moment, you could see everything that had been there all along. The feature I'm most proud of is an AI conversation tool called Ask Bud. Powered by Anthropic's Claude AI, it lets visitors converse with my father — grounded entirely in his actual letters. When the AI doesn't know something because Bud didn't write about it, it says so.

It's not a chatbot inventing a personality. It's the letters doing the talking.

If you have letters like these in a box somewhere, the Veterans History Project wants them. The Library of Congress (loc.gov/vets) accepts collections from all branches and all conflicts.

This May, for the first time, anyone in the world can search my father's words, read his letters, and ask him a question. That's a better memorial for this time of year.

Veterans Club

Charles Calhoun



Please bring photos of your veterans to be displayed in the Recreation Center Ballroom. At 10 a.m., we will hold a special ceremony honoring all the veterans who have given the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Examples of 250 years of service and sacrifice will be on display. Speakers from all branches of service will give special insight into their branch's individual contributions.

Our Blue Star mothers and fathers will honor our service members currently serving. Many examples of traditions the military uses to remember and honor their heroes and fellow veterans will be explained and shared.

Mother's Day

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Community News

► Continued from Page 1A

foot pool. The project is estimated to be completed by the end of the year.

RECREATION CENTER: Marion County approved the permit in March. A phased approach to the planned renovations is currently being developed to support an efficient construction process while maintaining as much access to the facility as possible. Residents are encouraged to watch for future communications regarding the official start date and project timeline.

The project will include landscaping enhancements and improvements to golf cart parking.

IRONS 9 PITCH & PUTT: Cooler weather continues to delay turfgrass establishment, so the course is now anticipated to open in early fall. 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 golf shop has begun, with framing completed and the roof now dried in.

NEW CANDLER HILLS ENTRY: The new Candler Hills gated entry (off of SW 92nd Court Rd) project has begun, with roadwork and utilities currently being installed. Framing has been completed, as you can now see the size and location of the gatehouse. We are hopeful this new

entry will be operational by this summer. Once the gate is operational, the existing construction gate on SW 80th Street will be removed.

NEW WEYBOURNE LANDING ENTRY: The design for the new gated entry off the SW 74th Terrace extension, including the automated gate system and monument sign, has been completed. The sign permit has been received; however, permitting the gate system and electrical service is still pending.

This new entry will be located along the new construction section of SW 90th Terrace Road and SW 74th Street Road. Updates will be shared as the project progresses.

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

Roadway Improvements

SW 90TH TERRACE: The extension of SW 90th Terrace from SW 79th Street Road north to SW 63rd Street Road has now been completed, approved by Marion County, and is fully open for use.

The new connection provides residents with an additional route, improving overall access and traffic flow throughout the area.

SW 92ND COURT ROAD: The Phase 2 ex-

ension is now complete, connecting SW 80th Street to SW 94th Street. All paving, landscaping, and final inspections have been completed, and the roadway is now fully operational.

SW 80TH AVENUE: As you are aware, Marion County is widening SW 80th Avenue in two phases (Segments 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 continued to advance. The Notice to Proceed for Phase 1A was issued on Monday, March 9, and residents will begin to see more visible roadwork activity shortly.

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 Colen Built Development's newest 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 over 30 new homes sold since opening in January 2026, reflecting the demand for this new offering.

The project continues to advance on schedule as development progresses.

Vertical construction is set to begin in May, marking the next milestone.

Springtime is in Full Bloom

The few mid-April showers that fell certainly benefited the native wildflowers to bloom along many roadways in the county. The winds have also been strong this year, which accompanies the start of our dry season! Look for seasonal winds to settle down in May. The heavier rain cycle usually begins in mid-June to give the yards some relief, but it can be as late as mid-July.

If you haven't pruned back shrubbery in mid-April, May is still a time to consider any pruning of owner-added plantings. Lawns and shrubs will continue to grow, albeit very slowly, due to dry conditions. Pruning back old growth stimulates new growth on trees and shrubs.

Although we have received some much-needed rain, it was not enough to break the drought. Irrigation may be needed as we warm up in the 90s, and it is best to trust your smart water-wise irrigation controller to know when to water. If your shrubbery is still looking weak, it is best to hand-water for approximately 10 minutes with a hose and sprayer attachment. This will perk them up and help them get through the most stressful periods.

Safety First

Jonathan Miller
safetydepartment@otowfl.com



The chain of events unfolding in our community has a domino effect. We are connected to our community in many ways. Your loss is everyone's loss should you experience an injury while living in our great community.

Is this a good thing? Yes! This makes us accountable for one another – "One body, one team." This also means the opposite effect can occur. Your gain is everyone's gain when this relates to our safety. Acknowledging your presence means the team is complete and flowing accordingly.

Your valued safety is the investment we all share. The words I choose to use when I express the intricacies of safety have no value without your personal efforts to make safety happen. This is where you ask, "How do we do that?" Good question. Thought you would never ask!

We have to be as serious as the sun in the sky when it comes to implementing and maintaining our safety – such as driving safely, maneuvering our golf cart around, and being careful when crossing streets. We can't let up; we can't slack off!

Every day, 24/7, we prioritize your safety, but you have a hand in it as well. You must have that sense of responsibility when it comes to operating a golf cart, driving a car, attending a function at one of our community centers, demonstrating the art of courteous behavior and being patient at stop signs. What we need you to do is the same thing consistently when it comes to community safety.

When you see something unsafe with one of the facilities, report it! We have QR safety codes posted on our amenity facilities. We all need to be connected at the hip when it comes to safety because, as I continue to stress, not a single one of us is expendable. Let's all pitch in and keep our community safe. You belong here and your safety actions affect all of us. This is your spot in the world. We can all keep it safe together as one giant team!

Please feel free to reach out at safetydepartment@otowfl.com.

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Resident Services



Heather Ray
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AppFolio

The Resident Services team has been working hard over the past few months to help the community activate their AppFolio Owner Portal. Currently, 95% of the community has activated their Owner Portal, with 87% paying online. This is an incredible achievement in just a few months.

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.

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

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 it 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.

Lawncare Assessments

Over the past few weeks, we have received a high volume of lawn assessment requests. As you may be aware, our area has been experiencing drought, resulting in water restrictions within the community. These restrictions limit certain services, such as reseeding and sod installation, as both require consistent watering to be successful.

As water restrictions are lifted and we return to a normal watering schedule, we kindly ask for your patience while our team completes all assessment requests.

Community Emergency Response Team



Debbie Snyder

Last month was very busy and rewarding for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). We enjoyed a delicious barbecue at the annual Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) volunteer lunch held at the World Equestrian Center. Many volunteers from across Marion County enjoyed the Hawaiian theme, food, DJ, dancing, and raffle. We were thanked and recognized by Sheriff Billy Woods for our volunteer work and dedication over the past year.

CERT member Allen Abbot received a leadership recognition award for his outstanding efforts in establishing the Weybourne Landing neighborhood watch. Congratulations, Allen, on this well-deserved honor! We also participated in Marion County's year-round Christmas collection for teens, with many volunteers bringing sports-related items.

Earlier in the month, our team participated and did well in the annual countywide drill sponsored by Emergency Management at MCSO. The drill was held at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Several stations were set up, which helped us to reinforce our skills in first aid, triage, assessment,

and safety. This hands-on training helps build confidence so we are prepared to respond effectively should an emergency occur.

Thank you to Anthony Pressley for leading a hands-on outdoor search training session during our March meeting. Anthony hid a dummy in an open field, and we practiced a systematic line-search technique, moving in sequence while maintaining arm's-length spacing to ensure the thorough coverage of the area. The training reinforced the importance of teamwork, spacing, and methodical searching in case we are ever called upon to assist in a search-and-rescue operation.

CERT is a nationally recognized program through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and we are trained locally by the Emergency Management Division of MCSO and supported by On Top of the World. Members attend an initial five-week class on Saturdays and receive training in light search and rescue, damage assessment, basic first aid, and hazardous materials, preparing them to assist our community during a disaster. Ongoing education and drills are conducted through our monthly meetings.

We request prospective members attend the monthly meetings before, during, and after their training class. 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, May 13, 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 Sim-

plex 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 members practice a search exercise.

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Active Newcomers Club

Linda Baker



learn about the club in an informal setting.

The hiking group is very popular with our members. Saturday, April 4, was a great day for being out in nature. About 25 members enjoyed a three-mile hike at Whispering Pines Park in Inverness, led by Debbie and Mike Fisher. Are you interested in leading a hike? Contact the club leaders, Suzie Lehman and Barbara Katz, with your ideas for short hikes at locations within a 30-minute drive of On Top of the World.

We had a great turnout for our "Hello Spring" party on Sunday, April 19. Members enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner from Fresh Plates Creative Catering. DJ Scott Bolton got everyone out on the dance floor. A good time was had by all!

Are you interested in starting a new group or joining an existing group? Send an email to Sandie Butler, our small groups director, at activenewcomers34481@gmail.com. Include "small groups" in the subject of your email. You can also reach out to Sandie if you have any questions about our small groups.

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. Residents must have a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass to participate.

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

The Active Newcomers Club is a great way for new residents to meet other new residents. We have over 320 members who enjoy participating in our small and large group activities. Our club has something for everyone. If you have lived in the community for four years or less and are not a club member, please join us!

We are excited to announce our next large event, to be held on Friday, June 19, at The Lodge at Candler Hills. We hope all members will join us for a "Summer Wine Experience" with wine educator Richard Kozicki. Richard, renowned for his classes at Master the Possibilities, will give a presentation on summer wines. The attendees will then sample and discuss wines selected by Richard specifically for this event. The presentation will be preceded by time for socializing and a potluck buffet. Check your email and the Active Newcomers Facebook page for more information about this special event.

Reserve Sunday, Aug. 16, for a beach party at The Lodge at Candler Hills. Music for this event will be provided by Howlin' at the Moon. Also, reserve the morning of Saturday, Aug. 8, for doing donuts. We provide the donuts; you bring your morning beverage of choice. It is a great opportunity for current and prospective members to connect and



Photo by Nancy Kiziu

Bungee jumping at Fly with Me Bungee.

Longleaf Ridge Friends

Debra Vitale



Would you like to meet your neighbors? Attend the Longleaf Ridge ice cream social on Tuesday, May 5, at Circle Square Commons anytime from 6 to 8 p.m. and purchase ice cream at Mr. B's Big Scoop.

Thanks to Kathleen Taylor, we've got the news on a truly life-saving event! Joe Ferris facilitated a fantastic "First Aid Training" seminar taught by HCA Florida Hospital trainers. EMTs from Marion County Fire Rescue Station 21 shared when to call 911 and explained what happens when help arrives. The book club, hosted by Pat Kettell, dove into "The Shell Seekers" by Rosamunde Pilcher, a story that combines romance and wartime themes.

Judi Walsh mentioned the celebration of her neighbor's third annual Pi Day. Over 100 attendees sampled more than 60 pies at the Mansfields' home. Pi Day has proven to be a favorite event.

Gloria Emmons reported that Sandy Bauer decided to flip the script, turning the walking group into bungee jumpers! Instead of their usual stroll, nine daring ladies bounced into Fly with Me Bungee, leaping and maybe letting out a few joyful shrieks. It was a day packed with courage and fun, ending at Sid's Coffee Shop & Deli to recount every moment.

March wrapped up the bocce league season. Huge cheers go out to Janet and Ray Meyers - the dynamic duo who've

been steering this bocce ship for five years (and still rolling). The Longleaf Ridge league gave them matching "bocce boss" hats, customized by a fellow neighbor. It's no wonder the Meyers snagged first place this season.

Gloria and Nancy Kiziu organized the quarterly ladies' luncheon at The Whistling Duck. The manager, Ernie, and the staff ensured that everyone received great service. The attendees drew table numbers, giving everyone a chance to make new friends.

Sandra Ritchie reported on the annual neighborhood golf competition, called The Longleaf Ridge Challenge Cup. It is a friendly Ryder Cup-style golf competition between neighbors, with a perpetual trophy awarded to the winners. This month's challenge was played on The Links, ending in a tie. The participants were able to follow a live leaderboard in Golf Genius thanks to Denise Mullen, the PGA pro at Candler Hills. A trophy presentation followed at The Pub.

An informative presentation on that ever-favorite candy, chocolate, was held at Barb Hollock's home. She explained the history of chocolate, and the grand finale was the chocolate-tasting that everyone enjoyed!

Sandra's neighbors held a mini-golf tournament, and 44 participated. Ken Orr won the men's best score, and Dena Page won the ladies' best score. Kathy Niehus and John O'Leary both sank two holes-in-one! It ended with lunch at The Whistling Duck.

New to Longleaf Ridge? Join our private Facebook group (OTOW Longleaf Ridge Friends) to connect with neighbors. For questions, email otowlongleafridge@gmail.com.



Photo by Suzie Lehman

Active Newcomers hiking group at Whispering Pines Park.



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Photo by Cathy Stroot

Multiple Sclerosis walk hosted by Cathy Stroot.

Williamsburg Neighbors

Deanne Sanders-Below



Williamsburg is a vibrant neighborhood, filled with people from across the United States. Special friendships are built as we share time at the many different neighborhood events and gatherings. We would not have a fun and active neighborhood without our amazing volunteers and planned events. We are a neighborhood where, when one neighbor has an idea, we want to hear it. I hope you join one of our upcoming events, meet a new neighbor, and enjoy the laughter and conversations of Williamsburg.

Neighbor, Cathy Stroot, organized the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) walk. Over 25 neighbors from multiple neighborhoods joined and supported MS through donations. Thank you, Cathy, for hosting and leading this meaningful event.

April was a busy month for Williamsburg! A trip to the Blackwater Grille in Yankeetown was enjoyed with appetizers and the beautiful scenery.

The men's monthly luncheon, organized by Dave Kessler, had great attendance, and we hope you will join us for our next luncheon on Wednesday, May 13, at noon in the Hobby Building Event Room. Please bring a friend, a sack lunch, a drink, and enjoy the conversations.

The Easter potluck celebration had over 30 neighbors who gathered for a wonderful meal. It was a special day to be with friends and enjoy this holiday together. Thank you all for attending.



Photo by Gina Emde Mote

Balfour trivia contest winner - Sharon Estock.

Balfour Buzz

Kurt Larson



Welcome to spring! Construction continues in Balfour. We look forward to the completion of these homes and welcoming our new neighbors and friends.

On Wednesday, March 25, the Balfour Social Committee hosted a potluck "Around the World." Over 90 residents gathered for a wonderful evening of socializing and sharing delicious dishes. We also held our first trivia contest, which was a great success and will become a regular feature at future gatherings. Congratulations to our winner, Sharon Estock!

A huge thank you goes to the Balfour Social Committee and all the volunteers for their hard work in organizing all the events. Stay tuned for our next event in May as Balfour celebrates America's 250th.

Additionally, we held an Artemis II viewing party at the new pavilion in Balfour. Over 30 people joined to watch this historic event. While clouds partially obscured the launch, we were still able to catch a portion of it while hanging out with friends and neighbors.

Avalon Social Group

Laura Gavey & Sharon Hall



Avalon, are you ready for more fun? We had over 100 in attendance in March, let's see if we can do it again. Invite your neighbors and join us on Monday, May 11, at 5:30 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios. It'll be hard to top our March event with Mike Palma, but we are sure to have fun with a night of trivia. Don't be worried if you get a brain block at every question; we're just here to have fun and fellowship with our neighbors, plus, there's sure to be someone at your table who will at least have a good guess!

In addition to dinner and trivia, we will have a short meeting on the updated club policies now in effect. We'll enjoy subs from Honey Baked Ham and then test our knowledge. Watch our Facebook page and your email for specifics on purchasing tickets.

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 us, and we'll send you the group link. If you would like to be notified of future events by email, please send your request to the email address above.

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FACEBOOK

Candler Connection

Debra Keirn



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 were sold in April.

The Candler Hills potluck dinner will be on Tuesday, May 26, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The theme will be "Red, White, and Blue." Those residents with last names beginning with A-H should bring a main dish; I-P, a side dish or salad; and Q-Z, a dessert. Try to prepare or decorate your dish in red, white, and blue. The cost is \$2 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.

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. You can even go back for seconds. Ticket sales will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays, May 12 through May 28. The price is \$6.50 per Candler Hills resident and \$7.50 per guest.

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

On Friday, Sept. 18, our Cheeseburg-

er in Paradise (Jimmy Buffett-themed) event will have entertainment by the Caribbean Chillers. The meal will include cheeseburgers, salads, and scrumptious desserts. The price will be \$30 per Candler Hills resident and \$32 per guest, and tickets will be sold in August.

Saturday, Oct. 31, will be our Halloween party with MPiRE Duo providing the music. Saturday, Dec. 12, will be the Candler Connection holiday party, catered by Pasta Faire and featuring music by Kathleen Kane.

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.

The Fairway Friends

Lori Matuson



East to gather, welcome new neighbors, celebrate birthdays, and enjoy each other's company.

In addition to our first Fridays, we have several active volunteer groups, including a women's group, special events, caring neighbors, new residents ambassadors, and a men's group coming soon. While we may not have a monument entrance sign leading to our 80-plus homes, we are a vibrant and strong neighborhood.

We are currently in the heart of spring, and The Fairways Friends are excited to celebrate our first Friday each month. This is a wonderful opportunity for our intimate loop in Candler Hills



Photo by Lori Matuson

The Fairways Friends of Candler Hills East.

Newcastle Social Committee

Nancy Monaghan



Nearly 50 neighbors and guests gathered in March for Newcastle's fifth annual Easter potluck. Ham and turkey were provided by the Newcastle Social Committee, and as usual, the great cooks and bakers of Newcastle did not disappoint. Salads, vegetables, potatoes, and pasta dishes, deviled eggs, cakes, cookies, brownies, and more, rounded out the buffet. Special thanks to Cindy and Jeff VanDyke for coordinating the event. Thanks also to the setup, decorating, and clean-up volunteers.

On Thursday, May 7, Newcastle is planning a new event - a Belgian beer tasting. The event will include information on how Belgian beers are made and what makes them different. Participants will sample five to six Belgian beers. Bratwursts and other snacks are on the menu. Cost is estimated at \$25 per person. Several volunteers are needed for set-up, clean-up, serving, and cooking. For questions or to sign up, contact Jeff VanDyke.

Later in May, Candler Connection will host a Memorial Day event. Information is available on the OTOW App.

And last, but certainly not least, happy Mother's Day to all! "A mother's love for her child is like nothing else in the world." -Agatha Christie

Crescent Ridge Happenings

Carol Lewis



Our next social will be on Sunday, May 10, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Large Card Room. Bring a dish to share if you choose, or just come for the fellowship and a beverage of your choice. This will be Mother's Day, so maybe bring a favorite dish your mother used to make in her honor.

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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Indigo East Social Committee

Janice Liberton & Teresa Davis



May is blooming with energy in Indigo East. Be sure to mark your calendar for ways to connect, celebrate, and enjoy our wonderful community.

Blue Indigo East Democratic Club

Lydia Kuust



While the Indigo East Blue Democratic Club continues to meet on the fourth Monday of each month at 4 p.m. in the Indigo East Community Center Ballroom, our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 25. 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 March meeting, our board presented a written notice stating that we intend to sever our ties with the Marion County Democrat Organization. Therefore, we cannot continue to meet under their structure.

At our April meeting, we held a vote to formalize that initiative. We intend to continue as a group, but our meetings and leadership structure will look different. Since our inception, we have aimed

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.

At the March meeting, we held our annual elections for officers and board members, who started on Wednesday, April 1. Good luck to our newly elected officers and board members.

The Democratic Party of Marion County's annual fundraiser was held on Saturday, April 18. The featured speaker was David Jolly, Democratic candidate for Florida governor. Several other speakers, silent auctions, and a wonderful meal were included as well.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, May 2, at 6 p.m., with guest speaker Rocky Pizzarello, who will talk to us about scams and senior abuse. Please add this date to your calendar, as we normally have a meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month!

Our Thursday, May 28, meeting will focus on voter rolls, turnout, election dates, and other pertinent information presented by Marion County Supervisor of Elections Wesley Wilcox. He is always one of the best-received and knowledgeable speakers we invite each year.

We continue to support the Ocala Ritz Veterans Village. The veterans residing there need our support for many items we all take for granted. Priority for donations is laundry detergent. Other required items include pillowcases, twin-size sheets, twin comforters, a 1.7-cubic-foot refrigerator, a small microwave, men's razors, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, lotions, shaving cream, and toilet paper. The following food items are needed: canned meat, canned chili, ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese, 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.



Photo courtesy of Wesley Wilcox

Supervisor of Elections for Marion County Wesley Wilcox will speak on Thursday, May 28.

On Tuesday, May 5, join us at the Indigo East Fitness Center Pool for a festive Cinco de Mayo potluck dinner. Bring your favorite Mexican dish to share and enjoy an evening filled with great food, good company, and DJ Frank's spirited tunes.

Thursday, May 21, come out for karaoke night, featuring DJ Frank. The club will provide hoagies and drinks, along with a door prize or two. Whether

to provide a local location for our members to meet, learn current national and state political information, and socialize with others. Stay tuned for further information about this move forward.

At our April meeting, in recognition of Earth Day, Ryan Smart, executive director of the Florida Springs Council, discussed 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 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 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. Democrat or not, you will be welcomed when we meet on Monday, May 25, at 4 p.m. in the Indigo East Community Center Ballroom.

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.

you're singing your heart out or just enjoying the show, it's going to be a great night.

