



Third annual coloring book contest.

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Quilting pillows to bring joy to others.

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3,500-mile trip by sea finishes at OTOW.

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# ON TOP OF THE WORLD NEWS

August 2020

Published Since 1968

52 Years of Only Good News

Volume 52

No. 8



Pickleball and tennis players enjoy lunch at the new pavilion while guests were spread out as much as possible.

## Newly opened pavilion hosts first guests

By Joe DeChiaro

The new pavilion has officially been opened!

The tennis group, along with the pickleball group, combined efforts to hold a picnic at the pavilion on Sunday, June 28.

Both groups opened the morning with tennis and/or pickleball and then retreated to the pavilion where food was served at about 10:30 a.m.

Most of the food was provided by Pickleball President Lenny Segal and Vice President Kathy Ahrens. Lunch included fried chicken, hot dogs, macaroni salad, potato salad, baked beans and a meat tray for sandwiches.

Desserts included cookies and watermelon.

It was your traditional picnic with a highly anticipated opening day.

Everyone had fun while enjoying great food.

A cool breeze flowed through the open pavilion, which made everyone feel comfortable.

And everyone did their part to keep the event safe. People wore masks when

they were not eating. At the picnic tables everyone sat apart. All the servers wore masks and protective gloves on their hands.

As you can see by the photos above, the pavilion comes with many picnic tables. Some are under the roof. Other tables are just outside the roof, but still in the pavilion area. There is a dock for walking out over the pond.

Any OTOW group which wants to reserve the pavilion should contact Nancy Rogers in the Activities Office.

Meanwhile, the tennis/pickleball club has decided to meet the last Friday of each month for lunch at different locations where safety and social distancing are enforced.

They are also enjoying a gathering at Clearwater Beach one day a week usually meeting at lifeguard station No. 7. After a couple of hours swimming, the group enjoys a nice lunch at either Frenchy's or Palm Pavilion.

More on future social events in next month's newspaper. You can also follow us on the Box Office, otowboxoffice.com

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2041 Australia Way W, #17  
MLS#U8082112

**\$178,000**

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2405 Franciscan Dr, #15  
MLS#U8083051

**\$167,000**

**CONTRACT PENDING**



2231 Utopian Dr E, #205  
MLS#U8084218

**\$159,000**

**CONTRACT PENDING**



2257 World Parkway Blvd W, #23  
MLS#T3236821

**\$147,500**

**CONTRACT PENDING**



2426 Ecuadorian Way, #22  
MLS#U8082721

**\$144,000**

**SOLD**



2441 Persian Dr, #23  
MLS#U8076833

**\$135,000**

**SOLD**



2363 Israeli Dr, #11  
MLS#U8079545

**\$134,000**

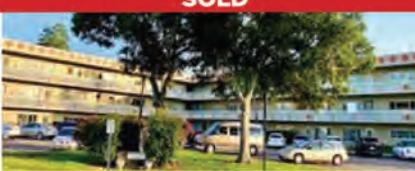
**CONTRACT PENDING**



2447 Ecuadorian Way, #1  
MLS#U8076169

**\$132,500**

**SOLD**



2427 Finlandia Ln, #27  
MLS#U8085342

**\$110,000**

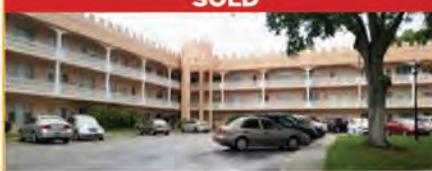
**SOLD**



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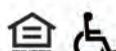
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**OTOW News**



**Pet of the Month**



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*Gigi*

There was a time in Gigi's life when home was a locked room. Today, Gigi is 3 years old and living with Dulce Boyce in the Austrian Alpine building. She no longer has one dark room to live in. She has the world. Gigi is a rescue dog from Tampa - a chihuahua to be exact. Dulce was looking for a dog to adopt and Gigi's name and picture came over her computer screen. Dulce gave Gigi a new life. "She loves it here at On Top of the World," Dulce said. "Gigi is very smart. She even does tricks." Gigi knows, if she does a dance, she gets a cookie. So if you want to see a dance, come prepared.

Each month, OTOW News and Woof Gang Bakery & Grooming are featuring a Pet of the Month in this newspaper. Any pets living at On Top of the World are eligible. To enter your pet, email one clear, color photo to OTOW.newsroom@gmail.com and tell us what makes your pet special. If you don't have email capabilities, drop off your photo and information at the newsroom. You must include pet's name, owner's name, building and age of pet. If the age is not included, your pet will not be eligible. Only one pet per household can win each year, but now two pets from the same household can be one entry. The winner this month will receive a gift card from Woof Gang Bakery in Clearwater. If you are the winner this month, stop by the newsroom to pick up your gift cards. Each monthly winner becomes eligible for Pet of the Year honors in January. Voting for Pet of the Year takes place online in January. The winner will be announced each February. The winner receives additional prizes and will be invited to march in the annual Irish Club Parade each March.

**FREE**  
**First Office Visit**

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Expires 8-31-20

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Expires 8-31-20



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**Cat/Kitten Package**

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Add FeLV/FIV test for only \$28 more. Substitute 3-year rabies for only \$10 more. Must present coupon. Call for details.

Expires 8-31-20

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**\$85**  
**Dog/Puppy Package**

Includes complete physical exam, fecal exam and any 2 vaccines from the following list: rabies (1 year), da2pp, leptospirosis, bordetella.

Add a heartworm test for only \$18 more. Substitute 3-year rabies for only \$10 more. Must present coupon.

Expires 8-31-20

# Theater Workshop will try again to pull off anniversary show that was scheduled for March 2020



## Theater Workshop

By Laurie Fischer

During the past six months, all of our lives have been affected by the cancellation of many events.

The Theater Workshop group was directly affected when on March 13 opening night of our 50th anniversary show was postponed because the East Activity Center was closed down.

Our immediate plan was to revamp the show and present it in mid-December, but, with ongoing uncertainties, the Theater Workshop Board of Directors decided during a Zoom meeting in July to make some changes.



The 2020 Theater Workshop cast rehearses two days before everything was shut down, including this year's spring show. The cast will attempt to redo the show in the spring of 2021.

ater Workshop Board of Directors decided during a Zoom meeting in July to make some changes.

Although our original 2021 plan was to present "Grease, 50 Years Later!" in March, it seems a shame to have gone through three rigorous months of rehearsals for "50 Golden Years" and not be able to present it to all our friends and supporters at On Top of the World.

With that in mind, we have decided to

revamp "50 Golden Years" with rehearsals starting in early January 2021 under the leadership of Director Vicky Portsmouth and the show will hopefully go on stage March 12-14 in the East Activity Center auditorium.

If you are interested in joining Theater Workshop for our upcoming season, please visit our table at the East Activity Center on Mondays and Thursdays from 8:30-10:30 a.m. starting tentatively on

Sept. 1.

All you will need is your current valid activity card and \$5 membership fee.

If you have any questions about the OTOW Theater Workshop, please email Laurie at LBF1954@gmail.com.

We look forward to celebrating Theater Workshop's 50th Anniversary with you. It is better late than never!

Please everyone stay safe, but enjoy the summer!

## Roger Bruton records ace in front of his favorite fan

Good things happen when husband and wife go golfing together.

On June 28, Roger Bruton recorded a hole-in-one on hole No. 4 at the On Top of the World Golf

Course. He used a pitching wedge. Witnessing the shot was his wife, MaryAnn.

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# Your Activity Card questions answered here

## Activity Cards

When residents or approved tenants visit the Community Service Office, they always have questions surrounding activity cards. How do I get one? How many will be issued? Where do I pick one up?

As a reminder, and in accordance with the Second Amended and restated rules, activity card information is as follows:

The right to use the recreation facilities is limited solely to the current lawful occupants of the unit (i.e. the owners or any renters approved by the Association in accordance with Rule 10 entitled "Leasing and Sales of Units.").

On Top of the World Activity Cards will be issued solely to owners who reside full-time or part-time in their units, upon presentation of proof of ownership, or to renters who have been approved by the Association pursuant to Rule 10.

Activity Cards must be presented upon request while utilizing any activity facility. An owner or approved renter with a valid Activity Card must accompany any guest using any recreational facilities. Simultaneous usage by a unit owner and a tenant of the recreation facilities is prohibited.

Tenants approved by the Association are eligible to obtain a temporary Activity Card corresponding to the term of their Lease. For owners or tenants to obtain a new Activity Card, to renew a current Activity Card, or to have a replacement Activity Card issued, please see the Community Service Office and bring with you a current driver license or other government issued ID card, a current piece of mail with your unit address, and remit the appropriate fee (see Fee Schedule in Exhibit C).

Please note that no cards will be punched or processed without proper identification and address verification.

As a reminder, SCA distributes two activity cards per unit. Additional "guest" cards may be obtained, for a fee, by visiting the Community Service Office and picking up an application. Completed applications will then need to be returned to the Community Service Office. Envelopes should be addressed to the Orientation Department and include the appropriate payment.

You must bring your valid Activity Card with you when using SCA facilities and be prepared to present it upon staff request. While guests are not permitted at this time, when restrictions are lifted, all guests must be accompanied by a resident any time they plan to use the SCA facilities, including the pool.

As a reminder, residents need to remain with their guest while they enjoy the facilities. Any noncompliance matters are directed to the On Top of the World Condominium Association.

## Election Information

"The Primary Election is held 11 weeks before the General Election for purposes of nominating party nominees to be voted for in the General Election to fill a national, state, county, or district office. A General Election is held in November of every even-numbered year." Election dates for 2020 are:



- Primary Election: Aug. 18
- General Election: Nov. 3

This year, given the restrictions due to COVID-19, poll workers will be following CDC guidelines, including maintaining 6-foot distance between booths, marking the line people wait in with distancing markers and by having PPE available for all poll workers, including masks and wipes. They will also be limiting the number of people working the polls and available machines to ensure social distancing.

With that being said, SCA plans, COVID restrictions permitting, to have polling locations open at the East and West Activity Centers. In the event an alternate location needs to be coordinated, residents will be notified immediately via the otowclearwaterinfo.com Website, on OTOW-TV Channel 732 (Spectrum cable), RAVE, as well as postings at the Activity Centers.

As a reminder, the last day to sign up for mail-in ballots is the Wednesday before the election. Those dates would be:

- Aug. 12 for the Aug. 18 Primary
- Oct. 28 for the Nov. 3 General Election.

A request for a vote-by-mail ballot may be made in one of the following ways:

- Online application for Pinellas County may be obtained by visiting [www.votepinellas.com](http://www.votepinellas.com)
- Contacting the Supervisor of Elections at 727-464-VOTE (8683)

To make a request, the following information is required:

- The name of the voter for whom the ballot is being requested;
- The voter's address;
- The voter's date of birth; and
- The voter's signature (if the request is written and the request is to an address other than the one on file). Note, an exemption to this requirement exists for absent uniformed service voters or an overseas voter seeking a vote-by-mail ballot.

The deadline to request that a vote-by-mail ballot be mailed is no later than 5 p.m. on the 10th day before the election. However, the ballot must still be received by the Supervisor of Elections no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day if the voted ballot is to count. Exceptions exist, so go to [www.dos.myflorida/elections/](http://www.dos.myflorida/elections/) for more information.

Remote ballot drop-off locations are available from Aug. 8-17 for the following locations and hours:



Gulf to Bay Tax Collector Office  
1663 Gulf to Bay Blvd., Clearwater  
Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
(No Ballot Drop Off Election Day)

Tarpon Springs Public Library  
138 E. Lemon St., Tarpon Springs  
Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
(No Ballot Drop Off Election Day)

Oldsmar Public Library  
400 St. Petersburg Dr. E., Oldsmar  
Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
(No Ballot Drop Off Election Day)

Clearwater Countryside Library  
2642 Sabal Springs Drive, Clearwater  
Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Friday - Saturday, noon - 5 p.m.  
(No Ballot Drop Off Election Day)

- Use the ballot drop-off box INSIDE. DO NOT put your ballot in any box outside these locations.

- An elections employee will be at each site to assist and hand out "I VOTED" stickers.

- For a complete list of locations visit [www.votepinellas.com](http://www.votepinellas.com)

## Did You Know

On Thursday, July 16, there was a "pop-up" storm that impacted the community.

Due to that event, a tree became uprooted with nowhere to go but down. In less than 24 hours, a Parkway landscaping crew sprang into action and had the tree removed and the area cleared of debris.

These pop-up storms can bring brief heavy downpours and are created mostly in the afternoon after the heat of the sun causes the air to rise and clouds to form.

Clouds can merge and grow rapidly in colder air. These storms are a part of our summer and can be violent. It is always a good idea to be sure you have removed any items outside that can become a projectile.

## Community Service Office Information

The Community Service Office (CSO) hours of operation are Monday through

Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The office closes for lunch from noon to 12:30, Monday through Friday, unless otherwise posted. If your call goes to voice mail, it is because staff is working with someone else. Please be patient. Calls and voicemails will be responded to during normal business hours. Once the requested service matter is identified, a service order will be generated and submitted to the appropriate department to address the matter.

The goal of the CSO is to make an initial assessment of the request and to determine if it is an emergency or non-emergency. Once the matter is assessed, a plan to resolve will be made and work scheduled. Generally, all non-emergency service requests are assessed and addressed in the order in which they are received.

From time to time, it may become necessary for us to contact you with questions or clarification of your request. It is not necessary to report service requests more than one time. If you have any questions regarding your request and until the Community Service Office reopens, please call the Service Request Line, that number is listed below. As a reminder, window and door repair or replacement is exclusive to the unit and is the owner's responsibility. The Association's responsibility is to the structure and common elements.

## Service Request Line

If you are unable to visit the Community Service Office, the OTOW phone number to submit a service request is 727-683-6981. Please call for general building matters in the common areas only. Please do not leave health-related emergency information on the service request line as this will delay the amount of time it takes us to respond to non-emergency service requests.

## After-Hours Number

The OTOW after-hours phone number is 727-799-1115 for issues such as water intrusion into your unit. For all other inquiries regarding general matters or questions that are not service related, you will need to come in person to the Community Service Office. For a life threatening emergency, please dial 911. For a power outage, call Duke Energy at 800-228-8485.

# Management company staff and residents

## Ongoing Community Concerns

While Covid-19 prevalence continues to be very troubling, the staff at On Top of the World are managing for it and guardedly moving along as best they can.

Management Company staff are adapting to distancing and masking in the workplace. For the most part, residents take this seriously by donning masks and distancing while in the recreation facilities and outside venues.

Thank you for that, we protect each other when we protect ourselves.

Staff is taking this current resurgence seriously, but there are still the outliers who may still be thinking that this is all a sick joke.

“Sick” is the operative word that we all want to avoid.

Management has taken the position with employees that if you won't comply with safety standards, you are free to seek employment elsewhere. We must protect both residents and employees as best we can.

A continuing challenge is what people do outside the workplace and the hazard that it presents in the workspace.

Same is true for residents who may not regularly wear masks or practice distancing. This, too, can be a source of virus spread.

At this writing, we do not anticipate any change in course on the opening and operation of the amenity centers. That said, if venues like the pools for example, have low compliance, this may be revisited and steps taken to ensure resident safety.

We are basically watching, waiting and following Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' executive orders, except this Association requires masking when appropriate.

I know firsthand the toll this pandemic is taking on both residents and staff. It is easy to get irritated and impatient. This pandemic is a process for the long haul.

We all benefit when we buckle down and persevere together.

Take care of yourself and of each other. Be kind to each other. Be patient. No one is in this alone.

## Insurance Update

Tropical storm season is a reminder to each resident to check in with your insurance agent and make sure the insurance coverage on your unit and contents is adequate.

If you feel “lucky” and go without insurance, or believe you can self-insure any loss, please reconsider because the cost of repair or reconstruction may well exceed the market value of your condominium at the time of the event.

It is the obligation of every owner to insure the contents of their unit.

