On Top of the World NEWS®
Where the news is always good!
SECTION A
OUR WORLD
Vol. 40, No. 5 November 2026

Community News

Kenneth D. Colen

A Season of Gratitude and Community

As November arrives and the holiday season approaches, we look forward to gathering with loved ones, sharing traditions, and making new memories. This season also reminds us to appreciate everyday moments: a neighbor's kindness, a conversation with a friend, and time spent with those who mean the most to us.

Our community gives us much to be thankful for, including the generosity shown during our recent food drive. To every resident, employee, and partner who donated, volunteered, or helped make it a success, thank you. Your kindness makes a meaningful difference for families in need.

That spirit of giving continues through Colen Built Cares' upcoming Toys for Tots and Operation Christmas Child initiatives. Please see the article in this issue for ways to help bring holiday joy to children near and far. As we celebrate Thanksgiving, may we carry this gratitude and care for one another throughout the year.

Community Updates

HOME DEPOT & SW 99TH STREET: Final permit issuance remains pending with the Florida Department of Transportation for the planned roadway and intersection improvements, additional turning lanes and traffic signals, and a separate golf cart path connecting SW 99th Street to nearby commercial properties. Once the permit is issued, construction is expected to take approximately 60 days. Updates will be shared as the project progresses.

RECREATION CENTER: Weather has slightly delayed completion of the entrance renovation facing SW 99th Street Road. Completion is now expected in early November, including landscaping improvements around the ground-level entrance. Thank you for your continued patience as we finalize these improvements.

IRONS 9 PITCH & PUTT: We received all required clearances from Marion County, and held a soft opening on Friday, Oct. 23. A grand opening celebration is planned for early 2027. This new addition offers a fun and relaxed atmosphere for all players. The Golf Shop is fully stocked with merchandise, with pull carts and carry bags available for purchase or rental. Tee times may be made by calling 352-854-2237 or visiting www.irons9.com.

AZURA FITNESS CENTER: Construction of this new Candler Hills amenity continues toward a late November opening. The pool deck is complete, and the temporary construction fence has been removed. Remaining exterior improvements, including landscaping, the final layer of asphalt, signage, and striping, are scheduled for completion in early November, while interior preparations continue for installation of the fitness equipment. Residents are asked to refrain from driving (there is a risk of tire punctures until final paving is completed) into the amenity area until the facility officially opens. Thank you for your patience as we complete the finishing touches.

NEW CANDLER HILLS ENTRY: The new gate system on SW 92nd Court Road is now operational, providing an additional access point to Candler Hills and areas to the south. An improved landscape design is planned for the areas adjacent to the guardhouse to supplement the existing buffer and help prevent vehicles from driving around the gate arms. This work is scheduled for completion by the end of the year.

ARBOR STRUCTURE: Due to the number of existing utilities along SW 80th Street, the planned arbor structures and landscaping enhancements between SW 90th Terrace and the roundabout at Irons 9 will not proceed. Funds allocated to this project will be redirected to other community enhancements.

MELODY PRESERVE: Momentum continues at Melody Preserve, with nearly

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Veterans Day Preview

By Phil Panzera
World News Writer

Join us on Wednesday, Nov. 11, as we recognize and commemorate the brave men and women who have risked all for the life and liberty you enjoy today.

If you haven't been to one of these before, it's not a bunch of grizzled veterans sitting around telling war stories. It is a respectful gathering of all those who have served, all those whose lives have been affected by a loved one's service, and all those who value the sacrifice made by a few, so that all can enjoy the freedom we take for granted. If you belong in any of those three buckets, please join us.

The main ceremony is unlike anything else I've been to in our community. There actually may be a war story, but there will also be reverence, gratitude, dignity, respect, singing, dancing, and a wistful but proud sense – that feels good down to the bone – of a job well done, and a country well served.

The main ceremony will be at 11 a.m. in the Recreation Center, and a brief flag ceremony will also be held at 8 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Park. Remember – honor – pay it back.



Photo by Phil Panzera

Kenneth D. Colen thanking American Legion Post Commander and Veterans Club President Charlie Calhoun.

Colen Built Cares: Holiday Giving Drives

By Lauren Grice

Colen Built Cares is honored to support two meaningful holiday initiatives this season: the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots® Drive and Operation Christmas Child. These efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to uplifting families in need and strengthening the spirit of service across all Colen Built communities.

This year's holiday giving follows the tremendous success of our September food drive, benefiting the Interfaith Emergency Services Food Pantry. Thanks to the generosity of residents, employees, and partners, we collected 3,309 pounds of food, with additional donations still being counted. A special thank you goes to residents who volunteered with pickups, sorting, and drop-offs – your dedication ensured donations reached Interfaith quickly and supported households relying on monthly supplemental grocery assistance.

From Monday, Nov. 16 through Tuesday, Dec. 1, residents may donate new, unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots at the following locations:

- Leland Management Office (5575 SW 67th Ave Rd)
- Master the Possibilities (8415 SW 80th St #2)
- Sholom Park (7110 SW 80th Ave)
- Calesa Township Sales Center (6404 SW 78th Ct.)
- On Top of the World Sales Center (8447 SW 99th St. Rd.)
- Amenity Buildings: The Arbors, Recreation Center, The Lodge at Candler Hills, Indigo Community Center, Indigo Fitness Center, The Landing, The Summit, and Resident Services

Those wishing to participate in Operation Christmas Child may select items from the giving tree in the second-floor lobby at the Recreation Center. These contributions help fill shoeboxes delivered to children around the world.

Every contribution, whether a toy, a selected item from the giving tree, or a moment spent spreading the word, helps brighten the holiday season for children and families. Residents, employees, and community partners are encouraged to involve neighbors, share the initiative, and make giving a part of their November routine. Together, we can continue the momentum of our community's generosity and make a meaningful difference this holiday season.



COLEN BUILT Cares

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

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2026 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

On Top of the World NEWS

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

** Deadline at noon.*

*** Printed inserts delivered to The Villages Media Group by 3:30 p.m.*

Red indicates variation in schedule.

Is It Legal?



Colen & Wagoner, P.A.

SCAM ALERT #1: I have one of those Park Mobile apps. It makes downtown or airport parking easy. Recently, I got an email from Park Mobile saying my latest payment could not be processed. The message basically asked me to add a new credit card or, well, to be honest, I don't know what else it wanted because the first thing I did was check where the email came from, and it was .io, which is somewhere in Great Britain.

Next, I checked with Park Mobile to see if there were any issues with the credit card on file, and there weren't.

Bottom line. Whenever you get a text or email saying there is a problem with a credit card or a payment, get suspicious; you should never, never, never respond to the email or text without first contacting your credit card company or bank. Call them directly, using the phone number on the back of your card or one on your bank statements. Those boring extra steps will save you a lot of heartbreak.

SCAM ALERT #2: If you are ever, for any reason, asked or told to pay by using bitcoins or gift cards, it is a scam. Do not assume it's a scam. Know it's a scam. If you are communicating with a friend or having a romantic discussion with someone and they ask for money, it's a scam. If they want you to give it to them in bitcoins, it is a scam. It's not a likely scam. It is a scam.

Q. Jerry, you write a lot about scams. Do you have a favorite one you want to warn us about?

A. I don't have a favorite scam. I hate them all. They are all insidious. What bothers me most is that I write about scams, but I fear that no one pays heed. Vulnerable women or men continue to fall victim to psychologically constructed private and romantic emails or texts and send money, or most likely bitcoins, to criminals who prey on the elderly and vulnerable. Some folks fall victim to bank scams, where you are told that your account's been monitored for fraud and you need to withdraw your funds and give them to a bank "official" or a "law officer" to help catch the criminal.

Many people get caught by the Amazon scam, where you're told your account has been closed for such-and-such reason. Or they say they need your help to catch someone using your account, or to provide all the financial information on your credit card. It's never-ending.

Well, if I fear that few folks seem to worry or care, why do I keep writing them? I don't know any more. Sometimes, I think I should drop the scam alerts and just write my Q&A questions like I used to. But as the 18th-century poet Alexander Pope wrote: "Hope springs eternal in the human breast …" You can Google the rest of that line.

Q. I do not have any children, but I am very close with my nephew and his family. We see each other often, and both my nephew and his wife check on me weekly. I told my nephew that I've left him everything I have in my will. He thanked me, but then said he doesn't need or want anything. He said if I wanted, I could leave my estate to his children or to charity. When I said I would rather leave everything to his children, he said that one of them was a special needs child and I should discuss with my attorney some special needs provisions for her. I know what they are, but my question is: what if I set up these special provisions and then that special needs child passes before all her share has been used. What happens to what's left?

A. This is a wonderful question, and it's also clear that you have a wonderful nephew. First, if your will (or trust) is drawn correctly, you can easily provide instructions for what to happen to any of the special needs funds if the beneficiary passes. So, that's just simple drafting. Alternatively, you might ask your nephew whether he has a special needs trust for his daughter; if so, you could leave a portion of your estate directly to that trust.

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

Bay Laurel Center CDD

IRREGULAR WATER USAGE*

- **Toilets:** A failing flapper (valve seal) can waste up to 200 gallons of water a day.
- **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.*





A Woman with a Vision

By Phil Panzera
World News Writer

Here's the story I was asked to write. A flagpole was dedicated at The Landing in Weybourne Landing in a ceremony led by Master Chief Dexter Vance, supported by our Veterans Club and the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard. Speakers addressed the crowd, the Poms Dance and Cheer Squad performed, Operation Shoebox helped, and Senior Master Sergeant Cecilia Grimm was recognized for her service. Ponies for Patriots even brought Fancy and Sammy, two impossibly cute miniature horses. Done.

Here's the story I want to write.

The story of a woman's vision and passion.

It starts with a simple comment between dear friends. Jim McWhinney remarks that there is no flag at The Landing. Most people would give that a moment's thought, reply casually, and the conversation would move on.

Not so with Jeanine Bonilla.

She decides to do something about it, and so begins her own modest quest for the Holy Grail – or, in this case, a flagpole.

She makes inquiry after inquiry, meets resistance, and hears "no" half a dozen times. I asked, "Why did you keep going?" The simple answer: "I was determined. It felt right to me." Both grit and good instincts.

She persists, she persuades, she lobbies, and after three months gains the gracious approval of management. She then organizes, in meticulous detail, a first-class veterans' ceremony and pot-luck dinner. To coordinate all this, she wound up thanking 24 people and organizations!

Now consider: Jeanine is not a veteran.

Of course, veterans have no exclusive claim on love of country – it is something we cherish throughout America. Yet in pursuing her unlikely vision, Jeanine displayed many exemplary qualities that veterans admire: character, esprit de corps, persistence and patriotism. She saw something worth doing, encountered resistance, and simply refused to quit.

Jeanine's comments at the ceremony reveal much: "This flag is more than fabric flying in the breeze. To me, it represents gratitude. It represents sacrifice. It represents the people who have served, those who are serving today, and the freedoms we are fortunate enough to share."

Let us give thanks that we have such patriots as Jeanine among us, with the vision, passion and moxie to pursue a noble quest – and remind us all that Old Glory is much more than just "fabric flying in the breeze."

Speaking as one grateful veteran, I say to you, "Jeanine, you would have made one hell of a soldier!"



Photo by Phil Panzera

The first-ever flag raising at The Landing.

Visit the Florida of Yesteryear

Ocali Country Days

At the Silver River Museum

November 7–8, 2026
(9 AM – 4 PM)

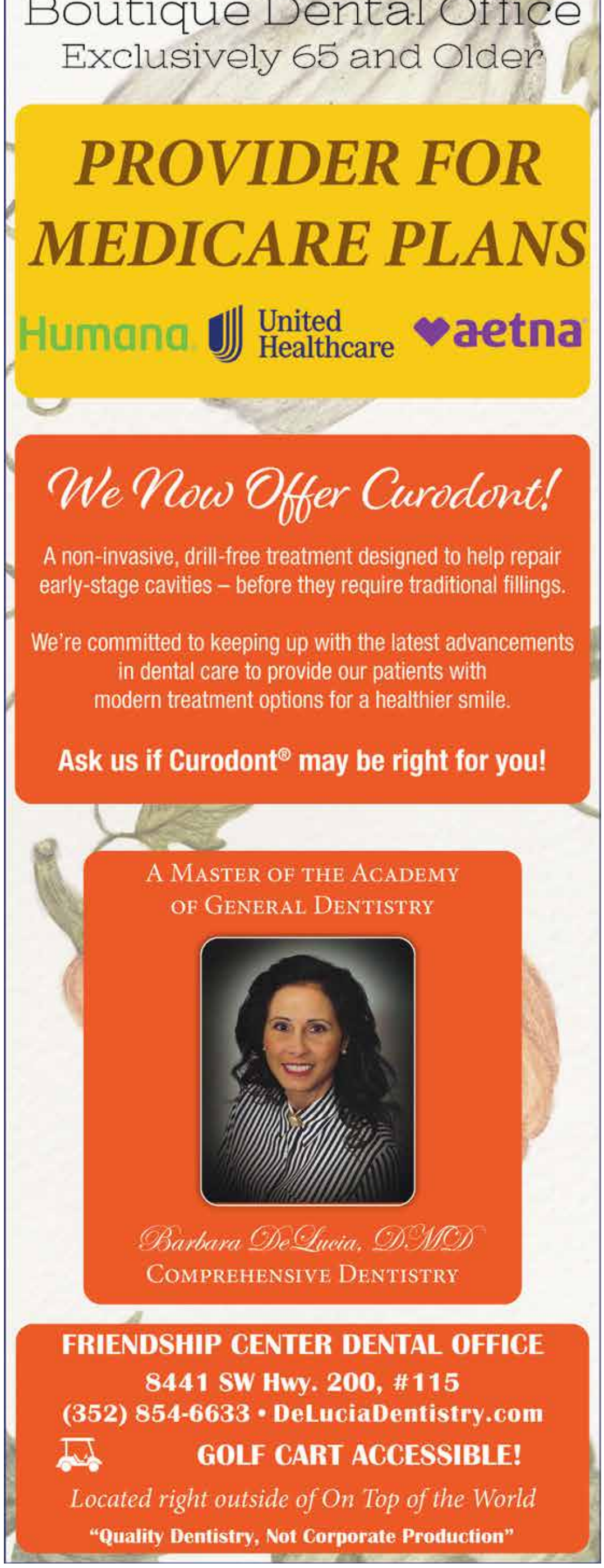


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Blacksmith Shop
1860s Cannon Firing
Museum Exhibits
Food and Treats
Artists & Crafters
Wood-Fired Pottery Kiln

Admission $10 Per Person - Children 5 and Under Free

Festival is supported in part by a grant from the Marion Cultural Alliance & the National Endowment for the Arts.

(352) 236-5401
www.SilverRiverMuseum.com



Community News

Continued from Page 1A

70 homes sold since the community opened and construction steadily progressing throughout the community.

A major milestone has been reached: final clearance from Marion County's Development Review Committee. This approval allows Colen Built Development to move forward with the power companies (Duke and Sumter Electric!) to set service meters, an important hurdle toward completing the homes. Once that process is complete, we expect to finish the homes quickly and welcome our first residents by mid-November. Marion County Utilities has delayed the water meter set.

Located just north of Indigo East, Melody Preserve offers a more intimate approach to active-adult living, combining the quality and thoughtful design Colen Built is known for with a smaller neighborhood and simplified lifestyle. Its attractive price point and low monthly HOA fee continue to resonate with buyers, including a growing number of current On Top of the World residents who are choosing Melody Preserve for a brand-new home in a more intimate community setting.

FLYING FIELD, R/C TRACK & DRONE FIELD:

Sitework is scheduled for completion by late November. As this work wraps up, final clearances are expected to be requested during November. Additional updates will be provided as the project progresses.

Landscape Update

October began with a lengthy wet period, followed by a tropical disturbance in the Gulf. Although this year's hurricane season was relatively quiet, these tropical disturbances are necessary to recharge our groundwater aquifers. Without them, the Southwest Florida Water Management District may extend the water restrictions for another 30 days, or until re-evaluation on the first of December. We all hope that this long drought will be officially declared ended.

Status of Continuation

On Wednesday, Oct. 21, the board of directors of On Top of the World (Central) Owners Association, Inc., voted to enter into a five-year continuation agreement with Parkway Marion Maintenance and Management, LLC. This agreement provides benefits to both residents and to Parkway. The largest resident benefit is uninterrupted property and maintenance services. Additionally, the agreement incorporates a pricing methodology based on the Engineering Record Magazine (ERM) index.

The board also renewed a four-party agreement for recreational amenities, currently provided through SCA Marion Amenities, LLC (SCA). This four-party agreement covers SCA, residents of On Top of the World, Candler Hills, and Weybourne Landing. This agreement results in a significant reduction of costs for recreational services, effective with the 2027 budget year and forward.

Safety First



Jonathan Miller
safetydepartment@otowfl.com

Before the '80s, your parents or siblings taught you about safety, especially if a sibling had to fight for you to protect you from the neighborhood bully. Sometimes a trusted neighbor would step in with sound safety advice. Life was different back then.

In the professional workplace, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) didn't exist until 1970. So much of safety came from word of mouth. If you were lucky enough to have a mentor who would take you under his or her wing, that was considered the best safety tip of all. Those safety tips were given and received with great respect from instructor to student.

Have times really changed after 50 years? In many ways, yes, but how? Decades ago, safety knowledge was valued differently because it came from people we knew and trusted. If you didn't listen to people who knew, you were labeled as a person who was going to get hurt. Or at least, at high risk.

If you were born between the years mentioned above, you would know just where those safety changes began to take a different shape or meaning. For example, mentors were everywhere, even assigned by professional organizations worldwide. It was commonplace to be mentored. Has safety mentoring all but disappeared? Those who had or could identify having been mentored decades ago, are they still amongst us?

The answer would be yes if you were born within the decades above. With your health and safety knowledge over the years, you're in a position to help mentor someone. Your safety knowledge is alive and well, and it is up to folks like you to pass it on.

When you needed mentoring, your parents, supervisors, managers, close neighbors, and friends and family used similar advice, which went like this: "Young man/woman, you don't have to listen to me. I want you to listen to me, because I have been there."

Even though skepticism lingered after that speech, mentoring continued, in hopes that their advice would sink in later in life, when it was most needed. Often, it did just that. Many of us realized after reaching adulthood that those who said they knew actually did. The older I became, the more I realized how intelligent my grandfather was.

Challenge yourself to find an organization that helps people find their way and pass on your safety knowledge. Give them what your elders gave to you. Safety has changed due to technology, but people are still people. You are very much needed to help someone. You now have the safety knowledge we still need out there. Knowledge will never exhaust itself as long as there are people. Be that safety mentor and pass on your safety knowledge. Believe that your knowledge will sink in.

For any questions, please email safetydepartment@colenbuilt.net.





Photo by Lori Matuson

Fairway Friends at The Summit.

The Fairway Friends

Lori Matuson

We kicked off October with a chili cook-off with seven incredible entries from white chicken chili to brisket chili.

Fairway Friends is looking forward to another fun-filled month, beginning with our first Friday gathering. It's a great opportunity to get together with neighbors, meet new friends, and enjoy a casual evening of food, conversation, and laughter.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we are especially grateful for the wonderful friendships and sense of community we share here at On Top of the World.

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at Fairways Friends!

REPLACEMENT CAR RFID(s)
Bring your car, resident ID, auto registration and $15 (plus tax).

Resident Services
8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday
No decals issued during inclement weather.





Resident Services

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

Candler Hills Survey

Last month, Parkway Maintenance & Management of Marion paid for a survey to be sent to all Candler Hills residents. The survey sought residents' opinions on their experience living in the community, amenities, management services, and areas for improvement. We thank everyone who took the time to participate and provide feedback. The information obtained from the survey is valuable and allows us to identify the areas in which we excel, as well as opportunities for improvement.

A full summary of the survey results will be shared on your AppFolio Owner's Portal under Shared Documents.

Holiday Decorations

The holiday season is just around the corner, and festive decorations come with it! As you prepare to decorate your homes, please remember that holiday lights and decorations may be displayed beginning the second weekend in November and must be removed by Jan. 16, 2027.

Any decorations placed on neighborhood monument signs must receive prior approval from the Compliance Department.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the Compliance & Modifications team at modifications@colenbuilt.net or call 352-854-3615.

Holiday Office Hours

Please be advised of the following upcoming Resident Services office closures:

- Wednesday, Nov. 18 (10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
- Friday, Nov. 20 (noon to 2 p.m.)
- Thursday, Nov. 26 & Friday, Nov. 27

Annual Meeting Schedule

Annual meetings are just around the corner! All homeowners are encouraged to attend both the Circle Square Ranch Master Association (CSRMA) annual meeting and their respective neighborhood association annual meeting.

These meetings provide a valuable opportunity to stay informed about important community updates, association business, and matters affecting your neighborhood.

We encourage all homeowners to attend, stay informed, and remain engaged in their community. All annual meetings will take place at Circle Square Cultural Center, at 10 a.m.

- Wednesday, Dec. 2: Circle Square Ranch Master Association
- Tuesday, Dec. 8: Weybourne Landing
- Wednesday, Dec. 9: Candler Hills
- Tuesday, Dec. 15: Indigo East
- Wednesday, Dec. 16: On Top of the World (Central)

Lifelong Learning



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

November is shaping up to be an exciting month at Master the Possibilities (MTP), with opportunities to learn, explore, connect with friends, and discover something new. But the month's biggest adventure is just around the corner, and everyone is invited to join the ride.

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, Nov. 11, from 1 to 3 p.m., when Master the Possibilities hosts "The Great American Road Trip" kick-off at Circle Square Cultural Center.

This special event celebrates the unveiling of MTP's January through June 2027 curriculum. From legendary highways and historic landmarks to fascinating people, regional traditions, music, food, and unforgettable destinations, the new semester promises an incredible journey across America, no suitcase required.

And this road trip goes far beyond Route 66. With an exciting lineup of visiting speakers, educational presentations, hands-on workshops, and unique learning experiences, the upcoming semester offers plenty of reasons to get excited.

Kick-off attendees will be among the first to receive the new 2027 curriculum catalog and can pre-register for their favorite classes during the event, plus be entered in a drawing for a free class.

Online registration officially opens at 3 p.m., immediately following the kick-off. With so many exciting opportunities ahead, you will not want to miss this event.

Of course, November is about much more than preparing for the next semester. MTP continues to offer a wonderful variety of classes and special presentations throughout the month.

On Monday, Nov. 2, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., "Horse Fever at 25: Art, Horses, and Community" (CMT155A) welcomes Laurie Zink to Circle Square Cultural Center. This fascinating presentation celebrates 25 years of Marion County's beloved Horse Fever public art project, exploring how beautifully painted horses helped inspire the Marion Cultural Alliance and continue to celebrate our community's equestrian heritage. Cost is $5 for members and $10 for the general public.

Just in time for Veterans Day, MTP presents the "Honoring Our Heroes" exhibition (HIS670A) on Tuesday, Nov. 10, from 10 a.m. to noon, in Live Oak Hall. This free event brings history to life through military uniforms, medals, photographs, letters, and treasured memorabilia shared by community members in a vendor-style format. Visitors will discover personal stories of service and sacrifice while honoring the generations who have served our nation.

Beyond these special events, November offers countless opportunities to explore creative arts, technology, history, health and wellness, and much more. Whether you're discovering a new hobby or reconnecting with an old passion, something is always happening at MTP.

The next great adventure begins Wednesday, Nov. 11. Come discover where Master the Possibilities will take you in 2027. Until then, visit www.masterthepossibilities.org or call 352-861-9751 to explore class opportunities and register. In-person assistance is available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Education Center.

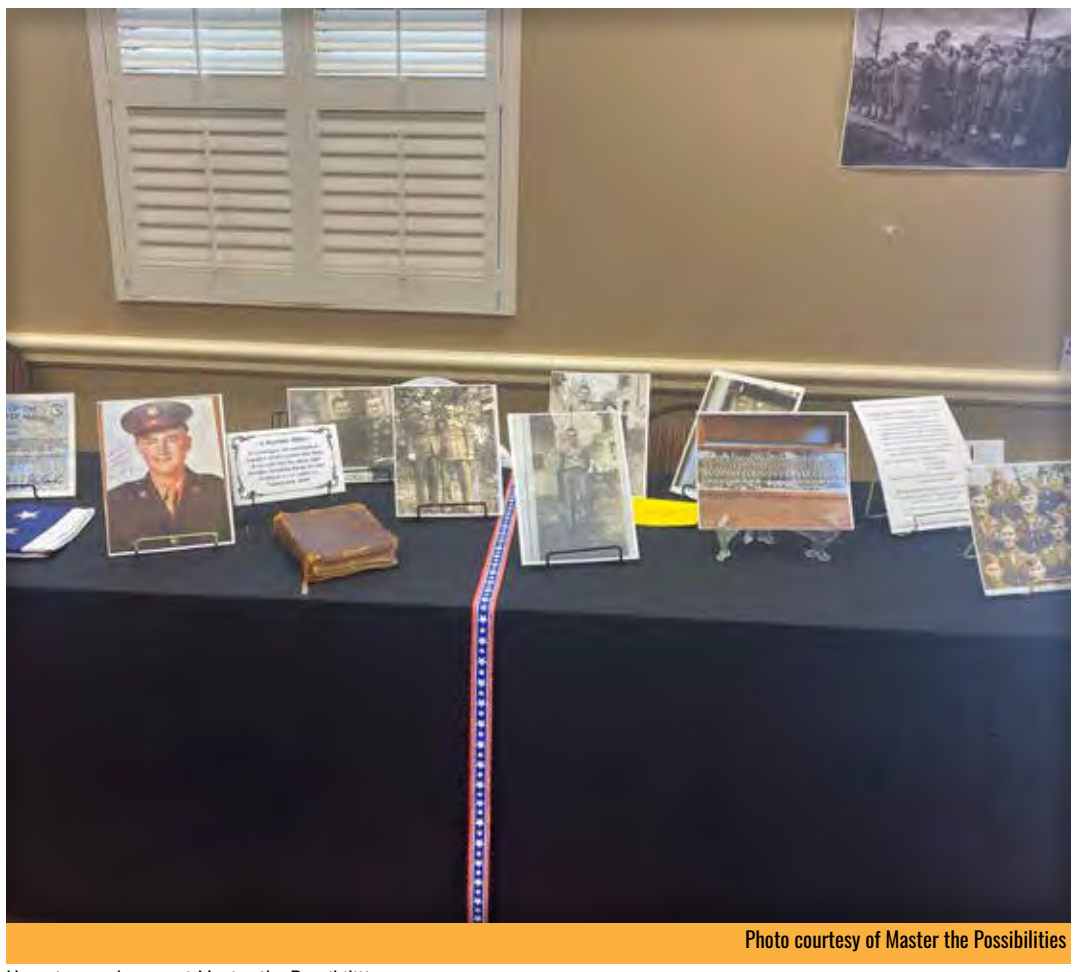


Photo courtesy of Master the Possibilities

Honoring our heroes at Master the Possibilities.

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Williamsburg Neighbors

Deanne Sanders-Below



Photo by Deanne Sanders-Below

Williamsburg neighbors gather for a summer cookout and potluck.

This summer, Williamsburg neighbors enjoyed an evening at the Veterans Park, grilling hot dogs and sharing favorite summer dishes at a potluck. Brian McDonald entertained us with his special music mix and led us through music trivia! Thank you to everyone who volunteered to plan, promote, provide entertainment, and help with setup and cleanup. It takes a tribe, and with much laughter, the neighborhood pulled off another memorable event.

Williamsburg neighbors enjoy a variety of events, including potlucks, game nights, dinners out, entertainment, men's luncheons, bunco, and more. Neighborhood officers welcome ideas for future gatherings, so share your suggestions and let the planning and excitement begin. Every event depends on volunteers, and we appreciate those who step up to make our gatherings successful.

As Williamsburg grows, we are thrilled to welcome our new neighbors and see them at our events. Our volunteer welcome ambassadors have been busy helping new residents get involved. Thank you to Lynn Phelps, Jake Jacobs, Laura Manzi, Dorothy Fazekas, Sandy Urbanski, and Chris Belonger for strengthening our neighborhood and inspiring connection. This is what makes Williamsburg special.

Ladies bunco will be held on Monday, Nov. 2, at 6 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room II. If you are new to the game, experienced players will be there to help. It is fun, easy to learn, and can be competitive.

The monthly men's luncheon is Wednesday, Nov. 11 at noon in the Hobby Building Event Room. Anyone is welcome. Bring a friend, a sack lunch, a drink, and enjoy the conversations.

Our monthly neighborhood dinner is Thursday, Nov. 19 at 6 p.m. at Live Fire Chefs. RSVP to Jan Powell at 304-546-1615 or email janpowell2009@outlook.com.

Join your neighbors for a Thanksgiving meal on Wednesday, Nov. 25, at 1 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room II. We will serve turkey, and everyone is asked to bring a side dish. Look for the November Happenings email to RSVP.

Our annual holiday party will be held on Saturday, Dec. 5, in The Summit Ballroom at 5 p.m. Join us for a festive holiday meal, music, dancing, and door prizes. RSVP to Carmel at 336-253-1250 to make your reservation. The deadline to reserve is Sunday, Nov. 15.

Join your neighbors in celebrating 2027 on Thursday, Dec. 31. Additional details, including RSVP information, will be shared soon.

To stay informed, join our email list by sending your full name, address, and email to Ghina Siddiqui at gsiddiqui@gmail.com. Visit our Facebook page (Welcome to Williamsburg – OTOW). We also have the OTOW Central HOA Facebook Page that we can access. Our Williamsburg president is Mike Below, who can be reached at mdbelow@comcast.net or by calling or texting 317-524-8003 with any questions, suggestions, or concerns.

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



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Ashford Happenings

Debbie Troise

Over the summer, many of our Ashford neighbors planned and organized events to bring our neighborhood together. These events give us a chance to meet new neighbors and to reconnect with old friends.

Saturday, Oct. 24 was an unforgettable evening as Ashford's high society gathered for their first masquerade ball. The evening was shrouded in mystery as revelers hid behind elaborate masks and costumes. Guests dined on charcuterie delights, sipped champagne, and danced into the night. Thank you to Jean and Joanne for organizing this special evening.

In November, we pay tribute to those who heroically served in the military. We are privileged to have many veterans in Ashford, and we honor one each year for their bravery and sacrifice. We are proud to announce that Martin D' Giff, a Vietnam veteran who served in the Marine Corps, is this year's honoree.

On Saturday, Nov. 7, please join us for our fourth annual golf cart parade to show our gratitude to Martin and to all our Ashford veterans. The parade will start in Ashford and continue to the softball field for a special dedication followed by the annual veterans' softball game. Please remember to thank a veteran for their service.

On Sunday, Nov. 29, join in the holiday lighting at our two monument entrances. Wear your Santa hats and bring your favorite beverage for this festive event.

Please join us at both monuments on Friday, Dec. 4, at sundown for the menorah lighting to celebrate the festival of Hanukkah.

Ashford's annual holiday party will be held on Thursday, Dec. 10. Pasta Faire will cater the dinner. Tickets cost $35 per person and can be purchased on Thursday, Oct. 29, from 2 to 4 p.m. at The Lodge at Candler Hills. Many thanks to Dana for organizing this year's holiday party. Please refer to our Facebook page for more details.

Our fourth annual holiday golf cart caravan will be on Tuesday, Dec. 15. Each year, John Walsh leads the caravan to view the festive holiday decorations throughout the neighborhoods. It is a great way to get into the holiday spirit!

Please note that the above dates, times, and events are subject to change. Please refer to our Facebook page (Ashford in Candler Hills) for the latest.



On Top of the World

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Candler Connection



Debra Keirn

We had a great time at the Halloween party. Great costumes, MPiRE's music, and carved pumpkins. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the holiday with our friends. Special thanks to everyone who planned this event.

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

The next potluck dinner is Tuesday, Nov. 24, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. It will be a Friendsgiving event. Turkey and ham will be provided, and those residents with last names beginning with A-H should bring a main dish, I-P a side dish or salad, and Q-Z a dessert. The cost is $1 at the door, which covers event expenses. 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.