Introducing "Indigo's Got Talent," beginning Friday, May 29, and happening on the fourth Friday of each month, during Happy Hour from 5 to 8 p.m. This cool twist on "America's Got Talent" is hosted by DJ Rick. This high-energy showcase has no auditions, no pressure, just pure fun. We'd love to have around 20 residents participate, and our audience will serve as the judges. Come cheer on your neighbors or take the stage and surprise us!

Behind the scenes, our welcome committee is ready to launch, and we are currently looking for a co-chair. If you enjoy meeting new people and helping our new neighbors feel at home, please reach out to Teresa Davis, and let's get this party started!

Our care committee, led by Athena Drewes and Sandra Giroux, continues to quietly make a big impact by supporting neighbors in need, whether it's picking up groceries or medications or offering a friendly check-in. If you would like to

give or receive support, please contact Athena at drathendrewes@gmail.com.

May's spirit award goes to Dave Annis, whose kindness and reliability have touched many throughout the community. Whether he's helping with errands, lending a hand when something needs fixing, or simply checking in on neighbors, Dave shows up with a willingness to help and a genuine sense of care. It's neighbors like Dave who make Indigo East the place to belong.

We look forward to your nominations for next month's award.

The Craft Fair was a huge success. A special thank you to Kathy and Lydia for organizing. Your hard work created an event that many enjoyed. Thanks to all who came out to support our talented crafters.

As we approach Memorial Day on Monday, May 25, we take time to reflect, remember, and honor those who gave their all in service to our country.

We're happy to have Janice back writing the Indigo East column! Together, Indigo East continues to grow as a caring, connected community.

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Fashion Meets Charity at Annual Event

By Lois Rowland

The Women of the World's 23rd annual Fashion Show is one of our biggest charitable events of the year. It was held on Wednesday, March 18, at Circle Square Cultural Center and was a big

success!

Our sponsor for this year's event was once again Ruth Santman of The Baldwin Group Health Insurance. Her kind support enabled us to have our Fashion

Show at Circle Square Cultural Center. A Gourmet Affair Caterers provided a delicious plated lunch.

The fashions were provided by Dillard's and the On Top of the World Golf Shop. The models were Liz Baugh, Jeff Boyd, Janet Cairo, John Croud, Beth McCall, Lisa McCoy, Rosalina Norita, Don Rhoades, Meredith Rogers, and Laura Rubert. Stephen Warren took photographs at the event.

A check for \$3,000 was presented to Martha Dominguez, from Empath

Health, on behalf of the Hospice of Marion County Foundation by Anita Martinetto. Over 100 gift items were donated for raffle, including baskets with different themes, plants, and pictures painted by residents. We thank everyone for their incredible generosity. The proceeds from the raffle will be given to Empath Hospice of Marion County at the May meeting.

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

Our monthly meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of the month at noon in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Our charity for April was the Isaiah 117 House. They provide a comforting home for children while child welfare staff identify a suitable foster placement for them. Our members were very generous with their donations for these children. Our entertainment was provided by Dee Collier, who portrayed Florence Nightingale, a woman who radically changed the nursing profession.

The membership voted on the board for the following term and also on the charities that will receive checks from money raised by the club during the 2025-2026 year. The final meeting before the summer break will be on Thursday, May 14, when the new board will be inducted, and the charities receiving checks will be announced.

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.



Photo by Stephen Warren

Women of the World's Fashion Show models.

Among the Bees

By Phil Karcheski

The Eco Gardeners recently welcomed a new member with beekeeping experience. Leslie comes from the Hudson Valley, New York, where she started keeping backyard bees as a hobby seven years ago. At one point, she maintained seven hives.

Leslie's experiences include mentoring a group of experienced beekeepers and founding The Hudson Valley Beekeepers. She attended courses at Cornell University to further understand the diseases and parasites that affect honey bees.

After moving here, Leslie thought she would have to give up beekeeping, but she missed her hobby. When she approached the Eco Gardeners to acquire a plot, she requested permission from the club's board to start a beehive and colony. She received overwhelming support from the Eco Gardeners and On Top of the World to place her hives near the gardens.

Did you know that honey bees are not native to the United States? They were brought here by European settlers and are responsible for pollinating 80% of the food, vegetables, and seed crops in the United States and 35% of crops in the rest of the world. Beekeepers often move their hives to orchards to pollinate fruit and nut crops.

Today, honey bees are under constant threat and in decline due to habitat loss,

pesticides, herbicides, climate change, and diseases.

Leslie's beehives offer multiple benefits; the bees will be available to pollinate crops in the Eco Gardens and increase the bee population at a time when their numbers are waning.

April brought us unusually warm weather, and gardeners were planting peas and salads. Unfortunately, the cool did not last as long as most desired, and some elected to start into squash, corn, beans, and okra.

Skipping into May, there are several delicious options to plant: summer peas, summer spinach, peanuts, and sweet potatoes. Tomatoes will thrive in the heat if the evenings are cooler.

Gardeners should maintain vigilance in inspecting their plants for insects, pests, and diseases. Inspect thoroughly underneath the leaves for signs of larvae and egg masses. Avoid watering during the heat of the day to reduce evaporation. Water at the base of the plant, and mulch with straw, leaves, shredded newspaper, or cardboard to help keep your plants cooler and damp during the hottest part of the day.

Monday, May 18, the Eco Gardeners will have their last meeting of the season until September. Urban & Residential Horticulture Agent, and Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator, Jeremy Rhoden from UF/IFAS Extension Marion

County, will be the guest speaker. His presentation will focus on the diseases Florida gardeners encounter and how to prevent and manage them.

Everyone is welcome to join us in the Hobby Building Event Room at 1:15 p.m.

on Monday, May 18.

Want to join or learn more about gardening? Visit eco-gardeners.org or Facebook (OTOW Eco Gardeners). To contact us, email gardenc58@gmail.com.



Photo by Phil Karcheski

Leslie is tending her bee hives adjacent to the Eco Gardens.



Photo by Linda Casey

Peeps toss champion Don Oakes and wife JoAnn.

Sneak 'Peep'

By Linda Casey

Pennsylvania Club members gathered for a delightful April meeting that began with a fried chicken dinner, complete with an array of delicious homemade side dishes. The evening's festivities had a distinctly Pennsylvania flavor, highlighted by the beloved state icon - Peeps marshmallow treats. Donated by our generous club members, the Peeps made sweet appearances in everything from colorful cupcakes to rich, gooey brownies.

Guest speaker, Paul Disclafani, from the Writers Club kept everyone entertained with humorous stories and engaging excerpts from his published books, delivering plenty of laughs and lively conversation. True to tradition, the meeting wrapped up with the ever-

popular Peeps toss contest (think cornhole, but with those iconic marshmallow chicks!). Don Oakes emerged victorious, taking home the grand prize: a beautiful bouquet of Hershey's assorted candy bars - a classic Pennsylvania favorite.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 13, at 5 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio IV. The theme for the evening is "Derby Days," so come ready to celebrate in style! We invite you to join us for good food, great company, and plenty of Pennsylvania pride. Whether you're sharing cherished memories, making new friends, or simply soaking in the fun, there's a place for you at our table. For more information, please email Club Secretary Susan Linton at selc4clj@gmail.com.

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Global Diversity Asian Social Club

Rosalina Norita



derlying musical pattern remains consistent and unchanged throughout the performance.

The dance's movements and gaze display a soft and agile nature, strikingly similar to a bird's, marked by swiftness, gentleness, and agility. The choreography features simple, smooth movements that symbolize the relationship between humans and the hornbill, conveyed through the elegant movements of their hands, bodies, and feet. The slow and deliberate hand movements resemble the majestic wing movements of the hornbill.

As part of the Indonesian Extravaganza Night on Saturday, Aug. 29, in The Summit Ballroom, Dahlia and Ying will take the stage to perform the gong dance in honor of Kalimantan. Their performance is a culmination of their learning experience in Indonesian class, held every Thursday in the Arbor Conference Center Studio D.

Experience an unforgettable evening at the Indonesian Extravaganza Night, in The Summit Ballroom on Saturday, Aug. 29; tickets are available for purchase in June at Ticket Tuesday, located in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room III, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The gong dance showcases a woman's beauty as she elegantly dances atop a gong with refined, graceful movements. The dance's simplicity is apparent in its synchronized movements and music, in which only limited body segments are engaged, and repetitive motions are employed as the dancer approaches, ascends, and descends from the gong.

The gong dance is distinguished by its uncomplicated footwork and smooth body and arm movements, which convey a sense of feminine subtlety. Beauty, intelligence, and refinement are the essence of this traditional dance. True to its name, the gong dance is performed on a resonant gong, harmoniously accompanied by the sampe.

The dance's costume design is remarkably luxurious, characterized by beads intricately arranged into animal-inspired patterns, most notably the aso necklace (dragon dog) motif. The un-



Photo by Silvia C. Garcia

Latinos Club Chicas had fun during the Meet, Greet & Rotate social.

Latinos Club

Silvia C. Garcia



¡Hola Amigos! Ready to get out and enjoy yourself? Isn't it time to leave the house and start living life to the fullest? Isn't that why we chose On Top of the World? Don't be shy - come join us and make new friends!

Let me tell you about the Latinos Club - founded to bring residents together to build and nurture friendships. Our members come from all over the world and quickly become "familia." Best of all, you do not have to be Latino to join - everyone is welcome!

We are often asked, "When do you have meetings?" Our answer is always the same: "We don't have meetings - we have fun!" We host monthly themed socials, most of which include dancing. And if dancing isn't your thing, you'll still enjoy connecting with neighbors in a warm and welcoming environment. We also offer our members weekly game nights, monthly dinners, outings, Chicas Latinas get-togethers, plus more.

Recently, we held a Meet, Greet & Rotate Social. This potluck-style gathering featured dancing and music by our fabulous DJs, Pati and Jan Bean. Members mingled using fun icebreaker questions, and the feedback was outstanding! Many discovered surprising things about each other and found common interests they didn't know they shared. Some had crossed paths at community amenities or other clubs but had never had the chance to really connect - until now.

A special thank you goes out to Jackie Colucci, Medicare specialist; Silvia C. Garcia, realtor; and the Latinos Club for donating prizes for our drawing. Congratulations to all our lucky winners!

Our most recent monthly dinner was held at Azul Tequila Restaurant, just minutes from our community. It has quickly become a club favorite! According to member surveys, both the food and service were superb. We extend our sincere thanks to the restaurant for their exceptional hospitality and for generously providing a gift card for our drawing. Congratulations to Wilma Ramirez, our lucky winner! We look forward to returning.

Our next event will be held on Saturday, May 30 - a murder mystery dinner entitled, "At the CopaOcala," followed by dancing. Get your club attire ready as we take a step back in time to the Lucy & Desi Copacabana days! Prizes will be awarded for the best Copacabana-style chica, chico, and couple - so take a trip back in style!

Be sure to mark your calendar for these upcoming Saturday events:

- June 27: Luau Latinos social & dancing
- July 25: Name That Tune social & dancing
- Aug. 29: Oldiwed, Midwed, & Newlywed Game social & dancing

Stay connected and see photos from our events by visiting our Facebook page (OTOW Latinos Club Ocala). For more information, call Silvia C. Garcia at 561-801-8188, Ivan Vazquez at 727-403-9629, or Micky Crawford at 352-207-7153.

Come join the fun - we can't wait to welcome you into our "familia." ¡Venga y diviértase con nosotros!"



Photo by Novia Tri Luwing

Cheryl Lidia Regar, Miss East Kalimantan Indonesia 2026, posed together with the Dayak women.

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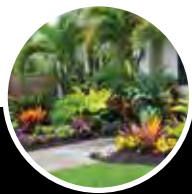
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Early Spring Perennial Care (Florida Zone 9b/10a)

In most of Florida, 9b/10a, late January through March is your "spring reset" window, before heat, thunderstorms, and disease pressure ramp up.

1. Cut back winter-tired growth early. Many Florida perennials never go fully dormant but sometimes look ragged after cool snaps. In early spring, remove brown/frost-burned foliage, cut ornamental grasses before blades emerge,

2. Refresh mulch for sand and heat. Florida's sandy soils dry fast. Apply two to three inches of mulch (pine bark, eucalyptus mulch, melaleuca mulch, or pine straw). This helps hold moisture, reduce soil temperature, suppress aggressive weeds, reduce splash-up that spreads fungal spores in rain, and keep mulch pulled back from crowns.
3. Feed lightly. Florida soils are nutrient-poor. This is one of the biggest Florida differences: 9b/10a soils are low-organic, sandy soils. Perennials benefit from compost, worm castings, slow-release granular fertilizer, or fish emulsion

in containers. Excessive nitrogen causes weak, mildew-prone growth in humidity.

4. Divide before the wet season. Best spring Florida perennials to divide are daylily, society garlic, African iris, canna, agapanthus, native coreopsis, and firebush. Divide so roots establish before May/June heat and summer downpours.
5. Start fungal prevention. Florida's spring shifts into the humidity season. Early cleanup helps prevent powdery mildew, leaf spot, crown rot, rust, and sooty mold. Thin crowded clumps for airflow, especially for phlox, bee balm, salvias, blanket flower, milkweed, and pentas.
6. Prepare for a dry spring, wet summer. Florida often has a dry spring before the summer rainy season begins. Early spring: deep water

once/twice weekly; water at soil level, not overhead; check drip lines; build deeper root systems.

Once summer rains arrive, cut irrigation back. Best Florida 9b/10a spring perennial refresh plants.

This is the best time to tidy and feed native coreopsis, salvia greggii, pentas, blue daze, tropical sage, blanket flower, porter weed, native milkweed, firebush, and dune sunflower. These respond fast to spring pruning in Florida's climate. Perennials in Central Florida's 9b and nearby 10a often push vigorous growth now as the long warm season begins.

FLORIDA PRO TIP: Summer survival is won in spring. Your spring goals are to improve airflow, mulch sandy soil, strengthen roots before heat, reduce disease before humidity, and prep irrigation.

The Jewish Club



Bruce Kanner

Oh, what a night! The club's first Purim Ball on Saturday, March 7, was a great success, from the delicious Italian dinner to the non-stop music to the exhausting dancing. Dinner was catered by Milano Italian Grill and included chicken marsala, eggplant parmesan, ziti, broccoli, huge fresh rolls, and salad. There were hamantaschen and cupcakes for dessert, and an open wine-and-water

bar throughout.

DJ Fred Campbell, who has entertained us at our Chanukah parties over the years, provided the tunes and kept the 50 or so attendees on the dance floor with a mix of upbeat, slow, line-dance favorites, and, of course, the hora. Everyone was given masks and beads in a Purim-meets-Mardi Gras theme. Thanks and congratulations to the social committee's Andrea Wallet and her team of volunteers.

Many college campuses may seem like zoos, but only Santa Fe College in Gainesville has a teaching zoo. On Monday, March 2, 21 members were split into two groups for a very up-close-and-

personal tour led by two students who explained all the animals and how they work on all aspects of zoo management. Thank you to Jodi Kanner of the social committee for making the arrangements.

The lunch bunch had a fiesta at Azul Tequila on Wednesday, March 11. The group enjoyed the camaraderie and food.

Several years ago, the club moved its annual barbecue from the end of the club year in May to March to avoid the summer-like heat, making it easier on attendees, servers, and grillers. Since then, Sunday morning thunderstorms or the threat of afternoon storms lurked over the event. Last year, the storms held off until about 30 minutes after the cleanup.



So, what happened this year? Perfect weather greeted the 85 attendees on Sunday, March 15, at the Veterans Park pavilion and stayed all afternoon. Guests sat at the permanent picnic tables under the roof as well as on their own camp chairs placed along and under the canopy of trees on the ridge overlooking the grillers.

Hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, tomato, lettuce, condiments, homemade sides including macaroni, potato, and bowtie pasta salads, cole slaw, pickles, sauerkraut, three types of onions, and baked beans lined the serving table. Donated items filled the dessert table, including cookies, different types of brownies, and assorted cakes. Lois Trepper and Sue Miller had the volunteers primed and organized, while Mal Press and Shelley Kline ensured the grilling stayed on schedule.

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

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

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Photo by Cyndee Schaub

Wayne Ellis, seen at the Jewish Club's recent Purim Ball, wants you at the next fun event.

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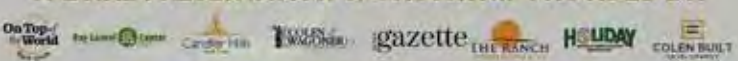
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Rhode Island Group

Judy Parisi



by the British from 1776 to 1779. The French military liberated Newport from the British in 1780 under the expeditionary forces of the Count de Rochambeau. Colony House was then used as a military hospital and for religious services.

After the Revolution, it continued as Rhode Island's State House until 1900. It was then used as a courthouse until 1926, and later as a historic museum, and is currently under the stewardship of the Newport Historical Society. It continues as a symbol of Newport's role in our nation's founding.

An important part of Newport's celebration of Independence Day is the reading of the Declaration of Independence from the steps of Colony House, memorializing the first reading by Major John Handy, July 20, 1776, to 2,000 Newporters.

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



Old Colony House.

Photo by Judy Parisi

Southern Connection Club

Darlene Stevens



May in the South unfolds in warmer breezes and the sweet scent of magnolia blossoms drifting through the air. Yards brim with color - azaleas lingering, roses climbing, and fresh-cut grass perfuming through the neighborhoods. For many, it's a time of porch sitting and iced tea, watching the world move a little slower, as ceiling fans hum and the shade becomes a welcome refuge from the growing heat. For others, it is time for travel and vacations, to explore the wonders and grandeur of the near and far.

This month, we celebrate Mother's

Day, often marked by pensive remembrances, white carnations or roses, family meals, and bouquets of fresh flowers. Later in May, the solemn remembrance of Memorial Day, when flags wave gently in the southern breeze, and stories of service are shared with quiet pride. We honor and remember the sacrifices of those brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we hold most dear. Lesser-known May holidays include World Tuna Day, Lemonade Day, Root Canal Appreciation Day, Dance Like a Chicken Day, Slugs Return from Capistrano Day, and National Hoagie Day. Feel free to celebrate any or all of these quirky holidays in your own special way.

Our last meeting for the Southern Connection Social Club was in April. We are currently on summer hiatus and encourage everyone to get out and enjoy all the things May has to offer.

Illinois Group

Harriet Pinchouck



Did you trade snow shovels for sunshine? Deep-dish pizza for fresh seafood? If you're originally from Illinois and now enjoying retired life in On Top of the World, this new group is just for you.

We're launching a casual, welcoming community for former Illinois residents who have made Florida home. Whether you grew up in Chicago, spent years near Springfield, or called Rockford home, we share something special - Illinois roots and a Florida lifestyle.

Retirement is an exciting new chapter, but there's something comforting about meeting people who understand where you came from. This group is all about:

- Connecting with fellow Illinois transplants
- Sharing stories and memories from back home
- Organizing casual meetups and social events
- Exploring Florida together
- Building new friendships in this next season of life

No politics. No pressure. Just good people, good conversation, and maybe a few friendly debates about who makes

the best Italian beef.

Whether you've been in Florida for 20 years or just arrived last month, you're welcome here.

Interested? Reach out to Harriet Pinchouck at mompin@att.net to plan our first informal get-together (date and location to be determined).

Let's bring a little Midwest warmth to the Sunshine State. Because you can take the person out of Illinois ... but you can't take Illinois out of the person.

Friends of Bill W Group



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

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

CONSERVATION FUN FACT
Endangered Florida scrub jays have a place here too. On Top of the World follows a plan to provide habitat needs for three banded and marked groups, and are attracting non-banded birds to the habitat.

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Tech Tips from Bridgenet Communications



Shane Bohson
info@mybridgenet.com

Shielding Your Tech

A little preparation can go a long way in protecting everything from your television to your treasured photos on your computer.

The biggest threats to your electronics during a storm are power surges – sudden, intense spikes in electrical voltage. These can result from lightning strikes, even if they don't directly hit your home, or from power lines being re-energized after an outage.

Here's how to safeguard your gadgets:

1. Unplug, Unplug, Unplug: The simplest and most effective defense is to unplug electronics from the wall outlets. This cuts off the path for any damaging surges. Don't forget to unplug cable and phone lines, too, as surges can travel through them. This applies to everything from your TV and computer to smaller appliances like coffee makers.
2. Invest in Surge Protectors: For devices you can't easily unplug (or if you want an extra layer of protection), good-quality surge protectors are essential. These devices divert excess electricity away from your electronics. Look for surge protectors with a high "joule" rating, which indicates how much energy they can absorb before failing. Remember, not all power strips are surge protectors,
3. Consider a Whole-Home Solution: If your community or home offers it, a whole-house surge protector installed at your electrical panel provides comprehensive protection for all appliances and devices connected to your home's electrical system, even hardwired ones. This offers a significant peace of mind.
4. The Role of a UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply): For crucial electronics like your computer, a UPS offers both surge protection and a battery backup. This allows you to safely shut down your computer during a power outage, preventing data loss and potential hardware damage. While more expensive than a simple surge protector, a UPS is a smart investment for devices that contain sensitive information.
5. Data Backup is Key: Even with the best physical protection, accidents can happen. Regularly back up important data from your computer, smartphone, and other devices. Use an external hard drive stored in a safe, dry place, or consider cloud storage services. This ensures your precious memories and documents are safe, regardless of what happens to your devices.
6. Stay Informed and Act Early: Keep an eye on weather forecasts and heed warnings from local authorities. The sooner you prepare, the less rushed and stressed you'll be when a storm approaches.

By taking these simple steps, you can significantly reduce the risk of damage to your electronics and ensure you stay connected and entertained, even when the Florida weather turns wild.

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.

