

Community News

Kenneth D. Colen

It's been great to receive so many positive notes and comments from residents about the Fourth of July Patriotic Celebration. Residents enjoyed a beautiful evening, with cooler weather carrying through the fireworks show and creating the perfect backdrop for another memorable celebration. This year's display was more spectacular than last year (it gets better every year!). We appreciate hearing all the positive comments you shared with us. We are already in the planning stages for 2027!

Community Updates

RECREATION CENTER: We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue this renovation project. During the demolition phase, additional conditions were identified that require modifications to the project design, resulting in a slight extension of the project timeline. This project focuses on the main entrance facing SW 99th Street Road, with upgrades to the sidewalk system, golf cart parking, and landscaping. We are now projecting completion in September.

IRONS 9 PITCH & PUTT: The interior of the golf shop is nearing completion, with millwork finished and power now connected to the building. Asphalt installation for the parking area is currently underway. As this work wraps up, the project will enter its final phase, focusing on landscaping and securing final regulatory approvals. We remain optimistic and are targeting an early fall opening.

NEW CANDLER HILLS ENTRY: The new gate system on SW 92nd Court Road provides an additional entry point into Candler Hills and points south. With the new gate in service, the temporary construction entrance on SW 80th Street will be removed.

NEW WEYBOURNE LANDING ENTRY: This new gate system is nearing completion. This will be a new entry from SW 90th Terrace and SW 74th Street Road.

MELODY PRESERVE: Momentum continues to build in the newest 55-plus community located just north of Indigo East. With more than 45 homes sold and over 20 currently under construction, the community is experiencing steady growth as more customers choose to call it home.

Designed as a standalone 55-plus HOA community, Melody Preserve offers an independent lifestyle with its own neighborhood identity. Residents do not have access to On Top of the World amenities, making it an ideal choice for those who prefer a simpler lifestyle and lower monthly costs.

One of the community's most attractive features is its HOA fee of just \$55 per month, offering exceptional value for homeowners. The affordable fee has made Melody Preserve especially appealing to single homebuyers and those looking to downsize without paying for amenities they may not use. Customers appreciate the opportunity to enjoy a beautifully designed neighborhood while keeping ongoing expenses to a minimum.

As new homes continue to rise throughout the community, Melody Preserve is quickly becoming a sought-after destination for active adults seeking affordability, quality construction, and an independent, low-maintenance lifestyle.

R/C FLYING FIELD, RACE TRACK & DRONE

FIELD: As construction preparations for the Skye subdivision continue, the R/C Flyers Club, R/C Car Club, and Drone Club have all been successfully relocated to the new location. We extend our sincere thanks to the clubs and their members for their cooperation and flexibility, which made this transition seamless. Thanks to their teamwork, demolition of the former R/C facilities is now underway, and the project remains on schedule. On Top of the World ran into complications with Marion County Fire Services, which insisted on a stabilized pathway capable of supporting a fully

Continued on Page 4A ▶

The Great Southeast Pollinator Census

By Robert Colen

On Friday, Aug. 21 and Saturday, Aug. 22, Sholom Park will once again participate in the Great Southeast Pollinator Census, a regional citizen-science initiative that invites people across the Southeast to observe flowering plants, count pollinator visits, and help create a snapshot of pollinator activity in their communities.

At first glance, the event seems simple: watch flowers, count pollinators, and record what you see. Yet the more closely you look, the more meaningful it becomes.

Pollinators are all around us in a healthy garden, but many of us pass by without noticing them. A flower that appears still from a few feet away may be buzzing with life – bees moving from bloom to bloom, butterflies drifting through the garden, and beneficial insects quietly carrying out the work that helps our landscapes thrive. The census gives us a chance to slow down, observe, and appreciate these important visitors.

Sholom Park will host volunteers from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on both days. Volunteers will welcome guests, explain the census, and assist anyone who wishes to participate. Last year, approximately 10 volunteers and 150 park guests took part, and we hope to build on that success this year.

The volunteer effort is being coordinated by Carole Putnam, volunteer coordinator, and Misty Frye, park administrator.

Participants will begin at the pavilion area, where they will receive a brief introduction and watch a short instructional video before being assigned to counting stations throughout the park. Observation areas will include the formal garden, pavilion area, and Fragrance Trail, all of which feature a variety of pollinator-friendly plants. With support from UF/IFAS Extension and local Master Gardeners, volunteers and guests will observe flowering plants, count pollinator visits, and record their findings.

No experience is necessary. You do not need to be an insect expert to participate. Gardeners, families, students, nature lovers, and anyone willing to spend

a few minutes watching a flower are welcome to join. Participants will learn to recognize the major groups of pollinators and contribute their observations to a much greater regional effort.

The data collected helps researchers and educators better understand which pollinators are active, which plants they visit, and how local landscapes support them. Just as importantly, the experience changes the way we see the world around us. Once you spend time watching pollinators, you begin to notice

which flowers are busiest, where butterflies linger, and how much life is quietly unfolding in every garden bed.

That is why this event feels so at home at Sholom Park. The park is not only a place of peace, beauty, and reflection – it is also a living classroom. Every trail, tree, and flowerbed offers an opportunity to learn. The Pollinator Census reminds us that Sholom Park is more than a destination for people seeking tranquility; it is also vital habitat where plants, insects, birds, soil, water, and people are all connected.

We invite the community to join us for this year's count. By giving just a little of your time, you can learn something new, contribute to an important regional conservation project, and take part in the meaningful work of caring for the natural world.



Photo courtesy of Sholom Park

Census taker in 2025.

Celebrate National Farmers Market Week

By Andres Espinosa

There's no better time to support local farmers, artisans, and small businesses than during National Farmers Market Week – and Circle Square Commons is making the celebration even more exciting!

Join us on Thursday, Aug. 6, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Town Square at Circle Square Commons for a morning filled with fresh produce, handcrafted goods, music, and fun giveaways.

The festivities kick off with live entertainment by SmileTime from 9 a.m. to noon, creating the perfect atmosphere while you browse your favorite vendors. At 10 a.m., the first 40 visitors who sign up for the Circle Square Commons weekly email will receive a complimentary Farmers Market tote bag and be automatically entered into the day's raffle. Plus, every purchase made from a Farmers Market vendor earns you an additional raffle entry, giving shoppers even more chances to win.

The raffle drawing begins at 10:30 a.m., featuring an incredible lineup of prizes, including:

- Two tickets to a Circle Square Cultural Center show (a \$64 value)
- A gift basket from The Ranch Fitness Center & Spa (a \$150 value)
- A gift certificate for a round of golf for up to four people at Candler Hills Golf Course (a \$440 value)

Must be present to win raffle prizes. Whether you're shopping for farm-fresh fruits and vegetables, homemade

treats, unique gifts, or simply looking for a fun way to spend your Thursday morning, the Circle Square Commons Farmers Market offers something for everyone.

Come celebrate National Farmers

Market Week by shopping local, enjoying live music, and supporting the hard-working vendors who help make our community thrive. Best of all, admission and parking are free, and the market is open to the public.

Circle Square Commons Farmers Market is located at 8405 SW 80th Street, Ocala, Florida, and takes place every Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

August 6, 2026

Let's Celebrate

NATIONAL FARMERS MARKET WEEK!

Music
9 AM - NOON

Tote Giveaway
10 AM

Raffle Drawing
10:30 AM

On Top of the World NEWS

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

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Is It Legal?



Colen & Wagoner, P.A.

SCAM ALERT: This is not necessarily a scam alert, as it is my thought about passing the word about scams to your friends, relatives, neighbors, children, and even grandchildren.

And yeah, I know our grandchildren think they know much more than we do, and maybe they do. Or maybe they don't. Either way, at some time in a discussion, I'd like you to discuss scams, hacking, and phishing, and how to protect all of us from the gazillion scams

that are waiting to jump up and bite us – that is, steal our money.

It can happen to any or all of us. So, what can we do to protect not only ourselves, but to protect everyone? Answer: Talk to each other.

Ask each other what you are doing, or have done, to protect against the worst of all, the romance scam. Maybe in a conversation about how terrific your grandchildren are, you could suddenly ask if anyone knows someone who seems to be vulnerable to a romance scam. Someone alone and vulnerable and a target for the friendly scammer who loves you, and could you head over to the nearest gas station or convenience store, find the bitcoin ETF, and send off some crypto.

Or discuss something about “work-

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2026 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE			
			
Issue	Ad/Payment/Column Deadline*	Printed Inserts**	Home Delivery
January	12/12/25	12/24/25	12/31/25
February	01/12/26	01/22/26	01/29/26
March	02/10/26	02/19/26	02/26/26
April	03/12/26	03/26/26	04/02/26
May	04/13/26	04/23/26	04/30/26
June	05/12/26	05/21/26	05/28/26
July	06/12/26	06/25/26	07/02/26
August	07/13/26	07/23/26	07/30/26
September	08/12/26	08/20/26	08/27/26
October	09/11/26	09/24/26	10/01/26
November	10/12/26	10/22/26	10/29/26
December	11/12/26	11/25/26	12/03/26
January '27	12/11/26	12/24/26	12/31/26

from-home” scams and how important it is not to be trapped into the “easy-way-to-make-money” scam.

You could mention that a lot of times, when someone clicks on a website, there’s this darn “pop-up” that says your computer’s been infected and click here or there or somewhere. If you do click, you’ll have one or more of a couple things happen. You’ll be asked for your credit card number; or, if it gets worse, you will have exposed your entire computer system to a scammer who will take over control. And, to make it worse, there is no place to remove the pop-up without triggering some scam. So, you must bite the bullet and do a hard shutdown by clicking Control, Alt, Delete on your computer and letting the system restart.

Just talking may alert someone to be on the lookout. We must protect everyone because when we do that, we also protect ourselves. And remember that a company like Amazon, Etsy, Temu, or other companies from whom you might buy something will never call you about a bill. Nor will the sheriff’s office or police department call you, nor the IRS.

You must always assume that an email, text, phone call, or a knock on the door is a scam. Unless you know the caller because it’s a child, grandchild, etc., and you recognize the number, you must be of the mindset that it’s a scam. Don’t answer. Let them leave a message. And if it’s asking about money, don’t return the call and pat yourself on your back.

Q. Do you use artificial intelligence (AI) when you do your research either for a history or legal lecture or when you are handling a case that requires it?

A. I use it a little bit but not a lot because I always want to check and re-check when anyone, or nowadays, when anything, does research that I need. So, for example, when I am researching a matter involving estate planning law, I prefer just reading an actual statute that I might use, rather than having ChatGPT tell me what that statute says.

If it’s history, I try to stay away from AI, because I don’t know if it has read an important historical document. So, I’d rather do it myself.

In fact, I recently read that a court officially sanctioned a federal prosecutor for citing cases that did not exist or that were completely unrelated to the federal matter at hand. Oops!

Yes, indeed, lawyers, and every other profession or business, will have to adjust to AI. The smart folks will adjust but verify. The lazy ones will adjust but not verify. And they will suffer.

Q. If I told you that a friend of mine was living inappropriately with two men at the same time, both younger than her, that she is 79 years old, and that she and they were not planning on changing their living arrangements, what legal advice would you give her?

A. I wouldn’t give her any advice, since it’s none of my business.

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



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Active Newcomers Club

Linda Baker



Are you a new resident? We would love to meet you at our “Doing Donuts” get-together on Saturday, Aug. 8, from 9 a.m. to noon in Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios III-IV. Current club members are also invited to attend. Bring your favorite morning beverage and choose from a variety of donuts and pastries provided by the club.

Membership applications and small group information will be available. Dues for the remainder of the year are only \$8! If you can’t make it to this event, we will also be at the Club Fair on Thursday, Sept. 10 at Circle Square Cultural Center.

Check your email or our Facebook page for information about our beach party! Join us in The Lodge at Candler Hills Ballroom on Sunday, Aug. 16 for a summer-themed dinner catered by Fresh Plates. Howlin’ at the Moon will provide summer music for dancing. Summer games and door prizes will complete the evening. Don’t miss this

fun bring-your-own-beverage event. Club activities have shifted indoors for the summer. The mahjong group plays on Tuesday evenings and Friday afternoons. Participants can play American or Siamese.

Would you rather spend an evening learning a new game? The games group has two leaders who email members with information about the games they have planned. Each member must respond to the leaders to participate, as seats are limited. 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.

If you are interested in joining a small group, please email activenewcomers34481@gmail.com with the name of the group in the subject line.

Membership applications are available on our website. When completing your application, please read the descriptions and requirements for small groups before making your selections. To join, you must have valid resident ID or a Gateway of Services pass.

To learn more about Active Newcomers Club, visit activenewcomers.org or check out our Facebook page. Email us at activenewcomers34481@gmail.com for more information.



Photo by Susan Southworth

Game night at the Candler Hills Community Center.

OWN A LOW SPEED VEHICLE (LSV) OR GOLF CAR?

Residents are required to complete and submit a waiver form to Resident Services.

Resident Services
8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday



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Where Things Stand

Over the coming months, the On Top of the World (Central) Board of Directors will be making decisions that will shape the future of our community. While the current board was appointed rather than elected by a vote of the membership, its responsibility remains the same, to act in the best interests of On Top of the World (Central) residents.

Several important agreements are currently being negotiated simultaneously. These include:

- A new Management Agreement between On Top of the World (Central) and Parkway Management & Maintenance.
- An agreement involving On Top of the World (Central), Candler Hills, and SCA regarding the continued operation and use of On Top of the World (Central) amenities by residents of both communities.

These agreements are closely connected, and each affects the long-term operation, financial structure, and services provided within the community.

At the same time, the On Top of the World (Central) board has advised that it is considering proposals from three outside management companies. Those companies are expected to present their proposals at the September board meeting, with a final decision regarding management anticipated at the October board meeting.

Because these negotiations involve multiple parties and will have a lasting impact on community operations, Parkway and SCA believe it is important that residents remain informed throughout the process.

What Could Change

For nearly 50 years, On Top of the World (Central) has operated under a management model that provides residents with on-site services, maintenance personnel, landscaping crews, equipment, and administrative support dedicated to the community.

Any transition to a different management structure would represent a significant operational change. While

change can certainly be accomplished, it requires careful planning and coordination to help minimize disruptions to residents and community operations.

Currently, Parkway maintains a substantial on-site workforce and equipment dedicated primarily to serving On Top of the World (Central) as a full-maintenance community. This allows many resident requests, maintenance needs, landscaping services, and operational issues to be addressed quickly by staff who work within the community every day.

If a different management model is selected, residents may experience changes in how services are delivered, where staff are located, response times, maintenance operations, and access to certain amenities depending on the agreements ultimately approved. Your monthly fees will almost certainly increase as a result of unbundling the services Parkway currently provides. Because these changes could affect every resident, it is important that the community understands the potential operational impacts before final decisions are made.

Although Board meetings typically attract approximately 200 attendees, On Top of the World (Central) is home to nearly 10,000 residents. These upcoming decisions will affect the entire community, making it important for all residents to stay informed and participate whenever possible.

Parkway and SCA's Proposal

Parkway Management & Maintenance and SCA (your amenity provider) remain committed to working collaboratively with the On Top of the World (Central) board and the Candler Hills board to reach agreements that address the concerns of all parties while maintaining stability for residents.

To support these discussions, Parkway has submitted a revised Management Agreement that provides greater clarity regarding the services provided and the responsibilities of each party. In addition, Parkway and SCA continue to work toward finalizing the agreements governing the operation and use of On Top of the World (Central)'s amenities by both On Top of the World (Central) and Candler Hills residents.

These agreements involve multiple organizations and require careful review and approval by the respective Boards. Parkway and SCA remain committed to negotiating in good faith and believe that taking the necessary time to

thoughtfully complete these agreements is in the best interest of the communities they serve.

The On Top of the World (Central) board has informed Parkway that it intends to terminate the current management agreement by Monday, Aug. 31 unless a new one is finalized by then and has set that same deadline for the separate On Top of the World (Central) – Candler Hills – SCA amenities agreement. At the same time as these negotiations, the board's own outside search for a new management company won't conclude until October, when the board plans to vote for a provider.

According to the board's announced timeline, residents will have the opportunity to hear presentations from prospective management companies during the September board meeting, with the board expected to consider selecting

a management provider during its October meeting. Residents are encouraged to attend these meetings, stay informed, and provide input through the opportunities made available by the board.

Moving Forward

The decisions made in the coming months will influence how On Top of the World (Central) is managed and how services are delivered for years to come. Regardless of the outcome, these decisions will impact every resident.

For that reason, residents are encouraged to remain engaged, attend board meetings when possible, review the information presented, and share their perspectives with the Board. An informed and involved community helps ensure that decisions are made with a full understanding of their impact on the residents of On Top of the World (Central).

The Fairway Friends

Lori Matuson



July was a busy month of celebrations. Some of our friends feasted at The Lodge at Candler Hills pig roast, while others enjoyed the Patriotic Celebration and the amazing fireworks display.

The Fairways Friends women's group voted to make "Spill the Tea" an annual

event. The tea party was recently held at the Recreation Center. The ladies attended the tea party with style and grace.

Events for August include the Fairways Friends gathering on Saturday, Aug. 8, for a "chill" reception at The Summit, featuring a potluck of cold refreshments and appetizers, plus a cool evening of entertainment. Bunko will be played on Sunday, Aug. 16, at the Candler Hills Community Center.

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



Photo by Lori Matuson

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Lifelong Learning

Michelle Shideler
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Your next favorite hobby, hidden talent, or life-changing class could be just one registration away. This August, Master the Possibilities is offering hundreds of opportunities to explore new interests, meet new friends, and experience the excitement of lifelong learning. As our Horse Capital of the World® curriculum continues throughout the fall, there’s never been a better time to discover something new and see where your curiosity can take you.

Whether trying something completely new or expanding a favorite hobby, these featured August classes showcase the variety, quality, and excitement of lifelong learning at Master the Possibilities.

Ever admired a beautiful stained-glass window and wondered how it was made? “Beginning Stained Glass Suncatchers: Step 1,” taught by Stacey Kemp, will meet Wednesday, Aug. 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Learn to cut, foil, solder, and finish your own colorful stained-glass creation while building skills for future projects. Cost to attend for members is \$76, general public is \$81, plus a \$25 supply fee.

If painting has always been on your bucket list, “Paint Like Bob Ross,” taught by Dan Willcox, is the perfect place to begin. Join us Tuesday, Aug. 25, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and complete your own landscape painting while learning Bob Ross’s famous techniques in a relaxed, encouraging atmosphere. Member registration is \$61, and General Public is \$66. There is also a \$20 supply fee.

Looking for a hands-on creative experience? “Beginning Wheel Thrown Pottery,” taught by Chris Gallup, will take place Tuesday, Aug. 4, through Monday, Aug. 10, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Beginners will learn the fundamentals of throwing clay on the potter’s wheel while creating pottery that they will be proud to take home. Cost for this course is \$116 for members and \$121 for the general public. This course fee includes the use of classroom tools, up to 12 pounds of clay, and project firing.

Learning isn’t limited to the arts. Nationally recognized financial educator Barbara O’Neill will present “Credit and Debt 101 for Older Adults” on Wednesday, Aug. 12, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Participants will learn practical strategies for understanding credit, managing debt, and making informed financial decisions.

She is also teaching “Managing Your Digital and Paper Financial Life” on Wednesday, Aug. 26, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., where participants will learn how to organize financial records, manage online accounts, and navigate today’s digital world. Each class is \$10 for members and \$15 for the general public.

These featured classes are only a glimpse of the hundreds of opportunities available this fall. From history and current events to health, travel, science, technology, languages, and the arts, there is truly something for everyone.

Registration is available 24 hours a day at MasterthePossibilities.org. You can also visit our office Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or call 352-861-9751 for assistance. Best of all, Master the Possibilities is open to the public, so invite a friend and discover where lifelong learning can take you this August.

Avalon Social Group

Laura Gavey & Sharon Hall



The weather did not disappoint. It was hot for our July event, but we made it cooler with ice cream and a presentation by Lt. Bloom from the Marion County Sheriff’s Office. Thanks to everyone who attended.

Watch our Facebook page and your email for details on our next event on Monday, Sept. 14. We will have an indoor picnic with food, fun, and games!

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 are having trouble getting in? Email us at avalon-socialclub@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.

OTOWInfo.com

Williamsburg Neighbors

Deanne Sanders-Below



Age should never keep us from learning new skills, gaining knowledge, or exploring new hobbies. Here in Williamsburg, 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, builds confidence, and teaches 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 that took place. We have amazing people who live in Williamsburg who create special themed gatherings, and we are honored to live in such a vibrant neighborhood.

Last month, the ladies gathered to learn and play a new game, bunco! We had a great crowd, many of whom, like me, had never played before. It was an

evening of laughing, competing, and learning something new with our neighbors. Thank you, Carmel Kessler, for organizing!

The Below’s driveway party in May turned into a pool party at the Recreation 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.

Our 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!

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!

Dave Kessler organizes the men’s monthly luncheon. Please bring a friend, a sack lunch, a drink, and enjoy the conversations.

For the most up-to-date information, please make sure you are on our email list. You can choose what events are right for you to attend. Please send your

Square Cultural Center. OneBlood will have a table. This is your chance to get all your questions answered. If we don’t know the answer, we will tell you where to find it. All are welcome. See you on the bus.

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Balfour Buzz

Kurt Larson



Here’s hoping everyone had a great Fourth of July weekend celebrating our nation’s 250th birthday!

Despite the heat and recent storms, it has been wonderful to see everyone so active around the neighborhood. We have already had tiki hut sightings, a Fourth of July picnic at the pavilion, and a mix-and-mingle at The Lodge at Candler Hills. Please watch our Facebook page for upcoming tiki hut and mix-and-mingle dates. If you would like to “host the hut” in your driveway, please reach out to Tiki Ed via Facebook.

The Balfour social and planning committee is hard at work on our next neighborhood event, “Balfour Goes Back to School,” taking place on Wednesday, Sept. 2, at The Lodge at Candler Hills. We are partnering with Stuff the Bus to support one of Ocala’s Title 1 elementary schools, where 77% of the students are economically disadvantaged. Stuff the Bus is a group of veterans who have been raising money and donations for disadvantaged kids in Marion County since 1999. The event will feature a fajita bar catered by Fresh Plates. Look for more information on our Facebook page and on the signs posted by the mailbox-es.

Candler Connection

Debra Keirn



The Fourth of July party was a great success, with 138 in attendance, enjoying a pig roast and barbecue chicken with side dishes, and some patriotic games and music provided by the Petroskys. It was a great evening of socializing before the awesome fireworks display at The Town Square at Circle Square Commons.