On Saturday, Dec. 12, from 5:30 to 9 p.m., we'll have a 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 marinara sauce, rosemary-roasted potatoes, Italian-style green beans, and a variety of desserts. Tickets are on sale each Tuesday and Thursday from Nov. 3 through Nov. 24 for $45 per Candler Hills resident and $47 per guest.

The New Year's Eve party will be a casual event starting at 9:30 p.m. with Palomino Blonde providing the music. You are to bring appetizers or snacks for your table of 10, and we will provide the desserts. The price is $15 per Candler Hills resident and $17 per guest. Tickets are on sale Tuesday, Nov. 10 through Thursday, Dec. 3. Let's ring in the New Year until 12:30 a.m. with a traditional New Year's Eve toast.

2027 events have been finalized and are as follows: Valentine's Day sock hop (Feb. 14), trunk and craft sale (March 13), Cinco De Mayo (May 2), Flag Day celebration (June 14), ice cream social (Aug. 15), chili cook-off and hoedown (Oct. 9), holiday party (Dec. 11), New Year's Eve party (Dec. 31), and potlucks the last Tuesday of each month.

It has been a great year in Candler Hills, and we have had many successful events. Thank you for supporting our events, and we hope that you will support our 2027 events.

We are always looking for new members on our social committee. We meet the last Wednesday of each month in The Lodge Meeting Room 1 at 4 p.m. New ideas are always welcome.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving with family and friends, and we hope that you will attend the Friendsgiving potluck to celebrate together.

See you around the neighborhood and at future events.

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Avalon Social Group

Laura Gavey & Sharon Hall

Do you love music? Want to hear some blasts from the past? Ready to sing along and test your musical knowledge? On Monday, Nov. 9, we're bringing back the music sing-along. The fun starts at 5:30 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios. Doors will open at 5:20 p.m. Bring a shareable (i.e., snacks, appetizers, or desserts) to share with your table of 8. We will provide paper goods and cutlery. Bring serving utensils, if needed. Bring your own beverage.

Tickets are $5 per person. RSVP no later than Monday, Nov. 2. Contact Sharon Hall at 270-855-1354 for tickets or more information.

Indigo East Social Committee

Teresa Davis

November is a time for gratitude, and Indigo East has plenty to be thankful for, especially neighbors who give their time, share their talents, and quietly make life better for others.

We don't hold a mayoral election or cast an official ballot, but we still have "Mayor Mike"! Mike and Judy Zwierzchowski are the very definition of good neighbors and have received the spirit award. Whether dropping off delicious homemade barbecue just because, driving a neighbor to a doctor's appointment, bringing meals during an illness, or checking on someone they haven't seen lately, they turn caring into action.

They also created Indigo East T-shirts and other items to help us show our community pride. Recently, they noticed leftover sod headed for disposal during a resident's approved landscaping project. They asked permission to take it, carried it to a bare patch in the dog park, laid it down, and watered it. See a need, lend a hand – that's Mike and Judy.

Last year's Christmas golf cart parade was a huge hit, with prizes they collected. They do all this and more simply because that's who they are. Thanks, Mayor and Judy; you 100% deserve the spirit award. We see you, and we are grateful!

A big thank you to Kathy Savini and Lydia Kuust for organizing our craft fair! Eleven Indigo East residents and 13 crafters from other neighborhoods participated. The well-attended event featured fabulous creations and plenty of talent.

Thank you to everyone who delivered the care committee's informational flyers door to door, helping connect neighbors with available support and resources.

The healing hearts support group welcomes all residents seeking encouragement, connection, and a supportive community. The group offers helpful information, resources, meaningful discussions, and guidance to help residents navigate life's challenges and find a positive path forward. While it is not a therapy group, it provides a warm, caring environment where residents can

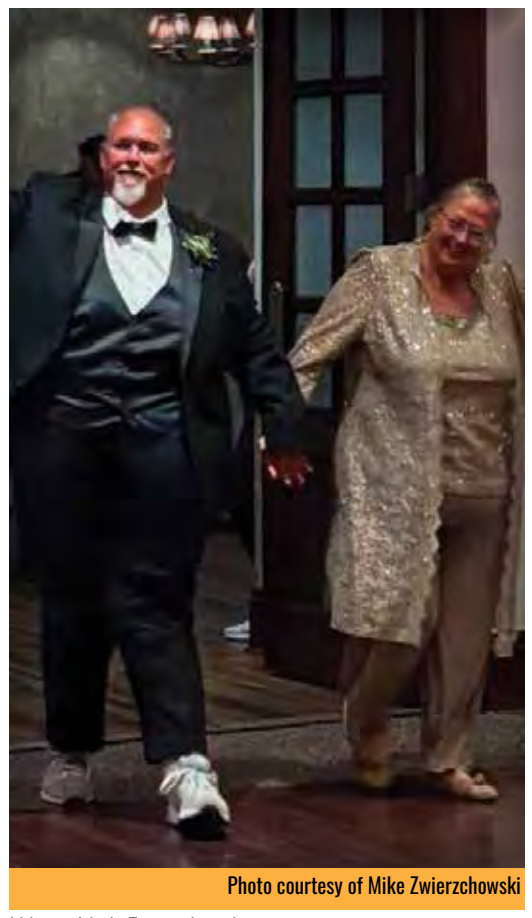


Photo courtesy of Mike Zwierzchowski

Mike and Judy Zwierzchowski.

share experiences, connect with others, and feel supported. For information, contact Dr. Athena Drewes at 845-283-8760 or drathenadrewes@gmail.com.

Friendsgiving takes place on Thursday, Nov. 12, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Indigo East Community Center. Nora is providing ham, turkey, gravy, and dressing, and the club will provide drinks and desserts. Bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish to share. Ben Simmons will be singing! Purchase tickets through the OTOW App.

On Sunday, Nov. 15 – ride, seek, and celebrate – the golf cart scavenger hunt, created by Marge Slater, will take place! Each golf cart is a team, so gather your neighbors and meet at the Indigo East Fitness Center parking lot at 3:30 p.m. RSVP through Facebook.

Follow the clues, test your neighborhood knowledge, and return for prizes and an after-party on the porch with food and drinks. Skipping the hunt? Join us for the after-party anyway! Everyone is welcome to share the fun.

This holiday season, let's keep looking out for one another. A phone call, an invitation, or a helping hand can mean more than we realize!

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Longleaf Ridge Friends

Debra Vitale

Save the date! Join us Wednesday, Nov. 18, from 5 to 7 p.m. in The Summit Ballroom for the launch of the Longleaf Links group, open to all Longleaf Ridge residents. Our meet-and-greet theme is "thankfulness," so come ready to count your blessings, meet your neighbors, and perhaps count how many desserts you can sample! If possible, bring an appetizer or dessert for the potluck, along with a canned good for the Salvation Army food drive. Phase representatives will share more details soon, so stay tuned.

Barb Hollock shared that when wet weather spoiled the outdoor gathering at the Veterans Park, The Summit came to the rescue. Food, games, and plenty of neighborly connections filled the agenda, while Ray Sherman expertly rallied everyone for photos – proof that even a rainy-day crowd can be brought into focus.

Gloria Emmons reported on a lively picnic and potluck at the Veterans Park organized by Chris Snyder and Robin Waselewski. The social committee supplied the hot dogs, and residents filled the tables with an array of tasty dishes; apparently, nobody received the memo about bringing "just a little something." A special shout-out goes to grill master Jim Lovejoy, along with Don Waselewski and Don Wright, making the gathering a delicious and memorable success.

Kathleen Taylor shared the book club's latest selection, "Dangerous Women," by Hope Adams. Inspired by a true story, this historical novel follows a rough-and-tumble group of 180 convicted women in 19th-century London who are sent by ship to Australia for a new beginning – and a second chance. Along the journey, they learn skills, such as patchwork quilting, that bring them closer together- one stitch and one plot twist at a time. Many thanks to Pat Kettel for hosting and guiding the discussion.

Penny Lagattolla, our newest contributor, reported on a potluck. Thanks to everyone who attended and helped plan the event. There was plenty of food, fun, and laughter while meeting new neighbors and, as every good potluck proves, calories are much friendlier when shared.

Suzie Baylis reported that summer break has officially ended, and the monthly luncheons for guys and gals are returning – because catching up with neighbors is even better with lunch. Residents are also gearing up for the holiday season and looking forward to continuing favorite neighborhood traditions. Untangle the lights; it's time for the fun to begin!

Judi Walsh reported that the third annual "Burgers, Brats and Beer Fest," hosted by the Marcineks at the Veterans Park on Labor Day, served up all the essentials for a great neighborhood celebration: delicious food, lively games, and plenty of dancing to live music by Johnny G. Between the burgers, brats, and cold refreshments, no one had to wonder why this festive tradition has made it to year three – or why comfortable dancing shoes were a wise choice!

Here's to a lively November filled with plenty of reasons to gather!



Photo by Ray Sherman

Indoor Labor Day picnic at The Summit.

Balfour Buzz

Kurt Larson

Welcome to fall! We have made it through the summer and are finally enjoying cooler temperatures, despite the lingering humidity from the recent rain.

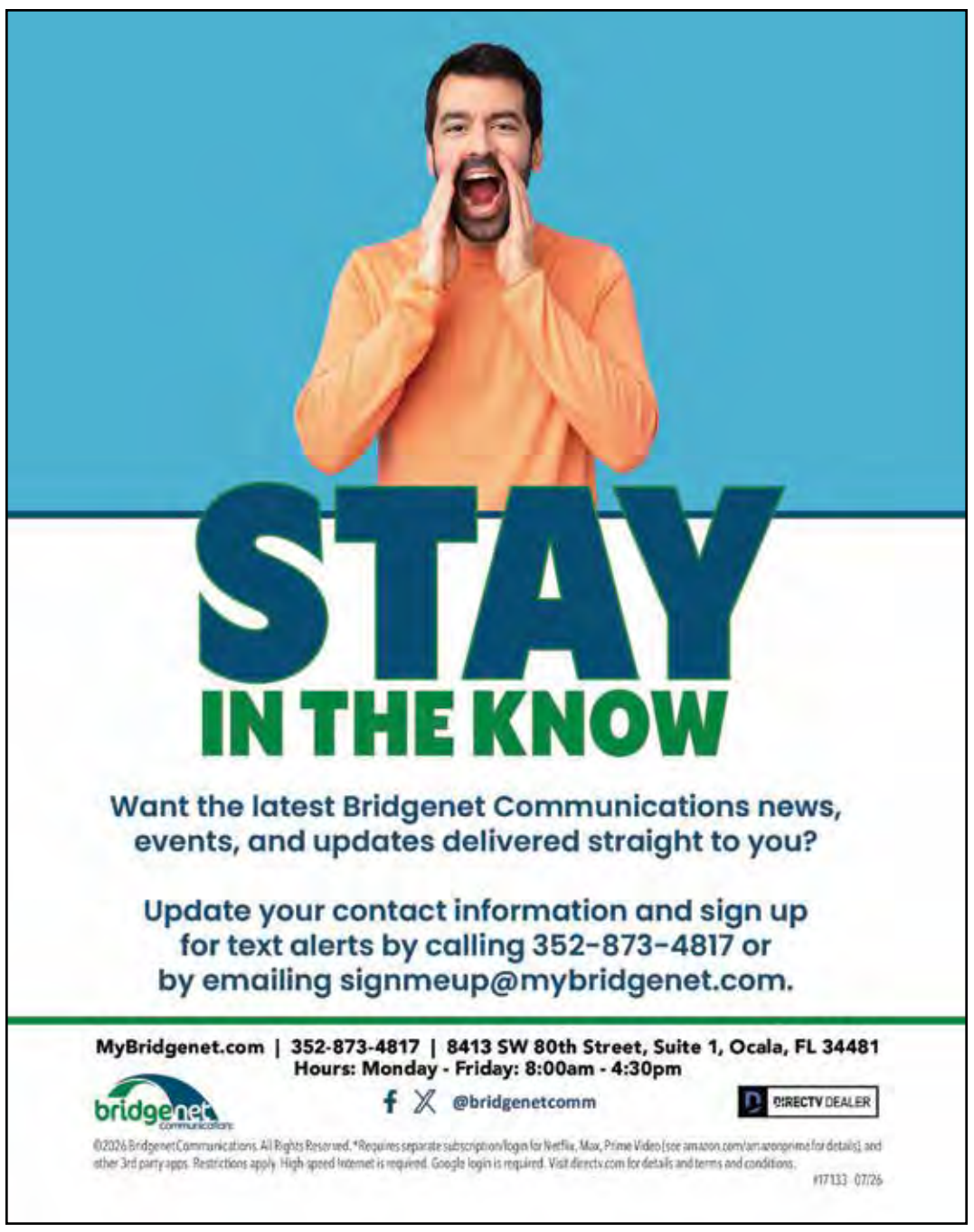
With Halloween approaching, our neighborhood is full of holiday spirit. Take a drive down 99th Street to see for yourself! A friendly decorating competition has developed between neighbors. While Florida does not rank in the top 10 states for Halloween spirit, Indiana does – and one of these displays belongs to a former Hoosier.

On that note, the social committee will host a Halloween party at the pavilion in Balfour on Friday, Oct. 30, from 4 to 6 p.m. This is a bring-your-own-beverage and snack-to-share event. Please look for further details on our Facebook page.

Additionally, on Friday, Nov. 20, the Balfour Social Committee will host the Balfour harvest feast. This will be a potluck dinner, so please check our Facebook page and the mailbox signboards for additional details. We hope to see everyone there!

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Active Newcomers Club

Linda Baker

Can you believe 2026 is almost over? The Active Newcomers Club is busy with year-end activities and planning for 2027. We hope our current members will join us for the fun events we have planned for next year. We are always looking for people who want to plan or help with events. Please let us know if you want to jump in. New ideas are welcome!

Members enjoyed a frightfully good evening at our annual "Scary Nights" Halloween party held in October. All the goblins and ghouls danced to the music provided by DJ Scott Bolton. We enjoyed all the scary (and not-so-scary) costumes. Everyone had a fun time.

Please join us on Monday, Nov. 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the Candler Hills Community Center Ballroom for an important general membership meeting. The meeting will focus on changes the board is considering for the Active Newcomers Club's future. We would like your input before opening membership for 2027.

We received a very positive response to our tour of the Grandview Clydesdales Horse Farm on Nov. 17. Check our Facebook page to see if tickets are still available.

We are busy planning our holiday party, which will be held on Thursday, Dec. 17, in The Lodge at Candler Hills Ballroom. Pasta Faire will cater this fun event. DJ Scott Bolton will provide music. Watch the Facebook page and your email for details and sign-ups for this bring-your-own-beverage event.

Many of our small group activities are taking a break for the rest of the year. We'll form new groups early next year, giving members a chance to meet new friends and explore the Ocala restaurant scene. Wine groups will also take a break. We will invite all 2026 wine group members to a gathering in January at The Lodge at Candler Hills.

All members of wine, foodies, gourmet, lunch, and dinner groups are required to host an event at least once during the year. Please keep this in mind when signing up for groups. Wine, gourmet, and foodies groups meet in members' homes, while lunch and dinner hosts choose restaurants and coordinate attendance.

We will kick off 2027 with our annual meeting in January. We are busy planning other events and will share the details soon. Members are also organizing informal gatherings, including samba instruction, Mexican train games, and private events at local craft stores. As always, check our Facebook page for more information.

Membership applications for 2027 will be available on our website starting Tuesday, Dec. 1. To become a member, you must have 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.

Crescent Ridge Happenings

Carol Lewis

Attendees enjoyed great food and lively conversation at our October social. We welcomed several new members again this month. The food is always good, and conversations flow freely at every table, so come join us, meet new neighbors, and make new friends.

Our socials are held at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio I from 3 to 5 p.m. on the second Sunday of the month. Our theme for Sunday, Nov. 8 will be Thanksgiving. Just bring a dish to share and a beverage of your choice.

To get faster information affecting Crescent Ridge/Crescent Green residents, join our Facebook page (OTOW Crescent Ridge Neighbors) or send an email to crneighbors@yahoo.com to receive emails regarding Crescent Ridge information.



Photo by Carol Lewis

Crescent Ridge happenings in October.



Photo by Barbara Katz

Hiking club members enjoying the first hike of the season.

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Community Emergency Response Team

Debbie Snyder

At our September CERT meeting, Jon Fiedler provided our annual hazardous materials review. He introduced the ERG (Emergency Response Guidebook) app, reviewed key safety information, and demonstrated how it can help users quickly identify hazardous materials and find appropriate response and safety guidance during an emergency. He then led an exercise using realistic scenarios so we could practice applying the app to each situation. This valuable resource helps CERT members make informed decisions and remain safe while assisting during an incident. Although many CERT members were familiar with the printed ERG, this exercise helped everyone become comfortable using the app as well. Thank you, Jon!



Photo by Anthony Pressley

CERT members Linda Blair and Fran Maurino assisted at the Weybourne Landing flagpole dedication.

In September, CERT members Linda Blair, Fran Maurino, Allen Rippy, Terry Strey, and Bruce Twiss also assisted with the flagpole dedication ceremony in Weybourne Landing. CERT members have the opportunity to receive additional training in traffic management and are available to help with parking and crowd control at events around On Top of the World.

CERT is a nationally recognized program through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Locally, the Emergency Management Division of the Marion County Sheriff' s Office trains us, and On Top of the World supports us. Members attend an initial five-week Saturday class and receive training in light search and rescue, damage assessment, basic first aid, and hazardous materials awareness so they can help our community during a disaster. We provide ongoing education and drills through our monthly meetings.

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

Community ham radio operators can also assist us from home by tuning into Simplex frequency 146.565. During a disaster, 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.

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

Citizens Community Patrol

Rocky Pizzarello

Some of us remember waking up as kids on Saturday mornings, turning on the black-and-white TV, and watching cowboy shows. Gene Autry, "The Singing Cowboy," was known for his theme song, "I' m Back in the Saddle Again," which continued, "out where a friend is a friend."

Why does the Citizens Community Patrol column start off talking about westerns? The phrase "back in the saddle again" means returning to a normal routine, job, or activity after a break or absence.

Last month, the Citizens Community Patrol was featured in the World News, announcing our return to the job we' ve done for 20-plus years, being the eyes and ears of On Top of the World.

We resumed driving around the different neighborhoods and buildings in September. Thirty-nine volunteers worked 23 shifts that month, totaling 240 hours. During those shifts, we visited the different neighborhoods 463 times. And that' s only the beginning!

At our September monthly meeting, team leader and club president, Allison Gysen, introduced Allen Abbott, Bill Aman, Jon Fiedler, Rocky Pizzarello, and Gary Rodoff, who will serve as field trainers for new volunteers, familiarizing them with our policies and procedures and taking them into the community for hands-on experience. Community Safety and Loss Prevention Manager Geoff Oldberg from Colen Built Development then discussed new patrol initiatives and invited volunteers to the appreciation luncheon in December.

Geoff then introduced Lt. Thomas Tingue from the Marion County Sheriff' s Office (MCSO). Lt. Tingue thanked the group for its service and shared his background with attendees. He discussed MCSO' s responsibilities and shared statistics on crimes in the Southwest sector. Lt. Tingue stated that On Top of the World continues to lead local 55-plus communities with no (serious) crimes reported.

In response to a question, Lt. Tingue explained the differences between a golf cart (no license required) and a "low speed" vehicle (LSV), which goes over 20 miles per hour and needs to be registered and insured.

He thanked the members and reminded them that "if you see something – say something." He also offered a helpful money-saving "tip." Drive within the law both inside and outside the community! As the snowbirds head south again, traffic enforcement will once more be an issue. Fines for speeding or failing to come to a complete stop can range from $100 to $500, depending on speed, even in a golf cart/LSV. Obey the law and save money!

We thank our volunteers for keeping our community safe. If you' d like to learn more about the Citizens Community Patrol, please join us at our monthly meeting on the fourth Monday of each month at 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. For more information, please contact Allison Gysen at OTOWCommunityPatrol@gmail.com.

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Another Year of Giving Thanks

By Paul Disclafani
World News Writer

Growing up in an Italian family, every Thanksgiving found us at grandma's house, surrounded by aunts, uncles, and cousins. Traditional Italian Thanksgiving feasts included antipasto, lasagna, and turkey soup before the actual turkey. There was a football game, breaks between courses for uncles to nap, and turkey sandwiches to be had after rounds of fruit platters, nuts, coffee, and Italian pastries.

As my generation of Baby Boomers aged and began hosting our own Thanksgiving celebrations, the extravagant feasts were scaled back to big meals, eliminating most pre- and post-turkey courses. We also started a tradition of going around the table, asking each other what we were thankful for.

The adults in the room were mostly thankful for their health, hopeful for world peace, or happily employed. While I'm sure everyone spoke from the heart, I always questioned their sincerity. It sounded like they were auditioning for the next Miss USA Pageant.

This year, I propose that those of us who are identifying what we are thankful for in 2026 be more truthful. Here's a quick list of what I'm grateful for in 2026.

Shows at Circle Square Cultural Center: Is there a better venue within driving distance? Famous musicians, comedians, tribute bands, magicians, and even animals! All accessible via golf cart. Most ticket prices are reasonable.

Streaming Services: Although they entice you with low monthly rates, there are so many different streaming services that the costs begin to add up. That said, I challenge anyone to think of something they would like to watch on TV that you can't find on one of these services. They've created a new level of laziness called binge-watching.

Reclining/Reserved Seating in Movie Theaters: Remember the hassle of seeing a popular movie? Buying a ticket never guaranteed you would find a seat, let alone sit together. Today, you cannot only reserve your reclining, comfy seat, but, depending on the movie's length, even catch a few ZZ's. The practice of "saving seats" is now extinct.

On Top of the World: In general, this is a great place to live. Of course, you'll encounter people who complain about almost anything, but if you stay off Facebook, you can avoid most of it. I've met many cool, like-minded people here. I've learned card games I'd never even heard of, discovered that bocce isn't just a game for family picnics, and learned that no matter how hard I try, I still can't get the eight-ball in when playing pool. Add in the fact that I no longer have to vacuum my pool, and it's been a home run!

Urgent Care Centers: Gone are the days of physicians making house calls. In 2026, you can just pop into one of the many urgent care facilities sprouting up like Starbucks. They take X-rays, prescribe medication, and tell you to go to the ER if things are really bad. No appointment is necessary.

Have a great day of giving thanks, dear readers!

Finding Zen

Robert Colen
info@sholompark.org

When we walk through Sholom Park, most of what captures our attention is above ground – the canopy of a large oak, changing colors in the gardens, a bird moving through the branches, or simply the welcome shade of a tree on a warm Florida day. Yet beneath our feet is another world entirely.

On Friday, Nov. 20, Sholom Park's Learn, Explore, Appreciate & Focus (LEAF) series welcomes Maxine Hunter for "Mother Tree: How Trees Communicate." Maxine is a UF/IFAS Extension residential horticulture agent and Master Gardener coordinator.

We often think of a forest as thousands of individual trees competing for sunlight, water, and nutrients. In reality, the relationships are far more complicated. Beneath the soil, tree roots interact with fungi, bacteria, and other organisms. Fungi can help trees obtain water and nutrients while receiving sugars produced by the trees, and these underground networks can connect different plants and trees.

The idea of the "mother tree" looks at the role large, mature trees may play within these forest communities. Through networks of roots, fungi, and soil, nutrients and chemical signals can move through the forest in ways scientists are still working to fully understand. It is a fascinating reminder that a forest is much more than a collection of individual trees.

That idea of connection continues on Friday, Dec. 4, when Lori Szepelak leads "Building a Sholom Park Time Capsule of Hope."

As America concludes its 250th anniversary celebration, participants will help capture a small piece of life in 2026 for people 50 years from now. You might contribute a letter, favorite memory, recipe, poem, drawing, or prediction for the future. The completed time capsule will be sealed and opened in 2076.

I particularly like the thought that someday another group of people will gather at Sholom Park and discover what mattered to us, what we hoped for and what we imagined their world might become.

Finally, on Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 6 p.m., we will close the year with "Moonlight Reflections: A Crystal Singing Bowl Sound Bath," a special Park After Dark experience led by Misty Frye.

The evening will combine guided meditation with the sounds of crystal singing bowls beneath the evening sky – a chance to slow down, enjoy the peaceful surroundings of Sholom Park, and reflect on the year that is ending.

The evening concludes with "Luminaries on the Pond." Participants will write a word, intention, or personal reflection and release a floating luminary onto the water, creating a display of light representing gratitude, remembrance, hope, healing, and new beginnings.

From the unseen relationships beneath the forest floor, to a message waiting 50 years to be discovered, to a light floating across the pond, these programs give us another reason to stop, look a little closer, and appreciate our connection to the world around us.

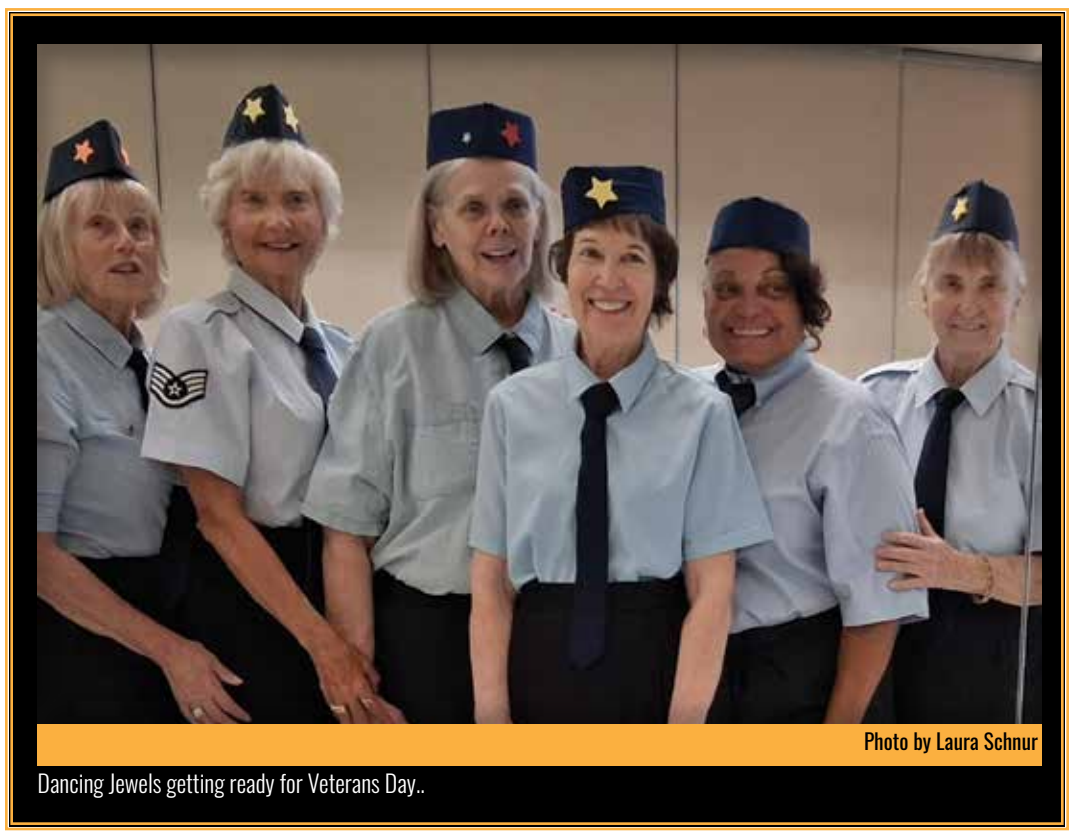


Photo by Laura Schnur

Dancing Jewels getting ready for Veterans Day..



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Photo by Ellie Richards

Helmet liners from Mary Till.

Veterans Club



Charles Calhoun

The Veterans Club is associated with many organizations that benefit the community, veterans, and active-duty personnel.

No one works harder than Operation Shoebox, another charity with hundreds of volunteers, many of whom live here. We recently had a flagpole dedication at Weybourne Landing and collected truckloads of supplies, letters to the troops, and money (over $1,000).

Another significant milestone is from one resident who hand-crochets helmet liners. Mary Till has been supplying helmet liners to Operation Shoebox and our local National Guard; so far, she has made 1685 helmet liners.

"Mail call" is one of the best memories of any veteran. It provides a break from hard times and reminds us that someone cares. The letters that accompany these packages from home can create lifelong pen pals.

Two of our local heroes, Ellie and Marshall Richards, spearhead the collection here, take it back to Operation Shoebox, and help pack it for shipment overseas to our active-duty military.

Many clubs do monthly collections: Veterans Club, Republican Club, Women of the World, and Fun with Golf Carts. I know I missed a few. Please forgive me.

Please consider donating items or money- yes, money. Operation Shoebox spends over $60,000 a year in postal fees to ship care packages to our troops.

I have placed Toys for Tots collection boxes throughout our community. We will collect through the middle of December to provide toys for children who might not get anything for Christmas without your help.

The Veterans Club meets the third Thursday of the month at 3 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV.

There are no dues, free coffee, and Fran's cookies along with free military hats and a warm welcome. Contact Charlie Calhoun at 352-556-6004 with any questions.

Democratic Club



Mark Miller

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

The Tuesday, Nov. 3 General Election is just around the corner. Make it your business to vote!

Our September meeting featured Seth Harp, Democratic candidate for Congress, Florida District 3. His campaign has come a long way, and we're optimistic about his success!

Our October meeting ran longer than usual. Bert Perkins, representing the League of Women Voters, spoke to us about three amendments that will appear on the ballot in November. Of primary importance to many of our members is Amendment 3. Also, Meghan Bowman from Your Florida interviewed members about issues that are of significance to our club members. Hope you didn't miss that meeting!

Our Thursday, Nov. 19 club meeting will be an open-agenda meeting with member comments and discussion, some humorous slides and pictures, and the Poms Dance and Cheer Squad to start our meeting. Keep in mind this is the third Thursday in November, not the fourth, because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

We continue to support the Ocala Ritz Veterans Village. The veterans who live there need our support with many items we all take for granted. Our top donation priority 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. Needed food items include 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 can't 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.

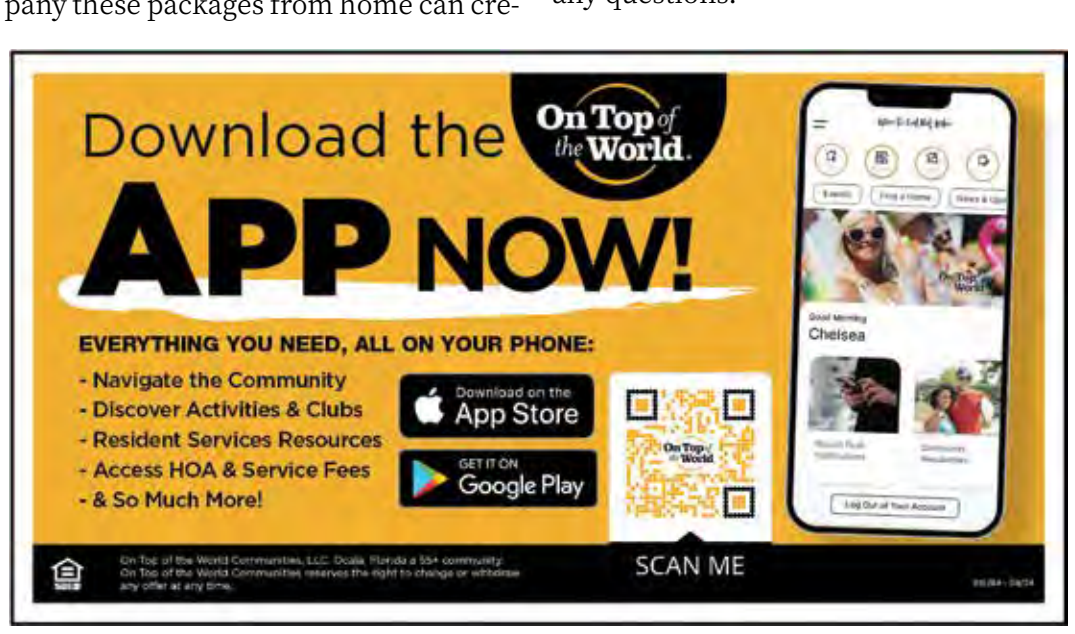
For more information, contact Mark Miller at 443-848-8549 or demclubotow@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you at our meeting on Nov. 19.



