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Sharing holiday joy - Page 33

ON TOP OF THE WORLD NEWS

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Volume 52

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There will still be holiday lights and Chorus concert music

By Ilene Bargerstock and Doug Kates

Very soon now we will hang a new calendar and 2020 will be the year that was.

Was what?

For one thing, it was the first year On Top of the World Chorus could not perform a spring or holiday concert in its 51 years of singing.

However, thanks to On Top of the World TV, our residents will still have an opportunity to enjoy, not one, but three holiday concerts from past seasons when we were able to sing live for our friends and neighbors.

All three concerts will air on community channel 732 for those of you with Spectrum Cable.

On Sunday, Dec. 19, at about 7 p.m., the OTOW Chorus 2014 Holiday Concert will be available on TV.

Then on Thursday, Dec. 24, at about 7 p.m., our 2018 concert will air on TV. Think of this as our Christmas Eve concert.

Then on Friday, Dec. 25, our Chorus concert from 2019 will be shown on TV all day. In the morning, afternoon and even after your holiday dinner is over, you can watch our concert from last year and even sing along.

OTOW Chorus takes great pride each year in providing residents with a great holiday concert. The music includes traditional favorites and songs you may not have heard for a while.

There are group numbers, soloists and even a sing-along for everyone to sing their favorites, such as "Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer."

The holiday season would not be complete without holiday lights and decorations and your community TV station and OTOW Chorus will help you with this tradition, too.

During the first full week of December, OTOW-TV will be in our community filming your holiday light decorations.

You cannot call in advance to have



The scene above was filmed for the 2019 Holiday Lights Video which was shot in our On Top of the World community. Santa just happened to be visiting Darby when the cameras were rolling at one of our neighborhood units. Filming for this year's video starts Dec. 7. The video will air on OTOW-TV Channel 732 through New Year's Eve.

orations. OTOW-TV won't publicize the names of people away from home, but we will indicate where the photos were taken. Send to otow.newsroom@gmail.com.

As video and photos are collected, a short film will be made. Background music for this project will be added from your own OTOW Chorus.

Several years ago, former director Louise Kelly wrote a holiday song "On Top of the World It's Christmas" and every other year Chorus sings it live on stage. This song, and some of Chorus' other songs, will be used for background music in the holiday lights video.

A partial video will air on TV as soon as enough footage is filmed. The entire video, with only the best light displays, will air regularly through Christmas Day and into New Year's Eve.

If you don't feel like going out to see our own holiday lights, stay safe at home and OTOW-TV will bring the lights to you. You can certainly sing along.

Yes, Chorus did not hold a concert in 2020, but we are hoping to have rehearsals in 2021 for a concert some time during the year.

There is no word when we will be cleared to begin rehearsals. At such a time, members will be notified, via email by President Rod Bargerstock.

Details regarding future events will also be posted in the OTOW News for residents who wish to join Chorus.

With all that has happened this year, I think Anne Frank, a teenage victim of the Holocaust, said it best:

"Everyone has inside of him a piece of good news. The good news is that you don't know how great you can be! How much you can love! What you can accomplish! And what your potential is!"

Over the past year, we have seen much evidence of many people rising to their potential in order to help others.

Seems this may be a good take-away from this most unusual year.

May all our readers have a joyous holiday and a peaceful new year!



**OTOW CHORUS
Holiday Concerts**

Sunday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m.
2014 OTOW Chorus Holiday Concert

