

Community News

Kenneth D. Colen

July is shaping up to be a great month! We are looking forward to a wonderful Patriotic Celebration on Saturday, July 4, from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. at The Town Square at Circle Square Commons. There will be no access to Circle Square Commons until 4 p.m. We appreciate your cooperation.

Residents of On Top of the World, Stone Creek, and Calesa Township may park for free with a valid resident ID or event pass. Otherwise, there is a \$20 parking charge.

The fireworks will be launched from the Candler Hills driving range at 9 p.m. We of course recommend that you leave any pets at home. Please remember to protect your pets if loud noises upset them! Have a safe holiday!

Common Courtesies

With school out and the holiday, families are on the move to visit grandparents. A favorite destination is the community pools. For the safety of all swimmers, please make sure toddlers and babies wear ample sunscreen with at least 50 SPF and reapply every 90 minutes as needed. Toddlers and babies must be in swim protective diapers to enter the pool. This is a common courtesy to our residents and swimmers. This is the best way to prevent accidents that necessitate a 24-hour pool closure for additional disinfection.

Keep children’s play toys under control and off the deck, where they may become a fall hazard to our residents. Your guests must also obey the posted pool rules.

Community Updates

RECREATION CENTER: We appreciate your patience during this renovation project. Demolition work has been completed, and planned improvements to the facility are now underway. This project focuses on the main entrance facing SW 99th Street Road, with upgrades to the sidewalk system, golf cart parking, and landscaping. Weather permitting, we project completion in early fall.

IRONS 9 PITCH & PUTT: Work on the golf shop/starter building continues to make steady progress, with both interior and exterior finishing work currently underway. Final exterior and interior finishes remain the primary focus as the project advances toward completion. We remain optimistic and are targeting an early fall opening.

NEW CANDLER HILLS ENTRY: The new Candler Hills entry off SW 92nd Court Road continues to progress steadily, with roadwork and utilities currently being installed. We remain hopeful that this new entry will be operational this summer. Once the gate is active, the temporary construction entrance on SW 80th Street will be removed.

NEW WEYBOURNE LANDING ENTRY: Signage and gate installation are now underway at the new Weybourne Landing entrance along SW 90th Terrace Road and SW 74th Street Road. Once the gates are fully operational, the temporary barriers will be removed. The project is currently anticipated to be completed around the start of fall.

As part of this project, the exit-only entry at SW 69th Place Road is being converted to an emergency-only exit gate. This change eliminates the cost and upkeep of an unnecessary automated gate – a practical decision that will benefit residents directly. The fence has been in place since February and will be softened with a hedge to blend with the existing landscape.

MELODY PRESERVE: Momentum continues to build within this newest community located just north of Indigo East, as infrastructure work progresses and the first homes begin vertical construction. With over a dozen homes already started, the community is now entering a highly visible new phase of development that is helping bring the vision for Melody Preserve to life.

Planned as a standalone 55-plus HOA neighborhood, Melody Preserve has generated strong interest among buyers seeking a community with very low

Continued on Page 4A ▶

THE TOWN SQUARE

CIRCLE SQUARE Commons

OPEN TO PUBLIC • PARKING \$20*

*Prepaid via QR code or cash on the day of the event. Free parking for On Top of the World, Stone Creek, and Calesa Township residents with valid resident ID or event pass.

AMERICA'S 250th Anniversary 1776-2026

Patriotic Celebration

LEGEND

CLOSED TO INCOMING TRAFFIC

RESTROOMS

CHECKPOINT

JULY 4, 2026

4:30 - 9:30 PM

GATES OPEN AT 4 PM

Live Music

Dancing

Food Trucks

Beverage Kiosk

Dancing

Photo Kiosk

Fireworks

SW 79th St. Rd.

SW 80th St.

SW 81st St.

SW 82nd St.

SW 83rd St.

SW 84th St.

SW 85th St.

SW 86th St.

SW 87th St.

SW 88th St.

SW 89th St.

SW 90th St.

SW 91st St.

SW 92nd St.

SW 93rd St.

SW 94th St.

SW 95th St.

SW 96th St.

SW 97th St.

SW 98th St.

SW 99th St.

SW 100th St.

It's Party Time at the Patriotic Celebration

By Dave DeAngelis
World News Writer

Wow, time flies. It seems like just 249 years ago when there were rumblings about a Declaration of Independence. And here we already are, 250 years later, celebrating that day when the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration on July 4, 1776. Time to celebrate!

This year’s Patriotic Celebration is on Saturday, July 4. Go figure. Rain or shine at The Town Square at Circle Square Commons from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m., with the gates opening at 4 p.m. Activities? Well, this year’s event is action-packed. The joint will be jumpin’!

The event kicks off with the opening ceremony at 4:30 p.m. featuring the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard and a performance by award-winning, multi-platinum-selling smooth jazz saxophonist Eirinn Abu. From there, you’re gonna have sensory overload with all that will be going on around you (picture Inspector Dreyfus’s eye in The Pink Panther Strikes Again). We’re talking skydiving at 4:45 p.m. by the On

Point Demo Team, a pie-eating contest, stilt walkers, and games such as corn-hole and Connect Four. Oh, and there’s the dunk tank. Who knows who the dunkees might be?

A bloodmobile is scheduled to be there, so maybe it would be wise to donate before hitting the beer, wine, and soda kiosk or enjoying the delicacies from Squeazy Lemonade, Monsta Lobsta, Big Lee’s, Blessed Beyond BBQ, Curbside Cuisine, Fat Tiki, and Secret Kitchen Latin Fusion. And we’ll have a food tent to accommodate dining. Don’t forget to capture your fun at the photo kiosk.

Live music? It’ll take two stages for our bands – “Rocky and the Rollers have performed with and played for over 250 of the many great recording artists of the ‘50s, ‘60s, and ‘70s like Chuck Berry, Fabian, The Drifters, Bo Diddley, The Shirelles, Lou Christie, Jerry Lee Lewis, Peter Noone, Danny & the Juniors, Jay Siegel’s Tokens, Freddy “boom Boom

Cannon, Little Peggy March, and Del Shannon.”

“Hayfire is a Florida-based country band with a rich history of performing alongside some of the biggest names in the industry. With almost a century of combined experience in the entertainment industry, Hayfire is the hottest country band in Florida, winning Orlando Weekly’s “Best Of” series, six years running, in the category of “Best Cover Band” as voted by the fans.”

And Live Effect, the dynamic vocal band from Orlando, is the evening’s headliner. Check out their demo video, and you’ll see that their name is spot-on. They certainly do have a captivating stage presence. Yep, at around 7:30 p.m., there will be a 50/50 raffle benefiting American Legion Post 354 – Ocala. Fireworks? Oh yeah, from 9 to 9:30 p.m.

See you on Saturday, July 4, at The Town Square at Circle Square Commons. Parking is free for On Top of the World, Stone Creek and Calesa Township residents with valid resident ID or event pass. There is a \$20 fee for public parking. Bring your own lawn chairs, appetite, and dancing shoes.

For more information about all upcoming events, visit Circle Square Commons on Facebook (@csctownsquare), Instagram (@cscommonsfl), or their website at CircleSquareCommons.com.

Food & Clothing Drive

By Lauren Grice

Colen Built Cares is proud to launch a July food and clothing drive, a community-wide effort supporting Interfaith Emergency Services’ (IES) free clothing boutique and Food 4 Kids program. This seasonal initiative reflects our ongoing commitment to uplifting others in need and strengthening the spirit of service across all Colen Built communities.

Donations may be dropped off at multiple convenient locations, including the Calesa Township Sales Center, On Top of the World Sales Center, and several On Top of the World amenity buildings such as: Arbor Fitness Center, Recreation Center, The Lodge at Candler Hills, In-

digo Fitness Center, The Landing, The Summit, and Resident Services.

All clothing donations are welcome – men’s, women’s, unisex, and children’s – but this season brings several urgent needs, especially men’s clothing, shoes, underwear, socks, and belts.

Food donations of all kinds are appreciated as long as they are nonexpired and nonperishable. Food 4 Kids’ specific high-need items are cups of fruit, pudding, and applesauce, which help address weekend and summer nutrition gaps for local students.

Weekly pickups ensure donations quickly reach families who rely on IES’ essential services. Contributions large

or small help stock shelves, fill lunch bags, and provide dignity through access to clean, quality clothing.

This drive is part of the broader mission of Colen Built Cares, which unites residents, employees, and partners in meaningful acts of service throughout the year. By participating, community members directly support local families while reinforcing the values that make Calesa Township and On Top of the World such vibrant, compassionate places to live.

Residents are encouraged to spread the word, involve neighbors, and make giving a part of their summer routine. Together, we can make a measurable difference for children, families, and individuals across Marion County.

For more information or partnership inquiries, email colenbuiltcares@colenbuilt.net.

COLLEN BUILT

Cares

COLLEN BUILT

Cares

COLLEN BUILT

Cares



U.S. Navy veteran Doris Miller receiving a flag from Sergeant Don Poulin.
Photo by Phil Panzera

A Special Memorial Day

By Phil Panzera
World News Writer

On Memorial Day, we gathered to remember and honor our fallen – as we do every year – in ceremonies that bind our country and all veterans to the sacrifices of so many in our storied history.

At 8 a.m., the Veterans Club conducted a flag ceremony in Veterans Park. Over 100 residents participated in a brief event that included a flag raising and salute to our nation’s colors, a special Memorial Day prayer, and a wreath presentation by the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard.

Captains Steve Petty and Tim Williams received the wreaths on behalf of LTC Arlo Janssen, U.S. Army Ret., and Gunnery Sergeant Jerry Miller, U.S. Marine Corps Ret.

At 11 a.m., the Veterans Club held the main remembrance ceremony at The Summit. American Legion Commander Charlie Calhoun hosted both ceremonies.

The West Port High School JROTC presented the colors, and First Sergeant Carlos Erasquin led us in heartfelt prayer. U.S. Army veteran Laura DeAngelo then sang a lovely rendition of our national anthem.

William Kyser, a U.S. Air Force Vietnam veteran and dog handler, told a moving story of heroism about Sergeant Hartsock and his canine Duke. This pair detected a stealthy enemy attack and engaged the enemy against overwhelming

odds. This enabled the rest of his platoon to rally and defend the base.

Seriously wounded, both Duke and Sergeant Hartsock continued to fight and pin down the attackers. Sergeant Hartsock was later awarded the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry.

Let us remember the heroism of these K9 dog units, which are estimated to have saved over 10,000 lives in Vietnam. We know our dogs care for us, but Duke’s fighting as a soldier reveals extraordinary qualities of love, devotion, heroism, and sacrifice.

Petty Officer Calhoun and Captain Petty also told the story of guard member Marine Lewis Alston and why the Honor Guard created the Veterans Resource Center to provide free cancer screening for all veterans.

U.S. Navy submarine veteran George Meyer presented \$500 checks to the JROTC and the Blue Star Mothers of Ocala. The program closed with rousing dance performances by the Poms Dance and Cheer Squad and Dancing Jewels.

Memorial Day honors our fallen, while our next remembrance ceremony – Veterans Day in November – honors our living veterans. These ceremonies are important, as without them it becomes all too easy to forget the tremendous service, bravery, and sacrifice which has enabled the life and freedom we all take for granted today.



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On Watch

Geoff Oldberg



Battery Charging Safety

You would be hard-pressed to find a home in On Top of the World without at least one rechargeable battery. Whether it's a golf cart, electric leaf blower, power tool, laptop, or cell phone, chances are there is a battery charger somewhere in the home.

Many rechargeable devices today use lithium-ion batteries because they are lightweight, efficient, and cost-effective. However, lithium-ion batteries can become dangerous if they are damaged, improperly charged, or exposed to excessive heat.

Lithium batteries do not tolerate high temperatures well. Charging batteries in areas where temperatures exceed

113°F significantly increases the risk of overheating and fire. During Florida summers, a closed garage or a vehicle parked in direct sunlight can easily exceed 140°F.

Whenever possible, charge batteries in a climate-controlled area. For larger batteries, such as those used in golf carts, that may not be practical. If you must charge batteries in your garage, follow these important safety tips:

- Use a non-combustible surface. Place chargers and removable batteries on concrete, metal, or ceramic surfaces and keep them away from anything that can burn.
- Never charge unattended. Avoid charging batteries overnight or when you will be away from home for an extended period.
- Keep the area ventilated. If practical and safe, leave the garage door open while charging to reduce heat buildup. This is especially important for lead-acid batteries,

- which can release hydrogen gas during charging.
- Check lead-acid battery water levels regularly. Low electrolyte levels can cause batteries to overheat and shorten their service life.
- Use only manufacturer-approved chargers. Chargers designed for other batteries may not provide the correct voltage or charging profile.
- Plug chargers directly into a wall outlet. Avoid using extension cords or power strips whenever possible. Ensure the outlet and wiring are in good condition and capable of handling the load.
- Keep combustible materials away from charging areas. Cardboard boxes, paint products, gasoline containers, and household chemicals should be stored well away from batteries and chargers.
- Install a heat detector in the garage. Heat detectors are designed for areas where smoke alarms

may not be appropriate and can provide early warning of a developing fire.

Smaller lithium-ion batteries, such as those found in cell phones and tablets, also require attention:

- Do not charge devices on hot surfaces or in direct sunlight.
- Avoid leaving devices charging inside a parked vehicle.
- Remove protective cases if the device becomes unusually warm while charging.
- Avoid intensive activities such as high-end gaming or video streaming while the device is charging, as these can generate additional heat.

Battery-powered devices make our lives more convenient, but a few simple precautions can greatly reduce the risk of fire. Taking battery charging safety seriously today may help prevent a costly and potentially devastating fire tomorrow.

Community Emergency Response Team

Debbie Snyder



Thank you to Jonathan Miller and Geoff Oldberg for attending our June Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) meeting and giving us an update on safety in On Top of the World Communities. Director of Community Safety and Risk Prevention Jonathan Miller noted that although our community continues to expand across multiple neighborhoods, it remains safe and quiet. He emphasized that his team is committed to continuously enhancing safety measures and maintaining a secure environment for all residents.

Community Safety & Loss Prevention Manager Geoff Oldberg shared details of a new initiative to enhance traffic speed monitoring. This effort includes using additional radar to identify speeding hotspots and partnering with the Marion County Sheriff's Office to help reduce speeding in our neighborhoods. He also stressed that all individuals – residents, mail carriers, delivery drivers, contractors, and visitors – are expected to follow posted speed limits.

To promote resident awareness and

preparedness, the safety team offers educational classes on hands-only CPR, defensive driving, active shooter response, and golf cart safety. The next golf cart safety class is Wednesday, Oct. 14. Residents are encouraged to visit the OTOW App for additional class information and registration details.

Lastly, they reported they are in the process of scheduling a state-licensed fire protection company to visit our community to recharge and certify residents' personal fire extinguishers. They will refill each unit, perform safety maintenance, and attach a valid certification tag.

Jonathan and Geoff's commitment and dedication to maintaining a safe community were evident, and we appreciate their continued efforts.

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

We request prospective members

attend the monthly meetings before, during, and after their training class. Attend one of our meetings to learn more. We meet on the second Wednesday of every month from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, July 8. Applications for training and additional information are available at each meeting. For more information about CERT or upcoming meetings, email ontopoftheworldcert@gmail.com.

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



Jonathan Miller speaking at CERT meeting.

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Active Newcomers Club

Linda Baker



It is hard to believe we are halfway through 2026! It is hot in Central Florida, and many of our friends have retreated to the north. Those of us who remain at On Top of the World are enjoying club activities and trying to stay cool.

Our summer wine experience was a great success. Our 90 guests enjoyed an amazing variety of appetizers and desserts, followed by a very informative presentation by wine educator Richard Kozicki. Six summer wines selected by Richard were sampled and discussed. Door prizes were awarded at the end of the evening. We plan to offer another wine-experience event early next year.

All residents of less than four years are invited to join us on Saturday, Aug. 8, in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios III-IV from 9 a.m. to noon for "Doing Donuts." Bring your favorite morning beverage and enjoy donuts provided by the club. Both current and prospective members can connect and learn about the club in an informal setting. We will have applications available for those who are interested in joining our club.

Reserve Sunday, Aug. 16, for a beach party in The Lodge at Candler Hills Ballroom. Attendees will enjoy music provided by Howlin' at the Moon. Summer games and door prizes will complete the evening. Members will receive an email with more information, which will also be available on our Facebook page and website.

Our golf group is open to all members

Lifelong Learning

Michelle Shideler
352-861-9751
michelle_shideler@masterthepossibilities.org



July is a season of possibilities. Summer begins, routines shift, and it's the perfect time to ask yourself: What could I try that I haven't before? At Master the Possibilities, we believe in a simple idea: "Always be a student." Not because you have to be, but because you get to be.

Many people think learning belongs to the young, something you finish rather than continue. But if you step into our classrooms, you will see a different story. One where curiosity doesn't retire, and growth has no age limit.

Our students often tell us they come for reasons that go far beyond the class itself. They come to connect. Classrooms become places where conversations happen naturally, friendships form, and people feel part of something. They come to exercise the mind. Learning something new keeps us sharp, engaged, and energized, no matter our age.

They come to find joy and purpose. There is real satisfaction in finally trying something you've always been curious about but have not yet tried, whether it's art, technology, history, fitness, or something entirely new. For many, it also becomes a highlight of their week. It is something to look forward to. A reason to get out, engage, and stay active both mentally and socially.

And sometimes, they come because they simply decided: Why not? That first step, signing up, walking into a new space, being a beginner again, can feel like the hardest part. But many of the people already in those classrooms felt the same way before they started. Now, they can't imagine not being part of it.

Believe it or not, this is the perfect moment to take that step. Our July through December catalog has just been released, filled with new opportunities and familiar favorites. With a special focus on our local Marion County heritage, known as the Horse Capital of the World®, there is so much to explore and experience right here in our own community. This season, we invite you to connect more deeply with the history, culture, and unique character that make this area so special. Whether you want to explore something completely new or rediscover an old interest, now is the time to do it. Try something new. Meet someone new. Challenge your mind because it is never too late to learn, and never too late to surprise yourself.

Registration is open now, and getting started is easy. You can register online anytime at masterthepossibilities.org. If you prefer personal assistance, call 352-861-9751 or visit the Education Center Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Our team is happy to help you find the right class.

So, consider this your invitation. Take the first step. Sign up for a class. Be a beginner again. See the world anew. Break out of your comfort zone for just a moment. Because the best stories are still being written, one class at a time.

Always be a student.

who love golf. The group plays at least once a month on different courses. The leaders schedule tee times at the courses in On Top of the World when available, as well as at other courses in the Ocala area. All levels of experience are welcome, but you must know the basics of the game to join the group. For more information, email activenewcomers34481@gmail.com.

Would you rather spend an evening learning a new game? Active Newcomers has two game groups. Games are held the last Saturday of the month from 6 to 9 p.m. in the leader's home, and the fourth Friday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Candler Hills Community Center.

Are you interested in starting a new group or joining an existing group? Send a note to Sandie Butler, our small groups director, via activenewcomers34481@gmail.com. Include "small groups" in the subject of your email. You can also reach out to Sandie if you have 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 \$8 per person for the remainder of the year. Members receive invitations to our small group activities

Avalon Social Group

Laura Gavey & Sharon Hall



I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream! Join us at our next event on Monday, July 6, for ice cream and a presentation from Lt. Bloom from the Marion County Sheriff's Office. Watch our Facebook page and your email for specifics on purchasing tickets.

Are you new to Avalon or our social events? Stay in the loop by joining our Facebook group (Avalon Social Club) – a private group exclusively for Avalon residents. When you request to join, you'll be asked to provide your address for verification.

Can't find the group or having trouble getting in? Email us at avalonsocialclub@gmail.com, and we'll send you a direct link. Prefer email updates instead? Just send your request to that same address, and we'll keep you posted on upcoming events.

and large events. Residents must present a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass to join.

To learn more about Active New-

comers Club, visit activenewcomers.org. Members can also visit our Facebook page. Email us at activenewcomers34481@gmail.com for more information.



Photo by Dee Pohl

New and old friends enjoying wine group.

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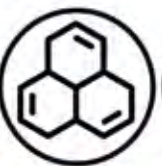
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MONDAY – FRIDAY 10 AM – 5 PM · SATURDAY 10 AM – 3 PM

Republican Club

Margaret Nodine



Here we are in July, experiencing the usual summer weather and activities. This month marks an incredibly special milestone in our nation’s history – we are 250 years old! What a ride it has been! We have endured the growing pains of a new country, highs, lows, war, and peace. Let us celebrate who and what we are – the freest country on earth.

Continuing with our series focusing on the local elections, for our June meeting, invitations were accepted by the candidates for County Commissioner, District Two: Mike Cretul, Matt Crimi, and Jeff Weidemiller. These gentlemen have spent time with us over the last several months. Now it was our turn to get to know them and their platforms. In accordance with our guidelines, each candidate was given 10 minutes to present their position. The order of speaking was determined through a blind draw. After which, each candidate picked a question submitted by a member. There was a lively discussion on the issues and concerns for District Two. There will be one more meeting to present their cases when all candidates come together at our August round-robin meeting.

Our Friday, July 10, meeting will feature the forum for the school board can-

didates for Districts 4 and 5. I will address this meeting in the next issue.

We happily continue to support Operation Shoebox and the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard. At the May meeting, one member made an anonymous \$500 donation to Operation Shoebox. This was our largest member donation to date. We are grateful for this generosity and support. Both organizations give their time and are dedicated to helping our troops, those on duty, retired, and those who sacrificed all.

Here’s the schedule for the Aug. 18 primary, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.:

- Monday, July 20: Deadline to change party or voter registration.
- Thursday, Aug. 6: Deadline to request mail ballot.
- Saturday, Aug. 8 through Saturday, Aug. 15: Early voting, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The General Election is on Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

We meet on the second Friday of each month in the Arbor Conference Dance Studios I-IV. Doors open at 4 p.m.; meetings begin promptly at 4:30 p.m. Please look for our banner. Our remaining 2026 schedule is as follows: July 10; Aug. 14; Sept. 11; Oct. 9 and Nov. 13.

Hoping to see you. New members can register at any meeting. Any resident with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass is welcome to attend up to two meetings as a guest before deciding to join.

Happy birthday, America!



Photo by Rocky Pizzarello

Republican Club Vice President Liz Woodard, President Charles Dodge, Treasurer Linda Dodge, and Secretary Margaret Nodine.



Photo by Leslie Miller

Wesley Wilcox speaking to the Democratic Club on Thursday, May 28.

Democratic Club

Mark Miller



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

Our speaker for the Thursday, June 25, meeting was Ryan Smart from the Florida Springs Council. If you’ve heard about water usage and are concerned about data center water usage, this was an informative meeting. Hope you didn’t miss it!

We will have a very informative meeting on Thursday, July 23 featuring the F.L.A.G. (Florida Legislative Action Group) team. They will be presenting information about the candidates and issues who/which will be on the primary ballot in August.

Regarding the primary election on Tuesday, Aug. 18, if you have not yet requested your vote-by-mail ballot for this year’s elections, the deadline is Thursday, Aug. 6. Don’t wait until the last minute. (Mail ballots must be received by the Supervisor of Elections office by 7 p.m. on Election Day to be counted). Early voting runs from Saturday, Aug. 8 through Saturday, Aug. 15.

We continue to support the Ocala Ritz Veterans Village. The veterans residing there need our support for many items we all take for granted. The priority for donations is laundry detergent. Other required items include pillowcases, twin-size sheets, twin comforters, a 1.7-cubic-foot refrigerator, a small microwave, men’s razors, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, lotions, shaving cream, and toilet paper. The following food items are needed: canned meat, canned chili, ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese, microwaveable rice, boxed milk, cereal, canned fruit, crackers, individual snacks, and coffee. They do not require clothing other than shoes. Please bring your donated items to our meeting.

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

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

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

We look forward to seeing you at our meeting on Thursday, July 23.





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April was autobiography month,

Photo by Nancy Monaghan

February hosts Sheila Hymes and Suzanne Carle pose with foods introduced at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair.

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Indigo East Social Committee

Teresa Davis



This month’s Indigo East Spirit Award goes to Carmen Vega for volunteering her time and energy to organize the club’s inventory, kitchen, and storage cabinets. Her hard work has helped streamline our supplies and make event planning much easier. Thank you, Carmen, for your dedication and willingness to help make Indigo East an even better place to live!

The Indigo East Social Club is all about bringing neighbors together. Our activities are designed for everyone, and we are proud to be an inclusive group that welcomes all residents. Whether you’re new to the neighborhood or have called Indigo East home for years, there’s always a seat waiting for you. We enjoy partnering with the Recreation Department whenever possible and encourage everyone to participate, share ideas for new activities, or simply come out and have fun. If you’d like to help plan events or serve on the board, please contact Teresa Davis at 757-593-5133.

Be sure to mark your calendar for our upcoming ice cream social on Saturday, Aug. 1, from 2 to 4 p.m. Tickets

are just \$5, and you’ll get to enjoy five delicious ice cream flavors while spending time with friends and neighbors. A special thank you to Bill and Jana McElroy for volunteering to make this sweet event happen. Watch for ticket sales coming soon!

We’re also excited to share that 50/50 raffles are now approved. Bring a few extra dollars to upcoming events and join in the fun. If you’ve never participated before, don’t worry; we’ll be happy to show you how it works.

A quick safety reminder for all golf cart drivers: When crossing SW 80th Avenue, please use the pedestrian crossing signal and only cross when it is active. For added safety, remember to use your lights during both daytime and nighttime travel. We want all of our neighbors safe and sound so you can continue enjoying community events, building friendships, and making memories for years to come.

The care committee, led by Chairperson Athena Drewes, along with Suzanne and Ed Clarke, Connie Williamson, and Keith Seibert, held a planning session in June. The committee has decided to postpone in-person flyer distribution until cooler weather arrives and our seasonal residents return in mid-September.