It is a big deal when your older smartphone is suddenly dropped, and the screen looks like a spiderweb, the battery is rapidly losing its charge, or the charging port is broken. Then comes the decision to either repair or replace. Start by checking whether it is under warranty or covered by insurance; it may be a quick repair at no cost.

At this point, you haven't even considered the costs involved with a repair or where to go to get it fixed. Your homework should include several items to give you a better sense of the pros and cons. If there are minor issues, your phone is under three years old, and the repair cost is under 30% of a new phone, a simple repair would save you money.

You would add several years to its lifespan if you got a new screen repair (\$100 or more) or replaced a battery, with costs ranging from \$50 or more. Charging port repairs might run \$75 or more, whereas water-damage resto-

ration might cost \$100 or more. Older phones that are not currently receiving operating system or security updates are not worth repairing; it's time for a new phone. Save money with last year's model if you can't afford the latest.

If the decision is not to repair, please go through the process and reset to factory settings. This clears your personal data from the phone and it should then be recycled. Purchasing the latest phone will give you access to new technology, including a lifespan of six years or more, along with security and operating system updates.

If considering your budget, look into refurbished phones, which are pre-owned devices either new or almost new, perhaps repaired or restored, reset to factory settings, and tested to ensure all functions are working. These will come with a warranty and will be at a lower price. Let's say someone bought a new phone and didn't like the color, sent it back, and got a different one. The previous one has been refurbished and is back on sale. Perhaps inquire about an "open box" or display model at a store, also for a reduced price.

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

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

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World Traveler

Bill Shampine



pleted before 2000, and in an acceptable state of preservation. Eventually, 200 possible sites were recommended, and a panel of six world-class architects narrowed the list to 21 in January 2006.

The foundation then implemented a popularity poll process that accepted votes via the internet, by phone, or by mail. Development of the list stirred up a lot of controversy, however, because it clearly was not a scientific poll, and every site proposed had tourist dollars shining in the background! The major problem with the polling process was that most people worldwide lacked knowledge of the poll and access to the internet or a telephone to vote.

National pride was also at stake, so the poll was subject to intense lobbying. Many of the lobbyists were well-heeled corporate sponsors, such as Brazilian telecommunications companies, which did not charge voters for making phone calls to vote. Further, Egypt was incensed that the only "original" wonder still in existence would have to compete with modern landmarks. The founda-

tion solved this sticky issue by naming the Great Pyramid of Giza an honorary candidate, in effect excluding it from the competition and making it an eighth Wonder site.

Despite these concerns, the program moved forward and, after compiling more than 600 million votes, the results listed below (by age) were announced in July 2007.

- Great Pyramid of Giza, completed about 2,560 BCE, located in Cairo, Egypt.
- Petra, built around 40 CE, in Jordan
- Roman Colosseum, completed in 80 CE, in Rome, Italy.
- Great Wall of China, built from the fifth to the 16th century, located in China.
- Chichen Itza, built about 600, in Yucatan, Mexico.
- Machu Picchu, built about 1450, in Cuzco, Peru.
- Taj Mahal, completed in 1648, in Agra, India.
- Christ the Redeemer, built in 1931,



Photo by NASA/Apollo 17 crew

The Blue Marble.

in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Despite all the controversy and assuredly biased voting, the process produced a fun and interesting list of fascinating locations. How many have you visited? I have been to five and will write about each of these interesting places over the next several months.

Travel Toppers

Mary Lamp



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.

Our Suncoast Dinner Theater 2026-2027 season kicks off with "Pretty Woman: The Musical" on Saturday, Oct. 17. You can begin making reservations with Diane Knox on Monday, Aug. 3, by calling 352-390-2386.

Our Celebrity Apex cruise for Feb. 13 through Feb. 20, 2027, is now booking. Call Janet Wiles at 804-243-4008. Please contact her to learn more about additional cabin options available. In last month's column, information was provided about a block of Concierge Class 2 rooms, with prices depending on whether you purchased the beverage package and Wi-Fi. With the

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, beverage packages/ Wi-Fi, as indicated in the different prices above. Pricing and availability are subject to change. Ports of call will include Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Basseterre, St. Kitts & Nevis. The depos-

it is \$250 per person with final payment due by Sunday, Nov. 15.

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 prove the resident is current. Any non-resident who participates must be a guest of a resident club member.

SWANS

Lois Nix



ginning of the next decade and for the next generation of SWANS.

We invite all single women with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass to join us at any time. Our coordinator will answer any questions you may have. SWANS is an informal club, unlike most. We have no dues, and we do not hold monthly meetings for all members. Most of our socialization takes place at home or in the community.

The SWANS play samba every Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Large Card Room. If you do not know how to play, Master the Possibilities offers classes for samba, and hand and foot. Registration is required.

Our networking system has been successful for years, and it has created strong, lasting friendships. Many SWANS go to the theater, movies, and symphony together. Plus, many participate in cruises and shopping trips. Networking works if you work it. We do have special events that our volunteers plan. In May, we are going to Bradford - Ma Barker House, and Bok Tower Gardens.

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Freethinkers



Kathy Bell

“A man either lives life as it happens to him, meets it head-on and licks it, or he turns his back on it and starts to wither away.” – Gene Roddenberry

Gene Roddenberry is an American screenwriter/producer and an atheist. Roddenberry, famous for the Star Trek series, was not one to back down. Overcoming obstacles is a theme in this month’s Freethinkers’ presentations. Whether age is taking its toll or political decisions need to be called to the forefront, we will find a way to meet the challenge.

First up this month – don’t we all wonder, as we get older, why our bodies just aren’t cooperating? On Sunday, May 10, Freethinker Glenn Cohen will help shed light on this mystery with his presentation, “The Biology of Aging.” A professor emeritus at Troy University, Glenn will rely on his expertise and research as a biologist to unravel mysteries and help us understand what happens biologically as we age.

On Sunday, May 24, we will welcome Rabbi Merrill Shapiro from Jacksonville, Florida, who will be speaking on behalf of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, where he serves on the board of trustees and is a former board chair. Americans United is one of the national organizations at the forefront of pursuing litigation to compel local, state, and federal government

Genealogical Society



Sid Levine

Did you ever look for something in your house but couldn’t find it? You’ve retraced your steps, opened every door and cabinet, and even got down on your hands and knees to look under the bed, and it still is not there. Family research can be like that. Sometimes, a fact or source about an ancestor just does not show up on any platform you are currently using.

entities to respect our constitutional right to freedom of and from religion. Come join us for “Is the First Amendment Alive and Well in Florida?” The First Amendment gives us the right to challenge overreach when governmental leaders favor one religion over another or favor secularism over religion. Don’t miss this important discussion! Freethinkers is open to all individuals on the freethought continuum, from religious skeptic to avowed atheist. If this suits you, please join us at one of our Sunday meetings, held from 1 to 3 p.m. on the dates indicated above, to become a member; after that, you are welcome at all other events.

Our book club meets every other month, and our Socrates Cafe meets monthly on the third Thursday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. to discuss philosophical issues in depth. Our topic for May is “What Does It Take to Change Your Mind?” All meetings are held in the Hobby Building Event Room on the days and at times indicated above.

As part of Freethinkers’ commitment to doing good for good’s sake, during May, we will collect used blankets, sheets, and towels for Ocala’s homeless population. Please call Debby Levy at 561-346-7401 to arrange a pickup from your front porch. Items will be distributed at the hot meal prepared for people experiencing homelessness every Monday in downtown Ocala, where Debby volunteers.

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

Our May program will address that. Debby Duay, who has presented to our club in the past, will give us some hints on where else to search. It may be in criminal records or real estate transactions. Whatever it is, we will be able to add some new leaves to our family trees.

The Genealogical Society meets on the third Monday of each month in the Hobby Building Event Room at 10 a.m. We address a multitude of genealogical topics. We often have speakers, either in person or via Zoom.

Our club’s mission is to provide a forum for people involved in this avocation and to help people new to this hobby get started.

Moonstruck Astronomy Club



Cammie Fairburn

If your kid seems a little obsessed with the moon, don’t worry, it’s probably only a phase.

At our March meeting, Glenn Cohen discussed how the phases of the moon are used to set the dates for Passover and Easter. The Hebrew calendar is lunisolar: the months are based on the phases of the moon, while the year is solar. This year, Passover began on April 1.

Christian churches use a solar calendar (Gregorian for Western Christian churches and Julian for Eastern Christian churches) and a lunar-based algorithm to determine the date of Easter. Easter is always after the first full moon that follows the spring equinox (March 20-21). Since the full moon was on April 1, Easter was on April 5 this year.

Did you know that there are 19 planetariums in Florida? Recently, Beverly Bergmann and Cammie Fairburn visited one of them, the Saunders Planetarium and Digital Dome Theatre at the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) in Tampa.

The Digital Dome Theatre opened in 2025. It houses a 10,000-square-foot dome screen, making it the second larg-

est in the nation. There are five shows during the day, projected on this huge screen by ten nearly invisible digital projectors. The show topics vary from the solar system and the history of flight to comets and ocean reefs. Each show begins with an astronomer-led lesson on finding constellations and planets in the night sky.

MOSI has a large exhibit area with interactive activities your grandchildren would enjoy. There are also temporary exhibits, and the current one is Leonardo da Vinci: Machines in Motion. Craftsmen from Florence, Italy, used da Vinci’s drawings to build-to-scale working models of his inventions, which would have been the power tools of his time. Unfortunately, this exhibit will only be at MOSI until May 3.

We will have a guest speaker from NASA at our next meeting on Thursday, May 14, from 1:30 to 3 p.m., at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. Mark Guillette has been part of the NASA ambassador program since 2019. He will deliver a presentation on NASA and an update on the Artemis program.

Because of this special presentation, our May meeting is open to all residents, not just club members. For more information, please contact President Jim Di Paolo at moonastroclub@gmail.com. More information is also available at moonstruckastronomyclub.org.

Keep looking up!

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 II.

Our April meeting featured two guest speakers, mother and daughter, Evelyn and Natalie Kelly, who have visited 88 countries and 50 states on seven continents. They published a book entitled “Have a Love Affair with Travel: Your Ticket to an Exhilarating Life,” by Evelyn Kelly, Ph.D., and Natalie Kelly, M.S.

As a treat for the Scandinavian Ameri-

can Club, the Kellys have traveled extensively in Scandinavia and shared their experiences at our meeting. We also had a Scandinavian snack table.

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

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

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

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Friends of SPCA



Heather Tahan

One of the longest-standing initiatives of Friends of SPCA provides monthly funds to Sheltering Hands and Humane Society of Marion County to cover low-cost spay and neuter surgeries in Marion County for strays, feral cats, and pets in need. This program addresses financial barriers faced by local families and shelters. This support strengthens local rescues' ability to serve our community.

Spaying and neutering are simple procedures that remove the reproductive organs of pets, preventing pregnancy. The costs vary by region and veterinarian, but Marion County has many low-cost spay-neuter clinics. Any reputable rescue will include this cost in the adoption fee and will not adopt any unfixed pet. Beware of any rescues that don't follow this practice. If you are on the fence about spaying or neutering your pets, the benefits of sterilizing your fur babies far outweigh any risks.

Unsterilized pets exacerbate pet overpopulation. Millions of healthy dogs and cats are still being "put down" annually due to a lack of resources at local shelters. Also, more sterilized pets mean fewer strays and ferals fending for themselves and causing community disturbances.

The health benefits of sterilized pets have been scientifically documented for years. Spaying eliminates the risk of uterine and ovarian cancer and greatly reduces the chance of mammary cancer when done before the first heat. Unspayed females are susceptible to pyometra, a life-threatening uterine infection requiring emergency surgery and incurring a large expense. Neutering removes the risk of testicular cancer and reduces prostate-related cancer in males. Sterilized pets have a longer lifespan as well.

There are also multiple behavioral benefits of sterilized pets. Reduced roaming decreases the risk of getting lost or hit by cars, and aggression and marking behaviors, making them happier and healthier.

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, May 21. Get involved in helping Marion County pets in need. We are always in need of volunteers to staff our many events.

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, please consider donating it to the SPCA. Donations will be accepted on the porch of Evelyn Sarns Holiday (8880-C SW 94th Street, 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

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Lions Club



Gail Morris

Our members volunteered at one of the Special Olympics events here in Marion County. Lions Ray, Gail, and Charlie all volunteered to help with the bocce qualifying event on Saturday, March 7. The weather was a little overcast and sometimes wet, which made the balls messy to hold and throw, but the Special Olympians did a great job and had a good time.

Then came our big fundraising event, Casino Night. It was a huge success by all accounts; over 250 guests gathered at Circle Square Cultural Center for a great time of gaming. Casino Party Planners provided us with some expert dealers and some great table games, from blackjack to roulette.

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

Raffles were going on as well, so if you weren't a big winner at the gaming tables, you had the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets and win more prizes. We raffled a variety of beautiful baskets prepared by many of our club members, and Lion Charlie added her special bows for a final touch of class. We had two great golf baskets thanks to the Candler Hills Golf Club, one for the women and one for the men. Our members, Gordon and Rhonda, raffled off gift cards that were donated for the event. Those attending were happy to know they were winners before the gaming began.

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

Our success also comes from having great sponsors for this event, including Scott Cameron Insurance, Fero & Sons Insurance, First Federal Bank, Robb Harrison Realty, Dr. Dunn, Gutter Guyz, Walmart, Walt's Tire and Brakes, Sunshine Living of Central Florida, Dr. Urban, Visiting Angels, and many other individual sponsors.

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helped with this event by providing personnel and product. Thank you to all our volunteers, sponsors, and attendees for supporting our great causes!

Now we are on to the business of nominating and voting for our officers of the new fiscal year, which begins on July 1. Our nomination committee is busy meeting with members and pro-

viding them with a slate of officers for the May elections.

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



Photo by Ken Vaudo

Special Olympics volunteers from the Lions Club.

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Photo by Gloria Buck

Active Singles Club volunteers in 2025.

Active Singles Club

Jan Lindell



During April, we enjoyed picking blueberries, a murder-mystery dinner theater, a golf-cart poker run, great walks and hikes, delicious dining events, and making and serving breakfast at Interfaith Emergency Services. We held a volunteer appreciation luncheon for members who volunteered during 2025. Our president gave gift bags to our volunteers, which included the new Active Singles Club T-shirt.

Our travel committee is planning another Norwegian (larger ship) Caribbean cruise in March 2027. Let's see if we can get 38 or more to sign up and have lots of fun together again. In June, we are taking a day trip to Bradford - Ma Barker House with lunch following. We also have a three-night trip to St. Augustine in July, and a Tennessee/Georgia fall foliage trip planned in October. These are just a few of the trips our travel committee is working on.

May is turning out to be a busy month. We will be enjoying the Bridgerton high tea aboard the Barbara Lee on Friday, May 8. And our Memorial Day picnic is Saturday, May 23. We have our burger chefs back, perfectly grilling our hamburgers and hot dogs. Our game committee has fun games for us to play, and our members are bringing some yummy dishes for all to enjoy.

The hiking group will meet on Friday, May 15, at Ross Prairie Trailhead, with lunch following, and on Thursday, May 28, in Inverness, with lunch. Thursdays at 10 a.m., there is a short walk at Sholom Park.

May dining restaurants are brunch at Arthur's American Bistro, lunch at Tavern at The Glen, and dinner at the Red Crab Juicy Seafood.

Joy in the Mourning

Deb Thompson



Joy in the Mourning is a bereavement support group that meets every Friday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room. There is no fee or prior registration to attend. The group is neither a cry fest nor a dating service.

The following defines support and clarifies the purpose and goal of Joy in the Mourning: "to keep from weakening or failing; give confidence or comfort" quoted from the American Heritage Dictionary. Folks who have chosen support to gain confidence have moved through their difficult ordeal. They have turned their pain into gain. They have grown through what they were going through. This is an astounding victory for them and a great visual of hope for others traveling the same road.

Byrd Baggett writes one important method for this accomplishment. He says, "Look at life through the windshield, not the rearview mirror." If our eyes are fixed only on the rearview mirror, we will not be able to envision life ahead of us. No fear in forgetting wonderful memories. They never dissolve. They're permanently sketched in our memory bank. The time-tested knowledge counselors give will aid in healing. The change is subtle as we read, learn, and implement their advice.

Another benefit for our support group is a Swedish Proverb That wisely states, "shared joy is double joy; shared sorrow is half a sorrow." Our group interaction deals with the reality of all emotions that surface. If you are new to this path of life and believe a support group could be of help, please visit us. You will be embraced. For additional information, contact Deb at 352-445-4860.

CONSERVATION FUN FACT

Southeastern kestrels, a threatened species, are provided nesting boxes to promote population growth. There are at least six active nesting sites at On Top of the World.

OneBlood Bloodmobile

Sara Sommer



The Big Red Buses were here on Monday, April 6. We had a great turnout, with 43 units of whole blood, 5 units of red blood cells with plasma, and 8 units of double red cells collected. Not everyone can donate double red cells, and I thank those four people who did. Each donor received a \$20 e-card to spend at many local places, plus an umbrella. Giving blood saves lives.

Here are the guidelines for donating double red cells. For women, you must be 5'5" tall and weigh at least 150 pounds. For men, you must be 5'1" and weigh at least 135 pounds. The donor care specialist also checks your iron level, which must be 13.3 for both women and men. Blood pressure cannot exceed 180/90. The wait time for the next donation is 16 weeks, rather than the usual eight.

The Alyx machine collects two units of red blood cells instead of one. Platelets and plasma are returned to the donor along with a saline solution for hydration.

The bus will be here at the Recreation Center parking lot on Friday, May 1, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is to give those donors who cannot make it on a Monday a chance to give. The next Friday drive will be in September.

The next regular Monday drive will be on June 1. Please mark your calendar. See you on the bus.

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2026 Ocala Open Golf Tournament

By Javier Perez

The 21st annual Ocala Open Golf Tournament once again delivered an exceptional blend of high-level competition and meaningful community impact, solidifying its place as one of the premier golf events on the Florida Professional Golf Tour calendar. Held Wednesday, March 25, through Friday, March 27, at the Candler Hills Golf Course in Ocala, Florida, this year's tournament brought

together top professional talent and avid supporters for a week of exciting play on a pristine championship golf course.

Additionally, this year's Ocala Open continued its cherished tradition of giving back through its two-day charity Pro-Am, on Monday, March 23, and Tuesday, March 24, right before the Ocala Open Professional Tournament. These charity Pro-Am days not only provided a unique

opportunity for amateur golfers to play alongside professionals but also served as a powerful platform for giving back to the community. On Monday, March 23, a \$51,000 check was presented to Interfaith Emergency Services, followed by another \$51,000 check presented to Empath Hospice of Marion County, Inc., on Tuesday, March 24. These generous donations highlight the tournament's strong commitment to supporting vital services within the local community and improving the lives of those in need.

Over its 21-year history, the Ocala Open has raised an impressive total of \$1,285,064 for charitable causes. This milestone underscores the tournament's enduring legacy as not just a

competitive golf tournament but also a meaningful philanthropic opportunity that continues to make a lasting difference year after year.

When the competition officially began on Wednesday, March 25, the focus shifted to the course, where a strong field of 118 professional golfers competed for top honors and a \$15,000 first-place prize. After three days of intense competition, Blake Dyer, from St. Petersburg, Florida, emerged as the tournament champion. Delivering a standout performance, Dyer demonstrated consistency, precision, and composure under pressure to secure his victory, finishing with a -19 total final score with 194 total strokes, marking a significant milestone in his professional golf career.

Favorable weather and a well-maintained course provided the perfect setting for both players and spectators, enhancing the overall experience of this tournament. This year's tournament also benefited from the continued support of our sponsors, volunteers, and the local community, all of whom play an essential role in the Ocala Open's ongoing success.

Overall, this 2026 Ocala Open Golf Tournament demonstrated continued growth in both prestige and community impact, exemplifying the spirit of the game and reinforcing our company's mission to give back to the community at every opportunity. From the generosity displayed during the Pro-Am days to the thrilling performances caught during the tournament days, this year's Ocala Open successfully carried forward a tradition that has become a cornerstone of the Ocala community. As this event looks ahead to future years, its legacy of excellence and philanthropy is powerful enough to continue making a meaningful impact both on and off the course.



Photo courtesy of Colen Built Development

2026 Ocala Open champion – Blake Dyer.

Boots & Beats

By Dave DeAngelis
World News Writer

So, what does a widely recognized handler of champion dogs of multiple breeds do after meeting her love at a church dance on Valentine's Day? Why, marry him, and teach him how to show dogs, of course! And what would be the next logical step for them as a team? Well, given their love of dancing, take up line dancing and teach it! Made perfect sense to Chuck and Donna Nelson, who are originally from Kansas and now live in On Top of the World. They've been dancing since they met 29 years ago.

In search of their permanent landing spot in Florida, they began their RV treks from Kansas in 2015. Clermont became their home in 2018, where they immediately began teaching line dancing. What lured Chuck and Donna to On Top of the World in 2024? "The Town Square was the main reason," said Chuck, with Donna adding that their attraction to the abundance of activities offered here was a key decision maker for their move.

Donna explained that line dancing positively affects both cognitive and physical health, as the movements and sequencing exercise the mind and body.

"Salsa moves can even be incorporated" into line dancing. Chuck and Donna are passionate about what they do. Their group name is From the Top Line Dancing Group; a name derived from Chuck's repeated command of "from the top" as an instruction to start the segment over.