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

The Candler Hills potluck dinner will be on Tuesday, Aug. 25, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., with a new theme – “Mediterranean.” Those residents with the last names beginning with A-H should bring a main dish; I-P, a side dish or salad; and Q-Z, dessert. The cost is \$1 per person at the door, which covers tableware, decaf coffee, coffee creamers, and centerpieces. Please contact Deb Keirn at 352-414-5737, text 814-571-7908, or email arthurkipdeb@verizon.net to be added to the attendee list. Please label your dish with its ingredients to help those with food allergies.

Friday, Sept. 18, will be the “Cheeseburger in our Paradise” (Jimmy Buffet-themed event) with the Caribbean Chillers from 5:30 to 9 p.m. This group will keep the night hopping with their great music and sense of humor. The meal will include cheeseburgers with all of the fixins, potato and pasta salad, potato chips, and scrumptious desserts. The price will be \$30 per Candler Hills resident and \$32 per guest, and tickets will be sold from Tuesday, Aug. 11, through Thursday, Aug. 27.

Saturday, Oct. 31, will be our Halloween party with MPiRE Duo providing the music. There will be prizes for the best costume and the best pre-carved pumpkin. Please bring snacks or appetizers for your table, and we will provide the desserts. Ticket sales will be Tuesday, Sept. 22, through Thursday, Oct. 8 for \$15 per Candler Hills resident and \$17 per guest.

Saturday, Dec. 12, will be the bring-your-own-beverage holiday party, catered by Pasta Faire, with music and entertainment by Kathleen Kane. The menu will include a traditional garden salad, focaccia rolls, lemon-roasted salmon, chicken parmigiana, cheese-stuffed shells with basil marinara, rosemary-roasted potatoes, Italian-style green beans, and a variety of desserts. Tickets go on sale from Tuesday, Nov. 10, through Thursday, Dec. 3 for \$45 per Candler Hills resident and \$47 per guest.

Candler Connection is planning the New Year’s Eve party. This will be a casual evening with Palomino Blonde providing the music. More details to come.

If you are interested in planning events, join the Candler Connection Social Committee. We meet the last Wednesday of the month in Meeting Room 1. We are looking for new ideas and help at our events.

See you around the neighborhood and at future events.

Newcastle Social Committee

Nancy Monaghan



In June, five Newcastle neighbors joined Sandy Randles as she checked off a big bucket list item! The six adventurers took a trip to Zephyrhills, Florida, and went skydiving. For four jumpers, it was their first time, and two participants, Mike and Anne McCauley, are very experienced skydivers.

Suzanne Carle, a first-timer, described it this way, “On Tuesday, June 16, I went skydiving for the first time, and it was such an exhilarating moment (and day). I experienced so many emotions from fear, anxiety, and a little panic, to excitement, joy, and accomplishment.”

The rest of the group described it as awesome and exhilarating. Anne, an experienced skydiver, confirms that “skydiving is like nothing else.” Sandy and her daughter described it as “like flying,” and Jim Gilleland said it was a “total escape from reality.”

The emotions before the jump ranged from terrified to not nervous at all, with most people feeling excited rather than scared. As Jimmy said about the pre-jump, he experienced “not really the scariest part, but the anticipation as we climbed to altitude.”

There were some nerves about the actual jump and the landing. Once the group was at jump altitude, Jim’s favorite part was the jump out of the plane. Sandy’s favorite part was floating, and her daughter liked the free fall. Suzanne shared, “When the chute opened, I can truly say that floating down to earth in such a serene way was beautiful.”

Anne shared the following as her favorite part, “I was one of the last jumpers out of the plane, so my favorite part was watching my friends as they experienced their first jump. Priceless!”

So the next big question put to the skydivers is, would they do it again? Sandy’s bucket list item is completed, and she was especially grateful to share the adventure with her daughter, but additional skydiving is not on her list. The rest of the group would do it again despite some jitters.

Suzanne said, “When I landed, my legs were shaking quite a bit, and it lasted through lunch. But the best part of my skydiving day was sharing in the

laughter, excitement, and sheer joy we all experienced – together! A memory we all bonded over and will never forget.”

Anne will definitely be skydiving again. She already has a goal in mind after an amazing 949 jumps – “I need 51 more jumps to get a pie in the face – a

skydiver’s tradition for 1,000 jumps.”

Eddie Balaban and Lucca (the family’s Samoyed) watched with two feet and four paws firmly on the ground. Eddie shared after “... watching them jump, I can honestly say I have no desire ever to go skydiving. I’ll stick to being the driver.”



Photo by Skydive City

Sandy Randles skydiving.



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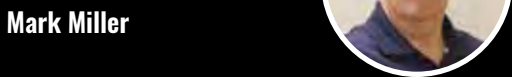
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Democratic Club



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.

We had a very informative meeting in July featuring the F.L.A.G. (Florida Legislative Action Group) team. They presented 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.

Our next meeting, on Thursday, Aug. 27, will feature Sadie Holzmeyer. She is with the Digital Democracy Project, which states it will enable voters to express their support (or not) for legislative bills and see whether politicians deliver. This capability can help us be better-informed voters. Don't miss this one!

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



Photo by Leslie Miller

Ryan Smart, executive director of the Florida Springs Council, spoke to our club in June.

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.

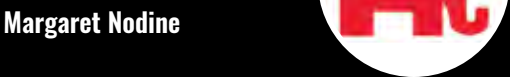
If you are unable to attend any meetings, please let us know, and we'll do our best to deliver your donations to the Ritz. Alternatively, you can drop them off before the meeting starts. If you'd like, you can go online and have the items delivered directly to the Ritz. Please email us to obtain the 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, Aug. 27.

Republican Club



We certainly hope that all residents had a wonderful Fourth of July holiday, filled with family, friends, and festivities. The summer still moves along; I cannot believe it is August already!

Our series of meetings with candidates for local elections is fast approaching its conclusion. Our July meeting featured a forum for school board candidates to address the members. The following candidates were invited: Steve Swett (District 2): Jeff Brewer, Mike Mills, Brigitte Smith, and Buddy Wyckoff (District 4) and Donny Barber and Sarah James (District 5).

Most of these candidates have spent time with us over the past few meetings. Now it was the school board candidates' turn for us to get to know them and their platforms. Before our meeting began, each candidate was asked to answer two questions about their goals and priorities for the job. Following our guidelines, each was given five minutes to present his/her position. Again, the order of speaking was through a blind draw. Finally, each chose a question submitted by a club member. Education and the workings of the school board are extremely important to the future of the

county; therefore, the discussion and questions focused on these areas.

Our club is in the planning stages to participate in Wreaths Across America. We are very excited about the opportunity, as it will allow us to honor our military on a personal level.

We happily continue to support Operation Shoebox and the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard. Both organizations give their time and are dedicated to helping our troops, those on duty, retired, and those who sacrificed all.

The Aug. 18 primary is fast approaching. Voting precincts are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Here's some additional information:

- Thursday, Aug. 6: Deadline to request a 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: 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.

Enjoy the remainder of the summer.



Photo courtesy of Charles Dodge

Charles and Linda Dodge at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in France.

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Longleaf Ridge Friends

Debra Vitale



Longleaf Ridge has been buzzing with activity lately – from cards flying to conversations flowing, book discussions, moon-gazing, and America’s very big birthday; there was no shortage of fun. And yes, you officially earned “old-timer” status if you remember where you were for the Bicentennial celebration. A special thank you goes out to everyone who decorated the Longleaf Ridge entrances. Your festive spirit was noticed, appreciated, and admired by all who passed by.

While Gloria Emmons was off enjoying a grand international adventure in the Czech Republic, two brave correspondents stepped up and gave us the scoop. First, Donna Siegfried reported the social committee’s second annual poker run, and the cards did not disappoint. Residents made their way around On Top of the World, stopping at checkpoints, collecting cards, and perhaps imagining themselves in a golf-cart-friendly action movie. Congratulations to the prize winners: Best hand – Steve Ludwig; second-best hand – Shirley Austin; and worst hand – Janet Meyers.

Cheers also go to the game winners, Mimi Lynch and Terry Butler. Many

thanks to everyone who participated and helped make the day fun.

Nancy Kiziu organized and enthusiastically reported on a delightful lunch at the Horse and Hounds, and as far as we know, no one was asked to neigh or fetch. It’s nice to occasionally have a meal you don’t have to cook. The room was filled with the sound of neighbors enjoying one another’s company.

Nancy also shared news about the monthly Howling at the Moon, which took place under the only blue moon of 2026, the second full moon in a single month. Debbie and Pat Portegy hosted the driveway event, which concluded traditionally: The enthusiastic howling at the moon. As always, the louder, the better.

Kathleen Taylor reported that the monthly book club selection was “The First Ladies” by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. This historical fiction novel explores the remarkable friendship between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights leader Mary McLeod Bethune, two extraordinary people. Many thanks to Kathy Schoenherr for hosting and leading a lively discussion that brought the story to life. Best of all, attendees were able to enjoy the conversation without being assigned homework or a surprise quiz.

Sandra Ritchie reported that Rita and Art Van Arsdale organized a trip to Clermont, where they boarded catboats and catamarans for a three-hour tour. They had fun plus a little sunburn, and no one

was stranded on a desert island.

Judi Walsh’s neighbors wrapped up the festivities with the “250 Years of Freedom” celebration at the Veterans Park, complete with barbecue, potluck

favorites, and music from DJ Jimmy Russo. It was a fitting finish to a busy stretch of Longleaf Ridge fun – plenty of reasons to celebrate. Happy birthday, America, and congratulations on looking pretty terrific for 250 years!



Photo by Hank Falk

Fourth of July 250th Anniversary celebration at the Veterans Park.

Indigo East Social Committee

Teresa Davis



A wild summer rainstorm may have changed our plans, but it certainly did not stop the fun! Our pool party quickly became a “porch party,” and over 60 neighbors braved the rain to support our friend and fellow Indigo East resident, Stu Montgomery. Stu put on a great show as everyone enjoyed the music, sang along, visited with neighbors, and made the best of the unexpected weather. The Indigo East Social Club provided cold drinks, and the Mobile Munchies food truck served delicious food. We also held a 50/50 drawing, and one lucky neighbor went home with \$163! Thank you to everyone who came out despite the rain and helped turn a stormy afternoon into another memorable gathering.

A special thank-you also goes to Jana and Bill McElroy for the time and effort they put into organizing our ice cream social. They did everything from creating and selling the tickets to buying and serving the ice cream. Their hard work made the event a sweet success!

Janice Liberton was an active contributor to our neighborhood and played an important role in preparing and writing this monthly column. Her dedication and involvement helped keep Indigo East residents informed and connected. Thank you for volunteering your time, Janice!

August is recognized as National

Wellness Month, offering a reminder to prioritize self-care, manage stress, stay active, and develop healthy routines. Wellness includes physical, mental, emotional, social, and even financial well-being.

Small steps can make a meaningful difference. Take a walk, connect with a neighbor, try a new activity, spend time outdoors, or simply make time to rest and recharge. Many of our Indigo East activities provide wonderful opportunities to stay active, meet new people, and enjoy time with neighbors.



Photo by Teresa Davis

Singer-songwriter and Indigo East neighbor, Stu Montgomery.

CONSERVATION FUN FACT

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

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- 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

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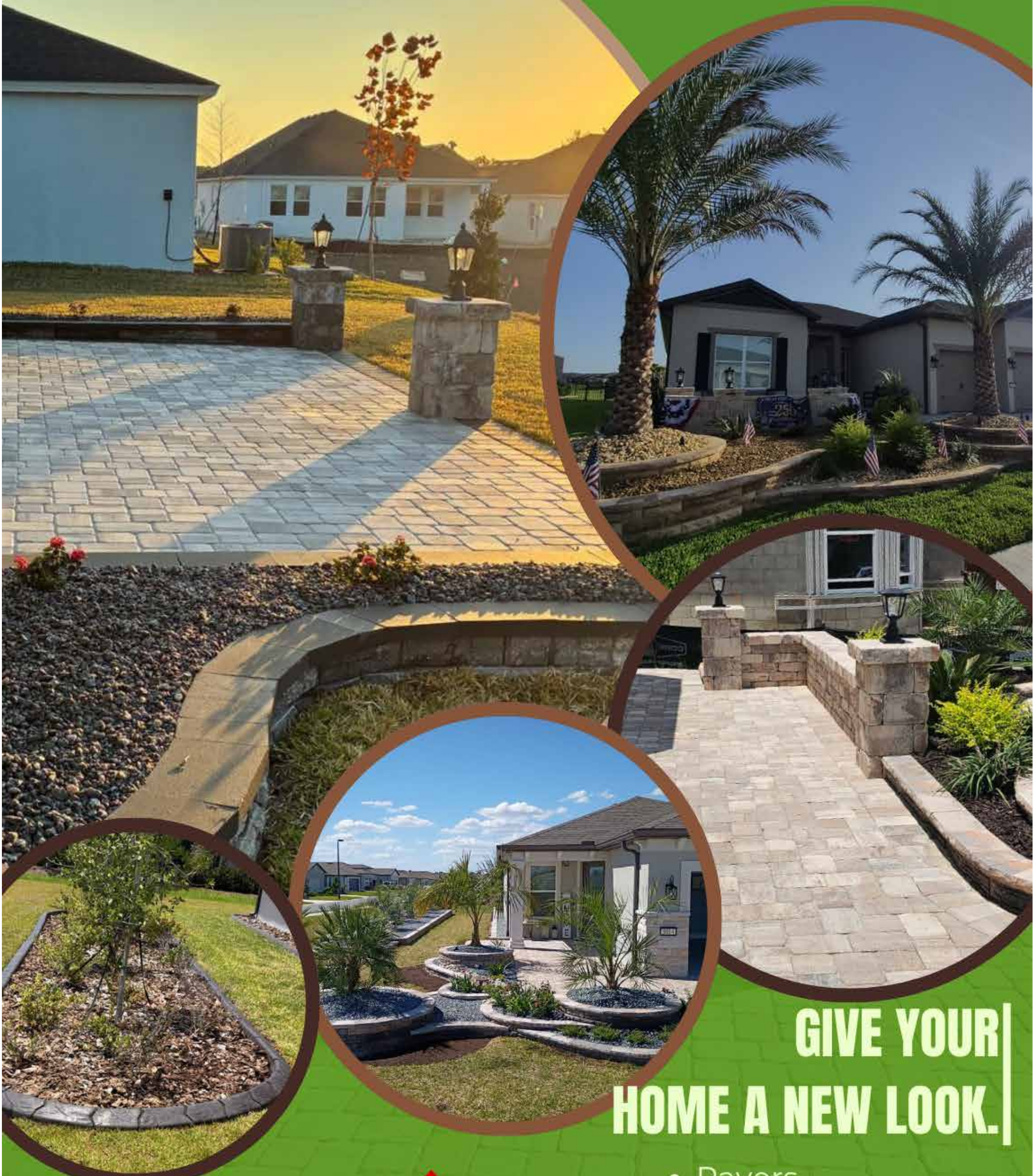
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The Search for Bailey

By Paul DiSclafani
World News Writer

When Laurel and her husband, Ron, set out from their Alendel home to get a close look at the fireworks at the Patriotic Celebration celebrating our country’s 250th birthday, they packed the golf cart with snacks, drinks, and, of course, their golden doodle, Bailey.

“She’s not one of those dogs that gets spooked by thunder or fireworks,” Laurel said of the five-year-old pooch. “She’s one of the best-trained dogs we’ve owned.” Bailey is often seen on their front porch, watching the world go by.

But on this night, things went horribly wrong.

“The first explosion was so loud,” Laurel said, “That Bailey jumped out of her spot between us in the front seat and tried to escape out the back of the golf cart.” Although her husband tried to grab her, Bailey was so frightened that she wiggled out of his grasp and disappeared into the darkness of the Candler Hills Golf Course. Laurel took off after Bailey, but Bailey was nowhere to be found.

The golden doodle was gone.

After driving around for quite some time, Laurel turned to Facebook, hoping that using the social media platform might help spread the word faster than posting Bailey’s posters on street poles.

She started with a plea for help on the pickleball page late Saturday night and soon found that other residents were getting involved by sharing her post on other community-specific pages. Before long, hundreds of people were on the lookout for Bailey.

By Sunday afternoon, virtually every On Top of the World neighborhood Facebook page was seeking help finding Bailey and posting updates. Residents had spotted Bailey but couldn’t corral her. Sightings came in from Kestrel, Ashford, Stonebridge, and Balfour. One resident spotted her at the retention pond near The Arbors, but she ran off. Again.

“We were getting advice from so

many people on the best ways to capture a lost and frightened dog,” Laurel said. “Many suggested we have food on hand to entice her to come out of hiding. I went to Sam’s Club and bought a few rotisserie chickens. I was handing out chicken legs like they were Halloween candy.”

Wherever they searched, they encountered groups of residents doing the same. People were organizing like an old-style Western posse. “It restored my faith in humanity,” Laurel said. She even prayed to Saint Anthony, the patron saint of lost things.

Still, no Bailey.

Things looked promising on Monday afternoon, with multiple Bailey sightings reported on Facebook in Providence. Laurel’s daughter traveled from Orlando to join the search, bringing along a secret weapon – Bailey’s puppy, Fenway, a nod to their Massachusetts roots.

Their daughter parked her truck at a friend’s house in Providence, grabbed Fenway, and joined her mother to continue searching the neighborhood in the golf cart, affirming that they wouldn’t leave without Bailey.

“We had driven for miles and miles that day and eventually ran the battery down,” Laurel said. The trio decided to head back to their friend’s house in Providence to retrieve their daughter’s truck, passing through SW 89th Loop. In the darkness, they missed the turn and ended up circling the loop two or three times.

Just as their patience (and battery life) was about to run out, their daughter spotted Bailey peeking her head out from behind a bush! Thank you, Saint Anthony.

“If we hadn’t gotten lost and had to keep circling SW 89th Loop, we might not have spotted her,” Laurel recalled. “The funny thing is, as we drove around the neighborhood, we kept seeing bowls of water and dog snacks at the ends of



Photo by Laurel Staiger

Bailey's back home safe and sound.

driveways. Strangers were doing everything they could to help.”

Residents following the Bailey saga on Facebook erupted in joy when they learned Bailey was home, safe and sound. “I’ve been answering texts for days,” said Laurel. “I even got a delivery from Chewy for a toy I didn’t remember

ordering for Bailey to play with.”

Laurel was so appreciative of all the help she had received that she wanted to thank everyone and put together an event at the softball field pavilion, where Bailey could meet all the people who had been searching for her.

Welcome home, Bailey!

Hot Days. Cool Adventures.

By Jan Lindell

July brought the heat, but the Active Singles Club kept busy. Members enjoyed day trips, an Alaskan cruise, an airboat thrill tour, and a Frankie Valli & The Legends concert. We also visited Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park, Christmas in July at the World Equestrian Center, and Polo Pony for lunch.

The month ended with an “It’s 5 O’Clock Somewhere” dance party,

where members dressed in festive parrot-head-style attire.

In July, members gathered for meals at Breakfast Station, Crossbones, and Mesa de Notte. Cody’s remains our Sunday lunch spot. In August, we’ll enjoy breakfast at New England Pastry & Café, lunch at Glenview Country Club, and dinner at Francos.

Our hikers kept moving despite the heat, completing their planned walks

and hikes while staying hydrated. In August, the hikes and walks continue as the group meets at Sholom Park each Thursday, plus a hike at Shangri La East and a walk at Silver Springs State Park, followed by lunch together.

Members looking to stay cool enjoyed bunco, darts, hand, knee, & foot, Mexican train, bowling, and samba, while others played mini golf in the shade. These cool activities will continue in August.

August offers something for everyone, including a relaxing chain-of-lakes pontoon tour through connected lakes and canals, a Raized Wrong live concert, a beach day on Honeymoon Island, Cirque du Soleil at Disney Springs, an Elvis concert, a private tour of the Model

Railroaders exhibit, and a refreshing pool party.

We hope you’ll join us at our membership meeting, held on the third Wednesday of each month at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios. Doors open at 7:15 p.m., and the meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. After a short meeting, members enjoy time to socialize and connect.

We may be single, but we’re certainly not alone; we have plenty of fun together.

To join, you must be a single resident with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. Visit otowactivesingles.com to learn more, see our calendar, and find out how easy it is to join.



Photo by Theresa Draisey

Active Singles Club on a thrilling airboat tour.



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Friends of SPCA

Heather Tahan



Thank you to Wanda Lasher from W.A.N.D.A. Cares Dog Rescue for being our guest speaker at last month’s Friends of SPCA member meeting. She spoke at length about her mission to help find forever homes and care for dogs that have nowhere else to go. Wanda promotes spay-and-neuter initiatives and provides a sanctuary for dogs that have been abused or neglected.

Bringing a new pet home is exciting, but buying a pet online or accepting a free one can involve serious risks. While many listings are genuine, some sellers run scams by advertising pets that do not exist or by providing false information about an animal’s age, breed, health, or history. Others may fail to provide proper veterinary care, leaving new owners with unexpected medical expenses.

Free pets also require caution. Although many people genuinely need to rehome a beloved animal, free animals can attract individuals with harmful intentions, including neglect, abuse, or illegal breeding. Charging a reasonable adoption fee and screening potential owners can help ensure pets are placed in safe, responsible homes.

Animals from unverified sources may lack vaccination records, microchips, or medical histories. Some may also have behavioral issues caused by poor socialization or neglect, requiring additional care, training, and patience.

Before adopting, always meet the pet in person, review veterinary records, observe its living conditions, and ask about its behavior and background. Whenever possible, adopt through a reputable animal shelter or rescue organization, where pets are typically health-checked, vaccinated, and assessed before adoption.

Responsible pet adoption helps prevent scams, protects animal welfare, and gives pets the best chance of finding a safe, permanent home.

We apologize for any confusion from prior columns. It is now official: Beginning in September, our monthly meetings will be held at The Summit Meeting Room 2. We will provide more details about the meeting schedule in September.

To attend the next meeting on Thursday, Aug. 20, at 1 p.m., or to get information on our programs and new membership, please call our help line at 352-362-0985 or contact Marlene Hatch at 317-514-4119 for the interim location.

We will not be at the Circle Square Commons Farmers Market during summer months, 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 theatre fundraiser on Friday, Nov. 20 through Sunday, Nov. 22.

If you have nonexpired pet food that your animal won’t eat or was shipped 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, towels, 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



Photo by Dawn Case

Last month’s Friends of SPCA guest speaker Wanda Lasher, founder of W.A.N.D.A. Cares Dog Rescue, with Treasurer Julie Rojas and President Marlene Hatch.

In the News

Petra Schmidt

otownnews@otowfl.com



Each On Top of the World household receives a complimentary monthly World News delivered by 1 p.m. on publication day (see schedule, page 2).

