

Community News

Kenneth D. Colen

Meet & Greets

I want to give a shout-out to Heather Ray and her staff for hosting the On Top of the World Meet & Greets, and to all the departments and personnel who participated. The first event for On Top of the World (Central) had a very good turnout of over 500 people. Additional events were held for Candler Hills, Indigo East, and Weybourne Landing throughout August. Thank you, Heather!

Community Updates

HOME DEPOT & SW 99TH STREET: Home Depot is in a big hurry to get their new store out of the ground and open for business. As you might imagine, there will be some improvements to the internal access roadway, including turning lanes and intersection improvements at SW 99th Street.

The current SW 99th Street intersection at SR 200 can get fairly congested at the traffic signal during peak travel times.

As part of the Home Depot project, On Top of the World is improving the internal access roadway and adding a turning lane and additional traffic signals on SR 200. This is anticipated to relieve the traffic exiting On Top of the World (Central), but not until the improvement is completed. Up to that time, traffic may be even worse during construction if residents intent on getting to SR 200 crowd the area.

Preliminary site work will occur during the day, so it is best to avoid the intersection when equipment and workers are present. Most paving work and striping will occur during nighttime hours, when traffic is at the lowest volume.

Once the Florida Department of Transportation releases the permit (pending, I am told), the project will commence and is expected to last for approximately 60 days.

Our best advice is that you take full advantage of the other gated entries serving On Top of the World:

- SW 90th Street exit provides an easy connection to SR 200, as well as access to SW 80th Avenue outside of the construction zone. SW 90th Street also provides easy access for golf carts to the Canopy Oak shopping center, avoiding the Home Depot construction zone altogether.
- SW 90th Court Road connects to both SW 80th Street and SW 63rd Street Road. As pointed out in previous columns, this roadway connects through Calesa Township. It transitions to SW 67th Avenue Road for a connection to SW 38th Street, with further access to SW 60th Avenue and also to Sam’s Club at SR 200 (the cheapest place to buy gasoline in the county). I’m sure many residents are familiar with that store!

A contract has been awarded to begin construction of the SW 46th Street connector, connecting SW 67th Avenue Road to SW 60th Avenue and bypassing SW 38th Street during it’s construction period. Look for future updates on construction of SW 46th Street.

It never ceases to amaze me how many residents really don’t know their own community’s roadways and opportunities. Now is a good time to start exploring during the daylight hours; it will save you frustration later. It is both easy and safe if you prefer exploring from your golf cart.

SW 80TH AVENUE FOUR-LANING: Roadwork continues, with periodic late-night work at SW 80th Street and SW 80th Avenue. Improvements are underway north of SW 80th Street to create a transition so that the westerly lanes to SW 80th Avenue connect to the roadway. Expect some short-term delays when that work is happening.

Once the westerly side of the roadway is completed and the current traffic pattern is transitioned, the contractor is expected to begin two-lane construction on the easterly side of SW 80th Avenue.

Rinse, wash, and repeat the same

Continued on Page 4A ▶



Celebrate the Season

By Jessica Marshall

Fall is just around the corner, and The Town Square at Circle Square Commons is ready to welcome the season with an evening packed with live music, family-friendly activities, food, and festive fun. The Fall Festival takes place Saturday, Sept. 26, from 5 to 9 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Guests can enjoy a lively lineup of activities throughout the evening, making the festival a perfect outing for families, friends, and neighbors. Festival attractions include live entertainment, dancing, food trucks, a beverage kiosk, axe throwing, a pumpkin patch, face painting, and a selfie station. Whether you’re looking to hit the dance floor, grab a bite

to eat, or simply soak up the autumn atmosphere, there will be plenty to experience.

One of the evening’s special attractions will be a photo opportunity with Circus, a gentle carousel miniature therapy horse, from 5 to 6 p.m. It’s a memorable chance for guests – especially young festivalgoers – to meet Circus and capture a fun fall photo.

Music will keep the celebration going all evening. The Andrew Williams Band will perform from 5 to 7 p.m., bringing live entertainment to the festival’s early hours. Then, the Bay Kings Band takes over from 7 to 9 p.m., giving guests another reason to stay, dance and enjoy the

evening through the festival’s finale.

Beyond the entertainment, the Fall Festival offers a chance to embrace the spirit of the season close to home. Colorful autumn surroundings, pumpkins, music and activities will transform The Town Square into a community gathering place where guests of all ages can celebrate together.

The Fall Festival will be held at The Town Square at Circle Square Commons. Admission is free, so gather your family and friends and come ready for an evening of fall fun.

Mark your calendar and celebrate the arrival of fall with music, food, activities, and community fun at The Town Square!

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

Discovering Our Equestrian Heritage

By Michelle Shideler

What makes Marion County the Horse Capital of the World®? It’s more than championship competitions and picturesque farms. In my opinion, it’s the people, organizations, and horses whose stories inspire, heal, educate, and strengthen our community every day.

In September, Master the Possibilities invites participants to step beyond the arena to discover the remarkable people and programs behind our equestrian heritage through a series of engaging special presentations celebrating one of our region’s greatest treasures.

Have you ever wondered what it’s like to meet a miniature therapy horse, discover how horses help children and adults overcome physical and emotional challenges, or learn why Marion County has earned international recognition as the Horse Capital of the World®? This month, you can do all of that without leaving the community.

Our journey begins on Thursday, Sept. 3, with “Horse Capital of the World®: An Economic Engine.” Candace Shelton presents class EQU142A from 10 to 11 a.m. in Live Oak Hall. Free for members and just \$5 for the general public, this presentation reveals how our equestrian industry fuels tourism, supports local businesses, and keeps Marion County in the international spotlight.

On Thursday, Sept. 17, prepare to be inspired during “Horses Transforming Lives: Inside Stirrup ‘n Strides Therapeutic Riding Center.” Betty Gray leads class EQU139A from 10 to 11 a.m. in Live Oak Hall. Member tuition is \$5 and general public tuition is \$10. Hear firsthand how horses help build confidence, improve mobility, and change lives through therapeutic riding and equine-assisted services.

Dr. Saundra TenBroeck will be presenting on Tuesday, Sept. 22, “Horse Hobby or Horse Business? A Look Inside

the Horse Industry” from 10 to 11 a.m. in Live Oak Hall. Free for members and \$5 for the general public, class EQU140A will include an engaging discussion that explores everything from backyard horse ownership to the global equine industry, offering a fascinating look at the many ways horses enrich our lives and our economy.

Perhaps the most unforgettable experience comes on Thursday, Sept. 24, when a very special guest arrives at Master the Possibilities. Debbie Garcia-Bengochea presents “Discover the Healing Power of Gentle Carousel Miniature



Photo courtesy of Master the Possibilities

“Discover the Healing Power of Gentle Carousel Miniature Therapy Horses” takes place on Thursday, Sept. 24.

Sign up at CircleSquareCommons.com

Active Newcomers Club

Linda Baker



Happy September! We are looking forward to cooler temperatures and to meeting you at the Club Fair on Thursday, Sept. 10. Stop by our table at Circle Square Cultural Center to learn about everything our club has to offer.

Club President Ellen Attenson hosted our first new-members welcome party on Friday, Aug. 7, at her home. It was a great opportunity for our new members to socialize and learn more about the club. We will be hosting another party soon – watch for your invitation!

We enjoyed meeting many new residents at our “Doing Donuts” event, which was held on Saturday, Aug. 8. We signed up 13 new members, with many more people taking applications. Everyone enjoyed the donuts and socializing with new and old friends.

Our Sunday, Aug. 16 summer beach party was a blast. Over 100 members enjoyed a catered dinner and danced to summer-themed tunes provided by Howlin’ at the Moon. We played Slingo

and other games. The evening ended with the awarding of door prizes followed by an epic beach ball fight.

Watch your email and our Facebook page for information about our next event, “Scary Nights,” to be held on Sunday, Oct. 25 at The Lodge at Candler Hills with DJ Scott Bolton. Our last event of 2026 will be a holiday party on Thursday, Dec. 17.

The Active Newcomers Club facilitates small groups so members with similar interests can meet and form friendships. The groups are run by club members, who ask that you respond to invitations promptly. If you are interested in joining a group, please email activenewcomers34481@gmail.com with the group name in the subject line.

Membership applications for 2026 are available on our website. When completing your application, please read the descriptions and requirements for small groups before making your selections. Dues for the remainder of the year are only \$8! To participate, you must hold a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

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



Photo by Linda Baker

New members' welcome party guests.

In the News

Petra Schmidt

otownews@otowfl.com

On Top of the World NEWS

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).

If you don't receive your copy or wish to stop delivery, email otownews@otowfl.com with your neighborhood, house number, and street name.

After delivery day, copies are available at newspaper racks in:

- All postal centers
- Arbor Fitness Center
- Candler Hills Community Center
- Circle Square Commons: The Ranch Fitness Center & Spa, Master the Possibilities, and On Top of the World Real Estate of Marion
- Indigo East Community & Fitness Centers
- On Top of the World New Home Sales Center
- Recreation Center
- Resident Services
- The Landing
- The Lodge at Candler Hills
- The Summit
- The Whistling Duck

Read online or see the schedule at on-top-of-the-world-news.com/ocala.

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Community News

► Continued from Page 1A

roadway work that is currently underway. Again, use caution in the work zone. Do not exceed the posted speed limit! Watch out for workers and equipment in the construction zone.

RECREATION CENTER: Work continues on the Recreation Center renovation, with implementation focused on the main entrance facing SW 99th Street Road. As the project has progressed, additional restoration work has been identified at the front of the building to complete the planned improvements. As I’m writing this, we are one inspection away from closing out the entry canopy area and finishing that phase of the project. Significant landscaping improvements will also be made on the building’s ground-level entry area.

With the additional work, completion is now projected for late October. We appreciate your continued patience and understanding as we work toward completing these improvements.

IRONS 9 PITCH & PUTT: Exciting progress continues as this project nears completion. Landscaping has reached substantial completion, and the as-built review process will begin shortly. The as-built stage is at substantial completion of the project. Still, before close-out, the sub-surface irrigation lines, underground utilities, and vertical structures all need to be mapped and described.

The course is expected to be ready for play in late September, with final Marion County site clearance targeted for late September to early October.

Once all required approvals are received, we look forward to officially opening Irons 9 and welcoming golfers to this unique course, designed to challenge players of all skill levels while offering a fun, relaxing atmosphere. A grand opening celebration will follow.

Upon opening, tee times may be made up to six days in advance by calling 352-854-2237 or visiting www.iron9.com. Check back often for information on the official opening, monthly events, and specials.

AZURA FITNESS CENTER: This new ame-

nity in Candler Hills is nearing completion. Work is underway to complete the building’s exterior, including the pool deck and sitework, while interior finishing work continues in preparation for installing the new fitness equipment. SCA Marion Amenities remains on track to deliver this state-of-the-art facility, featuring top-of-the-line fitness equipment and a 5,000-square-foot pool. This project is estimated to be completed and open in late November.

NEW CANDLER HILLS ENTRY: The new gate system on SW 92nd Court Road should be live as you read this, providing an additional entry point into Candler Hills and points south. Following activation of the new gate, the temporary construction entrance on SW 80th Street will be removed.

NEW WEYBOURNE LANDING ENTRY: The new gate system providing access into Weybourne Landing from SW 90th Terrace and SW 74th Street Road should be live when this issue hits the stands. Final preparations are underway as we get ready to bring this new entry point into service. There will be ongoing fencing and landscaping improvements, so please use caution when passing through the entry.

MELODY PRESERVE: Our newest 55-plus community, located just north of Indigo East, continues to exceed expectations, with 50 homes sold and 30 currently under construction. The community is on track to welcome its first residents by the end of the year, making an exciting milestone as the neighborhood comes to life.

Designed as an independent 55-plus homeowners association, Melody Preserve offers a simplified lifestyle with its own distinct identity. Without access to On Top of the World amenities, residents enjoy lower monthly costs while still benefiting from the quality craftsmanship and thoughtful home designs that define a Colen Built Development community.

One of the most encouraging trends has been the number of existing On Top of the World residents choosing to make the move to Melody Preserve. Many are attracted to the opportunity to enjoy a brand-new home in a smaller, more intimate neighborhood while maintaining the quality they’ve come to expect from Colen Built Development.

With an HOA fee of just \$55 per

month, Melody Preserve continues to appeal to homebuyers seeking exceptional value, low-maintenance living, and an independent lifestyle. As construction progresses and the first homeowners prepare to move in, the community is quickly establishing itself as an attractive destination for active adults looking to simplify without compromising on quality.

FLYING FIELD, R/C TRACK & DRONE FIELD: We would like to clarify a detail from last month’s update. The previously referenced “relocation” of the R/C Flyers Club, R/C Car Club, and Drone Club referred specifically to the relocation and secure storage of club equipment in preparation for the transition to the new facilities.

Development of the new flying field remains on hold pending the necessary regulatory permit approvals. A contractor has been selected and is ready to begin construction as soon as the remaining permits are received. We anticipate approval at any time and look forward to moving the project into its next phase.

Landscape Update

The summer rainy season finally made an appearance in August, which helped partially alleviate the drought conditions north-central Florida has been experiencing. Although we welcome the rainfall, we still need more precipitation before the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWF-WMD) mandated water restrictions could be eased. The district’s metric for drought conditions is largely based on aquifer levels, which have been at near-historic lows. SWFWMD is scheduled to re-evaluate these restrictions before Oct. 1. September is also a great time to push for plant recovery on any drought-stressed turf or plants and prepare them for our typically mild winters. Muhly grass should begin blooming and will grace the community with nice pink blooms for several weeks.

Hurricane Season

September marks the peak of the Atlantic hurricane season, making this the time of year when preparedness matters most. While NOAA’s current outlook calls for a below-normal Atlantic hurricane season due to the anticipated influence of El Niño, forecasters continue to emphasize that it only takes one storm to significantly impact our community. NOAA’s latest outlook projects eight to

14 named storms, three to six hurricanes, and one to three major hurricanes during the 2026 season. Although the overall number of storms may be lower than average, conditions can still allow for rapid intensification, particularly in the Gulf, where recent tropical storm activity has served as an important reminder that Florida residents must remain vigilant throughout the season.

Now is also the perfect time to locate your current HO-6 or HO-3 insurance policy. In the HO-6 policy, under “Loss of Use,” it is recommended that a resident carry coverage for 12 months of living expenses. You could be away from your home for an extended period if damage occurs.

At Parkway Maintenance & Management of Marion, storm preparedness is an ongoing commitment, not a last-minute reaction. Our experienced team has the knowledge, resources, and equipment necessary to respond rapidly when severe weather impacts the community. From planning and securing facilities to coordinating post-storm recovery efforts, we are prepared to act quickly and efficiently to minimize disruption and begin the recovery process as soon as it is safe to do so.

Avalon Social Group

Laura Gavey & Sharon Hall



Are you ready for something different? September seems like a great month for an indoor picnic with burgers or pulled pork sandwiches from the Mobile Munchies food truck. Invite your neighbors and join us on Monday, Sept. 14 at 5:30 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios. Bring your appetite and be ready to picnic in the A/C. Join your friends and neighbors in games like cornhole, checkers, a putting green, Jenga, ring toss, and the ladder game. We’ll have contests for cornhole, the putting green, and ring toss, so bring your A-game.

For reservations, contact Sharon Hall at 270-855-1354. Paid reservations must be received no later than Monday, Aug.31. This is a week earlier than normal, so don’t let it slip by you! Check our Facebook page or email for more details.

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

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High Holidays 2026 / 5787 Services

✧ Rosh Hashanah Evening	Friday Sept. 11	7:30 p.m.
✧ Rosh Hashanah Morning	Saturday Sept. 12	10:00 a.m.
✧ Yom Kippur Evening Kol Nidre	Sunday Sept. 20	7:30 p.m.
✧ Yom Kippur Morning	Monday Sept. 21	10:00 a.m.
✧ Yom Kippur Afternoon, Yizkor and concluding services		4:00 p.m.
✧ Yom Kippur Break the Fast	<u>reservations required, \$30 pp, see below</u>	



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On Watch

Geoff Oldberg



In 1972, the National Sheriffs’ Association launched what is now known as the National Neighborhood Watch Program. The concept grew from the belief that safer communities are built through active citizen participation. As neighborhoods expanded and populations increased, so did crime – particularly residential burglaries. Law enforcement quickly realized that one of its greatest assets was an engaged community willing to serve as extra eyes and ears.

Experienced law enforcement officers understand that building relationships with the people they serve is just as important as enforcing the law. They know the value of being approachable, accessible, and genuinely interested in the residents of their community.

When Alan Hart and I served as sheriff’s deputies, we made it a priority to develop strong relationships with the citizens we protected. Many of those relationships began with something as simple as a friendly greeting.

“That’s a beautiful dog you have there. What’s his name?”

Conversations like that often led to lasting friendships. We made follow-up visits whenever possible and did our best to remember people’s names. Residents knew we cared about them, and because of that, they never hesitated to call us when they needed help or had information about suspicious or criminal activity.

Although we are no longer deputies, we continue to apply many of the lessons we learned while “walking the beat.” Our mission remains the same – to help keep our community safe.

Our business cards include our cell phone numbers and the communitysafety@otowfl.com email address. We hand them out every opportunity we get and encourage residents to contact us whenever they have a concern. Those relationships have already helped us identify and remove illegal solicitors, stop scam artists, and address numerous safety concerns. Along the way, we’ve also had the privilege of making many new friends.

One recent experience perfectly illustrates the value of those relationships.

On Sunday, July 5, a couple Alan had gotten to know contacted him about a friend’s dog Bailey, who had disappeared. Frightened by the fireworks the night before, Bailey had run away and hadn’t returned. Her owners were heartbroken and desperate to find her.

Alan immediately offered his assistance. He coordinated search efforts with other residents, launched our drone to search from the air, and followed every reported lead. Facebook quickly filled with posts from concerned neighbors

sharing sightings, offering encouragement, and volunteering to help.

As darkness fell, so did everyone’s spirits. The thought of Bailey spending the night alone weighed heavily on all who were searching.

But with the sunrise came renewed determination.

Alan and many neighbors resumed the search, following every lead and refusing to give up. Before the sun set for a second time, the search ended with the news everyone had been hoping for

– Bailey had been found by her very own “mom.”

Stories like Bailey’s remind us that community safety isn’t always about preventing crime. Sometimes it’s about neighbors helping neighbors, people caring enough to lend a hand, and relationships built long before they’re ever needed.

Whether it’s reporting suspicious activity, helping locate a lost pet, or simply looking out for one another, a connected community is a safer community.

Resident Services

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



Office Closed - Labor Day

Resident Services will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7, in observance of Labor Day. We will return to normal business hours on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

Community Meet & Greet

Thank you to everyone who attended the Community Meet & Greet! We received tremendous support and valuable feedback.

On Top of the World (Central) Board Meetings

On Top of the World (Central) Owners Association has two important board meetings coming up that homeowners are highly encouraged to attend at 1 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center:

- Thursday, Sept. 17
- Thursday, Oct. 15

Candler Hills Town Hall

Candler Hills Neighborhood Association will have a town hall meeting on Friday, Oct. 2, at The Lodge at Candler Hills. The meeting notice will also be sent via email.

Association Emails

Just a reminder that each association now has its own email address. If you have any questions or feedback that are association-related, please email: centralassociation@otowfl.com, indigoassociation@otowfl.com, candlerassociation@otowfl.com, or weybourneassociation@otowfl.com.

Trash/Garbage Collection

As a friendly reminder, household

trash should not be placed at the curb in loose bags. Community rules require trash, rubbish, debris, garbage, and other waste materials to be kept in covered or sealed sanitary containers. Using an appropriate trash receptacle helps keep our neighborhoods clean, reduces the chance of bags being torn open by animals, and prevents loose debris from spreading throughout the community.

Animals

To help keep our community clean, safe, and enjoyable for everyone, we ask all residents to be mindful of our community animal/pet guidelines.

- Ensure pets do not create excessive noise or become a nuisance to neighbors.
- While outdoors, all pets must be on a leash and accompanied by their owner or custodian at all times.

- Pets may not be tethered or left unattended outdoors and must remain within your property boundaries while under your supervision.
- Clean up after your pet immediately and dispose of waste properly.
- Store all animal/pet food in sealed containers inside your home to help prevent attracting wildlife.
- Feeding wildlife, including coyotes, feral cats, migratory waterfowl, and other wild animals, is strictly prohibited. This includes feeder stations, scattering feed, or otherwise making food readily available. Approved bird feeders are the only exception.

Thank you for doing your part to help maintain a clean, safe, and welcoming community for all residents and their pets.

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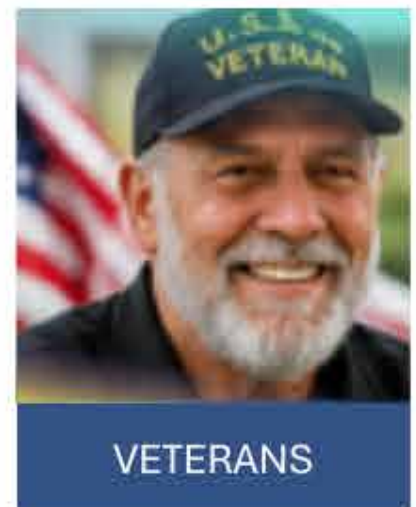
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Crescent Ridge Happenings

Carol Lewis



In August, a group of Crescent Ridge residents drove to Ocklawaha to tour the Bradford-Ma Barker House. The tour was quite interesting and informative. The house retains its original layout, furnishings, and bullet scars from the historic FBI raid in 1935, which turned out to be the longest gun battle in history. Ma Barker was the mother of four sons, all of whom were involved in criminal activities from an early age. To learn more about the Barker gang and tour the home, visit mabarkerhouse.org.
To me, our summer off from our monthly socials went very fast, and it's time to resume our socials the sec-

ond Sunday of each month. Our next one is on Sunday, Sept. 13. Many new people have moved into Crescent Ridge this summer. If they happen to be your neighbors, invite them to our socials so they can get to know other neighbors.
Our socials are held at the Arbor Conference Center Large Card Room, from 3 to 5 p.m. This is around the back of the Arbor Fitness Center and pool. Just bring a dish to share and the beverage of your choice.
We look forward to meeting a lot of our new neighbors and welcoming them to Crescent Ridge and On Top of the World.
To get faster information affecting Crescent Ridge/Crescent Green residents, you may join our Facebook page (OTOW Crescent Ridge Neighbors) or send an email tocrneighbors@yahoo.com to be added to our email list. You will only receive emails regarding Crescent Ridge information.



Photo by Deanne Sanders-Below

Enjoying some laughs at the men's monthly luncheon

Williamsburg Neighbors

Deanne Sanders-Below



Have you ever asked yourself what your passion is? When we first moved to On Top of the World's Williamsburg neighborhood, I do not think I could have answered that. But lately, I have seen and experienced what true passion is when gathering with our neighbors at our community events!
At the men's monthly luncheon, Dick Manzi shared his passion. Dick has collected coins since he was nine years old. Born and raised in Connecticut, Dick found his love for coins when he started a paper route. Papers were purchased with coins, and when Dick received a coin, it was not just a coin to him; it held the stories of time and memories. Each coin has its own individuality, including the year it was made, the mint mark, and the producer.
After retiring and moving to Williamsburg with his wife, Laura, Dick's passion continued. Dick now has time to do the research and has moved his collection to a secure lockbox at the bank. Dick is also looking for professional coin graders, or numismatists, who specialize in authenticating coins and assigning numerical grades based on a coin's condition and value. Dick's passion is growing, and he wants to start a coin collectors club. Anyone interested in coins or the club can email Dick at grampacool1@gmail.com.
If you enjoy sharing a passion or hearing fascinating stories in a relaxing environment, join our monthly men's luncheon on Wednesday, Sept. 9, at the Hobby Building Event Room at noon. Anyone is welcome. Bring a friend, a sack lunch, a drink, and enjoy the conversations.
There are upcoming Williamsburg events that will need an RSVP.
Thursday, Sept. 10, at 6 p.m., enjoy a cookout and potluck at Veterans Park. To reserve your spot, please call Carol at 908-346-2979. Hot dogs will be grilled, and we ask everyone to bring a side dish and their own drinks. You are welcome to bring chairs.
Our chili cook-off will be on Saturday, Oct. 17, at 1 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. You will have a chance to vote for your favorite chili and enjoy the scents of fall with your neighbors.
On Wednesday, Nov. 25, at 1 p.m., celebrate Thanksgiving dinner with your neighbors. Turkey will be served, with everyone bringing a side dish.
Our annual holiday party is Saturday, Dec. 5, in The Summit Ballroom. We will be gathering RSVPs soon!
We would like to acknowledge our wonderful donation to Special Olym-

pics. The donation was part of the golf raffle that Brian McDonald led.
With our monthly dinners, pizza parties, pool, and driveway parties, there is always a way to stay connected with our neighbors.
To stay informed, join our email list by sending your full name, address, and email to Ghina Siddiqui at gsiddiqui@gmail.com.
We hope you will join one of our upcoming events, learn something new, stay active, and enjoy laughter and conversation with your Williamsburg neighbors.



Photo by Carol Lewis

Bradford - Ma Barker House tour.

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The Fairway Friends

Lori Matuson



August was a wonderful month filled with community gatherings and friendship! On Saturday, Aug. 8, Fairways Friends came together at The Summit for a delicious cold potluck. The evening was made even more enjoyable with wonderful entertainment from the Ukulele Group.