Thursday, Dec. 24, 7 p.m.
2018 OTOW Chorus Holiday Concert

All Day, Friday, Dec. 25
2019 OTOW Chorus Holiday Concert

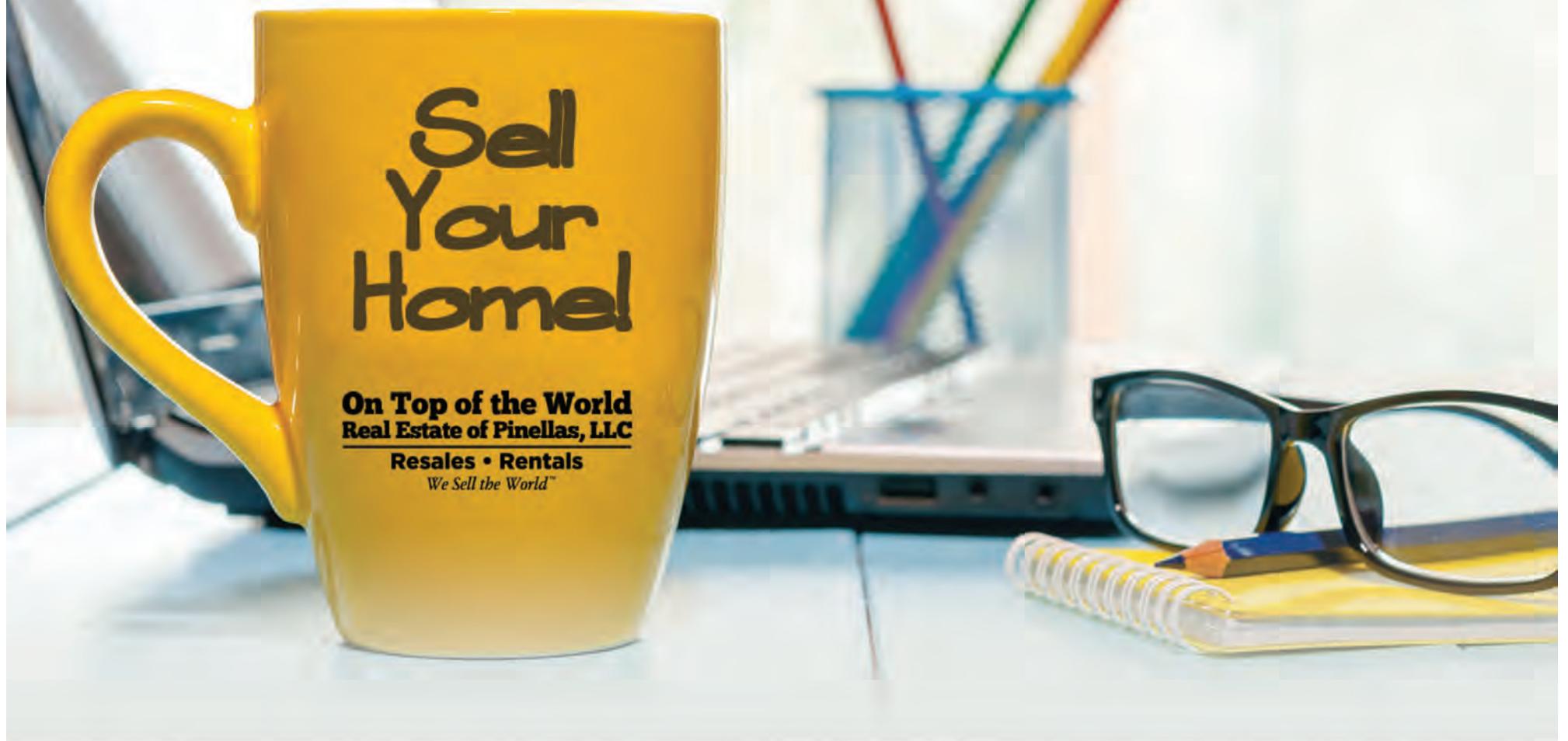
**Only On
OTOW-TV
Channel 732**

All shows were previously recorded

your lights filmed - just be ready. The cameras roll starting at 6 p.m. each night. They will find your display.

Also, if you are a resident away from OTOW this holiday season, snap a picture of your northern home in lights and dec-

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Especially during the holidays, an act of kindness can go a long way

Random acts of kindness

After a recent encounter I had with a not so courteous driver, I was reminded of an incident that happened here several years ago.

While passing through the Community Service Office, I was taken aback by a resident who was clearly having a rough day, but was able to maintain a smile and friendly demeanor in their exchange with one of our Community Service Office coordinators.

