

Community News

Kenneth D. Colen

Construction Updates

CANDLER HILLS DOG PARK: Wi-Fi is now restored to this area.

THE SUMMIT IN LONGLEAF RIDGE: The exterior walls are being erected; you can see the size of the building! We will be close to the block walls’ final stages and close to starting the steel erection of the roof. This will be a 20,000-square-foot amenity with a 6,000-square-foot ball-room, card room, a large main pool, and a resistance pool. The estimated completion of this project is in late 2025.

AZURA FITNESS CENTER IN CANDLER HILLS: This will be an 8,000-square-foot fitness facility, for Candler Hills residents, with a large pool. We expect to receive the building permit by the time of this column and should be close to breaking ground on this project shortly thereafter. We expect this new amenity to be completed close to the end of the year.

RECREATION CENTER: Two separate pickleball structures are underway. One is a 16’x14’ pavilion between the two newer courts, which is being permitted and awaiting DRC approval. The other is a much larger project: a 135’x140’ structure to cover the eight newest courts. We are working on the design now, including lighting for evening matches. In addition to these two structures, we are considering an exterior renovation to update the front and landscape of the main building.

VETERANS PARK: The addition of an 84’ x 10’ pavilion over the shooting lane at the archery range has been approved. We are applying for this permit and hope to complete it in the spring.

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

COMMUNITY GARDEN: We have identified a new location for the current SW 99th Street garden, and we plan to offer a few more garden plots so that others may utilize their green thumbs. Construction should be complete on the new garden before the spring planting season.

ARBOR FITNESS CENTER: The new aquatic life flooring around the indoor pool is complete. The outdoor pool resurfacing project began Monday, Jan. 20. The pool will re-open Monday, Feb. 17.

THE ARBORS BOCCIE COURTS: The bocce courts were completely remodeled and updated. Improvements included new laser-leveled elevated court surfaces, Trex railing systems around all courts, durable new bocce turf, and paver brick walkways around all courts.

THE LODGE AT CANDLER HILLS: The ball-room has new LVT flooring, and a new gas grill has been installed near the pool house.

MULTI-MODAL PATH (WEST SIDE OF SW 90TH TERRACE): The SW 90th Terrace Road project has been submitted to Marion County for permitting. This project includes roadway improvements, including underground utilities and pavement, from the entrance at Weybourne Landing, north to SW 63rd Street, at the main entry to Stone Creek. This work will also include an extension of the multi-modal path from Weybourne Landing, south along SW 90th Terrace Road, connecting at the main entry gate into Candler Hills.

CANDLER HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER: This amenity will see landscape enhancements in the coming months.

GATEHOUSE: A gatehouse will be erected along SW 92nd Court Road to replace the temporary gate at SW 80th Street. The design team has been chosen, and work has begun on the permit drawings for this project. The gate will be automated and include a dedicated lane for guests to interact with the virtual gate

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Battle of the Paddle Pickleball Tournament

By Hailey Authement

Pickleball enthusiasts, mark your calendar! The inaugural Battle of the Paddle Pickleball Tournament will take place from Friday, Feb. 28, through Sunday, March 2, 2025, at On Top of the World.

This three-day tournament promises to deliver excitement for players and spectators alike. It will feature men’s doubles on Friday, Feb. 28, women’s doubles on Saturday, March 1, and mixed doubles on Sunday, March 2. The tournament is open to the public.

The event will follow a round-robin format, ensuring that participants will enjoy multiple matchups in their brackets. Depending on the size of the draw, brackets may be split into pools to create a competitive and balanced playing

experience.

Players can register online at PickleballBrackets.com by Thursday, Feb. 20. The participation cost is \$60 for one event and an additional \$10 for a second event, plus a non-refundable service fee of \$5 for each event.

To commemorate the event, all registered players will receive a custom t-shirt. Shirt sizes will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Check-in will begin at 7 a.m. daily, and matches are tentatively scheduled to run from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. Spectators are welcome to attend the tournament and are encouraged to bring their chairs to enjoy the action comfortably.

“This is the first annual Battle of the

Paddle, and we couldn’t be more excited to bring this event to our community,” said the tournament organizers. “We’re looking forward to seeing players of all skill levels come together to celebrate the sport of pickleball in a competitive and fun environment.” Members of the Top Pickleball Club have been a huge help in making this tournament possible, and the tournament director of the club, Steve Brothers, said, “This promises to be an exciting tournament for both the club and the community with players coming from all over central Florida and beyond. There will be events for players aged 50 to 70-plus years, with ratings starting at 3.0 and going up to 5.0 players.”

Whether you are an avid pickleball player or someone who enjoys watching live sports, this is a tournament you won’t want to miss. Come out to support the competitors and experience the energy of Florida’s pickleball community. Bring your chairs and your A-game!

For more information and to register, visit PickleballBrackets.com.

Multi-Modal Paths

By Jonathan K. Miller

There have been many questions regarding the multi-modal paths in our community. The term “multi-modal” is meant to designate how the path may be used – it was designed to be wide enough so that pedestrians (joggers and walkers), bicyclists, and golf carts can all safely share the space without anyone having to nudge over. The paths are a great way to get from one place to another, whether within our community, visiting another community, or going to a local business.

To enjoy the paths safely, walkers, joggers, and bikers are encouraged to wear reflective garments in the dark. Bikers should use hand signals when turning and must follow all traffic signals.

Golf carts are vehicles and should follow the same rules of the road as a car:

- Never drive a golf cart faster than 20 miles per hour. It is against Florida law to drive any faster.
- Golf carts need to follow all traffic signs. Stop at stop signs. Yield at yield signs. If you arrive at a corner and there is a stop sign with no other vehicles on any corner, you must stop.
- Golf carts must carry insurance and be registered with Resident Services.
- Golf carts must be equipped with tail lights, turn signals, brake lights, side or rearview mirrors, and running headlights, if you are driving at night.

Most accidents or incidents happen because of a driver’s mistake – running stop signs, not paying attention to curbs, taking corners too fast, speeding, and the list goes on.

Never assume a driver can see you. Our streets follow the same rules and regulations as the State of Florida.

The Colen Built Development safe-

ty department holds several golf cart safety classes throughout the year. If interested, please contact the Recreation Center office or Master the Possibilities for dates and times.

Also, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles website is a great resource. Check out the follow-

ing links:

- Pedestrians: flhsmv.gov/safety-center/driving-safety/pedestrian-safety/
- Bicycles: flhsmv.gov/safety-center/driving-safety/share-the-road/
- Golf Carts: flhsmv.gov/safety-center/consumer-education/low-speed-vehicles/

As our community grows, so will the multi-modal paths. Let’s share the “paths” safely.



Photo courtesy of Colen Built Development

Multi-modal paths are shared by pedestrians, bicycles, and golf carts.

Is It Legal?

Colen & Wagoner, P.A.



SCAM ALERT #1: Amazon warns about scammers who call to tell you that your Amazon account has been compromised and that you must provide personal and private information to correct the problem. Of course, the information needed is always personal and private; if you provide it, you will compromise your account.

Amazon reminds everyone that they will never call you and ask for your personal information. Of course, this is not only an Amazon scam. We all get these calls from banks, brokerage companies, Pay Pal, Venmo, and wherever you have accounts. You already know this. You are fully prepared. You will never get caught by these scammers. And yet, why do people who know better or should know better get scammed? It’s because, as “aware” as we think we are, there are times when we forget to be cautious. That’s why I have Scam Alerts in my column. I want to remind you that you should always stay on your guard and never trust anyone who calls unsolicited, knocks on your door, texts or emails, or asks for personal information. Please don’t give it out.

SCAM ALERT #2: “Hurry up!” “Hurry up!” “Buy now!” “Sign up today, or you will lose this special deal.” I get a lot of that baloney. It’s not necessarily a scam, but it is a method that scammers use to get you to purchase something, donate, or give out personal information. Recently, I’ve been thinking about buying a generator for my house. I called someone about it, and he came to my house and then sent me a proposal with two discounts off the purchase price, but I had to sign a contract by that day or lose the discounts. Nope! I will never allow myself to be rushed into buying or signing up for anything. If I lose out on a deal, oh well! I won’t be rushed. And I don’t want you to be rushed, either.

Q. Please give us a list of the most essential estate planning documents that we need.

A. First, I don’t know what estate planning documents a person or a couple needs without knowing their specific issues. So, depending on someone’s particular facts, and in random order, here are the documents that I feel are

- very important to have.
1. Durable Power of Attorney that complies with Florida’s power of attorney statute, which was adopted in 2011.
 2. Advance directive that sets forth your direction for how health care should be provided to you.
 3. Depending on your specific needs or goals (A) a will, (B) a trust, or (C) a will and a trust.
 4. Funeral arrangements or written directions on what type of arrangements you want.
 5. If you want to do it, a separate writing that sets out to whom you wish various tangible property items to be delivered.
 6. A written list that contains some statement of where your accounts are. It is not necessary to include how much an account contains. You need to set out where things are.

Q. Is there an amount of cash for emergencies that people should keep in their homes? I’m asking because Hurricane Milton brought this to my mind.

A. I do not like folks keeping much cash in their homes, even if they do it for emergency purposes. With credit cards, you can keep very little money. Most people do not need cash to go to the grocery store, and if the store is closed because of a hurricane, cash won’t help anyway. If you want to keep money on hand, you should ask yourself the purpose and whether a credit card won’t suffice as much as cash. If you want money at home, please remember where you put it, and try not to let other people know where it is or how much it is. Cash sometimes has a mysterious way of disappearing when folks know about it.

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

Bay Laurel Center
CDD

IRREGULAR WATER USAGE*

- **Toilets:** A failing flapper (valve seal) can waste up to 200 gallons of water a day.
- **Leaky Faucets/Showerheads:** Dripping can range from several gallons to hundreds of gallons of water per day.
- **Water Hose:** When left on with leaks at the spigot or nozzle.
- **Irrigation System:** Automatic irrigation solenoid valves not closing properly or excessive run times including multiple program cycles.
- **Water Softeners:** Excessively backwashing or the backwash valve failing.

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



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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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2025 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

On Top of the World 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



Finding Zen

Robert Colen
info@sholompark.org



This February, Sholom Park invites you to explore our tranquil oasis and participate in three remarkable events designed to inspire creativity, ignite nostalgia, and rejuvenate your spirit.

Gnome and Fairy Doors: A Whimsical Adventure

Step into our enchanted forest of Sholom Park and let your imagination take flight as you discover our gnome and fairy doors display throughout the month of February. We’ve celebrated with an entire festival in years past, but now we offer a more personal experience. Hidden among tree trunks and branches, these intricate and magical doors encourage visitors of all ages to engage with the beauty of nature in a playful, imaginative way. Whether bringing children or tapping into your own sense of wonder, this charming display is a perfect way to enjoy the park’s serene atmosphere.

Park After Dark: 1990s Music with Gypsy Sparrow

On Thursday, Feb. 13, join us for a nostalgic journey back to the vibrant sounds of the 1990s during our next Park After Dark concert featuring Gypsy Sparrow. Known for their soulful blend of original music and covers of artists like U2, Tracy Chapman, and Prince, this popular local band will have you reminiscing and singing along.

The event begins at 6 p.m. (gates open at 5:15 p.m.), and Blazin’ Bites food truck will provide delicious options for attendees. Tickets are available through our partners at Master the Possibilities Education Center. Bring your special sweetheart for this pre-Valentine’s Day evening under the stars as we sing and enjoy love songs that swoon our hearts!

Reconnect, Restore, Renew: A Two-Day Retreat

This Valentine’s season, indulge in a unique opportunity to reconnect with nature and rediscover your inner peace during the two-day retreat, “Reconnect, Restore, Renew,” on Feb. 14 and 15, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Led by expert practitioners from the iRewild Institute, under the leadership of Ida Covi, MA, an ecopsychologist and CEO of iRewild Institute, and presented in collaboration with Master the Possibilities, this retreat offers a variety of workshops designed to nurture mindfulness, spark creativity, and promote holistic wellness.

Highlights include forest bathing, reflective writing, and sessions to awaken vitality. The retreat concludes with a transformative sound bath experience that keeps participants renewed and centered.

For more details and registration, visit Master the Possibilities.

Whether seeking whimsical charm, musical nostalgia, or soulful rejuvenation, February at Sholom Park has something special for everyone. Visit us to discover the beauty of our trails, gardens, and events that connect us to nature and each other.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Avalon Social Group

Laura Gavey & Sharon Hall



Happy 2025! Here’s wishing everyone a happy and safe year! Our 2025 kick-off event was another fun night and a great way to start the new year! We enjoyed a delicious dinner catered by La Casella and were entertained by the Paradise Players. Over 100 of your Avalon neighbors joined us for this fun evening. Thanks to everyone involved in making this a success.

Our next event will be held on Monday, March 10, where we will be entertained with an eclectic mix of music by the Uniqueles, with food options to be determined. Watch our Facebook group and your email for additional information.

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. We encourage you to join our Facebook group (Avalon Social Club) for up-to-date Avalon news and upcoming events. 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.

Crescent Ridge Happenings

Carol Lewis



It was a small group who gathered for our January social, but we were excited to have two new couples join us. With a small group, we put the tables together and were able to answer questions they had regarding facilities and the OTOW App.

Here we are, already in the second month of this new year. How are those resolutions going? Is it the “elephant in the room,” or are you staying on track? I did some research on this topic. It seems that younger generations are more inclined to make resolutions than older generations. Maybe we’ve learned that we fall off track over time in keeping those resolutions, or perhaps we need to make easier resolutions.

One thing that came to mind for us here in our communities is meeting a new neighbor once a month. Knock on the door of someone you’ve yet to meet, no matter how long you have lived in your house. We always have new neighbors moving in. It just might make someone’s day.

For 2025, our monthly socials will be held at Arbor Activity Center Event Room I from 3 to 5 p.m. Bring a beverage of choice and a dish to share.

To stay informed, join our Facebook page (OTOW Crescent Ridge Neighbors) or email crneighbors@yahoo.com to be added to our email list. You will only receive emails regarding Crescent Ridge happenings.

STAY IN THE KNOW! DOWNLOAD THE APP!

The On Top of the World app is available in the Google Play and App Stores (resident account required).

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Community News

► Continued from Page 1A

attendant and a bypass lane for resident owners.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS: Work continues on the SW 92nd Court Road project. Underground utilities, including water, sewer, and data lines, are currently being installed. In about 60 days, this project will become more recognizable as curbs are formed and the roadway starts to take shape. Please use caution in this area. I’d be remiss if I didn’t take this opportunity to remind you that the workers in those large pieces of equipment cannot see or hear golf carts or pedestrians. Don’t allow your curiosity to put yourself at risk. Please use extra caution in and around work areas.

We have received permission from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to move forward with the SW 52 Street improvements through Calesa Township. This improvement will offer much-needed traffic relief while SW 80th Avenue and SW 38th Street are under construction by Marion County. An adjacent developer will be responsible for completing SW 52nd Street from Calesa to SW 60th Avenue (including a new traffic signal). On Top of the World will continue working with the county and the neighboring developer to ensure this much-needed project continues to progress.

CANDLER HILLS GOLF COURSE: The course will see drainage improvements and a partial rebuild.

IRONS 9: A new pitch and putt nine hole short golf course will be constructed near SW 80th Street and SW 92nd Court Road.

Gate Changes

Apologies for not providing more notice of the withdrawal of the Allied gate staffing. To give them reasonable notice of the coming changes to gate automation, they were provided a three-month notice of termination of their contract. It was entirely their choice to terminate on Dec. 26, 2024, which surprised the Management Company.

It was necessary to develop an alternative staffing plan for the gap period until Envera Systems could be fully operational. Special thanks to CERT, MCSO, Geoff Oldberg (Loss Prevention), and Robert Colen for creating a temporary staffing plan to cover the gate staffing during this gap period. Thanks also go out to Envera Systems for advancing their equipment installation timeline and jumping on completing the installation plans ahead of schedule.

The Envera workshops were well attended by residents interested in learning how to access their “My Envera” account and obtain the new RFID stickers.

Envera Virtual Gate Automation Systems will be installed at the On Top of the World, Candler Hills, and Weybourne Landing gate entries. The gated entry to Indigo East is not planned to be changed.

The target date for this transition is mid-February, but it may likely happen

sooner.

Trending Real Estate Values

According to the Ocala Marion Board of Realtors statistics for the calendar year of 2024, in Marion County, new sales volumes increased by 2.4% over the same 12-month period in 2023. The average home sale price increased by .40% for that period; the volume of available listings in Marion County has risen by 35%. The average time to sell listings in Marion County increased by 16%.

From where On Top of the World Real Estate of Marion County sits, it continues to lead the resale market in 2024, accounting for 35.24% of the resale market in On Top of the World.

The number of resale transactions in all the On Top of the World neighborhoods increased by 17.44% over 2024.

Safety Tips

If you are using a space heater, make sure it is well away from any combustible object. Avoid overloading an electrical outlet with appliances, extension cords, and especially a space heater. Overloading any electrical outlet can be a sure prescription for a fire.

Proper service on your heating and air conditioning systems (HVAC) is necessary. Improperly operating heat strips (on reverse cycle units/heat pumps) can malfunction and become a fire hazard. These need to be checked by a licensed and insured air conditioning and heating professional, ideally before the cooler weather, but after a chill is also a strong reminder.

Do you like to conserve electricity? February is a good time to clean out your dryer vent pipe. Lint can become clogged in the vent pipe, reducing dryer efficiency (so that’s why it takes an hour to dry a 20-minute load!). Even more to the point, collected lint can become a fire hazard!

Cleaning is not complicated, but moving the dryer may be the hardest part. Disconnect the vent hose from the dryer and the wall vent. Use a vacuum clean-

er to suction the vent hose, or you may choose to replace it entirely. Use the vacuum to suction the wall vent as well. If you’ve never done this, the vent pipe may need a top-down cleaning.

For dryer sheets, now is a good time to scrub your lint vent with a brush and hot soapy water. Some dryer sheets emit a waxy substance that adheres to the mesh lining of the lint trap screen. If you run hot water over your lint vent and the water does not pass through the mesh, then it is a good idea to clean your lint vent. Consider using wool or plastic dryer balls instead of the dryer sheets, which may leave a residue on the screens.

Other steps to protecting your home include testing your smoke detector regularly and having an operable BC fire extinguisher within easy reach. You should read the extinguisher operating instructions when you first purchase the unit and at least twice a year thereafter. You should also change your smoke detector batteries annually (pick an easy date to remember, like New Year’s or July 4th).

Common Sense Courtesy

On Top of the World Communities is distinguished for their friendliness to dogs.

Maybe you’ve noticed, as I have, that people who regularly walk their pets are generally in good physical condition. The question is: who is helping who here? The pets love the walk, and the owners improve their cardiac and overall health. It’s a great arrangement.

As a point of common courtesy, please curb your dog(s) or walk them in the common areas, avoiding private spaces such as lawns. And yes, carry several bags to clean up behind your pet immediately.

Drone Use

Please make note that drones may not be operated over private property of residential areas of any of the communities. All residents expect privacy. Drones may violate the privacy of residents.

Drone owners are encouraged to join the R/C Flyers Club. The club has safeguards in place to help ensure their safe operation.

What’s Cookin’?

Nancy Grabowski



Orange Cranberry Ricotta Cookies

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
1 cup granulated sugar
1 egg
1 cup ricotta cheese (whole milk or part-skim)
Zest one orange
2 tablespoons fresh orange juice
1 cup dried cranberries
Powdered sugar for dusting (optional)
Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C) and line baking sheets with parchment paper.

Whisk together flour, baking powder, and salt in a medium bowl. Set aside.

In a large bowl, beat the butter and sugar until light and fluffy.

Add the egg and ricotta cheese, mixing until well combined. Stir in the orange zest and juice.

Gradually add the dry ingredients to the wet mixture, stirring until combined.

Fold in the dried cranberries.

Drop rounded tablespoons of dough onto the prepared baking sheets, leaving space between each cookie.

Bake for 12 to 15 minutes or until the edges are lightly golden. Let cool on a wire rack before dusting with powdered sugar if desired.

Raspberry Filled Almond Snowball Cookies

1 cup unsalted butter, softened
1/2 cup powdered sugar
1 teaspoon almond extract
2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup almond flour (or finely ground almonds)
1/3 cup raspberry preserves
1 cup powdered sugar (for rolling)
Preheat your oven to 350°F (175°C) and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a large mixing bowl, cream the softened butter and 1/2 cup of powdered sugar until light and fluffy. Add the almond extract and mix. Gradually add the all-purpose flour, salt, and almond flour, mixing until a soft dough forms.

Take about one tablespoon of dough and flatten it in your palm. Place 1/2 teaspoon of raspberry preserves in the center, then carefully wrap the dough around the filling to form a ball. Make sure the preserves are fully enclosed. Repeat with the remaining dough.

Place the dough balls on the prepared baking sheet, about two inches apart. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes or until the cookies are set but not browned.

Let the cookies cool for five minutes, then gently roll each cookie in powdered sugar while still warm. Let the cookies cool completely, then roll them in powdered sugar for a snowy finish.

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Around the World

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February is a sleepy, in-between month when the temperature begins to slowly “inch” upward, and nature eagerly anticipates the arrival of spring. While February may not hold the excitement of major holidays, this short month has its share of historical events.

- February 9, 1964: 73 million Americans tuned into the Ed Sullivan Show to watch four young men from Liverpool – the Beatles – appear for the first time.
- Feb. 12, 1809: Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States, was born in a one-room, 16x18-foot log cabin with a dirt floor.
- Feb. 16, 1923: British archaeologist Howard Carter gazed upon the wonders held within the golden walls of King Tut’s tomb for the first time. It is considered one of the greatest archaeological finds in history.
- Feb. 20, 1962: Astronaut John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth.

And don’t forget ... Feb. 9 is the Super Bowl LIX.

Envera

Questions about the Envera gate? Email otowgates@otowfl.com.

Ocala Open

The Ocala Open will begin with a charity Pro-Am event on Tuesday, March 18. Pair with one of the Ocala Open golf professionals and challenge the legendary Candler Hills Golf Course. The Pro-Am field is limited to the first 30 paid teams, so don’t wait! The deadline to register is Tuesday, March 4. Visit ocalaopen.com or call Director of Golf Matt Hibbs at 352-861-9712 x7600.

Board of Directors Meeting

On Top of the World (Central) Owners Association fiscal 2025-26 operating budget begins in March. All other associations have a Jan. 1 start date for their budgets.

The Wednesday, Feb. 12, board of directors meeting will take place at Circle Square Cultural Center at 10 a.m. Residents may consider joining by registering with Webcast as well. Information on how to participate by Webcast will be included in the meeting materials mailed. The proposed fiscal year 2025-26 budget was also included in the mailing.

Each new fiscal year presents considerable challenges. The present economy heavily influences the proposed budget. Key expenses, such as insurance (the most substantial increase to the 2025-26 budget), labor, and petroleum products, continue to increase. The increase in the community service fee is anticipated to reflect those realities.

In addition to budget matters, the board will consider roof replacement special assessments on specifically designated dwellings for fiscal year 2025-26. All affected owners will receive a postcard advising them of the board meeting.

Stone Creek’s amenities are not available to residents. Only public amenities, like The Town Square, are open to all.

able to residents. Only public amenities, like The Town Square, are open to all.

Resident Services

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

You can complete your maintenance request online versus stopping by the office. Please download the AppFolio Owners Portal App. If you need assistance logging in, contact Resident Services at the number above. When you closed on your home, you became eligible to obtain up to two resident ID card(s). These ID cards expire every five years after the date of issuance for records update. Non-owner resident ID cards expire every year. Every third or fourth resident residing in a household must pay an annual guest fee. The first vehicle radio-

event, but registration is required.

Assistant Professor Jennifer Moore-Ambrosia from the College of Central Florida will present a class on “The Ship Called Clotilda” on Wednesday, Feb. 19, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in Live Oak Hall. What is the Clotilda? At the beginning of the Civil War in Alabama, a ship carrying over one hundred captive humans was smuggled into the United States from Africa, named the Clotilda. It has a rich, dark history, and recently, the remnants of this ship were recovered by archaeologists. Using archival and archaeological evidence, with oral histories from the descendants living in the area, Moore-Ambrosia will present in this course the story of the last slave ship in America and give a glimpse into the voyage, sinking, and discovery of this ship that carried passengers, fifty years after the slave trade was outlawed. Attending this presentation costs \$10 for members and \$15 for the general public.

These are just two examples of Black History Month courses in our curriculum. For a complete listing of upcoming classes, visit our website at masterthepossibilities.org. Also, don’t forget to visit our forthcoming visiting speakers this month. Gary Powers Jr. will visit our Education Center for two dynamic topics on his father, CIA U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers.

Please mark your calendar now for our Monday, Feb. 10, visiting speaker

frequency identification (RFID) is free to owners. Any additional vehicle RFIDs issued per household are \$15 each. Tenants may obtain a free monthly gate pass or purchase a \$15 RFID.

After Hours Non-Medical Emergencies

On Top of the World (Central) Owners Association members, please notify Resident Services before contacting an outside contractor for repairs such as roots in water lines, sewer backups, sprinklers damaged by mowers, etc. If it is after regular business hours and you experience some non-medical emergency, 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.

presentation by Kenneth D. Colen, President of On Top of the World Communities, LLC. Those who attend this free 2 to 3:15 p.m. presentation at Circle Square Cultural Center will hear how this company has been a family affair from the start and learn more about the growth and history of the community. Mr. Colen will include in his presentation information on how On Top of the World has “redefined” the meaning of a retirement community and will give insight into the creation of this 55-plus award-winning company adult oasis. Although there is no cost to attend, registration is required.

To register for an upcoming Master the Possibilities class, lecture, or presentation, visit masterthepossibilities.org, our main office, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, or call 352-861-9751.

NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Photo by Kristin Millet

Comedy night.