September is shaping up to be another busy and fun-filled month! Activities will include ladies bunco, a wine tasting and charcuterie-building event at The Summit, and a special ladies’ afternoon featuring board games and cards.

There’s always something happening with Fairways Friends, and we love bringing neighbors together to enjoy good food, laughter, friendship, and a little friendly competition!



Photo by Lori Matuson

Cold potluck with the Ukulele Group at The Summit.

Community Emergency Response Team

Debbie Snyder



When you or someone falls, what should you do? Falls happen, and the risk increases as we get older. According

to the National Institute on Aging, here are a few suggestions if you or someone else falls.

First, don’t panic and don’t try to spring back up like you’re 25. Take a minute and ask yourself: Am I hurt? Can I move? Am I dizzy? Did I hit my head? If you have severe pain, trouble breathing, confusion, heavy bleeding, loss of consciousness, or think you may have injured your head, neck, back or hip,

call 911.

If you aren’t seriously hurt and think you can get up, take your time. If helping someone else, let them decide when they are ready. Even if you feel fine afterward, watch for pain, dizziness, headache or confusion. Some injuries take a while to show up.

Of course, prevention is even better. Secure those rugs, clear the clutter, turn on a nightlight, and keep often-used items within easy reach. Stop standing on chairs! Know your neighbors. Check on them and know who might need a little extra help. Stay safe, stay upright, and if you do fall, don’t be embarrassed. Call for help.

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

If you are curious about CERT or wondering whether this volunteer op-

portunity is right for you, please stop by our booth at the Club Fair on Thursday, Sept. 10, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center. This is free and open to the public. We would be happy to answer questions, explain the training process, and share how residents can help strengthen emergency preparedness throughout On Top of the World.

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

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

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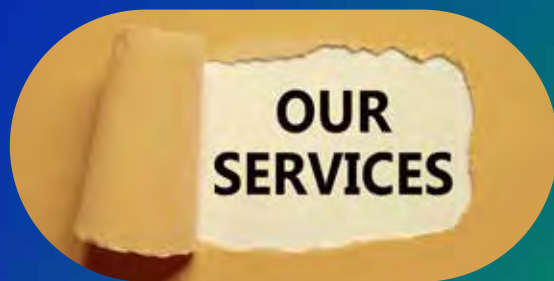
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Newcastle Social Committee

Nancy Monaghan

Arrrrgghh! On Saturday, July 25, “Murder Among the Mateys” came to Newcastle, Newcastle’s fourth annual murder mystery event. Here’s how the crime unfolded ... after a voyage filled with pillaging and plundering, the Jaded Jewel, a pirate ship, made landfall. As the pirates head into town to celebrate their homecoming at the Salty Sea Dog, the night quickly steers out of control.

Aye, mateys, there was a mutiny brewing, alliances were forming, and promises were made. There also was forbidden love, bribery, hidden treasure, shady pasts, and all the landlubbers and pirates had secrets aplenty.

Then the lights went out, and poor old Merciless Morgan was no longer there. In the end, Antonia (who fooled everyone as a seemingly fair maiden and hostess) and her love, Sealegs Sam, were found guilty of murder, and as the crowd cheered, they were forced to walk the plank-right into the pool at The Lodge



Photo by Nancy Monaghan

Newcastle scallywags.

at Candler Hills! Just for good measure, it was decided the governor should also walk the plank since nobody likes politicians.

Candler Connection

Debra Keirn



Fall is right around the corner, and we will all welcome some cooler weather.

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.

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. Tickets were sold in August so if you haven’t purchased tickets and want to attend, please contact Deb Keirn at 352-414-5737 or text 814-571-7908 to see if tickets are still available.

The Candler Hills potluck dinner will be on Tuesday, Sept. 29, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., with the theme “Tailgate Party.” It’s football season, so wear a T-shirt to support your favorite team and prepare tailgate foods for 12 to 15 people. Those residents with the last names beginning with A-H should bring a side dish or salad; I-P a dessert; and Q-Z a main dish. 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.

Saturday, Oct. 31, will be our Hallow-

een party from 6 to 9 p.m. with MPiRE Duo providing the music. There will be prizes for the best costume and the best pre-carved pumpkin (carve at home prior to event). 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. Let’s celebrate Halloween together and dance the night away.

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 will be on sale from Tuesday, Nov. 3, through Tuesday, Nov. 24 for \$45 per Candler Hills resident and \$47 per guest.

Candler Connection is hosting the New Year’s Eve party. This will be a casual evening with Palomino Blonde providing the music. Bring appetizers or snacks for your table of 10, and we will provide desserts. The price will be \$15 per Candler Hills resident and \$17 per guest. Tickets will go on sale starting Tuesday, Nov. 10 through Thursday, Dec. 3. Let’s ring in the New Year from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. with a traditional New Year’s Eve toast.

We are busy planning events for 2027. More information will be presented next month.

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ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala.

In addition to the fun of the murder mystery, there were photo ops including a step-in ship among the waves and the bar at the Salty Sea Dog. The serving wenches circulated among the crowd with grog to rival the Grog Grotto at Disney World. The participants’ acting and their costumes made the evening fun and hilarious.

Nobody went hungry as Debbie and Mike Bianchi planned an over-the-top fantastic shrimp boil. Thank you to Mike Bianchi, Fred Hymes, and Bing Bingham for manning the ginormous stock pots

while preparing the five-star dinner, and thanks to other galley volunteers, Al Reisinger and Mike McCauley. Thank you to Deb for the delicious homemade coleslaw and cocktail sauce and for the fabulous menu planning. Rum cakes made by neighbors were the perfect dessert for all the scallywags.

All had a great time, thanks to the many volunteers who made props (Anne McCauley for the ship), neighbors who set up and cleaned up, and everyone who made it a fun, fun time! Arrrrgghh – dead men tell no tales!

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Finding Zen

Robert Colen
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On Tuesday, Sept. 15, and Wednesday, Sept. 16, nonprofits throughout Marion County will come together for Give4Marion, our community’s annual giving campaign. This year, I hope you will consider supporting Sholom Park.

More than 20 years ago, Sholom Park opened with a purpose that still guides us today: to provide a place where people could find peace, enjoy nature, learn, re-

flect, and step away from the pressures of everyday life for a while. Sidney and Ina Colen envisioned the park as a gift to the community.

Much has changed around Sholom Park since 2004. Marion County has grown tremendously, new neighborhoods and businesses continue to appear, and life seems to move a little faster every year. Yet inside the park, we work very hard to preserve something that should not change.

People come here to walk beneath the trees, sit beside the water, exercise, take photographs, attend programs, spend time with their families, or simply find a quiet place to think. Based on our vehicle counts, we estimate that 120,000 to

150,000 people visit Sholom Park each year.

And every one of them can enter without paying an admission fee.

That is an important part of what Sholom Park is. We want the park to remain a place anyone can enjoy, regardless of whether they can afford a ticket or membership. Sholom Park receives no tax revenue and is not supported through homeowner’s association fees. Caring for the gardens, trees, trails, ponds, and facilities – and continuing to improve and protect the park – requires substantial resources and year-round attention.

Give4Marion allows our community to help us do that.

Whether your contribution is \$10,

\$25, \$50, or more, every gift helps.

Help us keep Sholom Park open and free to the public.

Help us keep the park and gardens beautiful and serene.

Help us continue our mission to provide a place of peace right here in Marion County.

To contribute, visit www.give4marion.org during the Give4Marion campaign and search for Horticultural Arts & Park Institute, Inc. (Sholom Park).

Sholom Park was created as a gift to this community. More than twenty years later, that purpose remains. This September, I hope you will help us care for that gift and keep Sholom Park here for everyone who needs and enjoys it.

OneBlood Bloodmobile

Sara Sommer



The August blood drive was truly fantastic! We had 32 whole-blood units and 16 double-red blood units. Thank you so much.

It is also time for our Friday blood drive. The Big Red Bus® will be here on Friday, Sept. 4 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Here is your chance if you are unable to donate on Mondays. The next Monday drive is Oct. 5.

The Big Red Buses will be parked in the Recreation Center parking lot from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Be sure to eat a good meal and drink

lots of water before and after donating. Please bring a picture ID. Mark your calendar. Let’s see if we can top the previous donation amount.

Walk-ins are always welcome, but you can make an appointment. The schedule is online about two weeks before the drive. Simply log on to OneBlood.org and look for the On Top of the World drive. Pick your time, and you are all set. Appointments are usually taken first to try to keep on schedule. You will receive confirmation by email, as well as a reminder when the time comes.

There is no substitute for human blood. Only you can make a difference. Please give.

There is another date to remember. The semi-annual Club Fair is taking place on Thursday, Sept. 10, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center. OneBlood will have a table there as usual. Please stop by to say hello. We will be there to answer any questions you might have. If we don’t know the answer, we will direct you to where you can learn it.

See you on the bus and at the Club Fair.

Colen Built Cares

Lauren Grice
colenbuiltcares@colenbuilt.net



Food Drive

Colen Built Cares is proud to host a food drive from Monday, Sept. 14, through Wednesday, Sept. 30, supporting Interfaith Emergency Services’ food pantry. This fall initiative reflects our ongoing commitment to uplifting families in need and strengthening the spirit of service across all Colen Built Development communities.

This drive follows the tremendous success of our summer food and clothing drive, in which residents, employees, and the community came together in extraordinary ways. The outpouring of donations was so significant that, in addition to supporting Interfaith’s Food 4 Kids program and free clothing boutique, we were also able to extend surplus items to Habitat for Humanity and Lotus Marion. This achievement showcased the strength of our community and the meaningful impact we can make when we serve together.

Food donations for the September drive may be dropped off at multiple convenient locations, including the Leland Management Office (5575 SW 67th Avenue Road), Master the Possibilities (8415 SW 80th Street, Suite 2), and Sho-

lom Park (6838 SW 80th Avenue), Calesa Township Sales Center (6404 SW 78th Center), the On Top of the World Sales Center (8447 SW 99th Street Road), and several On Top of the World amenity buildings such as: The Arbors, Recreation Center, The Lodge at Candler Hills, Indigo Community and Fitness Centers, The Landing, and Resident Services.

All food donations are welcome as long as they are non-expired. This season’s urgent needs include canned vegetables, canned fruit, pasta, rice, and pasta sauce. These staple items help support Interfaith’s food pantry, which provides grocery assistance to households once per month as a supplement for those experiencing food insecurity. Interfaith also partners with community organizations to expand food distribution at Fellowship, Dunnellon, and Marion Oaks, ensuring families across Marion County have access to essential nutrition.

Residents who prefer to give monetarily may email colenbuiltcares@colenbuilt.net to have our volunteers shop for needed items on their behalf.

Every contribution helps stock shelves, support meal preparation, and provide dependable access to nutritious food. Residents are encouraged to spread the word, involve neighbors, and make giving a part of their September routine. Together, we can continue the momentum of our summer success and make a measurable difference for families across Marion County.

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Longleaf Ridge Friends

Debra Vitale



It’s the good old summertime in Longleaf Ridge. From Fourth of July festivities to poolside catch-ups, book club chatter, and a little friendly golf rivalry, summer delivered the best kind of neighborhood news.

Barb Hollock, our newest contributor, shared that Judie and Paul Cleary hosted a Fourth of July gathering, celebrated in true neighborhood style. Whether guests came for the conversation, the patriotic spirit, or the chance to enjoy a relaxed summer afternoon, the Cleary’s home was the perfect place to mark America’s 250th anniversary.

Barb also reported the results of the monthly Golf Challenge Cup. Her neighborhood team, led by Eddie Vincent, was edged out by Suzie Baylis’ neighborhood team, led by Vern Kessler. Congratulations to Vern’s team on the five-to-four win. As always, we assume every shot was graceful, every putt was intentional, and any questionable scorekeeping was purely accidental.

Kathleen Taylor reported that the monthly book club selection, “Wild Dark Shore” by Charlotte McConaghy, was hosted by Suzie Harris. The novel is set on a remote sub-Antarctic island between Australia and Antarctica and

is inspired by a real place. At its center is a vault containing one of the world’s most complete seed collections, a safeguard for global food security. Naturally, because every peaceful island needs a little literary trouble, the vault is threatened by dangerous weather. Dark, atmospheric, and suspenseful, the story sounds like just the sort of book that could keep a discussion going long after the refreshments are gone.

Gloria Emmons reported that Arlene Loepp graciously hosted a weekly gathering on her beautiful lanai around the pool. Rotating groups of neighborhood ladies over a five-hour period enjoyed refreshing swims, lively conversation, and plenty of summer stories. Many thanks to Arlene for her warm hospitality and for opening her home to these cheerful get-togethers. No men were allowed, though one brave gentleman did provide a valuable service by taking some great group photos before wisely disappearing. Arlene also set out a beautiful spread of healthy food, allowing everyone to feel admirably virtuous while pretending that floating in the pool counts as a workout. And, of course, the most important rule still applies at these girl gatherings: what happens here stays here.

Longleaf Ridge may be a little quieter in summertime, but it is never short on personality. Between holiday celebrations, golf rivalries, book club intrigue, and poolside storytelling, the neighborhood continues to feel lively, connected, and just a little mischievous.



Arlene Loepp’s pool gathering.



Photo courtesy of Renée Steiner

Renée Steiner.



Photo courtesy of Kathy Sparks

Kathy Sparks.

Indigo East Social Committee

Teresa Davis



Indigo East is making it easier for new residents to feel at home with our welcome insiders, Renée Steiner and Kathy Sparks.

Welcome insiders is Indigo East’s version of a welcome wagon. They have the latest community information and a welcome gift for our newest neighbors. If you are new to Indigo East – or know someone who is – call or text Renée at 931-212-8022 or Kathy at 302-236-4728.

Our recent ice cream social was one cool get-together! About 70 neighbors joined us for delicious ice cream and lots of door-prize giveaways. A special thank-you goes to Bill and Jana McElroy for all their hard work organizing the event and for helping raise funds for the Indigo East Social Club.

Calling all brainiacs! Because of Labor Day, our next trivia night will be Monday, Sept. 14, from 5 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased through the OTOW App. Gather your team, put on your thinking caps, and join the fun!

Our next porch party will be held

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Program Agenda

- 3:30–4:30 pm | Doors Open
Registration , Exhibit, and Heart Health Resources
- 4:30–5:15 pm | Prevention and Awareness Panel Discussion
- 5:15–5:55 pm | Dinner
- 5:55 pm | STEMI Video
- 6:00–6:45 pm | Procedure Focus Panel Discussion
- 7:00 pm | Adjournment



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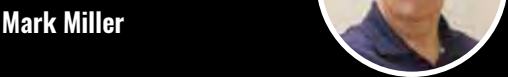


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Democratic Club



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

As the Primary Election has passed, we now have the Tuesday, Nov. 3 General Election ahead of us. Make it your business to vote whether by mail, early voting, or in person. Voter registration/party change deadline is Monday, Oct. 5. Early voting runs from Thursday, Oct. 22, through Saturday, Oct. 31, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mail-in ballots must be received by the Supervisor of Elections office by 7 p.m. on Election Day to be counted.

If this issue of the World News reaches you on Thursday, Aug. 27, you will be right on time for our meeting today. Our featured speaker is Sadie Holzmeyer, with the Digital Democracy Project, which says 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.

On Thursday, Sept. 24, our meeting will feature a Democratic candidate who will be listed on the November ballot. We have multiple candidates running for different elected offices to choose

from!

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

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

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

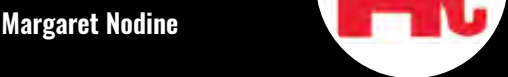
For more information, contact Mark Miller at 443-848-8549 or demclubotow@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you at our meeting on Thursdays, Aug. 27 and Sept. 24.



Republican members center Dick and Toni Jaeschke with Marion County School Board candidates.

Republican Club



Well, here we are at the end of the summer. Hazy, hot, and humid weather is almost gone, and we are thinking about cooler weather, pumpkins, turkeys, and holiday celebrations. But before that, we are still in the midst of election cycles. We came through the primaries; now it is on to the general election.

Our summer series of meetings with the candidates for primary elections is fast approaching the conclusion. For those members who made their decisions on candidates, hopefully, they voted early in the primary elections.

For those members who needed one more look and for members who wanted to chat with candidates again, our August meeting was an open forum for meeting and greeting all candidates.

All candidates received an invitation to join us. From our June meeting, those candidates vying for County Commissioner for District 2 attended. From July's meeting, we welcomed the school board candidates for Districts 2, 4, and 5, and from our August meeting, we asked

the candidates vying for Circuit Judge (6th Judicial Circuit) to attend. This concluded our meetings with all candidates for our county government in Marion County.

We certainly felt we gave them good and fair opportunities to represent themselves and state their positions, and for our members to have the information necessary to make informed choices.

The club is still in the planning stages to participate in Wreaths Across America. We are very excited about this opportunity, since we will be able to honor our military on a personal basis. We happily continue to support Operation Shoebox and the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard. Both give their time and are dedicated to helping our troops.

Our remaining Friday meeting schedule is Sept. 11, Oct. 9, and Nov. 13. We continue to meet on the second Friday of each month, in the Arbor Conference Rooms I-IV - doors open at 4 p.m.; meetings begin promptly at 4:30 p.m. Please look for our banner, and we hope 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 upcoming fall season.



F.L.A.G. team members spoke at our July meeting.

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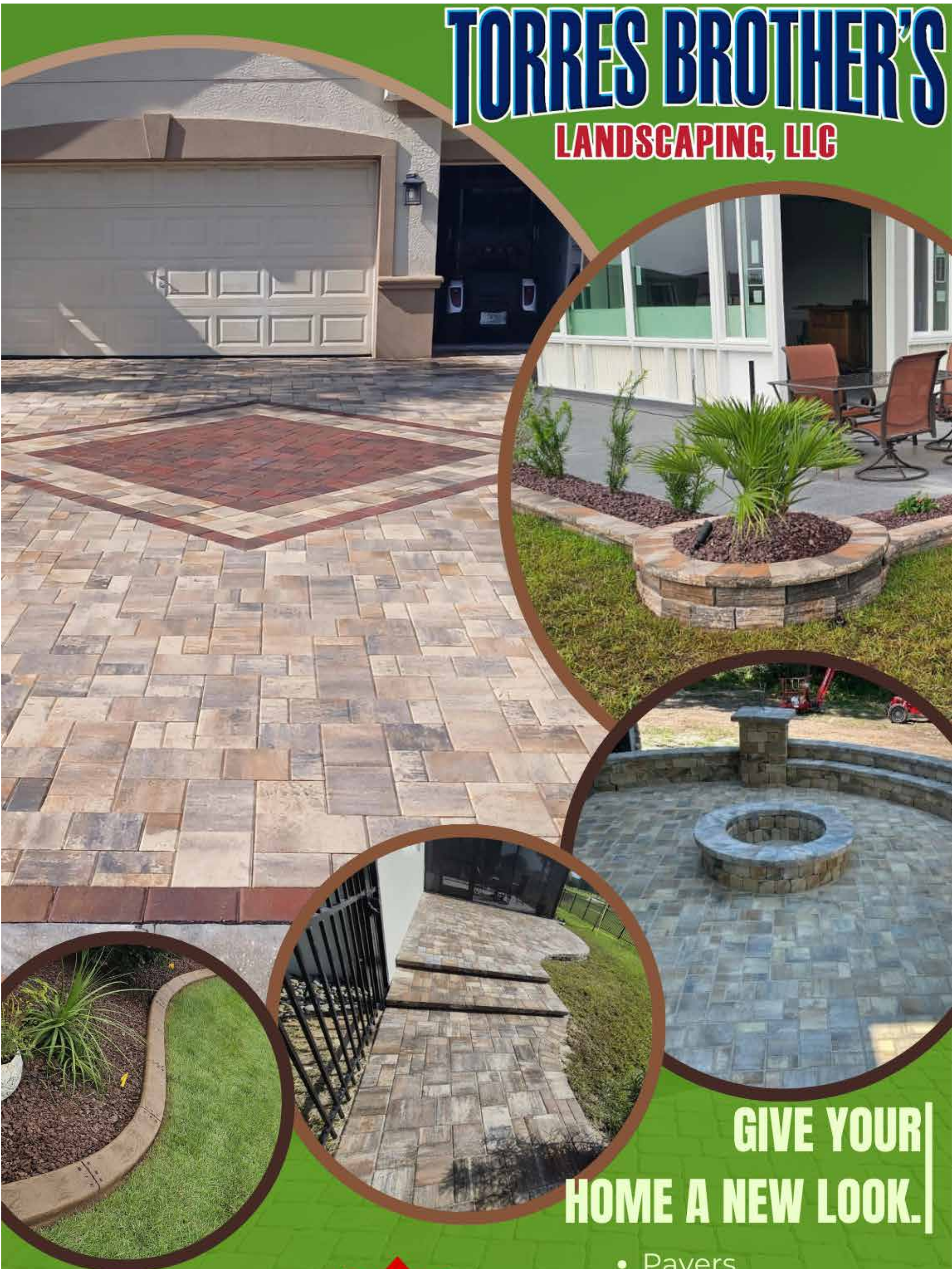
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Celebrating Heritage and Community Spirit

By Silvia C. Garcia

¡Hola amigos! This past month, our club members came together as a family to help the parents of one of our members, Eileen Grier. On behalf of Eileen and her family, I wish to thank our wonderful members for their compassion and kindness. In the Latinos Club, we are truly family – ¡de verdad que somos familia!

During our Hispanic Heritage Celebration on Saturday, Sept. 26, our club will be donating \$1,000, \$250 to each of four local nonprofit organizations. To ensure fairness, the four recipients will

be selected by drawing names from a bag containing the organizations' names before the celebration. Members, we need your help! Which nonprofit organization would you like to see receive one of these donations?

Our last monthly dinner was held at Milano Italian Grille, well known for its pizza, pasta, and American dishes. The food was delicious, the service was magnificent, and our private room was filled with laughter and joy. Congratulations as well to Gloria Bell and Julia Myrna, our two lucky winners of gift cards

generously provided by Milano Italian Grille.

A huge thank you to Karen Ramos for coordinating our singo bingo! She was incredible at giving us hints about the songs. If Karen ever decides to change careers, she should become a DJ – she was outstanding! Congratulations to our many winners. Prizes included scotch whisky, gift baskets, and wine donated by the Latinos Club.

Mark your calendar for these events:

- Saturday, Sept. 19: Café con Leche with Jackie Colucci, a Medicare insurance planner, who will help you understand Medicare so you can make informed choices.
- Saturday, Sept. 26: Hispanic Heritage Celebration. Buy your tickets before this social and dancing event sells out!
- Saturday, Oct. 24: Bailaween Fiesta Latina. Costumes encouraged

at this social and dancing event.
• Saturday, Nov. 7: Honoring Our Troops & Veterans Ceremony and celebration.
• December: Parranderos Latin caroling with home visits, singing and playing instruments.

We are also establishing an “amigos/caballeros/chicos” group following the success of our Chicas Latinas group. I'll share the official name once the fellows select it. Interested in getting together with other guys from our club? Let us know so you can join them!

You do not have to be Latino to join the fun! We have socials, dancing, weekly game nights, monthly dinners, outings, Chicas Latinas gatherings, plus 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.



Photo by Silvia C. Garcia

Winners of singo.

Serving with Heart

By Gail Morris

The Lions Club was fortunate to have a guest speaker at our first meeting in August. Cindy Moody from Marion Senior Services presented our club members with opportunities to assist our community. She spoke about the nutrition program, Meals on Wheels, congregate dining clubs, and the commodity supplemental food program for seniors in Marion County. She also shared information about in-home support the organization provides, as well as the transportation provided to seniors, Marion Transit, for appointments and shopping at a very reasonable cost.

Members were encouraged to consider donating their time as well as donating the club funds to this service. Cindy reminded our members that Marion Senior Services is independence with dignity and support with heart.

Some of our members started volunteering in August for the Special Olympics bowling competition. Members assisted the athletes who were bowling with scoring and proper lane etiquette. We were also pleased to present medals to the teams we assisted. These athletes came from Marion County, Alachua County, and Bradford County. It was a fun morning.

We had a very busy August with a District 35 cabinet meeting in Jacksonville. This meeting is when the Lions Clubs across District 35L present the “parade of checks” to the various entities that the individual clubs support with funds raised throughout the year. We are very pleased to be presenting checks to the Lions Clubs International Foundation, Florida Center for the Blind, North Florida Eye Bank, Dogs, Inc., Interfaith Ministries Relief in Marion County, and Marion County Memorial Honor Guard. We were also able to assist District 35L in purchasing hurricane preparedness supplies for distribution, should the need arise this hurricane season.

Our members were also able to participate in diabetes training. All of that

training is in preparation for the Health & Wellness Expo at Circle Square Cultural Center in January 2027.

We are also preparing to participate in the Club Fair at Circle Square Cultural Center on Thursday, Sept. 10. Come join us and learn more about our club and meet some of our members. Come join

our club and help make a difference in our community.

Lions Club meetings are 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, our membership chair, at 909-262-8407.



Photo by Melanie Matias

Special Olympics volunteers: Lions Duane Covert, Lion Gail Morris, Lion Elyse Matriccino.