Photo by Leslie Miller

Seth Harp, candidate for Congress, received a campaign contribution from President Mark Miller.

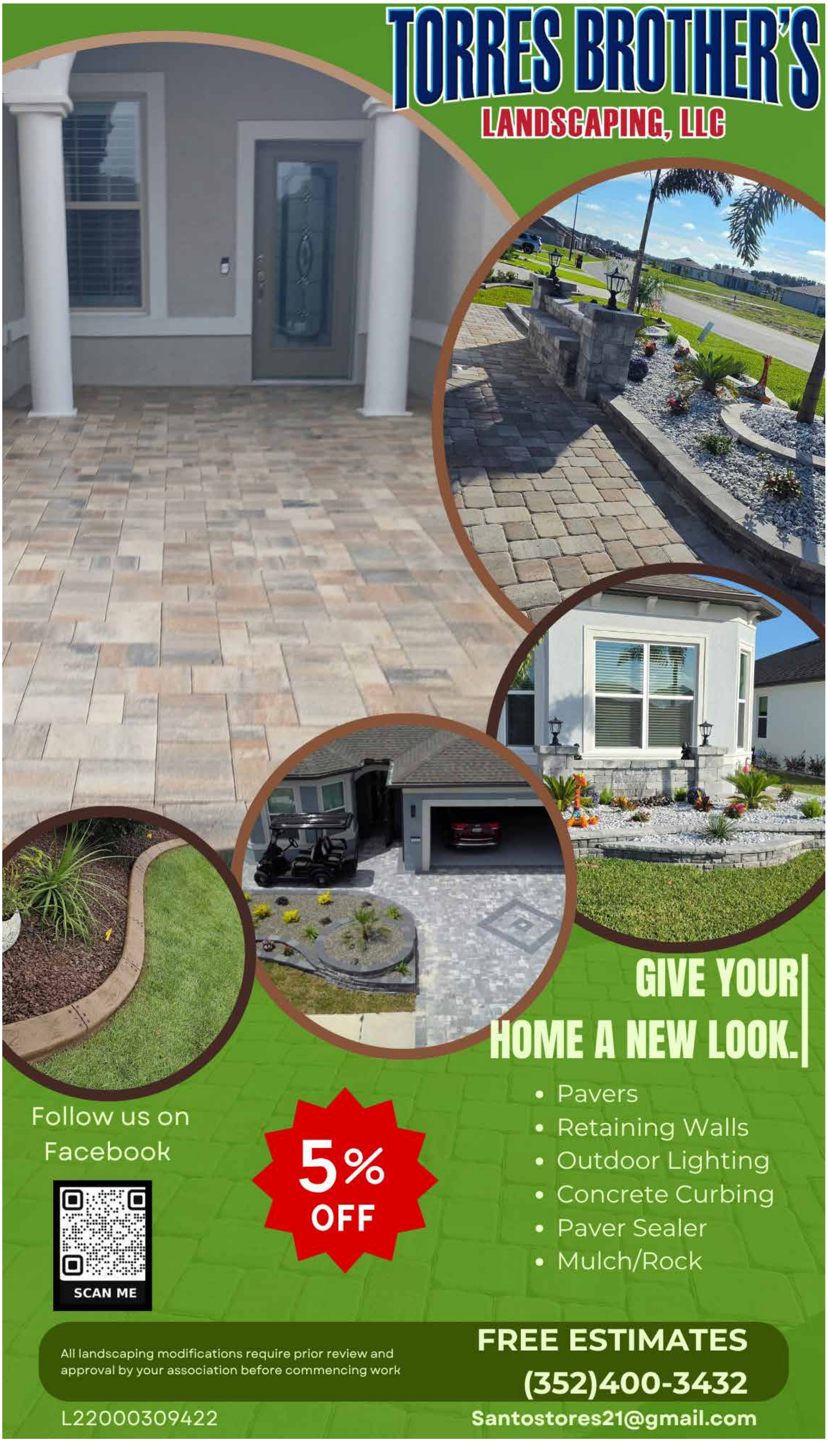








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SECTION B
LIFESTYLE
Vol. 40, No. 5 November 2026

A Tree Grows

By Vickie Noltensmeyer

Back in 2012, two wonderful women golfers, Jeri Gill and Sharon Bartholomew, wanted to start a fun-only golf experience for women.

So the Friday Golf Girls was formed. Show up, pair up, and bring a beer.

That year, the ladies discovered a little tree growing out of a big rock on #7 at The Links Golf Course and, at Christmas, decided it needed decorations! Members of Friday Golf Girls became the "elves" who have continued that tradition to this day.

The golf maintenance crew moved the rock with the little tree (when SW 98th Street was scheduled to begin construction) to the men's tee box on #8 across from the restrooms. They returned it to its rightful place on the golf course cart path just past the #7 green before crossing SW 98th Street to #8. We are truly grateful they did!

Different elves have been involved over the years. The Friday Golf Girls don't play as a group anymore, but the legacy of that group lives on through this tradition. We hope the golfers who pass by and the people who drive or walk SW 98th Street enjoy the tree that grows in its holiday splendor at Christmas.



Photo by Vickie Noltensmeyer

Little tree that could!



Photo by Vickie Noltensmeyer

Big tree that did!

Giving and Making a Difference

By Lois Rowland

Women of the World is a social and charitable organization. Our mission is to entertain, inform, educate, and inspire our members through monthly meetings, and to support 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 (except for November and March).

At our October meeting, Broadway Moves with Penny provided entertainment. Penny Berton, who teaches jazz and tap dancing at On Top of the World, and her students entertained us with seven different dances. The first number was "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" to celebrate our country's 250th anniversary. The program really brightened up a rainy day.

Penny explained that she teaches classes for seven weeks. After the sixth week, the groups put on a video dance recital. The recitals are free and open to everyone. The groups also perform at local assisted living facilities.

Catherine Sears from Marion Therapeutic Riding Association (MTRA) was our speaker. They offer equine therapy on the ground or in the saddle. They have programs for veterans and for children. Their purpose is to empower individuals with physical, emotional, and cognitive challenges. Catherine shared examples of their success stories.

They currently have 27 horses in the program. The horses are donated after they are unable to perform their original jobs. The training takes two years before the horses enter the equine therapy program. About 150 clients participate in one of the equine therapy programs each week.

Once again, the Women of the World members were very generous with the donations to this charity.

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 prizes, basket raffles, and prizes for a trivia game. The $30 tickets are now on sale during Ticket Tuesday in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room II from 9 a.m. to noon.

The 24th annual Fashion Show will be on Wednesday, March 10, 2027. Dilliard's and the On Top of the World Golf Shop will supply the fashions. Tickets will go on sale in January 2027.

The club is open to all women residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. If you are interested in joining us, please call Michele Croud, club president, at 586-872-1966.



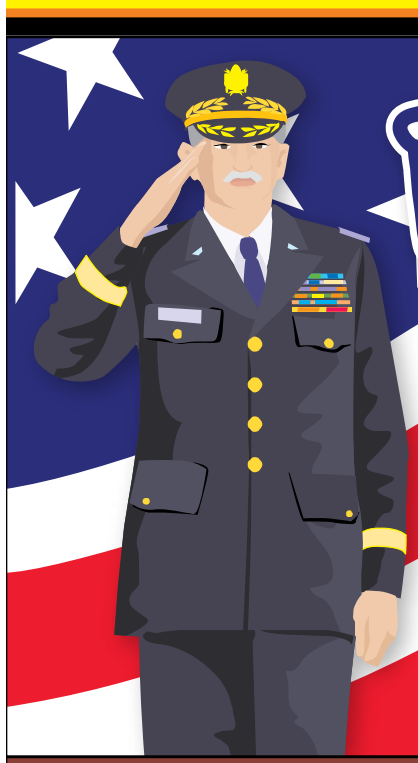
Photo by Lois Rowland

Dancers from Broadway Moves with Penny performing for Women of the World.

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Rhode Island Group



Judy Parisi

National Rhode Island Day was recently celebrated on Oct. 5. This holiday commemorates the founding of the colony of Rhode Island in 1636 by Roger Williams.

Rhode Island, or "Little Rhody," is a unique state because of the principles on which it was founded, especially religious freedom, and what it offers. It is the smallest of the 50 states, yet it has over 400 miles of coastline, with abundant beautiful beaches, interesting historic places, Gilded Age mansions, and more. It also boasts wonderful cuisine.

A fun way to celebrate is to enjoy that fabulous cuisine, perhaps chicken parmesan, clam cakes and chowder, stuffies, a sausage-and-pepper sandwich, calamari, johnnycakes, oysters, hot New York System wieners, or other specialties. Traditional beverages include coffee, milk, and Del's lemonade. Local desserts are too numerous to mention.

The johnnycake is widely known in the United States and the Caribbean, but Rhode Island's has a special character. It is made with white cap flint corn, a hard-kernelled variety that is stoneground to a fine meal. The two varieties are the Newport style, thin, lacy, and crispy, made only with cornmeal, salt, and cold water, and the South County style, thicker, made with cornmeal, salt, hot milk, and a touch of sugar or butter. Both are dropped on a hot griddle and cooked similarly to a pancake.

The johnnycake originated with Indigenous tribes, where corn or maize was a cornerstone of their agriculture. When European settlers arrived and struggled with wheat crops in the New England climate, they relied on indigenous knowledge and were introduced to corn. The colonists adopted and adapted the recipe, and the colonial version is the precursor of today's johnnycake.

The name has nothing to do with a person named Johnny; one theory is that it comes from a slurring of the term journey cake. The cakes were sturdy and did not spoil easily, making them good for long journeys. The journey cake became known as the johnnycake.

For breakfast, they go well with maple syrup or molasses. For lunch or dinner, top them with pulled pork or beef chili, or enjoy them as a snack right from the skillet.

To see how corn was historically ground, consider visiting Kenyon's Grist Mill in Usquepaug, Rhode Island, where you can also pick up the key ingredient – white cap flint corn meal.

The Rhode Island Group meets periodically for lunch to reminisce and share stories about the state. If you are not on the email list, please send your contact information to judith.parisi@gmail.com, and we will add you. We welcome all those who lived, worked, or served in Rhode Island and their families.



Photo by Judy Parisi

Grinding Stone at Kenyon's Grist Mill.

Illinois Group

Harriet Pinchauck

I scream. You scream. We all screamed for ice cream!

And that's exactly what we did at our ice cream social, attended by more than 45 people, with ice cream from Scoops. It was absolutely delicious, with all sorts of toppings to choose from. It sparked many great conversations, and not a drop of ice cream hit the floor! Many thanks to Bob and Ann Flynn for organizing and working with Scoops, and to Bob for scooping the ice cream. Lots of fun!

Our November meeting will be a games night, with a donation of nonperishable food items (pasta/rice, canned vegetables/meat, mac & cheese, peanut butter/jelly in plastic containers, crackers). Please do not bring glass containers.

Plans are being made for 2027. New ideas are always appreciated. Both Cubs and Sox fans are here to debate along with Bears fans. So if you're from anywhere in Illinois and want to check us out, please email me at mompin@att.net.



Photo by Harriet Pinchouck

Jose Malave, Linda Malave, Kathy Schoenherr and John Schoenherr.

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Friends of SPCA

Heather Tahan

We have lots of activities coming up at Friends of SPCA in the next few months. We will be holding elections for the 2027 board of directors (president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary) at the November meeting. All active members are eligible to run for a position and vote, so please attend.

Our giving trees will be set up from Saturday, Nov. 21 through Thursday, Dec. 31 at The Summit, Recreation Center, The Landing, and Arbor Fitness Center. Donations to the giving trees will support our Meals on Wheels program, feral colony support, local shelters, and Marion County residents experiencing hardship.

Instead of a December meeting, we will hold our annual holiday party at Stone Creek Grille on Thursday, Dec. 17, at noon. The cost is $25 (cash or check only), which includes lunch, drink, and tip. Email, call, or text Marcia VanDaele to RSVP (864-630-0939 or marciavan379@gmail.com).

We're also fostering a lovely two-year-old labradoodle, Luna, who is looking for her forever home. She is an extremely sweet dog and would make a wonderful companion for someone willing to open their home and heart to her. If interested, please contact Dawn Case at dcindc3@verizon.net.

Monthly meetings are 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 start promptly at 1 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Our next meeting is on Thursday, Nov. 19. To attend, you must present a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

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. Please stop by our table at the weekly Circle Square Commons Farmers Market on Thursday to speak with our members.

If you have non-expired pet food that your animal won't eat or was shipped in error, please consider donating it. You may leave donations on the porch of Evelyn Sarns Holiday (8880-C SW 94th Street, Ocala, Florida 34481). We also accept blankets, sheets, and other pet supplies. We distribute all porch donations to local shelters and needy pets.

Friends of SPCA supports Meals on Wheels for Pets, distributing food and supplies to seniors receiving the Meals on Wheels program. To prevent accidental ingestion, please avoid using staples to close open bags. Your generosity truly makes a difference.

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



Photo by Dawn Case

Meet Friends of SPCA foster two-year-old Luna, a sweet labradoodle looking for her forever home. Email Dawn Case at dcindc3@verizon.net to setup a meet and greet.

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Lions Club

Gail Morris

Our September meeting was bittersweet. We had a special meeting at Southern Pig and Cattle Company to enjoy a meal with members and Past District Governor Estelle Michelson, who is moving out of state.

We will miss Estelle as she has been an integral member of our club, holding many offices including membership chair, president, and fundraising chair. She spearheaded three of our Casino Night fundraising events, approaching our various sponsors and securing funding. She has been a great asset, bringing strong knowledge of the Lions organization and how to accomplish our club goals.

Best wishes to Lion Estelle.

Casino Night is coming again in 2027. We have a new fundraising chair, Lion Norma Micheroni. Her team is already preparing for the event. We surveyed last year's attendees and learned a few things to make this fun-filled night even better. We'll add more tables so you can spend your funny money and earn coupons for our major door prizes. If you attended last year and want to attend again this year, you can buy tickets from any Lion or at Ticket Tuesday. The price remains the same: $50 per person, with only 300 tickets available.

The Lions were busy this past month. Two members volunteered at the Special Olympics swimming competition, and Lions assisted with the children's pie-eating contest at the Fall Festival at The Town Square.

Now our club members are preparing Thanksgiving meals for needy members of our community through our elementary schools (Dunnellon, College Park, and Marion Oaks), as well as serving our veterans at the Ocala Ritz Veterans Village and Vets Helping Vets. All this preparation and delivery will happen the week before Thanksgiving, so time is short.

We are also preparing for the Toys for Tots Christmas tree. We will set up our tree in the lobby of the Recreation Center the day after Thanksgiving and deliver those donations through mid-December. This is another of our annual community services.

If you are considering joining a club that serves our community, come visit us at our meeting and join in the fun.

Lions Club meetings are the second and fourth Tuesday of each month in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio IV at 5 p.m. For more information, contact Lion Bert Perkins, our membership chair, at 909-262-8407.



Photo by Lion Sherri Fink

PDG Estelle Michelson's farewell dinner.

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Latinos Club



Silvia C. Garcia

¡Hola amigos! Our second Hispanic Heritage Celebration was filled with excitement, colorful cultural attire, and wonderful camaraderie! The social committee did an outstanding job decorating The Summit, DJ Joe Ortiz of Party Mix Productions kept the dance floor hopping, and Rafy's Cuisine received rave reviews for its delicious food. The club provided a couple of bottles of wine per table and countless tambourines, which members enthusiastically shook to the rhythm, adding infectious energy, laughter, and even more excitement to the celebration! The Latinos Club, Jackie Colucci, and Silvia C. Garcia generously donated gifts for the drawing. Congratulations to all the lucky winners.

We proudly recognized several members for their dedication and contributions to our club. Ivan Vazquez received the president's choice award for his exemplary contributions as a board advisor. Silvia C. Garcia received the cultivando award, recognizing her outstanding efforts in recruiting the most members. Ceci Marsh received the outstanding social committee member award for her enthusiasm and consistent participation. Ivan Vazquez and Ivy Cortes were recognized as game night's outstanding pioneers.

One of the evening's highlights was donating $1,000 to four local nonprofit organizations, each receiving $250. Our members selected the recipients: Empath Hospice of Marion County, Interfaith Emergency Services, Friends of SPCA, and Marion Senior Services. We are proud to support these organizations and make a positive impact in our community!

Our monthly dinner took us to Elevation 89. Airport Director Matthew Grow warmly welcomed us and shared interesting insights about Ocala International Airport. Chef Jeremy delighted us with another delicious meal, and the staff provided outstanding service. Congratulations to Gloria Bell, winner of the restaurant's generous gift card!

On Saturday, Nov. 7, we are holding our Honoring Our Troops & Veterans Ceremony and celebration. Admission is free for members; RSVP is required.

In December (date to be announced), join us for Parranderos Latin caroling! Weekly rehearsals will lead to a festive grand finale, including home visits to club members, singing, and instrument playing.

For details about the amigos/caballeros/chicos group, which brings male club members together, or questions about the veterans ceremony and celebration, and Parranderos Latin caroling, contact Ivan at 727-403-9629.

Visit our Facebook page (OTOW Latinos Club Ocala). For more information, contact Silvia C. Garcia at 561-801-8188 or Mary Moosman at 352-322-6248.

De verdad que somos familia – we are truly family! And remember, you do not have to be Latino to join!



Photo by Silvia C. Garcia

Donations of $250 were made to Empath Hospice of Marion County, Interfaith Emergency Services, Friends of SPCA, and Marion Senior Services.

Scandinavian American Club



David Wesenberg

The Scandinavian American Club is looking forward to our Tuesday, Nov. 24, holiday celebration and meal in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room from 1 to 3 p.m. Ham is supplied by the club, and members are requested to bring in food for celebration in Scandinavian style. What a great time to learn about Scandinavian holiday celebrations, then and now.

Our Tuesday, Oct. 27 meeting was themed "Origins of Halloween." The meeting included a talk on "Equine Tourism in Marion County" by Community Relations Specialist Candace Shelton from the Ocala/Marion County Visitor and Convention Bureau. Among other things, Candace discussed the World Equestrian Center (WEC).

In our meetings, people share their experiences, hopes, origins, successes, and failures. Some of our members are first-generation Americans and some second- or third-generation Americans. Could you be one of them? Are you at least part Scandinavian? What a great opportunity to hear from and see those who have experienced immigration.

Don't assume you have to prove you are Scandinavian. Scandinavians at heart are welcome always.

Every meeting is an opportunity to learn more about our Scandinavian heritage and to share a meal and fellowship. For more information, contact Paul Knoll at 484-627-3151 or 23paint23@gmail.com.







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Birders' Beat



Linda Monaco

The Birding Group will be visiting the Ocala Wetland Recharge Park (2105 NW 21st Street) and Tuscawilla Park on Tuesday, Nov. 10. Maxfield Weakley, president of the Marion Audubon Society, will be the leader of this outing. The recharge park is a 60-acre wetland ecosystem near Lillian Bryant Park that the City of Ocala developed to improve water quality and boost the region's underground water supplies. The park includes ponds, boardwalks, paved walking trails, exhibits, and overlooks for wildlife viewing, and it is open from sunrise to sunset. There is no fee for park entry.

Our second destination is Tuscawilla Park (829 NE Sanchez Avenue), which is a free city park. Both birding sites on this trip usually offer visitors a wide variety of water birds, including herons, egrets, anhinga, cormorants, coots, gallinules, ducks, and occasionally wood storks and pelicans. Bald eagles, ibis, owls, and several woodpecker species can also be seen at both locations.

If you would like to join the group for this trip to the Ocala Wetland Recharge Park and Tuscawilla Park on Tuesday, Nov. 10, please email BirdingOTOW@gmail.com. In your email, please include your name, cell phone number, neighborhood, and address. If you are registering for two or more people, be sure to include all of the information for each person. We will meet in the Friendship Center parking lot just outside the SW 99th Street gate for On Top of the World at 7:15 a.m. We will carpool and park the remaining vehicles near Bank OZK.

We will have lunch at The Depot on Magnolia (533 NE First Avenue), close to Tuscawilla Park. Both birding sites are accessible for people with disabilities, with flat boardwalks and paved trails. They are about 30 minutes from On Top of the World. Wear comfortable shoes and bring your hat, binoculars, sunscreen, water, camera, and bug spray. We hope to see you on this birding adventure.



Photo by Nancy Stephens

Osprey.

Christian Women's Club



Fran Acoba

Grateful for God's amazing love, our community aspires to effect positive change as those "created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

In our October luncheon, Rosalina Norita shared about God's lovingkindness and compassion for those who are human trafficked, and the ongoing ministry to equip women with skills and resources to obtain financial independence, build stable futures for their families, and contribute significantly to their communities.

Members participated in Samaritan's Purse Christmas children's shoeboxes for international communities in need.

We will participate in the Saturday, Nov. 7 Walk for Life. Our weekly prayer group is ongoing.

Please bring nonperishable food items and personal hygiene items to the Saturday, Nov. 21 and Saturday, Dec. 19 luncheons. We will donate these items to Interfaith Emergency Services.

If you wish for a closer relationship with God, are interested in finding purpose and meaning, or need encouragement or prayer, join us.

We warmly welcome you to our potluck Thanksgiving celebration on Saturday, Nov. 21, at Arbor Conference Center Event Room II from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Also join us at our monthly game day on Tuesday, Nov. 17, at the Arbor Activity Center Card Room III from 2 to 4 p.m.

Please email our outreach coordinator, Joanne Luu, at joanneluu@yahoo.com or text 808-542-8430 for questions and prayer requests.

Friends of Bill W Group

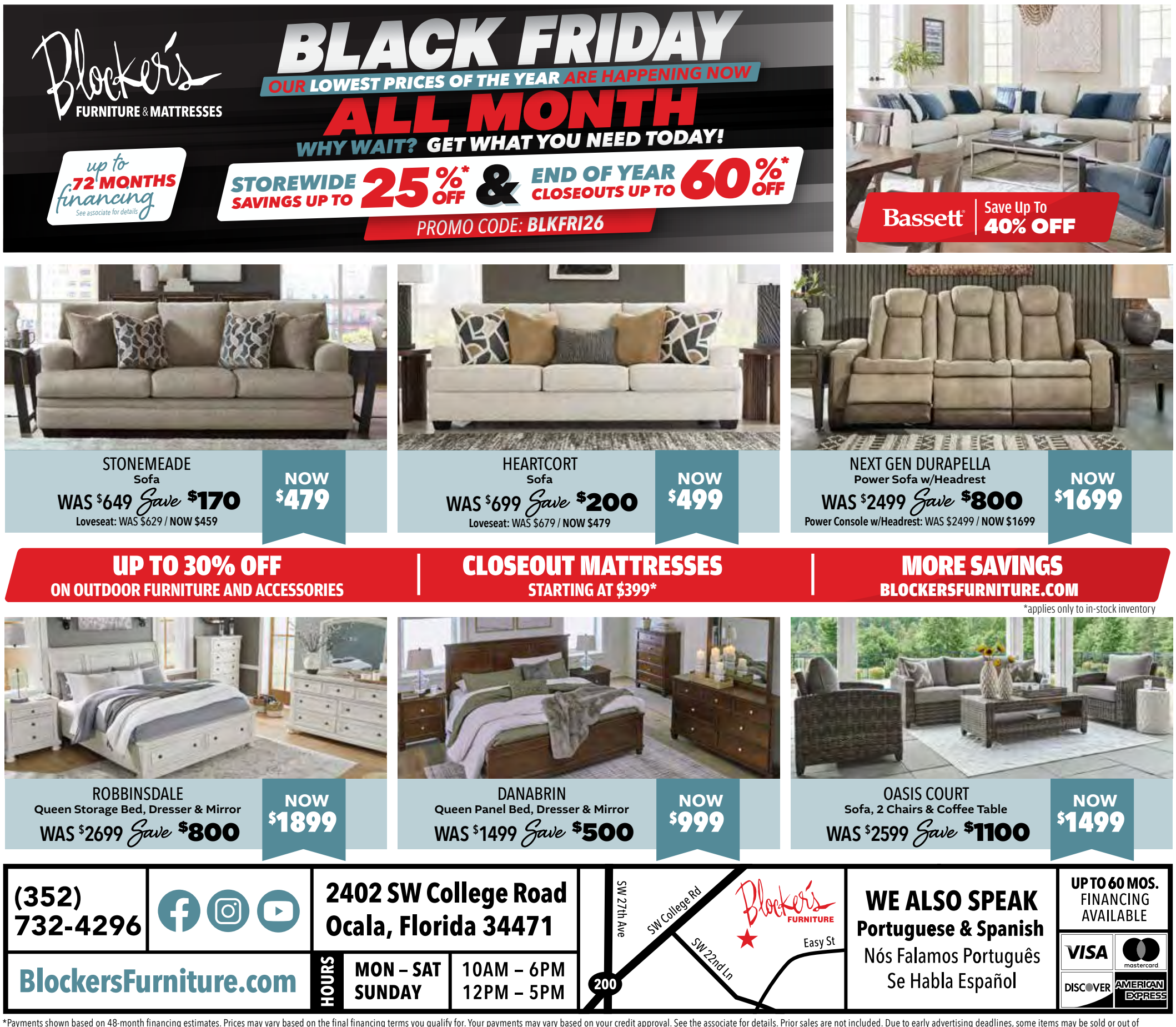
You are not alone on this journey. We come together weekly to share our experience, strength, and hope. If you are in recovery or think you have a problem with alcohol, please join us. We meet weekly on Tuesdays from noon to 1 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. For more information and to be notified of changes to the schedule, please email friendsofbillwocala@gmail.com.

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Tech Club



Chris Kilbride

Every Friday at 2 p.m., the Ocala Tech Club meets for an hour-long session. 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.

With the approaching holidays, why not use your electronic devices to create your own greeting cards? These are usually less expensive, more personalized, and can include wording that fits your style.

Start by choosing your page layout app on your device, looking for card layout templates if available. Standard cards are 5x7 inches; the resolution should be set to 300 DPI (dots per inch), and your canvas size to 1500x2100 pixel dimensions (reverse these numbers for either vertical or horizontal 5x7 or 7x5 card layout).

If using several of your own photos, perhaps search for "collage" apps and upload them into a unique design. Save that graphic to use on your card.

Having your graphics .25 inch away from all edges will give you a safety zone. Find a nice type font for your wording, which should be somewhat large and readable, yet fit the mood and style of your graphic message. Compose simple goodwill greetings or search for examples. Perhaps leave space at the bottom for a handwritten signature and a few words.

Printing at home would be best on matte white cardstock (80- to 110-pound weight), not regular printing paper. Set the quality to High or Best Photo and print at actual or 100% size. You can also print by putting your finished graphic file, saved as a PDF or high-quality PNG, on a flash drive and letting an office products store help you.

If your goal is to write a yearly newsletter, a 6x9 envelope will hold an 8.5x11 sheet of paper folded in half. Use a page layout program on your device, add your graphics and text, and note where the fold will be so your wording doesn't get folded. Perhaps design a colorful full-page border and place your wording within the open center space.

Some paper companies offer easy templates and supplies for printing cards and labels at home, with layouts for computers and tablets, or will print for you.

Online greeting card companies let you upload graphics and wording, choose the number to print, and often include envelopes, all mailed to your door.

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

Each Thursday, members enjoy an in-person help session to discuss their Windows or Apple computer, smartphone, or tablet issues. In-person classes are held on the first Friday each month, with online Zoom meetings held on additional Fridays. Other than the Zoom meetings, everything else is in the Hobby Building.

Tech Tips



Shane Bobson
info@mybridgenet.com

Stay Scam-Safe: Smart Tips

Scammers are getting smarter, but so can we. Whether it's a phone call, email, or social media message, fraudsters often target older adults with schemes that sound convincing but are designed to steal your money or personal information. Here's how to stay one step ahead.

Trust Your Instincts – and Pause

If something feels off, it probably is. Scammers often create a sense of urgency: "Act now or lose your chance!" Take a breath. Legitimate organizations won't pressure you to make snap decisions or share sensitive information.

Be Wary of Unsolicited Contact

- Phone calls: Hang up on robocalls or anyone asking for money, gift cards, or personal details.
- Emails and texts: Don't click on links or download attachments from unknown senders.
- Social media: Be cautious of friend requests from people you don't know or messages that seem out of character.

Guard Your Personal Information

Never share your Social Security number, banking details, or Medicare ID unless you initiated the contact and trust the source. Scammers may pose as government agencies, tech support, or even family members in distress.

Spot Common Scams

- Tech support scams: A pop-up or caller says your computer has a virus and asks for remote access.
- Grandparent scams: Someone pretends to be a grandchild in trouble, needing money fast.
- Prize scams: You've "won" a contest you never entered – but must pay fees to claim it.
- Romance scams: A new online friend quickly professes love and asks for financial help.

Strengthen Your Defenses

- Use strong, unique passwords and change them regularly.
- Enable two-factor authentication on accounts when available.
- Keep your devices updated with the latest security patches.
- Consider a call-blocking app or service to reduce spam calls.

Talk About It

Scammers thrive on silence. If you're unsure about a message or call, talk to a trusted friend, family member, or community resource. Reporting scams helps protect others too.

Where to Report

If you suspect a scam:

- Contact the Federal Trade Commission at reportfraud.ftc.gov
- Call your local law enforcement or AARP Fraud Watch Network at 877-908-3360

Staying safe doesn't mean living in fear – it means staying informed, connected, and confident. You've got the wisdom and life experience to outsmart scammers. Let's keep our community safe, together.

New York/New Jersey Club



Gregg Mireau

We started our September club meeting with our usual small talk among the various round tables. We wear our name tags to make it easier to interact and get to know one another. Our club organizer, Donna, always leads the charge and sets the stage for the meeting's agenda.

The conversation then turned to a thank-you letter from the Friends of SPCA about our club's donation to their organization.

The meeting then shifted to our newest club members who were in attendance. We are happy to announce that 10 new members joined our club at the last meeting! We acknowledged them by having them stand up, introduce themselves, and tell the group what part of New York or New Jersey they come from. This is a nice "icebreaker" that allows the new members to give a quick bio of the areas in New York or New Jersey they worked in or lived in.

Someone in the audience usually has a connection with those areas, and a quick dialogue usually ensues. It's a nice way to create an instant bond with new members and help them feel comfortable. Club members usually then greet them with their own personal introductions during the breaks of the meeting.

After the new member introductions, the club got down to business and outlined what would happen in the coming weeks.

Now the serious stuff – our holiday party. It will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 5 p.m. at The Lodge at Candler Hills. Pasta Faire will cater, and the band Pure Magic will provide evening entertainment.