The service department has handled numerous major leaks from improperly maintained water heaters. The replacement and maintenance of water heaters is the responsibility of the unit owner. In all cases the owner found out how important having insurance is when faced with paying for the extensive damage to their unit, the adjoining units and the Association property between the units.



**Kenneth Colen**  
Chairman

At the direction of the Association, the Management Company will seek reimbursement from the unit owner for its repair work in every instance.

This is a good point to segue into the limits of coverage that individual unit owners may wish to have.

Contents coverage may vary greatly depending on what you own. As a basic point though, you need adequate limits to cover furnishings, personal items, floor coverings, appliances and cabinetry.

All carriers write an HO6 rider that provides for loss assessment coverage in the event of a special assessment from the Association to cover unforeseen shortfalls or losses.

In the On Top of the World Condominium Association, buildings are insured under a master policy in the name of the Association. The deductible is \$10,000 for any event per occurrence, including wind/hail related damage. Named storm events carry a separate deductible of 5 percent of the total value at the time of loss at each location involved in the loss, subject to a minimum (community wide) deductible of \$250,000 for any one occurrence.

With respect to flood (rising water), earthquake and flood resulting from a named storm, all loss, damage, and/or expense arising out of any one occurrence, shall be adjusted as one loss, and from an amount of each such adjusted loss there is a \$100,000 deductible.

For more information, please visit [www.otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://www.otowclearwaterinfo.com) then click “Community” and download the pdf document entitled: Insurance Responsibility of the Individual Unit Owner.

## Upcoming Projects

**Painting/Waterproofing:** With the August heat comes the wettest of the summer months in the West Central Florida region.

This means that painting contractors must utilize their time wisely as they never know when the skies are going to open up and put a damper on their plans for the day.

As this article goes to print, painting crews will be wrapping up work on the east side of property and moving to the following structures west of Belcher Road:

The rear façade of Buildings 64, 66 and 73 will have waterproofing coatings

applied, while the front facades of Buildings 78 and 79 will be prepped and repainted.

As always, please keep in mind that the painting contractor will be operating in close proximity to parking areas and front/rear porches which may require the temporary displacement of vehicles or property.

Thank you for your cooperation in advance and keep in mind that inclement weather can affect start and completion dates as well as the listed order of work.

Address numbers: The installation of new unit address numbers will continue in August as this is another community improvement project that accompanies the application of front façade coatings.

As the painting contractor moves throughout the property, management company crews will be installing new life-safety compliant, reflective unit numbers on the common area wall in proximity to unit front doors.

Bulletins will be posted in advance of the work advising residents of the process and what they can expect. Unit numbers currently attached to the common element wall will be removed by the painting contractor, while numbers installed on front unit doors will need to be removed by the unit owner.

If a unit owner wishes, they may contract with the management company for the removal of any old unit numbers for a nominal fee. Please remember that for community standard reasons, all old unit numbers must be removed.

## Construction, Roofing and Large Scope Projects

There are no large scope construction projects scheduled for the month of August.

## Cable TV Update

At this time, there is nothing new to report. We have asked for another meeting with both local and national representative of Charter Communications, parent company of Spectrum Cable, to pursue matters further.

Please go to: [OTOWClearwaterInfo.com/Community](http://OTOWClearwaterInfo.com/Community) to review the June 18 link to “Wirecutter” on strategies to save money on your cable bill and increase viewing options through internet streaming.

## Recurring Reminders for all Community Residents

Building walkway repairs will continue as construction crews perform maintenance to second and third floor walking surfaces.

Many residents will see restoration crews as the management company focuses its efforts on these types of repairs.

This work requires the use of specialized power tools and may cause a temporary inconvenience in the form of noise and dust.

Repair crews will do their best to limit the inconvenience during this necessary

work.

These small repair areas will also be coated as a future preventative. As always, we ask that residents please limit any foot traffic in and around any work area they may encounter.

Walkway coating improvements will continue across property. These improvements involve preparation of the surface (and occasionally sub-surface) concrete, the addition of acrylic fortified materials to stairwell surfaces, and then the application of a quality slip-resistant barrier coating.

The end result is intended to provide longevity to the balcony walking surfaces as well as returning the look to its original conveyed color scheme.

The management company will post notices on affected building's bulletin boards concerning the dates crews are expected to commence the work. Please be aware of “Caution” and “Wet Paint” signs in and around these work areas.

## Inspection Services Division

The Inspection Services team, in conjunction with the Parkway Construction Department, will continue prepping buildings scheduled for new paint coatings in the current improvement cycle.

This has been an ongoing endeavor throughout the community over the last few years and encompasses the removal of all association unapproved plant hanger brackets, holiday lighting hooks that are affixed into the masonry block, hose reels, and other wall and ceiling penetrations.

In keeping with association rules, these items will be removed without notice. Residents are kindly asked to seek association approval before affixing anything to the common element in the future.

The management company would like to remind residents that all water softening equipment installations require advance association approval via a modification permit. A permit application package may be obtained by visiting the Community Service Office in the East Activity Center at 2069 World Parkway Boulevard East.

Residents are also reminded that only resin-style, not ion exchange or salt, water softeners are permissible in the community.

Please make sure you apply for a permit and receive approval prior to contracting with a service to avoid a compliance visit by the management company. Thanks for your advance cooperation.

Inspection services representatives will also be reaching out to residents of buildings that are scheduled for new paint and waterproofing coatings during the 2020/2021 improvement cycle.

The purpose of their contact will be to advise residents that the painting vendor will be color matching all external doors to the majority building color as is required by the condominium association rules. This will usually require no action by the unit owner other than to allow access to the entire door surface for the coating to be applied.

(Continued on page 7)

# will get through this tough time together

If for some reason you were not at home when this work takes place, you may contact the Community Service Office and schedule a follow-up visit by the coatings vendor. We appreciate your cooperation in making this project a success across the community.

Many first floor unit owners will be receiving notification from the Inspection Services Department over the coming months as the management company works towards the removal of all unapproved decorative stones throughout the community. The stones are not only an unapproved item for use in landscaping, but have the propensity to damage association and personal property alike.

To keep all residents in the community aware of this compliance issue, the notice will be published in upcoming editions of the OTOW newspaper. The management company asks that if you receive a notification requiring action on your part, please remove the stone at the earliest convenience.

The Inspection Services Department

is continuing to find many awnings with compromised connection points to the common element. In response, they have been reaching out to affected unit owners to have the awnings removed and limit any further damage to the community. As noted in prior articles, the "clamshell" awnings do not meet building code for wind resistance. Fortunately there are new products that do. If you have an awning, please arrange for its inspection through the Community Service Office.

The removal of plantings located above and around the potable water meters that service the individual units is also ongoing. The management company is asking that all residents comply and not replant the areas.

Plants or other items found in these areas will be removed without notice and disposed of as they hinder the proper maintenance of these meters in the future.

Please keep in mind that the condominium association requires a modification request for any landscape alterations. Many times decorative rocks or

landscaping is installed without the advance approval of the association, and the removal and disposal of these items becomes the responsibility of the violator. Please, always apply for approval before you install.

Inspection efforts are focused on the tagging and removal of personal furnishings and belongings placed in outside stairwells of buildings. These obstructions present a fire concern, block egress, or are of a nature that they do not comply with written community standards.

The management company would like to reiterate to residents that barbeque grills be they propane, charcoal, or electric, are not permitted on any balcony areas, as they pose a fire risk to the structure and residents.

Clutter enforcement has always been one of the most recurring compliance issues at On Top of the World. These efforts make for an overall safer community in which to live.

If you receive notification that an item is out of compliance, please correct the issue immediately. If you have a ques-

tion and were not able to speak with a compliance representative at the time of the notification, please stop by the Community Service Office and request an appointment. Someone will be glad to contact you.

Please remember that items tagged in common areas may be removed and disposed of without further notice.

Please help make your community safer by complying if you receive a violation tag/door hanger. Your continued cooperation is appreciated.

## Be Mindful and Safe

August is also the ramp-up to the busiest part of storm season. If you are planning a trip, please make sure you have storm-proofed your condo by removing anything on or around the exterior of your condo that could become an object of destruction during a high wind event. This of course includes clamshell awnings, together with chairs and potted plants to name just a few of the hazards that are easy to overlook (we may see them every day and these items just "blend in").

## Did you know there are 4 ways to turn your water on or off?

- (1) CALL: 727-799-3417 (Option 6)  
Messages are retrieved Mon-Fri, 7-5 p.m.
- (2) Visit the East Activity Center Community Service Desk from 8:30-3, Monday-Friday.
- (3) Go Online to [otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://otowclearwaterinfo.com) and fill out a service request.
- (4) For emergency service, call 799-1115 from 6-9 p.m. weekdays and noon-9 p.m. on weekends. A \$35 payment (by check) will be required

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## 2020 Early Voting Schedule

### Primary Election - August 18

Saturday, Aug. 8 - Sunday, Aug. 16  
Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Saturday-Sunday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### General Election - November 3

Monday, Oct. 19 - Sunday, Nov. 1  
Daily 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

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### Press Association Volunteers This Month:

- Bob Rittner
- Lyn Taecker
- Anna Georgiadis
- Cheryl Butcher
- Donna Lukas

## Around The World in this Newspaper Edition

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OTOW News will need stories for September.  
If you know of a happy story, know of a heart-warming story, or know of a kind act by a resident in these times,  
please share your story with an OTOW News staff writer.



East Activity Center Ground Floor



East Activity Center First Floor



East Activity Center Second Floor



West Activity Center

### East and West Activity Centers Room Maps

### EAC Pavilion Park Grill Map



### Important Phone Numbers

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**Activities Office**

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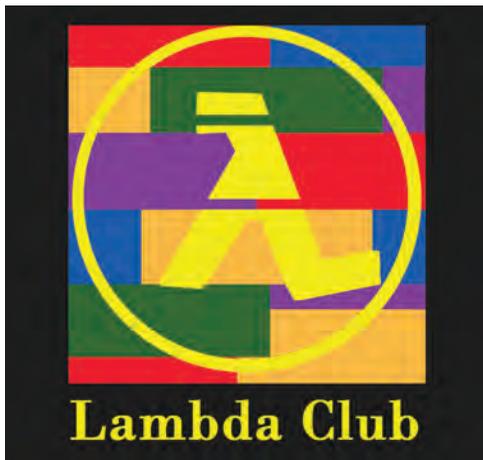
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# Welcoming new members, relaxing at a park, brings joy during these challenging times



By Bruce Lovett

If you've ever had Botox injections, or read anything about them, you know what the "Elevens" are.

If not, they are the lines between the eyes and above the nose, that look like the number 11. A quick shot of Botox to those two wrinkles and you look young and revived.

And that's exactly what keeps the Lambda Club young - a little shot of something new every month.

We are now celebrating our 11th year.

Despite the pandemic and restriction of activities, we continue to get infusions on a regular basis and those 11 lines are vanishing. We are looking as good, if not better, than we did that July day in 2009 when Dave Beaven called our first club meeting to order.

In May of this year, our club got new members from Texas, which helped fade more lines.

And recently we got a new infusion from the state of Indiana: Matthew and Kevin Knotts. When asked why Matthew and Kevin chose Florida and On Top of the World as their retirement home, Kevin was quick to say, "We love the beach, looking at palm trees and warm weather."

Matthew added "I got tired of gray overcast skies day after day."

Kevin is definitely the more articulate of the two as he is a retired school teacher. After 32 years of teaching fourth and fifth graders, he knows how to make his points quickly and easily.

Matthew is a little more laid back after having spent the last 23 years working in the semi-trailer industry and, more importantly, as a full-time single dad to two kids.



Matthew and Kevin Knotts enjoy a Lambda picnic at Philippe Park with the beautiful, natural scenery in the background.

Basically, his life was a sitcom, but without the French butler or crazy uncle to help out. Both kids survived beautifully. One is a recent college graduate and the other is just finishing up.

Like our great country, July is our club's month to celebrate great beginnings. Unfortunately, Lambda was unable to indoctrinate our newcomers as members this past July as our birthday bash event had to be canceled.

Aside from our usual potluck, we would have had a birthday cake and a white elephant gift exchange. But not this year.

Two years ago at our ninth anniversary party, one of our Jewish members, Jay Yammer, received a cross made of seashells from last month's featured artist, Bob Vallejo. Everyone got a big laugh - no one more so than Jay - as it inspired him to dress as the Pope that year for our annual Halloween party.

Although unable to attend parties, Kevin and Matthew have had a chance to meet quite a few of our members at some private outdoor events, zoom cocktail parties and socially distant picnics that Dave, our fearless leader, has organized at Philippe Park.

Unlike our semi-annual BBQs we used to hold there, we no longer use a pavilion and we no longer use a BBQ or have a potluck. Instead we all bring our own lunches and chairs and sit out in the open. It's kind of a BYOF&C (Bring Your Own Food and Chair) event. But in true Lambda style we always manage to have a good time.

The first picnic was so well attended that the park ranger had to give us a warning. Although we were socially distancing, our group size far surpassed the acceptable number. We made a few minor chair alterations and then we looked like two smaller groups. The next two picnics

were far more manageable as late staying Snowbirds had gone home and David kept track of the numbers.

There is something about sitting by Tampa Bay surrounded by trees and friends that reminds one that it truly is "A Wonderful World."

Because of the lack of parties during the pandemic, hence the lack of expenses, at a recent board meeting Dave disbanded dues collection for the present. When things are up and running, he'll set a new date for membership affirmation.

Should you have any questions about Lambda, a club that services OTOW's LGBT community and their friends and neighbors, you can visit our web page: <http://lambdaclearwater.blogspot.com>.

We are also on the Box Office at [otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com) or you can contact us by email at: [lambda@gmail.com](mailto:lambda@gmail.com).

You can call Dave at 727-410-7566.

## Lawn bowl court work

Work began in mid-July to restore the On Top of the World lawn bowl courts, which were damaged during the spring of 2019. The first step was to restore the surface. No timetable has been set on a reopening. (OTOW News photo by Doug Kates)



# 10 essential cooking techniques

## - Part I -



You are not a cook if you open a box, vent and place the box in a microwave for 15 minutes.

As Julia Child used to say, "No one is born a great cook. One learns by doing."

On this page is a list of five basic cooking techniques every cook should master.

I will share five more techniques with you in the September newspaper.

### 1. Sautéing

The definition of sauté literally means "to jump" in French. To sauté means to jump or toss your food around in a skillet.

It is difficult to think of another cooking method you can use where you can cook so many different kinds of food, from fish to vegetables to meat to noodles.

A variety of fats can be used from butter to various oils, or a combination, depending on the food being cooked.

The pan and the fat must be hot enough so that the food added to the pan starts to brown quickly, since the heat used to cook the food comes directly from the pan itself.

Cooking tip: Season your food in layers while you're prepping ingredients, during cooking and when your meal is finished.

### 2. Stir frying

In a classic stir fry, the food is always cut into similarly sized bite-sized pieces so that it cooks evenly.

The method is usually used in Asian cuisines.

The cook keeps the food moving with



Pictured above are garden vegetables being cooked in a wok with an Asian spatula. In this case, the wok is being used on top of an outdoor grill.

some kind of cooking utensil and sometimes shaking the pan itself.

The heat beneath the pan must be very high and a small amount of oil is used. Ingredients are added, starting with the ones that take the longest to cook and finishing with the shortest cooking ingredients. So in the end, everything reaches just-doneness at the same time.

A Wok is the traditional pan used in stir frying, but a large skillet works just as

well.

Cooking tip: If your hard boiled eggs always end up with a blue-ringed yolk, it's because they're overcooked. For a perfectly boiled egg, add the eggs to cold water, bring to a boil, and remove the pan from heat, keeping it covered. Set a timer for 10-15 minutes and voila - no more blue ring.

### 3. Searing

Searing refers to the browning of food, usually meat or fish, in a pan over high heat. It is used at the beginning of a recipe and the browning caramelizes the natural sugars in the food allowing another layer of flavor to emerge.

Searing can also add a pleasing texture to the outside of the food.

Cooking tip: Don't overcrowd a pan. It might seem like a faster way to cook more food, but it only lowers the temperature of the pan and leads to steaming instead of browning.