I recall being somewhat surprised because just prior to that I witnessed an exchange with a person who was equally upset, but who scowled at them instead.

While both individuals received the same good quality service, it reminded me that not everyone remembers to be kind and patient with one another.

Given the year it has been for everyone, it is so important now, more than ever, to remember that everyone has, from time to time, things that happen in their life that cause them to pause and struggle. What is important is the way in which that is projected to others we come into contact with.

Wouldn't it be great if everyone would try to perform a random act of kindness to brighten someone else's day?

You never know, it could cause someone to randomly act in kind.

It doesn't even have to be a grand gesture, just something small, like a smile, or even a thank you.

That thank you, that smile, just may come back to you.



Did You Know:

Tipping Employees

With the holidays fast approaching, I want to remind residents that the Management Company and your Association do not support (nor encourage) tipping or gifting to individual employees.

We do understand that many of you like to show your appreciation and thanks in some manner. However, having written this, I will add that if you are still so inclined, we recommend that you donate a gift or a check to the Clearwater On Top of the World Employee Gift Fund, as opposed to giving a worker a tip directly.

The Management Company will then combine its annual "thank you" gift distribution with this Employee Gift Fund to make overall distributions to employees during its annual appreciation luncheon.

You may make these donations at the

Community Service Office or by mail at On Top of the World - Clearwater Employee Gift Fund, 2069 World Parkway Blvd. E., Clearwater, FL. 33763.

Make checks payable to Parkway Maintenance and Management - Employee Gift Fund.

Donations and gifting is purely discretionary.

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 are working with someone else. Please be patient. Calls and voice-mails 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 ques-

tions 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, please visit the Community Service Office during normal business hours or you can leave a message after hours at 727-683-6981.

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.

Decoration reminders

- All outdoor lighting should be plugged into GFCI receptacles.
- Each building is allowed one common area Christmas tree. Each tree may contain up to 300 miniature lights or 600 reduced-wattage LED lights.
- Extension cords should not cross any walkway in or around any building.
- Please be considerate when using holiday decorations which make sounds - singing, talking or sound effects. Please turn them off at reasonable hours and please limit the amount of time they are playing.
- Please do not hang or wrap decorations or cords from building lights, from any building railing or pipe work, or on or within any landscaping.
- Do not place screw extenders with plugs in any building lights or tap into the building power at any controller or light.
- Do not create penetrations into the common structure for the purpose of hanging holiday lighting. Self-adhering, temporary wall hooks are available at most home improvement and department stores.
- Do not wrap garland or decorations around the light poles at the end stairwells on any building. This affects the proper operation of the light.
- Never cover your condo unit numbers with holiday decorations. Your unit number must always be visible to emergency personnel.

What you should know: WATER HEATERS

Water heaters traditionally last 10-15 years.

It may be time to replace your water heater if it is...

- ...more than 10 years old.
- ...leaking around the base of the unit.
- ...not producing as much hot water.
- ...noisy.

If your water heater fails, you may be held financially responsible if it causes damage to surrounding units.

When was the last time you checked your water heater?

After a tough grilling, OTOW and

Fire Safety Inspections

The On Top of the World Condominium Community is on a multi-year cycle of fire safety inspections.

This cycle has shown very few matters the fire inspector has taken exception to lately. The interesting thing about this process is that Life Safety Codes can be applied retroactively. In other words, it doesn't matter how old or how new a building is, there is no such thing as "grandfathering" exemptions from code compliance.

Case in point: Some years ago, the fire marshal mandated that the Association install hard-wired smoke detectors in condo units that were built before there were such devices as smoke detectors. This was a very large and costly project, but when it comes to life safety, there is no good argument against it.

Understandably, there was some resistance from residents as they felt "invaded." In the end, good sense prevailed.

During this round of inspections, the fire inspector determined that barbecue grills less than 10 feet from any structure, and especially those that fall within a structure (porch or hard canopy roof), were not in compliance with section 10.10.6.1 of the National Fire Protection Code.

The Association has no real authority to argue with the inspector's interpretation of the code.