They lead line dancing at Boots & Beats on Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. at The Town Square at Circle Square Commons, with the event free and open to the public. Between Wednesdays, they also learn new line dances themselves and teach a Tuesday class at The Lodge at Candler Hills. Classes are progressive, with beginner and high beginner/intermediate levels. There is one requirement from Chuck and Donna to attend their sessions. You must be willing to have fun.

Hmmm...we could have used their dog handling experience when Dobbie got loose for 10 days last year, as reported in the World News.

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



Photo by Dave DeAngelis

Chuck and Donna Nelson.



Photo by Denny Wyckoff

The On Top of the World championship team.

Classic Softball Tournament Champions

By John Yenne

On Top of the World came from behind to win the 12th annual 70s Classic Softball Tournament at SummerGlen in April, and it couldn't have been scripted any better. After dropping their opening game to Stone Creek, 13 to 12, On Top of the World was immediately facing elimination.

They ran the table through the loser's bracket, including a grueling doubleheader on the third day of play that kept their championship hopes alive.

That set up a climactic rematch with Stone Creek on the final day. Because Stone Creek had gone undefeated through the winner's bracket, On Top of the World had to beat them twice on championship day – and did exactly that, winning 14 to nine and then nine to five to complete one of the more remarkable runs in the tournament's history.

It was On Top of the World's first championship in this event. Seven communities competed in the four-day, double-elimination tournament, hosted by the SummerGlen Softball Association (SGSA). The field included Del Webb, the defending champion, along with Stone Creek, Stone Crest South, Spruce Creek

South, Holiday/Arlington, and host SummerGlen.

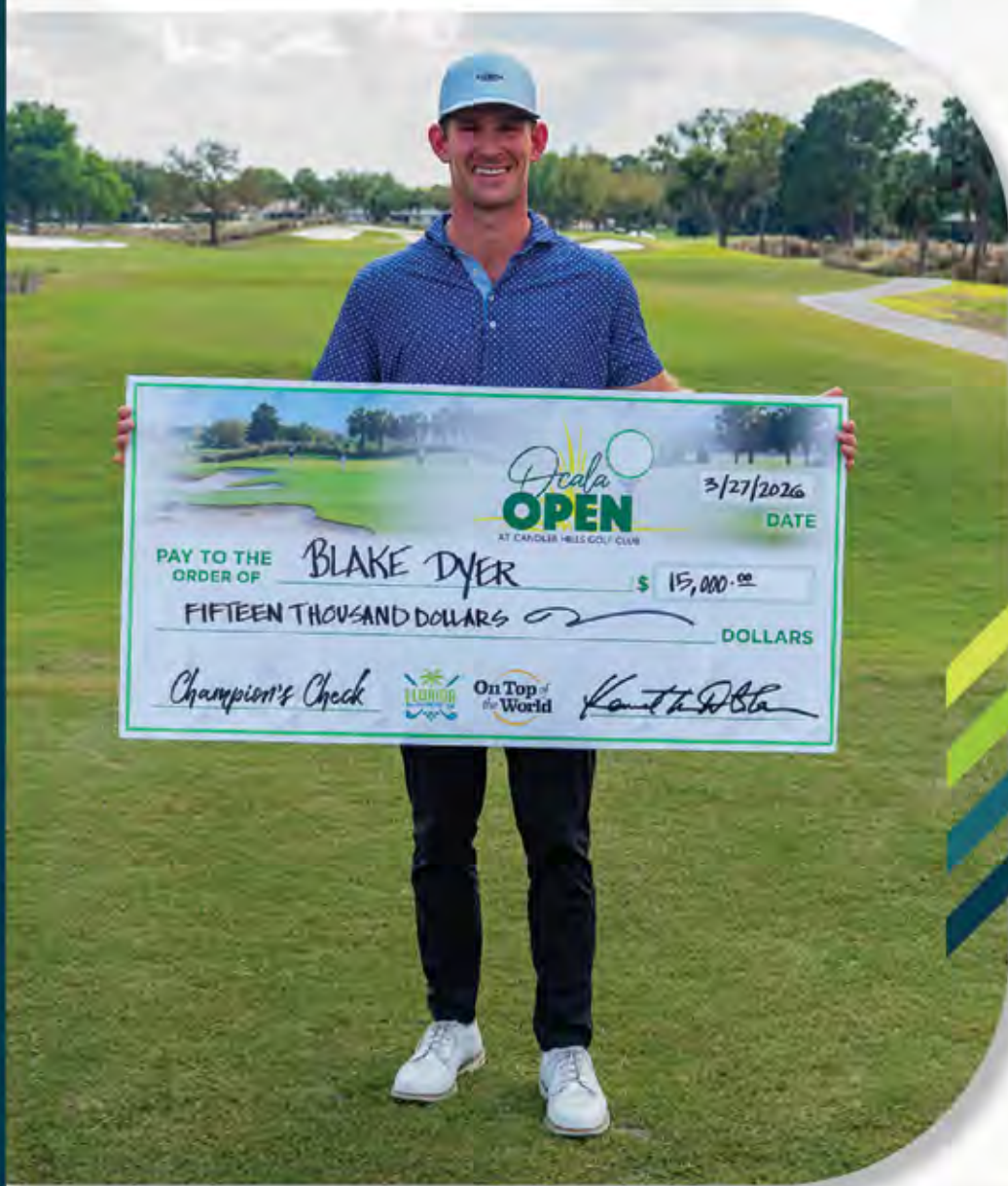
Tournament Director Denny Wyckoff presented the On Top of the World team with the winner's trophy at home plate following the final game.

Gerry Meier, who co-managed the team alongside Jeff Thomas, was named the tournament's most valuable player (MVP). "It was totally a team effort," Meier said. "It took 13 MVPs to make that run to the championship." The On Top of the World roster included Ron Carlson, Peyton Jackson, Wayne Kiser, Bill McElroy, Mike Hamlin, Sam Mestre, Luis Puentes, Rick Munsell, John Yenne, Mark Uberstein, and Ralph Mazzio – players whose hometowns span the country, but who all now call On Top of the World home.

The tournament carries special meaning. Named in honor of longtime SummerGlen softball fixture Bob Merlano, this year's event included a ceremony in which his wife, Deb Merlano, received a commemorative plaque recognizing the tournament's dedication to him.

The Bob Merlano Memorial Tournament is now one of the area's top competitions for players 70 and older.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



AT CANDLER HILLS GOLF CLUB

Dear Ocala Open Partners,

On Top of the World Communities and Candler Hills Golf Club provided the perfect venue for the largest charity golf event in Marion County this year - the 2026 Ocala Open! This three-day golf tournament featured 118 world-class professional golfers and was made possible thanks to area businesses like yours.

While Blake Dyer took home the 2026 Ocala Open title and the \$15,000 first place check, the event netted a total of \$102,000 for the real winners, the benefiting charities. Interfaith Emergency Services and Empath Hospice of Marion County each received \$51,000 as a result of the success of the tournament. Without your contribution, this would not have been possible.

We sincerely appreciate your support and recognize your commitment to the Ocala Open.

Sincerely,

Kent Dola *Matt Hibbs*
 Kenneth D. Colen, President Matt Hibbs, Director of Golf

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Candler Hills Golf Club
On Top of the World

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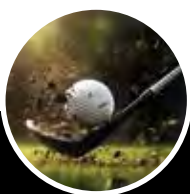


Matt Hibbs
352-854-2765
matt_hibbs@otowfl.com

May is officially here, and so are the summer temperatures. Here are some tips to beat the summer heat:

- Drink plenty of water. Each golf course has a water cooler every

Candler Hills Men's Golf



Kevin Hermida

Candler Hills Men's Golf Association (CHMGA) offers organized, competitive, and social opportunities. The league typically features weekly games, tournaments, and match play, serving as a popular way for players to connect.

We all have heard of the famous 80/20 rule in life; here's one for golf. The Pareto Principle dictates that 80% of your results stem from 20% of your efforts, meaning you should focus practice on high-impact areas like short game and wedges. Prioritize 80% of practice time on the 20% of shots that cause the most strokes lost, typically three to 10-foot putts, chipping, and wedge play.

My key applications of the 80/20 rule in golf:

- Practice Focus: Spend 80% of your time on the 20% of your game that causes the most lost strokes, usually putting, chipping, and short wedges.
- Chipping Technique (20/80): Aim to have the ball in the air for only 20% of the shot and roll for 80% to maximize distance control, often using a pitching wedge.
- Swing Mechanics: Focus on the 20% of the swing that drives 80% of the result, which is the impact zone (Y-to-Y) rather than focusing on positions in the backswing.
- Weight Distribution: During chipping, place 80% of your weight on your lead leg to ensure a descending blow and consistent contact.
- Mental Strategy: Develop a consistent pre-shot routine for 80% of your shots, as this 20% effort in

four to six holes; please be sure to use it.

- Eat a few bananas to keep your potassium levels up to prevent cramping.
- Wear a hat and put on sunscreen. We all know how damaging the sun can really be.

Golf is a wonderful game we all love, but don't forget the most important part: safety. If you're not careful, you can get injured in a variety of ways on the golf course. Here are some safety

preparation provides 80% of your swing consistency.

- Course Management: Aim for a target you are 80% confident in hitting rather than risking a difficult shot, which reduces high scores.

Match Play

Red & Blue: Paul Sider, Rich Campbell, Jeffrey Holmes, Mike Gleason. Patrick Mezyk, Ken Acosta, Steve Parker, Gary Bugielski, Fran Draude, Scott Smith, Larry Skechers, Kevin Llewellyn, John Paul, Tom Presnick, Rick Schriewer, Greg Hoffman, Doug Dahlen, Kevin McGuiness, Rick Plesea, Mark Parker, Thomas Parkinson, Rick Deroven, Fernando Pallares, Maynard Thompson, Mike Erickson, Steve Wrazen, Jim Weaver, Charlie Taylor, Louis Hager, Tim Beaty, Tiger Woods, Bruce Rothenberg, Richard Foltyniewicz, Bill Kenyon, Walter Knautz, and John Devito.

Lucky 4s

Flight 1: Mike Gleason, Brian Bennett, Rich Campbell, Steve Parker, Patrick Mezyk, Joe Schubert.

Flight 2: Pat Cioffi, Tom Presnick, Doug Butler, Brad Best, Ken Acosta.

Flight 3: Robert Kuhl, Steve Johnson, Ken Zweiback, Larry Smallwood, Bill Elroy, Joe Devine.

Flight 4: Louis Hegel, Kevin Hermida, Fernando Pallares, Howard Gluckman, Tom Nutt, Tim Beaty.

Flight 5: Bill Kenyon, Richard Foltyniewicz, Loren Magsam, Thomas Kujawa, Greg McMillan.

Join the CHMGA and connect with like-minded individuals. Build lifelong friendships and find a consistent group to play with. Our supportive environment fosters camaraderie, structured competition, skill improvement, and convenient access to play for golfers of all skill levels.

Regular golf offers numerous health advantages, reducing the risk of chronic diseases and promoting a longer, healthier life. Don't miss out on this opportunity to join us. Visit the Candler Hills Golf Shop to learn more and get started.

For more information, visit chmga.com.

tips to help you in case of an emergency:

- Always call 911 first.
- Make sure to carry a mobile device.
- Scorecards have Golf Shop phone numbers and addresses.
- Golf course restrooms have addresses listed.

May also brings the second major championship of the year, the PGA Championship at Aronimink Golf Club in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania. This prestigious event will feature top professional golfers from around the world competing for the title. Scottie Scheffler is this year's defending champion. Here is who our professional staff thinks will be crowned champion this year: Matt Hibbs - Cameron Young, Denise Mullen - Justin Rose, Russ Smith - Scottie Scheffler, Kelsey Hummer - Rory McIlroy, and Josh Wilson - Gary Woodland.

In May, Candler Hills and The Links will host the annual World Memorial Day Tournament on Monday, May 25, with a 9 a.m. shotgun start. The format will be two best balls of four, and you may create your own foursome. The cost

is \$20 per player.

Upcoming Events

- Friday, May 8: Spring Fling at Candler Hills Golf Club.
- Monday, May 11, through Thursday, May 14: Candler Hills closed for aerification.
- Monday, May 25: World Memorial Day Event at Candler Hills and The Links.

World Accolades

THE TORTOISE & THE HARE: Tony Morris, eagle #5. Steve Bassett, eagle #9.

THE LINKS: Charlie Dove, shot his age 74. Bob Mondore shot 73, 76, and 75, all under his age. John Mayfield shot 78, two strokes under his age. Rob Walker, eagle #12.

CANDLER HILLS: Diane Boston, best round ever, 80. Rick Kramer, eagle #7. Scott Brassington, eagle #15 and eagle #18. Jim Marley, eagle #7. Lori Pizzini, best round ever, 77. Mike Deahl, hole-in-one #13. Mike Mackowiak, shot his age 77.

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Men's Golf Association



John Yenne

Please keep an eye on your email, as the Men's Golf Association plans to add special events soon. The food and beverage committee is working on bringing in a private food truck service. And members can expect a new venue for upcoming events, as The Summit may be available starting in May. The board will share more details as plans are confirmed.

For members interested in the recent event celebrating the opening of the Empath Hospice of Marion County Dementia Education and Care Center, information is available at otowmga.com. The Men's Golf Association has a long history of charitable giving to this hospice.

April Chicken Day on The Links drew 148 players. Total membership stands at 270. For more information on the Men's Golf Association, visit otowmga.com.

Mark these upcoming Wednesdays in your calendar:

- May 6: Chicken Day (The Links)
- May 13: Nine Blind Holes (The Tortoise & The Hare)
- May 20: Team Stableford, Two Best Balls (The Links)
- May 27: Individual Quota Points (The Tortoise & The Hare)

**Chicken Day
April 1**

The Links Flight: 50-John Herman, Dale Budd, Jim Higgins, Bruce Venslavsky. Tie at 54-John Paul, Dick Emmons, Kenneth Gove, Edwin Rodriguez; Ken Belcher, Raymond Tyler, Bigelow Robinson, David Bauer. Tie at 55-Robert Kuhl, Terry Hubbartt, Louis Heger, John DiVito; Patrick Nagy, Jerry Williams, Garry Gerlach, David Green; John Henderson, Michael Almon, Bob Lieberman, Mike Kurlakowsky; William (Bill) Truby, Rick Plesea, Marvin DeBerry, Gerald Schneider; Rick Schriewer, James Morgan, Gregg Keidel, Ron Ouellette; Doyce Mathis, Doug Buckler, Bob Epps, James Gourlay.

The Tortoise & The Hare Flight: 51-Terry Smith, Steve Wrazen, Bruce Weaver, Michael Dwyer. 54-Robert Walker, John McMahon, Mike Krodel, Raymond Hendrix. Tie at 55-Garfield Gray, Jay Bouton, Mike Erickson, Mike Stanford; Philip Shaw, Dennis McCourt, Vernon Kessler, Rick Lilly. Tie at 56-August Rosenberger, Terry Thomas, Rick Deroven, Joseph Stefani; Mike Bernhardt, John Bojanac, Stuart Martin, Greg Dietrich; Steve Parker, Gary Niland, Bruce Green, Joe Baumgartner; Irl Flanagan, John Parnau, Russ Christopher, Thomas Kujawa; Eugene Paradis, Ruben Alvarez, Paul Stoecklin, Tary Bole.



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Ladies 18-Hole Golf Association

Jo Della Penna



Congratulations to Sharon Fairclough on winning the Ladies Club Championship and to Carol Carney on her hole-in-one on #6, The Links.

Low Gross/Low Net March 3/The Tortoise & The Hare Gross

Flight 1: 80-Lori Pizzini. 85-Lisa Free, 86-Linda Taylor.
Flight 2: 85-Peggy Ellenberger. 86-Dawn Carroll. 92-Lynn Colomb.
Flight 3: 85-Mary Smith. 90-Vickie Noltsenmeyer, Jill Strey.
Flight 4: 91-Peggy Wiechmann. 92-Connie Norris. 97-M.J. Strelec.
Flight 5: 94-Robyn Atwood. 95-Christine McIntire. 100-Terri Stecker.

Candler Hills Ladies 18-Hole

Beth Wolinsky



Happy spring! The chilly weather we experienced this winter is finally behind us. Hopefully, we will have a central

Shuffleboard

Walt Lamp



March

High Scores: Robert Sapiro, Scott Lyons, Vickie Lentz, Barbara Daughtry, and Larry Gavin.
30-plus: Robert Sapiro, Scott Lyons, Annette Hodges, Donna Foster, Larry Anderson, Pam Anderson, and Jane Boyer.

April is the end of our shuffleboard season (where we keep score). Our upcoming summer season begins Friday, May 1. Residents can play anytime us-

Flight 6: 98-Donna Brunell. 100-Roxiann Dwyer, 101- Kathleen Mansfield.

Net

Flight 1: 75-Laura McMillan. 76-Christine Giza. 78-Page Falconer.
Flight 2: 76-Diane Boston. 80-Janette Sheil. 80-Sandra Mansfield.
Flight 3: 72-Judi McGuinness. 77-Ellen Brinn. 81-Katie Schriewer.
Flight 4: 75-Donna Isaac. 77-Liz Pruss. 80-Joann Delmar.
Flight 5: 75-Nancy Zielinski. 79-Joann Ropel. 81-Joann Della Penna.
Flight 6: 74-Carol Carney. 79-Connie Lukas. 81-Margie Williams.

1, 2, 3 Best Ball March 10/The Links

Tie at -10-Sandra Mansfield, Joyce Jones, Patty Whitley, Suzanne Mullineaux, Christine Giza, MJ Strelec, Liz Pruss, Connie Lukas, Diane Boston, Connie Sohl, Diane Hartman, Robyn Atwood. -9-Karen Schroeckenthaler, Debra De Matteo, Donna Isaac, Donna La Bonte. Tie at -5-Donna Herberger, Cho

Yuhlan, Jean Czachor, Kathleen Mansfield, Sharon Fairclough, Lori Anderson, Joann Della Penna, Carol Carney, Gayla Aldridge, Cindy Pursel, Brenda Hofmann, Margie Williams. -4-Lisa Free, Ellen Brinn, Teri Stecker, Donna Townsend. Tie at -3-Marcela Nunez, Beverly Ovrebo, May Chin, Roxiann Dwyer, Linda Taylor, Jill Strey, Connie Norris, Terry Lemesg, Laura McMillan, Darlene De Berry, Cynthia Gersten, Jane Hall.

One Net Best Ball, One Net Worst March 17/The Tortoise & The Hare

+12-Sharon Fairclough, Cho Yulan, Eileen Gustavus, Joy Geradi. +17-Christine Giza, Vickie Noltsenmeyer, Brenda Hoffman, Roxiann Dwyer. Tie at +19-Sandra Mansfield, Katie Schriewer, Karen Campbell, Robyn Atwood, Gail Lagrange, Darlene De Berry, (B) Joann Delmar, Renee Anchors. Tie at +20-Lynn Colomb, Karen Schroeckenthaler, Terri Stecker, Robin Le Master, Shelly Karsnitz, Beverly Ovrebo, Marlana LeClair, Margie Williams. +21-Page Falconer, Debby Wilson, Joann Della Penna, Donna Brunell.

One Gross, Two Net Best Ball March 24/The Links

Hills Golf Shop. Our spring membership meeting will be held after golf that day. We hope all can attend.

Just a reminder. Ties in league play will now be broken using the USGA tie-breaking method. It is a comparison of the scorecards, which the golf pros will calculate. Therefore, you could have the same score as someone who wins, but you will miss out on a payout based on your scorecard. Again, this follows USGA standards.

Upcoming Thursday events include:

- April 30: Red/Green Challenge.
- May 28: Survivor.
- June 11: Mulligans for charity.

Mark your calendar!

The Candler Hills Ladies 18-Hole Golf Association is open to any woman in On Top of the World. If you wish to join, please contact our president, Sandy Snyder, at freesand@icloud.com. It's a great way to meet some new ladies and play golf.

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

Scramble (Team) March 5

53-Dawn Carroll, Peggy Wiechmann, Jean Czachor, Margie Williams. 54-Sandra Mansfield, Vickie Noltsenmeyer, Rhonda Tyler, Lynn Barber. 55-Page Falconer, Karen Campbell, Brenda Hofmann, Roxiann Dwyer. 55-Mary Jeannotte, Mary Smith, Nancy Zielinski, Rita Colpo. 57-Sandy Snyder, Cindy Pursel,

+7-Sharon Fairclough, Janelle Gluckman, Cynthia Gersten, Renee Middleton. +8-Donna Herberger, Judi McGuinness, Marla Bennett, Terry Lemesg. Tie at +9-Becky Bivins, Debra De Matteo, Joann Delmar, Robyn Atwood, Lisa Free, Connie Sohl, Tammy Seutter, Joy Geradi. +11-Karen Schroeckenthaler, Rita Rich, Connie Norris, Margie Williams. +12-Gayla Aldridge, Lorie Anderson, Beth Wolinsky, Donna Townsend. +13-Christine Giza, Katie Schriewer, Joann Della Penna, Renee Anchors. Tie at +14-Laura Mc Millan, Bobbie Wiener, Donna Isaac, Jacquelin Randour, Gail Lagrange, Joyce Jones, Liz Pruss, Darlene De Berry.

Sucker in a Basket

March 31/The Tortoise & The Hare

-10-Sandra Mansfield, Mary Smith, Judie Anderson, Roxiann Dwyer. -8-Becky Bivins, Jill Strey, Susanne Mullineaux, Vickie Foster. -7-Gayla Aldridge, Joyce Jones, Rhonda Tyler. Tie at -6-Lori Pizzini, Karen Schroeckenthaler, Brenda Hofmann, Joy Geradi, Lisa Free, Darlene De Berry, Nancy Zielinski, Sandra Rands. Tie at -4-Sharon Fairclough, Katie Schriewer, Christine McIntire, Lynn Colomb, Debra De Matteo, Ellen Brinn, Kathleen Mansfield.