### 4. Braising

This term is used in conjunction with meats that benefit from long, slow cooking to become tender. In braising, the food is often browned first, though not necessarily, and then is finished in a low oven or over a low flame with a moderate amount of liquid (not enough to cover the food). A lid covers the pot so that the liquid condenses on the underside of the lid and self-bastes the dish while it cooks.

Cooking tip: Place a wet towel beneath a cutting board to prevent the board from slipping.

### 5. Stewing

Stewing is similar to braising. Both are moist-heat cooking methods, but often stewing refers to food that has been cut into smaller pieces.

Braising often refers to whole cuts of meat or chicken.

In stewing, the food is usually first browned over higher heat, then returned to the pot with other ingredients, such as vegetables and liquid to cover the ingredients. The pot is then at least partially covered, and the cooking is finished over low heat.

Cooking tip: Add a pop of color and taste with fresh herbs, citrus or sauces, but be sparing to let the flavor of the dish shine through.

Next month, five more cooking techniques.

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## Science of Cooking Healthy Food By Marie

Email questions, suggestions and comments to

Marie

marieshealthyfood@gmail.com

Also, visit the Box Office

for past recipes in this newspaper.

otowboxoffice.com

## Ingredients

- 1 cup old-fashioned rolled oats
- 1 tablespoon coconut cream, canned (optional)
- 1 tablespoon salted chopped cashews (optional)
- 1 banana, sliced
- 3 cups cold water
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

## Instructions

1. Add ingredients to high-speed mixer; i.e., Vita-Mix®.
2. Blend 20-30 seconds.
3. Strain off the solids using a fine-mesh nut milk bag. Cheesecloth or tea strainers are too coarse for this purpose, plus they are messy.
4. Store strained oat milk in an airtight jar. Use within 3-5 days. Stir before drinking.

## No Lactose in Oat Milk

Oat milk is a good alternative for people who are lactose intolerant or have milk allergies. Alternative milks were developed originally to meet the needs of the lactose intolerant segment.

An estimated 30-50 million American adults are lactose intolerant. They are unable to digest significant amounts of lactose due to an inadequate amount of the enzyme lactase.

Oat milk contains no lactose.

## Links

- i - [dairyreporter.com](http://dairyreporter.com)
- ii - [nationalgeographic.com](http://nationalgeographic.com)
- iii - [The Guardian](http://TheGuardian.com).
- iv - [cleanplates.com](http://cleanplates.com)
- v - [How Not to Die](http://HowNottoDie.com) Dr. Gregor.
- vi - [hsph.harvard.edu](http://hsph.harvard.edu)



## A Milk Alternative

Demand for dairy milk has decreased 25 percent since 1975 on a per-capita basis.<sup>(i)</sup>

Demand decreased another 12-15 percent due to the pandemic shutdown of schools, restaurants and hotels. <sup>(ii)</sup>

My dear chefs, have you noticed the myriad of alternative “milks” on grocery store shelves as consumers have grown to embrace new flavors and vegan diets?

Oat milk is currently the darling of the alternative milk world. Its popularity is due to a creamy mouthfeel that mimics dairy milk when added to coffee.

It froths well when used to make lattes and other drinks.

It has a mild oat flavor and it’s a little bit sweeter than cow’s milk.

You can buy ice cream made from oat milk, too.

Indeed, oat milk sales in the US have soared from \$4.4 million in 2017 to \$29 million in 2019, surpassing almond milk as the fastest-growing dairy alternative.<sup>(iii)</sup>

It is considered the most attractive plant-based milk as regards all environmental sustainability criteria. Plus it can easily accommodate growth in demand without negative environmental impact, unlike other plant-based milks.

Oat milk (known as avena) is a traditional milk in Columbia.

## A Better Oat Milk

The greatest challenge in making oat milk is avoiding slimy mouthfeel.

Here are some tips.

- Use cold (refrigerated) water.
- Do not presoak oats.
- Do not over-blend oats. Heat will cause sliminess.
- Do not use instant oats or steel cut oats. The former is over-processed (which can create slime) and the latter is under-processed.

Do not use oat milk when applying direct heat; e.g., in puddings, sauces, soups. Direct heat causes it to become clumpy and gelatinous in texture.

Cashews add to the creaminess of oat milk, as does coconut cream. Coconut cream adds saturated fat, but it is a third less than that in 2 percent fat dairy milk. Omit the coconut cream if you prefer low-fat oat milk.

## Health Value

Why make oat milk from home?

It saves money.

You may prefer milk without preservatives or added sugars found in many commercial products. You may want gluten-free oats whereas commercial oat milk may be contaminated with gluten. <sup>(iv)</sup>

Dairy milk has historically been promoted as an important source for calcium. It has as much, or higher, fat and protein than mother’s milk. When our bodies digest animal protein, it produces acid. In order to neutralize and flush out acids, our bodies use the calcium in the milk — and maybe some from our bone as well.

Medical studies indicate people who consume the most dairy milk may have significantly higher fracture rates than those who

drink little or no milk. <sup>(v)</sup>

Do you eat large amounts of cheese?

Harvard reports pizza and cheese are among the biggest food sources of saturated fat in the typical American diet, leading towards cholesterol problems. <sup>(vi)</sup>

Milk and cheese have been linked to an increased risk of developing prostate cancer and possibly other cancers. These are concerns based on high levels of sex and growth hormones in dairy cows’ diets.

For long-time dairy milk consumers, alternative milks can be an acquired taste. Dairy drinkers might be health smart to drink 2 percent milk instead of full-fat 3 percent. It is also healthy to limit milk consumption to 1/2 cup a day.



# Entertainment Committee is currently creating a new, quality 2021 schedule

By Marvin Flam

The Entertainment Committee is continuing to closely monitor the COVID-19 pandemic emergency and community closings by On Top of the World as directed by the State of Florida and the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

The Entertainment Committee has cancelled all of its remaining scheduled events for 2020. We are hopeful that the conditions will improve to allow us to resume presenting shows, dances and free meet & greet events starting in January 2021. Our goal is to provide a level of safety and support at these events for the OTOW residents, performers and volunteers.

The Entertainment Committee is in the process of booking an exciting lineup of shows, dances and meet & greet events for 2021. Suggestions are always welcome.

When the East Activity Center is completely reopened, tickets and information will be available Mondays and Thursdays, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

For those who purchased tickets to any cancelled 2020 event, you will have two options: (1) receive a credit for tickets for future event(s) or (2) request and receive a refund.

You will be required to submit the actual ticket, not copies, for the cancelled event in order to receive the credit or refund. Further instructions to follow.

In July 1970, The Entertainment Committee began its great tradition of presenting outstanding entertainment for OTOW residents. The entertainment came about through suggestions from Jan Tipton and others who were aware that Jan's duties as program director were overwhelming. The plan to form a committee was created to supplement Jan's work programming events.

In July, 1970 the Entertainment Committee was formally organized.

In the early years, the Entertainment Committee presented dances, catered dinners, brought in professional shows, trips, held bingo, movie nights and many other

events.

From the beginning, dedicated resident volunteers provided the support to accomplish the mission.

Over the years, funds raised after expenses were used for improvements to the East Activity Center auditorium, such as purchasing a movie screen, providing and maintaining sound and lighting equipment for the stage, providing stage curtains, refinishing the stage floor, and providing tables and chairs to name a few items.

This provided support not only for Entertainment Committee events, but also for the Chorus, Theater Workshop, Jesters, Bingo and Good Neighbors Association.

In the next few months, we will present in this newspaper more of the Entertainment Committee's history and the Entertainment Committee will continue to provide outstanding entertainment and support as it has done since 1970.

We intend to be back providing outstanding professional entertainment as soon

as it is safe with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please be careful and stay safe and we will see you soon.

For questions and information call (727) 449-9243 or email us at entcom2014@gmail.com.

You can view scheduling information on OTOW-TV channel 732 when it becomes available. Everyone on Spectrum gets OTOW-TV. Do not use the up and down arrow on your remote control to find the channel. Just tap 7 3 2.

Information is also on bulletin boards in the East Activity Center, the West Activity Center and on your building's bulletin board.

For more information regarding COVID-19 and the Entertainment Committee, please visit the Box Office at otowboxoffice.com. Our monthly and annual schedules are posted on the home page.

"Please Be Safe . . . The Fun Will Continue!"

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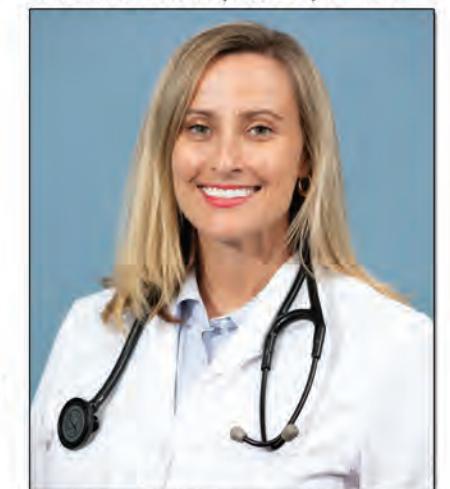
- Immunizations
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# Everyone has the ability to make art



## Art Guild

By Mary Slack Maynard

What is fine art?

The bylaws of the On Top of the World Art Guild state that the purpose of the Guild is “to promote demonstrations, displays, sales and teaching, showings of various fine art forms, and gatherings for those who participate in same.”

I know that over the years there have been discussions about what is and isn't considered fine art and what should be promoted by the Guild.

So, let's think for a moment - just what is “fine art?”

A Google search will tell you that art is a term that refers to something requiring creativity, while fine art requires developed skills and techniques.

Some definitions say fine art has an aesthetic appeal rather than a practical appeal.

I even read that art moves the observer while fine art allows the observer to feel and understand the artist's intention.

I couldn't even find a standard definition of what constitutes a fine artist, except one reference to someone who has studied art. By that definition, does the art appreciation module I studied in fourth or fifth grade qualify me as a fine artist?

A Google search for those considered fine artists brought up a large number of lists, and a wide variety of fine artists of varying styles. The list included Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Edward Hopper, Norman Rockwell, Claude Monet, Salvador Dali, LeRoy Neiman, Leonardo da Vinci, Jackson Pollock and Edvard Munch, and many more.



This is a painting called ‘Calm Amid the Chaos’ by Mary Slack Maynard, a painting created during an on-line art class focusing on finding the painting style you enjoy

Do those definitions and lists help define “fine art” to you? Do they tell you that the Guild promotes one type or style of art over another?

Since becoming a member of the Guild, and then president, I've heard a number of comments that center around what is and is not “fine art.” We can fall back on the old cliché that says art is in the eye of the beholder. Something that “speaks” to me might be silent when you look at it, and something that you absolutely love might leave me cold. And there is nothing wrong with that. We all see and appreciate things differently.

I've personally participated in our club's acrylic painting class and the drawing class at OTOW. I've seen many students in the classes who were accomplished artists wanting to learn a new skill and those who had never painted or drawn before. Some of the pieces produced in the classes were, to my eye, fantastic pieces of art, and were equal to, or better than things I have seen in museums.

The point I want to convey is we all make art. Each of us has our own style and students are developing a style. Not everyone will like every piece that is created, and that is OK. Please don't be dis-

couraged by what you paint or draw. It has value, either as a finished piece that you can enjoy or a learning experience. Don't be afraid to share it.

When life returns to normal, the Art Guild will welcome artists of all levels and styles, and especially those who want to start sketching or painting but don't know where to start. We want to see what you have done. Members won't verbally critique your work unless you ask for comments.

I want to hear your thoughts. Please email me at [OTOWArtGuild@gmail.com](mailto:OTOWArtGuild@gmail.com).

## Alert residents help keep retirement communities safe

By Dave Beaven

On Top of the World is a 55-plus community, meaning the vast majority of residents here are seniors.

According to FBI statistics, citizens in our age range are committing only 1 percent of all crimes in this country. Logically, this stands to reason because older folks generally don't have the energy or inclination to become desperados.

You could also attribute this stat to the wisdom factor. After many years of living and experiences, most seniors have come to the conclusion: crime doesn't pay.

Another thing that keeps 55-plus communities safer is that most people are retired. They are moving locally around the area - walking dogs, chatting with



neighbors, etc. That's a lot of eyes that can see when things are amiss. These factors discourage criminal activity.

So, by choosing to live in a senior community, you have picked a pretty safe environment.

On top of all that, OTOW has a Neighborhood Watch. This is a large community of almost 5000 condos. And with numbers like that come many non-residents who are here every day: visitors, service people, delivery drivers, various solicitors, and even some pedestrians just walking through.

The overwhelming majority of them are harmless, but with large numbers of outsiders can come an increased possibility of crime.

So our Neighborhood Watch sees its mission as educating our neighbors on safety practices that ultimately benefit us all.

Examples are keeping your doors locked, turning on outside lights at night,

and reporting suspicious activity that you see.

A lot of little actions like these can add up to a safer neighborhood for everyone.

Neighborhood Watch was started by a group of residents who want to live in a peaceful and secure environment based on mutual consideration and respect. We are not affiliated with the On Top of the World Condo Association.

Our mission is to make a great community even better.

To find out more about our group, visit our official Webpage at: [areawatch2020.blogspot.com](http://areawatch2020.blogspot.com). We are also on the Box Office Website at [otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com)

## Boomers picnic



The Baby Boomers Club was one of three community clubs to hold an event at the new pavilion in July. The Boomers had a picnic on the Fourth of July. Above, members say the Pledge of Allegiance together.

# NY-NJ Club events canceled until 2021

By Will Peterson

On behalf of the New York-New Jersey Club Board of Directors, I am writing this brief column.

I hope all of you are well and doing your best to enjoy the summer. Our club realizes that the current situation in our country and the world is not one that is easily adapted to. Times they are a-changing.

For this reason, the board has made a decision to suspend all club business until after the first of the year.

Without complete opening of the community centers, we feel that it is in our club's best interest to wait and see what develops by the end of the year.

We hope that you agree with our decision and will be ready to be a part of the New York-New Jersey Club once we reopen.

We miss the great dinners, entertain-



New York - New Jersey Club

ment and camaraderie that we all shared. So, remain safe and we will see you in 2021.

## You don't need to own boots or a truck to line dance

By Hope Tera

There are some images that come to mind when we hear certain terms, right?

Halloween often conjures up memories of pumpkins, skeletons, and of course, candy.

To me, line dancing was strictly meant for cowboys/cowgirls with southern drawls, wearing western boots, driving pick up trucks.

I'm from New York. We don't line dance. But then I was introduced to On Top of the World Line Dancing. The stereotype was shattered.

I decided to do a bit of investigating. I figured Wikipedia was a good start. Here's their definition ... "A line dance is a choreographed dance with a repeated sequence of steps in which a group of people dance in one or more lines or rows, all facing either each other or in the same direction, and executing the steps at the same time. Unlike circle dancing, line dancers are not in physical contact with each other."

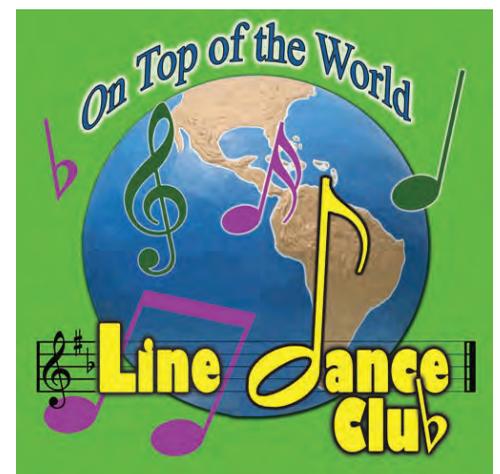
That last line sure seems to fit with the current state of affairs.

It doesn't matter if you have a partner or are dancing solo. Line dancers don't need athletic prowess and there is no need to buy a pair of western boots or a Ford F-150.

Line dancers need an open mind and a comfortable pair of shoes - that's all that is required at OTOW Clearwater.

Here are a few fun facts about line dancing:

1. Two line dances popular in the 1950s and 1960s were The Madison and The Stroll.
2. Line dancing started entering the mainstream in the 1970s to country/western music, as well as disco.