The printed communication many of you received was pretty much verbatim of what the fire inspector instructed. The fire marshal (the inspector's boss) also (conveniently) makes the Association responsible for enforcement of the rule. So don't kill the messenger.

I am pleased to report that on Nov. 19, Parkway staff and I were able to meet City of Clearwater Fire Marshal, Chief Jim Warman, and we came to an understanding and compromise on this matter.

Grills do not need to be removed from storage either on patio or from under canopies. When used, they need to be placed at least 10-feet from any structure.

They did confirm that a grill can be placed on a small concrete slab (sorry, no pavers as they are prone to shifting off level) at the edge of your patio 10-feet distant from the structure. This is a reasonable compromise acceptable to the fire marshal.

That said, the Association would then consider this to be a modification which would require an Association review, which isn't difficult to do.

A modification request form (available on otowclearwaterinfo.com) may be completed and, together with a sketch of the proposed improvement including dimensions of the proposed small slab addition as well as showing distance from the building, may be completed and turned in to the Community Service Office for review. There would be no cost for this review.

There is no easy solution for residents who installed a fixed pan canopy for grill usage to be able to meet the 10-foot distance. The Association discourages any placement in the grassed courtyard area



Chairman

because these areas could present a trip or fall hazard for people with mobility challenges to safely traverse the unimproved, grassy areas. These spaces are not as level as parking lots after all.

Electric grills with a grill area of 200 square inches (10 x 20 or similar) may be used anywhere, including under a patio canopy.

Finally, the community has a wonderful pavilion and park area next to the East Activity Center. This small park has seven areas with grills for use by the community. The amenity provider is also looking at adding several more charcoal grills to the uncovered areas of the new pavilion for community use. You don't even have to clean the grill as staff takes care of that.

When it rains, it pours

Tropical Storm Eta dumped a lot of rain (7.48 inches) and brought storm force winds, but On Top of the World fared pretty well.

The Fitness Center took on some water. Staff got right on top of it to start the clean-up and dry out. The gym was re-opened within 48 hours of the event.

The overall property did fairly well, all things considered. Pond water levels were high, but no localized flooding was reported.

Staff reenergized most elevators so that service was restored as soon as possible following the storm passing.

Staff surveyed the property to report on any downed trees, any downed limbs or trees blocking roadways. Only a few were found and the Management Company worked quickly to address those.

The wastewater plant took very high flows, but performed well without any problems.

Notifications both before and after the storm were sent out to residents who subscribe to receive RAVE updates. There were limited power outages throughout the property and Duke Energy worked diligently to get service restored.

During the peak of the storm, three fire panels went into alarm (possible electrical surges). The fire department responded to one alarm, but found no cause for alarm. It cannot be ruled out that the high winds were a source of at least two of the alarms activating. Bottom line is that there were no fires.

Ever wonder how

On Top of the World got its name?

This is the stuff of Colen family lore. There are a few versions around.

You've probably heard that the name came from the song "On Top of the World" sung by the Carpenters. While my father needed carpenters when the project first started in 1967, that version of the story misses the point.

When Mr. Colen acquired the property from Judge Byrd in 1966, he was looking for a large parcel of land, fairly remote from nearby development (hard to believe that we were ever remote now). He liked to say you could "fire a cannon down Sunset Point Road at noon time and not worry about hitting anything."

Shortly after the closing, my father loaded his mother and wife in the car (we kids were in school, so we waited for the weekend) and drove up to the property. He explained how at 80-plus feet above sea level, this property was the highest point within 5 miles of the coast from Cape Hatteras, N.C., around to Galveston, Texas. It is then that his mother exclaimed "Sidney, you are On Top of the World!"

The rest, as they say, is history.

Wait!

It doesn't end there.

A name that good, applied to real estate development and related activities, is just too good to leave unprotected from imposters and interests wanting to ride the coattails of success. This is why the company pursued federal registration of the trade name "On Top of the World" and obtained service marks on some 50-odd variations, including "OTOW" and related imagery.