Donna Isaac, Donna Townsend. Tie at 57-Linda Taylor, Angelita Jingco, Judie Anderson, Virginia Madura. Faun Doctor, Yuhlan Cho, Gris McIntire, Anne Dahlen. Karen Schroeckenthaler, Joyce Jones, Connie Norris, Jane Hall.

Silver Tee Two Best Balls of Four (Team) March 12

Flight 1: 129-Paula Lilly, Peggy Wiechmann, Lisa Free, Jane Hall. 131-Marlena LaClair, Kathleen Goodwin, Christine Giza, Roxiann Dwyer. 132-Janelle Gluckman, Gayla Aldridge, Donna Isaac, Kathy Zunica.

Flight 2: 131-Cynthia Gersten, Karen Campbell, Peggy Ellenberger, Donna Townsend. 132-Liz Pruss, Marla Bennett, Beverly Ovrebo, Anne Dahlen. 133-Nancy Zielinski, Angelita Jingco, Lynn Colomb, Jana McElroy.

Low Gross/Low Net (Individual) March 19 Gross

Flight 1: 79-Gayla Aldridge. 84-Sandra Mansfield. Flight 2: 88-Joanne Woolery. 90-Becky Bivins. 91-Mary Smith.

Flight 3: 91-Ellen Brinn. 92-Angelita Jingco. Flight 4: 92-Teri Stecker. 99-Brenda Hoffman. Flight 5-102-Jana McElroy. 107-Roxiann Dwyer.

Net

Flight 1: 68-Diane Boston. 73-Dawn Carroll. Flight 2: 77-Cindy Pursel. 73-Janelle Gluckman. 73-Connie Norris. 78-JoAnn Delmar. Flight 4: 71-Marlena LaClair. 78-Joann Ropel. Flight 5: 78-Renee Middleton. 82-Terry Lemesg.

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Nate Snook



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The club also has training classes and coached play for intermediate and advanced players. For classes, log on to the website, click Events to view the calendar of available classes, and sign up to lock in your spot.

Pickleball is a complex sport; even though it seems simple, there's a lot to learn. You need to know the rules and nuances. Do you know what a nasty Nelson is? How about ATP? Do you know what an Erne is? Do you know the difference between the kitchen and the non-volley zone? If you cannot answer all these questions correctly, you may benefit from the classes offered monthly.

Yes, the rules class is required for moving up from a 2.5 and beyond, but anyone will benefit from taking this one-hour class. It will make you a smarter and better player. Classes are typically scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month.

If you are interested in joining the club, we offer an Intro to Pickleball class held every Monday at 10:30 a.m. and the first Saturday of the month, all on the upper courts. You're welcome to bring your own paddle or use ours. All are welcome.

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

siastic celebrations. Organizers Phil Franklin and Paul Schasel received heartfelt thanks for their dedication and for successfully managing the event. Looking forward, the club plans to host additional tournaments throughout the year and aims to participate in the On Top of the World Games scheduled for the fall.

It is notable that the winners, Maddy and Garfield, had never played doubles before joining the club. Maddy has been a member for two years, while Garfield joined four years ago. In fact, most club members have little or no doubles experience before joining. Many people are pleasantly surprised by how enjoyable doubles play becomes as they learn the game. While there is a learning curve to doubles, it can be mastered quickly. So, if you see lots of people playing doubles with table tennis balls flying around the room at the Arbor Conference Center, feel free to join in. Membership applications for the Table Tennis Club are available inside the Arbor Conference Center Table Tennis Room.

ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala



Photo by Bob Young

Top Pickleball Club members dressed in their best Irish attire during the Luck of the Irish Deal and Dink game on Thursday, March 19.

Call of the Wild Sports Club

Steve Sekac



Club members participated in several Gulf saltwater fishing trips during March. Catches included speckled trout, hogfish, red snapper, and porgies.

Four members took a weeklong trip to Quepos, Costa Rica, in March for deep-sea fishing. Tom Graser, Steve Sekac, Charlie, and Stephanie Hymnes fished off/inshore. Eight sailfish were caught, with each person catching and releasing two, during offshore fishing. Inshore fishing was slow due to unusually hot weather, but catches included red snapper, mackerel, barracuda, and roosterfish.

Paul Jorgensen took a group of target shooters out on Friday, April 3. And to do something different, everyone took turns shooting at a target 10 times, trying not to miss. The only rule was that you could not try to hit the target on purpose. The competition winner with the lowest score was Mike Lalli. Congratula-

tions to Mike!

The club spring picnic was held on Wednesday, April 1. Everyone enjoyed live music from the R&R Trio, lunch from Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken, a drawing for prizes, and the guest speaker, Officer C. Weber from the Florida Wildlife Commission, who spoke on conservation efforts regarding black bears, alligators, and freshwater fishing in Harris and Orange lakes.

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

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

Table Tennis

Mary Jeannotte



The Table Tennis Club kicked off its first tournament of the year with the event named "King and Queen of the Table." This competition adopted a mixed doubles format, pairing men and women for a dynamic, survival-style contest. After each round, winners advanced to the next tier, while losing teams shifted down and paired with new partners. The tournament featured 10 challenging rounds, creating an energetic, competitive atmosphere for all participants.

After the 10th round, the field narrowed to four finalists: Al Contarino, Tanya Kodinsky, Maddy Berry, and Garfield Gray. The concluding match followed a best-of-three game format, with Al and Tanya facing Maddy and Garfield. In a thrilling finish, Maddy and Garfield claimed victory, winning the final match of the day.

The tournament ended with enthu-

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



Poms Dance & Cheer

Pamela Kalamaras



After performing indoors for the winter, now that it is warmer, the Poms Dance and Cheer Squad can finally dance and cheer outside. We have been presenting our popular sock hop theme with full costumes. It has been a pleasure to meet the audience members who tell us how much they enjoy memories from the music and the poodle skirts. The '50s style routine continues to be a hit in our community and throughout Ocala.

On Saturday, April 18, we performed for an enthusiastic crowd at The Windsor of Ocala. Everyone danced and sang in their seats, waving the mini poms we had handed out. Our goal remains to brighten days and spread joy and friend-

POP Tennis

Beth Smith



Spring has arrived, and it has been a wonderful season for POP tennis. The courts have been busy, and the spirit of friendly competition continues to grow stronger each week.

We recently enjoyed a spring picnic at the tennis court pavilion following our morning games. Players gathered to share hamburgers and hot dogs along with a variety of delicious sides and desserts. It was a great time to relax, visit, and celebrate our community both on and off the court.

Our group continues to grow, and we are excited to announce that we now have 73 members. It's wonderful to see so many people enjoying the game and welcoming new players into the group.

With the warmer weather approach-

Tennis

Jorge Privat
352-387-7539



Spring is finally in the air! This winter has been one of the coldest I can recall in my 20-plus years in Florida, making it a bit tough to get out on the courts. But better weather is here, and the club is heating up.

I would like to start by welcoming our newest members, Mark, Tom, and Lynn, who have been coming out regularly since joining the club. As usual, the Tennis Club, headed by Brenda Foster, is always working on new ways to make the club more cohesive and fun for everyone. To stay in the loop, check the bulletin board for activities, visit the tennis website created by Kathy Kelly, and read the new newsletter designed by Domenica Genovese and published by Brenda.

If you have never picked up a racquet, now is the perfect time to start! Tennis is a fantastic way to improve balance, heart health, and social connections. We offer beginner clinics that focus on the basics in a fun, no-pressure environment. Don't worry about being in shape first - tennis is how we get in shape! Whether you want a private lesson to learn the ropes or a group clinic to meet neighbors, we have a spot for you.

Tennis Strings & Tension

I am often asked how strings affect your play. Natural Gut is the gold standard for power and control, though it is pricey and sensitive to humidity. Multifilaments are made of thousands of fibers and are the best all-around choice for most players because they are soft and arm-friendly.

Polyester strings have skyrocketed in popularity because they allow for incredible spin, but they can be harsh on the arm. Many players choose a hybrid setup, using polyester on the vertical strings and a softer string on the horizontal ones to maintain a better feel for touch shots.

Thickness is expressed as a gauge from 15 to 19. The larger the number, the thinner the string. Thicker strings provide more durability, while thinner strings give you extra feel and bite for spin.

Finally, your string tension has a huge effect on performance. Lower tensions give you more power, while higher tensions deliver more control. If you do not know your preference yet, start at the mid-range of your racquet's recommendations and adjust by two or three pounds each time you restring until it feels just right.

For information about the Tennis Club, email Brenda Foster at otowtennisocala@gmail.com. See you on the courts!

ship through music and dance.

We have a lineup of performances scheduled for the coming months. On Saturday, May 2, we will perform at the Ocala Ritz Veterans Village. On Memorial Day, we perform our patriotic medley in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Lastly, on Wednesday, June 17, we will proudly perform a patriotic selection at Master the Possibilities' event, "Exploring 250 Years of America: The Grand Finale," at Circle Square Cultural Center.

This month, we are featuring fellow pommie, Traci Hermsen. Traci took ballet and tap before transitioning to baton twirling at 12. Her talent earned her the title of Miss Preteen Majorette of Ohio. After moving to Coral Springs, she became a cheerleader in middle school and, in high school, joined the marching band as a majorette. Then, in her junior and senior years, she was a varsity cheerleader. After high school, she obtained a Florida real estate license and began a career in real estate.

At age 23, driven by a desire to serve her country, she enlisted in the U.S. Army. During her service, she was stationed at Fort Leonard, South Korea, and Fort Riley, Kansas, where she worked as a truck driver, transporting large equipment, including tanks. After completing her military service, she continued to operate an 18-wheeler for 13 years, across all 48 contiguous states and Canada.

In 1998, she settled in Ocala, where she worked in new home sales at On Top of the World until retiring in 2024. Traci enjoys being an active member and also volunteers with the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard.

If you would like the Poms Dance and Cheer Squad to perform at your next event, we are available for future dates. We hope the love we have for what we do shines through in each performance. Our motivated group is committed to practicing many hours each week, as we build new skills and stamina. Go pommies! Please contact Pam Kalamaras at pammykal@aol.com for more information or to express interest in becoming a pommie.



Photo by Daniel Hermsen

Fellow pommie, Traci Hermsen, standing proudly in her uniform for the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard at the inaugural Marion County Veterans Hall of Fame on Thursday, March 19.

ing, summer hours have officially begun, and our new start time is 7:30 a.m. at The Arbors lower tennis courts on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. We also play on Thursdays starting at 6:30 p.m., which is a great option for those who prefer playing later in the day.

If you are curious about POP tennis and would like to give it a try, we have paddles available at the courts so you can test them out and see if this fun and social sport is for you.

For Saturday morning ladies' mixed doubles, please email Sharon at sl-dusps8163@gmail.com. For general inquiries or clinic information, email Shizuka Campagna at shizukacampagna@gmail.com.

Thank you to everyone who continues to make this such a welcoming and active tennis community. We look forward to many more great matches and social gatherings throughout the season.

See you on the courts!

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.

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Line Dancing

Joe Spencer



is on Tuesdays at the Arbor Conference Center Studio D, from 9 to 11 a.m. with Instructor Weber Wen.

Many dancers purchase tickets for multiple levels to get more exercise and learn more dances.

The first three levels also have practice sessions on Wednesdays. Practice is the key. The more practice, the better. There are also line-dance socials, where dancers can dance the dances they have learned in the Monday classes.

Exciting news! There is a new line dance class in The Landing Ballroom for Weybourne Landing residents on Wednesdays, from 11 a.m. to noon.

There will be another official line dance workshop and lunch on Saturday, Sept. 26, with Michele Burton, Michael Barr, and Larry Bass. These instructors/choreographers are known around the

favorites. The tap dancers also tapped their way into the lineup with “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy” and “Shivers.” Thank you to all who came out to watch. We hope you had as much fun as we did.

With little time between the last session’s end and the start of the next one, all classes are working hard, as usual. Our most recent end-of-session performance, which included routines to “Joy” by Andy Grammer and “Big Spender” by Bette Midler, was held in the Recreation Center Ballroom, a change of venue for us.

On Andy Grammar’s inspiration for his song, Broadwayworld.com quotes him as saying, “I have always loved the word ‘joy’, I feel like it has a depth, a grounded spiritual center, something deeper and more substantial than hap-

health, and may even help lower blood pressure – all while you’re busy trying to remember where each foot goes. The steps work your legs, hips, core, and calves, helping build strength and stamina. And since it’s a weight-bearing activity, it’s also doing your bones a favor by helping keep them strong.

Line dancing is also wonderful for balance and coordination. Those choreographed routines keep your brain and body working together – sometimes successfully, sometimes with a laugh – but always improving! Best of all, it’s low-impact, gentle on the joints, and suitable for just about everyone.

And let’s not forget the mental benefits. Learning new dances keeps your

world.

If you would like to join the classes, the next session will be in September/October. Tickets go on sale on the OTOW App Tuesday, Aug. 4, through Friday, Aug. 14. AB, Beginner, and Improver classes are \$25 per level, and \$50 for the Intermediate level. You will also receive links to the dance step sheets and videos by email, usually two days before each class.

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

challenging, but a lot of fun. In the meantime, the tappers keep tapping, learning yet another routine to add to their growing repertoire. Penny is always stepping up the pace, teaching us new steps and combinations to challenge our brains, especially when she says, “Okay, now let’s do it on the left!”

We hope to see you at our recitals. The dates and times are usually posted in this article, but if not, the information will also be posted on several community Facebook pages. You can also email us at the address below. If your club or organization is running a meeting or a special event, we’d love to perform for you. Email us at broadwayandtap@yahoo.com for more information. Until next time, keep dancing!

brain sharp, while the music and movement help reduce stress and boost your mood. Plus, dancing with a group is a great way to meet people, share a few laughs, and maybe even make new friends. There’s nothing like finally getting a dance right to give you that little “I’ve got this!” moment.

We had a fantastic time celebrating St. Patrick’s Day in March. There was plenty of good food, great company, and we kicked things off with a fun contra-style dance, “Brady of Strabane.” Let’s just say ... there were smiles all around!

Country Line Dancing with Judy takes place every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sundays from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Arbor Conference Center Dance

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 offers so many tremendous health benefits, both physical and mental. 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).

Broadway & Tap Dancing

Elaine Voorhis



favorites. The tap dancers also tapped their way into the lineup with “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy” and “Shivers.” Thank you to all who came out to watch. We hope you had as much fun as we did.

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health, and may even help lower blood pressure – all while you’re busy trying to remember where each foot goes. The steps work your legs, hips, core, and calves, helping build strength and stamina. And since it’s a weight-bearing activity, it’s also doing your bones a favor by helping keep them strong.

Line dancing is also wonderful for balance and coordination. Those choreographed routines keep your brain and body working together – sometimes successfully, sometimes with a laugh – but always improving! Best of all, it’s low-impact, gentle on the joints, and suitable for just about everyone.

And let’s not forget the mental benefits. Learning new dances keeps your

Western Line Dancing

Judy Sullivan



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Studios. Each month, we add one or two new dances – don’t worry, we keep practicing the old ones too (because we all need that!). Be sure to register for classes through the OTOW App.

Want to improve faster? A little practice goes a long way! Watching the dances on YouTube can really help – plus, it’s a great excuse to dance around your living room.

For more information, visit our Facebook page (OTOW Country Line Dancing with Judy). The YouTube channel is Country Line Dancing with Judy 2024. If you have any questions, please email CountryLineDancingWithJudy@yahoo.com or text 973-903-8719.

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Jazz Dance Club

Liz Elliott Lieberman



The Ovation Dancers will be appearing in the new Murder Mystery, "At the CopaOcala" for the Latinos Club on Saturday, May 30. Tickets are almost sold out. Please refer to the Latinos Club column for ticket information.

For Veterans Day, we plan to pay tribute to "Women in the Military." If you have served in the military, please contact me at the email or number below. You will not have to dance, but maybe make a special appearance and walk across the stage. It would be wonderful if you still have your uniform!

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

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.

I recently attended the wonderful Ocala Symphony Orchestra's spring concert that celebrated the music of George Gershwin and Aaron Copland. When they played "An American in Paris," it brought back memories of my own career as a professional dancer, actress, and company manager. I was privileged to work for and meet some celebrated choreographers, Broadway actors, and directors, so in future columns I thought it would be fun to share stories about these remarkable people who have contributed so much to American theater and film.

I love the story Tommy Tune told me: that when he was rehearsing the movie "Hello Dolly" with Barbra Streisand, he was very young and nervous. He shyly asked the brilliant dancer and director, Gene Kelly, if he had any advice for him. Apparently, Gene Kelly turned to him and said, "Yes, young man. Dance better!" So with that thought, I wish you all happy dancing!

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

Ballet

Eugenie Martin



2023, the Ballet Club danced to "Carousel Overture" at the Health & Wellness Expo.

Right now, our club is busy giving classes five times each week. We are the only studio in Marion County to offer adult ballet classes regularly, at no cost! We charge only a one-time \$5 sign-up fee to have a little money in our "kitty" for gifts or new equipment.

Our newest class is Silver Swans, a special ballet class for more mature women. It was created by the Royal Academy of Dance in London, and is taught by Liz Elliott Lieberman, who attended the academy and is licensed to teach the class. Our other classes range from introductory/beginner to advanced/technique.

All of our classes are held at the Arbor Conference Center in Studio D. The schedule is as follows:

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

3:30 p.m.

- Silver Swans: Fridays, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Intermediate: Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Newcomers do not need ballet clothes to start our classes. All that is needed are stretchy exercise outfits and socks. When you have been dancing for a while, you can purchase ballet leotards, tights, and shoes. However, please remember to bring a bottle of water to class with you when you start.

For more information on our classes, please call Eugenie Martin at 352-854-8589. Happy dancing!



Photo by Liz Lieberman

The Ballet Club's Silver Swans.

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MAY 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>NADINE</small>
8:00 am	Cardio Boxing <small>NADINE</small>		Tai Chi <small>ALY</small>		Dance Aerobics <small>ALY</small>
9:00 am	S.O.S. <small>SCOTT</small>	Stretch, Flex & Balance <small>DEBBIE</small>	S.O.S. <small>JOHN C.</small>	Stretch, Flex & Balance <small>DEBBIE</small>	S.O.S. <small>DEBBIE</small>
9:00 am	Chair Pilates <small>ELLIAN</small>		BEAT <small>LORETTA</small>		Chair Pilates <small>ELLIAN</small>
10:00 am	Balanced Body <small>LARRY</small>	Chair Yoga <small>SANDRA</small>	Balanced Body <small>LORETTA</small>	Chair Yoga <small>LETTI</small>	Balanced Body <small>DEBBIE</small>
10:00 am	Chair Yoga <small>SANDRA</small>		Chair Yoga <small>SCOTT</small>		Chair Yoga <small>SCOTT</small>
11:00 am	Get Fit While You Sit* <small>LORETTA</small>	Brain Power <small>STEVEAN</small>	Get Fit While You Sit <small>JOE</small>	Sculpt* <small>ELLIAN</small>	Chair Dance <small>ALY</small>
11:00 am	Dance Aerobics <small>LORETTA</small>		Zumba* <small>NADINE</small>		Zumba* <small>NADINE</small>
12:00 pm		Parkinson's B.A.S.E.* <small>ELLIAN</small>		Move to Improve Parkinson's <small>SCOTT</small>	SATURDAY CLASSES: S.O.S. 9 am Chair Yoga 10 am
1:00 pm		Chair Chi <small>ALY</small>		Beginner/Intermediate Tai Chi <small>NANCY</small>	
3:00 pm	VYP Chair Yoga <small>JOE</small>	Balanced Body <small>VICKY</small>	Chair Yoga <small>VICKY</small>	Balanced Body <small>LORETTA</small>	
5:00 pm		Candlelight Yoga <small>LETTI</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-May.

ARBOR FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	STRONG* <small>ELLIAN</small>	STRONG <small>ELLIAN</small>	HIIT <small>RONA</small>	STRONG <small>ELLIAN</small>	STRONG* <small>JOHN C.</small>
9:00 am	Yoga <small>SANDRA</small>	Pilates Fusion <small>VICKY/ELLIAN</small>	Yoga <small>JOE</small>	Pilates Fusion <small>LORETTA</small>	Yin Yoga <small>HELENE</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>LETTI</small>	Yoga <small>SANDRA</small>	Yoga <small>TRISH</small>	Yoga <small>LETTI</small>	ABC Yoga* <small>TRISH</small>
4:00 pm	Muscle Fit <small>WCAE</small>	Strong and Steady <small>WCAE</small>		Interval Training <small>WCAE</small>	Dance Fit <small>WCAE</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. 7658.
 *Seasonal classes run from October-May.

ARBOR FITNESS CENTER INDOOR POOL CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9:00 am	Deep Water Aerobics <small>LARRY</small>	Shallow Water Aerobics <small>BUE</small>	Deep Water Aerobics <small>TRISH</small>	Shallow Water Aerobics <small>BARB</small>	Deep Water Aerobics <small>BUE</small>
10:00 am		Shallow Water Aerobics <small>SHERRIE</small>		Shallow Water Aerobics <small>BARB</small>	
12:30 pm		Shallow Water Aerobics <small>SHERRIE</small>		Shallow Water Aerobics <small>SHERRIE</small>	

Open Swim: Saturdays 7 AM - 8:15 PM; Sundays 9 AM - 6:45 PM
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SPRING LANDSCAPE CARE!



