

Community News

Kenneth D. Colen

Parkway Maintenance & Management Marion, LLC (the “Management Company”) recently reflected on and decided to revamp some resident-facing roles. This included the general manager. The Management Company is excited about this new approach to Resident Services and Engagement.

Safety Check-up

January is an excellent time for a safety check-up. The holidays are over, the family and guests are back wherever they came from, and it is just you and your home (finally!). Ask yourself a simple question: What do I do if ...

Do you enjoy walking or biking in the community in the evening or early morning hours? If yes, do you wear reflective clothing, carry a flashlight for signaling oncoming traffic, or have proper red/white lights on your bicycle? If you enjoy walking in the community in the cooler weather, I am the first to admit that sometimes I forget to take precautions. Note to self: practice what I preach!

If you were to have a kitchen fire, do you have a fire extinguisher handy, and could you use it? If your unit had a water leak, would you know what to do or who to call?

If you are getting out of the tub or shower, is your bath mat absorbent and non-skid? Do you have a properly installed grab rail in your tub or shower?

Have you overloaded extension cords with too many plug-in items? This is much more common than you think!

Do you have a first aid kit at home? How old is it? Do you maintain an up-to-date emergency contact list? Do you remember where it is? When was the last time you checked it? Do you keep a legible list of current emergency contacts, your primary physician, and any medications you take in an identified vial in the refrigerator? You will also want to post a reminder on the refrigerator door that vital information is stored there. This is essential should emergency responders be needed.

Annual Association & Board Meetings

The annual Master Association meeting was held on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024, in Live Oak Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to familiarize residents of all member associations with the purpose and operational areas of the Master Association and to adopt an annual operating budget. Approximately 30 people were in attendance.

The annual meeting of Weybourne Landing was held on Friday, Dec. 6, 2024, at Circle Square Cultural Center. There were approximately 200 residents in attendance, and this meeting also had some residents attend through the webinar. The purpose of the meeting was to present a general update on the community and for the board to adopt an operating budget.

The Indigo East annual meeting was held on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024, at Circle Square Cultural Center. There were approximately 120 members in attendance. Some residents also joined the meeting via webinar. The pending Marion County four-lane project on SW 80th Avenue was briefly discussed. The county reports the project will not begin until late 2025. Given my experience with “Marion County time,” we expect the project to start to slip to mid-2026. Additionally, information was disseminated on On Top of the World roadways that will be under construction shortly to provide residents alternative means of travel while SW 80th Avenue is under construction, namely SW 90th Terrace Road extension that will meet up with SW 63rd Street and then cross over from Stone Creek into Calesa Township and up and out at SW 38th Avenue.

The proposed operating budget for 2025 and the updates to the schedule of fees were presented to the board and membership, and the board approved the operating budget and the schedule of fees with one update clarifying that the Gateway of Services pass is for up to two members.

The Candler Hills annual meeting

Continued on Page 4A ▶

Health & Wellness EXPO

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2025

Let's Get Healthy!

By Ray Cech
World News Writer

It’s a great way to kick off 2025 – checking out ways to get and stay healthy. Everything you’ll need to know to achieve those goals will be at Circle Square Cultural Center on Saturday, Jan. 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Why go? The Health & Wellness Expo is one of a kind. Its focus is all on health.

The expo is recommended by Recreation Program Manager Shannon Prince and Fitness Director Cammy Dennis. They support activities that make On Top of the World a healthy and fun place to live.

It is expected that 60 or more vendors will be there (e.g., doctors, den-

tists, eye specialists, and Medicare and knowledgeable healthcare professionals). They will be there to answer questions and share their expertise to help us reach our targeted healthy goals.

On the lighter side, there will be plenty of activity on stage with dancing, fitness demonstrations, and Zumba®!

It is always best to take a few minutes to jot down questions before the event so that you are ready to discuss them with the vendors. A little bit of prep work goes a long way.



Neighborhood Holiday Décor Results

By Dave DeAngelis
World News Writer

Who won the 2024 Neighborhood Best Holiday Décor event? First, let’s start out with who didn’t win. Here is a partial list of non-winners:

- If your neighborhood monument is in Des Moines, Iowa, you didn’t win.
- If your neighborhood monument wasn’t decorated, you didn’t win (helping others doesn’t count).
- If you didn’t win, you didn’t win.

Okay, so who the heck won? Ah, first the side story. A team of judges made their rounds the first weekend of December 2024, taking in the beauty and creativity of all 12 neighborhoods that decorated their monuments. Some dis-

plays were quite elaborate, some were aesthetically unbusy, and some were in between. But all were admirably creative. Rumor has it that the judging was so challenging that the stress of deciding on the winner pushed one of the judges to announce retirement from future events. Not really, but the decorations were that good.

Now for the winner! After much deliberation, the team of judges decided on Balmoral as being 2024’s winner of the Best Holiday Decorated Neighborhood. The ringleader of Balmoral’s monument decorators, Lynne Shine-man, explained that she and her team created a new design for 2024, going all

out with their decorations that included pink flamingos wearing Santa hats. One idea sparked another among the team of creators, a team that includes Ray Piergiorgi, Cheri Stark, Ellen Attenson, Lynn Ihlenburg, Rosemary Rhodes and Addie, the canine helper.

Upon completion of their creation, the team celebrated with a “Light Up Balmoral” gala that appropriately began with the connecting of two extension cords. Presto! A winner is born. Bragging rights for 2025!

So, what’s up for next year’s décor? Lynne told me that it will be sure to, at least equal, this year’s monument, and flat out said no when I asked if residents might be performing ballet on top of the monument. Just throwin’ out some ideas. Don’t even think about it!

Congratulations and thanks to all the artistic participants of this year’s event. Perhaps this competition will be an inviting challenge for more neighborhoods next year.



Photo by Lynn Ihlenburg

Balmoral is the winner of the Neighborhood Holiday Decor contest.

Is It Legal?

Colen & Wagoner, P.A.



SCAM ALERT #1: A gentleman came to me and said he’d put his niece’s name on his bank account as a joint owner. He did it so she could access his funds in an emergency, if he had one. The niece promptly removed the funds for her use and refused to return them. The niece claims her name was put on the account as a gift to her, and she had the right to take the funds if she wanted to do it. This is not the usual type of scam you see in this column. It is, nevertheless, in my humble opinion, a scam.

What can be done to get the funds back? First, the niece’s name should be removed from the account, assuming there’s any amount left in it. Better yet, close the account.

Second, the sheriff’s office should be notified. They may not do anything because they may feel this is strictly a civil matter, but a report should be made. Next, it would be good to contact Adult Protective Services. Just Google “Adult Protective Services” and include the county. If the niece is named in a durable power of attorney, that document should be revoked, and the bank should be informed.

Next, a demand letter should be sent, but it would be wise to have an attorney send that type of letter. After that, a decision must be made whether to file a lawsuit against the niece. It’s possible that the suit could be brought to small claims court if the amount is \$8,000 or less, not including filing fees. If it’s more, then an attorney would almost certainly be needed.

Also, you might want to revisit the persons named as beneficiaries of your will or trust.

Look, folks, I believe it is always necessary to define exactly why you have added someone’s name to an account as an owner with you. It should be in writing, and the account owner should sign it. The person added to the account should also sign it. (And yeah, I know that no one will do that.) But the best way to protect yourself is not to add anyone to your accounts as an owner with you. Just set up a beneficiary designation in the form of a payable-on-death statement on the account that is involved. That also avoids probate. And have a well-drafted, durable power of attorney, in which you name a very trusted relative, possibly a friend, or your attorney if he or she handles that kind of work and responsibility.

SCAM ALERT #2: Both my wife and I have recently received several calls where the caller says she (it’s usually a female with a very friendly voice) wants to make sure I have all the Medicare coverages that I need. These calls are almost always fraudulent. Please just hang up. Never provide any personal information.

If you wish to enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan, there are several good companies that offer them. If you decide you wish to enroll in one, before you do it, please check not only the benefits, such as cashback and dental, but check on nursing home coverages and drug coverage for any drugs you need. And don’t forget to check out-of-network coverages.

Q. I am retired and live in Florida. My husband is five years younger than I, and he is still working and living in (a northeastern state.). Can I have a homestead exemption here, and my husband have a separate homestead exemption where he still lives?

A. Many years ago, there was an opinion from the then-serving Florida Attorney General Charlie Crist that a married couple could maintain both a Florida homestead exemption and a separate homestead in another state if it could be fully verified that there really were two separate residences, rather than just one residence. You should check with the homestead exemption office in your county of residence, and your husband should check with the exemption office in the county where he resides.

Note: It is very risky to do this without having absolute verification that there are, in fact, two separate residences.

Q. I would like to marry a lady friend. She told me that she was divorced a few years ago, but she still wears a wedding ring. I’ve never been married. Is there any reason why I cannot marry her?

A. I don’t know. Why don’t you ask her?

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.

GOLF CART REGISTRATION

Bring golf cart, resident ID and insurance policy (stating amount of bodily injury). All residents in household must be present.

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

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

*Deadline at noon

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

grinsticks™

By Dave DeAngelis

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF grinsticks.® SINCE I WAS A KID, MY SKULL REVERBERATED WITH FUNNY IDEAS BUT I NEVER LEARNED HOW TO DRAW. SO LOGIC TOLD ME TO TRANSLATE MY IDEAS IN THE FORM OF STICK FIGURES AND INANIMATE OBJECTS. IT TOOK MID-LIFE CRISIS AND A CHANGE IN MARITAL STATUS TO OPEN THE FLOOD GATES. I'M BANKING ON MY INABILITY TO DRAW TO ATTRACT THE CONSUMER'S EYE. I HOPE YOU LIKE THESE EXAMPLES OF WHAT HAS BEEN.... GOTTA GO! ANOTHER IDEA!

SINCERELY,
Dave DeAngelis

Premiers in the February 2025 issue.

Lifelong Learning

Michelle Shideler
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The start of a new year is a time for fresh beginnings, and what better way to kick off 2025 than by cruising into learning something new and inspiring? At Master the Possibilities, we believe the joy of learning and discovery has no expiration. Whether rekindling a love of art, exploring the mysteries of history, or finally tackling that second language, January is the perfect time to set learning resolutions into motion.

Our lifelong learning center is offering over 225 classes this month alone, ensuring there's something for everyone to enjoy and explore. This includes new hobby and technology classes like "Introduction to Robotics." This engaging class, led by Jim Di Paolo, offers participants a hands-on introduction to the fascinating world of robotics.

Using LEGO's Education SPIKE™ Prime Robotic Set and the Building Blocks programming method, participants will learn to build, program, and control their robots with precision. Not only will participants get to keep the robot they create, but they'll also explore programming techniques to make their robots move and turn with accuracy. The class concludes with fun challenges designed to test the skills learned throughout the course. To learn more about this exciting new class, visit the STEM category at masterthepossibilities.org. Space is limited for this six-week class starting Tuesday, Jan. 7, and the class

cost is \$62 for members and \$67 for the general public.

Could you have owned a Kentucky Derby winner? Associate Vice President Tammy Gantt of the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' and Owners' Association invites individuals to explore the fascinating world of horse ownership in her lecture on Tuesday, Jan. 7, at 4 p.m. in Live Oak Hall. During this engaging presentation, she'll uncover myths about owning famed racehorses and share insights into the realities of horse ownership, particularly in Marion County's renowned equine community. Don't miss this opportunity to better understand the thoroughbred industry. Attending "I Could Have Owned a Kentucky Derby Winner" costs \$6 for members and \$11 for the general public.

Join visiting speaker Len Ferman, creativity and innovation professor, for an engaging presentation on Wednesday, Jan. 8, at 4 p.m., as he takes participants through time – 50, 60, 70, and even 100 years into the past. Len will share captivating insights into three compelling human-interest stories about legendary athletes he has researched. Through his storytelling, these heartwarming tales of greatness will come vividly to life, offering inspiration and a glimpse into the extraordinary lives of these remarkable individuals. Attending this presentation in Live Oak Hall costs \$10 for members and \$15 for the general public.

Don't forget that Master the Possibilities adds courses year-round. For a complete calendar list of upcoming courses, visit masterthepossibilities.org. Looking for newly added courses? Visit the new category in our online catalog. Call our office from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at 352-861-9751 for registration assistance.

OneBlood Bloodmobile

Sara Sommer



The Big Red Bus® was here on Monday, Dec. 2, 2024, with two buses. We had a great turnout. We collected 43 units of whole blood and 12 units of double red blood. We saved up to 165 lives. Each donor received a set of coffee mugs and a \$20 e-card for use at many places in the area and online. What a way to end the

year.

To begin the new year, the Big Red Bus will be here on Friday, Jan. 5. We continue to provide Friday hours three times a year. The bus will be parked in the Recreation Center parking lot from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please give if you can. All types are needed.

The Club Fair is coming on Thursday, Jan. 30. It will be at Circle Square Cultural Center for the first time. OneBlood will have a table. Please stop by and see us. This would be the time to ask any questions. We will inform you where to call if we cannot answer them. See you on the bus!



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Amenities & Construction Updates

ILLIS: Going forward, we will refer to this project as Azura Fitness. This will be an 8,000-square-foot amenity with

WEST OF WEYBOURNE LANDING: We are nearing completion of the design for the new nine-hole “pitch and putt” course, which will be called The Irons and will be open to all residents and Master Association members. It will be located

Construction Sites

On Top of the World is a growing community with new neighbors moving in daily. Throughout these new neighbor-

On Top of the World is working with the Marion County Sheriff's Office to add a new substation on SW 90th Street across from the Marion County Fire Rescue Friendship Station 21. If approved, this will benefit our communities by offering better service and response times due to its proximity.

Personal Insurance on Your Home & Contents

This is a good point to segue into the limits of coverage that individual dwelling owners may wish to have. Content coverage may vary greatly depending on what you own. As a basic point, you need adequate limits to cover furnishings, personal items, floor coverings, appliances, and cabinetry. All carriers write an HO6 rider that provides for loss assessment coverage in the event of a special assessment from the Association to cover unforeseen shortfalls or losses.

In the On Top of the World Owners Association, buildings are insured under a master policy in the name of the Association. The deductible is \$10,000 for any casualty event per occurrence, including wind/hail-related damage. Named storm events carry a separate deductible of 3% of the total value at the time of loss at each location involved, subject to a minimum (community-wide) deductible of \$250,000 for any one occurrence.

Concerning flood (rising water), earthquake, and flood resulting from a named storm, all loss, damage, and/or expense arising out of any one occurrence shall be adjusted as one loss, and from an amount of each such adjusted loss, there is a 5% of location total insured value subject to a \$250,000 deductible per occurrence.

For more information, please visit OTOWInfo.com > Associations > OTOW Central, locate Insurance Requirements and Forms, and download the pdf document entitled: Insurance Responsibility of the Individual Homeowner.

Candler Hills, Indigo East, and Weybourne Landing residents may see higher homeowner insurance rates again this year. This state-wide phenomenon is driven largely by property damage and large-scale weather events (Ian, Idalia, Debbie, Helene, and Milton!). High rates may be with the entire State for a while.



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Around the World

Pam Babbitt
352-236-OTOW (6869)



Happy New Year! Who doesn't like something new? Surely, some of the favorites would include new friends, new adventures, new hobbies, and new opportunities to learn and grow. As we set out on this new path of 2025, let's strive to discover within ourselves and in the world around us "the beauty of all things new."

Envera Virtual Gate Guard Automation Systems

Check the insert in this issue of the World News for the latest on our new gate initiative. This important, time sensitive information regards upcoming meetings and registration about our new gates.

Additional information will be forthcoming on OTOWInfo.com > Resident Alerts.

Gateway of Services

Our Gateway of Services program allows residents in Indigo East and Weybourne Landing the opportunity to purchase the use of amenities in On Top of the World (Central). The annual renewal process, which began in December 2024, has been a huge success. If you need to renew or sign up for Gateway of Services, please reach out to Resident Services at otowservice@otowfl.com to schedule an appointment.

Clearing the Clutter

Bulk trash and recycling days are scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 30, and Friday, Jan. 31, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event will be set up adjacent to the R/C flying field. It is for residents only. Please bring your resident ID. A list of items allowed and prohibited for trash/recycling will be on OTOWInfo.com > Resident Information > Resident Alerts.

Vaccine Program

Walgreens continues to offer residents vaccines. Visit the Recreation Center Ballroom on Thursdays, Feb. 6, or March 6, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Resident ID is required.

Available vaccines include flu, pneumonia, shingles (second dose required), COVID-19, RSV, hepatitis A & B (series of two to three doses), and tetanus.

Holiday Lighting/Decorations

Please remove all lights and decorations by Wednesday, Jan. 15. Christmas trees may be placed on the curb in front of your home for pick-up on your neighborhood's regularly scheduled yard debris pick-up day.

Resident Services

We may be reached at 352-236-OTOW (6869) or otowservice@otowfl.com Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. You may also visit in person at Suite 500, in Friendship Commons, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Resident Services is closed daily between noon and 1 p.m. The time begins when the last resident assisted before closing vacates the building as soon after noon as possible. In observance of the new year, Resident Services will be closed on Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024, at noon and all day on Wednesday, Jan. 1.

Did You Know?

You may wish to complete your maintenance request online versus stopping by the office. Visit OTOWInfo.com > Maintenance Request and enter your request. Be sure to scroll down to enter the service you are requesting and click submit. Please note that this method may not be the best way to report the full details of your request due to a limit on the number of characters allowed. However, you may also call, email, or come into the Resident Services office.

After Hours Non-Medical Emergencies

On Top of the World (Central) Owners Association members, please notify Resident Services first before contacting an outside contractor for repairs such as roots in water lines, sewer backups, sprinklers damaged by mowers, etc. If it is after normal business hours and you experience some manner of a non-medical emergency, we ask that you please call 352-236-OTOW (6869) for assistance. Even though Resident Services is closed, the number is answered 24 hours a day, and you will be able to speak with an after-hours representative, who, based on the reason for the call, will provide direction or dispatch an after-hours person.

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

Safety First

Jonathan Miller



Seasonal change, drop in temperature, cold weather, or whatever the title of "it's flat-out cold outside" means, we need to acclimate our bodies to accommodate our need to stay healthy due to these conditions.

Please allow me to share some tips with you on how to adjust your body temperatures when nature turns down the heat and turns up the cold. This may help prevent catching a cold or flu.

First, adjust your thermostat down a few degrees, but just a few. Understand that anything that causes you to shiver, will cause your body to acclimate to the cold, but you don't want your shiver to be drastic. Too much of a temperature change can cause an over-reaction. The idea is to help your body adjust to colder weather.

Another tip is to watch out for drafts, usually underneath doors and around the windows. Grab an old rag and pinch it around the bottom of your door to prevent the flow of cold air from getting through. Here is something else you can do to block the cold air from entering. Tape around the edges of your windows

that you think are drafty, and move that chair away from the window. Speaking of windows, they do get cold. If you have curtains, close them at night to reflect the cold back and away from you, and re-open them in the morning when the sun is out.

Here is a tip that you have probably heard before. Close rooms that you are not using to preserve the heat in the room you are occupying. What you want is a space of heat in your room that you don't have to share with the rest of the house.

Now, here is an old trick passed down through generations. If you have a throw rug, put it down. Tiled floors and uninsulated floorboards can make you feel cold when you are walking on them. Setting a rug down can trap that heat between your feet and the rug. The truth is when temperatures start dropping, it takes approximately two to three weeks for your body to adjust. It will be a little uncomfortable for a while, so go outside more often. Spending a minimum of two hours a day outside can also help you to adjust. Here in Ocala, we may not have the temperatures that overtake places like Terre Haute, Indiana, or Minot, North Dakota, but because we are used to a hotter climate, it may take you a while to adjust to 29 degrees. Be prepared, adjust your body to the cold gracefully, and stay healthy.

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Ashford Happenings

Anabel Parra &
Julio Garrido



Ashford finished 2024 with a sold-out Christmas party attended by over 240 residents at The Lodge at Candler Hills.

This annual event is the culmination of many hours of planning decorations, entertainment, and neighborhood potluck meals by Ashford residents in which everyone takes great pride. John Walsh directed our annual golf cart tour around the community. We enjoyed the festive lights in various neighborhoods. It's marvelous to witness the creative spirit in our piece of paradise!



Ashford's golf cart tour and away they go!

Photo by Michelle Walsh

To kick off the year, Ashford is having their second aloha luau with live entertainment featuring Sala's South Sea Revue. This exciting event is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 23, from 4 to 8 p.m. at The Lodge at Candler Hills. The Ashford cycling group meets weekly at the model park every Saturday, hosted by Dana and Ricardo Johnson. Hand and foot and super samba, hosted by Pam Matuschek, meets every Monday at 12:30 p.m. at The Lodge at Candler Hills.

Candler Connection

Debra Keirn



Your social committee looks forward to a great year, and we're planning some exciting events. The holiday party in December 2024 was a huge success. This event was catered by Pasta Faire and Kathleen Kane provided the music for dancing and listening. 261 Candler Hills residents and guests enjoyed good food and celebrated the holiday season together. Six lucky attendees received gift certificates. A \$1,500 check was given to Interfaith Emergency Services. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with this event. The next potluck dinner will be on Tuesday, Jan. 28, at 5:30 p.m. The theme is breakfast for dinner, featuring our ever-popular pancake station. Attendees with last names beginning with A-H should bring a side dish/salad (for example, bacon, sausage, fruit salad); I-P dessert (for example, coffee cake, doughnuts); and Q-Z a main dish (for example, egg casserole, French toast, quiche). The \$1 entry fee covers tablecloths, eating utensils, plates, and decaf coffee. Please RSVP to Deb Keirn by phone at 352-414-5737, text at 814-571-7908, or email arthurkipdeb@verizon.net to be added to the attendee list. Friday, Feb. 14, will be "An Evening with Dueling Pianos" from 5 to 8 p.m. Bring your own appetizers and/or snacks for your table. Candler Connection will provide delectable desserts to top off the evening. Tickets for this assigned seating event go on sale on Tues-

Mexican Train, hosted by Lucie DeGroot, meets every Thursday at 1 p.m. at The Lodge at Candler Hills. Another Mexican Train group, hosted by Susan Barks, meets Tuesdays at 5 p.m. at the Candler Hills Community Center. Shuffleboard, hosted by Steve and Theresa Armstrong, meets on the second and fourth Wednesday at 5 p.m. at the Veterans Park. Bocce ball meets on the first and third Wednesday at 5 p.m. at The Arbors and is also hosted by Steve and Theresa Armstrong.

days and Thursdays starting on Jan. 7 through Jan. 23 for \$25 per person (\$27 per guest). This is a bring-your-own beverage event with entertainment by Flying Ivorys, which will perform from 6 to 8 p.m. What a great way to celebrate Valentine's Day! Saturday, March 8, will be an evening of music bingo and ice cream treats from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Create your own brownie sundae or banana split. Tickets will be sold on Tuesdays and Thursdays from Jan. 28 through Feb. 13 at a price to be determined. Other upcoming events include:

- March 29: Mardi Gras party from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased Feb. 18 through March 6, from 10 a.m. to noon.
- May 31: Thoroughbred brunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Aug. 10: Ice cream social from 3 to 5 p.m.
- Oct. 31: Halloween Fright Night from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Dec. 12: Holiday party from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

All events and ticket sales occur at The Lodge at Candler Hills (unless otherwise noted). Ticket sales take place from 10 a.m. to noon. Our events will be specified on the Candler Connection logo flyers and outlined in The Happenings. Sign up at candlerconnection.org to receive "The Happenings" and/or join our Candler Hills closed Facebook group to learn about our activities. The next Candler Connection board meeting will be on Jan. 8 at 10 a.m. This meeting is to elect new and returning board members. Any Candler Hills resident is welcome to attend. A happy and healthy 2025 to all! See you around the neighborhood and at future events.



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Finding Zen

Ida Covi
info@sholompark.org



'Reconnect, Restore, Renew' Retreat

Sholom Park and iRewild Institute are thrilled to introduce “Reconnect, Restore, Renew,” a two-day retreat dedicated to rejuvenating mind, body, and soul. Set against the landscapes of Sholom Park, this retreat will take place on Feb. 14 and 15, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The retreat features a range of workshops led by expert practitioners from iRewild Institute. The first day begins with an invitation to step into nature’s embrace. Ida Covi, MA, an ecopsychologist and CEO of iRewild Institute, will guide participants through “Forest

Bathing for Health & Wellness,” a scientifically proven practice to reduce stress and enhance well-being, fostering a profound sense of calm and rejuvenation that restores mind and body.

In the afternoon, author / mythologist Joanna Gardner, PhD, will guide attendees through “Writing as a Gateway to The Soul,” a workshop designed to uncover personal stories and foster a sense of belonging. Using the power of storytelling, participants will tap into their inner landscapes to explore the threads of meaning woven through their lives and rediscover connections to their truest selves.

The day will close with “The Art of Feeling Alive,” a transformative session led by Casandra Akins, LMHC, and Ida Covi, MA. This workshop invites participants to reawaken and remember what it feels like to truly live in the vibrant pulse of life. Over time, we often quiet the song of our souls and lose touch

with the untamed spirit that once filled life with richness and endless possibility. Through physical, emotional, and spiritual exploration, participants will be encouraged to reclaim the part of themselves that longs to live fully and passionately once again.