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Global Diversity
Asian Social Club

GLOBAL DIVERSITY

ASIAN SOCIAL CLUB

Rosalina Norita

You are invited to enjoy an unforgettable evening at Indonesian Extravaganza Night, on Saturday, Aug. 29, at 7 p.m. at The Summit Ballroom. This special cultural celebration offers a journey through one of the world's most fascinating nations, combining delicious cuisine, spectacular performances, colorful traditions, and informative presentations into an experience suitable for everyone.

Tickets can be purchased for \$50 per person at Ticket Tuesday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Arbor Activity Center Card Room III.

Indonesia is the world's largest archipelago, stretching over 17,000 islands between the Indian and Pacific Oceans. It shares maritime borders with Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Australia, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, and several other neighboring countries. This remarkable geography has created extraordinary cultural diversity, with hundreds of ethnic groups, languages, artistic traditions, and customs flourishing together under one national identity.

Attendees will discover a variety of traditional Indonesian dishes representing several islands and provinces. The menu features yellow rice cooked with coconut milk and turmeric, accompanied by flavorful beef rendang, chicken woku, tofu or egg balado for vegetarians, and urap, a popular Indonesian steamed vegetable salad mixed with seasoned grated coconut, all prepared by Tuti's Kitchen.

Delightful desserts complete the menu, showcasing the country's remarkable culinary heritage.

Every region contributes distinctive ingredients, cooking methods, and recipes, creating a dining experience filled with exciting flavors and warm hospitality.

Throughout the evening, audiences will enjoy traditional songs and dances representing Indonesia's diverse regions. The program includes the mapaq welcome dance, the energetic zapin dance from Sumatra, and the colorful gong dance from Kalimantan.

Dommy Duwiri will represent Papua, Indonesia's easternmost region, performing traditional songs while sharing stories about the rich Melanesian culture, the breathtaking Raja Ampat Islands, and the magnificent Cendrawasih, or Bird-of-Paradise. Pinkan Florida will perform traditional Kolintang music from Minahasa. These beautifully coordinated performances highlight Indonesia's rich cultural heritage while entertaining guests with vibrant costumes and captivating rhythms.

Traditional Indonesian attire adds another colorful dimension to the celebration. Attendees will see elegant batik fabrics, intricately woven textiles, ceremonial garments, and regional costumes reflecting local customs and artistic craftsmanship. Every province possesses distinctive styles, patterns, colors, and accessories that express cultural identity, historical influences, and community pride.

The program also introduces Indonesia's religious diversity and the mutual respect shared among its many communities. Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism are officially recognized, each observing meaningful holidays, places of worship, customs, and traditional ceremonial dress. Visitors will gain an appreciation for the country's continuing commitment to harmony while respecting individual beliefs and cultural traditions.

Educational presentations will highlight Indonesia's history, strategic location, abundant natural resources, and growing influence throughout Southeast Asia.

Indonesian Extravaganza Night promises an evening filled with entertainment and hospitality. Everyone is encouraged to attend this unique cultural celebration.



Photo by Putri Mandalika

The Mapaq Dance, a distinguished traditional performance, hails from the culturally rich region of West Java, Indonesia.

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Latinos Club

Silvia C. Garcia



¡Hola amigos! It gives me great pleasure to share news about our Latinos Club, including that you do not have to be Latino to join!

As the club’s founder, I put a great deal of thought into developing a vision before reaching out to potential members of our inaugural board of directors with a plan in hand. My goal was to bring Latinos and non-Latinos together through fun, friendship, and, most importantly, to make a positive impact in our community. It’s truly rewarding that, with the support of our dedicated and passionate board of directors, our members are building lasting friendships while enjoying our activities.

Giving back is an important part of our mission. During our Hispanic Heritage Celebration on Saturday, Sept. 26, we will present four local nonprofit organizations with \$250 donations. To ensure fairness, the recipients will be selected by drawing names from a bag containing the names of local nonprofit organizations during our August social and dance event.

Our Luau Latino was another sold-out success! The room was beautifully

decorated in colorful island style, creating the perfect setting for an unforgettable evening. Shelly and Ina Kline delighted everyone with a hilarious surprise performance featuring the return of “Pepe.” Members also enthusiastically participated in our dancing competition, filling the room with laughter. Congratulations to the drawing winners Lyn Yanss, Brenda Twyman-Neeley, and Liz Lieberman, and to Ella Bennett and Hector Gonzalez, whose outstanding dance performances earned first place.

A special thank you to June Colaiacove and Rita Hewitt for helping transform the room into a festive tropical setting and for donating a beautiful gift basket for our drawing. Our picture corner and dance floor remained busy throughout the evening – our talented DJs, Pati and Jan Bean, kept everyone dancing with an outstanding selection of music.

Our monthly group dinner was held at Frida’s Tacos and Tequila in Ocala. The food and service were outstanding, and the evening concluded with a drawing for Frida’s restaurant gift cards. Congratulations to our lucky winners, Kelly Del Rio and Jose Torres.

Finally, I would like to recognize Ivan Vazquez and Ivy Cortes for their leadership in making our weekly Tuesday game nights so enjoyable, and Yamila Code for creating the beautiful gift baskets donated by the club for our events.

Mark your calendar for these Saturday events:



Photo by Silvia C Garcia

Winners of the luau dancing competition and drawings.

- Aug. 22: Lakeridge Winery, grape stomping, live music, food court, and wine tastings.
- Aug. 29: Oldiwed, Midwed, & Newlywed Game, social and dancing; discover how well you know your significant other.
- Sept. 26: Hispanic Heritage Celebration, social and dancing.
- Oct. 24: Bailaween Fiesta Latina, social and dancing.
- Nov. 7: Honoring Our Troops &

Veterans Ceremony and Celebration.

We invite everyone to join us as we celebrate friendship, culture, laughter, and giving back to our community. Join us for socials, dancing, weekly game nights, monthly dinners, outings, Chicas Latinas gatherings, and more.

Visit 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.

World Traveler

Bill Shampine



Ice cream – getting myself a bowl last night reminded me of the trip Margitta and I took to Sicily. So, I decided to take a break from my set of columns on “modern wonders” of the world and tell you about the wonderful world of ice cream and some of the many flavors you can find overseas.

Although ice cream is one of America’s favorite desserts, it wasn’t invented here. Ice cream dates back thousands of years to ancient China and Persia (modern-day Iran). Early frozen desserts and flavored ices were enjoyed long before the modern era. Over time, freezing techniques and dairy-based recipes were refined across the Middle East and Europe, eventually evolving into the ice cream we recognize today. By the mid-18th century, French cooks had developed rich, custard-based ice creams made with egg yolks, a style that remains popular today.

The first known mention of ice cream

in North America dates back to 1744, when a guest of Maryland governor Thomas Bladen described enjoying it at a dinner party. George Washington reportedly spent lavishly on ice cream, and Thomas Jefferson helped popularize it after returning from France with recipes he later served at the White House.

Though we still enjoy custard-based French-style ice cream here, the version we typically eat – Philadelphia-style ice cream, an eggless recipe made from cream, milk, and sugar – emerged in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Commercial ice cream production began around 1850, prompting the rise of unique flavors and brands and forever solidifying ice cream’s place in popular culture.

In America, when we think of ice cream flavors, we immediately think of vanilla, chocolate, strawberry, butter pecan, mint chocolate chip, Neapolitan, cookies & cream, salted caramel, cherry, rocky road, and a few others.

The world, however, has a much broader view of the flavor possibilities. While on an Overseas Adventure Travel tour of Sicily, our tour guide stopped for a refreshing cup of ice cream. The photo shows the top flavors for sale at this little shop. From left to right: onion, pump-

kin, cuttlefish, Calabrian salami, olive, and tuna! Because Tropea is famous for its many onion farms, Margitta and I actually did a taste test of the onion flavor. We agreed that it was disgusting! Can you even imagine what cuttlefish or tuna ice cream would taste like?

On another occasion, we passed a fairly large ice cream shop in Nice, France. This store offered the following ice cream flavors, plus about 20 more: lemon, rosemary, thyme, rhubarb, jasmine, tomato, poppy, beer, mojito, piña colada, violet, rose, lavender, Coca-Cola, pangea flower, cactus, strawberry candy, M&M candy, jelly bean candy, and chewing gum! How can a person resist these sublime offerings? Well, it was difficult, but we managed.

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Friends of Bill W Group



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

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

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Photo by Bill Shampine

Various ice cream flavors for sale in Tropea, Sicily.

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Photo by Mark Frankel

Jewish Club members visited the University of Florida Judaica Library in Gainesville in June.

The Jewish Club

Bruce Kanner



Trivia aficionados, have no fear; there may still be seats available for audio/visual general trivia on Thursday, Aug. 6, at 4 p.m. in The Summit, sponsored by the Jewish Club. 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 determine if there is room, email your name and your team name to jewishclubtrivia@gmail.com. If you do not have a team of eight, we will find one for you.

Have you ever personally seen an original anything from the year 1545? How about from 1675, 1712, or, in this semiquincentennial 250th birthday of America, from 1776? About two dozen Jewish Club members saw books and artifacts from those years and more on Thursday, June 25, as they toured the University of Florida (UF) Judaica Library in Gainesville, Florida.

The Judaica collection comprises 140,000 volumes and many artifacts, including a centuries-old Torah. The oldest book is from 1545, containing Hebrew sermons delivered during the 1400s, and is one of only eight in the world. Other books include a 1675 work celebrating the Great Synagogue of Amsterdam, a prayer book and a Haggadah, both from 1712, and what is believed to be the first Jewish prayer book published in English, dated 1776. There are multiple ver-

sions of the ubiquitous Maxwell Coffee Haggadah, including one from 1933; only the second year it was in print.

Curator and director Dr. Rebecca Jefferson said she favors “books that tell a story.” She singled out a Book of Psalms, a recent addition to the collection, which a family had brought out of Vienna and “looked after” for many years. She pointed out an entire corner of the library devoted to Yizkor Books. Holocaust survivors put together these books of remembrance to remember their lost towns and include photos, school rosters, newspaper clippings, and stories. She said about 1,200 such books were created and that the UF library has them for about 900 towns.

At the end of the presentation, attendees were given unlimited time to explore the books and artifacts. Thanks to Jodi Kanner for organizing the trip, which certainly met the club’s by-law of understanding Jewish history.

The lunch bunch was held on Wednesday, June 10, at The Whistling Duck, with 12 club members participating. Man-about-town Mark Frankel commented, “Salmon, haddock, and Cubano. My O my!” Thanks to Marcy Frankel for organizing the lunch.

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

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

Rhode Island Group

Judy Parisi



Newport, a city with a unique history that offers spectacular ocean views and fine and casual dining, has fascinating places to explore.

Apart from Gilded Age “cottages” that are open to the public primarily through the Newport Preservation Society, there are many spectacular private residences. One has recently been listed on the market – Champ Soleil. Champ Soleil, which translates to Field of Sun, is in the style of a 17th-century Norman manor. It was completed in 1929 for Lucy Wharton (Drexel) Dahlgren.

Lucy’s grandfather, Francis Martin Drexel, founded Drexel & Company, a merchant bank, in Philadelphia in 1837. His three sons, Anthony, Francis, and Joseph, joined the firm. Following the loss of their father, Anthony partnered with J. Pierpont Morgan in 1871, and the bank became Drexel Morgan & Co. Eventually, the company became J.P. Morgan, which we now know as J.P. Morgan Chase. Anthony also founded Drexel University.

Anthony’s brother, Joseph, retired from the bank and dedicated his life to civic and philanthropic causes. His daughter Katherine, Lucy’s cousin, founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. She focused on the care of Native Americans and African Americans. Katherine was canonized a saint by Pope John Paul II, becoming the second rec-

ognized American-born saint.

Lucy’s marriage to Eric Dahlgren ended in divorce. Lucy subsequently spent her time in France, selling her Manhattan townhouse to jeweler Pierre Cartier. She hired Polhemus & Coffin, architects, to build her a home in Newport, taking inspiration from La Lanterne, a royal hunting lodge at Versailles.

Champ Soleil, located across the street from Marble House, is 13,000 square feet, with 22 rooms, including seven bedrooms, eight bathrooms, a media room, a pool, and an FAA-approved heliport, on five acres.

The house sold in 1947 to Robert Wilson Goelet, who was downsizing from Ochre Court. Then Champ Soleil was sold to the Douglas’ and later to the Aitkens. Champ Soleil was later sold to the Zarrillis, who currently lease it out.

Lucy was not the only Drexel in Newport. John Rozet Drexel III lived many years at Fairholme and then at Stoner Lodge with his wife Noreen. John’s paternal grandfather, John R. Drexel, was the eldest surviving son of Anthony Joseph Drexel. Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis spent the night before her wedding to John F. Kennedy at Stoner Lodge. Regrettably, Stoner sustained a fire in 1983 and was destroyed.

On any visit to Newport, when you spot a spectacular residence, consider researching its history, and you will discover some fascinating information.

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 ensure you are on our email list.



Photo by Judy Parisi

Champ Soleil.

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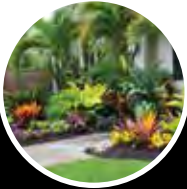
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August’s hot temperatures and frequent rain create ideal conditions for many Florida-friendly plants. By choosing heat-tolerant, low-maintenance varieties, you can create a landscape that stays beautiful through the rest of summer and into fall.

CREATE A TROPICAL OASIS: Bring a resort feel to your yard with lush plants like native palms, bird-of-paradise, elephant ears, and monstera. Add colorful accents with hibiscus, bougainvillea, or crotons, and include fragrant gardenias or jasmine for extra appeal.

Eco Gardeners

Phil Karcheski



The Eco Gardeners have been braving the heat and can expect another month of it in August, but there are still opportunities to grow and prepare for a change in the weather as we head into September.

In August, Florida’s Zone 9B experiences intense heat, high humidity, and heavy rain. The month serves as a crucial transition period to prepare for the

CHOOSE WATER-WISE PLANTS: Reduce maintenance and conserve water with drought-tolerant plants such as agaves, yuccas, succulents, and ornamental muhly grass. Decorative gravel or stone mulch helps retain moisture while giving your landscape a clean, modern look.

BRIGHTEN SHADY AREAS: Take advantage of shaded spaces by planting caladiums, coleus, ferns, and cast-iron plants. A small seating area or garden bench can turn these cool spots into relaxing outdoor retreats.

SUPPORT POLLINATORS: Create a butterfly-friendly garden with native plants like firebush, milkweed, coontie, and pentas. These plants attract butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds while helping support Florida’s natural ecosystem. Avoid broad-spectrum pesticides whenever possible.

massive fall gardening season.

The following are my recommendations for garden activities to complete in August and to prepare for September.

START INDOORS (SEEDS): August is the ideal time to start your fall tomatoes and peppers in trays indoors or under a heavy shade cloth to protect them from the blistering sun. You can also start brassicas like broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower toward the end of the month.

DIRECT SOW OUTDOORS (SEEDS): Plant heat-loving crops directly into the ground, including okra, southern peas, pole beans, and summer squash.

ADD EDIBLE LANDSCAPING: Combine beauty and function by incorporating citrus trees, rosemary, thyme, basil, and other herbs into your landscape. Many herbs grow well in containers, making them perfect for patios and small gardens.

CREATE COASTAL CHARM: If you have a home near the coast, choose salt-tolerant plants like beach sunflower, sea oats, and sea lavender. Pair them with shell pathways, natural stone, or decorative beach grasses for a classic Florida coastal style.

ADD A WATER FEATURE: A fountain, bird-bath, rain garden, or small pond creates a peaceful focal point while attracting birds and other wildlife. Rain gardens also help manage excess water during Florida’s rainy season.

MAKE THE MOST OF SMALL SPACES: Ver-

tical gardens, hanging baskets, and trellises are excellent ways to maximize limited space. Plant flowering vines, herbs, or compact vegetables, and consider self-watering containers to simplify summer care.

MAINTENANCE TIPS: Keep your landscape looking its best by watering deeply in the early morning, refreshing mulch, checking drainage after heavy rain, and removing weeds regularly. Monitor plants for pests or fungal diseases that thrive in humid conditions, and prune any damaged growth after summer storms.

With thoughtful plant selection and a few seasonal updates, your Florida landscape can remain colorful, healthy, and easy to maintain. Focusing on Florida-friendly plants and sustainable landscaping practices will help you enjoy a beautiful outdoor space while conserving water and reducing maintenance.

TRANSPLANTS: Move heat-tolerant varieties like eggplant and tropical spinach (such as malabar or longevity spinach) directly into your outdoor beds.

FLOWERS: Plant heat-resilient annuals such as marigolds, zinnias, and sunflowers to attract pollinators and manage pests.

SOLARIZE THE SOIL: If you have empty beds plagued by pests, weeds, or root-knot nematodes, use the intense August heat to solarize the soil by covering it with clear plastic sheets for four to six weeks.

BED MAINTENANCE: Clean out any dead, diseased, or spent summer plants. Clear away fallen debris to prevent fungal growth, which spreads rapidly in the

summer humidity.

MULCHING AND MOISTURE CONTROL: Apply a heavy layer of organic mulch to keep plant roots cool and retain moisture. Check that your automated irrigation systems have working rain shutoff sensors to prevent overwatering during the daily summer downpours.

Want to garden with us? Have questions or suggestions to share with other gardeners? Guests are invited to join us at the next Eco Gardeners meeting, on Monday, Sept. 21, in the Hobby Building Event Room at 1:15 p.m.

More information about the club and some featured past columns can be found at eco-gardeners.org or on Facebook (OTOW Eco Gardeners).

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 Thursday, Nov. 12, from 3 to 6 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. Light refreshments will be served including sandwich wraps, fruit trays and chips. Water will be provided or you can bring your own beverage. There will be basket raffles, as well as prizes. The \$30 tickets will go on sale in September.

The 23rd annual Fashion Show will be in March 2027, with the final date to be determined.

Be sure to stop by the Club Fair at Circle Square Cultural Center early on Thursday, Sept. 10 so you don’t miss the first Women of the World meeting in the Recreation Center Ballroom at noon. Dues for the year (September through May) are still only \$15.

We hope to see you in September.

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.

HANDICAP EQUIPMENT

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

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August 6 TIN HARGIS 7 - 10 PM	August 13 STEVE LAZARUS 7 - 10 PM	August 14 Fat Tiki 6 PM TC & SASS 7 - 10 PM	August 15 Carbside Cuisine 6 PM THE RUNDOWN 7 - 10 PM
August 20 DAN FLOK 7 - 10 PM	August 21 Bon Appetit 6 PM THE SWEET TALKERS 7 - 10 PM	August 22 The Greek's Grill 6 PM PAVAN'S BAND 7 - 10 PM	
August 27 BILLY BUCHANAN 7 - 10 PM	August 28 Et-Squeeze-It Lemonade 6 PM DEAD RADIO 7 - 10 PM	August 29 Poppy's Dogs 6 PM MPHIRE 7 - 10 PM	

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Indigo East
Common Ground

Vicki Chandler



Welcome to the Indigo East Common Ground Neighbors! The focus of this group 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, Aug. 11, at 4 p.m. in the Indigo East Community Center Meeting 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.

We had a successful pool party in June and look forward to many more activities and speakers throughout the year.

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.

Moonstruck
Astronomy Club

Cammie Fairburn



What kind of stars wear sunglasses? Movie stars!

There are two astronomical events to look forward to in August. The first is the Perseid meteor shower. The Perseids are the debris left behind by Comet 109P/Swift-Tuttle, which last passed close to Earth in 1992.

The Perseid meteor shower can be seen in the northeastern sky until Monday, Aug. 24. Still, it will peak overnight from Wednesday, Aug. 12 to Thursday, Aug. 13. And since the peak occurs during a new moon, there is a better chance of seeing the meteor shower in a darkened sky.

The second event is a partial lunar eclipse, in which 96% of the Moon passes through Earth’s shadow. The eclipse begins on Thursday, Aug. 27, at 10:33 p.m. and peaks at 12:13 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 28. The Moon will appear orange.

At our June meeting, Doug George talked about how all eyes are on the Blaze Star, which is in the constellation Corona Borealis (Northern Crown). The Blaze Star is a binary star system (double star) that has a nova explosion about every 80 years. It is a nova, not a supernova, so it survives the explosion. Its last nova was Feb. 9, 1946, so it is overdue (as of this writing on July 2).

You can locate the Corona Borealis by first finding the Big Dipper. Follow the curve of the handle to the end and “arc” to Arcturus, a bright reddish star. Up and to the left of Arcturus, you will see (with binoculars) an upside-down “crown”, the Corona Borealis.

To find the Blaze Star, locate the second star from the left in the upside-down “crown.” The Blaze Star is below and to the right of the second star. You may not be able to see it until it explodes. The nova explosion will be visible for a few days.

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, Aug. 13. All residents with a resident ID or Gateway of Services pass can join the club, and new members are welcome! Club dues are only \$20 per year, and they include a subscription to the quarterly Reflector Magazine.

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

Keep looking up!

Freethinkers

Kathy Bell



“A good world needs knowledge, kindness and courage.” – Bertrand Russell

Freethinkers are particularly known for the practice of civil discourse, willingness to discuss controversial issues, and support for church/state separation. Here, we are an educational and social group for non-religious residents. We welcome atheists, agnostics, humanists, secularists, deists, and those who are skeptical of religion and dogma. According to the Freedom from Religion Foundation, “A freethinker is a person who forms opinions about religion based on reason, independent of tradition, authority, or established beliefs.”

At a recent input meeting celebrating our third anniversary, Freethinkers voted our presentations as the activity they enjoy the most. Coming up on Sunday, Aug. 9, Professor and Freethinker

Glenn Cohen will present “Great American Orators.” Glenn will give us a look at American history through the speeches of Martin Luther King, John F. Kennedy, Teddy Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln, and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

On Sunday, Aug. 23, we will welcome Dr. Ron Cooper, professor of Philosophy at the College of Central Florida. Dr. Cooper’s hobby is studying theology and religious dogma from an atheist perspective. Join us for “Jesus in Text and Context, or Will the Real Jesus Please Stand (Rise) Up?” as we look at Christianity through the lens of reason.

These meetings are held in the Hobby Building Event Room from 1 to 3 p.m.

Our book club’s selection for the Monday, Aug. 10 meeting is “Regime Change: Inside the Imperial Presidency of Donald Trump” by Maggie Haberman and Jonathan Swan. This brand-new book is already a New York Times Best Seller. The authors’ source material features verbatim conversations of the powers that be, some of which apparently occurred in the White House Situation Room. Haberman and Swan are, of course, not naming their sources. This

book will make for a very interesting book club discussion! This meeting is in the Hobby Building Event Room from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Freethinkers offers three monthly group dining-out opportunities, as well as our monthly Socrates Café, where we practice civil discourse through an in-depth discussion of a philosophical or contemporary subject. We also support a group feeding the homeless downtown, often individuals living on the street or in the forest. Donations of used camping gear, clothing, towels, and blankets are much appreciated and can be dropped off at any Sunday meeting. For more information or if you have something that needs to be picked up, text/call Debby Levy at 561-346-7401.