In the meantime, they are busy planning a newcomers meet-and-greet, gath-



Photo courtesy of Athena Drewes

Indigo East care committee includes Suzanne and Ed Clarke, Connie Williamson, Keith Seibert, and Athena Drewes.

ering information about new residents, and raising awareness of the services the care committee provides. If you need assistance, know someone who does, or would like to volunteer, please contact Athena Drewes at drathenad-

rewes@gmail.com.

Thank you to all of our volunteers, event organizers, and residents who help make Indigo East such a fun, friendly, and caring community. We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event!

Longleaf Ridge Friends

Debra Vitale



We are officially in the rainy season, and our lawns could not be happier!

Suzie Baylis, our newest contributor, sent along a “sweet” update. The ladies’ monthly lunch, which she organized, met at Sweeties Café & Bakery in Dunnellon, a charming spot brimming with vintage flair. The afternoon was filled with conversation, laughter, and delicious treats – the kind of outing that adds a little sparkle and perhaps a sprinkle of sugar.

Judi Walsh’s section continued a meaningful tradition by placing two American flags at each driveway beginning on Memorial Day. The flags will return for every patriotic holiday through Veterans Day, creating a warm red, white, and blue welcome.

Kathleen Taylor noted that the monthly men’s luncheon welcomed a special guest speaker, Mary Jo Barnett, director of inpatient rehabilitation at HCA Florida West Marion Hospital. Her presentation, “Optimal Recovery After Life-Changing Healthcare Events Occur and Prevention to Avoid the Events,” offered encouraging insights on recovery, resilience, and prevention, along with thoughtful takeaways for all who attended.

She also shared that the monthly book club selection was “Molokai” by Alan Brennert, a historical novel that captures Hawaii’s natural beauty while exploring the history of the leper colonies. Special thanks to Kay Vogelsang for hosting such a thoughtful gathering, where the discussion proved every bit as engaging as the book itself.

On Memorial Day, Gloria Emmons shared that her section gathered at the home of Les and Linda Money to honor the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation.

The ceremony began with a moment of silence, followed by Vicky Ludwig’s moving performance of “Taps” on her trumpet. At precisely 3 p.m., the group joined the nationwide “Taps Across America” tribute, a solemn salute shared

by musicians across the country.

Les Money, a retired Air Force veteran, led the ceremony by raising the American flag as neighbors recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Veterans of Longleaf Ridge – Don Wright, Ray Meyers, Roy Siegfried, Les Money, and Paul MacMelville – were also recognized for their service, adding a personal touch to the observance.

The observance also included a poem written and recited by Janet Meyers, along with a performance by the Ocala Fife and Drum Corps, bringing the gathering to a memorable patriotic close.

On a lighter note, Travis Karlin organized the golf challenge between two neighborhoods, Sandra Ritchie’s and Gloria Emmons’s, for the prestigious Longleaf Ridge Cup. The match ended in a tie, allowing Sandra’s section to retain the cup. Everyone is already looking forward to a rematch when the vacationers and snowbirds return



Photo by Nancy Kiziu

Longleaf Ridge Memorial Day Ceremony with Paul MacMelville, Les Money, Roy Siegfried, Ray Meyers, and Don Wright.

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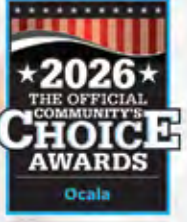
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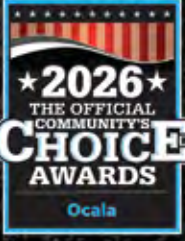


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Williamsburg Neighbors

Deanne Sanders-Below



Age should never keep us from learning new skills, gaining knowledge, or exploring new hobbies. Here at Williamsburg and On Top of the World, we have many opportunities to stay mentally, physically, and emotionally active by connecting with friends and neighbors. I believe trying new things helps spark creativity, build confidence, and teach us more about ourselves. Our sense of purpose matters at every stage of life, and learning and growing alongside

our neighbors is truly priceless. So, this month I am excited to write about all the wonderful events the neighborhood has planned. We have amazing people who live in Williamsburg who create special themed gatherings, and we are honored to live in such a vibrant community.

This month the ladies of Williamsburg gathered to learn and play a new game – bunco! We had a great crowd, many who, like me, had never played. It was an evening of laughing, competing, and learning something new with our neighbors. Thank you, Carmel Kessler, for organizing! Join us again for ladies’ bunco on Monday, July 6, at 6:30 p.m. at Arbor Activity Center Card Room II. Learn a new game if you have never played!

The Below’s driveway party in May turned into a pool party at the Recreational Center. The temperature that evening was too hot, so we had a wonderful gathering at the pool and the pavilion. Those who attended asked to do this again, so watch for an email or Facebook announcement.

Dinner out was at The Whistling Duck. Thank you, Linda McDonald, for planning this! From golf carts to personal vehicles, the ride, conversations, laughter, and great food were a hit! Hope to see you at our next dinner out.

Wednesday’s bocce ball is now changing to 7 p.m. at The Arbors due to the change in weather. No talent needed! Thank you, Dave and Carmel Kessler, for hosting!

The men’s monthly luncheon, organized by Dave Kessler, is coming up on Wednesday, July 8, at noon in the Hobby Building Event Room. Please bring a friend, a sack lunch, a drink, and enjoy the conversations.

With great upcoming events planned by our wonderful neighbors, please make sure you are on our email list. You can choose what events are right for you to attend. Please send your full name, address, and email to Ghina Siddiqui at gsiddiqui@gmail.com.

We hope you’ll join one of our upcoming events, learn something new, stay active, and enjoy laughter and conversation with your Williamsburg neighbors!

Crescent Ridge Happenings

Carol Lewis



Instead of a social in June, 20 residents enjoyed a Sunday boat tour through the Crystal River Preserve State Park. The preserve comprises 27,500 acres of salt marsh, tidal creeks, mangrove islands, hardwood forests, coastal scrub, and pine flatwoods. The tour was narrated by a park ranger who provided fascinating facts regarding the preserve. After

our tour, the group enjoyed a scrumptious lunch at Peck’s Old Port Cove.

With many Fourth of July activities to attend this month, another adventure has not been scheduled. However, watch our Facebook page or your email inbox for any announcements.

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

Have an enjoyable, safe Fourth of July and the 250th anniversary of our great country.



Photo by Lori Matuson

The Fairway Friends celebrate America’s 250th.

The Fairway Friends

Lori Matuson



The Fairway Friends celebrated America’s 250th anniversary on Saturday, June 6, under The Lodge at Candler Hills pavilion. A record turnout enjoyed patriotic decor and a barbecue featuring contributed sides to accompany grilled hamburgers and hot dogs.

Additionally, the ladies group met on Wednesday, June 17, at the Candler Hills Community Center for an afternoon tea party. Guests wore lovely hats and enjoyed tea sandwiches along with various sweet and savory delights while socializing with all who attended.

A very special thank you to our volunteers leading special events: Suzanne Waters, Cari Mathis, Dawn Busch, and Jan Fulton.

While we may not have a monument entrance sign leading to our 80-plus homes, we remain a vibrant and strong neighborhood.



Photo by Carol Lewis

Crescent Ridge neighbors visiting Crystal River Preserve State Park.

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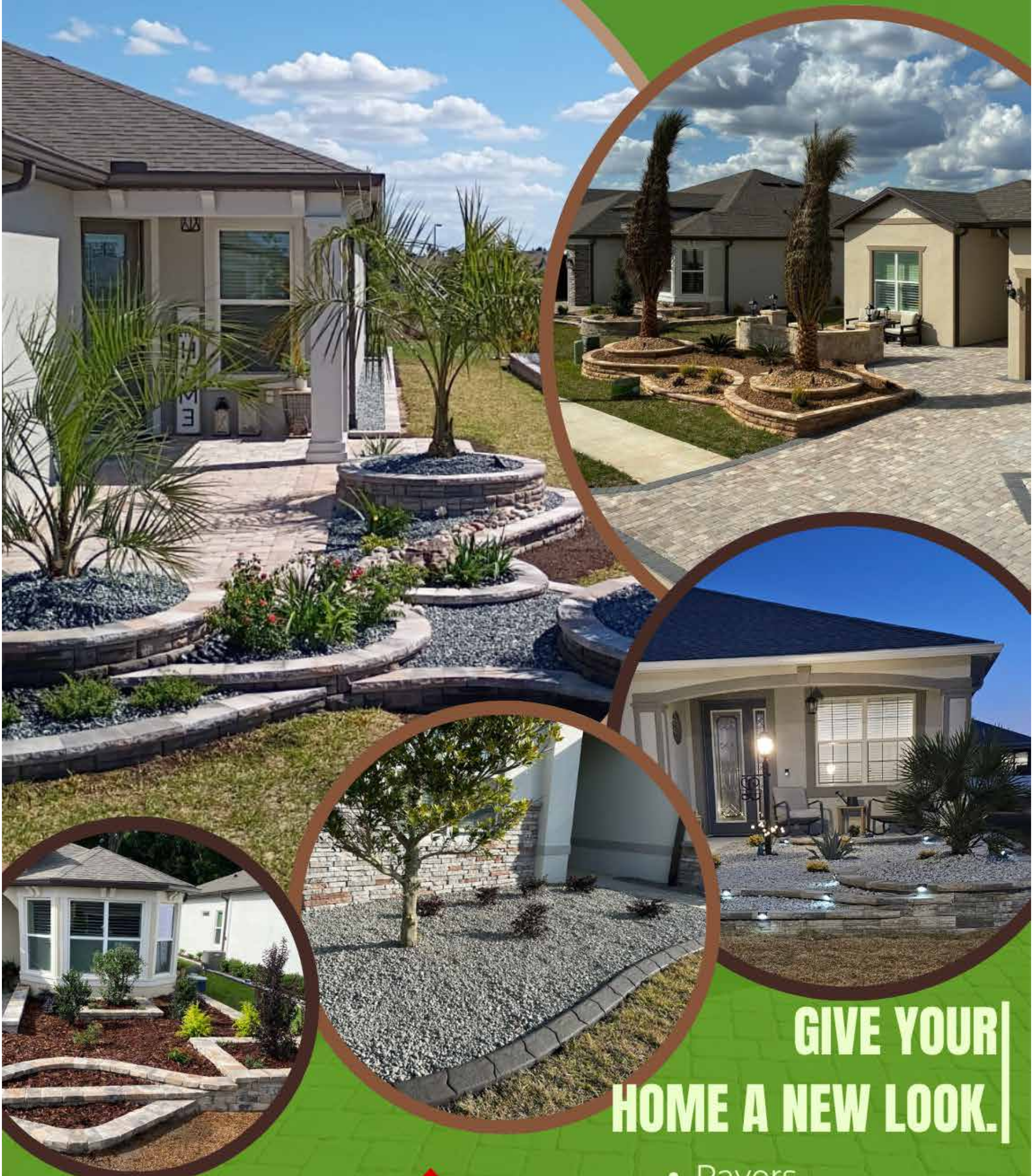
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Indonesian Night Tickets Available

By Rosalina Norita

Indonesia's archipelago nature and rich cultural heritage have given rise to numerous traditional dances that embody the values and distinct identity of its people. One such traditional dance with deep roots in Malay culture is Zapin. It functions both as a form of entertainment and as a vehicle for education and the communication of moral messages.

The Zapin dance is a traditional art form originating from Malay culture, specifically in the Riau and Riau Islands regions of Sumatra. Introduced by Arab traders between the 13th and 14th centuries, this dance is part of Islamic preaching and often features gambus music and Islamic verses that convey moral messages and religious teachings.

The origin of the name "Zapin" lies in the Arabic term "zafn", meaning fast-paced foot movements. In the past, male dancers performed Zapin exclusively at significant religious and traditional events. Nonetheless, the dance form has transformed over time, becoming a more comprehensive and inclusive form of entertainment.

With female participation, Zapin has expanded its reach, now being performed at various events such as weddings, welcoming ceremonies, and cultural festivals, underscoring its flexibility and ability to adapt to changing circumstances without compromising its fundamental nature.

Zapin transcends mere artistic expression, embodying profound significance. Its subtle yet rhythmic gestures convey harmony, unity, and simplicity, reflecting the essence of Malay culture. Furthermore, the accompanying music and lyrics impart moral and spiritual teachings that promote kindness, gratitude, and reverence for God. This dance form also exemplifies the spirit of communal cooperation and togetherness through the synchronized movements of its performers. As a medium for conveying timeless values, Zapin serves not only as entertainment but also as a profoundly valuable resource.

Among Indonesia's rich cultural heritage, Zapin is notable for encapsulating the beauty, harmony, and noble values of the Malay community. Ensuring the preservation of this dance is vital for its survival and continued relevance. The enduring recognition of Zapin as a prominent traditional dance is a testament to its importance.

Now, when it comes to good, comforting food, the intensely popular, culturally intriguing Indonesian dish is beef rendang. It is a cultural treasure from Indonesia's West Sumatra and is a dish made by

Slowly cooking beef in coconut milk and spices, allowing it to last for long periods, which was useful for Minangkabau traders' long voyages.

Beef rendang has evolved from a practical preserved food to a celebrated Indonesian dish, served at significant gatherings, embodying patience, cooperation, and respect for tradition.

Globally recognized, the dish symbolizes Indonesia's culinary identity and tells a story of cultural exchange, trade, and heritage passed down through generations across the archipelago. The rich flavors of rendang reflect the nation's history, much like the graceful rhythm of Zapin.

Join the Global Diversity Asian Social Club for an unforgettable evening at the Indonesian Extravaganza Night, taking place at The Summit Ballroom on Saturday, Aug. 29. Tickets are now available for purchase during Ticket Tuesday, in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room III, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Residents attending the Indonesian Extravaganza Night, will surely enjoy the spectacle and musical performances originating from the largest archipelago nation. In addition, the food served at this event will be of great pleasure and discovery especially appealing to lovers of Southeast Asian cuisine.

Agave - The Bloom

By Ray Cech
World News Writer

Most of us have never heard of, let alone seen, an agave plant in bloom. But they do grow among us. And thanks to an Americana Village neighbor, Caroline Shearing-Hill, we can now not only learn more about this amazing plant, but also go by and admire its blooming flowers – some 20-plus feet in the air.

The agave is a low-to-the-ground bluish-gray plant with sharp leaves. The blue agave variety is used to make tequila, and the sweetener mezcal is made from several different varieties of the plant. But what makes the agave so very unique?

Caroline had done her homework and shared it with us at her charming home in Americana Village. The blooming agave is just a few paces up the road.

It was Caroline's botanical interests, rooted in her younger days spent walking the woods in southern England, that prompted her to study the life of local agaves. She told us that the plant is very slow-growing and flowers only once in its lifetime. After flowering, the agave plant will then soon die.

During its lifetime, however, it serves many uses; for example, it is the key ingredient in making tequila – yet other Agave species produce a nectar used as a sweetener. And there are several other varieties used to make hemp rope and textiles. There are approximately 200 varieties of the agave plant.

Some of the species have been called the century plant, because people thought they took at least 100 years to bloom – actually it's more like 10 to 30 years. And they do bloom only once in a lifetime, flowering for four to eight weeks. The flowers attract pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.

After its once-in-a-lifetime bloom, the agave plant will slowly die, but not before leaving behind seeds that will produce the next agave.

You can see this amazing plant, now in bloom, at the intersection of SW 88th Court Road and SW 89th Court Road in Americana Village.

We thank Caroline Shearing-Hill for sharing her agave plant story. Caroline is a native of the south coast of England. She and her husband, Jim, found their way to On Top of the World via Texas, where they met, and where Caroline administered Bible study classes to prisoners and those just leaving the prison system. Savannah, Georgia, was their next calling, where Caroline was involved in church activities, and Jim managed the local Lowe's and worked at Gulfstream Aerospace. In 2016, they decided to make their final move and follow several of their Gulfstream friends to On Top of the World.



Photo by Ray Cech

Caroline with a blooming agave plant.



Photo by Putri Mandalika

Putri Mandalika dancers showcasing the Balinese peacock dance at Global Diversity Asian Social Club's Megibung Bali event in April 2025.



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World Traveler

Bill Shampine



The Colosseum, located in the center of Rome, Italy, has to be one of the most famous and most visited buildings in the world. The Emperor Vespasian, ruler of Rome from 69 to 79 CE, began constructing the Colosseum in 72 CE. Construction was completed in 80 CE by Titus, one of Vespasian’s sons, who ruled Rome from 79 to 81 CE. Domitian,

another son of Vespasian, and the Emperor of Rome from 81 to 96 CE, continued to add on to the structure. The official name of the building is the “Flavian Amphitheatre” because the family name of these three Emperors was Flavius. The Colosseum is 615 feet long, 510 feet wide, and 157 feet high. The central arena is 287 feet long and 180 feet wide, surrounded by a 15-foot-high wall. Five tiers of seating were built above the arena. It is thought that the average attendance was about 65,000 people, but the Colosseum could hold as many as 80,000. The builders also included a retract-

able awning to keep the sun and rain off the spectators. It was a canvas-covered, net-like structure made of ropes, with a hole in the center. It covered two-thirds of the arena, and sloped down towards the center to catch the wind and provide a breeze for the audience. The Colosseum also has two levels underneath the building, which contain an extensive series of rooms, tunnels, and cages. This is where gladiators prepared themselves for battle, and various wild animals to be used were caged before being brought up to the arena floor. The arena also could be quickly flooded so that the populace could witness a reen-

actment of historic naval battles. The Romans were amazing engineers and architects. The purpose of the Colosseum was to entertain the Roman populace by presenting gladiatorial contests and public spectacles including animal hunts, executions, re-enactments of famous battles, dramas based on Roman mythology, and mock sea battles. Depending on the particular theme of the entertainment program, the prop people at the facility would also create a variety of “natural” scenes in the arena, such as a forest with real trees and bushes. The inaugural games provided by Titus in 80 or 81 CE lasted for 100 days. Historical records note that over 9,000 wild animals were killed during this time period. Most of the animals came from Africa and the Middle East and included rhinoceros, hippopotamuses, elephants, giraffes, aurochs, bison, Barbary lions, panthers, leopards, bears, Caspian tigers, crocodiles, and ostriches. As an aside, can you imagine how the poor folks who had to capture these animals managed to do so and then transport them back to Rome? After all, they didn’t have tranquilizer darts back then! The entertainment ranged from simple performances by acrobats and magicians to huge events. For example, Trajan is said to have celebrated his victories in Dacia in 107 CE with contests featuring 11,000 animals and 10,000 gladiators over 123 days. Over the centuries, the Colosseum has suffered considerable damage from fires and earthquakes, requiring significant repairs, the latest of which was completed in 2018.



The interior of the Colosseum in Rome, Italy, showing the seating area and some of the underground tunnels and rooms.

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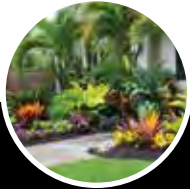
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Summer Gardening

July brings intense heat, daily rain showers, and rapid growth across Florida gardens. While many gardeners slow down during summer, Florida landscapes remain active with planting, maintenance, and pest control. With the right care, gardens can thrive throughout the hottest part of the year.

Florida’s warm temperatures and frequent afternoon thunderstorms encourage fast plant growth, but they also increase weeds, fungal diseases, and insect activity. Successful July gardening depends on proper watering, mulching, and choosing heat-tolerant plants.

Warm-season vegetables continue to perform well during July. Good choices for planting include southern peas, okra, sweet potatoes, Seminole pumpkin, peppers, eggplant, Malabar spinach, tropical beans, cherry tomatoes, and bush beans. Many herbs also thrive during the summer months.

Colorful flowers that handle Florida heat include pentas, vinca, salvia, marigolds, zinnias, angelonia, and coreopsis. Tropical plants such as hibiscus, cannas, lilies, and bird-of-paradise also flourish during midsummer while attracting butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds.

July is peak growing season for Flor-

ida lawns. Frequent rain and warm nights cause rapid grass growth, making regular mowing important. Avoid cutting grass too short, and leave grass clippings to return nutrients to the soil. Apply fertilizer carefully to prevent runoff during heavy rains.

Watch lawns for fungal problems such as brown patch and dollar spot, especially during extended wet weather. Overwatering can weaken roots and increase disease issues.

Hot, humid conditions also create ideal environments for summer pests. Common garden insects include aphids, whiteflies, spider mites, caterpillars, and chinch bugs. Inspect plants regularly for damage. Neem oil, insecticidal soap, and hand removal are often effective for controlling small infestations.

July is also a good time for light pruning and garden maintenance. Remove dead or diseased branches, trim fast-growing shrubs, deadhead flowers, and cut back leggy annuals. Avoid heavy pruning during extreme heat because it can stress plants.

Mulching remains one of the best defenses against Florida’s summer conditions. A two- to three-inch layer of mulch helps retain moisture, suppress weeds, and regulate soil temperature.

Summer-friendly herbs include basil, lemongrass, rosemary, Mexican tarragon, mint, and Cuban oregano. These herbs grow vigorously and provide fresh flavor for seasonal cooking.

With proper care and attention, Florida gardens can remain healthy, colorful, and productive throughout July.

Finding Zen

Robert Colen
info@sholompark.org



At Sholom Park, beauty is never only about what we see. It is also about what we learn, what we preserve, and how we connect more thoughtfully with the natural world around us.

One of the best examples of that mission is the Sholom Park food forest, a small but meaningful educational garden designed to demonstrate how food-producing plants can grow together successfully in North Central Florida.

Arranged in three rows, the food forest includes fruit and nut trees, berry-producing shrubs, specialty edibles, and understory plants. Unlike a traditional orchard or vegetable garden, it is layered. Taller trees provide structure, seasonal shade, leaf litter, and habitat, while smaller plants below contribute diversity, pollinator support, and additional food production.

The food forest offers visitors an opportunity to learn what can grow in our region and why thoughtful plant selection matters. In Florida, factors such as sunlight, soil conditions, water availability, cold tolerance, maintenance requirements, and ecological impact all influence whether a plant will thrive.

Visitors can discover a variety of edible plants throughout the garden, including chestnut, persimmon, fig, peach, plum, pear, apple, mulberry, blackberry, elderberry, pineapple, sugar cane, Barbados cherry, finger lime, and many others. These plants produce foods rich in vitamins, fiber, minerals, and antioxidants, helping to connect healthy landscapes with healthy living.

Beyond food production, the food forest demonstrates the value of sustainability. Diverse plantings can support pollinators, birds, beneficial insects, soil health, and overall biodiversity. By working with nature rather than against it, food forests create resilient ecosystems that benefit both people and wildlife.

The next time you visit Sholom Park, take a moment to explore the food forest. It may inspire ideas for your own landscape and offer a deeper appreciation for what can grow when people and nature work together.

Friends of SPCA

Heather Tahan



We extend our sincere thanks to Chi Animal Hospital, located in Reddick, Florida, for serving as our guest speaker in May. Dr. Terri Rosado, DVM, delivered a thoughtprovoking presentation on the many options available through both Western and Eastern approaches to pet care.

We look forward to welcoming new speakers on a variety of animalwelfare topics in the coming months. We would also like to thank Heather Evans at Hammer & Stain, located in Jasmine Plaza, for sponsoring a suncatcher event fundraiser. The participants had a wonderful time and went home with a suncatcher resembling their pets, while also raising funds for our local programs, such as pet food for Meals on Wheels recipients, spay-and-neuter assistance, and veterinary assistance.

As we celebrate America’s 250th birthday, please remember that July is the month when the most pets go missing. Whether it’s a frightened dog or cat startled by fireworks or a guest accidentally leaving a door ajar, extra vigilance is essential. Along with ID collars, please consider microchipping your pets if they aren’t already. Just as important is registering each pet’s microchip and keeping your contact information up to date.

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, microchipped dogs are 52% more likely to be reunited with their owners (compared to 22% without microchips), and microchipped cats are 39% more likely to be reunited (compared to just 2% without). There’s a reason July is recognized as National Microchip Month. Local clinics and rescues offer low-cost microchipping, and it’s a quick and easy procedure.

Beginning in September, our monthly meetings will move to the fourth Thursday of each month at 12:45 p.m. at The Summit Room 2, rather than the third. Our first meeting at the new time and location will be Thursday, Sept. 24. To attend our July and August meetings, held on July 16 and Aug. 20 at 12:45 p.m., or to get information on our programs and new membership, please call our SPCA help line at 352-362-0985 or contact Marlene Hatch at 317-514-4119.

During the summer months, we will not be at the Circle Square Commons Farmers Market due to the heat, but we always welcome volunteers to support our many events and programs. And don’t forget to mark your calendar for our second annual murder mystery dinner theater event on Friday, Nov. 20, Saturday, Nov. 21, and Sunday, Nov. 22.

If you have nonexpired pet food that your animal won’t eat or that was shipped to you in error, please consider donating it. Donations may be left on the porch of Evelyn Sarns Holiday at 8880-C SW 94th Street, Ocala, Florida 34481. We also accept blankets, sheets, and other pet supplies. We distribute all porch donations to local shelters and needy pets. To prevent accidental ingestion, please avoid using staples to close open bags. Your generosity truly makes a difference.

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

Illinois Group

Harriet Pinchauck



I’m happy to announce that our first gathering in June was a success! We had over 40 join us for a meet-and-greet, learning where we’re all from and who knows who might be related to. It was a super fun event. We actually had to shoo some people out to close down The Summit. With more people signing up every day, we’ll continue to share where we’re from in Illinois and talk about ideas for future activities and events for the group.

Join us on Tuesday, July 7, at 6:30 p.m. at The Summit Ballroom 2. Whether you’re from Chicago, the suburbs, central Illinois, southern Illinois, or anywhere in between, we’d love to have you join us.

It’s never too late. If this will be your first time joining us, please email mompin@att.net and let me know if you’ll be there and who may be coming with you.

Looking forward to meeting everyone and getting this new group started!

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Top 10 Things I Learned After a Year in Florida

By Paul DiSclafani
World News Writer

July marks my one-year anniversary living at the On Top of the World.

To say it's been a whirlwind would be an understatement. Leaving the only life I knew in New York for Florida was frightening enough, but I've learned something new every day.

My wife and I have met many wonderful people since we got here, and most everyone has been not only welcoming but also understanding of the "newbies." I guess everyone has experienced newbie-ness at some point.