Ashford Happenings

Michelle Corder,
Julio Garrido, & Anabel Parra



Continuing with the season’s purpose, Ashford raised \$2,531 through numerous events in 2024. A check was presented to Sozo Kids, a local non-profit organization. Their mission is to alleviate rural poverty in the Ocala National Forest by providing essential resources

to families and children in need, including food, education, and mentorship. The second annual Ashford Aloha Luau took place on Friday, Jan. 24. We had over 170 in attendance to see the Salla’s South Sea Polynesian Review. Residents were treated to a traditional luau experience, starting with the blowing of the conch shell to signify the start of the evening. They also enjoyed wonderful entertainment, which included Hawaiian music, hula dancing, and fire dancing. Everyone had a wonderful evening of great dishes from our talented cooks

in the neighborhood, a hula dancing competition, and fun. The grass skirts, coconuts, and pineapples did not disappoint. Two of our thespians, Anabel Parra and Jodylynn Rowswell, were well-represented in the Paradise Players comedy show. Make sure you get tickets for the next event, which will take place in April.

The euchre group, hosted by Denise Mason, meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month at 5:30 p.m. in The Lodge at Candler Hills Card Room.

The ladies’ bunco group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at The Lodge at Candler Hills. Social hour begins at 4:30 p.m. and plays starts at 5:30 p.m. Hosted by Dorothee White.

The cycling group meets weekly at the model homes parking lot every Saturday and is hosted by Ricardo Johnson.

Hand & foot and super samba, hosted by Pam Matuschek, meets at The Lodge at Candler Hills every Monday at 12:30 p.m.

Mexican train, hosted by Lucy DeGroot, meets at 1 p.m. at The Lodge at Candler Hills every Thursday. Another Mexican train group, sponsored by Susan Barks, meets Tuesdays at 5 p.m. at the Candler Hills Community Center.

Steve and Teresa Armstrong host shuffleboard, which meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays at Veterans Park from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Steve and Teresa Armstrong host bocce ball, which meets on the first and third Wednesdays at The Arbors from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

The men’s golf group meets on Tuesdays. Please get in touch with Herb Brown for more information.

The ladies’ Mah Jongg group meets on Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Candler Hills Community Card Room. Ashford residents are welcome to participate but are limited to the first 20. To be added to the group, please get in touch with Michelle Grenon Walsh or Cathy Carrell.

St. Paddy’s Extravaganza will take place on Friday, March 14. More details are forthcoming.

Candler Connection

Debra Keirn



Friday, Feb. 14, will be “An Evening with Dueling Pianos” from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Bring your own appetizers and/or snacks for your table. The Flying Ivories will play from 6 to 8 p.m. Candler Connection will provide delectable desserts to top off the evening. Two hundred forty tickets were sold in January.

The next potluck dinner will be on Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 5:30 p.m. The theme is “Foods from France.” Attendees with the last names beginning with A-H should bring a dessert; I-P main dish; and Q-Z side dish or salad (dishes for 12 to 15 people). The \$1 fee at the door covers tablecloths, eating utensils, plates, decaf coffee, creamers, and centerpieces. Please RSVP to Deb Keirn by phone at 352-414-5737, text 814-571-7908, or email arthurkipdeb@verizon.net to be added to the attendee list. Hope to see you there and enjoy the delicious French dishes.

Saturday, March 8, will be an evening of music bingo and ice cream treats from 5 to 8 p.m. Bring table snacks to share and enjoy the music bingo. You can also create your own brownie sundae or banana split. Tickets will be sold on Tuesdays and Thursdays through Feb. 13 for \$10 per Candler Hills resident and \$12 per guest. This is a bring-your-own-beverage event.

On Saturday, March 29, a Mardi Gras party will be from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Jammin Jambalaya Band will provide the music, and Pasta Faire will be the caterer with garden salad, bread, chicken penne Louisiana, chicken margarita, yellow rice, and cherry cobbler. There will be a best Mardi Gras outfit contest. Tickets for \$35 per resident and \$37 per guest go on sale on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Feb. 18 and ending on March 6. This is a reserved seating bring-your-own-beverage event.

Other upcoming events include:

- 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.

You can sign up at candlerconnection.org to receive “The Happenings” and/or join our Candler Hills closed Facebook group to learn about our activities.

The Candler Connection Social Committee meets on the last Wednesday of each month at

4 p.m. Come and attend a meeting if you are interested in being part of planning our events.

See you around the neighborhood and at future events.

PITCHING

Saturday,
February 1st
9 am

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9 am

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Longleaf Ridge Friends

Michelle Migdal, Kathleen Taylor, Debra Vitale & Judi Walsh

During the festive holiday season, dozens of holiday parties and open houses were held throughout Longleaf Ridge.

One of our holiday parties was held at the Arbor Conference Center. Many thanks to the social committee for organizing the event. Neighbors enjoyed great music, food, and holiday cookies. Santa appeared, and the night ended with a big snowball fight.

Tom Mave and Donna Siegfried hosted the fourth annual Pet Parade. Following the parade, humans and pets enjoyed treats and holiday cheer. Emmie Lou, whose parents are Laurie and Tom Laskowski, came in first place and won a Chewie gift card.

A Christmas ladies' lunch was held at the Oak Room Bar and Grill. Festive attire was brightened by many smiles.

Jane Daubenspeck hosted the annual ladies' bunch and cookie exchange. It was a delightful way for neighbors to kick off the holiday season.

Executive Director Natalie McComb of the Reilly Arts Center gave a presentation to the men's group at their monthly luncheon. She spoke about the program lineup and the Black Box Theater.

Neighbors enjoyed their annual holiday potluck at the Recreation Center Ballroom on Dec. 21, 2024. The social committee received generous help from Patti Bean (music), Caroline Chagoya (games), and Terry George (pictures). In addition to great food, music, games, and fun neighbors, the group raised over \$400 for Marion County Fire Rescue.

Neighbors kicked off the busy holiday season with celebrations at Dorothy Holian's home. Partygoers enjoyed a delicious meal catered by Milano's, played games, and raised a champagne toast.

Holiday celebrations didn't stop there. Neighbors enjoyed a holiday street party organized by Connie Crosslin Lukas, Donna Herberger, Rachael Colclough, and Celeste Crosse, who also treated us to a live performance by Area 81.

The ladies' group monthly lunches continue, as do weekly Left Right Center games at Gail Smith's home.

Over 60 neighbors came to John and Michele Marcinek's home to ring in the New Year. They enjoyed delicious food, a white elephant gift exchange, and a champagne toast.

In our newest phase, Donna and Ray Sherman hosted a get-together for the holidays. After mingling with great potluck appetizers, a few holiday party games ended the evening. On New Year's Eve, couples gathered at Mike and Mary Evans' home to get to know each other better before heading to the New Year's Eve party at the Recreation Center.

We look forward to The Summit opening to accommodate our growing neighborhood.

As our community continues to grow, we look forward to welcoming all the 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. If you have questions, please email otowlongleafridge@gmail.com.

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Longleaf Ridge neighbors from our newest phase celebrate the holidays at the home of Donna and Ray Sherman.

Williamsburg Neighbors

Nancy Meininger

Williamsburg launches another season of neighborhood activities run by an enthusiastic steering committee. It was hands down across-the-board approval for a repeat performance of the fan favorites, which include weekly bocce and cornhole with a pop-up random game of crazy miniature golf. Member Carmel Kessler and her husband, Dave, continue to oversee the bocce and mini-golf events.

Also, the monthly dinners will continue; the latest venture was to the Salted Brick. These dinners have an average of 20 to 30 attendees and are hosted by Tom and Nancy Meininger.

Randy and Tina Ross are also involved in producing the neighborhood's much-anticipated annual Luau/picnic, which will be held at Dan Weigand's golf course home in early April. This year's event will be an old-fashioned hamburger and hot dog fair with plenty of senior adult games.

An avid golfer, Brian McDonald, will also oversee a golf scramble. More details will soon be available.

Lynn and Bob Phelps will continue overseeing the monthly games night on the second Thursday at the Arbor Activity Center Card Room III.

Repeat golf and scavenger hunts, along with potluck picnics, will be held throughout the year. Gwen and Frank Fabian will run these.

A new residents welcome team has been added to greet new neighbors with a keepsake information package. Marie Flanagan and Carol Ciro, who often attend our events, make up the team.

For more information on Williamsburg activities or our neighborhood, visit williamsburgneighborsotow.com or Facebook (Welcome to Williamsburg), or text or call Nancy Meininger at 352-554-0757.



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Community Patrol

Rocky Pizzarello



The last meeting of 2024 was the longest (three hours) with the best food (catered by Fresh Plates Creative Catering), best attendance (only missing six members), in collaboration with CERT, and featured distinguished guests from On Top of the World and the Marion County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO).

The occasion was that on Dec. 18, 2024, On Top of the World management honored the volunteers of the Community Patrol and CERT with a volunteer appreciation luncheon at the Candler Hills Community Center. Representing On Top of the World were President Kenneth Colen and Community Safety and



Photo by Wendy Paige

Sheriff Billy Woods addressed the volunteer’s luncheon.

Loss Prevention Manager Geoff Oldberg, a frequent presenter at our meetings.

Representing MCSO were Sheriff Billy Woods, Public Information Officer Lt. Paul Bloom, SW District Commander Lt. Ryan Robbins, Volunteer Coordinator Sarah Jenkins, and several other MCSO members. CERT leadership included Allen Abbott (a trainer for both groups), Linda Blair, and Jane Belz.

Community Patrol leader Allison Cranmer acted as emcee for the event, relaying details on the service hours, shifts, and the number of times the different neighborhoods were patrolled. She then introduced Mr. Colen, who thanked the groups for their unselfish contribution of time and talent to protect the residents of On Top of the World. The other dignitaries listed above were introduced and spoke briefly to the groups with the common message of appreciation – how the assistance of the groups helped them better do their jobs and keep the community safe and the tactical importance of the groups, as we know the roads and neighborhoods of On Top of the World better than anyone else. This is especially true because the rapid growth in the Southwest part of Ocala (outside On Top of the World) is stretching county resources.

Representing CERT, Allen Abbot then wove the tale about how the Community Patrol (driving) and CERT (reviewing and documenting) worked together for the two hurricanes that crossed our paths during the latter part of the year. He mentioned that a resident was seen around the area driving a truck and clearing the roads in the early morning hours of Hurricane Milton, although not identified as a member of either CERT or the Community Patrol. He then presented Mr. Kenneth Colen with an official florescent vest, which made him an honorary CERT member.

If you’d like to be invited to our next volunteer appreciation luncheon, join the Community Patrol and help keep On Top of the World safe. Visit marionso.com > Become A Volunteer. There, you’ll find a page with descriptions of volunteer activities and a link to the application.

If you’d like to meet us before deciding, please attend our monthly meeting on the fourth Monday of each month at 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. For more information, please email Allison Cranmer at OTOWCommunityPatrol@gmail.com.



Photo by Jane Belz

CERT member Jon Fiedler and his map book.

Community Emergency Response Team

Jane Belz



With a decades-long background in the fire department, Jon Fiedler has one important question for disaster planning: “What types of area maps do you have?”

Fiedler trained as a firefighter and spent years as a paramedic. Later, his jobs included disaster planning for Montgomery County, Maryland. As a trainee, he learned the importance of map locations, starting with apartment complexes and fire hydrants.

Fiedler and his wife Carol moved to On Top of the World in 2022. In 2023, he became active with the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), completing the five-week training course through the Marion County Sheriff’s Office. He then continued with instructor training, which enabled him to teach continuing education classes at all Marion County CERT groups.

When he first got involved with CERT and Community Patrol, he naturally asked about maps. He asked, “Do you know where every address is in On Top of the World?”

With communities and neighborhoods growing faster than Google Maps can keep up, Fiedler gets maps from the On Top of the World new home sales office, painstakingly tracing them and adding the addresses. He then makes notebooks of all the sections.

He first did On Top of the World (Central), which took about two to three months, then Indigo East, Candler Hills, and Weybourne Landing. “My wife would drive very slowly,” he said. “We went around to every house and put an address on the map.”

Fiedler says he takes about six to eight hours to complete one map, which is divided into 15 units. While he originally conceived the maps as a way for CERT members to quickly and efficiently assess damage after a storm, they have also been a welcome tool for emergency services in Marion County, the Community Patrol, and even On Top of the World staff.

Thanks to him, the answer to knowing where all the addresses are in On Top of the World is now a definite yes.

CERT meets in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room II on the second Tuesday of each month from 9 to 11 a.m. For more information about our group or meetings, please email ontopoftheworldcert@gmail.com.

We will hold an open house at our next meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 11, and we welcome prospective members to see what we do in the community.

Resident ham radio operators can join the Marion Emergency Radio Team (MERT). MERT members can assist us from home by tuning in to Simplex frequency 146.565. When deployed during a disaster, they relay neighborhood reports on building damage, blocked roads, medical emergencies, and other vital information. For information on MERT, contact Bruce Twiss at brucetwiss@yahoo.com.

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Indigo East
Social Committee

Janice Liberton



Due to an unforeseen situation, the Indigo East ladies’ luncheon committee will hold its next luncheon in March at the earliest and perhaps not until sometime in April.

The Indigo East Social Committee monthly bingo is in full swing and remains a popular event. Bingo takes place on the first Tuesday of each month from January through November.

The next Indigo East Social Committee event will probably be a potluck dinner sometime in March.

On the Roman calendar, February was called Februius and was known as the shortest month of the year. Today, we use the Gregorian calendar, and February remains the shortest month of the year, with 28 days. A leap year occurs every four years to keep the calendar in sync with the Earth’s orbit around the sun. The next leap year will be in 2028.

Even though February is the shortest month of the year, it hosts many holidays and events, such as Groundhog Day, Valentine’s Day, Presidents Day, American Heart Month, and, most of the time, the Super Bowl.

Black History Month is also celebrated throughout February. It began as a way of remembering important people and events in history. Upon my research, the following individuals caught my attention.

Jane Matilda Bolin was born on April 11, 1908, in Poughkeepsie, New York, and the only child of Gaius C. Bolin and Matilda Ingram Emery, an immigrant from the British Isles. Jane’s father was a lawyer and the first black person to graduate from Williams College. Jane was the first black woman to graduate from Yale Law School and became an American attorney and judge. She was sworn into the New York City Domestic Relations Court bench in 1939.

Charles Richard Drew was an American surgeon and medical researcher in blood transfusions. Dr. Drew was born in 1904 into an African American middle-class family in the Foggy Bottom section of Washington, D.C. His father was a carpet layer, and his mother, Nora Burrell, was trained as a teacher. Dr. Drew attended McGill’s medical school in Montreal, Canada. His career journey took him to work with John Beattie, who researched potential correlations between blood transfusion and shock therapy. Dr. Drew served in World War II, and after his discharge from the military service, he began mentoring surgical residents. In 1944, he was appointed chief of staff at Freedmen’s Hospital.

I found the life of many significant black figures an interesting read. I highly recommend you take the time during this month to read about these exceptional people.

No matter how you celebrate the month of February, I wish you a great month filled with many memorable moments. As usual, I’ll see you around the neighborhood.

Blue Indigo East
Democratic Club

Lydia Kuust



The Blue Indigo East Democratic Club meets on the fourth Monday of every month at 2 p.m. in the Indigo East Community Center Ballroom. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 24. Due to the holidays, we did not meet in December 2024.

Since we are a relatively new club, our January meeting was devoted to brainstorming ideas for what we would like to explore in 2025. Some ideas we discussed included inviting speakers on various topics, planning social events that the wider community can participate in with fun game activities, fundraising ideas, and celebrating holidays. Our planning committee will take these ideas and organize our meetings and events over the next few months.

Our secretary is currently taking on double duties as she serves as the treasurer temporarily while we look for someone to fill that vacancy. The job description includes a team of helpers to collect money at the end of our meetings for member dues and the 50/50 raffle, recording the expenses and income on a spreadsheet and depositing income into our bank account, processing and paying any invoices, and issue a short report at board meetings describing our financial state. The treasurer should also connect with our membership committee to verify which members have paid their dues. If you are interested in this position, please contact me using the information at the end of this column. We welcome anyone who would like to serve on committees, especially the planning and public relations committee.

In this time of uncertainty, we need to connect and support one another. Attending and participating in our meetings offers an opportunity to be with others who share similar beliefs. Since our inception, our member roster has grown with each meeting. You will be welcomed at our next meeting on Feb. 24. If you need a ride to this meeting, please let me know a few days before the meeting. Please text or call me at 802-345-0669 and leave a message, and I will return your call.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.



Photo by John Schnur

Irinia Long and Laura Schnur, members of Dancing Jewels, enjoyed performing at the parade of the wooden soldiers for the Holiday Fest in the Recreation Center in December 2024.



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CONGRATULATIONS



Birthdays – Weddings – Anniversaries



**Dolores Shannon
90th Birthday**

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Active Newcomers Club

Linda Baker



The Active Newcomers Club started 2025 with its annual meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 15. We reviewed the club’s 2024 activities and presented our plans for 2025. At the end of the meeting, door prizes were presented.

The 2025 board was introduced and approved by the members in attendance: President Ellen Attenson, Vice President Liz Allen, Treasurer Barb Feller, Secretary Cora Schlifkin, Marketing Linda Baker, Small Groups Sandie Butler, Membership Andrea Wallet, and Members at Large Cathy Mammolenti, Debbie Haddad, Ginger Allshouse, and Donna Witts.

The wine club gathering on Friday, Jan. 17, at The Lodge at Candler Hills was a great success! Over 60 members enjoyed wine and appetizers while listening to the R&R Trio. The evening concluded with door prizes.

Stop by our table at the Club Fair at Circle Square Cultural Center on Thursday, Jan. 30. Membership applications are available to residents. Handouts with information about our small group activities will also be available.

Sandie Butler, our small groups director, has been working hard organizing the 2025 groups. Sandie has been working with small group leaders to place

members in the groups they selected on their membership application. Invitations have been sent to the bunco, games, mah jongg, foodies, lunch, dinner, wine, book, and hiking groups. Please send a note to Sandie (with “small groups” in the subject) via activenewcomers34481@gmail.com if you have not received an email about the group(s) you signed up for.

Our annual picnic will be on Saturday, March 15, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Veterans Park pavilion. This free event is open to any resident who moved in the past four years. A food truck will be onsite, or you can pack your picnic fare. Bring lawn chairs, sit back, and enjoy the R&R trio. A membership tent will be set up to allow you to complete a membership application and ask questions about the club.

Mark your calendar now for the Spring Fling on Saturday, May 3, at the Recreation Center Ballroom and the pizza party on Saturday, June 7, at The Lodge at Candler Hills Ballroom.

Membership applications for 2025 are available at activenewcomers.org. Membership is open to any resident with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass who has lived in the community for less than four years. Dues are only \$20 per person. Members receive invitations to our small group activities and large events.

To learn more about Active Newcomers Club, visit activenewcomers.org or our Facebook page (Active Newcomers). Email activenewcomers34481@gmail.com for more information.



Photo by Linda Baker

2025 Active Newcomers Club board of directors.

Friendship Connection

Ellen Lee



Greetings, Friendship neighbors, and friends. It is already February, and hopefully, we’ve all stopped writing 2024 on our checks and correspondences!

As we enter this second month of the year, a common thought is about love. In particular, the love between humans and their pets is a strong and unique relationship. I genuinely enjoy seeing dog owners out walking through the tree-lined streets. These walks not only exercise us and our dog friends, but they also offer an important bonding time. Please remember that while walking, place a reflective device on you and your furry

friend. With the dark coming so early this time of year, drivers will appreciate your efforts to ensure they see you and your dog.

As noted last month, the Friendship Connection committee has been working hard to prepare for music bingo. This is going to be a fun time for all! The event will be held at the Recreation Center Ballroom on Saturday, Feb. 8. You can bring snacks to enjoy during bingo, and water and iced tea will be provided. We all hope to see you there!

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide our neighborhoods with events throughout 2025! We are still actively recruiting volunteers for the committee as full members or volunteers to help in other roles. If you are interested, please contact Denise Sherman at 704-650-7066 or otowfriendship-connection@gmail.com.

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The Great Escape

By Dave DeAngelis
World News Writer

Part I

Yes, it was a great story and movie in 1963. But the following story, the actual event, could be a Hallmark movie or perhaps a comedy. Talk about a man's best friend? In this case, a dog's best friend is the theme that shines throughout this story, one that started out for me as a basic interview. But the words of the contributors ended up mesmerizing me as they recounted their dedicated, heart-felt, humorous experiences in The Great Escape, the story of a dog that decided to pull off a Ferris Bueller – for 10 days.

To figure out who's on first, I'll post the cast of characters upfront: Dobbie – the adventurous dog; Heather and Amanda Newman – original owners of Dobbie; Donna Smalley – resident and a dog sitter; Chris Spillane – the very brief owner of Dobbie and resident; residents and other community searchers – as themselves; and Jerry Mathers as ... just kidding.

When Heather and Amanda Newman, who live in Inverness, gained custody of three small children to hang out with their two dogs and a kitten, they thought that this would turn out to be a perfect fun storm. Nope. The kids scared the pets out of their fur, and the kids weren't about to uproot. One dog and the kitten received their eviction notice and were rehomed to more compatible environs.

The dog that remained, a feisty little chihuahua named Dobbie, was all smiles, thinking that he now had the run of the house to himself. Not so fast, Dobbie. With their responsible focus being on the children, Heather and Amanda decided to find a new home for Dobbie as well and contacted Donna Smalley in On Top of the World to assist. Since Donna is a pet sitter for small dogs, she was the ideal choice to relocate Dobbie to a new home.

One problem, though. Dobbie simply doesn't warm up to strangers quickly, if at all.

The Day Before - Welcome and Introductions

The cell phone of resident Chris Spillane rang. It was Donna Smalley, calling to announce a new arrival for Chris if she was interested. Of course, Chris jumped at the opportunity to have her

own little dog and welcomed the visit from Heather, Amanda, and Dobbie.

As they spent time getting to know each other and discussing Dobbie's history, Heather recognized the skitish Barney Fife look on the dog's face. He wasn't inclined toward acclimating at all. Oh well, give him a day or two, and he will be just fine; settling into his new home under the protection of his loving keeper is what they all thought. Heather, Amanda and Donna departed, relieved that Dobbie would begin a new chapter in his book of life. The problem was – he didn't read the same book as everyone else. Dobbie writes his own books.

Official Day 1 – All Hell Breaks Loose

Heather called Chris to ask how Dobbie was acclimating and said that she was planning on going back to On Top of the World after work to help Dobbie transition to his new home. In the meantime, Donna visited Chris to assist with taking the dog outside on his leash. If refusing to come out of his crate is an indication of acclimation, well, he clearly indicated that he wasn't acclimating.

The dog wouldn't budge from the crate but finally did when he realized that he was going outside. But he must have known something else because as soon as he was outside, he bolted from his breakaway collar, a product feature not known by Chris and Donna, and then – now you see him, now you don't.

Away he went, quicker than Willie Sutton from a bank robbery. Heather got the SOS call, grabbed her kids out of daycare, and joined the three-person search party that started in Chris's neighborhood. After a couple of hours of little activity, Heather drove her kids back home, then returned to continue the search until 3:30 a.m. Yep, a.m.

Day 2 – Thanksgiving Day

Hoping that this day would also turn out to be a day of thanks for finding Dobbie and wanting to stay on top of potential sightings, Heather was continuously posting missing dog alerts on multiple social media websites. No responses. After Thanksgiving dinner, she returned and drove around the neighborhood until 9 p.m. looking for the dog.

She updated the website postings, and

as word about the disappearing act got out, dog sightings started to trickle in. Small dog. Black and white chihuahua. Donna, in the meantime, was setting up command central in her house, where up-to-date information was being sent and dispersed back out to the ever-growing search party, with Chris spreading the word in her neighborhood. Thanksgiving Day came and went, and so did Dobbie. The problem was that nobody knew exactly where, to or from.

Day 3 – False Alarm

Back home in Inverness, Heather received a message reporting a Dobbie sighting. She immediately split for On Top of the World but realized that the message was from the previous day. If you ask me, I think that Dobbie sent it to

razz everyone.

Heather spent more hours combing the area, hoping to catch a glimpse of that little, er, uh ... doggie. All along the search area, Heather knew that Dobbie wouldn't enter any wooded perimeters because, for some doggone reason, he preferred concrete under his paws rather than dirt. Why? Because he's Dobbie. At least the search areas were somewhat contained. Heather persevered until 10 p.m. without gaining any clues as to the dog's whereabouts. Disappointed and tired, she went back home, realizing that she had to wake up for a two-job weekend.

The sun rose on that chilly Saturday morning, the fourth day of the Great Escape, and ... to be continued in the next issue of the World News.

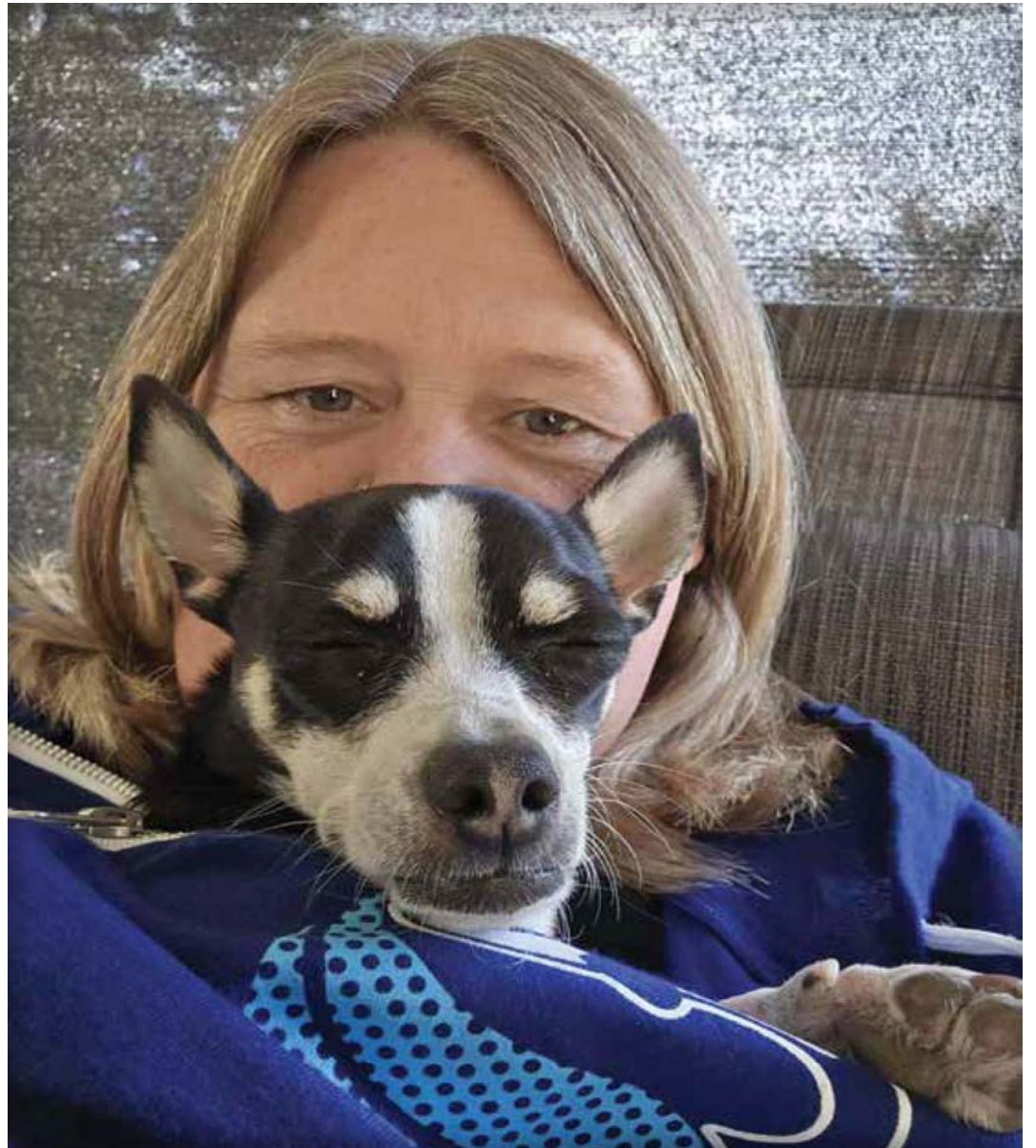


Photo courtesy of Amanda Newman

Amanda and Dobbie.