The second day begins with a tranquil journey into the heart of nature, inviting participants to enter a sanctuary of calm and renewal. “Forest Bathing: Restoring Inner Strength” with Ida Covi, MA, offers a session designed to support healing from life’s challenges. Through mindful immersion in the natural world, participants will reconnect with their inner strength, rediscovering a deep sense of peace and balance. Surrounded by forest, they will find a refuge that nurtures not only mental and emotional well-being but also a renewed connection to themselves.

Later in the day, Peter Angood, MD, introduces “Rethinking Wellness,”

where he’ll share the science of nature’s impact on our health and tackles the startling truth that certain foods, much like cigarettes, may be engineered to be both harmful and highly addictive. Drawing on the latest research, he reveals how we can improve our overall health and life.

The retreat concludes with a transformative quartz crystal bowl “Sound Bath” experience led by Linda Spencer, providing an unforgettable way to close the weekend. This final workshop is a beautiful culmination, allowing participants to carry the retreat’s tranquility back into everyday life.

Registration details are available at masterthepossibilities.org, and early registration is recommended as space is limited. This retreat promises a profound opportunity to step into nature’s embrace and leave with a renewed sense of balance and inner peace.

Longleaf Ridge Friends

Michelle Migdal, Kathleen Taylor, Debra Vitale & Judi Walsh



Most of us remember where we were when the ball dropped on Y2K. While we averted global disruptions, many of us were so immersed in our working and family lives that we could only imagine life a quarter century in the distant future. Who would have envisioned life in the year 2025 with reliance on smart devices and the emergence of artificial intelligence? Retirement was a distant date on the calendar. But in the blink of an eye, we find ourselves enjoying the good life with new friends in a vibrant community.

Longleaf Ridge neighbors gathered outdoors on a beautiful November 2024 afternoon and celebrated the return of our snowbirds. The theme of the party was “homecoming,” and many of us wore our favorite team apparel as we caught up on stories of summer adventures. Delicious appetizers and desserts were so plentiful that the leftovers were taken to the Marion County Fire Rescue Friendship Station 21 to share with first responders. Thanks to Sherry Ott and her team for planning this event.

Gary and Liz Kutý hosted a driveway concert featuring The Crescent Four,

a band comprised of neighbors from Crescent Ridge. Bruce Wissner, Cindy, and Paul Kranz warmed up the audience before Elvis, the fourth member of the group, made a grand entrance. It was a great evening of live music, camaraderie, and delightful weather. Everyone was invited to enjoy pizza with Elvis at the poolside after-party.

The Longleaf Ridge dinner club enjoyed excellent steak dinners at Whispering Oaks Winery in late November 2024. The event was well attended and hosted by Eric and Lisa Anderson.

Longleaf Ridge neighbors gathered to celebrate “Friendsgiving” on Thanksgiving Day this year, with over 35 attending the event at the home of Tom and Sandy Mansfield. A bountiful feast was prepared by the Mansfields, John and Michele Marcinek, and Larry and Dana Sommerfeld. Those who were unable to be with their families on the holiday appreciated the opportunity to celebrate with friends while enjoying a delicious meal.

Our newest neighbors enjoy getting acquainted having drinks on the driveway events as well as getting together for weekly bocce.

Director of Marketing and Brand Strategy Leah Tong from the World Equestrian Center gave a presentation to the men’s group at their monthly luncheon. She discussed plans for this world-class equestrian and multidisciplinary venue.

As our community continues to grow, we look forward to welcoming all the many new neighbors to Longleaf Ridge. Please remember to join our private

Facebook page (OTOW Longleaf Ridge Friends) and provide your phase and lot number /address. Please send questions to otowlongleafridge@gmail.com.



Longleaf Ridge neighbors gather for a homecoming celebration.

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Crescent Ridge Happenings

Carol Lewis



To celebrate December and the holidays it brings, Crescent Ridge residents gathered on Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024 for our monthly social. We were entertained by Wednesday’s Rain. They provided us with lots of oldies to sing along to if we wished.

We were proud that the attendees at December’s social donated a total of 102 pounds of food for the Interfaith Emergency Services food pantry.

Our Crescent Ridge social’s location will be changing in January. Instead of being held in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room, they will be held in the

Arbors Activity Center Event Room, continuing on the second Sunday of each month from 3 to 5 p.m.

Gosh, to think another year has flown by so quickly, and another is starting. Twenty or thirty years ago, did you ever think what you would be doing in 2025? Was it retired and living in a community like On Top of the World with all the amenities it offers? It was only a pipe dream for me to live in such a community, never expecting it to become a reality.

Or was it cruising multiple times a year like so many of our residents do? Was it traveling the world to learn about other cultures and see the beauty of what is before our eyes? It seems so many of us are fortunate to do these many things and more.

Or was it just staying right here and enjoying our own slice of paradise with more activities that one can begin to participate in. Whatever your thoughts

and dreams were those many years ago, I hope you will continue to enjoy them in 2025. So, happy new year to all.

To stay in the know, you may join our Facebook page (OTOW Crescent Ridge

Neighbors) or send an email to crneighbors@yahoo.com to be on our email list. You will only receive emails regarding Crescent Ridge.

Kestrel Knowings

Jan Eaton



As holidays are upon us, this is the time to thank all who make our Kestrel neighborhood great. From the folks who put the flags out for the holidays to honor our veterans and military personnel to the Kestrel Social Committee, the Kestrel ambassador team, the holiday decorating committee, and all those behind-the-scenes spouses who put time and effort into making our events so great. A great big thank you to you.

The second annual food drive to benefit Interfaith Emergency Services (IES) occurred in December 2024. IES was most grateful for the donation, which will help many families.

The Kestrel holiday music bingo event was held in December 2024 with a wonderful group of neighbors and friends. Everyone had a great time singing along to the many holiday songs we grew up with. The competition was over the moment. David Wallace stepped up wearing an emblazoned blazer, with a design that was hard to decipher, perhaps it was Christmas trees, as a contestant in the ugly sweater contest that was part of the night. He won, hands down, not only because he was the only male to enter the event, but because he truly had on an ugly piece of apparel. Conversely, Lynette Perk took home the female honors as she was truly beautiful dressed as a lit Christmas tree.

Many Kestrel neighbors participated in lining their driveways with luminaries; we hope to keep this tradition going for many years to come. Guests visiting our neighborhood during the season are such a welcoming sight.

We hope that you had a happy and healthy holiday season. Happy New Year! I hope to see you out and about in the neighborhood.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR
Pick up after your pet.

Avalon Social Group

Laura Gavey & Sharon Hall



Happy New Year, Avalon! We hope everyone enjoyed themselves at our events in 2024, and we look forward to what 2025 has in store. Come join us on Monday, Jan. 13, when we will have a catered dinner by La Casella Catering and entertainment from Paradise Players. Tickets are still on sale; reach out to Sharon Hall (avalonsocialclub@gmail.com) if you would like to attend. Come and join us for another fun evening. We will also have a 50/50. You have to be in it to win it!

Thanks to those who attended in November 2024, we donated \$100 to Interfaith Emergency Services.

Mark your calendar for our events on the second Monday in March, May, July, September, and November! The committee is working on fun events for our Avalon residents, bringing you additional opportunities to meet your neighbors. Reach out to Sharon if you would like to join the planning committee, share ideas, or help at upcoming events. We need everyone to make this group continue to be successful.

Are you new to Avalon or our social events? There are three ways to keep informed of upcoming events: email, our Facebook group, or posting at the postal center. If you would like to be added to our email list or to verify that you are on the list so that you can be notified of future events, please email your request to avalonsocialclub@gmail.com. For up-to-date Avalon news and upcoming events, we also encourage you to join our Facebook group (Avalon Social Club). This is a private group, and you will be asked for your address to verify that you are an Avalon resident. If you have trouble finding the group or getting in, please email the email address above, and we’ll send you the link to the group. Activities and events will also be posted at the postal center. Here is to a great 2025 for everyone!



Wednesday's Rain.

Photo by Carol Lewis

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Jim and Chris Belonger celebrate at the Williamsburg holiday party.



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Community Emergency Response Team



Debbie Snyder

Shout out to Bruce Twiss and Terry Strey, two of our ham operators, who devised a clever method to anchor an antenna and power their ham radios when traditional power sources are unavailable. They saw the need for a portable and reliable power source coupled with a stable antenna setup. The two designed a lightweight antenna mast that can be easily transported and set up just about anywhere. The mast is anchored using the car's front tire to provide a stable and secure antenna base. The ham radio can be powered by a rechargeable battery, the car's battery, a cigarette lighter socket, or connecting the radio to a 110-volt power when available.

The duo tested their setup at our last CERT meeting. They had clear communication, giving us peace of mind that we would have reliable, portable communication in any area of On Top of the World.

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

Please consider becoming a member of CERT. Volunteers gain skills to help themselves, their family, and their closest neighbors in a disaster. CERT training is a comprehensive program developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to educate and train community members in basic disaster response skills. Members undergo training at the Marion County Sheriff's Office. When professional responders are overwhelmed or delayed, CERT members can step in to provide immediate assistance.

If you would like to become a CERT volunteer, you are welcome to come to one of our meetings and see what we do. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room. Our next meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 14. We will also have a table set up on Wednesday, Jan. 15, at Circle Square Cultural Center during the Master the Possibilities "Senior Protection Educational Event." The event runs from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We will have applications and other information on hand if you would like to become a volunteer. For more information about CERT or upcoming meetings, please contact on-topoftheworldcert@gmail.com.



Photo by Debbie Snyder
Bruce Twiss with antenna setup.

Community Patrol



Rocky Pizzarello

As this column is being written, 2024 is ending, and it was quite a year. On Top of the World continued to grow in terms of residents and amenities. In Ocala, and as a community, we weathered two storms gracefully. Through it all, your Community Patrol continued to support the Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) safety programs by keeping an extra set of eyes on our neighborhoods and looking for ways to better serve you.

At the close of November 2024, there were 49 members in the Community Patrol. As an example of how we keep busy, in November alone, there were 55 separate patrols conducted by 47 volunteer drivers and observers for a total of 284 hours. We visited our neighborhoods 820 separate times, covering 1,292 miles. For comparison, during the first 11 months of 2024, there were 572 patrol shifts visiting the various neighborhoods 8,302 times. We're on track to beat those numbers in 2025! And because we're volunteers of the MCSO, there is no charge to On Top of The World for our services.

The Community Patrol anticipates some minor changes in 2025. MCSO will provide volunteers in all their programs with new uniform shirts, and there will be additional training to ensure volunteers know how to handle different types of situations we may encounter.

2025 will also represent 20 years of the Community Patrol's service to the residents of On Top of The World. We are fortunate to have several members who will be celebrating their 20-year anniversaries with the club.

As always, if you're interested in the Community Patrol or curious about what we do and why we do it, we encourage you to attend one of our monthly meetings. We meet at 3 p.m. on the fourth Monday of every month in the Hobby Building Event Room. Come to a meeting and learn what we do to make our community safer – and consider becoming a volunteer.

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Newcastle Social Committee



Nancy Monaghan

Newcastle residents welcomed December 2024 with the second annual "Light Up Newcastle" celebration, a fantastic, fun evening to kick off the holidays! Special thanks to Jimmy Gil-land and the elves who decorated the Newcastle entrances. In addition to the entrance decorations, Newcastle homes looked beautiful, with matching luminarias lining the streets and joining homes together.

A big crowd of neighbors and friends gathered at the Dodge entrance for the countdown to the event. Thank you to Charles and Linda Dodge, who served deliciously decadent hot cocoa, mulled cider, and libations. The refreshments were especially welcome since everyone was feeling frosty!

The next stop was the home of Mike and Debbie Bianchi. Newcastle enjoyed their fabulous and festively decorated home and a beautifully presented and delicious buffet. Neighbors then donned headsets and had an absolute blast dancing to the music at a silent dance party/pajama party. Everyone had so much fun - thank you, Mike and Debbie, for your hospitality and a great celebration.

What would the holiday be without cookies? Ten Newcastle bakers attended a cookie recipe swap on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024, at The Lodge at Candler Hills. Hostess Deb Bianchi served coffee and

homemade cinnamon rolls. Neighbors brought several dozen of their favorite holiday cookies along with the recipe. A cookie tasting was enjoyed, and the remaining cookies were shared at the Newcastle holiday party. Thank you, bakers, for the wonderful additions to the party's dinner.

"Shake It Up" Newcastle was the theme of the holiday party on Friday, Dec. 6, 2024. The centerpiece of the decorations was a giant snow globe (built by Wolfgang Langer) with a twinkling dark backdrop. A photographer took pictures of guests as they posed inside the snow globe. White twinkling birch trees were decorated with snow globe ornaments personalized with everyone's picture, handcrafted by Meg Kajewski. Thank you, Meg, for creating special moments every year.

After a blessing by Judy Murphy, the buffet was opened. Live Fire Chefs did a great job catering the party. The menu consisted of a shrimp cocktail and a delicious prime rib dinner, along with salad, pasta Alfredo, potatoes, green beans, and cake. The CJ Wild Cherry DJs got everyone up and dancing to great music.

The committee – Sherry Bright, Alex-is Reisinger, Anne McCauley, Bea Keleman, Sandy Randles, and Sheila Hymes – did a fantastic job. Special thanks to the committee and everyone who helped transport, build, and disassemble the displays, decorate, set up, and clean up at the end of the evening.

As we say goodbye to 2024, your Newcastle neighbors wish everyone a happy 2025! In the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year."

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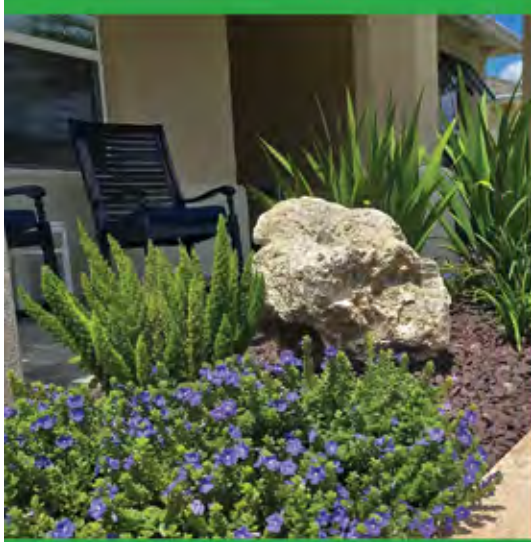
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Traveling to New Zealand

By Rosalina Norita

Discover the significance of Waitangi Treaty Grounds, New Zealand! My husband and I took a day trip to Waitangi Island in New Zealand, and it was a

journey through history as we explored the site of the signing of the Waitangi Treaty between the British government and the Maori, the indigenous people of

New Zealand, on Feb. 6, 1840. The treaty grounds are distinguished by a flagstaff with three official flags since 1834: The Te-Kara flag of the United Tribes of New Zealand, the Union flag (1840-1902), and the flag of New Zealand (1902-present). We had the opportunity to visit Te Whare Runanga, an intricately carved meeting house embodying a traditional design that opened on Feb. 6, 1940. The

carvings within Te Whare Runanga reflect the stories and styles of various iwi tribes from across Aotearoa. Additionally, we witnessed the impressive Ngatokimatawhaorua, the world’s largest ceremonial waka taua, sheltered under Te Korowai o Maikuku near Hobson’s Beach. This ceremonial canoe is used for special occasions and holidays. We had a remarkable experience visiting the Te Rau Aroha Museum, which honors the legacy of Maori soldiers who fought in various wars since 1840 – the New Zealand Wars, Boer War, and World War I and II. The museum upholds the values of Article 3 of the Treaty of Waitangi and showcases the significant sacrifices made by these soldiers. With the aid of cutting-edge technology, the museum offers an immersive and captivating experience divided into three galleries. At Te Kongahu Museum of Waitangi, we were immersed in a comprehensive depiction of Waitangi’s history and the founding documents of Aotearoa, New Zealand, showcased through the artful combination of stories and taonga. The museum prompts visitors to consider the Treaty’s contemporary implications through quotes and images that express the thoughts of New Zealanders from diverse backgrounds, creating a truly enriching experience. We concluded our journey with a captivating cultural performance at Te Whare Runanga, which showcased traditional Maori music and dance for 30 minutes. Their vibrant performance left us enthralled, and we even took photos with the performers afterwards. We highly recommend visiting Waitangi, New Zealand, to experience the unique blend of European and Oceanic cultures that define the nation and its citizens’ vibrant way of life.



Te Whare Runanga, the impressive carved meeting house designed in traditional form, features the stories and carving styles of iwi tribes from across Aotearoa.

Photo by Rosalina Norita

January through June Curriculum Kick-Off

By Ray Cech
World News Writer

It was another exciting day at Circle Square Cultural Center on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024, as the Master the Possibilities’ January through June curriculum kick-off took place. More than 400 enthusiastic visitors crowded the venue to hear about upcoming classes – and they weren’t disappointed. There will be more than 950 class opportunities this term, and 1,350 guests registered for classes at the kick-off. Several of the instructors who were present to discuss their classes signed up to offer a “free pass” to anyone who pulled a winning lottery number. Twenty of the attendees drew lucky numbers and will enjoy their class of choice for free. The January through June catalog is now available. You can sign up for classes via phone, online, or in person. “Cruise into Learning” is a moving theme for this term. For the very first time, Master the Possibilities will be

hosting classes at sea aboard the Carnival Mardi Gras. It’s a six-day cruise leaving on Sunday, June 15, and returning on Saturday, June 21. This is an opportunity to meet others with similar interests and spend time with the Master the Possibilities staff. Classes to be held aboard the Mardi Gras will be announced prior to weighing anchor, giving everyone time to select one or more of the presentations. All classes will be free of charge. For those wishing to feel some land under their feet, the Mardi Gras will visit the ports of Nassau, Amber Cove, and Grand Turk. There is always plenty to do on the islands: snorkeling, riding the dunes, visiting old towns, kayaking, or maybe just stretching out on the beach with a cold pina colada! A bus will be available on the morning of June 15 for those wishing to leave their car at home and take a leisurely ride to Port Canaveral. The cost is \$45. You can book the bus and the cruise at MasterthePossibilities.org/cruise.



Master the Possibilities curriculum kick-off in November 2024.

Photo by Rich Cupertino



Marion County Memorial Honor Guard.

Photo by Charles Dodge

Plan to Make a Difference in 2025

By Charles Calhoun

January is a time of renewed hope. A time to embark on a journey of commitment to make a difference in your life and your community. We can offer a challenge to our fellow veterans that will make the rest of their lives rewarding and fruitful. Our Veterans Club volunteers are a vital part of the Marion County fabric of veteran life. I will list just a few of the many ways you can contribute to Ocala. The Marion County Memorial Honor Guard performed over 200 ceremonies in 2024. Our hospice veteran recognition team paid honors to hundreds of veterans through the system. We collected Toys for Tots. We held food and disaster relief collections for victims of food insecurity and hurricane relief. We helped veterans navigate the VA pathways through our new Veterans Resource Center. Vets Helping Vets provided food, over-the-counter products, paths to employment and many other services. The Marion County Veterans Council is working on providing housing to disabled veterans with two new hous-

ing projects through the Marion County Home for Veterans project. We helped Mary Beth Bell provide over 500 bears and blankets to the Marion County Sheriff’s Office and the Ocala Police Department. Our American Legion awarded over \$6,000 in help for community projects. The Blue Star Mothers raised and distributed over \$14,000 to community projects. The Vet Resource Center was awarded \$350,000 in grants for the early detection of cancer in Vietnam veterans and Gulf War burn pit veterans. The Marion County Veterans Council started a Hometown Heroes project, placing banners of our living heroes in the Ocala Veterans Park. If you are a resident veteran, I challenge you to make a difference in 2025. Join one of our volunteer groups and make a difference in your community that you can look back on with pride. The Veterans Club meets monthly on the third Thursday of the month at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV at 3 p.m.

Tech Tips

Shane Bobson
info@mybridgenet.com



Understanding Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi has become a staple in our daily lives, providing wireless internet connectivity for everything from smartphones to smart home devices. The two most common frequencies used for Wi-Fi are 2.4GHz and 5GHz. Both have their advantages and limitations, and understanding these differences can help you make the best choice for your internet needs.

WHAT IS WI-FI FREQUENCY? Wi-Fi signals travel through the air in the form of radio waves, and these waves operate at different frequencies. The two most common frequencies for Wi-Fi networks are 2.4GHz and 5GHz, with each offering distinct characteristics that impact performance.

2.4GHZ WI-FI: THE STANDARD OPTION: The 2.4GHz frequency has been around the longest and is widely supported by almost all Wi-Fi devices. It operates over a broader range, which means it can cover a larger area compared to 5GHz. This makes 2.4GHz ideal for larger spaces, where the Wi-Fi signal needs to travel through walls and other obstructions. However, the 2.4GHz band is often crowded with interference because it's shared by many other household devices, such as cordless phones, micro-

waves, and baby monitors. This congestion can slow down your connection speeds, especially in densely populated areas or homes with many electronic devices.

Despite this, 2.4GHz Wi-Fi is generally more reliable in terms of range, making it a good choice for devices that don't require high-speed connections, such as smart thermostats, printers, or older devices that may not support 5GHz.

5GHZ WI-FI: THE SPEEDIER OPTION: On the other hand, the 5GHz band offers faster speeds and better performance for activities that require high data rates, like streaming HD videos, online gaming, or large file transfers. This higher frequency allows for less interference and less congestion compared to 2.4GHz, as it's less commonly used by non-Wi-Fi devices.

The downside of 5GHz is its range. Since higher frequencies are less capable of penetrating walls and other obstacles, the 5GHz signal has a shorter range. If you are using a Wi-Fi router in a large house or office, you might notice the 5GHz signal weakens as you move further away from the router. This can be mitigated by placing the router in a central location or using range extenders.

WHICH SHOULD YOU USE? The choice between 2.4GHz and 5GHz largely depends on your needs:

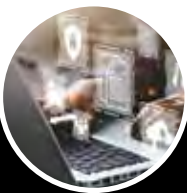
- Use 2.4GHz if you need broader coverage and have fewer devices or if your devices are further away from the router.
- Use 5GHz if you want faster speeds for tasks like gaming, streaming,

or downloading large files and if you are close to the router.

Many modern routers offer dual-band functionality, allowing them to broadcast both 2.4GHz and 5GHz signals simultaneously. This means devices can automatically connect to the band that best suits their needs.

Technology Club

Chris Kilbride



Every Saturday at 9 a.m., the Ocala Tech Club meets for an hour through our weekly online Zoom meetings. We discuss Windows and Apple issues regarding software and hardware. Our OcalaTechClub.org website will give lots of great information about our group.

One long over-due task is to review our little gadgets that transfer data between devices, those older USB or memory sticks, also called thumb or flash drives. Check your desk drawers, boxes, even the back of the TV. Invented in Singapore in 2000 with up to 64MB capacity, the USB flash drive became a portable storage choice.

If you were handed a free stick during a company's promotion years ago, it won't be of the highest quality. Flash storage gets corrupted as the electrical charge fades during years of not being used. When constantly using this flash storage, the chips will stop functioning after so many cycles of their data blocks being erased and rewritten, but the average personal use should be fine. Take care not to wet, drop, bend, store in high heat areas like your car or near magnets, and don't pull it out of the computer or tablet without first formally using the Eject function. Editing files directly on the drive uses up write cycles faster, so do your work on the computer, then just store the file on the flash drive.

Never use a stick that you don't know where it originally came from, since

Both 2.4GHz and 5GHz have their pros and cons, and understanding the differences can help you optimize your Wi-Fi network. For broad coverage, 2.4GHz is a solid choice, while 5GHz is better for speed and performance in closer proximity to the router.

it might be a "curiosity killed the cat" hackers' scheme of infecting malware into your computer. Another good reason to have already installed a quality antivirus program.

Your new year's mission is to gather all your old USB sticks, copy any still pertinent data onto your computer, wipe the data, and reformat the stick. Trashing might lead to others recovering your deleted files. Purchasing high-quality solid-state flash memory now will cost a bit more (but your data is worth it), up to 2TB capacity, more reliable, made with high-end controllers, error correction, and the durable NAND flash will last longer.

Buy from reputable companies, but use them for temporary data storage, transferring information between devices. The best data storage would still be your computer or tablet's hard drive, which should also be backed up to an external hard drive, and don't forget cloud storage too. Be aware that all types of storage formats, even CDs and DVDs fail at some point, hence backup regularly. It is best to have your most precious files in two or three different places that are accessible and secure.

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

Each Thursday, members enjoy in-person help sessions in the Hobby Building, where they discuss their Windows or Apple computer, smartphone, or tablet issues. In-person classes are on the first Friday and first Saturday of each month, with online Zoom meetings held on additional Saturdays.