If anyone attempts to use the name On Top of the World, OTOW, or any of the registered trade and service marks, the company vigorously asserts its exclusive right to the name, including taking matters to state and federal court. It can get very costly to violate a trade or service mark.

The company has granted a limited use license to some resident clubs and groups subject to their agreeing to adhere to stringent limitations on the use of the name. The limitations include reporting of club activities to assure no misuse or misrepresentation occurs.

If you are out and about and see or hear of such unauthorized use, your reporting it to the company can help stop fraudulent or unauthorized use quickly.

You can be assured that the OTOW company will soon put an end to the violation.

I mention this because an otherwise well-meaning individual crossed that line a few weeks ago. When we informed them of the violation, they immediately complied with the request to suspend the use of the name and all related activities as well as removing all name use and imagery.

Upcoming Projects Painting/Waterproofing

As in many year's past, the final month of the 2020 calendar year will see our painting contractor complete one final front fa-

çade painting and then transitioning to the application of rear waterproof coatings.

Building 61 will see painting crews applying coatings to the front façade of the building and then moving to the rear facades of Buildings 29, 33 and 34.

The painting contractor will also be working in Paradise applying new coatings to the barrier wall that runs along Montclair Road.

The painting contractor's processes include a thorough pressure washing, followed by the sealing of any hairline cracks in the masonry, and then the application of a high-quality coating.

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.

Construction, roofing and large scope projects

Duke Energy will be on-site, as was printed in the November edition of the On Top of the World News, in order to de-energize the power to Building 12 for the purpose of replacing the electrical feeds which service the building.

The outage is scheduled to begin at 7 a.m. on the morning of Dec. 8 and the outage estimate is projected to be right at 12 hours.

Keep in mind that this outage window may be extended if unanticipated conditions are experienced.

Bulletins have been posted in the building advising the occupants, so please make the necessary arrangements for this work. Thanks for your cooperation.

Building 84 will be another location that will see work crews arriving for a multi-month project beginning in December. The management company, in conjunction with a licensed contractor, will be removing the roofline ornamental balusters and replacing them with lighter weight aluminum components that will complement that building's façade nicely.

The north side of the structure, along Switzerland Drive, will be the starting point for the first phase of the project beginning on Dec. 8. This work is anticipated to take two weeks to complete.

The teams will then return in January and February to complete the removal process.

The ornamental aluminum rail installation will follow, taking place sometime in the spring.

Please remember to be aware of active work zones, heavy equipment and personnel working on building 84 throughout the winter months for the safety of all. Your attention and cooperation is appreciated.

Buildings 65 and 73 are the next two aluminum railing projects to be undertaken by a licensed mechanical vendor under contract to the management company.

Crews will be removing and adding supplementing elements in the common balcony walkway and stairwell areas to bring the building up to current life-safety and building codes.

(Continued on page 5)

fire marshal reach a compromise

These projects, depending on structure size and scope of work, take roughly 2–5 weeks to complete. Please be aware that work crews may be utilizing power tools and equipment necessary in the replacement process. If you happen to encounter a work zone, please exercise caution and avoid cordoned off areas. Safety is key for work teams and residents alike.

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 reminded 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.

Only resin-style (no brine or salt) wa-

ter 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 current 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.

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 commu-

nity 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 stones at the earliest convenience.

The Inspection Services Division 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 at the East Activity Center.

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 are 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 barbecue grills, be it 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 reoccurring 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 question 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.

Final thoughts

We wish you a happy and healthy holiday season. May all your days be filled with joy and gladness!

Straight facts about the new debit form

By Guy Woolbright
Secretary/Treasurer

In June 2020, the Association mailed all unit owners an updated automated clearinghouse (ACH) debit form. I will never understand why false information spreads faster than the facts. It is time to clear up the myths surrounding the new ACH form.

First myth to debunk: “Who is Management Enterprises, Inc. or MEI? I have never heard of them?”

Management Enterprises has been in existence for more than 40 years. MEI has served as the company responsible for collecting your community service fees (CSF) all these years. You receive your new CSF information from Management Enterprises each year after the Association budget is approved. When you have questions on your CSF, you call and speak with representatives from Management Enterprises.