After visiting friends in other Florida communities, we quickly realized that the number and quality of amenities available at On Top of the World are unmatched. If you haven't been to The Summit yet, trust me, it's worth the price of the Gateway of Services pass.

To honor our new life, especially the community here at On Top of the World, I thought I would list, David Letterman-style, the "Top 10 Things I Learned" about living in Florida over the past year.

#10. Pizza ain't that bad. Coming from a lifelong New Yorker, try a few different places before you make a judgment based on what everyone says. Then again, there's always DiGiorno. Now, bagels, on the other hand ...

#9. Live music at The Town Square. It's the late '70s all over again. Pack your cooler (or travel mug with "iced tea") and listen to cover bands play all the songs you loved when you could really shake your booty. Funny, but I don't remember line dancing to Aerosmith in 1978.

#8. People eat dinner kind of early here. I get it, but before the 5 o'clock news?

#7. I think the members of both the Italian Club and the New York/New Jersey Club are the same. Each club meets once a month on the same day, just a few hours apart, and everyone has the same accent. Fuhgeddaboudit!

#6. Alright, already, we're in Southwest Ocala. Does every street sign have to start with SW? And do we have to use both "Road" and "Avenue" on the same sign? I think Marion County must have invested heavily in GPS devices.

#5. Not sure where bunco came from, but I love it. Roll them bones, baby.

#4. The Active Newcomers Club is really a good thing. You get to sample different restaurants, play games you know and games you don't, while meeting other newbies. Too bad you age out after three years.

#3. Shows at Circle Square Cultural Center are top-notch. From tribute acts (ABBA, Motown, Billy Joel/Elton John) to classic performers (John Cafferty, Todd Rundgren) to comedy (Kevin Nealon, Rob Schneider), all set in a great venue. What's not to love?

#2. Golf carts are a way of life. I'm not sure how to survive without mine. All of a sudden, I get annoyed with people who park their cars in the Publix spots reserved for golf carts.

And the number one thing I've learned after a year in Florida: It's hot here, really, really hot ...



Photo by John Schnur

Dancing Jewels are always ready to entertain. For more information, please call Laura Schnur at 410-591-2030 or Linda Meyer at 973-809-3338.



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Schedule and prices are subject to change without notice. Reduced ticket prices are available for On Top of the World Community 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.



Travel Toppers

Mary Lamp



Travel Toppers Tours and its volunteers follow safety procedures for On Top of the World residents during our tours. All residents (in golf carts and cars) are required to follow the direction of volunteers when entering and exiting the parking lot off SW 81st Loop. Anyone who does not follow the safety procedures will be denied a reservation for future trips with Travel Toppers Tours. Reservations for Travel Toppers trips can be made Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with the coordi-

nators listed for each event. Reservations can be made for only two people at a time; guests will be placed on a waitlist. As this is a resident club, the board wants to give our own residents the first opportunity to attend. If there is availability, guests on the waitlist will be asked whether they remain interested in attending the trip.

The first Suncoast Dinner Theater production this season is “Pretty Woman the Musical,” on Saturday, Oct. 17. You can begin to make reservations for this play with Diane Knox on Monday, Aug. 3 by calling 352-390-2386. The next production is “Dear Evan Hansen” on Saturday, Nov. 14. Reservations begin Tuesday, Aug. 11 with Sharon Stetson at 207-838-3776 (please do not call on Mondays). This play is a musical about

a high school senior with social anxiety who has been asked by his therapist to write letters to himself about why each day will be a good one, hence the play’s name. It won Tonys in 2017 for Best Musical, Best Book of a Musical, Best Original Score, Best Performances by a Leading Actor and Leading Actress. In 2018, this play won a Grammy for Best Musical Theater Album.

A limited number of cabins are available for our Celebrity Apex Cruise from Feb. 13 through 20, 2027. Ports of call are Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Basseterre, St. Kitts, and Nevis. For pricing information, call Janet Wiles at 804-243-4008. Pricing will vary depending on your cabin choice, your excursions, and your decision to purchase

the beverage package/Wi-Fi. Prices will include the cruise, taxes, port charges, travel protection, prepaid gratuities, and round-trip transportation to/from Port Canaveral. The bus transportation portion will vary depending on the final number of travelers. The deposit is \$250 per person with final payment due 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.

Rhode Island Group

Judy Parisi



The Rhode Island Group met in May at Stone Creek Grille for a delicious lunch and to share memories with our fellow Rhode Islanders, as well as to discuss summer travels.

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation’s founding, we recall that Rhode Island, one of the original 13 colonies, played a critical role in that endeavor. Rhode Island was among the first to resist British rule. Native Rhode Islanders such as Nathanael Greene were at the forefront of the fighting.

The colonies were Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. They were established between 1607 and 1732, and by 1732 were all under British rule. Rhode Island’s charter was granted in 1663 by King Charles II at the request of Roger Williams. It was unique in that it guaranteed the colony religious freedom, making it a haven for people of varying religious beliefs.

The natural resources, original charters, founders, and settlers contributed to the unique economic focus, cultures, and religious leanings of the colonies. Despite their diversity, they united in opposition to taxation without representation, the British mercantilist economy,

the erosion of political rights, and their desire for self-determination.

The War for Independence lasted eight years. The colonists did not go it alone. Aiding them were critical allies, particularly the French, who joined in the War in 1778. France provided troops, naval support, and military supplies. Indirect support came from Spain, which provided troops and supplies to the southern colonies, and the Netherlands, which provided financial support, with Dutch merchants providing arms and ammunition. It was an arduous journey fraught with political divisions and extreme hardship.

The result was the United States emerging as a sovereign nation in 1783. The subsequent drafting and adoption of the United States Constitution in 1787 and the adoption of the Bill of Rights in 1791 stand as the foundation of our political system.

The Declaration of Independence, adopted in 1776 during the War for Independence, explains why the colonists were willing to sacrifice so much to secure their independence. It states: “The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations ... In every stage of these Oppressions, ... We have Petitioned for

Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury.” The Declaration then goes on to recount their many grievances against the Crown and cite the principal beliefs of the colonists. This iconic Declaration, which we celebrate on July 4, remains key to understanding the essence and promise of our Nation.

Our Rhode Island Group meets periodically for lunch to share stories and remembrances. If you have not attended prior lunches and would like to join us, please email judith.parisi@gmail.com so we can add you to our email list.



Rhode Island Group luncheon.

Photo by Judy Parisi



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Murder Mystery Theatre Club and members of the Latinos Club.

Silvia C. Garcia



The cast was phenomenal and kept

The Latinos Club provided complimentary bottles of wine, gift baskets for the drawings, and tambourines that many members joyfully played throughout the performance, creating a festive atmosphere. One of our founding club members, Kathy Torres, generously donated beautiful artwork she created for the drawing.

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 or Micky Crawford at 352-207-7153.

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Freethinkers

Kathy Bell



“Take the risk of thinking for yourself. Much more happiness, truth, beauty, and wisdom will come to you that way.” – Christopher Hitchens

How fortunate we are at freethinkers! In the last two months, we have had two national speakers address our group: Rabbi Merrill Shapiro, in his role as a former board member of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, talked with us in May about how Christian nationalism elevates one religion over others and erodes our First Amendment right to believe in no religion at all.

In June, we were delighted to welcome Pacita Rudder, executive director of Wikimedia New York City – Wikimedia is the organization behind one of the most-visited websites on Earth. With 130 to 200 million visits every day, Wikipedia is the largest and most-read reference work in human history: a free, multilingual encyclopedia featuring over 67 million articles in more than 300 languages, available to everyone at no cost. Pacita’s presentation, Wikipedia 101, took us behind the scenes of this remarkable resource.

This month, closer to home, we will rely upon our freethinkers for two programs: Open forum is back! On Sunday, July 12, we will have six tables, each covering a different topic, and freethinkers will choose the subject they’d most like to discuss. These are moderated discussions on interesting and sometimes controversial subjects, where we share our thoughts in a safe, comfortable, freethinking environment and learn from

one another.

On Sunday, July 26, Roger Mack and our team of freethinking tech gurus will present “AI Apocalypse,” which explores situations in which AI could go wrong. Remember the computer named HAL who took over the spacecraft in “2001: A Space Odyssey?” We are 25 years past our due date ...

Freethinkers meet on the second and fourth Sunday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room.

Freethinkers is an educational and social group for non-religious and non-dogmatic residents. We welcome atheists, agnostics, humanists, secularists, deists, and anyone skeptical of religion and dogma.

Our freethought community offers three monthly opportunities to share a meal and a monthly Socrates Café, where we practice civil discourse in an in-depth discussion of a philosophical or contemporary subject.

The book club features banned and controversial books. Our “Doing Good for Good’s Sake” project supports the work of freethinkers Debby Levy and Roland Campbell in providing a hot meal to the homeless in downtown Ocala on Monday nights.

This month, we are focusing on collecting men’s clothing and shoes, which can be dropped off at any Sunday meeting or by texting or calling Debby Levy at 561-346-7401 for information or a porch pickup.

If Freethinkers is a good fit for you and you’d like to join us, please plan to attend a Sunday meeting to register. After that, you can participate in all other activities. If you would like more information or a copy of our current newsletter, please email FreethinkersFlorida@gmail.com. Our freethought community welcomes you!

Moonstruck Astronomy Club

Cammie Fairburn



What does a star win in a competition? A constellation prize!

At our May meeting, we had a special guest speaker, NASA Solar System Ambassador Mark Gillette. He is also an astrophotographer, pilot, and retired college professor. His presentation included the Artemis missions, the International Space Station (ISS), the Perseverance rover and Ingenuity helicopter, the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), and the NASA Eyes app.

The Artemis program began in 2022 with the uncrewed Artemis I mission. We recently witnessed the Artemis II crew perform a flyby of the Moon. They did not orbit the Moon, but they went farther from it than the Apollo astronauts did. Artemis III is scheduled for late 2027. It will not land on the Moon, but the Orion spacecraft will rendezvous with and practice docking with moon landers. Maybe in 2028, Artemis IV will be the first crewed moon landing since Apollo 17 in 1972.

The ISS has been continuously occupied since 2000 and will be retired by 2030. Nearly 300 astronauts have been stationed at the ISS, and currently Expedition 74 is assigned to the station.

The Perseverance rover landed on Mars in 2021. It delivered the Ingenuity helicopter to see if powered aircraft could fly in the thin atmosphere of Mars, which has one percent of the density of

Earth’s atmosphere. Ingenuity was the first successful powered aircraft to fly on another planet. It was successful because of its high rotor speed.

The Hubble telescope launched in 1995 and orbits the Earth at a distance of 350 miles. The James Webb telescope launched in 2021 and orbits the Earth and the Sun at a distance of one million miles. It is so much further away because it operates in the infrared spectrum and must be far from heat sources such as the Earth and the Sun.

NASA Eyes (eyes.nasa.gov) is a visualization app that lets you view the Earth, the solar system, asteroids, and exoplanets in three dimensions. Functions include landing the Perseverance rover on Mars, tracking asteroids that may threaten Earth, and viewing the solar system from 1950-2050. Since every star has at least one planet, there are billions of planets in the universe. These planets that are outside our solar system are called exoplanets.

Besides the NASA Eyes app, other space apps include the Spot the Station app, which shows you the time and where in the sky to view the ISS as it passes over your location. Spaceflightnow.com provides the launch times and mission information of all space launches, including international launches.

The Moonstruck Astronomy Club meets on the second Thursday every month from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. Our next meeting is Thursday, July 9.

Keep looking up!

OTOWInfo.com

Indigo East Common Ground

Vicki Chandler



Welcome to the Indigo East Common Ground Neighbors! As recently reported, the club’s focus has shifted from party-oriented to citizen-oriented. The goal of this transition is to provide a platform for speakers and activities that help residents explore their goals and interests as Floridian and American citizens in today’s world.

All residents and neighbors of Indigo East are welcome to attend and participate in the planning of future meetings. If you have ideas to share or would like to volunteer your time, the group encourages your involvement. Plan to join us at the next planning session on Tuesday, July 14, at 4 p.m. in the Indigo East Community Center Room 2.

In this time of uncertainty, the group

remains committed to connecting and supporting one another. Attending these meetings offers an opportunity to engage with others who share common concerns, without bias or prejudice. This group believes in mutual respect and appreciation of our differences; we support efforts to provide food, shelter, and healthcare for those in need; we care about preserving our environment; and we seek a more peaceful world through a return to our country’s moral compass.

Residents who require a ride are asked to reach out to Lydia Kuust via text or phone call a few days in advance at 802-345-0669. If there is no answer, please leave a message, and your call will be returned. If you would like to be included on our email list for information regarding meeting times and topics, please send your name, address, phone number, and email address to Lydia Kuust at ldrincal@yahoo.com. Look for us on Facebook, and welcome to the neighborhood conversation.

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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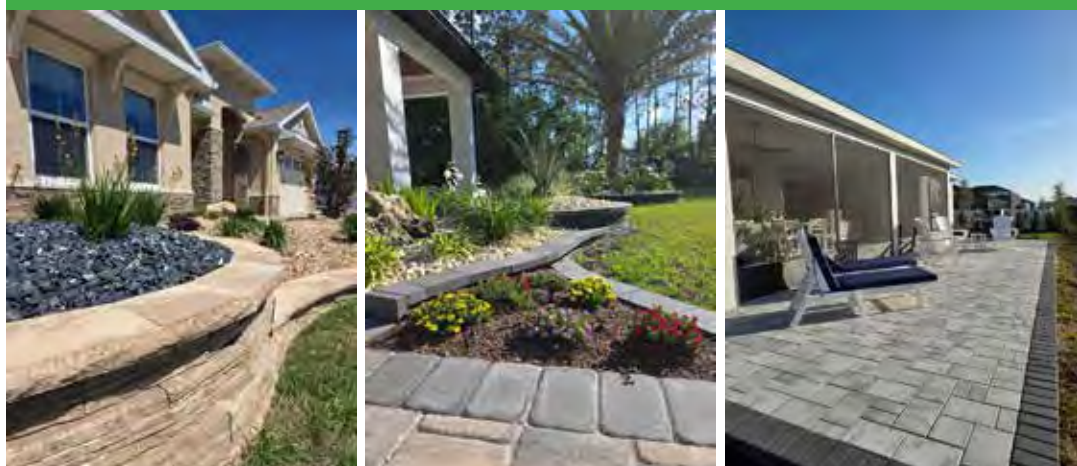
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Tech Tips from Bridgenet Communications

Shane Bobson
info@mybridgenet.com



Technology Enhances Modern Senior Travel

Remember when traveling meant folding giant paper maps, carrying travelers’ checks, and hoping the hotel looked like the brochure? Today, technology has fundamentally changed how we explore the world, making travel safer, more accessible, and significantly more enjoyable for adults aged 55 and older.

For the modern senior, out-of-home travel is a vital part of maintaining social cohesion, independence, and overall quality of life. While planning a trip used to feel overwhelming, today’s digital tools act as a personal travel concierge right in your pocket.

Hassle-Free Planning and Mobility

The biggest shift in modern travel is how easily we can now navigate unfamiliar territory. Emerging products and technology designed for personal mobility have made it simpler than ever to maintain an active lifestyle.

- Ridesharing Apps: Services like Uber and Lyft remove the stress of driving in unfamiliar cities, navigating complicated public transit, or walking long distances.
- Digital Navigation: Google Maps does more than give directions; it tells you exactly which bus to take, warns you about inclines you’ll need to walk, and shows wheelchair-accessible routes.
- Accessible Accommodations: Websites like Airbnb and Booking.com allow you to filter rentals specifically for step-free access, walk-in showers, and ground-floor entry.

Safety and Peace of Mind

One of the greatest benefits of traveling with technology is the security it provides, both for you and your loved ones at home.

Digital communication tools and video calling technology allow older adults to easily share their journeys, reducing social isolation and keeping family members connected in real time. With a quick FaceTime or WhatsApp call, you can show your grandchildren the Eiffel Tower or the Grand Canyon as if they were standing right next to you.

Furthermore, medical technology has gone mobile. Smartwatches can now monitor your heart rate, track your steps, and even detect falls, automatically alerting emergency services if necessary. Keeping digital copies of your prescriptions, insurance cards, and travel itineraries on your smartphone ensures that vital information is always available in an emergency.

Seamless Translation and Exploration

Language barriers are vanishing thanks to instant translation apps. With Google Translate, you can hold your smartphone camera up to a menu in Rome or a street sign in Tokyo, and the text instantly converts to English on your screen. You can even speak directly into the app, and it will translate your words aloud to a local resident.

Technology isn’t about replacing the adventure of travel; it’s about removing the friction. By embracing a few simple digital tools, you can explore the world with more confidence, safety, and freedom than ever before. Your next great adventure is just a tap away.

Technology Club

Chris Kilbride



Every Saturday at 9 a.m., the Ocala Tech Club convenes for an hour-long weekly meeting. We try to help our On Top of the World resident members learn about the ever-changing technology that surrounds us through discussions about Android, Windows, and Apple devices, including current issues. Our OcalaTechClub.org website will give lots of useful information about our group.

Modern technology in medicine is shifting toward actively listening to the brain’s electrical activity, which can mirror the body’s natural regulatory systems. Using this updated tracking of brain signals, medication doses can be prescribed more accurately, with fewer highs and lows for the patient.

There are now soft, fabric-based robotic exosuits that can apply gentle yet precise torques at the hip joints during specific gait phases. Wearing this does not alter a person’s natural arm swing or posture, unlike using only a walker or cane.

When worn, smart footwear projects adaptive visual cues onto the ground, assisting a person with impaired internal motor timing and facilitating gait initiation. Using this footwear would help overcome “freezing” episodes, which is a leading cause of falls, and preserve a patient’s independence and mobility.

Other wearable vibrotactile systems, worn on one’s wrists or ankles, for example, deliver rhythmic vibrations and subtle sensory cues, like a metronome, which keep a patient’s gait more consistent with a step rhythm.

Because of issues like insomnia, REM sleep behavior disorder, and restless leg syndrome, there are advanced sleep trackers. These include wearables and

On Top of the World

EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

Events and activities that take place behind the gates of On Top of the World are for residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

smart beds that can provide insights into patterns, enabling medications or light therapy interventions to improve a patient’s rest in the long run.

When patients experience musculoskeletal, neuropathic, and dystonic pain, there are wearable devices structured to monitor their posture and movement patterns. These biofeedback systems can help identify the source of the pain and are being explored for future features that offer self-regulation techniques.

Often, innovative technology in hearing aids and smartwatches uses motion sensors so sophisticated that a sudden change in a person’s balance can trigger the fall-detection mechanism. An automatic alert notifies emergency services and your family unless you can stop it. If someone has fallen and is now unconscious, the alert usually goes out within one minute of the incident.

Patients experiencing tremors may benefit from wearables that deliver electrical pulses precisely timed to cancel out their tremors. This is a wonderful solution for relief without medication.

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.

Women of the World

Lois Rowland



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

Our monthly meetings are the second Thursday of each month at noon in the Recreation Center (no meetings during the summer). Our next meeting will be on Thursday, Sept. 10. The speaker and monthly charity will be announced as soon as they are confirmed.

The board of directors meets during the summer months to plan the events for the upcoming 2026-2027 year. The board includes Michele Croud, president; Dolores Burke, first vice president; Marilyn Capanec, second vice president; Patricia Pratt, treasurer; Lois Rowland, secretary; and Chairwomen Jan Spielvogel, Laura Rubert and Ellie Richards.

A bunco fundraising event is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 9. The 23rd annual Fashion Show will be in March 2027, with the final date to be determined. We hope to see everyone again next season.

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.

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The Jewish Club

Bruce Kanner



The Jewish Club is sponsoring an audio/visual general trivia contest on Thursday, Aug. 6, at 4 p.m. in The Summit. The cost is \$5 per person, payable at the door. First and second-place cash prizes will be awarded. Everyone must register; not just team captains. To register, email your name and your team name to jewishclubtrivia@gmail.com by Wednesday, July 16. If you are not a member of a team, you will be assigned to one.

Woody Allen is credited with having said: “Showing up is 80% of life.” As a surprise thank-you to members for showing up, attendees at the Sunday, May 17 meeting enjoyed bagels and cream cheese in addition to the usual coffee and snacks.

The meeting program had members computing their birth path, destiny, and other markers during a presentation on Jewish numerology. Sherre Wellins, resident and Master the Possibilities presenter, compared Hebrew numerology to Western numerology, noting in Jewish numerology: “When you use numbers you are connecting yourself to the divine. Each letter, each word is actually connected to the divine.”

Using a numerology chart in which numbers are assigned to each letter of the alphabet, attendees computed their birth path from their date of birth and



Photo by Mark Frankel

Frank and Theresa Marrapodi enjoying the Jewish Club Shavuot cheesecake and wine tasting in May.

their destiny by adding up the letters in their full name. Wellins noted that while birth path remains constant, someone’s destiny can change if their name does, such as when women marry and assume a new name.

Wellins used former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir as an example, showing how someone’s destiny might change from her maiden name, Golda Mabovitch, to her married name, Golda Meyerson, to the name she assumed when she joined Israel’s Foreign Service. Using this example, Meir went from a destiny of “family” to “chaos” to “communicator” as she traveled through her life. “Jewish numerology is very mystical. It is not about adding one plus one,” she said. “It’s about what those numbers mean as you walk through your life.”

Scandinavian American Club

David Wesenberg



The Scandinavian American Club gets together to fellowship, converse, and learn about our Scandinavian American brothers and sisters. Our club usually meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room. However, we do not meet over the summer, so our next meeting will be on Tuesday, Sept. 22.

At the Tuesday, May 26 meeting, we enjoyed the music from the Toppers Banjo Band, featuring some of our own members. Add to this some great food and anecdotes, and we had a terrific and meaningful meeting.

Over the summer, Scandinavians are busy celebrating Midsummer (summer Solstice). Part of the celebration is recognizing the long sunlit days, nature, and fertility. Everything grows big in the long summer days. People express their joy with maypoles, flower crowns, huge bonfires, and feasts of pickled herring, new potatoes, and strawberries.

In Norway and Denmark, people celebrate Sankthansaften (St. John’s Eve) with massive bonfires on the beach to ward off evil spirits and witches.

In Finland, Juhannus celebrates the same saint with saunas and swims under the midnight sun.

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 Paul Kroll at 424-627-3151.

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SHORT PUTTS

Saturday, July 11, 2026

9 - 10 AM

Pre-register at the Candler Hills Golf Shop by 5 PM on the Friday before the Saturday clinic you would like to attend.

84301-100

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. What you may find and experience attending this group are understanding souls relatable to your situation, practical information contributed by all that eases the frustration of your sudden life change, and professional advice written by counselors, backed by scientific research, specifically for your new season of life.

There are no fees for attending this group; however, the group spends half its class time reading and discussing what our Stephen Ministries book series, “Journey Through Grief,” offers. It is not mandatory to purchase these to attend.

Much can be gleaned by listening to others converse on the topic at hand. Much flexibility, minus pressure, affords an individual the ability to abide in their comfort zone. Despite the com-

mon bond shared on this journey, our present conditions vary.

We have learned to be kind to ourselves, making decisions that allow peace to trickle in and closing the door on added challenges. Joy in the Mourning consists of multiple facets because much is happening and changing in the lives of people who are adjusting to a major lifestyle change. Some circumstances are out of our control, yet we can learn to gain some control over them.

We can be over-comers with the correct information. This, my friend, is the purpose and passion I have for the group.

Recently, a female attendee told me she finds the group interesting and compassionate. Another person said she is practicing the breathing exercises at home and finds them helpful. What could you discover that aids you is a mystery waiting to be revealed. Whether it be attending Joy in the Mourning or another support group tailored to your personality, I pray you get the help you need and deserve.

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July 16 JIFFY FEET 7 - 10 PM	July 17 CURBSIDE CUISINE 6 PM
July 23 ACE SUGS 7 - 10 PM	July 24 EX-SQUEEZE-IT LEMONADE 6 PM
July 30 DAN FLOK 7 - 10 PM	July 31 THE TACO TRAILER 6 PM

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Jan Lindell



June was very busy with many great trips, dining experiences, hikes, walks, and activities. Members enjoyed a full calendar of events that kept everyone active, engaged, and connected throughout the month.

One of the highlights was our visit to the Bradford-Ma Barker House, where we learned so much about the fascinating history of the site. It was both educational and memorable for all who attended.

Our sip-and-paint was a big hit – we loved learning to paint, sharing snacks during our break, and discovering what great students we all were.

We also spent time enjoying the outdoors and staying cool on the water during what turned out to be a warm June. A special favorite was our outing aboard

the Calypso Queen, where members relaxed, shared great conversation, and enjoyed a delicious lunch while cruising.

Another exciting trip included a visit to the Don Garlits Museum of Drag Racing and Antique Cars, which impressed everyone with its incredible collection and rich history.

July is here, and our day trips are already shaping up to be exciting and enjoyable. Upcoming adventures include an Ultimate Airboat Tour, a visit to Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park, and a fun Christmas in July craft show, followed by lunch at The Polo Pony.

Our dining group continues to plan wonderful outings with meals scheduled at Breakfast Station, Crossbones Grill, and Mesa de Noche. And don't forget – every Sunday we gather for lunch at Cody's, a favorite tradition for many members.

For those who enjoy staying active, our walks and hikes will take place monthly, including outings to Sholom

Park, the Land Bridge Trailhead, and Rainbow Springs State Park.

Be sure to also take advantage of our many games and activities, including samba, hand & foot, Mexican train, bunc-o, darts, bowling, pickleball, and bocce – there's always something fun happening!

We would also like to welcome our 11 new members. We hope to see you at some of our many activities, dining outings, walks, hikes, or day trips.

Please consider attending one of our membership meetings, held on the third Wednesday of each month at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio. Doors open at 7:15 p.m., and the meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Following a short meeting, we enjoy time to socialize and connect with one another. We may be single, but we certainly are not alone – we have plenty of fun with fellow members.

The only requirements to join our club are simple: you must be a resident with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass and be single. Visit otowactivesingles.com to learn more and discover how easy it is to join.