3. While there is no definitive most popular line dance song, a few of the top contenders include: Electric Slide, Cupid Shuffle, and Cha Cha Slide.

4. Some movies where line dancing was featured include: Thelma and Louise, Footloose, Hairspray and Grease.

5. Line dancing helps burn 300-800 calories per hour. It also keeps you mentally sharp.

When the OTOW clubs resume their sessions, the members of the OTOW Line Dancing Club hope you will join us on the dance floor. We offer many levels of instruction ... suited for someone brand new to the experienced dancer.

In addition to dancing, it's always a wonderful opportunity to socialize with a fun group of kind, down-to-earth folks.

Until then, you can catch us line dancing on OTOW-TV channel 732, Monday-Friday, at about 11:30 a.m. Try it in the privacy of your own home.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, feel free to contact Leila Walker at 727-330-6621 or Hope Tera at 914-217-9206. Yeehaw!

**WE ARE OPEN!**

Craving A Taco Salad?

Bring In This Coupon

**Buy 1 Draft Beer or Wine and Get 1 Free**

Must present coupon. One coupon per visit, per day, exp. 8/31/20

Bring In This Coupon

**Take \$5 off any bill \$25 or higher**

Must present coupon. One coupon per visit, per day, exp. 8/31/20

**CLEARWATER FAMILY RESTAURANT**

Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

1844 N Highland Ave  
Clearwater, FL  
727-754-8514  
Mo-Sa 8-6, Su 8-3

*All You Can Eat Spaghetti with Tomato Sauce - Mondays!*

Cheese Steak

Stuffed Tomato with choice of Tuna or Chicken Salad and Fresh Fruit

Homemade New Jersey Style Cheesecake

All You Can Eat Fish Fry Every Wednesday

## For safety reasons, 2020 Halloween Pet Costume Contest will be an online event this October with open voting

Start planning your costumes!

Current health safety concerns have canceled the live, outdoor, annual Halloween Pet Costume Contest for 2020, but the event will still take place online.

Beginning Sept. 1, On Top of the World pet owners will be allowed to submit a new photo of their pets in costume and all entries will appear on a special contest page on the Box Office Website (otowboxoffice.com) for everyone to see.

There will be rules:

(1) In the September edition of OTOW News, a contest entry banner will appear in the newspaper. This banner must be cut out and must be visible in the picture submitted for each contest entry.

(2) One picture per pet can be submitted. Don't ask the newspaper staff to pick out the best of 20 pictures.

(3) You can enter multiple pets from one unit, but each pet picture has to be separate with the banner included.

(4) Included in your email entry must be the name of the pet, the owners' names, building number and phone number. If one of these criteria is left out, your pet photo will be disqualified. The pet and the owner(s) must be a resident of OTOW as of Oct. 15, 2020. Residents who are living outside of the community right now can still participate, but the entry banner listed in rule 1 must be printed out from the online September newspaper and be displayed in the pet photo.

(5) Pet photos must be clear and emailed in a large size, not a thumbnail. No other pets and no humans can be in

the picture. Just the pet entering the contest.

(6) Emails will be received from Sept. 1-Oct. 11 only.

(7) Online judging will take place Oct. 13-14 only. One vote per home computer will be accepted from any location throughout the world. Sorry, no votes can take place by cell phone. Results will appear in the OTOW News November edition, which will be distributed to residents on Oct. 30.

(8) Prizes will be awarded by contest sponsors. Those local businesses which have sponsored our event in the past will get first choice whether to sponsor our online version.

(9) There will be no contest categories. Every pet will be competing for first, second and third place best costume. It is recommended your costumes be unique and in the Halloween spirit. Photos will not be published of inappropriate costumes. Please do not dress your pet up in a costume that represents current health concerns. They will not be published.

(10) The contest is open to dogs, cats, birds, guinea pigs, mice and fish. If you can put a costume on your pet, the pet is eligible. Please do not submit photos of people in costumes. Every entry will be checked to make sure you are a valid resident. All entries must be submitted electronically. Do not drop off photos at the newsroom.

Questions? Write to the OTOW newsroom at [otow.newsroom@gmail.com](mailto:otow.newsroom@gmail.com).



Start considering costume ideas for the 2020 Halloween Pet Costume Contest. This year's version will be online. Think of something original.

## We knew we were famous - now we have proof

By Donna Lukas

What do you think happens to people who receive their proverbial "15 minutes of fame?"

Relatives and friends in Ireland and Canada send emails.

Neighbors call and say, "I recognized you on TV!"

This happens despite the fact they were wearing a mask.

In July, CNN reporter Jeff Zeleny interviewed a few members of the On Top of the World Democratic Club and Republican friends, about seniors and their thoughts on the upcoming Nov. 3 election.

The interviewees discovered how easily technology and news media connects us all.

In a matter of days, everyone on TV became international stars.

One Canadian resident called from Canada and said, "You are now known all over Canada."

Speaking of elections, this is a good time to remind you about the Aug. 18 election for judges, county commissioners, school board members and Democratic candidates for state representative in our District 67.



### Democratic Club

If you have not received your mail ballot for the Aug. 18 election, and are reading this before Aug. 8, you can still request a mail ballot by calling the Supervisor of Elections at 727-464-8683 or emailing [www.VotePinellas.com](http://www.VotePinellas.com).

This is also a good time to introduce the most recent member of our club, Joe Saportas.

Joe lives in the English Tudor building (7) on Australia Way East. He is also a candidate for Pinellas County Tax Collector and will be on the Nov. 3 ballot.

Joe tells me that he has a business background and can help improve efficiency from a technical aspect. He has a



A crew from CNN interviews OTOW residents and asks their views about the upcoming November election.

Masters degree in business management.

As an avid volunteer, Joe most recently volunteered with the Tarpon Springs Democratic Club for a Pinellas Trail cleanup session. He has also collected 25 years of posters from the New Orleans Jazz Festival.

Joe is president of the Hispanic Caucus and active in the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). For election purposes, you can find more information at [www.electJoeSaportas.com](http://www.electJoeSaportas.com).

I hope that we can resume our OTOW Democratic Club meetings on Aug. 13, possibly in the OTOW Pavilion or a virtual meeting. President Dave Cordes is working on a Facebook page. Keep looking for information through emails, [otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com) and OTOW-TV channel 732.

Dave continues listening in on Jon Bauman's Florida Democratic Seniors Council and he will keep us informed when there is significant news.

# Press Association meeting in August will be coffee/donuts at the pavilion

By Doug Kates

It's our turn.

The Press Association has a regularly scheduled meeting set for Thursday, Aug. 6. This meeting was supposed to be during the afternoon in the East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room, but there has been a change in plans.

Maybe ... finally ... we can hold our first meeting at the new pavilion?

We've been trying for two years now. This might finally be the day.

Members of the Press Association are invited for coffee



Press Association

and donuts at the pavilion at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 6.

Refreshments will be provided by the Press Association.

This event is for staff only. Please do not bring any guests. We will be limited as to how many people can attend.

Health safety guidelines will be strict. Only two people per picnic table and no sitting next to each other. We will have access to picnic tables under the roof and on the side. People can stand/sit along the dock, too.

Bring a mask to wear when not sipping coffee or eating a breakfast treat. Might be a good idea to bring your own hand sanitizer, too.

Our regular monthly meeting will begin after everyone has

a snack and something to drink.

Please note, the meeting has been moved up from 1:30 p.m. to 9:30 a.m. so we don't melt in the summer heat.

If you contribute to our monthly newspaper, you are welcome to attend. Let's be safe and follow the rules, but at the same time see each other again. There are no plans for a Zoom meeting on this date. If it rains, we will move indoors to the Crystal Beach Room. Plan on the meeting lasting one hour.

Pavilion restrooms are available, and the facility has already been used by pickleball, tennis

and the Baby Boomers.

Like I said, it's our turn and we've waited a long time.

This is our club's only scheduled meeting of the summer. We will not meet again in person or on Zoom until Thursday, Oct. 8.

Please RSVP by sending a note to the newsroom: otow.newsroom@gmail.com

This breakfast meeting was approved in July. Anything can happen prior to the actual meeting day. Please watch OTOW-TV Channel 732 for updates and a possible cancellation. Email blasts will be sent to everyone who has registered.

## Chorus hoping to soon schedule rehearsals for spring 2021 concert

By Eileen Bargerstock

When the On Top of the World Chorus began rehearsals in January, we could not have imagined we would not be performing at all this year.

As for the pandemic, I think people around the world would agree, "we did not see this coming!"

Our members are taking it in stride and discovering new things to do, along with remembering old things to do once again.

Such was the case for me. Perhaps you will recall the "adult coloring book phase" that took place a while back - the perfect Christmas gift!

I found my old coloring book, along with 30 colored pencils, but before I got started, my smart phone (which I often believe reads my mind) announced a coloring book app online. Now I'm hooked with three actual online coloring books and coloring the daily image in each one. It's fun and I never color outside the lines.

Already worried how I'll keep it up when, and if, things get back to normal.

Some Choristers have gone elsewhere to be closer to family. Others are surprised at how much they are enjoying their homes - reading, knitting and going for



Chorus

walks. One is taking voice lessons online.

All of us look forward to being together again doing what we love - creating harmony.

As it stands now, we hope to resume rehearsals for the 2021 spring concert, "America the Beautiful," when our Snowbirds return in January. Dates set for this concert are the afternoon of March 5 and the evening of March 6.

Our first rehearsal date will be published when it has been determined.

If you already purchased a ticket for this concert, please keep it until then.

Chorus membership is open to anyone who enjoys singing four-part harmony. For details call Rod Bargerstock at 727-249-6807.



When not singing at home, try an online coloring book such as the one pictured above. This is from a downloadable app.

## World Premiere Video

The 2019-20 Jesters spring show makes its OTOW-TV Channel 732 debut from Aug. 7-9 each night at about 8 p.m.

# Check with your neighbor - make sure they know there are scam artists in the world

Scam Alert: The Federal Trade Commission reports that the top fraud complaints they are concerned about are called "Imposter" calls.

These are phone calls from someone saying they are from the Social Security Administration or from some other government agency, such as the I.R.S.

Usually, these days, it's a robo call at first and then you are told to press No. 1 or whatever for more information.

Bottom line is the same: The caller wants to trick you into pressing No. 1 so they can hook you up with a human scammer.

They claim there is something wrong with your Social Security account or there's fraud or suspected fraud.

Then they want your personal information.

Most of us already know this, but it's worthwhile to go over it again:

(1) The Social Security Administration does not call folks unless in return of a call you made.

(2) The SSA does not call to tell you that your account has been suspended.

(3) SSA does not offer you a benefit in exchange for you providing ANY information, including, of course, personal/private information.

(4) SSA never calls you to demand immediate payment of any money.

(5) SSA never requires a specific method of payment, such as a credit card, iTunes Card, debit card, gift card or wire transfers.

Folks, most of you already know about all of this and you know just to hang up the phone. But some folks are not as aware of scams and frauds as you might be. So, please check on your neighbors and friends. Chat about these frauds. As you stay aware of what is going on,



help an acquaintance who may not be as savvy as you.

Scam Alert: I've been getting a bunch of calls where my caller ID says, "potential scam" or "out of area."

Sometimes, I am tempted to answer just to see what the scammer has to say.

But I don't answer by talking, and neither should you.

More often than not, if you did answer, you'd get no answer back. That's because they are hoping you will call back and more than likely you will get hit with various scammer phone charges.

We must resist the desire to answer these kinds of calls. We must.

Q. Jerry, where have you been lately?

A. I've been recuperating from recent coronary bypass surgery (sometimes referred to as the Big Zipper) and I am doing fine. I can now lift up to 20 pounds although I am not permitted to do any housework.

(You believe me, about the housework, don'tcha?).

Anyway, I am not retiring, and I will

be back full-time and in fairly short order. I love what I do, love the folks who cross my path and think only of the future.

Q. My father needs Medicaid. He will need to go into a nursing home fairly soon because my Mother can no longer take care of him at home. Mom was told about a Medicaid-friendly annuity that can be used to protect assets (for my mother) while at the same time allowing Dad to obtain Medicaid benefits when he has to go into the nursing home.

Your thoughts?

A. John Beck is an attorney in our law office, who handles Medicaid matters. He also has a master's degree in taxation.

So, I ran this issue by him. John's first comment was that it was very difficult for him to comment on information about a Medicaid-friendly annuity when he was not there when you received this information.

Further, John didn't know precisely what information was given to whomever discussed that kind of annuity with you.

John had a couple of comments, though.

First, John hoped that whoever gave you information about that kind annuity was an attorney familiar with Medicaid. Second, John said that, as a general statement, and not one to be relied upon for anyone's specific issues, a Medicaid-friendly annuity can have benefits to enable a Medicaid applicant to receive Medicaid benefits. However, these kinds of annuities need to be very carefully reviewed and must always be designed to meet applicable Medicaid eligibility laws.

Those eligibility laws change frequently as legislative bodies seek to control spending, thus making it harder and harder to obtain Medicaid benefits, even

for those who need them and should have them.

Q. My 18-year-old granddaughter wants to come and stay with me until she can go back to school. She said she would bring her boyfriend, but I don't have to worry because they will bring masks. I'd kinda like your thoughts.

A. I'd kinda like not to give you my thoughts. Oh, OK. Masks are good. Where and when they wear them are separate matters, don't you think? Suggestion: Tell her not to come. The virus is too serious a matter.

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Gerald R. Colen is an attorney and member of the Florida Bar Association, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and the Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys. He is based at the Law Offices of Colen and Wagoner, P.A. He concentrates his practice of law in the areas of simple and complex Estate Planning, wills, trusts, probate, real estate, title insurance, and elder law. This column is only intended to present fact situations that may be of interest and it does not, nor is it intended to provide, legal advice. You should always consult your own attorney for legal advice. Mr. Colen, and his law partner, Rachel M. Wagoner, have law offices at 7243 Bryan Dairy Road, Largo, FL, 33777; Phone: (727) 545-8114. Mr. Colen or Ms. Wagoner also meet clients at On Top of the World, in Clearwater, FL. You may visit the law firm's Website at [www.colenwagoner.com](http://www.colenwagoner.com), email Mr. Colen at [Jerry@colenwagoner.com](mailto:Jerry@colenwagoner.com) or email Rachel Wagoner at [Rachel@colenwagoner.com](mailto:Rachel@colenwagoner.com). Follow Jerry Colen on Twitter @jerrycolen.

## The blonde hired to just look sexy

Do you remember the show "Broadway Open House"?

This show was the forerunner of The Tonight Show at 11:30 p.m. every weekday night.

The show was hosted by comedian Jerry Lester and featured singer David Street and a three-piece live stage band conducted by Milton DeLugg.

The producers decided the show needed a female and hired Dagmar, whose original role was to sit in front of the band and to look sexy while never singing or saying a line.

As the show progressed, however, producers began to give Dagmar lines and she soon became the hit of the show.

Wikipedia: Virginia Ruth Egnor became a fashion photographer's model. Although she had no show business experience, she was cast in their Broadway musical revue, *Laffing Room Only*, a Shubert production at the Winter Garden Theatre. As a chorus girl named Bubbles, she appeared with Bert Lahr in the Broadway comedy *Burlesque*.

Jerry, the host, hated Dagmar. He could see he was losing control of the show after a few months. He even walked off the show during a live performance.

Dagmar became the host of the show

and continued on until the show went off the air to make room for "The Tonight Show" starring Jack Paar.

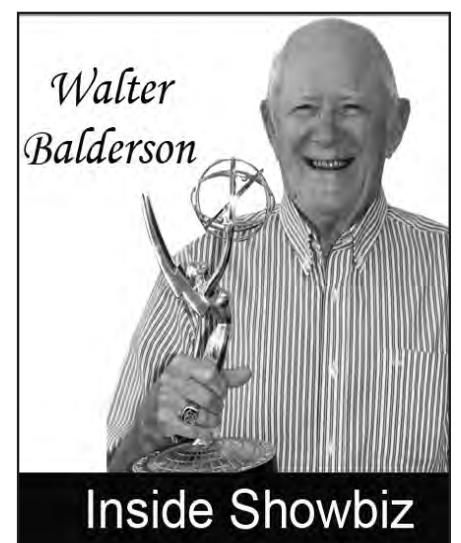
Who was Dagmar?