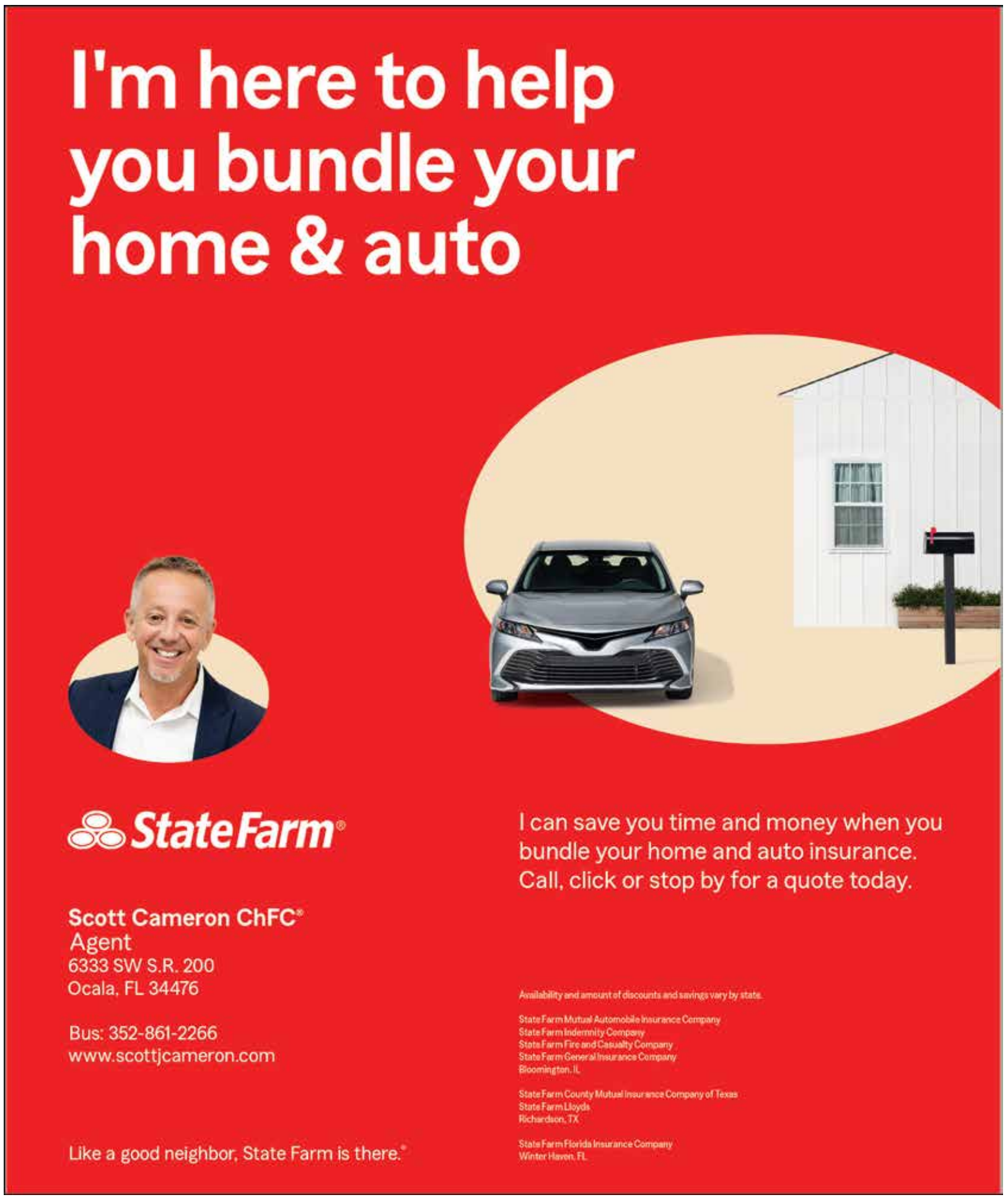
We will have a full menu with five entrees: beef tips marsala, eggplant parmesan, chicken penne alfredo, rigatoni Bolognese, meatballs, string beans with garlic and oil, Caesar salad, and garlic rolls. We will also have tea (sweetened and unsweetened) and lemonade.

The price per person will be $44. Tickets are available now. You can purchase them by calling me at 516-205-8704, or at Ticket Tuesday on Nov. 3 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cash only.

If you would like to preview our club and see what we are about, you can visit our Facebook page (NY/NJ Club 2.0 for Ocala OTOW). Come join our club. For further club information, you can contact Donna Campagna at 516-205-8704.

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The Jewish Club



Bruce Kanner

"We are all Jews here." With those powerful words, U.S. Army Master Sergeant Rodrick "Rod" Edmonds stood in solidarity with his fellow American soldiers while being held as a prisoner of war during World War II. When ordered to identify the Jewish servicemen among the group, Edmonds instead had all 1,275 prisoners stand together, protecting hundreds of Jewish soldiers.

At the club's September meeting, member Bill Nicholls shared Edmonds' remarkable story of courage, unity, and leadership. The prisoners were liberated approximately 100 days later, but Edmonds' actions remained largely unknown for decades until his son discovered a diary in which his father had recorded the experience.

Edmonds' legacy of standing up for others continues to inspire generations and reminds us of the difference one person can make. Edmonds received the Medal of Honor posthumously in March 2026. Ironically, his son is a Baptist minister.

Dan Lack, fresh off leading general trivia in August, once again served as quizmaster as he led the group in Jewish trivia. Some of the famous Jews honored with questions in Dan's game included: Marcel Marceau (a mime who survived the Holocaust), Ruth Handler (the inventor of Barbie), Daniel Stern (one of the Wet Bandits in "Home Alone"), and Claudia Sheinbaum (the president of Mexico). Between rounds of the game, Lack played three songs by Alan Sherman, including his famous 1963 "Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah." The final question was, "Who won the Golden Globe for best actor in 1971?" The answer was Topol.

During the meeting, board member Audrey Wolotsky welcomed 14 new members.

The next day, club members gathered at the Candler Hills Community Center for the annual September break-the-fast. The potluck included kugels, bagels, cheeses, casseroles, salads, and fruit. Especially after a long day of fasting, rest assured no one left hungry. Thanks to Lois Trepper, Sue Miller, and their hospitality committee for organizing the event.

Arriving a week after the solemn High Holidays, Sukkot is a time of joy and happiness. Sukkot is the holiday when Jews commemorate God's sheltering of our ancestors literally in huts as they traveled from Egypt to the Promised Land. Members had lots of happiness and joy coming together again to enjoy Sukkot under the stars at a wine-and-cheese event in September. There was plenty of wine available – red, white, rosé, and sparkling – as well as a cheese platter. This year's dessert was a succulent sweet platter. Based on the smiling faces, the dessert was true to its name. Andrea Wallet again organized the event and delivered brief remarks about the significance of Sukkot.

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.

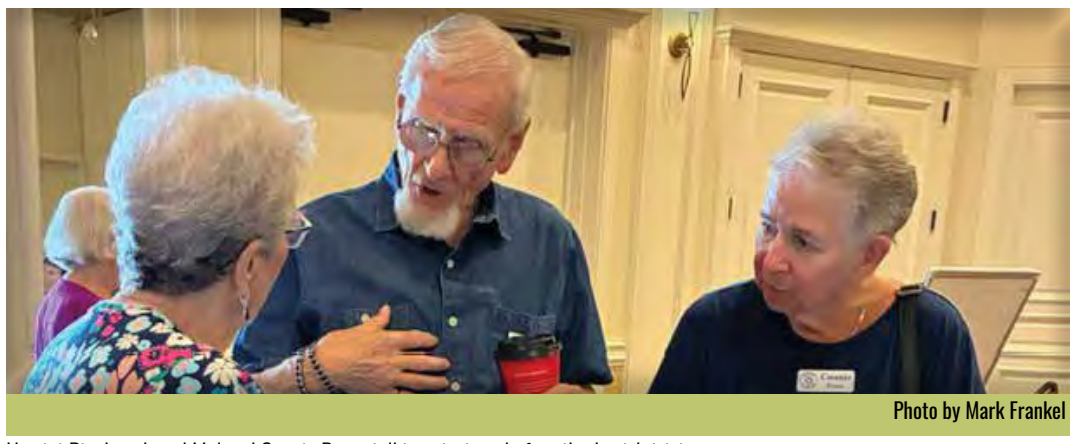


Photo by Mark Frankel

Harriet Pinchouck and Mal and Connie Press talking strategy before the Jewish trivia game.

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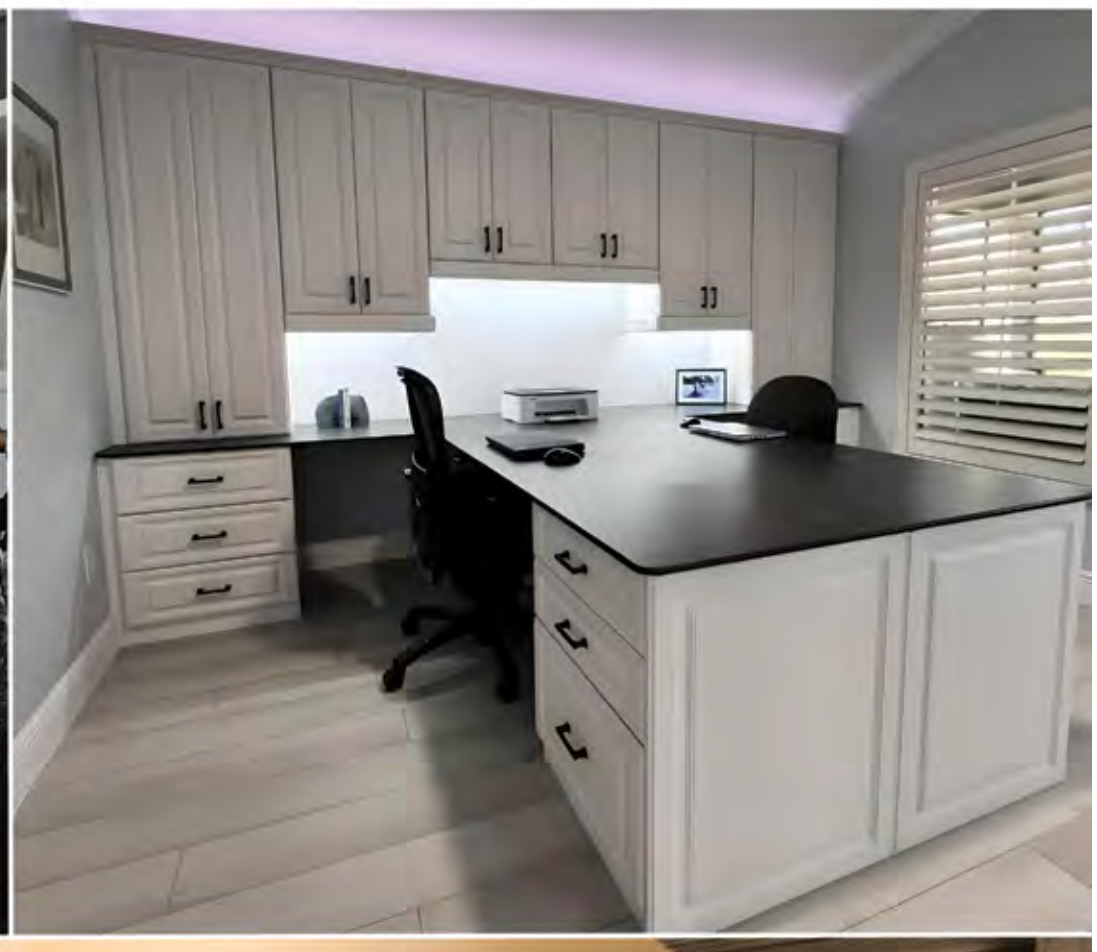
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Active Singles Club

Jan Lindell

Following the September vote, the 2027 board members were announced: Larry Carmicheal, president; Paul Kirchner, vice president; Jan Lindell, secretary; and Kirsten Abrahamson, treasurer. Congratulations to our new board!

October weather dampened some activities, but Active Singles Club members stayed resilient and enjoyed a full event schedule. Highlights included day trips to tour the E-One plant and see how emergency vehicles are built, attend the Broadway production of "Hamilton" at Dr. Phillips, shop at Mazzaro Italian Market, explore Mount Dora's Craft Fair, and don brooms and hats for the Witches Brew High Tea aboard the Barbara Lee.

Other events included an Italian wine tasting with Wine Guy Bob, an American Bandstand dance party featuring root beer floats and French fries, and a golf cart scavenger hunt. Our dining group enjoyed breakfast at the Flying Biscuit, lunch at Foody Bowl, dinner at Mariscos, and Sunday lunch at Cody's. The hiking and walking group visited Sholom Park, Whispering Pines Park, and Baseline Trailhead. We also hosted our semiannual Interfaith Emergency Services breakfast for the homeless, an event that always leaves us feeling warm.

Check our Active Singles Club calendar for November events, and remember to sign up for miniature golf, bowling, darts, pickleball, hand, knee & foot, bocce, bunco, samba, golf scramble, and Mexican train. The hiking and walking group will take a short walk at Sholom Park every Thursday, hike the Santos Trailhead, and walk Blue Run. The dining group will visit Northgate Diner, Prime Tavern, and Genevieve's. Don't forget Cody's. Because dining events fill quickly, sign up early; if an event is full, please join the waitlist.

Day trips include the Hymns & Hallelujah Elvis Gospel Brunch, the Dalí Museum and Dalí Alive 360°, German shopping and dining in Sanford, Florida, and Nights of Lights in St. Augustine. We will also offer a hands-on, guided class led by an experienced floral designer and teacher from Chicago to create everlasting floral arrangements for Thanksgiving, Christmas, or other holidays.

Join us for our membership meeting on the third Wednesday of each month. Doors open at 7:15 p.m., and the meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. After a brief meeting, members can socialize and connect with other singles. Membership is open to single residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. Visit otowactivesingles.com to learn more, view the calendar, join online, and register for the activities listed above. We wish all our members and family a happy Thanksgiving!



Photo by Mike Meyer

Fun with Wine Guy Bob.



Photo by Marilyn Herrick

SWANS in Daytona Beach.

SWANS

Lois Nix

September and October were very busy months for SWANS. Our trip to Daytona Beach was a lot of fun; the weather was perfect. Our biannual meeting drew over 100 SWANS; trip sign-ups received a strong response. Volunteers for events also have been strong. Welcome to our new SWANS.

What a great time we had celebrating 20 years of SWANS supporting and socializing with single women. Fresh Plates catered our celebration with good food and great service. Poms Dance and Cheer Squad brought energy and precision; it was great fun.

Thank you to the On Top of the World employees who came to toast SWANS, past, present, and future. SWANS are never alone; SWANS are never forgotten. Thank you to our volunteers who put in hours planning such a wonderful event.

We are looking forward to the start of our 21st year.

In October, we began our social groups for appetizers, lunch, and dinner. Appetizer and dinner groups have been a very strong part of a SWANS social life for 20 years. We also had Sonny's cater our barbecue. Some SWANS went on a bus tour to The Ark in Kentucky.

Our November trip to Daytona Beach will be exciting; five of our SWANS will ride in a race car (with the driver). Many of us will be sitting up in the bleachers to watch. I definitely will be in the bleachers.

Another trip some SWANS will take is to Branson. These trips are open to anyone; they are not just SWANS trips. If interested, call Lois at 352 854-0558.

Years ago, the SWANS reputation was that we only eat out. Not true. Yes, we do eat out; doesn't most every club? Every celebration has food and drink. So drink up, eat, and celebrate. Cheers!

SWANS are never alone; SWANS are never forgotten.

OneBlood Bloodmobile

Sara Sommer

The Big Red Buses were here on Monday, Oct. 5. It was a truly fantastic drive. We had 32 whole blood units and six double red units. As essential persons, donors have great powers. I want to thank you for taking the chance of dodging the rain drops to save a human life.

The Big Red Buses will be here again on Monday, Dec. 7. They will be parked at 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 your picture ID. Mark your calendar. Let's see if we can top the previous drive.

See you on the bus.



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) must follow volunteers' directions 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 space becomes available, guests on the waitlist will be asked whether they remain interested in attending the trip.

The Suncoast Dinner Theater production of "Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations" will be seen Jan. 23, 2027. It opens for reservations on Monday, Nov. 2. For your reservation, call Susan Cross at 352-857-7132.

Residents who celebrated the 100th anniversary of Route 66 by traveling from Chicago, Illinois, to the Santa Monica Pier in Los Angeles are back in Ocala. They've told us that they had an awesome trip. There were adventures and special sights all along the way, including a visit to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield, Illinois, ascending to the top of the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, viewing the largest chair in Missouri and the world's largest thermometer in California, seeing a rainbow in the Grand Canyon, and having their photos taken while standing on a corner in Winslow, Arizona. They are all looking forward to their next travel adventure.

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.

A Little Caution Goes a Long Way

By Jonathan Miller

In a perfect world, you could leave your house unlocked or your keys in your car when you run into the store. I'm sure many of you remember being left in the car by your parents as a child while they darted into the local establishment to quickly grab an item.

Some of us grew up when the world was still like that. Today, we have to be more cautious about securing our personal property. Here at On Top of the World, it is open to the world! For example, certain areas are exposed to the public when we host events.

I want to send everyone a little word of caution here. If you are reading this message, for example, in one of our public areas, do you have your car keys? Did you leave them in your car? This is important because folks walk by your car all day, and we want your visit, wherever you are on property, to be an event you planned from start to finish, without incident.

Yes, we are safe, and would like to think that things don't happen here. We are even happy to boast that we are a safe place to be, with a very low crime rate. There are lots of fun activities happening here, and we may lose track of our vehicles while we're off enjoying them.

This precautionary warning comes from the heart. You may be perfect, but the world has blemishes. Make sure you lock your vehicle and keep your keys with you. Please take the time each day you leave your car to secure it. We want you to have a great day each day.

World Traveler



Bill Shampine

The next selection from the New Seven Wonders of the World is the very imposing Taj Mahal (which translates as "crown of the palace").

Shah Jahan had the Taj Mahal constructed in his wife's honor. It is an ivory-white marble mausoleum on the right bank of the Yamuna River in Agra, India, and is the centerpiece of a 42-acre complex of buildings and gardens. Construction of the mausoleum was completed in 1648, but work continued on other phases of the complex for another five years. In 1666, Shah Jahan was also laid to rest in the mausoleum next to his beloved wife. The complex employed more than 20,000 workers and artisans and is estimated to have cost about $1.14 billion in today's money.

The base foundation for the mausoleum building is 28.5 feet high and 980 feet in length. The mausoleum then sits atop a white marble plinth that is 313 feet long and 20 feet high. The outside has huge vaulted archways that are 108 feet high. Sitting atop this highly decorated structure is a 75-foot-high marble dome that surmounts the tomb, topped with an additional 31-foot finial. Minarets stand at each of the four corners of the structure. These minarets are 130 feet tall, from which a muezzin (crier) calls Muslims to prayer five times a day.

The external surfaces of the building are decorated with a number of delicate relief artworks adorned with various precious and semi-precious stones. The decorative elements were created using paint, stucco, stone inlays, and carvings.

The main inner chamber is an octagon with eight walls, each 24 feet long. Each chamber wall is highly decorated with dado bas-relief, intricate lapidary inlay of precious and semiprecious gemstones, and refined calligraphy panels that echo the exterior design elements. The detail encompassed in all of the decorations, both exterior and interior, is extraordinary. In addition to the mausoleum, the complex also includes a mosque and a guest house, all set in a beautiful formal garden.

By the late 19th century, parts of some of the buildings had fallen into disrepair. At the end of the 19th century, British viceroy Lord Curzon ordered a restoration project, which was completed in 1908. In 1942, the government erected scaffolding around the mausoleum to disguise the building in anticipation of air attacks by the Japanese Air Force. In 1983, the Taj Mahal was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Since the late 20th century, environmental pollution has affected the monument, turning the Taj Mahal yellow-brown. Acid rain and pollution in the Yamuna River have also contributed to the monument's degradation. Since 1997, the Indian government has worked to mitigate the deleterious impacts on this precious monument.

The Taj Mahal is a major tourist attraction, drawing roughly five million domestic and foreign visitors each year. I've been there; it truly is impressive!

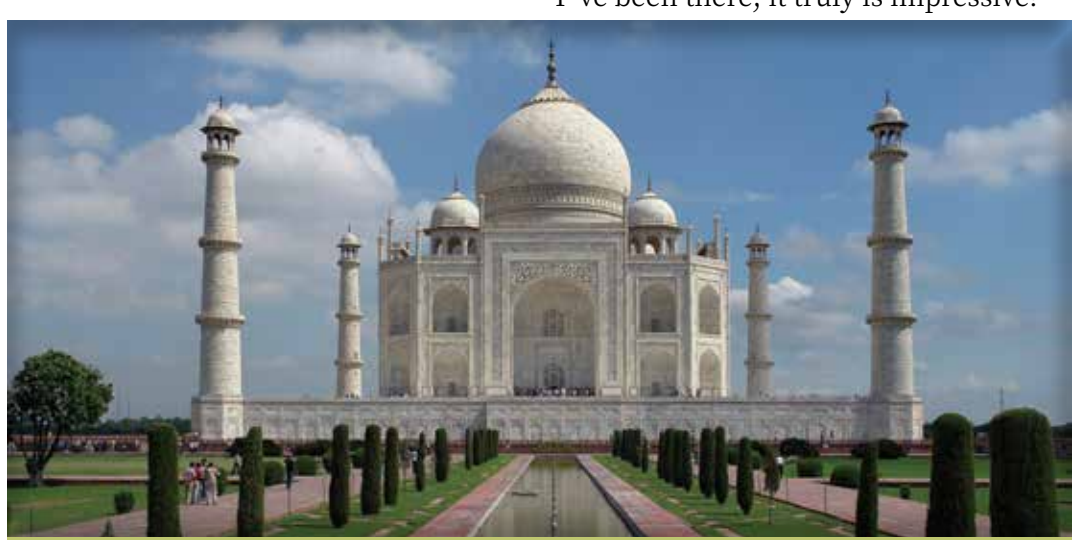


Photo by Yann

The Taj Mahal, located in Agra, India.



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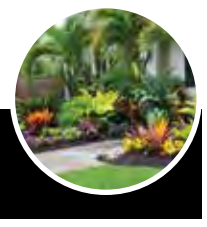
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Horiculture Corner



Bob Hollis
bob_hollis@colenbuilt.net

Fall is an ideal time to plant a wide variety of vegetables, herbs, and flowers in Florida due to milder temperatures and consistent sunshine.

Before planting, test your soil to determine pH and nutrient levels, adjusting with lime or sulfur as needed to optimize fertility and fertilizer effectiveness. Remove dead plants, weeds, and debris to reduce pest and disease risks, and consider adding organic matter to improve soil structure. Plan your garden layout with crop rotation in mind, and ensure your irrigation system is ready for consistent watering.

Vegetables and Herbs

Fall in Florida is perfect for cool-season crops that thrive in the state's mild climate. Recommended vegetables include:

- Leafy greens: lettuce, spinach, kale, Swiss chard – fast-growing and can be harvested multiple times.
- Root crops: carrots, radishes, beets – perform well in sandy soils and cooler nights.
- Cruciferous vegetables: broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussels sprouts – plant in early fall for harvest into winter. Herbs such as cilantro, parsley, and dill also flourish in fall, adding fresh flavor to your kitchen.

Flowers and Ornamentals

Fall is an excellent time to add colorful flowers to your garden. Some top choices include:

- Marigolds: bright blooms that repel pests and thrive in cooler weather.
- Pansies: ideal for borders, containers, and hanging baskets, and they last into winter.
- Petunias and snapdragons: versatile, low-maintenance flowers that bloom profusely in fall.

Florida spans multiple USDA hardiness zones (8a–11a), so planting windows may vary by county. Check local frost dates and planting calendars to ensure optimal timing for seeds and seedlings. Early fall planting generally yields the best results for cool-season crops, letting them mature before the coldest months.

- Monitor for pests such as aphids, thrips, and whiteflies, and implement integrated pest management strategies.
- Maintain consistent watering and fertilization based on soil test results.
- Harvest vegetables promptly to encourage continued production and prevent leafy greens from bolting.

By following these guidelines, Florida gardeners can enjoy a productive, vibrant fall garden with fresh vegetables, aromatic herbs, and colorful flowers well into the cooler months.

Eco Gardeners



Phil Karcheski

October in the Eco Garden was tough, with a very warm start followed by daily rainstorms. For those who braved the heat and rain, beans, leafy greens, and brassicas were good choices for direct seeding.

In anticipation of a hopefully cooler November, I recommend planting both cool- and warm-weather plants and hoping for the best. If the weather cooperates, you may have mixed results.

The following are recommendations for planting in USDA Zone 9B (including parts of Central Florida). November is prime time for growing a cool-season vegetable and herb garden as the intense summer heat fades.

- Leafy Greens: Lettuce, spinach, kale, Swiss chard, collards, mustard greens, arugula, and Chinese cabbage (bok choy).
- Brassicas & Cruciferous Vegetables: Broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, and kohlrabi (best planted from transplants or early seed).
- Root Vegetables: Carrots, beets, radishes, turnips, and parsnips (direct-sow carrots and radishes into the soil).
- Alliums & Pods: Garlic cloves (plant outdoors in early to mid-November), bunching onions, and peas (English peas, snow peas, or snap peas).
- Tubers: Irish potatoes can be planted in November (skip sweet potatoes, which require warm spring and summer soil).
- Herbs: Cilantro, parsley, dill, thyme, rosemary, fennel, chives, and oregano.

Water deeply in the morning rather than every day, allowing the top inch of soil to dry slightly between waterings to prevent root rot and fungal issues.

Work fresh compost into your beds and apply a layer of organic mulch or straw around plants to retain soil moisture and insulate roots.

Keep row covers or frost blankets handy for unexpected chilly nights or light frosts, especially if you are growing tender greens or herbs.

Check the undersides of brassicas and greens regularly for caterpillars or aphids, and pull winter weeds while they are small.

The next Eco Gardeners meeting will be Monday, Nov. 16 at 1:15 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. We will have a guest speaker, and everyone is encouraged to bring in excess seed or starts to swap.

Interested in obtaining a garden? Contact us at Garden58C@gmail.com to sign up.

For gardening tips, tricks, interesting garden-related articles, and information about gardens and growing, visit our Facebook page (OTOW Eco Gardeners).

Get out there and start growing; it's good for the soul and body: vitamin D from the sun, fresh air, a calming environment, and mingling with like-minded folks.

TRASH COMPACTOR FULL?
Please take trash to another location. Do not place trash outside of trash compactor.

New England Group

Leslie McCormick

The Green Mountain State. I bet all or at least most of you know what New England state that is. But can you match these nicknames with the other five states: The Ocean State, The Pine Tree State, The Constitution State, The Bay State, or The Granite State? I will admit that I only knew three out of the six.

Over the past couple of months, several small gatherings of New England neighbors have taken place. The game nights at the Candler Hills Community Center have been well attended, and more people have been joining in to play Mexican train dominoes or various card games as the word gets around. Selected dinner spots have also been popular, with reservations at Live Fire Chefs, Terry's, and Milano's. Many thanks to Carrie and Brian for organizing these events. Members are encouraged to set up future events for groups of any size, and once you have a date and place, it is easy to post invitations through our Facebook page and email list.

As we move into the fall/winter months and everyone is back from summer vacations, and snowbirds are settled in, we look forward to seeing everyone around the neighborhoods. The Facebook posts of the beautiful leaves changing were lovely, but we can be thankful we didn't have to rake them up.

Have you purchased your tickets for the New England Group holiday party? This will be our first large gathering since the initial group kick-off. Tickets have been on sale since October, but it may not be too late to join the fun! The party is Sunday, Dec. 6 at The Lodge at Candler Hills. It is a potluck with an optional "yankee swap," trivia, and holiday fun! The planning committee is welcoming volunteers to help with the event in a variety of ways. You can contact Carrie at carrieinashford@gmail.com for tickets or any additional information.

If you were born, raised, lived, or worked in New England, join us on our Facebook page (New Englanders in OTOW). You can also be added to our group email list by contacting Leslie at lesliefromct@gmail.com.

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Freethinkers

Kathy Bell

"We need a new vision for the human future, one that is grounded in reason, compassion, and a deep commitment to the well-being of all sentient life." – Sam Harris

You may be asking, why is there a Freethinkers group here? Freethought communities generally serve an important purpose: they provide a welcoming place where people can question assumptions, exchange ideas openly, and explore life without relying on or considering religious doctrine. Here, we are a home base for our 100-plus members who enjoy rational, secular discussion with like-minded people. Please note we have changed our Sunday meeting time to 11 a.m.

On Sunday, Nov. 8, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room, Freethinker Domenica Genovese will present "Anatomy of a Photograph." A great photograph starts with seeing clearly and trusting what you see. In her presentation, Domenica will explore the principles that separate a snapshot from a picture that stops you cold: light, composition, rhythm, pacing, and the question every photographer has to answer: why am I taking this shot? Whether you want to improve your own photos or simply deepen your appreciation for the art, this talk will give you a fresh way of seeing.

Domenica holds a fine arts degree from the Accademia di Belle Arti in Perugia, Italy, and has been taking photographs for over 40 years. As art director at her own design firm, she worked closely with professional photographers throughout her career.

Socrates Cafe returns on Thursday, Nov. 19, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. Our topic, "Can Freethinkers Fix the United States?" will be hosted by our own Roland Campbell. Let's watch a video and discuss the interesting and viable ways freethinking ideas can change conversations and outcomes.

And Sunday, Nov. 22, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. is the date and time for all freethinkers to gather together for food and fellowship. Freethinkers Florida will provide the turkey, lovingly roasted by our excellent chef, Debby Levy, and the rest of us will bring sides, salads, and desserts. Since we will be holding Friendsgiving at The Lodge at Candler Hills, we will have a much larger room and more convenient parking. Members can sign up at any Sunday meeting or at FreethinkersFlorida@gmail.coma and are welcome to bring a "plus one" non-member as a guest. Thanks to Freethinkers Debby Levy and Karen Henkel-Reeves for hosting our third annual event.

In addition to presentations and discussion groups, including open forum, Socrates Café, and our book club, we offer three monthly dining-out opportunities and other planned educational and social events.

Freethinkers is open to all non-religious residents, from religious skeptics to avowed atheists. If you are seeking a freethought community, we welcome you! For a copy of our current newsletter, email FreethinkersFlorida@gmail.com or join us by attending one of our Sunday meetings.

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 Floridians and American citizens. All residents and neighbors of Indigo East are welcome to attend and help plan 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, Nov. 10, at 4 p.m., in the Indigo East Community Center Meeting Room II.

The Marion County Fire Rescue Station 21 tour in September was a tremendous success. We may consider another tour in the future if interest remains high. We will be proudly collecting non-perishable goods to support the Second Harvest Food Bank at our Harvest Fest.

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 appreciating our differences; we support efforts to provide food, shelter, and healthcare for those in need; we care about preserving our environment; and we want a more peaceful world by returning to our country's moral compass.

Residents who wish to RSVP or 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. Please leave a message if there is no answer. 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. Or find us on Facebook.

Joy in the Mourning



Deb Thompson

Joy in the Mourning is a bereavement support group that meets every Friday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room.

Help is available for you. Many others and I have implemented what counselors offer and discovered that we can integrate hope, joy, and peace into our lives again.

This requires discipline while practicing professional instruction. We read, review, and receive much in the class. This is the backbone of our education. Through literature, we rely on counselors' expertise and experience to guide us to our goal.

Joy in the Mourning has been established for a bit over three years. Since its inception, I have witnessed lives transform as people learn to grow through what they are going through. I pray this will be your story as well. It takes time, the correct materials, and a support group to flourish. Be expectant to receive understanding from empathetic, caring souls in the group.

Presently, we are completing the book "Finding Hope and Healing." Next, we begin book four, "Rebuilding and Remembering." For the upcoming holidays, we will read "Surviving the Holidays." This information will equip us to handle unexpected stressful situations. Afterward, we return our focus to finish "Rebuilding and Remembering."

Going forward, the group decided they would like to work through the four-book series by Stephen Ministries again.

Dear reader, join us on this path of renewal. Now would be a good time to get on board. You need not register. There is no fee.

This is a class where you find support. You can be real. Joy in the Mourning is not a dating service nor a cry fest. We are here for you. Simply come or give Deb a call at 352-445-4860.

Genealogical Society

Sid Levine

October saw some changes for the Genealogical Society. Deb Baker assumed the presidency, and she is starting with seasoned veterans as officers. Rod Davis, Doug George, and Peggy Taylor will continue as vice president, treasurer, and secretary, respectively. Linda Bell remains as membership chair; Mary Pat Luvison has stepped up to be education chair. Good luck to all for the coming year.

October's meeting featured Debbe Hagner, who shared more insights on using census records. She highlighted state census records as well as federal census reports.

The Genealogical Society is dedicated to helping its members with their family history research. We provide educational programs and group discussions on many genealogical subjects.