Newly Formed Latinos Club

By Silvia Garcia

¡HOLA! We are the Latinos Club, and our mission is to bring Latinos together to socialize and positively impact our community! – ¡Uniendo a los Latinos para Socializar y Generar un Impacto

Positivo en Nuestra Comunidad! – You do not have to be Latino to join!

We introduced our club during the Club Fair in October 2024, and within two months, we have over 60 members!

So many residents have told us they are happy we finally have a Latino club. We are thrilled with the tremendous, rapid growth that we have experienced. We attribute our success to providing members with a diversified array of events and many get-togethers that are free to our members. There is an annual membership fee.

Our first event was held for our founding members in November 2024. It included a celebratory ribbon cutting, a meet-and-greet, and a champagne toast.

A few Chicas Latinas got together at the home of one of our new members, Yvette Aguiar, who taught them how to make Puerto Rican pasteles. The couple of hours were filled with laughter, cooking, and delicious treats provided by Yvette and the attending Chicas. The Chicas Latinas have plans to get together in homes, restaurants, and more!

The first double six (doble seis) dominoes night was held in December 2024. Other game nights, including double nine and Mexican train dominoes, are already scheduled.

Members enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon at the Appleton Museum of Art, where they celebrated the Day of the Three Kings. The afternoon included a private tour and an artwork-creating session. Members voted for the best artwork, and Yamila Code won.

Kathy Torres introduced pickleball to our members; seasoned players are welcome! 2025 events planned include exploring Latin American flavors and wine tasting on Saturday, Feb. 22; Latin music bingo with Imagine Entertainment followed by dancing on Saturday, April 12; Baila Caliente socializing and dancing on Saturday, May 22; Hispanic Heritage celebration on Saturday, Sept. 13; and honoring our troops Saturday, Nov. 1.

In addition, there will be meet-ups, dinners, dominoes, pickleball, dancing, and more. Members have told us they wish to help and get involved; Mari Soler is our new volunteer coordinator. For membership application and/or more information, please call Silvia C. Garcia at 561-801-8188; Ivan Vazquez at 727-403-9629; Jesus Alvarez at 954-549-7953; or Beatriz Keleman at 828-545-9277. Please feel free to suggest additional events to the board. We look forward to meeting you (you do not have to be Latino to join)! Follow us on Facebook (OTOW Latinos Club Ocala).



Photo courtesy of Silvia C. Garcia

Latinos Club founding members celebratory meet and greet.

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.

Last month, we discussed older USB flash/thumb drives or memory sticks. The latest technology of these devices does offer a viable resource to store your data. Using this mode offers local access to your information since no internet connection is needed. Although they are

less expensive than external hard drives and cloud storage, we still recommend having these additional outlets for storing your files. It is better to have two or three variations of devices ready in case one fails, which they are prone to do at some time.

Newer memory sticks may be portable, but if you forgot to pack them with your needed files, there is no remote access to download the data from the stick sitting on your desk at home. Another point about sharing data with others is that you need to bring the stick with you. While traveling, the utmost care is needed not to bend, wet, or get hot, putting your files in jeopardy of damage. Having a hard shell and waterproof travel case might be a good solution.

Check out the latest memory sticks and the varied drive sizes, ranging anywhere from gigabytes (GB) to terabytes

(TB). Perhaps buy at least two of these sticks as a backup for the other. Be sure to review and use the built-in formatting tools provided by your operating system, whether Windows or Apple, to format a new memory stick. Choices are either FAT32 for compatibility, NTFS for Windows-only, or exFAT when you need to save to a larger file size or would need cross-compatibility. After using the stick for a while, back up your files first before reformatting the drive since all data will be erased.

When on either a Windows or Apple computer, plug the memory stick into the USB port, find your computer files, and simply drag and drop them onto the memory stick's icon, then verify that they transferred. When on a Windows computer, click on the "Safely Remove Hardware" icon in the system tray, then select the stick, which will safely eject

the memory stick. On an Apple computer, click once on the stick icon and drag it to the trash to eject it.

Smartphones can use both their cloud account and memory stick to back up files or photos; just review the procedures for either Android or Apple devices.

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.

Tech Tips from Bridgenet Communications

Shane Bobson
info@mybridgenet.com



Protecting Yourself from Scams & Hacks

In today's digital age, the risk of falling victim to scams and hacks is higher than ever. With cyber threats becoming more sophisticated, users must stay vigilant and adopt strategies to protect themselves. Here are key steps to safe-

guard your online presence.

One of the simplest yet most effective ways to enhance your security is to use strong, unique passwords for each account. A strong password should be at least 12 characters long and include a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters. Avoid using easily guessable information, like birthdays or common words. Consider using a password manager to generate and store complex passwords securely.

Two-factor authentication adds an extra layer of security by requiring a second form of verification in addition to your password. This could be a code sent to your phone or an authentication

app. Even if hackers manage to get your password, they won't be able to access your account without the second factor.

Phishing scams often appear in emails or text messages that appear to be from legitimate sources but are designed to steal personal information. Be cautious of unsolicited emails asking for sensitive information or urging you to click on suspicious links. Verify the sender's email address and look for signs of phishing, such as poor grammar or urgent requests. If in doubt, contact the company or individual directly using a verified method.

Regular updates to your operating system, software, and apps are crucial for

security. Updates often include patches for vulnerabilities that hackers could exploit. Enable automatic updates to ensure you're always protected against the latest threats.

Install reputable antivirus and anti-malware software to detect and remove malicious threats. Keep these tools updated and run regular scans to identify potential threats early. Modern security solutions offer real-time protection and additional features to safeguard online activities.

Be mindful of the websites you visit and avoid clicking on unfamiliar links or downloading files from untrusted sources. Ensure that the websites you interact with use HTTPS, which encrypts your data and adds a layer of security. Also, consider using browser extensions that block malicious sites and ads.

Stay informed about the latest scams and cybersecurity threats. Knowledge is one of your best defenses against cybercrime. Please share this information with friends and family to help protect them. Regularly reviewing and understanding the latest threats can prepare you to recognize and avoid potential risks.

Ensure your devices are secured with a password or biometric authentication. Lock your screens when not in use, and avoid connecting to unsecured public Wi-Fi networks, which can be a gateway for hackers to intercept your data. Use a VPN (Virtual Private Network) to access sensitive information over a public network.

R/C LadyBirds

Linda Lohr



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

Our first meeting of the year was Friday, Jan. 10, at 10 a.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room.

Some events planned for 2025 include trips to the New England Shire Center and the Ocala Civic Theatre. We also plan to attend the Free First Saturday at the Appleton Museum of Art on Feb. 1.



Photo by Linda Lohr

LadyBirds Christmas luncheon at Cody's.

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The Jewish Club

Bruce Kanner



Chanukah comes, but once a year – actually, most holidays and festivals do. Nonetheless, the Jewish Club added to our members’ cheer with the annual Chanukah event on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024, at The Lodge at Candler Hills. Meeting highlights for the almost 120 members on hand included the election of officers for 2025, the announcement of the new club guest policy, DJ Fred Campbell, and a fantastic lunch. Kudos and thanks to the hospitality committee, led by Second Vice President Lois Trepper and a large contingent of volunteers, too numerous to mention here, for putting together lunch from Lee’s Famous Recipe Chicken, complete with mashed potatoes, gravy, biscuits, and coleslaw. No club meeting would be complete without desserts, so the committee had jelly donuts for Chanukah, make your ice cream sundaes, popcorn, and a Chanukah cake.

The newly elected 2025 officers are President Bruce Kanner, First Vice President Lisa Anderson, Second Vice President Lois Trepper, Treasurer Staci Girsch, Recording Secretary Harriet Pinchouck, and Members at Large Mark Frankel and Audrey Wolotsky. Member at Large Jay Wallet continues in that role, as his position was not up for election.

The club gave rousing applause to retiring board members Gail Levine, Suzie

Kline, and Michael Baron, who are leaving the board. They did so much work to get the club to where it is today.

Terri’s Angels presented certificates for “honoring the good” to club members Wayne Ellis and Charlie Calhoun. Charlie was cited for organizing donations of 50 knitted caps for soldiers to wear under their helmets and for other connections he helped make on behalf of the cause of assisting Israeli soldiers. Wayne was cited for having donated \$10,000 worth of goods (hosiery, underwear, etc.) for Israeli soldiers and displaced Israelis.

The Jewish Club was represented in the Recreation Center Ballroom at the annual Holiday Fest on Dec. 11, 2024. Harriet Pinchouck led a merry band of 10 singers who regaled the more than 200 in attendance with three Chanukah songs: “I Had a Little Dreidel,” “Oh Chanukah,” and “Chanukah, Chanukah.” Bruce Kanner and Audrey Wolotsky, respectively, told the festival’s history and spoke about how we celebrate and commemorate Chanukah.

Twenty-six club members made the annual trek to China Lee Buffet for Chinese food on Christmas Day.

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 club holds meetings at The Lodge at Candler Hills and the Arbor Conference Center.

For more information about the Jewish Club or membership inquiries, please get in touch with Audrey Wolotsky at audw27@gmail.com.



Members enjoyed lunch during the Jewish Club's annual celebration of Chanukah on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024.



Photo by Judy Parisi

Touro Synagogue.

Rhode Island Group

Judy Parisi



Rhode Island is notable for many firsts but also a last. While it was the first colony to declare independence from Great Britain, it was the last colony to ratify the Constitution. A primary reason was that the Constitution did not explicitly protect religious freedom, a core principle of Rhode Island’s founder Roger Williams, which had been enshrined in the 1663 Royal Charter. After some pressure, Rhode Island held a convention and ratified the Constitution in 1790.

Colonists were concerned that there would be protection against potential future abuses by their government due to their experiences with the British. They saw a need for written guarantees of individual freedoms. In December 1791, Congress passed the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, which became the Bill of Rights. The First Amendment stipulated: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” Many feel that Roger Williams’ philosophical beliefs influenced the founders when drafting the First Amendment.

In Newport, the exhibits at the Loeb Visitor Center highlight the journey to religious freedom. Colonial Rhode Island was a community of many denomi-

nations: Quakers, Anglicans, Jews, Baptists, and more. The Irish philosopher George Berkley wrote in 1729: “Here are fewer quarrels about religion than elsewhere. The people live peaceably with their neighbors of every persuasion.” The physical design of Newport differed from that of many New England towns, where a house of worship dominated the town square. In Newport, the town square is Washington Square. However, the houses of worship, the Quaker Meetinghouse, the First Baptist Church, the Episcopal Church, and Touro Synagogue are built nearby but not on the square.

Visitors are welcome to tour Touro Synagogue. The Jewish community in Rhode Island started in the 1670s, with families coming from Barbados and South America after emigrating from Europe. As the congregation grew, they felt they needed a permanent place of worship, so they commissioned architect Peter Harrison to design the building, which is Georgian-style. It was dedicated in 1763 and designated a National Historic Site in 1946.

The American Revolution and the War of 1812 followed, bringing interesting history. Abraham Touro bequeathed money for the support and maintenance of the building, thus the name. The Loeb Visitors Center, across the garden from Touro Synagogue, provides a complete history. Both are must-sees for any visitor to Newport interested in history.

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 and their families. If you are not on our email list, please contact judith.parisi@gmail.com.

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THE SHIP CALLED THE CLOTILDA

February 19, 2025
4 - 5:30 PM | Live Oak Hall
Course #: HBL117
Instructor: Jennifer Moore-Ambrosia
Members: \$10 | General Public: \$15

In Alabama, as the Civil War began, a ship carrying over 100 captive humans was smuggled into the United States from Africa. The remnants of the ship, Clotilda, were recently recovered by archaeologists. Using archival and archaeological evidence, with oral histories from the descendants living in the area, this course tells the story of the last slave ship in America.

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Birders' Beat

Linda Monaco



The members of The Birding Group will take a covered pontoon boat ride with Captain Jon Semmes on the Rainbow and Withlacoochee Rivers on Friday, Feb. 28. The two rivers are both beautiful but very different in appearance. The crystal-clear Rainbow River is light blue and spring-fed, while the Withlacoochee River, which originates in the Green Swamp, is a dark, mostly opaque body of water.

The 2.5-hour ride departs at 8:30 a.m. from the dock adjacent to the Dunnellon City Hall at 20750 River Drive, Dunnellon, Florida 34431. The ride will include birding and educational commentary about the history and ecology of the area and the two rivers. These two rivers provide excellent opportunities to view a

wide variety of birds, including herons, coots, gallinules, anhinga, cormorants, egrets, ibis, and birds of prey. Turtles, otters, and alligators are frequently seen in the weeds and along the shoreline. The spacious, comfortable boat can accommodate 20 passengers. The tour costs \$20 per person.

If you would like to join the group for this boat ride on Friday, Feb. 28, please contact Margitta Claterbos at mclaterbos@gmail.com. We will meet in the parking lot of Friendship Center just outside the 99th Street gate for On Top of the World at 7:15 a.m. This is the parking lot by the Roses store and the Bank of OZK.

After the boat ride, we will have lunch at The Blue Gator, located within walking distance of the boat dock. The restaurant and boat dock are about 20 to 30 minutes from On Top of the World. If it's a fabulous day, plan to wear warm clothes and, of course, bring your binoculars, sunscreen, water bottle and a hat. The dock and boat are handicap accessible.



Eastern meadowlark.
Photo by Debbie Fisher

Freethinkers

Janine Howard



"All knowledge should be subject to examination and reason." – Aristotle.

If this resonates with you, we invite you to check out the Freethinkers Florida Club. Our friendly and open-minded group meets twice monthly in the Hobby Building Event Room for presentations, discussions, and social time. You do not need to be a member to attend.

Other socializing opportunities include meet-and-eat secular lunches, dining out together (DOT) dinners, and Freethinkers women's lunches. If you enjoy games, meet us on Thursdays for a casual game of bocce.

We have three exciting programs for 2025: a book club, the Freethinkers open forum, and the "conversations that matter" series. On Sunday, Feb. 16, from 1 to 3 p.m., at the Hobby Building Event Room, Cassandra Malpica will discuss the Ever Rising Academy, an alternative educational program in Ocala for children and youth with significant behavioral issues, and

the interventions that help them improve.

The book club's Monday, Feb. 24 book selection is the New York Times best-seller "Democracy Awakening: Notes on that present State of America" by Harvard historian Heather Cox Richardson. Please bring your notes, thoughts, and opinions for an in-depth discussion of this timely book.

At a Freethinkers open forum program held in January, participants chose from several different topics and discussed their chosen subject with others who made the same choice. The "conversations that matter" series will be held on selected Monday evenings. One of the speakers will be Freethinker Rich Bellock, who will outline how we can directly impact the local community through contributions of our time, talent, and/or dollars.

Freethinkers Florida is a group of people guided by logic rather than faith. We pursue knowledge and reasoned decisions and do good for its own sake. We learn, discuss, and integrate new information in a supportive and respectful environment. For more information, please visit freethinkersflorida.com. If you have questions, please email us at freethinkersflorida@gmail.com. We look forward to meeting you!

Silver Rainbow Club

Jeanne Bennett-Bailey



We are a welcoming and affirming social group open to all. We are LGBTQ+ allies who provide a space to gather, socialize, and enjoy each other's company. We have various activities throughout the year, including coffee gatherings, luncheons, cookouts, dances, bowling, and other gatherings. To get the latest information about all our events, visit SilverRainbowClub.com or our Facebook page (Silver Rainbow Club). Our annual club fee is \$10 per person.

Music bingo will be held on Sunday, March 23, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and will be sold on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance

Studio III. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Music bingo is similar to traditional bingo, but you play songs instead of numbers. Don't worry about knowing the song—we will eventually tell you what it is. It is fun, and everyone sings along. It is a great time! This event is open to all residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

There will be a 50/50 with multiple drawings. Tickets will be \$5 for five tickets. Bring your food and beverages to enjoy during the fun. No alcohol, please.

All proceeds will be divided between the Interfaith Emergency Services Food-4-Kids Program and the Silver Rainbow Club. At our fall event, we raised \$1,200 for the Food-4-Kids Backpack Program. Let's make it even bigger this year! Please also bring perishable food items to music bingo to donate to the program.

We look forward to seeing you there! For more information, email silverrainbowclub@gmail.com.

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Moonstruck Astronomy Club

Jim Di Paolo



The Moonstruck Astronomy Club, in lieu of their regular monthly meeting, traveled to Kennedy Space Center for another club field trip. A total of 29 members embarked on a journey into the world of space travel.

The first stop was the Apollo/Saturn V Center, where members felt the space program’s worldwide impact, standing underneath the largest rocket ever flown. Members experienced the launch of Apollo 8, the first crew mission to orbit the Moon and return to Earth. The actual launch was on Dec. 21, 1968, with the crew consisting of Frank Borman, Jim Lovell, and Bill Anders. Another highlight was the Lunar Theater, which featured a movie on the first-hand accounts of the Apollo 11 Moon landing.

The next stop was Space Shuttle Atlantis, a real orbiter that flew to space 33 times and traveled 126 million miles. Members were allowed to experience over 60 exhibits and simulators about living and working in space. The life-size replica of the Hubble Space Telescope caught the group’s attention. Many authentic shuttle-era artifacts were also on display.

Everyone had a wonderful time. Jim Di Paolo, club president, captured the video throughout the day. He informed everyone that he would be creating a short movie that would feature highlights of the trip. Jim plans on adding it to the agenda for the next meeting that will be held on Thursday, February 13th, from 1:30 to 3 pm. Non-members are always encouraged and welcome to attend any of the monthly meetings as a one-time guest to see if they have an interest in joining the club.

Club members are reminded to watch for emails announcing more evening observation sessions in the coming weeks and months. Sessions will be announced on any day that weather conditions allow for an open sky, and club members are willing to set up their telescopes to share observations. Members are welcome to arrive and stay if they wish throughout the evenings. All sessions are held adjacent to the R/C flying field.

Regular meetings of the Moonstruck Astronomy Club are on the second Thursday of every month from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room. All residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass can join the club, and new members are welcome! Yearly club dues are only \$20 per year, and they include a subscription to the quarterly Reflector Magazine. For information or club registration, please contact club President Jim Di Paolo at moonastroclub@gmail.com. More information is always available at moonstruckastronomyclub.org.



Photo by Jim Di Paolo

Space Shuttle external tank and boosters.

Joy in the Mourning

Deb Thompson



A new year brings new beginnings. The class wrapped up 2024 by sharing how we learned to help each other. More importantly, we applied these ways throughout the year, and they have assisted us on our life-changing journey.

Arming ourselves with expert advice can help us move forward, which is tremendously beneficial for healing. Not to be taken lightly, this achievement deserves huge applause as one navigates a most challenging season of life.

In the book, “Healing After Loss” by Martha W. Hickman, Phillip Brooks explains, “Since grief was bound up with love, we could not cease to mourn without being robbed of our affections.” Acknowledging our loss is recognizing the love and memories woven into our lives. Unmistakably, these have influenced and shaped our lives. That isn’t something we would want to dismiss but instead becomes a joy to embrace the length of our days. Thus, we can have joy in the mourning!

Continuing the quest to understand and grow through what we are going through, the class has decided to explore a book by Gary Roe. He is an award-winning author, hospice chaplain, and grief counselor. With over 80 topics to review and affirmations to hang onto, this book promises comfort and understanding to the grieving heart. Every topic examined is sure to aid in our recovery. The book is “Comfort for the Grieving Spouse’s Heart, Hope, and Healing After Losing Your Spouse” – copies are available in class for \$10.

Socialization is one of the ways we implement what experts recommend for healing. Sharing what we learn is another step toward healing. Being in the company of others becomes advantageous. Isolation compounds problems. Joy in the Mourning is always open to newcomers desiring a supportive group serious about triumphantly looking ahead. Perhaps Joy in the Mourning can bring you hope. You are welcome any Tuesday in the Hobby Building Event Room from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. Call Deb at 352-445-4860 if you have any questions.

Active Singles Club

Catherine White



Did we just have a January cold spell, or what? Our club members carried on with most of our activities with only a few weather-related cancellations.

Now that we are back to our beautiful weather let’s talk about kayaking! Did you know there are 600 lakes, rivers, and springs in Ocala/Marion County? With so many options to choose from, let me highlight a few places to consider if you want to head out with friends. All are within seven to 10 miles of our community. Rainbow River State Park offers swimming, tubing, canoeing, paddle boarding, and kayaking! You can’t go wrong! Silver Springs State Park also provides options for canoeing and kayaking. Want a more exciting and longer adventure? Juniper Springs offers a seven-mile run that includes some rapids to traverse! Silver Glen is part of the Ocala National Forest by the Big Scrub, where you can swim, snorkel, and kayak. If you have your own gear, check out Salt Springs, which has a unique salinity not found in other springs. Minerals rise

from deep fissures in the earth and appear as “glittering” blue-green waters throughout the basin. Find some friends or head up an activity and go as a group. Most park fees are between \$2 and \$5 plus rental fees.

The activities committee is busy planning out the year and is forming a travel committee that is looking for volunteers. We have a March trip planned to Winter Park as well as an April trip to Ireland!

Are you a golfer? Do you want to be a golfer but don’t have anyone to play with? Our Golf Scramble is off to a nice start. Playing “best ball” is good whether you play a new game, a long or short game! Please join us.

So... are you a new resident? Maybe you’re not new to us, and you have a great idea you want us to consider. Please write to us, come to a membership meeting, and find out if this club is for you. Come on a hike, play bocce, throw some darts around, or meet us for game night. We are always looking to make new friends. Visit otowactivesingles.com, our Facebook page (OTOW Active Singles Club), or email us at otowactivesingles@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you.

To join, you must have a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass.

Southern Connection Club

Patsy Dooley



The weather was chilly, but the atmosphere inside was warm as friends gathered to enjoy a Southern Connection Sunday night dinner meeting. The weekend pro football results emerged as the pre-dinner hot topic. In a nod to the popular sport, Southern Connection will not meet in February as the date falls on Super Bowl Sunday, but have no fear; the fun will resume in March.

Participants thoroughly enjoyed a great meal and fantastic entertainment presented by Dee Collier, Ocala’s resident storyteller extraordinaire.

Residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass are cordially invited to join our social potluck gathering as we bid winter farewell. There’s

no prior notice required — 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.

Folks attending the March meeting with the last name initial A-H are requested to bring a dessert, I-P are requested to bring an entree (meat or casserole) and Q-Z are requested to bring a side (vegetable or salad). First-time attendees are our guests and bring nothing but a smile. 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 alcoholic beverage should they wish.

Enjoy Valentine’s Day, and remember, chocolate is good for you!

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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 our residents the opportunity to attend first, and if there is availability, guests from the waitlist will be asked if they are still interested in attending the trip.

Diane Knox at 352-390-2386 will begin taking reservations on Monday, Feb. 17, for the Suncoast Dinner Theater production of “My Fair Lady” on May 11. Tickets are \$94 per person and include the show, dinner and dessert, bus transportation, and tips for the servers and driver. Like all our trips, this is to be paid

by check only and is non-refundable unless there is a waitlist. Copyright laws protect any production at Suncoast Dinner Theater, and no videos or pictures should be taken. If this is not adhered to, any violator will be denied a reservation on future trips.

We have also planned a trip to Tampa Downs for Saturday, March 22. The cost is \$82 per person and includes the entrance fee and buffet at the Sky Terrace, bus transportation, and tips for the meal and driver. The bus will leave at 9 a.m. and return at approximately 6 p.m. To make your reservation, call Sharon Stetson at 207-838-3776.

Longer range planned trips include a classic fall foliage trip through New England from Saturday, Sept. 27 through Tuesday, Oct. 7. Highlights will be Boston, Newport, Maine’s coastline, Acadia National Park and Vermont covered bridges. The cost is \$5,957 per person, including 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 through 21, 2026. If interested in these trips, call Linda Hein for more information 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. Any non-resident who participates must be a guest of a resident club member.

SWANS

Lois Nix



Our annual Christmas party was a success. We held our usual raffle for all the new items donated by SWANS. In place of the Chinese auction, we had a grab bag. With the money from the raffle and donations from SWANS, who want to remain anonymous, we donated \$400 in cash and many personal hygiene items to Interfaith Emergency Services.

Brunch at Live Fire Chefs was successful, as was lunch at Akita and dinner

at Cody’s.

Our appetizer, lunch- and dinner-in groups continue to be successful. In March, when we have our bi-annual meeting, new groups will be formed. Special events for 2025 are in the works. Some SWANS are going on a seven-day cruise this month.