Second, as stated in the June 2020 initial notification, MEI is updating their records. In order to do so, MEI is performing an audit of all unit owner(s) accounts. This audit will ensure the proper authorizations and the most current banking information is in the system, which is in accordance with banking regulations.

Third, there were many changes that needed to

be made to the ACH form after so many years. The new form:

- Provides information unit owners will see on their bank statements when their monthly community service fee is drafted from your account by auto-debit (ACH). Please note the monthly payment will appear on your banking statement as “Management Enterprises.”

- Provides new information in respect to savings accounts. Should a unit owner choose to pay their community service fee from a savings account, deposit slips are no longer acceptable. Instead, a bank notification letter is required that includes the routing and account numbers of the savings account.

- Provides for increase/decrease to community service fees from year to year in conjunction with the Association’s budget cycle.

- Adds language pertaining to how rejected ACH community service fee payments are handled for non-sufficient funds.

- Provides that the person signing the ACH form is an authorized user of the bank account where ACH community service fee payments are drawn.

- (Leasehold buildings only) provides language for lease payments that are collected as a convenience

along with the community service fee.

- (Leasehold buildings only) provides lease payment information so unit owners know how much of their community service fee goes towards their monthly leasehold.

Please note, if your banking institution has not changed, please sign the form and indicate that on the form and return – no need to attach a voided check.

MEI will make a note to their system that there are no changes to your banking information.

To return the form, you may:

- Drop off at the Community Service Office

- Return to Management Enterprises by mail:

P.O. Box 771029, Ocala, FL 34481

- Scan and email to: associationinfo@otowfl.net

- Fax to: 352-854-0815

Thank you to the more than 2,900 unit owners who have already responded by returning the new ACH form.

MEI has received many calls from happy residents thanking them for verifying that their banking information is accurate.

Should you have any questions or need a new ACH form, you may stop by the Community Service Office or contact Management Enterprises at 352-873-6046.

Pleasant aromas from holiday dinners contribute to holiday season memories



Let's close our eyes for a minute and think about all of the Christmas/holiday dinners we have had with our family.

Remember walking into your mother's or grandmother's house and smelling something roasting in the oven or the smell of fresh baked cookies?

Let's also not forget about the whole family around the dinner table to feast on a great meal.

So because this is a special time, I have put together a few special recipes.

Dry-Aged Standing Rib Roast with Sage Jus (the granddaddy of holiday dinners)

Ingredients

1 (4-bone-in) standing rib roast
Olive oil, to coat roast
Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper to cover entire roast
1 cup of water
1 cup red wine
4 fresh sage leaves
2 cup beef stock
4 tablespoon butter
1/2 cup flour

Directions

Remove any plastic wrapping or butcher's paper from the roast. Place the standing rib roast upright onto a half sheet pan fitted with a rack. Place dry towels loosely on top of the roast. This will help to draw moisture away from the meat.

Place in a refrigerator for 3 to 4 days. Change the towel everyday.

Remove the roast from the refrigerator 3 hours before you start to cook it. Rub the roast with the olive oil, then sprinkle it with salt and fresh ground pepper all over and let it sit, loosely tented with foil.

Preheat oven to 500 degrees F. Place the roast fat side up in a roasting pan with wire rack. Add the two cups of beef stock. Insert meat thermometer into the thickest part of the roast, making sure that the thermometer is not touching a bone.

Brown the roast at high temperature for 15 minutes. Lower oven temp to 325 and cook until it reaches an internal temperature of 125.

Remove the roast and tent with foil. Let it rest for 20 to 30 minutes. Reserve 1/4 cup beef dripping for the Yorkshire Pudding. Leave the rest of the drippings in the pan.



Place the pan on top of the stove, medium heat, and add wine and fresh sage cut into small pieces. Use a metal spatula to scrape up drippings. When the fat, wine and stock start to bubble, sprinkle 1/2 cup of flour into the pan. Continue to cook slowly and whisk constantly, breaking up any flour lumps. Whisk in the butter and pour into a gravy boat.