We will also arrange one-on-one instruction, especially for those just getting started. We meet on the third Monday of each month at 10 a.m. Starting in 2027, we will meet at a different location.

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SECTION C
RECREATION
Vol. 40, No. 5 November 2026

Azura Fitness Center at Candler Hills

By Cammy Dennis

Exciting things are happening at Candler Hills with a new destination for fitness and wellness. Exclusive to Candler Hills is the new Azura Fitness Center. Whether you're an experienced fitness enthusiast or just beginning your fitness journey, Azura offers an impressive variety of equipment, spaces and programming to help you reach your personal goals. Azura will feature HOIST ROC-IT® strength equipment, featuring innovative, user-friendly technology. Residents will also find an extensive selection of free weights, providing plenty of options for strength training.

The new cardio area offers a variety of equipment to keep workouts fresh and engaging, including TRUE Fitness treadmills and ellipticals, along with a Stairmaster for those looking to add an extra challenge to their cardiovascular routine. With multiple cardio options available, residents can choose the equipment and intensity that best suits their individual fitness level and goals.

One of the highlights of the new Azura Fitness Center is the turfed, functional training area. Designed for workouts that help build strength, stability, coordination and confidence. The area features two TRX® training bays, providing opportunities for suspension training and body-weight exercises that can be modified for a wide range of abilities. Functional fitness is particularly valuable as we age because it focuses on movements that translate into everyday life; such as getting up and down, reaching, lifting, carrying and maintaining balance.

Ready to ride? Azura's dedicated 10-bike spinning studio provides an energetic space for indoor cycling. The studio is also equipped with Fitness On Demand™, giving residents access to a wide variety of professionally led fitness classes and workout experiences. From cycling, strength, stretching and other fitness formats, Fitness On Demand adds even more variety to the Azura fitness experience.

We are also excited to introduce Luis Perez, Azura's new personal trainer. Luis brings years of experience working in both fitness and clinical settings, giving him a unique perspective on exercise and wellness. His background includes a strong understanding of corrective exercise and balance training, Luis is an excellent resource for residents who want to improve strength, stability and confidence.

The new Azura Fitness Center is more than a collection of impressive equipment. It is a place where residents can move, connect and continue pursuing an active lifestyle. When you are done with your workout, enjoy the beautiful outdoor pool, a refreshing place to swim and relax. For residents who enjoy swimming as part of their fitness routine, the pool includes two dedicated lap lanes. Whether you're getting in a few laps, or simply taking advantage of the resort-like atmosphere, the Azura pool adds another dimension to the Candler Hills active aging experience. Fitness and relaxation come together at Azura, creating a place where wellness can feel less like a workout and more like a lifestyle.

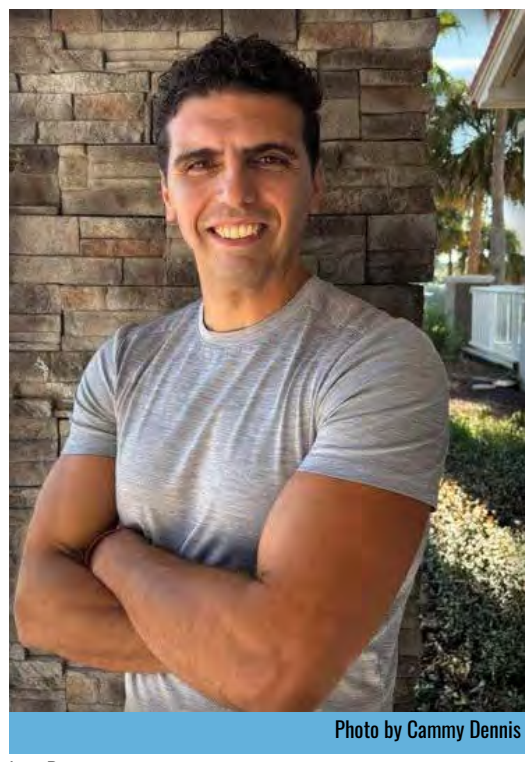


Photo by Cammy Dennis

Luis Perez.



Photo by Mary Jeannotte

The joy of tennis.

Serving Up Fun & Friendship

By Mary Jeannotte

On Top of The World has a vibrant tennis community. The club offers a formal tennis program with a USPTA professional and a Tennis Club for residents. All levels of play are welcome on our 12 scenic, centrally located courts.

A wonderful way to get started is to visit the courts on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday at 7:45 a.m. Our teaching professional, Jorge Privat, sets up the mixed doubles round robin and fits new players right in. From there, you can connect with players at a similar skill level and arrange your own matches.

Jorge offers individual and group lessons, along with drill sessions. A lesson with Jorge will give him a sense of your skill level and can help match you to other players of similar skill. Players interested in league play, both local to the Ocala area and through the United States Tennis Association, travel to Fort King, a public tennis facility in southeast Ocala. The courts are Hard Tru (green clay), and leagues include skill levels from 2.5 to 5.0.

The Tennis Club was formed several years ago to improve organization, communication, structured play, and social activities. Its website lists members and skill levels, helping players to connect and arrange matches. The club hosts four play, a popular weekly session in which players rotate after four games to rest and socialize. This is especially popular during the summer months. Evening sessions are planned for those who work or prefer to play under the lights.

Donated ball machines are available at designated courts and times each week. Advanced players lead drills on serves, volleys, strokes, and game strategy. The board organizes club T-shirts, regular picnics and parties, and inter-club matches with nearby communities.

Members also make the short trip to the University of Florida to watch men's and women's collegiate tennis, which can be even more exciting than professional matches.

Overall, the club has encouraged more residents to pick up a racquet and get out and play. For more information, email otowtennisocala@gmail.com, visit Facebook at OTOW Tennis, or open Clubs in the OTOW App.

A Little Rhythm with a Lot of Laughter

By Judy Sullivan

There's something special about music filling the room, boots tapping and sliding across the floor, and friends sharing laughter. Whether we're moving through the steps of a lively line dance or learning the graceful movements of a waltz, every class brings its own little moments of joy.

And speaking of laughter, some of our funniest moments happen when I make a mistake. Maybe I play the wrong song, choose the wrong speed, or mess up the steps myself. What I love most is that everyone laughs right along with me. There's something wonderful about laughing at ourselves and enjoying the moment together. After all, if the teacher can't laugh at her own mistakes, who can?

For many of us, line dancing is where the fun begins. No partner is needed – just a willingness to try, a little rhythm, and a sense of adventure. At first, newcomers might hang back in the last row, watching carefully and hoping the steps will eventually make sense. But then something magical happens: the steps start to click, confidence grows, and before long, those once-nervous beginners are tapping, turning, and dancing right along with everyone else.

Our newest dancers, who joined us in September, have already learned the basics and a dozen different dances with a variety of step sequences. It's wonderful to watch them progress so quickly and see their confidence grow with every class. Who says you can't teach old feet new tricks?

After a long summer break, our September social dance brought everyone together for a night of dancing. The evening was filled with delicious potluck dishes, toe-tapping music, plenty of laughter, and, of course, a dance floor that stayed busy from the first song to the last.

As I looked around at all the smiling faces, I was reminded that while dancing may bring us together, it's the friendships that make our community so special. We come for the music and movement, but we stay for the laughter, the connections, and the memories we create together.

If you'd like to dance with us, registration is available through the OTOW App. Registration opens on the first Tuesday of every even-numbered month and remains open for ten days, closing on the second Friday. For example, register in October for November and December classes, or in December for January and February classes. Be sure to mark your calendar so you don't miss your chance to join us.

Stay connected and follow our dancing adventures on Facebook and YouTube (Country Line Dancing with Judy). You can also email me at CountryLineDancingWithJudy@yahoo.com.

Whether you're brand-new to dancing or already know your way around the floor, there's a place for you here. Come for the music, enjoy the exercise, share a few laughs, and make some wonderful new friends. The music is playing, the floor is waiting, and we will be saving a space just for you!



Photo by Judy Sullivan

September social dance.

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Golf



Matt Hibbs
352-854-2765
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Fall is officially here, bringing cooler temperatures and some of the year's most enjoyable golf weather. With the holiday season right around the corner, it's a perfect time to slow down, reflect, and spend quality time with family and friends both on and off the course. Thanksgiving is just weeks away, reminding us to appreciate all the good things this wonderful world offers. Whether it's the joy of a well-struck shot, a relaxing round with friends, or sharing a meal with loved ones, there's always something to be grateful for. I'm especially thankful for my family and friends. How about you?

We are thrilled to announce that Irons 9 Pitch & Putt is officially open! Our new nine-hole par-three course offers a fun and welcoming experience for golfers of all ages and skill levels. Whether you're looking to sharpen your short game, introduce someone to golf, or enjoy a quick round in under an hour, Irons 9 is the perfect destination. We believe this exciting new course will be a fantastic addition to our golfing community. Visit irons9.com to learn more, and book your tee time today.

The golf staff would like remind everyone to register or renew your golf membership for 2027. If you're renewing your membership or considering joining, please contact Margarita Rosario at 352-854-2765 to make an appointment. We encourage everyone to register early in December because the membership office will become very busy the closer we get to Jan. 1. Operating hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Upcoming Events

- Monday, Nov. 2: Monday Couples at The Links, at 2 p.m.
- Friday, Nov. 6 & Saturday, Nov. 7: Candler Hills Club Championship.
- Friday, Nov. 13 & Saturday, Nov. 14: World Member/Member at Candler Hills and The Links.

World Accolades

THE LINKS: Gary Gerlach shot his age 77. Rick Pettit shot 65, two strokes under his age. John Parnau, eagle #12. Stephen Krueger, eagle #9. Gary Gerlach shot 74, three strokes under his age.

CANDLER HILLS: Karen Campbell, eagle #7. Robert Meyer, eagle #7. Brian Bennett, eagle #11 and #12. Donna McCombs, eagle #7. Chuck Simon, eagle #14. Dennis Bricker, Hole-in-One #5. Mark Gumm, eagle #7. Rick Pettit, hole-in-one #8. Duane Covert, eagle #3. Larry Hess, hole-in-one #17.

Congratulations!

Golf Tip of the Month

How many of you swing out of your shoes, fall backward, and watch the ball sail right out of bounds? If this sounds like your golf swing, then balance is the key to improvement.

Here are a few tips to maintain proper balance throughout your swing.

- Widen your stance. By widening your stance, you are giving yourself a bigger base, which helps you return the clubface to a square position at impact.
- Do not overswing. If you tend to swing as hard as you can each time, you'll likely lose your balance. A good balanced swing looks graceful and effortless.
- Maintain a good finish. Try to hold your finish after every swing. I like to teach my students to hold the finish long enough for someone to snap a photo. Holding your finish longer will improve your balance and ball striking.

Candler Hills Ladies 18-Hole



Beth Wolinsky

You really have to love the game of golf to keep playing. A golf swing has so many mechanics, and it's easy to get lost in your head and not let your body do what it knows. We must trust our swing and rely on our muscle memory. Reducing unnecessary thoughts leads to greater success in golf. Overthinking is overrated.

The annual membership meeting and elections are on Thursday, Nov. 19, after golf. If you haven't already, don't forget to turn in your lunch selection and either $15 cash or a check made out to CHLGA. Please submit it by Thursday, Oct. 29. We will elect officers and select a charity. We hope to see everyone there.

Welcome to the board, Brenda Hofmann. She is our new tournament chairperson. We know she will do an excellent job.

It's that time of year again, so mark your calendar. The On Top of the World and Candler Hills leagues holiday party and awards dinner is on Wednesday, Dec. 9 at The Summit Ballroom. This is always an enjoyable event, so put on your dancing shoes and join the party. Further details will follow.

The Candler Hills LGA-18 is open to any woman resident. If you wish to join, you may contact our president, Sandy Snyder, at freesand@icloud.com. It's a good way to meet some new ladies, play golf, and have fun.

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

Creamsicle Scramble (Team)
Sept. 10

57–Lisa Free, Virginia Combs, Eileen Gustavus, Carol Clark. 58–Christine Giza, Carol Avery, Connie Norris, Terry Lemesh. 58–Judi McGuinness, Janette Sheil, Liz Pruss, Vickie Foster. 59–Lynn Colomb, Karen Schroeckenthaler, Chris McIntire.

Survivor Series – Alternate Shot (Team)
Sept. 17

Flight 1: 71–Shelly Karsnitz, Gayla Aldridge. 73–Judi McGuinness, Chris McIntire. 75–Beverly Ovrebo, Mary Jeannotte.
Flight 2: 75–Tammy Seutter, Janette Sheil. 75–Cindy Pursel, Mary A. Cunningham. 76–Karen Schroeckenthaler, Nancy Zielinski.
Flight 3: 73–Nancy Olson, Joan McEachern. 76–Liz Pruss, Katie Schriewer. 76–Kathleen Goodwin, Robin LeMaster.

Two Best Balls in Flight (Team)
Oct. 1

Flight 1: 144–Lisa Free, Linda Taylor, Sandra Mansfield. 144–Lori Pizzini, Christine Giza, Diane Boston.
Flight 2: 141–Becky Bivins, Janette Sheil, Brenda Hofmann. 141–Chris McIntire, Judie Anderson, Virginia Combs. 144–Kathleen Goodwin, Beverly Ovrebo, Joanne Woolery.
Flight 3: 146–MJ Strelec, Angelita Jingco, Renee Middleton. 148–JoAnn Delmar, Beth Wolinsky, Margie Williams.

Ladies 18-Hole Golf Association



Pamela Robison

Vegas Scramble
Sept. 1/The Tortoise & The Hare

Gayla Aldridge, Connie Norris, Robyn Atwood, Gerry McKenzie. 11–Lisa Free, Tracey Rouw, Barbara Vincent, Grace Turato. 10–Marcela Nunez, Bobbie Wiener, Patty Szymanski, Joy Gerardi. Tie at 8–Mary Jeannotte, Karen Schroeckenthaler, Renne Anchors, Paula Wadsworth, Gail Legrange, MJ Strelec, Donna McCombs, Renee Middleton.

Aces Wild
Sept. 8/The Links

70–Gayla Aldridge. Tie at 72–Marcela Nunez, Christine Giza. 73–Gail Lagrange. 66–Karen Campbell. 67–Karen Schroeckenthaler. Tie at 69–Debra DeMatteo, Bobbie Wiener. Tie at 75–Connie Sohl, Tracey Rouw.

Scramble
Sept. 15/The Links

71-Sharon Fairclough, Brenda Hofman, Barbara Vincent, Joan MacEachern. Tie at 72–Christine Giza, Tammy Seutter, Robyn Atwood, Kathy Sisti, Lisa Free, Debra DeMatteo, Peggy Wiechmann, Vickie Foster. Tie at 78–Gayla Aldridge, Virginia Combs, Cindy Bobowski, Nancy Olson, Shelly Karsnitz, Marla Bennett, Bobbie Wiener, Connie Lukas.

Fall Member/Member 6-6-6
Sept. 22/The Links

-1–Lisa Free, Sandy Snyder. Tie at -4–Shelly Karsnitz, Gayla Aldridge, Sharon Fairclough, Linda Taylor. 78–Judi McGuinniss, Christine McIntire. 80–Janette Sheil, Lynn Colomb. 83–Sandra Mansfield, Connie Norris. 89–Connie Sohl, May Chin. 90–Roxiann Dwyer, Robin LeMaster. 94–Connie Lukas, Cindy Bobowski.

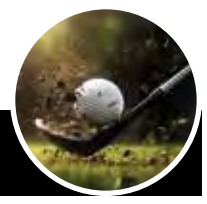
Two Best Balls (Net)
Sept. 29/The Links

137–Sandy Snyder, Tracey Rouw, Peggy Wiechmann, /b1 Joy Gerardi. 138–Lisa Free, Jill Strey, Joann Delmar, Robin LeMaster. Tie at 139–Linda Taylor, Cindy Pursel, Christine McIntire, Roxiann Dwyer, Lynn Colomb, Marcela Nunez, Brenda Hofmann, MJ Strelec, Judi McGuinness.

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.



Candler Hills Men's Golf



Kevin Hermida

As a long-time member, I always look forward to a peaceful practice session, so proper range etiquette matters. Keeping our facilities in top shape means hitting straight ahead within our designated lanes, creating neat, linear divot patterns, and leaving the hitting area ready for the next golfer. These simple habits show respect for fellow members, our grounds crew, and the course.

When stepping onto the tee box, staying within your designated hitting zone is essential. Aiming diagonally across the range can be distracting and dangerous, especially when shots cross another golfer's line of sight. I always align my feet, clubface, and shoulders parallel to my hitting box. Focusing on targets straight ahead keeps ball flights organized and allows everyone to practice safely without worrying about a rogue missile.

The quality of our grass is a point of pride, and proper divot patterns help preserve it. When hitting from live grass, avoid scattering divots randomly across the box. Instead, place each new ball directly on the back edge of your previous divot, creating a single, clean trench moving backward. Once the trench gets long, move approximately four inches to begin another row. This technique preserves healthy roots and encourages faster turf recovery.

The driving range is a busy place, with fellow members often waiting for an available hitting area. Leaving behind an organized strip of turf rather than a cratered wasteland is the ultimate sign of range respect. Think of it as karma: Leave the box in great shape, and the golf gods might reward your next round with fewer slices!

Individual Stableford

Flight 1: Larry Skoch, Mike Bernhardt, Wes Wendt, Paul Siders.
Flight 2: Kenneth Franks, Tom Presnick, Robert Walker, Rick Schriewer.
Flight 3: Jeff Gerber, Randy Keller, Michael Cunningham, Louis Fuchs.
Flight 4: Steve Wrazen, Dale Szymanski, Guy Stiebling, Joe Ostrowski.
Flight 5: Jim Weaver, Michael Beamer, Mike Inge, Edward Galuska,
Flight 6: Howard Glickman, Louis Heger, Joe Jinco, John Parnau.
Flight 7: Rick Deroven, Tim Beaty, Omer Fannin, Philip Petrozella.
Flight 8: John Devito, Walter Knautz, Bill Kenyon, Richard Foltynewicz.

Best Ball

Flight 1: Jeff Richardson, Rich Campbell, Patrick Mezyk, Rick Petit. Michael Altomare, Lonnie Page, John Leeman, Brian Bennett. Jeffery Homes, Robert Coughanore, Patrick Nagy, Tim Clarkin.
Flight 2: Bill Gurbisz, Mike Kelly, Michael Cunningham, Mark Durwood. Robert Kuhl, Robert Walker, Howard Gluckman, Doug Buckler. David Edmonds, Larry Skoch, Don Wheller.

Two Man Best Ball

Flight 1: Mark Gumm, Kenneth Franks. Jeff Richardson, Ray Kallai. Randy Malinowski, Robert Coughanour.
Flight 2: Bill Gurbisz, Robert Kuhl. Rick Schriewer, Mark Prater. Rick Ferris, Charles Simon.
Flight 3: James Morgan, Joe Jinco. Michael Altimore, Dennis McCourt. Guy Steibling, Gregg Keidel.
Flight 4: Philip Petrozella, Thomas Kujawa. Joe Pruss, Richard Foltynewicz. Fernando Pallares, Loren Magsam.

Ballroom Dancing Practice Club



Walter Galas

Looking for a fun, welcoming way to spend your Wednesday afternoon? Join us every Wednesday from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II.

Everyone is invited, regardless of experience. Our club offers free beginner dance lessons to help you feel comfortable, build confidence, and learn at your own pace. Whether you come alone or bring a partner, you'll find a friendly group ready to welcome you to the dance floor.

No previous experience is needed – just bring your enthusiasm and a willingness to have fun! Our supportive atmosphere makes it easy to meet new people, learn exciting steps, and enjoy the many benefits of ballroom dancing.

Experienced dancers are also encouraged to join us. Your guidance, encouragement, and friendly assistance can make a meaningful difference for beginners. Together, we can create a positive and inclusive community where everyone feels welcome.

Come visit us any Wednesday to learn more and take part. Or email us at ballroomdancingpracticeclub@gmail.com. We can't wait to dance with you!

Men's Golf Association

John Yenne

Rain washed out the golf at October's Chicken Day, but the 119 members who signed up still gathered for the luncheon in the Recreation Center Ballroom.

Board elections are coming up in December, with three positions on the ballot. Visit otowmga.com for details on the candidates and voting.

The Men's Golf Association (MGA) is planning another free food and beverage day for Wednesday, Dec. 16, in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Stay tuned for details.

To mark the MGA's 40th anniversary, Norm Hayworth is working on a commemorative item to present to current members.

Membership stands at 290 paid players.

For more information, visit otowmga.com.

Put these upcoming Wednesdays in your calendar:

- Nov. 4: Chicken Day (The Links)
- Nov. 11: Individual Low Net Gross (The Tortoise & The Hare)
- Nov. 18: Shamble, Three Best Balls (The Links)
- Nov. 25: Team Stableford, Four Balls (The Tortoise & The Hare)

Three Best Balls (Team)
Sept. 30

196–Philip Shaw, Howard Gluckman, Paul Stoecklin. 201–Charlie Taylor, Stuart Martin, Terry Rizer, Ron Ouellette. 206–Rick Ferris, Larry Jeisy, Gerry Camp, Michael Dwyer. 208–Rick Schriewer, John Parnau, Tom Nutt, Raymond Hendrix. 210–Mike Inge, Mike Clancy, Jay Bouton, Garfield Gray. 211–Dan Goggin, Robert Meyer, Roger Osier, David Bauer. 212–August Rosenberger, Joseph Mendola, Rick Lilly, Carl Zeiler. 213–Joe Baumgartner, Mark Meyer, Mike Krodel, David Emmons. 216–John Herman, Joe Wong, Patrick Schwinn, Tary Bole. Tie at 217–Kevin McGuinness, Tim Carlisle, Kenneth Gove, Steve Wrazen; Jim Weaver, James Morgan, Richard Foltynewicz, Richard Deschenes. Tie at 218–Irl Flanagan, Eddie Sloan, Joseph Dunnack, Walter Knautz; James Gourlay, Bruce Green, William Cope, John Divito; John McMahon, Don Hamlin, Bob Marks, Maynard Thompson.





OTOWInfo.com

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Book by Meredith Willson and Franklin Lacey

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All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

Weight Loss Group



Lori Beth Green

If you are ready to make changes to become a healthier you and need support from others on the same journey, our club might be a great fit. 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 of your choice while receiving tips, suggestions, and positive reinforcement from the group.

There are two opportunities to meet each week. On Mondays, we meet in the Hobby Building Art Studio. Weigh-in starts at 4:30 p.m., and the meeting begins at 5 p.m. The leader is Lois Trepper. On Tuesdays, we meet in the Arbor Activity Center Event Room I. Weigh-in starts at 9:15 a.m., and the meeting begins at 10 a.m. Beth Reynolds is the leader. Visitors are always welcome. For questions and additional information about joining our group, please email Lois at ltrepper@att.net or Beth at doctroi@sbcglobal.net.

Table Tennis



Mary Jeannotte

The Table Tennis Club participated in the September Club Fair. Many people stopped by and had no idea what a Table Tennis Club is or isn't. As a result, this column explains what we are about and what we offer.

First and foremost, we are a group of people who come together to play table tennis. The first challenge is to find the building where we are located. The easiest way is to enter The Arbors, where the indoor and outdoor pools are. You'll see tennis courts to the far left and the bocce ball area. Keep following the winding road until you reach a parking area with two large buildings filled with rooms – the Arbor Conference Center and Arbor Activity Center.

We are in the Arbor Conference Center in the room marked on the outside "Table Tennis." We have one room with three tables. From Friday through Monday, we expand to two rooms of five tables.

The second challenge is determining your skill level: beginner, intermediate, or advanced. The best way to find out is to attend a mixed-skill session, where supportive players can help assess your level and recommend the most suitable times to play. Wednesday at 1 p.m. is ideal for this. If you are completely new and simply want to try the game, paddles and balls are provided at our beginner sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays at 3 p.m.

The third challenge is deciding what you want from the club. Many members join to meet people, play, and have fun. Others focus on building their skills and advancing to more competitive sessions, which are still enjoyable but more intense. Some eventually compete in tournaments. Recently, several of our members traveled to Gainesville, Florida, to participate in the Florida Senior Games Qualifier Tournament (story to follow in next month's paper). The club offers group instruction and drills, as well as individual lessons. The club also hosts social events with pizza or potluck.

For the first time, our club will host an open house for non-members and anyone considering joining. The event will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 5:30 p.m. Attendees can meet others, ask questions about the club, and play table tennis. If you are interested, please contact our president, Al Contarino, at alcontarino26@gmail.com. The club's play schedule, listing all of the sessions offered, is posted inside the Table Tennis Room.

Get Healthy Club



Tammy Cope

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

Our meetings are every Tuesday, from 9 to 10 a.m. in The Landing Card Room and are open to all Weybourne Landing residents. Meetings consist of member weigh-ins (optional), nutrition tips, exercise ideas, informational presentations, healthy outings, monthly challenges, and motivation!

Some meetings may include road trips and other fun events, like a walking meeting.

The cost is $5 per member per month. For more information, please contact Tammy Cope at 352-396-7327or tlbrnc1@gmail.com.

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Sign up at CircleSquareCommons.com

POP Tennis



Beth Smith

November is here, and with cooler temps, it's time to get out and play some POP!

Our regular schedule continues on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8 to 10 a.m. at The Arbors lower tennis courts. As always, you can come when you can and play as long as you like. If you're new to POP tennis, come give it a try! Paddles are available at the courts, and our members are always happy to show newcomers how to play.

We're excited to announce that evening play is starting on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. It's a great way to enjoy some evening play, meet up with fellow members, and take advantage of the cooler November weather.

Members, be sure to download the GroupMe app so you can stay connected with fellow players. GroupMe is a great way to arrange pick-up games, see who is planning to play, and keep in touch with other members. If you're thinking about playing, check GroupMe and see who's up for a game!

Ladies interested in women's play on Saturday mornings or Wednesday evenings can contact Sharon Daniel at sidusps8163@gmail.com for more information.

Members interested in one-on-one instruction can contact Brenda Foster at Brenda@gcfonline.com. Please remember that individual instruction is available to members only.

For general questions, please contact Shizuka Campagna at Shizukacampagna@gmail.com.

Our members showed that we're not just about having fun on the courts – we also enjoy giving back to our community!

We recently supported the upcoming annual Friends of SPCA murder mystery dinner theatre fundraiser. Thanks to our members' generosity and donations, we combined a wonderful assortment of items and created five baskets for the raffle.

This is such a popular event that tickets sold out during the presale – before the regular ticket sales even began! That says a lot about how much our community enjoys this special evening and how important the Friends of SPCA is to so many people.

A big thank-you to all of our members who donated and helped make our contribution possible. We are proud to be part of a club that knows how to have fun, support one another, and give back to the community.

So grab your paddle, bring a friend, and come join us on the courts!

Top Pickleball Club



Barry Barnhart

The cooler evenings and sunset-watching outside are finally here.

With that said, here are the results from our remarkable Marion County Special Olympics pickleball team. Many of the athletes have participated in this event for all four years. We can't forget the valuable volunteers who train the athletes weekly. Some athletes competed in the skill competition, while others played pickleball with a volunteer partner. The nine athletes and seven volunteer partners who participated in the Gainesville regionals received gold, silver, or bronze medals. We are very proud of the entire team. While all the athletes did an outstanding job, one athlete, Zachary Oetjen, who plays singles, has won the gold medal three years in a row! Great job, Zach!

Head Coach Jeff Hurley, Team Manager John Maggio, and award-winning Inspirational Coach Rick Cope help run the Marion County Special Olympics pickleball team. We can't forget the many other volunteers who are the heartbeat of our team. And thanks to On Top of the World management for donating our courts for practice sessions.

We look forward to the state tournament in Orlando on Friday, Nov. 13.

Our club has grown to almost 800 members! We offer many social activities, award-winning training programs, and a culture of fun.

New player orientation sessions are every Monday and the first Saturday at 10:30 a.m. on the upper courts. For information, visit https://tpc.pickleball.plus.





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Sidekicks

Rich Gautier

Sidekicks Partner Pattern Dance Club offers couples a fun, friendly way to learn, practice, and enjoy partner dancing together. Whether you are just getting started or already comfortable with a variety of patterns, Sidekicks provides a relaxed setting where dancers can build skills, stay active, and meet others who enjoy dancing. The club is focused on learning line-of-dance patterns for partners.

Tuesday is instruction day at the Recreation Center Ballroom. Beginner dance instruction is held from 4 to 5 p.m. with Janet and Sean Amend. This class is a great place for new dancers to learn basic steps, gain confidence, and become comfortable moving together on the floor.

Beginner/Improver instruction follows from 5 to 6 p.m. with Dave and Deb Longworth. Dancers can expand their knowledge of partner dance patterns, improve timing and technique, and continue building on the skills they have already learned.

Practice sessions are also available from 4 to 5 p.m. in Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios III-IV with Dave and Deb Longworth. These sessions offer a helpful opportunity to review dances, ask questions, practice familiar patterns, and become more comfortable before heading onto the social dance floor.

Sidekicks is about more than remembering steps. It is a place for couples to share an enjoyable activity, make new friends, and build confidence by learning something together. Dancing is a great way to stay moving, keep the mind engaged, and add more fun to the week.

Once a month, Sidekicks has an all-level dance – the event this month is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 24.

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

For details, questions, or registration information, email partnerdancesidekicks@gmail.com or visit partnerdancesidekick.wixsite.com/otow or our Facebook page (Sidekicks Partner Pattern Dance Club). Join the fun and keep dancing with Sidekicks!

Poms Cheer & Dance

Pamela Kalamaras

Are you interested in becoming a member? Please come dance with us at our auditions on Thursday, Nov. 5 and Thursday, Dec. 3, at 6 p.m. Poms Dance and Cheer Squad may be the special dance club you've been looking for in On Top of the World.

We are a group of ladies who form a special bond as we work together through our practices, performances, and fun outings. If you have previous dance experience, this could be your greatest adventure yet! Please email pammykal@aol.com so we can personally welcome you! This information will also be on the OTOW App's virtual bulletin board.

Our performances are all about precision and synchronization. We rehearse diligently to move our hands, legs, heads, and eyes in unison, all with a smile, to bring that extra element of excitement to our audiences. Mastering precision involves learning the exact steps and timing to our dance and cheers. The ladies either laugh or groan when they hear, "One more time," because they know it usually means several more times! Yes, we work hard, but we love every minute!

We kicked off the season with many fun performances. On Thursday, Sept. 24, we presented our sock hop medley to SWANS.

On Saturday, Oct. 3, we were honored to perform at the Weybourne Landing flag dedication, and on Monday, Oct. 19, we were thrilled to be part of the opening ceremony at the On Top of the World Games.

The annual Veterans Classic Softball Tournament is on Saturday, Nov. 7. On Wednesday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom, we will host one of our treasured events: the Veterans Day Ceremony, where we will honor veterans with our dance and cheer. Please come join the festivities and pay your respects to our heroes.

On Saturday, Nov. 14, we will revisit one of our favorite places, The Windsor of Ocala, where we will perform our patriotic medley.

As we head into fall and the holiday season, new music and cheers inspire us. Our patriotic, sock hop, and holiday medleys have new choreography, and we are also excited to premiere our newest theme, "Dancing thru the Decades," at the Health & Wellness Expo on Saturday, Jan. 23, 2027, at 10:30 a.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center.

If you would like Poms Dance and Cheer to perform at your next event, we are available for future dates. We hope the love we have for what we do shines through in each performance. Go pommies! Please contact Pam Kalamaras at pammykal@aol.com for more information.



Photo by Phil Panzera

Poms Dance and Cheer Squad at the flag dedication at Weybourne Landing in October.

Ballet

Eugenie Martin

Ballet did not start as a performing art on its own. It began in 17th-century Italy to liven up the early operas performed then. The operas were long, often four hours, and the singers merely stood still on stage as they sang. Audiences often got bored, left the operas, and rarely returned. To liven up performances, operatic directors added dancers, which increased the operas' popularity.