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SPCA of Marion County

Heather Tahan



The SPCA of Marion County is an all-volunteer organization always looking for volunteers to support our many initiatives and keep the organization running smoothly. Examples of help needed are greeters at our table at the weekly Circle Square Commons Farmers Market, administrative support in fundraising, accounting/bookkeeping, computer skills (Word/Excel), and coordinating speakers and activities. If you'd like to learn more about us, please join us (and bring a friend or two) at our monthly meeting every third Thursday at 1 p.m. at the Friendship Baptist Church, Fellowship Hall, 9510 SW 105th Street, Ocala, Florida 34481. Our next regular meeting will be on Thursday, Jan. 16.

At our November 2024 meeting, an election was held to select 2025 officers. Congratulations, and thank you to our outgoing and incoming officers. Your selflessness and commitment to helping pets in need are remarkable and greatly appreciated.

Outgoing 2024 officers are President Marcia VanDaele, President/Recording Secretary Melanie Vittitow, Vice President Paulette Bourgon, and Treasurer Connie Robinson. Incoming 2025 offi-

cers are President Marlene Hatch, Vice President Paulette Bourgon, Treasurer Julie Rojas, and Secretary Melanie Vittitow.

Also, a huge thank you to those who donated to our giving trees throughout On Top of the World in December 2024. Your generosity is truly awe-inspiring and will help countless pets in our local area.

As we think about our resolutions, please consider volunteering for a cause that moves you. It sometimes feels overwhelming to make a difference, but even small efforts can build into enormous gains. Volunteerism is the bedrock of civil society. For those millions of citizens willingly giving of themselves with no ulterior motives except to help make life better, we are thankful. The SPCA of Marion County and I wish you all well and hope 2025 is your best year yet!

Donations of pet food and supplies will be accepted on the porch of Evelyn Sarns Holiday at 8880-C SW 94th St, Ocala, Florida 34481. To avoid accidental ingestion by a pet, please do not use staples to close open bags. SPCA donates to local Marion County shelters. By giving items to the SPCA of Marion County, you also support local shelters.

To learn more about our organization, please visit SPCAofMarionCounty.weebly.com, follow us on Facebook (Marion County FL SPCA), or email us at spca.marion.county@gmail.com.

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

Scandinavian American Club

David Wesenberg



The next meeting of the Scandinavian American Club will be Wednesday, Jan. 28, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room.

You may be part Scandinavian and not know it. I did a DNA check and found that I am one-eighth Norwegian. Who knew?

My wife Vernette's great-grandfather, Swan Sandell, was a farmer in Sweden with a wife and 11 children. Swan had always wanted to go to the United States, so he packed up his family, purchased passage to the US via ship, and headed for the United States.

Unfortunately, he did not tell the kids

where they were going, and six of them, nearly fully grown, booked passage right back to Sweden. Swan headed for Minneapolis along with the rest of the kids. He and three boys ended up working for the Milwaukee Road. Helga (Vernette's grandmother) married and divorced a man named Miller and had one son, Vernon, Vernette's father. She worked for the University of Minnesota Laundry. She saved her money and visited her siblings several times in Sweden and Denmark. Helga taught herself to read and write English and Swedish as she did not attend school.

The Scandinavian American Club is an excellent opportunity to meet new people, share stories and experiences, and have a great time.

Whether you have a Scandinavian background or not, join us for the fun if you feel Scandinavian. For more information, contact Arlene Chilcott at chilcottarlene21@gmail.com.

Global Diversity Asian Social Club

Rosalina Norita



Our Christmas celebration was a resounding success as members of the Global Diversity Asian Social Club and their guests enjoyed an evening of merriment and entertainment. Members included residents from diverse backgrounds who enjoyed the performances and a variety of dishes, both Asian and otherwise, at the monthly potluck meal afterward.

First on the program was a captivating rendition of "Let There Be Peace on Earth" by Acabella. Acabella is a women's vocal ensemble singing four-part harmonies in the a cappella style of Pentatonix and Pitch Perfect.

Next was AJ Lowe, who sang two songs, "Let It Snow" and "Little Drummer Boy" while playing ukulele.

After AJ's solo performances, all members sang "Silent Night" in Mandarin, guided by Mari Prasad, followed by the lively duet of Shizuka Campagna and Hisako Sawai to sing "Jingle Bells" in Japanese. AJ sang and played the piano while Karen Lowe played the ukulele.

At a member's request, we also sang "Feliz Navidad." Then, to end the evening of merriment, we sang "We Wish

You a Merry Christmas" in English, French, German, and Italian as AJ guided us through the various languages.

All members thoroughly enjoyed the exquisite cuisine and lively music, which drew immense joy from the delightful company of spouses, friends, and acquaintances. As the calendar turns to 2025, club members would like to wish everyone a year filled with vibrant health, profound happiness, and unparalleled joy.

Happy New Year!

Eco Gardeners



Phil Karcheski

Starting a garden in Florida presents many challenges; it can be a fulfilling and exciting experience. When starting a garden, consideration must include several factors: our warm climate, sandy soil, and pests. You must plant accordingly to achieve a bountiful garden that can bring joy and beauty.

First, consider Florida's climate; the soil may be different than what you had encountered before coming to Florida. It is unique with heat and humidity most of the year, though an occasional cold snap can be devastating to your garden. Plants that you grew in other parts of the country may not thrive well in Florida, though some are perfectly suited to Florida's warm, wet climate, including tomatoes, peppers, collard green, peanuts, and watermelons. Florida's climate and soil will help you pick the correct plants, and when choosing, it is important to consider sunlight, soil, watering, the growing zone, and dealing with pests and insects.

When choosing plants, it is important to consider where they are grown. Strive to buy plants that are started locally as they have been acclimated to our region, increasing your odds of success. Soil tests are available through the Marion County Extension Office to determine how much and what kind of fertilizer and soil amendments your plants need to increase your odds of success.

Attention needs to be paid to watering, fertilizing, and maintaining your plants to keep them healthy. Our climate is hot and humid, which makes it necessary to water them deeply and evenly in the morning or late evening when evaporation is at a minimum. Overwatering causes root rot; therefore, it's important to measure the soil moisture level using an inexpensive meter that has multiple functions for light, pH, moisture, and fertility.

Over-fertilizing can cause more damage to the plant and the environment when runoff enters a body of water. Vigilant monitoring of weeds and pests that are common in our environment is necessary to control aphids, white flies, spider mites, potato beetles, and nematodes, which are a few of these threats that can quickly damage your plants. There are many organic controls available, including insecticidal soaps, neem oil, and beneficial insects, which can naturally control pest populations.

Fungal diseases are another problem to deal with in our hot and humid climate. When combating them, it's important to provide air circulation by pruning the bottom leaves of your plants regularly and spacing them out appropriately for ventilation to prevent the fungus from spreading by raindrops splashing on contaminated soil to the bottom leaves. Organic fungicides on the market, including neem oil and biological controls, are sometimes effective. Always read the labels carefully. Improper application can cause damage.

Pictures taken of insects on the plant, the damage they have done, or sickly plants may be identified in the Google lens app. Contact the Marion County Extension office for instructions on how to send your pictures to the master gardeners for help. That number is 352-671-8400. Good luck and enjoy your garden.

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Ohio Buckeyes Social Club



Amy Ingram

On Friday, Dec. 13, 2024, the Ohio Buckeyes Social Club hosted our annual Christmas party. Over 50 members and guests enjoyed a wonderful catered dinner by Fresh Plates Creative Catering. In addition, members danced the night away with a DJ and had an amazing visit from Santa Claus. Members had the chance to win one of many prizes and had a great time making memories at our photo booth area.

We have a wonderful newly organized social committee, and they are hard at work planning our next events. If you are a member interested in joining the social committee, please contact us and we will set you up with this group of talented individuals.

If you are not a member of the Ohio Buckeyes Social Club and would like to join, please contact us at buckeye-fans34481@gmail.com. Membership to the Ohio Buckeyes Social Club is open to residents only who have any connections to the state of Ohio. Membership is \$15 per person annually. Additionally, look for us on our Facebook page (Residents of On Top of the World Buckeye Social Club).

Freethinkers



Ellen Callahan

Happy 2025! Are you tired of your same old Sunday ritual? Are you looking for a Sunday club that provides stimulating conversation? Then check us out!

The Freethinkers Club aims to provide a safe place for atheists, humanists, freethinkers, ex-clergy, and all religious skeptics to socialize and discuss relevant issues.

We are people guided by logic rather than faith who pursue knowledge and reasoned decisions and do good for their own sake. We learn, discuss, and integrate new information in a supportive and respectful environment. We research, discuss, review contemporary topics, and share our thoughts and insights. We support the separation of church and state, human rights, and the care of our environment.

We share in the spirit of the “Humanist Ten Commitments.”

1. Critical thinking (practice good judgment by asking questions and thinking for myself).
2. Ethical development (focus on becoming a better person).
3. Peace and social justice (help people solve problems and handle disagreements fairly for everyone).
4. Service and participation (help my community in ways that let me get to know the people I’m helping).
5. Altruism (help others without hoping for rewards).
6. Humility (be aware of my strengths and weaknesses and appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of others).
7. Environmentalism (take care of the Earth and life on it.).
8. Global awareness (be a good neighbor to the people who share the Earth with me and help make the world a better place for everyone).
9. Responsibility (be a good person – even when no one is looking – and own the consequences of my actions).
10. Empathy (consider other people’s thoughts, feelings, and experiences).

The Freethinkers Club meets biweekly on Sundays from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room for educational programming, followed by small group discussion and social time.

The Freethinkers Club also meets twice a month for lunch or dinner. We meet weekly for bocce ball and have a monthly women’s lunch network.

In 2025, we plan to roll out our Freethinkers book club. Are you interested in Bertrand Russell, Yuval Noah Harari (author of Sapiens), Socrates, Aristotle, Dawkins, Hitchens, Einstein, Atheism for Dummies, or David Williamson? Email us and ask about our new book club.

We also welcome members and outside speakers to present relevant topics on the environment, politics, animal rights, human rights, etc. We would love to hear from you in 2025!

If you have any questions, please email us at freethinkersflorida@gmail.com or visit us at freethinkersflorida.com.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Pick up after your pet.

Birders’ Beat



Linda Monaco

On Friday, Jan. 31, the birders will visit Lake Apopka and take the North Shore Wildlife Drive located at 2850 Lust Road, Apopka, Florida. This drive will be limited to five vehicles and will be led by Maxfield Weakley, vice president of the Marion County Audubon Society.

The route is 11 miles long, takes about two hours to complete, and is only open for vehicular traffic on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and federal holidays. Lake Apopka is the fourth largest lake in Florida and is fed by rainwater, storm run-off, and a natural spring. It’s considered to be one of the top three birding sites in the entire state of Florida. The other two are Everglades National Park and Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge.

The North Shore area used to be made up of muck farms, which are defined as drained wetlands used for agricultural purposes, most often for growing vegetables or flowers. The restoration of the farmlands to functioning wetlands has created a haven for wildlife and a popular destination for birders, hikers, bikers, and nature lovers.

The drive meanders along the eastern side of the property. The speed limit is 10 miles per hour, and stopping is limited to designated pull-offs along the route. During the winter months, the bird population soars to over 150 species, including egrets, herons, warblers, and flycatchers. In the 2014 Christmas Bird Count, Lake Apopka North Shore had the highest number of bird species recorded for all inland (versus coastal) sites. The marshes also provide a habitat for alligators, bobcats, otters, bears, raccoons, and coyotes.

If you would like to join the birders for this trip to Lake Apopka on Friday, Jan. 31, please contact Margitta Claterbos at mclaterbos@gmail.com. We will meet at 6:45 a.m. in the parking lot of Friendship Center just outside the SW 99th Street gate for On Top of the World and depart at 7 a.m. The wildlife drive is located about 90 minutes from On Top of the World and has no water available on the trail.

Special group outings are also being planned for people who want to partici-



White ibis.

pate in shorter bird walks, usually on paved surfaces. Norm Lantz will be leading the first such walk at Sholom Park on Monday, Jan. 6 at 9 a.m. Please contact him at normbirder91@gmail.com if you are interested or have questions.

Norm will also be conducting an informational meeting about the shorter

bird walks at Master the Possibilities. The class is called “Birding for Very Senior Citizens” (Course #EPW156) and will be held on Friday, Jan. 24, at 1 p.m. The cost will be \$5 for members and \$10 for the general public. You can register at masterthepossibilities.org.

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Active
Singles Club

Catherine White



December through March are perfect for hiking in Florida. Last month, our members made their way through some beautiful trails in Sweetwater Wetlands Park, Baseline Road Trailhead, and took a shorter walk in the paved Ocala Recharge Park.

If you love nature, you will enjoy these pristine kept trails, walkways, and wetlands. The boardwalks allow you to explore more areas where a walk through the woods and the wetlands would be impossible. Hikers enjoyed the wildlife habitat, including alligators, wild horses, sandhill cranes, osprey, blue herons, turtles, and snakes! Lunch afterward is always a nice time to share the experience and get to know what our members like or want to experience in the future.

Did you know there are 34 hiking trails and 83 different habitats in the Ocala area? In January, we wander back to Ocala Recharge Park and Ocklawaha and Carney Island trails. The breeze carries the scent of orange blossoms from some of the northernmost commercial groves in Florida. Lake Weir is a palatable presence, even though the trails focus on the oak hammocks, which provide a natural, air-conditioned walk. Don't miss out.

SWANS

Lois Nix



May 2025 bring peace to our community and to the rest of the world. The SWANS are looking forward to another fun and active year. Retirement can be fun and rewarding if you let it.

We ended 2024 with 151 active SWANS, who were involved in many social events. Our appetizer-in, lunch-in, and dinner-in groups are still popular. Eating out for breakfast, lunch, and dinner is also ongoing, and cards are played every Saturday. Thank you to those who can volunteer.

We had special events during 2024, which included the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings orange grove, Haile Plantation, Ma Barker House, and Daytona Beach.

The SWANS' mission is to establish a safe, social, and supportive life for single women. Over the years, strong bonds of friendship have been established by traveling together on cruises, going to the theater, taking bus trips, and going shopping. If you are a newly single woman, visit our table on Thursday, Jan. 30 at the bi-annual Club Fair, which will be held at Circle Square Cultural Center.

SWANS are never alone. SWANS are never forgotten.

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We closed 2024 with club participation in the Holiday Golf Cart Parade and two great parties, one for the holidays and another for New Year's Eve. Both parties were a tremendous success and well attended. The band and DJ kept folks dancing, and of course, the food was sourced locally and was delicious.

In 2025, we can look forward to many of our popular activities, including bowling, bunco, bocce, darts, Mexican train, pickleball, the first Saturday at the museum, and our monthly golf scramble. However, there are some exciting new activities to look forward to!

Is there an activity you have a passion for? Kayaking? Boating? The Tampa/Orlando nightlife? Are you a moviegoer? Have you always wanted to zip line? Email us and let us know. We have a committee to assist members in turning ideas into reality. The committee is reviewing potential activities now, such as day trips to DeLeon Springs, winery tours, Cedar Lakes Woods & Gardens, Santa Fe Natural History Museum, and much, much more.

Are you a new resident? Do you want to make new friends? Visit otowactivesingles.com and explore our mission and calendar of events. Sign-up is easy and online. Dues are \$25 annually, and if you utilize a credit card, renewal can be done automatically. You can also send us an email at otowactivesingles@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page (OTOW active singles club). Residents must have a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass to participate.

Joy in the Mourning

Deb Thompson



Much joy was evident at our Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2024. Cheerful music played softly in the background as we ate lots of delicious food and desserts. Once we had our fill of nourishment, the fun festivities began. A crazy gift bag exchange took place. This is where you either make a friend or possibly lose one. Only in a figurative sense!

Also, the contest for the most festive attire transpired. All contestants were wonderfully brave. Limited red bows could adorn only three participants. Our talented poet touched our hearts as she read her holiday poem, especially for this occasion. Many could relate to the message.

Remembering 'tis the season for giving, the class previously decided to donate skeins of yarn that would contribute to a worthy cause. A resident knits up

to 100 sweaters yearly for needy schoolchildren in Marion County. Perhaps you read about her in the November 2024 issue of the World News highlighting her as a community champion!

Keeping with the philosophy, "it is better to give than receive" is an important healing aspect. Truly, we reap what we sow.

All this happened while we welcomed a newcomer to our class. He may have thought he entered the wrong classroom as laughter and chatter filled the air! It was quite a refreshing reprieve everyone enjoyed and needed.

The class focused on ways to survive the holidays. Necessary tips to avoid awkward situations was discussed. Preparation can deter discouraging remarks that place a damper on celebrations meant to be uplifting.

Joy in the Mourning exists with doses of hope and reassurance. Visit us. See if being a part of this group may help you – there is no obligation to stay. We meet every Tuesday at the Hobby Building Event Room. Doors open at 12:30 pm. The class ends at 2:15 pm. For more information, contact Deb at 352-445-4860.



Gary, Shirley, and Linda show off their festive attire at Joy in the Mourning.

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Michigan Club

Nancy Meininger



Having trouble sticking to your resolutions? Then come to Michigan Club’s Sunday, Jan. 5, potluck at 5 p.m. to learn how it’s done!

Meet us at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-III to hear our national award-winning keynote speaker, Fitness Director Cammy Dennis, on “Active Aging.” Cammy will reveal the secret to a successful, long, and healthy life.

According to author Conor Devine, “Scientists believe that over 75% of all illnesses are a result of the environment we keep ... including what we eat, drink, the air we breathe, how we think and interact with others and finally how we move ... in other words, our lifestyle.”

Here at On Top of the World, we have plenty of lifestyle choices. Cammy stands at the top of the “looking and feeling good” choice.

Cammy’s certifications from the American Council on Exercise, the Athletics and Fitness Association of America, and the National Association for Fitness all add up to her unwritten title, the “health whisperer!” She is an amazing resource we have right here in On Top of the World!

Launching our 2025 season with every reason to have a great year, we will follow up at our February meeting with Dee Collier, the much-loved historical actress, about Valentine’s Day from the viewpoint of the mistress of Al Capone.

Following that, in March, we will hear from Linda Letcher, a resident of Ocala’s historic district, about the history of our city beyond horses and how it literally rose up from the ashes. As an example, did you know Ocala was once the cigar capital of Florida? This is our St. Patrick’s Day meeting, so wear your green!

April then brings the all-time favorite Coney Island picnic. Stay tuned!

Remember to bring your plate set-ups and a beverage of choice for yourself and your spouse. Healthy potluck dishes should follow here. If your last name begins with A-K, bring a main dish; L-R, bring a dessert; and S-Z, bring a vegetable or salad.

Michigan Club is open to all residents who have any ties to Michigan, whether you lived there or not. Please join us. With questions, text Nancy Meininger at 352-554-0757.



On Top of the World’s Fitness Director Cammy Dennis.

Rhode Island Group

Judy Parisi



The National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., was dedicated in the spring of 2004. It is located at the east end of the Reflecting Pool between the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument. It honors the 16 million individuals who served in the armed forces of the United States during World War II.

The design for the memorial was submitted by Friedrich St. Florian, an Austrian-born architect, who joined the Rhode Island School of Design faculty in 1963.

The memorial was primarily funded by private contributions in a campaign led by the late Senator Bob Dole, a World War II veteran decorated with the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, and Frederick Smith, the former chair of FedEx.

On the north side is an arch depicting the victory over the Axis powers in Europe, and on the south side, a triumphal arch for the victory in the Pacific. Twelve bronze bas-reliefs highlight the travails of the war on the home front and the battles waged on land, air, and sea. There are images of troops landing on beaches in the South Pacific and Normandy, along with images of farmers and factory workers. In the center of the memorial are statements from Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman, author Walter Lord, and commanding officers of the United States military.

On the west side are 4,048 gold stars above a reflecting pool. A granite marker cites: “Here We Mark the Price of Freedom.”

There are 56 columns surrounding the field of gold stars. They represent the 48 states and eight territories, including Alaska, Hawaii, and the Philippines. Wreaths decorate each column in the form of wheat (representing agriculture) and oak (representing the strength of industry). A heavy rope goes between the columns, a symbol of unity.

Walter Lord’s inscribed words read: “They had no right to win. Yet they did ... even against the greatest of odds, there is something in the human spirit, a magic blend of skill, faith, and valor that can lift men from certain defeat to incredible victory.”

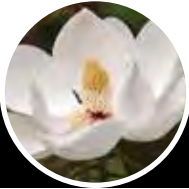
It’s regrettable that so many of those who fought in World War II were not able to see this memorial. It is a quite moving and poignant reminder of the heroic sacrifices of so many.

The Rhode Island Group meets periodically for lunch to reminisce about our time there. We welcome all who have lived, studied, worked or served in Rhode Island as well as their families to join the group. To be added to our email list please contact judith.parisi@gmail.com.

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Southern Connection Club

Patsy Dooley



A holiday vibe permeated the Arbor Conference Dance Studios I-III as members and guests greeted one another with smiles and well wishes for the season! It was a special treat to welcome new members and guests from Illinois, Georgia, and Tennessee who joined the club for a holiday meal featuring ham, turkey, and other tasty dishes.

Great fun was had guessing the individual contents of a jar full of yummy candy! The fun continued with folks sharing holiday memories and traditions, unusual holiday experiences, a game of trivia, and 50/50. January promises to be another outstanding club experience as we welcome Dee Collier, storyteller extraordinaire!

Residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass are cordially invited to join our social potluck gathering as we step into the new year with joy and great expectations! There’s no prior notice required — just show up at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-III at 5:30 p.m. on the second Sunday and bring a dish to share. This month, folks with the last initial A-H are requested to bring a side (vegetable or salad), I-P are requested to bring an entree (meat or casserole), and Q-Z are requested to bring a dessert. First-time attendees are our guests. Should you desire to join Southern Connection, our annual dues are \$10 per person and cover expenses, including paper plates, napkins, and beverages. Members are welcome to bring an adult beverage should they wish.

We look forward to seeing you in January!

R/C LadyBirds

Linda Lohr



Our club is open to all wives and significant others of the R/C Flyers.

Our Christmas luncheon was Friday, Dec. 13, 2024, at Cody’s. Many LadyBirds enjoyed the lunch and each other’s company. We also collected new, unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots. They were brought to Marion County Fire

Rescue Friendship Station 21 after the luncheon.

Our first meeting of the year will be on Friday, Jan. 10, at 10 a.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. This is a change for all of 2025.

Some of the events planned for 2025 are a trip to the New England Shire Horse Farm and another trip to the Civic Theatre. We also plan to attend the Free First Saturday at the Appleton Museum of Art on Saturday, Feb. 1. May you all have a healthy 2025!

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Christian Women’s Club

Sandi Kemp



Our November 2024 high tea meeting was so festive and a great success! The ladies were beautifully dressed in hats and dresses! As the ladies arrived, they milled about talking, visiting, and enjoying the day! Of course, the food was wonderful, too! Our speaker, Sherri House, was wonderful and gave an inspirational talk about her love for the Lord and how she shares this with others by having tea parties. We are hoping to have her come back again. Also, it inspired some of us to start a tea party ministry with our

friends in our homes. Our Christmas party was a fun time of fellowship, a gift exchange game, singing, and, of course, a great potluck. We welcome new people every month, and I hope you can attend our next meeting. Our dates will change for 2025, so please mark them on your calendar! Please note that we will not meet in January. For the rest of the year, we will meet on the third Saturday of the month. We meet in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II. We start at 11:45 a.m., but we ask that you arrive by 11:30 a.m. if possible. Reservations are not needed. Just show up with your potluck dish! We do ask for a \$1 donation to help with supplies. All residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass are welcome. Hope to see you there!



Photo by Alyssa House

Christian Women's Club tea party.

The Jewish Club

Bruce Kanner



Think of Jewish sports heroes, such as Hank Greenberg, the first major league baseball player to enlist in World War II, and Sandy Koufax, who famously refused to play on Yom Kippur. Ever heard of Slapsie Maxie Rosenbloom, Max Baer Sr., or Barney Ross? In Gene Wolotsky’s moment in time

before 81 members during the meeting on Nov. 17, 2024, he chose to focus on these three Jewish boxers instead of the better-known aforementioned baseball greats. As his boxing career was winding down, Rosenbloom, born Max Everitt Rosenbloom, went on to a career as a TV and movie actor, appearing alongside such greats as Jimmy Cagney, George Raft, Abbot & Costello, and Marlene Dietrich. Baer Sr., father to Max Baer Jr. of Beverly Hillbilly’s fame, famously wore boxing trunks emblazoned with the Star

of David during bouts. Ross was never knocked down in 81 fights, even in his last fight. While Rosenbloom had tried to enlist in the military, both Baer Sr. and Ross served in the Air Force and Marines, respectively. The meeting was a boomer’s delight, playing music bingo and hearing all the music with which we grew up. Imagine Entertainment explained the rules, and then members tried to fill in their bingo cards as the music played. The leaders had hundreds of tunes, with members singing along the loudest, including “YMCA,” “Yellow Submarine,” “American Pie,” and “Sweet Caroline.” Also, at the meeting, the club conducted its annual non-perishable food drive for Interfaith Emergency Services, collecting 90 pounds of food and \$394 in cash and checks donated by members. The hospitality committee called this month’s refreshments a “munchie fest.” Popcorn, peanut M&Ms, and cracker-pretzel trail mix were placed on each table just prior to the start of music bingo and replenished as needed.