SWANS



Lois Nix

Mission accomplished. Where have 20 years gone? Will SWANS (Single Women Active Networking System) continue for the next 20 years?

The mission of the SWANS is to promote social interaction and to enrich, support, encourage, and respect one another. Over the past 20 years, we have traveled to places such as Branson, Nashville, Amish country, Albuquerque, Biloxi, Helen, and Las Vegas, by train and on many cruises. We enjoy the theater, symphony, concerts, and opera. We went on trips to Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings House, Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park, Bradford - Ma Barker House, Bok Tower Gardens, Haile Homestead at Kanapaha Plantation, and Florida Museum of Natural History Butterfly Rainforest.

Our networking system has been successful. The one thing we all have in common is that we are single. We are very diverse; we have different backgrounds, and we range in age. At this time, some of our younger SWANS are helping our older SWANS with shopping and other tasks. This is why SWANS are never alone.

We are quite different from other clubs; we are the only women's club, we do not collect dues, and we do not meet monthly. SWANS can benefit from joining other clubs.

To join the SWANS, you must be a single woman with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. We have been fortunate to celebrate 20 years thanks to the women who are committed to SWANS and volunteer for our events. We have members who will be celebrating 10, 15, and 20 years as a SWAN.

Welcome to the new SWANS. May you find a sense of belonging, establish life-long friendships, and feel the love and respect we have for each other. It has been my pleasure to be a member for 20 years and to serve as coordinator, with the help of other SWANS, for 16-plus years.

Mission accomplished.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Pick up after your pet.



Photo by Jan Lindell

Sip and paint event.

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The Brain Gym Grand Opening

By Cammy Dennis

As we grow older, cognitive changes are often subtle. These age-related changes are typically gradual and result from shifts in routines, reduced activity, or avoidance of daily tasks that have become burdensome. Often, cognitive abilities are imagined as a simple graph: rising as we grow and learn, stabilizing through adulthood, and then shifting downward with older age.

Recent scientific research demonstrates that the aging brain is much more sophisticated than this simple graph would suggest. The human brain is highly influenced by engagement and enriched experiences. Expert opinions in neuroscience may vary; however, they all agree that mental stimulation is important at any age. The brain’s ability to grow and reorganize itself is called neuroplasticity; we can influence it throughout the lifespan.

Brain training is not only important for memory and sharpness of thought, but it also supports cognitive health across the range of all that life requires of us. Science demonstrates that participating in cognitive training will help sustain attention, support processing speed, and can even improve coordination and balance. Early and continuous interaction with mentally stimulating activities supports these goals by keeping the mind active, flexible, and prepared for new demands. Cognitive training is not simply about preventing decline; it is about cultivating readiness, resilience, and human potential.

On Monday, June 1, On Top of the World opened the Brain Gym! We are

proud to provide opportunities that support optimal aging for both the body and the brain. The Brain Gym has seven BrainGymAI stations, each built with ergonomic principles at the forefront. The stations are highly specialized and equipped with dedicated sensors that create unique, interactive experiences designed to stimulate mental stimulation and support cognitive wellness.

Each station is accessible to individuals of all ages and abilities, including full wheelchair accessibility to ensure an inclusive experience for all users. Each resident will receive their own personal, NFC-enabled card. This personal NFC card provides instant login to each station and access to a continuously expanding library of games and activities. On opening day, we took nearly 100 residents through Brain Gym orientations, and they were astonished.

Resident Ann Gensler stated, “This is outstanding; I am amazed that we have this opportunity right here at On Top of the World! I was really impressed when Marco Spiegl, BrainGymAI representative, informed me that the idea for this type of cognitive training came from him watching his grandmother struggle with dementia. He wanted to start a program to help prevent dementia. I would encourage every resident to come try this; the machines are incredible!”

By combining technology, accessibility, and purposeful design, the Brain Gym stations provide an engaging approach to brain fitness that supports adaptability, focus, memory, and lifelong cognitive enrichment.



Photo by Cammy Dennis

Residents learning about the different stations in the Brain Gym.

Impressive Debut at Special Olympics Florida State Summer Games

By Steve Pike

Candler Hills resident Jonathan Polston finished fourth in his division in the bocce ball event at the recent Special Olympics Florida State Summer Games at Walt Disney World in Orlando. It was Polston’s first time competing in the state event – where he represented Marion County.

A total of 137 players competed in the bocce ball event. The Special Olympics Florida State Summer Games – held at the ESPN Wide World of Sports complex – drew a total of 2,190 competitors and 889 coaches from nearly every county in the state.

Congratulations, Jonathan!



Photo by Penny Polston

Jonathan Polston.



Photo by Steve Warren

Broadway 2 class goes wild!

Patriotic Pride & Zoo Fun

By Elaine Voorhis

Move over, June. July is here, bringing with it the 250th-anniversary celebration of our country! Speaking of the big celebration, our choreographer, Penny Berton, and students from her Advanced Broadway class at Master the Possibilities performed a patriotic routine to “Yankee Doodle Dandy” for the “Exploring 250 Years of America with MTP: The Grand Finale!” How cool was that? We’re immensely proud of her, and kudos to her students for a great performance.

Here’s a question for you that you don’t hear every day: Have you ever seen a bunch of zoo animals dance? I have, and I’ll tell you, they were very talented! If you attended our recital on Friday, June 12, you know what I’m talking about. If you didn’t, why not? You missed a fun time. The Broadway 2 class did a very cool routine to “Zoo” from the movie “Zootopia.” The animal costumes were very creative! There was a bear, a giraffe, zebras, a leopard, a kangaroo, even a skunk and more! Of course, to prevent chaos, those animals had to be supervised, so there was a zookeeper (aka Penny Berton), and she even had a whip! Fortunately, she didn’t have to use it. Phew!

The Broadway 1 class went aerobic with their very energetic routine to “We’re on Our Way,” but no worries, they had helpers with paper bags, asthma inhalers, fans, and an oxygen mask

ready to see them get through it!

The tap classes performed several favorite routines in the June recital with the Broadway classes – “Shivers,” “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy,” and “In the Mood.” They have also been working on some different step combinations and learning two new routines to add to the list for future performances. Tap can be challenging at times, but it’s a lot of fun and good for our brains and the rest of our bodies.

We hope you get the opportunity to attend our recitals and find yourself laughing, clapping, and tapping your toes to our routines. We always have so much fun and enjoy seeing audience participation and lots of smiles. If you didn’t make our last one, don’t worry; we’ll be back on Friday, Sept. 4 to strut our stuff again and show you what we have been working on over the summer. Even though we’re taking a short break from classes, we’ll still be practicing some of our older routines to keep them fresh in our heads. Watch here for the upcoming performance date/location as well as posts on several community pages on Facebook.

Don’t forget to contact us at broadwayandtap@yahoo.com for more information or if you’re interested in having us perform for your club event, neighborhood gathering, etc. We’d love to entertain you!



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matt_hibbs@otowfl.com



Well, we are officially halfway through 2026, and we’re just a few days away from Independence Day. Fourth of July has always reminded me of fireworks, parades, barbecues, picnics, fairs, golf, baseball, and fun. What memories come to mind when you think of this special holiday?

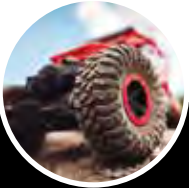
July also brings us the fourth major golf championship of the year, the 154th Open Championship. This year’s event returns to the Royal Birkdale, where Jordan Spieth triumphed in 2017. Here are the professional picks: Matt Hibbs – Ludvig Aberg, Denise Mullen– Rory McIlroy, Russ Smith – John Rahm, Josh Wilson – Aaron Rai, and Kelsey Hummer – Scottie Scheffler.

Candler Hills and The Links will also host a major event this month: the annual Fourth of July golf tournament on Saturday, July 4, with a 9 a.m. shotgun start. You can create your own team, and it’s \$20 per player for awards and prizes. The format will be one best ball of a foursome. Please register at your respective Golf Shop.

With aerification in full swing and course-closure rotations underway, this is a great time to discuss it. Although you may only see the effects on the surface, the impact of aerification goes deep into the soil profile and provides several benefits for years to come. By mechanically removing organic matter, we create additional pore space for oxygen, nutrients, and water, and provide an area for new roots to grow. Aerification can significantly improve drainage, which is especially important during the summer rainy season. In Florida, the slower golf season coincides with the warmer growing season, allowing the turf to recover

R/C Car Club

John Schoenherr



The outdoor car racetrack is being moved to a northern location within the community. The old track will be dismantled, making room for new houses. During this process, outdoor racing will be suspended. It is expected that the new track will be ready sometime in September. For updates on the progress of the new racetrack, please attend the R/C Car Club meeting the first Monday of the month. The next meeting will be Monday, July 6 at 10:30 a.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room.

During this summer recess in outdoor racing, members can take advantage of air-conditioned indoor slot car racing. Digital cars race every Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II. Analog cars race the third Monday and the last Friday of the month from 3 to 6 p.m. in Arbor Confer-

quickly and reducing the impact on golfers for the remainder of the year.

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, July 4: Fourth of July World Event at Candler Hills and The Links.
- Monday, July 27: Vegas Scramble at The Links and The Tortoise & The Hare

World Accolades

THE LINKS: Bob Mondore shot 74, 74, and 71, all under his age. John Cerio had a hole-in-one on #14. Norm Hayworth shot his lowest round ever, 74. John Mayfield shot 76, four strokes under his age.

THE TORTOISE & THE HARE: Bob Mondore shot 74, eight strokes under his age. Mark Meyer eagled #4. Jim Bobowski eagled #14. Loren Magsam had a hole-in-one on #11. Gaylon Powers shot his age, 67, with a hole-in-one on #14.

CANDLER HILLS: Linda Taylor shot her age, 75. Larry Smallwood eagled #7. Terry Butler shot his lowest round ever, 71. Scott Mote eagled #7. Jeff Richardson eagled #12. Phil Petrozella eagled #7.

Congratulations to all of you for these outstanding accomplishments!

Golf Tip of the Month

How many of you want to improve both your accuracy and distance? I bet that includes everyone who plays golf! Many golfers tend to swing with just their arms, which limits their potential. To help enhance both areas, focus on completing your golf swing. Here are a couple of key points to keep in mind:

- Complete your turn by ensuring your belt buckle is pointing toward the target after striking the ball.
- Make sure that 90% of your weight is on your front foot at the end of your swing. Your back foot should simply help with balance.

By concentrating on these two fundamentals, you should see improvements in both distance and consistency.

ence Center Dance Studio I. Don’t have a slot car? No problem. Club members will loan you a car to race. All you need to do is show up and have some fun.

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

May

Traxxas–Dave Johnson & Russ McGregor. Two-wheel buggy–Chuck Frederick. Pan car–Doug Stansbury. Modified–Bob Herbst. Two-wheel truck–Bob Melzer. Limited–Terry Altman. Touring–Dominic Papa. Sportsman–Chuck Walls. NASCAR–Bob Melzer.

Spring Season

Traxxas–Larry Ericksmoen & Jim Printer. Two-wheel buggy–Paul Beyer. Four-wheel buggy–Sam Murphy. Pan car–Bob Paxson. Modified–Terry Altman. Two-wheel truck–Gene Chicoine. Four-wheel truck–Bob Melzer. Limited–Dave Johnson. Touring–Mike Main. Sportsman–Larry Ericksmoen. Truggy–Rean Morse. NASCAR–Larry Ericksmoen.

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ON TOP OF THE WORLD WELLNESS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



Are you passionate about helping others stay active, connected, and engaged? Become a Wellness Warrior!

Join us as we launch our Wellness Volunteer Program at On Top of the World. Volunteering is one of the seven dimensions of wellness—a meaningful way to give back while making a positive impact in your community. Build new friendships, strengthen community connections, and make a difference as a Wellness Warrior.

Friday, August 21, 2026 | 1-3PM
Recreation Center Ballroom

Please register for the Wellness Volunteer event through the OTOW App, under Recreation Events.



Register via the OTOW App.

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Candler Hills
Ladies 18-Hole

Beth Wolinsky



The Denise Mullen Member Member was held on Thursday, May 7. Denise does such a great job working with our league, and we thank her for everything. We had a great turnout and a lovely lunch.

With the summer heat upon us, it is imperative to hydrate, bring snacks, and seek shade or use fans while playing golf. Please stay safe.

Course management is another important aspect of this game we love to play. Thinking strategically can lead to better outcomes. By doing this, it can be easier to play to your strengths and minimize risks. Smart decision-making can very often lead to less frustration. Since golf is such a personal game, adopting the course management style that works for you can lead to better rounds.

The league is open to any woman resident. If you wish to join, please contact our president, Sandy Snyder, at freesand@icloud.com.

Finally, believe, achieve, and enjoy golf.

Denise Mullen Member Member (Team)
May 7

Overall Champions: 66-Joanne Woolery, LuLu Kerkhoff

Low Gross

Flight 1: 68-Lynn Colomb, Diane Boston.
Flight 2: 68- Judi McGuinness, Chris McIntire.
Flight 3: 72- Peggy Weichmann, Vickie Noltensmeyer.
Flight 4: 70-Cynthia Gersten, Terry Lemesh.

Low Net

Flight 1: 69-Dawn Carroll, JoAnn Delmar. Tie at 70-Lisa Free, Rita Rich. Christine Giza, Debby Wilson.
Flight 2: 69-Janelle Gluckman, Mary Dawson. 70-Connie Norris, Sandra Mansfield.
Flight 3: 68-Liz Pruss, Katie Schriewer. 71-Anne

Dahlen, Beth Wolinsky.
Flight 4: 69-Carol Carney, Yuhlan Cho. 71-Patty Whitley, Kathy Zunica.

Individual Stableford in Flights (Individual)
May 21

Flight 1: 43-Mary Jeannotte. 42-Renee Cook-Garcia. 39-Linda Taylor. 39-Patricia Henderson.
Flight 2: 50-Judi McGuinness. 41-Rita Rich. 38-Peggy Ellenberger. 38-Cindy Pursel.
Flight 3: 42-Karen Campbell. 40-Katie Schriewer. 39-Debby Wilson. 39-Janelle Gluckman.
Flight 4: 47-Paula Lilly. 44-Mary A. Cunningham. 43-Chris McIntire.
Flight 5: 42-Roxiann Dwyer. 40-Tammy Seutter. 38-Anne Dahlen. 37-Ellen Brin.
Flight 6: 45-Renee Middleton. 38-Jan Christ. 35-Sandra Randles. 34-Rosann Ross.

Survivor Series Two Person Scramble
(Team)
May 28

Flight 1: 63-Shelly Karsnitz, Gayla Aldridge. 65-Christine Giza, Virginia Combs. 68-Mary Jeannotte, Beverly Ovrebo.
Flight 2: 64-Karen Campbell, Mary A. Cunningham. 67-Ellen Brin, Peggy Ellenberger. 69-Tammy Seutter, Patricia Henderson.
Flight 3: 69-Brenda Hofmann, Patty Whitley. 69-Kathleen Goodwin, Robin LeMaster. 70-Nancy Zielinski, Karen Schroeckenthaler.
Flight 4: 63-Marla Bennett, Rosann Ross. 71-Jan Christ, Peggy Mathis. 75-Eileen Gustavus, Renee Middleton.

LPGA US Open Pick A Pro (Individual)
June 4

Flight 1: 142-Patricia Henderson. 143-Mary Jeannotte. 146-Lori Pizzini. 147-Lisa Free.
Flight 2: Tie at 148-Lynn Colomb, Kathleen Goodwin. 150-Rita Rich. Tie at 151-Beverly Ovrebo, Christine Giza.
Flight 3: 146-Virginia Combs. 147-Judi McGuinness. 148-Carol Avery. 149-Karen Schroeckenthaler.
Flight 4: 142-Debby Wilson. 149-Connie Norris. Tie at 150-Becky Bivins, Ellen Brin.
Flight 5: Tie at 147-Vickie Foster, Liz Pruss. 149-Eileen Gustavus. 150-Beth Wolinsky.
Flight 6: 148-Donna Cosenza. 149-Donna Townsend. Tie at 150-Jan Christ, Virginia Madura.

Ladies 18-Hole
Golf Association

Jo Della Penna



Congratulations to Donna Brunell on her hole-in-one on Tuesday, May 26, at The Tortoise & The Hare #13, and to Chris Giza on shooting her age, 76, at The Links.

Alternate Shot
May 5/The Links
A&C

Flight 1: 67-Page Falconer, Ellen Brinn. 70-Mary Jeannotte, Peggy Wiechmann. Tie at 71-Lisa Free, Liz Lang, Sharon Fairclough, Robyn Atwood.
Flight 2: 72-Lynn Colomb, Karen Campbell. 73-Cindy Pursel, Connie Norris. 74-Beverly Ovrebo, Donna Issac. 75-Gail Lagrange, Liz Pruss.

B&D

Flight 1: Tie at 75-Bobbie Wiener, Robin Le Master, Judie Anderson, Terri Stecker, Mary Dawson, Kathy Sisti.
Flight 2: 74-Jill Strey, Donna Townsend. 75-Karen Schroeckenthaler, Donna Cosenza. 76-Virginia Coombs, Rosann Ross. 77-Joanne Woolery, Terry Lemesh.

Low Gross/Net
May 12/The Tortoise & The Hare
Gross

Flight 1: 76-Sharon Fairclough. 78-Lisa Free. 79-Renee Cook-Garcia.
Flight 2: 86-Jill Strey. 88-Kathleen Goodwin. 93-Donna La Bonte.
Flight 3: 88-Debra Dematteo. 93-Bobbie Wiener. 101-Janelle Gluckman.
Flight 4: 93-Marlena La Clair. 97-Nancy Zielinski. 100-Liz Pruss.
Flight 5: 96-Roxiann Dwyer. 97-Eileen Gustavus. 99-Kathleen Mansfield.

Net

Flight 1: 71-Linda Taylor. 73-Lynn Colomb. 76-Dawn Carroll.
Flight 2: 74-Becky Bivins. 76-Joanne Woolery. 80-Mary Dawson.
Flight 3: 76-Marla Bennett. 81-Judi Anderson. 86-

Suzanne Mullineaux.
Flight 4: 78-Robyn Atwood. 81-Cynthia Gersten. 83-Teri Stecker.
Flight 5: 77-Terry Lemesh. 78-Carol Carney. 78-Margie Williams.

Lucky 4s
May 19/The Links

Flight 1: Tie at 50-Linda Taylor, Lisa Free. 51-Lynn Colomb. Tie at 52-Va Donna Hall, Diane Boston, Page Falconer.
Flight 2: 51-Gayle Lagrange. Tie at 54-Beverly Ovrebo, Judi McGuinness. Tie at 55-Peggy Ellenberger, Cindy Pursel.
Flight 3: 49-Debby Wilson. 51-Joanne Woolery. 52-Katie Schriewer. Tie at 53-Becky Bivins, Tracey Rouw.
Flight 4: 50-Ellen Brinn. 51-Peggy Wiechmann. 52-Diane Hartman. 53-Christine McIntire. Tie at 54-Liz Pruss, Liz Lang.
Flight 5: 49-Robyn Atwood. Tie at 52-Connie Lukas, Eileen Gustavus. Tie at 53-Tammy Seutter, Roxiann Dwyer.
Flight 6: 54-Rosann Ross. Tie at 55-Donna Brunell, Vickie Foster. 56-Terry Lemesh. 57-Sandra Rands.

Cha-Cha

May 26/The Tortoise & The Hare

93-Sharon Fairclough, Karen Schroeckenthaler, Connie Lukas, Donna Brunell. 97-Joann Woolery, (B) Sharon Fairclough, Patty Whitley, Kathy Sisti. Tie at 100-Shelly Karsnitz, Cindy Pursel, Robyn Atwood, Joy Geradi, Gayla Aldridge, Katie Schriewer, Tracey Rouw, Renee Middleton.

Royal St. George's Golf Club in England didn't acknowledge women's existence. This didn't mean they couldn't play the course; it just meant, technically, they didn't exist. This worked in women's favor since if they didn't exist, they couldn't pay greens fees. Complications arose when one Fiona MacDonald made the Cambridge University golf team, which had a tradition of playing matches against a team from Royal St. George's. Laboring to find a solution, they named Ms. MacDonald an "honorary man." "We've come a long way, baby."

Horseshoes Club

Vern Kessler



OnTopoftheWorldNews.com/Ocala

The club will continue to pitch shoes for fun on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. throughout the summer months. This is a great time to come out and try pitching shoes with the club's 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.

The Horseshoe Club is free to join. No monthly dues or expensive equipment

to buy because everything you need to pitch shoes is provided. The summer months are a good time to come out and join the fun.

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.

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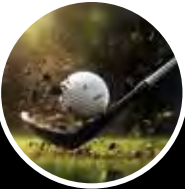
John Yenne



The On Top of the World Ladies Golf Association has proposed

Candler Hills Men's Golf

Kevin Hermida



Summer's approaching, and it's a great time to get out with your neighbors and enjoy the early morning. The Candler Hills Men's Golf Association is designed to boost camaraderie, welcome new players, and outline the competitive calendar. It balances friendly competition with the social spirit that keeps us all thriving. Visit chmga.com for information.

Golf doesn't end when your ball drops in the cup on the 18th green. The camaraderie in the clubhouse is what keeps our association vibrant. Make it a point to stick around for post-round drinks and lunch. Don't miss out on a great social time because you think the beers cost too much. Not only is it a great place to swap stories about that incredible up-and-down on the ninth, but it's where core friendships are built.

"Golf is the closest game to the game we call life. You get bad breaks from good shots; you get good breaks from bad shots – but you have to play the ball where it lies." – Bobby Jones

If you're interested in the competitive side of the game, you should try to support our events where possible. For many, time will be a factor, so prioritiz-

a semi-annual LGA/MGA golf challenge. The board is warming up to the idea – stay tuned for details. A reminder for Chicken Day participants: Members who sign up but do not pay the \$20 entry fee will not be permitted to play. Advance notice is required for tee times and food ordering, so please make sure your payment is in the envelope and in the MGA box in the Golf

ing which events to play is important. Check the website for our scheduled events and join us. The summer-opener could be a good starting point. Whether a scramble or a match, it's a good opportunity to show your support for the club at the start of the summer and simply to be sociable.

Step Aside Scramble

Jon Hill, Rich Seivers, Bruce Weaver, Kevin Hermida. Brian Bennett, Brad Best, John McMahon, Greg Edwards. John Hermans, Ron Pratt, Steve Johnson, John McLaughlin. Ray Kallai, Don Ropel, Jeffery Knittel, Art Siemenkowski. Kenneth Franks, Charlie Taylor, Steve Gersten, Phillip Petrozella. Robert Coughanour, Doug Buckler, Dale Szymanski, Bruce Rothenberg. Tom Prewnick, James Morgan, John Parnau, Walter Kurtz.

Two Man 666 AC

Flight 1: Jeff Richardson, Joe Wong, Joe Wils, Michael Altomare, Brian Bennett, Mike Inge. Flight 2: Larry Skoch, Dale Szymanski. Ray Parloto, John McMahon. John Herman, John Parnau, Gaylon Powers, Kevin McGuinness.

BD

Flight 1: Robert Kuhl, Tim Beaty, Greg Hoffman, Fernando Pallares, Scott Mote, Omer Fannin, Anthony Morris, Steve Johnson. Flight 2: Mike Kelly, Walter Knautz. Virgil Jajalla, Rick Deroven, Michael Cunningham, Richard Ross. Randy Keller, Bill Kenyon.

Special thanks to our board, who work hard to ensure our club functions at the highest level to support our membership.

Those interested in joining the club may attend an Intro to Pickleball class, held every Monday at 10:30 a.m. and on the first Saturday of each month on the upper courts. Participants may bring their own paddles or use club equipment. All are welcome.

For more information, visit toppickleballclub.com or find the club on the OTOW App > Residents Clubs & Groups > Top Pickleball Club.

Top Pickleball Club

Nate Snook



As temperatures rise during the summer months, hydration becomes a critical part of staying healthy and safe on the pickleball court, especially for older adults. Seniors are more susceptible to dehydration because the body's ability to conserve water decreases with age, and the sensation of thirst may be less pronounced.

Pickleball players can lose significant amounts of fluid through sweat, even during morning play. Dehydration can lead to fatigue, dizziness, muscle cramps, and decreased performance.

Health experts recommend drinking water before, during and after play rather than waiting until thirst develops. Electrolyte-replacement beverages may also help during extended play sessions. Staying properly hydrated helps players maintain energy, focus and enjoyment throughout the summer season.

Let's talk about pickleballs. Did you know our club budgets \$5,000 a year to purchase 2,500 pickleballs for club use? These balls replace a set number of balls at each court level. As balls break or reach the end of their useful life, they are replaced and redistributed weekly to ensure plenty of balls for club use. A recycle bin is placed at each court for these broken and expended balls. If you come across a cracked or broken ball, please place it in the designated recycle bin.

Unfortunately, more balls are replenished weekly than recycled. Some balls go over the fence and are not retrieved; others are just thrown in the garbage; and others just somehow vanish. Where do they go?

The board of directors wants everyone to know that the balls are for club members' use. Even though they are intended for designated club play and events, members can still use them during non-club hours. All we ask is that if you open the locker with the balls, you return them to the locker after use. If you are the last to leave the court, please return the ball bag to the locker and secure the lock. We have reasonable dues for all the benefits we get from our club. Let's all do our part to protect the balls.

The revamped rules class is held on the first Tuesday of each month. We have gone from tired classroom instruction to exciting, hands-on, practical review of pickleball rules on the court. This on-the-court experience is tailored to beginners but is also very informative for seasoned players if you have become rusty on the rules. Log on to toppickleballclub.com > Events to sign up.

Shop by the deadline.

Food leftovers have been minimal lately – a sure sign that our ordering process is hitting its target.

Remember that renovations are underway in the Recreation Center, where lunch is served. So, be cautious when entering the building.

As snowbirds have flown the coop, June Chicken Day drew only 115 competitors who played on The Links.

Course conditions are improving. The advisory board is addressing maintenance of the on-course water coolers, and the greenkeepers are working to improve hole-cutting on all greens.

Membership stands at 281 paid members.

For more information, visit otowmga.com.