The concept of dancers performing traveled to France when Caterina di Medici married the French King Henri II. The queen was free to expand and develop ballet, replacing Italian terms with French ones. Ballet flourished in France outside of opera, but all the performers were male. Years later, during the French Revolution, female dancers were added to help promote the new post-revolutionary France, and they remain an important part of ballet today.

Nowadays, ballet remains a performing art, and residents can take ballet classes here. All classes are free, except for a $5 sign-up fee, and a wide variety of classes are offered in the Arbor Conference Center Studio D. Below is the schedule:

- Thursdays (1 to 2:15 p.m.): Introductory/Beginner
- Tuesdays (11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.): Advanced Beginner
- Wednesdays (1:15 to 3:30 p.m.): Advanced Technique
- Fridays (11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.): Silver Swans
- Saturdays (11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.): Intermediate

To start, you don't need ballet clothes. All you need are stretchy exercise clothes and socks for your feet. Bring a bottle of water, too. For more information, please call Eugenie Martin at 352-854-8589. Happy dancing!

STAY IN THE KNOW!
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The OTOW app is available in the Google Play and Apple Store (resident account required).

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Broadway & Tap Dancing



Elaine Voorhis

The Broadway and tap classes have been very busy. On Thursday, Oct. 8, we danced for the Women of the World's monthly meeting. What a great organization! Thank you for inviting us. We hope you enjoyed our performance and had as much fun as we did and will invite us back again.

For our Halloween recital, all classes worked hard on their new Halloween routines while also practicing other repertoire routines. The most difficult part of our Halloween performance is resisting the urge to smile. We're trying to look scary, but just seeing each other in crazy costumes cracks us up! The dancers are very creative!

Thanks to all who attended our little fright-fest. It's good for us to release our inner zombies, ghouls, and witches occasionally, and we did again the very next day at Brookdale and Bridgewater assisted living facilities. Hopefully we didn't cause any nightmares!

Speaking of performances, our dance card is filling up. We'll be back at Brookdale and Bridgewater on Saturday, Dec. 12. Then, our usual end-of-session recital will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18, back in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. This session, we have one less week to prepare. No pressure, we can handle it!

After that, we'll be at the Health & Wellness Expo in January 2027, plus a performance for the Illinois Club in February 2027. Keep an eye out for postings on our community Facebook pages.

If you're interested in having us perform for your neighborhood group, club, or organization, or would like information about our classes, please contact us at broadwayandtap@yahoo.com.

In past columns, I've mentioned that dancing can be rewarding in many ways. Let's talk about the social aspect. It's great to get together with people who share your interests, no matter what they are. In my opinion, dancing feels a bit magical. Maybe it's the music, or simply trying to get your feet going in the right (or left) direction, but it seems to help you forget your problems, at least for a little while.

Little by little, if you stick with it, you may realize you have found your happy place, where the people around you are supportive and caring, and where you can just be yourself for an hour or so. It's very important to your emotional well-being, no matter what activity you choose. Personally, I have been very fortunate to have chosen the right happy place for me! I hope you find yours too.

Dave's Dance Hall Daze Club



Dave Hawkins

Thank you to the residents who joined the club for 2027. Members will receive club information via a group email at the start of each month.

Club membership is open to all residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. Now through Thursday, Dec. 31, membership fee is two for one (two for $5). Starting Friday, Jan. 1, 2027, annual membership will be $5 per resident.

In an excellent venue with the club's sound and lighting system, the club will draw on 36 years of experience to play the best selection of songs for you.

Bring your favorite party beverage and snacks, and settle in for an evening of great music, dancing, and good company. The music will never be so loud that you can't have an easy conversation at your table.

Dance your freestyle way to old-fashioned rock 'n' roll and slow songs. Apply what you've learned from dance classes to line dances, waltzes, 2-step songs, country classics, and more.

Request a song, make a song dedication at the mic, or maybe even sing one yourself! This is your social dance club. And, yes, members can invite guests according to On Top of the World policy.

In 2027, join us on the second Tuesday of each month from 6 to 8:30 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.) at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios III-IV. If needed, the club will expand into Dance Studios I-II.

For more information, please text me at 954-257-3182 or email drhawk88@hotmail.com.

I can meet with you or come to your next group meeting. You can also join at the start of each event by showing up at the entrance with your resident ID and $5. Two brief forms will need to be completed when joining the club.

Let's do this. Let's make some memories. See you on Tuesday, Jan.12, 2027.

Line Dancing



Joe Spencer

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

There are three dance levels taught every Monday in the Recreation Center Ballroom. The easiest is AB (Absolute Beginner), 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.

We also have practice sessions on Wednesdays.

There will be another new line dance class at The Landing Ballroom for Weybourne Landing residents on Wednesdays starting January 2027. There is already an AB level on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to noon. This will add the next level up: the Beginner class.

Many dancers purchase tickets for multiple levels so that they get more exercise and learn more dances. Practice is the key. The more practice, the better.

In addition to classes and practice sessions, there are line dance socials. The October social had a Halloween theme. To attend the socials, you must have a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

Many of the dances learned in class are danced at The Town Square at Circle Square Commons.

We had an amazing line dance workshop in September with three top instructors/choreographers known around the world – Michele Burton, Michael Barr, and Larry Bass. We are already looking forward to another one in 2027.

If you would like to join the classes, the next session will be January/February. Tickets go on sale on the OTOW App Tuesday, Dec. 1 through Friday, Dec. 11. Each session is $25 per level for that two-month session. All tickets will be available on the OTOW App.

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, keep in mind that many others have been dancing for a while, so you may not know some dances or may need to catch up. We always suggest focusing on the new dances being taught, and you will pick up the others eventually.

Line dancing has tremendous physical and mental health benefits. It keeps us moving and our joints flexible. Line dancing is also one of the few activities that helps with Alzheimer's and dementia because it helps us memorize and repeat patterns.

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).

Beach Tennis



Ray Nault

We are now in the second month of beach tennis, and the response has been very positive! People from tennis, POP tennis, and pickleball have come to the court to try out this new sport. Many have commented on how easy it is on their knees and hips to play on the sand, but above all, they love that "you don't get hurt if you fall."

We play at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays and at 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Fridays. Equipment and training sessions are available. If you are interested and have any questions, you can contact us at 865-784-7507 or 352-299-8766.

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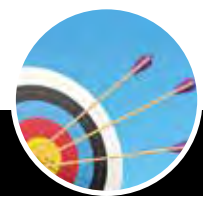
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Archery Club



Robin Schiltz

In club news, we held a successful open house on Thursday, Oct. 1, with 27 visitors exploring the club and our amenities and trying their hand at hitting a bullseye. If you missed this opportunity, watch for more information on our spring open house, coming in March 2027.

Congratulations to Bob Moisuk (barebow) for winning his first FITA Field Round competition in Spider Cup Series 4 at Easton-Newberry. Congratulations also to Jerry Hoppe (compound) for winning his division in this challenge, and to Patty Hoppe (compound) for her win.

Speaking of Patty, a frequent question our club gets is whether many women are involved, since archery is traditionally more associated with men and hunting. Women also wonder if they have the strength to succeed in archery. Well, the answer to both questions is a resounding "yes." As of today, approximately one-third of our club is made up of women archers.

It might also surprise you to learn that women were competing in Olympic archery more than 120 years ago. At the 1904 Olympic Games in St. Louis, women took part in archery at a time when very few Olympic sports were open to them. In fact, archery was the only sport at those games that included female competitors.

Today, our club has several state- and nationally ranked competitive female archers, and many more women members working toward that goal. Women in our club also practice kyudo, the Japanese martial art of archery.

Archery is a fun way to keep your muscles limber and maintain upper-body strength as you age. You do not have to compete to get a lot of satisfaction and enjoyment from being a club member. There' s a style of archery for almost every woman who wants to try the sport.

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 on-site maintenance shop keeps club and personal equipment in top condition.

As mentioned, the club is also home to kyudo practitioners, a traditional martial art emphasizing spiritual and mental development. Its slow, deliberate movements promote focus and inner harmony. To learn more, visit us on 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 are also invited to attend monthly workshops covering various aspects of archery.

Range use is for members only. Club membership is open to residents who hold a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

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.

On Top of the World

NOVEMBER 2026 FITNESS

RECREATION FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	SPARC	Step	Remix Bootcamp	Step	SPARC
8:00 am	Cardio Boxing		Tai Chi		Dance Aerobics
9:00 am	S.O.S.	Stretch, Flex & Balance	S.O.S.	Stretch, Flex & Balance	S.O.S.
9:00 am	Chair Pilates		BEAT		Chair Pilates
10:00 am	Balanced Body	Chair Yoga	Balanced Body	Chair Yoga	Balanced Body
10:00 am	Chair Yoga		Chair Yoga		Chair Yoga
11:00 am	Cardio Drumming	Brain Power	Get Fit While You Sit	Sculpt	
11:00 am	Dance Aerobics		Zumba*		Zumba*
12:00 pm		Parkinson's B.A.S.E.**		Move to Improve Parkinson's**	SATURDAY CLASSES: S.O.S. 9 am Chair Yoga 10 am
1:00 pm		Chair Chi**		Beginner/Intermediate Tai Chi**	
3:00 pm	VYP Chair Yoga	Balanced Body	Chair Yoga	Balanced Body	
5:00 pm		Candlelight Yoga		Candlelight Yoga	

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

ARBOR FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	STRONG	STRONG	Super Circuit	STRONG	STRONG
9:00 am	Yoga	Pilates Fusion	Yoga	Pilates Fusion	Yin Yoga
10:00 am	STRONG	Yoga	STRONG	Yoga	STRONG
11:00 am	Sculpt		Yoga		
4:00 pm	Muscle Fit	Strong and Steady		Interval Training	Dance Fit

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

ARBOR FITNESS CENTER INDOOR POOL CLASSES

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

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

Call of the Wild Sports Club



Steve Sekac

September in Florida' s Big Bend offered a variety of catches. Club members brought in gag grouper, red grouper, red fish, speckled sea trout, hog fish, black drum, and Key West snapper.

Paul Jorgensen (shooting director) reported the following results for September:

Handicap Competition

101–Mike Lalli. Tie at 100–Mike Brajer and Chip Futch. 99–Mick Snyder.

Year-to-Date

108–Ray Baker. 105–Mark Uttermark. Tie at 103–Paul Jorgensen and Don Ziekle.

High Scratch Score

85–Mark Uttermark. 82–Ray Baker.

Complete tables for month/year to date scores are listed at https://cotw.springly.org/page/2893531-home-page. Anyone who wants to get in on the fun and competition should contact any club member for details on how to join the club.

The Call of the Wild Sports Club consists of hunting, shooting, and fishing enthusiasts. Our members regularly participate in trap, skeet, sporting clays, and pistol shooting, along with fresh- and saltwater-fishing outings. For more information, contact Wayne Phillips (vice president) at 571-237-0520.

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Ohio Buckeyes Social Club

Tami Rossignol

The Ohio Buckeyes Social Club recently enjoyed a fun-filled social event appropriately named "Sundaes and Shenanigans!" Club members enjoyed an evening of laughter, friendly competition, and, of course, plenty of ice cream.

The evening featured a newlywed game and a hilarious contest to see who could unwrap the most chocolate kisses while wearing oven mitts. The games brought plenty of laughs and gave members a wonderful chance to relax and enjoy one another's company.

A big thank-you goes to the social committee for putting together such a great gathering, and to all the club members who attended and brought delicious snacks to share.

Mark your calendar and watch your email for invitations to the club's upcoming annual social events: the Halloween party on Friday, Oct. 30, and the Christmas party on Saturday, Dec. 12. More details will be sent by email as the events approach.

As of Wednesday, Oct. 7, the Ohio State Buckeyes are four-one overall and two-zero in Big Ten play. The Buckeyes are currently tied in the Big Ten standings with Indiana, Nebraska, UCLA, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

Ohio State's only loss came in a heartbreaking one-point defeat to Texas, 24 to 23. They're currently ranked fifth nationally, so there is still plenty of work to do as the season continues!

The club's Ohio State Buckeyes football watch parties are held either at the Derby Room or at members' private homes. Watch for official invitations by email, and RSVP using the email link provided. Seating is limited, so be sure to respond as soon as you know you can attend.

Whether you are a lifelong Ohioan or simply a fan looking to meet other Ohio supporters, the club welcomes anyone who wants to connect with fellow Buckeyes in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. For more information, email Buckeyefans34481@gmail.com.

Meditation Club

Domenica Genovese

Every Tuesday, one of our members brings in a quote or short passage, and we open by reading it aloud. Last Tuesday's reading was short: "The end of worry begins when you stop believing everything you think." The author goes on to say that when fear shows up, the mind is only guessing based on the past.

Then we sit in silence for 20 minutes. Some of us stay with the quote, and some of us let our thoughts go wherever they go. When the time is up, we start talking.

The conversation moved from our worries into unexpected territory. Someone brought up freedom, and one of our newer members, who came to this country from China, said something that surprised us. When she arrived, she said she could feel freedom in the air. She also talked about the abundance that surrounds us here, something we don't feel in other countries.

Many of us in the room have lived in this country most of our lives. We complain about traffic, prices, and the news, and we rarely notice what she saw almost right away. Hearing someone describe our ordinary surroundings as if seeing them for the first time was an eye-opener. If so much of what we think is old habit, then gratitude might be a habit worth practicing on purpose. Worry shows up uninvited. Gratitude usually takes a little effort, and it's easier when someone points out what we've stopped seeing.

That's what makes Tuesdays work. Someone brings a few lines, and we never know where the conversation will go. A couple of weeks ago we mulled over this: "You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them." Everyone hears the same sentence differently, and those different interpretations keep our conversations lively.

If any of this piques your interest, come join the conversation. You don't need meditation experience. Our three facilitators, Domenica Genovese, Athena Drewes, and Brenda Foster, will help you settle in. We're available by email if you have questions: domenica@gcfonline.com, dr.athena.drewes@gmail.com, brenda@gcfonline.com. We meet every Tuesday from 1 to 2 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Event Room I.

We look forward to seeing you!

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 you may make a special appearance and walk across the stage, and we will honor your service. It would be wonderful if you still had your uniform!

Currently, we dance every Monday from 10:15 a.m. to noon in Arbor Conference Center Studio D. We begin with warm-ups, then Pati Bean reviews choreography and counts until 11 a.m. The rest of the class focuses on learning new steps and reviewing choreography.

You do not have to perform if you don't want to. Just come, meet some lovely ladies, and enjoy moving to music.

Learning dance steps and combinations of moves should be fun and not intimidating. I know it's hard to learn new things, but challenging our brains and bodies is so important for healthy aging.

The dancers will appear in the latest caper of the Murder Mystery Dinner Theater Club in November for the Friends of SPCA annual fundraiser at The Landing! We plan to repeat this show and "At the CopaOcala" for all residents in spring 2027.

We plan to perform at the Health & Wellness Expo on Saturday, Jan. 27 at Circle Square Cultural Center, so please come down and check us out.

On a side note, I remember going to auditions in London as a young dancer, and there were so many people auditioning I couldn't even see the choreographer. I learned the steps from the person in front of me. No wonder the fabulous Canadian choreographer, Rob Iscove, said to me, "That was a very interesting interpretation of my choreography!" Kindly meaning that I didn't get the job!

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







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THE WHISTLING DUCK A SOUTHERN AMERICAN TAVERN

R/C Sailing Club



Gene Mangold

If you've spent years at the helm of a full-scale sailboat, you know nothing beats feeling the wind take hold, trimming the sails just right, and watching your boat carve across the water. But you also know the other side of big-boat ownership: slip fees, trailering, bottom paint, heavy gear, and constant maintenance.

What if you could keep all the tactical thrill, strategy, and wind-reading fun of sailing – without any of the heavy lifting or maintenance headaches?

Welcome to our community's R/C Sailing Club!

R/C sailing isn't a toy hobby; it's true-to-life sailing. Our fleet features one-meter boats, with the popular DragonFlite 95 (DF95) leading the pack. Once you hold the transmitter, you'll find the same principles apply: reading lifts and headers, adjusting sail trim, mastering buoy roundings, and playing the wind shifts.

The best part? It's extraordinarily accessible. After an initial setup cost of around $600 for a race-ready boat, maintenance and repair costs are virtually zero. No fuel, no slip rentals, and no endless weekend overhauls –just drop your boat in the water and sail!

We are fortunate to sail on a picturesque city pond nestled right in the vibrant downtown area of our charming Ocala, Florida. Surrounded by a beautiful park, local culture, boutique shops, and great lunch spots, it's a wonderful setting for an afternoon on the water.

Our sailing venue couldn't be more convenient: Park just steps from the launching ramp, and relax on a lush grassy bank under swaying palm trees. Bring a lawn chair; whether you're steering from the bank or bringing family and friends to watch, it's one of the most relaxing ways to spend a morning.

Whether you've lived here for years or are one of the many newcomers arriving in our fast-growing community, our club offers a warm and welcoming social circle. We have no club dues and keep rules light and simple, so the focus stays on fun and friendly competition.

If you've never skippered an R/C boat before, don't worry – our members love helping novices get up to speed, set up their rigs, and learn the ropes.

It's the perfect addition to our community's active 55-plus lifestyle. Right alongside golf, pickleball, archery, shuffleboard, and board games, R/C sailing offers a rewarding mix of outdoor relaxation and mental focus.

Thinking about getting back on the water? Come down to the Tuscawilla Park pond any Wednesday or Sunday at noon! Grab a lawn chair, sit under the palms, enjoy the weather, and chat with our skipper team. You might even get a chance to take the controls for a test drive!

For more information, contact Gene at 772-678-5101 or Bernie at 816-678-3817. Visitors and displaced R/C pilots and R/C car drivers are welcome.



Photo by Gene Mangold

Relaxing and sailing.

Horseshoes Club



Vern Kessler

The club meets on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at the Veterans Park pits to pitch horseshoes. This is a great time to come out and try pitching horseshoes with club members. The club also pitches horseshoes for practice at the pits in Veterans Park on Thursdays at 9 a.m.

The club wants to recognize Bob Cannon, not just as a new member, but for his high game of 52 points and 12 ringers on Tuesday, Sept. 29.

Bob just started throwing with the club for about three weeks, and after receiving a simple tip from a longtime club member on how to hold the shoe when pitching, Bob achieved this stellar feat.

Bob met the Horseshoe Club at this year's Club Fair and joined.

Helping new members, especially those who may have never pitched horseshoes, is one of the Horseshoe Club's core values.

Residents can use the horseshoe pits most days. 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 you're done, sweep up around the pits, and put away all equipment used.

The Horseshoe Club is free to join. No monthly dues or expensive equipment to buy. On Top of the World has provided everything you need to pitch shoes.

Always remember, 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 about the club activities.

Billiards Club



Phil Panzera

We've had some turbulence recently, but the club seems to be rolling forward smoothly again now.

I accordingly plan to step down at our bi-annual election of officers in early January. I am looking for someone to continue improving our club.

I am looking for someone who understands this is a position of service, not title or status. The position is twofold: first, representing our club and helping it be all it can be; second, serving as the informal amenity supervisor for management. These are separate but mutually interdependent tasks, both critical. This amenity is not just for club members, and our president must do what is right for all amenity users.

It is my sincerest desire to leave the club in good hands. If any man or woman wants to accept the challenge of leadership, please see me to discuss. Of course, the members will decide by vote at the annual meeting, but my decision to step down will depend on finding a suitable successor.

Yes, it has been a lot of work, but much of that work is done now. I think we have one of the best clubs in the community! I just need someone with the temperament and calm leadership to continue the journey I have set us on over the past few years. I will remain available behind the scenes to help, when asked, with any technical or controversial matters.

Two Tips of the Month: First, a simple one. Be sure when you stop your tip to aim it is no more than a ring finger's width from the cue ball! This is far more important than it seems. Most students are far back of that. This has a huge impact on how accurately you hit the precise spot on the cue ball you want, and that hugely affects where the cue ball goes.

Don't put the tip so close that you occasionally graze the cue ball by accident. The right distance is different for everyone. Some can do a pinkie, some need a thumb. Just know the closer you get, the better your position will be, and the more balls you will make.

Second is bridge length, the distance from the cue ball to the vee of your bridge. This distance is too long for about 80% of our members. Keep it at 6", maybe 7", no more! A handful of our better players might get away with 8", but that's it. The longer your bridge, generally the less accurate you will be.

There are advanced trade-offs, and this is a very complex subject, but my distance recommendations above are carefully thought out for what you all need. Shorten that bridge! Make more balls! Have more fun!



Ocala Dart Club



Gregg Mireau

For the love of darts. When did the love of the game begin for any of us? For me, it began when I was a little league ballplayer at the tender age of eight and got a dartboard as a Christmas gift. Way back then, dartboards had a baseball diamond on the back. I played on that board for years. I played baseball games on the dartboard, pretending to play another team for competition. The fun memories go way back to playing that game.

Maybe your love of the game happened when you joined a tavern/pub or bar dart league. You also have Elk and Moose Lodges, VFW Posts, etc., that have their own dart teams and leagues. These dart teams and leagues are across the country and sponsored by the establishments that field them. Some bar league establishments sponsor several dart teams because demand is there. You also have different divisions for the players' skill level. This would allow for more evenly matched teams to play against one another.

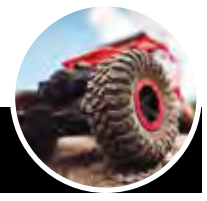
The home bar team would feed the two competing teams and give everyone a drink when the match ended, win or lose. Anyone who has ever played in a dart league knows the fun and competition that the league was all about. Bragging rights, trophies, plaques, and cash prizes were part of the season's outcomes, with a celebration award/dinner event to showcase it all.

Decades of throwing darts and the enjoyment of league play inspired me to create the Ocala Dart Club. When most of us took World Tour Adventure, we were driven around and shown the highlights of the recreational facilities. For those of us who don't golf, the woodshop, pool hall, pickleball courts, etc. impressed us, along with the well-advertised 175-plus clubs and organizations. So, when I saw a game room with four dart boards, I noticed the potential.

Two years later, I decided to take action and create this club to bring the game and sport to all residents in an organized way. Three times a week from 6 to 8 p.m. – Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday – anyone can come on down to the Arbor Activity Center Game Room and find us throwing darts. To join the club, go to the Facebook page (Ocala Dart Club - ODC) > Featured, and fill out the registration and waiver forms. Any resident with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass can become a club member.

We look forward to growing the club, creating a dart league, and hosting competitions with other clubs and organizations that already have dart teams.

R/C Car Club



Brian Allard

On Thursday, Sept. 10, the Recreation Department held the Club Fair at Circle Square Cultural Center. The R/C Car Club displayed electric cars and slot cars. Many people asked about the club and its activities. Several interested people joined the club after seeing the action and fun.

The display featured legends, rock crawlers, two-wheel buggies, trucks, touring cars, pan cars, and the popular NASCAR class. A special highlight was the live slot car track setup. Visitors could enjoy real slot car racing, with members on hand to assist.

While the new outdoor track is being built, members are still enjoying racing at the slot car venue. If you are curious about what slot car racing is all about, stop by on a race day. The club has cars you can use to join in the fun.

Slot cars race in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II every Tuesday from 1 to 4 p.m. There is also racing using older analog cars on the third Monday of the month and the last Friday of the month from 3 to 6 p.m. Feel free to call Brian Allard at 603-252-7766 for more information.

The new outdoor R/C car track is still under construction, and we hope to race before the end of the year. For information on the R/C Car Club, please call John Schoenherr at 608-477-3420.

EMERGENCY AFTER-HOURS PHONE NUMBER
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Velo Sport Bicycle Club



Nick Arkon

For Jose Torres, cycling is much more than a form of exercise – it is a way of life.

Jose has been living in Weybourne Landing for the past three and a half years, and during that time he has become a familiar and respected member of Velo Sport Bicycle Club's advanced group. Regularly seen on his bicycle, Jose approaches every ride with the seriousness and commitment of someone who understands the value of staying active and continually challenging himself.

Jose typically cycles 15 to 25 miles a day, accumulating approximately 50 to 75 miles – or more – each week. But his dedication to cycling didn't begin after moving to On Top of the World. His commitment goes back decades.

Jose became serious about cycling in the 1980s and has continued training and riding with fellow cyclists ever since. Over the years, cycling has become an important part of his lifestyle and a source of both physical and mental fitness.

That dedication was recently put to the test when Jose entered the 2026 Gainesville Senior Games and competed in the cycling time trials in the 65 to 69 age group.

The results demonstrated that years of consistent training pay off.

Jose earned a bronze medal in the 10K time trial and a silver medal in the 5K time trial – an impressive accomplishment that reflects his preparation, determination, and competitive spirit.

For Jose, however, cycling isn't simply about medals.

He believes cycling has played an important role in helping him maintain a healthy and consistent weight, while also improving his focus, balance and overall physical conditioning. The sport requires concentration, coordination and awareness, qualities that Jose believes have benefited him both on and off the bicycle.

His participation in the advanced group also provides something equally important: camaraderie. Riding with other cyclists creates an opportunity to challenge one another, share experiences, and maintain the motivation necessary to continue training.



Photo by Nick Arkon

Jose Torres with his silver and bronze medals.

Jose's story reminds us that age does not have to define what a person can accomplish. Consistent effort, discipline, and a willingness to keep moving forward can produce remarkable results.

At an age when many people slow down, Jose Torres is still training, competing, and riding with purpose.

The Velo Sport Bicycle Club is the officially recognized cycling group of On Top of The World. Riders interested in the beginner or intermediate groups may contact Dan Oaks at 401-663-7085 or Dennis Cicotte at 561-339-3588. For information about the advanced group, contact Nick Arkon at 864-336-3399.

Shuffleboard



Walt Lamp

At our May luncheon, we voted on several issues. We are no longer keeping individual scores for team plays. But we are still keeping track of individual scores (over 30) for each frame. Here's a list of individual players:

30-plus: Ray Nault (three times), Donna Sherman, Jane Boyer, Bill Weir, Robert Sapiro, Jim Vail, and Charlie Lentz.

We will hold our monthly free Introduction to Shuffleboard class on Saturday, Nov. 14, at 11 a.m. at the Veterans Park. Paul Hodges will once again be the instructor. He will highlight the rules, scoring, safety, and the basics of shooting the disc. Open-toed shoes are not permitted. Come and learn, and have fun with a new sport.

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#12139 - 12/26

Bocce Club



Kathy Nastally

Deb Szall joins our list of point challenge winners. The challenge: roll the pallina to the point without calling for it to be placed on the point; if the pallina comes to rest covering at least half the point, you win. Ball placement is verified by two players and/or a league representative. The challenge combines skill and luck. It is more difficult to accomplish than one may think. Congratulations, Deb; let's keep the bocce balls rolling!

Open play continues on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. Open play is limited to 48 players, so come a little early to sign in. We use a luck-of-the-draw format to determine court assignments and teammates. Games are played to 16 points; the first team to 16 points wins that game. We play two games. In the second game, teams switch ends of the court and ball colors.

League play is well underway. It is exciting to see everyone back and to have many new folks on the teams. It will be a very fun season. League times are Tuesdays at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., as well as Thursdays at 10 a.m. Players on teams with a bye are invited to fill in as substitutes in any league that may need additional players.

We are seeking league substitutes in any time slot. If a team commitment isn't your thing, subbing may be your perfect fit. If you're interested, we can add you to the list posted on our bulletin boards with team information. Please contact Jim Wolfer at 732-580-4915 for information. League play is on hiatus the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year. Bocce dues through Sept. 30, 2027, are $15. Cash and checks are accepted. All players will complete a hold harmless form, must have a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass, and pay dues.

In mid-October, the Bocce Club introduced participating community members to bocce during the On Top of the World Games. Participants got a stress-free look at our sport. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Everyone has access to the courts during non-league and open play times.

Crated balls can be found under the benches. We also have court lighting available for evening play. There is a courtside water fountain. Closed-toed shoes are required during play for safety. Bocce courts are located behind the Arbor Fitness Center, next to the tennis courts. Please contact President Pam Brown with questions or inquiries at 970-531-1890. We hope you enjoy all your holiday festivities; may they include some bocce ball rolls!

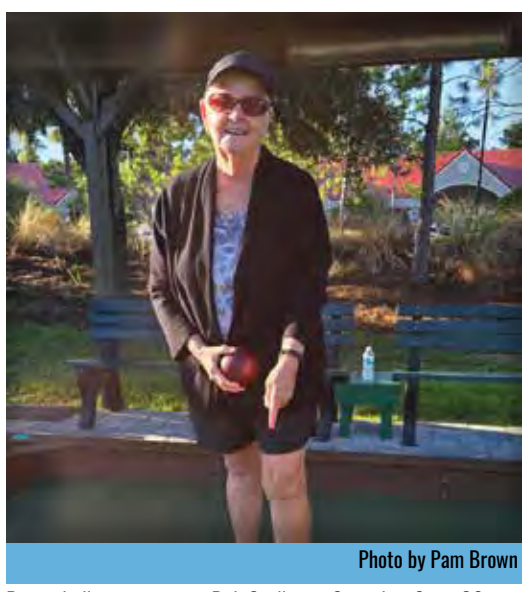


Photo by Pam Brown

Point challenge winner – Deb Szall – on Saturday, Sept. 26.

Rec League Softball

Gerry Meier

The fall season is in full swing, and it is great to have our snowbirds back, or arriving soon!

With the new season, we introduced a new brand of softball. Reviews have been mixed, but performance is expected to improve as the weather cools. Home runs and scoring are down slightly, but they are already beginning to rise.

As in Major League Baseball, there are many ways to play the game – some teams build around power hitting, while others focus on defense, speed, contact, or pitching. Senior slow pitch softball is similar in many ways, but our priorities here at On Top of the World are unique. Unlike tournament play, we have players ranging from their mid-50s and upward all playing together. Safety is always our top priority, followed by camaraderie, exercise, and the simple joy of feeling young again when we step onto the field.

For many of us, this game continues our lifelong love for baseball. Being part of a team, working together, and supporting one another reminds us how good it feels to be part of something positive. We might get competitive at times, but at the end of the day, we are all neighbors sharing a passion for the game.



Photo by C.C. Gaskell

Beanfield.

With the cooler temperatures, it is a great time to come watch some senior softball. You may be surprised at some of the talented players we have here.

Fall Season Team Standings
As of Oct. 9

1: Bo's Bombers managed by John Bojanac (6-3). 2: GoodFellows managed by Mike Hoenie (6-3). 3: Jerry's Kids managed by Gerry Meier (5-5). 4: Lumber Company managed by Joe Matriccino (4-6). 5: Hitmen managed by Leon Egozi (3-7).

If you are interested in playing, please come by and see us.

To contact us, email therecsoftballclub@gmail.com. To follow the league, visit https://www.recsoftball.org/.

Ladies Shuffleboard



Lois Nix

Our season kickoff on Wednesday, Sept. 2, had a light turnout. However, after we participated in the inauguration of the On Top of the World Games on Wednesday, Oct. 21, several new women signed up to join us. Our members enjoyed sharing their skills with those interested in learning how to play. More details about the On Top of the World Games will be included in our next column.

We continue to play on Mondays at 5 p.m., and Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. If rain cancels a Wednesday morning session, players can make it up on Monday evening. Likewise, Monday evening players can make up on Wednesday if they get rained out.

We record every player's score throughout the season; we award trophies at the end of the season in May.

To participate, you must present a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. Additionally, all players must sign a Hold Harmless form.

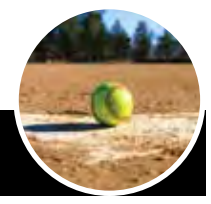
September

11–Carol Noval. 8–Diane Laney. 7–Sandy Welch, Barbara Russell.

30-plus: Darlene Clark, Dee Caple, Diane Laney, Donna Piergioigi, Helen Hettrich, Jane Dormanen, Marge Adragna, Sally Herrick, Sandy Welch.

Happy shuffling. See you on the courts.