Kate Beeders, who in October delivered a moment in time on Israeli soldiers, updated members on continuing money- and morale-raising efforts to help the Israeli troops. The club members donated \$317 for Magen Dovid Adom, the Israeli Red Cross, at the meeting on Oct. 20, 2024. Lunch bunch returned on Nov. 12, 2024, at Elevation 89 inside the Ocala International Airport with 21 members, and 12 members went to the Kanapaha Botanical Gardens in Gainesville on Nov. 13, 2024, for a docent-led tour of the 68-acre facility followed by lunch at P.F. Chang’s. 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. The Jewish Club holds meetings in both The Lodge at Candler Hills and the Arbor Conference Center. For more information about the Jewish Club or for membership inquiries, please contact Audrey Wolotsky at audw27@gmail.com.



Photo by Mark Frankel

Jewish Club members enjoyed playing music bingo while snacking on munchies at the November club meeting.

Women of the World

Lois Rowland



Women of the World is a social and charitable organization. Our mission is to entertain, inform, educate, and inspire our members through our monthly meetings and to contribute to the local community by providing much-needed goods to those in need in Marion County. Our entertainment for the December 2024 meeting was a performance by the Concert Chorus. They truly got everyone in the holiday mood. Our charity for the month was Florida Kids Helping Kids. It is a nonprofit organization run by volunteers. They compiled a list of helpful places for families and children in need. If they still need something, they can contact Florida Kids Helping Kids. The donations requested from our group included arts and crafts supplies, battery-operated tools, and outdoor play tools for toddlers. Once again, our members were

very generous. Tickets for our bunco fundraiser on Saturday, Jan. 18, went on sale at our November 2024 meeting and are still available. The \$30 ticket includes a seat at a bunco table, one door prize ticket, and lunch. Tickets for the 50/50 drawing and baskets will be sold at the event. There will be cash prizes for bunco wins. Although we continue to support our troops through Operation Shoebox, Ellie Richards could not attend our December meeting, so members were asked to save their donations for the January meeting. Hospice of Marion County will be the speaker at our January meeting. Our charity will be Chucks Piggy Bank. They request canned or dry food for kittens, cats, puppies, and dogs, lightweight cat litter, laundry soap, dish detergent, paper towels, and dryer sheets. Our monthly meetings are on the third Thursday of the month at noon. Unlike most of our meetings, the next meeting will be at the Arbor Conference Center on Thursday, Jan. 16. The club is open to all women residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. If you want to join us, please call President Michele Croud at 586-872-1966.

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World Traveler

Bill Shampine



Today, we are going to spend a bit of time in the Cornwall area of southwestern England; specifically in a small town called Land’s End. This little village of about 6,800 people, is the most westerly point of the English mainland. If you fly to London and rent a car to get there, as I did, be careful because you will have a right-hand steering wheel in your car and you have to drive on the left side of the road! Believe me, that takes getting used to for a person who grew up driving in the U.S.

The history and heritage of Cornwall and Land’s End focuses on ships and the sea, and the hazards they have always faced. Vicious Atlantic storms often blast this rocky shoreline and have wrecked many a ship, both in fact and in fiction. It is a very rugged area, with a spectacular coastline featuring granite cliffs plunging as much as 200 feet straight down into the sea.

The fit among us might enjoy a walk along the Cornish Coastal Footpath, a



Photo by Takver

A view of the cliffs at Cape Cornwall, England.

dramatic 500-mile hiking trail located along the coast, offering fabulous photo-worthy views. In addition, the sand beaches, rock pools, salt marshes, and dunes are prolific breeding grounds for birds, so birdwatching in the region is popular with many tourists. For the less active visitors, you can enjoy relaxing with the friendly locals at a pub

for lunch and/or dinner interspersed or sightseeing on comfortable short hikes at various places around the area.

One of the towns in the area is unique in that the primary downtown parking area is the rocky bottom of the bay during low tide. The town never has to worry about people parking there too long because when the tide comes back in,

the bay will refill with water!

There are many places to stay in the area, ranging from hotels to bed and breakfasts. My family stayed with friends in their home, where they had five apartments for rent. The owner was a hydrologist that I worked with a bit in Saudi Arabia. Their house is called “Skisdon” which is an old manor house that was first mentioned in print in 1350. It is a beautiful place that is solidly built. The interior walls were about five feet thick at the base and two feet thick at the ceiling, and the outside doors were made with 6”x6” oak timbers! Now that is a house built to last!

The grounds were lovely, and my family really enjoyed walking around. I must tell you, however, that we went there in late July and nearly froze to death! We certainly did not expect such cold weather and had to buy heavy Guernsey sweaters to keep warm. Even chilly, however, we had a wonderful time.

There is much to be said for vacationing in the country rather than in the big cities. Although there usually are things of interest there, a big city is a big city is a big city. To really begin to get the flavor of a country, you need to get to the smaller towns and villages and mingle with the local people. There really is nothing else quite like it.

Travel Toppers

Mary Lamp



Travel Toppers Tours and its volunteers practice safety procedures for residents when participating in our tours. All residents are required to follow the volunteers’ directions when entering and exiting the parking lot area off SW 81st Loop. Both golf carts and cars will follow the same rules. Anyone who does not follow the safety procedures will be denied a reservation on future trips conducted by Travel Toppers Tours.

Reservations for Travel Toppers trips can be made Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with the coordinators listed for each event. Reservations can be made for only two people at a time, and guests will be placed on a waitlist. As this is a resident club, the board wants to give the opportunity to attend first to our residents and if there is availability, guests from the wait list will be asked if they are still interested in attending the trip.

Linda Hein is now taking reservations for “Waitress: The Musical,” to be seen March 15. Call her at 352-861-9880. Tickets are \$94 per person and include the show, dinner and dessert, bus transportation, and tips for the servers and driver. All our trips are to be paid by check only and are non-refundable unless there is a waitlist.

The Asian Lantern Festival on Jan. 11 at the Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Gardens in Sanford is wait-listed. If interested, call Diane Knox at 352-390-2386. “Lion King” at the Straz in Tampa on April 3 is also wait-listed. If interested, call Lisa Adams at 407-325-9863.

Linda Hein can provide you with more information on two upcoming trips. The first is “Classic Fall Foliage” in New England from Sept. 27 to Oct. 7. Highlights will be Boston, Newport, Maine’s coastline and Acadia National Park and Vermont covered bridges. The price of \$5,957 per person includes the escorted tours, hotels, all ground transportation, gratuities, and travel insurance. Airfare is not yet included. Also, there will be a Celebrity Apex Caribbean sailing from Port Canaveral on Feb. 14

What’s Cookin’?

Elaine Morrison



I will be making these for several holiday parties. They are easy and delicious. The recipe makes about 20 crisps.

Spicy Cheese Crisps

- 2 cups grated extra sharp cheddar cheese
- 3/4 cup grated Parmigiano Reggiano cheese
- 1/2 cup grated aged gouda cheese
- 2 tablespoons nutritional yeast
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 2 teaspoons onion powder
- 3/4 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper.

Place all ingredients in a bowl and gently stir together until the cheeses are evenly distributed and coated with the spices. With a tablespoon, make heaping mounds onto prepared baking sheets, leaving space between scoops.

Bake in batches until they deepen in color and turn crispy, about eight minutes. Let cool on baking sheets until set. Transfer to wire racks and cool completely.

through 21, 2026. Forbes Travel Guide rates this ship as a four-star resort. Call Linda at 352-861-9880.

Our treasurer, who has provided many years of service to the club, has moved. If you are interested in becoming our treasurer, please call President Linda Hein to learn more about this vol-

unteer opportunity at 352-861-9880.

Traveltopperstours.com offers more details and up-to-date information regarding any of our trips. Trips sponsored by Travel Toppers Tours are open only to residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

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GRANDVIEWWORLDNIGHTS.COM

Tickets start at \$40/person

Veterans Day Classic Softball Tournament - A Smash Hit!

By Pete Feliciano

The third annual Veterans Day Classic Softball Tournament was a smash hit. Fifty-five resident veterans took to the baseline pathways for opening ceremonies led by Steve Petty, captain, US Army, retired, and members of the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard parading the colors onto the infield for the playing of the National Anthem and tossing of the ceremonial first pitch by Charles Calhoun, president of the Veterans Club.

A solemn moment was taken for a Quilts of Valor presentation. Dating back to 2003, the Quilts of Valor Foundation (a grassroots group of quilters from

across the United States of America) has awarded well over 380,000 Quilts of Valor to war-touched service members and veterans worldwide. Like snowflakes, no two quilts are alike – such were the caring hands of Whitney Rearick as she dedicated every stitch to crafting these hand-sewn masterpieces, conveying sincere appreciation and thanks for service, sacrifice, and valor.

On Nov. 9, 2024, Whitney, herself a veteran, presented Quilts of Valor honors to four resident veterans: US Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeff Thomas 1965-1968 Vietnam Vet, US Marine Sergeant Wayne Kiser Vietnam Vet 1972-1976

and Afghanistan War Vet 2009-2012, US Army Specialist Jimmy Huff 1954-1956 Cold War Vet, and US Air Force Captain (Retired) Pete Feliciano 1974-2001 Vietnam Era and Gulf War Era Veteran.

Many thanks to our sponsors, Recreation Center staff, grounds people, maintenance teams, and Colen Built staff for all their hard work and leadership. Additional thanks to our behind-the-scenes personnel, such as Softball Club member volunteers, groundskeeping volunteers, press box staff, and critical care nursing volunteers, who ensured that the tournament infrastructure was geared for success. High five to our friends from Ashford for gracing the event with a Veterans Day 30 golf cart parade salute motorcade.

Over 200 spectators joined us to cheer on their favorite military branch of service, watch a cheer squad presentation by the Poms Cheer & Dance Squad, enjoy food truck delicacies, cooled off eating some Mr. B's Big Scoop Ice Cream, admire home run derby participants

Chuck King win the most homers hit award, and Dave Emmons win the longest home run hit, while others shot selves in the battle-tested vintage "Wartime Jeep by Mike Soltis."

After seven innings of tireless softball play, Game one ended with the Air Force (USAF) victorious over the Army. Now came the "nail-biting" game two, whereby the Navy would succumb to the Warriors' tenacity to rally and win the match. Now, the table was set for the Warriors to challenge the incumbent USAF team in a knock-out match for the championship. Downed to their last out in the bottom of the seventh inning, USAF would win the championship game as Rob Iraci would cross the plate, scoring the winning run resulting from a walk-off clutch hit by Dave Rearick.

Culminating this Veterans Day celebration was a special visit from the Honorable Mr. Kenneth Colen, who presented the coveted captain's championship trophy to team Air Force for their third consecutive tournament victory.



Photo by Jerry Weage

Mr. Kenneth Colen awarding the 2024 championship trophy to the Air Force team.

Billiards League Champions

By Phil Panzera

Congratulations to our new league champions, Team 3, captained by Debbie Radicchi. Debbie is the first woman in the club's history to captain a championship team in the club league! Team members included Co-captain Norm Gilmore, Larry Bernier, Jim Carmack, Jim Kraft, Phil Panzera, Al Sable, and Woody Wilson.

Congratulations also to the Wolves Division champions, Team 6, led by veteran captain Steve Code. Team 6

had a great run, losing three of the first four matches and then ripping off five straight wins. Team 6 members included Co-captain Ken Foster, Steve Allen, Di-anne Carrano, Roger Mack, Lynn Miller, Dave and Edi Piasecki, and Don Wright. Tim William's Team 7 also deserves praise for performing superbly in the first half of the session.

These two league and division championship teams had almost identical records, and the decision was made on

a razor-thin tiebreak. It really doesn't matter that one division has the stronger players in it, as both divisions compete with teams of their own level. In this way, every team from either division has an equal chance of winning the overall title.

A strong, honorable mention goes to Bob Schmitt's Team 1, who accomplished an amazing comeback. After losing the first five matches, Team 1 found its footing and notched the next seven wins in a row. In all our internal leagues, this has never been done before. It was a remarkable tribute to the determination and competitive drive of the entire team, as well as to Bob's leadership.

On Tuesday, Jan. 7, we will have our next quarterly tournament, the winter medley of eight-ball and nine-ball.

Our next quarterly meeting of the club will take place on Friday, Jan. 10, at 3:30 p.m., in the Hobby Building Event Room.

The next club league starts on Tuesday, Jan. 14. Details for the league will be published in early January, and then the sign-up sheet will be available.

As the sun sets this year, we hope that everyone had a safe, healthy, and joyous holiday season. We are continually grateful to our community's management for providing us with one of the finest billiard rooms in the state and for their ongoing excellent support. We look forward to another year of camaraderie, competition, growth, and laughter with a really great group of people. Thank you all for making our club the splendid experience that it is.



Photo by Ray Talkington

Fall Billiards Club league champions.



Photo by Richie Carrano

Wolves Division champions.

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Archery Club

Suzanne Shea



Happy 2025, everyone!

The Archery Club had a fantastic end to 2024. Our competitive archers participated in the Florida Senior Games held at Wesley Chapel on Dec. 7, 2024. Sam Scarborough, Mike Bantz, Dan Powell, Jerry Hoppe, Pete Holman, and Patty Hoppe represented the club well. Jerry, Pete, and Patty each placed first in their respective divisions and age groups, with Patty establishing a new state record. Congratulations to all.

While the outdoor competitive season is ending, the indoor competitive season is beginning. Many of our members compete all over the state and country, and we wish them the best of luck and good skills.

On Dec. 17, 2024, the club held a Holiday Shoot. Members were divided randomly into teams, mixing compound, Olympic, and barebow archers. Teams had fun shooting targets decorated with candy canes, ornaments, and gingerbread men, with winners earning bragging rights. After the competition, members and their guests enjoyed a catered chicken dinner with side dishes. We were reminded that holiday calories don't count!

The Club Fair will be held Thursday, Jan. 30, at Circle Square Cultural Center, and the Archery Club will have a table and be on hand to answer all your questions.

The club will hold its semi-annual open house at the range on Thursday,

March 13.

Saturday, May 10, will be the fifth anniversary of the range's opening, and planning is underway to celebrate it.

The club is planning a series of hands-on workshops for members on equipment set-up and maintenance to expand the educational opportunities for members. Further information will be available as the dates are set.

Every Friday, we host "freestyle Friday." From 10 a.m. to noon, club mentors are at the range and available to assist our novice archers with skill improvement. If you are considering joining the club, this is a wonderful way to meet members, learn more about the sport, and have fun.

The Archery Club manages the archery range at the Veterans Park. We aim to allow residents to participate in club and archery activities, foster social interaction through club events, and allow club members to improve their skills and knowledge of target archery in a fun, relaxed, and enjoyable environment. We have members of all skill levels, from novice to competitive, and at every level in between. Plenty of equipment is available for those new to archery or returning after a long hiatus. We also have a well-equipped maintenance shop to keep club and personal archery equipment in good working condition.

If you want to become a member, visit otowarcheryclub.org > New Members and download the application form and required waivers. For additional information or the next steps to take to join the club, please contact Chuck at chuck.archery@strickland.net or 407-257-9668 or Phyllis at phyllisarchery@gmail.com or 606-383-1744. Keep it in the yellow!

Weight Loss Group

Laura Gavey



Here's to a healthy and happy 2025 for all! So, the holidays are over, and your scale is not being kind to you. You ate and drank too much, even though you promised yourself you wouldn't do it. What can you do? Join one of our weight loss groups to get you back on track. Join your friends and neighbors who are already members and who will

be making better choices with their food and exercise in 2025 and reaching their goals!

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

For questions and additional details, please email Linda at ljsisco@comcast.net or Beth at tandbgreen220@gmail.com.

Bocce Club

Kathy Nastally



Happy New Year everyone!

Welcome to cool mornings, warm afternoons, and shorter days, all due to the Winter Solstice. We all love that daylight-saving time change, right? Before you know it, we will wake up and experience spring-like weather. Behind us is the smell of pumpkin spice, baked sweets, roasted turkey and ham, holiday cheer, generosity, and visits from family and friends near and far. The hustle and bustle after holiday life is calmer, and a nap or two may be in order. Is one of your resolutions to become more active outdoors or socially? Bocce ball may be for you.

With the bocce court renovations completed, everyone playing is finding their groove and strategies of their game. The courts even seem to be developing personality. Open and league play have resumed with many new faces. Many people have stopped by to check out the game, and some try it out, while others are just curious or seeking information.

Everyone is welcome to participate in open play on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. Come on out a little early to sign in, as we have 48 spots available for play. We draw cards to determine courts, teammates, and opponents! For example, a three red card means you play on court three on the red team. Teams play two games to 16, first team to 16 points wins.

All players joining must complete a Hold Harmless form and pay dues of \$15. Dues are good through Sept. 30. All players must have a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

League play is on Tuesdays at 9 and 11 a.m. and Thursdays at 10 a.m. Teams for the league are formed in September, and the start of the season is in October. Teams consist of four players, including a team captain, and may also include a permanent sub. League teams are committed to a specific day and time to play. Substitute players, if needed, may be available. If any league or open player wishes to become a substitute, please contact a board member or league rep. Any team member whose team may have a "bye," you may play as a substitute for another team during your scheduled "bye."

Teams, schedules, and standings are posted on the bulletin board and court-side. League reps and board member names and phone numbers are also listed. The best of bocce tournaments will be held at the end of April.

The courts are located behind the Arbor Fitness Center near the tennis courts. Please wear appropriate shoes for safety; closed-toe shoes must be worn during play. League rules are posted on the shed door during play. There are crated balls under the benches for anyone who would like to come out and play outside of league or open play times. For information or questions, contact Kathy Nastally, secretary, at 281-658-2663 or knastally@yahoo.com. See you at the courts! Roll on!

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We are recruiting participants for the TargetTau-1 study. This clinical research study is testing a new, investigational medicine for mild cognitive impairment or mild early AD.

You may qualify for this study if you:

- Are 50-80 years old
- Have a diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment due to Alzheimer's disease, or have mild Alzheimer's dementia
- Have a study partner with whom you spend at least 8 hours per week (such as a spouse, friend, or an adult child) who can attend some study visits with you during the study and provide follow-up information.

The study doctor will also check other eligibility requirements.

Participation in the study lasts about 2 years and requires regular visits to the research clinic to receive study drug and monitor your health and AD status. If you decide to take part in the study, all study-related drugs and procedures will be provided to you at no cost. Participation is voluntary and you would be able to leave the study at any point.

To learn more and see if you are eligible, please contact:

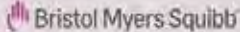


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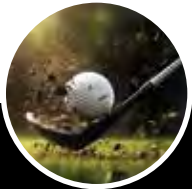
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Candler Hills
Men's Golf

Rick Pettit



Welcome to 2025! We hope you had a wonderful holiday season full of joy and new golf equipment!

I thought I would give you some of the highlights of 2024. It looks like we finished 2024 with around 194 members in our association. Your board appreciates all the recruiting you do to encourage new members to come out on Tuesdays to play and socialize.

We had around 75 members in the hole-in-one club, and on Nov. 12, 2024, member Larry Skoch aced hole #5, and by being a member, he collected \$365! Congratulations to Larry. Sign up today for \$5 in the Golf Shop; we have 41 members signed up going forward.

Here are the 15 final winners of the Candler Cup for 2024. Being in this group means you do not pay any dues for the following year. Congratulations to the

following members: Dave Falcone, Ken Zwelback, Jeffry Holmes, Dave Metzger, Paul Rubly, Rusty Zarrell, Richard Ross, Pat Mezyk, Jim Weaver, Tom Presnick, Larry Smallwood, Mike Altomare, Don Wheeler, Randy Kajewski, and Brian Bennett.

Also, on Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2024, member Joe Aldridge made eagle on hole #14, congratulations Joe!

Starting in January, we will participate in the Florida State Golf Association Interclub. As of this writing, the schedule is not yet out, but the first match will be on Jan. 8 or 9. Here are the players for the Interclub: Jeff Richardson, Joe Moenter, Wes Wendt, Brian Henderson, Gary Whittaker, Mark Durso, Bill Wignall, Larry Skoch, Brian Bennett, Jeff Holmes, Mike Kelly, and Bill Gurbisz. It should be a competitive team.

As a reminder, the board will review the tee assignments in January, so any adjustments will be made if you now qualify for a shorter tee box. You can always move back to a longer tee if you prefer. If you have reason to request an exception due to recent surgery or short-

term limitations, please fill out an exception request in the Golf Shop and put it in the Candler Hills MGA box.

I would like to thank everyone who donated clubs, bags, and golf balls to First Tee of Greater Ocala. It was a huge day and will go a long way to helping those in need; thank you.

Stableford (Individual)
Dec. 3, 2024

Flight 1: Tie at 35–Dave Falcone, Gary Whittaker, Don Otto.

Ladies 18-Hole
Golf Association

Jo Della Penna



Red, White, & Blue Two Best Ball (Team)
Nov. 5, 2024/The Tortoise & The Hare

103–Gayla Aldridge, Virginia Coombs, Susan Martin, Robin Le Master. 104–Va Donna Hall, Bobbie Wiener, Christine McIntire, Joann Ropel. 106–Laura McMillan, Katie Schriewer, MJ Strelec, Carol Carney. 108–Gail Lagrange, Vickie Noltensmeyer, Virginia Madura, Donna Brunell. Tie at 109–Lynn Colomb, Karen Schroeckenthaler, Alexandra Rivera, Margie Williams, Sandra Mansfield, Joanne Woolery, Debra De Matteo, Liz Lang.

Step Aside Scramble
Nov. 12, 2024/The Links

58–Sharon Fairclough, Peggy Ellenberger, Liz Pruss, Margie Williams. 60–Mary Jeannotte, Judy McGuinness, Debra De Matteo, Robin Le Master. Tie at 61–Marcella Nunez, Katie Schriewer, MJ Strelec, Kathleen Goodwin, Lisa Free, Jill Strey, Donna Issac, Joy Geradi, Donna Herberger, Virginia Coombs, Jane Hall, June Carney. 62–Linda Taylor, Karen Schroeckenthaler, Joann Ropel, Pamela Robison. Tie at 63–Beverly Ovrebo, Connie Sohl, Susan Martin, Connie Lukas, Gayla Aldridge, Mary Dawson, Jean Czachor, Eileen Gustavus, Lynn Colomb, Diane Boston, Vickie Foster, Joanne Woolery.

Match Play
Nov. 19, 2024/The Tortoise & The Hare

Sandy Snyder tied Gayla Aldridge. Shelly Karsnitz 4 & 3 over Sharon Fairclough. Laura McMillan 4 & 2 over Christine Giza. Linda Taylor 3 & 2 over Page Falconer. Beverly Ovrebo 2 & 1 over Diane Boston. Peggy Ellenberger 7 & 5 over Marcella Nunez. Karen Schroeckenthaler 1 up over Virginia Coombs. Robyn Atwood 2 & 1 over Katie Schriewer. Janette Sheil 4 & 3 over Susan Martin. Joanne Woolery tied Cindy Channell. Ellen Brin 2 & 1 over Connie Sohl. Chris

Flight 2: 36–Mike Gleason. 32–Ray Parlato. 31–Pat Nagy.

Flight 3: Tie at 34–Ray Christ, Larry Smallwood. 33–Robert Kuhl.

Flight 4: 34–Terry Thomas. 32–Joe Jingco. 29–Ken Zwelback.

Flight 5: 30–Thomas Kujawa. 29–Kevin Hermida. 27–Marvin Jendro.

“The only time my prayers are never answered is on the golf course.” – Billy Graham

McIntire 3 & 1 over Joann Della Penna. Liz Pruss 3 & 2 over MJ Strelec. Debra De Matteo 2 & 1 over Brenda Hoffman. Lorie Anderson 3 & 2 over Virginia Madura. May Chin 3 & 2 over Roxiann Dwyer. Susan Mullineaux 3 & 1 over Vickie Foster. Robin Le Master 3 & 2 over Liz Lang. Susan Yenne 5 & 4 over Eileen Gustavus. Jaquelin Randour 2 & 1 over Joy Geradi. Marla Bennett 4 & 2 over Jan Crist. Carol Carney 4 & 3 over Pamela Robison. Renee Middleton 2 & 1 over Margie Williams.

Turkey Trot One, Two, Three (Team)
Nov. 26, 2024/The Links

132–Gail Lagrange, Judy McGuinness, Beth Wolinsky, (B) Joann Delmar. 137–Sharon Fairclough, Christine McIntire, Debra De Matteo, Terry Lemesh. 139–Kathleen Goodwin, Robyn Atwood, Pamela Robison, (B) Mary Jeannotte. Tie at 140–Linda Taylor, Mary Dawson, Judie Anderson, Jacquelin Randour, Peggy Ellenberger, Janette Sheil, Jane Hall, Eileen Gustavus. Lynn Colomb, Cindy Channell, Cynthia Gersten, Susan Yenne. 142–Mary Ann Livingston, Connie Sohl, Kay Budd, Liz Lang. 144–Va Donna Hall, Paula Lilly, Liz Pruss, Joann Delmar.