Put these upcoming Wednesdays on your calendar.

- July 8: Individual Low Net/Gross (The Tortoise & The Hare)
- July 15: Team Stableford, Three Best Balls (The Links)
- July 22: Individual Quota Points (The Tortoise & The Hare)

July 29: Team Low Net, Two Best Balls (The Links)

Chicken Day

June 3/The Links

54–Russell Toms, Gary Niland, Bruce Venslavsky, Gerald Schneider. 55–Paul Derosso, Bruce Teachey, Rick Lilly, Joe Baumgartner. Tie at 56–Norm Hayworth, Gaylon Powers, Richard Foltyniewicz, Patrick Moran; Tim Carlisle, James Gourlay, Kenneth Gove, David Green; Ron Pratt, Rick Plesea, Louis Heger, James Thompson; Garfield Gray, Pat Cioffi, Charles Lombardo, Curt Bingham. Tie at 57–David Emmons, Don Channell, Bruce Weaver, Kevin Fuqua; Patrick Nagy, Stuart Martin, John Johnson, David Bauer; Don Livingston, John McMahon, Bruce Green, Joseph Stefani. Tie at 58–Robert Coughanour, Travis Karlin, Mike Krodell, Bob LeMaster; Dale Szymanski, Mike Inge, Mike Carver, Richard Ross; Joe Wilks, Garry Gerlach, Robert Meyer, Robert Zepf; Greg McDowell, Joseph Mendola, Terry Rizer, Mike Kurlakowsky; Thomas Mansfield, Wally Wohlleber, Jerome Fawcett, Loren Magsam.

TRASH COMPACTOR FULL?

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THIS SPRING LET SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT DO WHAT NEEDS DONE!

As spring arrives at On Top of the World, it's the perfect time to refresh and protect our community's beautiful landscapes. The Sustainable Landscape Management (SLM) team takes a thoughtful, comprehensive approach to caring for our 13,000-acre community, guided by more than 65 years of stewardship focused on protecting native habitats, enhancing resident lifestyles, and preserving our environment for generations to come.

Through practices such as Florida-Friendly Landscaping, Florida Water Star standards, solar energy initiatives, and responsible water conservation, SLM ensures sustainability that benefits both nature and our community.

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!

CALL OR EMAIL TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE ON SERVICES OFFERED!

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mowing• Trimming (trees and shrubs)• Weeding• Planting (trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals)• Landscape design• Mulching• Tree work | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fertilization (turf, trees, shrubs, and perennials)• Chemical applications (turf, trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals)• Seasonal clean-ups• Irrigation installation and service• Commercial and residential services |
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For a FREE ESTIMATE, scan the QR Code, call 352.816.1562, or email sustainable_landscape@otowfl.com!



Sustainable
LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT



Photo courtesy of Brenda Foster

Brenda Foster.

Archery Club

Robin Schiltz



Congratulations to club member Jerry Hoppe for achieving a USA Archery Level 3 National Judge Certification. This certification qualifies him to officiate at local, state, and national USA Archery events. To achieve his Level 3 Certification, Jerry first held a Level 2 Certification for two years, served as a judge at multiple USA Archery national tournaments, completed advanced online training, and then successfully passed a rigorous hands-on field examination. He has a long history of judging archery tournaments going back over 25 years and is also a national judge for the National Field Archery Association (NFAA). Congratulations are in order as well to Brenda Foster and Shizuka Campagna, who have attained Sandan level in the martial art of archery, kyudo. This is a high honor, similar to attaining a third-degree black belt. The testing process evaluates more than just the ability to hit the target; it requires practitioners to demonstrate highly refined technique, intense mental focus, and a deep understanding of the art’s spiritual discipline under pressure. To learn more about kyudo, stop by the range on Wednesdays from 2 to 4 p.m. (except for the fourth Wednesday of the month) or contact Brenda Foster (brenda@gcfonline.com). Archery is one of the few sports that can be picked up at any age – it’s not



Photo by Brenda Foster

Shizuka Campagna.

just for the young. The Archery Club manages the range at 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. Each Friday, we host “Freestyle Friday” from 9 a.m. until noon. Club mentors are at the range and available to assist our novice archers in improving their skills. 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 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 resident 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. Download and complete the application form and the required waivers, then email info@otowarcheryclub.org to request scheduling of your orientation session (mandatory for new members). Or, for additional information, please contact Chuck at chuck-archery@strickland.net or 407-257-9668, or Suzi at suzanne.shea61@gmail.com or 908-510-5714.

Call of the Wild Sports Club

Steve Sekac



Vice President and Hunting Director Wayne Phillips reported that members competed as a team (Charlie Lee, Richard Lapienski, Gordon Butzine, and Wayne Phillips) in the first annual sporting clay shoot on Saturday, May 23, at FishHawk Sporting Clays in Lithia, Florida. The event was hosted by Outdoor Valor, a veteran-led group that raised funds in support of those who have served our country. Approximately 10 teams of shooters competed. Individual and team high scores earned prizes, including overnight reservations at the Hard Rock Café in Tampa, a fishing excursion, and various raffles. Mission BBQ donated lunch. Shooting Director Paul Jorgensen reported that the May shooting handicap

competition is complete. **May** 102–Mark Uttermark (high scratch score of 78 and a handicap of 24). Tie at 100–Ray Baker and Tim Parker. **Year-to-Date** 111–Michael Lalli. 106–Mike Brajer. June’s handicap competition started, and the leader so far is Ray Baker with a combined score of 108, followed by Tim Parker and Mike Brajer tied with combined scores of 103. The completed tables for last month and year-to-date showing all shooters and their scores are listed on the club website. 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 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.



Photo by Wayne Phillips

Gordon Butzine at the ready.

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Table Tennis

Domenica Genovese



For Mike and Karen Lowe, table tennis is more than a game. It is something they enjoy doing together, something that keeps them moving, something that connects them to the community. Both were introduced to the game when they were tweens. Karen played ping pong with her next-door neighbor in Jamaica. Mike learned to play in China. Since he was the firstborn son, his family sent him to Kowloon for three

years to be immersed in his heritage. Though they were both born in Jamaica, they did not meet until Karen’s family migrated to Miami. Mike was attending Miami-Dade College when their paths crossed. After that, both were busy with school, work, getting married, and raising a family in Miami. It wasn’t until Mike retired and they moved here that they picked up the sport again. Fellow resident Penny Wilson invited them to give the club a try, and Mike needed no convincing. Karen, who never thought she was the athletic type, came around eventually. “Mike told me to give it a shot. We wanted something we could do together.” They’ve been playing together ever since, though their styles and skill levels

are different. Mike is an advanced player with tournament medals to show for it. Karen plays at an intermediate level and competes too, earning some medals of her own. Mike started out using the penhold grip, where the paddle is held between the thumb and index finger, much like holding a pen, with the other fingers curled behind the blade. It offers good wrist flexibility and strong forehand shots. He now prefers the handshake grip, where the handle is held as you would shake someone’s hand. He says that style gives a player more reach and stronger backhand play. Mike coaches Karen in several aspects of her game, with extra attention to her serve. He notes that a serve landing too high over the net gives an opponent more to work with, while a low, short serve is much harder to return. Mike adapts his coaching to players of all skill

levels to help them enjoy the game as they improve. Karen started out playing twice a week with the ladies’ group, and her game skills have steadily improved. With Mike’s guidance, along with tips and suggestions from other advanced players in the club, her play continues to improve. Mike plays practically every day of the week. Karen fits in four to five days a week in her overcrowded calendar. Their goal is to have fun, get some exercise, and laugh – a lot. “You have to be able to laugh at yourself,” Karen says. “If you can’t do that, you won’t have a good time with our group. From the sound of things, this has not been a problem for anyone in the club. For a complete list of session times for all members, please refer to the full schedule posted inside the Arbor Conference Center Table Tennis Room.



Karen and Mike Lowe take a break from gameplay.

Photo by Domenica Genovese



New POP tennis members Sue and Matt Barks, Lynn Dickson, and Gary Cor.

Photo by Shizuka Campagna



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POP Tennis

Beth Smith

The excitement around POP tennis at The Arbors continues to build! Our membership has grown steadily, climbing from 82 members last month to an impressive 90 players. It’s wonderful to see so many residents discovering this fun, social, and active sport. We play every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday beginning at 7:30 a.m. on The Arbors lower tennis courts. Whether you’re an experienced player or completely new to the game, there’s always a place for you on the court. Memorial Day was a special morning as many of our players arrived dressed in patriotic red, white, and blue attire. The festive spirit, friendly competition, and great camaraderie made for a memorable holiday gathering. If you’ve been curious about POP tennis, now is the perfect time to give it a try! There’s no need to feel intimidated. Simply show up and join us. We have paddles available for newcomers to borrow, and our members are always happy to introduce you to the game and help you learn the basics. As we often say, POP tennis is what happens when tennis and pickleball have a child – a fun, fast-paced sport that’s easy to learn and enjoyable for all skill levels. For those interested in lessons, arrangements can be made by contacting Brenda Foster at Brenda@gcfonline.com.

We are also fortunate to have an active women’s POP tennis group that meets on Saturday mornings under the leadership of Sharon Daniel. Women interested in joining this growing group can contact Sharon at sidusps81632@gmail.com for additional information. For general information, please contact Shizuka Campagna at shizukacampagna@gmail.com. As our membership continues to grow, we encourage everyone to come out, stay active, make new friends, and experience the fun of POP tennis. We look forward to welcoming many new faces as we march toward 90 members and beyond! See you on the courts!

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hotline at 352-362-0985.

Ladies Shuffleboard

Lois Nix



Our season 2025-2026 is over; on Wednesday, Sept. 2, our 2026-2027 season begins. We have now been shuffling as a ladies-only club for 10 years. We will be shuffling during the summer on Mondays at 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 9 a.m., and again at 11 a.m. We invite all women with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass to play.

We really enjoy the challenge of the game's skill, technique, and strategy. Join us! You need not know how to play the game; our ladies love to show how it is done. We request no open-toed shoes. Basic safety and rules of the game will be part of the introduction.

May

7-Cindy Engler. 6-Hellen Hettrich, Darlene Clark, Rose Marie Hayes, Barbara Russell, Rosemary Rhodes, Ro Kennedy, Diane Wanat.
30-plus: Bonnie Wood, Kathleen SanDelippo.

Season Totals

60-Barbara Russell. 59-Sandy Welch. 55-Dee Caple. 51-Sally Herrick. 49-Cindy. 45-Carol. 42-Jane Dormanen. 41-Marge Adragna. 39-Darlene Clark and Diane Laney.
30-plus: 11-Sandy Welch. 10-Barbara Russell. 10-Dee Caple. 10-Sally Herrick. 7-Jane Dormanen.

See you on the courts, and happy shuffling.

Weight Loss Group

Lori Beth Green



Are you ready to get healthier and reach your weight loss goals? Join the On Top of Weight Loss Group to find motivation and support alongside fellow members. You are welcome to use any food plan or exercise routine you prefer 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 ltrepper@att.net or Beth at doctroi@sbcglobal.net.

Tennis

Jorge Privat
352-387-7539



Overall, June was a pretty good month for tennis. Snowbirds are being missed, but they will come back in early fall. I still recommend that you bring enough fluids, preferably with sufficient electrolytes to keep you properly hydrated during the summer months.

I also have a request. If you are the last person leaving the court, please close the gate behind you. I often find gates open when I come in early in the morning. Gates can come off their hinges if the wind blows hard. Also, try to keep up

JULY 2026 FITNESS

RECREATION FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	SPARC JOE	Step DEBBIE	Remix Bootcamp DEBBIE	Step DEBBIE	SPARC NADINE
8:00 am BOB/DON	Cardio Boxing NADINE		Tai Chi ART		Dance Aerobics JOE
9:00 am	S.O.S. NADINE	Stretch, Flex & Balance DEBBIE	S.O.S. JOHN C.	Stretch, Flex & Balance DEBBIE	S.O.S. DEBBIE
9:00 am BOB/DON	Chair Pilates ELLIAN		BEAT LORE H.		Chair Pilates ELLIAN
10:00 am	Balanced Body LARRY	Chair Yoga	Balanced Body LORE H.	Chair Yoga LEE	Balanced Body DEBBIE
10:00 am BOB/DON	Chair Yoga SANDRA		Chair Yoga BOB/T		Chair Yoga SCOTT
11:00 am		Brain Power SETEAM	Get Fit While You Sit	Sculpt ELLIAN/LOE	Chair Dance JOE
11:00 am BOB/DON	Dance Aerobics LORE H.		Zumba® NADINE		Zumba® NADINE
12:00 pm		Parkinson's B.A.S.E.** JOE		Move to Improve Parkinson's** JOE	SATURDAY CLASSES: S.O.S. 9 am Chair Yoga 10 am
1:00 pm		Chair Chi** ART		Beginner/Intermediate Tai Chi NANCY	
3:00 pm	VYP Chair Yoga JOE	Balanced Body JOE	Chair Yoga TRISH	Balanced Body LORE H.	
5:00 pm		Candlelight Yoga ROSEAN		Candlelight Yoga SANDRA	

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

ARBOR FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	STRONG® DEBBIE	STRONG ELLIAN		STRONG ELLIAN	
9:00 am	Yoga SANDRA	Pilates Fusion VICKI/ELLIAN	Yoga JOE	Pilates Fusion LOE	Yin Yoga HELENE
10:00 am	STRONG JOHN C.	Yoga SANDRA	STRONG JOE	Yoga LORE H.	STRONG JOHN C.
11:00 am	Sculpt LEE		Yoga TRISH		
4:00 pm	Muscle Fit WOMEN VIRTUAL CLASS	Strong and Steady WOMEN VIRTUAL CLASS		Interval Training WOMEN VIRTUAL CLASS	Dance Fit WOMEN VIRTUAL CLASS

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. 7558.
*Seasonal classes run from October-July

ARBOR FITNESS CENTER INDOOR POOL CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9:00 am	Deep Water Aerobics LARRY	Shallow Water Aerobics JOE	Deep Water Aerobics TRISH	Shallow Water Aerobics JOE	Deep Water Aerobics JOE
10:00 am		Shallow Water Aerobics SHERRIE		Shallow Water Aerobics JOE	
12:30 pm		Shallow Water Aerobics JOE		Shallow Water Aerobics SHERRIE	

Open Swim: Saturdays 7 AM - 8:15 PM; Sundays 9 AM - 6:45 PM
All Water Aerobics classes are an additional fee. Fitness Pass purchase required. Please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. (658).

When to Stay Back

Moving in to the net can enable you to get lots of points, but the strategy can also backfire on you in certain cases. So, there will be times when you should be ready to abandon your attacking style at least temporarily. One of those situations is when you are playing on a clay court where the surface slows the ball down and gives your opponent a better chance to make a return you might not be able to handle. Another time to stay

back is when you are facing a player with exceptionally strong serves or deep, consistent returns. Remember, though, that the decision to stay back should be made before you serve or intend to move in. Also stay back when your serve and volleys go sour, when you get passed a few times, or when you lose confidence in your net play. Stay at the baseline. Who knows, maybe in a few games you'll get your strokes grooved again so that you can go back on the attack.
See you on the courts!

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Photo by Rick Munsell

Poms Dance and Cheer Squad performed their patriotic medley at the Memorial Day Ceremony at The Summit.

Poms Dance & Cheer

Pamela Kalamaras



May proved to be a month of hard work as we put the finishing touches on our sock hop medley as well as preparing our patriotic medley.

On Thursday, May 14, we enjoyed performing our sock hop medley for Women of the World, and we appreciated the audience’s enthusiastic applause for both the music and the dance.

On Monday, May 25, we performed our patriotic medley at the Memorial Day Ceremony. The tribute was quite moving, with many speakers sharing memories of their service and providing meaningful photos of other veterans.

On Wednesday, June 17, we performed our patriotic medley again for Master the Possibilities’ “Exploring 250 Years of America with MTP: The Grand Finale.”

This month I would like to introduce myself, Pam Kalamaras, the director of Poms Dance and Cheer Squad. I was born in Elmhurst, Illinois, and was raised in Palatine, a northwest suburb near Chicago. I took both ballet and tap lessons as a young child and enjoyed cheerleading in junior high and high school. From an early age, my passion

was to master the piano.

Eventually, I pursued a degree in piano performance. I received a full-ride scholarship to Millikin University and earned a bachelor’s degree in piano performance with a minor in voice and organ.

I began teaching private piano lessons during high school and at two studios in Decatur, Illinois, while in college. Eventually, I opened my own piano studio in Crystal Lake, Illinois, where I enjoyed teaching for several decades.

I’ve been married to Jim for 35 years and have two children.

On Top of the World has helped me achieve my bucket list items: leading the Poms Dance and Cheer Squad, singing soprano in the Concert Chorus, and serving as the treasurer for the group. I also volunteer for the weekly Wednesday night bingo as a banker/cashier. I fit in as many ballet and jazz dance classes as possible, participate as a dancer in theater groups, swim, walk, read, and, of course, perform on the piano at various venues in On Top of the World and the Ocala area.

If you would like Poms Dance and Cheer Square 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. Go pommies! Please contact Pam Kalamaras at pammykal@aol.com for more information.

Jazz Dance Club

Liz Elliott Lieberman



The Ovation Dancers performed to Michael Buble’s “Sway” in “At the CopaOcala” when we danced in the show in May for the Latinos Club. Immensely proud of everyone’s hard work and dedication.

We plan to pay tribute to “Women in the Military” on Veterans Day in November. If you have served in the military, please contact me using the information below. You will not have to dance, but maybe make a special appearance and walk across the stage, and we will honor your service. It would be wonderful if you still had your uniform!

Announcing a new schedule for Jazz Dance Club class. This weekly seven-week class will run from Monday, July 6 through Monday, Aug. 17, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Studio D. This class is designed for fun, camaraderie, and exercise to all kinds of different music – from Sinatra

to Bruno Mars and “Chicago” (the musical) to Led Zeppelin. Hope to see you there. This is not a rehearsal or performance class and costs only \$10 per resident.

Future classes will include the Showgirl Boot Camp, scheduled for October and November.

My memories were jolted again (a new phenomenon) while watching the Tony Awards. The hardest role I ever performed was Cassie in “A Chorus Line.” Michael Bennett choreographed it for the incomparable Donna McKechnie, and I was not really right for the role. The dancing and acting I could manage, but singing “Music & the Mirror” was a nightmare for me. You have to have a lot of breath control to come back into the song after some strenuous dancing, and I truly struggled even when I was much younger. I had some help at the time from Carol Channing, whose advice was to surreptitiously chew gum while standing on stage for a long time before dancing, and bite my tongue to get enough saliva going. It didn’t help!

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



Photo by Robert Lieberman

The Ovation Dancers in “At the CopaOcala.”

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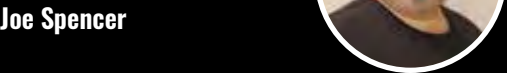
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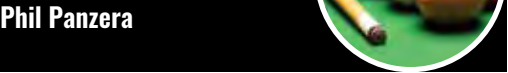
Line Dancing



Fun and exercise! Join our line dance family of friends and learn the newest mainstream dances seen throughout the world, as well as popular classics. You will be able to join your friends on the dance floor at almost any social or workshop event. We dance to all types of music.

There are four levels of classes. The easiest is Absolute Beginner (AB), from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., then Beginner, from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m., and Improver, from noon to 1 p.m., on Mondays in the Rec-

Billiards Club



Congratulations to Mike Lawson’s Team 2, which won the League Championship in our winter league. Team 2 finished with the best win-loss record and the highest win percentage among the league’s 14 teams. Team members included Captain Mike Lawson, Co-captain Ron Rose, Nikki Buehlman, Tom Marcotte, Phil Panzera, Lew Plauny and Al Sable.

Congratulations also to Doug McClain’s Team 7, the Wolves Division champions. Team 7 narrowly edged out Mark Gatchell’s Team 14, as both teams dominated their division. Team 7 members included: Captain Doug McClain, Co-captain Dave King, Jeff Bloom, John Del Monte, Glo King, Jeff Holton, Dan Weiss and Don Wright.

TIP OF THE MONTH: I consistently see people get hooked on the nine-ball break, and then try a difficult kick. Very often they miss, and give away ball in hand. I mentally grimace when I see my partner getting down to kick, and I inwardly smile when our opponent does so. Here’s the very simple tip: don’t do that!

To resolve this unlucky result (getting snookered on the break), the game has a “push out” rule. The push out (or push) is available only on the first shot after

reation Center Ballroom. The Intermediate level is held on Tuesdays at the Arbor Conference Center, Studio D, from 8:30 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 themed line dance socials!

There is also an AB level line dance class at 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

the break. If you choose to push out, announce your intent. Two foul rules are then suspended: you need not hit the lowest-numbered ball or a cushion (all other fouls remain in place).

A very common push-out is to just hit the cue ball a few inches to the side so that the lowest-numbered ball can be seen. Of course, you will not push to an easy shot, as after you push your opponent has the option to shoot, or give the shot back to you. If he gives it back, the push-out process ends, and you must shoot.

Generally, a player pushes to leave a hard shot away. Just keep in mind that you might be shooting it, so make sure it is something you can handle. If you are stronger than your opponent, push to a shot that you can make, and he can’t.

Like chess, it’s also important to consider what your opponent might do. Don’t push to a place that gives him the opportunity to play a lockup safety, or a two-way shot. If the lowest numbered ball is very near a pocket, and you can’t leave a hard shot, consider pushing to a place where there is a makeable kick or jump shot.

If you are playing someone capable of running out, it is an excellent move to just knock two balls together, while still leaving a hard shot. This makes it much more difficult for your opponent to run out.

In short, think! And don’t just automatically kick. Your first job is to get back to the table, and this special rule is your friend – use it!

Barr, and Larry Bass. These instructors/choreographers are known around the 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. To participate, you must have a valid resident ID or a Gateway of Services pass. You will receive links to the dance step sheets and videos by email, usually two days before each class.

Feel free to make variations. For example, if you don’t like turning, take the turns out. Do what works for you and remember to have fun.

Line dancing is like therapy. It offers so many tremendous health benefits, both physical and mental. Many dancers notice their health statistics improving after only a few months of dancing. It keeps us moving. Many dancers say that it helps their joints and 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). Join us on Facebook (Line Dance Ocala or OTOW Line Dancers).





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Sidekicks

Rich Gautier



Sidekicks Partner Dance Club is a friendly place for couples who want to enjoy partner dancing without feeling pressured. It’s a warm, welcoming group where music, movement, and helpful instruction come together to make learning fun.

If partner dancing has ever felt a little intimidating, Sidekicks is a great place to start. The atmosphere is relaxed and encouraging, so couples can take their time, enjoy the process, and feel more comfortable as they learn. Over time, many dancers find they gain confidence not just on the dance floor, but in everyday social settings, too.

Sidekicks will continue monthly practice sessions only through September, so summer is a good time to stay involved. The next practice will be held on Tuesday, July 14, at 4 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. It’s a good chance for couples to keep dancing, stay connected, and keep building their skills.

Beginner classes will start up again in September, and we’re looking forward

to welcoming everyone back. Beginner and improver classes will give couples another chance to learn, practice, and grow together.

During the regular season, monthly “all level” dances are held every four weeks on Tuesday from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. These dances are a fun, low-key way to try out what you’ve learned, meet other dancers, and enjoy a lively afternoon.

Sidekicks Partner Dance Club is about more than just classes and dances. It’s about sharing an activity together, building confidence, and enjoying the simple pleasure of moving to music. A lot of dancers discover that once they get started, they’re glad they did.

Couples are invited to give Sidekicks a try and see how dancing together can bring more confidence, energy, and connection – one step at a time.

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

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

Ballet

Eugenie Martin



As we approach our 29th anniversary, the Ballet Club is going strong. We started with two classes; I taught, assisted by Cheryl Sloan, who, like me, brought a ballet barre from home for our two weekly classes. We held classes in a studio next to the indoor swimming pool in the Arbor Fitness Center (formerly known as the Arbor Club).

Soon, we were joined by Julie Sines, an experienced teacher, and eventually our classes expanded to six each week, with many dancers attending. We bought more ballet barres, got permission to keep them in the studio, and held classes until the studio was taken down. Then, the classes were divided into two groups – the more advanced went with Julie, and I took the less experienced dancers, teaching four classes each week.

Now, we are in the Arbor Conference Center Studio D, with five classes each week, and five teachers available to lead them. The schedule of classes is as follows:

- Beginner: Thursdays, 1 to 2:15 p.m.
- Advanced Beginner: Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Intermediate: Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Silver Swans: Fridays, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Technique: Wednesdays, 1:15 to 2:30 p.m.

Beginners do not need ballet clothes or shoes to start class. Just wear stretchy exercise clothes and socks; bring a bottle of water. If you decide that ballet is for you, then you can buy tights, a leotard, and ballet shoes. For any questions or additional information about our ballet classes, please call me, Eugenie Martin, at 352-854-8589. Happy dancing!

Co-Ed Recreational Softball

Pat Wilbert



As the months grow warmer, our community continues to enjoy the sport we love – softball. Here, residents can take part in activities that offer exercise, friendship, and a healthy challenge.

The Co-Ed Recreational Softball League welcomes ladies and men of all ages and skill levels. Each Saturday, players gather at 8:30 a.m. to stretch, and the game begins at 8:45 a.m. We typically play eight innings, though lately we’ve been able to extend to nine when time allows.

Teams are formed each week by selecting the ladies first, followed by a mix of men and women. Turnout has remained strong, even with some players heading north for the summer. Runners are available for anyone who needs one, and equipment is provided for those without a glove or bat. Friendly advice is always offered for anyone looking to improve their game.

We recently experienced a brief pause in play during annual field maintenance, but everything is now back in great shape, and games have resumed as usual. Thank you to everyone for your patience during the downtime.

If you’re interested in joining a fun, welcoming group that enjoys a few laughs along with the game, come out on Saturday mornings and give it a try.

All that’s left to say is: play ball!