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⁴Each annual membership period, BJ's Club+ primary members receive 2 same-day deliveries with no standard delivery fee on eligible net orders of \$50+ placed on Bjs.com or in the BJ's app. Same-day delivery is not available in all ZIP codes or for all orders and is not guaranteed. Residential addresses only. Terms apply; see Bjs.com/terms

World Traveler

Bill Shampine



And now, back to the modern wonders!

Chichén Itzá is located in the Yucatán Peninsula about 100 miles west of Playa del Carmen, Mexico. It was a very large Mayan city, the main portion of which covers almost two square miles, that thrived from about 600 to 1200 CE.

In 1894, the United States Consul to Yucatán, Edward Herbert Thompson, purchased the Hacienda Chichén, which included the ruins of Chichén Itzá. He explored the area for 30 years and collected many artifacts. In 1926, the Mexican government charged Edward Thompson with theft of the artifacts he had found and sent to the Peabody Museum at Harvard University.

In 1944, however, the Mexican Supreme Court ruled that he had broken no laws and returned the site to his heirs. The family then sold the hacienda to another private buyer. In 1972, the Mexican government put all of the nation’s pre-Columbian monuments, including those at Chichén Itzá, under federal ownership.

Chichén Itzá, one of the largest Mayan cities, supported a population of 35,000 to 50,000 people. Populations of this size need lots of water to survive, which in this case was provided by an abundance of groundwater. There are four visible, natural sinkholes, called cenotes, that would have provided ready access to

plentiful water. Over the years, Chichén Itzá has been cleaned up and turned into a fertile site for archeological research and tourism. The site contains many fine stone buildings in various states of preservation, and many have even been restored. In its heyday, the city must have been very striking in appearance, as the buildings were originally painted red, green, blue, and purple!

The most famous building in the complex is the Temple of Kukulcán (a Maya feathered serpent deity similar to the Aztec Quetzalcoatl). It is a step pyramid that stands about 98 feet high, with a

20-foot-high temple upon the summit. Archaeologists have identified 13 ballcourts used to play a Mesoamerican ballgame. What is known as the Great Ball Court is the most impressive of them. It is 551 by 230 feet. The game was played with a solid rubber ball weighing roughly six to nine pounds. The objective was to keep the ball in motion using hips, thighs, or elbows; use of hands or feet was strictly forbidden. There was a strong religious connotation to the game, and sacrifices occasionally were made to honor the Gods; however, contrary to popular belief, not all losers were sacrificed.

The Cenote Sagrado (Sacred Cenote or Well of Sacrifice) is beautiful and a place of pilgrimage for the ancient Maya. The hole is 200 feet in diameter and surrounded by sheer cliffs that drop to the water table 89 feet below. By dredging the cenote, many artifacts of gold, copper, and carved jade, as well as human bones, have been found.

Other well-known sites in the complex include the Temple of the Warriors, the Group of a Thousand Columns, El Mercado, the Osario (another step pyramid), the Temple of Xtoloc, and many more.

Chichén Itzá is a great place to visit!



The Pyramid of Kukulcán at Chichén Itzá.

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

may be made Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with the coordinators listed for each event. Reservations may be made for only two people at one 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 Suncoast Dinner Theater production “Pretty Woman the Musical,” on Saturday, Oct. 17, is sold out. To be added to the waitlist, call Diane Knox on 352-390-2386. The next production is “Dear Evan Hansen” on Saturday, Nov. 14. Call Sharon Stetson on 207-838-3776 to reserve your spot (please do not call

on Mondays). This play is a musical about a high school senior with social anxiety whom 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. On Monday, Sept. 28, reservations will open for “A Christmas Carol, The Musical” on Sunday, Dec. 13. Call Linda Uhley on 352-854-8536 to make your reservation.

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 on 804-243-4008.

The Travel Toppers Club will be represented at the upcoming Club Fair on Thursday, Sept. 10, at Circle Square Cultural Center. Come by our table and say hello!

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.

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Friends of SPCA

Heather Tahan



We'd like to start by extending a hearty thank-you to Paulette Bourgon, who is moving. Paulette has supported our organization for decades, donating her time and serving in various officer positions, most recently as vice president. We can't thank her enough for all the time she's spent over the years helping homeless pets in Marion County and just being a terrific neighbor. We wish Paulette and her husband many years of health and happiness and are grateful for her compassion and friendship.

Mark your calendar for the second annual murder mystery dinner theater fundraiser on Nov. 20, 21, and 22. Due to the overwhelming success of last year's event, we have added an additional evening of fun.

We will also have larger raffles and more baskets to bid on. Two VIP tables will be offered per night for an additional fee, with special early seating access, extra raffle tickets for each person, fabulous table favors, and more. There will also be extra-special baskets available for bid, drawn at the end of all three nights.

Tickets go on sale to residents at The Landing on Tuesday, Sept. 22, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 to 7 p.m. For more information, please email Marlene Hatch, president, at marlenehatch64@gmail.com.

Feel free to stop by our table at the Circle Square Commons Farmers Market, starting in September or after the heat dies down, whichever comes first. Other ways to support Friends of SPCA include visiting our coffee and donuts table at the upcoming Club Fair on Thursday, Sept. 10, and the Craft Fair on Saturday, Oct. 17. Membership materials and information about Friends of SPCA will also be available.

Starting in September, monthly meetings will be held on the third Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. at The Summit Meeting Rooms 1 & 2. Doors open at 12:45 p.m. and meetings will start promptly at 1 p.m. Our first meeting at the new location will be Thursday, Sept. 17. You must present your resident ID or Gateway of Services pass to attend.

For information on our programs and membership, please call our SPCA help line at 352-362-0985 or visit SPCAofMarionCounty.weebly.com, follow us on Facebook (Marion County FL SPCA), or email spca.marion.county@gmail.com.

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, FL 34481. We also accept blankets, sheets, and other pet supplies. We distribute all porch donations to local shelters and needy pets. To prevent

accidental ingestion, please avoid using staples to close open bags. Your generosity truly makes a difference.

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

Moonstruck Astronomy Club

Cammie Fairburn



Why couldn't the astronaut book a room on the Moon? Because it was full!

The Nancy Grace Roman Telescope should launch from the Kennedy Space Center on Sunday, Aug. 30. It was named for Nancy Grace Roman, NASA's first chief of astronomy, who is considered the "mother" of the Hubble Space Telescope.

The Roman telescope's mirror is the same size as Hubble's mirror, but its field of view is 100 times wider than Hubble's. Therefore, in its first five years, Roman will image more of the universe than Hubble did in 30 years.

The Roman telescope will measure dark energy, which is driving the expansion of the universe. Roman will also search for exoplanets in our galaxy. Exoplanets are planets outside our solar system, and more than 6,000 have been found so far. Very few of them are in the so-called "Goldilocks zone" or habitable zone around a star where its planets could have liquid water, and maybe "life."

At our July meeting, Glenn Cohen introduced us to selenography, the branch of planetary science that produces detailed maps of the Moon's surface, in-

cluding its craters and mountain ranges. The name "selenography" is derived from Selene, the Greek goddess of the Moon.

Selenography began in 1603, with the first drawing of the Moon done by naked-eye observation. The first drawing using a telescope was in 1750. The Moon was first photographed in 1840, and in 1959, it was photographed for the first time from a spacecraft.

Franz von Paula Gruithuisen (1774-1852) was a Bavarian astronomer who made drawings of the Moon, including of a city he named Lunar City. He confused light and dark shadows on the surface for streets and buildings. This is called "clair obscur" (French for "light-dark"), where the contrast between light and shadow leads to imaginary sightings.

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, Sept. 10. Residents with a valid 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!



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

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

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

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

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

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



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- **Leaky Faucets/Showerheads:** Dripping can range from several gallons to hundreds of gallons of water per day.
- **Water Hose:** When left on with leaks at the spigot or nozzle.
- **Irrigation System:** Automatic irrigation solenoid valves not closing properly or excessive run times including multiple program cycles.
- **Water Softeners:** Excessively backwashing or the backwash valve failing.

*Water loss is estimated and varies depending on severity of leak.



September 2026

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7 - 10 PM

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Wednesdays
7 - 9 PM

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TUNES	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS	SATURDAYS
September 3 TIM HARGIS 7 - 10 PM	September 4 Pépère Joe's 6 PM	September 5 Curtside Cuisine 5 PM	
September 10 MARK RAISCH 7 - 10 PM	September 11 ULTIMATE SANTANA TRIBUTE BAND 7 - 10 PM	September 12 FLORIDA HIT MACHINE 7 - 10 PM	
September 17 BECKY BABY BAND 7 - 10 PM	September 18 Fat Tiki 6 PM	September 19 Steak Shack Bistro 6 PM	
September 24 GLASS TOWER 7 - 10 PM	September 25 THE EDGE OF ROCK 7 - 10 PM	September 26 GREG WARREN BAND 7 - 10 PM	
	September 18 Da Wing King Wings & More 6 PM	September 19 Leilany's Flavor Fusion 6 PM	
	September 25 THE PERMANENT VACATION BAND 7 - 10 PM	September 26 WEST27 7 - 10 PM	
	September 18 Lucky's Kitchen 6 PM	September 19 FALL FESTIVAL 7 - 10 PM	
	September 25 THE VOODOO GYPSIES 7 - 10 PM	September 26 FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • 5 - 9 PM ENTERTAINMENT & FOOD VENDORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. WEATHER PERMITTING.	

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#8828 - 8/23

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 Florid-

ians and American citizens in today's world. All residents 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, Sept. 8, 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 by returning to our country's moral compass.

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

Freethinkers

Kathy Bell



"Caring for our fellow human beings is our highest calling." - Jerry DeWitt, American author, public speaker, and atheist.

Freethinkers is pleased to welcome Tony Ray, executive director of Compassionate Options, on Sunday, Sept. 13. Tony is a fifth-generation Floridian who, in retirement, has transformed his experience as a business owner into building a nonprofit, grassroots movement dedi-

cated to advancing legislation that gives terminally ill Floridians greater autonomy, dignity, and control over their personal healthcare decisions. Tony will discuss the current state of legislative efforts in Florida. While Oregon passed such legislation in 1997 and 12 states have followed suit, including New York in 2026, our own state representatives have not considered the bills introduced over the past three years. Additionally, Tony will provide insight into education, advocacy, and awareness of this very important issue.

On Sunday, Sept. 27, our friend Dr. Rod Broker will be back to present "Protest Music of the '50s and '60s," an informative and entertaining look at how protest music shaped our formative years.

Emphasis on friendship is often encouraged in Joy in the Mourning gatherings. A common bond is established; however, healing through this journey takes time. Being involved in a bereavement support group allows one to find hope, healing, and friends who relate and understand.

When one is first faced with their loss, the temptation is to isolate. Fear of the unknown also hinders the healing process. Let the following quote sink into your soul: "I learned that courage is not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers fear," by Nelson Mandela.

Friends, Joy in the Mourning can aid you in overcoming fear and provide an environment to develop lasting friendships as you grow through what you are going through to discover your new purpose in life. You still do have a purpose. You still have a life! Joy in the Mourning meets every Friday at the Arbor Activity Center Music Room from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Join us. Call Deb at 352-445-4860 for more information.

Joy in the Mourning

Deb Thompson



Recently, a former Joy in the Mourning member sent me this quote on friendship: "Friendship is the comfort that comes from knowing that even when you feel all alone, you aren't." - Author Unknown

This member completed the four-book series on grief by Stephen Ministries. In the final book, "Rebuilding and Remembering," the word "friendship" was mentioned 12 times. This is a lot since the book is short. There is great significance when a word or thought is repeated often. Friendship is of great value, so we see its importance.

Having been a Brownie and Girl Scout, thus repeating their motto weekly, "Make new friends but keep the old. Some are silver, the others gold," the value of friendship was ingrained for life.



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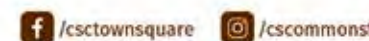
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Looking forward to meeting everyone
and keeping this new group going.

It was precisely this narrative that the “Indonesian Extravaganza Night” aimed to unravel. Hosted by the Global Diversity Asian Social Club at The Sum-

We are proud to announce that donations were made to both the local non-profit, Sewing Bees, and Yayasan Anak Unik in Bali. This commitment stems from our unwavering belief that every young person, regardless of their circumstances, deserves the opportunity to

We extend our deepest gratitude to attendees whose enthusiastic participation and generous contributions made this event possible, enabling us to support vital causes and invest in the future of youth in need. Our sincere appreciation goes to Merusaka Bali, Mercure Bali, Plagoo Holiday, and Novotel Bali in Nusa Dua for their exceptional generosity in providing complimentary accommodation and dining vouchers.



The teachers and staff of Yayasan Anak Unik School in Bali posed together to thank you for supporting their students.

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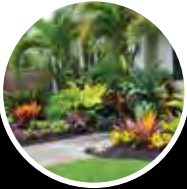
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Pros and Cons of Bird Feeding

In September, Florida’s climate and bird activity change, so feeding can still be rewarding – but it requires careful planning to avoid spoilage, disease, and over-reliance on feeders.

Pros

- 1. Supporting resident and migratory birds: By September, many Florida residents are still active, and some migratory species are passing through or settling in for the season. Feeding can help them build fat reserves before colder months.
- 2. Year-round feeding benefits: If you enjoy seeing birds and want to support them through the year, September feeding keeps your feeder routine going. It can also encourage birds to return in winter.
- 3. Variety of foods available: In September, you can offer fruits (oranges, grapes, berries), suet, and seeds that birds eat year-round. This variety can attract more species.
- 4. Educational and observational value: Feeding provides opportunities to observe bird behavior, learn about species, and enjoy nature in your yard.

Cons

- 1. Spoilage risk: Florida’s high humidity and occasional afternoon rains can cause seed to clump, mold, or ferment quickly. Loose fruit can attract ants, wasps, flies, and raccoons.
- 2. Disease transmission: Feeding in warm, humid weather increases the risk of birds spreading bacteria like Salmonella or E. coli through close contact at feeders.
- 3. Predation and collision hazards: Luring birds to the same spot can make them more vulnerable to cats, hawks, and window collisions.
- 4. Over-reliance on feeders: If feeders are left up too long, birds may become dependent, reducing their foraging skills and making them less adaptable to food shortages.
- 5. Heat and suet issues: Suet can soften, go rancid, or stick to birds’ plumage in high heat, especially if not stored properly.

Best Practices

- Use heat- and humidity-resistant foods: Black oil sunflower seed, safflower, white proso millet, shelled peanuts, oranges, grapes, mealworms, and heat-safe suet.
- Keep feeders in shade and clean them daily or after rain.
- Offer only what birds finish quickly to reduce spoilage.
- Provide fresh water daily, with extra rinsing in peak heat.
- Consider suet feeders but remove them if suet goes rancid.
- Monitor for pests and remove spoiled food promptly.

In September, feeding in Florida can be beneficial for birds and for you, but it’s best done with careful attention to hygiene, food choice, and timing to avoid spoilage, disease, and over-reliance.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR
Pick up after your pet.

Birders’ Beat

Linda Monaco



It’s time to get out your calendar and pencil in the dates of the birding outings that have been scheduled for this fall and winter season. We are going to visit a few new destinations and enjoy lunch at some different restaurants. Here’s what we have planned so far. Keep in mind that dates, trip locations, and lunch sites may change due to a variety of reasons.

THURSDAY, OCT. 15, AND TUESDAY, OCT.

20: Two boat rides on the Rainbow and Withlacoochee Rivers in Dunnellon. Lunch will be at The Front Porch (Oct. 15) and Swampy’s (Oct. 20).

We have been able to reschedule the twice-canceled visits to the Ocala Owl Sanctuary. If you were originally signed up for this outing, you will be notified of the rescheduled date.

TUESDAY, NOV. 10: A visit to Ocala Wetlands and Tusawilla Park in Ocala. Lunch is planned at The Depot. Maxfield Weakley, president of Marion Audubon, is scheduled to lead this outing.

SATURDAY, DEC. 19: The Audubon Christmas Bird Count. If you would like to volunteer, contact Linda Monaco at Lmonaco47@gmail.com.

JANUARY 2027: A trip to Paynes Prairie State Park or Sweetwater Wetlands in Gainesville during the second half of the month. The final destination will depend upon water levels and where the birds are most plentiful. Lunch will be at La Tienda Latina in Gainesville. Bubba Scales from Gainesville is scheduled to lead this group.

FEBRUARY 2027: A trip to Yankeetown to visit the Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve and Bird Creek Beach. After the walk, the group will lunch at Blackwater Restaurant.

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2027: A visit to Carney Island Conservation and Recreation Area in Ocklawaha with lunch at Francesco’s in Summerfield. Maxfield Weakley will be leading this outing.

APRIL 2027: A visit during the last week of the month to the St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park in St. Augustine. This is a longer road trip, but the rookery in the park should be filled with many bird nests and chicks. Lunch will be at a nearby restaurant.

If you would like more information about our trips, check out the Birders’ Beat column each month from October through April. The column will include the destination for the monthly trip and how to register. Some trips have a maximum number of participants, so it’s important to register quickly to guarantee a place.



Eastern bluebird.

Photo by Nancy Stephens

Eco Gardeners

Phil Karcheski



This month, let’s focus on what Eco Gardeners can expect this growing season in Zone 9B in Florida.

Our zone is a gardener’s paradise with an incredibly generous growing season stretching nearly 300 days. Your biggest advantage here is warmth – almost year-round sunshine means you can grow multiple crop cycles and experiment with heat-loving plants that struggle in cooler regions. Tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants thrive, and you can often harvest two or three rounds of many vegetables before other zones even start planting.

The trade-off for this long season is persistent pest pressure and intense summer heat that can stress plants. You’ll need strategies such as using shade cloth, watering early in the morning, and selecting heat-tolerant varieties. Mulching becomes your best friend, helping retain soil moisture and regulate ground temperature during those scorching afternoons.

Your gardening rhythm will feel different from other zones – you’ll be planting cool-season crops in late fall and winter, while warm-season crops go in early. This unique timing allows incredible diversity and continuous production, making Zone 9B one of the most productive gardening environments in the United States.

Audrey’s Little Farm thoughtfully selected these varieties: Clemson spineless okra, early jalapeño, black beauty zucchini, spaghetti squash, Better Boy hybrid tomato, Early Girl hybrid tomato, Kentucky Blue pole bean, serrano hot pepper, long purple eggplant, Armenian cucumber, California black-eye beans, and Sungold hybrid cherry tomatoes.

The Eco Gardeners will meet on Monday, Sept. 21, at 1:15 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. Visitors are welcome and/or can sign up for a garden. No experience needed.

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

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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. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, Sept. 10. Our speaker will be Cammy Dennis. She will be talking about wellness. Our charity will be Transitions of Life Center of Ocala. Their wish list for donations includes paper towels, paper plates, napkins, disposable plasticware, disposable cups, Clorox wipes, Lysol wipes, cleaning detergents, and new blankets.

The board of directors met over the summer to plan the events for the upcoming 2026-2027 year. The board includes Michele Croud, president; Dolores Burke, first vice president; Marilyn Cepanec, second vice president; Patricia Pratt, treasurer; Lois Rowland, secretary; and Chairwomen Jan Spielvogel, Laura Rubert, Colleen Rocafort, 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.

Rhode Island Group

Judy Parisi



In many cities, the oasis is their premier park. In Providence, that would be Roger Williams Park, which was created in 1871 with some 102 acres of farmland and woodland donated to the city by Betsey Williams. This acreage included land from Betsey's ancestor, Roger Williams, the founder of Rhode Island, who had been given land by the Narragansett sachems Canonicus and Miantonomo in the 1600s.

Horace Cleveland designed the park as an escape for those working in the industrialized Providence in the late nineteenth century. After Betsey's bequest, the park quadrupled in size to more than 435 acres. Within the park are a variety

of recreational and educational opportunities, including swan boats, a vibrant zoo, and venues for picnics, softball, biking, tennis, community festivals, and weddings. There are also monuments and sculptures of people and events important to the state.

There is a botanical center comprised of several buildings, the largest of which is a glass-and-steel conservatory and one of New England's largest indoor public gardens. The center contains perennial gardens, a native plant meadow, and a rose maze.

Across from the botanical center is the home for the Providence Mounted Command. This is home base for the horses when they are not patrolling the city or appearing at special events. Visitors are welcome to see the horses and stable in group tours, by appointment, and with classroom visits.

Musical events at the park are often held at the bandstand, an ornate struc-

ture with 12 Corinthian columns supporting a 30-foot-diameter dome.

A particularly beautiful area is a Japanese garden built under the Depression-era Federal work program, the Works Progress Administration. It is used for wedding pictures, quiet reflection, painting and drawing classes.

A spot hosting concerts by the Rhode Island Philharmonic is the Temple to Music. This was built in 1924 through a bequest from William Curtis Benedict, an olive oil merchant. It is a popular spot for yoga and wedding and graduation photos.

Should you travel to Providence and like some quiet, reflective time amidst sightseeing, consider visiting Roger Williams Park.

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



Temple to Music.

Photo by Judy Parisi



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Maintenance Tips

Matthew McClain



The Heat is On!

Florida summers are tough on A/C systems! With the heat, humidity, and long run times, your A/C is working hard to keep your home comfortable. A few simple maintenance steps can help your system run efficiently and prevent avoidable issues:

- Change your air filter regularly: A dirty filter restricts airflow and makes your A/C work harder. Check your filter monthly and replace it as needed.
- Keep your condensate drain line clear: Your A/C removes humidity from the air, and that moisture drains through the condensate line. Over time, algae and buildup can restrict the line, causing water to back up. Periodically check-

- ing and maintaining the condensate drain line can help prevent clogs and potential water damage.
- Keep the area around your outdoor unit clear: Make sure grass, weeds, landscaping, or other items aren't blocking airflow around the condenser.
- Keep doors and windows closed while the A/C is running: This helps keep the cool air inside and the hot, humid Florida air outside.
- Check your vents: Make sure furniture, rugs, or other items don't block supply and return vents.
- Don't be alarmed by longer run times: During periods of extreme heat, it is normal for your A/C to run for extended periods as it works to maintain the temperature inside your home.
- Pay attention to unusual changes: If you notice warm air coming from the vents, unusual noises, water around the indoor unit, or the system struggling to maintain temperature, don't wait to address it.

Your A/C system not only cools your home – but it also removes humidity. Keeping the system properly maintained helps it do both jobs effectively. A clogged condensate line can cause the system to shut down or cause water to back up around the indoor unit, so this is an important part of routine A/C maintenance.

Tech Tips

Shane Bobson
info@mybridgenet.com



Making the Most of Your Hydrawise System

Conserving water is a wonderful way to protect our local environment and lower monthly utility bills. In On Top of the World, many homes are already equipped with advanced tools like Hunter Hydrawise irrigation systems.

If you already have a smart controller installed, you have a powerful tool right at your fingertips. Here is how to ensure you get the most out of it and maximize water savings.

LET PREDICTIVE WATERING DO THE WORK:

Traditional sprinkler timers run on a rigid schedule, often wasting thousands of gallons by watering right after a heavy rainstorm. Hydrawise uses internet-sourced local weather data to run Predictive Watering. It dynamically adjusts watering schedules based on temperature forecasts, rainfall, and humidity.

Check your app settings to ensure your location and local weather station source are dialed in accurately. Letting the system manage adjustments automatically cuts outdoor water waste by up to 50% without you ever having to touch a dial.

PAIR WITH FLOW MONITORING FOR LEAK

DETECTION: A hidden underground pipe leak or a broken sprinkler head can quietly waste massive amounts of water and drive up bills before it is noticed. When paired with a flow meter, your system monitors real-time water flow through the pipes.

Ensure your alert notifications are turned on in the mobile app. If a pipe bursts or a zone acts abnormally, the system will send an immediate notifica-

A little routine maintenance goes a long way – especially during a Florida summer! Taking a few minutes to check your filter, keep your equipment clear, and make sure your condensate drain is flowing properly can help keep your home cool, comfortable, and protected. Stay cool, and thank you for taking care of your home!

tion to your smartphone so you can address it before it causes landscape damage or high utility fees.

SIMPLIFY MANAGEMENT FROM YOUR

SMARTPHONE: Gone are the days of walking out to the garage or bending down to tinker with a confusing wall-mounted timer box. The system's mobile and web application allows you to view your watering history, check water-saving summaries, or manually run specific zones right from your couch or patio.

Use custom zone names in the app (like "Front Flower Bed" or "Side Yard") instead of generic numbers. This makes seasonal adjustments or temporary shutdowns for lawn care completely effortless.

Utilizing the full capabilities of the technology you already own keeps landscapes healthy, conserves precious local resources, and keeps maintenance entirely stress-free.

Tech 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 of Android, Windows, and Apple devices, including current issues. OcalaTechClub.org will give lots of great information about our group.

When thinking of home safety, let's consider video doorbells. These send alerts, offer two-way audio, and videos to your smartphone to let you know who is at your entryway. The debate would be whether to install a battery-powered device or one that connects to your home's doorbell wiring, thus enabling nonstop recording – or both. In addition to the purchase price, an optional monthly fee would apply to video storage on the company website. Search for companies with features like motion detection, night vision, a range of video quality settings, and a 120-degree or larger field of view.

Regarding placement, limit your zones of motion to avoid viewing street traffic, swaying trees, reflective window or mirror surfaces, etc., as these will all trigger your camera's video. Look for a setting in the corresponding app to shorten the camera's focal length. Optimal detection is from 15 to 20 feet, and at night, around 10 to 15 feet – especially if you want to clearly see who is approaching your house.