The Club Fair will be held at Circle Square Cultural Center on Thursday, Jan. 30. The SWANS will have a table, which we will share with the Ladies Shuffleboard Club.

The SWANS is a supportive social club for all single women with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Service pass.

We hope to see you at the Club Fair. SWANS are never alone. SWANS are never forgotten.

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 meeting is Thursday, Feb. 20.

Most animal welfare advocates agree that Trap Neuter Return (TNR) is the most humane and effective method of controlling the overpopulation of community cats (feral cats). Community cats are undomesticated cats that can never (or very rarely) be socialized or become house pets. How they became community cats varies, but in general, these are cats that have had little to no human interaction except from a distance. They coexist with humans from afar and are attracted by human food sources. In

most cases, they cannot be domesticated and will never become pets. While it’s recommended to keep domestic cats indoors for their health and safety, our pet cats’ ancestors happily lived outdoors alongside humans for over 10,000 years.

TNR is the process of humanely trapping, providing medical care (spay/neuter, pest control, vaccinations, and microchipping), and returning community cats back to their colony to live out their lives without exacerbating overpopulation. Until recently, municipalities captured and exterminated as many community cats as possible in hopes of eradicating overpopulation. Not only is this practice inhumane, but it’s also not effective in the long term.

If you have any food that your pet doesn’t like or was shipped to you in error, please consider donating it to the SPCA. Donations will be accepted on Evelyn Sarns Holiday’s porch at 8880-C SW 94th Street, Ocala, FL 34481. We accept all pet items in addition to food, such as blankets, sheets, and other supplies. To avoid accidental ingestion by a pet, please do not use staples to close open bags. We also donate many items to local Marion County shelters, so by giving to the SPCA of Marion County, you are also supporting local shelters. Donors make a real difference in the lives of pet owners with limited means or foster pets waiting for their forever homes. Thank you in advance!

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

Scandinavian American Club

David Wesenberg



The Scandinavian American Club’s next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 25, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Event Room I.

Did you know that each Scandinavian country has a flag with its history? History was made just a few days ago when the Danish king added a polar bear to their flag, representing Greenland.

Speaking of Greenland, Erik the Red started three Norse colonies on the southern tip in 986. They were abandoned in the 1300s because the Little Ice Age lowered temperatures, making agriculture impossible. The Scandinavians

returned to Greenland on an expedition from 1605 to 1607 when King Christian IV of Denmark and Norway ordered it. In 1721, merchants and other Danish entities returned and established colonies among the native Inuit peoples.

We ask members to be prepared to share their memories of their Scandinavian past and culture. Many of our members have visited the Scandinavian countries they or their ancestors have migrated from and returned with pictures and exhibits. You may have a story to tell or a souvenir to share.

The Scandinavian American Club is great for meeting new people, sharing stories and experiences, and having fun.

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.

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World Traveler

Bill Shampine



The Amazon rainforest is one of the planet’s most unique and critical areas. It is a massive area, being only slightly smaller than the U.S. Although 60% of it is located in Brazil – Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Surinam, French Guiana, and Guiana also contribute to its glory. This vast, complex ecosystem contains the world’s largest living plant collection. Many of these plants are proving to be of enormous economic and social value as they are sources of new drugs, such as for AIDS, cancer, diabetes, arthritis, and Alzheimer’s.

The rainforest is critically important to us because its extensive and lush vegetation continuously produces about 20% of the earth’s oxygen! Unfortunately, significant amounts of virgin forest are being cleared daily to mine for valuable minerals or create farmland, reducing the amount available to produce the oxygen we breathe.

Surprisingly, the soil under the forest canopy makes very poor farmland. Most of the nutrients in the soil were washed away centuries ago by the high volume of rain. The lush forest growth we see

in pictures is sustained by the nutrients contained in the few inches of decaying vegetation on the soil surface – no forest, no decaying vegetation, no new nutrients, poor soil, poor crops!

The average annual rainfall in the water basin ranges from 72” to 120”. The city of Belem, for example, located near the mouth of the Amazon River, receives 96” of rain annually. This area’s rainfall ranges from 2.7” in the driest month to 14.2” in the wettest month. The rainy season is December through May, and the dry season is June through November. All this rain over the huge basin makes the Amazon River the largest river in the world. During the rainy season, more than 43,000,000 gallons of water per second pours out the mouth of the river, which may be as much as 300 miles wide at that time!

Margitta and I visited the place in 2015 and had a wonderful time. We flew to Iquitos, Peru, where six of us were taken by boat into the forest and stayed in palm-thatched bungalows built on stilts to stay dry. We were there in early May, the very beginning of the dry season. That is a good time to go as the rain and the insects are minimal. We could walk from our camp to a Yagua village, where we learned a bit about the Yagua culture. Among other things, they danced for us and taught us how to use a blowgun! Margitta also had the pleasure of hold-



Margitta Claterbos is holding a baby sloth in a Yagua village in the Amazon River Rainforest in Peru.

ing a cute, rescued baby sloth.

Since the river was still in the flood stage, most of our travel in the region was by boat, which was a lovely way to

get around. We even went fishing for piranhas, and the camp chef cooked our catch for dinner. It was a great trip, and I highly recommend it.



Nasi campur is an Indonesian and Balinese dish that translates to “mixed rice” in English.

Global Diversity Asian Social Club

Rosalina Norita



Valentine’s Day, observed on Feb. 14, is a holiday in which couples express affection through various forms of communication and gifts. Its origins are tied to the Roman festival of Lupercalia, celebrating fertility and spring’s arrival. However, associations with romance emerged in the 14th century. The day’s namesake may be a priest martyred circa 270 CE, who, legend says, signed a letter.

Valentine’s Day is celebrated worldwide, reflecting varied cultural customs and traditions. The United States, Britain, Canada, and Australia: These countries traditionally exchange cards, chocolates, and flowers on Valentine’s Day. Schoolchildren participate in classroom card exchanges, giving valentines to classmates. Argentina celebrates similarly to Western countries, emphasizing romantic gestures and gifts. France, renowned for romance, focuses on love and affection, exchanging cards and gifts. Mexico’s “Day of Love and Friendship” expresses affection to partners, friends, and family. In South Korea, Valentine’s Day is one of several monthly love-themed days. Women give chocolates on Feb. 14, and men reciprocate on White Day. These celebrations emphasize expressing love and affection despite varying customs.

In the Philippines, Valentine’s Day is distinguished as the most common wedding anniversary, featuring mass weddings with hundreds of couples. These celebrations exemplify the universal theme of expressing love and affection amidst cultural diversity in customs and

traditions.

Love is in the air, and all of us are encouraged to participate and be happy and thankful for people around us who care no less than ourselves about love, compassion, and commitment. Even though everyone has their routines and commitments, we must stop and focus on those who are very dear to us and who are unequally committed to devotion and sacrifice. We all must dedicate a gift of love to those as such. Love matters the most for every person around the world. So, regardless of whether we are at home or traveling, we still give the biggest payoff to the most loving people in our lives.

Due to the unavailability of the speaker, the first Friday’s meeting at Global Diversity Asian Social Club scheduled for February has been canceled. However, the meeting will resume in March as expected. Please refer to the flyer for details. The meeting will feature a re-

view by Joseph Ford Cotto, DBA’s book, “What Happened to America.” Janaki Ram Ray will be the moderator who will facilitate the discussion.

There will be a presentation about Bali, food, and history on Friday, April 4, primarily focusing on the traditions related to “Megibung.” The culture of Bali and its history will be thoroughly explained. How Balinese people were influenced by Dutch colonizers and their cooperation shaped Bali to be the way it is in the present.

In April, an additional event will take place, the “Megibung,” a traditional communal dining banquet that will be held from Bali to Ocala. The cuisine will be expertly prepared by a renowned Indonesian chef featured on Food Network and Fox 5 last September. The menu encompasses meats, poultry, and vegetables. Traditional Balinese music and dance will complement the culinary delights.

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Michigan Club

Nancy Meininger



Even gangster Al Capone had a Valentine’s secret. To share his unusual love story with us at our February meeting is master storyteller Dee Collier, who performs each historical enactment in costume.

Join the Michigan Club at our potluck dinner at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 2, at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-III to hear this love story about America’s most infamous bad guy and his lady of the night.

For your potluck offering, please bring a protein main dish if your name begins with A-L, a vegetable dish if your name begins with M-R, and a dessert if your name starts with S-Z. Also, bring your personal meal setup and beverages. Alcohol is permitted.

At this meeting, we will have a sign-

Eco Gardeners

Phil Karcheski



February is the time to start seeds for spring planting. Starting from seeds has many advantages. You can select from a broader variety unavailable at a nursery or garden center. You will have complete control of what and how you grow and what they are treated with to prevent diseases often inherited from saved seeds of an infected plant. You’ll experience the rewarding feeling of starting your plants from seed.

When choosing seeds, consider the characteristics you want, such as size and flavor, and determine if they suit your local soil types and planting zone. Heirloom varieties have been passed down for generations and are open-pollinated. Their seeds can be saved and come back true to type. They’re often preferred for flavor and unique shapes. Unfortunately, they are often susceptible to disease. Hybrid seeds are bred for disease resistance, size, and yields and are preferred for commercial production but may lack flavor.

Starting seeds indoors is usually four to 10 weeks before the last frost, and you will need space, time, and supplies. Setting up can be expensive and complicated initially, requiring lighting, growing media, shelving, heating mats, pots, and patience.

When starting seeds indoors, you can use clean recycled food containers; remember to leave drain holes in the bottom and small holes in a transparent top. When choosing a medium, select a potting mix; garden soil is too heavy and dense for seedling growth. Lightly cover with seed. Spray lightly with water to keep the soil moist. Too much watering can lead to mold and bacteria fungus.

Starting seedlings in a purchased hydroponic unit has advantages. The unit is programmed to suit the type of plants and controls light requirements and watering intervals. Seeds grown in pods are convenient for supporting or direct transplanting.

There are two pairs of leaves at the

OneBlood Bloodmobile

Sara Sommer



The Big Red Bus® was here for its Friday blood drive on Jan. 6. We received 18 units of blood. That can help up to 54 people. Way to go, heroes. The Friday drive will be back on May 5.

The Big Red Buses will be here on Monday, Feb. 3, for their usual first Monday of every even month schedule. The time is 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Recreation Center parking lot. Each donor will receive a mini physical that includes blood pressure, temperature, and cholesterol screening. Each donor will also receive a \$20 e-card to be redeemed at local businesses and online. Please bring a photo ID and eat a good meal before and after donating. Drink plenty of liquids, too.

The Club Fair will be held on Thursday, Jan. 30, at Circle Square Cultural Center. OneBlood will have a table. Please stop by with any questions you may have about donating.

There is no substitute for human blood. Only you can save a life. See you at the Club Fair and on the bus.

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up sheet for the steering committee to carry Michigan Club forward into the fall. Nancy Meininger will be moving into an advisory capacity to a new board on the steering committee.

Wear green at our St. Patrick’s meeting in March, and plan to have a wee bit of fun! Although there will not be a leprechaun in our midst, there will be a ghost whisperer, to be sure! We will present Linda Letcher, a talented young lady who is a walking encyclopedia of Ocala and its unique history. She will share tales of Ocala’s colorful past and some surprising facts.

Fitness Director Cammy Dennis, our January headliner, got enthusiastic applause as she revealed the secrets to longevity at our opening meeting on Sunday, Jan. 5. It turns out that simple adjustments to our relaxed lifestyles can make a remarkable difference. All who attended walked away feeling energized. Thank you, Cammy, for a grand opening to 2025!

For information about Michigan Club, please text or call Nancy Meininger at 352-554-0757.

start: the first are true leaves, and the second are cotyledons. When they appear, it’s time to transplant them into pots. Fertilize with half-strength fertilizers to prevent burning the seedlings. When you have three to four true leaves and they are several inches tall, you should harden off the plants by exposing them to indirect sunlight in a wind-protected environment. Bring them indoors at night until ready to plant early in the day or on a cloudy day.

The advantage of buying directly from seed companies versus stores is that they are more descriptive of the plants, are disease resistant, and have detailed planting information.

You can find a variety of seed vendors online. RareSeeds.com has a variety of heirlooms. Their catalog is informative, and it’s fun to read about the history of the plants.

Root crops, such as carrots, radishes, beets, and turnips, or cold-tolerant crops, such as spinach, some lettuces, peas, dill, and parsley, are better suited for direct seeding in the garden.

Mixing flowers and herbs in your garden is beneficial. Some increase pollination, and some repel predatory insects while adding color to the garden.

Lions Club

Gail Morris



Happy Valentine’s Day, and boy, has this year started chilly. It is a brand-new year to make new commitments and start filling your calendar with activities.

The Lions Club would like you to consider adding our casino night fundraiser on Sunday, March 9, as one of your activities this year. We will be gaming at Circle Square Cultural Center and would love you to join us and help us support our community with the funds raised. This event is open to the public.

Tickets are \$50 each, which includes \$300 in gaming money, food, and drink. Lions will sell tickets on Tuesdays at the Recreation Center Craft Fair and Thursdays at the Circle Square Commons Farmers Market. Our ticket limit is 300. Don’t miss out on a fun night. There will be additional raffle tickets for sale at the event, including our baskets created by Lion Charlie, the liquor wagon, and a 50/50.

We had a busy 2024 with a variety of community service projects. We helped three elementary schools – Dunnellon, Saddlewood, and College Park – with student supplies for the new school year in August, donating enough supplies for

a class of third graders at each school. Then, in November, our club was able to supply 90 family food baskets for Thanksgiving. The baskets were distributed to Dunnellon, Saddlewood, and College Park Elementary schools, Ocala Ritz Veterans Village, and Marion County Vets Helping Vets. Our Lions ended the year with a Toys for Tots tree at the Recreation Center. Lions Charlie and Gary Hassett transported over 500 gifts, thanks to our generous residents.

We also had time to celebrate the holidays with our holiday dinner, with 15 lions in attendance, as well as two guests. Lion Duane donned a fancy pair of glasses that included a “Santa” style beard and eyebrows. He didn’t have his bag of toys, but the table decorations for poinsettias were distributed to the members as we departed. We all dressed in holiday style, and some were decked out with festive headwear. We always have a fun time when we gather for other than community service. It also was a time to say goodbye to a few dedicated Lions as they moved on to be closer to family. We need more members to fill their shoes, and we would love to see you at our next meeting.

Lions Club meetings are on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room II at 5 p.m. If you would like further information, you can contact Estelle Michelson, our membership chair, at 352-861-7358.

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Tennis is a Poppin'

By **Domenica Genovese**

As the temperatures cool, the POP tennis courts are heating up with exciting gameplay. The game is growing in popularity, and no wonder! It is an active sport that newcomers can learn relatively quickly, while seasoned players enjoy play that challenges their technique and game strategy.

The sport's history dates to the Victorian era. In 1887, a minister named Frank Beal in New York City created it as a variation on tennis that everyone could play, regardless of their physical fitness level or skill. Initially called "paddle tennis," the game was played on a smaller court, making it easier for players to cover the court and maintain a rally.

Over the years, the sport continued to evolve, and in 1915, it was officially named POP tennis. The name change was primarily due to the unique sound when the ball strikes the solid paddle.

The amazing growth of the sport's popularity in recent years can be traced to several factors: POP tennis teamed up with big names in sports and wellness to provide resources and gear for POP players; organizers worked together with the USTA to allow the game to be played on smaller, existing tennis courts; and best

of all, it is a super social easy-to-learn and enjoyable activity that brings people

together for a great time.

So, if you're looking to stay fit, have fun, and make new friends, come join us! We are at the Arbor Activity Center lower courts (#7 through #10) Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8 to 10 a.m. Several members also serve as

trainers, ready to help newcomers learn the sport's ins and outs. Stop by sometime and check us out!

For further information, email Mark D'Addario at markdad06@gmail.com and discover the POP tennis experience for yourself!



Photo by Brenda Foster

The POP Tennis Club pizza party was fun for all.



Photo by Gregg Keidel

Christmas gift basket winners: Charlene Moretto, Chris Moretto, Lorrie Dean, and Victoria Hoenie.

All That Jazz

By **Liz Elliott Lieberman**

The newly formed Jazz Dance Club meets for rehearsals on Mondays from 10 to 11 a.m., primarily for the Ovation Dancers, and then from 11 a.m. to noon for regular jazz dance classes. The 11 a.m. time slot would be the best option for beginners. As we progress into 2025, I will happily organize more time for basic beginner classes. All classes are held at the Arbor Conference Center Studio D.

The dancers performed at the Health & Wellness Expo in January at Circle Square Cultural Center, debuting a brand new number from Will Rogers Follies called Favorite Son. Will Rogers was a comedian, raconteur, and famous lasso expert from Oklahoma in the 1930s. Not too seriously, he was asked to run as president on the platform as Oklahoma's Favorite Son, and this number is a tribute to him. It is performed sitting down but utilizes the dancer's ability to remember moves in a fast sequence. It's difficult for a twenty-year-old, let alone a group of over 55 ladies! I am immensely proud of my beautiful ladies, and I hope new members will join us very soon. We work hard, and we laugh a lot!

For any additional information, please contact Liz Lieberman at Lizzylieberman@gmail.com.



Photo by Cheryl Sloan

The Ovation Dancers performed Favorite Son at the Health & Wellness Expo.

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Golf

Matt Hibbs
352-854-2765
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Now that the stress of the holiday season is over, we can move forward and return to some normalcy. The start of 2025 should be exciting and eventful.

Candler Hills and The Links will host the annual World Sadie Hawkins Golf Tournament on Friday, Feb. 14, with a 9 a.m. shotgun start. This year's format will be a two-person alternate shot on the front nine and scramble on the back nine. The cost is \$20 per player for awards and prizes. Please register in your respective Golf Shop.

With March right around the corner, we proudly announce the return of the Ocala Open, which will be held from Wednesday, March 19, through Friday, March 21, at the Candler Hills Golf Club. A Pro-Am is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18. Hospice of Marion County and Interfaith Emergency Services will again benefit from the event. For more information, visit ocalaopen.com.

The On Top of the World staff would like to remind everyone to return all range balls and baskets to the respective Golf Shop after use. Please do not take these items home with you. Keeping these items in circulation prevents us from having to continue purchasing new equipment, which in turn helps keep range prices minimal. Also, to maximize the use of the grass on the driving range, please keep your divots in a linear pattern. This will help keep the driving range in better condition. We appreciate your understanding.

This is the last reminder that all shop credit expires on Friday, Feb. 28. Any credit won in February will not be posted to your account until Saturday, March 1. It's time to shop!

Upcoming Events

- Friday, Feb. 14: World Sadie Hawkins at Candler Hills and The Links with 9 a.m. shotgun.
- Friday, Feb. 28: String Event at The Links with 9 a.m. shotgun.
- Tuesday, March 18: Ocala Open Pro-Am at Candler Hills Golf Club.
- Wednesday, March 19 through Friday, March 21: Ocala Open at Candler Hills Golf Club.

World Accolades

CANDLER HILLS: Steve Gersten, hole-in-one #13. Tony Misterly, hole-in-one #17. Dennis Huber, eagle #7.

THE TORTOISE & THE HARE: Laura Mertens, hole-in-one #8. Guy Wathen shot 73, three strokes under his age.

THE LINKS: Bob Mondore shot 72 nine strokes under his age; Louis Heger, eagle #3. Mike Mackowiak shot his age, 75. Congratulations to all!

Ladies 18-Hole Golf Association

Jo Della Penna



Thoughts to keep cool by for 2025:

- The angry player is not staying in the present. They are focused on the past.
- Anger is always a choice and is never caused by someone or something else.
- Displays of anger during a round indicate that something has become more important than the shot at hand.
- Anger introduces tension into the body.
- Most experienced competitors view displays of anger as signs of

Golf Tip of the Month

You're on your way to breaking 80 for the first time when you drive the ball into the fairway bunker on the 18th hole. I know everyone hates the dreaded fairway bunker shot. Here are some tips to ensure you shoot your best round ever.

- Make sure to hit the ball first. Unlike a greenside bunker, you need to hit the ball first.
- Take one extra club than you would from the fairway and

loss of control.

- Accept whatever happens to a shot and move on.

Rudolph's Revenge 4 Clubs and a Putter (Individual)

Dec. 3, 2024/The Tortoise & The Hare

Flight 1: 75-Lynn Colomb. 77-Page Falconer. 78-Marcella Nunez. Tie at 79-Christine Giza & Peggy Ellenberger.

Flight 2: 76-Vickie Foster. Tie at 78-Darlene De Berry & Debra De Matteo. 80-Cindy Channell.

Flight 3: 74-Joann Delmar. 79-Roxiann Dwyer. 80-Margie Williams. 85-Pamela Robison.

Scotch Twosome

Dec. 10, 2024/The Links

Flight 1: Tie at 68-Sharon Fairclough, Nancy Skoch, Peggy Ellenberger, & Christine McIntire. Tie at 70-Sandy Snyder, Peggy Wiechmann, Lisa Free, Donna Isaac, Laura McMillan and Lorie Anderson, Linda Taylor, Jane Hall.

Flight 2: 68-Darlene De Berry, Sandra Randles.

- slightly grip down on the club.
- Play the ball in the middle of your stance.
- Dig your feet into the sand just enough to build a solid foundation.
- Take a three-quarters swing. You want to keep your body still to ensure a solid strike.

Follow these five tips to improve fairway bunker play and gain the confidence to break 80.

69-Katie Schriewer, Connie Lukas. Tie at 72-Susan Martin, Susan Yenne, Jill Strey, Joy Geradi. Tie at 73-Connie Sohl, May Chin, Cindy Channell, Eileen Gustavus, Vickie Noltensmeyer and Jacquelin Randour, Diane Boston, Renee Middleton

Secret Santa

Dec. 17, 2024/The Tortoise & The Hare

Flight 1: Tie at 34-Lisa Free, Linda Taylor. 35-Va Donna Hall. Tie at 37-Sharon Fairclough, Dawn Carroll.

Flight 2: 34-Beverly Ovrebø. 35-Darlene De Berry. Tie at 36-Sandra Mansfield, Peggy Ellenberger.

Flight 3: 30-Cindy Channell. 31-Vickie Noltensmeyer. 33-Yulan Cho. Tie at 36-Joanne Woolery, Joyce Jones.

Flight 4: 32-MJ Strelec. Tie at 33-Joann Della Penna, Debra De Matteo. 34-Cynthia Gersten.

Flight 5: Tie at 33-Eileen Gustavus, Robyn Atwood, Roxiann Dyer. 36-Susan Yenne.

Flight 6: 30-Liz Lang. Tie at 33-Joann Delmar, Connie Lukas. 36-Pamela Robison.



Photo by Diane Boston

LGA-18 donated \$1,100 to Marion County Fire Rescue Friendship Station 21 in 2024.

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Candler Hills
Ladies 18-Hole

Beth Wolinsky



The start of 2025 brings new resolutions and goals for our golf games. We may be looking to improve our drives and/or putting, but another resolution should be practicing self-compassion on the course. It is very easy to lose control of our emotions during a difficult round, but a little kindness directed inward can lead to better outcomes while playing. This is easier said than done, but it is worth striving for. A little kindness goes a long way.

We want to welcome Nancy Skoch and Pam Robison to the Candler Hills LGA-18. They are also members of the On Top of the World LGA-18. We look forward to playing with you both.

On Thursday, Jan. 2, Match Play was held between the Red and Green teams. It was a hard-fought competition, but the Red team prevailed. Congratulations to all the Red team players.

The Candler Hills interclub tournament has begun. Good luck to the ladies who are participating in these events. We know you will do a great job and make us proud.

Our league is open to any resident

Ladies
Shuffleboard

Lois Nix



Due to the holidays, December was a short month, and January was too cold to shuffle. We do not play if the temperature is below 40 degrees or if it is raining.

The Ladies Shuffleboard Club has three times to shuffle: Mondays at 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 9 a.m., and Wednesdays at 11 a.m.

Ladies shuffling is open to all women residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. A Hold Harmless agreement form has to be signed by each player.

woman. If you want to meet new ladies and enjoy a round of golf, you are welcome to join. To become a member, please get in touch with our president, Lynn Colomb.

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

Grinch's Silver Tee Scramble (Team)
Dec. 5, 2024

Tie at 57–Shelly Karsnitz, Mary Dawson, Judie Anderson, Anne Dahlen. Christine Giza, Joyce Jones, Janelle Gluckman, Kathy Zunica. Lisa Free, Paula Lilly, Jane Hall, Eileen Gustavus. Tie at 58–Laurel Staiger, Ellen Brin, Kate Beaty, Margie Williams. Sandy Snyder, Brenda Hofmann, Virginia Madura, Susanne Mullineaux. Tie at 59–Page Falconer, Chris McIntire, Teri Stecker, Terry Lemesh. Faun Doctor, Karen Schroeckenthaler, Joann Ropel, Toni Stevenson.

Candy Cane Scramble (Team)
Dec. 19, 2024

51–Susan Martin, Lisa Free, Mary Dawson, Beth Wolinsky. Tie at 53–MJ Strelec, Michele Otto, Jean Czachor, Robin LeMaster. Judi McGuinness, Dawn Carroll, Vickie Foster, Margie Williams. Tie at 56–Joanne Woolery, Beverly Ovrebo, Kay Budd, Liz Pruss. Katie Schriewer, Mary Ann Livingston, Judie Anderson, Teri Stecker. Tie at 57–Kate Beaty, Kathleen Goodwin, Christine Giza, Jana McElroy. Joyce Jones, Patricia Henderson, Nancy Zielinski, Joann Delmar. Virginia Combs, Sandy Snyder, Virginia Madura, Gloria Cullins.

All new players will receive basic rules of the game and safety hints. You do not need to know how to play; you will learn on the courts with the help of club members. Our group of ladies have fun with no stress, but we all want to win. We do not have dues; at the end of the 2023 season, the members voted to become an informal club, so we have individual volunteers each day of play who open the storage shed for the equipment, a captain and co-captain, a scorekeeper, a coordinator, and no official board. If you want to join us, we ask you to be at the courts at the Veterans Park 15 minutes early.