If Freethinkers is a good fit for you, please plan to attend any Sunday meeting to register, after which you can participate in all other activities. If you have questions or would like a copy of our current newsletter, please email FreethinkersFlorida@gmail.com. Our freethought community welcomes you.

Illinois Group

Harriet Pinchauck



We enjoyed the Fourth of July celebration at The Summit with K-Dogs Red Hots, which were the day’s hit. I realize that the early clouds and rain kept a lot of people away. All I can say is ... you missed out on the best hot dogs ever!

We then had our meet-and-greet on Sunday, July 7, with another ginormous group. I was overwhelmed that close to 60 Illinoisans came out! Lots more new people with lots of ideas!

We’ll be planning a speed-meeting (like the speed-dating thing), a games evening, and even an ice cream social. More ideas will be forthcoming.

We’re planning our next meet-and-greet on Tuesday, Aug. 4, at 6:30 p.m. at The Summit. With more people signing up every day, we continue to share where we’re from in Illinois and talk about ideas for future activities and events for the group.

Whether you’re from Chicago, the suburbs, central Illinois, southern Illi-

nois, 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 me at mompin@att.net to let me know you’ll be there and who may be coming with you.

I’m looking forward to meeting everyone and getting this new group going!

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Tech Tips from Bridgenet Communications

Shane Bobson
info@mybridgenet.com



Smart Steps to Fix Your Internet Before Calling a Tech

Troubleshooting your own internet can save you the hassle of waiting on a technician. Even if these steps don't solve the problem, you'll be in a much better position to help your Internet Service Provider (ISP) expedite your repair.

ISOLATE THE ISSUE: Start by checking if the issue is impacting your entire home or just one device. The internet won't

single out one device over others. Check how your problematic device is connected – Wi-Fi or Ethernet cable. Next, check a second device using the same connection type. If the second device works perfectly: The issue is isolated to the original device. Try restarting it. If the problem persists, contact that device manufacturer's support. If multiple devices are down: The problem lies further up the chain with your network equipment or ISP. **UNDERSTAND YOUR WI-FI STATE:** When your internet acts up, your system usually falls into one of three states:

1. Connected and Working: Traffic passes normally.
2. Connected with No Internet: Your device connects to the local router,

but no data passes to the outside world. You can still print or share files locally, but you cannot load websites.

3. No Wi-Fi Signal: Your device cannot see the router. Hardwired devices might still have internet, but wireless devices will have no service.

PERFORM A PROPER SEQUENCE REBOOT: If you have no internet or no Wi-Fi signal, a proper power cycle will resolve most issues. While you can unplug everything in any order, the sequence in which you plug them back in is critical:

- Unplug the power cables from both your modem and your standalone Wi-Fi router.
- Plug the modem back in first. Wait two to three minutes for it to boot

up and fully connect to your ISP.

- Plug in your Wi-Fi router next (skip this if you have an all-in-one modem-router combo).
- Once the router's lights stabilize, turn your devices back on.

KNOW YOUR COVERAGE BEFORE YOU CALL: If issues persist, it's time to call your ISP. Because you've already done basic troubleshooting, the agent can skip introductory troubleshooting and fast-track your ticket.

Be aware of potential fees. Most ISPs do not charge for a visit if the failure is with their outside lines or rented hardware. However, they will charge a service fee if your personal equipment or home wiring causes the issue.

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 members learn about the ever-changing technology that surrounds us through discussions about Android, Windows, and Apple devices, including current issues. OcalaTechClub.org will give lots of great information about our group.

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.

Where did the Scandinavians come from? There is fascinating information by Karl Andersson at nordicperspective.com.

Scandinavians are descendants of three groups of migration: hunter-gath-

erers from central Europe and modern-day Russia around 12,000 BCE; farmers from Anatolia and Syria around 4,000 BCE; and steppe herders from the Black Sea around 2,800 BCE. Most settled initially in Denmark and then spread to Sweden and Norway.

For Icelanders, we add Celts to the mix, as Vikings brought the peoples captured in slave raids. Iceland is basically one-half Scandinavian and one-half Celt.

There were four characteristics of life during the 1,100-year Viking Age: namely, everyday life was very violent, and Warriors were shaped early; a materialistic culture was formed; there was a clear hierarchy in society as a whole; and each tribe had its own folklore and mythology.

Other than our Vikings in the Scandinavian American Club violently pur-

hunt for the information that we have stored ... somewhere – that is the question! Your family will truly appreciate the time and effort you put into making this critical resource accessible to them.

Please start by visiting the website's "Organize" page and reviewing all the helpful information available there. Then click on a request for either or both "Database Templates." You will be emailed your choice of either the Apple Numbers or Windows - Microsoft Excel templates. You are cordially welcome to share these databases with family and friends, but not post them on social media or any websites.

suing good food and conversation with others like us, we always have a good time. Our meetings often include a snack table where members bring some of their favorite Scandinavian snacks and dishes.

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

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

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

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

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 his therapist has asked 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.

The Celebrity Apex Cruise from Feb. 13 through 20, 2027 is waitlist-only. Ports of call are Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Basseterre, St. Kitts and Nevis. If you wish to be placed on the waitlist, call Janet Wiles at 804-243-4008.

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

Christian Women’s Club

Fran Acoba



We continue to enjoy fellowship, meeting new friends, celebrating events, and opening our hearts to a loving God in song and messages of faith and encouragement.

In June, Mary Busha encouraged us to be “salt” and “light.” We are reminded that being salt and light requires humble and total dependence on God’s loving grace. Salt preserves and enhances everything, and light pierces the darkness, providing clarity and direction. Everything good comes from a loving and living God who is the salt and light, “so that no one can boast.”

God’s unrelenting love was driven home by July’s message of freedom and hope brought by Lili Gottfried. Lili reminded us that a sincere and loving relationship with God through Christ grants us the freedom to joyfully serve others, be at peace with self and others, and to live with proven hope and “joy unspeakable” that the world cannot give.

Join us at our monthly potluck luncheon (bring a favorite dish and friends) on Saturday, Aug. 15 (every third Saturday), from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Arbor Activity Center Event Room I.

We would love to meet you to discover God’s unfailing love together, and build community, mutually grow, encourage, strengthen, and serve.

Please email Outreach Coordinator Joanne Luu at joanneluu@yahoo.com or text 808-542-8430 for questions and prayer.



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.



Lions Club members playing cornhole.

Lions Club

Gail Morris



Lions just want to have fun! On Saturday, June 27, the Ft. King Lions Club hosted a cornhole tournament in 35MD-L, Zone 5. Mostly Marion County clubs, and six of our members, made up three of the 11 teams that participated and did our club proud. The team of Rhonda and Gordon Butzine finished second of the 11 and scored one game 21 to zero. We all brought covered dishes and feasted on a fine meal while enjoying the fellowship of other Lions. A big thank you to Lion Malcolm Hay for organizing the event. Our Lions Club hopes to have a similar event this fall at our mini-golf course.

We were pleased to have Past District Governor Melnick preside over the installation of our officers and new members in May. Our members enjoyed a fine meal catered by Southern Pig & Cattle Company with side dishes provided by our members. It was a good time for fellowship and congratulations to our new officers: Lion Duane Covert as president, Lion John D’Errico as vice

president, Lion Gail Morris as treasurer, and Lion Sherri Fink as secretary.

Our members will be busy this month purchasing and delivering supplies to several of our elementary schools in Marion County. All of which is possible thanks to your generous support during our casino night fundraiser.

Our club meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio IV at 5 p.m. If you would like further information, you can contact Lion Bert Perkins, membership chair, at 909-262-8407.

SWANS

Lois Nix



Our 20th-anniversary celebration is approaching, and the committee has been planning since June to make this milestone a success. SWANS is unique as an informal club with no dues or board, thriving for 20 years entirely due to our dedicated volunteers and a long-term coordinator. Thank you to everyone for helping us celebrate this achievement.

We remain active both in our own homes and out in the community, and we are open to all single women with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

A group of SWANS celebrated the Fourth of July aboard the Barbara Lee in Sanford, Florida. We had dinner, danced, and had a good time.

July was busy, and our August and September calendars are filling up.

SWANS accepts new members at any time. SWANS is the only club for single women. We make you feel you are not alone, which gives you a sense of belonging. You will enjoy having more sisters of your heart than you can ever imagine. SWANS is my family.

We look forward to meeting you. SWANS are never alone. SWANS are never forgotten.

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Wellness Volunteer Program Launches

By Cammy Dennis

On Top of the World is excited to announce the launch of its new Wellness Volunteer Program, an initiative designed to empower residents to make a meaningful difference in the lives of their neighbors while enhancing their own well-being. Volunteering is recognized as one of the seven dimensions of wellness because of its powerful impact on physical, emotional, and social health. Research shows that individuals who volunteer experience greater life satisfaction, stronger social connections, a renewed sense of purpose, and even improved overall health. In an active adult community like On Top of the World, volunteering creates opportunities to stay engaged, meet new people, and contribute to a vibrant and supportive community culture.

Residents interested in becoming a “Wellness Warrior” are invited to attend the official kickoff event on Friday, Aug. 21, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. During the event, attendees will learn about volunteer opportunities, discover how they can support wellness initiatives throughout the community, and connect with fellow residents who share a passion for helping others.

On Top of the World’s Wellness Volunteer Program is designed for residents who want to help others stay active, connected, and engaged. Whether assisting with special events, welcoming new residents, or serving as ambassadors for healthy living, volunteers will

play an important role in strengthening community connections and enhancing the resident experience.

The program’s launch is especially significant as we celebrate Chris Riopel, who has officially become the very first Wellness Warrior! Chris’s willingness to step forward and volunteer embodies the spirit of service and community that makes On Top of the World such a special place to live.

Chris is not new to volunteering; she has generously donated her time assisting at the On Top of the World Library, the Friends of Freedom Library, ReadingPals for United Way, the World Equestrian Center, the Reilly Arts Center, and the Marion Therapeutic Riding Association. When I asked Chris what she enjoys about being a volunteer, she shared, “I get reward in knowing that I can make a difference in other people’s lives, even though I might not interact with them directly. I say, “pay it forward!””

Residents who would like to register for the kickoff event can do so through the OTOW App > Recreation Events. We encourage everyone to consider becoming part of this exciting new program and discover the many rewards that come from giving back. Residents who are eager to apply to become a Wellness Warrior can do so now at OTOWInfo.com > Resident Information > Volunteer. Together, we can build friendships and demonstrate community support, one Wellness Warrior at a time.



Photo by Cammy Dennis

Trish Person, Recreation Department staff member and volunteer coordinator, and Chris Riopel, On Top of the World’s very first wellness volunteer!

Moneyball Captures Championship

By Gerry Meier

The Rec League Softball winter/spring season, which ran from Tuesday, Jan. 13 through Thursday, May 7, concluded with a single-elimination tournament held on Tuesday, May 12 and Thursday, May 14. In the opening round, the fourth-place Braves defeated the first-place Goodtimers. In the second game, the second-place Moneyball team advanced after defeating the third-place Silver Hair Devils on a walk-off home run. In the championship game on Wednesday, May 13, Moneyball defeated the Braves to secure the title.

Congratulations to the Moneyball team on winning the Winter/Spring Rec League Softball Championship.

Winter/Spring

1–Goodtimers managed by Mike Hoenie (22 wins/10 losses). 2–Moneyball managed by Joe Matriccino (18 wins/14 losses). 3–Silver Hair Devils managed by Tom Duncan (15 wins/17 losses). 4–Braves managed by Leon Egozi (14 wins/18 losses).

aged by Leon Egozi (14 wins/18 losses).

The summer season is now underway, with games scheduled every Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Shade umbrellas are available for spectators. We encourage you to come out and support the athletes.

Summer (as of June 23)

1–Hot Wheels managed by Mike Hoenie (7 wins/2 losses/1 tie). 2–Braves managed by Leon Egozi (4 wins/5 losses/1 tie). 3–Sultans of Swing managed by Joe Matriccino (4 wins/5 losses). 4–Ball Busters managed by Ernie Sersen (3 wins/6 losses).

There will be a double elimination tournament at the end of the season to determine the summer champion. Final season standings set seeding.

If you are interested in playing, please come by and see us. For more information, email us at therecsoftballclub@gmail.com.



Photo by Domenica Genovese

Several Meditation Group members after our meeting.

Pause. Breathe. Connect.

By Domenica Genovese

Every Tuesday at 1 p.m., members of our Meditation Group file into Arbor Activity Center Event Room I, arrange the chairs into something like a circle, and sit down to do what at first glance appears to be nothing at all.

When at home, everyone is encouraged to meditate whichever way suits them best, but for this one hour a week, the group follows a shared format – 20 minutes of silence followed by 40 minutes of discussion. The lights are lowered. We settle in our chairs, though mats are always welcome for anyone who prefers to sit on the floor.

Someone begins by reading a short passage from a favorite writer. One week it might be a quote from Marcus Aurelius; on another, it might be a saying from Rumi, Thich Nhat Hanh, or Martin Luther King.

After the reading, a bell sounds, and the sitting begins accompanied by ambient music. The music helps draw focus into the room while muffling distracting sounds outside – leaf blowers, footsteps in the corridor, or a car pulling into the lot.

Twenty minutes of silence has a way of settling the noise in your own head. We pass the rest of the hour discussing that week’s quote. A line about journeys of discovery led one week to a childhood

memory; another week, a phrase about acceptance turned into a conversation about a difficult decision for which nobody had a tidy answer. That’s part of the pleasure of it: the quote is just a doorway, and no one knows which room it opens into. Everyone gets a turn to speak, or to simply pass, and then the floor opens to whoever has more to add.

What makes the hour work is that we really listen rather than just wait for our turn. Sometimes we have a follow-up question, or someone circles back to an idea a person raised 10 minutes earlier because it stayed with them. There’s a lot of laughter and sometimes just a thoughtful silence between comments.

A regular meditation practice adds a little more steadiness and clarity to whatever the rest of the week brings. Even more important are the health benefits. A 2014 study in JAMA Internal Medicine found that mindfulness meditation programs showed evidence of easing anxiety, depression, and stress.

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.



Photo By Corky Gaskell

Moneyball team.

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Golf

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



We are in the dead heat of summer. Afternoon thunderstorms and high humidity are the norm for central Florida, which doesn't necessarily bode well for our afternoon golfers. If you like to play in the afternoon when the course is less crowded, please make sure to follow all inclement weather safety precautions. Here are some tips if you are caught on the golf course during a storm.

- Avoid open high ground and large trees.
- Avoid bodies of water.
- Seek shelter inside a building immediately.
- Remember that if you hear thunder, lightning is nearby.

On Top of the World will host the annual World Labor Day golf event on

Monday, Sept. 7. The format is a four-person team scramble. Each team will be flighted based on team handicap. The event will be held on The Links and The Tortoise & The Hare. Registration is \$25 per player, which includes a \$5 donation to Folds of Honor. Folds of Honor Foundation provides post-secondary educational scholarships for children and spouses of military service members.

Upcoming Events

- Friday, Aug. 7: Dogs Days of Summer at Candler Hills Golf Club
- Monday, Aug. 10 through Thursday, Aug. 13: Aerification at Candler Hills.
- Friday, Aug. 21: Scoring Tees at The Links.
- Monday, Aug. 24 through Thursday, Aug. 27: Aerification at The Links.
- Monday, Sept. 7: World Labor Day at Candler Hills and The Links.

World Accolades

THE TORTOISE & THE HARE: John Herman, hole-in-one #13. Dale Clarke, shot

78 and 79 both under his age of 80. Bob Mondore, shot 72, ten strokes under his age.

THE LINKS: Bob Mondore shot 74, 73, and 74, all below his age, with an eagle on #3. Robert Meyer, eagle on #16. Tony Loureiro, eagle on #4 twice. Richard Deschenes shot his age 79. Phil Petrozella, eagle #7.

CANDLER HILLS: Page Falconer, hole-in-one #17. Ron Wages, hole-in-one #5. Gene Czachor, eagle #7. Rick Ferris, eagle #12. Mike Mackowiak, eagle #7. Rich Foltyniewicz, shot 77, two strokes under his age. Mike Kaiser, eagle #15. Mike Stevens, Hole-in-One #13. Rick Deroven, eagle #7.

Congratulations to all!

Golf Tip of the Month

How many of you find yourself hitting a huge slice with a driver in your hands? A slice is when your shot curves hard from left to right for the right-handed golfer. Most times the slice will take you to places you do not want to be. You say to yourself, "Why can't I get rid of this darn slice?" Well, here are some tips

to help you rid yourself of the dreaded slice.

- Check your grip. Each hand should form a V with your index finger and thumb. Each of the Vs formed should then point to your right shoulder (for right-handed golfers).
- Make sure your ball position is off the heel of the front foot. This will help catch the ball on the upswing.
- Focus on a bigger turn back and through. Make sure you get about 80 to 90% of your weight on your back foot at the backswing, and shift it onto your forward foot on the downswing. You must finish your golf swing to help eliminate the slice.
- Lastly, focus on releasing the club head before impact. Feel the wrists in both hands turn over as you swing through the ball.

Work on these four tips at the driving range first to help develop the muscle memory needed to improve your slice.

Men's Golf Association

John Yenne



Every member of the Men's Golf Association (MGA) knows that central Florida summer golf has its own rule book. Heat, humidity, afternoon storms, thick rough, course maintenance, and smaller summer fields all become part of the game. The prepared player doesn't fight the conditions - he adjusts to them. Start with the basics: bring water, find shade, and wear lightweight clothing.

And don't "tough out" dizziness, nausea, unusual fatigue, or heavy sweating. They are signs to pay attention to.

Equipment matters, too. Slippery grips can turn an ordinary swing into an adventure. So, bring an extra towel and fresh gloves, or gloves designed for humid conditions.

Prepared players also help with the pace of play.

In August, a provisional ball is not being pessimistic. It is a courtesy to the group behind you.

The Rules of Golf allow three minutes to search for a lost ball, and thick summer grass can make even a good shot hard to find.

Course conditions require patience. Summer course maintenance may be an inconvenience, but it is necessary.

And, of course, be weather aware. Thunder is not background noise. If you hear it, fear it. If you see it, flee it. No scorecard is worth gambling with a Florida thunderstorm.

Preparation also applies off the course. Sign up early for MGA events, pay Chicken Day fees on time, check

your email for updates, and visit otowmga.com for the latest information. August may not offer the easiest golf of the year, but it does reward the members who come ready.

Add these Wednesday events to your calendar:

- Aug. 5: Chicken Day (The Links)
- Aug. 12: White, Yellow, Orange Scramble (The Tortoise & The Hare)
- Aug. 19: Individual Stableford (The Links)
- Aug. 26: Team Quota Points (The Tortoise & The Hare)

Chicken Day Scramble
July 1/The Links

Tie at 53-Mark LaBeau, Bruce Weaver, Mike Benes, Bruce Venslavsky; Doyce Mathis, Stuart Martin, Jerome Fawcett, Rusty Zarrell. Tie at 54-Tim Carlisle, Bob Epps, Mike Stanford, Curt Bingham; Michael Almon, John McMahon, Donald Wheeler, Bill Dobbins; Robert Coughanour, Steve Wrazen, Paul Snyder, David Green; Joe Polizzotti, Don Channell, Bruce Green, James Gourlay. Tie at 56-Robert Kuhl, Garfield Gray, Rick Deroven; Thomas Mansfield, Steve Johnson, Robert Meyer, Tary Bole; Bruce Colpo, James Morgan, Gerry Camp, Carl Zeiler; August Rosenberger, Ritchie Thompson, John Bojanac, Walter Knautz; Joe Baumgartner, Garry Gerlach, Rino D'Amico, Larry Manion. Tie at 57-Greg Dietrich, Rick Plesea, Thomas Kujawa, Douglas Cannatella; William (Bill) Truby, Gregg Keidel, Richard Deschenes, Michael Dwyer. Tie at 58-Norm Hayworth, John Herman, John Spielvogel, Tom Nicholl; Guy Stiebing, Dennis McCourt, Richard Foltyniewicz, John Johnson; David Emmons, Wally Wohlleber, Bob Lieberman, Roger Osier; Terry Hubbart, Jim Bobowski, Mike Krodel, Marvin Jendro; Greg McDowell, Mark Meyer, Kurt Larson, James Thompson.

LEASH LAW

Dogs must be on a leash at all times.

Ballet

Eugenie Martin



The Ballet Club is celebrating its 20th anniversary this month. In August 2006, Cheryl Sloan and I carried our ballet barres into the large studio then located in the Arbor Fitness Center (formerly known as the Arbor Club) next to the indoor swimming pool. We had two classes each week, and I taught both.

Twenty years later, many things have changed. The Ballet Club is still located at The Arbors, but in the Arbor Conference Center Studio D. We now offer five classes per week and have four regular teachers and one substitute. I would say that makes our club the largest adult ballet studio in all of Marion County. Furthermore, except for a minor \$5 sign-up fee, all of our classes are free.

Two of our teachers - Liz Elliot Lieberman and Susan Stewart - are professionally trained and experienced. Susan was trained in Massachusetts and taught there and in Ocala before joining us. Liz was trained at the Royal Academy of Dance in London and has taught at

many venues, including in the United States.

The rest of us started teaching with this club. Cheryl Sloan had ballet training in Los Angeles after being a figure skater. My initial ballet training was in New York City, primarily from a teacher trained in Russia; I also took classes with various teachers in New York and elsewhere.

Below is the schedule of our five weekly classes in the Arbor Conference Center, Studio D:

- 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 3:30 p.m.

You do not need to invest in ballet clothes to try the class. Just wear stretchy exercise clothes and socks. And bring a bottle of water. For more information, please call me, Eugenie Martin, at 352-854-8589. Happy dancing!

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GOLF Clinics



Candler Hills
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\$15 per person per clinic, maximum of 5, maximum of 20 golfers per session. Maximum of 10 credits to each golf professional. These clinics are designed to give the golfer advice on how to improve his or her technique.

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Saltwater fishing on Florida’s Nature Coast in July delivers some of the most exciting warm-season action of the year. The long daylight hours, heated shallows, and strong tidal movement push game fish into highly predictable patterns, allowing anglers a chance to target species with confidence and variety. Redfish remain the backbone of summer fishing, feeding aggressively along oyster bars, creek mouths, and grassy shorelines. Early mornings offer the best shot at sight-casting to singles and small schools cruising the edges. As the sun climbs, they retreat to deeper troughs, where cut bait, live shrimp, or live pinfish can keep rods bent. Speckled trout shift to deeper grass flats, especially those in four to eight feet of water where baitfish gather. Anchor fishing with live shrimp or drift fishing with soft plastics can produce steady action, and anglers often catch bonus species like Spanish mackerel and bluefish. In deeper waters, bottom fishing often produces catches of hogfish and Key West snapper.