From a legal standpoint, Florida requires all parties' consent to audio recording under Fla. Stat. § 934.03. Where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy, like standing outside your door, video-only surveillance with no audio is generally legal. To reduce legal risk, disable audio recording on outdoor cameras, which might even pick up anyone's nearby private conversations. If your camera has two-way audio or always-on audio recording, start the conversation to make sure everyone who might be recorded is aware and consents, and post visible signage that audio/video is in use.

Placing security cameras on your own property is legal, on the exterior of your home's front door, driveway, garage, backyard, and other areas you own. The boundary is that the cameras are aimed at your own yard, walkways, and structures. Aiming at a neighbor's private spaces where they have their own expectation of privacy would not be legal. Search for Florida surveillance camera laws to get more detailed information and help you stay within the law regarding your installation and use of this video doorbell.

Residents are welcome to join our club for \$10 per individual per year or \$15 per couple. The "Contact" page on OcalaTechClub.org will get you in touch with us.

Each Thursday, members enjoy an in-person help session to discuss issues with their Windows or Apple computers, smartphones, or tablets. In-person classes are held on the first Friday and first Saturday each month, with online Zoom meetings held on additional Saturdays. Other than the Zoom meetings, everything we do is held in the Hobby Building.

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Membership meetings are 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 starts at 7:30 p.m. We hope to

To join, you must be single with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. Visit otowactivesingles.com to learn more, view our calendar, and see how easy it is to become a member. We may be single, but we are never alone. We enjoy plenty of fun with fellow members.



Photo by Mike Meyers

Members at the Raized Wrong concert.

Single Women Active Networking System (SWANS) is beginning their 21st year. It is the only club for single women. Our mission is to promote social interaction and to enrich, encourage, and respect single women. We are a diverse group of all ages. Over the years, I have had the pleasure of watching younger SWANS laugh, talk, and even cry alongside our older SWANS, and that bond is one of the things that make this club so special.

Why are the SWANS so unique compared to other clubs? First, we are the

In addition, SWANS volunteers arrange monthly breakfasts, lunches, and dinners at local restaurants. Those events have also continued for 20 years. In the early days, it was sometimes said

The purpose of this column is to introduce SWANS to new single residents. Many of our ladies knew no one when they first moved to On Top of the World, and joining SWANS helped them feel they belonged, felt safe, and built lasting friendships. Some members have enjoyed friendships for more than 10 years, and I have personally been part of the group for 20 years. Together, we enjoy the symphony, the theatre, the mov-

We welcome new members at any time, and I look forward to meeting the SWANS who have recently joined us. Our membership meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 5, at 9:30 a.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios. We will have membership forms and sign-up sheets available for upcoming trips. If you need more information, you can call Lois at 352-854-0558.

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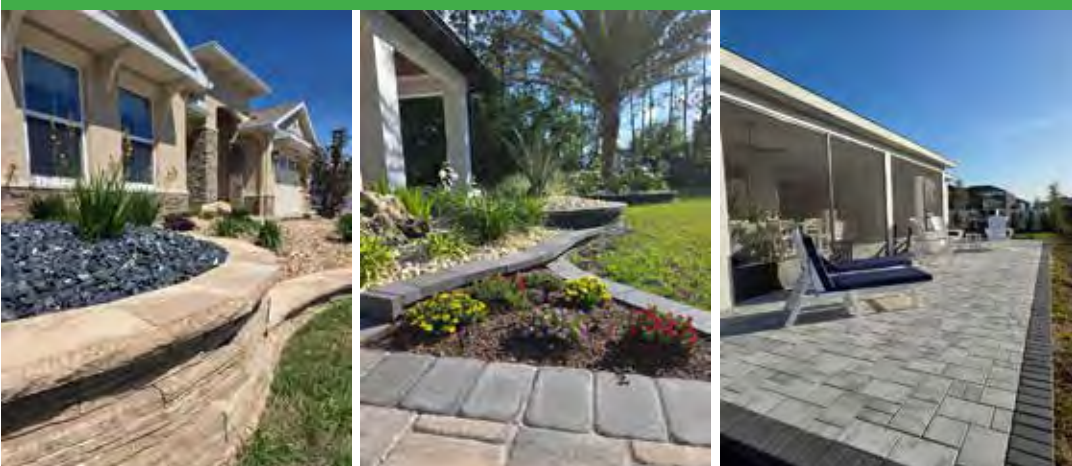
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The Jewish Club

Bruce Kanner



Not too long ago, there was nothing officially going on in the Jewish Club during the summer months. Then three years ago, a July pizza party was added. And this year the club is up to eight summer events. In June, we held a lunch bunch outing and went to the Judaica Library at the University of Florida. In July, we had another successful pizza party, as well as trips to Don Garlits and the planetarium in Gainesville. Members had three more events scheduled in August, with the club hosting trivia for all residents and trips to Tarpon Springs, including a ride on a working sponge boat and a visit to one of our member's Ocala presidential library collection.

Around the track he went and on the road went the Jewish Club as a handful of members visited the Don Garlits Museum of Drag Racing in July. There are two buildings full of iconic dragsters, rare antiques, vintage muscle cars, Hall of Fame cars, early hot rods, and classics, plus a gift shop. Thanks to Bill Nicholls of the social committee for making the arrangements. Nicholls wrote: "Mission accomplished! We had a safe and fun expedition to Don Garlits Drag Racing Museum yesterday and a very nice lunch

afterward at nearby Cracker Barrel!" The summer pizza party has been around for three years and each year seems to get better and better. This year's event on Monday, July 27, was held at the Veterans Park pavilion, which accommodated more attendees than last year's venue. Having the event at this location also permitted members to bring their own alcohol. There was Piesano's pizza, salad, cookies, and member-donated desserts. It was a bring-your-own-beverage event, as always. More than 50 club members attended. Thanks to Lois Trepper and her committee for making this another enjoyable summertime event.

Ever look to the sky and wonder if anything or anyone is out there? James Albury, director of the planetarium at Santa Fe College in Gainesville, took club members on an exploration of the skies on the lookout for exoplanets during a trip Wednesday, July 29. About 20 members attended. Thank you to Joan Kasfir for putting this trip together again.

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.



Andy and Cyndee Schaub, Bill Nicholls and Gene Wolotsky pose during a trip to Don Garlits Museum of Drag Racing in July.

What's Cookin'?

Nancy Grabowski



Savory Mushroom & Gruyère Puff Pastry Braid

1 sheet of puff pastry, thawed
2 cups mushrooms, chopped (such as cremini or button)
1 cup Gruyère cheese, grated (Swiss can be subbed)
1 medium onion, finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 egg, beaten (for egg wash)
Salt and pepper to taste
1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar, optional
Preheat your oven to 400°F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a large skillet, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add the chopped onion and sauté until translucent, about three to four minutes.

Add the garlic and mushrooms, cooking until the mushrooms are tender and any liquid has evaporated, about five to seven minutes. Season with salt, pepper, thyme, and balsamic vinegar if using.

Roll out the puff pastry sheet on a lightly floured surface into a rectangle.

Spoon the mushroom mixture down the center of the pastry, then top with grated Gruyère cheese.

Cut slits along the sides of the pastry, about one inch apart, and fold them over the filling, alternating sides to create a braid effect.

Brush the top of the pastry with the beaten egg to give it a golden color when baked.

Bake in the preheated oven for 25 to 30 minutes or until the pastry is golden brown and flaky.

Friends of Bill W Group



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

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

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 meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room II. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, Sept. 22.

I was recently reading about the Mediterranean diet and how healthy people who follow it are. Scandinavians generally live longer than the global average, so I wondered whether there is a Scandinavian diet that contributes to that longevity.

As a former resident in Minnesota, where it is at least as cold as northern Scandinavia, my mother always suggested the long life there was because the population was frozen half the year.

That consideration aside, is there a Scandinavian diet? Well, it turns out there is.

Emphasized are whole grains such as rye, oats, and barley; cold-water fish such as salmon, herring, and mackerel; canola oil; legumes and root vegetables; fermented dairy, plus nuts and seeds. Simple, straightforward methods of preparation are preferred. Fondue was very popular in Minnesota and was considered a Scandinavian method of cooking and enjoying food. Dip meat and veggies in a pot of hot oil and eat. Very simple.

At our meetings, food is a constant, with members bringing Scandinavian dishes for us to sample and discuss. The Scandinavian American Club is a great place to enjoy fun, fellowship, and unusually good Scandinavian food.

We also talk about our 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. Join us.

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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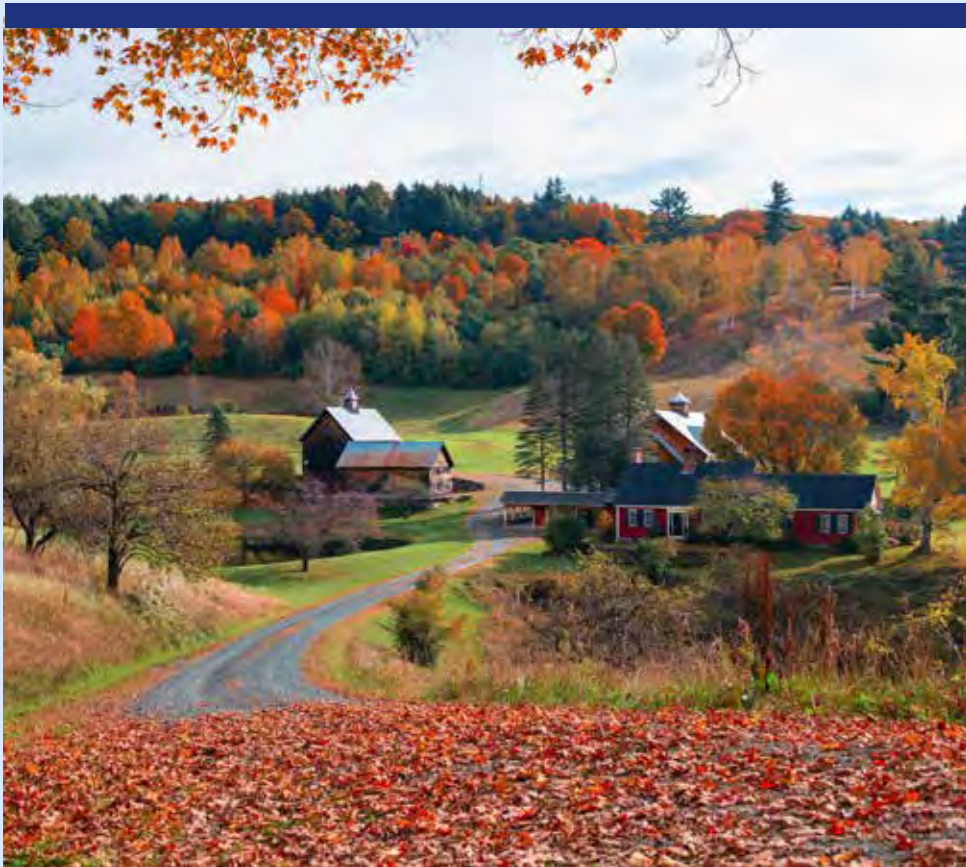
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Annual Veterans Classic Softball Tournament

By John Herman

Attention all On Top of the World military veterans! This year brings about our fifth annual Veterans Classic Softball Tournament on Saturday, Nov. 7. Please mark your calendar, as a full day of activities is being planned to commemorate Veterans Day, starting with the Posting of the Colors by the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard at 8:30 a.m. This will be followed by a single-elimination, round-robin intra-military branch-of-service softball tournament, culminating in the championship game in the afternoon.

All residents and guests are welcome to attend and cheer for your favorite military branch as they compete for championship bragging rights and ownership

of the coveted Captains Championship trophy. Be ready to enjoy the sunshine outdoors; bring chairs, sun umbrellas, and refreshments. Other activities will include a “come one, come all” home run derby, food truck lunch concession, and more, so be there or be square.

If you are a military veteran, please visit our website and take a moment to register if you are interested in playing at: <https://sites.google.com/view/otowvcst>.

Feel free to contact John Herman directly at vcstsoftball@gmail.com if you have any questions.

The tournament’s rain date is Sunday, Nov. 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.



2025 champions – Air Force team.

Photo by Charles “Corky” Gaskel

Come Sail Away

By Gene Mangold

Since we sail and race at Tuscawilla Park, we have several visitors with questions: Do we have motors in our wind-driven boats? How can we go directly into the wind? How fast can our little boats go? Do we ever get stuck out there if the wind dies? How much do they cost?

All of these questions are very good, so here are our replies.

Our racing rules do not allow motors, so we must rely only on the wind. Motors make the boats more complicated and expensive, so we keep it simple.

Sailboats cannot sail directly into the

wind. Pointing straight into the wind causes the sails to flap uselessly (luffing) and the boat stalls. Instead, sailboats travel upwind by sailing at an angle – typically 35° to 45° off the wind direction – and zigzagging toward their destination, a process known as tacking.

When trimmed tight at an angle to the wind (a point of sail called close-hauled), a curved sail acts like a vertical airplane wing. Air travels faster along the outer, curved side than along the inner side, creating low pressure on the outside.

This pressure difference generates an aerodynamic force (lift) that pulls perpendicular to the sail – partly forward, but mostly sideways.

Left unchecked, the sail’s strong sideways force would simply drift the boat sideways (leeway). A keel or centerboard acts like a wing in the water, generating an opposing hydrodynamic force against the water. Because the keel blocks sideways motion, the net resultant force squeezes the boat forward along its streamlined hull. The keel also acts like a teeter totter, keeping the boat upright.

The water’s resistance allows the boats to move only at a speed determined by physics. Since they are only 34” in length, their maximum speed is about 2.5 miles per hour. Sometimes the wind is so strong that the hull is lifted onto the water for a moment, and it may go five miles per hour or more, but this is rare. These boats are displacement hulls rather than planing hulls.

Our boats weigh only about five pounds, and the lightest little breeze will send the little boats to the nearest bank. We have been sailing here for over 10 years and never had to wade out to get a boat.

The price of a new DF95 is about \$500, and a used one in good condition is about \$300. It is a good idea to get a popular model and a quality-built one like the DF95; otherwise, you are throwing your money away. It will not sail well, and it will have a short life with no resale value. Other popular, high-quality boats will cost about the same price.

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



Launching a boat.

Photo by Gene Mangold

Let's Ride

By Nick Arkon

Velo Sport Bicycle Club is a loosely formed group of local cycling enthusiasts who share a passion for riding bicycles and enjoying the many benefits of group cycling. There are no elected officers – and there are no club dues. Our purpose is simple: to encourage residents to ride for health, friendship, and a greater appreciation of cycling.

Velo Sport generally offers three levels of cycling – beginner, intermediate, and advanced – allowing riders to participate at a level that matches their experience and fitness.

Beginner rides are designed for those who are new to cycling or prefer an easy pace and limited distance. The emphasis is on becoming comfortable on the bicycle, developing confidence, and enjoying the experience. A designated ride leader is assigned.

Intermediate riders travel somewhat greater distances and work on improving their overall conditioning. Riders also learn the fundamentals of riding in a pace line, developing the skills, awareness, and discipline needed to ride safely and efficiently with a group. A designated ride leader is assigned.

Advanced cycling is intended for serious, experienced cyclists who enjoy challenging themselves with greater distances, speed, and conditioning. These rides provide an opportunity for experi-

enced riders to push their abilities and improve their performance. A designated ride leader is assigned.

Group riding offers many advantages. Cyclists can improve their cycling skills, balance, perception, and road awareness while learning from other riders. Group rides are also an excellent opportunity to learn how to handle minor bicycle problems, such as repairing a flat tire, and to understand which essential tools to carry in a seat bag.

Riders can also learn the importance of proper seat height, appropriate cycling clothing, and cycling shoes. Most importantly, every cyclist should carry personal identification on every ride in case of an emergency. Cycling helmets are mandatory.

Velo Sport Bicycle Club welcomes riders of different ages and abilities. For additional details, including where and when rides meet, please contact any of the ride leaders listed below.

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

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



Chari Bernhart, Nick Arkon, Dan Oaks and Dennis Fesset.

Photo by Nick Arkon

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As September rolls in and temperatures cool, fall has officially arrived, bringing one of the most anticipated times of year for sports fans: football season. For many, including myself, this is more than just a seasonal change. As a devoted fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers and Ohio State Buckeyes, I'm excited for what the season will bring. With the Buckeyes eyeing another run at a National Championship, hopes are high. Here's to cooler weather, great golf, and the thrill of the football season.

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 at Candler Hills and The Links, with teams randomly selected to play on each course. Registration is \$25 per player, which includes a \$5 donation to Folds of Honor. Folds of Honor provides post-secondary educational scholarships for children and spouses of military servicemen and women.

The opening of Irons 9 Pitch & Putt is right around the corner and marks an exciting new chapter for our golf community. Designed as a fun, welcoming nine-hole pitch-and-putt course, Irons 9 will provide an enjoyable experience for golfers of all ages and skill levels. Whether you're looking to sharpen your short game, introduce someone new to golf, or enjoy a quick round with family and friends, Irons 9 offers an accessible and memorable way to experience the game.

We look forward to welcoming everyone this fall as we celebrate the newest addition to our golf community.

The professional golf staff and the ladies golf committee are excited to announce the fourth annual On Top of the World Ladies Member-Guest Tournament, taking place on Friday, Sept. 25, at Candler Hills Golf Club.

This premier event brings together our golf members and their guests for a fun-filled day of friendly competition and camaraderie. The entry fee is \$300 per team and is limited to the first 60 teams to register. This event is for World, Candler Hills, or On Top of the World golf members only, with the final roster of participants announced on Monday, Sept. 7.

At the time of registration, the full \$300 entry fee is required. Each member may register their own team and one additional team. The entry fee includes hors d'oeuvres, continental breakfast, on-course contests, golf fees, tee gift, lunch, and prizes.

Upcoming Events

- Monday, Sept. 7: World Labor Day

event at Candler Hills and The Links.

- Monday, Sept. 14 through Thursday, Sept. 17: The Tortoise & The Hare closed for aerification.
- Thursday, Sept. 24 & Friday, Sept. 25: Ladies Member Guest at Candler Hills.
- Monday, Sept. 28: Cross Country at The Links.

World Accolades

THE LINKS: Bob Mondore shot 73 and 75 both under his age, and had a hole-in-one on #5.

CANDLER HILLS: Tony Vastano, hole-in-one #13. Ron Staiger, hole-in-one #8. Phil Petrozella, eagle #16. James Morgan, shot 73, seven strokes under his age. Bill Scholt, shot 85, one stroke under his age. Lou Ouellet, eagle #7. Bill White, hole-in-one #5. Ellen Brin, hole-in-one #17. Jeff Richardson, eagle #12. Kevin Richard, hole-in-one #7.

Ladies 18-Hole Golf Association

Pamela Robison



Step Aside Scramble
June 2/The Tortoise & The Hare

Tie at 61–Gayla Aldridge, Peggy Ellenberger, Christine McIntire, Cindy Goggin, Sharon Fairclough, Tracey Rouw, Nancy Zielinski, Virginia Madura. 62–Gail Lagrange, Virginia Combs, Robyn Atwood, Donna Cosenza. Tie at 65–Mary Jeannotte, Debby Wilson, Ellen Brin, 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, Terry Lemesh. Tie at 138–Lisa Free, Marcela Nunez, Patty Whitley, Donna Cosenza, Virginia Combs, Karen Shroeckenthaler, Peggy Weichmann, Joy Gerardi. 140–Diane Boston, Becky Bivins, Nancy Zielinski, Kathleen Mansfield. Tie at 141–Gail Lagrange, Jill Strey, Christine McIntire, Joy Gerardi, Beverly Overbo, Debra DeMatteo, Barbara Vincent, Cindy Pursel.

Shamble
June 16/The Links

121–Ellen Brin, Lisa Free, Robyn Atwood, Christine McIntire. Tie at 124–Peggy Weichmann, Connie Edelen, Jill Strey, Pamela Robison, Sharon Fairclough, Roxiann Dwyer. 125–Liz Pruss, Beverly Overbo, 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, Dianne Hartman, Roxiann Dwyer. Tie at 45–Lori Pizzini, Karen Campbell, Pamela Robison, Donna Brunell, Gayla Aldridge, Marcela Nunez, Ellen Brin, Virginia Madura, Lisa Free, Brenda Hoffman, Liz Pruss, Kathleen Mansfield, Linda Taylor, Karen Shroeckenthaler, Joann Delmar, Cindy Bobowski.

Some tips for golfing in the heat:

1. Drink plain water and alternate with electrolyte drinks to stay hydrated and avoid cramping.
2. Dress smartly, selecting lightweight, UPF-rated, loose-fitting clothing paired with a wide-brim hat.
3. Don't forget the sunblock and remember to reapply after nine holes.
4. Invest in a cooling towel and cart fans to help with lowering your core temperature between shots.

Men's Golf Association

John Yenne



The handicap committee is conducting a full review of all members' posted scores before year's end, following this summer's review of USGA/GHIN data. Members are reminded to post scores accurately and promptly.

Golf Shop staff are training on a new golf software program, which may roll out to members as early as September or October. More details will follow once a launch date is set.

The August Chicken Day Scramble drew 118 players, a strong turnout for the summer months.

Looking ahead, the Men's Golf Association (MGA) will have a table at the Club Fair on Thursday, Sept. 10, and a free food-and-drink event is planned for Wednesday, Oct. 14, in the Recreation Center, with more details to come.

A golf trivia event for members is also in the works for October. The board is exploring an annual appreciation luncheon for Golf Shop and course maintenance staff, as well as a possible members' holiday party in December.

Membership stands at 286.

For more information on the MGA, visit otowmga.com.

Put these upcoming Wednesdays on your calendar:

- Sept. 2: Chicken Day (The Links)
- Sept. 9: Individual Low Net/Low Gross (The Tortoise & The Hare)
- Sept. 16: Team Stableford, 2 Best Balls (The Links)
- Sept. 23: Step Aside Scramble (The Tortoise & The Hare)
- Sept. 30: Team, 3 Best Balls (The Links)

Chicken Day Scramble
Aug. 5

52–Greg McDowell, Bob Epps, Dennis McCourt, Michael Dwyer. 54–Patrick Nagy, Bradley Smith, Paul Snyder, Robert Zepf. Tie at 55–David Emmons, Gerry Messenger, Tom Nutt, Philip Petrozella; Randy Keller, Ritchie Thompson, Gerry Camp, Terry Rizer; Robert Kuhl, David Vincent, Bob Leiter, Bill Kenyon. Tie at 56–Tim Carlisle, Geoff Oetjen, Patrick Schwinn, John Johnson; Dan Goggin, Steve Wrazen, Larry Corder, Mario Grosso; Doyce Mathis, Mike Inge, Omer Fannin, Garfield Gray. Tie at 57–James McCormack, John Parnau, Paul Derosso, David Bauer; Roger Lukas, Stuart Martin, Mike Clancy, Thomas Kujawa; Thomas Mansfield, Guy Stiebing, John Spielvogel, Walter Knautz; Mark LaBeau, Travis Karlin, Bruce Green, Ken Hittmeier.

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Candler Hills
Ladies 18-Hole

Beth Wolinsky



Congratulations go out again for a hole-in-one. Ellen Brin got her hole-in-one on Thursday, July 23, on hole #17. It’s very exciting that we’ve had another one within a few weeks. As a matter of fact, Ellen was with Page Falconer when she got her hole-in-one on Thursday, June 11. Great job, Ellen! That’s quite an accomplishment. Aren’t we a bunch of talented ladies?

Three new members have joined our league: Nancy Olson, Joan MacEachern and Diane Hartman. Welcome, ladies! Looking forward to fun times playing with you.

On Thursday, July 16, we played a game called Honey Bee, which was the brainchild of Eileen Gustavus. A big thank you goes to Eileen, as well as to Mary Cunningham, MJ Strelec, Carol Clark, and Denise Mullen, for putting this event together. Kudos go to Josh Wilson for that bee-autiful drive on hole #6 from which we hit our second shots. It was a buzzingly enjoyable time.

Confidence is a key component in the game of golf. Approaching a hole with self-assurance will lead to more successes on the course. It’s easy to allow self-doubt to creep in. Keeping your focus on what you feel confident about will put you in a better frame of mind for a better round.

The Candler Hills 18-Hole Ladies Golf Association is open to any woman resident. If you wish to join, you may contact our president, Sandy Snyder, at freesand@icloud.com. It is a great way

to meet some new ladies and play golf. Finally, believe, achieve, and enjoy golf. As always, be careful out there and don’t forget to hydrate.

One Best Ball Net (Team)
July 9

60–Peggy Ellenberger, Debby Wilson, Liz Pruss. 62–Lynn Colomb, Cindy Pursel, Kathy Zunica. 63–Renee Cook–Garcia, Karen Campbell, Chris McIntire. 63–LuLu Kerkhoff, Ellen Brin, Eileen Gustavus. 64–Sandy Snyder, Brenda Hofmann, Diane Hartman.

Honey Bee (Team)
July 16

65–Brenda Hofmann, Peggy Ellenberger, Wendy Maxwell, Renee Middleton. 67–Gayla Aldridge, Ellen Brin, Maureen Gingrass. 68–Liz Pruss, Lori Pizzini, Terry Lemesh, Kathy Sparks. 69–Diane Boston, Patty Whitley, Kate Beaty, Debby Wilson. 73–Katie Schriewer, Lisa Free, Beth Wolinsky, Patty Snyder.