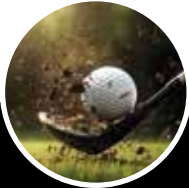
December 2024

8–Sally Herrick. 6–Carol Novel. 5–Mary LoBosco. 30-plus: Cindy Engler, Helen Anderson.

Happy shuffling. See you on the courts.

Men's Golf
Association

John Yenne



Following the holidays and weather disruptions, the Men's Golf Association (MGA) hopes to get back on schedule for the rest of the year. You must pay the annual dues of \$25 to participate in the weekly club competitions in 2025. You can submit your dues by placing them in the MGA box in the Golf Shop using one of the envelopes provided. Please write your name and the reason for the payment on the envelope's exterior. Checks should be made out to "OTOW MGA."

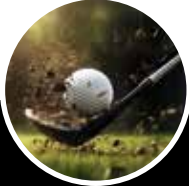
At the Chicken Day event in December 2024, Jim McCormack, Rusty Rhodes, and Phillip Shaw were re-elected to serve three-year terms on the MGA board. They will join fellow board members Kevin McGuinness, Tom Neville, Anthony Morris, Doyce Mathis, Norm Hayworth, and Joe Polizzotti in 2025.

For more information about the MGA, please visit otowmga.com.

Please mark your calendar for these upcoming Wednesday events:

Candler Hills
Men's Golf

Rick Pettit



The PGA Tour will begin its Florida swing and head our way. Starting Thursday, Feb. 27, we have the Cognizant Classic in the Palm Beaches. Then, on Thursday, March 6, it's Arnie's tournament in Orlando. Then, on Thursday, March 13, it's the biggie, The Players. On Thursday, March 20, it finishes with the Valspar in Palm Harbor. I hope some of you get the opportunity to attend one of these events.

We currently have 141 members for the 2025 season. Our hole-in-one club has 54 members, so the lucky member who makes an ace gets \$270. Due to the shortened season, we voted on and passed a motion to suspend the Candler Cup in 2025. It will restart again in 2026. Our first scramble/lunch will be Tuesday, Feb. 4.

One concern that board members hear frequently is the pace of play. While we would all love to play in three hours 45 minutes, please remember that we have various levels of skills playing with us every week. If you are the captain and believe your group is not on pace, please take it upon yourself to help everyone be aware and pick up the pace. If we are playing two of the best balls and one or two players are out of the hole, please tell them to pick up their ball, as the score will not matter.

They may not fully understand how the game works if they are new to our

Feb. 5: Chicken Day (The Links)
Feb. 19: Two Best Balls (The Links)
Feb. 26: Individual Stableford (The Tortoise & The Hare)

Chicken Day Low Net
Jan. 8/The Links

Flight 1: 76–Eugene Paradis. 77–Robert Walker. 78–Irl Flanagan. Tie at 79–Philip Shaw, John Herman. 80–Ron Pratt.

Flight 2: 69–Larry Manion. 71–Roger Lukas. 74–Jerry Williams. Tie at 75–Garfield Gray, Don McCrimmon.

Flight 3: 70–Rusty Zarrell. 72–Brian Wilder. 75–Kevin McGuinness. 76–Mike Key.

Flight 4: Tie at 74–Randy Keller, Norm Hayworth. 75–Mike Ball. 77–Robert Kuhl1. Tie at 78–Gerry Messenger, Jim Lefaver, Sam Feola.

Flight 5: 69–Larry Turner. Tie at 72–James McCormack, Gregg Keidel, Howard Gluckman. 76–Joseph Dunnack. 79–Mike Erickson.

Flight 6: 75–Ed Vasoli. 77–James Thompson. 78–Mike Kurlakowsky. Tie at 79–David Hannasch, Louis Heger, Paul Snyder.

Flight 7: 71–Ralph Norton. Tie at 74 –Philip Petrozella, Raymond Hendrix. 77–Leonard Ruble. Tie at 80–Doyce Mathis, Mike Clancy.

Flight 8: 69–Tom Nicholl. 70–Joe Polizzotti. Tie at 76–John DiVito, Loren Magsam. 77–Joseph Mandala. 81–Frank Giordano.

group. To play ready golf, get to your ball and practice your swing and routine while someone else is hitting. This will ensure that you are ready when you are up.

The Candler Hills Interclub team, which consists of 12 members, had its first match on Thursday, Jan. 9 at the Mark Bostick Golf Course in Gainesville. We were defeated but had a couple of close matches. The next event was at Stone Creek on Thursday, Jan. 16. There are around 250 teams in the Interclub, and after six games, the leaders start regional play, followed by sectional play, and then state play in April.

Low Net (Individual)
Dec. 17, 2024

Flight 1: 70–Paul Siders. 73–Dave Falcone. 74–Brian Bennett.

Flight 2: 72–Ken Franks. 73–Randy Kajewski. Tie at 75–Jon Hill, Ron Lombardo

Flight 3: 67–Cecil Avery. 72–Paul Rubly. 73–Doug Buckler.

Flight 4: 72–Ray Christ. Tie at 74–Mike Inge, Donnie Perkins, Bill Scholp.

Flight 5: 74–Howard Gluckman. Tie at 75–Joe Jingco, Terry Thomas.

Flight 6: 72–Louis Heger. 75–Rick Deroven, Tie at 80–Robert Dellapenna, Gregg Keidel

Flight 7: 74–Dennis Huber. Tie at 75–Walter Knautz, Don Wheeler.

Red/White/Blue Scramble
Dec. 24, 2024

51–Bill Wignall, Ray Parlato, David Metzger, Bill McElroy. 52–Tim Clarkin, Jeffry Holmes, Brad Best, Louis Heger. 54–Larry Smallwood, Patrick Nagy, Steven Gersten, Marvin Jendro.

I leave you with this. "Golf is a game of misses. He who misses best, wins." – Ben Hogan.

Shuffleboard

Walt Lamp



The Introduction to Shuffleboard class will be on Saturday, Feb. 8, at 11 a.m. at the Veterans Park. Paul Hodges is the instructor and will highlight the rules, scoring, safety, and the basics for shooting the disc. Open-toed shoes are not permitted. The class lets you know whether you want to play for fun or join

our club.

December 2024
Men/Women

Monday (a.m.): Charlie Lentz/Vicki Lentz
Tuesday (p.m.): Ron Daughtry/Barbara Daughtry
Thursday (a.m.): Robert Sapiro/Annette Hodges

The high (plus) scorers for December 2024 are Ron Daughtry, Barbara Daughtry, Marion Mattson, Robert Sapiro, and Tom Getts, as well as Ed Kunzweiler, Bill Weir, Rick French, Jane Boyer, Scott Lyons, and Annette Hodges.

The Club Fair is scheduled for today, Jan. 30. Please visit our table at Circle Square Cultural Center.

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Billiards Club

Phil Panzera



We had a fun and exciting tournament this month, an unusual medley of nine-ball and eight-ball. We had a large turnout, 41 players, which may be the largest field the club has ever had.

Because of the large field, we modified the games in an interesting way. We played short-rack eight-ball, with six fewer balls in the rack. We also shortened the nine-ball game by dropping two balls after each break. The result was a fast-run tournament; everyone got to play, and we finished at about 5 p.m.

The event was also handicapped, and we had many regular players defeat some of the better players in the club. We try to set these tournaments up so that anyone has a chance to win, and our history is that there are almost always one or more regular players among the top finishers.

Congratulations to Gary Schroeder, the tournament champ. Watching Gary shoot, I was impressed with how he took his time, carefully considered his shot selection, and played far more defensively than anyone else.

It is a truism – and an incredibly important tip to improve your game – that far more games are “lost” in an amateur pool than “won.” Players focus more on making the ball and taking ridiculously tough shots. Instead, the focus must be on winning the game. The lesson: play more safeties. When faced with a tough shot, I have heard a professional express it this way: “Your most important responsibility is to get back to the table!”

Special congratulations to Don Dematteo, who won all his matches in the winners’ bracket and even sent Gary to the losers’ side. Gary fought back into the finals against Don and played sharp-

Archery Club

Suzanne Shea



January was a busy month for the Archery Club. Workshops, club shoots, “Freestyle Fridays,” competitive events, the Club Fair, and planning for future events kept our members active and engaged. We will hold a record number of events and activities over the year and look forward to having all members participate.

On the third Tuesday of each month, Patty Hoppe will host archery fundamentals and shooting workshops at the range. The topics will vary monthly, and a fun shoot will follow each workshop. The workshops begin at 10 a.m. and are open to all archers.

On Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 10 a.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room, Jerry Hoppe will host a class for new or relatively new members of the sport of target archery. The class will provide an overview of the club and private training available in the area. It will also expand on various aspects of archery and the types of equipment that might be required for each. Additionally, the class will provide insight and direction on buying your equipment and assist you in improving your archery skills.

The club will hold its semi-annual open house at the range on Thursday, March 13. It is open to all residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. During the open house, you can tour the range, shoot a few arrows, and meet our members. If you cannot attend the open house, you can stop by the range on any Friday between 10 a.m. and noon to get a quick introduction to the club.

Each 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 range at the Veterans Park. We have members of all skill levels, from novice to competitive. 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.

Interested in becoming a member? Visit otowarcheryclub.org > New Members and download the application form and required waivers. For additional information or the next steps 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!



Photo by Phil Panzera

Winter Medley champions.

ly to win.

While Gary finishes well in many tournaments, Don’s second-place finish was a good testament that the handicapping gives everyone a chance.

Third place went to John Marcinek, who got knocked out in a sudden death shootout. Fourth place went to sharpshooter Ralph Szelenyi. John and Ralph made many clutch shots in tight games to finish so highly.

Pat Murphy and Ron Faehn finished in fifth place, and Ray Talkington and Mike Romano finished in seventh place.

Our next tournament is on Tuesday, March 11, the club’s annual nine-ball tournament. It will be open to all

club members, male and female, and it will be handicapped. As usual, we’ll have food and snacks for the players. If you’ve never played in a pool tournament before, give it a try.

The experience is totally unlike a league. Everything is on the line right now, this game, this ball. It can be in-

tense while also very exciting. Most importantly, it doesn’t matter at all whether you win – what matters is that you tried and gave it your best effort. In my opinion, tournaments help your game improve twenty times more than any league ever will!

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Co-Ed Recreational Softball

Pat Wilbert



The temperatures are cool, but beautiful days are available to play the sport we all love. Softball. This game is offered to men and women who want to join us every Saturday at the softball field at 9:45 a.m.; games start at 10 a.m. We warm up and stretch those muscles that we tend to forget. Now we are ready to play.

Two teams are chosen with equal numbers of men and women, with everyone getting to bat and score. Everyone is eager to help new members whether you have played the game or not. We have equipment, but if you are used to your own, please feel free to bring it. Our usual turnout of about 30 players has been reduced since some of

our regulars are snowbirds and won't return until the spring, but we still have at least eight to 10 players per team each week.

We want to give some kudos to Craig Fox, who continuously hits the ball over the fence. Other players like Stewart Clotworthy and Brian Pfister consistently manage to hit the ball, scoring home runs to help the team score. Everyone plays with their heart, and the runners who substitute for others help score runs as well. We all have a good time, laughing and enjoying our teammates. We even make new friends every week.

If you want to join this fun morning full of meeting new friends and playing the game we all love, come to the field on Saturday mornings and join us. Chris Lopez is the acting manager and is always willing to help with any questions. I play every Saturday and help Chris out when needed.

Remember: You play softball not for the trophy or fame, but for the love of the game.



Co-Ed Recreational Softball warming up.

Photo by Pat Wilbert

Meditation Group

Domenica Genovese



Meditation is an age-old practice that dates back thousands of years to ancient Egypt, China, and India. Over the centuries, many variations of meditation have evolved and continue to do so.

Meditation should not be dismissed as a "new age" practice or outside the mainstream. Thought leaders such as medieval historian Yuval Noah Harari, neuroscientist Sara Lazar, and inventor/entrepreneur Steve Jobs incorporated meditation into their daily lives, as do millions of professionals and non-professional people worldwide.

This practice has proven to be a potent tool for personal transformation. Regular meditation can help us quiet our minds, improve our emotional balance, and create a sense of inner peace amidst life's chaos. These benefits can

be further enriched by practicing within a group setting, where individuals can share experiences and insights while supporting each other's growth. These factors were key to forming the Meditation Group.

Our sessions begin with a short reading followed by a 20-minute silent meditation period with calming background music. Members are encouraged to bring a reading they wish to share with the group. After the 20-minute meditation, everyone is invited to discuss the reading's meaning or share insights about their meditation practice. We go around the room, allowing each person to offer their thoughts or comments. If you prefer not to speak, say "pass," and we'll move on to the next person.

Four facilitators support our group. They welcome members to the room, help guide the discussion, and answer questions about group guidelines.

Participating in a meditation group can provide additional benefits, such as connecting with others who share similar interests, supporting others in staying committed to their practice, and engaging in discussions where we learn from each other's experiences and insights.

We invite you to the Arbor Activity Center Event Room I every Tuesday at 1 p.m., and we look forward to welcoming you!

Top Pickleball Club

Usha Vargas, Gabe McConnell, and Steve Carr



The Top Pickleball Club, in partnership with On Top of the World, is very excited to hold its first-ever pickleball tournament – Battle of the Paddle – from Friday, Feb. 28, through Sunday, March 2. This tournament is open to all pickleball players, residents, and non-residents alike.

This is expected to be a large tournament with several hundred residents and visitors over the three days. Visitor parking will be at the Recreation Center,

with signs directing traffic. Food trucks will be on site. Volunteers will be on hand throughout the three days to direct and assist in all aspects of this tournament.

To sign-up, visit PicklbeballBrackets.com. This three-day tournament will consist of men's doubles on day one, women's doubles on day two, and mixed doubles on day three. The registration fee is \$60 for one event and an additional \$10 for the second event. Gold, silver, and bronze medals will be awarded to event winners.

"A huge debt of gratitude to outgoing President Barry Barnhardt, who was instrumental in working with On Top of the World to hold this tournament," says John Maggio, the newly elected president of Top Pickleball Club (TPC).

The tournament needs volunteers. No experience is necessary; you don't need to play pickleball or know anything about it. Anyone can volunteer to help make this a great tournament. Contact Mary Kay Ripp at 612-817-1924 for further information and to sign up.

Are you interested in joining the fun and playing pickleball? Pickleball orientation sessions are every Monday and the first Saturday at 10:30 a.m. on the upper courts near the Recreation Center. For information, visit tpc.pickleball.plus and begin playing immediately.

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Photo by Bryan Tully

2024-2025 Punishers.

Elite Men's Softball

Bryan Tully



After a rough December, which saw the Punishers lose three of four, the new year schedule has commenced. Naturally, the first game of 2025 was against Stonecrest, our perennial rivals. After a furious rally that saw us returning from a 16 to three deficit, the game was tied after eight regulation innings, 21 to 21. Stonecrest displayed their championship form in extra innings and finally put the game away in ten innings by the score of 31 to 27. The Punishers bounced

back in the next game, this time against Legacy. Once again, we had to come from behind and convert a six-to-one deficit into a 19 to 16 victory.

As of this writing, the team is in second place in the standings, two games behind Stonecrest. While the winter chill seems to be lingering, the Sun & Fun Tri-County Senior Softball League schedule is heating up. We are entering the phase that makes or breaks a team's season. If you like line drives and home runs, or, as we say, bullets and bombs, come to the field for a home game. You'll see plenty of both.

The Punishers Friday home schedule (9:30 a.m. start) is as follows:

- Feb. 7: Flatwoods
- Feb. 14: Stonecrest
- Feb. 21: Plantation

Softball

Barry Girsch



The softball field is buzzing with excitement as the Softball Club kicks off its winter season with a record eight teams ready to battle for the coveted "Frog in a Bucket" trophy! After a thrilling fall season that saw the Golden Gloves emerge victorious, anticipation is high for another action-packed season of America's favorite pastime.

The fall season culminated in a nail-biting finish, with the Golden Gloves showcasing incredible teamwork, sportsmanship, and fielding prowess. Their dedication and camaraderie throughout the season were truly inspiring, and they set a high bar for the competition this winter. Congratulations again to the champions and all the teams who made the fall season so memorable!

Of course, none of this would be possible without the tireless efforts of our dedicated volunteers. Thank you to the previous board of directors for their leadership and commitment to ensuring a smooth and enjoyable season. We also extend our sincere gratitude to the unsung heroes who work tirelessly behind the scenes.

Our amazing umpires ensure fair play and keep the games running smoothly. Your knowledge and dedication to the game are invaluable!

The hardworking grounds crew keeps

our field pristine, allowing us to play our best. Your efforts truly make a difference!

The meticulous scorekeepers accurately record every play and keep the stats updated. Your attention to detail is much appreciated!

And a special shout-out to Grace Turato for updating our website with the latest scores and standings. Your dedication to providing timely information is a valuable asset to the league!

Our games are played on Mondays and Wednesdays starting at 9 a.m.

Eight teams will compete for the "Frog in a Bucket" trophy during the winter season, which runs from Jan. 13 to May 21. The season promises to be filled with friendly competition, spectacular plays, and unforgettable moments.

Whether you're a seasoned veteran or a newcomer to the league, we encourage everyone to come out and support your favorite team! Let's make this another fantastic softball season.

If you are looking for a great group of guys to play ball with and a way to start enjoying one of the greatest games in the country, check us out at otow-softball.org. You can sign up for a new player orientation program by contacting Brad Youngberg at 954-732-5863 or on the website.

Opening day was Monday, Jan. 13. See you on the field!

EMERGENCY AFTER-HOURS
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Photo by Ray Kallai

Fall 2024 champions: Whiz Kids.

Rec Softball Club

Bryan Tully



The fall season ended like it began, with no clear-cut dominant teams or extended winning streaks. When the dust had settled, a team that had languished in last place for much of the season emerged victorious in the playoffs. Joe Mattricino's Whiz Kids got hot when it counted, and they were crowned champions of the fall 2024 season.

With the holidays over, the winter 2025 season is upon us and began in January. This season, there will be an expanded league, with six teams competing and the top four qualifying for the title. The schedule has also been expanded, with the teams playing 10 more games than last season (barring weather issues).

There is no reason to think the upcoming season will not be as topsy-turvy as the fall; parity reigns supreme. There's an axiom that the fun lies not in the destination but instead in the journey. It's not much of a stretch to predict that the journey to the playoffs will be filled with angst, elation, and a lot of cool music. Mark your calendar to come out on a Tuesday or Thursday morning and join in the fun.

Call of the Wild Sports Club

Scott Bloch



We hope to see you at today's Club Fair at Circle Square Cultural Center. If you can't make it, the best way to learn about our club is to attend the next meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 5, in the Hobby Building Event Room at 1 p.m. or visit cotw.springly.org.

John O'Brien and Bob Millar went quail hunting in the Ocala National Forest. They will be happy to describe their experience at the next meeting. If you are interested in hunting birds or other game, talk to Bob.

Thank you to Stephanie Hymes for your talk last month on your hunting experiences.

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February is the perfect month to solidify your health and wellness goals. The New Year typically starts with well-intentioned resolutions and then fizzles out shortly after. I am eager to share some strategies for building healthy behaviors that endure, but first, let us examine why habits are so important for long-term success.

Gretchen Rubin, author and happiness expert, states, “Habits are the invisible architecture of daily life. We repeat about 40% of our behavior almost daily, so if we change our habits, we change our lives.” Humans like habits because they are automatic; they require little thought and energy. Simply put, they are easy. Does it take you a vast amount of discipline and effort to make your morning coffee? I am guessing “no,” it took no willpower to make your coffee. We execute ritual practices with ease and consistency. The same can be accomplished for your New Year’s resolutions!

Consider the “habit loop,” a pattern consisting of three parts: cue, habit, and reward. The brain cycles through these tasks to simplify and solidify the behavior. An example would be to wake up, make coffee and enjoy.

Cue equals the “trigger” that starts the habit, such as time of day, place, or activity. In my example, this would be morning time.

Habit equals the behavior that follows the cue; in my example, this would be making the coffee.

The reward equals positive reinforcement that comes from completing the loop, such as satisfaction and pleasure; in my example, this would be savoring the aroma and flavor and feeling the caffeine “pick me up.”

If you want to implant healthful habits, consider cues with the potential for nutritious eating and increased activity. The secret is to attach a reward. The human brain is wired for comfort; therefore, the reward's pleasure will keep you returning to the behavior.

Example: Watching TV at night (cue), snack (habit), pleasure (reward). Swap typical 'TV watching' snacks, such as chips, cookies, or ice cream, for a healthier option. The key is to prepare the healthy option and ensure it provides a genuine reward!

Try “habit stacking,” which uses the connectedness of one established behavior to your advantage. Identify a current daily habit (brushing your teeth) and stack the new, desired habit on top. In the morning, as soon as you are finished brushing your teeth, put on your walking shoes, and off you go. On the other hand, in the evening, as soon as you are finished brushing your teeth, immediately lay out your workout gear for the morning.

On Top of the World has many wonderful fitness programs to help you stay in track. Check out the complete list of co-occurring fitness classes and specialty programs in the World News, Life in Motion Wellness Connections catalog, or online at OTOWInfo.com.

Lois Rowland



Our last meeting was held on Thursday, Jan. 16, at noon in the Arbor Conference Center. Our speaker was Beverly Wilson from Empath Hospice, formally known as Hospice of Marion County. She briefly talked about hospice and then spoke specifically about the Nancy Reinhardt Center, which is totally funded by donations.

Our charity was Chuck's Piggy Bank. They requested canned or dry food and snacks for dogs and cats, lightweight cat litter, laundry soap, dish detergent, paper towels, and dryer sheets. Our members were once again very generous.

We continue to support our troops through Operation Shoebox. A wish list of items to donate includes breakfast bars, instant oatmeal, individually wrapped crackers, fruit gummies, peanuts, beef jerky, candy, travel-size hygiene products, writing paper, envelopes, pens, puzzles, and all sizes of new batteries.

Our bunco fundraiser was a success. Door prizes, bunco prizes, raffle baskets, and a 50/50 drawing provided extra fun for everyone who attended. Lunch was served, and hours of bunco provided a great time for all.

Our next meeting will be in the Recreation Center Ballroom on Thursday, Feb. 20. The speaker will provide information on car and golf cart safety. Wear

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FEBRUARY 2025 FITNESS

RECREATION FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	SPARC BUCCY	Step & Sculpt LORI	Remix Bootcamp JOHN R.	Step CARRI	SPARC CARRI
8:00 am Recreation Ballroom	Zumba® Gold-Toning AMY				Zumba® Gold JOSE
9:00 am	S.O.S. TRISH	Stretch, Flex & Balance DENISE	S.O.S. JOHN C.	Dance & Sculpt DENISE	S.O.S. TRISH
9:00 am Recreation Ballroom			BEAT LORI		Stretch, Flex & Balance DENISE
10:00 am	Balanced Body LARRY	Chair Yoga DARIA	Balanced Body CARRI	Chair Yoga DARIA	Balanced Body TRISH
10:00 am Recreation Ballroom	Chair Yoga SANDRA		Chair Yoga CARRI		Chair Yoga SCOTT
11:00 am	Chair Dance LORI	Brain Power BP TEAM	Get Fit While You Sit JOE	Move to Improve Parkinson's JOE	Chair Dance AMY
11:00 am Recreation Ballroom	Zumba® Gold JOSE		Zumba® Gold AMY		Dance Aerobics LORI
1:00 pm		Chair Chi AIRT	Punch Out PD POPD COACHES		
3:00 pm	VYP Chair Yoga JOE	Balanced Body LORI R.	Chair Yoga SCOTT	Balanced Body CARRI	
5:00 pm		Hatha Yoga FRED		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. 7534.

ARBOR FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 am	Beginner/Intermediate Tai Chi NANCY	STRONG DENISE	Intermediate/Advanced Tai Chi AIRT	STRONG CARRI	Core & More JOHN C.
9:00 am	Yoga SANDRA	Pilates Fusion GIB	Yoga JOE	Pilates Fusion LORI	Yin Yoga MELANIE
10:00 am	STRONG JOHN C.	Yoga SANDRA	STRONG GIB	Yoga LORI	STRONG JOE
11:00 am	Yoga CARRI		Yoga TRISH		ABC 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. 7638.

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 Aerobics LARRY	**Shallow Water Aerobics SUE	**Deep Water Aerobics TRISH	**Shallow Water Aerobics SANDRA	**Deep Water Aerobics SUE
10:00 am	Open Swim	**Shallow Water Aerobics SUE	Open Swim	**Shallow Water Aerobics SANDRA	Open Swim
11:00 am	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming
12:30 pm	Aqua Aerobics Club	**Shallow Water Aerobics DIANE	Aqua Aerobics Club	**Shallow Water Aerobics DIANE	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 Aerobics SUE				
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

**Fee-based class For pool inquiries, please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7639.

#1000-1/20

Weight Loss Group



Laura Gavey

Are you ready yet? Have you been thinking about being healthier in 2025? Come join the On Top Of Weight Loss group as we help each other to reach our goals; use the food plan and exercise of your choice and get suggestions and positive reinforcement from your neighbors who will become friends. Join us and get yourself back on track.

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.

Come and join us for a meeting and see if our group will work for you!

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

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Sidekicks
Western Dance

Peggy Eizans



2025 ushered in a whole new group of dancers. The couples who had expressed interest in learning pattern dance at the Club Fair in October 2024 were introduced to some basic steps and taught two simple dances during their first class in early January. The group was put through their paces by Judy and Jim Sullivan, who eagerly but patiently taught them how to shuffle, grapevine, step touch, and scuff their way through Merengue and Country Star.

As the Sidekicks Western Dance Club grows, the leadership team continues to evolve to ensure it supports the needs of its members. To that end, a survey was created to probe the wants and needs of our members in late January. This month, we will review the survey results and begin to implement the desires of our dancing members into the fabric of the club.

Dancing is inherently fun, social, and

good for the soul. As a club, we try and provide opportunities for our members to dance. To continue to grow as a club, the leadership team is looking to groom more of our members to become teachers, have the confidence to walk through dances at social events, and become co-ordinators so that the long-term viability of the club is secured. Sidekicks is a wonderful group of people who support each other while learning new dances, so if you are ever curious about whether you can dance, give it a try. We embrace all levels of dancers.