Candler Hills
Ladies 18-Hole

Beth Wolinsky



The holiday season is a joyous time of year, and we had fun celebrating with the On Top of the World LGA-18. Thanks to everyone who made this a success. We hope this will become an annual tradition.

The league will begin collecting dues for 2025 in January. Dues are \$25 plus optional ringers. Payments can be made online or by dropping a check in the league mailbox. Our league has grown and will, hopefully, continue to grow next year.

We welcome back a new/old member to our league, Teri Stecker. We look forward to playing with you.

Golf courses have their own unique features, but a course in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, is especially distinctive. The par-three 14th hole is a floating island green that is moved every day by an underwater cable system. This varies the length of the hole and its position to the tee box. Since it is a true island green, a small boat transports players to and from the green. What an experience that must be!

Our league is open to any woman resident. If you wish to join the league, please contact our president, Lynn Colomb, at coachlynn@aol.com. It is a great way to meet some new ladies and play golf.

Finally, we wish you all a happy and healthy new year. Believe, achieve, and enjoy golf.

Low Gross/Low Net (Individual)
Nov. 7, 2024

Gross Flight 1: 73–Sandy Snyder. 85–Lisa Free.

Flight 2: 82–Karen Schroeckenthaler. 88–Lynn Colomb.

Flight 3: 91–Brenda Hofmann. Tie at 94–Jill Strey, Susan Martin.

Flight 4: 96–Beth Wolinsky. 100–Eileen Gustavus.

Flight 5: 99–Anne Dahlen. 103–Jan Christ.

Net Flight 1: 72–Michele Otto. 78–Shelly Karsnitz.

Flight 2: 72–Katie Schriewer. 77–Virginia Combs.

Flight 3: 75–Patty Whitley. 78–Mary A. Cunningham.

Flight 4: 74–Robin LeMaster. 78–Vickie Foster.

Flight 5: 74–Marla Bennett. 79–Terry Lemesh.

ONES 1 BB (Team)
Nov. 14, 2024

Flight 1: 29–Linda Taylor, Susan Martin, Chris McIntire, Vickie Foster. Tie at 30–Laura McMillan, Judi McGuinness, Virginia Madura, Carol Clark. Christine Giza, Mary Ann Livingston, Joann Delmar, Susanne Mullineaux.

Flight 2: 28–Kathleen Goodwin, Paula Lilly, Mary A. Cunningham, Anne Dahlen. Tie at 29–Virginia Combs, Alexandra Rivera, Kate Beaty, Ellen Brin. Diane Boston, MJ Strelec, Jane Hall, Robin LeMaster. Beverly Ovrebo, Joann Dellapenna, Kay Budd, Joann Ropel.

Survivor Series 6–6–6 (Team)
Nov. 21, 2024

Flight 1: 67–Gayla Aldridge, Shelly Karsnitz. 72–Sandy Snyder, Diane Boston. Tie at 73–Karen Schroeckenthaler, Gail Lagrange. Laura McMillan, Lynn Colomb.

Flight 2: 70–Liz Pruss, Katie Schriewer. 71–Janette Sheil, Laurel Staiger. 73–Linda Taylor, Judie Anderson. Tie at 74–Becky Bivins, Alexandra Rivera. Beverly Ovrebo, Connie Sohl.

Flight 3: 74–MJ Strelec, Mary A. Cunningham. Tie at 75–Susan Martin, Vickie Foster. Roxiann Dwyer, Joanne Woolery, Cynthia Gersten, Jean Czachor.

Flight 4: 71–Nancy Zielinski, Eileen Gustavus. 74–Terry Lemesh, Joann Ropel. 76–Donna Isaac, Sandra Randles. 78–Anne Dahlen, Beth Wolinsky.

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Golf

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



Happy 2025 to you and yours from the golf staff! We also would like to thank everyone for a tremendous 2024, and we hope 2025 will be even better.

If your resolution is an improved golf game, then we have the answer for you. Our professional staff has created a wonderful and exciting golf clinic schedule for 2025. The season kicks off on Saturday, Jan. 4, with a clinic on “Putting” at the Candler Hills driving range at 9 and 10 a.m. This clinic is \$15 per student. Please register in the Candler Hills Golf Shop no later than Friday, Jan. 3 at 2 p.m. Look for the complete 2025 clinic schedule in both the Candler Hills and On Top of the World Golf Shops.

A friendly reminder from the golf staff that all shop credits will expire Friday, Feb. 28. All credit winnings to your account will be posted through the January events. Any winnings during February will be held until the beginning of March to be posted.

The annual Jekyll & Hyde event on The Links and The Tortoise & The Hare will take place on Friday, Jan. 24, at 9 a.m. This is a two-person scramble with a nine-hole setup that is very easy and extremely difficult. Registration is \$20 per player, and you may create your own foursome.

We also have an exciting 2025 golf event lineup. Here’s what’s in store for January:

- Monday, Jan. 13: Monday Couples at The Links with 2 p.m. shotgun.
- Friday, Jan. 24: Jekyll & Hyde at The Links and The Tortoise & The Hare.
- Friday, Jan. 31: Beat the Pro at Candler Hills with a 9 a.m. shotgun.

World Accolades

CANDLER HILLS: Larry Skoch, hole-in-one #5. Jeff Richardson, eagle #12. John Parnau, eagle #18. Joe Aldridge, eagle #14.

THE LINKS: Jim Weaver, hole-in-one #5. Rick Kramer, hole-in-one #14. Congratulations to all.

Golf Tip of the Month

How many of you get frustrated and upset after each missed shot? Golf is a funny game that one swing can manipulate your attitude and demeanor for not only your round but the remainder of your day. Keep in mind that everyone hits bad shots, including touring professionals. Don’t let one swing ruin your round or even your day.

Every round, take a minute to appreciate your surroundings – the birds chirping, the beautiful flowers and trees, and the friends you have made playing this wonderful game. Don’t let the wonderful things in life pass you by, and remind yourself golf is just a game we all enjoy playing.

Top Pickleball Club

Barry Barnhart



The 24th year of 2,000 is coming to an end, and we would like to share what you are missing if you are not a member of the Top Pickleball Club:

We sponsored Special Olympics Florida in Marion County, St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital, The Rock, and The Humane Society of Marion County.

Our award-winning website kept all 700 members informed. Members attended monthly social events, including our annual picklenik.

If you need club apparel, our vendor is Embroidery Wizard (theembroidery-wizard.com).

The 18-member training team conducted an average of 15 skills and personal training sessions that were free to our members.

Joey Brandes, Coach Mo, and Deb Harrison conducted professional training.

The member appreciation days at the courts were a lot of fun.

Facility improvements included adding court awnings, submitting plans for a camera system, and installing a large, shaded pavilion, water fountain, and furniture.

In 2025, we are hosting a large open tournament of 400 to 450 players called “Battle of the Paddle” at On Top of the World on Friday, Feb. 28, Saturday, March 1, and Sunday, March 2.

Do you want to join and play? Orientation sessions are at 10:30 a.m. every Monday and the first Saturday on the upper courts. For more information, visit tpc.pickleball.plus. Our resource site is toppickleballclub.com. Or visit us on Facebook (Top Pickleball Club, Inc.).

POP Tennis

Domenica Genovese



The POP tennis courts have been very active these days now that the temperatures are cooling down. Group members are out on the courts on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8 to 10 a.m. at Arbor Activity Center lower tennis courts. You can also connect with other members using our GroupMe app to arrange additional play time on weekdays or weekends. Contact Terri Cavagnaro at 856-332-4516 to be added to the GroupMe POP tennis community. (Only paid club members can be added to GroupMe.)

For those of you who are not familiar with the sport, POP tennis is fun, easy to learn, and won’t take a toll on your joints. What exactly is POP tennis? Well, it’s a combination of traditional tennis and paddle tennis, played on a smaller court with a lower net and using a shorter paddle. This means less running around and more focus on your reflexes and hand-eye coordination. Plus, the underhand serve makes it easier on your shoulder, so you are less likely to overstrain yourself. It’s fairly simple to pick up, even if you’ve never played tennis before. The shorter paddle makes it easy to connect with the ball, and the dense foam inside the paddle absorbs almost all the impact vibration, making it super comfortable for your arm.

Don’t let the smaller court fool you – POP tennis still provides an excellent cardio workout! You’ll find yourself moving around enough to get your heart rate up without feeling like you’re running a marathon. It’s a fantastic way to keep active and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

POP tennis is also a great way to im-

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.

prove your reflexes and volleys, especially if you already play tennis. You’ll be amazed at how quickly your hand-eye coordination improves with regular practice.

Not only is POP tennis a great sport for staying active, but it’s also an excellent way to socialize and meet new friends. We are all about having a great time and getting some exercise with fellow players. We’re happy to welcome

Call of the Wild Sports Club

Scott Bloch



Our year begins on Wednesday, Jan. 8, with club member Stephanie Hymes discussing her hunting experiences. This Coloradan will describe the different species of deer and antelope.

Stop at our table at the Club Fair at the Circle Square Cultural Center on Thursday, Jan. 30.

new faces to our club. Several of our members also serve as trainers, ready to help newcomers looking to learn the ins and outs of the sport. Stop by sometime and check us out!

We are on Arbor Activity Center lower courts #7 through #10. Group play is on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Email Mark D’Addario for more information at markdad06@gmail.com.

We are planning several pier fishing trips in the upcoming year – locations will be announced later. Our senior USA casting champion, Lawrence Brooks, will demonstrate his casting prowess at one of these events.

Or, you could join our shooting director, Paul Jorgenson, for a target shooting competition. He will establish handicaps for those of us who can’t hit the broad side of a barn.

Our meeting starts at 1 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. Except for January, we meet on the first Wednesday of each month. Check us out at cotw.springly.org.

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Shuffleboard

Walt Lamp



The next Introduction to Shuffleboard class will be on Saturday, Jan. 11, at 11 a.m. at the Veterans Park courts. Paul Hodges is the instructor. He will highlight the rules, scoring, safety, and the

Ladies Shuffleboard

Lois Nix



It is hard to believe that our Ladies Shuffleboard Club has been shuffling for eight years! Many of our ladies have been shuffling with us for years, some since the very beginning.

Both shuffleboard clubs are responsible for maintaining the courts and the equipment. Equipment is available for non-shuffling residents, especially when you have overnight guests. Please help us care for the equipment; shuffleboard is not an aggressive game. It is a game of skill and technique. We have noticed that the sticks for guest play have been

basics for shooting the disc. Open-toed shoes are not permitted. This class will give you a heads-up whether you would like to play for fun or join our club.

November 2024
Men/Women

Monday (a.m.): Paul Genereux/Vicki Lentz.
Tuesday (p.m.): Lou Fisher & Johnny Sachin/ Jane Boyer.
Thursday: Scott Lyons.
30-plus: Robert Sapiro, Scott Lyons, Gib Mattson, and Vicky Sanders.

broken, and the discs have chips. This indicates that they are not being used properly. We are willing to teach you the basics and challenging ways to shuffle.

We ask that you check when the clubs have reserved the courts. The ladies shuffle Mondays at 5:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 9 and 11 a.m. The bulletin board by the courts has the time schedules and the contact person for any other information. Visitors must always be with a resident to use any of the amenities.

November 2024

9-Lois Nix. 8-Jane Dormanen. 7-Dee Caple & Marge Adragna.

30-plus: 3-Jane Dormanen. 2-Becky Queen & Kathleen Sanfillipo. 1-Gail Merchant, Helen Finizio, Jeanine Hargis, & Joanne Ahlert.

Happy shuffling. See you on the courts in 2025!

New Circle Squares

Michele Vieira



The New Circle Squares had a dancing good time in the fall of 2024! Several members adorned us with great desserts and appetizers on Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024. There was trivia, prizes, singing, games, and square dancing!

People ask, "Why should you square dance?" Many describe the activity as a thinking person's activity. How can that be fun? Square dancing is great exercise for your brain, memory, and coordination. All square dancing engages

your brain by asking you to react quickly to commands. (Like "Simon Says" for adults!) Dancers respond to calls as they are sung over the microphone. This forces the body and brain to be tightly coordinated. Studies have shown that activities involving simultaneous physical and mental activity keep the brain healthy. Don't forget you're having fun while adding up those steps.

Keep your eyes open for more lessons after the first of the year!

Resident Dave Vieira, is leading the modern square dancing. Dave is available for club introductions at your club or dance parties. Just reach out to him on his website squaredance4u.com, or email him at DVcaller@gmail.com.

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R/C Flyers Club

Ray Ihlenburg



Last month, Joe Asprocolas, Kenny Graham, and Tom DiSanti brought their identical Ultra Stick models to the field. When the photographer asked for a caption, Bradley Kollbaum suggested “House Payment.” So that is the caption. Believe it or not, the guys took off one after the other, flew together, and didn’t lose track of their airplanes. Can’t say the same for this spectator.

During the December 2024 business meeting, 79 members met and cast written ballots for changing the guard for 2025. Congratulations to the new club officers: President Mike Betz, Vice President Ray Baker, Treasurer Jack Kezelian, Secretary Steve Schlesselman, Field Marshall Don Fields, Safety Officers Tom Disanti and Doug Nastally, and Directors Steve Armstrong and Steve Croxall. Each year, the club grows, and our facilities improve.

While the votes were counted, our outgoing president, Don Wright, recapped things that happened during his three-year tenure. It is amazing how much the club accomplished and still had fun. Thank you, Don, for keeping the club straight and level while watching the horizon to ensure we care for the wonderful amenity provided by On Top of the World.

The Toys for Tots Fly-In hosted by

the Dunnellon Tri-County R/C Flyers took off on Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024, with Christmas carols on the PA. The club has hosted this event for the United States Marine Corps for many years. This year, the weather was cold; winds were 4 mph, with 11 mph gusts registered at the field. Not many pilots braved the conditions, but the flying was good, and the pile of gifts grew as the morning progressed.

The club Christmas party happened on Dec. 14, 2024, at the Oak Run Palm Grove Club. Steve Schlesselman and Jack Kezelian were instrumental in the planning of the event, but a special thanks must go to Barbara Wright, Don Wright’s wife, for her over-the-top efforts to ensure everyone had a good time. The decorations and games made the dinner quite festive. We had over 86 join in the celebration and fellowship.

The club will again participate in the Club Fair held at Circle Square Cultural Center on Thursday, Jan. 30, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This allows our neighbors to see some of the things that happen in our community. Everyone is invited to visit our display of R/C models and talk about building and flying R/C airplanes, helicopters, and drones.

The Spring Fly-In is scheduled for Saturday, April 5! Get ready.

The timing for this column is the perfect time to wish everyone a happy 2025! “AI Overview” granted the following new year’s wish for pilots, edited slightly for R/C pilots: “May the coming year bring you smooth skies, safe landings, and endless adventures up to 400’ AGL; always fly with confidence, and a passion for an uncrowded sky.”



Photo by Ray Ihlenburg

R/C Flyers humor ... "house payment."

Elite Men's Softball

Bryan Tully



After five straight wins to start the new season, the Punishers had their first loss against Stonecrest, last year’s champions. In a back-and-forth game that saw five lead changes, they went ahead for good in the bottom of the seventh inning, and we could not mount a last-inning comeback.

As previously mentioned in this column, the consensus is that these two teams will be battling for the league title this season. We have been getting consistently good and timely hitting, solid pitching, and strong defense. We’ve also been able to overcome any defensive lapses, save for the one loss. The club feels we have put together a cham-

pionship-caliber team, which is doing very well against stiff competition.

We now hope to be able to compete with the respective fan bases of the other teams in the league. The outpouring of support exhibited for our foes when we play at their home is truly admirable and, in many ways, inspiring. We hope to replicate that support here in our community and, at some point, surpass it. Again, the level of competition in the league has been dialed up since last season, with every team making improvements to their respective rosters. There are no pushovers in this league; every game is a battle. If you’re a fan of high-octane softball, you should make it a point to come out to the field for a home game; you’ll be glad you did.

Games begin at 9:30 a.m., and the upcoming home schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, Jan. 7: Stonecrest
- Tuesday, Jan. 14: Plantation
- Friday, Jan. 17: Flatwoods

Co-Ed Recreational Softball

Pat Wilbert



Even with a chill in the air, you will be surprised by the Saturday turnout for Co-Ed Recreational Softball. On Saturday mornings, men and women participate in the four to five innings weekly. Starting at 9 a.m. with warmups and stretching at 9:15 a.m., the games begin at 9:30 a.m. after we pick teams of two.

Here is where we come out and enjoy a fun game with our Saturday softball family. We always welcome newcomers along with our regular team members, supporting and helping when they can. We still are looking for women to join. Awesome team building, some laughter,

and good times come while playing the game we love.

If you want to experience this great sport and have fun, you can come to the softball field every Saturday. No experience is needed. We have equipment available, but if you have your own, bring it. We choose teams, women first, and play four to five innings. Everyone gets to hit; if you need a runner, we have those who can volunteer to run for you.

Hope to see you soon. You won’t regret it. Come down and play with our Co-Ed Recreational Softball family to meet new friends and, most of all, have fun.

Wishing everyone a happy 2025! Stay healthy and active.

“Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game.” – Babe Ruth

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Happy, Healthy 2025!

Our fitness team has the knowledge, skill, and desire to support all your health and wellness goals! We are excited to announce that we are adding two new classes to our regular weekly fitness schedule at the Arbor Fitness Center. These two classes were introduced as special programs in 2024, and both had an overwhelming, positive response from the community. You asked to add these classes, and we said, “Yes!” You can look for “Core & More” on Fridays at 8 a.m. and ABC Yoga (Absolute Beginner Class) on Fridays at 11 a.m.

“Core & More” on Fridays at 8 a.m. will provide a comprehensive approach to training the muscles of the trunk and hips. A strong core is at the center of functional movement and helps to fortify balance. Personal trainer John Camp will lead you through exercises that train the core stabilizing muscles, which manage posture and center of gravity. Join this class to walk taller, stand stronger, and move with greater assurance.

“ABC Yoga” on Fridays at 11 a.m. explores the fundamentals of yoga in this absolute beginner class. You will learn traditional postures and breathing techniques from our very experienced yoga instructor, Trish Froehlich. Yoga is well known for developing strength, flexibility, and a connection between the mind and body. Trish will guide you in a safe and supportive environment. Modifications will be offered as you learn the postures, basic alignment, breathing, and relaxation techniques.

Look for the complete On Top of the World group fitness schedule here in the World News, as well as at OTOWInfo.com. In addition to our regular weekly classes, be sure to check out the Life in Motion catalog (formerly known as Recreation & Wellness Connections) for a host of special programs, including more specialty yoga classes, a meditation workshop, an introduction to acupuncture, HIIT (high-intensity interval training) in the pool along with aqua Zumba®! Hear from guest presenters on how to do a kettlebell “get up” and the best ways to mitigate menopause issues. We are excited to present all these amazing health and wellness opportunities and look forward to seeing you in the fitness centers.

Tennis

Jorge Privat
352-387-7539



Hey there, tennis enthusiasts! Are you ready to take your game to the next level while building meaningful connections within our community? Look no further! Starting Wednesday, Jan. 1, the Tennis Club, supported by a dedicated committee, is offering an annual membership for just \$10. By joining the club, you’ll enjoy a variety of benefits, including:

- Access to tennis supplies, such as extra racquets, hopper bins, balls, and a ball machine.
- Social events like meet and greets, picnics, barbecues, and field trips to places like University of Florida tennis and USTA Orlando.
- Tennis open watch parties at The Club at Candler Hills with fellow members.

- Regular email updates featuring helpful tennis tips.
- An active Facebook group to connect with other members.
- An opt-in member contact list to find tennis partners at your skill level and preferred play times.
- Access to the GroupMe app for easy court scheduling with friends and members.
- A welcoming and supportive committee to address your tennis needs, concerns, and questions.

The committee is also exploring additional perks, such as branded apparel, evening matches, and ways to help beginners get started. Our diverse group of volunteers, with backgrounds in accounting, marketing, non-profit management, sales, and teaching, is committed to enhancing your tennis experience.

Remember, you don’t need to be a member to participate in the Monday, Wednesday, and Friday round robins. Monthly \$4 ball fees still apply, and courts remain open to all with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

Jorge Privat will continue offering tennis lessons by appointment.

Ready to join the fun? Sign up for membership in January during the round-robin events or contact us at otowtennisocala@gmail.com. We kindly request cash payments to simplify processing. If needed, please make checks payable

to Nicole Eddy, our volunteer treasurer. Don't forget to bring your resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

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JANUARY 2025 FITNESS

RECREATION FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	SPARC BUDDY	Step & Sculpt LOU	Remix Bootcamp JOHN F.	Step & Sculpt CARLY	SPARC CARLY
8:00 am	Zumba® Gold-Toning AMY				Zumba® Gold JOHN
9:00 am	S.O.S. TRISH	Stretch, Flex & Balance SHARON	S.O.S. JOHN C.	Dance & Sculpt JOHN	S.O.S. TRISH
9:00 am			BEAT LOU		Stretch, Flex & Balance TRISH
10:00 am	Balanced Body LARRY	Chair Yoga JOAN	Balanced Body LARRY	Chair Yoga JOAN	Balanced Body TRISH
10:00 am	Chair Yoga SANDRA		Chair Yoga JOAN		Chair Yoga SCOTT
11:00 am	Chair Dance LOU	Brain Power SP TEAM	Get Fit While You Sit JOE	Move to Improve Parkinson's JOE	Chair Dance AMY
11:00 am	Zumba® Gold JOAN		Zumba® Gold AMY		Dance Aerobics JOAN
1:00 pm		Chair Chi AMY	Punch Out PD JOHN/LOU/JOE		
3:00 pm	VYP Chair Yoga JOE	Balanced Body JOHN	Chair Yoga SCOTT	Balanced Body TRISH	
5:00 pm		Hatha Yoga TRISH		Yoga SANDRA	

Recreation Fitness Center Hours: Monday-Friday 6:30 AM - 7 PM; Saturday 7 AM - 7 PM; Sunday 9 AM - 5 PM
*Fitness Orientations are on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm; and Balance Assessments are on Thursdays at 1:00 pm. These are free but space is limited. To schedule an appointment, please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 763B.

ARBOR FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	Beginner/Intermediate Tai Chi MARCY	STRONG DANIEL	Intermediate/Advanced Tai Chi JOE	STRONG CAROL	Core & More JOHN C.
9:00 am	Yoga SANDRA	Pilates Fusion JOE	Yoga JOE	Pilates Fusion LOU	Yin Yoga MELANIE
10:00 am	STRONG JOHN C.	Yoga SANDRA	STRONG JOE	Yoga LOU	STRONG JOE
11:00 am	Yoga CAROL		Yoga TRISH		
1:00 pm				Fitness Orientation*	

Arbor Fitness Center Hours: Monday-Friday 6:00 AM - 8:30 PM; Saturday 7 AM - 8:30 PM; Sunday 9 AM - 7 PM
*Fitness Orientations are free. Space is limited. To schedule an appointment, please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7534.

ARBOR FITNESS CENTER INDOOR POOL

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
6:00 am	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming
7:00 am	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim
8:00 am	Water Walk	Water Walk	Water Walk	Water Walk	Water Walk
9:00 am	Deep Water Fitness Class**	Shallow Water Fitness Class**	Deep Water Fitness Class**	Shallow Water Fitness Class**	Deep Water Fitness Class**
10:00 am	Open Swim	Shallow Water Fitness Class**	Open Swim	Shallow Water Fitness Class**	Open Swim
11:00 am	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming
12:30 pm	Aqua Aerobics Club	Shallow Water Fitness Class**	Aqua Aerobics Club	Shallow Water Fitness Class**	Aqua Aerobics Club
1:30 pm	Open Swim	Water Volleyball Club 1:30 - 3:30 pm	Water Volleyball Club 1:30 - 3:30 pm	Water Volleyball Club 1:30 - 3:30 pm	Open Swim
2:30 pm	Deep Water Fitness Class**				
3:30 - 8:15pm	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim

Open Swim: Saturdays 7 AM - 8:30 PM; Sundays 9 AM - 7 PM
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Broadway & Tap
Dancing

Elaine Voorhis



Well, here we are. The holiday season rushes in, envelops us in its hustle and bustle, and then whoosh, it's gone and then 2025 is here! How is that even possible? I'm going out on a limb here to assume that most of us reading this paper were born in the 20th century – 1900 something. Remember when we couldn't wait for the weekend? The football games and Friday or Saturday night school dances? Time seemed to move a lot slower then. Now it's zooming by.

It's important to fill our days with something we love to do. Something that brings us joy and friendship. Fortunately, for those who love to dance, it brings health benefits as well. In Broadway and tap, we regularly attend our weekly classes led by our instructor and choreographer, Penny Berton. We practice at home and train together at our weekly practice sessions. All this dancing helps us to gain confidence. We are not about competing. We offer advice and help each other. It's a group effort. It's a high-five moment when we go from not remembering the steps to nailing it by the end of the practice! The key is to have fun and celebrate our progress, and that we do!