Co-Ed Recreational Softball



Pat Wilbert

The Co-Ed Softball Recreational League has enjoyed another lively month on the field, with plenty of fun and an exciting mix of new faces joining in the action. Organizers are especially pleased to see more women participating and continue to welcome additional female players who would like to get involved. We are always looking for women who want to join us.

The league provides gloves and team bats for anyone who needs them, making it easy for newcomers to jump right in. Many participants haven't played in years, and some are trying softball for the first time, but the group offers plenty of friendly guidance and encouragement. The atmosphere is relaxed, supportive, and often described as feeling "like one big happy family." We get plenty of free advice and help with how to play; as we all know, many of us haven't played in years, and some not at all. We are just like one big happy family.

Warmups begin each Saturday between 8:15 and 8:30 a.m., followed by stretching and team selection. With the seasonal time change approaching, start times and game lengths will adjust. Games currently run six to seven innings and will extend to eight innings once cooler weather arrives; we will share updates with all players. Of course, with the time change, we will change start times and playing time. We now play six to seven innings, and will extend to eight innings when it gets cooler. We will notify everyone when.

This recreational activity is free – no league dues, just a great opportunity to stay active and meet new friends.

We are proud to recognize several co-ed players recently drafted into the American league: Eric "Superstar" Johnsen, Craig "Homerun" Fox, and Danny Clemens, who is always ready to step in when needed.

Residents are invited to come out, join the fun, and enjoy the chance to "play ball" with a welcoming and growing community of players.

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On Top of the World NEWS®
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
SECTION D
Vol. 40, No. 5 November 2026

Food, Fun & Live Music

By Jessica Marshall

Join us Saturday, Nov. 7, for an evening of delicious eats, live entertainment, and family-friendly fun at The Town Square at Circle Square Commons!

Bring your appetite and your friends for the Food Truck Festival from 4 to 8 p.m. This exciting event is free and open to the public, offering something for everyone to enjoy!

With more than 20 food trucks serving up a mouthwatering variety of flavors, there's no shortage of delicious options to explore. From savory favorites to sweet treats, you'll find plenty of tempting dishes to satisfy every craving. Whether you're in the mood for a classic comfort food favorite or something new and adventurous, come hungry and ready to indulge!

The fun doesn't stop with the food! Enjoy live music and dancing featuring Ravon Steely Rhoden. Guests can also enjoy caricatures, games, and activities that make this festival a great outing for families, friends, and neighbors.

Need something refreshing to sip while enjoying the festivities? The kiosk will have beer, wine, soda, and bottled water available for purchase.

With delicious food, lively entertainment, and a welcoming atmosphere, the Food Truck Festival is the perfect opportunity to gather with friends, meet new people, and enjoy a beautiful Florida evening.

Mark your calendar, bring your appetite, and join us for an unforgettable evening of food, music, and fun!

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





Photo by Cheryl Jensen

Bruce Wiser and Jim Southworth Rehearse for "Comedy Tonight."

Laughter Takes Center Stage

By Cheryl Jensen

The Paradise Players are hard at work preparing for their upcoming fall production, "Comedy Tonight," on Saturday, Nov. 7, at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 8, at 2 p.m. Rehearsals are in their final stages, and excitement continues to build throughout the community.

October proved busy and productive. Members have been dedicating countless hours to rehearsals while welcoming back several seasoned performers returning from extended travels. The troupe is also pleased to welcome two new members, Randee Kosmoski and Christi Lucas, to the cast for this season's production.

With the full company now assembled, performers are refining their routines and adding finishing touches to a show that promises an afternoon and evening filled with laughter and entertainment.

Interest in the production remains high, with ticket sales continuing at a strong pace. Reserved seating has been especially popular among theatergoers seeking the best viewing experience.

To make ticket purchases convenient for residents, Paradise Players offers several opportunities to buy tickets. Purchases may be made on Mondays at 6 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom, on Ticket Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room II, and on Wednesdays from 4 to 4:30 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio III. The final day to purchase tickets is Wednesday, Nov. 4. General admission tickets are $10, and reserved seating tickets are $15.

Comprised entirely of residents, Paradise Players is a volunteer community theater organization dedicated to providing quality entertainment for neighbors and friends. Members devote significant time and energy to developing their performance skills and producing shows that bring the community joy. Our goal is simple – we hope to bring a little light, laughter, and joy to our audiences through the magic of live theater.

Karaoke Friends Held a 'New Song Night'

By Kathy Petrosky

I decided to declare the first Monday in October as "new song night." It was a night to find a song you've never sung in karaoke. Singing a new song at karaoke can be rewarding. It supports personal growth, builds your vocal skills, and can be a fun challenge.

What did they have to do? They had to find a song that suited their style and comfort level. They had to practice the song to ensure a smooth performance. What do they get for this effort? Singing something new catches the audience's attention. The singer gets a boost of confidence. Most of all, it is fun.

Remember, always stay hydrated when you are singing. If your throat feels tired, that is your warning; it is time to stop.

I am so happy we did this theme. The singers did well, and the audience paid attention. Some got chuckles, and some sang along. It was a great night for everyone. Several sang religious or inspirational songs. We heard "Three Wooden Crosses." The ending surprised anyone who didn't know the song. "God Bless America Again" was a great duet. We had fun songs. "Lord It's Hard to be Humble," "Cheater Cheater," and "Wonderful Waste of Time" were a few of those. We sang classic country songs and revisited some oldies. One of our singers had family visiting, and they got right into the spirit of the night.

We meet the first and third Mondays in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room from 5 to 8 p.m. This month we meet Nov. 2 and 16. Maybe we will see you there.



Photo by Steve Warren

New song singers.

Recreation



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

There's always something happening at On Top of the World! The calendar is full of lively social gatherings, exciting entertainment, and special events. There are so many ways to stay active, connected, and engaged.

Please note that, to manage capacity, safety, and resident experience, starting in January of 2027, events at The Summit will be open to On Top of the World (Central) and Candler Hills residents, as well as Gateway of Services pass holders only. We will continue to welcome all residents to many Recreation Center events.

Recreation Center

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.

- Saturday, Nov. 7: Lisa Coan
- Friday, Nov. 13: Steel Drum Randy
- Sunday, Nov. 15: Mike and Kathy Gallenberger

5 O'clock Social (Free)

Enjoy an evening of great music, conversation, and community. Relax, mingle with friends and neighbors, dance to your favorite tunes, and make new memories in a fun and welcoming atmosphere. It's the perfect way to unwind and enjoy good company. Every first Thursday of the month, in the Recreation Center Ballroom from 5 to 7 p.m. November's entertainer is Lou Gagliardi. Dance, talk, grab a bite from The Pub, and have a great night!

Line Dance Night (Free)

Line dancing takes center stage! Select Friday evenings are reserved just for line dancing! Join us for an energetic dance floor focused on steps, rhythm, and fun. The evening's playlist is specially selected for line dancing enthusiasts. Whether you're experienced or new to the basics, bring your boots and enjoy a night dedicated solely to line dancing. Check it out on Friday, Nov. 20, from 5 to 7 p.m. with music by Donna Carrier.

Movie Night (Free)

Join us for a cinematic night out on Thursday, Nov. 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. This month's movie is "On a Wing and a Prayer," a 2023 thriller/drama rated PG. 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.

New Year's Eve Party

Celebrate New Year's Eve in style with an unforgettable evening of music, dancing, and good company at the Recreation Center Ballroom from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Dance the night away to live music by Groove 41. Enjoy a bite at The Pub from 7 to 10 p.m.; select menu items are available for purchase, and drinks are available until midnight. Ring in 2027 and make it a night to remember! Seating is eight per table; tickets ($20 per resident and $25 per guest) are available for purchase through the OTOW App.

The Summit

Friday Beats Happy Hour (Free)

Friday Beats Happy Hour takes place from 5 to 8 p.m. This is a bring-your-own drinks and snacks venue. Enjoy music, dancing, and celebrate your community. Friday Beats Happy Hour welcomes all residents who hold a valid resident ID. Anyone without an ID is considered a guest. A $5 guest fee applies to non-residents and must be paid on the OTOW App. Children under the age of 15 are not permitted. Upcoming entertainment includes:

- Nov. 6: DJ Scooter
- Nov. 13: Area 81
- Nov. 20: Hwy 94

Tropic Trivia

If you would like to try your hand at trivia, tables for December will be on sale in November, the first Tuesday of the month. A team representative may purchase a table for the entire team. Tables of eight sell for $40 on the OTOW App. After purchase, the person who bought the table should come to the office to select it. Tables are available on a first-come, first-served basis. See the OTOW App for details.

Karaoke (Free)

Karaoke is always fun! Sing your heart out or simply come and enjoy the music. Karaoke is held 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 every second Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Ballroom. Dan Flok will entertain at this event. Bring your beverages and snacks. See you there! A $5 guest fee applies to non-residents and must be paid on the OTOW App.

Ring in 2027

Gather your friends and neighbors and celebrate New Year's Eve in the Ballroom with live music, dancing, party favors, and plenty of fun from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.! Entertainment provided by Pure Magic. The Summit is a bring your own snacks and drinks venue. Seating is eight per table; tickets ($20 per resident and $25 per guest) are available for purchase through the OTOW App.

Fitness Classes

Have fun and get fit. Visit the OTOW App for the wellness schedule.

- Mondays (9 a.m.): Zumba.
- Tuesdays (9:30 a.m.): Audio-led Water Aerobics.
- Mondays (10 a.m.): Total Body Strength (live instructor).
- Wednesdays (10 a.m.): Total Body Strength (live instructor).
- Thursdays (9:30 a.m.): Audio-led Water Aerobics.

The Lodge at Candler Hills

Happy Hour (Free)

Join your neighbors for Happy Hour fun from 5 to 8 p.m., filled with conversation, laughter, and community spirit. $5 guest fee applies for non-residents and must be paid through the OTOW App. The entertainment schedule is as follows:

- Saturday, Nov. 7: Groove 41
- Saturday, Nov. 21: T Time Band

Girls Night Out (Free)

Grab your girlfriends and get ready for a fun night on the dance floor! Join us for an energetic evening of music, laughter, and great company on Thursday, Nov. 12, from 5 to 8 p.m. with Steve Lazarus. Let's give Steve a big welcome. Bring your own beverage and table snacks. $5 guest fee applies for non-residents and must be paid through the OTOW App.

Karaoke & Cocktails (Free)

Whether you're a shower singer or a stage star, everyone is welcome to grab the mic and shine. The great Cheryl Jensen of Howlin at The Moon DJ & Karaoke will be here for you Thursday, Nov. 11, from 5 to 8 p.m. Bring beverages and table snacks. $5 guest fee applies for non-residents and must be paid through the OTOW App.

Musical Game Night

Music, games, fun, and prizes await on Wednesday, Nov. 18, from 5 to 7 p.m. Come enjoy the game "PRIZEO," along with trivia and "Name That Tune." Reservations on the OTOW App are required and cost $5 per resident and $10 per guest.

From the Top Line Dance Class (Free)

All residents welcome! Join experienced line dance instructors Chuck and Donna on select Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon. This progressive class will teach you how to line dance and provide practice for the dances you love. Come move, laugh, and connect in a welcoming atmosphere; all dance levels are welcome. Please be sure to bring your resident ID.

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 we'll review the rules. Come share the fun in this exciting, new active aging sport.

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.

Fitness Classes (Free)

- Mondays (9 a.m.): Walk Fit! (virtual).
- Mondays (10 a.m.): Chair Fitness (virtual).
- Tuesday (9:30 a.m.): Audio-led Water Aerobics (bring a noodle).
- Wednesdays (9 a.m.): Total Body Strength (live instructor; bring a band).
- Thursday (9:30 a.m.): Audio-led Water Aerobics.
- Fridays (9 a.m.): Mat Yoga (live instructor; bring your own mat).

Visit the OTOW App for the schedule.

Indigo East Community Center

Happy Hour (Free)

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

- Nov. 6: Gerry Coe
- Nov. 13: Nathan Leslie
- Nov. 20: Automatic Duo

Trivia

Join your neighbors and friends for some friendly competition at trivia on Monday, Nov. 2 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.

Friendsgiving

Join us for an evening of good food, great company, and Thanksgiving cheer on Wednesday, Nov. 18, from 5 to 7 p.m. We'll provide the turkey, ham, dressing, and gravy; you bring your favorite side dish to share. Let's celebrate fellowship and all that we have to be thankful for. Cost is $15 per person. Ben Simmons will be singing for us.

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, Nov. 19, from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring beverages and snacks.

The Landing

Karaoke Dance Party (Free)

Kick off the weekend on Friday, Nov. 20, from 5 to 8 p.m. DJ Rocco delivers the energy and fun, while you sing, dance, and mingle with friends and neighbors. Bring your favorite cocktail and snack. A $5 guest fee applies to non-residents and must be paid on the OTOW App.

Friendsgiving Potluck

Join us on Tuesday, Nov. 10 from 5 to 8 p.m. for an evening of giving thanks with great food, great company, great music! We'll provide the turkey, ham, dressing, and gravy; you bring your favorite side dish to share. Please let us know what you'll be bringing; there's a sign-up sheet in the lobby. The cost is $15 per person. This event is open to Weybourne Landing residents.

Poolside Live Music (Free)

Make a splash on Thursday, Nov.12, from 1 to 4 p.m. Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon by the pool featuring music by Tony Machicote.

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, Nov. 25, from 5 to 8 p.m. A $5 guest fee applies to non-residents and must be paid on the OTOW App.

Fitness Classes (Free)

- Mondays (9 a.m.): Chair Fitness (virtual).
- Mondays (9:30 a.m.): Water Aerobics.
- Tuesdays (10 a.m.): Walk Fit (virtual).
- Wednesdays (9 a.m.): Chair Yoga (live instructor).
- Wednesdays (9:30 a.m.): Water Aerobics.
- Wednesdays (11 a.m.): Line Dancing.
- Thursday (10 a.m.): Walk Fit (virtual).
- Fridays (10 a.m.): Total Body Strength (live instructor; bring a band).

Visit the OTOW App for the 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.



On Top of the World

BUS SCHEDULE

Monday - Thursday

MORNING ROUTE	PICK-UP LOCATIONS	TIME
The Lodge at Candler Hills	The Lodge Parking Lot SW 87th Cir.	8:35 a.m.
Providence	91st. Cir. East - 91st. Cir. West - Post Office	8:42 a.m.
Avalon Post Office	Parking Lot	8:51 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
The Summit	Parking Lot	Call one day in advance for pick-up
Windsor East	94th Pl. – 94th Lp.	Call one day in advance for pick-up
Windsor West	95th St. – 95th Lp.	Call one day in advance for pick-up
Exit Community		**9:36 a.m.**

MORNING DESTINATIONS

Freedom Library (Tues/Thurs only)	Ollie's
Jasmine Square	Paddock Mall
VA Hospital	Walmart
Dillard's/Kohl's	Target
Sam's Club	Hobby Lobby/Shady Oaks Shopping Center
Home Depot	Gaitway 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/Big Lots	Bravo Supermarket/Bealls Outlet
Publix	Dollar Tree
Walmart Neighborhood Market	Walmart
ALDI/Lowe's	

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

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

For information, call 352-789-5666.

HANDICAP EQUIPMENT

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



TICKET TUESDAY

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UPCOMING TICKETS FOR SALE:

- Women of the World Club Presents: Rolling for Fun
  Thursday, Nov. 12, 2026 | 3 PM | $30
  Tickets available 9 AM-12 PM only.

For more information, contact Shannon Prince at 352-387-7530 or shannon_prince@otowfl.com

On Top of the World
Where the Cool Kids Retire

The New Pretenders



Nancy Grabowski

The New Pretenders' new season is entitled "Beats! Boots! Broadway!" We will take the stage on Feb. 5, 6, and 7, 2027. Show times will be 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. We include a wide variety of music genres, so there's something for everyone to enjoy. We add our energy, stage presentation and decoration, costuming, and fun!

You can expect tickets to be sold on Ticket Tuesdays, 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 around 3 p.m. Ticket prices remain the same ($15 reserved, $12 general admission), and you can pay with cash or check.

The New Pretenders love surprising our audiences with our shows! This year will be no exception ... so if you think you've seen everything we have done, we are willing to say "not so." Check us out for some lively presentations, innovations, and the truly unexpected!

While The New Pretenders are hard at work with practices, there's still time for some fun activities!

Ask any current member about what membership offers, especially the lasting friendships and experiences beyond the stage. For additional information, contact any current member or Nancy Grabowski, director, at 352-209-4699.



Photo by Lennie Rodoff

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

Murder Mystery Dinner Theater



Liz Elliott Lieberman

The Murder Mystery Dinner Theater Club is now a company of actors, dancers, and singers that write and presents original murder mysteries. We have already started rehearsing our newest show called "A Holiday Homicide." It is a fundraiser for the Friends of SPCA.

We will perform three times at The Landing: Friday, Nov. 20; Saturday, Nov. 21; and Sunday, Nov. 22. We hope to see you at one of these hilarious, fun productions.

This show 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 1970s outfits? 1970s attire is optional, but the music and dancing will all be from that fabulous era, which I think most of us remember.

Because of overwhelming requests, we plan to repeat encore performances of this fun, comedic show, along with "At the CopaOcala," in 2027 at The Summit and Recreation Center. Please stay tuned for more information in our future columns.

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 let us know your level of interest, whether you're interested in acting or booking 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!



Photo by Garry Voith

Ray Remillard and Carol Beauchamp in "At the CopaOcala."

Model Railroaders

Jim Lynam

You are invited! The Model Railroaders are pleased to announce a holiday train display at Master the Possibilities. The layout depicts Christmas in Florida and will be open for viewing on Tuesday, Dec. 8 through Tuesday, Dec. 22. The Lionel gauge trains will be available for self-operation whenever the building is open. Just throw the switch and watch as the train begins to move and the layout lights illuminate!

The club will also host its 15th annual holiday open house from Monday, Dec. 28 through Wednesday, Dec. 30, from noon to 4 p.m. in the Hobby Building Model Train Room.

Members will have multiple trains running continuously on the garden scale, Lionel scale, N scale, and the main HO layout. There will be passenger trains, freight trains, work trains, and yard trains operating simultaneously throughout the city and countryside. For those of you who remember "the good old days" of railroading, you will be amazed at the variety of steam engines that will be pulling the consists (the full train). There also will be diesel locomotives representing the more modern era running the mainline and performing yard switching duties.

For all who are young, or young at heart, the club has added the Lionel Polar Express, with many sights and sound bites from the famous movie. Further, several winter-themed buildings have been incorporated into the O gauge display.

The entire room will be filled with the sounds of railroading, from the squealing of hot brakes on the turns, the bell of the engine working the yard, to the haunting and "throaty" steam whistle warning the automobiles at the crossings. The room will change from daylight operation to twilight time, and the layout lights will twinkle in your eyes, adding to the enjoyment.

The club encourages you to bring friends, neighbors, children, and grandchildren to both the holiday display at Master the Possibilities and the Hobby Building Model Train Room.

The club also invites you to visit the Hobby Building Model Train Room on any Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. We are always looking for new members, and you are welcome to join us. Our next club meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 9, in the Hobby Building Art Room. If you have any questions, please text Jim Lynam at 352-861-2822.

May your present under the tree be a train running around the tree, wishing you the happiest of holidays!

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CARDS & GAMES

Bingo



Nancy Grabowski

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, Nov. 18 for super bingo. Chuck's Piggy Bank will hold a bake sale. A variety of home-baked goods will be available, along with sugar-free options. Proceeds will go to their charity and the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard.

The Recreation Center Ballroom will open around 3:30 p.m., once setup is finished. Raffle tickets will be sold starting at 3:45 p.m. for three for $1 or 10 for $3. Bingo cards will be sold from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., but the pricing is three for $5. Superb is open to residents only with a valid resident ID. With an expected larger-than-normal turnout, no guests are allowed. 15 games will be played for $75 each and three jackpot games for $250! Come and try your luck!

Bingo is every Wednesday in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Raffle tickets are sold from 4 to 5:30 p.m.; three for $1 or 10 for $3; the winning ticket is $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 for $75, one coverall starting at $110). Cards have sliders, so no daubers, markers, or chips are needed.

Bingo, by state law, is an alcohol free-zone; 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 rather than miss a win. It's especially important to wait for each game (especially the last one) to be verified before we move on! Because folks leave quickly after the last game, we suggest that the holder of the potential winning card/cards come to the front of the stage while it is verified. Only the person with the possible winner should come up to avoid confusion while volunteers return materials to the cart.

Please respect our volunteers! Please don't move our things on the tables while we work, and don't shout at us while we do 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!

Nov. 18 marks the last bingo for the year; we will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2027.

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

Bridge



Monday Afternoon
By Carol Johnson

Sept. 7
1: Jack Heller & Steve Sekac; 2: Carolyn Higgins & V.J. Hentz; 3: Donna Peters & Rad D.; 4: Mary Bloch & Kurt Baumgartner.

Sept. 14
1: Diane Robinson & Carol Johnson; 2: Judy Mackowiak & Billie Anderson; 3: Craig Ford & Bob Knowles; 4: Kurt Baumgartner & Mary Bloch.

Sept. 21
1: Diane Robinson & Carol Johnson; 2: Pat & Debbie Quinn; 3: Bruce Gillette & Vera Mangold; 4: Bob Knowles & Craig Ford.

Sept. 28
1: Mar Valchin & Bruce Gillette; 2: Pat & Debbie Quinn; 3: Steve Sekac & Jack Heller 4: Carolyn Higgins & V.J. Hentz.

Tuesday Night Duplicate
By Bob Kraus

If you enjoy bridge, we invite you to experience duplicate. You already know how to bid, play, defend, and score. In duplicate, all pairs play the same hands, which emphasizes good bidding and play and minimizes the importance of getting "good cards." Our goal is to provide a true duplicate bridge experience with less pressure than playing in a sanctioned game.

We meet Tuesdays in the Arbor Activity Center Card Rooms I-II, at 6 p.m. Please arrive by 5:50 p.m. so we can set up the best movement for the number of players, up to nine tables. Bring a partner and $0.50 per person. We score the boards and email the results within a few days.

You can also play occasionally as a substitute. Contact us to be put on our list. For more information, call Bob Kraus at 352-492-8525. Come and enjoy an evening of competitive bridge.

Sept. 15
1: Dan Lack & Vera Mangold; 2: Brian Lomasky & Carrie Kanosky; 3: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; 4: Dennis Wallace & Judi Wallace; 5: Bob Kraus & Virginia Collins.

Sept. 22
1: Dan Lack & Vera Mangold; 2: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; 3: Dennis Wallace & Judi Wallace; 4: Bob Kraus & Virginia Collins; 5: Brian Lomasky & Carrie Kanosky.

Sept. 29
1: Brian Lomasky & Carrie Kanosky; 2: Bob Kraus & Virginia Collins; 3: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; 4: Dennis Wallace & Judi Wallace; 5: Gary Moses & Diane Turkin.

Oct. 6
1: Dan Lack & Vera Mangold; 2: Brian Lomasky & Carrie Kanosky; 3: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen; 4: Bob Kraus & Virginia Collins; 5: Connie Feola & Sam Feola.

Wednesday Afternoon
By Debbie Quinn

Sept. 2
1: Billie Andersen; 2: Kurt Baumgartner; 3: Dianne Robinson.

Sept. 9
1: Kurt Baumgartner; 2: Debbie Quinn; 3: V.J. Hentz; Cons: Dianne Robinson.

Sept. 16
1: Kurt Baumgartner; 2: Carolyn Higgins; 3: Bruce Gillette; Cons: V.J. Hentz.

Sept. 23
1: Debbie Quinn; 2: Carolyn Higgins; 3: Trudy Baumgartner; Cons: Dianne Robinson.

Sept. 30
1: Al Kremer; 2: Billie Andersen; 3: Bob Knowles; 4: Linda Curtiss; Cons: Peg O'Brian.

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Thursday Afternoon
By Trudy Baumgartner

Sept. 3
Tie at 1: Judy Mackowiak & Craig Ford; 3: Carolyn Higgins; 4: Billie Anderson; Cons: Cindy Arkebauer.

Sept. 10
1: Kurt Baumgartner; 2; Betty Schaff; 3: Debbie Quinn 4; Judy Mackowiak; Cons: Dianne Robinson.

Sept. 17
1: Betty Schaff; 2: Bruce Gillett; 3: Marlene Floeckher; Cons: Judy Mackowiak.

Sept. 24
1: Marlene Floeckher; 2: V.J. Hentz, Jr.; 3: Betty Schaff; Cons: Trudy Baumgartner.

Thursday Night
By Jeff Young

Join our friendly group at 6 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Card 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.

Sept. 3
1: Herb Katz; 2: Betty Schaff; Cons: Al Whitford.

Sept. 10
1: Brent Powell; 2: Dave Protsik; 3: Stu Shaub; Cons: Cindy.

Sept. 17
1: Brent Powell; 2: Al Whitford; Cons: Jeff Young.

Sept. 24
1: Betty Schaff; 2: Brent Powell; Cons: Raymond Bachik.

Bunco



Bunco Babes Social Group
By Michelle Malsch

We meet in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The next scheduled game is Tuesday, Nov. 24.

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. We collect $2 per player at the start of the game to cover the cost of the prizes. It will be first-come, first-served. 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 gameplay. New players are always welcome. The rules are simple and will be explained before play begins.

We will award prizes at the end of the game for most buncos, minis, wins, and losses. We will also have two door prize drawings for those who did not win any 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!

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Candler Hills Bunco
By Cindy Arkebauer

Oct. 7
Most buncos–Cindy T. Most mini buncos–Aprille W. Most wins–Paul D. Most losses–Barbara D.

Our next game will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 6 p.m. at The Lodge at Candler Hills Meeting Room. Our theme will be to wear a Thanksgiving-themed shirt or colors. There is no charge to play, but please bring a snack to share if you wish and your own beverage.

In 2027, we will be merging with the Ashford/Balfour bunco group. We will continue to play at The Lodge at Candler Hills, but on the second Wednesday of the month.

Cribbage



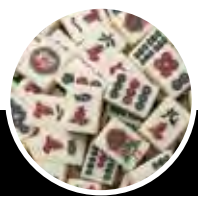
Judy Parisi

We meet in the Arbor Activity Center Card Rooms I-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.

If you stopped by our table at the Club Fair and signed up for emails but have not been receiving them, please let me know. For more information, please email judith.parisi@gmail.com.

Mah Jongg



Angela Brady

This weekly game of American mah jongg is open to all eligible residents. All skill levels are welcome. While the game will not be taught during this time, players are willing to help beginners. The games begin at 1 p.m. every Thursday in Arbor Activity Center Card Room III. Please arrive a few minutes early as we will draw chips for table assignments. After three or four games, we will switch tables to make new friends and change the gameplay. Join us for a couple of hours of fun.

For more information, please contact Angela Brady at 407-403-0861 or agbrady@peoplepc.com. Jokers to ya!

Pinochle



Tuesday Night
By Herb Katz

Sept. 1
1: Abe Toubail; 2: Gary Moses; 3: Gayle Argano.

Sept. 8
1: Marlene Floeckher; 2: Edna Frye & Norman Miles; 3: Stephen Mintz.

Sept. 15
1: Walter Hickenlooper; 2: Al Whitford; 3: Edna Frye.

Sept. 22
1: Stephen Mintz; 2: Charlie Budd; 3: Bud Alderman.

Sept. 29
1: Andy Nuccio; 2: Marlene Floeckher; 3: Lee Freehauf.

Friday Morning
By Andy Nuccio

Sept. 11
1: Bruce Gillett; 2: Edna Frye; 3: Judy Fries.

Sept. 18
1: Cheryl Adams; 2: Marlene Flockher; 3: Steve Mintz.

Sept. 25
1: Andy Nuccio; 2: Judy Fries; 3: Bruce Gillett.

Oct. 2
1: Abe Toubail; 2: Bob Cannon; 3: Andy Nuccio.

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



We Will Grow as One

By Ray Cech

They plan to grow old together
They walk hand in hand
whenever they can
Kiss good morning and goodnight
Sing in the choir at the blessed site
and hold on together if ever there's fright
Share good news but if it's not
they'll work it out
Blessed are they in like thought
and deed
Their hearts beat as one – as they
grow old
Together

The Water Fountain

By Linda Toner

Mom got a fancy
fountain for cats,
of course I investigate
and these are facts.
It pumps water
to a stainless-steel flower,
and this is all accomplished
by electrical power.
First, I sniff it
then give it a gentle tap,
I am the master of water!
So, I start to bap,
bap, bap, bap, bap,
water splashes onto the floor.
Mom says, "Oscar,
this is not what it's for."
She grabs a towel
to mop up the water
but I meow a warning
that she oughta
"Watch your footing,
there's water here."
Actually, by now
there's water everywhere.
And as she slips in it,
I hear her mumble,
"That cat fountain
cost me a bundle."
Would I play with the fountain again?
Definitely, it's my new toy,
I'm dressed for success
and I'm one happy tuxedo boy.

What Wholeness Feels Like

By Janice M. Puta

Get out of your skin,
turn your head around.
Get out of your thoughts,
listen to your heart.
Get into the essence
breathing life into you.
This is what wholeness feels like.

On Top of the World NEWS

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Holiday Fest

By Linda Meyer

Get your holidays off to a great start! The 24th annual Holiday Fest will be held in the Recreation Center Ballroom on Wednesday, Dec. 9. The event starts at 6 p.m. with homemade cookies provided by our generous residents. The cookies pair well with hot chocolate with marshmallows and coffee, provided by On Top of the World. This is a free event!

We start the evening off with everyone getting into the holiday spirit by singing a boisterous rendition of the "12 Days of Christmas – Southern style", a competition between the tables for bragging rights until next Christmas. The entertainment comes from the many talented residents. It changes from year to year and has included, in the past, the Dulcimer Club, Dancing Jewels, a singing quartet, and The New Pretenders. The Jewish Club will share a story about Hanukkah. So come and enjoy an evening with your friends while munching homemade cookies, drinking hot chocolate and coffee, and enjoying some wonderful entertainment. It's always a fun-filled evening. Hope to see you there!

There will be someone in the Recreation Center Ballroom to accept your cookie donations from 3 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 9.

For more information about the Holiday Fest, contact Linda Meyer at 973-809-3338 or linda_a_meyer@yahoo.com.

View from the Library



David Wesenberg

"The Girl Who Played with Fire" by Stieg Larsson is the second book of the Millennium Trilogy.

At the start, Lisbeth Salander is three billion kronor richer because she hacked the Wennerström Industry's ill-gotten wealth. She saw Mikael Blomkvist with his long-time married lover, Erika Berger, on the street and ended their relationship without explanation, shunning him at every opportunity. Using her recently acquired wealth, she goes on an around-the-world tour. She gets breast enhancement surgery. She buys a posh, super-large apartment. Things are looking good.

Upon her return, she is bored and looking for challenges. She starts hacking Mikael's computer and visits her old boss, Dragon Armansky, head of Milton Security. She checks on Neil Burman, her guardian and rapist, whom she is blackmailing with a video of what he did to her.

She discovers that Mikael is working with Dag Svenson and Mia Johanson on research for a book that aims to expose influential figures involved in the sex trade industry. Just three weeks before publication, Dag and Mia are found unresponsive in their apartment. Around the same time, police find Neil Burman under similar circumstances in his apartment. Lisbeth becomes the primary suspect because her fingerprints are found on Burman's .45-caliber Magnum revolver after she checked on him. Suspicion also falls on her because she had warned Dag and Mia and was seen leaving their apartment shortly before the incident.

The villains in this story turn out to be a trained Russian spy chief who defected to Sweden to control the narrative and pursue criminal activity with little government intervention, as long as he revealed a colleague or a secret every once in a while. He is Lisbeth's father. His main henchman was his illegitimate son and Lisbeth's half-brother.

This sets up our story. Now I want to tell you why you should read this book. Stieg Larsson built a world in this book that feels very real to the reader. The shady characters, motorcycle gangs, corrupt officials, and other nebulous figures have a gritty reality that is exciting. He develops characters that powerfully advance the story. The way these characters interact makes for a truly believable mystery that will keep you on the edge of your seat.