Ohio Buckeyes Social Club

Tami Rossignol



The Ohio Buckeyes Social Club has had some changes since the last publication. There will not be a Friday, July 3 party as previously reported due to a venue cancellation. It has been renamed “The Better Late Than Never Buckeye BBQ” and rescheduled for Friday, July 17, at The Lodge at Candler Hills pool-side pavilion from 4:30 to 8 p.m.

The club will provide all the fixings for hot dogs, bratwursts, and ice cream to tie in with National Hot Dog Day and National Ice Cream Month. Members are asked to bring a side dish. Don’t miss out on the ax throwing, cornhole, lively music, all-American food, and of course the Buckeye camaraderie. Space is limited, and members are required to RSVP for this event; guests are welcome for \$5 per person.

Other events to be held this year include a Halloween party, our annual Christmas party, and the fall football game watch parties. Our first game watch party will be held in the Recreation Center Derby Room on Saturday, Sept. 5, when the Ohio State Buckeyes take on Ball State. Kickoff is set for 12:30 p.m. Seating is limited, so members will be required to RSVP.

Several members have been seen at the free Boots & Beats at The Town Square at Circle Square Commons on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. Feel free to join us there as well.

Do not miss out on all the fun! If you are interested in joining or renewing your membership to the Ohio Buckeyes Social Club, email us at buckeyefans34481@gmail.com. Annual dues are \$20 per person, and the club is open to residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass who have ties to or an interest in the state of Ohio. As a member, you can also find current news and information about us on Facebook (Ohio Buckeye Social Club of OTOW).



Image generated by John Rossignol

It’s raining Buckeyes.

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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R/C Sailing Club

Gene Mangold



Every Wednesday and Sunday at noon, you can find us down at the Tusawilla Park pond. It is the perfect setting – surrounded by trees, bright sunshine, visiting ducks, and passersby who stop to admire the fleet. Of course, we don’t just sail on blue-sky days; part of the thrill is adapting to challenging weather conditions that test our building and steering skills. We are in the middle of light summer winds so our race around the buoys are five to eight minutes with many shifts of direction.

There is a unique magic in watching a sailboat move across the water. For me, boats have always been more than just vessels – they are works of art. With their graceful lines and elegant silhouettes, a well-crafted sailboat is a beautiful sight to behold. But the real magic happens when they move, cutting through the water with effortless grace, leaving barely a ripple of wake behind them.

While I spent much of my youth on the water – navigating yacht club lake races, crossing oceans, and exploring everything from rugged coastlines to tropical islands – these days, I find that same profound joy right from the shoreline, through the wonderful world of R/C sailing.

For me, the joy of R/C sailing begins long before the boat ever touches

the water. But the real obsession lies in the tinkering. I spend hours adjusting the rigging and fine-tuning the sails to find that elusive, perfect balance. In our open classes, I love experimenting with sail-making and testing out different rig designs. To me, ultimate success isn’t about wrestling with the controls; it’s about achieving that perfect harmony where the boat glides effortlessly through the water with maximum speed and little to no input from me. When a boat is balanced perfectly, it doesn’t fight the elements – it dances with them.

Our local club primarily sails one-meter boats, DF95, which provides a fantastic baseline in which length determines speed, putting the focus on skill and tuning. We enjoy the thrill of racing, but we keep things relaxed with a delightfully loose interpretation of the rules. Whether we are racing strict one-design boats or experimenting in open classes, the focus is always on fun rather than fierce rivalry.

R/C sailing bridges the past and the present. It keeps my competitive spirit alive, satisfies my need to build and experiment, and connects me to a wonderful community. Every time my boat catches the breeze and glides silently across the pond, I am transported back to the open ocean, proving that you don’t need to be onboard a ship to feel the true freedom of sailing.

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!



Photo by Gene Mangold

Mark one.



Photo by Pam Brown

Hit or miss (Gary Schroeder, Vince Laney, Ed Cason and Jim Hudspeth).

Bocce Club

Kathy Nastally



Happy 250th birthday, America! Wishing everyone safe star-spangled celebrations.

It’s summer and things are heating up at the bocce courts! The weather in the morning hours has been cooperating for play. That descriptive stormy word we do not mention in coastal areas is locked down in a ball box for safekeeping. Lately, temperatures are not only rising, but we have a few players rolling so hot we are thinking of keeping a fire blanket close.

All league players and any new players are welcome to join in some fun at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays. Usually, after the best of bocce tournaments, we do not see our league players much until fall competition resumes. Come by and work on your skills. For the 2026-2027 league season, we anticipate starting the second week of October. Anyone interested in forming a new team should contact one of our league representatives.

The club has two new league representatives for this upcoming season. Welcome to Terri Bloom for Tuesday 11 a.m. and Ron Daughtry for Thursday 10 a.m. Jim Wolfer and Ray Meyers are staying on for Tuesday 9 a.m. and Longleaf Ridge 1 leagues, respectively.

Our board of directors is now full! Barb Daughtry is moving into our treasurer role, and Kelly Lundine has joined us as vice president. They, with our

league representatives, join Pam Brown, president, and Kathy Nastally, secretary, to complete the board. Welcome to all.

The bocce courts are located behind the Arbor Fitness Center next to the tennis courts. Close-toed shoes are required for your safety on the courts. Court one also has a partially removable wall for handicap accessibility. The courts have lighting for evening play.

For safety purposes, remember that lofting is not allowed on the courts. Signs are posted. Lofting is when the colored green or red bocce ball is released higher than your hip level. No overhand throwing of a ball is allowed. Different rules may be played in different parts of the world and in other communities. Lofting may pose a potential serious injury risk.

Please pay attention to your surroundings while playing. Rules for our courts are available and posted. A drinking fountain is available courtside. Remember to stay hydrated.

Open play starts promptly at 8:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays pending weather. We use a luck-of-the-draw format. Players draw cards to determine courts and team color. We are limited to 48 players, so plan to arrive early. Sign-up is closed after 48 players have signed in. Individuals may play up to three times before paying dues. Club dues are \$15. All players must complete the required Hold Harmless forms and present a valid resident ID.

For any questions, please contact President Pam Brown at 970-531-1890. It is storm season; review your preparedness list. Are you ready? In the meantime, come play with us and let some bocce balls roll!

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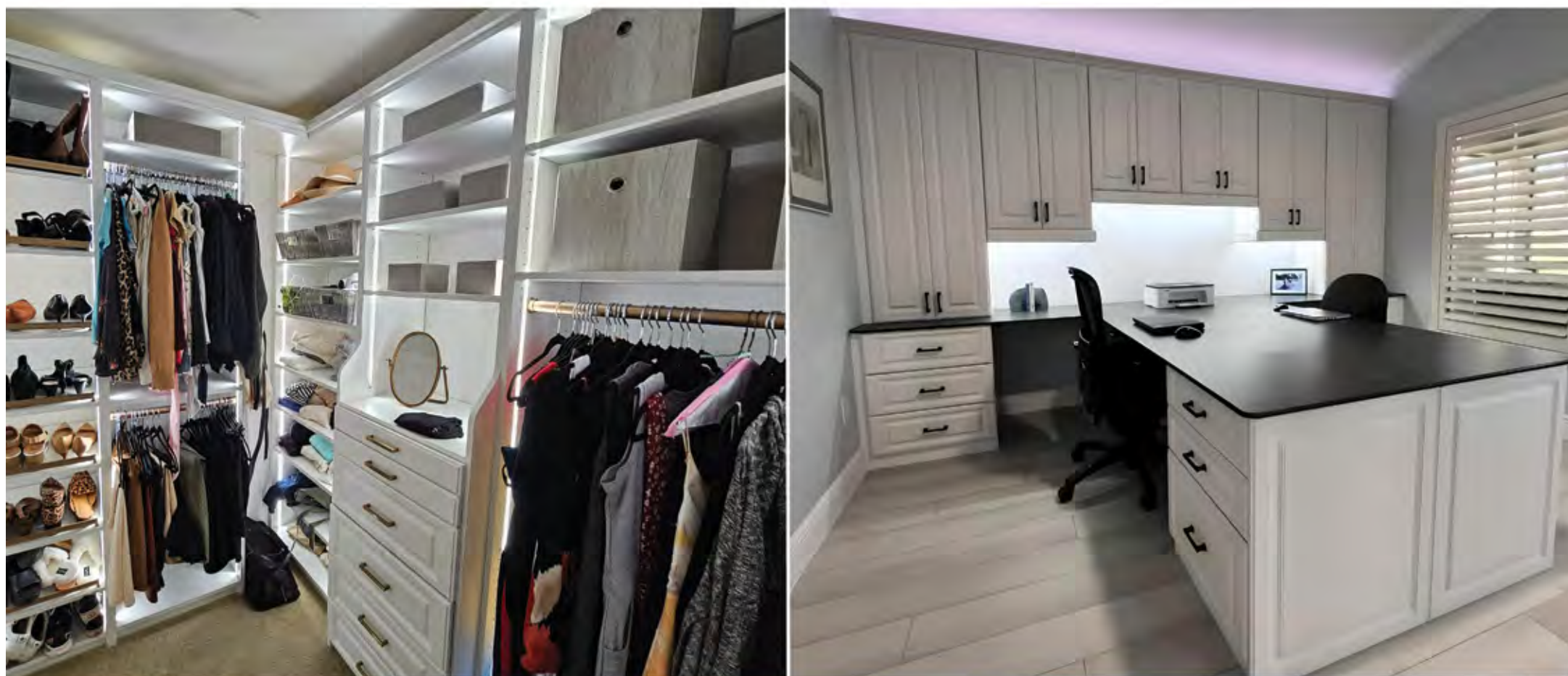
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Velo Sport
Bicycle Club

Nick Arkon



Bob Kraus has built an impressive cycling legacy defined not by racing, but by consistency, personal achievement, and a genuine love of riding.

His cycling journey began on April 15, 2002, aboard a classic steel-frame Bianchi. Like many cyclists, he had that first serious ride that sparked a passion that would become a lasting part of his life. The freedom of the open road, the steady rhythm of pedaling, and the enjoyment of exploring new routes kept him coming back year after year.

In 2010, Bob upgraded to a custom titanium-and-carbon-fiber bicycle from Seven Cycles in Watertown, Massachusetts. From his first ride on February 24, 2010, the bike quickly became his favorite. Lightweight, responsive, and enjoyable to ride, it would carry him through some of his most ambitious accomplishments.

Over time, Bob began setting challenging mileage goals. What started as a personal passion evolved into a quest to ride 10,000 miles in a single year. He achieved that milestone five different times, demonstrating remarkable dedication and commitment.

His next objective was even more ambitious: accumulating 100,000 miles on his Seven bicycle. On July 7, 2020, he reached that milestone. Rather than stopping there, he extended the challenge to 200,000 kilometers (125,000 miles). He achieved that goal on August 10, 2024, joining a select group of cyclists who have logged such extraordinary distance on a single bicycle.

After completing that achievement, Bob returned to the bike that started it all – his Bianchi. He set one final target: reaching 100,000 kilometers (62,500 miles) on his original bicycle. Having now accomplished that goal, he has decided to move beyond long-term mileage targets.

Today, Bob approaches cycling with a different perspective. Rather than focusing on numbers, he rides for enjoyment, friendship, and fitness. He no longer feels compelled to ride in poor weather or unfavorable conditions simply to stay on pace for a goal. Instead, he plans to ride approximately 5,000 miles per year, mostly with friends and occasionally on solo outings.

Bob Kraus’s story is not about competition or recognition. It is about perseverance, personal growth, and the simple pleasure of riding a bicycle. His accomplishments demonstrate what can be achieved through steady effort over time and serve as a reminder that the greatest rewards of cycling are often

found in the journey itself.

Velo Sport Bicycle Club is the officially recognized bicycle club of On Top of the World. Riders interested in the leisure or intermediate groups may contact Dan

Oaks at 401-663-7085 or Dennis Cicotte at 561-339-3588. For information about the advanced cycling group, contact Nick Arkon at 864-336-3399.



Photo by Nick Arkon

Bob Kraus of the Velo Sport Bicycle Group.



Photo by Ying Bailey

Several members of our group pose for the camera after our meeting.

Meditation Group

Domenica Genovese



Every Tuesday from 1 to 2 p.m. the Meditation Group meets in the Arbor Activity Center.

The format is simple. For the first 20 minutes, we are silent as low ambient music plays in the background. We do not use guided imagery or instructions during this period, although many of us choose to follow guided meditations at home. For newcomers, that can feel like a long 20 minutes. For regulars, many could sit longer without noticing.

The remaining 40 minutes are dedicated to conversation, anchored by a short quote or passage chosen for the week. The sources range widely: Zen teachers and Buddhist writers, poets like Mary Oliver, contemplatives like Thomas Merton, and other writers who have thought carefully about attention, awareness, and what it means to live in the present moment. The discussions tend to go places no one predicted when they walked in. That’s what many of us enjoy the most.

Last month, we arranged a Zoom call with a Zen Buddhist teacher from central Pennsylvania. It opened up questions many of us are still thinking about and gave us a deeper understanding of the practice and the point of meditation. We are planning to include more sessions like that in the future.

You don’t need a meditation practice to show up. You don’t need to have any particular view about meditation or mindfulness. What helps is a willingness to sit quietly for a bit, and curiosity about what other people are thinking.

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 Drathenadrewes@gmail.com.

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Patriotic Open House

By Jim Lynam

The Model Railroaders Club is celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States’ founding and the signing of the Declaration of Independence by hosting an open house for residents and guests (those attending with a resident). The room will be open for visitation on Friday, July 3, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Saturday, July 4, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Officially, the 250th anniversary is designated as the “semiquincentennial.” Not only is that an amazing word, but it is also an amazing milestone that the “experiment in democracy” has survived through all those trials, tribulations, and years!

In 1870, the Congress of the United States made the Fourth of July, also known as Independence Day, a federal holiday. In 1941, a provision was expanded to grant all federal employees a paid holiday. But the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson.

From 1776 to the present day, the Fourth of July has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades, and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.

The tradition of setting off fireworks began in Philadelphia on July 4, 1777. That same night, the Sons of Liberty set off fireworks over Boston Common. One of the founding fathers, John Adams, wrote a letter to his wife, Abigail, stating that this day should be solemnized with pomp and parade, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forevermore.

The Town Square at Circle Square Commons continues the tradition with the Patriotic Celebration scheduled for Saturday, July 4, from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. There will be live music, dancing, food trucks, games, and fireworks!

the Model Railroaders Club has constructed a diorama that demonstrates a day of family picnics, outdoor games, fishing, R/C flying, boating, hiking, and fireworks! It also includes a trolley and excursion trains bringing participants to the festivities. Be sure to stop in and see



Photo by Jim Lynam

Visit the Hobby Building Train Room on Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4.

all of the animation in action.

The club also invites you to visit the Hobby Building Model Train Room on any Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. Come on in and run some trains with us! The Model Railroaders Club is always looking for new members, and you are welcome to

join us. Our next club meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 5, in the Hobby Building Event Room. If you have any questions, please text Jim Lynam at 352-861-2822.

Have a safe-n-sane Fourth of July!

Patriotic Comfort Quilt Project

By Linda Holst

It takes a guild to make a dream come true. This is the story of the dream.

Kay Hamlin, Sunshine Quilters Guild member, made a trip to Michigan to visit family and friends. During Kay’s visit, she and a friend made quilts. The quilt design made during the visit inspired Kay to do a project in honor of the nation’s 250th birthday.

Kay returned home excited to share her idea with the Sunshine Quilters Guild.

Kay solicited the assistance of guild member Brenda Huffman to develop a pattern and instructions for the quilt. Kay and Brenda had the idea to teach this quilt to the members of the guild. The quilt design would be named “three-yard quilt,” because three yards of fabric are needed to sew the quilt to the size of 72” by 65”.

Kay and Brenda made 37 kits (fabric and pattern) to distribute to guild members for sewing the three-yard quilt. Guild members donated fabric and batting.

The response by guild members to engage in this project was overwhelming. Some members made more than

one quilt, which led Kay to make more kits.

A variety of patriotic fabric colors and prints were transformed into beautiful “comfort quilts.” Leftover fabric was used to sew bags for each quilt.

These comfort quilts were donated to the Gainesville Fisher House. The Fisher House provides temporary accommodations to families and loved ones of veterans and active-duty service members during the veteran’s or service member’s medical treatment.

Each quilt has a label custom-made and paid for by the guild. The label reads, “Made by Sunshine Quilters OTOW. Celebrating 250 years of freedom. Thank you for your service.”

Sixty-five quilts were delivered to the Fisher House on Monday, June 29, by Kay and Brenda. Along with the quilts, a photo album was given with pictures from the class constructing the quilts, completed quilts, and a group picture of the guild members.

Kay states, “This was the best coming-together project, and members said it was an awesome project.”

Kay’s vision of making comfort quilts for veterans came true!



Photo by Gary Voith

Ray Remillard, Carole Beauchamp, and Shelly Kline “At the CopaOcala.”

Another Successful 'Who Dunnit'

By Liz Lieberman

Saturday, May 31 was definitely a night to remember. The Arbors were alive with anticipation as the audience arrived and were swept into the world of the CopaOcala!

Silvia Garcia and the Latinos Club had transformed the rooms into a beautiful dinner-theater setting as the ex-Copacabana performers prepared to reminisce about their lives in Havana and the mysterious passing of Lola, the lead showgirl. The characters were introduced as they planned their fiesta and 30-year reunion, and clues were gradually uncovered.

Between acts, Fresh Plates provided a delicious dinner. Shelley Kline performed a showstopping turn as Carmen Miranda’s brother, Manalito Miranda, and the Ovation Dancers provided the entertainment along with the upbeat singing of Anabel Parra and Bruce Wissner. Lynn Hutton livened up the proceedings when she appeared as Charo and sang “Happy Birthday” to Don Esteban (Ray Remillard).

Sandy Matlock, as Trudy Trashburg, the unfortunate cleaning lady, cleaned up many messes and also portrayed Marlene Dietrich, divulging more information about her sad past. Eventually, Jodylynne Rowsell as Lucy Ricolla and Lyn Yanss as her best friend, Ethel Twertz, helped the audience solve the crime, along with Shea Koscheka as the reluctant clap-o-meter!

The additional cast members, Renee Maisonett, Marilyn Leeds, Ray Remi-

llard, Carole ‘Cookie’ Beauchamp, Ralph Koscheka, Ina and Shelley Kline, were among the usual suspects who worked hard to develop their characters and elevate the standard to a professional level. Pati Bean provided major help as the assistant director and choreographer, and yours truly was the ghost of the egotistical Lola. Linda Meyer, along with Bruce Wissner and Randy Schmid, was a very capable stage manager and did an excellent job of providing us with mics and sound.

I must clear up some confusion, as many people have mistakenly thought of our group as the Paradise Players, another group who also performed a murder mystery at the Recreation Center in April. We are the Murder Mystery Dinner Theater Club – a completely different club.

We are also planning a new and original show written by the Murder Mystery Dinner Theater Club writers 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. The Friends of SPCA will announce ticket sales in future columns.

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.



Photo by Linda Holst

Sunshine Quilters Guild members and the comfort quilts for the Gainesville Fisher House.

Recreation

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



The Recreation Department 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 is ready to help you stay active and engaged. You can find us in Circle Square Commons at 8435 SW 80th Street, Suite 2. Mona Sims is still located at the Recreation Center office and can help you with room setups, AV needs, and the OTOW App. 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, happy hour guest fees, flyer fees, 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 a family-friendly pool, welcoming supervised children during regular pool hours without restriction. The Summit pools are adult-only; no guests under the age of 15 are permitted. All pools close promptly at 10 p.m.

Recreation Center

Please be aware that due to exterior Recreation Center renovations, residents will not be able to enter the Recreation Center via the main ground-floor entrance or the ramp. Please plan to enter and exit the building via the veranda doors at the back of the Ballroom. This renovation project is expected to run through early August.

Music at the Pool Pavilion (Free)

Enjoy some great music at the pool and pavilion area at the Recreation Center from 1 to 4 p.m.

- July 12: Donna Carrier
- July 18: Gerry Coe
- July 22: Ben Simmons
- July 26: Tony Machicote

Shred Event

It's that time again. Clean out your filing cabinet, collect those old bills, and bring any paper documents you choose to be shredded; \$6 per cubic foot on Friday, July 17, from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Recreation Center parking lot. The next shred event won't be until Friday, Oct. 16, from 9 to 11 a.m.

Movie Night (Free)

Join us for a cinematic night out! Join us on Thursday, July 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. This month's movie is "Project Hail Mary" (PG-13, 2.5 hours). An optimistic, feel-good space adventure that balances scientific problem-solving with humor and heart. The movie is shown in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Information is listed in the Recreation Center lobby, on the virtual calendar and the OTOW App. The Pub will be open, and

free popcorn is served. You are welcome to bring snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. Please note, due to the Recreation Center renovations, the Ballroom is currently accessible from the pool-side entrances. Please use caution when walking through the Ballroom to reach other areas of the building. We try to establish a theater atmosphere and darken the Ballroom during the movie.

On Top of the World Games

Be a part of something new and exciting! The first annual On Top of the World Games is coming! This high-energy launch brings together a wide variety of clubs and sports for you to sample. The games will host educational clinics and provide opportunities to see many of the activities available to residents. If you are looking to try something new, there's something for everyone.

Hosted by the amazing clubs of On Top of the World, along with the Recreation Department, this action-packed week runs Monday, Oct. 19 through Friday, Oct. 23. You won't want to miss a moment; come as a participant or spectator. This lineup of lively play, hands-on clinics, and exciting activities is designed for everyone. Club representatives will be there all week long to teach, guide, and cheer you on. This will not be overly competitive – no pressure, just great energy, great people, and lots of fun! The games featured will be softball, shuffleboard, pickleball, table tennis, bocce, tennis, cornhole, and golf.

The cost is \$15. Your all-access pass includes a full week of participation in activities: you choose your schedule; an exclusive event t-shirt; snacks (when available); and refreshing water to keep you going. Check out the OTOW App for schedules and details.

Registration runs through Tuesday, Sept. 1, via the OTOW App. After registering on the OTOW App, please see Mona at the Recreation Center for individual event sign-ups. Spots are limited! Sign up early to lock in your t-shirt and guarantee your place in the excitement. Come play, learn, laugh, and connect!

Annual Craft Fair

Come be a part of the vibrant Craft Fair featuring over 100 booths of talented artistic vendors on Saturday, Oct. 17, at Circle Square Cultural Center and The Town Square at Circle Square Commons from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Support local artisans, get some early holiday shopping done, or find that one-of-a-kind treasure. Food trucks and entertainment by Steve Lazarus in the gazebo from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. are available while you shop. The event is free and open to the public.

If you would like to be a vendor at this event, the cost for an outside table is \$55 and an inside table or outside porch table is \$100. You may reserve your table through the OTOW App. After you register, come to the Recreation Center to select your table location. For more information, contact the Recreation Department at 352-854-8707 ext. 7533. Table registrations begin Monday, Aug. 3 and run through Friday, Oct. 2.

The Summit

Friday Beats Happy Hour (Free)

Friday Beats Happy Hour takes place

from 5 to 8 p.m. This is a bring-your-own drinks and snacks venue. Enjoy music and dancing. This is free for all residents who hold a valid resident ID. Anyone without an ID is considered a guest. Guest fees apply at \$5 per person. Children under the age of 15 are not permitted. Upcoming entertainment is as follows:

- July 3: Scooter the DJ
- July 17: Groove 41
- July 24: Just One More
- July 31: Nature Coast

Tropic Trivia

If you would like to try your hand at Tropic Trivia, tables for September will be on sale in August. There will be no Trivia in August. A team representative may purchase a table for the entire team each month. Tables of eight sell for \$40 on the OTOW App. After the purchase is made, it is preferable that the person buying the table come to The Summit office to select the 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 held the second Thursday of each month in the Ballroom from 5 to 8 p.m. \$5 guest fee applies

Ladies Night (Free)

Ladies, you are invited to join us on Tuesday, July 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Ballroom. Tim Hargis is the musical guest for this night. Bring your beverages and snacks. See you there! \$5 guest fee applies.

The Lodge at Candler Hills

Virtual & Live Fitness Classes (Free)

Have fun and get fit every Monday and Wednesday.

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

Visit the OTOW App for the wellness schedule.

Chair Volleyball (Free)

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

From the Top Line Dance Class (Free)

Line Dancing now welcomes all residents! Join experienced line dance instructors Chuck and Donna on selected Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon. This progressive class will teach you how to line dance and provide practice for the dances you love. This program supports other line dance classes you might be taking as well as the Wednesday night Boots & Beats at The Town Square at Circle Square Commons. Come move, laugh, and connect while learning popular dances. All dance levels are welcome! Bring a valid resident ID.

Open Game & Card Play (Free)

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

Happy Hour (Free)

It's time to dance, mingle, and enjoy great company! Join your neighbors for a fun and friendly Happy Hour from 5 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, July 18, with Crescent Four. Enjoy conversation, laughter, and community spirit. Guest fees are \$5 per person and can be paid via the OTOW App.

Cocktails & Karaoke (Free)

Join your friends and neighbors for an evening of music, laughter, and unforgettable fun! Whether you're a show-er singer or a stage star, everyone is welcome to grab the mic and shine. Enjoy the fun on Thursday, July 2, from 5 to 8 p.m. with Just 4 Fun! Bring beverages and table snacks. Guest fees are \$5 per person and can be paid via the OTOW App.

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, July 9, from 5 to 8 p.m. with Tim Hargis. Bring your own beverage and table snacks, and dance away or just catch up on girl talk! Guest fees are \$5 per person and can be paid via the OTOW App.

Musical Game Night

Music, games, fun, and prizes await you on Wednesday, July 15, from 5 to 7 p.m. Come and enjoy the game "PRIZEO" along with trivia and "Name That Tune." Reservations on the OTOW App are required. \$5 per resident and \$10 per guest.