Dagmar's real name was Virginia Ruth Egnor. She adopted the name Jennie Lewis. She also appeared in several Broadway shows.

When "Broadway Open House" finally closed, Dagmar threw a party for cast and crew in her penthouse overlooking Central Park.

At the end of her career, she returned to her home state of West Virginia and lived with her brother and his family.

In my 35 years at NBC in New York, I have never met, or worked, with a more sincere or kind-hearted person.



# Let virtual be your friend: Take a museum tour, watch dolphins swim or learn a new language

While the pandemic has put all of our summer plans on hold, including much needed vacations, there are many fun, stimulating activities to do at home that can provide a refreshing escape from day to day routines.

Would you like to visit a local museum during this pandemic, but are afraid to leave home due to health safety concerns?

Well, free online museum tours are taking place 24 hours a day.

Google: Good Housekeeping Virtual Tours or type this link in your browser: <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/travel/a31784720/best-virtual-tours/>  
Set aside one hour a day to explore and enjoy!

Some other activities that are easy to access online:

Learn a new foreign language at [www.Duolingo.com](http://www.Duolingo.com) or [www.Memrise.com](http://www.Memrise.com). Free and paid versions are available.

Learn to cook a new recipe.

Milk Street Cooking School is making all of its online cooking classes free forever! [www.177milkstreet.com](http://www.177milkstreet.com)

Bon Appétit's YouTube channel: Food magazine Bon Appétit's popular YouTube channel is home to hundreds of cooking videos, including a few recurring series on various topics.

At Clearwater Marine Aquarium you can watch dolphins, otters, pelicans and sea turtles via live animal cams at [www.cmaqarium.org/webcams](http://www.cmaqarium.org/webcams).

Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI)'s daily educational live streams at 1:30 p.m. on the MOSI in Motion Facebook page.

Fletcher Music Centers – Free 10-week online beginner keyboard lessons for OTOW residents on Zoom. The first round of classes started on July 14 at 12:30 p.m. but you can jump in anytime. The next round will begin after Labor Day.

Register now because all songs are reviewed at the top of each class and registered students have access to previously recorded classes.

Call Joe Fontechia or Art Bishop for details – 727-456-7134 or 44. This is playing great songs without years of hard practice! Beginner keyboards are available!

## ZOOM and Other

### Free Conferencing Apps

People have been zooming more than ever and from all corners of their homes.

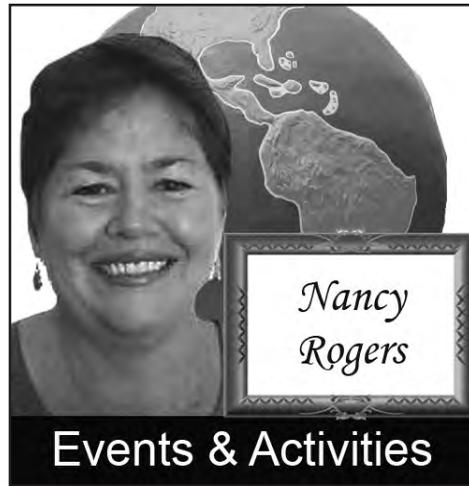
Sometimes our rooms or offices are not so tidy. Have some fun and download a background, a famous landmark or a tropical beach. Throw on a beachy top and get the virtual party going.

1. Download one of your beach photos or find one online.

2. Have Zoom walk you through how to “enable the background” and

3. Start that virtual party!

Several conferencing apps, including Zoom, offer a free version of their services. “Zoom Basic” allows for up to three participants, an unlimited number of meetings with a call duration limited to 40 minutes.



If you have never used Zoom, copy and paste this tutorial: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-video-tutorials-best-of-the-skype-and-zoom-youtube>

Other Conferencing Apps are:

- Cisco WebEx Personal: Up to 100 participants, no limit to duration of meetings.

- FreeConference: Up to 5 participants, no downloads required

- Google Hangouts: Up to 10 participants, no limit to duration of meetings

- Lifesize Go: Up to 8 participants, no restrictions on meeting length

- Microsoft Teams

- Slack Video Calls: Up to 15 participants

- TrueConf Online: Up to three participants

- UberConference: Up to 10 participants, unlimited number of meetings, video call duration limited to 45 minutes.

## Walking & Biking Trails

Our community's walking and biking trails connect to so many recreational, commercial and residential destinations! Our trails include the Ream Wilson Clearwater Trail, the Courtney Campbell Trail, the Pinellas Trail and the Duke Energy Trail. See Map on page 31.

## Bicycle Maintenance

Ten important tips to keep your bike in shape:

1. Keep it clean: A bucket of soapy water, a sponge and an old toothbrush is all you need, though a proper degreaser will help break down the oil and grit in the chain and gear sprockets.

2. Keep your tires inflated properly: Poorly inflated tires are prone to punctures. Forget the flimsy hand pumps and purchase a standing track pump with a pressure gauge to do the job. Nice bike shops will let you borrow theirs. Look on the side of your tire for a number followed by the letters PSI. That tells you how much air to put in.

3. Check your brake pads: When the grooves on your brake pads are no longer visible, replace. Fitting new brake pads is a very cheap and easy fix and any number of Websites can show you how. You just need a set of Allen keys and some patience.

4. Silence squeaky brakes: Screech-

ing brakes are often dirty brakes, or at least dirty wheel rims. Clean and dry both properly and this, typically, will solve the problem. If that does not work, they might need adjusting.

5. Tighten saggy brakes: If your brakes have become sluggish and lackluster, i.e. if you squeeze the brake lever and it moves more than halfway towards the handlebars, you need to tighten them up. The easiest way to do this is twiddle the barrel adjuster by the brake lever. If that doesn't do the trick, get your Allen keys out and free the brake cable by opening the brake nut, pulling it taut and closing the nut again. Again, let the internet be your teacher.

6. Get your bike professionally serviced once a year.

7. Lubrication: Buy some bike-specific lubricant and use it sparingly on any parts of your bike where metal touches metal. There is no point oiling your chain unless you have cleaned it properly first – you will make matters worse.

8. Check if your wheel is “true:” Turn your bike upside down and spin your wheels. Do they wobble a little from side to side? If so, they need “truing.” This is a quick fix, but not one for an amateur, as you need special equipment. A bike shop will do this for a small fee.

9. Get your saddle perfect: If you are prone to SBS (sore bum syndrome), experiment a little with your saddle, raising or tilting it slightly to suit your riding style. If you get sore knees while cycling, you might have your saddle too low. When you pedal, your legs should be almost straight on the downwards revolution.

10. Get latex gloves: Bike oil is a nightmare to get out from under your fingernails so wear latex gloves. Otherwise scrub your hands with dish soap and sugar, only adding water right at the end.

## Farmers Market

I am very pleased to announce a Farmers Market will be a part of our lives here at OTOW on a bimonthly basis on Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon.

Thank you for completing your surveys. We will do our best to incorporate all of your ideas. The tentative start date will be October or November.

## Helping Hands Ongoing Food Drive

Did you know we have Helping Hands food donation barrels located in the Community Service Office? It is a safe, convenient and central location within the community to collect your food donations.

In the CSO, the blue barrel is set inside the front door to your right.

What to donate? Non-perishable (NOT expired) canned or boxed food.

How will we keep up with all the donations? Our Good Neighbors Association has volunteered to deliver our food donations on a weekly basis to Helping Hands.

Together, we have just created an ongoing food drive to help our entire region

during this difficult time.

The Community Service Office hours are Monday through Friday – 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and closed for lunch from 12-12:30 p.m. Please consider bringing a food item the next time you visit the CSO.

As a reminder, the Helping Hands food pantry has gone mobile and is no longer located at 2565 Blackburn Street, Clearwater. You can “Like” Helping Hands on Facebook for the most up to date locations and learn other ways to support the organization, including monetary donations. You can also visit <https://www.countryside.cc/outreach>

## Halloween Pet Costume Contest

Start planning your costumes for the 2020 Halloween Pet Costume Contest.

There will be no live pet costume contest at the dog park this year.

Instead, residents can email one new picture of their pet in costume. All photos will appear on the Box Office ([otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com)) and judging will take place online.

Photos can be submitted Sept. 1-Oct. 11. Judging will take place online Oct. 13-14. Winners will be announced in the November newspaper on Oct. 30. Details are on page 15 of this newspaper.

## Planning a Meeting or Small Event? Contact Activity Office First

As a reminder, when planning your events and activities, please ensure that you call, email or visit the Activity Office first.

On occasion, residents will submit an article or announcement to the newspaper before consulting the activity office only to learn such an event would not be approved especially now under the COVID-19 pandemic.

This practice only leads to confusion and disappointment for all. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [general\\_activity@otowfl.com](mailto:general_activity@otowfl.com) or call me direct at 799-2734. My general office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. On occasion, I might be away from my desk. At those times, stop in the CSO to pick up or drop off a form or leave me a message. I look forward to your communications and visits, especially now!

For the August activities calendar, please see page 33.

## Activity Card Renewal

When renewing your activity card or getting a brand new one issued, please remember to bring with you a government issued photo ID, such as a driver's license or passport, and a current piece of mail indicating your name and On Top of the World property address.

Also, for renewal, you will need \$3 and your expiring/expired card. If you do not have your card, you will need to bring \$25 for purchasing and processing of a new card. Please note that no cards will be punched or processed without proper identification and address verification.

# Master the Possibilities

## Live Broadcasts and Recordings from Ocala

### Live Virtual Programs Scheduled Date & Time

#### **Sports Vision**

Dr. Daniel Lack

August 6, 1-2:30 p.m.

Find out about the visual skills that are needed for peak performance. Learn why "keeping your eye on the ball" is only half true. During this class, you will have an opportunity to practice visualization techniques. Not surprisingly, there is more to your vision than 20/20!

**Course Fee: \$2**

#### **Sugar and Cancer**

Devin Breedon RD, LD/N

August 13, 1-2 p.m.

What causes cancer? Genetics? Pollution? Bad luck? New studies say that you should add sugar to that list. Can sugar be that bad? Come learn from a Dietitian that explains if sugar truly can cause cancer.

**Course Fee: \$2**

#### **Brain Health, Mustering Mental Muscle**

Cammy Dennis

August 25, 2-3 p.m.

Discover how to reduce the risks of cognitive decline associated with aging. This discussion will highlight basic neuroscience and the lifestyle factors that play a profound role in preserving brain health. Come away with knowledge and behaviors you can implement to support executive function, memory, attention and processing speed.

**Course Fee: Free**

### Pre-Recorded Programs Watch at Your Convenience

#### **Windows 10 Basics**

Jim Stueber

Browse the Internet with Edge, save favorites to the favorites bar, open and close programs, add and remove items from the start screen and the task bar, find your documents folder, and search for files. You will learn how to use Cortana, snap windows, the mail app and much more.

**Course Fee: \$15**

#### **China and the United States**

Frank DiPiero

Relations between the United States and China are arguably the most important bilateral relationship in world affairs in the 21st century. This presentation will look at the relationship between China and the United State as it was, how it is now, and what it may become in the future.

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# National Coloring Book Day



Aug. 2 is National Coloring Book Day and your On Top of the World newspaper is celebrating by giving you a picture to color. Residents will have until 5 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 13, to color between the lines and turn your completed artwork into the newsroom. The OTOW Coloring Book Club will pick the best entry and the winner will receive a \$20 Walmart gift card. You can use crayons, markers, pencils and paint. You must use the coloring book image on this page and you must be an OTOW resident. No online entries and no Photoshop entries are permitted. Judging will be based on originality, staying inside the lines, color and detail. One entry per person. All four lines below must be filled out. Entries will be received at the newsroom front door during business hours. Please ring the doorbell and someone will come to the door.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Bldg #: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

## Travel club vice president says photos are most important souvenirs

By Janice Berman

I would like to introduce you to On Top of the World Travel Club Vice President Linda Keebler.

Don't tell Linda any jokes about elves living in trees baking cookies because she has heard them all many times!

This is what Linda wants us to know about her.

Linda has lived in OTOW for about 18 months, but she has lived in Florida for about 50 years. First she resided in the Pasco County area and then north Florida.

"I worked in a hospital for 23 years and I would work on call quite often," she said. "When I was on call it meant I had to be at work within 45 minutes of receiving a call so I didn't go away from home much. My daughters lived in other areas



Linda Keebler

of the country and it was just me and my husband. I had never been on a vacation or traveled much, other than to go visit family, so I retired early and moved closer to one of my daughters.



"I don't really have a favorite travel destination because each place has its own appeal. Don't know where someone should travel once in their lifetime. I think that's a personal choice. I would like to go out west - Hoover Dam, Yellowstone, or maybe even Alaska.

"I love traveling because I like pho-

tography and I try to see what kind of photos I can take that are an inspiration to someone else that might not get to go there.

"If I purchase a souvenir it's just something small and meaningless to most, but will remind me of the trip I took. My most important souvenirs are the photos I took while I was there."

Linda became a volunteer in the Travel Club to help Janey Hockett with computer stuff. Linda knew she could offer some help. When Janey announced she was leaving OTOW, Linda decided to accept the vice president position and do the best job she could do.

"My daughter watches my dog when I want to go somewhere," Linda said. "So 'why not go.' That's my motto!"

# If you like music from the '60s and '70s, you'll enjoy being in the Jesters 2021 show (movie)

By Evelyn Flam

A Jesters Club founder, Kay Gordon, once shared this Jesters philosophy with me: "Joy that is shared is joy that is doubled."

So if we only took one song, dance or comedy routine from each of our past 40-plus shows, we'd easily fill our show program.

That may be true, but the Jesters have also always wanted to do more than just replicate the past.

Each year, our club strives to present a new upbeat show that today's audience can identify with. This year's show: "BAM! - Boomer Age Music" is no different.

With the Baby Boomers now reaching retirement age, and becoming both residents and Jesters, we chose music from the 1960s and 1970s that best reflects the Boomers' growing up years as a welcome to our community.



While, politically, it was a time when civil rights, Vietnam, and the sexual revolution had the biggest impact on society, it was also a time when the music of the era had an even bigger impact on the lives of

the Boomers.

It was the time of "Woodstock."

It was the time when "Country Music" became "Country Rock."

It was the time when popular music had groups like the Beatles and the Beach Boys.

It was a time that had music we still sing along to today.

What was the humor of that era like?

Well, with space exploration having begun, I remember hearing jokes like: "On July 20, 1969, humans landed on the moon for the first time. We would have gone earlier but the moon was full."

And then there was, "I want to be an astronaut when I grow up. Why? Because I have high hopes."

Or, "Why don't aliens eat Jesters?" "Because they taste funny!"

Yes, I know. That's enough!

The 2020-21 Jesters Creative Team

of Susan Carlson, Evelyn Flam, Marvin Flam, Paige Johnson, Noland Shade, Pat Sprouse, Mary Lou Wall, Charlie Wood and Mike Wood met in July to go over the show's music and get it ready to present to our cast next month.

If you are considering being in our show, members of the Creative Team will be happy to answer your questions. Just call us at 797-1761 or, better yet, email us at [JestForFun21@gmail.com](mailto:JestForFun21@gmail.com).

Jesters policy is to get everyone involved. Come join us!

You can easily renew your membership or become a new member by contacting our Membership Chairperson Lillian Foy at 727-474-6307.

As always, we look forward to hearing from you and getting together "Jest For Fun!"

## Softball hoping to start season on Oct. 8

By Bob Rittner

We are boisterous, energetic, passionate and enthusiastic.

Fourteen of us brought that energy to our monthly get-together on the Paradise restaurant patio where we reconnected to enjoy our company of softball players and renew our acquaintance with the terrific restaurant staff.

Our Shakespeare of puns, Jim Tiano, revived some old ones and regaled us with a couple of new ones as well.