Jazz Dance Club

Liz Elliott Lieberman



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! Currently, we are dancing every Monday from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Arbor Conference Center Studio D. This class is designed for fun, camaraderie, and exercise to all kinds of music. From Sinatra to Bruno Mars. From “Chicago” (the musical) to Led Zeppelin. Hope to see you there. This is not a rehearsal or

Freshwater fishing delivers peak warm-water action, especially for large-mouth bass and bluegill. Summer heat pushes bass toward deeper structure in local lakes, where early-morning top-water strikes can be plentiful before the sun’s heat sets in. Panfish can be found in shaded shorelines and vegetative coves using crickets and worms as bait. Shooting Director Paul Jorgensen reported the June shooting handicap competition is complete. The winners are: **June Year-to-Date** 108–Ray Baker. 107–Mike Brajer. 106–Mike Lalli. 1: Mike Lalli; 2: Ray Baker; 3: Mike Brajer. High scratch score for the month and TYD is Mark Uttermark with 81. The complete tables for monthly and YTD scores for all shooters are listed on the club website. Contact Paul Jorgensen if you want to get in on the fun and competition. 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, along with 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.

performance class and costs only \$10 for the seven classes. Come on down, all you dancing queens! Future classes will include “Showgirl Boot Camp” scheduled for October and November! I’d also like to mention the Ballet Club, where I teach a ballet class on Fridays, from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Studio D. You are more than welcome to come and take barre only. Please check out Ballet Club’s monthly column to see the entire schedule of classes. I love this quote, “Dance enables you to find yourself and lose yourself at the same time.” I do not know who the author is, but it describes me completely. Maybe that’s because I’m a Pisces ... going in two different directions all the time! For any additional information, please contact Liz Lieberman at Lizzy-lieberman@gmail.com or 702-378-6300.

Archery Club

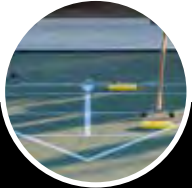
Robin Schiltz



The Archery Club continues to grow as more residents discover that the sport is a fun, relaxing, and surprisingly rewarding activity that can be enjoyed well into retirement. One of the biggest reasons older adults are drawn to archery is that it is a low-impact sport. Unlike activities that involve running or jumping, archery allows participants to move at their own pace. It strengthens the shoulders, arms, and back and sharpens hand-eye coordination while encouraging good posture and balance. Just as important are the mental benefits of the sport. Every shot requires focus, patience, and concentration. Many of our member archers say spending time on the range helps them learn to simply enjoy being in the moment. Possibly the greatest surprise, though, is how social archery can be. Our club is filled with friendly members who enjoy sharing tips, celebrating good shots, searching for that elusive arrow that somehow flew over the target, and welcoming newcomers. If you’ve ever been curious about archery, why not stop by the range at Veterans Park for a quick introduction to the club during Freestyle Fridays, held each Friday from 9 a.m. to noon? This is the time that club mentors help novice archers improve their skills and are available to give you a quick tour. Who knows, you may discover a new hobby

Ladies Shuffleboard

Lois Nix



We are two months into summer, and between the heat and the rain, many of the ladies stay at home. We do not shuffle in the rain, nor do we shuffle if the courts are wet. Hopefully, non-club members who shuffle will respect this ruling. On Top of the World supplies the

equipment; the clubs leave wax and chalk for your use. Leave us a note if you need a supply. Ladies, if you would like to learn how to shuffle, join us on any day or time we have reserved the courts. On the bulletin board are the days and times both clubs have reserved the courts. Each club, mixed or ladies only, has its own technique of teaching and playing. Ladies, being ladies, we are gentle, not aggressive, but competitive. Join us during the summer, and by fall, you will love the game. Hope to see you on the courts. Happy shuffling.

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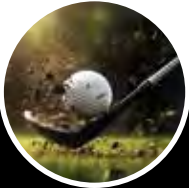
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Candler Hills Men’s Golf

Kevin Hermida



One of the best ways to get to know someone is by spending a few hours with them out on the course. It’s amazing how many deep, meaningful conversations you can have with people from all walks of life while enjoying the greatest sport on earth.

Most golfers are familiar with clubs or groups that organize around a home course. Each club has its own style that makes it unique, and some clubs exist for every demographic of golfers. There’s also a wide variety of events that these groups hold. Here are our top five reasons why joining a golf club will enhance your golfing experience:

1. Community: While you may initially join to play golf, you’ll likely stay because of the people. What starts with meeting new people and joining in a celebratory drink or two after a round can turn into lifelong friendships.
2. Fun: Most clubs will tell you that their primary function is to provide fun, social golf outings. After all, golf is just a game, right? No matter your skill level, you’ll be able to find fun on the course with a great group of people.
3. Competition: Just because you’re having fun doesn’t mean you can’t have some friendly competition along the way. Most clubs offer regular tournaments with a chance to win prizes, cash, or even take home a trophy.
4. Handicap Index: Think you’re not good enough to compete? As a member of a golf club, you’ll also establish an official USGA Handicap Index, which allows you to compete with any golfer, regardless of skill level.
5. Get Better: You won’t get any better with your clubs collecting dust. Most golf clubs host at least one event a month, with some even playing multiple days a week. There’ll be plenty of opportunities to break out the sticks and improve your game. You’ll also meet helpful members who will give you pointers along the way.

Best Ball (Team)

Joe Wilkes, Billy Schlop, Patrick Nagy, Bill McElroy, William Wignall, Charles Simon, Jeff Gerber, Steve Johnson, Randy Kajewski, Denis Bricker, John Herman Dale Szymanski, Rusty Zarrell, Philip Petrozella, Larry Smallwood, Richard Foltyniewicz, Omer Fannin, Bob Hanley, Steve Wrazen, Bruce Rothenberg, Rick Ferns, Walter Knautz, Bruce Colpo, Loren Magsam.

Best Ball Par 3s

William Wignall, Larry Smallwood, Mike Inge, Tom Nutt, Robert Coughlanour, Patrick Whitley, Bill Schlop, Philip Petrozella, Ray Kallai, Randy Keller, Tim Beaty, Richard Foltyniewicz, Bill Gorbisz, Lonnie Page, Jim Weaver, Gregg Edwards.

Low Net (Individual)

Flight 1: Mike Bernhardt, Rich Campbell, Mike Gleason, Rick Pettit.
Flight 2: Patrick Nagy, Mike Kelly, Ray Kallai
Flight 3: Scott Mote, Jeff Gerber, Randy Keller, Greg Hoffman.
Flight 4: Larry Smallwood, Charlie Taylor, Mark Parker, Jim Weaver.
Flight 5: Joe Jingo, Travis Kaylin, Bill Schlop, Dennis McCount.
Flight 6: Philip Petrozella, Tony Corvino, Omer Fannin, Bruce Rothenberg.
Flight 7: Robert Zepf, Walter Knautz, John Devito, Thomas Martineto.

Please visit chmga.org to see information about our by-laws, members’ handbook, league schedule, and the tournament and games we play throughout the year.

Shuffleboard

Walt Lamp



Our summer schedule continues with one change. The 10 a.m. group will change to 9 a.m.

Our 41st season will begin Monday, Sept. 7, and will be played on Mondays at 10 a.m. and Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

Ten Pin will be played on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., and Thursdays and Saturdays at 9 a.m.

“Introduction to Shuffleboard” will be taught by Paul Hodges at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 12, and will continue on the second Saturday of each month. He will review the rules, scoring, safety, and the basics of disc shooting. Open-toed shoes are not permitted.

All games are on the Veterans Park shuffleboard courts.

Please contact Jane Boyer at 908-256-2537 or Walt Lamp at 352-304-8711 with any questions. See you on the courts!

Candler Hills Ladies 18-Hole

Beth Wolinsky



Congratulations go out to Page Falconer for her hole-in-one on #17 at Candler Hills on Thursday, June 11. Way to go, Page! What an achievement!

The planning for the World Member Guest in September has begun. The golf professionals run the tournament with help from the league. More details to follow.

Golf isn’t just a sport – it is truly a social experience. You never know who you might find in your foursome. You meet people from different walks of life and different backgrounds, but the love of this game brings us together. Chasing that little ball around the course can create lasting friendships, and that’s a good thing.

Our league continues to grow and is a great way to play golf and meet some new ladies. If you wish to join the Candler Hills LGA-18, you may email our president, Sandy Snyder, at freesand@icloud.com. The league is open to any woman resident.

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

Creamsicle Scramble (Team)

54–LuLu Kerkhoff, Paula Lilly, Tammy Seutter, Roxiann Dwyer. 56–Page Falconer, Karen Schroeckenthaler, Ellen Brin, Jana McElroy. Tie at 57–Patricia Henderson, Beverly Ovrebo, Beth Wolinsky, Donna Townsend. Gayla Aldridge, Becky Bivins, Joann Roppel, Sandra Randles. Sandra Mansfield, Karen Campbell, Jean Czachor, Robin LeMaster. Mary Jeannotte, Carol Avery, Anne Dahlen, Terry Lemesh. Renee Cook–Garcia, Angelita Jingco, Cynthia Gersten, Eileen Gustavus.

Silver Tees 2 Best Balls of 4 Net (Team)

Tie at 127–Page Falconer, Shelly Karsnitz, Patty Whitley, Tammy Seutter, Peggy Ellenberger, Sandy Snyder, Paula Lilly, Robin LeMaster. Judi McGuinness, Lisa Free, Ellen Brin, Kathy Zunica. 129–Lynn Colomb, Patricia Henderson, Brenda Hofmann, Eileen Gustavus. 133–Connie Norris, Angelita Jingco, Gayla Aldridge, Beth Wolinsky.

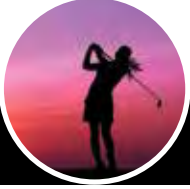
Carnival Day (Individual)

Flight 1: 48–Patricia Henderson. 51–Lynn Colomb. 52–Shelly Karsnitz. 54–Christine Giza.

Flight 2: 54–Sandra Mansfield. 55–Peggy Ellenberger. 56–Karen Campbell. 57–Karen Schroeckenthaler. Flight 3: 56–Lynne Dickson. 56–Judie Anderson. 56–Connie Sohl. 57–Tracy Rouw. Flight 4: 54–Peggy Wiechmann. 54–Liz Pruss. 55–Chris McIntire. Flight 5: 55–Tammy Seutter. 59–Virginia Madura. 59–Robin LeMaster. 60–Mary Ann Polizzotti. Flight 6: 57–Jana McElroy. 58–Cathy Carrell. 58–Sue Simon. 58–Renee Middleton. Flight 7: 56–Terry Lemesh. 58–Donna Townsend. 58–Sandra Randles. 59–Paula Wadsworth. Flight 8: 54–Gerry McKenzie. 56–Grace Turato. 57–

Ladies 18-Hole Golf Association

Jo Della Penna



Step Aside Scramble

Tie at 61–Gayla Aldridge, Peggy Ellenberger, Christine McIntire, Cindy Goggin, Sharon Fairclough and Tracy Rouw, Nancy Zielinski, Virginia Madura. 62–Gayle Lagrange, Virginia Coombs, Robyn Atwood, Donna Cosenza. Tie at 65–Mary Jeannotte, Debbie Wilson, Ellen Brinn, Rita Rich, Karen Campbell, Debra DeMatteo. Tie at 66–Diane Boston, Cindy Pursel, Eileen Gustavus, Kathy Sisti, Lynn Colomb, Kathleen Goodwin, Cynthia Gersten, Terry Lemesh.

Two Best Balls Net

June 9/The Tortoise & The Hare
137–Sandy Snyder, Liz Pruss, Robyn Atwood, (B) Terry Lemesh. Tie at 138–Lisa Free, Marcela Nunez, Patty Whitley, Donna Cosenza, Virginia Coombs and Karen Schroeckenthaler, Peggy Wiechmann, (B) Joy

Donna Cosenza.
9 Point Game within Threesomes (Individual)
July 3
70–Linda Taylor. Tie at 72–Christine Giza, Peggy Ellenberger. Tie at 74–Lori Pizzini, Carol Avery. Tie at 75–Beverly Ovrebo, Virginia Combs. Tie at 76–Mary Jeannotte, Roxiann Dwyer, Mary A. Cunningham. Tie at 77–Connie Norris, Cindy Pursel, Lynn Colomb. 78–LuLu Kerkhoff. Tie at 79–Jan Christ, Eileen Gustavus, Judie Anderson. 81–Debby Wilson. 82–Brenda Hofmann. Tie at 84– JoAnn Delmar, Liz Pruss. 87–Virginia Madura.

Geradi. 140–Diane Boston, Becky Bivins, Nancy Zielinski, Kathleen Mansfield. Tie at 141–Gail Lagrange, Jill Strey, Christine McIntire, Joy Geradi, Beverly Ovrebo and Debra DeMatteo, Barbara Vincent, Cindy Pursel.

Shamble

June 16/The Links
121–Ellen Brinn, Lisa Free, Robyn Atwood, Connie Lukas. Tie at 124–Peggy Wiechmann, Connie Edelen, Christine McIntire, Jill Strey, Sharon Fairclough, Pamela Robison, Roxiann Dwyer. 125–Liz Pruss, Beverly Ovrebo, Donna Brunell. 129–Mary Jeannotte, Tracey Rouw, Nancy Zielinski, Donna Cosenza. 131–Connie Norris, Lynn Colomb, Eileen Gustavus.

Red, White, & Blue Scramble

June 30/The Links
43–Sharon Fairclough, Judie Anderson, Cindy Goggin, Robin LeMaster. 44–Sandy Snyder, Tracey Rouw, Diane Hartman, Roxiann Dwyer. Tie at 45–Lori Pizzini, Karen Campbell, Pamela Robison, Donna Brunell, Lisa Free, Brenda Hofmann and Liz Pruss, Kathleen Mansfield, Linda Taylor, Karen Schroeckenthaler, Joann Delmar, Cindy Bobowski.

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Broadway & Tap Dancing

Elaine Voorhis



I hope you have been enjoying this toasty warm and humid summer so far. It was a good time for the Broadway and tap classes to take a little break, but we're back at it now. It's nice to take time off, but we love our dancing and can't seem to stay away!

We've had some practice sessions over the break and are happily chas- sing and tapping to the beat of yet another song. Our Broadway classes started again in July. Tap classes will resume on Tuesday, Aug. 4, and we can't wait! We're already preparing for Halloween, which is always fun.

Speaking of being back, we'll be dust-

ing off our tap and jazz shoes to put on our usual end-of-session recital on Friday, Sept. 4 in the Recreation Center Ballroom at 1 p.m. As always, there will be lots of toe-tapping, hand-clapping music and fun. Stay tuned for more details here or on our Facebook community pages. We hope to see you there. Keep in mind that the main entrance to the Recreation Center may still be under construction at that time, so you will have to enter through the doors by the pool. The elevator will not be accessible.

As mentioned above, we love to dance. It's a great exercise and has so many benefits, including working your brain and muscles, burning calories, and, if you do it in a group setting, socialization – so important for us humans! Not everyone enjoys dancing, but if you do, know that you're doing something good for yourself and it's so much fun! If it's not for you, just keep moving – walking, swim-

ming, biking, or another activity that keeps you in motion. The key is to find something you like to do. You'll stick with it if you do. Also, strength training and stretching are good for both dancers and non-dancers. Stretching feels good, especially after your activity. It's like a reward for doing something good!

With all the concerns about aging, there is good news out there. I recently read that positive thinking has a positive effect on aging. Having positive views may provide a host of advantages, such as reduced inflammation, and may actually increase your longevity as com-

pared to people with negative views. That in itself is encouraging! Learning new routines and keeping older ones in our heads definitely makes our brains work hard, but what an accomplishment when we can finally put all those step combinations together and perform them for you! It's a high-five kind of feeling!

So, on a positive note, we'd love to hear from you and answer any questions you might have about our classes and/or performances. If you would like us to perform for your club, event, or neighborhood gathering, etc., please contact us at broadwayandtap@yahoo.com.



Line Dancing

Joe Spencer



Come join our fun family of line dance friends! 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 Recreation Center Ballroom. The Intermediate level is on Tuesdays at the Arbor Conference Center Studio D, from 9 to 11 a.m. with Instructor Weber Wen.

Many dancers purchase tickets for multiple levels to get more exercise and learn more dances. The first three levels also have practice sessions on Wednesdays. Practice is the key. The more practice, the better. There are also line dance socials, where dancers can dance the dances they have learned in the Monday classes.

There is an AB level line dance class in The Landing Ballroom for Weybourne Landing residents on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to noon. Weybourne residents may also join the Monday classes and socials with a Gateway of Services pass!

There will be another official line dance workshop and lunch on Saturday, Sept. 26, with world-renowned instructors Michele Burton, Michael Barr, and Larry Bass.

If you would like to join the classes, the next session will be in September/October. Tickets go on sale on the OTOW App Tuesday, Aug. 4, through Friday, Aug. 14. AB, Beginner, and Improver classes are \$25 per level, and \$50 for the Intermediate level. You will also receive links to the dance step sheets and videos by email, usually two days before each class. If you are trying a new level, we always suggest focusing on the new dances being taught; you will pick up the others eventually. Feel free to make variations. For example, if you don't like turning, take the turns out. Do what works for you and just remember to have fun. Line dancing is like therapy. It offers so many tremendous health benefits, both physical and mental. Many dancers notice their statistics improving after only a few months of dancing. It keeps us moving. Many dancers say that it helps their joints or flexibility. It strengthens the memory.

Keep in mind, line dancing takes time to learn at first. On average, a new line dancer may take months to understand the basics. 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).

CONSERVATION FUN FACT
There's a bat house on The Links Golf Course!



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Candler Hills: August 13
Weybourne Landing: August 20
Indigo East: August 27

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10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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Table Tennis

Mary Jeannotte



Nick Arkon has distinguished himself as one of our premier table tennis players and coaches. He arrived at On Top of The World in 2021 and has embraced table tennis as both a personal challenge and a way to stay active.

What began as an enjoyable pastime developed into a serious commitment to improve his skills and compete at a higher level. His determination has led him to seek quality coaching and advanced training throughout Florida.

Nick’s table tennis journey has taken him from Jacksonville, Orlando, Ocoee, Clearwater, Vero Beach, Fort Lauderdale and Miami. Each trip adds new techniques, strategies, and confidence through training with experienced coaches and competing against players with a wide range of abilities beyond his own.

In addition to his three to four times a week at the club, he seeks regular competition with advanced players at the Mary Sue Rich Community Center in Ocala. Facing skilled opponents provides the challenging environment needed to sharpen his reflexes, improve consistency, and develop better match strategies.

While working to improve his game,

Nick enjoys helping others improve theirs. He conducts table tennis classes here at the club, offering instruction to beginner and intermediate players. His goal is to make the game more enjoyable by teaching sound fundamentals, proper technique, and practical strategies that help players gain confidence and improve more quickly.

For Nick, table tennis offers much more than friendly competition. He appreciates the sport’s ability to improve hand-eye coordination, quick decision-making, balance, and overall fitness without placing excessive stress on the body. It provides an excellent cardiovascular workout while remaining suitable for people of many ages and fitness levels.

Nick is a member of the USA Table Tennis Association. He holds a current rating of 1200 (ratings range from 300 for beginners to 2400 for elite competitors). Nick’s progress reflects the value of persistence, community, and a genuine love of the game. His example may inspire other players to keep learning, seek new challenges, and enjoy the process of improvement that makes table tennis a rewarding part of an active and healthy lifestyle.

For those interested in joining the club, a good time to visit the Arbor Conference Center Table Tennis Room is on Tuesdays from 2 to 4 p.m. A list of all table tennis sessions is posted inside the room.



Photo by Mary Jeannotte

Nick Arkon improving through table tennis.



Photo by Shizuka Campagna

POP tennis players celebrate America’s 250th birthday!

POP Tennis

Beth Smith



Red, white, and blue were the colors of the day as our POP tennis players came together to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America! The patriotic spirit was on full display as players proudly wore festive attire while enjoying a morning of fun, friendship, and plenty of great tennis.

Along with our regular play, we mixed things up with some funky fun games that brought lots of laughter and smiles to the courts. Afterward, everyone cooled off with delicious Italian ice and an assortment of homemade goodies generously provided by our players. It was a wonderful way to celebrate our country’s milestone while enjoying the camaraderie that makes our group so special.

Our membership continues to grow,

and we are always excited to welcome new players, whether you’re an experienced player or just looking for a fun way to stay active and meet new friends.

Join us every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday on The Arbors lower tennis courts. Play begins promptly at 7:30 a.m., but if you’d like to start a little later, that’s perfectly fine too – just come when you can! We want everyone to enjoy the game at their own pace.

If you’re interested in learning more or would like to arrange lessons, please email Brenda Foster at Brenda@gcfonline.com.

For general questions about our group, please email Shizuka Campagna at shizukacampagna@gmail.com.

We also encourage women who are interested in additional play opportunities to join our women’s POP tennis group on Saturday mornings. For more information, please email Sharon Daniel at sidusps81632@gmail.com.

We look forward to welcoming new faces and seeing everyone on the courts for another fun-filled season of POP tennis!

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Tennis

Jorge Privat
352-387-7539



Thinking about getting into tennis? One of my main objectives as the tennis professional is to promote the sport, primarily because of the great benefits it offers.

Perhaps like you, many of us played tennis when we were younger, before life got in the way. The Tennis Club welcomes you! Join us, shake off the dust, and get back into the game – or play for the first time.

Tennis isn’t just a game for the young; it is also a fantastic activity for seniors! Whether you’re looking to stay active, socialize, or simply enjoy some fresh air, tennis offers numerous benefits tailored to older adults’ needs. The Tennis Club proudly provides an ideal setting to embrace this rewarding sport.

Regular physical activity contributes significantly to overall well-being, especially for seniors. Tennis enhances cardiovascular health, flexibility, and strength while being easy on the joints when played at a moderate pace.

The sport also sharpens mental acuity, requiring quick decision-making, strategic thinking, and hand-eye coordination. These cognitive exercises can be particularly beneficial in keeping the mind active and alert.

Moreover, tennis encourages social interaction, which is crucial for emotional health. By participating in matches and lessons, seniors can connect with peers, foster friendships, and build a sense of community. The camaraderie on the courts boosts motivation and enjoyment, making physical activity feel less like a chore and more like a fun social event.

At On Top of the World, we offer 12 meticulously maintained courts that provide an inviting atmosphere for play. Whether you are a novice or an experienced player, our courts accommodate all skill levels. The quality of the playing surface contributes to a safer experience, reducing the risk of injury and ensuring a more enjoyable game.