Here's the schedule at the Recreation Center Ballroom (except as noted):

- Tuesdays (4 to 4:45 p.m.): Teach Ultra Beginner by Judy and Jim Sullivan.
- Tuesdays (5 to 6 p.m.): Dance all levels by Peggy and Alex Eizans.
- Sundays (5 to 6 p.m.): Practice all levels by Bill and Lois Hull in Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio IV.

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

Poms Cheer & Dance

Pamela Kalamaras



Poms Cheers & Dance had a wonderful time “Dancing through the Decades” at the 2025 Health & Wellness Expo in January. We performed an exciting routine that included hits from the 1950s up to the current tunes of today.

If you missed this event, we will be doing an encore performance at the Club Fair on Jan. 30 at Circle Square Cultural Center. We are slated to dance at 11 a.m., so please come and enjoy our innovative dances that are sure to have you tapping along to the music.

On Feb. 15, the Pommies will be performing our newest “Dancing to the Decades” for local residential homes. Looking forward, we will be dancing at

the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Recreation Center Ballroom.

It is a joy for us to entertain communities right here in Ocala. We can adjust our performance to suit your time limits, music selections, and themes. Our most popular requests are rock ‘n’ roll through the decades and our medley of patriotic songs.

If you are interested in joining our team, 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.

Country
Line Dancing

Judy Sullivan



I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday celebration and that you could welcome the New Year with dance, a positive attitude, a healthy body, and love in your heart.

We didn’t take a break during the holidays. For those of us who stayed in our community, we all gathered and danced every Sunday. We learned two new dances, Blue Spanish Eyes and Canadian Stomp, bringing our total to 17 since we started dancing in August 2024. We will continue to review the older dances even as we learn new ones so we don’t forget them.

One of the happiest moments in teaching is when your students come up to tell you that they remember the steps of several dances when they were out dancing at happy hour or The Town Square and were so proud of themselves. That just makes my heart happy.

In December 2024, three dancers were invited to a country line dance demonstration for the Rodeo Round Up annual event at the Belleview Community Library. We had so much fun dancing for the children and their parents. They were invited to dance with us after

the demonstration. They learned two dances and had a great time. Some of them picked up the dances so quickly! Oh, to be that young and have that much energy!

Country Line Dancing with Judy is held on Sundays at the Recreation Center Ballroom from 2 to 3 p.m. If you need additional help with the dance steps, please come at 1:30 p.m. to review them before the rest of the dancers arrive. We will add one or two every month going forward. I encourage all dancers needing 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 1 class is at 12:15 p.m. and Absolute 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’s contact information is 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 text or email me your name, email address, and phone number to 973-903-8719 or spirit927@live.com.



Sheryl Bradley, Candy Wantuck, Smokey Bear, and Judy Sullivan attended the Rodeo Round Up, an annual event at the Belleview Community Library.

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Broadway & Tap Dancing

Elaine Voorhis



Here we are! Another brand-new year! We hope you had a wonderful holiday and made some lovely memories. So, what are you going to do? Did you make any resolutions? Are there items on your bucket list that you haven't done yet? Maybe this will be the year. Let's hope it's a good one!

Our community has many options, and we have good intentions. We know we should exercise, but sometimes, life gets in the way. Maybe you just haven't found the right fit for you. Whatever the reason, it's wise to find an activity you would enjoy and start slowly. The best kind of exercise is the kind you will do! Take Broadway and tap classes, for example. Some of the original tap students had little or no experience at all! Luckily, it was a beginner class, so we all learned, or relearned, together and gradually expanded our skills and confidence.

The same is true for the Broadway class. Since those early days of our first class, we've come a long way from our first performance. Now, we regularly perform for Brookdale and Bridgewater nursing homes/rehab residents, as well as club meetings, neighborhood gatherings, and the Health & Wellness Expo at Circle Square Cultural Center.

One of our favorite Broadway performances is at the end of our seven-week session. It's an informal recital where we run through our routines a few times before we are videotaped. Our next end-of-session recital is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 28, in the Arbor Conference Center

Ballet

Eugenie Martin



This has been a busy time for the Ballet Club. We now have approximately 50 members and five teachers, who provide five classes each week - from Beginner to (advanced) Technique. We participated in the Club Fair at the Recreation Center Ballroom on Halloween and again today, Jan. 30, at Circle Square Cultural Center, which is open to the public.

When I moved here in 2000, I had been studying ballet in New York City and was very interested in continuing my studies. There was no ballet at On Top of the World, but there was a studio in town offering adult classes. I went there for several years, and I was sometimes joined by Cheryl Sloan, one of our current teachers. We also studied here



Photo by Steve Warren

Broadway classes celebrate the holidays.

Dance Studios I-IV. Spectators are invited to come and watch us at 1 p.m. Mark your calendar. It's free entertainment, and it's fun! We usually have an audience of approximately 60 to 70 people!

We practice hard for these performances. Do we make mistakes? Oh yeah! Everyone does, no matter how often you've practiced or how well you think you know the routine. It's just a part of the learning process, allowing us to become more confident dancers. Fortunately, our photographer knows how to make us look good and edit out bloopers, or as we like to call them, unplanned solo moments! By the time we're ready to be videotaped, we got it! We're all smiles and enjoy the ride!

We have been dancing together for several years and look forward to many more. We have created quite a selection of entertaining routines, from popular songs to Broadway hits, that will bring

smiles to your faces and involuntary toe-tapping to your feet. Interested? Feel

free to contact us at broadwayandtap@yahoo.com.

Line Dancing

Tamara Stanford



Line Dancing tickets for March and April are being sold through Tuesday, Feb. 11. The same 2024 procedures for obtaining a ticket remain in effect. Bring your current dance ticket and resident ID to the Recreation Center office on the first floor. The cost is \$25 for two months. The ticket can be purchased with exact cash, credit card, or check. Tickets are sold Tuesday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The office is no longer closed from noon to 12:30 p.m.

Joe instructs line dance on Monday. The Improvers class begins at noon, the Beginners class at 1:15 p.m., and the Absolute Beginners class at 2:30 p.m. Each line dance group can attend practice on Wednesdays, which are held at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios.

The Improvers and Beginners conduct a workshop in addition to the one-hour practice. The purpose of the workshops is to review challenging dances at a slower pace. The Improvers workshop starts at 9:15 a.m., and practice begins at 10 a.m. The Improvers encourages dancers to email Kathy Petrosky the

name of a dance they want to review at the workshop. The Beginners workshop starts at 11 a.m., and practice starts at 11:30 a.m. Absolute Beginners practice begins at 12:45 p.m.

Welcome back to line dancing, George! George Augur, the new practice leader for the Absolute Beginner class, began leading the class in January. George was a practice leader several years ago. We are fortunate to have, once again, his expertise in line dancing and his patient and friendly teaching style.

I asked George if there was something that he wanted me to include in the article, and he did not hesitate to send the message, "Come to practice." Joe teaches us highly rated, fun dances, but remembering the steps can be a struggle without practice. From my observation, a little bit of effort leads to significant results.

On Saturday, Feb. 15, a dance social in the Recreation Center Ballroom will be sponsored by Kathy Cornell and her team. The theme is "Party Hearty" in recognition of Valentine's Day. Should you choose, the dress theme is Valentine's Day. Beginner and Improver level dancers and their guests are encouraged to attend.

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Table Tennis

Athena Drewes



The Table Tennis Club is thrilled to announce significant changes in 2025 designed to foster growth and enhance the playing experience for members and non-members alike. With a dedicated team and expanded facilities, the future of table tennis in our community looks brighter than ever.

Ensuring the smooth operation of the club and its growth, our leadership team expanded to include five directors, each overseeing specific aspects of the club. This new structure allows for a more focused and efficient approach, ensuring every member’s voice is heard and needs are met. Congratulations to newly elected board members: Paul Stadterman, president; Athena Drewes, secretary; Jim Swift, treasurer; Michael Lowe, director of organized play; and Mike Berry, director of rooms.

One of the most exciting developments is an expansion of our playing facilities. Starting in January, the club increased from three to five tables on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays. This expansion provides more opportunities for members and non-members to play and get involved in the sport. On Thursdays and Sundays, designated non-club days, all residents have access to the tables. This encourages more community engagement and offers everyone the chance to enjoy the sport of table tennis. Paddles and balls are available for use on these days.

Table tennis is more than just a game; it is a sport that brings people together, challenges the mind, and keeps the body active. Whether a seasoned or returning player or just picking up a paddle for the first time, there is something magical about the rhythmic sound of the ball bouncing back and forth, the strategic placement of each shot, and the camaraderie that forms around the table.

Table tennis is a favorite pastime because of its accessibility and the way it combines physical activity with mental



Photo by Karen Lowe

Table Tennis Club board of directors: Paul Stadterman, president; Athena Drewes, secretary; Jim Swift, treasurer; Mike Berry, director of rooms; and Michael Lowe, director of play.

acuity. It is a sport anyone can enjoy, regardless of age or skill level. The addition of more tables and the welcoming of non-members to join in the fun on non-club days means more opportunities for everyone to experience the excitement and benefits of this dynamic sport.

As 2025 unfolds, the Table Tennis Club is more committed than ever to providing an inclusive, enjoyable, and competitive environment for all. Whether you are looking to sharpen your skills, enjoy a friendly match, or simply watch and learn, our club is the perfect place to be.

Come join us in celebrating these exciting changes and making 2025 a year to remember! Playing times are Intermediate singles /doubles, Tuesday, 1 to 3 p.m.; singles, Friday, 3 to 5 p.m. Ladies doubles/singles, Monday, 1-3 p.m.; doubles, Wednesday, 10 a.m. to noon; singles, Friday, 1 to 3 p.m. All level doubles, Monday, Tuesday, Friday, 5:30 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, 1 to 3 p.m. All level singles, Wednesday, 1 to 3 p.m. Intermediate/advanced singles/doubles, Wednesday, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Advanced, Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

We play at the Arbor Conference Center Table Tennis Room. Have a question? Contact President Paul Stadterman at pstadterman@yahoo.com.

Horseshoes Club

Vern Kessler



Horseshoes are the most fun you can have with two and a half pounds of steel!

December 2024
Most Wins
9–Cliff Dallas. 7–Karen Lynn, Mike Hamlin & John Bunyak. 6–Paul Lariviere.
Most Ringers
197–Betty DeLong. 160–Cliff Dallas. 130–Mike Hamlin.
Best Winning Percentage
83%–Dan Ebbighausen. 75%–Cliff Dallas. 57%–Paul Lariviere.
Special recognition goes to Betty DeLong for pitching her third “triple-double” or six ringers in a row.

The hearties of the club members, eight of us, showed up on the coldest day of the season and pitched shoes. It’s just too much fun pitching to go more than a week without pitching. The club encourages everyone to come out and join us.

A heartfelt “thank you” goes out to Cliff Dallas for inventorying all the items in the Horseshoe Club’s storage unit.

Due to colder weather, the club is pitching horseshoes at Veterans Park on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Practices on Thursdays will start around 9 to 10 a.m., and all members are encouraged to come out for practice. During practice, members help each other with pitching the shoe for points and ringers.

Everyone is invited to join our club and experience the fun at the horseshoe pits at Veterans Park.

Contact Vern Kessler at 321-268-3179 with any questions about the club activities.

Cornhole Club

Vincent Stevens



It’s been a busy start to the new year! The resumption of our Introduction to Cornhole sessions, participation in the Club Fair, and the kick-off of the men’s league winter season, adding to regular activities kept all busy throughout the month.

Additionally, planning for our annual club picnic began in earnest.

Open play sessions are popular, with near-full house participation on Mondays and Wednesdays and less active on Thursdays.

OPEN PLAY: Our open play sessions continue to experience full-house participation on Mondays and Wednesdays and host near full-house crowds on Thursdays. Although our published start time is 4 p.m., venue limitations of 20 players dictate that play start when those limitations are reached, usually earlier than the published start time.

Members arriving after play has begun thus experience shorter waits, if any. Most “regulars” tend to arrive circa 3:15 to 3:30 p.m.

Open play times will be amended on Sunday, March 9, when daylight saving time returns. All club members will be advised well in advance of the time change.

INTRODUCTION TO CORNHOLE: Our first Introduction to Cornhole session of the year was conducted on Friday, Jan. 17, with eight new cornholers attending. We hope to continue these sessions regularly as interest dictates. Residents searching for an activity to get off the couch, have fun, meet new people, and get low-impact exercise as a bonus should check out this exciting and very popular sport. Please email otowcornholers@yahoo.com for information about our group and the next session.

LEAGUE PLAY: The Cornhole Club men’s league kicked off the winter season on Friday, Jan. 17, with seven teams competing for bragging rights. League matches are held each Friday at 11 a.m. Come out and watch the tough competitions.

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R/C Car Club

John Schoenherr



The R/C Car Club is excited to introduce a new line of racing cars: 1/12-scale Losi NASCAR-style cars. Losi introduced these sharp-looking cars to the public last September, and the response has been overwhelming.

Fred Penichet became aware of the brand while shopping at Rob’s Hobby Shop. Rob carries the full line of the Losi cars and has been very helpful to the club. Fred introduced the cars to the club at the November 2024 meeting, and there was an immediate positive reac-

tion.

The cars were approved for racing in the sportsman class on a three-month trial basis, and the results were so positive that a new class was approved at the January meeting.

There are several reasons for the public acceptance of these cars. They only cost \$189 and are ready to run out of the box. The cars are easy to operate and maintain and have been accepted by experienced and beginner drivers as exciting cars. The R/C Car Club welcomes visitors to watch us race these cars every Wednesday and Saturday at 1 p.m.

Another brand that has worked well for the R/C Car Club is Carrera. The slot car racing system used by drivers is a Carrera Digital 132 computerized system. The Carrera brand is the racer’s

choice as they are very well built and easy to repair, with parts readily available. The first Carrera racing system was introduced in 1963 in Germany. In the 1970s and 1980s, Carrera continued to develop the track system and added new cars to its inventory. Today, Carrera is the best-selling slot car brand in the world. For more information, contact Brian Allard at 603-252-7766.

In addition to Losi and Carrera, many members enjoy the Traxxas brand of racing vehicles. Traxxas has been engineering and building R/C vehicles since 1986. It sells trucks, buggies, and cars, both ready to run and as kits. The 4-Tec 2.0 is a popular car in the club and has its own race class. Many drivers also race the Bandit two-wheel buggy and the Slash two-wheel truck.

Many of these vehicles will be displayed at the Club Fair, so come by our table and say hello.

Slot car drivers meet every Tuesday at 1 p.m. at 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.

December 2024

Traxxas–Phil Paquette. Two-wheel buggy–Chuck Frederick. Four-wheel buggy–Jim Siltman. Pan car–Mike Main & Bob Paxson. Touring–Terry Altman. Two-wheel truck–Roy Macomber. Four-wheel truck–Mark Busch. Limited–Terry Altman. 17.5T–Hank Henne & Terry Altman. Sportsman–John Schoenherr. Truggy–Rean Morse.

R/C Sailing Club

Gene Mangold



Welcome to the blustery, cool winter and spring winds – a perfect time to refine your sailing skills and embrace the thrill of R/C sailboat racing. Let’s explore the nuances of close hauled, close-reaching, and broad-reaching, three critical points of sail.

- Close hauled is when the wind is 35 to 45 degrees off the bow; your boat is sailing close hauled. This is the most demanding angle, as the boat heels significantly, and the sails are pulled tight to maximize performance. Sailing upwind in this configuration requires precision in sail trim, constant monitoring of wind shifts, and numerous tacks. Catching a favorable wind shift, or “lift,” is often the key to winning races.
- Close-reaching lies between close hauled and a beam reach, with the wind at 60 to 80 degrees to the bow. The sails are trimmed tightly but not to the extreme required for beating upwind. This angle balances power and control, making it ideal for racing maneuvers or maintaining speed while staying agile.
- Broad reaching offers a delightful change of pace. The boat glides

comfortably with minimal heeling, and the wind comes from 120 to 150 degrees off the bow. This point of sail is known for its speed

and stability, providing a relaxed yet exhilarating experience.

Here in Ocala, our R/C sailing community thrives on the camaraderie



Sailing with egret.

and challenge of weekly races. On Sundays, seven to 11 boats compete, while Wednesdays draw a smaller but no less enthusiastic fleet of four to six. We currently email updates to about 30 interested participants, 19 of whom own boats or plan to purchase one soon. Eleven sailors race regularly, while others balance sailing with the many other amenities available at On Top of the World.

Notably, two accomplished racers outside our community add a competitive edge to our events. Our races occur on the beautiful public pond at Ocala’s Tusawilla Park, a perfect venue for spectators and participants. This collaboration with the R/C Sailing Club also serves as a community outreach initiative, inviting more Ocala residents to discover the joys of R/C sailing. Many passersby express genuine interest in our races and the community in which we live.

So, as winter winds whip across the pond, embrace the challenges and rewards of mastering these points of sail. Whether racing for victory or simply enjoying the art of sailing, there’s no better time to harness the wind and refine your skills. See you on the water!

Races are every Sunday and Wednesday at noon.

Contact by voice or text Gene Mangold at 772-678-5101 or Bernie Bossert at 816-678-3817.

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Republican Club

Margaret Nodine



Our first 2025 gathering was held on Friday, Jan. 10, in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. We had a “welcome to 2025” celebration and honored our long-time member, Fiona Bowling. As always, we started our meeting by honoring America with the Pledge of Allegiance, singing our National Anthem, honoring our veterans, welcoming new members, and a moment of prayer.

Marion County Commissioner Kathy Bryant, who has served as commissioner for District 2 since 2010, was our guest speaker. She has lived in the county her whole life and continues to live and raise her family here. Kathy expertly provided comprehensive information on the state and future of our county. After a brief question-and-answer period, she promised to return for a future meeting.

In the February election, our ex-

ecutive committee (Charles Dodge, Liz Woodard, Margaret Nodine, and Linda Dodge) will run again for their respective offices. However, any member in good standing who wishes to run for office was asked to email Tom Hauck, our election chairperson, a letter stating their intention to seek office. The election will be held at the Friday, Feb. 14 meeting.

Charles urged our veteran members who served in Vietnam or the Global War on Terror to avail themselves of the VRC (Veterans Resource Center) program for testing of Grail Galleri cancer screening. This is a free program provided through grants from the Marion County Commissioners and special hospital grants. Visit vetresourcecenter.com to see if you qualify.

Thank you to the members who volunteered at our table at the Club Fair today at Circle Square Cultural Center. This event facilitated sharing with potential residents all that our club has to offer. Since it is open to the public, information, not membership, was presented.

The club mandate in 2025 will focus on local, county, and state issues, lean-



Photo by Rocky Pizzarello

Vice President Liz Woodard, Secretary Margaret Nodine, County Commissioner Chair Kathy Bryant, Treasurer Linda Dodge, and President Charles Dodge.

ing heavily towards school board matters, law enforcement, veteran issues, and our monthly Constitution series led by our president. We will continue to support Operation Shoebox and the Marion County Veterans Honor Guard.

We hope to see you throughout 2025: Feb. 14, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, and Nov. 14. Doors open at 4 p.m. God bless America.



Photo by Leslie Miller

Holiday banner with members – Glenn Cohen, Lennie Rodoff, Nancy Carp, Jay Weiss, Janaki Ray, Lynn Miller, and Glenn Cauvin in December 2024.

Democratic Club

Mark Miller



With a few exceptions, the Democratic Club generally meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios II-IV.

Our first meeting of the year was held on Thursday, Jan. 23. Dan Lack presented his politics, history, and civics trivia game, which we have enjoyed for several years. No matter how savvy you think you are regarding politics and U.S. history, Dan has a way of making you realize how much you do not know. Small prizes were awarded to the winning teams, and members had a great time. We look forward to his next game in 2026.

Our next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 27. Deborah Daniels will present a detailed overview of Florida politics, including its structure, how bills pass through Congress, and how we can participate in those processes. This will be a valuable resource for members new to Florida or anyone looking to understand the system further.

We currently have two openings on our board of directors. We hope several members will step forward to fill these critical roles. If you feel that you would be a good fit, please contact any of our current board members or email demclubotow@gmail.com.

Our club will participate in the Club Fair today, Jan. 30, at Circle Square Cultural Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Stop by, say hello, and sign up as a prospective member if you want to join our growing club.

As always, we continue to support the Ocala Ritz Veterans Village. The veterans residing there need our support for many items we all take for granted. Priority for donations is laundry detergent. Other items are pillowcases, twin-size sheets, twin comforters, 1.7 cubic ft. refrigerators, small microwaves, men’s razors, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, lotions, shaving cream, and toilet paper. Food items needed include canned meats, chili, ramen noodles, mac & cheese, microwaveable rice, boxed milk, cereal, canned fruit, crackers, individual snacks, and coffee. They do not need clothing except for shoes. Please bring your donated items to our meeting.

If you can’t attend any meetings, let us know, and we’ll do our best to get your donations to them. You can also drop them off before the meeting starts.

If you need a ride to any meeting, please call/email the club to arrange that at least three days before the meeting.

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

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Visit OTOWInfo.com for a list of acceptable items to recycle.

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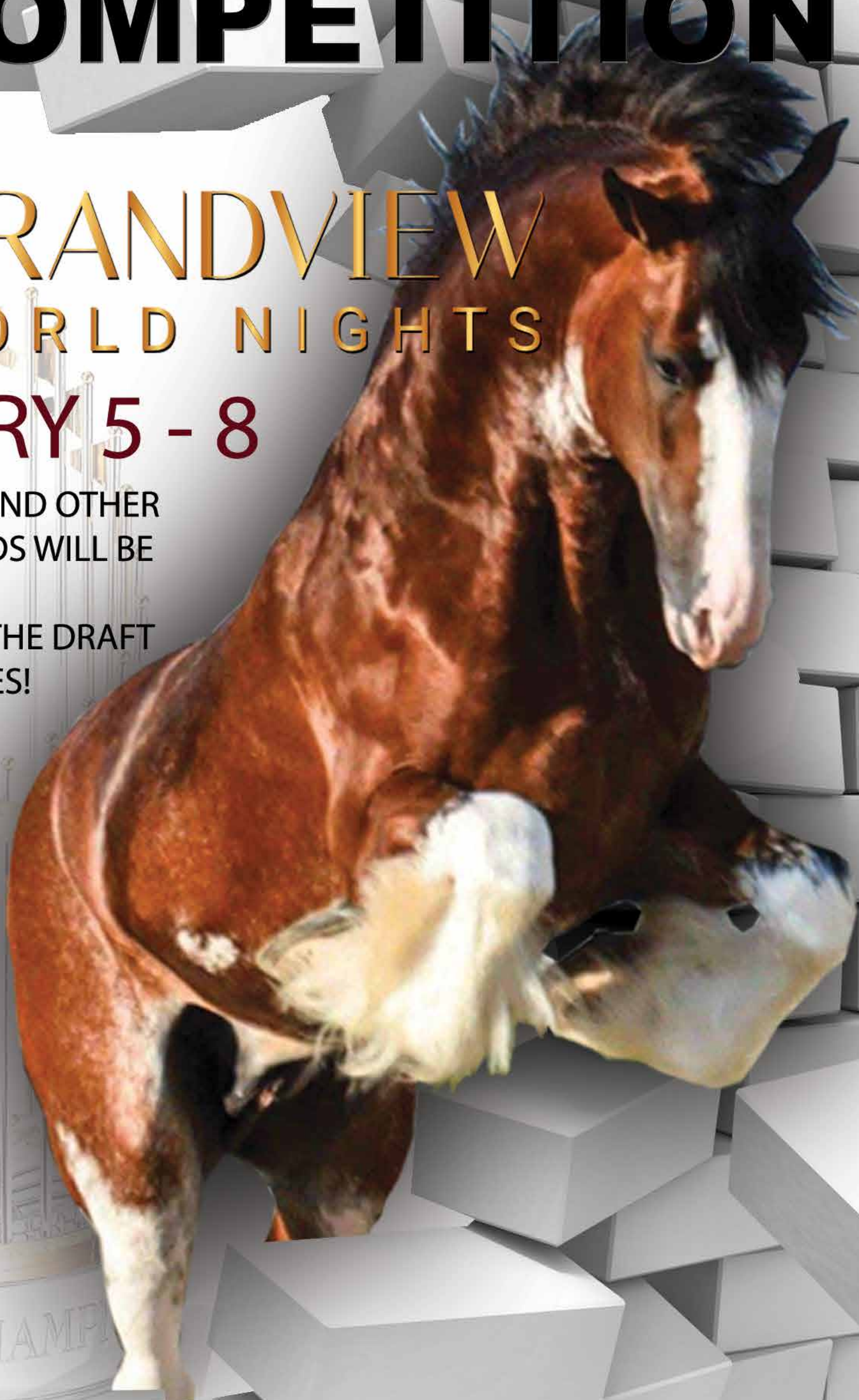
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Tickets start at \$40/person

Competition starts at 2pm run to around 4:30pm / 5:00 pm

Barns are open to the general public - Climate controlled arena - Stadium seating....view seating map - Vendor Booths - Inside concessions and bar

Quality Nevers Goes Out of Style

By Bill Bender

Meet Bill and Nancy Bachmann, residents of Stonebridge. If you haven't met them, you likely have seen them in one of their old Fords, the green 1952 or 1931 Model A sedan. Amazingly, they have owned both vehicles for over 50 years!

This column will focus on the 1931. They bought it less than a year after they married in 1972. It had been pulled from a field in May 1960 in very rough condition. The car was first treated for a limited restoration and, later, a more extensive one. It took 13 years to complete, and it was completed in 2014. This was just in time for them to move to On Top of the World from Erie, Pennsylvania, in August 2015.

Since arriving here, Bill and Nancy have thoroughly enjoyed their Model A and are actively involved in several classic car clubs. The car has provided many social opportunities, and Nancy has accumulated an extensive collection of 1930s fashions she proudly wears. Together with the car, they make a spectacular display. Bill took command of

the sewing machine and transformed a pair of his pants into knickers for his period attire.

Bill is well known as a "fix-it" guy by his neighbors. They all know that if something doesn't function correctly, they can turn to Bill, who can probably figure it out, even if it requires making parts on his 3D printer. I can speak from personal experience, as Bill was by my side every step of the way when we recently performed extensive engine repair on my Model A.