Silver Tees Low Gross/Net (Individual)
July 23

Gross

Flight 1: 71–Lori Pizzini.
Flight 2: 80–Karen Schroeckenthaler. 80–Christine Giza. Flight 3: 81–Joanne Woolery. 85–Karen Campbell. Flight 4: 86–Ellen Brin. 86–Connie Norris. Flight 5: 94–Peggy Mathis. 95–Roxiann Dwyer.

Net

Flight 1: 71–Gayla Aldridge. 73–Renee Cook–Garcia. Flight 2: 74–Peggy Ellenberger. 74–Sandra Mansfield. Flight 3: 73–Janette Sheil. 75–Judie Anderson. Flight 4: 72–Beth Wolinsky. 72–Cynthia Gersten. Flight 5: 76–Robin LeMaster. 77–Terry Lemesh.

Stableford (Individual)
Aug. 6

Flight 1: 39–Sandy Snyder. 39–Renee Cook–Garcia. 30–Linda Taylor. Flight 2: 48–Diane Boston. 39–Debby Wilson. 39–Janette Sheil. 38–Karen Campbell. Flight 3: 43–Chris McIntire. 41–Brenda Hofmann. 39–Marla Bennett. Flight 4: 50–Joan MacEachern. 40–Nancy Olson. 38–Robin LeMaster. 35–Kate Beaty.

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! We began teaching new numbers in August.

Currently, we are dancing every Monday from 10:30 a.m. to noon in Arbor Conference Center Studio D. Warm-up begins at 10:15 a.m., then Pati Bean goes over choreography and counts until 11 a.m. The remainder of the class is devoted to learning new steps and going over choreography.

You do not have to perform if you don’t want to. Just come and meet some

lovely ladies and enjoy moving to music. This fun class is designed for fun, camaraderie, and exercise to all kinds of different music. From Sinatra to Bruno Mars. From “Chicago” (the musical) to Led Zeppelin. Come on down, all you dancing queens!

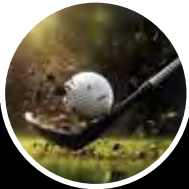
In August, I had the most wonderful experience of both meeting and seeing Derek Hough and his amazing company of dancers in “The Symphony of Dance.” It was an absolute joy, and the full house was on its feet, cheering and shouting “bravo” at this electrifying show. Led by a truly humble but supremely talented man, Derek was in every dance number. Those dressers backstage certainly had their work cut out for them. His beautiful wife, Haley, was also dancing after giving birth just seven months ago. It was a night I will never forget!

I love this quote from Derek Hough, “You don’t have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great.”

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

Candler Hills
Men’s Golf

Kevin Hermida



How does the Candler Hills Men’s Golf Association (MGA) potentially help everyone in our community? Let me explain.

Golf etiquette strengthens communities by teaching patience, honesty, respect, and self-control. Players who repair divots, remain quiet, and congratulate opponents develop valuable social skills. These habits encourage cooperation, trust, courteous communication, and lasting relationships beyond the course every single day.

Playing in the MGA increases quality of life. Add to this how we act every day in our community and what we can do to foster relationships. Even leaving an impact on others, how we traverse four-way stops in our community, stop at crosswalks, and allow others to go first.

Team Best Ball
A/C

Flight 1: Joe Wilkes, Billy Schlop, Patrick Nagy, Bill McElroy, William Wignall, Charles Simon. Flight 2: Jeff Gerber, Steve Johnson, Randy Kajewski, Denis Bricker, John Herman, Dale Szymanski.

B/D

Flight 1: Rusty Zarell, Philip Petrozella, Larry Small-

wood, Richard Foltyniewicz, Omer Fannin, Boe Hanley, Charlie Taylor, Greg Edwards.

Flight 2: Steve Wrazen, Bruce Rothenberg, Bruce Colpo, Loren Magsam, Bill Gurbisz, John Devito. Beat the Pro

Rick Ferris, John Paul, Steve Wrazen, Joe Wilkes, Mike Inge, Denis Bricker, Ray Kallai, Ken Acosta, Ray Parloto, Virgil Jajalla, John Devito, Michael Altomare, David Metzgar, Larry Smallwood, Jeffery Holmes, Mike Gleason.

Odd Even Best Ball

Anthony Morris, Brian Bennett, Virgil Jajalla, Loren Magsam, Mike Bernhardt, Best Brad, Joe Aldridge, John Herman, Rick Schriewer, Gregg Keidel, Bruce Rothenberg, Patrick Mezyk, Randy Keller, Billy Schlop, Greg Edwards.

Individual Stableford

Flight 1: Jeffery Holmes, Tim Carlisle, Jeff Richardson, Mike Gleason, Larry Skoch, Gaylon Powers. Flight 2: Ray Kallai, Jeff Gerber, Bob Hanley. Flight 3: Mike Kelly, Anthony Morris, Bill Gurbisz, Rick Ferris, Rick Schriewer. Flight 4: Joe Ostrowski, Steve Wrazen, Rusty Zarrell, Brad Best, Pat Ciofi. Flight 5: Jim Weaver, Virgil Jajalla, Billy Schlop, Joe Jingco, Gary Niland. Flight 6: Travis Karlin, Mike Inge, Jerry Messenger, Greg Keidel, James Morgan, Michael Altomare. Flight 7: Thomas Kujawa, Richard Foltyniewicz, Bruce Rothenberg, Dennis Mac Court. Flight 8: John Evans, John Devito, Loren Magsam, Walter Knautz, Jim McLaughlin.

“The more I practice, the luckier I get.” – Gary Player

CONSERVATION FUN FACT

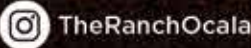
Endangered Florida scrub jays have a place here too. On Top of the World follows a plan to provide habitat needs for three banded and marked groups, and are attracting non-banded birds to the habitat.

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Country
Line Dancing

Judy Sullivan



Country line dancing is a fun, welcoming activity that anyone can enjoy, regardless of experience. Since everyone dances facing the same direction, beginners naturally learn by following those around them. It doesn't take long before new dancers realize they're remembering the steps and dancing with confidence. One of the most rewarding moments is watching someone who believed they had "two left feet" discover that they really can dance. Around here, perfection isn't the goal – smiles, laughter, and encouraging one another are what truly matter.

As an instructor, there is nothing more rewarding than seeing my students out on the dance floor with confidence and excitement. Watching them grow from week to week fills me with pride. Every step they master, every turn they complete, and every smile they share reminds me why I love teaching. Seeing their dedication transform into confidence and enjoyment is the greatest reward I could ask for.

Many students arrive at their very first class feeling nervous and uncertain. They hesitate, miss steps, and often doubt themselves. With patience, practice, and support from fellow dancers, those same students gradually blossom into confident line dancers. Their movements become smoother, their confidence grows stronger, and before long they're dancing with enthusiasm and pride.

To keep things fresh and exciting, we introduce two or four new dances during each two-month session. At the same time, we regularly revisit dances learned in previous sessions. Reviewing familiar dances strengthens skills, builds confidence, and helps ensure everyone can continue progressing together without feeling left behind.

While learning the dances is important, the friendships formed along the way are what make this group truly special. We celebrate each other's successes, laugh through the occasional mistakes, and enjoy every class together. Even when the instructor gets a step wrong, it usually becomes everyone's favorite part of the evening!

If you'd like to become part of our dancing family, registration is available through the OTOW App. Sign-ups begin on the first Tuesday and end on the second Friday of August for September and October classes and on the second Friday of October for November and December classes.

For more information, visit our Facebook page (Country Line Dancing with Judy) or YouTube channel (Country Line Dancing with Judy 2024). If you have any questions, please email CountryLineDancingWithJudy@yahoo.com.

Whether you're looking for exercise, great music, new friendships, or simply a fun way to spend your time, country line dancing has something for everyone. No matter your age or experience, you'll find a welcoming place on our dance floor. We'd love to have you join us!

Line Dancing

Joe Spencer



Come join our fun family of line dance friends and learn the newest mainstream dances performed around the world, as well as popular classics. This will enable you to join your friends on the dance floor at almost any social event or workshop. We use all types of music.

There are three levels available: 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. We also have practice sessions on Wednesdays.

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

Many dancers purchase tickets for multiple levels to get more exercise and learn more dances. 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 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 for November/December. Tickets go on sale on the OTOW App from Tuesday, Oct. 6 through Friday, Oct. 16. AB, Beginner, and Improver classes are one hour on Mondays, plus practice on Wednesday. Each session is \$25 per level for that two-month session. You will also receive links to the dance step sheets and videos usually two days before each class by email. If you are just starting or trying a new level, please keep in mind that many others have been dancing for a while, so there may be some dances you may not know or need to catch up on. We always sug-

gest that you focus on the new dances being taught, and you will pick up the others eventually.

Line dancing has so many tremendous physical and mental health benefits. It keeps us moving. Line dancing is also one of the few activities that helps with Alzheimer's and dementia because we memorize and repeat patterns. Many dancers say that it helps their joints or flexibility.

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. Join us on Facebook (Line Dance Ocala or OTOW Line Dancers).



Photo by Joe Spencer

Line dancing in the Recreation Center Ballroom.

Sidekicks

Rich Gautier



The Sidekicks Partner Pattern Dance Club is a friendly group for couples who enjoy learning and practicing partner dances, similar to line dances for couples, in a relaxed, supportive setting. The new dance season is starting this month, and we're looking forward to welcoming familiar faces as well as new couples to the floor. Whether you are brand new to partner dancing or ready to brush up on favorite patterns, this is a great time to join us.

Dance instruction begins Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 4 p.m. in the Recreation Cen-

ter Ballroom and will continue every Tuesday. Our classes are relaxed, friendly, and designed to help couples learn at a comfortable pace. You do not need to be an experienced dancer to have fun – just bring your partner, a willingness to learn, and a sense of humor.

Practice sessions begin Friday, Sept. 11, from 9 to 10:45 a.m. in Arbor Conference Center Studio D. From 9 to 9:30 a.m., we will review beginner dances, making this an especially helpful time for newer dancers or anyone who would like a refresher before the rest of the practice session.

Mark your calendar for our first "all level" dance on Tuesday, Sept. 29. These social dances are a wonderful opportunity to practice what you have learned, enjoy an afternoon of music and movement, and meet other couples who share

your interest in dancing.

Sidekicks is about more than learning steps. It is a chance to stay active, build confidence, improve coordination, and enjoy a shared activity with your partner. Many couples find that dancing together brings laughter, connection, and a welcome break from the routine.

If you have been thinking about trying partner dancing, September is the perfect time to begin. Come join us, meet new friends, and discover how much fun learning to dance together can be.

Membership is open to residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

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

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Poms Cheer & Dance

Pamela Kalamaras



Poms Dance and Cheer Squad devoted June and July to developing exciting choreography for our new rock ‘n’ roll medley. We feature songs and dances that encourage our audiences to join in the fun. We have also celebrated Christmas in July by revising our holiday pieces along with our sock hop and patriotic medley to bring you fresh and inspiring dances and cheers. We have a great repertoire of medleys for your next event, from ‘50s music to patriotic and holiday themes.

We were honored to perform our patriotic medley for Master the Possibilities: The Grand Finale on Wednesday, June 17. Veterans were recognized, and tributes were made for their service to our country. Memorable stories were told as we all saluted the spirit of America.

We also enjoyed performing our sock-

hop medley while entertaining the audience at Aviaata at Arbor Springs.

Looking ahead, we are excited to present our dances and cheers for the SWANS, a wonderful group of ladies who will be celebrating their 20th anniversary on Thursday, Sept. 24.

This month, our featured pommie is Nancy Gugliano. She grew up in St. Louis, Missouri. At age 13, she became a candy striper at Mount St. Rose Nursing Home and continued to volunteer through high school. She found it rewarding to read to the patients, assist them with their therapy and, in some cases, help with feeding. Nancy also experienced a broad range of careers: 10 years in the insurance business, 23 years in banking, and 17 years at a novelty ice cream production corporation. Nancy is happily married to Joe and has the cutest dog named Boomer. After retirement, Nancy and Joe moved to Cape Coral, Florida, then followed friends to On Top of the World. Besides being one of our original pommies, Nancy is involved in exercise and luncheon groups, as well as three theater groups. She also loves to work in her yard, go on bike rides, and decorate



Photo by Gary Voith

Poms Dance and Cheer Squad performing a patriotic medley at Master the Possibilities: The Grand Finale in June.

her home for the holidays. She is excited to continually learn new things and feels she is “living the dream!”

If you would like Poms Dance and Cheer Squad to perform at your next event, we are available for future dates.

We hope the love we have for what we do shines through in each performance. Go pommies! Please contact Pam Kalamaras at pammykal@aol.com for more information.



Photo by Steve Warren

Broadway 1 class poses after “Big Spender” performance.

Broadway & Tap Dancing

Elaine Voorhis



We’re back! We’ve enjoyed some time off, but we practiced a few times to keep our routines in our heads. It’s harder to put them back in once they’ve left! With our older routines firmly in place, we can move on to new ones and plan for Halloween.

The Broadway 1 class is working on a knock-out routine. The gloves are coming off! Oh wait, the gloves might actually be put on!

The Broadway 2 class is looking to start something! Hmm, what could that possibly mean? Maybe you’ll see some Michael Jackson moves in this one, but you’ll have to come watch us perform on Friday, Sept. 4 at 1 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom to find out. The routines are going to be great as always, thanks to our creative genius/choreographer/instructor, Penny Berton. She never disappoints!

The tap class continues to refine their latest routines and practice older ones. We have a nice selection of routines to choose from. Just a bit of trivia: Did you know that early on, tap dancing was a male-dominated art form? Not anymore!

For those of you who know us or have seen us perform, you know that we are a friendly group. We don’t mind an occasional visitor at class or practice as long as it doesn’t break our concentration. So, we were quite surprised during a practice session when an unexpected guest came through the doors of Studio D with one of our dancers. I imagine the allure of the cool air from the air-conditioning lured him or her in – we didn’t get close enough to figure that out. He didn’t seem too interested in our dancing, and honestly, we weren’t too happy to see him either. He immediately disrupted our class as he slithered in – yes, I said slithered. Slithering is not a dance step that we have done, not yet anyway! Although some of the moves we were making to get out of his way were unique! It was identified as a baby pygmy rattlesnake. He was a feisty little character trying to bite anything or anyone who got in his way.

After several minutes of chaos, a brave soul, one of our dancers, grabbed him and, at just the right moment, she tossed him out the door. She knew what she was doing, and we are eternally grateful! She was the hero of the day! Once we regained our composure and our heart rates returned to normal, we continued our practice, but I don’t think we’ll forget that little visitor for some time to come!

Don’t forget to come watch our next

performance (see above). It’s free! If you would like us to perform for your club or event, or if you have any questions, contact us at broadwayandtap@yahoo.com.



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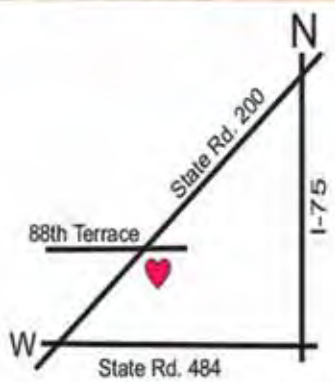
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Table Tennis

Mary Jeannotte



Joining a new club should feel welcoming, encouraging, and easy to navigate. To help new members get comfortable, the Table Tennis Club offers a regular monthly orientation and play session, scheduled on the last Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. This session gives new players a chance to meet board members, learn how the club operates, understand the available playing sessions, and begin participating with confidence.

The purpose of this orientation is to make every new member feel included from the start. Board members and experienced players will be available to answer questions, explain club expectations, introduce the different types of play opportunities, and help new members find sessions that match their skill level and interests.

Sessions will include an overview of the club’s weekly playing schedule and available sessions. We will go over how participation works. Basic rules for singles and doubles play, including serving, scoring, and player rotation will be re-

viewed along with club etiquette, safety expectations, and ways to make games enjoyable for players of all levels. There will be opportunities to ask questions, meet other members, and play short practice games.

After the orientation overview, new members will have time to play informal games with board members and other participants. These games are intended to be relaxed and instructional, giving players a chance to practice serves, returns, rallies, scoring, and doubles rotation in a supportive setting. Participants will review the fundamentals of table tennis scoring and serving. A standard game is typically played to 11 points, with players alternating serves every two points; if the score reaches 10 to 10, service alternates every point until one player leads by two. In doubles, partners alternate shots, and serves are made diagonally from the server’s right side to the receiver’s right side.

Whether a new member is an experienced player or completely new to the sport, the goal of this session is to provide a friendly introduction to the club. Members are encouraged to ask questions, try different playing partners, and take advantage of the opportunity to become familiar with the club community before joining regular sessions. A list of play sessions is posted inside the Table Tennis Room.



Photo by Mary Jeannotte

Table Tennis new members monthly session.



Photo by Domenica Genovese

Tennis Club Chairperson Brenda Foster.

Tennis Club

Brenda Foster



I like a challenge. It gives me a feeling of accomplishment, a feeling that I’ve still got what it takes. Refusing to accept that I am “too old” to play the game I love is part of that drive. Many activities can be learned in a few minutes with a couple of quick lessons. You meet friends, learn the rules, pick up the equipment, and you’re instantly in the game. It’s fun, but for me, easy gets old fast. If, like me, you appreciate technique and love the deep satisfaction of truly mastering a skill after a real struggle, take a serious look at tennis.

Tennis is not just a casual pastime. It is a craft. It is physical and strategic, and it feels like a game of chess played on a grand scale. I love the feeling of a tennis ball hitting dead-center on the sweet spot with a fluid swing. It requires rhythm, timing, and total focus. When I play tennis, I feel connected to a vibrant global culture. Seeing Jannik Sinner gliding across the court at a Grand Slam, Coco Gauff relentlessly hustling, Carlos Alcaraz hitting a delicate drop shot, or Florida’s own Ben Shelton flashing a big smile after a winner reminds me of the joy I feel playing. I step onto our beautiful courts, practice those same shots, and dream.

Tennis takes genuine effort to learn and refine, but the reward is infinitely higher. The Mayo Clinic published re-

search indicating that tennis outranks swimming, cycling, and jogging as the most effective sport for extending life. A great rally delivers an adrenaline rush that low-intensity paddle sports simply cannot replicate. Age doesn’t change that drive. Maybe we can’t move quite as fast, or maybe we wear a knee or elbow brace, but every time you work through the frustration and hit a great shot, you prove to yourself what you are still capable of achieving. That core feeling persists: hit the ball, win the point, smile. All the effort pays off.

If you have played tennis in the past, you already know this truth: nothing worth doing is completely effortless. The fact that tennis requires a bit of grit, practice, and tactical strategy is precisely what makes it so addictive. Our courts at On Top of the World are exceptional, our club is active, our teaching pro knows how to fine-tune a game for players at any age, and our members share a genuine passion for improvement. We are not just out there to pass the time; we are playing a sport with a rich history, pushing ourselves, and celebrating every small victory.

If you are ready for a sport that engages your brain, rewards your patience, and gives you that undeniable high of earned success, the courts are calling. Drop by the courts on any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday at 7:45 a.m., or on Saturday at 8 a.m., on Court 3, search the OTOW App > Tennis, or contact me directly at otowtennisocala@gmail.com to get connected with players at your level. Step up to a sport that is truly worth your time.

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POP Tennis

Beth Smith



POP tennis players are proving that a little summer heat is not going to keep us off the courts! We continue to play on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at The Arbors' lower tennis courts, with our early birds arriving around 7:30 a.m. Players are welcome to come whenever they can.

With temperatures climbing, however, we have learned that there are two opponents on the court these days: the other team and Mother Nature!

Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate! Water is essential, but on those really hot mornings, adding electrolytes can help replace what you lose through sweating. Think of it as giving your body its own little halftime pep talk!

Bring a mini fan. A small portable fan can feel like luxury when you're sitting between games. Who knew POP tennis would eventually require accessories normally seen at a beauty salon?

Cooling wraps are your friend. A cooling towel or wrap around your neck can make a surprisingly big difference. Just remember we're playing POP tennis, not auditioning for a frozen-towel commercial!

Dress for the weather. Moisture-wicking shirts and lightweight, breathable clothing can help keep you cooler and more comfortable. Leave the heavy cotton at home. It has no business joining us on a Florida summer morning!

Play early when possible. Those 7:30 a.m. early birds may be onto something! The earlier we play, the better our chances of enjoying cooler temperatures before Florida turns the thermostat to "why?"

Know when to take a break. There is no trophy for being the last person standing in the heat. Take breaks, find some shade, and listen to your body. We want everyone to have fun and come back to play another day!

The new fiscal year has begun, which means it's time to renew your POP tennis membership! Annual dues are just \$20 per person.

Your membership dues help cover the rising cost of new tennis balls each month, so we can keep those balls fresh, lively and – most importantly – bouncy! After all, nobody wants to chase a tennis ball that has decided retirement sounds better than another game.

Our membership continues to grow, and we love seeing new faces on the courts. No experience is necessary, and paddles are available at the courts for newcomers. POP tennis is a great combination of tennis and pickleball – and a

Weight Loss Group

Lori Beth Green



If you are ready to make changes to become a healthier you and need the support of others on the same journey, our club might be a great fit for you. Whether you have 10 or 100 pounds to lose, having a supportive group of friends and the accountability of weekly meetings and weigh-ins can really help you reach your weight-loss goals.

Join the On Top of Weight Loss group to find motivation and support alongside fellow members. You are welcome to use any food plan or exercise routine you prefer while receiving tips, suggestions, and positive reinforcement from

SEPTEMBER 2026 FITNESS

RECREATION FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	SPARC JOE	Step DEBBIE	Remix Bootcamp DEBBIE	Step DEBBIE	SPARC NADINE
8:00 am BODY CONT	Cardio Boxing NADINE		Tai Chi ART		Dance Aerobics KIM
9:00 am	S.O.S. NADINE	Stretch, Flex & Balance DEBBIE	S.O.S. JOHN C.	Stretch, Flex & Balance DEBBIE	S.O.S. DEBBIE
9:00 am BODY CONT	Chair Pilates ELLIAN		BEAT LOBBIE		Chair Pilates ELLIAN
10:00 am	Balanced Body LARRY	Chair Yoga SCOTT	Balanced Body LOBBIE	Chair Yoga SCOTT	Balanced Body DEBBIE
10:00 am BODY CONT	Chair Yoga SANDRA		Chair Yoga SCOTT		Chair Yoga SCOTT
11:00 am	Cardio Drumming NADINE	Brain Power JO'EL	Get Fit While You Sit JOE	Sculpt ELLIAN/NADINE	
11:00 am BODY CONT	Dance Aerobics LOBBIE		Zumba® NADINE		Zumba® NADINE
12:00 pm		Parkinson's B.A.S.E.** JOE		Move to Improve Parkinson's** SUE	SATURDAY CLASSES: S.O.S. 9 am Chair Yoga 10 am
1:00 pm		Chair Chi** ART		Beginner/Intermediate Tai Chi** NANCY	
3:00 pm	VYP Chair Yoga JOE	Balanced Body JOCKEY	Chair Yoga TREH	Balanced Body LOBBIE	
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
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ARBOR FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	STRONG* DEBBIE	STRONG ELLIAN		STRONG ELLIAN	
9:00 am	Yoga SANDRA	Pilates Fusion VICKI/ELLIAN	Yoga JOE	Pilates Fusion LOBBIE	Yin Yoga HELANE
10:00 am	STRONG JOHN C.	Yoga SANDRA	STRONG JOE	Yoga LOBBIE	STRONG JOHN C.
11:00 am	Sculpt DEBBIE		Yoga TREH		
4:00 pm	Muscle Fit WCA/VIRTUAL CLASS	Strong and Steady WCA/VIRTUAL CLASS		Interval Training WCA/VIRTUAL CLASS	Dance Fit WCA/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. 7658.
*Seasonal classes run from October-September

ARBOR FITNESS CENTER INDOOR POOL CLASSES

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

Open Swim: Saturdays 7 AM - 8:15 PM; Sundays 9 AM - 6:45 PM
All Water Aerobics classes are an additional fee. Fitness Pass purchase required. Please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7659.

great way to meet new friends while getting some exercise.

And remember, if you arrive looking a little sweaty, don't worry. That's not sweat – it's your POP tennis glow!

the group.

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

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

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

For general questions or information about POP tennis, please contact Shizuka Campagna at shizukacampagna@gmail.com.

Interested in women's play on Saturday mornings? Contact Sharon Daniel at sidusps81632@gmail.com.

If you'd like to arrange lessons, con-

tact Brenda Foster at Brenda@gcfonline.com.

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Top Pickleball Club

Nate Snook



As participation in pickleball continues to grow within the community, the Top Pickleball Club (TPC) board of directors has announced a new trial program designed to maximize court usage while maintaining the spirit of open play.

The decision comes after several club members raised concerns with the board about courts that often remain vacant during designated open play hours. Board members determined that those courts could be used more effectively by smaller groups without disrupting the recreational play experience enjoyed by other members.

Effective immediately and continuing through Sept. 30, small groups of TPC members may use vacant courts for drills, tournament preparation, and competitive play during open play hours, which run from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday.

The board emphasized that the program is intended to strike a balance between organized practice and the club’s commitment to inclusive recreational play.

Several conditions have been established to ensure fairness and preserve access for all members.

At least one court must remain available as a designated “buffer” court for players who wish to participate in open play. In addition, all vacant courts, including the buffer court, must remain unused for at least 15 minutes before a small group may occupy them.