Poolside Entertainment (Free)

Spend a relaxing afternoon poolside



under the pavilion with live music by Steel Drum Randy on Saturday, July 4, and Steve Lazarus on Sunday, July 26, both from 1 to 4 p.m. Oh, and look! The Montsa Lobsta food truck will also be on site July 26 serving up delicious lobster rolls for purchase. Soak up the sunshine, take a refreshing swim, or simply sit back, unwind, 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:

- July 3: Steven Lazarus
- July 10: Cherokee
- July 17: Tim Hargis
- July 24: Crystal Vision

Trivia

Get in on some friendly and fun competition with your neighbors and friends at trivia on Monday, July 6, from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring your favorite snacks and beverages to share with your team. The cost is \$5 per resident and \$10 per guest.

Cheese & Cheers (Free)

Join us for an easygoing evening of snacks, music, and great company on Wednesday, July 15, from 5 to 7 p.m. Enjoy lively conversation and a welcoming social atmosphere. Whether you're reconnecting with friends or meeting new faces, this event is designed to bring everyone together for a relaxed and enjoyable night. The evening will be highlighted by live entertainment from Ben Simmons, adding the perfect soundtrack to a fun and flavorful experience. Feel free to bring your favorite beverage.

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, July 16, 5 to 7 p.m. Bring beverages and snacks. Feel free to sing solo or in a group.

The Landing

Happy Hour (Free)

Make plans to kick off your weekend with friends and neighbors on Friday, July 17, from 5 to 8 p.m. Bring your favorite cocktails and snacks and enjoy great music from The Bootleggers as you unwind, mingle, and enjoy the evening.

Poolside Live Music (Free)

Kick off your Fourth of July weekend the right way! Relax poolside and enjoy live music from Nathan Leslie on Friday, July 3, from 1 to 4 p.m. Plus, a food truck will be on site serving up tasty food.

Make the most of a sunny weekday afternoon and unwind by the pool. Enjoy live music by Steven Lazarus on Thursday, July 9, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Spend your Sunday, July 26, from 1 to 4 p.m., poolside with live music from Sandra & Alex, games, and sunshine-filled vibes.

Game On (Free)

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 fun on Tuesday, July 28, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Virtual & Live Fitness Classes (Free)

- Have fun and get fit.
 - Mondays (9 a.m.): Chair Pilates with a livestream instructor.
 - Mondays (10 a.m.): Chair Yoga with a livestream instructor.
 - Wednesdays (9 a.m.): Chair Yoga with a live instructor.
 - Fridays (9 a.m.): Virtual (pre-recorded) World Class Active Aging.
- Visit the OTOW App for the wellness schedule.

For events requiring registration, please use the OTOW App. The required payment is due at the time of registration. No refunds will be issued within 14 days of any event or excursion.

BUS SCHEDULE

Monday - Thursday

MORNING ROUTE

PICK-UP LOCATIONS

TIME

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

MORNING DESTINATIONS

Freedom Library (Tues/Thurs only)	Olle'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	1:49 p.m.
Friendship Post Office	1:54 p.m.		

AFTERNOON DESTINATIONS

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

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

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

#0901-1/2/4

For information, call 352-789-5666.

The New Pretenders

Nancy Grabowski



Like a proverbial beehive, The New Pretenders are buzzing about the newest show, slated for February 2027! Many small groups of our cast are meeting to discuss costumes and presentations; some are even practicing already!

Mary Ann Berardi-Schmitt is heading the design team. Like the other groups, her committee is focused on the stage and surrounding areas. They are deciding what will best provide the different areas the “just right” look for “Beats, Boots, and Broadway!”

Meanwhile, the band, under the direction of Fran Allen, has been meeting to see what the program entails for them. They have picked up their instruments, which have been polished and repaired by Tom Miller and Fran. The music is in place, and their creativity is planning the added extras we know and love!

The band also welcomed Carolyn Cummings to The New Pretenders. Carolyn is a long-time resident and a talented addition! You’ll be able to spot her behind the drums.

The New Pretenders are not all work! We took some time for play in May with an airboat ride on Lake Panosofkee! It was filled with the sights and sounds of Florida wildlife. We followed up with a rousing good time with dinner at a local



Photo by Lennie Rodoff

Phyllis Pastore, Fran Jones, Carl Folkers, Joe Wood, Jennie Stauffer, Tom Miller, and Joe Jones.

hot spot!

In June, we met to celebrate Darlene Clark, a long-standing member of the troupe. George and Noreen Bausewein hosted the party, which included 35 other members as well! What a super time!

Our July event is still a secret, so “shh-hh”... but it will be fun-filled and well-

attended without a doubt. We’re also looking forward to the annual bowling party, organized by Gloria Emmons and assisted by Jean Duda. The challenge is already out to win the awards for best bowler, highest average, and many others. We’ll post those athletes’ names, most likely in September.

Look for us at the next Club Fair or talk to any of us before that September event. We’d love to tell you more about us, perhaps entice you to join in the fun! For more information, you can also contact Nancy Grabowski, director, at 352-209-4699.

Paradise Players

Cheryl Jensen



After a brief hiatus and a little well-earned rest, the Paradise Players are gearing up for another fabulous fall season! We extend our heartfelt thanks to every audience member who joined us for our April “Celebrity Mystery Cruise Adventure” productions. Your support, energy, and boundless enthusiasm made each performance unforgettable.

Over the next few months, our director, Lee Smith, will lead a series of workshops designed to help our performers sharpen their skills, strengthen their on-

stage technique, and elevate their overall stage presence – ensuring an even more enjoyable experience for our audiences.

Throughout the summer, we’ll also be reviewing and selecting fresh new scripts for our November shows. Try-outs and rehearsals begin months ahead of showtime so we can deliver the highquality performances our community has come to expect and love.

This is a truly friendly and fun group! If you are interested in performing, singing, dancing, or helping out behind the scenes, join us! Meetings are held at 3 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio IV. For more information, including our summer meeting schedule, please email Lee Smith at otowparadiseplayers@gmail.com.



Photo by Harry Boyajian

“Celebrity Mystery Cruise Adventure” cast.

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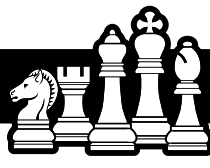
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CARDS & GAMES



Bingo

Nancy Grabowski



The bingo volunteers are happy to share with the community! We like to recognize milestones, including birthdays, veterans and patriots, the hard-working members of the maintenance department, and other volunteer groups. To that end, we had a highly active time in late May and throughout June. We plan to continue in July!

On Wednesday, May 27, we recognized the past efforts of our military veterans. Each member was entered into a special drawing, and 20 lucky winners were selected! On Wednesday, June 9, a wooden flag created by Donnie Taylor was raffled off. Attendees were able to purchase raffle tickets to win the beautiful wall hanging and/or donate to Veterans Helping Veterans. Bingo was able to match all the donations and give the money to Charlie Calhoun, who represented the organization.

July is devoted to celebrating America’s 250th birthday! We will provide cupcakes for our faithful players on Wednesday, July 1, ahead of the celebrations and fireworks!

Meanwhile, the outline of bingo remains the same – every Wednesday in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Raffle tickets are sold from 4 to 5:30 p.m.; three for \$1 or 10 for \$3; winning ticket equals \$20. Playing cards are sold from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. for \$1 each with a resident ID, guests welcome. We play 20 games (18 based on attendance, one per \$75, and one overall starting at \$110).

The Recreation Center remains under renovation, so access is through the back doors only. Park cars in the side lots, with golf cart parking behind the pool. Sidewalks and paved walkways provide safety for our participants.

Contact Carl Folkers at bingo or Nancy Grabowski at 352-209-4699 for further details.

Bridge



Monday Afternoon

By Carol Johnson

May 4

1: Barb Heller & Jean Krueger; 2: Donna Peters & Rad D; 3: Linda Curtiss & Darlene Clark; 4: Pat & Debbie Quinn.

May 11

1: Steve Sekac & Jack Heller; 2: Bev Meirick & Craig Ford; 3: Barb Heller & Jean Krueger; 4: Pat & Debbie Quinn.

May 18

1: Mar Valchin & Bruce Gillette; 2: Jack Heller & Steve Sekac; 3: Mary Bloch & Kurt Baumgartner; 4: Diane Robinson & Carol Johnson.

May 25

1: Diane Robinson & Carol Johnson; 2: Darlene Clark & Linda Curtiss; 3: Mary Bloch & Kurt Baumgartner; 4: Craig Ford & Bev Meirick.

TRASH COMPACTOR FULL?

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

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 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.

May 12

1: Julian Wachs & Liz Wachs; Tie at 2: Bob Kraus & Virginia Collins; and Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; 4: Jean Krueger & Sophie Redman; 5: Dan Lack & Vera Mangold.

May 19

1: Virginia Collins & Bob Kraus; 2: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; and Carolyn Higgins & V J Hentz; 4: Dan Lack & Vera Mangold; 5: Julian Wachs & Liz Wachs.

May 26

1: Brian Lomasky & Carrie Kanosky; 2: Jean Krueger & Sophie Redman; 3: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; Tie at 4: Dan Lack & Vera Mangold; and Bob Kraus & Virginia Collins.

June 2

1: Barbara Heller & Jack Heller; 2: Bob Kraus & Virginia Collins; 3: Chris Wachter & Jeff Young; 4: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; 5: Dennis Wallace & Judi Wallace.

June 9

1: Brian Lomasky & Carrie Kanosky; 2: Chris Wachter & Jeff Young; 3: Gary Moses & Diane Turkin; 4: Arlene Loepp & Darleen Fiel.

Wednesday Afternoon

By Debbie Quinn

May 6

1: Kurt Baumgartner; 2: Bob Knowles; 3: Pat Quinn; Cons: Al Kremer.

May 13

1: Phyllis Silverman; 2: Dianne Robinson; 3: Linda Curtiss; 4: Kurt Baumgartner; Cons: Marlene Floeckher.

May 20

1: Trudy Baumgartner; 2: Carolyn Higgins; 3: Pat Quinn; 4: Phyllis Silverman; Cons: Debbie Quinn.

May 27

1: Al Kremer; 2: Kurt Baumgartner; 3: Mary Bloch; 4: Linda Curtiss; Cons: Bob Knowles.

Thursday Afternoon

By Trudy Baumgartner

April 2

1: Marlene Floeckher; 2: Craig Ford; 3: Bob Knowles; 4: Phyllis Silverman; Cons: Trudy Baumgartner.

April 9

1: Gary Moses; 2: Marlene Floeckher; 3: Betty Schaff; 4: Dianne Robinson; Cons: Linda Yeun.

April 16

1: Debbie Quinn; 2: Bruce Gillett; 3: Kurt Baumgartner; 4: Pat Quinn; Cons: Bob Knowles.

April 23

1: Debbie Quinn; 2: Bruce Gillett; 3: V.J. Hentz, Jr.; 4: Kurt Baumgartner; Cons: Linda Curtiss.

April 30

1: Judy Mackowiak; 2: Linda Curtiss; 3: Kurt Baumgartner; Cons: Craig Ford.

May 7

1: Pat Quinn; 2: Debbie Quinn; 3: Dianne Robinson; Cons: Mary Bloch.

May 14

1: Kurt Baumgartner; 2: Phyllis Silverman; 3: Marlene Floeckher; 4: Mary Bloch; Cons: Debbie Quinn.

May 21

1: Linda Curtiss; 2: Carolyn Higgins; 3: Mary Bloch; Cons: Bob Knowles.

May 28

1: Judy Mackowiak; 2: Billie Andersen; 3: Linda Curtiss; 4: Trudy Baumgartner; Cons: Bob Knowles.

Thursday Night

By Jeff Young

Join our friendly bridge group at 6 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Rooms I-II. All skill levels are welcome – whether you’re fresh from lessons, returning after years away, or an experienced player. No partner is needed; we pair and rotate throughout the night. Bring 25 cents, a smile, and a good attitude. We play three rounds of seven hands and finish by 9 p.m. Come for fun and friendship, and you might even win the “2 prize,” a prize given out for taking a trick with the two of trump that can be passed around throughout the evening.

May 7

1: Jeff Bell; 2: Pam Bell; 3: Betty Schaff; Cons: Al Whitford; 2 prize: Jeff Young.

May 14

1: Maureen Brehm; 2: Betty Schaff; 3: Jeff Young; Cons: Stu Shaub; 2 prize: Betty Schaff.

May 21

1: Gary Moses; 2: Jack Barros; 3: Carol Barros; Cons: Vicki Mattingly; 2 prize: Herb Katz.

May 28

1: Jack Barros; 2: Pam Bell; 3: Dave Protsik; Cons: Herb Katz; 2 prize: Brent Powell.

Bunco



Bunco Babes Social Group

By Michelle Malsch

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

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

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

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

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

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

Candler Hills Bunco Group

By Cindy Arkebauer

The Candler Hills Bunco Group had a great time at our May and June gatherings. In May, Cheryl G. won the most buncos, Rhonda had the most wins, Gloria Cullins had the most mini buncos, and Janet and Pam tied for the most losses.

In June, Laura Warner won the most buncos, Karen had the most wins, Joanne Todisco had the most mini buncos, and Janet had the most losses.

STAY IN THE KNOW!
DOWNLOAD THE APP!

The OTOW app is available in the Google Play and Apple Store (resident account required).

We would love to see any Candler Hills resident join us for a fun and relaxing evening of laughs and camaraderie! We meet on the first Wednesday of each month. Our next roll of the dice will be on Wednesday, Aug. 5, starting promptly at 6 p.m. at The Lodge at Candler Hills Meeting Room 1. There is no fee to participate! Bring a beverage and/or snack to share. See you soon!

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. This month, we added the following play days: July 2, 16, and 23.

We welcome new players to join us. We’re a non-competitive group of all experience levels.

For more information, please email judith.parisi@gmail.com.

Euchre



Friday Night

By Mary Bloch

Euchre 4 Fun is our name; cards are our game! Come join us for a fun evening on Fridays this summer. For more information, email mary.bloch@yahoo.com.

May 1

1: Margaret Orlando; Tie at 2: Judy Lynch & Bob Kraus; 3: Pam Brown.

May 8

1: Lou Pine; Tie at 2: Pete Jacob & Gary Moses; 3: Jim Brogan.

May 15

1: Lloyd Beitel; 2: Chris Stonebreaker; Tie at 3: Mary Bloch & Trudy Baumgartner.

May 22

1: Pam Brown; Tie at 2: Bob Kraus & Chris Stonebreaker; 3: Lloyd Beitel.

May 29

1: Phyllis Jarskey; 2: Dan Brady; 3: Lou Pine.

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

May 5

1: Elaine Conkling; 2: Walter Hickenlooper; 3: Jae Kallai.

May 12

1: Walter Hickenlooper; 2: Herb Katz; 3: Edna Frye.

May 19

1: Bud Alderman; 2: Ilene Casper; 3: Walter Hickenlooper.

May 26

1: Jae Kallai; 2: Norman Miles; 3: Bud Alderman.

Friday Morning

By Andy Nuccio

May 15

1: Ilene Casper; 2: Andy Nuccio; 3: Walter Hickenlooper.

May 22

1: Andy Nuccio; 2: Bruce Gillett; 3: Gary Moses.

May 29

1: Steve Mintz; 2: Cheryl Adams; 3: Edna Frye.

June 5

1: Stu Shaub; 2: Al Whitford; 3: Ilene Casper.

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Karaoke Friends

Kathy & Charlie Petrosky



Karaoke has become a favorite pas-time for many. Some people wonder how to get started with singing. Song selection is key. The easiest karaoke songs have a simple melody and a nar-row vocal range. There are songs that everyone knows and loves to sing along to. The audience participation car-ries the performance. People like sing-ing «Sweet Caroline» by Neil Diamond, or «Stand By Me» by Ben E. King. “Te-quila” by The Champs is a fun way to start. You only have to sing one word!

One of the benefits of karaoke is that it is a perfect setting for socializing and enjoying the company of those around you. I often think this would be a good way for new residents to meet others. We have singers and clappers from all neighborhoods. You are bound to find a neighbor in the group.

We have a variety of music genres. I am sure you will hear a music style you like. I am surprised when I hear some-one sing a song I have never heard be-fore.

You do not have to sing to come to ka-raoke. About half of the group comes to listen and clap. You do not need to bring any music. We can look up a song you may want to try. Remember, it is not an audition or contest. We just want to have fun.

David Jefferies is one of our singers. Here is what he wants to share. “I was president of the chorus in high school, and a member of the glee club in the uni-versity. I had a 30-year career in high technology and only sang in the shower or along with the radio in the car. After retirement, I got back into singing with the Hampshire Choral Society in Massa-chusetts. I haven’t been in any singing groups since moving to Florida, but now I enjoy doing karaoke and having fun with it.”

David makes an excellent point. We come to do karaoke just for the fun of it.

We meet the first and third Mondays in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room from 5 to 8 p.m. Have some fun!



Photo by Steve Warren

David Jefferies.

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 ex-plore the banjo as a means of entertain-ment.

Over the summer, the band is sort-ing through new music and trying some new things. We have gained several new members, each bringing something unique to Toppers Banjo Band. We have a few more players who can solo on ban-jo, piano, guitar, and viola. Our singers are trying out some new harmonies. Our more experienced members are bring-ing tried-and-true performance tech-niques that our players are now skilled enough to perform.

It is fun to learn and experiment to-gether as our experience grows. Playing and singing are a lot of fun, but it takes time and regular practice to really im-prove.

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 musi-cians to join us in playing and singing banjo music. If you have any ideas to im-prove performance values and presenta-tion, we’d love to hear them. If you like to listen, join us and enjoy the music and conversation. Everyone is welcome.

For more information, contact Eddie Martin at ueddie2@gmail.com or Da-vid Wesenberg at dpw@mastersoftware-inc.com.

Poetry



By Bruce Tredinnick

breathe in then breathe out
a new universe appears
it's my old friend now

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Poetry



A Tribute to Artists Around the Globe

By Jim Kimes

We appreciate artists, everywhere;
You never fail to fill an aesthetic need.
You have that uniquely defining flair
For fineness, as if you obeyed a creed.
An age-old query, with not much mystery:
In a world without artists, what would we be?
There are clues on the cave walls of history.
Steve Jobs said: Art must blend with utility.
Steadfast admirers, we: unswerving fans!
While you live to work, we live to behold!
No need for one's art to rival Cezanne's;
We will outshout the critics who live to scold.
Savor our patronage, we're always nigh!
Produce it with panache and we will buy.

Saving Us

By Linda Toner

It was so hard,
as a parent, to be single,
I had to work three jobs,
I had no time to mix or mingle.
Then you came along
and showed us true love.
it was as if the Gods up above
sent you to us.
You were our savior.
You took us in
and never did you waiver
from your goal
to protect us,
to give us a life
free from all the fuss
of struggling to put
enough food on the table.
You took care of us
as best you were able,
you gave us
an easier life,
and then you
made me your wife.
You took us
under your wing,
and there wasn't
anything
you wouldn't do
to remove all strife
and give us
a more comfortable life.
You loved my son,
and treated him fairly,
as if he was your own,
and we barely
had disagreements,
just a few,
and they were resolved
in an hour or two.
You respected us,
you gave us laughter,
when we were down and out,
and it wasn't 'til after
we moved here
and I realized how much
you helped change
me into such
a confident person,
able to take on the world,
you saved us and made me
a different girl.
You gave me the confidence
to deal with whatever
problems come up,
and for that, I am grateful forever.

Looking For You

By Janice M. Puta

The person you are waiting for,
to change your life,
is already here
looking for you.

Look into a mirror.

A Reversoku for Pandora

By Barbara A. Scales

The world has suffered enough.
Please Pandora, don't!
Sorrow is concealed in there.

Wait. Step back. Pray, be patient.
Hurt awaits within.
Open and chaos exits.

Pandora. Pandora. Stop!
Sin harbors inside.
Unlatched, anarchy begins.

Damn your curiosity.
You need not know all.
Reconsider, I implore.

Poetry Club



Bill Burton

It is the first Tuesday of the month, and we meet in the Arbor Conference Center Large Card Room for our 90-minute journey into the world of poetry. Of the 20 poets we have in our club, about 10 are at this meeting, something of a summer norm.

We have people from all walks of life and statuses, bonded together by a fascination with using words creatively to capture our emotions and the images of our past, present, and future. Something prods us to do this, and it is incredibly satisfying both when we create something we like, and when we can present it to a friendly audience.

It is always a creation of the new mixed among remembrances of the past. Anne Merrick had both old and new. "I Am Not with Hair" began an interesting view of who we are. She blended rhyme with beautiful stand-alone phrasing. She had more than one offering of both new stuff and writings from decades past.

Janice Puta gave us her view of "Wisdom from Grandma's Clothesline." We are educated as well as entertained.

Len Berliner, who thinks he hasn't written much lately, wrote a brilliant "Epitaph" of a bug's demise, and how we may or may not respond to that reality. It was creative, rhyming, and very original. He's written a lot lately, from my point of view.

Most of the time we ask the orator to read their poem a second time. Lately we ask them to bring extra copies. It is all good, and we want a second shot at capturing the poetic nature and the content.

As always, we are all learning, growing, and creating individually, but we are motivated by our group coming together and sharing what we hear. We don't judge. We listen, we appreciate, and we encourage. We grow. It is the essence of why we meet on the first and third Tuesdays from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

Some started coming to listen. Now they are writing. We'd love for you to join in sometime. Call Bill Burton for information at 352-492-8626.

OnTopoftheWorldNews.com/Ocala

View from the Library



Cammie Fairburn

Happy birthday, America! In honor of our 250th anniversary, here is an America 250 reading list compiled of books found in the 973 non-fiction section of the On Top of the World library.

"The British Are Coming: The War for America" by Rick Atkinson tells the story of the Revolutionary War from both the British and American perspectives. King George III overestimated Loyalist support and the power of the British military, while underestimating Americans' anger over taxation without representation and their desire for self-rule.

"1776" by David McCullough shows how a militia of ordinary people with no military experience, led by a commander-in-chief who had never led an army in battle, was able to defeat the powerful British army.

"Being George Washington" by Glenn Beck is a collection of stories of George Washington, from being a soldier in the French and Indian War to being the president of the United States.

"To Rescue the Constitution: George Washington and the Fragile American Experiment" by Bret Baier describes how George Washington's steady leadership as commander-in-chief of the Army, president of the Constitutional Convention, and president of the United States led to our nation's success.

"The First Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill George Washington" by Brad Meltzer tells the story of how the investigation into George Washington's traitorous bodyguards was the origin of America's counterintelligence service that led to the modern-day CIA.

Other books related to the Revolutionary War period include "John Adams" by David McCullough, which won the Pulitzer Prize, and "Jefferson's Daughters" by Catherine Kerrison.

All of these books will give the reader a deeper appreciation of our 250th anniversary.

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Indigo East Book Group

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 reading "The Paris Daughter" by Kristin Harmel, for discussion on Thursday, July 16.

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 or not you've read the book; 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.

Tesla Owners & Enthusiasts Club

Dan Lack



If you have an unfortunate tendency to drive off cliffs, you should consider a Tesla. Teslas have consistently scored high safety ratings from the National Highway Safety Administration due to their structural integrity. And the heavy battery at the bottom of the car keeps it upright if it falls to Earth.

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.

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.

Writers Club

Paul DiSclafani



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

The Writers Club offers advice and experience not only from published authors but also from speakers who share insights in their respective fields. Our guest speakers have included resident author Mark Holmes, who provided our members with step-by-step instructions on using Amazon's self-publishing platform, KDP; Stephanie Larking, president of Red Penguin Books in New York (via Zoom), who shared with our club members many different ways to get their work published; and New Jersey resident Jon D'Amore, who regaled our members (via Zoom) with real-life tales of organized crime in New Jersey and with insights into how he writes and publishes books across different genres.

Resident author Sherry Nord visited our club last month and discussed the paranormal romance books she has written. Next month, Reverend James Snyder, a columnist for the Marion Citizen, will talk about what it takes to be a weekly newspaper columnist and about his column, "Out to Pastor."

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, July 16. We also maintain a Facebook page exclusively for our members.

Our club is open to any resident (valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass required) with an interest in writing, whether you've had your work published or not.

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

OTOWInfo.com

Art Group

Mitch Baylis



"Art is to the community what the dream is to the individual," wrote Thomas Mann, the Nobel Prize-winning novelist and social critic. This profound observation suggests that art is not just a hobby; it is the subconscious mind of a society. It reflects our shared values, challenges our perceptions, and defines our collective soul. Within our community, art serves as the heartbeat of our shared experience.

For many of us in retirement, a familiar challenge arises: the deep-seated desire to create, met with the lingering fear that we lack the "proper" background. We often tell ourselves it is too late to start or that we missed the window for formal schooling. However, as many of our residents have discovered, the desire itself is the only credential you truly need.

In our community, residents dive into art through many doors. Some begin gently with adult coloring or paint-by-number kits, finding their rhythm before progressing to freehand work. Others take a more structured path, enrolling in online tutorials or signing up for the excellent classes offered at Master the Possibilities. There is no "wrong" path when you decide to surrender to the creative impulse.

Consider the journey of Rona Mansfield. Back in her hometown of Wilmington, New York, Rona was affectionately known as "the crafty spinner." For years, she mastered the art of weaving and knitting, using colorful cotton as her primary canvas. When she moved here, she didn't just bring her old hobbies; she boldly reimaged her creative identity.

Rona transitioned to watercolors, translating the textures of her weaving into a fountain of fluid color. Not content to stop there, after just two years, she added oil pastels to her repertoire. Today, Rona's vivid depictions of birds and flowers are highly sought after by locals. Her pastels bring nature to life with such vibrancy that you can almost hear the chirping. Rona's story proves that a lack of formal "art school" training is no barrier to becoming a celebrated original artist.

The idea that art requires a degree is a common hurdle, yet even Walter Gropius, founder of the legendary Bauhaus school, famously claimed that "art is something that cannot be taught." The most vital "schooling" is the act of creation itself. In the journey of an artist, "happy accidents" and technical failures are not setbacks—they are the very lessons that teach us how to truly see.

If you have ever felt the urge to create, the Art Group invites you to explore that spark. Join a supportive community where the only requirement is a desire to have fun. There are no dues, no formal meetings, and no rigid requirements. Whether you bring a project in progress or simply come to chat with our artists for inspiration, you are welcome here. Join us Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m., Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon in the Hobby Building Art Room. For more information, contact Director Freda Klump at 615-336-6863 or fredaklump@gmail.com.