Dick LeTourneau demonstrated his own facility with punny language to rival Jim, and in fact, has been known to pass some on to Jim to introduce if they don't measure up to Dick's standards.

Shortly after our luncheon, we optimistically renewed our reservation of the Safety Harbor softball field for the 2020-21 season that is scheduled to begin on Thursday, Oct. 8. It will, of course, depend on the status of the Covid-19 situation in Florida.

So, stickball season continues ...

**Home Team 2  
Visitors 1**

A first inning uprising sparked by a Lenny Segall walk, a single by Bob Rittner, a double by Eddie Ramirez and another single by Bob put the home team ahead 2-0.

Lenny, Eddie and Bob retired the first 17 batters before Doug Kaiser's two-out double in the sixth inning broke up the perfect game.

Doug was stranded and the score remained 2-0.

In the eighth inning George Plasterer blasted a homer to break up the shutout,

## Stickball

but that ended the scoring despite Joe Farrell's double leading off the ninth inning.

**Home Team 4  
Visitors 3**

Dick LeTourneau starred with the two biggest hits of the game in his team's 4-3 victory.

With his team down a run heading to the eighth inning, Dick pitched a scoreless inning. In the bottom of the inning, with two outs and George Plasterer, who had tripled, on third, Dick launched his own triple to tie the score.

Then, in the bottom of the ninth, game tied, and runners on second and third, Dick belted a walk-off single to drive in the winning run to conclude a six-hit day.

In the last game since our restart, Guy Bertuzzi, Eddie Ramirez, Dick LeTourneau, George Plasterer and Bob Rittner played a round robin game. We had a hitter, pitcher and three fielders and rotated so that each player pitched to each batter once.

George scored eight runs to lead all batters. Dick and Guy each made a late surge to close the gap to two runs.

For information about our softball/stickball league, call Lenny Segall (560-2620) or Bob Rittner (729-7970) or visit us on the Box Office at [otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com)





Knitters were able to work and socialize 6 feet apart. Below, a frog wanted to join the knitters, but he had a temperature and was not allowed in.

# Knitters able to meet under safe conditions

By Cheryl Butcher

It was so exciting to see all of our Knitting Club ladies together again. Even though we had to meet under unusual conditions in the Crystal Beach Room, we enjoyed seeing each other again and we were able to catch up with everyone's news.

Since this is summer, most of our members were missing, but we did have 11 people in attendance so that allowed us to maintain the necessary distance to be safe.

Theresa Mayne and Marie Orlando put together bags of completed lap robes and walker caddies to be delivered to five nursing homes and Shriners Hospital for Children and it did not take long to refill our cabinets with the various projects that were completed during the quarantine.

Not even a little virus can keep these dedicated women from their appointed rounds.

Since we had to wear masks, Anna Georgiadis brought a supply of masks



## Knitting

that she had made. Thank you, Anna.

And she also wore a beautiful crochet vest that she had recently completed.

At our second meeting in July, Sally Knapp visited with us. She is interested in the lessons we plan on giving later and she came to check us out.

Thanks for coming, Sally, we hope to see you again.



**On Top of the World News is read all over the world.**

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# Republican Club meeting canceled

By Marvin Lazernik

The On Top of the World Ronald Regan Republican Club was prepared to hold a meeting with guest political speakers in August.

However, due to safety and health concerns, the meeting has been canceled for now.

When Covid-19 cases began to surge in late July, an indoor meeting in the auditorium was taken off the possibility list, despite the club making plans to take precautions to help maintain safety standard for its guests.

The Republican Club was given the option of holding its meeting outdoors at the pavilion, but chose not to pursue this choice because of attendance limitations and not knowing what the weather would be the date of the meeting. Plus, with four politicians agreeing to be guest speakers, many of those in attendance would have been people traveling with the politicians, leaving less seats for residents.

The club decided to pass for now and try for another meeting later in the year.

The meeting had been set for Aug. 11 and the focus was going to be talking about the importance of voting as well as



## Republican Club

the major parties' platforms.

Many radio and TV news people have said "this is the election that will determine the future." They are correct! Do we want to change our history? Our heritage?

The past is the past – and we must continue to accept that fact. We as voters have the ability to reject or re-elect Congress. If laws should be changed, this is the proper way. If you, the voter, feel let down – vote.

Like my wife, Susan, and I told our children "if you don't vote, you should lose your right to complain." Most every American citizen has the right to vote – so use it.

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# BUILDING REPORTS



## Devoted son is building's own 'Renaissance Man'

We Mandalay building residents are thrilled to have our very own "Renaissance Man," Terry Feinstein.

Terry has been living with his mother, Shirley, for the last three years helping her out. Shirley, who is 92 and a long-time resident, has two other sons who reside out of state and one daughter who lives close by here in Florida.

Among his other endeavors, Terry has been quilting pillows for friends who have been going through a hard time to provide some cheer! Terry also quilts blankets that he displayed to me. He has such a wonderful detail for design.

Before he began living with his mom, Terry was volunteering with a number of area organizations, among them St. Vincent de Paul, where he helped establish a nutrition program for homeless seniors. The program was on a hiatus for lack of help. The purpose of the program is to provide much needed supplements and calories lacking in homeless seniors' diets. With Terry's time there, he was able to get to know and become friends with many of them.

On one given weekend, Terry, working with Habitat for Humanity, painted a house for a family in need: a working mother, her son, and daughter with cerebral palsy. Terry enjoyed learning home-building skills from watching hours on HGTV. For the dedication of the home, he quilted a pillow as a housewarming gift.

Terry spent every Monday receiving Feeding Tampa Bay deliveries at CASA



(Community Action Stops Abuse), Florida's largest domestic violence center. He was responsible for sorting out and preparing fresh produce that would provide food for up to 130 residents for the week.

Several other days of the week he volunteered at Daystar Life in South St. Petersburg. The organization provides social services to the homeless and food insecure. He was a case worker who assisted in facilitating services for his clients.

All are amazing organizations that provide much needed services. He unfortunately had to give up volunteering at this juncture but still advocates and donates to the organizations. Here are their sites:

- [www.casa-stpete.org](http://www.casa-stpete.org)
- [daystarlife.com/word/](http://daystarlife.com/word/)
- [feedingtampabay.org](http://feedingtampabay.org)

I spent a wonderful few hours with him and his mom, who is still tack sharp!



Terry Feinstein sits with his mother, Shirley, 93 years old and a long-time OTOW resident.



Above and at left: Some of Terry Feinstein's lovely quilted pillows and blankets that he created and fashioned himself. (Photos by Irene Pappas)

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## 2020 Halloween Pet Costume Contest

### Virtually

There will be no pet costume contest at the dog park this year. This time the event will be online. Take pictures of your pet in costume and email one version to the newspaper office. All entries will appear on the Box Office and everyone in the world will be allowed to vote for the best costume. For a full list of rules, please see the article on page 15 or visit the Box Office, [otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com)

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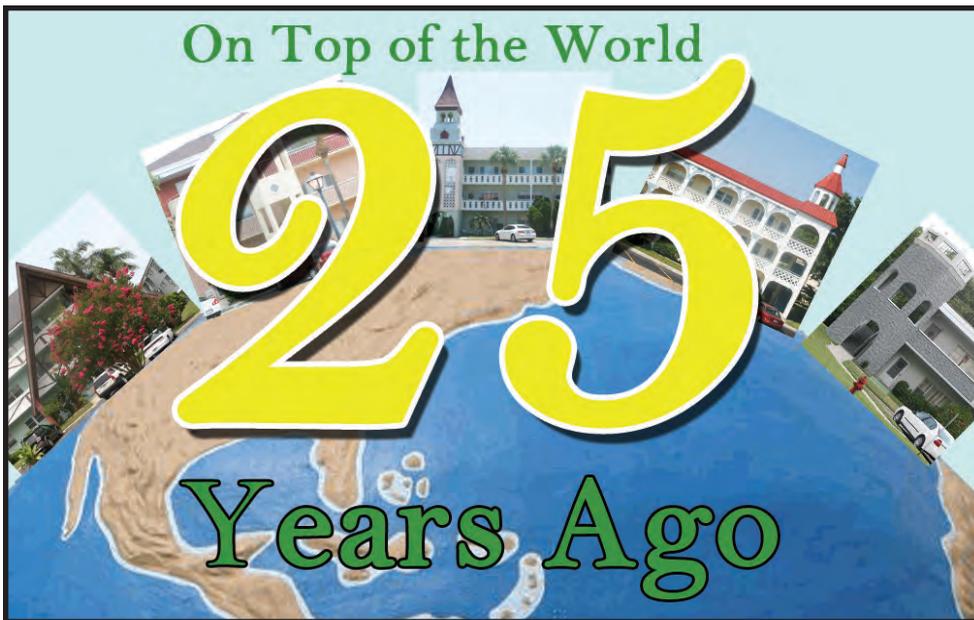
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### A look back at the OTOW News August, 1995

- **New England Club:** On Wednesday, July 12, 1995, the New England Club held its traditional second Wednesday morning breakfast at the Sunset Point Restaurant at 9 a.m. There were 14 present. Two new members were introduced: Carl and Marjorie Welch. Lyman Viles was the lucky winner of the breakfast drawing. See you Wednesday, Aug. 6, 1995, same time and same place.
- **Library:** Your OTOW library's one-month July vacation is over. Librarian Marion Altenderfer has scheduled her many volunteers to report for duty starting Tuesday, Aug. 1. During her "vacation," Marion has been busy in the library poring over catalogues, reading new material, purchasing new books, rearranging books and making room for the many new books that flow constantly into the library.
- **Line Dancing:** 1993 President Victor Figueroa is interested in what is best for line dancing and will conscientiously accept responsible assignments. He was most helpful in assuming the job of playing music for regular meetings several months this year. Vic entered beginner's class in the fall of 1989. He took to line dancing like "a duck takes to water." He was complimented when invited to perform in a dance routine with five other men in the Jester's "Showboat Fantasy." 1994 President Ann Reed is doing a good job and we are proud of her. We get to keep her as our president until November, 1995.
- **Shuffleboard:** It seems to be very difficult to get people up and out early in the morning to play, but we manage to fill two or three courts. A lot of members are away on vacation, but will be back in good form by September.
- **Hawaiian Towers:** Vivian Pugh, who travelled to Pennsylvania in May for a two-week visit with her daughter and family in Delaware County, has now returned from a two-week visit to the same area, where she attended a 60th Media High School reunion of her graduating class. She also spent time touring and shopping the Amish area of Lancaster County. Joe and Eileen Clark have returned from a vacation spent in Pennsylvania and Ohio. They visited Eileen's sister and her husband in Claysville, Pa.
- **Corinthian Kapal:** We would like to welcome out new neighbor, Mary Haydostian. Mary recently moved to OTOW from Dunedin. Originally from Connecticut, she first moved to OTOW in 1986 with her husband. They lived in the Roman Byzantine for approximately one year before moving to Dunedin. Now being alone, Mary has moved back to OTOW, where she feels she has more security and because Mary's sister, Niaome, lives here.

### A Note For Dog Walkers

When picking up after your dog, do not throw plastic bags down the storm drains. This is against the law.

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## francis wilson playhouse

has decided to remain closed until further notice.

The plan right now is to reopen in 2021

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# Reporter's grandson undergoes rigorous Army training under quarantine conditions

A special July 4th flag display in the parking lot area of our building on Spanish Drive was a treat to see when we came out to our cars. We thank the anonymous, patriotic resident who made this Independence Day such a happy day for us during these unfortunate times.

Imagine being in Army basic training during the pandemic.

Derek Foy, grandson of Mike and Lillian Foy, started his journey in the U.S. Army in February, not realizing that the pandemic would strike. His spirits stayed focused as things on the Army base ran smoothly. Unfortunately, they were in quarantine, and had many restrictions with no free time on weekends to leave the base. No visitors were allowed on base.

Making new friends and training for combat kept Derek's spirits up, however, and got him to his graduation day. Unfortunately, friends and family were not allowed to be present for the ceremony. Thank God for live broadcasting.

After graduation, Derek went off to his new duty station near Seattle, Wash.



May God bless these new soldiers.

We hope you are all staying safe and wearing your masks. Please don't take this health emergency for granted.

We will all be together soon. One thing I am grateful for is having air conditioning and staying in my condo out of the Florida heat.

A special thank you from Cele Radeloff for her giant birthday card that was sent to her from the building.



PFC Derek Foy was quarantined along with the rest of his training unit while going through U.S. Army basic training and advanced individual training at Fort Lee, Va. He was with Tango Company, 266th QM Battalion. He is now stationed near Seattle.

## ATTENTION DRIVERS & CYCLISTS

A reminder to drivers who may not realize that bicycle riders have the same rights and responsibilities of a car when entering and exiting the Belcher and Sunset Point entrances. Stay safety-sharp and read up on your "Florida Rules of the Road."



Granada residents enjoy a luncheon in July at the Longhorn Steakhouse.

## Granada residents always come up with something to do

Whether it's sitting outside listening to music, visiting with friends or going out to lunch, we enjoy it all in our building.

In July, we got together at the Longhorn Steakhouse for lunch. Food and conversation were good. We planned our August luncheon for E & E Stakeout on Aug. 10 at noon.

We have gotten together with friends and went to Clearwater and Sand Key beaches. Sand, sun and playing in the waves was a great way to spend a few hours and get fresh air and exercise.

We have added a new addition to our family. After two of our cats, Charlie and Pumpkin, crossed over the Rainbow Bridge, we added Kira, a 12-year-old senior cat to join the dad of the two boys, BJ, who is 17 1/2 years old. They are slowly getting used to each other and she has adjusted well to us.

As I am writing this article, I am listening to and enjoying the musical



entertainment from Mr. Fun, who continues to entertain our building with a wide variety of songs. If you are looking for some entertainment, walk or drive by the Granada Building some evening, bring a chair and have a seat in the courtyard between Florentine and Franciscan and spend some time.

When visiting our advertisers, tell them you saw their ad in this newspaper.



## OTOW BUS

August 2020 (Subject To Change)

### Schedule/Riding Guidelines

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#### Sprouts

Wednesdays 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.

#### Publix

Thursdays 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.

#### Walmart

Fridays 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.

(Limit 4 passengers on each run)

Reservations must be made at least 24 hours in advance and seats are reserved on first-call basis.

You must present your valid activity card before boarding. The bus driver is not permitted to assist passengers in any way.

No eating or drinking on the bus.

Shopping time is limited to 90 minutes.

Face masks are recommended.

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# Residents find themselves indulging in new hobbies or revisiting older ones

I retired last June. Luckily, I had already planned a few adventures for my post-work life. My husband Kelly and I took two trips: to Italy to visit with family, and to the Caribbean. We adopted a second shelter dog, Ruby, who at 50 pounds of pure love and energy, has proven quite the adventure. And we hosted friends – lots of them.



Today, most of our adventures look very different. Our lives have taken on a quiet, home-and-family-centered focus. We have a new weekly family zoom call, and other than not being able to climb through the screen to hug our children, it mostly works to keep us connected.

We also have new hobbies: surreal art collage for me and solo golf and 1,000-piece puzzles for Kelly, who has also continued his Italian language studies. Of course, there are our daily walks. Ruby, and her sister, Jen – yes, we have a dog named Jen – make sure we get out regularly.

Other Azoreans have also adopted new routines, or adapted old ones. Ian Inglis and Dorothy Lesperance are a very active and inspiring couple who love to exercise and dance. With indoor classes on hold, they've found new ways to do both. Favorite walking and dancing spots include the shoreline in St. Petersburg, the Botanical Gardens, and Dunedin at night. They also bicycle along Ream Wilson trail.

Last winter, Frank and Denise Foley purchased 7-speed beach cruiser bicycles. They've already logged 1,000 miles and counting, through 20- to 30-mile trips four or five times a week. And that's in between pickle ball matches! Inspiring!

Stan Stock and BJ Faulkner-Stock have slowed down their hobby of collecting antiques. But they still keep an eye out for special vintage treasures: Stan for toys and pocket watches, and BJ for dolls and Christmas items.