Any TPC member who requests to join a group must be allowed to participate. If the buffer court becomes occupied by members participating in open play, the group using another court may finish its current game but must then return the court to open play.

Board members will evaluate the program’s effectiveness throughout the trial period and consider member feedback before deciding whether to adopt the policy permanently.

The club also continues its longstanding commitment to serving the broader community through its partnership with the Special Olympics program.

This marks the fourth consecutive year that TPC and On Top of the World have served as the official pickleball training team for the 2026 Special Olympics. Dozens of club members volunteer their time, knowledge, and enthusiasm to coach athletes and help them develop their skills both on and off the court.

Training sessions are held every Wednesday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and will continue through the end of September.

“The dedication of both athletes and volunteers has produced impressive results,” said John Maggio, TPC president. “The club’s support for Special Olympics is our signature volunteer program.”

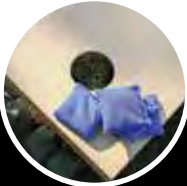
Several members of last year’s team earned gold medals at the state finals, highlighting the program’s success and the commitment of everyone involved.

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 toppickballclub.com or find the club on the OTOW App > Residents Clubs & Groups > Top Pickleball Club.

Cornhole Club

Ray Nault



The men’s league will start play on Friday, Oct. 2, at 11 a.m. Men who are experienced cornhole players and would like to participate can contact Ray at rnault85@gmail.com.

Open play has slacked off this summer due to heat, rain, and vacations. We still play Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 4:30 p.m. We set out the boards at 4:30 p.m. for practice and start play when we have 20 players. If more than 20 show up, they can either wait for the first available court (which doesn’t take long) or play on the grassy area next to the regular courts. We welcome all skill levels and offer a beginner class to learn the rules and techniques of the game on the first Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. You must register for the class by contacting Linda Nault at lanault52@gmail.com. Cornhole is located at the Veterans Park.

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Archery Club

Robin Schiltz



When people think about archery, they often imagine that success is measured by how many arrows land in the center of the target. While everyone enjoys a good shot, experienced archers know the sport is about much more than hitting the bullseye.

Archery teaches patience, focus, and the thrill of improvement. Every time you step onto the range, your goal isn’t to beat someone else. It’s simply to make your next shot a little better than your last. That makes archery one of the few sports where your biggest competition is yourself.

This is especially encouraging for beginners. No one expects perfection on the first day. Every experienced archer remembers holding a bow for the first time and learning the basics one shot at a time. Progress comes through practice.

Whether your goal is to improve your accuracy, enjoy time with friends, or simply try something new, archery offers a rewarding journey where every arrow is another opportunity to learn and grow.

The Archery Club is not just about shooting arrows and improving our aim; it is also a social club. To that end, we held a T-shirt social at The Summit’s veranda in July. Members showed their team spirit by wearing their new club T-shirts and enjoyed chatting while feasting on a variety of summer barbecue dishes.

As we head into the fall season, be sure to stop by our booth at the Club Fair on Thursday, Sept. 10. Also visit us for a tour and try your hand at archery during our open house at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 1, at the Veterans Park – registration required at the Veterans Park pavilion.

The Archery Club manages the Veterans Park range and welcomes archers of all skill levels, from beginners to competitive shooters. Equipment is available for newcomers and those returning after a break. Our maintenance shop keeps club and personal equipment in top condition.

The club is home to practitioners of kyudo, a traditional martial art emphasizing spiritual and mental develop-

ment. Its slow, deliberate movements promote focus and inner harmony. To learn more, visit Wednesdays from 2 to 4 p.m. or contact Brenda Foster at brenda@gcfonline.com.

Each Friday from 9 a.m. to noon, “Freestyle Friday” gives novice archers access to club mentors who can help improve their skills. Members may also attend monthly workshops covering aspects of archery. Patty Hoppe hosts “Archery Fundamentals and Shooting” workshops on the third Tuesday of each

month at 10 a.m. Topics vary, followed by a fun shoot. All members are welcome.

Membership is open to residents with a valid ID or Gateway of Services pass. Range use is for members only.

To join, visit otowarcheryclub.org > New Members, complete the application and waivers, and bring them to your mandatory safety training session. For information, contact Chuck at chuckarchery@strickland.net or 407-257-9668, or Suzi at suzanne.shea61@gmail.com or 908-510-5714.



Photo by Robin Schiltz

T-shirt social.



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Horseshoes Club

Vern Kessler



The club’s fall season runs from September through March. All members pitching will have a new point average calculated, and all matches played during the fall season will incorporate the point-average handicap for each player. The club meets on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at the Veterans Park horseshoe pits. This would be a great time to come out and try pitching shoes with club members. Also, the club pitches horseshoes for practice on Thursdays at 9 a.m.

Kevin Cullinane pitched an all-time high score of 71 points and 21 ringers for his summer best game. Karen Lynn set a personal best in ringers with seven in one game.

The club would like to thank Dave LaLiberte for putting the finishing touches on the plaque the club bought for Betty DeLong.

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.

Meditation Club

Domenica Genovese



Every Tuesday, the Meditation Group meets for 20 minutes of silence followed by 40 minutes of discussion. The group is led by three facilitators who guide the conversation and answer questions people might have about the practice of meditation. But who are they? What brought them to the group? Here, in their own words, is why each of them shows up.

Athena Drewes: Since her mid-20s, Athena has explored silent meditation, guided meditation, sound bowls and gongs, walking labyrinths, mantras, breath counting, and more, favoring longer sits of 30 minutes or more when she can, as they allow for greater release and insight. What she loves most about the group: “The friendships and discussions that have come out of our time together.” She wishes more people understood a simple truth: “Meditation is easy to do and has great benefits, emotionally, psychologically, spiritually, and physically.” Her advice for beginners is practical: “Be patient. Try setting aside even five minutes a day to settle the mind, to breathe, and to let go. Set a dedicated time of day to meditate so that it becomes a regular practice. No prior meditation experience is needed,” she says: “Come join us and try it out!”

Brenda Foster: Brenda brings over 40 years of practice, beginning with contemplative prayer as a Catholic and continuing with years of formal Buddhist sitting. She studies kyudo, Japanese archery, and teaches tai chi. Both practices are rooted in meditation. What she loves about the group is simple: “I enjoy getting together each week with a group

of people seeking silence, peace, and camaraderie.” Brenda firmly believes that “meditation is not about emptying your mind or seeking the absence of thoughts. It’s about awareness of your inner self. You don’t have to sit in an uncomfortable position on the floor ... just get comfortable, be still, and accept yourself.” To anyone who insists they can’t meditate, she has a name for the obstacle: “Monkey mind, when your thoughts just take over. But with practice the monkey will settle down.”

Domenica Genovese: Domenica has meditated on and off since her mid-20s, moving from transcendental meditation through vipassana to her current practice – shikantaza – the zen style of “just sitting.” For her, the group helps reinforce her own practice: “It is wonderful to be surrounded by people who want

to explore living more purposefully in the world. The generosity of the group is uplifting.” Her advice to anyone who doubts the value of meditation: “The benefits of meditation arise slowly. If you want an instant solution, you’ll be disappointed. If, however, you give the practice time, it will transform you in positive ways.” And to anyone who doubts they can meditate: “Many experienced meditators started with that doubt. It’s okay to feel that. The key is to try anyway!”

Come join Athena, Brenda, and Domenica every Tuesday from 1 to 2 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Event Room I. All are welcome! For more information, email Athena at dr.athena.drewes@gmail.com, Brenda at brenda@gcfonline.com, or Domenica at domenica@gcfonline.com.

Ohio Buckeyes Social Club

Tami Rossignol



What a fantastic evening! Our “Better Late Than Never” barbecue was a great success on Friday, July 17, with 59 people in attendance. Special kudos to Rita Boyce, Gwyn Pinson, and the entire social committee for pulling everything together so smoothly and handling those last-minute adjustments like pros!

We also want to give a big shout-out to Larry Boyce and Ron Lombardo, who braved the weather to grill those delicious bratwursts and hot dogs.

Thank you to everyone who brought a dish to share; we had plenty of fantastic food for all! The meal was perfectly topped off with ice cream sundaes in all

kinds of flavors and toppings.

Congratulations to our lucky drawing winners: Greg Waskovich and Ken Rancor; and congratulations to our nutty guesser, Greg Engelhart!

Now get ready and mark your calendar for our next planned event. Yes, the football season is right around the corner, and the first Ohio State University Buckeyes football watch party is planned! The first game versus Ball State is in the Recreation Center Derby Room on Saturday, Sept. 5, at noon. This year, watch parties will be held either at the Derby Room or private homes, so look for the official invitations to all watch parties, and RSVP by the email link. Seating is limited when they are held at the Derby Room to the first 32 to respond.

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

Until then ... O-H! Go Bucks!



Photo by John Rossignol

Ohio Buckeyes Social Club members dishing up deliciousness.

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Rec League Softball

Gerry Meier



The summer regular season is now complete. It was a very tight race for the top spot as Hot Wheels held first place since week one. The Sultans of Swing started slow, losing their first four games by one run each time. They got things rolling and became the team to beat. It came down to the last day of the season to determine the one- and two-seedings in the playoffs. Sultans of Swing had to win and hope that Hot Wheels lost to secure the number one seed.

They won their game but Hot Wheels squeaked out an extra inning game against the Braves to secure the number one seed for the playoffs on a walk off two-run home run by Dave Bauer.

Ball Busters and the Braves battled for the third and fourth positions all season long. Ball Busters ended up in third place.

Summer Season
As of Aug. 11

1: Hot Wheels managed by Mike Hoenie (14-6-1). 2: Sultans of Swing managed by Joe Matriccino (14-7). 3: Ball Busters managed by Ernie Sersen (8-13). 4: Braves managed by Leon Egozi (5-15-1).

Summer season double-elimination playoffs take place Aug. 13, Aug. 18, and Aug. 20. Results will be published next month.

The fall season starts Tuesday, Sept. 8; games are 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.

If you are interested in playing, please come by and see us. To contact us, email therecsoftballclub@gmail.com. To follow the league, visit recsoftball.org/.



Photo by Vic Gonzalas

First place: Hot Wheels.

Co-Ed Recreational
Softball

Pat Wilbert



There's a place where the "cool kids" gather every Saturday morning – and it's on the softball field. For many long-time players, that nickname rings true. I've been playing softball since I was 14, and while our bodies may slow down

over the years, the love of the game never does.

Co-Ed Recreational Softball offers men and women the chance to run, throw, and hit that big yellow ball for a couple of hours each week. It's the same joy we felt when we were younger, just at a slightly gentler pace.

Each Saturday at 8:30 a.m., players meet for warmup, greetings, and a friendly game. The group provides some equipment, plenty of encouragement, and no shortage of helpful advice for

newcomers. Summer games typically run six to seven innings, while cooler fall and winter mornings allow for seven to eight. It's great exercise, a wonderful social outlet, and an easy way to make new friends.

This is a very vibrant and welcoming group – and we hope you'll join us. Team shirts are available at a small cost, and there are no dues or membership fees. Just bring your enthusiasm, plenty of fluids, and maybe a protein bar to beat the Florida heat. If you stop by, ask for Pat or Charlie.

The league also extends special appreciation to several volunteers who go above and beyond each week: Paul Savini, Brian Pfister, Tom Scheetz, Herb Brown, Dan, and Tracey. They regularly step in to run for players who need assistance. Tom Scheetz also keeps the dugout clean and ready for play – a small act that makes a big difference. Their willingness to help embodies the spirit of our softball league, where everyone pitches in, and every contribution is appreciated.

Whether you're a seasoned player or someone who hasn't picked up a bat in years, OTOW softball is a place to reconnect with the game, stay active, and enjoy the camaraderie of a truly special community.

OTOWInfo.com

Beach Tennis

Ray Nault



A new sport is coming to the sand volleyball court at the Veterans Park – beach tennis. This sport is great fun and easy on the body. It is played on sand using a paddle and a training tennis ball. Experienced players will be available for instruction along with necessary equipment.

Instruction will take place on Tuesday and Friday at 9 a.m. and at 4:30 p.m. For further information, contact Ray Nault at rnault85@gmail.com.

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Photo by Pat Wilbert

Co-Ed Recreational Softball.

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Bocce Club

Kathy Nastally



Although September is associated with the start of fall, it can be a very hot time of year and may not feel very fall-like. It is a time of back-to-school bustle, football games, and the hopes of cooler temperatures. Our Florida summer heat and rain showers have brought out colorful flowers, taller green grass, and a strong desire to stay inside in the A/C.

Many people are still outdoors enjoying athletic endeavors, including bocce ball. Despite the hot temperatures this summer, our number of people for open play is increasing. Many of us have found we need to arrive earlier than usual to secure a spot on the sign-in sheet to play. For everyone coming out early to help get the courts ready for play, thank you. Many hands often make lighter workloads, and it is appreciated.

I am excited to announce that league play starts Tuesday, Oct. 13. Again, if you are looking for a team to play with, have formed a four-member team and are looking for a league spot, or are interested in becoming a substitute, please contact us. For information and questions, you can reach out to Jim Wolfer, league representative, on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at 732-580-4915. League times are Tuesdays 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., and Thursdays at 10 a.m. Each league has room for 12 teams.

Billiards Club

Phil Panzera



The summer league recently finished, and the results will be published in next month’s column.

Sign-ups for the next club league end on Thursday, Sept. 3. The league will start on Tuesday, Sept. 15, and run for 14 weeks through Tuesday, Dec. 15.

For the first time, the league will have a cap of 126 players. The league has been growing steadily each season, and we have a limited number of tables and a maximum number per team. If you’re away during this period, just email me your division preference, and you’ll be in.

After helming the last 13 leagues, it is time to let someone else take the conn. Bob Epling, who has served as a captain in several leagues, has graciously stepped up to take over managing the league. He has asked that he and I serve as co-directors for the upcoming fall league, and I have agreed. Bob is away in late August and early September, so I’ll still be involved in helping to get the next league up and going.

I am very thankful to Bob for stepping up for this significant responsibility. He did a super job as captain, leading his team to the league championship last year, and I’m confident he’ll lead the league just as well.

Wednesday Night Classes: The last two months have been off and on for our class, with me on vacation and then three weeks spent refereeing pro tournaments in Miami, Orlando, and Dallas. As you read this, I will have just finished working the U.S. Open, and classes will now be “steady as she goes” for the rest of the year.

Tip of the Month: We’ve all gotten down on a shot, had this feeling that something wasn’t right, and then changed what we already decided. Let me be Karnak the Magnificent here for a second, and reveal what happened when you did that: you most often missed, or your position was not at all what you imagined.

Poetry



It’s Your Gift

By Janice M. Puta

It is a gift to walk on water.
It is a blessing to walk in water
and understand where you are going.

It is a gift to fly in the wind.
It is a treasure to put your feet to the ground
and to get to where you want to go.

It is a gift to speak many languages.
It is a treasure to speak what you know
and to touch the heart of someone.

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

If a league does not have an even number of teams signed up, we will use a bye format when making out the schedules.

All team captains will know their league schedules when they receive their team packets before the start of the season. Jim Wolfer - 9 a.m. Tuesday, Terri Bloom - 11 a.m. Tuesday, and Ron Daughtry - 10 a.m. are your league representatives.

Each person participating in league and open play is required to complete the hold-harmless forms and present their valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. All members will pay their dues during the first two weeks of October.

Open play remains on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. If you are unsure if bocce is right for you, come by and try it out. You may play three times during the scheduled open times before you will be required to pay dues. Before you play, hold-harmless forms must be completed, and your resident ID or Gateway of Services pass will be verified. Regardless of your skill level, everyone is invited to come out and play. We have many people willing to help and explain the rules.

Anyone who plays outside posted league and open scheduled times is welcome to use the crated balls under the benches. The courts are located behind the Arbor Fitness Center next to the tennis courts. Closed-toe shoes are required for play. Our president, Pam Brown, is also available for additional information at 970-531-1890. So this fall, get out and let some bocce balls roll!

This is a common issue, with a simple reason: our perceptions are markedly different when standing or bent over. Which position is far superior? Standing up, almost always.

The solution is just as simple: never ever never change your mind while you’re down! If it doesn’t look right, or seem right, and especially if you “feel” the shot will not succeed, do not pull that trigger; just stand up. Start your planning process again, pick the best option, and go down on the shot with unwavering commitment.

Shot selection, speed, position, visualization, and then aiming- all done while standing up! When you’re down, there is no longer any thinking – all you’re doing is mechanically executing your plan, with the three-step process we’ve discussed often in class.

Shuffleboard

Walt Lamp



Monday, Sept. 7, will be the beginning of the Shuffleboard Club’s 41st year of playing. Shuffleboard, as compared to most sports and games, does not require strength, but precision; it is easy to play. A series of numbered boxes to either total up the scores or be knocked out by the opponent. To be precise, it must rest completely in the box without touching the lines. A total of 75 wins.

Of course, the box at the bottom is known as the kitchen, whose points are not added; rather, they are taken away. The upper part of the box is in a pyramid, adding a little fun to the game.

Our schedule, once again, is regular play: Monday at 9 a.m. and Tuesday at 1 p.m. In addition, the Ten Pin plays with one obstruction. A bowling pin, which must be after a score of 75 is attained. The schedule for this game is Tuesday and Thursday at 6:30 p.m., and Thursday and Saturday at 9 a.m.

We offer a free Introduction to Shuffleboard class with Paul Hodges at the Veterans Park. It will take place at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 12. He will review the rules, scoring, safety, and the basics of disc shooting. Next month, it will be held on Saturday, Oct. 10, at 11 a.m.

So, come on down and have some fun. For further information, call Jane Boyer at 908-256-2537 or Walt Lamp at 352-304-8711.

Ladies Shuffleboard

Lois Nix



Most clubs start their season in September and end in May. The Ladies Shuffleboard Club will begin its 2026- 2027 season Wednesday, Sept. 2, at 9 a.m.

We will be at the Club Fair on Thursday, Sept. 10 (our table is in the lobby), starting at 10 a.m.

You need not know how to play; our lady shufflers love to teach. It is a safety requirement that you cannot wear open-toe shoes. You must also possess a valid resident ID or Gateway of Service pass and sign a Hold Harmless agreement.

We also have a group of ladies who shuffle on Mondays at 5:30 p.m. We ask that you arrive at the courts 15 minutes before shufflers begin playing. We will pick chips that will tell you which court and which position you will play.

We try to shuffle with skill, strategy, and technique. We are not aggressive players. You will receive the basic rules and safety information upon signing up. Every week during the season, each score is recorded; at the end of the season, you will know exactly how many games you won. Bragging rights are permitted.

Come join a great group of women. The courts are located in the Veterans Park. Happy shuffling.

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A Musical Journey That’s Lasted a Lifetime

By Paul DiSclafani
World News Writer

John Sepe’s father was a musician. He played piano and sang in the church choir.

“He was a really good piano player,” John said, “and my whole life, I wanted to play music.”

Just not the piano.

“I wanted to play a loud instrument,” he laughed. “I wanted to play in a band.”

So, when joining the school band in the fourth grade, he selected the trumpet and never looked back. His ability to play the instrument seemed to come naturally, and he never needed his parents to hound him about practicing.

The Newark, New Jersey, native’s musical journey with the trumpet became not only a lifelong passion but also a career. He played in bands as a kid, taught music as a band director, conducted orchestras, and played in the pits for live stage shows. The music major from Montclair State even majored in music theory and composition, writing his own music.

He got his first paying gig at a New Jersey Italian Club, Buccinese’s, when he was 13. “It was an old man’s club, filled with cigar smoke,” he recalled. “We made five bucks each. I remember playing the song, ‘Tequila.’”

Even the Army recognized his musical talents, and he performed with the Army Band from 1967 to 1973. John’s trumpet was the only sound you would hear playing “Taps” at Fort Bragg in North Carolina. They performed so well together that, after being discharged, they played professionally for several years. “We played lots of Blood, Sweat and Tears, Herb Alpert, and Chicago,” John noted.

John became the band director at several New Jersey schools, including Rockaway Boro in Morris County, where he met his wife, Angela, who was teaching there. They initially settled in Denville, New Jersey, but spent the past 30 years in Sussex County before leaving the Garden State and relocating to On Top of the World in 2022.

His years as a band director allowed him to take the students all over the world to perform. “I’ve seen more of

Europe than I have here in the States,” he said, recalling performances in Austria, Germany, and China. “We even performed on the Great Wall of China.”

In 1998, he began conducting the Sussex County Youth Orchestra. “You have to learn everything yourself,” he said of the daunting task of conducting an orchestra. “I’ve always been interested in every instrument. I started writing music for small orchestras and then for large orchestras while in college.”

When he finally had the chance to conduct his own piece, “Evolutions,” he felt it resonated with the audience, and they genuinely enjoyed it. “It’s one thing to have the piece in your head,” he explained, “but when you actually hear it performed, you’re never happy with it. Now there are things you need to adjust to make it better.”

Musicians listen to music differently than the average music lover. John still has plenty of music in his private collection, which mostly consists of classical music and what he calls the post-romantic period (1900-1950). “That era has a very wide emotional range, from sad to happy,” he said. “I played pop music all my life, but that’s not real music to me. People listen to pop music for the lyrics, and that’s okay. That’s why it’s popular. I want to be challenged when I listen to music.”

Even though John has made a life as a musician, don’t expect to see him on stage at The Town Square on a Saturday evening, performing show tunes from “Fiddler on the Roof” or “Les Misérables.” Instead, you’ll find him piloting his radio-controlled airplane or spending time building sets in his garage for his model railroad, two hobbies he brought with him from New Jersey. His father even worked for Lionel Trains.

“I’ve been playing, performing, conducting, and teaching music my entire life,” he said. “I’m done practicing. Now I’d rather smoke a cigar.”

From performing onstage for the first time in a room full of cigar smoke to enjoying a Padron or two himself, John Sepe’s musical journey has come full circle.



Photo courtesy of John Sepe

John and Angela Sepe.

Love Sewn Into Every Stitch

By Susie Clauson

Welcome to Christmas in July at the hive. This year’s Christmas quilts and flannel blankets will be given to UF Health Shands Children’s Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). With 73 NICU and 23 PICU beds, we were

quite busy. AdventHealth Ocala NICU will also receive Christmas quilts for the children. We expect to have made 100 Christmas quilts and 100 flannel blankets by September.

Delivery is scheduled for mid-November. For the NICU babies, this will

be their first Christmas, and we want to make it extra special. Recently, one of our members was talking with an animal therapist and found out that she had been a premature baby, too, and she received a special quilt in the NICU. This therapist still has a part of this quilt, and it’s framed in her home 35 years later. It was so heartwarming to hear about the lasting love this had provided.

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 email SewingBeesClub@gmail.com or call Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178 with questions.



Photo by Susie Clauson

Sewing Bees Club working on Christmas-in-July quilts.

Recreation

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



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.

- Sunday, Sept. 6: Steel Drum Randy
- Sunday, Sept. 20: Mike and Kathy Gallenberger
- Sunday, Sept. 27: Tim Hargis

5 O’Clock Social (Free)

Enjoy an evening of great music, conversation, and community at the 5 O’Clock Social. It’s the perfect way to unwind and enjoy good company. The first Thursday of the month, in the Recreation Center Ballroom, from 5 to 7 p.m., with Gerry Coe in September. Dance, talk, grab a bite from The Pub, and have a great night!

Line Dance Night (Free)

Line dancing takes center stage! On Friday, Sept. 25, from 5 to 7 p.m., with music by Frank and Ronnie Pignataro, we are hosting a special line-dancing event. The evening’s playlist is specially selected for line dancing enthusiasts. Whether you’re experienced or learning the basics, come enjoy a night of line dancing.

Movie Night (Free)

Join us for a cinematic night out on Thursday, Sept 17, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. This month’s movie is “Supergirl.” 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. Club representatives will be there 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 activities to choose from; an exclusive event T-shirt; snacks (when available); and refreshing water to keep you going. Check out the OTOW App for details. Registration runs through Wednesday, Sept. 30, via the OTOW App. After registering on the

OTOW App, please see Mona at the Recreation Center to sign up for individual events. Spots are limited and expected to fill up! Sign up early to lock in your t-shirt and guarantee your place in the excitement.

Room Booking Meeting

This meeting is recommended for all residents who want to request a room reservation for 2027. The presentation will provide you with all the information you need to know about room requests. Thursday, Sept. 24, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Recreation Ballroom. Booking requests will only be accepted through the OTOW App. You may submit your request starting Friday, Sept. 25. Approval for those room requests will be pending until you receive communication from the Recreation Department.

Annual Craft Fair

The Craft Fair takes place on 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, please reserve your table through the OTOW App, then come to the Recreation Center office to select your table location. Registration 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 were emailed to club presidents in August. Tables may be reserved through Friday, Sept. 4, or until tables are filled. Club presidents can visit the Recreation Center office to submit their 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.

Golf Cart Safety Class

Keep your community safe! Residents are encouraged to attend these free safety classes with Colen Built Development’s Senior Health and Safety Manager Jonathan Miller. Learn how to drive a golf cart defensively on Thursday, Sept. 24, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Register on the OTOW App or call 352-387-7533.

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 with a valid 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:

- Sept. 4: “Margaritaville” with DJ Cheryl Jensen
- Sept. 11: DJ Scooter
- Sept. 18: Area 81
- Sept. 25: Automatic Duo

Tropic Trivia

If you would like to try your hand at Tropic Trivia, tables for October will be on sale in September. 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, the buyer should 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 on the second Thursday of each month in the Ballroom from 5 to 8 p.m. A \$5 guest fee applies and must be paid on the OTOW App.