So, there you have it. The next time you see one of these distinctive vehicles on the road, you will know it is Bill and Nancy Bachmann's.

If you are interested in unique vehicles, you should join the On Top of the Wheels Car Club. It doesn't matter your interest since our mantra is "if it's special to you, it's special to us." The group meets for breakfast on the second Friday of the month at 8 a.m. at Mama B's Diner, just outside our gate. To join, email George Hill at ghilljr.500@gmail.com.



Photo by Bob Lynch

Bill & Nancy with their 1931 Model A Ford.

Uke Can Do It Too

By Carol Himes

The Ukulele Club meets every Wednesday in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room. We aim to provide a friendly atmosphere where people can learn, share, and play ukulele music together. There are sessions for almost every playing level, including beginner! Uke 101 meets at 2:30 p.m., which

includes a constant review of ukulele basics, helping all the "newbies" start their journey. The Strum and Sing Song Circle meets from 3 to 4 p.m. This is the backbone of the Ukulele Club, open to all levels of playing ability, and is a casual gathering to play our music as a recreational, community-building event.



Photo by Rosalina Norita

The Tahitian traditional bungalow music instrument.

Raiatea, the Birthplace of Polynesian Culture

By Rosalina Norita

Our journey brought us to Raiatea, the birthplace of Polynesian culture, in the western part of French Polynesia. Its stunning natural beauty and elegant beaches captivated us. This island, known as the "birthplace of the gods," is home to numerous archeological treasures that tell the story of a unique people's history and culture. The "mare of Taputapuatea" once served as the central hub of religious and political power in Polynesia, including Hawaii, New Zealand, Easter Island, and the Cook Islands.

The pristine environment, lush tropical vegetation, and vibrant coral reefs were magnificent. The coconuts swaying from towering palm trees on the shore created a romantic atmosphere. We had the pleasure of meeting friendly locals fluent in English and French, and they enthusiastically shared their knowledge of the local scene with us.

The Polynesians provided an in-depth account of their history and colonization by the French. They took us on a tour of their island home, highlighting their traditional architecture, culinary practices, and way of life. The stories they shared, the places they showed us, and their warm welcome created a comforting environment.

After familiarizing ourselves with our immediate surroundings, my husband and I engaged in local activities. We selected snorkeling at the coral reef garden, where we were captivated by the di-

verse array of fish species surrounding us. The absence of threatening oceanic predators enabled us to appreciate the underwater world fully. We spent considerable time exploring the coral reef, finding the experience to be enjoyable and relaxing.

We witnessed the Polynesian islanders expertly harvest coconuts from towering palm trees by climbing them and extracting the juice for us to drink. This highly recommended experience is for those willing to travel to the distant shores of French Polynesia in the Pacific Ocean. Afterward, my husband and I ventured into the bustling commercial area to explore the various shops and stores offering local products and unique art forms synonymous with the island's sun-kissed atmosphere.

Following our exploration of Raiatea, we ventured to Taha'a, a sister island with the same lagoon. The turquoise lagoon is home to many motu with stunning white sandy beaches. At a Tahiti black pearl farm in Taha'a, we witnessed experts extracting pearls from oyster shells. The pearls vary in size and color, with their value determined by these factors. Some pearls are sold separately, while others are incorporated into high-priced necklaces and earrings. The black pearls are the most valuable and highly sought after. The local farm benefits from consistent customer demand for these pearl jewelry items, supporting their sustainability.

Following at 4 p.m. is "Intermediukes" to promote the ukulele player past the beginning phases, encouraging more knowledge, variety, and nuance in playing.

Membership in the Ukulele Club is free and open to all residents with a valid resident ID or Gateway of Services pass. Again, we meet every Wednesday afternoon.

Recently, we enjoyed a performance by Unikulele, a five-member ukulele

band, during our annual Christmas party. Everyone had fun and enjoyed great treats and music!

The Ukulele Club performs pop-up concerts several times a year, bringing our song circle style to a random neighborhood. These concerts are typically held on the fifth Wednesday of the month.

For more information about the Ukulele Club, please contact Janet Voyles at 812-319-7761.



Photo by Peggy Webber

Ukulele Club.

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).

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.

OTOW App

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!

Social Committee

The social committee meets monthly and welcomes residents to contribute ideas, provide constructive feedback, and assist with planning, organizing, and decorating events. The Recreation Department highly values your suggestions for improving recreational activities. If you want to join 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 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 or containers will be allowed.

The entertainment lineup is as follows:

- Feb.7: Groove 41
- Feb. 14: Valentine's Day Party with Billy Buchanan
- Feb. 21: 4 for the Road
- Feb. 28: MPiRE

Music at the Pavilion

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

- Sunday, Feb. 2: Kickin' Country with Randy
- Saturday, Feb 8: Bill Billoti
- Friday, Feb 14: Steel Drum Randy
- Sunday, Feb. 16: Casey Young
- Friday, Feb. 28: Dan Flock

Karaoke

Karaoke is always fun! Sing your heart out or enjoy listening to 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, Feb. 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. Tim Hargis 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! The obtained movie license covers only the Recreation Center Ballroom and cannot be transferred or used at any other building. Come on out for "Wicked" on Thursday, Feb. 20, from 5 to 8 p.m. The movie is free for residents and \$5 for guests. Concessions will be for sale, but The Pub will also be open. The Ballroom will not be accessible as a cut-through to/from the pool or The Pub during these times; please make your way around the building so as not to disrupt the movie.

Ballroom Dance Class*

Register for the March class and learn the Rumba 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, Feb. 4, through Friday, Feb. 21.

Music Bingo

Wendy Peterson leads this great event every first Monday of the month at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV. Bring your drinks and snacks and play along to the music.

This event is free for residents and \$5 per guest, plus \$5 per card for all attendees. Doors open at 4 p.m., card sales begin at 4:30 p.m., and bingo starts at 5 p.m. Seating is limited.

Sip & Paint with Kelly*

For a relaxing and creative afternoon, join Kelly for a guided lesson on acrylic painting. Bring your drinks and snacks. This session will be held on Saturday, Feb. 22, at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-IV, from 1 to 3 p.m. All supplies are provided for the cost of \$40. Guests \$45.

**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 on Thursday, Feb. 6, 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 of each month 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 allowed.

Happy Hour

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

- Feb. 1: Groove 41
- Feb. 15: Crossfire

You can bring your beverages and snacks. This event is free for residents, but a \$5 guest fee applies if a resident accompanies you.

Safety Training Classes*

The Colen Built Development safety team conducts safety classes throughout the year. Classes on Wednesdays will be from 2 to 4 p.m., and classes on Thursdays will be from 4 to 6 p.m. See the schedule below for topics. Please mark your calendar.

- Wednesday, Feb 12: Hands-Only CPR
- Wednesday, April 9: Basic First Aid
- Wednesday, May 14: Active Shooter
- Thursday, March 20: Golf Cart Safety
- Thursday, June 19: Hands-Only CPR

All residents are encouraged to register and attend.

Girls Night Out

Come on, girls, let's dance! Join us with Automatic Duo on Thursday, Feb. 13, from 5 to 8 p.m. Bring your beverage and table snacks, and have fun. This event is free for residents, and a \$5 guest fee is applied when accompanied by a resident.

Music Bingo*

Play for a chance to spot the song for a chance to win. Enjoy music bingo on Thursday, Feb. 27, from 5 to 7 p.m. The cost is \$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

Trivia*

Join your neighbors and friends for a friendly trivia competition on Monday, Feb. 3, from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring your favorite snacks and beverages to share with your team. The cost is \$3 per resident and \$8 per guest.

Active Shooter Class*

Join us on Wednesday, Feb. 5, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. for an Active Shooter Class with Colen Built Development's Senior Health & Safety Manager Jonathan Miller. Learn how to react in dangerous situations.

Music Bingo*

Don't miss this exciting new event! Music bingo occurs 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.

Sassy Ladies Night Out

Join us for two hours of easy listening and dancing with friends and neighbors on Wednesday, Feb. 19, from 5 to 7 p.m. Tony Machicote will entertain. This event is free for residents and \$5 per guest. A resident must accompany the guest.

Karaoke

Do you love to sing? Please plan to join us for karaoke on Thursday, Feb. 20, from 5 to 7 p.m. You don't have to sing, but you 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

Come join us for a good time with your friends and neighbors from 5 to 8 p.m. on select Fridays. This event is free for residents and \$5 per guest. Bring your favorite cocktails and snacks and enjoy the upcoming entertainment.

- Feb. 7: Sal & the Gal
- Feb. 14: Area 81
- Feb. 28: Pure Magic

Garden Plots*

We have nine garden plots ready for you to start cultivating. Want to join in? Here's how:

- Visit the Indigo East Fitness Center and speak with Nora or Patty to select your garden plot.
- Once you've picked your plot, it's all yours to care for and enjoy the harvest!

For guidance on what to plant this season and helpful tips for Central Florida gardening, check out UF IFAS Extension at <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/>. They provide excellent resources and advice tailored to our area.

Are you interested in connecting with fellow gardeners? Consider joining or forming a garden club! If you'd like to participate, please email pattie_hughes@otowfl.com with your name, plot number, and email address. Let's grow together!

The Landing

Sunday Social

Come and join us for a fun-filled Sunday Social in the Ballroom! The fantastic Bill Billotti will host the event starting at 1 p.m. It's a great opportunity to meet and mingle with your neighbors. Don't miss out!

Old School Bingo*

Yes! Bingo is back! Residents, mark your calendar for Sunday, Feb. 9, at 1 p.m. for a fun-filled afternoon of traditional bingo. There is limited space, so don't miss out! This event is free for residents and \$5 per guest.

Valentine's Day*

No plans for Valentine's Day? We can help! Join us for a fun night with live entertainment by Dan Flock on Friday, Feb. 14, at 5 p.m. This is free for residents and just \$5 per guest.

Trivia*

Get excited for trivia on Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 5 p.m. for a brain-busting evening with entertainer Doug Carbaugh. Residents pay just \$3, and guests pay \$8. Don't miss out!

Music Bingo*

Join us for music bingo on Monday, Feb. 24, at 6 p.m. It's an awesome sing-a-long bingo hosted by Wendy Petersen. Free for residents and \$5 per guest. Sign-up starts Monday, Feb. 10, so don't miss out! Limited seating is available. Bring snacks and drinks. See you there!

Happy Hour

Come and join us for a fun Happy Hour in the ballroom on Thursday, Feb. 27, at 5 p.m., featuring entertainment by Fred Campbell. Bring your beverage of choice, and let's have a great time socializing and enjoying the evening!

**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.*

GOLF CART REGISTRATION

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

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

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 1:49 p.m.
Friendship Post Office	1:54 p.m.

AFTERNOON DESTINATIONS

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

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

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

#5801 - 2/24

For information, call 352-789-5666.

Concert Chorus

Joanne Houston



We are off and running preparing for our upcoming spring concerts on Sunday, April 6, at 3 p.m. and Monday, April 7, at 6 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center. If you love to sing, you can join us on Tuesdays in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-II from 9 to 11 a.m.

The membership fee is \$20 for the semester, which covers the cost of music, risers, printing, advertising, and other concert expenses.

Our spring concert is called “Rock ‘n’ Roll Jukebox Review.” It will take us on a musical journey from the ‘50s through to the ‘90s, a celebration of two blockbuster movies (“Lion King” and “Wicked”), and will conclude with our ever-popular patriotic music, including a salute to the Armed Forces

The concert promises to be a wonder-



Photo by Gordon Daniels

Concert Chorus holiday concert at Circle Square Cultural Center in December 2024.

ful time of music and fun!

We want to thank our enthusiastic and generous audience members who donated non-perishable food. We are grateful that we helped feed 2,000 Mar-

ion County children for 2 weeks through the Interfaith Emergency Services Food-4-Kids program. We genuinely appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you at our concert in April.

For further information or to become a sponsor of the Concert Chorus, please email deboraasmith@gmail.com or joanne.houston57@gmail.com.

Drum Circle

J. Ashi Olshan



Drum what you feel. You don’t have to be an experienced (hand) drummer to drum out whatever energy wants to be discharged in some creative, productive way – while enjoying the natural highs of drumming in a circle of 15 to 20-plus new friends.

When we lifted the ban on interior gatherings back in 2021, Ruth Greenfield, like many of us, had pent up stress just dying to be expelled in some positive, relaxing way. So, she started her coed Drum Circle Club, still going strong after three years, with surprisingly more women than men.

If you have not drummed before, then start out by playing along softly – letting your volume build as the contagious syncopated rhythm in the room fills your bones and transports that energy to your fingers. Everyone has rhythm inherently embedded in their DNA, just needing a little push to let it confidently flow out – naturally. In fact, drumming was the original music, dating back to

the beginning of mankind, and still joyfully practiced for fun and relaxation – and as rituals in many tribes – around the world.

One hand or two, it’s up to you, no one is keeping score. And if you don’t yet own a pair of bongos, a djembe, a conga drum, tambourine, or maraca – to keep the beat, we have all kinds of extra drums and percussion instruments to give you a taste and get you started.

The Drum Circle Club is still being offered for free - no club dues - on the second Thursday of each month, from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room. Come check it out, you might just be surprised by your inner drummer, as you turn off your mind for an hour of relaxing drumming meditation. Ruth Greenfield can be contacted at 201-887-5547.



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.

Toppers Banjo

David Wesenberg



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

We are rehearsing and revising per-

formance playlists and incorporating new members’ musical skills into our performances. This is a great time to join us if you want to play banjo music.

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

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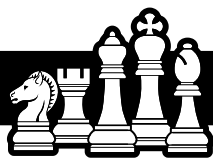
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10 AM — 5 PM - Sunday





CARDS & GAMES



Bingo

Nancy Grabowski



When bingo resumed in January, 199 brave souls emerged to play despite the cold weather! Thirty-three of them won \$20 in the 70/30 raffle. Of course, 20 or more won as the games played out.

Beginning at about 4 p.m., the raffle ticket table opens for business. Tickets are purchased in strips of three or 10. It's a mere \$1 for the three-strip ticket or \$3 for the 10-strip. There is no limit on how many you buy or how often you win! (Rumor has it that you could be tossed in the pool after a third win ... but it's only a rumor!)

The cards for the games begin selling around 4:30 p.m. Each one is \$1, and you decide how many to play. You must show your valid resident ID; guests are permitted when a resident signs them in.

Many regulars come early to have dinner in The Pub, play cards, knit, read, or socialize. The atmosphere is very friendly, and newcomers are most welcome.

Ten games are played, an intermission, and the last 10 games follow. The 10th game is a \$75 jackpot, and the 20th game jackpot starts at \$110 and builds to a top-level jackpot of \$250.

We are a volunteer group and are usually looking for more volunteers. If you are considering this, speak with Carl or Nancy on any Wednesday night in the Recreation Center Ballroom.

Bridge



Monday Afternoon
By Carol Johnson

- Dec. 9, 2024**
1: Barb Heller & Barbie Trebilcock; 2: Jack Heller & Steve Sekac; 3: Pat & Debbie Quinn; 4: C.J. Daane & Dennis Durt; 5: Donna Peters & Rad D.
- Dec. 16, 2024**
1: Mary Bloch & Billie Anderson; 2: Steve Sekac & Jack Heller; 3: Judy Mackowiak & Phyllis Silverman; 4: Jean Krueger & Mar Valchin; 5: Linda Yuen & Carol Johnson.
- Dec. 23, 2024**
1: Pat & Debbie Quinn; 2: Dennis & Judy Wallace; 3: Donna Peters & Rad D; 4: Mike Meirick & Herb Silverman.
- Dec. 30, 2024**
1: Craig Ford & Mike Meirick; 2: Jack Heller & Steve Sekac; 3: Billie Anderson; 4: Barb Heller & Barbie Trebilcock; 5: Pat & Debbie Quinn.

GOLF CART REGISTRATION

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

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

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.

- Dec. 10, 2024**
1: Brian Lomasky & Drew Brehm; 2: Bob Kraus & Arlene Loepp; 3: Chris Wachter & Diane Roxburgh; 4: Sylvia Zelkin & Matt Oram; 5: Betsy Brody & Michael Brody.
- Dec. 17, 2024**
North/South
1: Dan Lack & Paul Agarwal; 2: Linda Ryan & Bill Ryan; 3: Jean Krueger & Sophie Redman.
East/West
1: Barbara Heller & Jack Heller; 2: Bob Kraus & Arlene Loepp; 3: Sylvia Zelkin & Matt Oram.
- Jan. 7**
North/South
1: Jean Krueger & Sophie Redman; 2: Carolyn Higgins & V J Henz; 3: Matt Oram & Sharon Miller.
East/West
1: Barabare Heller & Jack Heller; 2: Linda Ryan & Bill Ryan; 3: Bob Kraus & Virginia Collins.

Wednesday Afternoon
By Dianne Robinson

- Dec. 4, 2024**
1: Mike Meirick; 2: Debbie Quinn; 3: Linda Curtis; 4: Linda Yuen; 5: Jeff Young; Cons: Ron Smith.
- Dec. 11, 2024**
1: Pat Quinn; 2: V.J. Hentz; 3: Marlene Floeckher; 4: Craig Ford; 5: Carolyn Higgins; Cons: Marlyn Valchin.
- Dec. 18, 2024**
1: Carolyn Higgins; 2: Phyllis Silverman; 3: Chris Wachter; 4: Debbie Quinn; Cons: Pat Quinn.
- Thursday Afternoon**
By Marlene Floeckher
- Dec. 5, 2024**
1: Linda Yuen; 2: Craig Ford; 3: Jeff Young; 4: Dianne Robinson; Cons: Mary Bloch.
- Dec. 12, 2024**
1: Dianne Robinson; 2: Carolyn Higgins; 3: Debbie Quinn; 4: Steve Sekac; Cons: Al Kremer.
- Dec. 19, 2024**
1: Linda Curtiss; 2: Chris Wachter; 3: Phyllis Silverman; 4: Pat Quinn; Cons: Beverly Meirick.

Thursday Night
By Pam & Jeff Bell

It's party bridge time! Our relaxed and welcoming group includes players who recently finished the beginning lessons at Master the Possibilities, returning to bridge after decades off and sever-

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The On Top of the World app is available in the Google Play and App Stores (resident account required).

al who have played well for decades and could teach classes if they so choose.

We 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."

- Dec. 12, 2024**
1: Chris Wachter; 2: Ron Smith; 3: Jeff Young; 2 prize: Ron Smith.
- Dec. 19, 2024**
1: Jeff Bell; 2: Mar Valchin; 3: Betty Schaff; 2 prize: Bev Meirick.
- Jan. 2**
1: Sam Feola; 2: Penny Wagener; 3: Ram Janak; 2 prize: Penny Wagener.

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, Feb. 25.

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 meets in 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.

If you have a cribbage board and deck of cards, please bring them with you;

however, we do have extras on hand.

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

Euchre



Friday Morning
By Mary Hannon

- Dec. 13, 2024**
1: Andy Nuccio; 2: Judy Black; 3: Edna Frye.
- Dec. 20, 2024**
1: Stephen Mintz; 2: Marilyn Whitford; 3: Michelle Pritchard.
- Dec. 27, 2024**
1: Herb Katz; 2: Edna Frye; 3: Ilene Casper
- Jan. 3**
1: Bev Merrick; 2: Bob Moravec; 3: Cheryl Adams.
- Jan. 10**
1: Andy Nuccio; 2: Marilyn Whitford; 3: Debbie Martello.

Mah Jongg

Angela Brady



This weekly game of American mah jongg is open to all eligible residents. All skill levels are welcome. While the game will not be taught during this time, players are willing to help beginners. The games begin at 1 p.m. every Thursday in Arbor Activity Center Card Room III. Please arrive a few minutes early as we will draw chips for table assignments. After three or four games, we will switch tables to make new friends and change the gameplay. Join us for a couple of hours of fun.

For more information, please contact Angela Brady at 407-403-0861 or agbrady@peoplepc.com. Jokers to ya!

Pinochle



Tuesday Night
By Herb Katz

- Dec. 3, 2024**
1: Andy Nuccio; 2: Jackie Nuccio; 3: Rick Carroll.
- Dec. 10, 2024**
1: Edith Bucci; 2: Judy Black; 3: Larry Black
- Dec. 17, 2024**
1: Jim Magoon; 2: Dan Ebbinghausen; 3: Walter Hickenlooper.

Friday Morning
By Mary Hannon

- Dec. 13, 2024**
1: Andy Nuccio; 2: Judy Black; 3: Edna Frye.
- Dec. 20, 2024**
1: Stephen Mintz; 2: Marilyn Whitford; 3: Michelle Pritchard.
- Dec. 27, 2024**
1: Herb Katz; 2: Edna Frye; 3: Ilene Casper
- Jan. 3**
1: Bev Merrick; 2: Bob Moravec; 3: Cheryl Adams.
- Jan. 10**
1: Andy Nuccio; 2: Marilyn Whitford; 3: Debbie Martello.

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14968 - 08/23

Poetry

Linda Toner



Valentine's Day

February fourteenth
is the day
we speak of our love
in many ways.

With flowers or candy
we express
our love for each other
in serious or jest.

We celebrate the fact
that we are together
and renew the vows
to love each other forever.

Our bodies have changed
our hair is grey
but our union is stronger
in every way.

Our health, our home,
our family and all that brings,
we find happiness and joy
in the little things.

Be my valentine
you say
but you're my valentine
each and every day.

Poetry

Barbara A. Scales



'Neath the Moon, At the Edge of Night

A long-anticipated winter stroll, hand in hand,
through knee deep snow
Beneath the orb, shining bright, hung by the har-
vest, at edge of night.

A blanket of stars, downward cast, encircle God's
greatest creation
Upon this walks a young woman, beautiful, and
with her, a young man very handsome
Together they seek a rare, treasured moment, as
they slip away with the promise of a kiss
Both anticipating the unspoken, the dreams of
naked bliss
'Neath the moon
Shining bright
Hung by the harvest
At edge of night.

Through deep white snow bounds a doe
Out from hiding, no longer bedded down
Comes next, the courting buck
Antler's regal, with strong haunches strong he
struts
'Neath the moon
Shining bright
Hung by the harvest
At edge of night.

There, the woman softly turns to man
Her heart, to champion, but not command
In glow of night, they embrace
The world around melts away, and slowly doth her
chaste
A longing, a desire builds within, to cleave her body
unto him
'Neath the moon,
Shining bright
Hung by the harvest
At edge of night.

Passion pure, with no disguise
With clasped hands so gently touched
His breath on her cheek, the warmth of his hug
In depth of moments, which swells the heart
The ancient rhythm sways the hips, thus the ritual
starts
'Neath the moon at edge of night.
Shining bright
Hung by the harvest
At edge of night.

Wildly beats her heart abreast, the yearning climb-
ing toward the crest
His head tilts down meeting hers
Tasting of this one moment forever preserved
His lips linger with heat and will
As he searches, drawing her ever nearer still
In the cold, his breath sweeps her face
His hunger growing, needing far more than mere
embrace
Desire she deeply inhales, as his wanton lips graze
a trail
Cupid with his arrow, her heart impaled.
'Neath the moon at edge of night.

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Model
Railroaders

Jim Lynam



The club hopes everyone who visited the holiday open house in the Hobby Building Model Train Room enjoyed their experience. Over the three days, we hosted 332 guests, including grandchildren entertained by the simulation of boarding “The Polar Express” and riding the rails to the North Pole!

For those of you who delve into etymology, which is the study of the origin

View from
the Library

Mary Lamp



We’ve all heard the term “cracker” to refer to “original” Floridians, sometimes used in a less than complimentary tone. They were not the early explorers who came to Florida from Europe looking for wealth or to establish colonies in the New World. Mostly, they were folks of Scots-Irish background who moved into Florida from the Carolinas or Georgia, looking for better opportunities.

Dana Ste. Claire wrote the definitive book “Cracker: The Cracker Culture in Florida History.” He was born and raised in Ocala and received degrees in anthropology from the University of South Florida.

This book is rich in photography and anecdotes from the many “crackers” he interviewed for this book. Its chapters give an in-depth look at who the people were who were referred to as “crackers,” how that term came about, how they lived in the Florida scrub, the architecture they adopted, their cuisine, how they made what little hard currency they had, their subsistent living off the land and their philosophy of life to be as removed from other society as possible, to live their lives unencumbered by the rules of others. Extensive chapters outline historic “cracker” sites in Florida, discuss speaking the “cracker” tongue, and collect “cracker” facts. The book also includes a thorough list of suggested further readings and a bibliography.

of words, please consider the following words and phrases that have developed from railroad terminology.

All the bells and whistles from the early steam engines: fast track, side tracked, back track, wrong track, right track, one-track-mind, off track, and wrong side of the tracks. Another set: letting off steam, popping off, blowing smoke, blowing your stack, full head of steam. Certainly, you can think of more on your own.

Here are some philosophical thoughts about life from the perspective of a train: Please stay on the right track; it’s not the destination but the journey; don’t blow your stack; take time to enjoy the

This book was an eye-opener for me regarding these pioneering folks, who, from the late 1700s until the early 1900s, were the only Caucasian inhabitants in the interior of our state. It is a good read for those interested in the early days of our state.

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scenery; keep your wheels turning; the squeaky wheel gets the grease; don’t carry too much baggage; and the most important, the light at the end of the tunnel ... may be on the oncoming train!

We encourage you to visit the Hobby Building Model Train Room any Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. and run some trains with us! We are also available on Facebook (OTOW Model Railroad) and YouTube (OTOW HO layout 2022 June).

The Model Railroaders Club is always looking for new members. You are welcome to join us. Our next club meeting is at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 5, in the Hobby Building Event Room. If you have any questions, please call Jim Lynam at 352-861-2822. Happy Valentine’s Day!

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#WSC27 - 0/00

Karaoke Friends

Kathy & Charlie Petrosky



Karaoke has been a popular form of entertainment since the 1980s, beginning in Japan and then the rest of East Asia. It has since spread to other parts of the world. Kara: Japanese for empty.

Oke: Japanese abbreviation for orchestra.

When we get together for karaoke, it is for fun. We are not auditioning for a show or practicing for a performance. There are no strangers in the group. If you are not singing, you will be singing along by the end of the night. Everyone encourages the singers.