Our mixed doubles sessions are a perfect fit for those eager to engage socially and play competitively. Join us at 7:45 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, where you will be matched with other players of similar skill levels. This fosters inclusivity and enhances the experience by promoting teamwork and friendly competition. It’s an excellent way to meet new people while enjoying a game you love.

If you’re new to the sport or wish to

On Top of the World

AUGUST 2026 FITNESS

RECREATION FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	SPARC JOE	Step DEBBIE	Remix Bootcamp DEBBIE	Step DEBBIE	SPARC HADINE
8:00 am SCOTT DOW	Cardio Boxing HADINE		Tai Chi ART		Dance Aerobics ART
9:00 am	S.O.S. HADINE	Stretch, Flex & Balance DEBBIE	S.O.S. JOHN C.	Stretch, Flex & Balance DEBBIE	S.O.S. DEBBIE
9:00 am SCOTT DOW	Chair Pilates LESLIE		BEAT LEAH M.		Chair Pilates LESLIE
10:00 am	Balanced Body LARRY	Chair Yoga SCOTT	Balanced Body LOUI M.	Chair Yoga LEAH	Balanced Body DEBBIE
10:00 am SCOTT DOW	Chair Yoga SANDRA		Chair Yoga SCOTT		Chair Yoga SCOTT
11:00 am		Brain Power BO TEAM	Get Fit While You Sit JOE	Sculpt LILLIAN/LEI	
11:00 am SCOTT DOW	Dance Aerobics JOHN M.		Zumba® HADINE		Zumba® HADINE
12:00 pm		Parkinson's B.A.S.E.** LEI		Move to Improve Parkinson's** LEI	SATURDAY CLASSES: S.O.S. 9 am Chair Yoga 10 am
1:00 pm		Chair Chi** ART		Beginner/Intermediate Tai Chi HADINE	
3:00 pm	VYP Chair Yoga JOE	Balanced Body JOHN	Chair Yoga HADINE	Balanced Body JOHN	
5:00 pm		Candlelight Yoga MARY		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-August.
**Temporarily located at the Arbor Fitness Center.

ARBOR FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	STRONG* DEBBIE	STRONG LILLIAN		STRONG LILLIAN	
9:00 am	Yoga SANDRA	Pilates Fusion VICKI/LILLIAN	Yoga JOE	Pilates Fusion LEI	Yin Yoga HILLIAN
10:00 am	STRONG JOHN C.	Yoga SANDRA	STRONG JOE	Yoga LOUI M.	STRONG JOHN C.
11:00 am	Sculpt LEI		Yoga LEAH		
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. 7538.
*Seasonal classes run from October-August.

ARBOR FITNESS CENTER INDOOR POOL CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9:00 am	Deep Water Aerobics LARRY	Shallow Water Aerobics LEI	Deep Water Aerobics LEAH	Shallow Water Aerobics SANDRA	Deep Water Aerobics LEI
10:00 am		Shallow Water Aerobics SANDRA		Shallow Water Aerobics SANDRA	
12:30 pm		Shallow Water Aerobics SANDRA		Shallow Water Aerobics SANDRA	

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. 7539.

sharpen your skills, consider signing up for private lessons or free monthly group clinics. Tennis Club members also have access to ball machines, free

clinics, social activities, and intercommunity play.

Want to know more? Stop by or email Brenda at OTOWtennisocala@gmail.com, visit us on Facebook (OTOW Tennis), or look us up on the OTOW App > Clubs.

Hope to see you on the courts soon!

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.



Photo by Domenica Genovese

Tennis Club members before a tournament.

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AUTUMN PRINCESS
AUTUMN ROUGE

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AUTUMN AMETHYST
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Azaleas Planting Steps

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Velo Sport Bicycle Club

Nick Arkon



The Velo Sport Bicycle Club offers residents an enjoyable and welcoming opportunity to improve their health while experiencing the many benefits of group cycling. The club encourages residents to ride bicycles, stay active, and enhance their overall well-being.

Unlike many traditional organizations, our club operates with a refreshingly informal approach. There is no president, no vice president, no monthly or yearly dues, and no formal club room meetings. The emphasis is on riding, friendship, and healthy living rather than organizational structure.

To accommodate cyclists of varying abilities, the club offers three primary riding groups:

- Beginner: Approximately 10-mile rides.
- Intermediate: Approximately 15-mile rides.
- Advanced: Rides ranging from 20 to 50 miles or more.

Each group has an experienced ride leader and follows established routes designed to provide safe and enjoyable cycling experiences. Club members gather at various locations throughout On Top of the World, making participation convenient for residents across the community.

Safety and personal health are fundamental principles of the club. Before beginning any cycling program, residents are encouraged to consult with their family physician to ensure they are physically prepared for regular exercise. Understanding your health status is an important first step toward safe and enjoyable riding.

Cyclists are also encouraged to carry essential equipment during every ride, including a spare inner tube, an inflation device, and a flashing taillight. Proper cycling attire can greatly enhance comfort and safety. Riders should wear an approved cycling helmet, comfortable cycling shorts, a breathable or moisture-wicking shirt, and hard-soled shoes suitable for cycling. Cyclists should also carry personal ID.

Beyond the physical benefits, group riding offers many additional advantages. Riding with fellow cyclists provides motivation, companionship, and a safer riding environment. It also allows newer riders to learn valuable skills, including proper riding techniques and basic bicycle maintenance and mechanics.

Whether you are returning to cycling after many years or looking to expand your riding experience, the Velo Sport Bicycle Club welcomes riders of all abilities. By riding together, residents can improve cardiovascular fitness, build endurance, form lasting friendships, and enjoy the simple pleasure of exploring the community on two wheels.

After all, the journey to better health often begins with a single pedal stroke.

Riders interested in the Beginner 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.

Horseshoes Club

Vern Kessler



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.

In July, Paul Lariviere pitched a “triple double” – six ringers in a row! Congratulations to Paul.

Another interesting event occurred during the match between Dave Laliberte and Vern Kessler. With a close game being pitched by both players, on the last two shoes being pitched by Vern, his shoes knocked Dave’s shoes onto the peg, resulting in Dave winning the match.

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.

Get Healthy Club

Tammy Cope



Take the first step toward a healthier you! Looking to shed a few pounds, boost your energy, and make new friends? Our supportive club meets weekly to help you achieve your goals in a fun, welcoming, no-judgment environment!

Our meetings are every Tuesday, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in The Landing Card Room and open to all Weybourne Landing residents. Meetings consist of member weigh-ins (optional), nutrition tips, exercise ideas, informational presentations, healthy outings, monthly challenges, raffle drawings, and motivation!

The cost is \$5 per member per month. For more information, please contact Tammy Cope at 352-396-7327 or tl-brnc1@gmail.com.

Weight Loss Group

Lori Beth Green



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

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

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

CONSERVATION FUN FACT

On Top of the World has over 418 acres of State recognized conservation areas!

Top Pickleball Club

Nate Snook



Pickleball is more than just a game; it’s a way of life. While the laughter and friendly competition are obvious, the health benefits are just as impressive.

For residents, pickleball offers an enjoyable way to stay active while supporting mental health and memory. Unlike many sports, pickleball is easy to learn, low-impact, and suitable for a wide range of fitness levels. The smaller court means less running than tennis, making it easier on the joints while still providing an excellent workout.

Regular play helps strengthen muscles, improve balance, and increase flexibility. These benefits are especially important as we age because they can reduce the risk of falls and help maintain independence. Pickleball also provides moderate cardiovascular exercise that supports heart health, helps control blood pressure and promotes better overall fitness.

The game is just as beneficial for the brain as it is for the body. Every point requires players to watch the ball, anticipate shots, react quickly, and make strategic decisions. Keeping score, communicating with a partner, and adjusting to an opponent’s style all challenge the brain and help sharpen memory, concentration, and problem-solving skills.

Research has shown that regular physical activity increases blood flow to

the brain and supports healthy cognitive function. Combining exercise with mental challenges, as pickleball does, may help slow age-related cognitive decline and keep the mind engaged.

One of the greatest benefits of pickleball is the sense of community it creates. Whether you’re playing in a round robin, participating in a club training session, or simply gathering after a match, the friendships formed on the court are just as valuable as the exercise. Social connections have been linked to lower rates of depression and better cognitive health, making every game an opportunity to improve both physical and emotional well-being.

Many players also say pickleball gives them more energy, reduces stress, and provides something to look forward to each week. It’s a sport that encourages healthy competition while reminding us that staying active should also be fun.

Whether you’re an experienced player or thinking about picking up a paddle for the first time, there’s no better time to join in. Every game is an opportunity to strengthen your body, challenge your mind, and enjoy the company of friends. That’s a winning combination for healthy aging.

Those interested in joining the club may attend an Intro to Pickleball class, held at 10:30 a.m. every Monday 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 on the OTOW App > Residents Clubs & Groups > Top Pickleball Club.

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Ohio Buckeyes Social Club

Tami Rossignol



When Becky and Dennis Green moved to On Top of the World in December 2021, they were surprised to find no Ohio State Buckeyes club. After 35 years in Columbus and time in The Villages, they knew what was missing. “So, we said, ‘Let’s do it,’” Becky recalls with a smile.

That decision created the Ohio Buckeyes Social Club, now a thriving group of Ohio transplants and Buckeye fans who gather for game watches, parties, and lasting friendships.

Becky enjoyed a 46-year insurance career, 30 of them at Nationwide, before retiring last year. Dennis worked in manufacturing and retired as manager of the die shop at Hirschvogel, a German-owned steel forging company in Columbus. Working downtown turned them into passionate Buckeye fans. “You can’t avoid becoming a Buckeye if you live near downtown,” Becky says.

After six months in The Villages, where they joined the community’s Buckeyes club, they moved to our community and found no similar group there. “I knew there were a lot of Ohioans here,” Becky says. “We should start a club.”

Following advice from friends in The Villages, the Greens hosted an open house that drew around 47 people. They formed an initial board with the Kutzy’s,

Hoenie’s, Sider’s, Truby’s, and Moretto’s. Rather than joining the Ohio State Tri-County Alumni Club, they chose independence because of its strict requirements and policies.

The group created by-laws, set up banking, and learned the rules through trial and error. The club has grown to approximately 90 members.

What began as a football-focused club quickly expanded to include all things Ohio plus non-sports events that welcomed everyone. Popular gatherings include holiday parties with dancing and a DJ, Memorial and Independence Day cookouts, and game watch parties. Becky’s favorites are the club’s first Kentucky Derby party and a game watch party at Gator’s Dockside, which drew a large number of members. The club has also supported the Angel Tree Ministry, providing gifts and supplies to local children in need.

Becky says the most rewarding part has been watching the club grow while remaining a place where members truly care about one another. “We built a community where we step up when someone needs help,” she says.

She and Dennis remain active supporters and encourage new members to get involved. Their advice to leaders is simple: delegate, don’t take criticism personally, and focus on member happiness.

The club welcomes anyone who wants to connect with fellow Buckeye fans in a relaxed atmosphere. Contact us at Buckeyefans34481@gmail.com.

As Becky puts it, “We’re laid-back, we have fun, and we’re like family.”

O-H!



A few diehard pilots trying to stay “cool” waiting on the contractor.

R/C Flyers Club

Ray Ihlenburg



Glad to be back in the World News after several months. There were just too many moving targets to report on, and too many changes to contend with.

This month the news is the new field. Turns out that promises made could not be passed on to the contractor responsible for the new field and demolishing the “old” field. As we have been saying throughout this process, “it is what it is.” The last day for flying was July 5, so while we wait for the new facilities to be completed, a lottery has been suggested to guess the opening date. While we wait, try to stay cool in the workshop (hanger), check the equipment and airworthiness of our airplanes, and watch for the lottery results next month.

Several members took responsibility for dismantling our PA system, camera, weather station, and anything else we didn’t want the contractor to handle. They worked in hot weather to protect our equipment investments. Thankfully, the last structure standing was the porta-potty.

During the July business meeting, Don Wright presented a very informative slideshow using aerial views of the roughly 35 acres set aside for the R/C

cars, helicopters, and airplanes. There will be a learning curve for our pilots due to the trees, the sun, and the runway orientation. The most troublesome time may be when the wind has a northerly component, which may require flying a right-hand pattern.

One wonderful addition will be the ability to water the grass runway adjacent to the paved runway. This will be a big improvement for the larger models that are more at home on grass. Few clubs have both paved and smooth grass runways.

The board will review our operating rules, but there should be very few changes to the current field rules. As with any move, there will be bugs to work out or things to just get used to. We all did it when we moved into On Top of the World, but this will be much less work on our part, thanks to our leadership, who has invested many hours in planning and working with our developer.

In other news ... we have 203 members and the Christmas party is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 13. Last year was a blast, so please save the date.

Anyone interested in joining the R/C Flyers is invited to check us out at otow-rcflyers.com, or attend our monthly business meeting on the first Monday of the month at 9 a.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room, or stop by the field (eventually) and talk with us.

We’re grounded for a while, but not for long.



Ohio Buckeyes Social Club co-founders Becky and Dennis Green.





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Billiards Club

Phil Panzera



Our annual nine-ball tournament was a smash, with a record 42 players. Big congratulations to Steve Chapal, who defeated several strong players to become this year’s champion. New member Bill

Bocce Club

Kathy Nastally



As residents of this great community, there is so much to learn and explore. There are many fun activities, and now is the perfect time to consider joining our upcoming bocce league. We’ve had many inquiries on how the Bocce Club league works. Let’s take a look at this great experience.

The league plays on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., and Thursdays at 10 a.m. Each league has space for 12 teams, and each team consists of four members. Each team designates a captain from its named members and a team name. All members pay dues of \$15, complete a hold harmless form, and must show a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. Dues are good from Oct. 1, 2026, through Sept. 30, 2027.

We encourage you to reach out to friends and neighbors to form a team. Skill levels vary, so don’t let that be a deterrent to forming a team. While joining a team requires a weekly commitment, we understand conflicts arise. In those cases, substitutes from our member list are permitted.

A team must play with at least three players, of whom two must be teammates listed on the official team roster. If two original team roster members are unable to attend the match, the team must forfeit. When a team forfeits a match, its score for that match is zero, and all 32 match points are awarded to the opposing team. League season, 2026-27, is the second week of October through the first week of April, concluding with the best of bocce.

League matches are not played the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s. Matches are subject to cancellation due to inclement weather, such as rain or extreme temperatures, including feel-like temperatures below 40 degrees.

If you prefer a more flexible schedule, consider joining our substitute list. You may sign up as a substitute for any or all league time slots. You decide if you are available to play when contacted by a team captain or the league representative. You can also let a league representative know in advance of your availability. Designated substitute lists will always be posted courtside. Your schedule is up to you. Many players also play in one league and sub in another.

Regardless of your skill level, everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate. It’s a great opportunity to enjoy fresh air, friends, fun, and camaraderie in our community. We look forward to seeing you on the courts. We are located behind the Arbor Fitness Center next to the tennis courts. Also, if you are an individual looking to join a team or have league questions, reach out to Jim Wolfer, Tuesday 9 a.m. league representative, at 732-580-4915. For other inquiries, you may contact President Pam Brown at 970-531-1890. Come on out to the courts and roll those bocce balls!

Asher played exceptionally well to secure second place. Mark Larzelere really stepped up, notching several upset wins and cinching third place. Fourth place went to Robert Foster, who similarly handled the pressure well, slowly and steadily defeating several of our better players. Tim Conway and John Mansfield also excelled, finishing tied for fifth place.

We also held a seven-ball event for the first time, and it received widespread acclaim. With no handicaps and a larger entry fee, it was geared more toward the better players.

We’ll try to have events for both skill levels going forward.

Ron Oeschner took first place, with some excellent tactical play. Mark Larzelere again finished in third place, proving his nine-ball success was no fluke. John Marcinek also played smart and made some lovely shots to capture fourth place.

Tip of the Month: You may have heard someone telling you that your “dominant eye” should be directly over the cue. If so, don’t listen to that guy anymore, as this is a pool myth.

Instead, think of something instructors call the “vision center.” This is a very specific place, which defines where your head should be (from left to right). It may be over the dominant eye, but for some people it may be over the nose, or closer to the other eye. Most of my

students have their vision center somewhere between their dominant eye and their nose.

Note that it’s usually not important where your vision center lies. What’s important is to find out where it is, and then always align your vision center directly over the cue.

How do you find your vision center? There are several methods, but they are not trivial to explain. Just ask me anytime, and we can nail it down for you in five minutes.

Don’t underestimate the importance to understanding your vision center alignment! Did you ever line up what seems perfectly, on a shot you were sure you would make, and then miss it by much more than you expected? This is usually a stroke error (body movement, tight grip, etc.), but it may also be due to not aligning your vision center properly.

I have some students who are consistent but wrong, in that they always line up a little off their visual center. If you consistently miss balls on the same side, not knowing your vision center could well be the culprit.

Some students also have a vision center outside their eyes, or on the opposite side of the face from the shooting hand. These are problems that can be fixed, but they require a professional coach’s guidance and other adjustments. Luckily, the club has one, so get yourself a different type of eye exam.



Photo by Phil Panzera

Annual nine-ball top finishers.

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Photo by Paul DiSclafani

Todd Rundgren performed at Circle Square Cultural Center on Sunday, June 28.

Todd Rundgren Takes Over Circle Square Cultural Center

By Paul DiSclafani
World News Writer

It began with a frantic phone call on the last Saturday in March. I was playing a card-and-dice baseball game with a few friends at the Candler Hills Community Center when my phone rang. I hesitated to answer it because I was in the middle of a tight game, which I eventually won. Besides, my phone was all the way across the room. It stopped ringing, but then rang again. Uh oh. Two rings in a row is an automatic “pick up the phone” moment. It was my wife. At that time, she’s usually knee-deep in, well, her work, taking care of our horse Stormy at Happy Acres in Dunnellon. Before swiping to answer it, I ran through as many possibilities as I could think of, trying to figure out what I might have done wrong or forgotten, or what might have happened to her, not necessarily in that order. Either way, I had to answer it ASAP. “My friend Karen just called,” she said without hesitation or the usual greeting. What could her lifelong friend Karen have called about that prompted her to make not one but two phone calls to me? “Todd Rundgren is playing at Circle Square Cultural Center.” Of all the things my brain sorted through, that might have been at the bottom of the list. “No, he’s not,” I told her confidently. Circle Square Cultural Center holds fewer than 1,000 people. Although it’s

a great place to see a show with great sound, Todd Rundgren, a prolific writer, producer, performer, and member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, is not stopping at our intimate venue on his current tour. “He is,” she insisted, “Karen said he’s playing in Ocala.” To say I was skeptical would be an understatement. We’ve seen a number of performers there, mostly tribute bands such as Yellow Brick Joel (Elton John/Billy Joel), Direct from Sweden (ABBA), Stayin’ Alive (Bee Gees), and Motown. Every one of these performers was top-notch, but Todd Rundgren? Not a chance. Wrong. There it was, Todd Rundgren and his “Dammed If I Do” tour, at Circle Square Cultural Center on Sunday, June 28. My wife’s favorite performer, right in our own backyard. Before I could finish saying, “Wow, I guess I was wrong,” she hung up the phone, only to call me back a few minutes later. She had secured VIP tickets in the third row, center stage, about 25 feet from Todd. Our VIP package included a swag bag with a poster, a set of drumsticks, a magnetic Lucite-encased replica of a show ticket (which is on our fridge like an art project our kids brought home), and a metal tumbler (without a cover). All for the low, low price of ... well, you don’t even want to know. What about the show, you might ask? Suffice it to say, Todd Rundgren blew the roof off Circle Square Cultural Center.

Art Group on Display

By Mitch Baylis

While many of our creators have flown the coop, a dedicated contingent remains behind, continuously fueled by the joy of making art. Step into our Wednesday and Saturday workshops and you’ll find the room buzzing with residents translating their imaginations onto canvas. This month, you’ll have the chance to see the fruits of that labor. Throughout the entire month of August, a stunning collection of these finished, framed pieces will be on display in the Master the Possibilities lobby. The sheer variety and caliber of the work, however, is not without controversy. Rumor has it that Madam Fantoma Lemirage, the Louvre’s chief art acquisition manager, surreptitiously attempted to claim more than half of last year’s exhibition. Citing the staggering technical skill on display, she allegedly insisted the pieces were clearly the lost work of French masters. International art scandals aside, you are officially invited to come judge the collection for yourself. While the pieces in the lobby are showcase items and not directly for sale, you don’t have to go home empty-handed. You can contact Art Group Director Freda Klump, who can easily connect you with the artists to make your own private acquisition arrangements. With so many activities competing for time, one wonders: why are so many residents drawn (pun absolutely intended) to the canvas? Freda Klump sums it up perfectly: “It is absolutely impossible to paint the wonderful things in this beautiful world and remain in a bad mood.” She explains that the joy of creating something from nothing is more than a moment of genesis – it validates your humanity. When you share something that personal, you make a profound connection with the world. For Ed Mathena, that connection is a lifeline. After a short hiatus, Ed felt blessed to be back at his easel among his creative community. His motivation is simple: smiles. “When someone sees my art and smiles, I know I’ve done my part to bring a little happiness to their

life.” Art also has a funny way of stopping people in their tracks. Carol Frost, a long-time resident and one of the Art

Group’s founders, recalls painting en plein air beside a South Carolina lake a few years back. “I was so intensely focused on the canvas that I barely noticed a young girl walking by over my shoulder,” Carol says. “I just kept working. Nearly a half-hour passed before I finally turned around. Standing there was a group of about 30 school children, watching me

paint. They were so quiet, I had no idea they were even behind me.” The teacher later told Carol that the 10-year-olds were utterly captivated as they watched the landscape come alive on canvas. The Art Group meets every Wednesday from 1 to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, contact Director Freda Klump at 615-336-6863 or fredaklump@gmail.com.



Photo by Mitchell Baylis

Carol Frost at the Saturday Art Group.

Recreation

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



The new Life in Motion catalog is here, featuring recreation and fitness events offered now through December. The catalog was included in all home delivered issues of the July World News, or you can view it online at OTOWInfo.com > Community Activities > Life in Motion. The Recreation Center pool is 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 are now open until 10 p.m. with the exception of the Indigo East Community Center Pool. The Indigo East Community Center pool hours are 8:00 a.m. to dusk.

Recreation Center

Please be aware that due to exterior 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 October.

Music at the Pool Pavilion (Free)

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

- Monday, Aug. 3: Soundwaves
- Sunday, Aug. 9: Lou Gagliardi
- Monday, Aug. 30: Steve Lazarus

Movie Night (Free)

Join us for a cinematic night out on Thursday, Aug. 20, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. This month’s movie is “The Devil Wears Prada 2” (PG-13/120 minutes). Movie information is listed in the Recreation Center lobby, on OTOWInfo.com and the OTOW App. The Pub will be open, and free popcorn is served. You are welcome to bring snacks and non-alcoholic beverages.