Am I going to tell you everything that happened? You need to read the book; I guarantee you will not want to put it down.

What happens next? We will review the third book in the series, "The Girl Who Kicked the Hornets' Nest," in February 2027.

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Poetry Club



Bill Burton

Recently, I watched a Kevin Costner movie titled "Love of the Game," a bittersweet romance film about an aging baseball player who has all the complexities of life happening at high speed, much like a wheel revolving around a small hub. The hub, the constant that never changes for him, is baseball. I found myself musing on that contrast. My movie would be the "Love of Poetry." That is my constant. My hub. I am a poet.

I've had many loves, busy careers, and a family to add to my rapidly turning wheel, but words have been my constant since childhood. Ideas pop into my mind, and often structuring words and developing them into poetry, or even a story, feels like herding cats. The words sometimes run amok, and whether I am shopping, eating, sleeping, or cleaning gutters, I want to get them written or corralled in some digital storeroom to present them, even if only to myself, in some new and interesting way.

Of course, the challenge, ever increasing as I add silver to my hair, is to accomplish something poetic before memory, the villain in this story, takes the idea away and hides it utterly. Even my own memory is stubbornly determined, once I've been distracted, to keep what I thought was a wonderful story idea from me.

In a recent Poetry Club meeting, we discussed the Nobel Prize-winning poet Mary Oliver, who, for the love of poetry, designed her life around nature and recorded what she felt and observed in words that are stunningly beautiful and provocative to the depth of one's soul.

She once said simply, "I want to be left alone," which I interpret as meaning she was determined to win over memory and record her observations while they were still fresh. As one reads her famous poem, "Wild Geese," 10 readings produce 10 new interpretations. Each reading is a new treasure of discovery. In Vegas, that would be called hitting the jackpot.

Some nights at 3 a.m. I have a wonderful poetic line running through my brain. My eyes protest and won't open. Even my bathroom urges are not strong enough to compel me to get out of bed. I know, before it happens, that a beautiful idea will wither on the vine and be lost to memory. Unretrievable. Gone forever. Enter the Poetry Club.

Someone in the club will have had a similar experience, but will have captured the idea. They will have developed it, and it will survive. Someone will have a sonnet from 1976, and it will stir emotions beautifully. That's the beauty of reclusive writers coming together. There is always something wonderful. Join us. Read, recite, or just visit. Call me, Bill Burton, for dates and times at 352-492-8626.

Artistic Crafts & Gifts



Chris Kilbride

The Artistic Crafts & Gifts Tuesday craft show returns in the Recreation Center Ballroom on Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 9 a.m. to noon, and will continue through May.

ArtisticCrafts.org will give you a glimpse of our very talented crafters and artisans, including samples of their creative endeavors. With over 100 online, they offer unique, custom designs for sale any day!

After retiring from a career in food safety, Debra Miles traded spreadsheets, regulations, and inspections for rolling pins, cookie cutters, and a whole lot of Christmas cheer! She is thrilled to have recently moved here with her husband. Retirement has let her slow down and embrace her imagination that truly makes her happy.

Although her career was in the food industry, creativity has always been a big part of who she is, and her family has always been full of talented gardeners. Debra discovered a love for paper crafting, baking cookies, decorating desserts, and making handmade treasures as a way to relax and express herself.

Her journey into dough ornaments began with her best friend in California, where she could help her from time to time and learned how much love and patience go into every piece. She encouraged Debra to start making them here in Florida, and it became the perfect hobby to combine crafting with her favorite holiday.

Every ornament begins with a homemade salt dough recipe that she mixes by hand. Then she creates small batches of colored dough, carefully shapes each ornament, and personalizes it with names, dates, or special touches that make it unique. The ornaments are then slow-baked for 24 hours before beginning a three-day finishing process with multiple protective coats to create a beautiful keepsake that's made to last. Every ornament is completely handcrafted, and no two are ever exactly alike.

What Debra loves most is envisioning where each ornament will end up. Maybe it will celebrate a new friendship, honor a beloved pet, commemorate a new home, or simply become part of a family's yearly tradition. She likes to think that years from now, someone will unpack one of her ornaments, smile, and remember the special memories attached to it. That thought makes every minute spent creating them worthwhile.

Christmas has always been her favorite season because it brings families together and forms memories that last a lifetime. She feels incredibly blessed that retirement has let her turn a delightful passion into something she can share with others.

View a variety of her ornaments and contact her on our Gifts page, or stop by the Circle Square Commons Farmers Market during the November to December holiday season.

All resident crafters are welcome to sell virtually on our website and inquire about a weekly table. Please contact us through ArtisticCrafts.org, where our coordinator Marion can answer all your questions.

Woodcarving Club



Linda Toner

The Club Fair drew a good turnout. A lot of people had never heard of our club. About 15 people signed up to get more information or learn about our woodcarving lessons.

Six of our members brought examples of their work. Tom Fuchs brought examples of architectural carving; Ted Santos brought his American bald eagle and a Philippine eagle to show. Jim Carmack brought his caricatures of Frankenstein and the old cowboy, all carved in the round. Gary Doormanen brought his high relief of an Indian and his bull carved in the round. Salli Grey brought two high-relief carvings in cedar wood and several "woman" carvings in the round. Linda Toner brought several bas-relief carvings of a scuba diver feeding dolphins and some floral carvings.

Bas-relief carving lessons are given on the second Thursday of the month. We have wood available to start students off for $5. We meet on the first, second, and fourth Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Hobby Building Art Room. For more information, you can call Tom Fuchs at 352-586-1171.

Carving is a peaceful, creative art form. You are always welcome to stop by to check us out during club hours. Maybe you would like to learn how to create something beautiful out of wood.

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Sewing Bees



Susie Clauson

"Giving to others attaches to our souls." This quote from member Kathy Sine reflects her dedication to participating in Sewing Bees Club weekly. Kathy is one of the more experienced quilters with 25 years of experience. She began with a block-of-the-month club, learning piecing each month. She has since purchased a long-arm machine for quilting, a ten-needle embroidery machine, and a sewing machine.

Kathy says she likes that we only make quilts for donations and that we're part of something bigger than ourselves. And it was easy to fit into this group. Everyone is easygoing and has a good time. Each person has different talents, and they put them to good use: cutting fabric, piecing the blocks, tying the quilts, sandwiching and pinning, or ironing the completed projects. It's so rewarding to have a purpose, and to meet new people who are now friends. Thank you, Kathy, for all you do for Sewing Bees Club.

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

We always need cotton quilting fabric: solid colors, child-friendly prints, and flannel. We also welcome financial donations and gift cards, especially from Hobby Lobby and Michaels. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

Join our Facebook page (Sewing Bees Club Inc.) to see the magic happening at the hive. You can stay up to date on what we are working on and our current needs. Please contact SewingBeesClub@gmail.com with questions, or Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178.



Photo by Susie Clauson

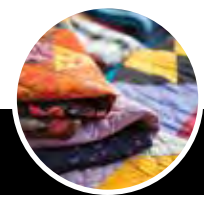
Child's quilt sewn by Kathy Sine.



Photo by Linda Holst

Karon Clay holds a quilt she hand-quilted.

Sunshine Quilters



Linda Holst

Many of us carry traditions from past generations. Sunshine Quilters Guild member Karon Clay inherited the quilting tradition from her mother and grandmother.

Karon's grandfather made her a quilting frame using wood sawhorses. Karon's mother and grandmother taught her to hand-quilt using the quilt frame.

Today Karon continues the tradition of hand quilting, but she also has a longarm for her machine quilting. Karon's longarm machine isn't computerized; instead, she uses a laser to guide her in sewing the pattern. "I used to longarm quilts for individuals, but no longer," said Karon.

Karon's hand-stitched quilts will elicit from viewers a response of "oh my gosh." The countless stitches total thousands, merging the top, batting, and backing into a cherished heirloom.

Karon was asked, "Why do you continue to hand quilt when machine quilting is faster?" Karon said, "Hand quilting is relaxing, and I enjoy it."

Karon uses her longarm to secure the quilt layers and prepare it to be basted. The quilt is then ready to sit in her lap for hand-stitching. Karon does not use a hoop to hold the quilt.

Family and friends have received a quilt from Karon. Most of Karon's family quilts themselves, so they no longer gift quilts to one another. Today, her quilts are given to organizations the Sunshine Quilters Guild supports, and veterans.

For the past three years, she joined her daughter's quilting guild at their quilting retreat. This year's retreat was at Myrtle Beach. Karon's quilting tradition has now reached its fourth generation.

Individuals join a quilt guild for a variety of reasons. Karon joined the Sunshine Quilters Guild last year. She states, "I've always belonged to a quilt group."

Karen is ending her year-long stint as the guild's secretary, but she continues to participate in the guild's fundraising committee.

Karon's advice to anyone desiring to quilt is, "start small with a simple project." Karon uses books and YouTube as quilting resources. Both sources give project ideas and quilting techniques.

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



Poetry



We're On Top of the World

By Bill Burton

We're On Top of the World
where the marching bands played
and baton twirlers twirled
as we joined the parade

Here the old become young
And the trees get to grow
Where the rays of the sun
Warm the people below

We're on top of our form
At the top of our game
It's the top of the morn
And it's calling our name

We're surrounded by friends
No one comes here to hide
Here the love never ends
It's just amply applied

Here the flag is still waved
Here the gamer cavorts
Here the winters are braved
Wearing sandals and shorts

Let us now make a toast
As the champagne is swirled
May we all live the most
At the top of the world

Enter the Dreamer

By Barbara A Scales

Enter the dreamer, the one who sees stars.
While others see nightshade, the dreamer focuses
on galaxies afar.

Enter the dreamer, the creator of things
Ingenious, playful, can't they not believe.

Enter the dreamer, the poet of songs.
Weavers of folklore and legendary tales told tall.

Enter the dreamer who take men onto moons,
Daring others to race past their limited thoughts of
just home.

Enter the dreamer the spark of the future, not the
past.
They mantle the challenge, take up the task.

Enter the dreamer taking risks no others see.
They climb the Everest; they ford the stream.

Enter the dreamer waging war on how things are,
Upsetting the tide, pushing it far.

Enter the dreamer, without him we are lost.
He permeates the silence no matter the cost.

Enter the dreamer to his imagination we give hail.
He embraces the recklessness, of his passion we
regale.

Enter the dreamer and his ideas he brews,
The speckled patterns he finds, the nuances he
ensues.

Enter the dreamer unlocking hidden doors,
Enabling the mechanisms and sailing distant
shores.

Enter the dreamer, he weaves his own web,
Spinning crisscrossed silk connections within his
head.

Enter the dreamer, he alone dares to dream.
He views beyond vision, glimpsing into the world
unseen.

Enter the dreamer living between what is real and
what is not.
He asks those great questions most of us think not.

Therefore, I say to you with all due respect, as for
the dreamers,
May their dreamer's dreams never stop.

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Resident Services
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Happy Hookers



Jan Spielvogel

November is upon us, and with that, Happy Hookers wishes everyone a safe and blessed Thanksgiving. While I have written about thankfulness the past, it bears repeating every year.

We are thankful for our donors. When you bring us yarn you no longer want or have purchased for us, you help us keep going with our charity work. The need remains great, and we are grateful for every skein we receive. We are also grateful for any gift cards we receive. We are also thankful for those of you who have appeared at our door on a Monday and given us a blanket, hat, or scarf that you have made. Please know that we appreciate anyone who participates, whether you are physically with us or not. Last (but certainly not least), we are thankful for those who are part of Happy Hookers. The talent that is demonstrated is amazing.

We continue to share pictures of the beautiful work on our Facebook page (OTOW Happy Hookers). We are blessed to have the ladies in our group.

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. We have a group of ladies who crochet, knit, do needlepoint, card craft, embroider, and handcraft.

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 you no longer use, we always appreciate donations. Please bring them on Mondays during our meeting time or contact Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178 to arrange for pickup.

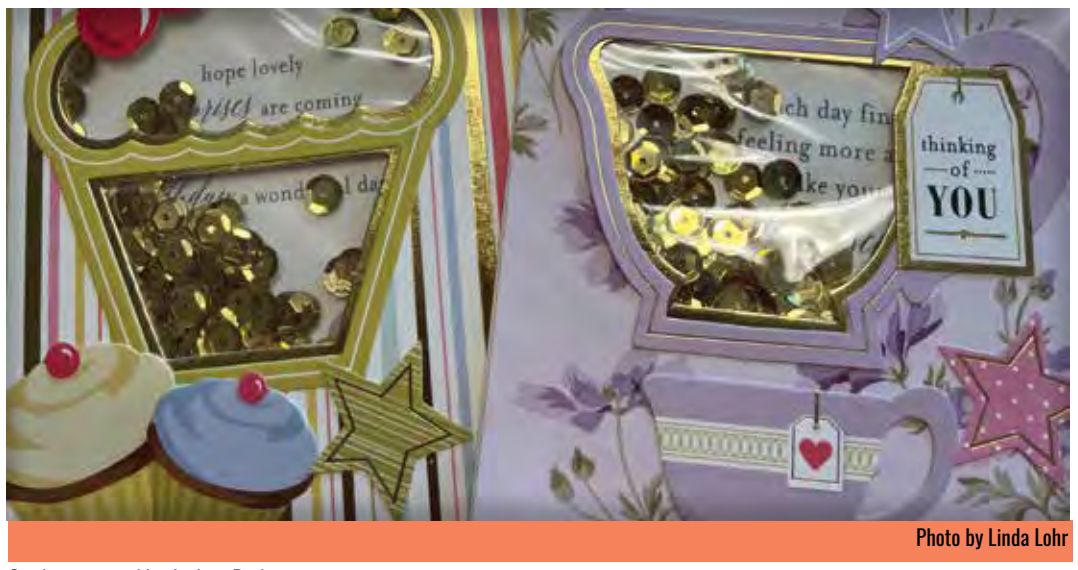


Photo by Linda Lohr

Cards presented by Andrea Park.

Rubber Stamp Greeting Cards



Linda Lohr

On Thursday, Oct. 1, Andrea Park offered Anna Griffin packaged card kits. These beautiful card kits were donated to the club. We each chose a package and started working on the cards. The kits come with all the pieces necessary to finish the cards. Suggestions were given, but each person designed part of the card herself. There were many different themes available. Most of us couldn't finish the whole package, so we took it all home to finish. When completed, they will be donated to charities.

Thank you, Andrea, for sharing the card package bounty with all of us! And for giving them to a local charity.

For class or general information, contact Connie Press at the email below. You'll 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 think you'd enjoy this class, or if you have any questions, please contact Connie Press at Connie.RubberStampClub@gmail.com. You can also find the information for each class on our Facebook page. We look forward to introducing new people to our fun craft.

Our next presentation is expected to be Thursday, Nov. 5, in the Hobby Building Event Room from 1 to 3 p.m. Until our next meeting, keep on stampin'!





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Art Group



Mitch Baylis

It is November, and for our Art Group, that means the annual migration of snowbirds returning to their southern homes and gathering at the Hobby Building. To mark the occasion, the Art Group is expanding access to three days a week. Our open studio hours are now Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m., plus Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

It's great to see our returning friends and neighbors regale us with stories about how hot their summer was up north. In the studio, many of our artists are transitioning to autumn landscapes, experimenting with the season's rich colors and changing light.

In the global art world, November is legendary as the market's high-stakes centerpiece. Every mid-November, major auction houses like Sotheby's and Christie's hold their flagship 20th- and 21st-century evening sales in New York. I know this because every November, after I submit my latest work, Sotheby's and Christie's respond with a polite letter that essentially begins, "Who are you?"

Just last year, Gustav Klimt's Portrait of Elisabeth Lederer sold at auction for $236.36 million – the second-highest price in history. Then again, I am fairly certain that if Elisabeth Lederer had painted Klimt, it wouldn't sell for enough to buy a cup of coffee.

This month, the Art Group also pays homage to three titans of art history born in November:

- Auguste Rodin (b. Nov 12, 1840) — The father of modern sculpture.
- Claude Monet (b. Nov 14, 1840) — The founding father of Impressionism.
- Georgia O' Keeffe (b. Nov 15, 1887) — The mother of American Modernism.

Another milestone occurred on Nov. 1, 1512, when Pope Julius II celebrated All Saints' Day Mass to formally unveil Michelangelo's completed ceiling frescoes in the Sistine Chapel. Interestingly, when the Pope first summoned Michelangelo to paint the vault in 1508, the artist was deeply reluctant. He considered himself strictly a sculptor, not a painter, and had virtually no experience with large-scale wet-plaster buon fresco.

Contrary to popular belief, Michelangelo did not paint lying flat on his back. He designed custom wooden scaffolding attached to the chapel walls, allowing him to stand and reach upward for four straight years. Like most artists, he was under constant financial pressure – supporting his demanding family in Florence while battling papal treasurers over delayed payments.

Despite the physical and financial toll, the Sistine Chapel cemented Michelangelo's reputation as Il Divino ("The Divine One") and reshaped Renaissance art forever.

Whether you're working on your own masterpiece or just looking to enjoy the creative company, stop by the Hobby Building this month. We'd love to see what you're working on!

For more information, contact Director Freda Klump at 615-336-6863 or fredaklump@gmail.com.

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 "Go as a River," by Shelley Read, for discussion on Thursday, Nov. 19.

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 pop in; no sign-up needed. 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, in print, audio, and ebook formats.

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

On Top of the World

EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

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

Shutterbugs Photography



Mark Holmes

The 2026 Shutterbugs print photography contest winners are on display in the Recreation Center Ballroom for you to enjoy throughout November. See who brought home the ribbons and enjoy the images of landscapes, nature, architecture, and more. Participating in this professionally judged contest is one benefit of Shutterbugs membership.

You'll also find a monthly display of photos in the Master the Possibilities lobby featuring photos by our members.

PHOTO TRIVIA: When was 35mm film first introduced? Keep reading for the answer.

If you've been thinking about becoming a member of Shutterbugs, keep in mind that the modest dues paid now through the end of the year cover your fee for all of 2027. Enjoy monthly field trips, show-and-tell sessions, and expert presentations on a variety of photography topics, tips, and tricks to help you grow in the hobby. We hold frequent online photo contests and an annual juried print contest, and as always, advisory team members are willing to help with everything from smartphones to the latest DSLRs (digital single-lens reflex cameras).

When you shoot in aperture priority mode on your camera, usually designated by the letter "A" on your camera's selection dial, you gain control of depth of field for your images. In contrast, the camera automatically selects the shutter speed. A low aperture setting, depending on your lens, such as f/2.8, lets plenty of light reach your image sensor while limiting the depth of field. If you'd like to capture a sharp image of a flower, for example, but leave the background blurred to make the flower "pop," then a low aperture number is what you want. If you want virtually the entire image, say for a landscape with no objects up close, then a larger aperture number such as f/16 or greater would be best. For fast action sports, or to freeze the movement of a bird in flight or a speeding racecar, shoot in shutter priority (usually the "P" setting), where you set the shutter speed and the camera selects the aperture.

PHOTO TRIVIA ANSWER: 35mm film was first introduced in 1890 by William Kennedy Dickson and Thomas Edison using film stock from George Eastman for early motion pictures. In 1925, 35mm film was launched for commercial use with the introduction of the first Leica I camera.

Shutterbugs Photography Club meets 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 on the second, third, and fourth Tuesdays, beginning at 3 p.m. Room location may change due to the Woodshop's expansion. Please check for updates.

Remember, "Those who don't know should ask, those who do know should show and tell." 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.

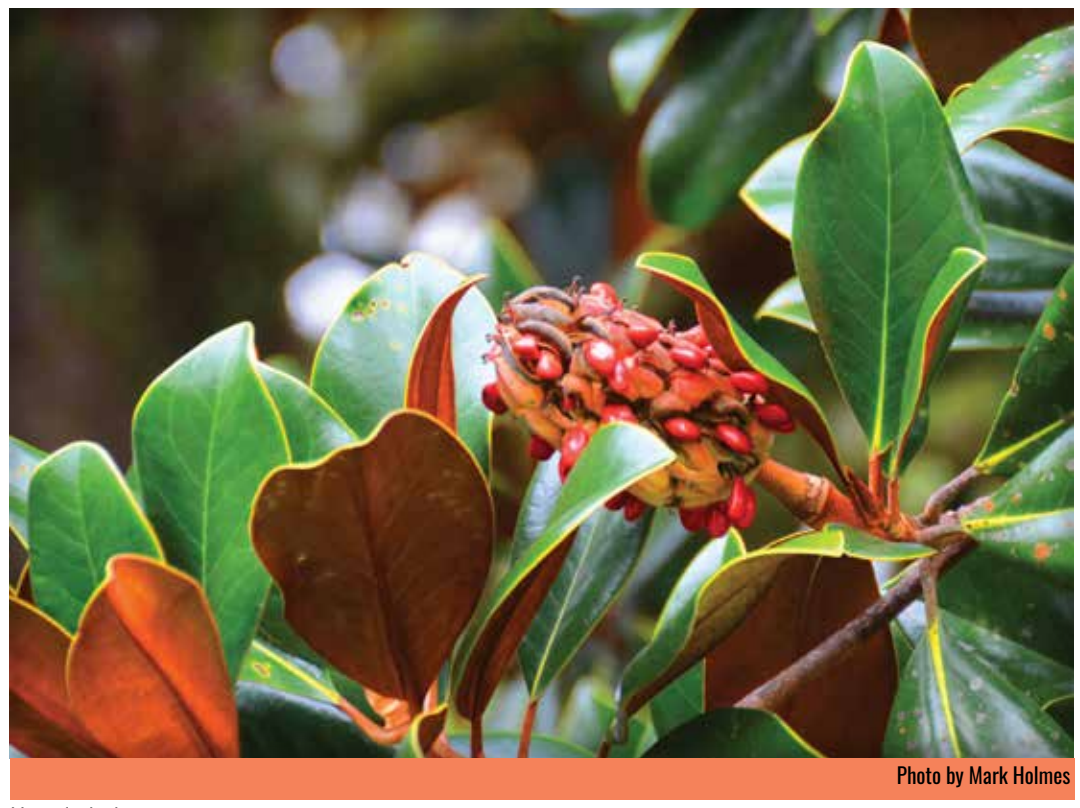


Photo by Mark Holmes

Magnolia bud.





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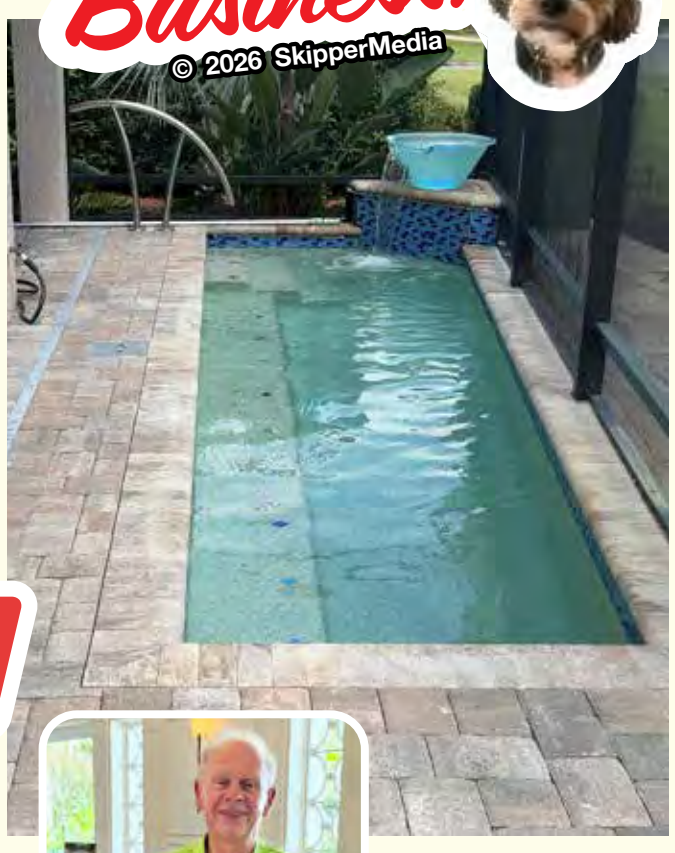
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Fun with Golf Carts



Susan Pulling Robinson

On Saturday, Oct. 31, Fun with Golf Carts will unveil its spookiest decorations for a day of fun and candy throwing. Selected charities include Interfaith Emergency Services, Bears and Blankets, Operation Shoebox, Chuck's Piggy Bank, Veterans Helping Veterans, Early Learning Coalition, and Dunnellon Elementary School.

Don't miss a parade; mark your calendar for the following Saturdays:

- 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 Charlie Calhoun

Halloween cart ready for the parade.

Tesla Owners & Enthusiasts Club



Dan Lack

We discussed car hitches at our last club meeting.

Several years ago, I bought a bike rack for my Tesla Model 3 sedan that fit over the trunk. In April, I traded in the car for a 2026 Model Y. When my bicycle recently got a flat tire, I needed to bring it to the bike store because I'm not talented enough to fix it myself. I discovered no bike rack fits the new car, an SUV without a trunk.

So, I needed to get a hitch installed. Teslarati Marketplace is an online company that sells hitches. The Electrified Garage, a company that repairs and modifies Teslas, moved from Ocala to Orlando about a year ago. I made the 90-mile trip so they could install the hitch, which Teslarati shipped directly to them.

The hitch is hidden behind the center of the rear fender, which lifts out when I need to attach my new bike rack. The hitch can also be used for mobility scooter carriers.

The bike store repaired the flat tire, and I'm riding again.

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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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 news@colenbuilt.net.

ESTATE/TAG SALE ADS: There is no charge to residents, however, residents must register their estate/tag sale. Complete and submit the form for your community by visiting OnTopoftheWorldNews.com/ocala > Advertising > Resident Advertising or in person at Resident Services. Forms must be submitted by the 10th of the month prior to publication.

SERVICE ADS: Will be accepted from residents and non-residents and may be emailed to news@colenbuilt.net. For advertising rates, visit OnTopoftheWorldNews.com/ocala > Advertising.

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 news@colenbuilt.net or visit OnTopoftheWorldNews.com/ocala.

The publisher reserves the right to reject any ad which, in his judgment, would not be in the best interest of the residents of On Top of the World Communities.

For Sale

Appliance: Electric grill, $50. 352-300-3492 (after 11 a.m.).

Furniture: California king mattress and frame, $300/obo. Desk, $80/obo. Email lweaver389@icloud.com.

Furniture: Computer desk with chair, wood, $145. Sleep Number guest room bed, head and foot raises, controls softness or firmness. CD and DVD wood storage cabinet, $130. Fold-up coffee table, brown, $95. 7' Victorian dresser with 8 drawers, $390. Closed cabinet for garage with 4 shelves, wood-like, $60. 352-300-3492 (after 11 a.m.).

Furniture: Power leather lift recliner with cup holder, brown. 352-300-8995.

Furniture: Serta padded office chair, $25. Heavy brown aluminum chaise loungers (2), $100 pair. Call/text 352-560-1448.

Home Décor: Desk lamps (2), black, $35 each. Commissioned carousel horse by artist Russ Jacobsohn, 4' tall, wood, one of a kind. 4' x4' pictures (beach, herons, magnolia and other flowers) by artist Dennis Blair, $135 each. Golf pictures (2), $50 for both. Coffee table books, $3 each. 352-300-3492 (after 11 a.m.).

Home Décor: Framed and matted photographic art. Selection of sizes and subjects (Florida, floral, animals, America, Europe, motivational, religious, etc.). Call/text 352-644-0480.

Misc. Items: Fiestaware, numerous pieces and colors, $2 each piece. 941-504-8606.

Misc. Items: Tony Lama boots, size 10, black, $85. Black Stetson cowboy hat, medium/large, $85. Red fox fur hat, $200. Red fox fur coat, ¾ length. Designer clothes with tags. Free aloe plants (you dig). 352-300-3492 (after 11 a.m.).

Misc. Items: Saris Tilt 2 bike hitch rack, $200. Krause 10' folding ladder, $35. Call/text 352-560-1448.

Misc. Item: White sewing machine with cabinet (model #41), $200 cash. 352-533-4170 (after 5 p.m.).

Sports Equipment: Men's Trek carbon fiber road bike with new tires, tubes, brake shoes, plus air pump, water bottle, saddle bag, and floor bicycle stand, $225. 414-588-0597.

Tag Sales

Friday, Nov. 6: 10598 SW 91st Street Road (Avalon), 8 to 11 a.m.

Friday, Nov. 6 & Saturday, Nov. 7: 8650-A SW 92nd Place (Friendship Colony), 8 a.m. to noon · 9112 SW 95th Avenue (Providence), 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 7: 7877 SW 89th Circle (Weybourne Landing), 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. · 8360 SW 84th Loop (Candler Hills), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. · 8833-C SW 98th Street Road (Americana Village), 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 8: 8833-C SW 98th Street Road (Americana Village), noon to 4 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 13: 9322, 9347, 9419 SW 94th Loop (Windsor), 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 13 & Saturday, Nov. 14: 9934 SW 100th Terrace Road (Crescent Ridge), 8 a.m. to noon · 9329 SW 94th Loop (Windsor), 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. · 8966-B SW 94th Lane (Friendship Park), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 14: 9322, 9347, 9419 SW 94th Loop (Windsor), 8 a.m. to noon.

Wednesday, Nov. 18 & Thursday, Nov. 19: 9637-C SW 94th Court (Crescent Ridge), 8 to 11 a.m.

Saturday, Nov. 21: 9117 SW 93rd Circle (Providence), 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Services

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

Andy Dahms Interior Painting: Your local professional painting contractor. Turn your place into a showpiece. Quality Sherwin-Williams products. References available. Free estimates. Call or email at 941-730-1381 or andygoodeats1@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.

Buying Used Watches: Rolex, Omega, Seiko, Bulova, Zodiac, gold, etc. Christopher the Watch Guy 352-229-5317.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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: 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.

JC Pet Sitting: Many years of experience with cats, dogs, & horses. Honest, dependable, & reasonable rates. 541-329-1984 (resident).

Jordan's Golf Cart Batteries: Lithium battery with 8-year warranty, $1,950 installed; 6- to 8-volt, $860 installed; and 4- to 12-volt, $925 installed with 24-month warranty. Call for free battery check 352-789-2812.

Junk Removal: Prompt service. Reasonable rates. Call/text Matt at 352-640-6467.

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

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.

Mobile Notary Public: Taking pride in my duty as a notary in Ocala. Nancy Faucher, 352-497-8201 (call or text anytime).

Notary (Mobile): Same-day service by appointment. Will come to your home, workplace, or hospital. Call/text Larry 352-509-5211 (resident).

Paint Time LLC: Interior & exterior painting. Quality is our goal! Also offering power washing. Let's spruce up your home inside & out. Call/text Matt at 352-640-6467.

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

Rikki's Cleaning Service: For all your domestic needs, from cleaning to errands and more. Call Rikki 352-509-4488.

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

Transportation: Excellent, safe, and friendly service to Tampa, Orlando, Sanford, and Gainesville airports, as well as Port Canaveral. Drop-off/pick-up. Sue's Transportation 352-446-7425 (resident).

Transportation & Pet Services: Pet sitting, dog walking, rides to appointments with assistance getting in and out of the vehicle, shopping & odd jobs. Rob 954-557-4178 (resident).

US Pressure Clean: Professional exterior cleaning for your home. Roofs, siding, driveways, patios, windows & more. Safe, reliable service with outstanding results. Refresh your property today, call us at 1-800-444-6387 for a free estimate!

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.

Organist & Cleaner: St. Johns Church of Cotton Plant seeks a part-time organist (retainer plus performance pay) and church cleaner (1–2 times weekly, $25–$45/hour). Interested? Call 352-237-4904 and leave a message.

Pet Foster Parents: Temporarily open your home to a pet in need. Call Friends of SPCA at 352-362-0985.

Roller Skates: A pair of men's black, shoe-type roller skates for The New Pretenders. 352-209-4699.

On Top of the World NEWS

UPCOMING PUBLICATION
December Issue
Thursday, Dec. 3, 2026

See page 2 for publication schedule.

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