November and December 2024 were

quite busy for us. After performing for the Avalon neighborhood in November 2024, we had our holiday parties and our recital on Dec. 13, 2024. This one was our second annual holiday recital. It's now a tradition. We perform holiday tap and Broadway routines, plus the guy in the big red suit shows up. He even showed up the next day at our performances at Brookdale, Bridgewater Assisted Living and Rehab. We must have been on his good list! Tap and Broadway classes from Master the Possibilities performed, too. Three performances! Phew, what a day that was! All this, plus the practices in between! It's so rewarding to see those smiling faces looking back at us and tapping their toes or singing along with the music. Talking to the residents is heartwarming as well. We've learned that several were dancers, too. We love to hear their stories.

So, now on to 2025. We're gearing up for our Health & Wellness Expo performance on Saturday, Jan. 11, at 11 a.m. If you've never attended, give it a try. So many vendors with lots of great information and so many groups performing on stage. We've put in a lot of time practicing our routines. We hope you'll come and cheer us on. Until then, our instructor, Penny Berton, and the tap and Broadway classes wish you a very happy and healthy new year and hope your holidays were wonderful.

If you would like to contact us, please send an email to broadwayandtap@yahoo.com.

Sidekicks
Western Dance

Peggy Eizans



With the holiday season behind us, the Sidekicks are looking forward to getting back out on the dance floor. January kicks off the second half of our dance season, with all new teaches in each of the different dance class levels.

Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom is when the more experienced dancers can learn new dances or review ones they haven't practiced in a year or two. That group of dancers is then joined by the rest of the club members for the weekly 5 p.m. "all-level" dance. This is where newer dancers get exposed to a variety of dances they might want to learn. Generally, there are 10 to 12 dances available to try, with a detailed walk-through done for each dance. This is a wonderful way for our newest dancers to see how, with just a little practice, they will be able to join in on some of the more complicated dances in no time. There are always folks willing to help others learn the steps of a dance, with the goal of having fun in a

supportive atmosphere.

January also marks the final push for the group of 16 Sidekick couples to practice dances that take up less space on the dance floor. The group is preparing for their upcoming nine-night cruise on Royal Caribbean's Serenade of the Seas, leaving Tampa on Valentine's Day. Mark and Janis Kellogg are spearheading this fun social activity for the Sidekick dancers.

Partner dance learning and practice schedule:

- Tuesdays (4 to 4:45 p.m.): Advanced Beginners and Intermediate in the Recreation Center Ballroom.
- Tuesdays (5 to 6 p.m.): All levels dance in the Recreation Center Ballroom.
- Sundays (5 to 6 p.m.): Practice for all levels in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio IV. Beginner and Beginner Plus dance classes are currently not scheduled. Judy Sullivan is working diligently to find a dance space and time that works and will notify dancers once a space is secured.

For questions about the club or more information about the dance schedule, email sidekickspartnerdance@gmail.com.

Horseshoes Club

Vern Kessler



The Horseshoe Club wishes everyone a blessed and prosperous 2025.

The club welcomes three new members: Jack LaCherra, Geri LaCherra and Don Delaney.

November 2024
Most Wins
8–Vern Kessler. 6–Gary Null, Mike Hamlin & Dan Ebbighausen. 5–Betty DeLong & Joe Genovese.

Most Ringers
131–Vern Kessler. 126–Mike Hamlin. 101–Betty DeLong.

Best Ringer Percentages
42%–Betty DeLong. 39%–Cliff Dallas. 35%–Mike Hamlin.

The club started pitching horseshoes on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. The club pitches at the pits at the Veterans Park. Practices on Thursdays will start around 9 a.m., and all members are encouraged to come out for practice. This is a time when each of the members helps each other by pitching the shoe for points and ringers.

Everyone is invited out to join our club members and see how much fun we have at the horseshoe pits at the Veterans Park.

Horseshoes are the most fun you can have with two and a half pounds of steel! Contact Vern Kessler at 321-268-3179 with any questions.

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Country Line Dancing

Judy Sullivan



This past week, we learned one of the oldies but goodies ... Watermelon Crawl. It was a dance I learned close to 30 years ago when I was living in New Jersey. It was a great fun dance back then, and people seem to love it now. Several people came up to me to tell me that it brought back great memories. For most of the dancers, it was a brand-new dance,

and they, too, had a great time – lots of clapping and cheering afterward. Even with many people traveling in December 2024, we still had a large core group of people who love line dancing and showed up weekly. I’m thrilled that everyone there was having fun, and I look forward to returning week after week. If, for some reason, you couldn’t make the class, I’ve prepared a YouTube video of the dances that you can use to review. These videos seem to be helping many of the dancers to practice at home! One of our favorite dances is Ghost Train, which is dancing in a big circle and has become a favorite for many dancers. We

often end our class with that dance. Our classes are held on Sundays at the Recreation Center Ballroom from 2 to 3 p.m. For those of you who need additional help with the dance steps, please come at 1:30 p.m. to review these steps before the rest of the dancers arrive. We have learned 16 dances so far. We will add one or two every month going forward. I also encourage all dancers who need additional help to review the dances on YouTube. The best thing to do is to get as many dance practices as possible. On Thursdays, Sheryl Bradley teaches line dancing from 10 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Beginner I class is at 12:15 p.m., and Ab-

solute Beginners starts at 1 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios. She does not teach the same dances as I do, but the steps you’ll need to line dance will be the same. I invite you to please take advantage of these opportunities. Sheryl may be reached at sbradley057@yahoo.com or 207-632-0252. For more information, visit our Facebook page (OTOW Country Line Dancing with Judy). The YouTube channel is Country Line Dancing with Judy. If you are interested in dancing, please send me your name, email address, and phone number to 973-903-8719 via text or email at spirit927@live.com.

Poms Cheer & Dance

Pamela Kalamaras



The Poms Cheer & Dance Squad had a wonderful dinner celebration at The Club at Candler Hills on Dec. 5, 2024. We celebrated both the holiday season and our first year of hard work and achievements. Our resolution is to keep our ongoing commitment to present our audiences with innovative and entertaining dances that will have them tapping along to the music. Looking back on our first year as a brand-new dance club, we want to thank all of our audiences for their support. Our debut was at the 2024 Health & Wellness Expo, where we were greeted with enthusiasm. Some of our favorite performances in 2024 were the Patriotic Celebration at Circle Square Commons and the Veterans Day celebration in the Recreation Center. There is nothing better than putting smiles on faces, especially when audience members hear their military branch called out in song and dance. Larger venues included the Club Fair and the Wednesday night bingo in November 2024. Whether we are dancing to songs through the decades or perform-

ing our patriotic medley, it has been our pleasure to dance for the community. A sneak peek into the new year starts with the 2025 Health & Wellness Expo on Saturday, Jan. 11, at Circle Square Cultural Center. We will be performing at noon, so please mark it on your calendar. Come enjoy all the good acts; it’s free! In February, we will be visiting a few residential homes to help bring joy to people outside of On Top of the World. Are you ready for us? We would love to provide entertainment for your club or neighborhood event. We can adjust our performance to suit your needs in terms of time limits, music selections, and themes. Our most popular requests are rock ‘n’ roll songs through the decades and our medley of patriotic songs. If you are interested in becoming a team member, I can offer further information, guidance, and support. Entering this new world of dance and cheer is like no other dance in the community. This unique and exciting performance club is now being offered at many 55-plus communities nationwide. We invite you to come and visit us to see what the team is all about and maybe even join in the fun. Please contact Pam Kalamaras at pammykal@aol.com for more information on viewing our rehearsals, upcoming performances, new membership, and bookings.

Cornhole Club

Vincent Stevens



General club activities dropped slightly during December 2024, with many club members traveling or hosting family visits over the holidays. Our Introduction to Cornhole sessions will resume in January. Men’s league activities were concluded prior to the Thanksgiving holiday, with no league matches during December 2024. The men’s league returns to competition on Friday, Jan. 17. We are hoping for increased interest in forming a mixed league and possibly a Ladies League in the coming year. Preliminary planning for our annual club picnic will begin in earnest in January.

mentals of the sport and joining in the fun, register now. To register for this session at the Veterans Park, email your name and contact information to otowcornholers@yahoo.com prior to Jan. 14. **OPEN PLAY:** Open play sessions continue on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 4 p.m. Depending on when players arrive, we usually start earlier, usually around 3:30 p.m. With the holidays, member travel, and guest holiday visits, our open play sessions were not quite at the full-house level during December 2024 except for Mondays, which continued to draw a near full-house crowd. With the return to less active, post-holiday schedules, we expect full-house crowds to return on a regular basis. **LEAGUE ACTIVITY:** The men’s league plans its winter/spring kickoff on Friday, Jan. 17, at 11 a.m. with random team assignments and a match schedule. We anticipate a slightly longer season with seven teams on the roster. Once again, Ray Nault will facilitate our men’s league. Club members interested in competing in our men’s league should contact Ray at rnault85@gmail.com prior to Jan. 15.

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Ballet

Eugenie Martin



It is difficult to believe that 2025 is here. For our club, 2024 flew by! We now have over 40 members in the club and five teachers. In 2006, we started the club with three members and one teacher.

We strongly believe that ballet is an excellent form of exercise for more mature women. All traditional ballet classes include exercises done at the ballet barre. In addition, we include stretches before each class and after the barre part of the class before dancing in the middle of the floor

The Ballet Club participated in the Club Fair in October 2024 by running a table and performing several dances on the stage. Now, we are thinking of participating in another Club Fair to be held at Circle Square Cultural Center this month.

For new dancers, we do ask for a \$5

registration fee, but otherwise, all our classes are free. Classes are held in the Arbor Conference Center Ballet Room. Our classes are held as follows:

- Introductory/Beginner: Thursdays, from 1 to 2:15 p.m.
- Advanced Beginner: Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Intermediate I: Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Intermediate II: Fridays, noon to 1:15 p.m.
- Technique: Wednesdays, from 1:15 to 3:30 p.m.

Newcomers are advised to begin with the Introductory class on Thursdays at 1 p.m. That way, new dancers can get accustomed to the way we do things in our classes. If they wish, more experienced dancers can always move on to a more advanced class after starting with the Introductory class.

To start, dancers do not need ballet shoes and clothes. All you need are stretchy exercise clothes, socks for your feet, and a bottle of water. For more information, please call me at 352-854-8589. Happy 2025 to all, and happy dancing!

Line Dancing

Tamara Stanford



Happy New Year! On Top of the World line dancers hope that you had a wonderful holiday season. 2025 is here, and many use this calendar change to determine new plans and goals for the coming year. A common new year choice is improving our health through exercise.

The act of dancing improves general health. The Bethesda Health Group published an article titled “12 Health Benefits of Dancing for Seniors” in June 2023. The Bethesda Health Group wrote that low-impact cardio dancing produces some of the same heart and pulmonary benefits that happen during formal cardio exercise classes. While dancers follow the line dance steps, they also build muscle and enhance endurance. The enhancement of our physical endurance makes day-to-day activities easier. Along with muscle strength, movement increases bone mass. Adequate bone

mass is important as we are better protected should we fall. When line dancing, quick movements are, at times, necessary to stay with the dance steps and tempo of the music. Our ability to move quickly and accurately builds agility. Stronger muscles and agility may improve the dancer’s balance. Dance is a method we can use to become stronger, more flexible, and confident.

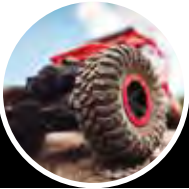
Line dancing requires memorization of the dance steps. Memorization improves our cognitive function. Dancing several times a week in a group leads to opportunities for social interaction, another benefit. Friendships with those who share our interests will boost our confidence and broaden our skills. Line dancing and other forms of dance enrich our lives. The best part is dancing is fun.

In November 2024, there was another dance social in the Recreation Center Ballroom. As always, we had a great time. More dance socials are in the planning stages for the year.

For questions about line dancing, contact Joe Spencer at joeship1@yahoo.com.

R/C Car Club

John Schoenherr



Every Thursday at 10 a.m. the legends racing team meets at the R/C car track to race, work on cars and just have some old-fashioned fun. The legend cars are replicate sedans and coupes from the 1930s and 1940s.

The reason for the development of legend cars was to create inexpensive racing for beginners and experienced racers alike. The kit, with body, can be purchased from RJ Speed for about \$150. The electronics (motor, esc, battery and servo) are purchased separately.

From previous columns you may remember that kits are cars that require assembly. When you receive a kit, you will have a chassis, body requiring painting and several bags of parts with instructions. The assembly for a legend car is easier than the more expensive vehicles because legends are a more basic design requiring less parts. Plus, you do not have to be an engineer to understand how a legend car works. The whole concept of legend cars is simpler, less expensive and more fun.

The R/C Car Club also has a large group of slot car drivers. Digital coded slot cars are the new era of racing. Remember back as kids when there were slot car track venues with huge tracks, eight, 10 or 12 analog lanes. Your own lane, your own car and your own controller and literally a side-by-side race to the finish. Now, fast forward to today where the oval or figure eight analog track is replaced by a two-lane road course 150 feet long with up to six cars per race.

How can that work? Instead of the

old-style tracks with dedicated lanes for each car, all cars use the same lanes. Each driver has a digital remote controller that is coded to their car. The drivers can make their cars change lanes at designated spots on the track. This allows drivers to pass each other. In addition, each driver also has a dashboard to keep track of the “electronic” fuel they use. When low on fuel the driver can change lanes and drive into a pit area to fill up.

Slot cars are very affordable, about \$60 per car. The track and controllers are provided by the R/C Car Club. For more information, contact Brian Allard at 603 252-7766.

Slot car drivers meet every Tuesday at

1 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II.

R/C electric car racing is every Wednesday and Saturday at 1 p.m. at the R/C car track.

Legend car racing is every Thursday at 10 a.m. at the R/C car track.

For more information contact John at 608 477-3420.

November 2024

Traxxas–Steve Yammamoto. Two-wheel buggy–Doug Stansbury. Four-wheel buggy–Sam Murphy. Pan car–Dave Johnson. Touring–Bob Herbst. Two-wheel truck–Ron Kaulfersch. Four-wheel truck–Fred Penichet. Limited–Bob Herbst. 17.5T–Bob Herbst. Sportsman–Jim Siltman. Truggy–Neil Sorensen.



Photo by John Schoenherr

The legends racing team.

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Enjoy a Good Laugh

By Dexter Vance

“Laughter is the language of the soul” suggests that laughter is a universal way to connect with others on a profound level, revealing something intrinsic about our being. But how much laughter are you getting?

The stress of the election, holidays, and just everyday stress. It’s enough to bring anyone down. That’s why you need to get out and get some good, full, gut-busting laughs. Entertainment is fun; it’s a chance for you to connect with the actors and relive the craziness that this life has thrown at us. What you and your soul needs is “Comedy Tonight.”

Paradise Players has been working on a series of short plays designed to be quick, short, and oh-so funny.

We bought the rights to each one of these professionally written plays that will be using very talented actors and actresses. This will be the recipe for the laughter that we all need to start 2025.

The play, called “Comedy Tonight,” will be on Sunday, Jan. 5, at 2 and 5 p.m. Here is a quick highlight of the skits.

“Joggin’ Along” by Dory Kaiser: Comedy sketches involving two single women in exercise gear who jog on stage and pause long enough to talk about what’s going on in their lives. Nothing is sacred as they discuss life with upbeat messages for seniors that they can relate

to, laugh, and enjoy.

“Now Hear This” by Dory Kaiser: A fast-paced comedy in which six characters on a cruise ship continuously misinterpret past messages, similar to the old telephone game. A sure hit for everyone to enjoy.

“Gin & Tonic” by John Clifford: This laugh-out-loud comedy offers a fresh look at the problems of senior dating. And even if you’re not in the dating scene, it will bring you to your knees.

“Head or Feet First” by Douglas Campbell: This zany 1940s-style mystery farce is sure to keep you laughing hysterically!

But wait! There’s more! Also, in Paradise Players’ super entertainment fashion, there will be a musical number for “Comedy Tonight” with several solos and dancing.

These performances will be all the talk for days and months until, of course, the next “Platinum Girls” comes back to the stage in late spring.

Don’t have your tickets to “Comedy Tonight” yet? It’s not a problem; there will be ticket sales at the door.

Contact Lee Smith for questions or additional information at otowparadiseplayers@gmail.com

Or on our Facebook page (OTOW Paradise Players).



Photo by Dexter Vance

“Comedy Tonight” will surely bring a smile to your face!

A Year of Massive Giving

By Ann Gallo

Happy New Year! Looking back on 2024, it has been a year of growth. The Sewing Bees set a massive goal: to distribute 1,000 quilts to disadvantaged local children. We are proud and excited to announce that we reached our goal and donated 1,003 handmade quilts lovingly made by all our members. We would also like to thank residents for their generous donations.

As we close the books for 2024, we made and distributed 1,003 quilts, 438 totes, 80 stuffed animals, 266 pillow friends, 100 teen pillows, 59 regular pillows, 148 baby blankets, 452 pieces of children’s clothing, 514 burp pads, 140 stuffed Christmas stockings, and 39 books.

November and December were hectic months. We stuffed 140 Christmas stockings and delivered them to Marion County Children’s Alliance, Children & Youth Homeless (Marion County School Division), Reddick Pre-K class, and Joy Lutheran teenage girl’s residence.

We delivered 60 quilts to Children & Youth Homeless. Fifty Christmas quilts had previously been delivered to Marion County Children’s Alliance.

We added Picking Up the Pieces, run by Michell Pepins, which works with the Marion County Fire Rescue homeless division. They received 42 stockings for their children’s Christmas party. These children are homeless, in foster care, or in a home.

We also added Interfaith Emergency Services, which distributed 56 of our quilts to families for their Christmas gathering. Currently, 12 children live on-

site, and those quilts were given to the children on Christmas morning.

Finally, we added Pay It Forward Outreach, which distributed 33 quilts to homeless and low-income families.

On Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024, we brought baked goodies to Shephard’s Lighthouse and Saving Mercy, as well as 30 quilts and 100 burping cloths. These two agencies provide refuge to girls at risk of sex trafficking, homelessness, and pregnancy.

Please stop at the Club Fair on Thursday, Jan. 30, in Circle Square Cultural Center. We would love to chat and show off some of our work.

See our program in action in the Hobby Building Art Room A & B. We meet every Thursday from 12:30 to 3 p.m. We also meet on the second and third Saturdays of the month from noon to 3 p.m.

Can’t sew? No problem. We have many tasks that are essential to our program. We have sewing machines available to use, or bring your own.

Meet an amazing and talented group of ladies and gentlemen. Dues are \$15 for the year.

We always need children’s themed cotton, solid color cotton, or flannel fabric.

Join our page on Facebook (Sewing Bees Club Inc.) and see what magic takes place at the hive. Stay up to date on what we are working on and what our current needs are.

If you have any questions, call or text Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178 or Susie Clauson at 904-422-5135.



Photo by Marianne Hoffman

Jenny.

Art on Display

By Marianne Hoffman

If you love going to art museums and galleries, then you won’t want to miss what the Art Group has created for your viewing pleasure.

Throughout the month of January, you’ll be surprised and delighted at the amazing artwork on display in the Master the Possibilities lobby. Various mediums of art, including breathtaking acrylic and watercolor paintings, have been created with love by your neighbors. Now you can discover some of their incredible talent.

If you just want to appreciate art, you should check out this gallery. You might even find something you’d like

to purchase for your home or decide to commission one of the artists to create something special for you.

It’s a great start to the new year. But that’s not all, if you are an artist yourself, why not make a resolution to join the Art Group? We welcome new members. You’ll have access to the Hobby Building Art Room three days a week: Wednesdays, 1 to 4 p.m. and both Thursdays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon. There is no fee, but you will need to bring your own supplies. To learn more, contact Freda Klump, director, at 615-336-6863 or fredaklump@gmail.com.



Photo by Donna Sherman

The Sewing Bees stuffed 140 stockings for various agencies serving children.

Recreation

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



Stay in the Know

Additional event/trip details are available at OTOWInfo.com > Activity Info > Virtual Bulletin Board (or scan the QR code below), the Life in Motion Wellness Connections catalog, OTOW app, or pick up a printed flyer at the Recreation Center. Please also refer to the monthly event calendar (home-delivered with every issue of the World News).

The new OTOW app is available for download through the Apple Store or Google Play. If you haven’t already done so, download it today. Account approval can take up to 72 hours to verify resident status. With the OTOW app, you can easily purchase tickets, reserve rooms or seats, and pay for trips and classes – all from your phone, tablet, or computer, at your convenience. Online registration for all Recreation activities/events is live, so sign up soon. Starting Tuesday, April 1, the OTOW app will be the only way to register for Recreation activities/events. If you experience any login issues, please contact Resident Services for assistance after the initial 72 hours. Don’t miss out on all the excitement On Top of the World has for you – register today!

You must be a resident with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass to register for a trip or event. All bus trips leave from the Recreation Center parking lot.

Social Committee

The Social Committee meets monthly and welcomes residents to contribute ideas, provide constructive feedback, and assist with planning, organizing, and decorating events. Your suggestions for improving recreational activities are highly valued by the Recreation Department. If you’re interested in joining the committee, please call 352-387-7530 or email shannon_prince@otowfl.com.

Recreation Center

Happy Hour

Join us for Happy Hour every Friday from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. A cash bar is always standing by for your beverage needs. Enjoy the music, dancing, and The Pub. Resident IDs will be required to attend Happy Hour, and anyone not producing a resident ID will be considered a guest. Guest fees are \$5 per person. Children under the age of 15 will not be permitted into Happy Hour. Please note that no outside beverages of any kind will be allowed.

The entertainment lineup is as follows:

- Jan. 3: Bill and Linda Sisco
- Jan.10: Crossfire
- Jan. 17: Rock Solid
- Jan. 24: Kathleen Kane

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Music at the Pavilion

Enjoy some great music at the pool and pavilion area at the Recreation Center from 1 to 4 p.m. This is free for residents. The schedule is as follows:

- Saturday, Jan 4: Lisa Coan
- Friday, Jan 10: Gerry Coe
- Sunday, Jan. 19: Robert France
- Friday, Jan. 31: Cherokee

Karaoke

Karaoke is always fun! Sing your heart out or enjoy the music every second Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m. This event is free to residents and \$5 for guests accompanied by a resident.

Ladies Night

Ladies, you are invited to join us on Tuesday, Jan. 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. Tony Machicote will provide music. This event is free to residents and \$5 for guests. Bring your beverage and snacks. See you there!

Movie Night

Join us for a cinematic night, which will include a newly released movie. The movie choice will be featured in this monthly column and at OTOWInfo.com. The movie will be shown every third Thursday at 6 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. It is free for residents and \$5 for guests. Concessions may be for sale, but The Pub will also be open. This newly obtained movie license covers only the Recreation Center Ballroom and cannot be transferred or used at any other building. The first movie is set for Thursday, Jan. 16. The title has yet to be chosen, so it will be a mystery!

Club Fair

The Recreation Department is excited to invite you to the bi-annual Club Fair! We’re partnering with the Colen Built Development Marketing Department to bring you an even more exciting event, which will be held at Circle Square Cultural Center. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase the amazing clubs at On Top of the World, not only to our residents but also to the public – including potential future residents considering making On Top of the World their new home.

This event will not be offering club memberships to the public. Instead, we’ll highlight each club’s fantastic offerings to give non-residents a taste of what they can look forward to if they move into our community.

For residents, as usual, you will have the opportunity to reconnect with clubs and sign up for new activities. The Club Fair is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 30, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center! We hope you’re as excited to see all our clubs’ vibrant offerings! The event is free to attend.

Big Band Black & White-themed Party

Dress like your favorite gangster, movie star, or book character on Thursday, Jan. 30, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Music by Paul DeRitter and his Big Brass Band will keep you swinging and dancing around the floor to the music of the ‘30s, ‘40s, and ‘50s. Don’t miss it. It’s going to be swell! Feel free to bring snacks. The Pub will be open for your beverage needs. No

outside beverage containers of any kind are permitted. Ballroom, pattern, and freestyle dancing will take place on this night.

Ballroom Dance Class*

Register for the February class and learn the Merengue and the Hustle with ballroom instructor Butch Phillips. Classes are held every second, third, and fourth Wednesday of each month from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. The cost is \$30 for three weeks of classes per month. Sale dates are from Tuesday, Jan. 7, through Tuesday, Jan. 21.

**To register, visit the Recreation Center Tuesday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Payment is required at the time of registration. Resident IDs or Gateway of Services passes must be presented at all events and when purchasing tickets. No refunds will be issued 14 days or fewer before the registered event. All trip reservations need to be made in person only.*

The Lodge at Candler Hills

Kocktails & Karaoke

Sing your heart out! You’ll feel at home singing with your neighbors to cheer you on. Enjoy the fun every first Thursday of each month from 5 to 8 p.m. with Charlie and Kathy Petrosky. This event is free for residents, and a \$5 guest fee is applied when accompanied by a resident.

Open Game/Card Play

Join your neighbors and friends every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Card Room for open game day. Bring your games and have some fun. Remember, only water is permitted.