Ladies Night (Free)

Ladies, you are invited to join us on Tuesday, Sept. 8, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Ballroom. Tony Machicote is the entertainer 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.

Water Aerobics (Free)

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

The Lodge at Candler Hills

Virtual & Live Fitness Classes (Free)

- Mondays (9 a.m.): Walk Fit (virtual). Bring a band or purchase one (\$2).
- Mondays (10 a.m.): Chair Fitness: Yoga/Strength/Pilates (virtual).
- Wednesdays (9 a.m.): Total Body Strength with bands (live instructor).
- Fridays (9 a.m.): Mat Yoga (live instructor). Bring your own mat.

Visit the OTOW App for the wellness schedule.

Water Aerobics (Free)

Join us for this new audio-led class on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. Bring your noodle!

Chair Volleyball (Free)

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

From the Top Line Dance Class (Free)

All residents are welcome! Join experienced line dance instructors Chuck and Donna on select Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon. This progressive class will teach you line dancing and provide practice for the dances you love. This program supports other line dance classes you might be taking, as well as the Wednesday night Boots & Beats at The Town Square. Come move, laugh, and connect while learning popular dances in a welcoming atmosphere; all dance levels are welcome! Please be sure to bring your 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)

Join your neighbors for Happy Hour from 5 to 8 p.m., filled with conversation, laughter, and community spirit. A \$5 guest fee applies to non-residents; please be prepared to pay in the OTOW App.

The entertainment schedule is as follows:

- Saturday, Sept. 5: Pure Magic
- Saturday, Sept. 19: Bootleggers

Karaoke & Cocktails (Free)

Whether you’re a shower singer or a stage star, everyone is welcome to grab the mic and shine. Thursday, Sept. 3, from 5 to 8 p.m. featuring Cheryl Jensen and Howlin’ at the Moon karaoke! Bring beverages and table snacks. A \$5 guest fee applies to non-residents; please be prepared to pay in the OTOW App.

Girls Night Out (Free)

Grab your girlfriends and get ready for a fun night on the dance floor on Thursday, Sept. 10, from 5 to 8 p.m. with Dan Flok! Bring your own beverage and table snacks and dance away or just catch up on girl talk! A \$5 guest fee applies to non-residents; please be prepared to pay in the OTOW App.



Musical Game Night

Music, games, fun, and prizes on Wednesday, Sept. 16, 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)

Join us on Sunday, Sept. 27, from 1 to 4 p.m. under the poolside pavilion. We have a great musical duo, Sandra & Alex, along with Mr. Z’s Pizza food truck. Please note that no glass containers allowed.

Indigo East Community Center

Happy Hour (Free)

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

- Sept. 4: Johnny Lobo
- Sept. 11: Donna Carrier
- Sept. 18: Casey Young

Trivia

Get in on some friendly competition with your neighbors and friends at trivia on Monday, Sept. 14, from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring your favorite snacks and beverages to share with your team. The cost is \$5 per resident and \$10 per guest.

Freestyle & Line Dance Night (Free)

Grab your friends for an evening of fun with DJ Frank on Wednesday, Sept. 9, from 5 to 7 p.m. Join us for a lively and welcoming experience filled with music, movement, and good company. Feel free to bring your favorite beverage and snack to enjoy while you dance.

Karaoke (Free)

Grab the mic and take center stage, or cheer on neighbors for sing-along fun! Feel free to sing solo or in a group with DJ Frank on Thursday, Sept. 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring beverages and snacks.

The Landing

Happy Hour (Free)

Kick off the weekend at Happy Hour on Friday, Sept. 18, from 5 to 8 p.m. Bring your favorite cocktail and snack, enjoy great music from Hwy 94, and spend the evening mingling with neighbors and friends. 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, Sept. 27, from 1 to 4 p.m. Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon by the pool featuring music by Johnny Lobo. A food truck will be on site serving up delicious lunch favorites.

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, Sept. 30, 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.): Sit & Get Fit (virtual).
- Wednesdays (9 a.m.): Chair Yoga (live instructor).
- Fridays (10 a.m.): Strength (live instructor); bring your 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
Weybourne Landing	Parking Lot	Call one day in advance for pick-up
Longleaf Ridge Model Center	Parking Lot	Call one day in advance for pick-up
Exit Community		9:36 a.m.

MORNING DESTINATIONS

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

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

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

AFTERNOON ROUTE

PICK-UP LOCATIONS AND TIMES

The Lodge at Candler Hills	1:15 p.m.	Candler Hills Community Center	1:20 p.m.
Friendship Colony Post Office	1:25 p.m.	Providence Post Office	1:28 p.m.
Avalon Post Office	1:33 p.m.	Crescent Ridge Post Office	1:38 p.m.
Recreation Center	1:43 p.m.	Americana Post Office	1:49 p.m.
Friendship Post Office	1:54 p.m.		

AFTERNOON DESTINATIONS

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

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

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

#0601-1/2/24

For information, call 352-789-5666.

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

Dulcimer Club

Sharon Bruno



We welcome our newest club member and a new resident, Jeri Cande. Even though she has never played an instrument, Jeri has already bought her first dulcimer. A four-string, hour-glass frame, in a beautiful cherry finish by Apple Creek. While living in Boston, she enjoyed the folk music scene. She attended many coffee houses, other area music venues, and concerts, and was fortunate to see many other folk, Celtic, and rock musicians perform. But why the dulcimer? Family members played the acoustic guitar and electric guitar, so there was always music jamming in her home. After completing graduate school and retiring from a demanding career, she now has both the time and interest to try her hand at playing music. She is also starting to take piano lessons! Jeri keeps active and takes advantage of the Ocala outdoors, visiting local rivers and parks where she can kayak. To schedule the Dulcimer Club to play at one of your meetings or events, or if you are interested in joining us, contact Rich Furlong at 352-237-8734 or richiere-tired@gmail.com. The Dulcimer Club meets every Tuesday from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the Arbor Activity Center Music Room.



Photo by Sharon Bruno
Jeri Cande with her new dulcimer.

Karaoke Friends

Kathy & Charlie Petrosky



For many, September signals a new start. Activities are starting up after a summer break. We look for the return of our snowbirds and cooler weather. We can begin to think about tackling things that we have been putting off. It is a time for us to consider starting a hobby we have been thinking about doing. I talk to people who say, "I really like to sing and want to come to karaoke. Right now, I sing in the shower or when driving alone in my car. If I could practice, I might give it a try." You can practice singing karaoke on YouTube. Type in the name of a song and type karaoke after the title. We are highlighting Gary Curtwright this month. Here is what he wants to share. "I have been a resident for one year. My favorite club and activity are singing karaoke with Kathy and Charlie. I picked up my love for music hearing my dad sing along to Hank Williams,



Photo by Herbert Young
Philip Miramonti.

Jimmy Dean, and Marty Robbins. I learned the words, and I sang along with him. When my mom would go shopping, I would stay in the car and listen to the AM radio playing songs from the '50s and '60s. I grew up listening to country and rock 'n' roll. As a teenager, I would go and buy rock albums, record them on a cassette, and protect the album by putting it aside and just playing the cassette tape. I would listen every Sunday night to the oldies show on the same rock station that played the new releases during the week. When I was a patrolman, I'd stash a radio in my briefcase so I'd have my music. Singing karaoke is a lot like public speaking; you start very nervous, but the more you do it, the more relaxed you become, and you sound better when you're relaxed. At karaoke, you have the least judgmental audience in the world because they've all been where you're at, and they are just wishing you well." 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. We love our clappers. Due to the holiday, there is no karaoke on Monday, Sept. 7.

Toppers Banjo

David Wesenberg



Toppers Banjo Band meets every Monday from noon to 2 p.m. and every Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room. This provides plenty of opportunities to join us and explore the banjo as a means of entertainment. We also have other musicians playing guitar, viola, drums, and bass dulcimer. I want to introduce one of our newer band members, Philip Miramonti, who plays banjo and the bass drum. Now that he is retired, he really enjoys playing his banjo with our band. He has led an interesting life. He got his pilot's license when he was 23 years old. He is a PADI-certified scuba diver. In business, Phil owned two restaurants, one in Chicago and one in Coral Springs. Phil brings his life experience and adventurous personality to our band. It is fun to learn and experiment to-



Photo by Steve Warren
Gary Curtwright.

gether 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'd 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.

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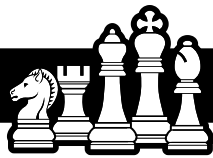
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CARDS & GAMES



Bingo

Nancy Grabowski



The Recreation Center remains under renovation. While we expected it to have an impact on bingo attendance, we’re happy to say that, so far, it has not been as much as we had anticipated. The rain has been a bit of a hassle but not preventing our play! However, access remains only through the back doors. Park in the side lots; golf cart parking is behind the pool. Sidewalks and paved walkways provide safety for our participants.

Here’s what you need to know about bingo: 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; winning ticket equals \$20.

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

Bingo is an alcohol-free zone by state law; beer and alcohol can be purchased in The Pub and consumed there or on the patio.

If you think you have bingo, but aren’t sure, call it out. Let our volunteers check it for you so you don’t 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! Do not move our things on the tables while we work; don’t shout at us as we are doing our assigned tasks. We want the same things all the players want ... to have a good time and 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

July 6

1: Carolyn Higgins & V.J. Hentz; 2: Pat & Debbie Quinn; 3: Mar Valchin & Bruce Gillett; 4: Donna Peters & Judy Mackowiak.

July 13

1: Barb Heller & Jean Krueger; 2: Dennis & Judi Wallace; 3: Marlene Floeckher & Bob Knowles; 4: Mar Valchin & Bruce Gillett.

July 20

1: Jack Heller & Steve Sekac; 2: Jean Krueger & Barb Heller; 3: C.J. & Dennis Dust; 4: Mary Bloch & Kurt Baumgartner.

July 27

1: Mar Valchin & Bruce Gillett; 2: Judy Mackowiak & Jack Heller; 3: Donna Peters & Rad D; 4: Diane Robinson & Carol Johnson.

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.

July 21

North/South

1: Carolyn Higgins & V.J. Hentz; Tie at 2: Brian Lomasky & Carrie Kanosky and Chris Wachter & Jeff Young; 4: Dan Lack & Vera Mangold; 5: Jean Krueger & Brent Powell.

East/West

1: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; 2: Darleen Fiel & Arlene Loepp; 3: Judi Wallace & Dennis Wallace; Tie at 4: Sylvia Zelkin & Bob Kraus and Pam Bell & Jeff Bell.

July 28

1: Carolyn Higgins & V.J. Hentz; 2: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; 3: Bob Kraus & Sylvia Zelkin; 4: Jean Krueger & Sophie Redman; 5: Brian Lomasky & Carrie Kanosky.

Aug. 4

1: Bob Kraus & Virginia Collins; 2: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; 3: Dan Lack & Vera Mangold; 4: Diane Turkin & Gary Moses; 5: Carolyn Higgins & V.J. Hentz.

Aug. 11

1: Bob Kraus & Virginia Collins; 2: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; 3: Dan Lack & Vera Mangold; 4: Jeff Bell & Pam Bell; 5: Carolyn Higgins & V.J. Hentz.

Wednesday Afternoon
By Elizabeth Robinson

July 1

1: Carolyn Higgins; 2: Billie Andersen; 3: V.J. Hentz; Cons: Mary Bloch.

July 8

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

July 15

1: Bruce Gillett; 2: Marlene Floeckher; 3: Kurt Baumgartner; 4: Bob Knowles.

July 22

1: Kurt Baumgartner; 2: Marlene Floeckher; 3: Billie Andersen; Cons: Dianne Robinson

July 29

1: Bruce Gillett; 2: Billie Andersen; 3: Marlene Floeckher & V.J. Hentz; Cons: Trudy Baumgartner.

Thursday Afternoon
By Trudy Baumgartner

We welcome bridge players to join us every Thursday from noon to 3:30 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room I. Please call Trudy Baumgartner at 352-375-1440 for more information.

July 2

1: Judy Mackowiak; 2: Billie Andersen; 3: Mary Bloch; 4: Al Kremer; Cons: Carolyn Higgins.

July 9

1: Carolyn Higgins; 2: Billie Andersen; 3: Craig Ford; Cons: Trudy Baumgartner.

July 16

1: Billie Andersen; 2: Judy Mackowiak; 3: Kurt Baumgartner; Cons: Trudy Baumgartner.

July 23

1: Kurt Baumgartner; 2: Marlene Floeckher; 3: Gary Moses.

July 30

1: Billie Andersen; 2: Mary Bloch; 3: Bruce Gillett; Cons: V.J. Hentz.

EMERGENCY AFTER-HOURS
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Thursday Night
By Jeff Young

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

June 4

1: Jeff Bell; 2: Carole Kirsch; 3: Jack Barros; Cons: Herb Katz; 2 prize: Dave Protsik.

June 11

1: Brent Powell; 2: Stu Shaub; 3: Al Whitford; Cons: Penny Wagener; 2 prize: Jack Barros.

June 18

1: Carole Kirsch; 2: Dave Protsik; 3: Stu Shaub; Cons: Al Whitford; 2 prize: Malcolm Levine.

June 25

1: Vicki Mattingly; 2: Herb Katz; 3: Jeff Young; Cons: Brent Powell; 2 prize: Herb Katz.

July 2

1: Dave Protsik; 2: Jeff Young; Cons: Al Whitford; 2 prize: Herb Katz.

July 9

1: Betty Schaff; 2: Al Whitford; 3: Jeff Young; Cons: Mar Valchin; 2 prize: Al Whitford.

July 16

1: Jeff Young; 2: Betty Schaff; 3: Gary Moses; Cons: Vera Mangold; 2 prize: Betty Schaff.

July 23

1: Gary Moses; 2: Al Whitford; 3: Vera Mangold; Cons: Vicki Mattingly; 2 prize: Herb Katz.

July 30

1: Al Whitford; 2: Brent Powell; 3: Betty Schaff; Cons: Raymond Bachik; 2 prize: Jeff Young.

Bunco



Bunco Babe 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, Sept. 22.

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

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

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

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

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

Candler Hills
By Cindy Arkebauer

Aug. 5

Most buncos–Pam B. Most mini buncos–Carolyn D. Most wins–Barbara P. Most losses–Aprille L.

We will roll the dice again on Wednesday, Sept. 2, at The Lodge at Candler Hills. The theme will be “back to school,” so wear plaid, school jersey, etc. Participation in the theme is completely optional.

Please bring a beverage and snack to

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.

share if you would like! Even though we don’t play for prizes anymore, we would love to see you. Socialize with us, catch up, or meet your Candler Hills neighbors. See you soon!

Cribbage

Judy Parisi



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

We’re a non-competitive group of all experience levels. New players are welcome, and we will set up a teaching table for those looking to learn the game.

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

Euchre



Friday Night
By Mary Bloch

The summer has been hot but so has our euchre games! Come join us for a cool evening of cards and a little social time on Fridays at 6 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Large Card Room. Bring some dimes and don’t be late. Email mary.bloch@yahoo.com for further information.

June 5

1: Jeff David; 2: Lou Pine; 3: Karen Jacob.

June 12

1: Bob Moravec; 2: Kurt Baumgartner; 3: Lou Pine.

June 19

1: Bob Kraus; 2: Kurt Baumgartner; 3: Vicki Mattingly.

June 26

Tie at 1: Lloyd Beitel, Danny Dean, & Vicki Mattingly; 2: Dan Brady; 3: Pam Brown.

July 3

1: Kurt Baumgartner; Tie at 2: Bob Moravec & Bob Kraus; Tie at 3: Pete Jacob & Laverne Pine.

July 10

1: Pam Brown; Phyllis Jarskey; 3: Kathy Fletcher.

July 17

1: Kurt Baumgartner; 2: Trudy Baumgartner; 3: Mary Speckine.

July 24

1: Bob Moravec; 2: Jean Gillette; 3: Pam Brown.

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

July 14

1: Andy Nuccio; 2: Gayle Argano; 3: Cheryl Adams.

July 21

1: Bud Alderman; Cheryl Adams; 3: Abe Toubail.

July 28

1: Marlene Floeckher; 2: Andy Nuccio; 3: Jim Magoon.

Friday Morning
By Andy Nuccio

July 17

1: Andy Nuccio; 2: Edna Frye; 3: Herb Katz.

July 24

1: Abe Toubail; 2: Herb Katz; 3: Cheryl Adams.

July 31

1: Cheryl Adams; 2: Steve Mintz; 3: Jim Lagattolla.

Aug. 7

1: Abe Toubail; 1: Andy Nuccio; 3: Cheryl Adams.

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Cynthia Frisch and her dog.

Shutterbugs
Photography

Mark Holmes

Shutterbugs Photography Club hosts monthly field trips to local venues to take advantage of the wealth of photographic opportunities available in Central Florida. Members can shoot images of everything from gatherings of manatees seeking warm inland waters to bison herds roaming green fields, birds and insects in their natural habitats, and much more.

Recently, the club devoted a field trip to photographing residents enjoying a wealth of activities. We found and photographed people working out at one of the fitness centers, playing pickleball, visiting a dog park with their canine companions, playing Mahjong, doing crafts and woodworking, playing golf and billiards, bocce ball, and much more.

Be sure to check out the Shutterbugs photographic display at Master the Possibilities, where your neighbors will be featured during September and October. We had so many good photos, it was necessary to extend the theme to two months.

John Rossignol, Shutterbugs marketing and communications officer, is a highly accomplished photographer who has traveled the country capturing amazing vistas that showcase the beauty and grandeur of the United States. His landscapes, waterscapes, nature photos, and photo artistry are inspiring and impressive. You may view his work at liftyoureyesphoto.com.

Display Director Gordon Daniels has been a member for more than a decade.

As a former professional photojournalist, he has a keen eye for capturing the moment in any situation. Along with Dave Schultz, Gordon is the driving force behind preparing and setting up the monthly displays at Master the Possibilities.

Shutterbugs Past President Harry Boyajian enjoyed a long career as a professional photographer, leading a team of wedding photographers who drew inspiration from Harry’s innovative event techniques that unobtrusively captured stunning photos to be treasured for years to come. Harry remains active in this realm from time to time and contributes his technical expertise to club members who seek to improve their skills in photography and postproduction.

Shutterbugs President Garry Voith enjoyed a successful career in sales, marketing, communications, training, strategic planning, and project management, and continues to host and produce high-quality podcasts for a variety of customers from his home office. Garry has a keen eye for architectural photography and smart composition for maximum dramatic effect.

Bring your camera, smartphone, and vision to Shutterbugs Photography Club, meeting every Tuesday starting with a morning field trip on the first Tuesday, then weekly sessions of education, show-and-tell, and camera or post-production instruction. See us soon at the Hobby Building Event Room beginning at 3 p.m.

For more information, visit otowspc.org, Facebook (Shutterbugs OTOW Photography Club), or contact Garry Voith at garry.voith@gmail.com or at 410-241-5079.

Remember, “Those who don’t know should ask; those who do know should show and tell.”

Concert Chorus

Joanne Houston

Welcome back to another year of singing! On Tuesday, Sept. 1 at 8:30 a.m., we will begin another fun-filled year of singing together in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio. Singing experience and reading music are helpful but not required to be part of our chorus. This year, the concert will be held at Circle Square Cultural Center on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 3 p.m. and Monday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. The theme of the concert is “Home for the Holidays” and includes a variety of traditional Christmas carols, popular holiday favorites like White Christmas, Blue Christmas, as well as Hanukkah and rockin’ with Santa’s

elves.

The Concert Chorus rehearses each Tuesday from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio. There is a \$25 membership fee to help with the cost of buying music. Please bring your fee to the first rehearsal. We can’t wait to see you, as it’s the most wonderful time of the year, as the song says.

Last year we collected \$7,500 for the Final Salute Veterans program and a truckload of food donations for the Interfaith Emergency Services for Marion County children over the holidays.

We are excited to start singing again and would love to have you sing with our group of 40 men and 60 women, raising our voices together celebrating the holidays! If you’d like more information, please contact Deboraasmith@gmail.com or Joanne.houston57@gmail.com.

Can’t wait to meet you and start singing!



Concert Chorus with brass and handbells at the Christmas concert.

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Sunshine Quilters

Linda Holst



Sunshine Quilters Guild member, Darlene Pickman, describes quilting as “creating a piece of art.” Darlene’s home economics class in junior high school sparked her interest in sewing. The class taught her how to sew garments, using a Singer treadle sewing machine. To this day, Darlene continues to sew garments, primarily tops, using her new serger. Darlene states that finding fabric for sewing clothing is much harder today because fabric stores have gone out of business. In the 1980s, Darlene was introduced to quilting through a quilting class. Her template was cardboard, not today’s acrylic rulers. Darlene quilted some thereon, but she got away from the hobby. Twenty to thirty years ago, Darlene joined a quilting guild while living in New Hampshire. A group of eight quilters met Friday evenings, rotating meet-

ings at each other’s homes. Quilting was learned from friends and by taking classes at local quilt shops. Darlene also joined an embroidery group through a quilt shop that met twice a month. A type of quilting is paper piecing, which is Darlene’s passion. “The blocks are precise, and I like that.” The fabric pieces are sewn on a numbered paper pattern. The technique produces sharp points and complex shapes. Carol Doak is Darlene’s favorite author of paper piecing. For the past five years, Darlene has been learning how to quilt her projects on her longarm sewing machine. Free-motion quilting on her Bernina sewing machine is done with rulers in various shapes and curves. The Boston Globe Parade Magazine had an article about wool work, which inspired Darlene to venture into this new sewing medium. Darlene said, “Oh, that looks like fun,” and took a class from the woman who wrote the article. This led Darlene to join the Mayflower Chapter, where she learned about dyeing wool, choosing wool, and patterns. “The history and art of wool fascinated me,” said Darlene. The feel of wool and the vari-

ety of colors added to her interest. An extension of the Sunshine Quilters Guild is a monthly wool club led by Darlene. The skills Darlene has in rug hooking and punch needle have been taught to the members of the wool club. Wool appliqué projects are also being sewed in the wool club. Darlene has made rugs and wall hangings from these wool techniques. Crewel embroidery, done by hand using threads and yarn, is also enjoyed by Darlene. Machine embroidery has been incorporated into her quilts and other projects. Darlene is organized in her quilting/sewing and wool work by designating specific days for each. Darlene rejoined the Sunshine Quilters Guild last year. Being a member of the guild “Makes me feel good; I like to give and help others,” said Darlene. Darlene’s advice to quilters is to explore a class, attend a retreat, or watch videos. “Go beyond your boundaries and comfort, challenge yourself, push yourself.” If sewing her own projects doesn’t keep her busy, Darlene is the Sunshine Quilters Guild’s vice president.



Photo by Linda Holst
Darlene Pickman shows her quilt.

Artistic Crafts & Gifts

Chris Kilbride



The Artistic Crafts & Gifts Tuesday craft show returns in the Recreation Center Ballroom on Tuesday, Oct. 6 from 9 a.m. to noon, and will continue through May. ArtisticCrafts.org can give you a glimpse of our very talented crafters and artisans, including samplings of their creative endeavors. With over 100 online, they all offer unique, custom designs for sale any day! When Samantha D’Giff gave a simple holiday gift to a friend, it unexpectedly became the foundation for what is now DBT Gifts. The candle featured an irreverent quote about life’s challenges and soon became a hit! Others were interested in gifts for graduates as meaningful

keepsakes to recognize the hard work they had invested in their career goals and to build relationships that last a lifetime. What started as a single handmade gift quickly flourished. As demand grew, she began expanding beyond candles by developing a variety of products centered around topics to promote encouragement, wellness skills, and personal growth. One of her favorite projects has been creating bookmarks that keep these varied themes front and center each day. The success of those bookmarks inspired Samantha to think more broadly about motivation and engagement. Bookmarks with themes that extended to more topics appealed to readers of all ages. Some were created specifically to encourage children and teens to spend more time reading and less time glued to their devices. It has been rewarding to hear from parents, teachers, and professionals who appreciate tools that make

reading more engaging and enjoyable. Today, DBT Gifts includes products related to music, pop culture, and other interests that bring people joy and connection. Samantha finds creative ways to combine humor, inspiration, and practicality into everyday items people can use. Many creations begin with an idea sparked by a conversation, a quote, a song lyric, or a wellness concept. The supplies she uses vary depending on the project. Candle-making involves wax, fragrance oils, wicks, containers, labels, and design materials. Bookmark creations incorporate specialty papers and hand-selected beads and charms chosen to complement each design and theme. Much of the process involves experimenting, learning, and refining ideas until they become something both meaningful and visually appealing. Although Samantha does not come from a traditional arts-and-crafts background, creativity has always been part of her life. She enjoys creating things that serve a purpose and have a positive impact on others. Seeing a client receive a graduation gift, a reader become excited about a new bookmark, or someone smile at a candle message that speaks to

their experience makes the work especially fulfilling. A simple act of appreciation grew into a creative venture that continues to evolve. Please find Samantha’s items at ArtisticCrafts.org > Gifts or visit her any Tuesday! All resident crafters are welcome to sell virtually at ArtisticCrafts.org > Join to inquire about a craft show table on Tuesday, Oct. 6, in the Recreation Center Ballroom.