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.

Spring Services Include:

- Mulching services to refresh landscape beds
- Seasonal plant and bed maintenance
- Weed prevention and landscape clean-ups
- Tree and shrub care
- Soil enrichment and sustainable landscape practices



MULCH MATTERS AT ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Proper mulching helps keep our community landscapes healthy and sustainable. Sustainable Landscape Management recommends 3-inch depth. Recycling natural materials like grass clippings, leaves, and pine straw, we enrich the soil, reduce waste, and protect water quality throughout the community. Simple mulching practices benefit both our environment and our lifestyle.

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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- Chemical applications (turf, trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals)
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Sustainable
LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Velo Sport Bicycle Club

Nick Arkon



out for one another and build confidence on every ride.

The health benefits of cycling are a key part of Dennis's message. As a low-impact activity, it reduces stress on joints and core muscles while still delivering an effective cardiovascular workout. Regular riding improves heart function, circulation, and respiratory health, and increases stamina and endurance.

Cycling also enhances balance and coordination, reducing the risk of falls. It can improve vision through increased focus and awareness, and supports weight control by burning calories in a steady, sustainable way.

Equally important are the social benefits. Group rides foster friendships, reduce stress, and create a strong sense of community. What begins as exercise often becomes a highlight of the day.

Through his dedication and enthusiasm, Dennis Cicotte continues to inspire others to stay active, healthy, and connected. His message is clear: it's never too late to enjoy the ride.

Velo Sport Bicycle Club offers beginners and intermediate cyclists the opportunity to meet on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at the Power Park.

For beginners, contact Dennis Cicotte at 561-339-3588 for details on group rides and destinations. Intermediate cyclists contact Dan Oaks at 401-663-7085. For the advanced group, contact Nick Arkon at 864-336-3399 for specific dates, times, and locations.

Remember: you don't stop riding because you get old. You get old because you stop riding.

with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass are welcome to join us. You do not need to know how to play.

In October, On Top of the World is hosting a week-long event, the first annual On Top of the World Games, and the Ladies Shuffleboard Club will participate to demonstrate the basics of shuffleboard.

March

9-Sandy Welch. 8-Barbara Russell. 7-Sally Herrick, Diane Wanat, Donna Gilmore, Barbara Lewis, Helen Anderson.

30-plus-Darlene Clark, Gwyn Pinson.

Co-Ed Recreational Softball

Pat Wilbert



The CoEd Recreational Softball League continues to thrive, drawing an impressive turnout of players each Saturday. Although a few regulars were missing from the most recent group photo, their presence was certainly felt among teammates who describe the league as "a family that gets together to enjoy the sport we all love."

The league welcomes men and women of all ages and experience levels - from seasoned players to those returning to the game after many years. Participation has grown so much that organizers now field three teams whenever attendance reaches 30 or more. On lighter days, two teams still take the field for a spirited seveninning game.

To help new players feel at home, the league provides several gloves and team bats, though many participants bring

their own equipment. Beginning in late spring and continuing through early summer, the start time will shift to 8:30 a.m. to stay ahead of the rising heat.

Chris Lopez, who has managed the teams for several years, remains the driving force behind the weekly organization. During the months when she travels north, Charlie and Pat Wilbert step in to help keep the games running smoothly. The league also celebrates standout moments, including Eric "Superstar" Johnsen's impressive outfield plays and Craig Fox's recent grand slam in the men's league. Regular volunteers like Herb, Brian, and Paul are always ready to run for other players and support the flow of the game.

Residents interested in joining are invited to come out on Saturdays at 8:30 a.m., with games beginning around 8:45 a.m. Warmup and throwing practice take place beforehand, offering a friendly way to meet fellow players.

The league looks forward to welcoming new faces and continuing its tradition of fun, fitness, and camaraderie.

Horseshoes Club

Vern Kessler



The Horseshoe Club is free to join - no monthly dues, and everything needed to pitch shoes is provided. Just come out and join the fun.

The month of March had the club pitching a total of 6,200 shoes, playing 155 matches and throwing 1,205 ringers. The club's ringer percentage for March was 19.44%.

March

66 (16 ringers)-Kevin Cullinane. 60 (15 ringers)-Paul Lariviere. 57 (13 ringers)-Gary Null. 56 (14 ringers)-Dave Laliberte.

Cliff Dallas had a total of 13 wins for the month, followed by Kevin Cullinane with 11 wins and Vern Kessler with 10 wins.

Cliff Dallas had the highest ringer percentage (55%) and the highest point

average (60.28) for the month. He also had six ringers in a row, giving him his fourth triple-double achievement.

Paul Gutterman increased his point average by 5.3 points.

This was the club's last month of competitive horseshoe pitching. The club will continue to pitch for fun on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. throughout the summer months. This is a great time to come out and try on pitching shoes with the club members. The club pitches at the pits in Veterans Park and has open practices on Thursdays at 9 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.

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

Contact Vern Kessler at 321-268-3179 or vkmicheal214@gmail.com with any questions.

Ladies Shuffleboard

Lois Nix



We are completing our 2025-2026 season of shuffleboard at the end of May. The good news is that we will continue to play through the summer; the courts are reserved for our club year-round.

During the summer, we do not keep weekly scores. All women residents

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Ohio Buckeyes Social Club

Tami Rossignol



place in the shuffleboard contest. We extend our gratitude to the entire social committee for planning such an amazing first event of the year. Everyone had a wonderful time and truly enjoyed the day!

Be sure to save the date for our next event, Friday, May 1, for the Derby party and bourbon tasting at the Arbor Conference Center. Other events coming up include the Independence Day cookout and ice cream social, Halloween party, holiday party, and numerous football game watch parties. The social committee is also planning smaller, interest-driven gatherings throughout the year. If you're interested in joining or renewing your membership in the Ohio Buckeyes Social Club, please email Buckeyefans34481@gmail.com. Annual dues are \$20 per person. The club is open to any resident who has ties to or an interest in the state of Ohio.

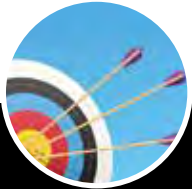


Photo by John Rossignol

Ohio Buckeyes Social Club at the Veterans Park pavilion.

Archery Club

Robin Schiltz



State competition with a perfect score of 300 on day one and a two-day total score of 599 out of 600. Adding to that, she took first place at the USA Nationals in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and set a new two-day record with a 1007 score. Lastly, Patty continued her winning streak with a first-place win at the NFAA Nationals in Memphis, Tennessee.

The Archery Club is excited to announce our Archer Achievement Program, designed to celebrate the progress and accomplishments of our members as they develop their barebow and Olympic recurve skills. Forty members participated in the first phase of the

achievement shoots, each shooting 10 ends of three arrows at distances of 10, 15, and 20 yards.

As members conquer each distance, their scores and ranks are recorded on the club website. Congratulations to those archers who ranked this month.

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

Additionally, we have practitioners of the martial art of kyudo, which emphasizes the spiritual and mental development of the archer through slow, deliberate movements. To learn more about kyudo, 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. to noon. Club mentors are at the range and available to assist our novice archers with skill improvement. If you are considering joining the club, we invite you to stop by during Freestyle Friday for a quick introduction to the club and range.

For more in-depth knowledge, we hold workshops for members on various aspects of the sport. Additionally, Patty Hoppe hosts Archery Fundamentals and Shooting workshops at the range on the



Photo by Rick Kammes

Kammes archery.

third Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. Topics vary monthly, and a fun shoot is held after each workshop. All club members are welcome.

Club 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 Fridays during Freestyle Friday. Or, for additional information, please contact Chuck at chuck-archery@strickland.net or 407-257-9668 or Suzi at susanne.shea61@gmail.com or 908-510-5714.

As always, keep it in the yellow.

R/C Car Club

John Schoenherr



Summer is on its way, which means outdoor racing will switch from afternoons to mornings, effective Friday, May 1. All other race schedules remain the same.

Also expected in the May/June timeframe is new home construction at the current race track location, which means that the outdoor track will be moving sometime this summer. The new car track location will be north of the current one, near the border between On Top of the World and Stone Creek. This area is currently a pasture and will be converted to an airfield, drone field, and car track. Completion of this construction is expected by September, so outdoor car racing may be paused for some time during the summer.

But there will always be slot car racing in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II through December. This may be a time for outdoor racers to take a look at slot cars to keep their adrenaline flowing during the summer construction period.

Updates on the car track construction plans will be made at the monthly club meetings on the first Monday of each month and on the club's Facebook page.

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.

March

Traxxas-Bob Herbst. Two-wheel buggy-Jim Printer. Four-wheel buggy-Jim Siltman. Pan Car-Bob Paxson. Modified-Ron Kaulfersch. Two-wheel truck-Chuck Walls. Limited-Ron Kaulfersch. Touring-Bob Herbst. Sportsman-Larry Ericksmoen. Truggy-Rear Morse. NASCAR-Chuck Walls.

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Billiards Club



Phil Panzera

Congratulations to our ladies' league team, who just finished their competition with a resounding win over three other 55-plus communities: Oak Run, Ocala Palms, and Cherrywood.

The ladies' league started in September 2025 and ran for eight months. Team members included Captain Lulu Kerkhoff, Co-captain Debbie Radicchi, Dianne Carrano, Lynne Dickson, Robin Greene, Shelly Karsnitz, and Penny Wilson.

Tip of the Month: Here is a surprisingly simple tip that can significantly improve your accuracy in just seconds. Sounds too good to be true? It's not, but ... you must remember to do it. In our Wednesday night classes, I continuously harp on this mechanical flaw, and the next day or even 10 minutes after class, I see many people still making the same mistake.

It's incredibly simple. Really. Doing this will immediately improve your shot-making. Right away. First shot. Trust me.

Okay, enough buildup, here's the tip. First, though, when you read the above, did you think that it didn't apply to you? That you would remember? If so, great, but please know that most everyone I tell this to goes back to their same old routine the next day.

It's like changing how you brush your teeth; it's understandably hard.



Photo by Richie Carrano

Billiards Club ladies league champions.

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So, please make a very conscious effort to remember it. And do it. Okay, ready for it? Promise to remember? Great!

The vast majority of regular players put their cue tip way too far from the cue ball, which I would describe as anything more than about a half inch. Ideally, the best distance is about a cigarette's width away (but if you occasionally graze the cue ball accidentally, then back off slightly to a safe distance).

There is a simple reason why this is so vitally important. One of the biggest reasons that amateurs miss is inadvertent side spin, meaning that they are hitting the cue ball left or right of the vertical axis (north pole to south pole).

If you hit high or low on the cue ball, the ball goes straight. However, hitting left or right of center causes the cue ball to squirt (deflect) to the opposite side. This is disastrous for your accuracy. Over the length of the table, a cue ball can deflect easily more than the width of a pool ball!

The solution is simple – keep that tip in the center of the ball (or anywhere on the vertical axis). The best practice (and it's what I do on every shot) is the very first second, I am down, I am locking in that I am absolutely, positively on the vertical axis. Not close to it. Not about on it. On it. Period. After I have done that, I aim. If you aim first, you often realize you are not centered, move your tip later, and screw up your aim. Don't! Lock it in first!

And did I mention that you might forget to do this tomorrow? I did? Good. Please don't forget. You can thank me later.

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R/C Sailing Club



Gene Mangold

Every Wednesday and Sunday at noon, the "Ocala sailors" transform the west side of Tusawilla Park into a race-course. With lawn chairs lined up and radio transmitters in hand, the club's skippers focus intensely on their vessels.

The DF95 class is a popular choice for remote-control enthusiasts because it is a "strict one-design" class. This means every boat is built to identical specifications regarding its carbon fiber mast, keel, and hull shape. The rules are designed to ensure that the winning boat is determined by the skipper's skill rather than the depth of their pockets.

We have a variety of other boats racing, as all are welcome, except the popular DF95. Generally, for a single-hull non-planning boat, the length determines the speed. So, if you have a one-meter boat (39 inches), you will be competitive. We usually have five to 11 boats at the starting line, with an approximate 5-minute wait around the four marks.

"It's about reading the wind and tuning your boat," says Gene, one of the club's founding members. You have to anticipate the wind shifts just like in a full-sized yacht. The only difference is, when you make a mistake, you don't get wet."

Despite their miniature size - measuring just 950mm (about 37") long - the DF95 sailboats are serious racing machines:

- No Engine: Propulsion is entirely provided by the wind.

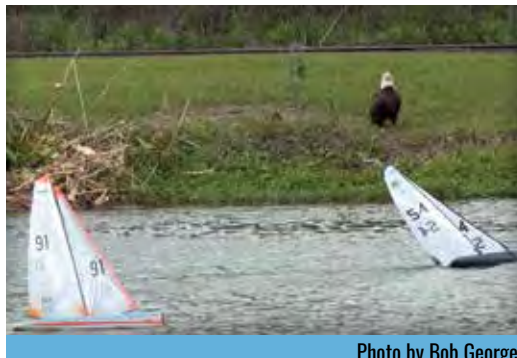


Photo by Bob George

Eagle view.

- Winch Control: The skipper controls the rudder for steering and a sail winch to tighten or loosen the main and jib sails, adjusting for different "points of sail."
- Carbon Components: Features include a carbon-fiber keel fin, a one-piece carbon mast, and durable Mylar racing sails.
- Portability: They are easy to transport, often fully rigged, making them accessible to a wide range of ages.

The club now boasts around 20 regular skippers, ranging from retired seasoned sailors looking to stay connected to the sport to newcomers fascinated by the technology. The presence of young spectators suggests the hobby's appeal is generational.

We love having the community come out. Bring a chair, ask questions. We're always happy to show people how they work.

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

Bocce Club



Kathy Nastally

In your spring cleanup, are you still finding Easter eggs in your yard? If you are, good hiding! Our Tuesday/Thursday bocce league season has come to an end. But the good times are far from over, and the bocce balls are still rolling!

Results of the best-of-bocce tournaments are forthcoming. Winner announcements and photos are posted courtside on our bulletin boards. Our new members are catching on quickly to the nuances of the game. Without rain, the courts are rolling fast, and like me, sometimes the hardest skill to learn is the control of ball speed. This skill will improve over time with practice.

Open play continues all year on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 08:30 a.m. The luck of the draw format is used to determine teams and courts by drawing cards. We are limited to 48 players, so please arrive at least 15 minutes early. We play two games to 16 points each; the first team to 16 points wins.

Our Tuesday and Thursday leagues will resume competition in October.

Membership is \$15 and is valid through Sept. 30. Everyone must sign the hold harmless forms. Gateway of

Service passes and resident IDs will be verified when you join. The bocce courts are near the tennis courts behind the Arbor Fitness Center.

Everyone is welcome to play outside of open play times and when other groups are not occupying the courts. Crated balls are located under the benches at each court. Court one is accessible to people with disabilities, and a portion of the wall is removable for access. Each court has handles on the columns for player support when stepping onto and off the court. A drinking fountain is located courtside, and lighting is available for nighttime play. Closed-toe shoes are required on the courts.

Our point challenge winners are becoming more frequent. Mark Linse, out of Tuesday's 11 a.m. league, snagged the honor for a second time on March 10. Jim McWinney soon followed him on Saturday, March 21, during open play. This challenge requires the pallina to be rolled onto the point spot on the court, without calling for it to be placed on the point. The pallina must cover at least half of the point, and the placement must be verified by two players, a league representative, or a board member. It is a difficult challenge, but it is so much fun to try to "make the point."

Please contact our club president, Pam Brown, at 970-531-1890 for any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you soon. Come on out. Enjoy some healthy competition, fun, and let the bocce balls roll!

Cornhole Club



Ray Nault

The mixed league finished its season with Ken and Jennifer Goodhue taking first place with a 13 to two record. Dave and Cindy Ramsfield finished second with 10 wins and five losses. The league is all about great sportsmanship, competition, and fun.

Open play continues to be busy. Monday and Wednesday are still the most

heavily attended, but Thursday is gaining popularity. We set up boards at 4:45 p.m. and begin play at 5 p.m., or when we have the first 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.

We encourage beginners to take our beginners class to learn the techniques and rules of cornhole. The classes are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. To register for the class, please contact Linda Nault at Lnault52@gmail.com. Cornhole is played at the Veterans Park.

Weight Loss Group



Lori Beth Green

Now that spring has sprung, and the beautiful Florida weather is providing us with more energy, warmth, and sunshine, are you ready to get healthier and reach your weight loss goals? If so, come and 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 Trepper. On Tuesdays, we meet in the Arbor Activity Center Event Room I. Weigh-in starts at 9:15 a.m., and the meeting begins at 10 a.m. Beth Reynolds is the leader.

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

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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A Growing Treasure

By B.J. Leckbee

Our library now offers more than 17,000 books for your reading enjoyment. This includes large print books and audiobooks. All were donated by our residents. And they are filed using the same system used by other libraries across the country.

Rita Mandl oversees the inventory, which is documented on index cards organized by author and title. This is available to all and can be very helpful if you know the book's title but not the author – or vice versa.

Our library has benefited not only our residents, but others as well.

When duplicate books (in good condition, please) are received, they are sent to Freedom Library, delivered personally once each week by one of our volunteers. In 2025, our library donated more than 7,000 books to Freedom Library.

Maintaining this inventory requires time, energy, and muscle. We are fortunate and thankful to have resident

volunteers who donate their time every week to keep our library functioning smoothly. That special group includes Diana Rieagler and Toni Lagattuta, who have been donating their time to the library for more than 20 years.

Please note that we cannot accept Reader's Digest Condensed Books, dictionaries, encyclopedias, textbooks, cookbooks, Bibles, books on finance or investment that are older than one year, or medical books that are older than two years. Please help us by disposing of unacceptable items elsewhere.

Interest in our jigsaw puzzle inventory continues to grow. We now have puzzles ranging from 200 to 1,000 pieces. One corner of the library has been set aside to accommodate this popular addition.

Our library is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. All you need is your resident ID card to enter this very special place.

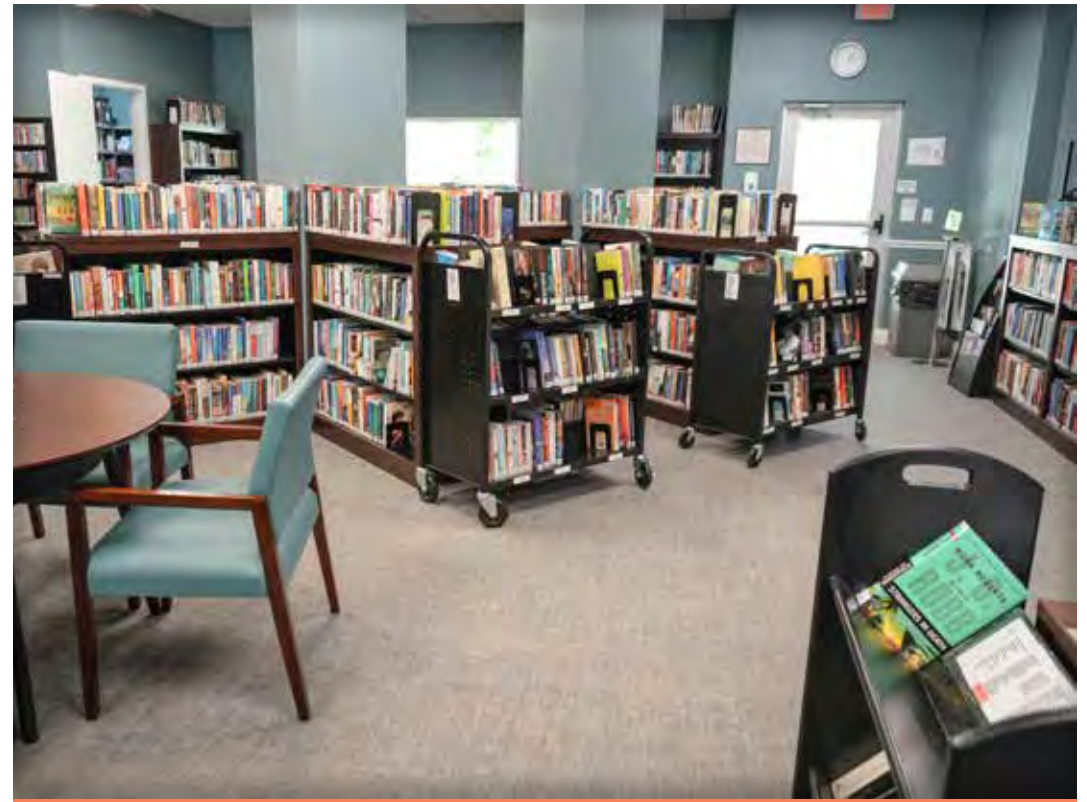


Photo by Dave DeAngelis

The Hobby Building Library is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.



Photo courtesy of Master the Possibilities

Geoffrey Wawro will deliver new perspectives on the Vietnam War in "Reassessing Vietnam: New Revelations" on Tuesday, May 5.

'Exploring 250 Years of America' Inspires Learning & Connection

By Michelle Shideler

If you haven't felt the energy at the Master the Possibilities Education Center this term, you have missed something truly special, because "Exploring 250 Years of America" hasn't just been a theme; it has been an experience.

This curriculum has come alive in ways that remind us why lifelong learning matters. With an incredible lineup of history-focused courses and special presentations, we have taken our students on a journey from the founding of our nation to the world we live in today.

From powerful presentations on influential leaders and defining moments to deeper dives into topics like wartime America, civil rights, and Florida's own history, every class has offered a new perspective.