Happy Hour

Happy Hour will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. on the following days:

- Saturday, Jan. 4: Area 81
- Friday, Jan. 10: 4 for the Road
- Saturday, Jan. 18: Sun Coast
- Saturday, Feb. 1: Groove 41

Bring your beverages and snacks. This event is free for residents, and a \$5 guest fee is applied when accompanied by a resident.

Safety Training Classes*

The Colen Built Development safety team is conducting safety classes in 2025. The schedule below is for the first six months. Please mark your calendar. You may use the OTOW App to reserve your seat! All residents are encouraged to register and attend.

- Wednesday, Jan. 8 (2 to 4 p.m.): Golf Cart Safety
- Wednesday, Feb. 12 (2 to 4 p.m.): Hands-Only CPR
- Wednesday, April 9 (2 to 4 p.m.): Basic First Aid
- Wednesday, May 14 (2 to 4 p.m.): Active Shooter
- Thursdays, March 20 (4 to 6 p.m.): Golf Cart Safety
- Thursday, June 19 (4 to 6 p.m.): Hands-Only CPR

Music Bingo*

Play for a chance to spot the song for a chance to win. Enjoy music bingo on Thursday, Jan. 30, from 5 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per resident and \$10 per guest when purchased by a resident. Seating is limited.

**To register or purchase event tickets, visit The Lodge at Candler Hills office Sunday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. or Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Payment is required at the time of registration. Resident IDs must be presented at all events and when purchasing tickets. No refunds will be issued 14 days or fewer prior to the registered event.*

Indigo East Community Center

Wine & Cheese

Wednesday, Jan. 8, we are hosting a Wine & Cheese Party from 5 to 7 p.m. Invite your neighbors and friends to have fun, socialize, and listen to music by Linda Sisco. Bring your favorite wine or beverage. We will provide a variety of cheeses, crackers, and fruits (while the supplies last). This is a free event for residents and \$5 for guests.

Karaoke

Do you love to sing? Please plan to join us, choose your song, and share your voice at karaoke on Thursday, Jan. 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Indigo East Community Center. Feel free to sing solo or in group. You don’t have to sing but will be welcomed with open arms if you dare to share your voice in song. Bring your beverage and snacks. This is a free event for residents and \$5 for guests accompanied by a resident.

Happy Hour

Join us for a good time with your friends and neighbors from 5 to 8 p.m. Bring your favorite cocktails and snacks. The Joes will be featured on Jan. 17, and



Casey Young on Jan. 24. This event is free for residents and \$5 per guest.

Music Bingo*

Don’t miss this exciting new event, music bingo, every first Thursday of the month. Join us on Thursday, Feb. 6. The cost is \$3 per resident and \$8 per guest. Doug Carbaugh will lead music bingo from 3 to 5 p.m.

Trivia*

Join in for some friendly competition with your neighbors and friends at Trivia Night on Monday, Feb. 3, from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring your favorite snacks and beverages to share with your team. If you want to join in every first Monday of each month, come to the Indigo East Fitness Center office to register your team. The new cost for this event is \$3 per resident and \$8 per guest.

Fitness on Demand Updates

Check out the new classes: Dance Fit, Boomer Beat, Step Fit, Stretch, Flex & Balance. Come to Indigo East Fitness Center anytime to select one of the many virtual classes, from yoga and meditation to strengthening and cardio. Our very own fitness team created the World Class Active Aging videos. If you need help figuring out how to use this perk – just ask.

Garden Plots

There are nine garden plots ready for you to get your hands dirty. Come to the Indigo East Fitness Center, fill out a registration form, review the rules and guidelines, and pick your plot. Then plant away and enjoy your bounty. The University of Florida IFAS Extension and its website have great information on what to plant now. They also offer great education about Central Florida gardening. If any of our gardeners would like to communicate with each other or maybe start a garden club, please email pattie_hughes@otowfl.com your email address along with your plot number. Happy harvests!

**To register or purchase tickets, visit the Indigo East Fitness Center office. Payment is required at the time of registration. No refunds will be issued 14 days or fewer prior to the registered event. Resident IDs must always be presented and are required when purchasing tickets. An Indigo East resident must accompany guests.*

The Landing

Resident Social

Hey there, fellow residents! Ready to kick off 2025 with some fun and mingling? Join us at the Landing Ballroom on Sunday, Jan. 5, from 1 to 4 p.m. for our resident social – entertainment by Alex and Sandra. Bring your snacks and drinks, and let’s make some new friends! Can’t wait to see you there.

Karaoke

Get ready to unleash your inner singing superstar at karaoke at The Landing Ballroom on Wednesday, Jan. 15, from 5 to 8 p.m.! DJ Cheryl Jensen will be there to keep the party going. Don’t forget to bring your drinks and snacks. See you there for a night of singing fun!

Happy Hour

It’s party time with HWY 94 on Thursday, Jan. 23, from 5 to 8 p.m. Bring your snacks and drinks and get ready for some incredible dancing. Let’s make it a night to remember! See you there!

Music Bingo*

Get ready to bust out your best dance moves and test your music knowledge at music bingo with Wendy Petersen on Monday, Jan. 27, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Bring your drinks and snacks, and register beforehand. It’s going to be a jammin’ good time!

**To register or purchase tickets, visit The Landing office Tuesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Payment is required at the time of registration. No refunds will be issued 14 days or fewer prior to the registered event. Resident ID must be presented at all times and when purchasing tickets. A Weybourne Landing resident must accompany guests.*

BUS SCHEDULE

Monday - Thursday

MORNING ROUTE

PICK-UP LOCATIONS

TIME

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

MORNING DESTINATIONS

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

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

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

AFTERNOON ROUTE

PICK-UP LOCATIONS AND TIMES

The Lodge at Candler Hills	1:15 p.m.	Candler Hills Community Center	1:20 p.m.
Friendship Colony Post Office	1:25 p.m.	Providence Post Office	1:28 p.m.
Avalon Post Office	1:33 p.m.	Crescent Ridge Post Office	1:38 p.m.
Recreation Center	1:43 p.m.	Americana Post Office	1:48 p.m.
Friendship Post Office	1:54 p.m.		

AFTERNOON DESTINATIONS

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

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

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

#9601 - 3/24

For information, call 352-789-5666.

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

OTOWInfo.com

We had songs to make us reflect. Fran sang "Hallelujah." Patty reminded us of things to put on a "Grown Up Christ-

Sing with us or meet the singers on the first and third Monday of the month. We meet in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. All residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass are invited to come. This month, we will meet on Mondays, Jan. 6 and Jan. 20.

AcaBella was pleased to perform for members of the Global Diversity Asian Social Club at their holiday gathering on Dec. 6, 2024. Comprised of residents, AcaBella is a women's cappella singing ensemble whose voices combine to form a complete musical arrangement.

Beginning in January, AcaBella will be holding rehearsals every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room. We are currently accepting new members in all voice parts – if you love to sing, come join us! We will also be represented at the upcoming Club Fair on Thursday, Jan. 30. For more information on joining our ensemble or having AcaBella perform for your event, please contact Director Holly St. John at agreatsound@gmail.com.



Photo by Mari Yukawa Prasad

AcaBella performs with Laura DeAngelo, Deborah Stevens, Janet Amend, Barbara Sprigg, Holly St. John, Lorraine Bettica, DeAnne Bluefer, and Celeste Grosse.



Photo by Steve Warren

Karaoke Christmas 2024.

PUTTING Saturday, January 4th 9 am Pre-register at the Candler Hills Golf Shop by 5 pm on Friday, January 3, 2024	GOLF CLINICS  Candler Hills Golf Club f/candlerhillsgolfclub ig/candlerhillsgolfclub 8137 SW 90th Terrace Road, Ocala, FL 34411 352-861-9712 CandlerHillsGolfClub.com All are guests per 12 hrs, maximum of 2, maximum of 20 guests per session. Maximum of 10 students to each golf clinic session. Hand / Carry and Clubhead Arrows Fairway and/or on New Hingeport Inc. is for the clinic.	CHIPPING Saturday, January 11th 9 am Pre-register at the Candler Hills Golf Shop by 5 pm on Friday, January 10, 2024
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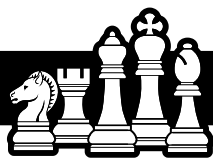
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CARDS & GAMES



Bingo

Nancy Grabowski



A warm welcome to 2025 from the bingo volunteers! We eagerly await your return to the Recreation Center Ballroom on Wednesday, Jan. 8, to renew friendships, make new friends, and have fun. We plan to follow the same pattern that has been so successful. Raffle tickets will go on sale at 4 p.m. The cost is three for \$1 or 10 for \$3. Winning tickets will be pulled, starting around 5:40 p.m., and will pay each lucky winner \$20. The playing cards will be sold from 4:30 to 5:40 p.m. Each card costs \$1 and has sliders, so no daubers or markers are needed. Resident ID cards must be shown, and guests are welcome to play. Residents must sign in their guests.

We play 10 games in each half with a ten-minute break in between. Each game is pictured on the big board, and the number called flashes until the following number is called. We encourage you to yell loud enough to be heard over the machine, even if you’re not sure your board is accurate. Our runners will verify each card with our caller before the prize money is awarded.

You may save one seat other than your own. Please do not tip chairs as a saving mechanism; it is a safety issue. Respect the volunteer signs on tables; our volunteers are busy preparing a fun night for you.

Bingo is governed by the State of Florida and is viewed as a form of gambling. No one under 18 is allowed to play or sit and watch. There is no alcohol, including beer, wine, or mixed drinks, permitted during bingo. Drinks may be purchased in The Pub and consumed there or on the patio.

At the close of the 20th game, we ask that cards and bingo materials be brought to the front table. Cards should be placed face down, and other materials should be placed in the box. Please be patient with those who move a bit slower than you so accidents may be avoided.

Walking on the sidewalks is far safer than the driveway. Watch for turning cars and those exiting the parking areas, too.

Bridge



Monday Afternoon
By Carol Johnson

- Nov. 11, 2024**
1: Barb Heller & Barbie Trebilcock; 2: V.J. Hentz & Carolyn Higgins; 3: Jack Heller & Steve Sekac; 4: Mar Valchin & Bruce Gillett.
- Nov. 18, 2024**
1: Carolyn Higgins & V.J. Hentz; 2: Diane Robinson & Carol Johnson; 3: Phyllis Silverman & Judy Mackowiak; 4: Pat & Debbie Quinn.
- Nov. 25, 2024**
1: Connie Feola & Carol Johnson; 2: Barbie Trebilcock & Barb Heller; 3: Carolyn Higgins & V.J. Hentz; 4: Pat & Debbie Quinn.
- Dec. 2, 2024**
1: Mike Meirick & Craig Ford; 2: Carolyn Higgins & V.J. Hentz; 3: Barb Heller & Barbie Trebilcock;

- 4: Judy Mackowiak & Phyllis Silverman; 5: Bruce Gillett & Mar Valchin.

Tuesday Night Duplicate
By Bob Kraus

We meet in the Arbor Activity Center Card Rooms I-II, and play begins at 6 p.m. We set up the best game, Mitchell or Howell, appropriate for the number of players, so please arrive by 5:50 p.m. to sign in and allow time for setup. Bring your partner and \$0.50 per person. The boards are scored after the game, and the results are emailed to the group within a few days. You can also play occasionally as a substitute. Contact us, and we’ll put you on our list. For more information, you can contact Bob Kraus at 352-492-8525.

- Nov. 12, 2024**
North/South
1: Dan Lack & Paul Agarwal; 2: Sophie Redman & Jean Krueger; 3: Dennis Wallace & Judi Wallace.
- East/West**
1: Jack Heller & Barbara Heller; 2: Bob Kraus & Arlene Loepp; 3: Dean Samuels & Jeff Bell.
- Nov. 19, 2024**
North/South
1: Dean Samuels & Jeff Bell; 2: Dennis Wallace & Judi Wallace; 3: Diane Turkin & Gary Moses.
- East/West**
1: Jeff Young & Chris Wachter; 2: Bob Kraus & Arlene Loepp; 3: Connie Campbell & Billie Andersen.
- Nov. 26, 2024**
1: Jean Krueger & Sandy Schaffer; 2: Dan Lack & Paul Agarwal; 3: Maureen Brehm & Carrie Kanosky; 4: Diane Turkin & Gary Moses; 5: Bob Kraus & Virginia Collins.
- Dec. 3, 2024**
North/South
1: Diane Turkin & Gary Moses; Tied at 2: Sophie Redman & Jean Krueger; and Brent Powell & Jeff Young.
- East/West**
1: Brian Lomasky & Drew Brehm; 2: Matt Oram & Sylvia Zelkin; 3: Bob Kraus & Arlene Loepp.

Wednesday Afternoon
By Dianne Robinson

- Nov. 6, 2024**
1: Bob Knowls; 2: Pat Quinn; 3: Ron Smith; 4: Debbie Quinn & Bruce Gillett; Cons: Dianne Robinson.
- Nov. 13, 2024**
1: Steve Sekac; 2: Al Kremer; 3: Billie Andersen; 4: Phyllis Silverman; Cons: Jeff Young.
- Nov. 20, 2024**
1: Steve Sekac; 2: Debbie Quinn; 3: Marlyn Valchin; 4: Ron Smith; 5: Pat Quinn; Cons: Bob Durst.

Thursday Afternoon
By Marlene Floeckher

- Nov. 7, 2024**
1: Bob Durst; 2: Billie Andersen; 3: Craig Ford; Cons: Bruce Gillett.
- Nov. 14, 2024**
1: Bruce Gillett; 2: Marlene Floeckher; 3: Pat Quinn; 4: Dianne Robinson; Cons: Debbie Quinn.
- Nov. 28, 2024**
1: Craig Ford; 2: Linda Curtiss; 3: Steve Sekac; 4: Mike Meirick; 5: Beverly Meirick; Cons: Rad.

Thursday Night
By Pam & Jeff Bell

It’s party bridge time! Our relaxed and welcoming group has players who

have recently finished the beginning lessons at Master the Possibilities, players who are returning to bridge after decades off, and several who have played well for decades and could teach classes, if they so choose.

Beginning Thursday, Jan. 2, we will meet weekly on Thursdays at 6 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Card Rooms I-II.

There is no need to bring a partner; we pair up by the luck of the draw at 6 p.m. and rotate partners throughout the evening. We play three rounds of seven hands each and finish up no later than 9 p.m. Bring 25 cents, a smile, and a good attitude, and have some fun, meet new people, and maybe even win the “2 prize.”

Nov. 14, 2024

- 1: Jean Krueger-Travis; 2: Linda Curtiss; 3: Larry Bernier; 2 prize: Mary Bloch.

Nov. 21, 2024

- 1: Sandy Schaffer; 2: Paul Agarwal; 3: Ray Wilson; 2 prize: Sandy Schaffer.

Bunco Babes Social Group



Michelle Malsch

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

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

Although the name of our group is “Bunco Babes,” we have a few husbands who attend as well. If you enjoy the game, don’t be afraid to be a “bunco dude.”

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

The cost is \$3 per person (please try to have exact change) and all monies collected are returned at the end of the game to the category winners. There are also two drawings for door prizes for those who did not win any of the cash prizes. Please bring your own beverage and small snack if you wish. There is a short intermission after the first three sets have been played.

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

Cribbage



Judy Parisi

Our Cribbage Group is changing location with a slight adjustment in time in 2025. We will be meeting at the Arbor Activity Center Card Room II on the first and third Thursday of the month from 3

to 5 p.m.

We welcome new players to join us. We’re a non-competitive group of all experience levels. We help each other out and do not do “muggins.” For those not familiar with “muggins” it’s a term specific to cribbage where if a person doesn’t claim the points they are due, their opponent can take them. Being we’re a low-key, friendly group; we don’t do that.

If you have a cribbage board, please bring that with you.

If you would like more information or would like to join us, please email us at judith.parisi@gmail.com.

Mah Jongg



American
By 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

- Nov. 5, 2024**
1: Marlene Floeckher; 2: Ilene Casper; 3: Judy Black.
- Nov. 12, 2024**
1: Diane Padgett; 2: Stacey Padgett; 3: Judy Black.
- Nov. 19, 2024**
1: Pat Noel; 2: Bud Alderman; 3: Walter Hickenlooper.
- Nov. 26, 2024**
1: Janet Baker; 2: Rick Carroll; 3: Bob Hoerr.

Friday Morning
By Mary Hannon

- Nov. 15, 2024**
1: Herb Katz; 2: Dawn Bunyak; 3: Rick Carroll.
- Nov. 22, 2024**
1: Phyllis Jarskey; 2: Marlene Floeckher; 3: Debbie Martello.
- Nov. 29, 2024**
1: Larry Black; 2: Jim Magoon; 3: Dawn Bunyak.
- Dec. 6, 2024**
1: Michelle Pritchard; 2: Marlene Floeckher; 3: Larry Black.

Toppers Banjo



David Wesenberg

Toppers Banjo Band meets every Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room.

Our focus is to improve our playing by working on new and old songs intensively. We added a bass dulcimer and a percussionist to our group to remedy some areas in which we need improvement. We hope to experiment by having different players become the lead and adding different types of parts to fill out our musical offering. We will also try some vocal harmonies to fill out that component of our music. This is a good time to join us as we develop our musical offerings and make important changes.

We welcome active or aspiring banjo and acoustic guitar players to join us in playing and singing banjo music. If you like to play, come and join us. If you have some ideas to improve performance values and presentation, we want to hear them. If you just like to listen, join us and enjoy the music and conversation. Everyone is welcome.

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Poetry Club

Barbara A. Scales & Bruce Tredinnick



Billy Collins is the most popular contemporary poet in America today. The Poetry Club gives him a high five for snowbirding between Southampton, New York, and Winter Park, Florida. He has published 18 books of poetry, of which two anthologies called Poetry 180 are his poems designed to spark poetry interest in high school audiences. From 2001 to 2003, Collins was the American Poet Laureate. As part of his Poet Laureate duties, in 2002, Collins was asked to write a poem and read it before a joint session of Congress to com-

memorate the first anniversary of the September 11 World Trade Center Twin Towers fall. His poem “The Names” is a compelling piece of literature. To access the poem, visit pbs.org/newshour/show/poet-billy-collins-reflects-on-9-11-victims-in-the-names. Among his other achievements, Collins has done two TED Talks, hosted PBS TV, Garrison Keillor’s “The Writers Almanac,” an NPR daily broadcast for years, taught poetry workshops, and educated college students about poetry. The techniques Collins applies in his craft draw the reader in. He uses metaphors, acutely brilliant imagery, and personification, including anthropomorphism (think Gary Larson’s The Far Side.) His imagination has a broad sweep with touches of humor, reminding us that poetry does not need to be

stuffy or elitist. His writings are light, sometimes lyrical, and often witty. The Poetry Club encourages anyone to check out Collin’s poetry. The following is one of Collin’s shortest poems. It is a good example of his satirical yet comical look at one of life’s toughest situations. **Divorce**
By Billy Collins
Once two spoons in bed
Now tined forks
Across a granite table
And the knives they’ve hired
In a 2013 interview by Jeffrey Brown of PBS, Collins said that we all can be serious enough to sit in a classroom to learn, but not all of us can be funny. He said he strives to find the funny in everyday events, which can lead to the profound.

An interesting poetry perspective mentioned by Collins during that interview is that Robert Frost was the first to visit colleges to introduce poetry to students. He admires Frost’s attempts to keep poetry alive by acquainting our youth to this art form. And we of the Poetry Club agree. If you wish to see his interview, visit watch.sdpb.org/video/billy-collins-on-humour-poetry-and-pretending-to-be-serious-1389909040/. We welcome you to our Poetry Club. Meetings are an open forum held in the Hobby Building Event Room from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on the second and fourth Fridays of the month. Come listen. Share what you have written if you wish. If you have questions, please contact Bruce Tredinnick at 352-857-7938.

Model Railroaders

Jim Lynam



The club hopes that you will be able to visit the main HO layout now through Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024, from noon to 4 p.m. in the Hobby Building Model Train Room. The variety of steam engines and diesel locomotives hauling passengers and freight will be amazing! The scale miniaturization of the layout is spectacular. As we tell the visitors, “The more you look, the more detail you will see!” The members of the Model Railroaders sincerely hope that everyone who viewed the three-rail layout at Master the Possibilities over the holidays enjoyed the experience. We trust that viewing the trains and accessories brought back many fond memories from Christmases past. Members would like to express our sincere appreciation to Jim Lynam, Al Lohr, Lee Robertshaw, Charlie Vartanian, and Larry Luke for their service as club officers for 2024. Through their leadership and with the help of Bernie Bossert, our scenery director, and many of the club members, improvements were made to the club’s layouts. The HO layout received new dioramas, including the knot garden, Fourth of July fireworks, carnival rides, and winter snow scene. Scenery improvements were made to the park area, the

town of Franklin, and people fishing in the pond. Newly animated features were the children’s play area, the rail-fan photographer, and the kite flier. The O gauge display was completely redesigned to accommodate the slot-car track, which provides cars moving along the streets. New structures include an animated firehouse, an animated hospital, an operating signal bridge, a barber shop, and an operating coal loader. A park scene was added featuring new scenery and people playing checkers. The most spectacular addition was the donated MTH steam engine, literally complete with all the “bells and whistles!” The club wishes to congratulate the elected officers for 2025: President Jim Lynam, Vice President Al Lohr, Secretary Jon Grady, Treasurer Lee Robertshaw, and Director Larry Luke. The members wish to express our sincere appreciation to Charlie Vartanian for serving as treasurer for the entire 16 years of the club’s existence. Thank you, Charlie! The club encourages you to visit the Hobby Building Model Train Room any Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. Come on in and run some trains with us! The Model Railroaders Club is always looking for new members, and you are welcome to join us. Our next club meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 8, in the Hobby Building Event Room. If you have any questions, please call Jim Lynam at 352-861-2822. Wishing everyone the very best for 2025!

Concert Chorus

Joanne Houston



What a wonderful time we had at our “Holiday to Remember” concerts in December 2024 at Circle Square Cultural Center. We’d like to thank all of you who brought food donations for the Interfaith Emergency Services Food-4-Kids program, which provides valuable support to our Marion County school children over the holiday break. The audience was spectacular, and having

friends, family, and members of the community there to share our music was very special. We will begin rehearsals for our spring concert on Tuesday, Jan. 7, from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room. The spring concert will take place on Sunday, April 6, at 3 p.m. and Monday, April 7, at 6 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center. Reading music is helpful but not required, and all are welcome to participate. If you love to sing, drop by on Jan. 7 and hear a preview of the music. We guarantee a fun time! For more information, email Deborasmith@gmail.com or Joanne.houston57@gmail.com.



Winter wonderland in the Hobby Building Model Train Room.

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Happy Hookers

Jan Spielvogel



As our group looks back on 2024, we cannot help but be amazed at our accomplishments. We created and donated 523 hats, 296 scarves, and 225 Afghans. Wow! The hats and scarves went to hurricane relief, Ocala Police Department, Pay It Forward, and the homeless in the community. The Afghans were donated to Hospice of Marion County and the Marion County Sheriff’s Office Bears & Blankets program.

Please keep the donations of yarn coming. You can see that we certainly put it to good use!

Happy Hookers is open to all residents. We meet Mondays from 1 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 sometimes interfere, and we would hate for that to hold you back.

We have a group of ladies busy with crocheting, knitting, needlepointing, card crafting, embroidering, and hand-crafting. This talented group is never too busy to help someone with a complicated pattern or stitch. We welcome newcomers with open arms. Attendees should bring whatever they happen to be working on.

If you have questions about our club, call Naomi Berman at 352-873-4328. Donations for yarn, pattern books, knitting needles, crochet hooks, or other crafting tools are always appreciated. Please bring them on Mondays during our meeting time or contact Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178 to arrange pickup.

Crafters Anonymous

Donna Owen



Happy 2025! Here’s hoping everyone had a great holiday. Our club had a fun holiday party on Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2024, with delicious food, hysterical entertainment, and our usual good time visiting with one another. Thanks to all who helped make it so great.

We invite all crafters of any level to check us out at the Club Fair on Thursday, Jan. 30, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center.

We are a friendly group of creative people who meet every Tuesday from 12:30 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building. We love to share our creative ideas and learn new ones from others. Just bring your unfinished craft projects and make some new friends. We can’t wait to meet you.

For more information, you can contact Donna at bammao@sbcglobal.net.

Artistic Crafts & Gifts

Chris Kilbride



The weekly Artistic Crafts & Gifts Tuesday craft show at the Recreation Center Ballroom is from 9 a.m. to noon, and everyone is in full swing!

ArtisticCrafts.org will give you a glimpse of our very talented crafters and artisans. The group started in the early 1990s, and the show has grown from seven crafters to over 50 on Tuesday, with over 90 online for their visual presence. All resident crafters are welcome to sell virtually on our website and inquire about a table at our Tuesday show.

This month, we’re featuring Jan Roth, a designer, creator, and producer of all types of crafts from textile products. Her interests began as a little girl, learning from the observation and teachings of her mother. In high school, she took home economics classes, which included some sewing experience, using machines, and learning hand stitches.



Photo by ShutterBug Harry Boyajian

Reflections.