Since age 12, Bob Kelly has stopped in a church in every town he has visited here in the U.S. and around the world. More recently, he added veterans' halls. He didn't tell me if he has kept count of them!

Wishing you all continued adventures: old, new, healthy and joy-filled.



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2. Local owners may also obtain applications for their tenants from either the Community Service Office or the On Top of the World Real Estate Office receptionist.
3. And lastly, a written request must include building number, apartment number and address of the apartment. Requests must also include a legal-sized, self-addressed, stamped envelope for return mail. Mail to the address listed below.

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# Emerald Isle scores big with amazing building brunch

Once again our dynamic building captain, Cheryl Butcher, and company have outdone themselves. The "company" consisted of husband Tom Butcher, Marge and Bill Gipperich and Jennifer Hanson. They provided our building with an amazing brunch. We had juice, fruit, coffee, and a huge assortment of muffins to eat together in the core or to take upstairs. Over 20 neighbors participated and were thrilled with the opportunity to greet one another. Thank you so much for all you do for our building.

This was also an occasion to welcome our new neighbors, Lorraine and Henry Rejman. We know you'll love the neighborly atmosphere here at the Emerald Isle.

Also present at the brunch were elusive residents Joyce and Dave Hinton. They live in the unit once owned by Joyce's mother, Joann Stockinger. Joann was our building treasurer back in the day.

Dave told me that they volunteer for an organization called "Samaritan's Purse." They go to disaster areas and help with relief efforts. This sounded very intriguing to me and I will look into it further. More to come.

Staying close to home has its benefits. My husband, Marshall, is using his time



to expand his creative efforts. Here's a sample:

Are We Being Good Ancestors?  
 The question posed by Jonas Salk  
 His vaccine proved he was one  
 With all of our endless talk  
 Is there anything we've done?  
 What matters in the scheme of things  
 Is not what we possess  
 Those moments when our soul sings  
 Sharing our happiness  
 What we give  
 How we live  
 Loving freely  
 Acting like family.



Marge Gipperich makes sure the food table is set up properly at a recent Emerald Isle brunch. Marge was part of the committee that produced the event. (Photo by Glenda Greenman)

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# Featured couple has a special way with pets

2020 proved to be a banner year for Bill and Judy Prezioso and their cat, Daisy. First of all, Daisy turned 20. That's right, she turned 20 years old in 2020. That's got to be some kind of good luck omen!

And if that wasn't enough of a reason to celebrate, by the time you read this article, Bill and Judy will have celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. A quarter of a century ago, these two lovebirds tied the knot in the month of July.

How they met is a bit of a confusing story, I had to get them to explain it to me twice. But then no one is saying I am the sharpest reporter in the world.

Unbeknownst to each other, they both moved from northern states in 1987 to escape the cold. Bill and his family were from Brooklyn. You only have to say "Hi" to Bill to know where he is from. You know what they say: "You can take a man out of Brooklyn but you can't take Brooklyn out of the man." Meanwhile, that same year, over in Rhode Island, Judy was packing up her family and moving them down to Florida as well.

Although at this point Bill had moved from pharmaceutical sales to construction, Judy had remained in the medical field. Yet years later their paths crossed. Bill's daughter's boyfriend's mother worked with Judy and somehow the two of them connected. The rest as they say, "is history."



Another big thing that happened to the three of them, and the On Top of the World community, is that in January of this year they all moved into a unit at the Villa Riviera. They always have a pleasant word for all their human neighbors and are delighted at "all the nice people we have met here."

But it is the four-legged creatures that live in the building that have really appreciated their arrival. If the Preziosos are out walking and a dog happens to cross their path, it always perks up. The dogs always know Judy and Bill are good for a chin rub, a small walk or an ear massage at the very least.

Judy has even been caught going one step further. She put her 30-plus years' experience as a nurse to use helping

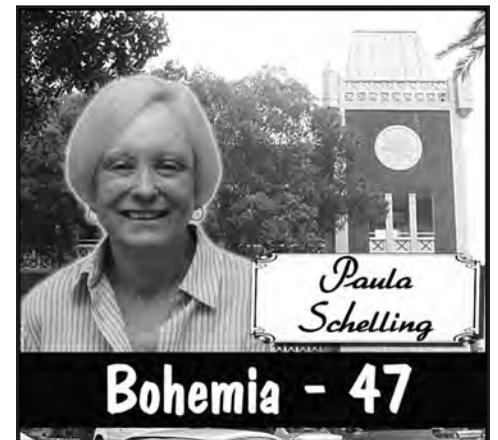


Bill and Judy Prezioso's cat, Daisy, is celebrating her 20th birthday this year.

a neighbor take blood from her newly-diagnosed diabetic dog. Judy's four-legged friend didn't make a sound, move a muscle or display any discomfort at all while his sugar level was being checked. She has the touch of an angel.

All this fraternizing with the neighborhood dogs hasn't bothered Daisy in the least. She may have noticed a few new smells on her roommates, but she knows on which side her bread is buttered.

Or in this case which side her catnip is buttered.



## Grateful for food bank contributions

Once again, residents of the Bohemia Building opened their hearts to those less fortunate and collected an additional 45 pounds of food for the local food bank.

This year our winter residents, before going home, contributed their canned goods and other unopened foods to the needy. It was noted by volunteers at the food bank that this year there is more need than in any previous year.

Our building had a pot luck dinner this summer. The main entrée was supplied with sides being provided by our residents. Using precautions, the food was served by hostesses and residents practicing social distancing and were seated at respected distances. It was duly noted that, "A good time was had by all."

This year, more than in the past, it has come to our attention that gardening has become a hobby for some. Strolling around the building, you'll find more residents than ever planting foliage around their front and back patio areas. Their efforts are not in vain, as one sees how these plantings grow and bloom. It makes for a colorful atmosphere.

As is custom, we like to welcome newcomers to our building. This time he is a pug named Vito. His proud owners are Sam and Lena Betti. He is a puppy that has stolen the hearts of all our residents. His antics are such that he just makes everyone smile. We are all excited to watch him grow and mature.

### Need An Extra Newspaper?

Copies of the OTOW News are available in the lobbies of the East and West Activity Centers.

## Bike/Walking Trails Near On Top of the World

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# Saying 'bon voyage' to a respected, valuable couple

Allan and Diana Bendert have lived in New World French for eight years, but are now in the process of moving back to Lansing, Mich., from where they originate.

They are missing their three children and five grandchildren. They also celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in July and were able to have family members close by to help celebrate.

Allan is a newly-retired minister, and Diana is a retired teacher. They always helped out at our building Christmas Party, which we hold at Alfano's Restaurant each year. Allan would say the prayers, and Diana, who has a good commanding voice, would deal with the games, such as trivia and bingo. She was also a building "wing angel."

They will be missed, but family calls. Good luck to them both.

Quick cleaning for silver jewelry: Rub with toothpaste, rinse off, then polish with a soft cloth. Makes them look good.



Here's a reminder that Helping Hands is in dire need of non-perishable food items, such as canned goods and boxes (but not with expired dates). Goods can be dropped off at the entrance to the On Top of the World Community Service Office. A large barrel is there with a sign "For Helping Hands." Goods are collected and delivered by the Good Neighbors.

This would be greatly appreciated since the food items are really needed at this time.



Allan and Diana Bendert, who have lived at New World French for eight years, are returning to Michigan to be closer to family. (Photo by Pat Cullen-Davis)

**OFFICIAL OTOW CLEARWATER WEB SITE:  
WWW.OTOWCLEARWATERINFO.COM**

## Blackout News

By Tom Jamrozy

Blackout is looking forward to returning to the West Activity Center soon. We play Thursday nights. Practice takes place at 6 p.m., followed by games from 6:30-9 p.m.

When ticket sales and club tables reopen Thursday mornings in the East Activity Center, I encourage new players to come over from 8:30-10:15 a.m. for training.

Watch OTOW-TV Channel 732 for the latest information. We are also on the Box Office at otowboxoffice.com.

Our card game is for those who like to have fun and enjoy an evening with friends, old and new. I hope to see you there.



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# Activities Calendar - August

## CLUBS/GROUPS



|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Line Dance Club exercises | M,T,W,H,F 7-8 am - EAC Exercise Room                       |
| Ping Pong Group           | T, W, F - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. - WAC Belleair Room            |
| Knitting Group            | Wednesdays - 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. - EAC Crystal Beach Room    |
| Coloring Book Group       | Wednesdays - 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. - EAC Crystal Beach Room |
| Press Association         | Thursday, Aug. 6, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., EAC Pavilion    |
| OTOW Republican Club      | Tuesday, Aug. 11 - (see Box Office website for details)    |
| OTOW Democratic Club      | Thursday, Aug. 13 - At Pavilion (time to be announced)     |

## EXERCISE GROUPS

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Ladies Exercises        | M,T,W,H,F - 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. - EAC Exercise Room           |
| Tai Chi                 | M,W,F - 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. - EAC Exercise Room               |
| Chi Kung                | M,T,H - 12 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. - EAC Exercise Room          |
| Zumba                   | Tuesdays, Fridays - 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. - WAC Belleaire Room |
| Hatha Yoga with Marilyn | Tuesdays - 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. - EAC Exercise Room        |

Box Office website - [otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com) (click link for club and group web pages)

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# Summertime at the Villa means easy living for most

Summer seems to be skipping along like a very smooth rock on still waters.

Carroll Harris recently enjoyed seeing family from Missouri who vacationed in their large rental house which included great kitchen, BBQ and private pool allowing them to stay socially isolated yet have a grand time.

The Villa has been rather quiet these last few months. With travel restrictions as they are, many travelers and Snowbirds, yours truly included, have stayed or delayed leaving.

Summer really is pleasant here. Our pools are refreshing and On Top of the World's elevation affords catching breezes from both Tampa Bay and the Gulf while sitting on balconies with friends.

These heavy summer downpours afford some very pretty skies afterwards. After such a cloudburst, neighbor Lynn Costanza knocked at my door wanting me to see a beautiful rainbow. Thanks to son Mike, who is a wiz with images, was able to show just how lovely it was.

No surprise where the pot of gold at the end would be found — right here at OTOW!

Congratulations to son Mike and Colleen on celebrating their second anniversaries on the coast of Maine at the cottage "On the Rocks."

Notice anniversary is plural. They married in Boothbay Harbor in August so those in the East could attend, then in September, a Chicago wedding for the



other half of the country. Speaking of anniversaries, a huge congratulations from all of us at the Villa to Dom and Millie Bucella, who are celebrating 70 years of bliss. They are a delightful and simply amazing couple.

With the extra time and eating at home as we are, trust you are taking advantage of Randee Marie Torretta's marvelous recipes. Randee creates magic in her kitchen and when satisfied shares her secrets with all of us. So bon apatite!

Our OTOW crew who maintain the Villa do an amazing job. Always cheerful and proud of their work and it shows. Keep a supply of cold bottles of water handy in case they want some. OTOW is fortunate to have these hard-working folks.

Laundry units are marvelous. However, the computers and rain do not mix. A ceiling fan to help dry and replacement of the plastic doors, which



This lovely rainbow was captured by Viennese Villa resident Lynn Costanza.

were removed, would protect from the driven rains and hopefully remedy future difficulties

Hopefully meet new cast members to our stage here at the Villa next month so stayed tuned.

So until next we meet please remember, turn off laundry and rubbish

room lights and please push the rubbish room door closed it tends to fetch.

Stay well, stay home, wear a mask and stay safe.

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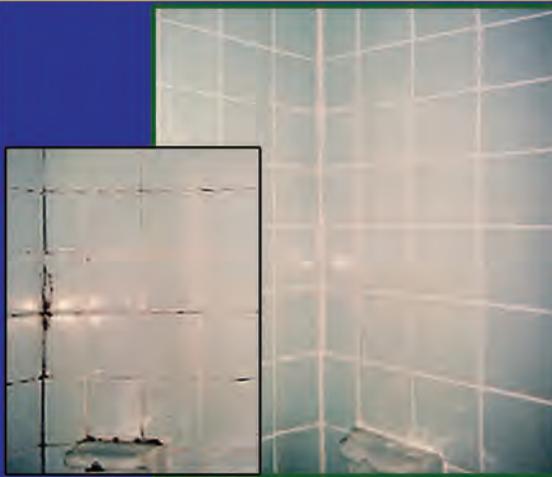
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# New OTOW residents are no strangers to the sea

By Penni Telleck and Shari Scurr

Who is new in our neighborhood? Well let me introduce our adventurous American Gothic neighbors, Shari and Robin Scurr.

What started as a dream more than five years ago has become a reality for new On Top of the World residents Shari and Robin Scurr. The former Michigan residents were working and sailing their small sailboat, but had a dream of a much bigger adventure.

Robin was able to retire early from his public school job and the two moved on to their 36-foot sailboat, "Wild Goat."

In late September, 2019, they left from Lake St. Clair, Mich., sailed down the Detroit River, and across Lake Erie to Buffalo, N.Y. Then across upper New York state in the Erie Canal and turned south at the Hudson River.

These two experienced sailors then headed south down the eastern seaboard and crossed over to the Bahamas on Jan. 16, 2020. The trip from Michigan to the Bahamas was packed with adventure – bitter cold weather, high seas, having the mast removed and put back on for the Erie Canal, open-ocean sailing, losing their propeller (twice) and dodging other



boats including a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier! They even met and hosted Jimmy Buffet on their boat!

The couple spent a total of about two months in the Bahamas, traveling to Bimini, Andros, Nassau, Eleuthera and Exuma before the pandemic hit, bringing their plans to a quick halt.

They returned to Florida, having covered almost 3,500 miles and currently have the boat safe and sound out of the water in Indiantown, Fla., for hurricane season and to wait out the travel restrictions.

The two plan to re-launch the boat in November and either head to the



American Gothic residents Robin and Shari Scurr are shown aboard their 36-foot sailing craft, "Wild Goat," in which they sailed from Michigan to the Caribbean last year.

Caribbean or maybe the Florida Keys – it all depends on what makes more sense with the health emergency. Until then, they are enjoying getting to know their

neighbors and the Clearwater area.

For more information on their trip, visit their site at [www.wildgoatsailing.com](http://www.wildgoatsailing.com).

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# Reminiscing on past travels during these tough times



Paradise resident and intrepid traveler and writer Bonnie Mack has submitted yet another wonderful story on her travels.

### What Better Time to Travel Around the World ...

By Bonnie Mack

It's hard to accept that the year is more than half over, and we haven't had an opportunity to really live our lives.

More difficult to accept was canceling my trips to the French and Italian Rivièras. I still had a reservation for Jordan – until the tour operator sent an email to hold off on final payment.

This is the first time in 54 consecutive years that I won't be traveling internationally. At least last year I was able to tack on three new countries to the list of more than 90 I've visited thus far.

I spent a good deal of time writing and reminiscing about my travel adventures, while bemoaning having to stay home during the virus.

I remembered how exciting it was to visit the Berlin Wall in 1967. We felt intimidated when armed Russian soldiers swiped mirrors beneath our bus at Checkpoint Charlie to ascertain if we were smuggling anyone out.

In 1973, I was overwhelmed by Machu Picchu, and grateful that there were



This photo is from my 2019 trip to Riga, Latvia, showing the City Hall Square, with Blackheads House in the background.

only about 20 school children there at the same time.

I arrived in Buenos Aires three days after Juan Peron was re-elected president. Three hours later, the Secretary of Labor was assassinated, and the city was closed down.