What I've loved most, though, is the excitement. You can feel it the moment you walk into a classroom. Students are asking questions, sharing insights, and connecting what they're learning to their own experiences. Our instructors and speakers have brought passion, depth, and creativity to every session, and together they have created something truly special. This has been a celebration of learning, community, and curiosity.

And the momentum continues into May with some outstanding events you won't want to miss.

On Monday, May 4, we kick things off with our special presentation, "How Women Won the Vote: Virtual Tour of the 19th Amendment," at the National Constitution Center. This event will take place in Live Oak Hall and offers participants a live, virtual docent-led tour of the newest exhibit highlighting this period in history. Cost for members to attend is \$8, and \$13 for the general public.

As a guest presenter on Tuesday, May 5, Geoffrey Wawro will deliver an eye-opening session exploring new perspectives on the Vietnam War in "Reassessing Vietnam: New Revelations." Wawro is the university distinguished research professor and founding director of the Military History Center at the University of North Texas. He is a regular expert on outlets such as the History Channel, Netflix, and Discovery. The cost to attend this rare appearance lecture is \$8 for members and \$13 for the general public.

Our Monday, May 11, presentation is not only theme-related but also anniversary-significant. Join us for "A Virtual Tour of the 9/11 Memorial and Museum" on the 25th anniversary year. This moving experience brings the memorial to life through guided storytelling and visuals, honoring the lives lost and the resilience that followed. Don't miss this 3 to 4 p.m. presentation in Live Oak Hall. Cost to attend is \$8 for members and \$13 for the general public.

Finally, on Monday, May 25, attend the Memorial Day Ceremony starting at 8 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Park. Co-sponsored with the Recreation Center, this special event honors the men and women who gave all in service to our country. It is a meaningful way for our community to reflect, remember, and show gratitude. There is no cost to attend this event.

These events truly capture the spirit of this curriculum. If you have been part of this journey, you already know how meaningful it's been. And if you haven't yet joined us, there's still time.

Registration assistance is available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. by calling 352-861-9751. Registration is available 24/7 at masterthepossibilities.org.

Capturing the Moment

By Mark Holmes

Photography occupies a fascinating space in the creative world, straddling the line between high art and everyday pastime. Few mediums are as democratic: nearly everyone with a smartphone can take a picture, yet the same medium produces museumworthy works that command deep emotional and cultural resonance. This dual identity isn't a contradiction – it's the source of photography's enduring power for 200 years.

Artistic photographers think in terms of light, composition, timing, and narrative. They study how shadows sculpt a subject, how color influences mood, and how perspective can turn something ordinary into art. The camera becomes a tool of interpretation rather than a tool of documentation. A landscape isn't just a record of a place; it's a visual poem shaped by the photographer's choices. A portrait isn't merely a likeness; it's a conversation between the subject and the artist's vision. When practiced at this level, photography becomes a language – one capable of expressing subtle emotion, social commentary, or pure aesthetic beauty.

Yet photography is equally at home as a casual hobby. Millions of people take photos simply to preserve memories, share moments, or explore the world with a bit more curiosity. There's joy in snapping a picture of a family gathering, a pet doing something ridiculous, or a sunset that feels too perfect not to capture. Casual photography thrives on spontaneity and personal meaning. The value of these images lies in the stories they hold, not in their artistic quality. A slightly blurry photo of a child's first steps may never hang in a gallery, but it

can be priceless to the person who took it.

What makes photography unique is that these two modes – artistic and casual – aren't mutually exclusive. Many great photographers began as hobbyists, discovering over time that their curiosity could evolve into a craft. Likewise, seasoned professionals often find inspiration in the unplanned, imperfect moments that hobbyists capture naturally. The boundary between art and hobby is porous, shaped more by intention than by equipment or expertise.

Visit Shutterbugs Photography Club, where you will learn and grow in the art – or the hobby – of photography. May will be an exciting time to join us. We'll begin with a field trip to the Master Blend Cattle Farm on Tuesday, May 5, followed by a landscape photography session at our Tuesday, May 12 meeting at 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room.

The following Tuesday, we'll hold our show-and-tell session, during which member photos will be displayed and discussed. Our last monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 26, will feature another educational topic: "Building a Photography Website," presented by John Rosignol.

Check out the photo display at Master the Possibilities, featuring the work of member Harry Boyajian.

From hobbyist to visual artist, everyone is welcome, and as our motto says, "Those who don't know should ask, those who do know should show and tell." For more information, contact Garry Voith at garry.voith@gmail.com or 410-241-5079.



Photo generated by Mark Holmes

Photography – two ways.

Recreation



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

Recreation is on the move, and we can't wait to welcome you to our new offices! The Recreation administration offices have officially relocated to a new, refreshed space designed with you in mind. This exciting move allows us to better serve our community. The same friendly team, ready to help you stay active and engaged. You can find us at 8435 SW 80th Street, Suite 2, in Circle Square Commons. There will still be employees to assist you in the Recreation Center; for room set-ups, AV needs, and OTOW App assistance we are here for you!

The OTOW App (available in the App Store and Google Play) is your all-in-one guide for everything that is happening! The app allows you to register for events, book rooms, and pay for events, excursions, and classes from any device. After approval (up to 72 hours), you'll have 24/7 access. No smart device? Visit the Recreation Center or our new offices to use the OTOW App kiosks.

We are pleased to announce that the Recreation Center pool is now family-friendly, welcoming supervised children during regular pool hours without restriction. The Summit pools are adult-only; no guests under 15 are permitted. Please be patient with pool signage. We are updating all community pool rule signs to reflect these changes. More good news for residents' pool use, coming soon, all community pools will be open until 10 p.m. We anticipate the new hours will go into effect by June.

Recreation Center

Happy Hour (Free)

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

Upcoming entertainment is as follows:

- May 8: Rock Solid
- May 22: Soundwaves

Music at the Pool Pavilion (Free)

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

- Sunday, May 3: Steve Lazarus
- Saturday, May 9: Crystal Vision
- Sunday, May 17: Steel Drum Randy

Tropic Trivia Reservations

If you would like to try your hand at Tropic Trivia, May 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 purchase, the buyer should come to the Recreation Department to select their table. First-come, first-served. See the OTOW App for details.

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, May 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. Gerry Coe is the musical guest for this night. Bring your beverages and snacks. See you there! \$5 guest fee applies.

Movie Night (Free)

Join us for a cinematic night out! Join us on Thursday, May 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. This month's movie is "Solo Mio." The movie title is displayed in several places: the Recreation Center lobby movie sign, on the virtual calendar, and 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 that the Ballroom will not be accessible as a cut-through to or from the pool or The Pub during this time. Please make your way around the building so the "theater" remains dark and the movie can be shown uninterrupted.

For all events requiring registration, please use the OTOW App. The required payment is due at the time of registration. Event registrations are non-transferable, and no refunds will be issued within 14 days of any event or excursion.

The Summit

Happy Hour (Free)

On selected Fridays, from 5 to 8 p.m., join us for Happy Hour. Bring your own snacks and drinks, enjoy music and dancing, and celebrate your community. This spectacular venue is a great place to gather with neighbors and make new friends! Happy Hour is free for all residents who hold a resident ID. Resident IDs are required to enter the building. Anyone without an ID is considered a

guest. Guest fees apply at \$5 per person. Children under 15 are not permitted. Upcoming entertainment includes:

- May 1: Pure Magic
- May 15: Bootlegger
- May 29: Tim Hargis

The Lodge at Candler Hills

Virtual & Live Fitness Classes (Free)

Have fun and get fit.

- Mondays (9 a.m.): Chair Pilates with a livestream instructor.
- Mondays (10 a.m.): Chair Yoga with a livestream instructor.
- Wednesdays (9 a.m.): 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 of 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 all levels of dance.

Open Game & Card Play (Free)

Every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Card Room is open for game day. Bring your games and cards and have a great time.

Happy Hour (Free)

It's time to relax, mingle, and enjoy great company! Join your neighbors for a fun and friendly Happy Hour from 5 to 8 p.m., filled with conversation, laughter, and community spirit. \$5 guest fee applies. The entertainment schedule is as follows:

- May 2: Fred Campbell
- May 16: Automatic Duo

Kocktails & Karaoke (Free)

Get ready for a lively evening of music, laughter, and community. Sing with your neighbors for a fun-filled sing-along where everyone is welcome to grab the mic. Enjoy the fun on Thursday, May 7, from 5 to 8 p.m. with Cheryl Jensen! Bring beverages and table snacks. \$5 guest fee applies.

Girls Night Out (Free)

Grab your girlfriends and get ready for a fun night on the dance floor! Join us for an energetic evening of music, laughter, and great company. Be part of the fun on Thursday, May 14, from 5 to 8 p.m. with Lisa Beck. Bring your own beverage and table snacks, and have some fun. \$5 guest fee applies.

Musical Game Night

Enjoy this musical fun night on Wednesday, May 20, 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.

Poolside Entertainment (Free)

Spend a relaxing afternoon poolside under the pavilion, enjoying live music with Steve Lazarus on Sunday, May 31, from 1 to 4 p.m. Soak up the sunshine, take a refreshing swim, or simply sit back and enjoy great music with your neighbors. 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:

- May 1: Tony Machicote
- May 8: Kathy & Mike Gallenberger



- May 15: Sandra & Alex
- May 22: Lou Gagliardo

Trivia

Get in on some friendly and fun competition with your neighbors and friends at trivia on Monday, May 4, 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.

Poolside Bash (Free)

Join us for fun in the sun with live music with Steven Lazarus on Wednesday, May 13, from 3 to 5 p.m. Bring your swimsuit, a towel, and your best energy. Let's make a splash!

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, May 21, 5 to 7 p.m. Bring beverages and snacks. Feel free to sing solo or in a group.

Music Trivia

Challenge your mind by playing rounds of music trivia and "Name That Tune" on Thursday, May 28, from 3 to 5 p.m. First, second, and third-place prizes will be awarded. The cost is \$5 per resident and \$10 per guest.

The Landing

Karaoke (Free)

Step up to the mic and join your neighbors for an exciting karaoke night with Cheryl Jensen on Monday, May 4, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Poolside Live Music (Free)

Searching for the ideal way to spend a sunny weekday afternoon? Come unwind by the pool and enjoy live music from 1 to 4 p.m. The entertainment is as follows:

- Thursday, May 14: Steven Lazarus
- Sunday, May 24: Steel Drum Randy

Game On (Free)

Ready to get your game on? Bring your favorite board game or challenge a neighbor to a round of ping pong for a night of laughter, friendly competition, and community fun on Wednesday, May 27, from 5 to 8 p.m.

World Class Active Aging Virtual Fitness Classes (Free)

Have fun and get fit.

- Mondays (9 a.m.): Chair Pilates with a livestream instructor.
- Mondays (10 a.m.): Chair Yoga with a livestream instructor.
- Wednesdays (9 a.m.): Chair Yoga with a live instructor. Fridays (9 a.m.): Virtual, pre-recorded World Class Active Aging.

Visit the OTOW App for the wellness schedule!

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On Top of the World BUS SCHEDULE
Monday - Thursday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For information, call 352-789-5666.

World Meditation Day

May 21, 2026 | 1 PM
Recreation Center

Join us in celebration of World Meditation Day with a calming class designed to help you experience the art and practice of meditation. Discover simple techniques to quiet the mind, reduce stress, and find inner balance. Whether you're new to meditation or deepening your practice, this peaceful session offers tools to bring mindfulness into everyday life.

Recreation Center

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 CopaOcala!" The performance will be on Saturday, May 30, in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios II-IV. We are almost sold out for this performance, so please call Silvia Garcia at 561-801-8188 for ticket availability.

As we begin rehearsals for this show, we are also planning a completely new scripted show written by the Murder Mystery Dinner Theater Club for the Friends of SPCA. Projected for mid-November, there will be three performances, so we hope to see you at one of these

hilarious and fun productions.

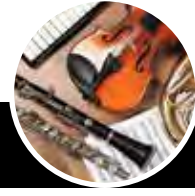
We perform for smaller groups of under 120 people within On Top of the World Communities. This results in more intimate and engaging shows where the audience gets to guess "whodunnit!" Dinner is often part of the ticket price. We believe that laughter is the best medicine, and so the audience gets to giggle along with our "over the top" characters.

We rehearse on Mondays from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Studio D.

For more information regarding the Murder Mystery Dinner Theater Club, please contact Liz Lieberman at Lizzy-lieberman@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 organization or club.

The New Pretenders

Nancy Grabowski



The New Pretenders are hard at work despite it being our off-season! The preparation for our new show, coming in February 2027, is a work in progress.

However, we are also making time for some fun activities.

Recently, we climbed aboard two airboats for a wild afternoon out in the swamps. The fun was enhanced by lots of sun and a few pesky mosquitoes. We followed up our adventure with a family-style dinner at a local barbecue place. A great time (filled with plenty of jokes,

teasing, and laughs) was had by all!

Another group activity is our annual bowling party. Two-time high score winner, Tom Miller, is ready to take on all comers for the title. Competition always runs high, almost as high as the fun and laughter. The party is planned for August in Dunnellon. We'd welcome some cheerleaders to join our squad.

Perhaps these little insights into a troupe member's life behind the scenes might have you wondering about joining us. We'd welcome the opportunity to tell you more, encourage you to pick up an instrument (even if you have no formal training), and join our fun group.

We are also looking to add a few instruments to our collection. If you have any you wish to donate, please give us a call! You can reach Nancy Grabowski, director, at 352-209-4699.



Photo by Percy Millet

Janet Dickerson as Cathy Teria and Jodylyne Rowswell as Bathseba in "The Haunting of Ashford High."



Photo by Lennie Rodoff

Bob Wroblewski, Fran Allen, Renee Schneck, Judy Singer, Gloria Emmons, Fran Jones, and Tom Miller.

Broadway Playhouse

Elaine Morrison



probably be a determining factor for the club's future productions.

New members are needed, so please consider joining us for the exciting times ahead. At this moment, we need someone to inventory the costume collection. Please contact otowbroadway-playhouse@gmail.com for more information.

The next official club event will be a "Singo" contest sometime in August. More details will be available next month.

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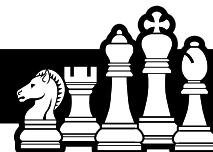
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CARDS & GAMES



Bingo

Nancy Grabowski



4: Diane Robinson & Carol Johnson.
March 16
 1: Judy Mackowick & Phyllis Silverman; 2: Donna Peters & Rad D; 3: Mar Valchin & Bruce Gillette; 4: Carolyn Higgins & V.J. Hentz.

March 23
 1: Phyllis Silverman and Judy Mackowiak; 2: Beverly Meirick & Craig Ford; 3: Mar Valchin and Bruce Gillett; 4: Dennis & C.J. Dust.

March 30
 1: Bruce Gillette & Mar Valchin; 2: Carol Johnson & Diane Robinson; 3: Donna Peters & Rad D; 4: Mary Bloch & Billie Anderson.

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 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.

March 17
 1: Sharon Miller & Arlene Loepp; 2: Dan Lack & Vera Mangold; 3: Barbara Heller & Jack Heller; 4: Bob Kraus & Virginia Collins; 5: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen.

March 24
 1: Julian Wachs & Liz Wachs; 2: Jean Krueger & Sophie Redman; 3: Barbara Heller & Jack Heller; 4: Bob Kraus & Virginia Collins; 5: Dan Lack & Vera Mangold.

March 31
 1: Sharon Miller & Arlene Loepp; 2: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; 3: Barbara Heller & Jack Heller; 4: Gary Moses & Diane Turkin; 5: Bob Kraus & Virginia Collins.

April 7
North/South
 1: Bob Kraus & Virginia Collins; 2: Julian Wachs & Liz Wachs; 3: Diane Turkin & Gary Moses;

East/West
 1: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; 2: Sharon Miller & Arlene Loepp; 3: Carolyn Higgins & V.J. Hentz.

Wednesday Afternoon
 By Debbie Quinn

March 4
 1: Bruce Gillett; 2: Debbie Quinn; 3: Kurt Baumgartner; Cons: V.J. Hentz.

March 11
 1: Kurt Baumgartner; 2: Mary Bloch; 3: Linda Yuen; Cons: Marlene Floeckher.

March 18
 1: Billie Andersen; 2: Carolyn Higgins; 3: Craig Ford;

Cons: Bob Durst.

March 25
 1: Trudy Baumgartner; 2: Dianne Robinson; 3: Kurt Baumgartner; Cons: Bob Durst.

Thursday Afternoon
 By Trudy Baumgartner

March 5
 1: Bruce Gillett; 2: Billie Andersen; 3: Carolyn Higgins; 4: Betty Schaff.

March 12
 1: Craig Ford; 2: Dianne Robinson; 3: Linda Yuen; 4: Kurt Baumgartner; 5: Pat Quinn.

March 19
 1: Marlene Floeckher; 2: Bob Knowles; 3: Trudy Baumgartner; 4: Bev Merrick.

March 26
 1: Bruce Gillett; 2: Judy Mackowiak; 3: Al Kremer; 4: Pat Quinn.

Bunco



Bunco Babes
 By Micki 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, May 26.

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
 By Cindy Arkebauer

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. Our theme is flowered attire or a hat in honor of the Kentucky Derby. Wearing themed attire is optional. There is no fee to participate. Bring a beverage or snack to share if you wish. See you soon!

April
 Most Buncos: Barbara.
 Most Wins: Paul Disclafani.
 Mini Buncos: Katherine.
 Most Losses: Cheryl.

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.

We welcome new players to join us. We're a non-competitive group of all experience levels. In recent weeks, in addition to our regular tables of players, we have had a table for those just learning the game.

If you would like more information, please email judith.parisi@gmail.com.

Euchre



Friday Night
 By Mary Bloch

Spring has sprung, and it is time for you to add euchre to your fun-time schedule. For information, email mary.bloch@yahoo.com.

March 6
 1: Scott Bloch; 2: Trudy Baumgartner; 3: Pete Jacob.

March 13
 1: Gary Moses; Tie at 2: Joe Winterrowd, Bruce Tredinnick; 3: Lloyd Beitel.

March 20
 1: Linda Brown; Tie at 2: Dan Brady, Scott Bloch; 3: Tom Nutt.

March 27
 Tie at 1: Kurt Baumgartner, Phyllis Jarskey, Jean Gillette; Tie at 2: Terry Champion, Bob Kraus; 3: Chris Stonebreaker.

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

March 3
 1: Robert Moravec; 2: Andy Nuccio; 3: Ray Kallai.

March 10
 1: Al Whitford; 2: Ray Kallai; 3: Norma Miles.

March 17
 1: Andy Nuccio; 2: Herb Katz; 3: Dawn Bunyak.

March 24
 1: James Tomszek; 2: Marlene Floeckher; 3: Dan Ebbinghausen.

March 31
 1: Andy Nuccio; 2: Al Whitford; 3: Pat Noel.

Friday Morning
 By Andy Nuccio

March 13
 1: Cheryl Adams. 2: Andy Nuccio. 3: Ilene Casper.

March 20
 1: Bruce Gillett. 2: Cheryl Adams. 3: Abe Toubail.

March 27
 1: Ilene Casper. 2: Russ Hamm. 3: Cheryl Adams.

April 3
 1: Judy Fries. 2: Gayle Argano. 3: Bruce Gillett.

CONSERVATION FUN FACT

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

Bridge



Monday Afternoon
 By Carol Johnson

March 2
 1: Judy Mackowick & Phyllis Silverman; 2: Mary Bloch & Kurt Baumgartner; 3: Donna Peters & Rad D.; 4: Sylvia Zelkin & Carol Johnson.

March 9
 1: Craig Ford & Kurt Baumgartner; 2: Jack Heller & Steve Sekac; 3: Phyllis Silverman & Judy Mackowiak;

Writers Club



Paul DiSclafani

The president of Red Penguin Books, Stephanie Larkin, was the guest speaker at the April meeting. Red Penguin has published all three of my books.

Stephanie, speaking via Zoom from her New York office, led a lively discussion about various publishing options available to writers. From traditional publishing to self-publishing to ghost-writing, our club members were encouraged to "write that book!"

That's the name of the game for anyone who always thought they could be a writer. You can, you just have to do it.

Everyone has a story inside them, and the Writers Club is a place where writers from all genres come together to share their stories. More importantly, our members rely on each other as a resource to get answers to their questions.

The club offers advice and experience not only from published authors but also from speakers who discuss their fields of expertise. In May, Jon D' Amore, a writer from New York, will talk about his books on organized crime.

In June, author Sheryl Nord will discuss her paranormal romance books. In July, Reverend James Snyder, a columnist from the Marion Citizen, will talk about what it takes to be a weekly news-

Poetry



Where Does Love Go

By Barbara A. Scales

Where does love go when decided done
Where does the passion flow
Does it tuck tail, and go on the run

Does it fold into tiny pieces, too small for naked eye
Or burst apart from the hinges, left for the withering and to die

Love is unending, no matter how to try
Cannot be burnt in a fire
Cannot sail off in the sky

Love is a fermentation
Seeded, it will spry

Nourish it
Water it
And it will thrive

Do your utmost to harness it
Love is the source keeping us alive

Sheep Don't Tweet

By Bill Burton

A stubborn mule refuses to say "caw"
You'll never hear a raven say "hee-haw"
Sheep in a flock don't ever tweet
Birds out on a limb will never bleat

Cats stare at the moon, but they don't howl
Dogs, no matter what do not meow
Cows don't see the point of saying "who"
Owls do not have lips and can't say "moo"

Chickens do not quack as does a duck
And ducks do not walk around and cluck
Mice do not roar, and lions do not squeak.
When animals converse, they're quite unique

What is Needed

By Janice M. Puta

A long time ago
born beyond the stars
to be and do
what is needed now,
that only you can do.
Come, I'll show you how.