On Top of the World Games

The first annual On Top of the World Games is coming!
Hosted by the clubs of On Top of the World, along with the Recreation Department, this action-packed week runs Monday, Oct. 19 through Friday, Oct. 23. Our 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. 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

and expected to fill up! Sign up early to lock in your t-shirt and guarantee your place in the excitement.

Annual Craft Fair

Saturday, Oct. 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center and The Town Square at Circle Square Commons. Featuring over 100 booths of talented artistic vendors. Food trucks and entertainment are available while you shop. Steve Lazarus will perform music in the gazebo from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
The cost for participating vendors is \$55 per outside table, and \$100 per inside or porch table. If you would like to participate as a vendor at the Craft Fair, please reserve your table through the OTOW App, then come to the Recreation Center office to select the location of your table. Registration begins Monday, Aug.3 and runs through Friday, Oct. 9. For more information, contact the Recreation Department at 352-854-8707 ext. 7533.

Club Fair

Come explore the Club Fair on Thursday, Sept. 10, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center.
If your club would like to host a table at this event, registration forms will be emailed to club presidents on Sunday, Aug. 2. Tables may be reserved from Monday, Aug. 3, through Friday, Sept. 4 or until tables are filled after which club presidents can visit the Recreation Center office to submit your registration and pick out a table. Only clubs registered with the Recreation Department are eligible to participate. This event is free and open to the public.

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, dancing and celebrate your community. Friday Beats Happy Hour welcomes all residents who hold a valid resident ID. Anyone without an ID is considered a guest. A \$5 guest fee applies to non-residents and must be paid on the OTOW App. Children under the age of 15 are not permitted.
Upcoming entertainment includes:

- Aug. 7: Pure Magic
- Aug. 17: Crystal Vision
- Aug. 21: Disco Night with MPiRE
- Aug. 28: Crimson
- Aug. 25: The Del-phi’s

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 and must be

paid on the OTOW App.
Ladies Night (Free)
Ladies, you are invited to join us on Tuesday, Aug. 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Ballroom.
Cheryl Jensen is the musical guest for this night. Bring your beverages and snacks. See you there! A \$5 guest fee applies to non-residents and must be paid on the OTOW App.

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.

Water Aerobics (Free)

Join us for this new audio-led activity on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.

Chair Volleyball (Free)

Have a blast playing 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 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. All dance levels are welcome! Please be sure to 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, friendly night from 5 to 8 p.m., filled with conversation, laughter, and community spirit. \$5 guest fee applies for non-residents and must be paid via the OTOW App. The entertainment schedule is as follows:

- Saturday, Aug. 1: Groove 41
- Saturday, Aug. 15: 4 For the Road

The Social Spark (Free)

Join your friends and neighbors for an engaging evening filled with great music, interactive games, prizes, and laughter on Thursday, Aug. 13, from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring your favorite beverages and snacks, and enjoy a fun, welcoming atmosphere with live music by The Stragglers. A \$5 guest fee applies to non-residents and must be paid on the OTOW App.

Karaoke & Cocktails (Free)

Whether you’re a shower singer or a stage star, everyone is welcome to grab the mic and shine. Enjoy the fun on Thursday, Aug. 6, from 5 to 8 p.m. with Charlie and Kathy! Bring beverages and table snacks. A \$5 guest fee applies to non-residents and must be paid on the OTOW App.

Musical Game Night

Music, games, fun, and prizes await you on Wednesday, July 19, 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)

Live music by the great Ben Simmons on Sunday, Aug. 30, from 1 to 4 p.m. Mobile Munchies Food Truck will be on site serving up delicious eats for purchase. Soak up the sunshine, and enjoy great music with your neighbors. No glass containers allowed.

Indigo East Community Center

Happy Hour (Free)

Fridays from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring your favorite cocktails and snacks. Dance, socialize, relax, and enjoy! A \$5 guest fee applies to non-residents and must be paid on the OTOW App. The entertainment schedule follows:

- Aug. 7: Tim Hargis
- Aug. 14: Debbie Owen & Tony T



Aug. 21: Crystal Vision

Trivia

Get in on some friendly and fun competition with your neighbors and friends at trivia on Monday, Aug. 3, from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring your favorite snacks and beverages to share with your team. Reservations must be made and paid for on the OTOW App (\$5 per resident; \$10 per non-resident).

Freestyle & Line Dance Night (Free)

Grab your friends, and get ready to show off your best moves at an evening of fun with Tony Machicote on Wednesday, Aug. 12, from 5 7 p.m. A lively and welcoming experience filled with music, movement, and community. Bring your favorite beverage and snacks. A \$5 guest fee applies to non-residents and must be paid on the OTOW App.

Karaoke (Free)

Grab the microphone and take center stage, or cheer on your neighbors for sing-along fun! Choose your song and share your voice at karaoke on Thursday, Aug. 20, from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring beverages and snacks. Feel free to sing solo or in a group. A \$5 guest fee applies to non-residents and must be paid on the OTOW App.

The Landing

Karaoke (Free)

Step up to the microphone and join your neighbors for an exciting karaoke night with Cheryl Jensen on Monday, Aug. 3, from 5 to 8 p.m. A \$5 guest fee applies to non-residents and must be paid on the OTOW App.

Happy Hour (Free)

Aloha! A luau-themed Happy Hour on Friday, Aug. 28, from 5 to 8 p.m. Bring your favorite cocktail and snack, slip into your favorite Hawaiian shirt or tropical attire, and enjoy great music by DJ Chip. Relax, mingle, and soak up the tropical vibes! A \$5 guest fee applies to non-residents and must be paid on the OTOW App.

Poolside Live Music (Free)

Make a splash on Sunday, Aug. 23, from 1 to 4 p.m. Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon by the pool featuring music by DJ Rocco. Come hungry; Billy's Cheese Steaks will be on site serving up delicious lunch favorites. Dance, relax or soak up the sun, it's the perfect way to spend an afternoon.

Game On (Free)

Ready to get your game on? Bring your favorite board game or challenge a neighbor to a round of ping pong for a night of laughter, friendly competition, and community fun on Wednesday, Aug. 26, from 5 to 8 p.m. A \$5 guest fee applies to non-residents and must be paid on the OTOW App.

Virtual & Live Fitness Classes (Free)

- 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 (10 a.m.): Strength Class with a live instructor. Please bring your loop bands.

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
Waybourne Landing	Parking Lot	Call one day in advance for pick-up
Longleaf Ridge Model Center	Parking Lot	Call one day in advance for pick-up
Exit Community		9:36 a.m.

MORNING DESTINATIONS

Freedom Library (Tues/Thurs only)	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.*

#0601-1/2/14

For information, call 352-789-5666.

On Top of the World

NEWS

MISSSED DELIVERY?

If you are not receiving home delivery, please email otownews@otowfl.com. Please include your house number, street name and neighborhood.

Woodcarving Club

Linda Toner



This month we feature a fairly new carver, Michael Baron. Michael spent four years in the Navy as a submarine chaser, then got his degree in computer network engineering. He moved to On Top of the World about six years ago. He says, “I’ve always been creative.” He was creating stained-glass pieces when he attended a Club Fair a year ago, learned about the Woodcarving Club, and thought woodcarving sounded “interesting.”

He took up relief carving, a two-dimensional piece of work. He has only

carved in pine, a soft wood with a distinctive grain. He says he gets his inspiration from going online and entering woodcarving patterns. Whatever comes up, if he likes it, he uses that pattern. His example is an owl, carved in relief and accentuated with pyrography (wood burning).

What he likes about carving is “that it is different and the wood dictates how the finished product looks.” We meet the first, second, and fourth Thursday of each month in the Hobby Building Art Room from 4 to 6 p.m. Relief carving lessons are on the second Thursday of the month, and the appropriate-size wood is available for \$5.

For more information, call Tom Fuchs at 352-586-1171 or stop by to see what woodcarving is all about. We have carvers of every skill level.



Michael Baron with his owl.

Photo by Linda Toner



Photo by Susie Clauson

Joanne Brooks.

Sewing Bees



Susie Clauson

“I’m not a quilter, but I can sew.” This is a quote from Joanne Brooks, one of the Sewing Bees volunteers. Joanne says she enjoys our weekly meetings because we have fun and there is lots of laughter. And it’s nice to belong to a club that also allows for flexibility in our schedules. We can come when we can, or work at home. It is so meaningful to be able to contribute our time to the children in Marion County knowing it provides such comfort.

Joanne also likes the community spirit shown between the clubs. Other clubs have made monetary donations to help with our supply costs or contributed in other ways. Last Christmas, a woodshop member made and donated many doll cradles, which we filled with doll quilts that were given to low-income children. There is always a heartfelt round of ap-

plause when it’s announced we received another donation, and there are smiles all around.

Thank you, Joanne, for the four years you have been a member, and we look forward to many more fun times together.

Stop by and see us in action. We meet every Thursday, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Art Room. 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 SewingBees-Club@gmail.com with questions, or Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178.



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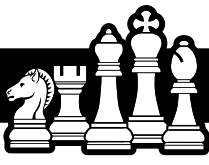
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CARDS & GAMES



Bingo

Nancy Grabowski



The Recreation Center remains under renovation. While we expected it to have an impact on bingo attendance, so far it has not been as much as we had anticipated. To acknowledge our faithful players, a surprise payout game was played in June, our way of thanking those who come every week. However, access remains only through the back doors. Park in the side lots; golf cart parking behind the pool. Sidewalks and paved walkways provide safety for our participants.

Here’s what you need to know about bingo in August ... it’s every Wednesday in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Raffle tickets sold from 4 to 5:30 p.m., three for\$1 or 10 for \$3. The winning ticket equals \$20!

Playing cards are sold from 4:30-5:45 p.m.; \$1 each with resident ID; guests welcome; 20 games (18 based on attendance, one at \$75, one coverall starting at \$110). Cards are equipped with sliders, so no daubers, markers, or chips are needed.

If you think you have bingo, but aren’t sure, call it out. Let our volunteers check it for you rather than miss a win. It’s especially important to wait for each game (including the last one) to be verified before we move on! Because folks leave quickly after the last game, it is suggested that the holder(s) of the potential winning card(s) come to the front of the stage for verification. Only the person with the possible winner should come up to avoid confusion while the volunteers work to return materials to the cart.

Please respect our volunteers. Try not to move our things on the tables while we work; avoid calling to us as we are doing our assigned tasks. We want the same things all the players want ... to have a good time, enjoy the night out; winning would be nice, too!

Consider becoming a volunteer. Chat with any of us or with Carl Folkers or Nancy Grabowski.

Bridge



Monday Afternoon

By Carol Johnson

June 1

1: Mary Bloch & Kurt Baumgartner; 2: Dennis & C.J. Dust; 3: Donna Peters & Rad D; 4: Diane Robinson & Carol Johnson; 5: Bev Meirick & Craig Ford.

June 8

1: Barb Heller & Jean Krueger; 2: Diane Robinson & Carol Johnson; 3: Marlene Floeckher & Bob Knowles; 4: Kurt Baumgartner & Mary Bloch.

June 15

1: Bev Meirick & Craig Ford; 2: Jack Heller & Steve Sekac; 3: Rad D & Donna Peters; 4: Marlene Floeckher & Bob Knowles; 5: Dennis & Judi Wallace.

June 22

1: Steve Sekac & Jack Heller; 2: Billie Anderson & Jeff Bell; 3: Carol Johnson & Diane Robinson; 4: Phyllis Silverman & Judy Mackowiak; 5: Craig Ford & Bev Meirick.

June 29

1: Mar Valchin & Bruce Gillett; 2: Bev Meirick & Craig Ford; 3: Diane Robinson & Carol Johnson; 4: Judi & Dennis Wallace; 5: Donna Peters & Rad D.

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.

June 23

1: Jean Krueger & Sophie Redman; 2: Carolyn Higgins & V.J. Hentz; 3: Bob Kraus & Virginia Collins; 4: Pam Bell & Jeff Bell; 5: Diane Turkin & Gary Moses.

June 30

1: Bob Kraus & Virginia Collins; 2: Dennis Wallace & Judi Wallace; 3: Diane Turkin & Arlene Loepp; 4: Chris Wachter & Jeff Young; 5: Carolyn Higgins & V.J. Hentz.

Wednesday Afternoon

By Debbie Quinn

June 3

1: Bruce Gillett; 2: Dianne Robinson; 3: Mary Bloch; Cons: Trudy Baumgartner.

June 10

1: Kurt Baumgartner; 2: Bruce Gillett; 3: Craig Ford; Cons: Marlene Floeckher.

June 17

1: Pat Quinn; 2: Linda Curtiss; 3: Al Kremer; Cons: Billie Andersen.

June 24

1: Bruce Gillett; 2: Trudy Baumgartner; Cons: Marlene Floeckher.

Thursday Afternoon

By Trudy Baumgartner

June 4

1: Linda Curtiss; 2: Dianne Robinson; 3: Debbie Quinn; 4: Craig Ford.

June 11

1: Kurt Baumgartner; 2: Linda Curtiss; 3: Bev Merrick; 4: Craig Ford; Cons: Trudy Baumgartner.

June 18

1: Carolyn Higgins; 2: Al Kremer; 3: Debbie Quinn; 4: Kurt Baumgartner; Cons: V.J. Hentz.

June 25

1: Carolyn Higgins; 2: Pat Quinn; 3: Craig Ford; 4: Billie Andersen; Cons: Betty Schaff.

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, Aug. 25.

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!

Cribbage



Judy Parisi

We meet in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room II on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 3 to 5 p.m.

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

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

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

June 2

1: Paul Jenkins; 2: Jackie Nuccio; 3: Andy Nuccio.

June 9

1: Cheryl Adams; 2: Norma Miles; 3: Bruce Gillett.

June 16

1: Jackie Nuccio; 2: Andy Nuccio; 3: Cheryl Adams.

June 23

1: Bruce Gillett; 2: Walter Hickenlooper; 3: Bob Hoerr.

June 30

1: Abe Toubail; 2: Marlene Floeckher; 3: Charlie Budd.

Friday Morning

By Andy Nuccio

June 12

1: Ilene Casper; 2: Charlie Budd; 3: Al Whitford.

June 19

1: Ilene Casper; 2: Herb Katz; 3: Bruce Gillett.

June 26

1: Oscar Friedman; 2: Al Whitford; 3: Walter Hickenlooper.

July 3

1: Al Whitford; 2: Andy Nuccio; 3: Marlene Flockher.

July 10

1: Steve Mintz; 2: Andy Nuccio; 3: Abe Toubail.

Poetry



Oscar – The Tuxedo Cat’s Latest Escapade

By Linda Toner

It seems now
I am forever banned
from the bathroom
because I brought mom a gift, and
it was a great big frog,
muscular and without a doubt
it looked like it went to the gym
every day and worked out!
Anyway, she’s
having a bath,
and this is where things
took a disastrous path.
The frog immediately jumped
onto mom’s head,
she screamed and wasn’t
pleased; instead,
she started yelling
“Get it off, get it off!”
She grabbed the frog
and she tossed
it back at me: I was startled
and in the process I knocked over the candle.
My tail caught fire,
it was more than I could handle,
so I dove into
the toilet head first,
and drenched my tail
but what was worse,
I’m soaking wet
and dejected
that my lovely gift
was rejected.
She did not appreciate
my special gift.
She said, “No more frogs, Oscar,
That’s it!”
So now, no frogs allowed
in the house.
Next time I am going
to bring her a mouse!

A Sonnet in Tribute to Prayer

By Jim Kimes

When you ponder prayer at its central core,
How much can a sonnet really say?
Fourteen lines narrowly opens the door.
But when the quest is pure, we find a way.

The urge to pray should not be spasmodic.
Rather, unceasing, is how prayer should be,
Not prompted by events episodic.
Our urgent needs are known, no case for plea.

Prayer should not accentuate imploring,
But more about expressing our gratitude,
Giving due thanks with heartfelt outpouring;
Confident that our fears will be subdued.

The simplicity of prayer always confounds,
When we are convinced that prayer has no bounds.

Heal Your Soul

By Janice M. Puta

Sleep under the stars,
dream in the moonlight.

Surrender to the rhythm
of the nocturnal dance.

Refresh your weary body,
soothe your anxious mind,
heal your searching soul.

The Author’s Toolbox

By Barbara A Scales

The empty page stares in distress for the story’s feast.

“Unleash the narrative! Action!” the smashed pulp demands aloud.

Start the journey, weave the tale.

Use sentence one to draw them in, make eyes hunger for the yarn within.

Paragraph by paragraph the writer ensnares them in.

Page one complete, turn another, taking minds to worlds of wonder.

Release with theme, plot and ploy.

Spin the turning point, let the craft employ.

Drive it forward with angst, letting the four winds gale, with cliff-hanger hints to sup upon the chapters that follow.

Magnets propel character arcs and storylines too, ‘til clashes come with fisted blows.

Then the writer’s pen of issues resolves, bringing the foe to task, so that both reader and writer feel the tale is done at last.

Only then the writer rests his pen back down.

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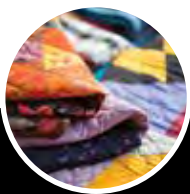
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Sunshine Quilters

Linda Holst



The Sunshine Quilters Guild has exciting events in August and September. In August, two groups of five members each will share the progress of their round-robin project. This sharing will be at our monthly meeting, held on the first Tuesday of the month. Each member designed their own quilt



Photo by Linda Holst

Linda Ward shows her table runner made with the hexie pattern taught by member Terry Poznanski.

block, which will be passed along to the other four members of the group, who will add a border. The finished quilt will be revealed to the original owner of the quilt block months from now. We will have an onsite quilt retreat on Sunday, Aug. 16. The retreat is one of several held throughout the year. Members bring their sewing machine and quilt project to the Hobby Building Art Room. At 9 a.m., the sewing and fellowship begin and conclude at 3 p.m. A biannual quilting retreat at Luther Springs will be held Monday, Aug. 17 through Thursday, Aug. 20. Three days of sewing, laughter, visiting, and eating will get those new and old quilt projects started or completed. In September, members head out for a quilt shop hop. One or more quilt shops are visited, and most members find some kind of treasure to bring home. The outing concludes at a restaurant in the town of the last quilt shop. Kim Hart, from Chiefland, will be presenting a trunk show of her quilts. Laura Heine, a collage pattern designer, will be teaching a class. Kits with pattern and material may be available. A bus trip to the Jacksonville QuiltFest may occur (Sept. 17 to 19). Each month, the Sunshine Quilters Guild offers exciting and educational opportunities for members. Other events include members teaching a quilt block or sewing technique. Terry Poznanski taught the hexie pattern. The pattern was used to make mug rugs, which were given to veterans. Donna Boyajian taught the saw block. The blocks made by members were sewn into a comfort quilt. Bea Pressler has offered to teach how to make a salvage bag. The bag is made with salvaged fabric strips. On the third Tuesday of each month, a member will demonstrate a technique. Sunshine Quilters Guild has something for everyone. The greatest benefit is making friends and learning from other members. At each meeting, members can share the completion of a quilt project at show-and-tell. Sunshine Quilters Guild meets every Tuesday in the Hobby Building Art Room from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Membership is open to all residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. If you are interested in joining the Sunshine Quilters Guild, contact the guild’s president, Joyce Utley, at Barnieo48@gmail.com.



Photo by Sherry Loveless

Card presented by Sherry Loveless.

Rubber Stamp Greeting Cards

Linda Lohr



On Thursday, July 16, Sherry Loveless presented Christmas-in-July cards. We thank Sherry for providing the dies and beautiful Christmas paper needed to make these cards. It is never too early to start making your Christmas cards! 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. We plan to meet again on Thursday, Aug. 7, in the Hobby Building Event Room from 1 to 3 p.m. Until our next meeting, keep on stampin’!

Happy Hookers

Jan Spielvogel



This month is considered to be the peak of summer and is also associated with the phrase “dog days of summer.” It is celebrated as the peak of outdoor activities, beach trips, and meteor showers like the Perseids (a prolific annual celestial event that peaks in mid-August). Given our warm days and nights, I can’t disagree. Happy Hookers, however, is thinking Christmas with our newest project, in partnership with the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System in Bay Pines, Florida. This facility treats veterans for various medical conditions. Our goal is to make 300 tissue pack holders using patriotic-themed materials. While some of our members are creating the holders, we still very much need the actual tissue packets. The requirement is for the Kleenex® brand only, as it is soft and fits nicely in the holder. If you are interested in donating, the packets can be dropped off at our Monday meeting from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Questions can be directed to Ann Gallo or Becky Brown. Happy Hookers is open to all residents. We meet on Mondays, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Art Room. 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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View from the Library

Anne Merrick



“Now You See Her” by Linda Howard showcases a talented landscape painter and portrait artist in her early 30s. Samille Sweeney has achieved great success: her work sells at an exclusive gallery owned by her friend, Candra Worth, and she is highly popular. She is content and happy. But soon odd changes begin to take place: traffic lights turn green as she approaches, her plants are in full bloom out of season, and her dreams are lush and vivid, which begin to influence her artwork. She can’t deny her growing restlessness, nor her desire for her friend’s ex-husband.

Soon she begins to paint horrifying images that reveal a gruesome murder scene, and when an actual murder mirrors her creation, suspicion is thrown onto her. Every desire, including her hungry attraction to Richard, is loaded with uncertainty and terrifying discovery.

Sweeney goes by her last name only. Her history is something she doesn’t like to dwell on, coming from a small town where she started seeing dead people and being able to talk to them. People started to notice, so she had to flee to New York.

There is so much intrigue at the gallery that it complicates everything. The sexual relationships add a bit of spice. You have to read this large print book to get all the details of these complex lives. This was a good read, written well and easy to read and follow.

I have nearly finished most of the large-print books, so if you have any to donate, bring them along when you visit the library and see what it has to offer.

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 Boys: A Memoir of Hollywood and Family,” by Ron Howard, Clint Howard, Bryce Dallas Howard (Forward), for discussion on Thursday, Aug. 20.

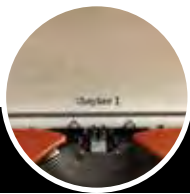
If you’ve read with us before, but it’s been a while, we would love for you to come back. Please feel free to just pop in; no need to sign up. Join us, whether you’ve read the book or not; you can always look forward to a great discussion with this group. We read all kinds of genres, printed, audio,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

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

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR
Pick up after your pet.

Author's Support Group

Paul DiSclafani



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

Our authors are taking part in a six-week education session at Master the Possibilities that ends this month, serving as instructors in a series of classes titled “Writers in the Making: Learning from Published Authors.” The response to participating in the class was so overwhelming that it was moved to one of the larger rooms to accommodate 25 people. Authors Barbara Scales, Paul DiSclafani, Lori Szepelek, Mark Holmes, Filomena Abys-Smith, Tammy Cope, and Tom Nicholl led the students through the sessions.