Photo by Samantha D’Giff
Practical, colorful, and inspirational bookmarks by Samantha D’Giff enhance your reading pleasure.

Happy Hookers

Jan Spielvogel



September is upon us! Fall is coming, and it is back to class for children, teens, and college students. Happy Hookers continues to be busy thinking about the cooler months and is diligently working on hats, scarves, and blankets. We love donated yarn, so please keep those donations coming. However, we do take a break on occasion, and in August, about 20 members of our group had lunch at the Oak Room Bar & Grill. Happy Hookers is open to all residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. 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, needle-pointing, 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.

September 14 - 30, 2026

Food Drive

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Cares

ALL FOOD DONATIONS WELCOME

(Non-Expired, Non-Perishable Items)

Urgent Food Needs

Canned Vegetables

Canned Fruit

Pasta

Rice

Pasta Sauce

*Please drop off all donations in bags or boxes and no glass containers.

ITEMS CAN BE DELIVERED TO:

ON TOP OF THE WORLD

SALES CENTER

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FL 34481

OR

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Recreation Center

The Lodge at Candler Hills

Indigo East Community & Fitness Centers

The Landing

Resident Services

All items received to benefit Interfaith

Emergency Services Food Pantry.

For more information, email colenbuiltcares@colenbuilt.net.

#17034 - 9/26

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Poetry



Company

By Linda Toner

Your company comes
with baggage in tow,
and it isn't 'til they are gone
that you know
how hard it was
to keep the laughter sustained
and to keep them
constantly entertained.
You're glad they came
but you're glad when they go,
the house can get back
to being a mess, you know,
You can put your feet up,
you can lie down,
you can put the TV
on a louder sound.
Company comes whether you say no,
your response is in vain,
but when you visit them,
they may feel the same.
You love them dearly,
as they do you,
so when you're the company,
take my cue.
Keep your visit
short and sweet
and when you're gone,
they probably have relief,
and before you come
back again,
a thank you note
you should send.

Haiku 80526

By Bruce Tredinnick

four thirty a.m.
the muse is awake again
hurry grab your pen

GOING OUT OF TOWN?
View or download a PDF
of the World News at
ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala.

OTOW

By Barbara A. Scales

There once was a village where gray was gold and
love abounded all around.
One by one we came to find our inner child left
years ago in a distant place, a past city, or a
town.

Leaving behind careers, and starting over
We grow younger as we grow older

To hear of people aged 108-enjoying bingo, staying
up late
Dancing 'til dawn, with midnight strolls
And of playing billiards, not shoveling snow

Enchanting evenings, long thought past become the
norm, that long last

Finding friendship, and kinship
Riding buses, and taking long trips
Discovering places near and far
Kicking our heels up, playing the game par
Journeys to horse farms and shopping centers
Going on cruises or betting the odds, on casino
ships

Not alone, far from that.
Finding life, age matters not.
What a place we came to stop.

The Invitation

By Deb Thompson

Joy in the Mourning is a gift of God's grace for me.
It has given me a purpose to live my life single and
free.
Free from the distress that widowhood could bring
if focused on the sorrow with no song to sing.
Life is precious with every day to be spent, filled
with thankfulness and a joy of all that is meant
to bring satisfaction and a reason to live.
People say Joy in the Mourning is a help to them.
I take no credit; it is a godsend. Exchanged are
encouragement and care on this two-way street.
I pray everyone realizes their purpose is unique.
You still have life so live it to the fullest.
Embrace the ups and downs and know you
can get through it. Grow through what you
go through, but don't do it alone. You can be
strengthened by others and share some of your
own. Ultimately molding our character, trans-
forming the soul. It is a gift of God's grace. I
pray you accept this as your own.

Author's Support
Group

Paul DiSclafani



The Author's Support Group is open
to all published authors and meets on
the first Thursday of each month at 11
a.m. in The Lodge at Candler Hills Meet-
ing Room I.

Our authors recently completed a six-
week education session at Master the
Possibilities, serving as instructors in
a series of classes titled "Writers in the
Making: Learning from Published Au-
thors."

The class was so successful that we
are planning on repeating it early next
year. Many thanks to authors Barbara
Scales, Paul DiSclafani, Lori Szepelak,
Mark Holmes, Filomena Abys-Smith,
and Tom Nicholl, who led the students
through the sessions.

At the August meeting, our resident
authors discussed their current projects:
Barbara Scales is helping Dean Ross, a
wounded warrior, compose his biograp-
hy, "The Dean Ross Story: One Step at
a Time."

Lori Szepelak continues to do in-per-
son engagements to promote her books,
speaking to the group "Women of Joy"
at Joy Lutheran Church. She will also be
leading a session at Master the Possibili-
ties in the L.E.A.F. series of lectures, ask-
ing participants to prepare something to
be included in a time capsule.

Filomena Abys-Smith has just about
completed the untitled sequel to her
novel, "At the Lord's Table." Tom Nich-
oll is working on a second novel, "The
Lighter/Darker Side of Lawyers," as a
follow-up to "The Lighter/Darker Side of
Horse Racing." He is also considering a
fiction novel from the point of view of a
horse.

Mark Holmes found the inspiration
he needed to overcome his writer's
block on a baseball book, "The Life and
Legend of Bobby Story," while waiting
for a new transmission for his car.

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 Sup-
port 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 pub-
lished and unpublished writers from
all genres come together to share their
stories. More importantly, our members
rely on each other as a resource for an-
swers to their questions.

The club offers advice and experience
not only from published authors but
also from speakers who share insights in
their respective fields. Our guest speak-
ers have included resident author Mark
Holmes, who provided our members
with step-by-step instructions on us-
ing 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 orga-
nized crime in New Jersey and with in-
sights into how he writes and publishes
books across different genres.

Resident author Sherry Nord visited
our club members in June to discuss
the paranormal romance books she has
written. In July, the Reverend James Sny-
der, a columnist for the Marion Citizen,
talked about what it takes to be a weekly
newspaper columnist and about his col-
umn, "Out to Pastor."

Last month, Jennifer Hunt, the owner
and publisher of the Ocala Gazette, was
our guest speaker.

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, Sept.
17. 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 Ser-
vices pass who is interested 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 informa-
tion from our meetings are shared with
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for remote guest speakers. These Zoom
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View from the Library

Marjorie Ferrer



Book clubs are fun. Book club friends become lifelong friends – at least that is true for me and my sister, who have enjoyed our New Orleans-based book club for over 30 years. After all these years, we still meet quarterly via Zoom, sharing our love of reading, our memories, and each other. I am delighted to tell you about two of our recent historical fiction book club reads: “The Italian Prisoner” and “Triage,” both by Elisa M. Speranza.

Ms. Speranza is a lifelong New Orleansian of Italian heritage. Her historical fiction novel, “The Italian Prisoner,” is based on little-known events in New Orleans in the early 1940s. Her protagonist, Rose Marino, lives with her Sicilian immigrant parents, who work in their family grocery. Her brother Giovanni is fighting abroad, and her sister Laura, an army nurse, is stationed in North Africa. Rose lands a job at the local Higgins shipyard, becomes a whiz in their accounting office, and feels liberated and important for the first time in her young life.

Italian prisoners of war (POWs) are kept at Jackson Barracks, a nearby military base. Italy switched sides in the war, so these prisoners are allowed to socialize at events organized by the local parish priest within the Sicilian community. Rose meets POW Salvatore, and love blossoms. Battling the norms and expectations of the time and her culture, discovering family secrets, and experiencing deep and powerful love, Rose learns to live life on her own terms.

Our author Ms. Speranza enmeshed herself in the Italian American community in New Orleans and met many families descended from marriages between Italian POWs in 1943 and the daughters of local Sicilian families. These families shared time, stories, photographs, and documents with Ms. Speranza, which our book club also enjoyed. These rich family histories influenced Ms. Speranza’s writing in ways that brought her fictional characters to life. This historical novel, published in 2022, was a finalist in the William Faulkner-William Wisdom Creative Writing Competition.

In the historical fiction “Triage,” published in 2026, the reader meets Laura, Rose Marino’s sister. With a nursing degree from Charity Hospital School of Nursing, Laura enlisted in the Army and served in North Africa and Italy in 1943 and 1944. Back in New Orleans in 1951, she struggled with her life after the war.

Not much is known about how to effectively treat returning war-fatigued military personnel. Post-traumatic stress is still not well understood. Treatment, support, and resources for women who worked in medical units on the front lines and experienced horrific wartime events were especially lacking. Ms. Speranza places us so close to Laura with her powerful writing style that we feel the depths of Laura’s battle with her life in 1951 New Orleans – family, marriage, loss, loneliness, addiction, friendship, hope, and love.

You will find copies of both in the On Top of the World library. Enjoy!

REPLACEMENT CAR RFID(s)

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Resident Services

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

No decals issued during inclement weather.

Poetry Club

Bill Burton



September is an exciting time for us because of the Club Fair. It is a chance we get to mill around tables and see what other clubs are offering, doing, and presenting. Sometimes we stumble upon a common bond or an application we didn’t really know about, and it is exciting when this happens.

Under the heading of “arts and entertainment,” many clubs, if not most, involve their use of words to entertain others more than to reveal deeply personal thoughts. Novels or short stories, for example, can often be adapted into other forms, such as scripts, screenplays, or musicals, for presentation on a stage or on a big screen. Poetry, on the

other hand, tends to lean in the other direction, sometimes so deeply personal as to be beautifully crafted, but difficult to understand. We can find ourselves searching for the true meaning without being sure we’ve found it. It can be admirable, beautiful, and thought-provoking, but hard to work into a script.

There are exceptions, of course. Tennyson’s “Charge of the Light Brigade” or Homer’s “The Odyssey” are easy examples. Both were poems made into movies, but that’s more the exception to the rule. Even when the poet’s meaning is clear, the theme may be so singular as to convey a single thought. Most people have heard the first line of Joyce Kilmer’s famous poem “Trees,” which begins “I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree.” Incredibly deep and beautiful, but try developing a movie script or a stage performance from that.

Last year at the Poetry Club table, our

past President, Barb Scales, struck up a conversation with the Toppers Banjo Band, pondered our common threads, and found some. We like to convey a mood or feeling. We want to be heard. We work on developing a potpourri of offerings that others can enjoy. There is common ground. So we sat in on and listened to some of their rehearsals and enjoyed the simplicity of their wonderful, bluesy, jazzy Americana songs. We may share a venue soon.

Another example may be our first annual On Top of the World Games. We’ve discovered there is a beauty in describing what our games are and what the participants represent in our incredible lifestyle experience. Sometimes poetry fits what is all around us.

Our door is open to new poets with old stuff and old poets with new stuff. It all fits. Call Bill Burton at 352-492-8646 for meeting info.

Woodcarving Club

Linda Toner



This month we feature three women carvers who took our bas-relief carving lessons. Relief carving is a two-dimensional work that uses different levels to give the illusion of three dimensions. The levels are not very deep; some are as shallow as three sixteenths of an inch.

Relief carving lessons are taught on the second Thursday of the month. We have the appropriate size of wood available for purchase for \$5. Our teacher will take you through from start to finish.

Woodcarving is a creative, peaceful hobby. We meet the first, second, and fourth Thursday of the month from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Hobby Building Art Room. You are always welcome to visit and see the various carvers’ work in progress. You can also see finished works by our carvers at the Club Fair on Thursday, Sept. 10, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Circle Square Cultural Center. For more information, call Tom Fuchs at 352-586-1171.

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Photo by Linda Toner

Students finished works from relief carving lessons.

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Cast from Oklahoma! Junior edition.

Joanne Houston

Hitch up those wagons and head north from Oklahoma and catch the surrey with the fringe on top; head 'em up and move 'em out to River City, Iowa to meet Professor Harold Hill, the famous traveling salesman known as "the music man."

Harold arrives in town and wants to convince everyone that the new pool table in town is causing trouble in River City. Instead of playing pool, he promises to create a band with 76 trombones that will lead the big parade on the Fourth of July! It's a classic American musical that premiered in 1957 starring Robert Preston and Shirley Jones. More recently, "Music Man" was revived on Broadway starring Hugh Jackman and

CONSERVATION FUN FACT

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

Cheryl Jensen

As summer slowly fades, the Paradise Players leap into high gear! After months of brainstorming, selecting materials, and crafting the vision for our November production of "Comedy Tonight," we're thrilled to begin the most exciting part of the journey.

Casting comes first – discovering which actors will bring each character to life. Then we dive into memorizing lines and shaping our stage blocking, the natural movements that give rhythm and meaning to every scene. Week by week, rehearsal by rehearsal, these efforts blossom into a polished performance created just for you.

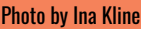
September also brings one of our favorite annual events: the Club Fair. Join

us at Circle Square Cultural Center on Thursday, Sept. 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., where you'll find us at table #61. Stop by to learn more about everything Paradise Players offers. Whether your passion is acting, singing, dancing, or supporting productions behind the scenes, you'll find a warm and welcoming home in our creative family. Visitors to our table will also receive a special discount coupon for our November "Comedy Tonight" performances.

Be sure to mark your calendar for our upcoming shows on Saturday, Nov. 7, at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., and on Sunday, Nov. 8, at 2 p.m.

Tickets will be available at Ticket Tuesday, beginning Tuesday, Sept. 15, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and may also be purchased directly from cast members.

For additional information, please contact Lee Smith at otowparadiseplayers@gmail.com. Meetings are held every Wednesday in Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio III.



2025 Club Fair with member Zen B. Reda.

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The New Pretenders

Nancy Grabowski



“Meet me at the fair!” is a line from a song in the movie “Meet Me in St Louis” starring Judy Garland. This memorable line is echoed throughout states and counties in the USA; it even resounds in local festivals and fairs. The Club Fair is no exception!

The Club Fair will be held on Thursday, Sept. 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center. The New Pretenders will be there to meet you at table #3. We look forward to talking with you about our organization and even enticing you to join us for the new season.

While we welcome all, like the Marines, we are looking for a “few good men!” We are prepared to give you the help you need to pick up a new instrument or refresh you on one you’ve played in the past.

The new season is entitled “Beats, Boots, and Broadway!” A wide variety of music genres are included, so there’s much for everyone to enjoy. We add our



Photo by Lennie Rodoff

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

energy, stage presentation and decoration, costuming, and fun! Our shows are slated for early February 2027. They will be presented on the stage of the Recreation Center Ballroom over a three-day weekend. Show times will be 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, with a 2 p.m. show on Sunday. The exact dates will be announced after the room reservation meeting. Look for an announcement in

the October edition of the World News and online.

You can expect tickets to be sold on Ticket Tuesday, beginning on Jan. 5, 2027, in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room III. We will also sell tickets every Wednesday at bingo in the Recreation Center Ballroom, commencing on Jan. 6, 2027, around 3 p.m. Our ticket prices remain the same, and payment can be accomplished with cash or a check.

For additional information, contact any current member or Nancy Grabowski, director, on 352-209-4699.

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

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 Book Club for Troublesome Women,” by Marie Bostwick for discussion on Thursday, Sept. 17.

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.

**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



Photo by Garry Voith

Ray Remillard, Ina Kline and Shea Koscheka in “At the CopaOcala.”

Murder Mystery Dinner Theater

Liz Elliott Lieberman



The Murder Mystery Dinner Theater Club is now a company of actors who write and present original murder mysteries. We have already started rehearsing our newest show called “A Holiday Homicide.” It is a fundraiser for the Friends of SPCA. Projected for Nov. 20, 21, and 22, there will be three performances held 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 SPCA will announce ticket sales in future columns published in the World News. VIP tables are available, and tickets will be \$60 per person. This includes a delicious three-course dinner provided by Pasta Faire. Where else can you see a show, have dinner, not worry about driving or parking, and dress in your favorite outfits from the 1970s for that amount of money? 1970s attire is optional, but the music and dancing will be from that fabulous era most of us remember. Groovy, huh?

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 the chance to solve the mysterious murder of Lola, the showgirl.

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!



EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

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

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AUTUMN ROYALTY
AUTUMN LILAC
AUTUMN AMETHYST
AUTUMN SWEETHEART
AUTUMN SUNDANCE
AUTUMN SANGRIA

WHITE:
Pure and peaceful white complements any landscape and pairs well with all other hues.

AUTUMN ANGEL
AUTUMN IVORY
AUTUMN LILY
AUTUMN MOONLIGHT

BI-COLOR:
These dual tone varieties offer interesting and unique detail on each petal and are available in an array of hues.

AUTUMN TWIST
AUTUMN SUNBURST
AUTUMN STARLITE
AUTUMN CHIFFON
AUTUMN BELLE

RED:
Available in a range of red hues, from blue-reds to orange-reds, it is a classic choice for the landscape.

AUTUMN BRAVO
AUTUMN EMBERS
AUTUMN MONARCH
AUTUMN RUBY
AUTUMN SUNSET



PLANTING AND CARE OF AZALEAS

Azaleas Preferred Planting Locations

- Morning sun
- Afternoon shade

Azaleas Soil Requirements

- Well-drained soil
- Acidic pH (approximately 5.5–6.5)
- Organic matter
- Mulch around the root zone

Azaleas Planting Steps

- Dig a hole twice as wide as the root ball.
- Plant slightly above surrounding soil.
- Backfill with amended soil.
- Water thoroughly.
- Add 2–3 inches of mulch. (Avoid planting too deeply, as this can damage or kill the shrub.)



For a FREE ESTIMATE, scan the QR Code, call 352.816.1562, or email sustainable_landscape@otowfl.com!



Fun with Golf Carts

Susan Pulling Robinson



On Saturday, Aug. 8, our club members ignored the heat and instead paraded around in their fun in the sun-decorated carts. 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:

- 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.”

Unless otherwise noted, all club parades start at the Recreation Center, with lineup and charitable donations at 9:45 a.m. and pullout at 10 a.m. The route for a given parade is posted on Facebook (OTOW Fun with Golf Carts and OTOW Chatroom). If the parade is not coming to your house, please meet us at the Recreation Center as we leave.



Photo by George Ostrom

Cheryl Crites and Carolyn Helms in their “fun in the sun” decorated golf cart.

Model Railroaders

Jim Lynam



Labor Day celebrates American workers and their past and present contributions to our country’s success. The first Labor Day took place on Sept. 5, 1882, in New York City. The Central Labor Union organized a parade of thousands of union members from all trades, culminating in a picnic for the members and their families. This form of celebration gained popularity across the country. On June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed a law officially making the first Monday of September a national holiday.

The railroads epitomized the concept of labor. Workers in nearly every category were needed to plan, build, operate, maintain, and supervise the industry’s daily functions. Further, because the railroads provided transportation, farmers shipped their products to the east, and factories shipped their farm machinery to the Midwest. The workers produced products that were marketed and shipped by railroads to every corner of the country.

So it is that on Labor Day, the workers and their families could have a day of fun and relaxation. The traveling carnival provided just such a day and evening. In the early days, the carnival rides and booths were transported by railroads.

The main attraction for most people was the rides, such as the Ferris wheel, roller coaster, octopus, tilt-a-whirl, miniature railway, and carousel. The carnival also provided booths for the games to win “valuable” prizes. Do you remember the duck pond, balloon darts, water balloons, baseball throw, basketball throw, and guess the age/weight? Young men tried to impress their dates with their strength by attempting to ring the bell with the wooden hammer. If successful, they would “win a cigar.” If not, hence the saying, “close but no cigar!”

Perhaps the most appreciated booths were those that served famous “fair foods.” How can you forget cotton candy, fried dough, funnel cakes, ice cream, and caramel apples? Then add the main course of hamburgers, hot dogs, sausage sandwiches, fried onions, French fries, and fried chicken. What a smorgasbord to choose from!

The Model Railroaders invite you to visit the train room to view our Labor Day carnival scene on Friday, Sept. 4, from 2 to 4 p.m. The residents will be relaxing with their families and enjoying the carnival, picnics in the park, flying R/C airplanes, playing sports, boating, fishing, hiking, rock climbing, spelunking, and enjoying their favorite beverage.

The club also encourages you to visit the Hobby Building Train Room any Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. Our next club meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 2, in the Hobby Building Event Room. If you have any questions, please text Jim Lynam at 352-861-2822.

Happy Labor Day to all!

Rubber Stamp Greeting Cards

Linda Lohr



The technique presented in August by Laurie Snook was called smooshing! It utilized inks, paper towels, plastic bags, water, and photo paper. Thanks to Laurie for providing dies and everything needed to make these beautiful 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.

Until our next meeting, keep on stampin’!



Photo by Laurie Snook

Card presented by Laurie Snook.

Tesla Owners & Enthusiasts Club

Dan Lack



If you are concerned about what happens to the batteries when the vehicles are junked, here’s good news.

Tesla and its partners recycled 14,000 tons of batteries last year. They recovered 90% of the lithium, cobalt, nickel, and other metals for reuse in new Tesla vehicles. Tesla’s goal is for recycled materials to match the amount of metal mined in North America. Tesla drivers also avoided releasing almost 37 million metric tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere last year.

The summer software update that all Tesla owners are receiving via Wi-Fi, has some interesting improvements. The karaoke feature now rates your performance. The car’s interior camera and microphone are available when a video conferencing platform is in use. And we can use the Grok artificial intelligence to control the interior climate system rather than rely on the computer screen.

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.

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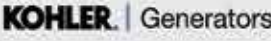
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FOR SALE, WANTED AND LOST/FOUND

ADS: There is no charge to residents as long as it is not of a business nature. There is a \$500 limit on FOR SALE items. Items valued at more than \$500 (i.e. golf carts) may be listed, but price will not accompany the ad. Auto, apartment, financial service, home, legal, real estate, and timeshare ads WILL NOT be accepted. Ads may be emailed to otownews@otowfl.com.

ESTATE/TAG SALE ADS: There is no charge to residents, however, residents must register their estate/tag sale with Resident Services at Friendship Commons. Visit ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala and click on "Resident Info" to download the appropriate form for your community and submit it to Resident Services by the 10th of the month prior to publication.

SERVICE ADS: Will be accepted from residents and non-residents and may be emailed to otownews@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 otownews@otowfl.com or visit ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala

The publisher reserves the right to reject any ad which, in his judgment, would not be in the best interest of the residents of On Top of the World Communities.

For Sale

Appliance: Hisense 7.0 cubic foot chest freezer, white with 3 wire baskets, \$100. Text 727-505-5677.

Appliance: Keurig single coffee machine. 352-300-8001 or 352-615-4633.

Computer Equipment: Canon Pro 100 Professional color printer. 352-300-8001 or 352-615-4633.

Electronics: Lorex security camera (3). Skybell HD Wi-Fi video doorbell (3). Clarity Professional corded phone for the visually and hearing-impaired. 352-300-8001 or 352-615-4633.

Golf Equipment: Cleveland VP509 Dual-Axis putter, right-handed, 34.75" (will shorten or lengthen (up to 3")), \$59. 201-317-7488.

Misc. Items: Bernina and Euro-Pro X sergers. Men's Nike Revolution 3, size 7W. Vintage Whitney Point wool blanket from England, full size. 352-300-8001 or 352-615-4633.

Misc. Item: So Danca black dance sneakers, size 7, \$25. Call/text 765-209-1667.

Tools: Table saw, miter saw, routers, and many other power tools. 352-238-4842.

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

Tag Sales

Friday, Sept. 11 & Saturday, Sept. 12: 9934 SW 100th Terrace Road (Crescent Ridge), 8 a.m. to noon.

Saturday, Sept. 12: 10191 SW 98th Place Road (Longleaf Ridge), 8 a.m. to noon · 8346 SW 84th Place Road (Candler Hills), 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 13: 8346 SW 84th Place Road (Candler Hills), noon to 4 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 18 & Saturday, Sept. 19: 9066 SW 89th Loop (Candler Hills), noon to 4 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 19: 9256-D SW 82nd Terrace (Friendship Village), 9 a.m. to 2 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.

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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.

Drywall Repairs & Interior Painting: Experienced professional & reasonably priced. For a free estimate, call 352-857-8367 or text 203-482-8050. josephdonoфриdry-wallandpainting.com.

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

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.

Junk Removal: Prompt service. Reasonable rates. Call/text Matt at 352-640-6467.

Maid in America by Ann: Quality cleaning services. Pet sitting available. Insured & reliable. 609-276-1099.

Mid Florida Window Cleaning: Interior & exterior windows, screens, tracks, mirrors, & hard water removal. Owner-operated, insured & free estimates. 352-817-0661.

Miles & Miles Cleaning Service by Wendy: We will give you an old-fashioned cleaning! Licensed & insured. 352-895-0940 or wendy-miles214@gmail.com.

Mobile Notary Public: Taking pride in my duty as a notary in Ocala. Nancy Faucher, 352-497-8201 (call or text anytime).

Painting: Interior painting, wallpaper, custom wall texturing, & more. 40 years experience. Satisfaction guaranteed. James 954-394-4823 (resident).

Paint Time LLC: Interior & exterior painting. Quality is our goal! Also offering power washing. Let's spruce up your home inside & out. Call/text Matt at 352-640-6467.

Pet Sitting: Offering daily drop-in visits and overnight care services in your home. 15 years of experience. Fran Spivack Russo 919-339-3052 (resident).

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

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: Adult bicycles for homeless ministry (Carol 419-601-1322) · 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.

Musical Instruments: Gently used flute, cello, and bass fiddle for use by The New Pretenders. Nancy at 352-209-4699.

Pet Foster Parents: Temporarily open your home to a pet in need. Friends of SPCA at 352-362-0985.

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