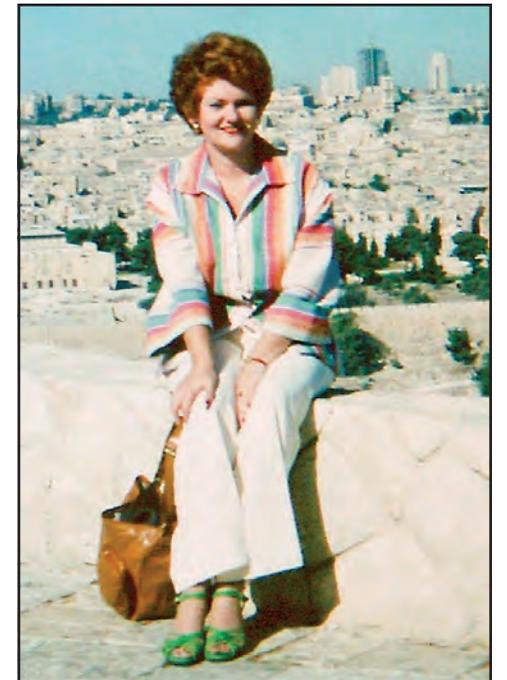
I fell in love with Africa on my first safari in 1974, and am thankful to have returned last year, on my tenth safari.

Visiting the Middle East was exciting in 1976. I'll never forget staring into the black eyes on King Tut's sarcophagus in Luxor. I was fascinated when I discovered

the ancient city of Petra in Jordan. Shortly after returning home, terrorists attacked my hotel in Amman, Jordan, killing everyone in the lobby (my room was down the hall).

My life has been so enriched, traveling around the world.

With the realization that I won't be going anywhere this year, I wondered what I'd write in my Christmas letter. Friends always look forward to hearing about my exciting journeys, and I wouldn't have anything to share. Then a wonderful idea came to mind ... I'd share a trip around the world!



Visiting Jerusalem for the first time, in 1976.

Everyone knows I live in a retirement community; however, most don't know how unique it is.

One day this winter, I grabbed my camera, and drove all over On Top of the World, photographing entrances to my favorite buildings – the Punjab, Fujiwara, Chinese Cathay, and others. This year, I'll be sharing those photos, while describing our lovely surroundings.

Tour leaders usually ask us to introduce ourselves, and say where we're from. I feel somewhat obnoxious, saying I live in a beautiful retirement community called On Top of the World. If that isn't bad enough, I'm on Utopian Drive! To drive home my point, I live in Paradise – OTOW's Paradise Reserve, that is. Looking at our beautiful pool on the East side, with the lovely trees and bushes all around, and a blue sky with white clouds overhead, I realize that I really don't have to leave home to experience paradise!

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*Dr. Bao Tram Nguyen*

Dr. Bao Tram Nguyen

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If the East Activity Center and West Activity Center are open, then extra On Top of the World newspapers are available in both lobbies. If your building runs out of newspapers, you will have to go to either activity center for an extra copy. When you take newspapers from your building, please take only one or two copies. Do not take an entire bundle. Newspapers are not for your bird or hamster cages. Stealing newspapers is illegal. If you know of someone stealing newspapers, please contact the newspaper office at 799-3216.

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# A chance to help out the needy by donating items

By Jim Bjorgo

A big hello to everyone out there at On Top of the World. Hoping you are well, safe and staying cool.

Times continue to be far different from what we have known in the past and hopefully we will see some type of normalcy in the near future.

All plans for the Good Neighbors Association for the balance of the year are on hold at this time, but we still hope for the opportunity to have some events take place before the end of the year.

The one event we have planned is our fall food collection and clothing drive set for Oct. 23-24. This will proceed as planned. We will be collecting sealed and unexpired food products as well as quality used, clean clothing items. Food that is collected will be donated to Helping Hands and clothing that is collected will go to several outlets that give those items to the needy – clothing is not resold.

Until Oct. 23, Good Neighbors Association asks residents to make food donations in a depository food barrel inside the Community Service Office located at the East Activity Center. Good Neighbors Association volunteers will be checking the donation barrel each week and delivering those items to Helping Hands.

The need for food is greater now than ever before with so many of our fellow citizens unable to work at their normal jobs. Please feel generous when you look into your cabinets, or take the time to pick up a few extra items for the needy when you shop for yourself. Just drop off your extra food items and Good Neighbors Association will do the rest.

Our group is also awaiting word whether On Top of the World will host



a Farmers Market in the near future. We will keep you posted as to our group's involvement in this endeavor.

Does anyone need a blinky safety light or high-visibility safety vest when walking, running or biking, especially at night or early in the morning? Good Neighbors Association has some available.

The blinky lights are \$1.25 and the vests are \$7.50, tax is included. Just call (727) 725-4048 to make a purchase or ask for more information on these important safety products. With more people exercising these days, it is even more important to have these safety items.

Please stay calm, stay safe and stay cool. These current times will change for the better – hopefully soon. Stay at least six feet apart, wear your mask and pass good cheer on to all. I assure you, this will pass.



A Good Neighbors drop-off barrel for food donations is at the East Activity Center.

### ATTENTION WEST-SIDE DRIVERS

As you enter on World Parkway and approach Americus Boulevard, remember to come to a complete stop before making your turn. Do not pass a left-turning car on the right, inasmuch as that blocks the other driver's vision and could cause an accident. Remember to make a complete stop when you come to any stop sign

within the On Top of the World community. The other cars and pedestrians around you are depending on it, even though you may not see them. A "rolling stop" places you and others at risk of an accident. Stop, look both ways, and look in front of you. Thanks for being a cautious and safe driver!

## PHONE NUMBERS YOU NEED TO SAVE

|   |   |   |                                   |
|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| Community Service Office<br>727-683-6981<br>Leave Message if Needed | Water Turn-On/Turn-Off<br>727-799-3417<br>Menu Option 6 | Emergency Service<br>After Hours/Weekends<br>727-799-1115 | Activities Office<br>727-799-2734 |
|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|

OTOW Clearwater Website: [otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://otowclearwaterinfo.com)

## Some Handy Pinellas County Phone Numbers

- Duke Energy Power Outages ..... 800-228-8485
- Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Non-Emergency Line..... 727-582-6200
- Pinellas County Consumer Line (scams, rip-offs, etc.) .....727-464-6617

# Morocco and the Sahara Desert make for extraordinary tour

By Sue Naylor

The single most extraordinary sight I have ever witnessed was a mirage which magically appeared as we entered the Sahara Desert on an Overseas Adventure Travel tour of Morocco.

Four of us were in a jeep heading for our stay in a tented camp about 20 miles into the desert when we absolutely, positively saw a large lake. The closer we got, the faster it ebbed away into nothingness. The experience was so overwhelming that I forgot to take a picture of it.

At our tented camp we enjoyed the most luxurious of meals. The dining tent was huge with carpets on the floor served by some of Morocco's Blue Men, so-called because of their blue clothing and blue sun screen.

Our first lunch consisted of soup, couscous, eggplant and beef, most of which was presented in a tajine, which is the name of the stew as well as the pointed pot it is cooked in.

The Sahara itself was a jumping-off point for several extraordinary excursions, one of which was to the city of Erfroud and its Jurassic Fossil Museum.

The Sahara used to be underwater so there are literally tons of huge squid and other sea creatures embedded in stone which this workshop converts into



Photo taken at a rest stop in the Sahara Desert with a very calm-looking Sue Naylor. There was an older local native gentleman at the rest stop with a contingent of snakes which he wrapped around tourists' neck surreptitiously for the shock value, although Sue claims she wasn't shocked. Of course he wanted a tip for the performance. (Photo from Sue Naylor)

things like tables and jewelry.

On a camel ride to a small desert school the camel behind me kept wiping his gooey, drooling mouth on my brand new camel-riding pants apparently because he was indignant that we were ahead of him. Finally he was relegated to the end of the camel line for his bad behavior.

The government is trying to get the nomads to settle down rather than wander and so provides land, schools and hospitals when a new settlement reaches a certain number. The feeling is that the new lifestyle promotes a better all-around life for the nomads.

We arose very early one morning to experience the Sahara's solitude and then

a magnificent sunrise after which we were off to climb huge sand dunes.

Out of nowhere there arrived a slew of Blue Men who came to help us up and over. Of all things, our guide spoke German, had a sob story about his poor sick child, and suddenly produced a full array of trinkets arranged on a mat in the Sahara sand for our shopping pleasure.

The government has also built small permanent adobe shelters for those Berbers (nomads) who wish to continue in the old traditions, but the family we visited had opted to pitch their camel-hair tents and awnings instead and use the new structures for storage.

Our tour company had purchased items like coffee, macaroni, oil, bleach for the water, and gunpowder tea for each of us to present to our hostess.

After our visit one young lady nomad shyly requested a lipstick. In the interest of international relations I gave her one of mine, a little used, but nonetheless very welcome. In exchange we all received a delicious piece of warm bread she had just taken out of the oven.

There is so much more to tell about our extraordinary experiences in Morocco but it will have to wait for another time.



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# Basic Hurricane Preparation Tips

Know where to go. If you are ordered to evacuate, know the local hurricane evacuation route(s) to take and have a plan for where you can stay. Contact your local emergency management agency for more information.

Put together a disaster supply kit, including a flashlight, batteries, cash, first aid supplies, and copies of your critical information if you need to evacuate.

If you are not in an area that is advised to evacuate, and you decide to stay in your home, plan for adequate supplies in case you lose power and water for several days and you are not able to leave due to flooding or blocked roads.

Make a family emergency communication plan. Many communities have text or email alerting systems for emergency notifications. To find out what alerts are available in your area, search the Internet with your town, city, or county name and the word "alerts."

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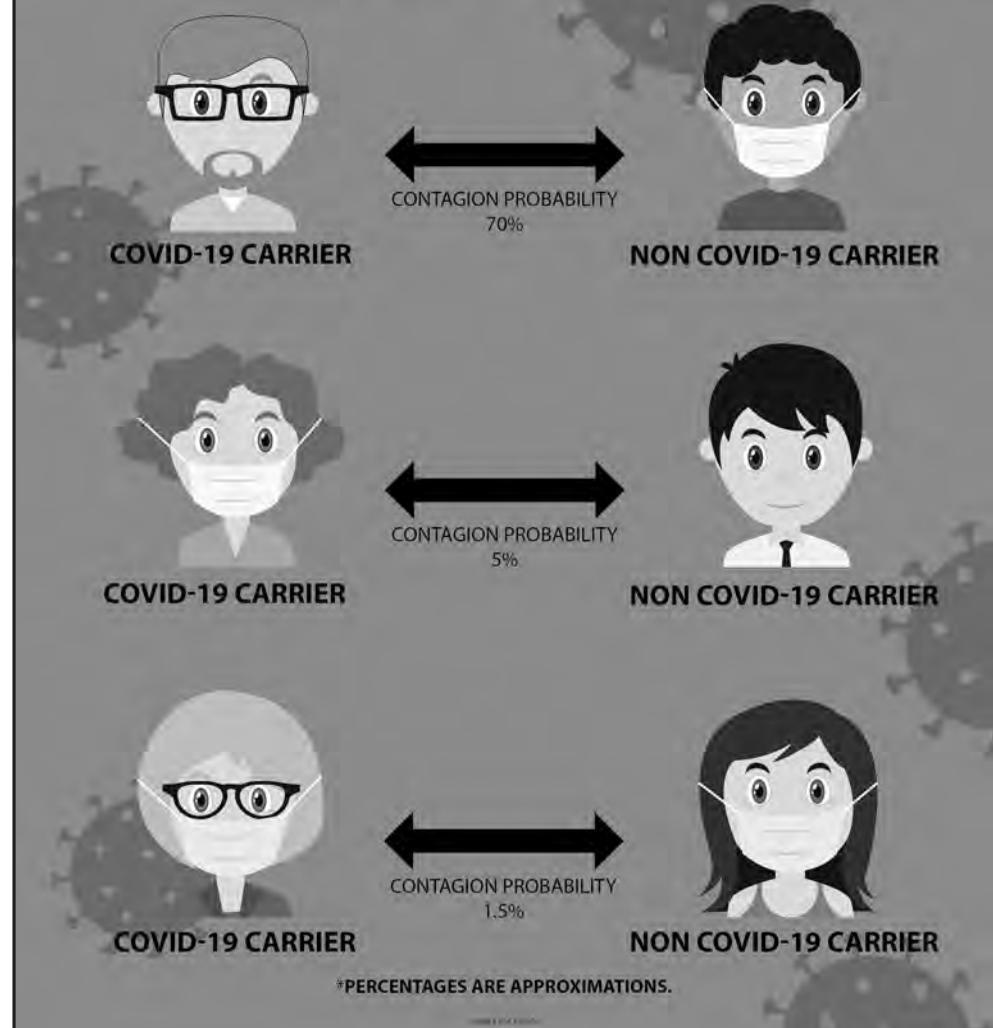
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## Temporary Cancellation of Bible Study Club Meetings

The club usually meets Friday afternoons from 2–4 p.m. in the East Activity Center Veranda Room. Due to current national and local health safety concerns and the need for social distancing, these meetings are cancelled until further notice.

The OTOW Bible Study Club is a non-denominational Bible study group to explore the word of God, and how it relates to our everyday lives. Our teacher, Woodie Tully, brings 45 years of Bible teaching experience to help understand the Scriptures. For more information, call either Bob Reis, (727) 772-3119 or Woodie Tully, (727) 399-1773.

## PING PONG



### A Fun Activity which is Cool in the Summer!

The OTOW Ping Pong Club is looking for new members. We play in the West Activity Center Belleair Room (Sunrise Room) Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. You may come and play anytime. If you like it, join us for a year, whether you are a permanent OTOW resident, a renter or a Snowbird. Membership includes daily coffee, snacks and club equipment. Ping Pong is like tennis. You need to be able to move from side-to-side and front-to-back. We normally play doubles but there's also a table to play singles.

## Attention OTOW News writers ...

**When submitting your stories to the newsroom by email, please put the name of your building, group or sport in the subject line of the email.**



# OTOW Change of Address Form

Please return completed form to: Management Enterprises, Inc, PO Box 771029, Ocala, FL, 34477-1029 or return form to the East Activity Center drop box during business hours.

Owner(s) Name(s):

---

Current Mailing Address:

---

Please update my/our mailing address to:

---

Effective date of address change:

---

Signature of Owner Requesting Change

---

Date

---



If you wish to make any other changes to your association records, such as email address or phone number changes, please feel free to enter that information on this form below:

---



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# Box Office Sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 0 | 4 | 8 | □ | 6 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 3 |
| □ | 4 | 8 | 6 | □ | 1 | 3 | 0 | □ | 7 |
| 1 | □ | 7 | □ | 4 | □ | 5 | □ | 6 | □ |
| 4 | 6 | □ | 2 | □ | 3 | □ | 8 | 0 | 1 |
| 2 | 7 | 1 | □ | 8 | □ | 6 | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | 2 | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| 3 | 2 | 9 | □ | 1 | □ | 0 | 6 | 8 | 5 |
| 0 | 3 | □ | 5 | □ | 9 | □ | 7 | 1 | 4 |
| □ | □ | □ | 1 | 0 | □ | 4 | 3 | □ | □ |
| □ | 5 | 3 | 0 | □ | 8 | 1 | □ | 4 | 2 |

**OTOW NEWS**  
**WORDMIX**

Unscramble the six words listed below.  
If you unscramble correctly, the first letter of each word will spell out the secret word of the month.  
If you cannot come up with the secret word of the month, then redo at least one of the six scrambled words.

A O S T C

---

J N E Y O

---

L E F F A R

---

O L Y E P M

---

D P P U A A L

---

K A E E L A G

---

**SECRET WORD:**

Last month's scrambled words: price, equal, aerate, normal, unleash, tangelo. Secret Word Last Month: peanut

## OTOW NEWS CLASSIFIED ADS

This classified ad listing is a service to the On Top of the World community. There is no charge to residents for this service. Items must be priced under \$500 and copy must be 20 words or less, including phone number. Submitter's name and building name must be included, but will not be published. **If the submitters's name, building and unit number is not included with the ad, it will not be accepted for publication.**

### FOR SALE

KitchenAid professional mixer, 6 speeds, 3 mixing attachments, food processor and stainless mixing bowl \$125; adjustable motorized twin-size bed frame \$150.  
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For sale: 50 state quarters, uncirculated. Also looking for coins, currency and other collectibles.  
475-4388

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Ad deadline is the 15th of the month preceding publication date. Ads received late will be placed in the next available issue. Only one (1) ad per person per month will be accepted. Unless otherwise stated in the ad, phone numbers are within the (727) area code.

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