ShutterBugs Photography

Kathi Simens



We recently closed our annual photo contest. This month, the ShutterBugs Photography Club highlights the first-place winners in the landscape category – Harry Boyajian, Steve Evans, and Jan Jordan.

Harry Boyajian says his photo titled “Reflections” was taken about a mile off the coast of Portland, Maine, while on a cruise ship.

Steve Evans’ “Glacier” photo was taken at Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park. While Steve has owned many cameras over the years, with costs ranging from \$20 to many thousands, this photo was taken with an iPhone. Steve says that what makes good photos is great composition and some post-editing work.

Jan Jordan says her photo “Nature’s Backyard” was taken in Sedona, Arizona, on her trip to the Grand Canyon. Their guide took them to places, not on

During this time, she also began making some of her own clothes, which was back when patterns could be purchased for 50 cents!

Jan’s formal training and experience related to her hobbies include seminars and classes at local fabric stores, as well as taking a class to learn the lost art of tatting, which is a process of knotting special thread to form items that have a lace appearance. Her current creations start with ideas from many sources, including fabric stores, online, books, magazines, and, yes, looking at items made by other crafters while attending craft shows.

To keep inspired and continue to make products, she often reflects upon the influence of her mother and grandmother, as well as constant encouragement from her husband, including the many folks who have purchased her items.

There are different types of textile materials she uses, including fabric, thread, wool yarn, crochet cotton, and the standard tools of the trade. She hand-quilts all her quilted items. For many years now, both the sewing and embroidery machines have been tools

utilized for machine-sewn items and have served her well. She sells many diversified products, like quilts, hot pads, tatted doilies, oven mitts, bowl cozies, aprons, embroidered towels, and placemats. She welcomes special requests from customers.

Originally from Lansdale, Pennsylvania, she retired in 2016 after having worked for the same gentleman for 40 years at three different companies as an executive assistant. After retiring, they first moved to South Carolina for a few years, then just arrived here in 2023. While in Pennsylvania, her husband convinced her to try selling products at local craft show venues, including churches, schools, and public facilities. She was immediately hooked, as the folks who became customers also became friends! They continued with the craft shows in South Carolina, and now, in Florida, Jan is looking for additional statewide venues that might work for her products.

If you have your own artistic endeavor or you wish to sell, please contact us through ArtisticCrafts.org, where our coordinator, Marion, can answer all your questions.



Photo by ShutterBug Steve Evans

Glacier.

the typical tourist maps. This tree was one of those places, and it framed the landscape nicely.

Our first-place-winning photographs from all the categories will be displayed at Master the Possibilities in February. Stop in and check them out!

If you missed seeing our annual photo contest or our prior photo displays at Master the Possibilities, you can still view all our photos at otowspc.com.

Want to learn more about photography? ShutterBugs President Harry Boyajian continues to facilitate the sharing of photography tips to improve our camera



Photo by ShutterBug Jan Jordan

Nature’s Backyard.

use and editing skills. Our club motto is those who don’t know should ask, and those who do know should be willing to show and tell.

We meet for a field trip the first week of each month, ShutterBug Solutions on the second Tuesday, show-n-tell on the third Tuesday, and an educational class on the fourth Tuesday at 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. For more information, contact Harry at 239-336-4804.

“Photography is the only language that can be understood anywhere in the world.” – Bruno Barbey

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Broadway Playhouse

Elaine Morrison



More than 30 hopeful thespians attended an information meeting on Nov. 14, 2024, to hear the plans for the upcoming spring production of “Oklahoma,” youth edition.

This history-making Rodgers and Hammerstein musical opened on Broadway in 1943 and has remained an audience favorite through the decades.

The session was hosted by co-directors Joanne Houston and Cheryl Richardson, who themselves have become legends, having provided their theatrical and musical talents to fortunate students in New Hampshire for over 40 years before retiring and blessing us with their expertise.

Along with cider and donuts, attendees were given sheets that fully explained the protocol for going forward. All the characters were listed, and advice was given on how to audition for each role. Suggestions as to how to look and sound for auditions were also suggested.

The audition dates of Jan. 5, 9, and 12 were supplied, with separate days for male and female leads. The directors alone will hear the auditions. The December meeting was canceled.

Rehearsals will begin on Sunday, Jan. 19, and continue until the performances, which are scheduled for May 16, 17, and 18, in the Recreation Center Ballroom.

If you were unable to attend the meeting and are interested in participating, please email Carole Beauchamp at otow-broadwayplayhouse@gmail.com.

Tesla Owners & Enthusiasts Club

Dan Lack



At our November 2024 meeting, the president of The Villages Tesla Club spoke to us about information that was released at the Tesla shareholders meeting in June 2024 about sales and the full self-drive feature.

The Tesla Model Y was the best-selling car in the world compared to all other electric, gas, and hybrid automobiles until recently, when it was surpassed by the usual leader, the Toyota Corolla.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues to improve full self-drive, which should be safer than human-controlled driving in the near future. When that happens, Tesla owners can allow their cars to be used as robot taxis. So rather than someone keeping their car in a parking lot from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. while they are working, they can earn extra income while their car is summoned to pick up and drop off passengers.

Our club’s holiday luncheon took place on Dec. 11, 2024, at Mimi’s Cafe, which is across the parking lot from the Tesla superchargers at Market Street at Heath Brook. We enjoyed good food and good conversation.

The Tesla Owners and Enthusiasts Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room II. Occasionally, there are guest speakers. Our club invites Tesla owners as well as those who are interested in learning about these amazing vehicles.



Joe Furfaro, band director emeritus, and Fran Allen, band director.

The New Pretenders

Nancy Grabowski



It’s finally here! “What?” You might ask ... the answer is simple: ticket sales for The New Pretenders show begin Friday, Jan. 3. Members of our troupe will be present from 8:15 to 10:15 a.m., just as they will be every Monday, Wednesday and Friday throughout the month. The deadline to purchase tickets is Wednesday, Jan. 29.

Tickets will be sold in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Look for us between the dressing rooms and stage, near The Derby Room entrance. The ticket cost is \$12 for reserved seating and \$10 for general admission. We will perform on Friday, Jan. 31, and Saturday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 2, at 2 p.m. No tickets are sold at the door.

Our show is entitled “Get on Your Feet!” and is an array of music, comedy, and dance. It is lively and spirited, which should encourage you to sing along or tap your toes. We love your applause because we’re hams, and it inspires us to stretch our talents! When you notice some of those amazing performances, encourage us with your clapping!

The New Pretenders are not just the folks who appear on stage. We have a

core of “behind the scenes” folks who really make it happen, and we couldn’t have done it without them. Two are highlighted here, and more will be added in later editions.

Dick Emmons helps build the stage backgrounds and then works his magic with the spotlights during the show. Dick moved here from New Jersey about four years ago and loves it! He enjoys golfing, country music, stock car racing, and spending time with family during the summer, some of whom live in the Czech Republic! Before retiring, Dick worked as a range maintenance supervisor at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst for 34 years and worked part-time for 45 years as a firefighter with the New Jersey Forest Fire Service.

Lennie Rodoff is our photographer and has been for many years. Her work is of the highest quality, and she always manages to make us look good. Lennie was born in New York, moved to Maryland in 1964, and went to the University of Maryland. After graduation, she went to work with Social Security Administration. She met Gary, and they married in 1970. Lennie is an avid square dancer who began in 1978 and continues today. Lennie and Gary moved to Florida in 2003 and into On Top of the World in 2004.

Having read to the conclusion of this, we’ll leave you with a song: “Let Us Entertain You!” We look forward to seeing you.

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January 10 Fat Tiki 5 PM MPIRE 6 - 9 PM	January 11 Curbside Cuisine 5 PM THE EDGE OF ROCK 6 - 9 PM
January 17 Pull Up Boyz 5 PM LIVE EFFECT 6 - 9 PM	January 18 Tallarico's Pizza 5 PM WEST27 6 - 9 PM
January 24 Steak Shack Bistro 5 PM PENTA 6 - 9 PM	January 25 Swamp Religion 5 PM HUMANS IN DISGUISE 6 - 9 PM
January 31 Big Lee's 5 PM THE STAGERS 6 - 9 PM	

Meditation Group



Domenica Genovese

The Meditation Group is a welcoming place where like-minded people with a common interest in meditation can gather to share their experiences and strengthen their practice. There are many ways to meditate, from Vipassana, or breathing meditation, to Shikantaza, or “just sitting.” Some meditators prefer to sit in silence, while others enjoy listening to soothing music or a guided meditation. Group members are encouraged to find a practice that works best for their individual interests and experience.

When we practice together as a group, each session begins with a reading followed by a 20-minute silent meditation period with calming background music. After the 20-minute meditation, everyone is invited to discuss the reading’s meaning or share insights about their own meditation practice. We go around the room, giving each person an opportunity to offer their thoughts or comments on the reading. If you prefer not to speak, simply say “pass,” and we’ll move on to the next person. Some of our recent readings include:

- "Things are as they are. Looking out into the universe at night, we make no comparisons between right and wrong stars, nor between well and badly arranged constellations." – Alan Watts
- "There are many paths to the top of the mountain, but the view is the same." – Chinese proverb
- "Everything has appearance and essence, shell and kernel, mask and truth. What does it say against the inner determination of things that we live with appearance without perceiving the essence, that we finger the shell without reaching the kernel, that the mask of things so blinds us that we cannot find the truth?" – Franz Mark

Once everyone has had a chance to share their thoughts, we open the floor for additional comments or discussions, ensuring that everyone who wants to contribute has an opportunity to do so.

Join us every Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Event Room. We look forward to welcoming you!

Poetry



Linda Toner

New Year’s Resolutions

Well, it is that time again, when you look back at where you’ve been, and make resolutions to change whatever it is that gives you pain. When you plan the changes you feel strong. You think, with willpower, you’ll be reborn, but willingness alone isn’t enough. Breaking old habits is going to be tough. Something has to go click inside your head so, you can make new habits instead. Asking for help will be your savior to keep you on course and never waiver from the goal you set for yourself and watch those old habits simply melt away in front of your very eyes and you will be a happier gal or guy.



EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

Events and activities that take place behind the gates of On Top of the World are for residents and Gateway of Services passholders only.

Rubber Stamp Greeting Cards



Linda Lohr

On Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024, Mary Kay Ripp presented several different craft items for Christmas. They ranged from a wine bottle label to a treat box and several different types of Christmas cards! We thank Mary Kay for all the stamps, inks, embellishments, and great ideas. It was a very crafty class.

Our group is open to all crafters – beginners or those more experienced. One or two people do a presentation each month. The group meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 1 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room.

Anyone can be a presenter, and the cards do not have to be fancy or complicated. Our group is based on friendship, socializing, and helping each other.

For information on any class or for general information, contact Connie Press at the email below. Basic supplies are needed, such as a trimmer, glue, scissors, and card stock. Everyone in the group shares their supplies, and everyone brings new ideas to the table. You are only limited by your imagination!

If you feel this might be a class you would enjoy, or if you have any questions, please contact Connie Press at connie.rubberstampclub@gmail.com. You can also find the information for each class on our Facebook page. We look forward to introducing new people to our fun craft. Until our next meeting, keep on stampin’ ! Have a great 2025!



Photo by Linda Lohr

Cards presented by Kathy Savini.

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*Free tickets not available online. Tickets must be picked up at the circle square cultural center box office during normal business hours. Limit two per household.

**Online tickets subject to a convenience fee. ALL TICKET SALES FINAL.



#P3A27 - 1/25



Photo by Barbara Katz

Active Newcomers hiking group at Carney Island.

Active Newcomers Club

Linda Baker



Happy 2025! The Active Newcomers board is hard at work planning for the year. Our goal is to provide opportunities for our members to meet and form friendships with new people from all the neighborhoods.

The club hosted our annual holiday hoopla party on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024, at The Lodge at Candler Hills. Over 100 members enjoyed delicious food from Pasta Faire, then danced the night away with Howlin’ at the Moon, spinning the tunes.

December weather was a bit chilly, but that did not deter the hiking group. Members explored the Carney Island Conservation area in Ocklawaha. All hikers are welcome to join the group. Read the Active Newcomers Facebook page for information about upcoming adventures.

All members of the wine groups are invited to attend a gathering on Friday, Jan. 17, at The Lodge at Candler Hills. Bring a bottle of wine, your favorite wine glass, and an appetizer to share. R&R Trio will provide easy-listening music for your entertainment, and there will be door prizes. Wine groups for 2025 will be forming soon. We are also working on the lunch and dinner groups.

Active Newcomers Club will sponsor bunco, games, mah jongg, golf, foodie, and book groups. Members interested in these groups will be notified as meetings and events are scheduled.

The Active Newcomers Club annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 15, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room. The 2025 board will be introduced after a review of 2024 activities. Proposed board members are President Ellen Attenson, Vice President Liz Allen, Treasurer Barb Feller, Secretary Cora Schlifkin, marketing, Linda Baker, small groups, Sandie Butler, and membership, Andrea Wallett. Members-at-large will be Cathy Mammolenti, Debbie Haddad, Ginger Allshouse, and Donna Witts. Door prizes will be presented at the end of the meeting.

Please stop by our table at the Club Fair at Circle Square Cultural Center on Thursday, Jan. 30, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. We will have information about our club and future activities.

Membership applications are available at activenewcomers.org. All current members who wish to continue to enjoy club activities must complete a new application. New members are also welcome. Membership is open to anyone who has lived in the community for less than four years.

To learn more about the Active Newcomers Club, visit activenewcomers.org, our Facebook page (Active Newcomers), or email us at activenewcomers34481@gmail.com.

View from the Library

Michelle Migdal



“The Rent Collector” by Cameron Wright begins with a sad description of life for a small family living in a garbage dump in Cambodia. Sang Ly, her husband and sickly infant son live in Stung Meanchey, Cambodia’s largest municipal waste dump. They sleep and eat in shacks close to mountains of waste. They daily scavenge through garbage looking for recyclable treasures to sell so they can feed and house the family. They face ruthless gangs, health issues and social injustice. These facts alone make you wonder why you would choose to suffer through reading such a sad tale. However, once you turn the pages, the answer becomes clear. The story is uplifting, emotional and full of hope for the future. The characters become part of your family, and you feel their emotions, their losses, and their bright futures.

The named character, Sopeap, the actual rent collector, appears at first to be an alcoholic, embittered old woman. She ruthlessly demands her rent from the poor families living in cardboard boxes around the dump. She is feared and disliked by her tenants. She does not show leniency to anyone and threatens eviction to those who cannot pay full rent. The story then takes a definite turn. A special find in the dump, a book, changes everything for Sang Ly and her family. The rent collector teaches Sang Ly to read, and the two women become close during the process. Then Sopeap, seen as harsh and unfeeling, demonstrates compassion and knowledge. We are all then reminded how deceiving appearances can be.

The story of how the rent collector came to her profession is determined as the pages turn. Sang Ly demonstrates her strong devotion and love for her family and her decision to better her life. The twist and bittersweet ending should only be discovered by the reader.

This story is fictional but is based on true life stories from Cambodia. This book is in paperback, light weight, and easy to hold. It can be found in the Hobby Building Library in the fiction section under the author’s name.

Fun with Golf Carts

Susan Pulling Robinson



The Holiday Golf Cart Parade on Saturday, Dec. 7, was a spectacular success! Our club entries were creative, and even award-winning!

The New Year’s Eve late afternoon parade will be on Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024. Carts will gather at the Recreation Center at 4:30 p.m. The parade will start at 5 p.m.

Mark your calendar for the following Saturdays so you won’t miss the parade: Jan. 18–Fun in the Sun; Feb. 15–Valentine’s Day; March 15–St. Patrick’s Day; April 19–Easter and Spring; May 24–Memorial Day; June 14–Flag Day; July 5–Independence Day; Aug. 30–Labor Day; Sept. 20–Dog Days of Summer; Oct. 25–Halloween; Nov. 8–Veterans Day; Dec. 6–Holiday Golf Cart Parade; and Dec. 20–Holiday Season.

Membership in our Facebook group (OTOW Fun with Golf Carts) is now over 600! If you have a golf cart, please consider jazzing it up (or not) and joining in as we “parade for a cause.” Each parade benefits one or more local charities. For more information and to receive emails about this club, please email otowfunwithgolfcarts@gmail.com. We all have a lot of fun cruising around in our “mini-floats.”

All club parades start at the Recreation Center, with lineup and charitable donations at 9:45 a.m. and pullout at 10 a.m. The route for a given parade is posted on Facebook (OTOW Fun with Golf Carts and OTOW Chatroom). If the parade is not coming by your house, please see the action as we leave the Recreation Center.



Photo by Kenny Graham

Holiday planes.

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Must present coupon at time of write up. Offer good on labor only. Not valid with any other coupons or discounts see dealer for details. (Most cars and light trucks)

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Rotate and Balance Tires, Inspect for Abnormal Wear. Reset all reminder and T.P.M.S systems.

\$29.99*

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

Front End Alignment

Check Front End Components . Adjust Camber/Caster/Toe If Needed. Check Tire Pressures . Reset T.P.M.S systems if Needed.

\$34.99*

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

Front Brake Job

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

\$159.99*

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

Tire Rotation

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

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ADS: There is no charge to residents as long as it is not of a business nature. There is a \$500 limit on FOR SALE items. Items valued at more than \$500 (i.e. golf carts) may be listed, but price will not accompany the ad. Auto, apartment, financial service, home, legal, real estate, and timeshare ads WILL NOT be accepted. Ads may be emailed to otownnews@otowfl.com.

ESTATE/TAG SALE ADS: There is no charge to residents, however, residents must register their estate/tag sale with Resident Services at Friendship Commons. Visit ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala and click on "Resident Info" to download the appropriate form for your community and submit it to Resident Services by the 10th of the month prior to publication.

SERVICE ADS: Will be accepted from residents and non-residents and may be emailed to otownnews@otowfl.com. For advertising rates, visit ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala and click on "Advertising Rates."

AD DEADLINE: Noon on the 12th of the month. If the deadline falls on a weekend, then it's noon on the Friday before. For more information, call 352-387-7466, email otownnews@otowfl.com or visit ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala

The publisher reserves the right to reject any ad which, in his judgment, would not be in the best interest of the residents of On Top of the World Communities.

For Sale

Appliances: Keurig coffee maker. Counter top induction plate. 818-416-4160.

Appliances: Ninja Sizzler smokeless indoor grill (electric), \$35. Ninja air fryer, \$30. DeLonghi espresso coffee maker, \$35. Gourmia pressure cooker, \$25. Professional series electric can opener, \$10. Nostaglia hot air popcorn popper, \$12. Wine Enthusiast 12 bottle touch screen refrigerator, \$65. Text 203-496-1455.

Furniture: RST Brands outdoor set with Sunbrella cushions and covers, ginkgo green, bronze aluminum – dining table, dining chairs (4), coffee table, chaise lounges (2), end table, chairs (2), ottoman, loveseat, and accent pillows (4). 610-721-1424.

Golf Cart: 2020 Club Car with extras. 352-433-0654.

Golf Cart: 2020 Evolution Pro, 2 seats, 2 speeds, 61.7 miles, full curtains. 352-212-2216.

Golf Cart: 2023 Star Sirius, 2-in-1 combo golf cart, holds 4 people or holds 2 people plus 2 golf bags, lithium battery, includes canopy top and sunbrella curtain, seat belts, light package with turn signals. 610-721-1424.

Golf Equipment: Ladies golf clubs and bag. 818-416-4160.

Golf Equipment: RAM golf set with bag, all drivers, irons, wedge, putters, balls, & tees, \$125. Call/text 404-242-6728.

Medical Equipment: Knee rover scooter with hand brake, basket, adjustable knee and hand bar height, \$50. 352-861-0510.

Misc. Items: Bloch women’s jazz sneakers, size 9-1/2. Assorted women’s shoes, size 8-1/2. Stainless mixing bowls for Kitchen Aid stand mixer. Women’s Eileen Fisher straight leg blue jeans, size 27. 818-416-4160.

Misc. Items: Brookstone jewelry cleaner, \$15. 1,000-piece picture puzzles (2), \$5. Text 203-496-1455.

Misc. Item: Shark professional steam pocket mop (S3601), white with 2 mop heads & manual. For use on hardwood, vinyl, tile, & marble, \$50. Shark rotator pet plus upright vacuum (NV255) with owners guide, \$75. 610-721-1424.

Sports Equipment: E-bike – step-through, 48-volt, 750-watt, LCD display, Kenda 20” 4.0 tires, 20” frame, 4-6 hours to charge, 40-60 km range, max speed 31 mph. 610-721-1424.

Sports Equipment: Schwinn TREK 700 MultiTrack hybrid bike, \$170. 352-844-1394.

Tools: WEN drill press \$55. Rikon dust collector and dust collection kit, \$40. Router and router table (Kobalt), \$45. Text 203-496-1455.

Yard Equipment: Scotts spreader with edge control, \$30. Sun Joe scarifier and dethatcher (electric), \$45. Sun Joe pressure washer (electric), \$50. Text 203-496-1455.

Tag Sales

Friday, Jan. 3 & Saturday, Jan. 4: 9771 SW 97th Place, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 10 & Saturday, Jan. 11: 8655 SW 86th Circle (Candler Hills), 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 17 & Saturday, Jan. 18: 8737-C SW 97th Lane Road (Americana Village), 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 25: 10191 SW 98th Place Road (Longleaf Ridge), 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. · 10293 SW 96th Lane (Longleaf Ridge), 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. · 10584 SW 96th Lane Road; 10565 SW 98th Lane; 9603 SW 108th Terrace Road (Longleaf Ridge), 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. · 10605 SW 98th Lane (Longleaf Ridge), 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. · 10299 SW 92nd Place Road; 10588 SW 94th Lane Road; 9292 SW 102nd Avenue Road (Longleaf Ridge), 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. · 10575 SW 94th Lane Road; 10188 SW 99th Lane; 9878 SW 104th Avenue · 9292, 9244, 9304, 9317 SW 106th Avenue, (Longleaf Ridge), 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. · 10484 SW 93rd Place (Longleaf Ridge), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. · 10192 SW 96th Loop (Longleaf Ridge), 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

Computer Help: Arthur Burditt, 352-875-7878. House calls, \$40/hour. Tutoring, setups, installations, Windows upgrades, PC cleanups, security software, internet connections, email access, printers, wireless devices.

Geller Lawn: Mowing, irrigation, bushes, mulch & much more! Starting at \$50 per month (no contracts). Insured. 352-390-7454.

Golf Cart Batteries: Brand new! Best price around! \$650 with free delivery. 352-812-5630.

Handyman: Insured. JAO Home Improvement & Repair – all your home’s needs – carpentry, built-ins, roll-out shelves, moldings, faux painting, tile, and furniture touch ups. Visit JAO Home’s page at www.ashiarts.us or call 707-280-3823 (resident).

Handyman: Repairing sliding glass door rollers/tracks, sliding garage screen doors, window balances, sliding shower doors/guides, doors & locksets, door seals. Installing handicap grab bars. One call does it all! Steve, S&T Quality Services 352-207-8682.

I Buy Golf Carts: Fast, friendly, fair. Will beat competitors’ offers. Cash paid. Same day pick up. 352-812-5630.

Income Tax Preparation: CPA and former IRS agent with 30 years income tax experience. Marcia 918-704-7015 (resident).

Maid in America by Ann: Quality cleaning services. Pet sitting available. Insured & reliable. 609-276-1099.

Medina Pressure Cleaning: We specialize in sealing pavers. Over 35 years’ experience. Call for discount. 352-246-3674.

Mobile Notary Public: Taking pride in my duty as a notary in Ocala. Nancy Faucher, 352-497-8201 (call or text anytime).

Painting & Drywall: Interior painting & drywall repair. Experienced, affordable & professional. Insured. Free estimates. References available. Visit josephdonofriodrywallandpainting.com or call 352-857-8367.

Paint Time LLC: Let’s freshen up that living room, kitchen, bathroom, or lanai with a new coat of paint. Experienced & conscientious. For free estimate & consultation, call Matt at 352-640-6467. Quality is our goal!

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Transportation: Excellent, safe, friendly service to Orlando, Sanford, and Gainesville airports. Drop-off/pick-up. Sue’s Transportation 941-303-3768 (resident).

Transportation: Private car service anywhere in Florida – airports, cruise ports, theme parks, sporting events, beaches, etc. Visit www.mytransportationtv.com or call 404-569-2647 or 352-430-8262.

Wanted

Donations: Adult bicycles for homeless ministry [Carol 419-601-1322] · Dog or cat food [SPCA of Marion County 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, empty ink/laser cartridges and cards for veterans [Anne 843-504-0032] · Personal hygiene, school/craft supplies & small appliances for homeless; pet food/supplies for animal shelters; used cell phones, computers & musical instruments for troops/veterans; theatrical costumes & props; 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.

Line Dancers: Looking to slow things down but keep line dancing? Our club is for you. Join us Mondays and Wednesdays, at 1 p.m. in Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio I.

Pet Foster Parents: Temporarily open your home to a pet in need. Call SPCA of Marion County at 352-362-0985.

Typist: Will transfer full-length manuscript novel to computer. 352-854-9039.

HANDICAP EQUIPMENT

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

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