At the July meeting, our resident authors discussed their current writing projects.

Barbara Scales is putting the finishing touches on a book of true stories related to her career as a nurse. She also has informed the group about submitting stories to “Chicken Soup for the Soul” via their website.

Ada Budd has completed the sequel to her “Metalskin” novel, titled “Metalskin Unbound,” which is in the formatting stage, preparing it for publication.

Tammy Cope is working on a new novel about her nursing career.

Lori Szepelek just delivered a very successful lecture for the Council of Catholic Women at Saint Vincent de Paul Church in Wildwood, attended by more than 60 women.

Filomena Abys-Smith has just about completed the untitled sequel to her novel, “At the Lord’s Table.”

Tom Nicholl is working on a second novel, “The Lighter / Darker Side of Lawyers,” as a follow-up to “The Lighter / Darker Side of Horse Racing.”

Mark Holmes is working on a baseball book called “The Life and Legend of Bobby Story.”

Paul DiSclafani is planning to use Amazon KDP to publish a book of his “Apples and Oranges” humor column from the Marion Citizen.

If you are a published author and are interested in joining the Author Support Group, please contact Filomena via email at fabys2@aol.com.

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.

Our 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 Larkin, 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 in June to discuss the paranormal romance books she has written. Last month, Reverend James Snyder, a columnist for the Marion Citizen, talked 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, Aug. 20. We also maintain a Facebook page exclusively for our members.

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

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.

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Poetry Club

Bill Burton



Our Tuesday, July 7, was well attended. Once again, we were treated to a virtual potpourri of poetry styles. Every person reciting is a master of word presentation, and every person listening becomes an admiring student as we hear words joined together in rhythm, teasing the senses. To me, poetry is music without instrumentation, though one could argue that a song is simply poetry with music attached to it. Either way, we move to a deeper place than merely “Hi Fred, how’s the family?”

Glen C. started us off with a short wickedly funny gotcha poem in the style of Gary Larson of the Far Side. Dean B. took us to a time and place, one day not very far, where children of any age can fish physically or metaphorically to enjoy a catch of flotsam and jetsam. Anne M. recited a poetic work about polarity in which she muses, I read, I hear, I talk, I think. This, of course, made us reflect.

Lloyd H. tickled us with the idea of squirrels digging up the backyard. Our founder, Bruce Tredinnick, delighted us with a funny, rhyming satire about someone moving from one villa to another, which he called “Two Old Men and a Truck.” Janice P. was the record holder for touching the inner person emotionally with short pieces of poetry, leaving one to marvel how she does it with so few words, as she did in “Saying Goodbye.” It is something one can read every day and never tire of its beautiful sentiment. They are all keepers.

We have a talented group, most of whom are adept at various arts and crafts, beyond the poetic urge to record their views of anything and everything that moves them. I’m sure someone will soon lead us off with a poem about Fred and his family. These folks are that good.

Call Bill Burton at 352-492-8626 sometime you have the urge to stir the pot or be stirred with us.

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Artistic
Crafts & Gifts

Chris Kilbride



The Artistic Crafts & Gifts Tuesday craft show is now on hiatus for the summer – but our resident crafters featured on ArtisticCrafts.org are still open for business!

For a great summer binge read, we are featuring Ivan Obolensky, our local author of the award-winning Eye of the Moon series (Eye of the Moon (1), Shadow of the Son (2), and Dark of the Earth (3)), published by the family business, Smith-Obolensky Media.

Mary Jo Smith-Obolensky, the CEO of both Smith-Obolensky Media and its parent company (the translations boutique Dynamic Doingness, Inc.), draws from 40 years of executive experience across a variety of industries to publish media in English and Latin American Spanish. Under her guidance, six products were launched worldwide within eight years, in multiple formats and across many platforms. Two more book launches are expected this year.

Ivan had 30 years of experience in management, sales, and finance when he met Mary Jo, and he started writing professionally shortly after they married. Recognizing his storytelling talent, she encouraged him to write nonfiction articles on the social sciences as part of her campaign to promote literacy and curiosity.

Ivan later took a short-fiction course in which he developed the main characters of the Eye of the Moon series, Percy and Johnny. Inspired to put these characters in the fictional world of Rhinebeck (deeply influenced by his own upbringing as the grandson of Alice Astor and Prince Serge Obolensky, and the family lore he was regaled with in his youth), Ivan crafted an exquisite universe that readers from 16 to 90 have come to love. Reviews say they are enchanted by the rich character development, the world of Rhinebeck, the weaving of intrigue and dialogue, and the range of genres. Many said it got them reading again, and others discovered the joy of reading.

They look forward to returning to the craft show to meet a variety of people, including fellow crafters and avid readers, in that congenial environment. Ivan also enjoys guest speaking at book clubs and student groups to connect more with this wonderful community.

Our artisticcrafts.org/authors page will connect you with Ivan and Smith-Obolensky Media directly via email or phone to arrange local delivery or pick-up within On Top of the World. Ivan will sign the book(s) and personalize such for you (or as a gift) with a bag and a bookmark included. The series is also available via request through the Marion County Public Library system and/or the Libby app, including the audiobook of Eye of the Moon.

All resident crafters are welcome to sell virtually at ArtisticCrafts.org > Join, and inquire about a table for our return on Tuesday, Oct. 6 in the Recreation Center Ballroom.



Photo courtesy of Smith-Obolensky Media and Chris Kilbride

Cozy up to an intriguing series by local author Ivan Obolensky.



Image generated by Mark Holmes

Used camera gear and lens.

Shutterbugs
Photography

Mark Holmes



August is a great time to practice indoor photography and perhaps add to or update your equipment. Many folks do just fine with smartphone cameras, while some prefer a more traditional approach and enjoy the many capabilities of modern digital single-lens reflex (DSLR) cameras. Others feel a need to buy the newest DSLR, convinced that cuttingedge technology guarantees better photos. In reality, a wellmaintained used camera with a low shutter count can deliver professionalquality results for a fraction of the price. Skill, creativity, and understanding of light matter far more than owning the latest model.

Newer isn't always better. DSLRs from five or 10 years ago share the same sensor size, dynamic range, and ISO performance as current models. Upgrades like touchscreen menus or WiFi connectivity are convenient but don't improve image quality. A used Canon 5D Mark III or Nikon D750, for instance, can still produce crisp, vibrant images rivaling those from newer cameras. What truly defines a great photo is the photographer's eye, not the gear.

When buying used, shutter count is an important metric – it's the camera's "mileage." Most DSLRs are rated for 100,000 to 200,000 actuations, and many exceed that lifespan. A camera with fewer than 20,000 clicks is practically new. You can check this easily by uploading a recent photo to CameraShutterCount.

com, which reads the data embedded in the image file. Ask the seller to provide that information for you.

Several reputable retailers specialize in inspected, warranted used equipment, but verify the shutter count and the seller's reputation before buying.

Local camera shops and photography clubs can also offer wellcaredfor gear, often with the chance to test before purchase.

A good lens is as vital as the camera body. When examining a used lens:

- Fungus is bad - look for weblike haze inside the glass and avoid these entirely.
- Minor lens marks are fine; deep scratches degrade image quality.
- A little dust is normal, but excessive dust suggests poor storage.
- Focus rings should turn smoothly without grinding or stiffness.

A used DSLR with a clean sensor, low shutter count, and sharp lens can serve you faithfully for years. Save your money for the experiences that inspire your art—the best camera is the one that keeps you shooting. Shutterbugs Photography Club is here for you to help you grow your photography skills and enjoy our field trips and informative learning sessions. We meet every Tuesday at 3 p.m., except as noted, in the Hobby Building Event Room.

Field trips are on the first Tuesday of the month, in the morning with no afternoon meeting. Now through September, we do not meet on the second Tuesday. Learn more at otowspc.org and check us out on Facebook (Shutterbugs OTOW Photography Club). For questions, contact Garry Voith at garry.voith@gmail.com or 410-241-5079.



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Paradise Players

Cheryl Jensen



This month, the Paradise Players are joyfully immersed in reading and selecting a delightful mix of comedic short skits for our November “Comedy Tonight” performances. The sound of laughter drifting through the room is becoming a familiar soundtrack to our meetings.

Our fall productions will be held on Friday, Nov. 6 and Saturday, Nov. 7 at the newly renovated Recreation Center. With multiple showtimes and excellent seating options, we look forward to welcoming audiences for an unforgettable weekend of comedy. Additional details regarding times and tickets will be shared soon.

What truly sets Paradise Players apart is the artistic leadership of Lee Smith, whose distinguished career in theater education and direction spans more than three decades. Lee has taught theater at the secondary level, presented workshops at state and national conferences, directed numerous community productions, and earned a place in the Educational Theatre Teachers Hall of Fame. Her workshops and guidance help performers refine their craft, blending the talents of beginners and seasoned actors into a cohesive, confident ensemble. And because a great show requires more than performers, we also provide training for those interested in backstage roles that support every production.

If you’ve been seeking a meaningful creative outlet, we invite you to join us. Whether your passion lies in acting, singing, dancing, or working behind the scenes, there is a place for you in our vibrant, hardworking company dedicated to bringing quality entertainment to On Top of the World. For more information, please email Lee Smith at otowparadiseplayers@gmail.com.



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Karaoke Friends

Kathy & Charlie Petrosky



For anyone new to the community, karaoke is a wonderful way to meet people. You do not have to sing. Let people know you are new, and you will be asked to join with them.

One thing we like to do periodically is have a prop night. The singers select and wear something to go with their chosen song, or bring something to enhance it. It is always a fun night.

This month we are highlighting Lois Alloway. We met Lois in the Recreation Center Ballroom. She was new and came to check us out. She sang and, as she left, asked about other places to sing. I told her about karaoke on Mondays. The next Monday she came. I told her we

were doing prop night and not to worry, just sing. Before singing, she made a bow from tissue. She decided to sing a duet. When the male part came, she wore the bow as a bow tie. For the female part, she held the bow on her head. She was a great sport.

Here is what she shared about singing: “I grew up singing in a small church choir and did occasional solos in high school. I was in a traveling church choir when I met my husband. He was a musician. After raising our children, we started a country band. We played for weddings and fraternal lodges for 25 years. I have enjoyed karaoke because people are friendly and accepting of all talents.”

We meet the first and third Mondays in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room from 5 to 8 p.m. We love new singers and meeting new clappers. This month we meet Aug. 3 and 17. Karaoke will also take place at The Lodge at Candler Hills on Thursday, Aug. 6.



Lois Alloway.

Toppers Banjo

David Wesenberg



Toppers Banjo Band meets every Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room. An instrumental practice subgroup meets at 12:15 p.m. on Mondays. This provides plenty of opportunities to join us and explore the banjo as a means of entertainment.

I want to introduce you to Richard Furlong, one of our longest-serving members. When I first started with Toppers Banjo Band, Richard was learning to play the piano. He has improved year by year and is a strong contributor to the band. Richard is also a skilled clarinetist and saxophonist and plays with the Kingdom of the Sun Concert Band. Finally, Richard is a member of the Dulcimer Club.

Richard hails from New Jersey where he was a history teacher and guidance counselor. He came upon music as a hobby later in life and was a member of three bands in New Jersey where he played clarinet and saxophone. While here at On Top of the World, Richard takes piano lessons at Master the Possibilities and plays piano and clarinet for

the Toppers Banjo Band.

It is fun to learn and experiment together as our experience grows. Playing and singing are a lot of fun, but it takes time and regular practice to really improve. Richard has been a good example of a dedicated member of Toppers Banjo Band and everything we hope to achieve.

Some of our banjo players have been playing for a long time and can advise you on banjos and accessories. They would be delighted to show you how to hold your banjo, how to tune your banjo, and ultimately how to play your banjo. Your part in all this is to start.

We welcome new active or aspiring banjo, acoustic guitar, and other musicians to join us in playing and singing banjo music. If you have any ideas to improve performance values and presentation, we’d love to hear them. If you like to listen, join us and enjoy the music and conversation. Everyone is welcome.

For more information, contact Eddie Martin at udeddie2@gmail.com or David Wesenberg at dpw@mastersoftware-inc.com.



Richard Furlong.

On Top of the World

NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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The New Pretenders

Nancy Grabowski



The summer is rolling on ... bringing in August heat and humidity! It is also bringing the start of organized practices closer for The New Pretenders. Our newest show is entitled “Beats, Boots, and Broadway!” signifying a salute to music from those genres. It is filled with variety, presented only as our troupe knows how!

The show is slated for early February 2027. More details to come.

We are currently selecting costumes and stage motifs. Groups are working independently to be ready for rehearsals. We are excited and eager to begin in earnest!

Ticket sales will be held on Ticket Tuesday in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room 3. Tickets will also be available before bingo each Wednesday. The start date for sales is Jan. 5 and 6, 2027. Ticket prices are \$15 for reserved tickets and \$10 for general admission.

We’ve taken some time this summer to relax and have more fun ... not that having fun is an unusual happening for us! We have had a series of light lunches, allowing us to “catch up” on the news. Celebrations surrounding the Fourth of July popped up at several members’



Photo by Lennie Rodoff

Joe Jones, Linda Meyer, Tom Miller, Christi Lucas, Mary Ann Berardi-Schmitt, Jennie Stauffer, and Larry Domnitz.

homes, helping to promote the fun!

The highly anticipated annual bowling party, organized by Gloria Emmons and Jean Duda, will be held on Saturday, Aug. 22. The fierce competition will be

topped off with dinner at a local restaurant, where bragging rights will be on full display!

Look for us at the Club Fair, which will be held at Circle Square Cultural Center

on Thursday, Sept. 10, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This gives you the chance to speak with us and for us to entice you to join us. For more information, contact any current member or Nancy Grabowski at 352-209-4699.



Photo by Garry Voith

Jodylynn Rowswell and Lyn Yanss as Lucy and Ethel in “At the CopaOcala.”

Murder Mystery Dinner Theater

Liz Elliott Lieberman



We are excited to announce a brand new murder mystery called “A Holiday Homicide” for the Friends of the SPCA. Projected for Friday, Nov. 20, Saturday, Nov. 21, and Sunday, Nov. 22, at The Landing. All residents are welcome to attend, so we hope to see you at one of these hilarious, fun productions. The Friends of the SPCA will announce ticket sales in future issues of the World News.

We are still overjoyed by the reception of “At the CopaOcala,” which was

performed for the Latinos Club in May. Many residents didn’t have the chance to see this show, so we plan to remount the production in early 2027 for those who missed solving the mysterious murder of Lola, the showgirl from the CopaOcala!

For more information regarding the Murder Mystery Dinner Theater Club, please contact Liz Lieberman at Lizzylieberman@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. Besides actors, singers, and dancers, we will need people who can sell tickets, have marketing skills, make or build props, or just want to join a really fun group of people!

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*For residents who want to participate as a vendor, please reserve your table through the OTOW App, then come to the Recreation Center to select the location of your table. For more information contact the Recreation Department at (352) 854-8707 ext. 7533. Registration begins Monday August 3 - October 2, 2026.

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



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Fun with Golf Carts

Susan Pulling Robinson



On Saturday, July 4 dozens of patriotic carts brought joy to the many cheering bystanders along the parade route. The parade route included a swing by the Brookdale and Bridgewater Assisted Living facilities, bringing much cheer to the residents. Selected charities included Interfaith Emergency Services, Bears and Blankets, 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:

- 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.

Tesla Owners & Enthusiasts Club

Dan Lack



At our last club meeting, I talked about my 2900-mile road trip up north and back to Ocala in June. My Tesla Model Y drove me 99% of the time, guiding me along the interstates in all types of traffic as well as the country roads in upstate New York.

The software is getting better at recognizing objects in the road, but I found it wasn’t quite perfected yet. One section of white asphalt had streaks of black tar to patch cracks in the road. The Full Self Drive (FSD) feature thought that they were treads from torn tires and the car swerved left and right to avoid them. It

is very easy to take over from the FSD by tapping the brake or touching a button on the steering wheel, and I did so to take control of the car until those pesky “tires” disappeared. It’s important to remember to stay attentive during FSD. The car monitors your attention, and it will eventually shut off FSD if you don’t.

Tesla is now offering a larger Model Y (called the Model Y L) with three rows of seats in case you want to pack all 12 grandchildren into your car at the same time.

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 own a Tesla. 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.

Model Railroaders

Jim Lynam



As America continues to celebrate its 250th anniversary (the “semi quincennial”) with the “Big Boy” train traveling throughout the country, there have been previous patriotic trains. These trains were known as “The Freedom Trains.”

The concept of the original Freedom Train began under President Harry Truman in 1946 as an opportunity to embrace and celebrate American citizenship in the post-war era. The train was uniquely painted completely white with blue trim. The consist included Alco diesel #1776 pulling seven passenger cars. The train was full of the nation’s most important documents, including the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, the Constitution, the Gettysburg Address, and the original Magna Carta from 1215.

The train toured all 48 states and was guarded by 29 U.S. Marines stationed full-time on the train.

The second Freedom Train toured the United States in 1975 and 1976. It also visited all 48 contiguous states and stopped in 138 cities. This mobile museum displayed over 500 priceless items, including George Washington’s copy

of the Constitution, the Louisiana Purchase document, Martin Luther’s pulpit, and a lunar rover.

The consist of 26 cars was pulled by the restored Southern Pacific 4449 steam engine. An estimated seven million people stepped aboard, and tens of millions more watched trackside.

In 2023, the American Freedom Train Foundation 250 began planning a 2026 Freedom Train. The Reading Railroad’s steam engine #2100 was selected for power, but required extensive restoration. On April 15, 2026, the foundation announced that it was suspending its effort for the 2026 Freedom Train. The foundation could not secure enough financing from corporate sponsors, and could not arrange operating agreements with the existing railroads for track usage and rights.

The club encourages you to visit the Hobby Building Train Room and see everything in operation 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.



Dan and Traci Hermesen with dogs Lexi, Athena, and Stella.

Photo by Susan Pulling Robinson

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ESTATE/TAG SALE ADS: There is no charge to residents, however, residents must register their estate/tag sale with Resident Services at Friendship Commons. Visit ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala 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

Automotive Accessory: Argus-Advanta Tire 175/70R14 ER-800, 460 treadwear, A traction, B temperature, \$25. 352-804-6317.

Computer Equipment: Dell 24" monitor, keyboard, and mouse, \$40. 352-844-1394.

Furniture: Queen metal headboard. 352-509-7705.

Golf Cart: 2016 Club Car, four-seater, rain gear package, new batteries, warranty, and charger. 615-513-8240.

Home Décor: Mirrors and pictures. 352-509-7705.

Medical Equipment: Walker with seat. 352-509-7705.

Misc. Items: Vinyl records, gun accessories, knives, motorcycle and watch tools, R/C car, jewelry, sewing machine, antique drafting table, tag sale tables. 352-509-7705.

Scooter: 2024, electric with extra baskets. 352-238-4842.

Sports Equipment: OneTrek Madone with electric shifting and OneTrek Crossrip bicycles. Accessories also available. 352-690-7559.

Yard Equipment: EGO Select Cut 56-volt, 21" self-propelled walk-behind lawn mower with grass catcher, battery, charger, extra cutting blades, and 2-year extended warranty in addition to the 5-year warranty, \$400. Text 480-266-1400.

Tag Sales

Saturday, Aug. 1: 9285-A SW 89th Terrace (Friendship Colony), 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 8: 8649-B SW 92nd Place Road (Friendship Colony), 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 9: 8649-B SW 92nd Place Road (Friendship Colony), noon to 4 p.m.

Services

American Junk Removal & Demo: One call, we haul – one item, room, or total clean-out. Total kitchen & bath demolition. Lawn/landscape clean-up. Dumpster rental. Call/text Garfield 561-306-6969. Quality work, competitive prices, licensed & insured.

Andy Dahms Interior Painting: Your local professional painting contractor. Turn your place into a showpiece. Quality Sherwin-Williams products. References available. Free estimates. Call or email at 941-730-1381 or andygooddeats1@gmail.com.

Bates Lawn Services LLC: Family owned & operated. Mowing, weeding, pruning, mulch, stone & plants. All landscape needs. Fully insured. Senior discounts. Mike or Daisy 352-207-7221.

Bathroom & Flooring: Tile and LVP installation. Five stars on Google. Many satisfied customers in On Top of the World. Free quotes. Insured. Innovate - Home Renovation (L20000157682), Gabriel 352-216-2202.

Cash4Carts: We buy golf carts. Fast, friendly, fair. Will beat dealer offers. Cash paid. Same-day pick-up. 352-812-5630.

Cat Sitting: Provided by loving experienced Catsitter Nanny (resident) 352-854-8589.

Cleaning by Evelyn Lee: House & deep cleaning, move-outs. Licensed, bonded & insured. 352-286-6055.

CLEAN Window Cleaning LLC: Professional window cleaning, house washing, pressure washing, soft washing, roof washing, and paver sealing. Veteran-owned, bonded, and insured. Satisfaction guaranteed. Call or text 352-788-1111 or visit washmyhouseflorida.com.

Companionship & Housekeeping: Cooking, shopping, errands, light housekeeping, technology support, companionship, & daily assistance. For friendly, reliable in-home support, call Danielle at 352-425-5768.

Computer Help: Arthur Burditt, 352-875-7878. House calls, \$60/hour. Tutoring, setups, installations, Windows upgrades, PC cleanups, security software, internet connections, email access, printers, wireless devices.

Eagle Carpet Cleaning: Carpet, tile & grout, and upholstery cleaning. 25 years serving the residents of On Top of the World. Call 352-369-4494. Senior discounts.

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.

Language Learning: Planning a trip to Italy, Germany, or Latin America/Spain? Set aside the app and come practice with a live native speaker! Conversational practice and language tutoring in Italian, Spanish, and German. Veronika 202-550-3199.

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).

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.

Pet Sitting: Compassionate animal lover available for pet sitting, dog walking, medication administration, including daily photo updates, plant watering, mail management, and pet transport. Veronika 202-550-3199.

Transportation: Doctors' appointments, shopping, hair, surgery center, hospital, etc. Diane 352-854-9999 (resident). Please leave message (no texts).

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Transportation: Professional ride-share driver since 2014. Comfort class XL SUV. All airports and local destinations. Call/text Larry 352-509-5211 (resident).

Wash & Wax: Completed at your home. \$60 most vehicles. \$80 pickup, van, & 3rd row seating SUV. Interior & exterior. 40 years in service. Mark Anthony (text) 352-239-5702.

Weed Pulling: Yard work, mowing, topsoil for lawn/garden and haul away. Offering organic weed/grass killer. Insured. 352-454-2009.

Wanted

Donations: Dog or cat food (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.

Volunteers: Local dog and cat sanctuary seeking volunteers for marketing, fundraising, cat fostering, handiwork, moving, website management, and an artist for murals. Veronika 202-550-3199.

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