Photo by Mitchell Baylis

Rona Mansfield.

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Shutterbugs
Photography

Mark Holmes



Shutterbugs Photography Club is celebrating the nation’s 250th anniversary in July with a set of 20 patriotic images in the lobby at Master the Possibilities. Be sure to visit the curated display in July during normal business hours.

The United States has marked time since before the Revolutionary War with woodcuts, engravings, and etchings, as well as artwork in ink, oil, and charcoal. With the development of reliable photography in the 1840s, pioneering photographers served as witnesses, recording some of the most seminal events in our nation’s history. Photography rapidly evolved from a scientific novelty to a powerful storytelling tool. By the 1850s, the ambrotype and tintype had become popular, making image-taking accessible to the public. These images



Mount Rushmore with American flag sky.

preserved the faces and landscapes of a rapidly changing nation. They documented war, migration, innovation, and social movements, revealing everyday

life from miners and farmers to soldiers, families, and immigrants. These images provided visual evidence of the struggles and triumphs that shaped this country.

Matthew Brady famously recorded images of the Civil War, along with notable portraits of Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Edgar Allan Poe, and 18 U.S. presidents. A cadre of other photographers captured stirring images of Native Americans, the Gold Rush, the Women’s Rights Movement, and the growth and industrialization of America. Ansel Adams was a leading figure in environmental photography and pioneered darkroom techniques to create stunning photographs that set a long-

standing technical orthodoxy.

From the late 1800s to the early 1900s, documentary and photojournalism grew, led by George Grantham Bain, founder of the nation’s first news photo service, and into the 1930s with Walker Evans and his series of Farm Security Administration photos.

The best photographs elicit an emotional or intellectual response, whether carefully staged or simply a captured moment. Muhammad Ali standing menacingly over a fallen Sonny Liston in 1965 is a powerful image by Neil Leifer, as is Charles C. Ebbets’ “Lunch on a Skyscraper” showing a line of workers having lunch sitting along a narrow girder high above New York.

The “Victory over Japan Kiss” in Times Square, by Alfred Eisenstaedt in 1945, recorded the unbridled joy and relief of the end of World War II. A photo of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall offers a respectful, solemn tone to a troubled time, while Joe Rosenthal’s AP photo of Marines raising the flag on Mount Suribachi inspired other images, such as “Raising the Flag at Ground Zero” by Thomas E. Franklin.

Members of Shutterbugs craft some stunning photos as well, whether it’s landscapes, avian and animal photography, moments of opportunity, and more, using everything from smartphones to advanced digital cameras and lenses. We meet four times a month with a morning field trip on the first Tuesday and a meeting in the Hobby Building Event Room at 3 p.m. on the other three Tuesdays. Please join us. For questions, please contact Garry Voith at garry.voith@gmail.com or 410-241-5079.

Sewing Bees

Susie Clauson



The Sewing Bees would like to thank all our neighbors in On Top of the World! You have continued to support us with fabric, donations, and time. When that fabric chain closed last year, we didn’t know how it would work, but we were convinced that our community would support us. And in 2025, we received so many bags of fabric from you that it was the highest number of quilt donations by Sewing Bees. This impacted 1,200 children in Marion County.

Your generosity has had a positive emotional significance on the children, as well as the sewers and other donors. We all benefit from increased happiness. I can see this when I hear the laughter

and see the smiling faces at our weekly meetings. So, thank you!

Stop by and see us in action. We meet every Thursday, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Art Studio. Can’t sew? No problem. If you can tie a knot, we need you. Don’t have a sewing machine? We have all the equipment you need. Everything we make is donated to disadvantaged children of Marion County throughout the year.

We are always in need of cotton quilting fabric: solid colors, child-friendly prints, and 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 Facebook page (Sewing Bees Club Inc.) and see what magic takes place at the hive. You can stay up to date on what we are working on and our current needs. Please contact SewingBeesClub@gmail.com with questions, or Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178.



Photo by Susie Clauson

Some of the 100 quilt tops donated by a resident.

BE READY
BEFORE
THE STORM!

Florida’s hurricane season runs through November 30. It is important to plan ahead so you are safe in an emergency.

Get ready now for the risks associated with stormy weather so you are prepared to act when alerted by emergency officials.

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO HELP YOU PREPARE FOR HURRICANE SEASON:

- **Build a disaster supply kit** (first aid kit, water, canned food supply, etc.)
- **Compile a list of medications, including dosage and frequency.** Have a 7-day supply on hand, particularly special needs items like oxygen tanks
- **Those with special needs should register with the Marion County Special Needs Program** to receive assistance during a disaster (marionso.com/special-needs-program or (352) 369-8100)
- **Bring in anything that can be picked up by the wind** (bicycles, lawn ornaments, patio furniture, etc.)
- **Close windows, doors and hurricane shutters***
- **Fill your vehicle’s gas tank and any gas cans you may have**
- **Obey evacuation orders**
- **Pet owners should have plans to care for their animals**
- **Register for emergency alerts at alertmarion.com**

Visit www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/ready.php and www.ready.gov/hurricane for additional information.

*Please refer to the Association’s Rules as to when hurricane shutters may be closed.

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8405 SW 80th Street, Suite 11, Ocala, FL 34481 (352) 565-7113 Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5 pm	8413 SW 80th Street, Suite 2, Ocala, FL 34481 (352) 351-0500 Monday - Thursday 8:30 am - 4 pm; Friday, 8:30 am - noon	8385 SW 80th Street, Ocala, FL 34481 (352) 861-8180 RanchOcala.com Monday - Thursday, 5:30 am - 8 pm; Friday 5:30 am - 7 pm; Saturday, 7 am - 5 pm; Sunday, 8 am - 4 pm
Anthony Montemurro, CFP®, CRPC 8399 SW 80th Street, Suite 15, Ocala, FL 34481 (352) 237-2008 Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm	8399 SW 80th Street, Suite 16, Ocala, FL 34481 (352) 237-4777 Ice cream, healthy smoothies, lunch and much more!	8405 SW 80th Street, Suite 14, Ocala, FL 34481 (352) 620-8484 VisitingAngels.com Monday - Friday, 9 am - 5 pm
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Woodcarving Club

Linda Toner



This month we would like to feature one of our many women carvers, Salli Gray. She is a retired nurse from the number-one trauma center on Long Island, Stonybrook University Hospital. Towards the end of her career, she oversaw the setup of the Da Vinci Robotic system that aids surgeons. She moved to On Top of the World in August 2021.

She was already a painter but learned about our club at a Club Fair and decided to check us out. She has been carving, both in the round (three dimensions) and in relief (two dimensions), for three years now. Her inspirations come from photos or imagination. What she likes about carving is the creative process. «I know what I want it to look like, but then the wood speaks to me, and the result may be different from my first thought, but it comes out beautiful.» Her preferred wood is cedar because of its beautiful grain.

We meet every first and fourth Thursday of the month in the Hobby Building Art Room from 4 to 6 p.m.

If you already carve or whittle or just think you would like to learn this craft, you are welcome to join us. Our members' skill levels range from beginners to advanced. For more information, you can call Tom Fuchs at 352-586-1171. Come check us out!

Author's Support Group

Paul DiSclafani



The Author's Support Group is open to all published authors and meets on the first Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Event Room I.

We are excited to announce that our authors will serve as instructors for a six-week writer's course at Master the Possibilities, titled "Writers in the Making: Learning From Published Authors," beginning Wednesday, July 15.

The six-week course will cover writing tools and elements, including dialogue, scene setting, and character development. It will also include dedicated sessions on different writing genres, including fiction, nonfiction, and memoirs. Each week, students will be encouraged to bring writing samples for discussion. The final session will focus on using Amazon's free self-publishing platform, KDP.

Authors Barbara Scales, Paul DiSclafani, Lori Szepelek, Mark Holmes, Filomena Abys-Smith, Tammy Cope, and Tom Nicholl will lead the students through the sessions.

The course is designed for beginners and for those who have long considered writing but felt unsure how to begin. It helps participants overcome common barriers, including insecurity and a lack of direction. By learning directly from experienced, published writers who have navigated similar challenges, students gain the tools, confidence, and encouragement needed to develop their ideas and begin their writing journey.

The entire six-week class at Master the Possibilities is just \$8 for members and \$13 for the general public, with only 15 seats available. Sessions will run on consecutive Wednesdays, from July 15 through Aug. 26 (Aug. 19 will not have a class due to the election primary).

If you are interested in enrolling in the course, visit masterthepossibilities.org or stop by the Education Center.

At the June meeting, members discussed their upcoming projects.

Mark Holmes is working on a baseball book that details the trials and tribulations of Bobby Story, an ambidextrous kid with great potential as he tries to make it to the Major Leagues.

Barbara Scales will have some of her poems appear in a future anthology published by the Poetry Club. She's also working on the third book of her trilogy, "Shillelagh Express."

Lori Szepelek and Mark Holmes appeared at a "Meet the Author" event at The Journey Bookstore, behind the Pad-dock Mall.

Paul DiSclafani is working to expand the story of his Uncle Sammy and his mission in occupied Italy as part of the OSS (a precursor to the CIA) during World War II into a novel.

Filomena Abys-Smith is 17 chapters into the follow-up to her novel, "At the Lord's Table."

We also welcomed newcomer Adrian Halperin, a contributing author to the book "Succeeding Through Doubt, Fear & Crisis," a collection of true stories about entrepreneurs and business leaders who have triumphed over challenging circumstances.



Salli Gray displaying her works.

OneBlood Bloodmobile

Sara Sommer



"Summer is a comin' in." With this come vacations, holidays, the flight of the snowbirds, and no school. All this leads to a greater need for blood with fewer people around to donate. The Big Red Bus® will be here on Monday, Aug. 3. Please take the time to save a life. There is no substitute for human blood. Only you can make a difference.

The Big Red Bus was last here on Monday, June 1. We collected 29 units of blood. That means that up to 87 people's lives were helped. Great job.

Let's make the Aug. 3 drive even better. Please mark your calendar. See you on the bus.

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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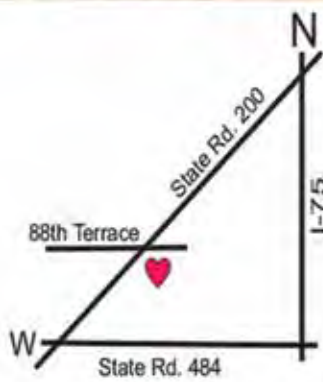
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2025 Annual Quality Water Report

Bay Laurel Center Community Development District

PWS ID#642619



The Bay Laurel Center Community Development District (the District) is very pleased to provide you with this year’s annual water quality report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have provided over the past year. Our goal is and always has been to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our seven groundwater wells draw their water from the pristine Floridan Aquifer. We simply add chlorine to the water for disinfection purposes and are pleased to report that our drinking water has met all federal and state requirements.

The District routinely monitors contaminants in your drinking water in accordance with federal and state laws, rules, and regulations. Complete sampling data for all parameters monitored by the District, including lead, are available at our customer service office located at 5575 SW 67th Avenue Road, Ocala, Florida 34474 or by calling 352-414-5454.

Additionally, the District conducted a Lead Service Line Inventory as required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It determined the District does not have any lead service lines within its service area. The Lead Service Line Inventory is available at our customer service office located at 5575 SW 67th Avenue Road, Ocala, Florida 34474 or by calling 352-414-5454.

Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2025. Data obtained before Jan. 1, 2025, and presented in this report, are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

In 2025, the Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on our system, and a search of the data sources indicated no potential sources of contamination near our wells. The assessment showed no contamination at this time in the source of the seven wells. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website (prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/).

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the land surface or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material. It can pick up substances resulting from animal or human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and

can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA sets regulations that limit the levels of certain contaminants in water from public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits on contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same level of public health protection.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants, can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate measures to reduce the risk of infection from cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

In the table, you will find terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we’ve provided the following definitions:

ACTION LEVEL (AL): The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL GOAL (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

N/A: Not applicable.

ND: Not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

PARTS PER BILLION (PPB) OR MICROGRAMS PER LITER (UG/L): One part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

PARTS PER MILLION (PPM) OR MILLIGRAMS PER LITER (MG/L): One part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.

PICOCURIE PER LITER (PCI/L): Measure of the radioactivity in water.

TREATMENT TECHNIQUE: A required process intended to reduce the level of a

WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS								
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS								
Results in the Level Detected column for radiological contaminants, inorganic contaminants, synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides, and volatile organic contaminants are the highest average at any of the sampling points or the highest detected level at any sampling point, depending on the sampling frequency.								
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Date of Sampling (Month/Year)	MCL Violation (Yes/No)	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination	
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	01/25	N	2.8	2.3 - 2.8	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.	
Sodium (ppm)	02/23	N	8.8	5.8 - 8.8	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil.	
Arsenic (ppb)	02/23	N	0.28	ND - 0.28	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards, glass, and electronics production wastes.	
Fluoride (ppm)	02/23	N	0.1	ND - 0.1	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7 ppm.	
Barium (ppm)	02/23	N	0.0092	0.0058 - 0.0092	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.	
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS								
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (Month/Year)	MCL Violation (Yes/No)	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination	
Combined Uranium (pCi/L)	02/23	N	1.2	0.6 - 1.2	0	4	Erosion of natural deposits.	
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	02/23	N	3.1	1.9 - 3.1	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits.	
STAGE 2 DISINFECTANT AND DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS								
For chlorine, the level detected is the highest running annual average (RAA), computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. For haloacetic acids or TTHM, the level detected is the highest RAA, computed quarterly, of quarterly averages of all samples collected if the system is monitoring quarterly or is the average of all samples taken during the year if the system monitors less frequently than quarterly. Range of Results is the range of individual sample results (lowest to highest) for all monitoring locations.								
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (Month/Year)	MCL Violation (Yes/No)	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination	
HAA5 Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	07/25	N	1.77	1.71 - 1.77	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	07/25	N	5.24	5.22 - 5.24	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	
Chlorine (ppm)	1-12/2025	N	1.85	1.01 - 1.85	4	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes.	
LEAD & COPPER								
Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Bay Laurel Center CDD is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Bay Laurel Center CDD at 352-414-5454. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at epa.gov/safewater/lead .								
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (Month/Year)	AL Violation (Yes/No)	90th Percentile Result	No. of Sampling Sites Exceeding the AL	Range of Tap Sample Results	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (ppm)	10/2025	N	0.90	0	ND - 1.3	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead (ppm)	10/2025	N	ND	1	ND - 0.043	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems and service lines connecting buildings to water mains; erosion of natural deposits.

contaminant in drinking water.

We at Bay Laurel Center Community Development District are proud of our efforts to continually protect our water resources and our commitment to ensuring the quality of your water. The standards that serve as the District’s guidelines are efficiency, accuracy, and

unwavering dedication to serving our customers. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water quality, please contact Bryan Schmalz at 352-414-5454 x4105. Our business hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. We encourage our valued customers to be informed!

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Chris Kilbride



The Artistic Crafts & Gifts Tuesday craft show is on hiatus for the summer – but that’s not stopping our resident crafters who are still open for business!

ArtisticCrafts.org will give you a glimpse of our very talented crafters and artisans, including samplings of their creative endeavors. With over 100 online, they all offer unique, custom designs for sale any day – even during the summer months!

July features America’s 250th anniversary celebrations, so you may wish to review our “Holiday” web page for gift ideas. There are stirring novels by local authors, items for the home, including setting a patriotic table, wreaths for the door, and even festive scarves to brighten a plain-colored shirt!

Put your orders in now, and be ready to party! Click on any photo for a crafter’s contact information, and just get together. It’s as easy as that for shopping right around the corner!

Our website categories make it a breeze to find what you are looking for, so take your time to view and shop, then contact any of our skilled crafters. Even though it is summer, creativity is still flowing, and it is a relaxing time to network with our residents and share their expertise!

It is actually thrilling to see the crafter light up when purchasing their unique creation. For the crafter, it is a wonderful satisfaction that their time and effort spent in designing will bring joy to someone who finds both a need and want to own their finished product.

If you have your own artistic endeavor or you wish to sell, we invite you to visit our “Join” page. A welcome kit will be emailed that includes photography tips to showcase your skillfully crafted items for sale. You will have the opportunity to submit six of your photos, which will be posted for free in a day.

All resident crafters are welcome to sell virtually on our website and inquire about a table in the fall. The weekly craft show will resume on Tuesday, Oct. 6 in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Please contact us through our website, ArtisticCrafts.org, where our coordinator, Marion, can answer all your questions.



Photo by Charlie Calhoun

Flag Day golf cart.

Fun with
Golf Carts

Susan Pulling Robinson



On Saturday, June 13, our members decorated their carts in patriotic colors to celebrate Flag Day. Selected charities included Operation Shoebox, Chuck’s Piggy Bank, Veterans Helping Veterans, Early Learning Coalition, and Dunnellon Elementary School. Many generous folks turned out to donate to these causes. Thank you!

Don’t miss a parade; mark your calendar for the following Saturdays:

- 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.

Rubber Stamp
Greeting Cards

Linda Lohr



On Thursday, June 4, Kathy Savini presented a card with a new folding technique. She brought in two finished cards as examples, along with paper to choose from and many embellishments for our use. This card can be used for any occasion by simply changing the sentiment. We thank Kathy for supplying the samples, instructions, and embellishments.

To join in the fun, 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.

Until our next meeting, keep on stampin’!



Photo by Linda Lohr

Cards presented by Kathy Savini.

Happy Hookers

Jan Spielvogel



In May, a group of 20 of our members enjoyed lunch at the Horse & Hounds. On Monday, June 8, we participated in a yarn exchange at our meeting. Similar to a cookie exchange, members brought yarn instead.

For each full skein, the member received a ticket. Half skeins got you a half ticket. Once all the yarn was accepted and all tickets were issued, those holding tickets could “shop” at the tables with the yarn. Their “purchase” was based on the number of tickets received. While most everyone participated, anyone without a ticket was allowed to shop only after all ticketed purchases had been completed.

This was a fun way for the group to acquire yarn and a good way for everyone to clean out their yarn at home and pass it on to someone else. We really enjoyed this exchange and hope to do another one in the future.

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.

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FOR SALE, WANTED AND LOST/FOUND

ADS: There is no charge to residents as long as it is not of a business nature. There is a \$500 limit on FOR SALE items. Items valued at more than \$500 (i.e. golf carts) may be listed, but price will not accompany the ad. Auto, apartment, financial service, home, legal, real estate, and timeshare ads WILL NOT be accepted. Ads may be emailed to otownnews@otowfl.com.

ESTATE/TAG SALE ADS: There is no charge to residents, however, residents must register their estate/tag sale with Resident Services at Friendship Commons. Visit ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala and click on "Resident Info" to download the appropriate form for your community and submit it to Resident Services by the 10th of the month prior to publication.

SERVICE ADS: Will be accepted from residents and non-residents and may be emailed to otownnews@otowfl.com. For advertising rates, visit ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala and click on "Advertising Rates."

AD DEADLINE: Noon on the 12th of the month. If the deadline falls on a weekend, then it's noon on the Friday before. For more information, call 352-387-7466, email otownnews@otowfl.com or visit ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala

The publisher reserves the right to reject any ad which, in his judgment, would not be in the best interest of the residents of On Top of the World Communities.

For Sale

Appliance: Electric grill. 352-300-3492 (after 11 a.m.).

Automotive Accessories: WeatherTech floor mats for Cadillac XT5, front & cargo only, \$75. 765-209-1667.

Furniture: 36" walnut-finish round bar table with matching swivel stools (2), \$175. Wood dining chairs (4), \$50. Call/text 352-854-2552.

Furniture: Golden lift chair, brown leather, \$500. 561-254-0619.

Home Décor: 4' tall, commissioned carousel horse by artist, Russ Jacobsohn. Beach oil paintings, 16"x20". Pictures, 4'x4'. 352-300-3492 (after 11 a.m.).

Misc. Items: Tony Lama men's cowboy boots, size 10. Men's black cowboy hat, large. Purses and wallets. Fox fur hat, red. Women's shirts, large size. Free aloe plants, you dig. Books – Clive Cussler, Civil War, World War I/II, French Revolution, Russian, Polish, medical, Napoleon, and art. 352-300-3492 (after 11 a.m.).

Mobility Scooter: Pride 3-wheel scooter, newer battery and charger, \$500. 561-254-0619.

Tools: DeWalt cordless 18-volt, 2-speed drill (DC970) with charging station (battery not included), \$39. 201-317-7488.

Yard Equipment: Greenworks 21-inch self-propelled walk-behind lawn mower, 40-volt Lithium max battery, bagger, side chute, battery, and heavy-duty charger, \$200. 850-716-3596.

Tag Sales

Saturday, July 11: 9814 SW 92nd Street (Providence), 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. · 9256-D SW 82nd Terrace (Friendship), 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

OnTopoftheWorldNews.com/Ocala

Sunday, July 12: 9814 SW 92nd Street (Providence), noon to 4 p.m.

Saturday, July 18: 9382-D SW 89th Court (Friendship), 9 a.m. to noon.

Services

American Junk Removal & Demo: One call, we haul – one item, room, or total clean-out. Total kitchen & bath demolition. Lawn/landscape clean-up. Dumpster rental. Call/text Garfield 561-306-6969. Quality work, competitive prices, licensed & insured.

Andy Dahms Interior Painting: Your local professional painting contractor. Turn your place into a showpiece. Quality Sherwin-Williams products. References available. Free estimates. Call or email at 941-730-1381 or andygooddeats1@gmail.com.

Assisted Reseller: Turn unwanted items into cash! Get dedicated, hands-free help selling items on eBay & Facebook Marketplace with photos, listings & shipping. 25% commission (no upfront fees). Call/text Linda at 352-816-2426.

Bates Lawn Services LLC: Family owned & operated. Mowing, weeding, pruning, mulch, stone & plants. All landscape needs. Fully insured. Senior discounts. Mike or Daisy 352-207-7221.

Bathroom & Flooring: Tile and LVP installation. Five stars on Google. Many satisfied customers in On Top of the World. Free quotes. Insured. Innovate - Home Renovation (L20000157682), Gabriel 352-216-2202.

Cash4Carts: We buy golf carts. Fast, friendly, fair. Will beat dealer offers. Cash paid. Same-day pick-up. 352-812-5630.

Cat Sitting: Provided by loving experienced Catsitter Nanny (resident) 352-854-8589.

Computer Help: Arthur Burditt, 352-875-7878. House calls, \$60/hour. Tutoring, setups, installations, Windows upgrades, PC cleanups, security software, internet connections, email access, printers, wireless devices.

Drywall Repairs & Interior Painting: Experienced professional & reasonably priced. For a free estimate, call 352-857-8367 or text 203-482-8050. josephdonofriodrywallandpainting.com.

Eagle Carpet Cleaning: Carpet, tile & grout, and upholstery cleaning. 25 years serving the residents of On Top of the World. Call 352-369-4494. Senior discounts.

El Dorado Services: Home cleaning, pressure washing, errands, plus handyman services, bathroom, kitchen, flooring, painting, & sliding glass door/window repair. Free estimates, licensed & insured. 352-628-0913 (#L2500009-8885).

Estate Sale Services: Need to sell the contents of your home? Committed to providing quality estate sale services. Working hard so you don't have to. Lacy Hornberger (resident), SW Ocala Estate Sales, 352-550-4058.

Geller Lawn: Mowing, irrigation, bushes, mulch & much more! Starting at \$50 per month (no contracts). Insured. 352-390-7454.

Handyman: Insured. JAO Home Improvement & Repair – all your home's needs – carpentry, built-ins, roll-out shelves, moldings, faux painting, tile, and furniture touch ups. Visit JAO Home's page at www.ashiarts.us or call 707-280-3823 (resident).

Handyman: Repairing sliding glass door rollers/tracks, sliding garage screen doors, window balances, sliding shower doors/guides, doors & locksets, door seals. Installing handicap grab bars. One call does it all! Steve, S&T Quality Services 352-207-8682.

Home Cleaning by Valeria: Houses, deep cleaning, move outs. Over 20 years caring for homes. Licensed & insured. Free quote 352-361-6850.

Junk Removal: Standard truck load \$99 plus dump fee. Call Matt at 352-640-6467.

Maid in America by Ann: Quality cleaning services. Pet sitting available. Insured & reliable. 609-276-1099.

Mobile Notary Public: Taking pride in my duty as a notary in Ocala. Nancy Faucher, 352-497-8201 (call or text anytime).

Notary (Mobile): Same-day service by appointment. Will come to your home, workplace, or hospital. Call/text Larry 352-509-5211 (resident).

Paint Time LLC: Interior & exterior painting. Quality is our goal! Also offering power washing. Let's spruce up your home inside & out. Call/text Matt at 352-640-6467.

Transportation: Doctors' appointments, shopping, hair, surgery center, hospital, etc. Diane 352-854-9999 (resident). Please leave message (no texts).

RESIDENT ID CARDS

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

Transportation: Excellent, safe, and friendly service to Tampa, Orlando, Sanford, and Gainesville airports, as well as Port Canaveral. Drop-off/pick-up. Sue's Transportation 352-446-7425 (resident).

Transportation: Professional ride-share driver since 2014. Comfort class XL SUV. All airports and local destinations. Call/text Larry 352-509-5211 (resident).

Transportation & Pet Services: Pet sitting, dog walking, rides to appointments with assistance getting in and out of the vehicle, shopping & odd jobs. Rob 954-557-4178 (resident).

Wash & Wax: Completed at your home. \$60 most vehicles. \$80 pickup, van, & 3rd row seating SUV. Interior & exterior. 40 years in service. Mark Anthony (text) 352-239-5702.

Weed Pulling: Yard work, mowing, topsoil for lawn/garden and haul away. Offering organic weed/grass killer. Insured. 352-454-2009.

Wanted

Acquire Game Players: Informal group of players. Time and day to be established. Dana at azspoof-er3@gmail.com or text 602-710-6251.

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) · 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).

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.

On Top of the World NEWS

MISSED DELIVERY?

If you are not receiving home delivery, please email otownnews@otowfl.com. Please include your house number, street name and neighborhood.

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