A Sonnet in Tribute to Family

By Jim Kimes

A dear family photo warms my heart,
And now hangs proudly on my office wall.
It conveys more to me than costly art,
And more aptly fit for some hallowed hall.
Man-made art boasts a man-made measure,
But family values remain ordained.
Families are an infinite treasure,
And, therefore, must be nourished and sustained.
We expect families to lead the way,
Be a global beacon for all to see.
Close-knit families have carried the day.
It's not complicated: Love is the key.
Families, surely, are made in heaven.
Therefore, godspeed, twenty-four seven!



Photo by Lori Szeplak

Author Mark Holmes speaks to the club at the March meeting about Amazon's KDP, a free-to-use publishing platform for authors.

paper columnist and his column, "Out to Pastor."

The March meeting included an in-depth discussion on how to use Amazon's KDP platform. This free self-publishing tool allows anyone to format, publish, and sell their book on Amazon in both paperback and e-book formats.

Don't forget about the weekly craft show in the Recreation Center Ballroom, on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to noon. The last show is Tuesday, May 12, before the summer hiatus. Our authors have a table where you can purchase one of their books. Stop by and say hello! The craft show returns in September. Our members will rotate weekly, representing many different genres.

The Writers Club meets on the third Thursday of every month at noon in the Recreation Center Lounge. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21. We also maintain a Facebook page exclusively for our members.

If you're interested in joining our club, please email me at pdisco23@aol.com. All handouts and other information discussed at our meetings are shared with all members, including the live and archived Zoom links for remote speakers. These Zoom links enable all members to participate, even if they cannot attend in person.

Indigo East Book Club

Dawn Winblad



If you're a lover of books, please come read with us! The Indigo East Book Group, led by Dawn Winblad, meets every third Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Indigo East Community Center Meeting Room I. We are currently

Poetry Club

Bruce Tredinnick



The Poetry Club now meets in the Arbor Conference Center Large Card Room the first and third Tuesday of the month. The diversity of the members and their poems continues to grow, demonstrating the breadth of poetry in subject

reading "The Secrets of Mary Bowser," by Lois Leveen, for discussion on Thursday, May 21.

If you've read with us before, but it's been a while, we would love for you to come back. Please feel free to just pop in; no need to sign up. Join us, whether you've read the book or not; you can always look forward to a great discussion with this group. We read all kinds of genres, printed, audio, and ebooks.

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

and style.

Recently, our president, Bill Burton, won first place at the Art Park Literary & Poetry Festival at Tusawilla Park in Ocala. Bill's poems have a wide range of subjects, many of which display his wicked sense of humor and exceptional ability for unforced rhyming. Truly masterful.

Call Bill Burton with any club questions at 352-492-8626.

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Sewing Bees



Ann Gallo



Photo by Ann Gallo

As we celebrate Memorial Day with family and friends, please remember to honor those who paid the ultimate price so that we may enjoy our freedom.

It was another busy month at the hive. Officer Pruitt from the Marion County Sheriff's Office visited us and spoke about the work being done at Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. We presented Officer Pruitt with 38 handmade quilts for those who reside there, and we were touched by how touched they were that someone had made something for them. We hope to make a trip to the ranch in the future and visit the facilities.

Our very first delivery of 15 quilts, 15 flannel blankets, and 25 burping cloths was delivered to the AdventHealth Ocala

Visit from Officer Pruitt from Marion County Sheriff's Office. NICU for these fragile, tiny preemie babies.

Did you know that quilting is not only a creative and therapeutic activity, but

also a global tradition that brings communities together, fosters family traditions, and has evolved with modern technology, making it a fascinating and enduring craft.

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 or email us at SewingBeesClub@gmail.com.

BULKY TRASH? Schedule pickup by calling Premier Waste Services at 352-454-9168.

Sunshine Quilters



Linda Holst

Every quilter's beginning has a story. And this holds with Sandy Arthur.

Both Sandy's parents were professional sewers, including upholstery. Sandy's first sewing machine was a Singer, given to her by her mother.

Sandy began quilting 20 years ago. Sandy's friends got her going with the craft. They took turns meeting at each other's homes to quilt.

The first project Sandy made was a "rag quilt." Today, Sandy has 30 completed quilts at home. The quilts are rotated with the seasons and holidays.

Sandy's favorite quilt is called "square in a square." She watched a live quilting show that taught her the design. The live show was also taped, allowing Sandy to rewatch portions. Sandy's square-in-a-square quilt hangs on the wall of her sewing room at home.

Taking quilting classes, usually taught at quilt shops, is another way to advance your skills.

Sandy purchased a quilt kit at the 2024 Daytona Beach Quilt Show. The Sunshine Quilters Guild took a bus to the event. The quilt has 12 embroidered designs in each square. And over 80 buttons were sewn on the designs to represent flowers. Sewing the buttons only through the quilt top took Sandy many hours. A member of the Sunshine Quilters Guild quilted the top to batting and backing; Sandy later sewed on the binding. This quilt hangs in her sewing room on a hanger shaped like a sewing machine.

Quilting kits that include the fabric and pattern are Sandy's preference. Sandy states, "I don't have the guesswork" (choosing the fabrics). Sandy also prefers to purchase fabric from the store versus ordering from a shop's online service. "I like to see and feel the material," says Sandy. She does not pre-wash her material. Sandy washes the quilt af-

ter it's finished to soften the fabric.

Sandy enjoys doing handwork using embroidery stitches. Applique is also enjoyed by Sandy using both a hand and machine blanket stitch.

Sandy does not sew every day; sometimes she sews in streaks. She states, "When you start something, you want to finish it."

Sandy joined the Sunshine Quilters Guild two years ago. She wanted to meet other quilters and learn from them.

Her advice to anyone thinking of joining a quilting group is, "Go to a quilt guild, meet members, and find out if you like it."

If you would like more information about the Sunshine Quilters Guild, contact our president, Joyce Utley, at barneo48@gmail.com.



Photo by Linda Holst

Sandy Arthur and her newly sewn quilt.

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THE TOWN SQUARE FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. May event schedule including Tuesdays OTOW FAVORITES, Wednesdays BOOTS & BEATS, and a daily schedule of TRUCKS & TUNES from May 1 to May 30.

Woodcarving Club

Linda Toner



Photo by Linda Toner

Dave Robinson is showing his Christmas tree, Santa's boots going down the chimney, and a tequila "worm."

The Woodcarving Club is in full swing with happy carvers and whittlers plying their craft. On the first Thursday of the month, Rich Aber gave us all a lesson in chip carving.

Chip carving is accomplished by three basic knife cuts that release a "chip." The result looks like a complicated carving, but it is actually rather easy to carve; it just takes patience.

This month, we feature a fairly new carver, Dave Robinson. He has been carving for only five months. He likes carving wood because he can make something out of a plain block of wood. He says, "There is something inside the wood that wants to come out." He carves in the round, a three-dimensional piece. His current preferred wood to carve is basswood.

He was born in New England and did some whittling in his youth, when there was a lot of virgin birch wood available. He says, "I love the smell of birch wood, but now to get birch wood you would have to special order it."

He has carved a Christmas tree, a pair of Santa's boots going down a chimney, and a tequila larva, otherwise known as the "worm." Currently, he is working on carving a round helmet from a square piece of basswood.

Dave has lived here for two years and found out about the club at the Club Fair.

The first Thursday of each month, we have an instructor available to teach you to carve in the round. On the second Thursday, we have a teacher to instruct

you in carving bas-relief projects, which are two-dimensional carvings. We have tools and knives to lend you during these lessons.

We meet every Thursday from 3 to 5:30 p.m. in the Hobby Building Art Room. For more information, you can call Tom at 352-586-1171 or Rich at 404-558-3855.

Whether you have carved or whittled before, or have never picked up a piece of wood, you will be welcome. Carving is a relaxing, creative craft that is easy to learn. Come check us out.

Tesla Owners & Enthusiasts Club

Dan Lack



Club member Stan Taylor spoke at our April meeting about how to preserve the paint on Tesla vehicles. The paint on the original Teslas was not of the best quality, but it has been much improved in today's vehicles. Stan recommended avoiding car washes because they use harsh chemicals and mechanical rollers

that can damage the car's finish. Bird droppings should be promptly wiped off because they can also damage the paint. Waxing or ceramic coatings help keep your vehicles looking like new.

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

Happy Hookers

Jan Spielvogel



Meet Erika Russo and Dana Russo, a mother-daughter team, who have been part of Happy Hookers for the past three years. Dana moved here from Austin, Texas, and has lived in On Top of the World for four years. Erika and her husband moved here from Wisconsin three years ago.

A talented lady who crochets, Erika, has been known to arrive on Monday with several blankets ready to be donated and leave on Monday with several skeins of the donated yarn to make more.

Dana does a variety of activities - diamond painting, 3D wood-and-metal puzzles, and Legos. She often gives away her puzzle creations. Dana is also active in several sports - pickleball, bocce, water volleyball, and golf. These ladies bring fun and laughter to our group every week.

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



Photo by Jan Spielvogel

Erika and Dana Russo.

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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.

Front Brake Job

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

\$159.99*

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Tire Rotation

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

\$9.99*

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

Model Railroaders

Jim Lynam



tinental Navy. They developed into a premier amphibious fighting force in the early 20th century. It gained its reputation through major battles in World War II, Vietnam, and the Middle East, where it served as a rapid-response force.

The U.S. Air Force was formally established as an independent branch of the Army Air Corps Signal Division on Sept. 18, 1947. It evolved through World War I and World War II, specializing in air superiority, global reach, and technological innovation.

Alexander Hamilton founded the U.S. Coast Guard as the Revenue Cutter Service on Aug. 4, 1790. Its purpose was to enforce federal tariff laws and prevent smuggling. In 1915, it merged with the Lifesaving Service to create the modern Coast Guard, combining maritime security with lifesaving responsibilities. The U.S. Coast Guard operates under the Department of Homeland Security rather than the Department of Defense.

All our veterans deserve recognition, respect, and remembrance for their service, not only on Memorial Day, but every day!

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

The Model Railroaders Club is always looking for new members, and you are welcome to join us. Our next club meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 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

Memorial Day Armed Forces flags.

The Model Railroaders Club is honoring Memorial Day with a service on the layout at Franklin's Veterans Park. A representative from each branch of the military will raise their respective flag as the Franklin High School marching band plays their official song.

The U.S. Army was established on June 14, 1775, by the Continental Congress to create a unified fighting force for the Revolutionary War. George Washington was appointed as commander-in-chief. The Army originated from New England militia units. It grew into a national institution, playing a central role in defending U.S. sovereignty through major conflicts from the 18th century to the present day.

The U.S. Navy was also established by the Continental Congress on Oct. 13, 1775, to intercept British transports. It has evolved from a small Revolutionary force into the world's premier maritime power. Key eras include the War of 1812, the massive expansion during World War II, and the "Cold War" advancements in technology that help maintain global security today.

The U.S. Marine Corps was founded on Nov. 10, 1775, to serve as shipboard security and landing forces for the Con-



Photo by Domenica Genovese

Several Meditation Group members unwind after our meeting.

Meditation Group

Domenica Genovese



There is something wonderful about meditating in a group, even if it takes a little while to name exactly what that is. Is it that we get to be together in silence for 20 minutes without any obligation to listen, respond, or entertain? That we can share a room with other people and let our minds do whatever they need to do, and nobody is waiting for us to finish? Whatever it is, most of us feel it from the very first session.

The hour begins with a short reading, a quote, a few lines, something one of our members came across during the week, followed by twenty minutes of silence and forty minutes of conversation. Members have said those discussions often carry more substance than an entire week's worth of ordinary talk. The topics shift from week to week: What are the real benefits of acceptance over resistance? Is it possible to change a habit you've carried for 60 years? Are there really only two basic human emotions - love and fear?

The group includes longtime practitioners and people who showed up last month, wondering what they'd gotten themselves into. Some want to deepen a practice they've carried for years. Others are looking for a quiet corner in the week, one hour where nothing is required of them. Some come for the much-touted health benefits of meditation and stay for the conversation. Some aren't sure what they believe about any of it and find that an hour of stillness once a week helps anyway.

If any of that sounds like your kind of hour, come find out - no experience required, no cushion, no belief system, no particular flexibility - physical or philosophical.

We meet every Tuesday from 1 to 2 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Event Room I.

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.

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Photo by Filomena Abys-Smith

Passionate stories fill three novels by Filomena Abys-Smith.

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 12.

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.

Today we are featuring Filomena Abys-Smith, whose passions range from cooking and gardening to writing. Through her inspired writings, she produced three books. Upon moving here, she founded the Author's Support Group to engage both aspiring and published writers.

Her first novel, "A Bit of Myself," was originally written as a memoir for her children. It follows Filomena's childhood in Italy, her move to the Bronx, and outlines her life's struggles and her

motivation to both survive and thrive. This became a time capsule for her descendants to understand the resilience it took to achieve her life's goals. Family recipes, which flavored her upbringing, are included and enhance the reader's understanding of the author's life.

As a cookbook memoir, her second novel, "A Bit of Herself," captures time spent with her mother and grandmothers. Words of wisdom, recipes, and the bonding of these women as they tell inspirational stories about their lives make for an enjoyable read.

In her third novel, "At the Lord's Table," the story follows the experiences of various characters living through the mid-19th-century Great Irish Famine, then their voyage to New York to pursue a better life. This fictional Irish family shares their journey of bonding to survive during that difficult time in history.

Filomena is a passionate writer. With examples of love strengthening families and self-determination building character, she strives to inspire the reader. Check out her novels on our Authors page or stop by the craft show and purchase one signed by the author!

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.

Art Group

M.A. Baylis



Last month, our community was treated to a vibrant celebration of creativity at the Art Group's annual "Spring Fling." This beloved event provided residents a unique opportunity to view local talent and acquire original, professional-grade pieces to grace the walls of their own homes.

While many visitors expected to see high-quality work, many residents were genuinely struck by the sheer professionalism on display. The Art Group boasts a diverse roster, ranging from seasoned veterans and retired art instructors to the group's perhaps most inspiring of all: the beginners.

I highlight five specific artists who prove that talent isn't just something you're born with; it's something you can ignite at any stage of life.

Sandra Sierra: Sandra began her art journey just two years ago, taking online courses while caring for her mother. Today, her paintings and drawings of animals are so strikingly realistic that viewers often feel compelled to reach out and pet them.

Rona Mansfield: A former hand-weaver, Rona transitioned to watercolors two years ago before adding oil pastels to her repertoire. Her colorful depictions of birds and flowers are designed to brighten even the dimmest hallway.

Stella Sheng: Since moving here three years ago, Stella has found that watercolor painting makes retirement both meaningful and fun. Her portraits, which evoke the soft, light-filled style of the Impressionists, were a major highlight of the show.

Mercedes Ramautar: Mercedes arrived in Florida three years ago, claiming she had "never held a pencil" in her life. Now, she laughs at that memory while showcasing a portfolio of joyful cartoons, elegant still lifes, and vivid landscapes.

Cyndy Kolodinsky: Three years ago, Cyndy joked she couldn't draw a stick figure. Thanks to the encouragement of her neighbor, Pat McNulty, Cyndy has blossomed into a creator of unique, whimsical cartoon art that brings a smile to every face.

These five artists serve as a powerful

reminder: it is never too late to start. You don't need a lifetime of training to become proficient; you simply need the courage to pick up a brush. The love these artists pour into their work emanates from the finished products, a quality that wasn't lost on the attendees.

By the end of the event, many residents walked away as proud owners of original local art. Whether it was a "Sierra" for the living room or a "Kolodinsky" for a gift, the community showed overwhelming support for their neighbors' newfound passions.

If you have ever felt the urge to create, the Art Group invites you to turn that "someday" into today. Join a supportive community where the only requirement is a desire to learn.

Discover that the love of art is found not just in the final frame, but in every stroke along the way. Join us Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m., Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon in the Hobby Building Art Studio. For more information, contact Director Freda Klump at 615-336-6863 or fredaklump@gmail.com.



Photo by Mitchell Baylis

Beginner Sandra Sierra.

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Karaoke Friends

Kathy & Charlie Petrosky



When someone new comes in for karaoke, one of my first questions is, "Are you a new resident?" If they are, they get introduced to the group as new to On Top of the World. Sometimes we get a resident who is not new. They just thought they would give the group a try. They are encouraged to join a table. They may find people from their neighborhood there.

If you are thinking about coming, here are some things to know. You do not have to sing. You can just enjoy the evening. You can do a duet with someone to break the ice. If you have your own karaoke disks, we will play them for you. If you do not, I am happy to look up any song or artist on the karaoke drive for you. Most likely, we will have what you want to sing. Everyone is supportive of the singer, so no need to fear. Give it a try.

We are highlighting Vince this month. This is what he wanted to share: "A friend of mine introduced me to karaoke about 10 years ago. Without much confidence, I bought a karaoke machine and had some karaoke disks made.

Karaoke machines and the KJ (kara-



Photo by Steve Warren

Harry Vinci.

oke jockey) can change the pitch, bringing the song to a key that's comfortable for me. This enabled me, over time, to sing many different songs. I purchased sound equipment along with my computer and set up my own music room.

When I sing the oldies, it puts me back to the time of the song. It makes me feel 20 years old again. I encourage everyone to give it a try. It is very rewarding. Come and support your singing friends."

We meet on the first and third Mondays in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room from 5 to 8 p.m. Karaoke is also at The Lodge at Candler Hills on the first Thursday of the month. Karaoke is in the Recreation Center Ballroom the second Thursday of the month.

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.

This month, Toppers Banjo Band is reviewing and updating its musical repertoire. We currently play music from the Civil War to the '50s. There are many great songs, such as "Tishomingo Blues," "Hey Good Looking," and "Darktown Strutters Ball." Our audiences know and like many of these songs, but younger generations are moving into our community.

We want to introduce newer music that people recognize and enjoy. To get started, we are each drawing on our own musical tastes and submitting songs to the group to see if we can add them to our list of songs we can play well.

Part of the challenge is that our group includes both very experienced players and players just starting. Also, we are adding people who play instruments

other than the banjo or sing. A number of our musicians and singers have grown with the band and are enhancing their skills. We must choose arrangements that beginners can play and yet satisfy more skillful players.

Finally, we want songs that really engage and please our audience, what our band's efforts are all about. So, if you have any ideas for music you would like us to play, Toppers Banjo Band is all ears. Contact Jackie McDonough strumntoot@gmail.com .

And if you play an instrument, you could be having a great time, growing in skill and fellowship with us, while playing music you love.

Some of our banjo players have been playing for a long time and can advise you on banjos and accessories. They would be delighted to show you how to hold your banjo, how to tune your banjo, and ultimately how to play your banjo. Your part in all this is to start.

We welcome new active or aspiring banjo, acoustic guitar, and other musicians to join us in playing and singing banjo music. If you have any ideas to improve performance values and presentation, we'd love to hear them. If you like to listen, join us and enjoy the music and conversation. Everyone is welcome.

For more information, contact Eddie Martin at udeddie2@gmail.com or David Wesenberg at dpw@mastersoftwareinc.com.

Fun with Golf Carts

Susan Pulling Robinson



On Saturday, April 4, our members enjoyed decorating their carts and themselves for Easter and the coming of spring. Selected charities included Operation Shoebox, Chuck's Piggy Bank, Veterans Helping Veterans, and Durnellon 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:

- 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 George Ostrom

Easter golf cart.

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Rubber Stamp Greeting Cards

Linda Lohr



Our presenter in April was Mary Kay Ripp, a long-time card maker. She offered four different fun cards: a panel-flip fun fold, a diagonal card, a five-minute fun fold, and an arrow-fold card. She showed us many variations, and, by changing the sentiment, the cards can be used for any occasion!

We thank Mary Kay for providing instructions, templates, designer paper, and sentiments for our use.

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, May 7. Until our next meeting, keep on stampin'!



Cards presented by Mary Kay Ripp.

Photo by Linda Lohr

Poetry



One Stormy Night

By Linda Toner

When it was stormy out there was always a knock on my door, there you always stood, asking for more. More time together, more conversation, more kissing and petting, more of that situation. But one stormy night you knock and say, "I have a question to ask you today." And then you knelt down on one knee, and out of your mouth comes the words "Will you marry me?" I thought about it for a long minute, as you opened a small box with a ring in it. I agreed to become your wife and to stand by you for the rest of my life. When you said those words my heart took flight about being your partner both day and night. And I confess I'd been waiting a while for that question to be asked So I could say "Yes," at last. And sometimes you knock on the door again, just to remind me How great it's been. We've had a lot of laughter and shed a few tears, and it's been that way for forty-one years. We are old now, our hair is grey, but our love is as strong as it was that day.

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Photo by Phil Karcheski

The third annual Renaissance neighborhood block party took place on Saturday, April 18, featuring live music, street dancing, and food.

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

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7777, 7789 SW 86th Loop (Indigo East), 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, May 9: 8362-E SW 90th Street (Friendship Colony), 9 a.m. to noon.

Friday, May 22 & Saturday, May 23: 8885-A SW 90th Lane (Friendship Colony), 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. · 7796 SW 80th Place Road (Indigo East), 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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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).

Musical Instruments: Gently used accordion, saxophone, and trombone for The New Pretenders. Call Nancy Grabowski at 352-209-4699.

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

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

Sheepshead Players: Informal men's group plays Thursdays, 6:30 to 9 p.m. Call/text Bob at 804-387-2388.

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