If you want to come but do not know what to sing, that’s no problem. We can look up a song for you. You can give us the name of a singer, and we can list all the karaoke songs we have for that person. If you have a particular song you want to sing, we can look it up and let you know what versions we have. If you

have your karaoke disk, bring it with you.

John and Laura Schnur have been coming to karaoke for many years. This is what Laura wanted to share with you.

“John started singing at the Elks Lodge in Ocean City, Maryland. Retirement was good for him. He even started golfing and became the senior golf champion back then. Since moving to On Top of the World, we have attended Kathy and Charlie’s karaoke since 2014. John enjoys singing Toby Keith, Elvis, and Rickie Nelson songs. Gospel is his favorite genre, and Elvis is his favorite singer.

I occasionally sing with John. The Dancing Jewels is my dancing group that performs at nursing homes and clubs. When costume changes are needed, John sings for the people. We are blessed to live in this community with such friendly people.”

You can meet John and Laura on the first and third Mondays of the month in the Arbor Activity Center Music Room from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. This month, we meet on Feb. 3 and 17. All are welcome to attend.



John and Laura Schnur.



Photo by Ann Gallo

Delivery of quilts, burping cloths, and many baked items to Shepherd’s Lighthouse in Belleview.

Sewing Bees

Ann Gallo



The Bees are off to another busy year. As of mid-January, we have not made any quilt deliveries yet. First, we have to rebuild our stash! We will contact agencies shortly about their needs. I’m sure that with this colder-than-normal winter, we will be delivering soon.

Our latest program involves collecting Kohl’s Cash. We have been purchasing clothing for several of our agencies. Please contact us if you have Kohl’s Cash that you will not be using. We would be thrilled to use it.

Did you know the “crazy quilt” was introduced during Victorian times? To showcase their wealth, high-brow women would use expensive fabrics, like velvet or silk, and brightly colored thread

to make quilts. They were intended to be admired as art, not for warmth or protection.

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

Can’t sew? No problem. Our program requires many sewing tasks. We have sewing machines available, or you can 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 cotton, or flannel fabric.

Join our Facebook page (Sewing Bees Club Inc.) to see what magic takes place at the hive. You can also stay current on what we are working on and our current needs.

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

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Fun with
Golf Carts

Susan Pulling Robinson



On Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024, our members went all out, lighting up their carts for an evening cruise through the neighborhoods. Participants and spectators alike enjoyed this new addition to our parade lineup.

Mark your calendar for the following Saturdays so you won't miss the parade:

- 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
- 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.

Rubber Stamp
Greeting Cards

Linda Lohr



On Thursday, Jan. 2, Connie Press presented braided and drapery cards. The braided section of the card could be used at the edge or down the center. The drapery card utilized double-sided paper. Following the instructions for cutting, one piece of paper could be used for two cards. Both cards can be used for any occasion just by changing the sentiment.

We thank Connie for these great cards, which do not need stamping or die cuts. Members can decorate them at home as needed.

Our group is open to all crafters, whether beginners or more experienced. Each month, one or two people present. The group meets on the first and third Thursdays at 1 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room.

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

Contact Connie Press using the email below for any class or general information. Basic supplies such as a trimmer, glue, scissors, and card stock are needed. Everyone in the group shares their supplies, and everyone brings new ideas



Photo by Linda Lohr

Cards presented by Connie Press.

to the table. You are only limited by your imagination!

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



Photo by Amy Kuzo

Kip and Ila Kowalski.

Happy Hookers

Jan Spielvogel



Do you like to read mystery books? Do you like to knit? Even if your answer is "yes" to mysteries and "no" to knitting, you may enjoy mystery books by Peggy Erhart. Peggy is a former English professor and author of the "Knit & Nibble" mystery series. The amateur sleuth in her books is Pamela Paterson, founder and mainstay of the Arborville, New Jersey knitting club, nicknamed "Knit & Nibble." Currently, there are 12 books in the series. While this author was able to locate one of these books in our library, both hard copy and audio versions are available for purchase online.

Happy Hookers is open to all residents. We meet on 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 talented group of ladies busy with crocheting, knitting, needlepoint, card crafting, embroidering, and handcrafting. They are 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. We always appreciate donations of yarn, pattern books, knitting needles, crochet hooks, or other crafting tools. Please bring them on Mondays during our meeting time or contact Ann Gallo at 917-597-2178 to arrange pickup.

Tesla Owners &
Enthusiasts Club

Dan Lack



There are plenty of places to bring your gas vehicle for oil changes, radiator flushes, and other maintenance.

Teslas do not require those types of routine maintenance. A computer download is often all that is needed for an issue that may arise. But sometimes we need to drive our vehicles to facilities that can service us. The closest dealership is in Clermont; another is about to open in Gainesville.

The speaker at our January meeting was Chris Salvo, the owner of The Electrified Garage in Ocala. He is a former Tesla employee who services Teslas and other electric vehicles.

Chris discussed how we can improve our battery efficiency. In addition to powering the wheels, much of the battery's output goes to cooling the interior. Therefore, tinting the glass can help decrease the amount of sunlight entering the car. Periodic air conditioning system inspections are also recommended to ensure it's working at peak efficiency.

Regenerative braking allows Teslas to slow down by lifting the foot off the accelerator. Since we rarely use our brakes, Chris said it's important to check them to ensure all parts are intact.

Most of our club meetings do not involve a speaker. We talk about our vehicles and answer questions. Two new members joined in January, coincidentally both with the name of "Stan." One Stan is the owner of a Model Y, and the other Stan is a future Tesla owner who learned a lot from Chris.

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Arbor Activity Center Card Room II.

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February 14	February 15
Fat Tiki 5 PM	Big Lee's 5 PM
THE SWEET TALKERS 6 - 9 PM	JOE'S GARAGE BAND 6 - 9 PM
February 21	February 22
Lucky's Kitchen 5 PM	Lady Boss Chef 5 PM
TC & SASS 6 - 9 PM	ITOWN BAND 6 - 9 PM
February 28	
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FLORIDA HIT MACHINE 6 - 9 PM	

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The New Pretenders

Nancy Grabowski



It’s here! We hope you have tickets to see “Get on Your Feet,” presented by The New Pretenders. We will perform in the Recreation Center Ballroom on Friday, Jan. 31, and Saturday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 2, at 2 p.m.

Our lively music, dance, and comedy presentation is sure to get your toes a-tappin’! We love it when you applaud; it signals how much you appreciate our hard work. Believe it or not, as soon as this program ends, we begin to work on the next one! That’s right, we start perfecting the 2026 show almost immediately.

You might notice Darryl Kenyon moving throughout the room with his trusty video recorder. He creates a seamless recreation of our show, capturing every moment at its peak.

Darryl is originally from New York. However, he and his wife, Kathy, are widely traveled. This travel enables him to shoot beautiful videos and outstanding still photos. Look for his published works on Facebook.

You will see our photographer, Len-



Photo by Lennie Rodoff

Linda Meyer, Laura DeAngelo, Judy Singer, Kim English, Mary Ann Berardi-Schmitt, Fran Allen, Jennie Stauffer, and Tom Miller.

nie Rodoff, snapping hundreds of shots from the front row or impossible angles. She spends hours culling through her work to catch the best moments, which

we use with our monthly column. We are always on the lookout for new members. Don’t be shy! We will welcome you into our family and bring out

those talents that are deep within you! We’re betting you’ll amaze not only your friends but yourself. Why not speak with one of us or call Nancy Grabowski at 352-209-4699?

Paradise Players

Dexter Vance



2025 is upon us; soon, spring will be in the air before we know it. I returned

from visiting family over the holidays just before the first snow hit Maryland. The day after returning to Ocala, I helped the Paradise Players with their first play of the year. Why am I telling you this? While visiting Maryland, I saw some old friends who still live there; they are retired and sit in their houses most of the day. If, and that’s a big if,

they want to do anything, they have to drive great distances for entertainment or just a night out. It made me sad for them because when I saw all we have here and how we can drive our golf cart to the Recreation Center for some excellent entertainment, I wondered why all residents weren’t at the Paradise Players show.

Who knew falling off a balcony could be so funny?

But the outstanding talent of performers and directors, our fellow neighbors, created all of this laughter and enjoyment. Their hard work and dedication allow us to enjoy what we all have right here, and that is camaraderie.

Before you know it, Paradise Players will be on their next big adventure in April. But did you realize that you, too, can get out of the house and be part of the action? Don’t sit at home like it’s snowing outside; get out and enjoy. We meet at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio I on Wednesdays from 3:15 to 5:30 p.m. And remember, you don’t have to be an actor; we need people for all stage assistance. Hope to see you there.

Contact Lee Smith for questions or additional information at otowparadiseplayers@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page (OTOW Paradise Players).

Broadway Playhouse

Elaine Morrison



Unfortunately, circumstances have made it necessary for the club to postpone the much-heralded “Oklahoma” youth edition production until the spring 2026 season. The announcement was made by President Carole Beauchamp at the general meeting on Thursday, Jan. 16. The news was met with great disappointment, but the hope is that the ex-

tra time will produce a truly spectacular show.

What is providing real excitement for the club is the upcoming entertainment trivia event, which will be held at the Recreation Center Ballroom on Sunday, Feb.16, from 5 to 8 p.m. This first-time event will provide a fun night for folks to show off their knowledge of movies, theatre, television, music, and dance. Tickets are \$10 and are being sold on Tuesdays, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio III. It is a bring-your-own beverage event. Please email otowbroadwayplayhouse@gmail.com with any questions.

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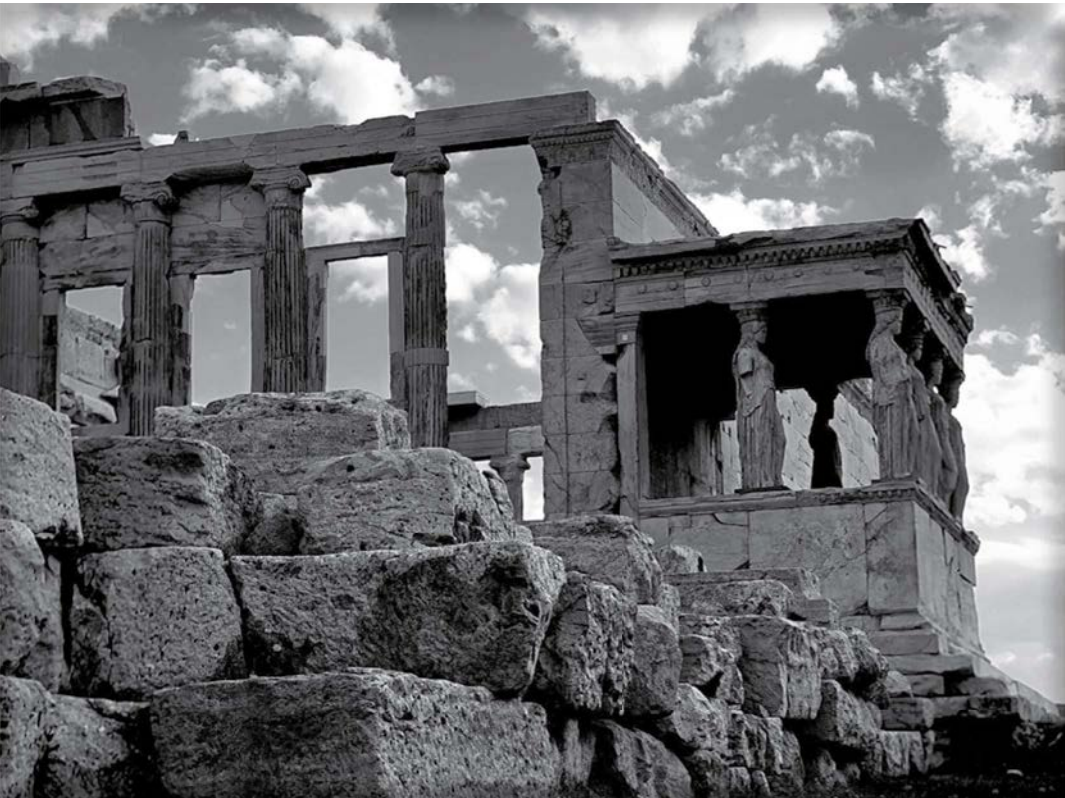
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High Tide Is Coming.



Porch of the Guardians.

ShutterBugs Photography

Kathi Simens



We are continuing to highlight the first-place winners of our annual photo contest. This month, the ShutterBugs Photography Club is highlighting the first-place winners in the black and white category, Harry Boyajian and Anna Schneider.

Harry Boyajian says that his “High Tide is Coming” photo is of the lighthouse Portland Head in Maine. It’s one of his favorite places to take pictures. He knew that he ultimately wanted a black-and-white image, but he photographed it in color. Back in the day, he would use various filters in front of the lenses to make certain colors darker/lighter or more vivid. You could turn the sky black and the clouds puffy white. One could darken or lighten the foliage with filters. Now, we are in the digital age. Harry feels that shooting images in black and white lacks the snap that the images had in the old film days. So, he shoots in color and converts the image to black and white. He feels he has more control over the finished product than before.

Anna Schneider’s “Porch of the Guardians” photo was taken at the Acropolis in Greece. The site is called the Porch of the Guardians. Many of the statues from the Acropolis have been relocated to the Acropolis Museum, but

the statues of the Lady Guardians were in good shape and remain at the Acropolis. Anna feels that the cloudy skies added to the mystique. She took the picture with her Samsung 21 Ultra phone. The picture was taken in color, but she felt that converting it to black and white would bring out the mystique she felt while standing at this amazing site.

All of our first-place-winning photographs from all of the categories will be on display at Master the Possibilities in February. Please 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 our sharing of photography tips to improve our skills in camera use and editing. Our club motto is those who don’t know should ask, and those who do know should be willing to show and tell.

We generally meet for a field trip the first week of each month, ShutterBug Solutions on the second Tuesday, show-n-tell 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.

“When you photograph people in color, you photograph their clothes. But when you photograph people in black and white, you photograph their souls!” – Ted Grant.

AcaBella

Celeste Cross



AcaBella continues to grow, with six new members joining our ensemble in the last two months. As a new women’s a cappella vocal group, AcaBella will continue our membership drive into 2025 by appearing at the Club Fair on Jan. 30, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center.

A cappella music is described as sing-

ing with no musical instrument accompaniment, with the vocal harmonies providing all the musical texture and overtones. AcaBella performs in a four-part harmony style similar to Pentatonix or Pitch Perfect. You do not need to read music to join AcaBella; you must be able to learn your vocal part and sing together in harmony with other parts. We are seeking singers to join us in all four vocal sections.

For more information on joining AcaBella or having our ensemble perform at your event, please email Director Holly at agreatsound@gmail.com.

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New members are always welcome. The Art Group meets at the Hobby Building Art Room three days a week: Wednesday from 1 to 4 p.m. and Thursday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. There is no fee, but you must bring your supplies. Contact Freda Klump, the director, at 615-336-6863 or fredaklump@gmail.com to learn more.



The Water Barrel.



Nature's Music.



Photo by Chris Kilbride

Barbara Pups delves into the science and creativity of fused glass jewelry.

This month, we're featuring Barbara Pups, who loves all kinds of crafting. She has tried embroidery, cross stitch, quilting, scrapbooking, knitting, and more.

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

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Fiction Writer's Workshop

By Ray Cech
World News Writer

The Fiction Writer’s Workshop meets monthly at Master the Possibilities. The class is filled with writers and wannabe writers. Writing techniques are discussed, and short stories are written and critiqued.

This short story, “Love in the Time of COVID-19,” was written by me.

Love in the Time of COVID-19

By Ray Cech

Her mask was slightly askew. His glasses were beginning to fog. They approached each other slowly, still unsure of themselves after meeting on Zoom only two weeks ago. They put one foot in front of the other – the space narrowed. She took the next step, and he followed. Then, without hesitation, the step followed step. He swept off his fog-dappled glasses and stared into her crystalline blue eyes that sparkled brightly in the mid-day sun.

As if on signal, their arms slowly stretched out and touched each other’s shoulders — a slight squeeze acknowledged his feelings. Courageously, yet cautiously, he allowed his blue mask to touch her forehead covering. They lingered, eyes locked. Hidden smiles beneath crushing masks bespoke of blossoming love in the time of a pandemic.

Lost in the moment, he reached up and gently lowered her mask. He stepped back, his eyes squinted, and his forehead wrinkled. “You’re not Christine!”

She hesitated, then unsteadily said, “No, I’m Sarah, Chrissy’s sister. She had to study for her math exam tomorrow, and I convinced her that it would be fun if I ... Look, I’m sorry, I didn’t think we’d take off our masks.” With a ballet dancer’s poise, she delicately stepped back, her eyes searching his, looking for forgiveness.

She followed with, “Chrissy told me that you and she were planning to have a coffee together and get to know each other better. Robert, I know you’re disappointed, but maybe we could have that coffee, and I promise I’ll tell you all about my sister, except, of course, those secrets that are locked in the vault.” With her thumb and index finger, she gestured, locking her lips. He shrugged, then smiled. “Okay.”

The cafe was just a short walk away but long enough for Sarah to introduce herself formally.

Sarah had just turned 18 and was on her way to the University of Florida to study biology. Her goal, she said, was to work in a lab, hoping to discover future vaccines.

He stopped, and she followed. Stepping in front of her, he said, “I think you’re way too pretty to be hidden in a lab all day staring into a microscope.”

Before the words reached their destination, he knew they were all wrong.

Sarah answered in a barely controlled voice. “So you think good-looking women should be working more on the outside? Why do you think that? Is it so men can stare at them, getting their hopes up that maybe, just maybe – she might say yes? Or do you think ...

“Wait, wait, please,” he interrupted. “I didn’t mean it that way. All I meant ...

“Yes, Robert, or is it Bob? What did you mean?”

He shrugged his shoulders. “Look, that was stupid of me to ... I don’t know. I guess I’m just a bit taken aback by you. Hey, can we just go inside, have a coffee, and maybe start over?”

Sarah tugged her mask down under her chin and gave him an extravagant, forgiving smile. “Okay.”

They ordered at the counter and then captured a window table. Over a tall latte and a blended smoothie, they started over.

Their conversation started slowly, picked up interest, and was soon on cruise control. Without realizing it, they were leaning over the table, trading words, sentences, ideas, and adventures. Sarah impressed him with her solutions

to the virus, and he hoped to impress her with his argument that baseball is fundamentally a game of numbers. “And, he said, the only way to ensure a winning team is to keep crunching the data and let the results call the plays. At least that’s what my twin brother says, and he’s a fan of the game.

“Really, Bob?”

He sat back in his chair and grinned sheepishly. “Okay, so I guess that isn’t quite as important as annihilating COVID-19. But hey, once you’ve solved that virus problem, we’re back to watching baseball. Right?”

They both had a big laugh. He raised his coffee, and she her smoothie, and rang out a chime as they collided over the table. For any observer, they were a couple – meant for each other.

“Hi.”

They looked up. She was standing at the table, glaring down at them.

“Are you two having fun?”

Sarah quickly spoke up – a small catch in her voice. “Oh, hi, Chrissy; we were just talking about you. You finished your math early, I guess. I was telling Bob here how dedicated you are to your studies and that you’re waiting to hear back from the Ivy Leagues.”

Christine reached over, grabbed an empty chair, and dragged it across the tiled floor. The noise interrupted conversations around the small cafe. A hush followed as all eyes went to their table, waiting for the scene to unfold.

“You two seem to be getting along just fine. Is this why you insisted on taking my place, Sarah? Do you need a date that badly?”

Christine looked over at her lost date. She got to the part where her boyfriend just dumped her.

Her voice was getting harsh, and her face was almost pleading as she leaned over the table and looked at him. “And I thought we had something, even if it was just a Zoom affair.”

Christine sat fixed in place, staring at him. Her eyes welled up. She shook her head, stood up with force, and walked toward the door. Halfway there, she stopped, slowly turned, and took a few steps back toward their table. She stood there, her right hand went to her chin, and her face seemed to be puzzling. Christine’s pose lasted a few beats, then she turned again and walked to the door, brushing past an elderly couple entering the cafe. They shook their heads. “Kids these days.”

After watching Christine bolt, they sat quietly, staring at empty cups. Sarah looked up and broke the silence. “I was going to tell you.”

“No,” he interrupted. “there’s something I need to tell you.”

“Okay, but hold that thought a sec.” Sarah held up her hand in a stop gesture, got up, and walked over to the elderly couple.

“Excuse me for interrupting, but I would like to apologize for my sister who pushed past you as you were coming in. She’s been studying hard lately, and her mind is over-occupied, I guess. So please accept my apologies for her.”

“Oh, no problem,” the man said. “We figure this COVID-19 thing has a lot of people off their game. But it’s certainly nice of you to come over. Really nice. Thank you,” his wife nodded.

“Okay, then,” Sarah nodded, “enjoy your coffee.”

She walked back to their table, sat down, and took his hand in hers. “Okay, what did you want to tell me?”

“Robert” hesitated, cleared his throat, and said, “I told you before that I had a twin brother. Well, we used to do a lot of crazy things, and at times we still do. You know, like we’d go on each other’s dates and thought it was fun that our date didn’t know she was actually out with the wrong guy.”

He was frowning as he talked, and his wavering voice caused Sarah to drop his hand and push back into her chair.

“Robert, you’re not telling me ...” He slowly nodded. She slapped her hand down on the table, and her laughter shook the small cafe.

“Yeah, I’m Michael, not Robert.”



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FOR SALE, WANTED AND LOST/FOUND

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

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

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

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

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

For Sale

Appliance: Omega fruit and vegetable juicer. 352-445-4860.

Appliance: Whirlpool (WG-D4950HW) 29" gas dryer with 7.0 cu. ft. capacity, AutoDry™ & timed drying, Wrinkle Shield™ option, 14 cycles, 3 drying temperatures, hamper door, end-of-cycle signal, and interior light, \$200. 708-625-5323.

Computer Equipment: Lenovo tablet P11 (2nd generation), 11.5" screen, 128 GB, \$150. 404-242-6728.

Electronics: Polk Audio Signa S1 soundbar with woofer with wall mounting template, \$50. 617-538-9250.

Fitness Equipment: Dave Hall Celercise includes wide and narrow bars and instructions and bag. 352-445-4860.

Furniture: 40" round brown table, four olive green chairs with tan cloth seats, \$350. 765-993-5865.

Furniture: Kitchen island swivel stools (3), black vinyl, height adjusts from 24" to 33", best offer. 352-509-4942.

Furniture: Metal 4-drawer file cabinet, tan color, 52" h x 15" w x 28-1/2" d, \$25. Will deliver in OTOW. 352-861-0510.

Furniture: Polywood patio furniture, green – glider chair, fixed chair, ottomans (2), and double chair with table unit. Text 610-721-1424.

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: 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: Cobra clubs – irons 7,8,9, pitching wedge, sand wedge, putter metals driver, 3, 4, 5, 4H, 5H, 6H, \$350. 352-390-3498.

Golf Equipment: Sun Mountain 3-wheel push cart, \$50. 510-409-3898.

Misc. Items: 9' royal blue outdoor umbrella. 10-gallon wet/dry vac with attachments and extra bag. 352-445-4860.

Misc. Items: Exercise equipment, woodworking tools, yard tools, glassware, kitchenware, and knick-knacks. 352-342-9915 (landline).

Misc. Item: Gas fire pit with tank, \$100. 845-467-7238 (afternoons, please).

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.

Musical Instrument: Electric guitar with gig bag, 10"-amp, cable, and stand, \$125. 352-861-8844.

Musical Instrument: Telecaster-style electric guitar with soft case, \$50. 352-509-7147.

Musical Instrument: Upright piano, free. Must be able to haul it away on their own good condition. 845-467-7238 (afternoons, please).

Musical Instrument: Yamaha keyboard (PSRE413) with seat and stand, \$200. Text 352-873-3998.

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: E-bike Volt, 7 speed, 9 levels of assist, 17" frame, 4" tires, fenders, rear rack, kick-stand, less than 200 km. 352-355-3303.

Yard Equipment: Toro self-propelled electric mower with attachable grass catcher. 352-445-4860.

Tag Sales

Friday, Jan. 31 & Saturday, Feb. 1: 9072-D SW 96th Lane (Friendship Park), 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 7: 8556-F SW 90th Lane (Friendship Colony), 9 a.m. to noon.

Saturday, Feb. 8: 9724 SW 95th Loop (Windsor), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 14 & Saturday, Feb. 15: 9705-B SW 92nd Court (Crescent Ridge), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 15: 9724 SW 95th Loop (Windsor), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 21 & Saturday, Feb. 22: 8747-C SW 98th Street Road (Americana Village), 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Services

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

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Andy Dahms Interior Painting: Your local professional painting contractor. Turn your place into a showpiece. Quality Sherwin-Williams products. References available. Free estimates. Call or email at 941-730-1381 or andygoodeats1@gmail.com.

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

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

Caregiver: Need help with chores? Or would you like some company? Call Daniela at 347-697-0001 (resident). Many years of experience & a loving heart.

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, \$60/hour. Tutoring, setups, installations, Windows upgrades, PC cleanups, security software, internet connections, email access, printers, wireless devices.

Estate Sale Services: Ready to sell the contents of your home? Community resident providing estate sale services for all neighbors. I'm here to help. SW Ocala Estate Sales 352-219-6799.

Folding Table Rentals: Daily rate includes up to five 6' tables plus drop off/pick up in On Top of the World. Multi-day discounts. Deposit required. SW Ocala Estate Sales 352-219-6799.

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

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

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

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.

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: Interior/exterior painting. Let's freshen up inside & out. Experienced & conscientious. For free consultation & estimate, call Matt 352-640-6467. Quality is our goal!

Power Wash: From grime to shine – patio, driveway, outdoor furniture, house exterior, or just trim and gutters. Call Matt 352-640-6467. Quality is our goal!

Professional Pet Grooming: Now accepting new clients. Limited space. Vet recommended. Small dogs only. Nails only \$13. 352-512-4662.

Tax Preparation: Enrolled Agent (EA) with 40 years of experience. Federal & State returns e-filed. Louise 941-661-5079 (resident).

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.

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

Wanted

Donations: Dog or cat food [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.

Pet Foster Parents: Temporarily open your home to a pet in need. Call SPCA of Marion County at 352-362-0985.

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