Crown Roast of Pork

This crown roast of pork is full flavored, tender, juicy and it makes a beautiful presentation for a holiday dinner.

Ingredients

8-pound crown roast of pork*
Salt and fresh ground black pepper
2 pounds fresh Italian sausage
3 tablespoons of olive oil to coat roast
May substitute German Bratwurst for pork

Directions

Bring the roast to room temperature by removing it from the refrigerator 2 hours before roasting. Position the rack in the lower third of the oven and preheat to 450 degrees.

Season the cavity with salt and pepper and stuff it with either the Italian or German sausages. Rub the outer surfaces with olive oil and salt and pepper.

Place the pork on a rack in a roasting pan. Pour 1/2- inch of water in the bottom of the pan and place the pork in the oven. Roast for 15 minutes, then re-

duce the oven temperature to 325 degrees. Continue roasting until a thermometer registers 145 degrees (make sure you put the thermometer ONLY in the meat not into the sausage).

Take the roast out of the oven and loosely tent with foil and allow the roast to rest for 20 minutes, then carve by slicing between the rib bones to separate into individual chops.

** You can go to the Fresh Market meat department and special order the crown roast a week ahead of time.*

Serve alongside the roast. Herbed Yorkshire Pudding

Ingredients

3 eggs
1/4 cup all purpose flour
1/4 cups of milk
3 tablespoons chopped fresh mixed herbs such as chives, thyme and parsley
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
1/4 cup reserved fat drippings from the Standing rib roast.

Directions

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees. Place an 8 by 12 enameled baking dish in the oven for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a mixing bowl, beat the eggs until foamy and light. Whisk in the

milk until combined. Add the flour, herbs, a big pinch of salt, and some pepper, beat just until the batter is smooth. Pour the beef drippings into the bottom of the hot pan. Immediately pour in the batter and bake for 10 minutes.

Reduce the oven to 350 degrees and continue baking for 15 to 20 minutes until the pudding is puffy and brown. Serve immediately, it deflates rapidly.

Slow Cooker Christmas/Holiday Sangria

Ingredients

2 bottles, dry, light-bodied, red wine
1 cup apple brandy
1 cup simple syrup*
1 orange, sliced
1 cup fresh cranberries
4-5 cinnamon sticks
1 cup cranberry juice

Directions

Add the wine, brandy, cranberry juice, simple syrup, orange slices, cranberries, cinnamon sticks, to your Crock-Pot cooker.

Stir to combine.

Set the temperature to high and cook for one hour. Then set the temperature on low to keep it warm for up to 5 hours.

** Simple Syrup - In a small saucepan, combine 1 cup of sugar with 1 cup of water. Bring to a boil and cook for 5 minutes.*

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

Equipment

Cookie sheet
Parchment paper
Small mix bowl
Metal spatula for thinning and
shaping melted chocolate
Plastic spoon for mixing hot chocolate

Ingredients

5.3 oz. Ghirardelli dark chocolate
melting wafers
3 tablespoons shelled pistachios,
coarsely chopped
3 tablespoons toasted coconut flakes
3 tablespoons freeze-dried raspberry
pieces
1 teaspoon cinnamon

Instructions

1. Set out equipment. Pre-measure ingredients.
2. If necessary, remove brown skin from nuts by rolling nuts in a towel.
3. Mix nuts, coconut flakes, berries in a small bowl.
4. Follow package directions for melting chocolate. Be careful to avoid over-heating.
5. Pour the chocolate on parchment paper. Smooth into rectangle about 10 inches by 6 inches and 1/8 inch thick.
6. Sprinkle toppings over warm chocolate. Gently press topping into the chocolate using the back of the spoon.
7. Place parchment paper on baking sheet for added support. Refrigerate for 3-plus hours to set.
8. Gently pull bark from parchment paper. Break into pieces and enjoy!
9. Store in air-tight container at room temperature for three days, fridge for two week, or freezer for a month.

Tip: When spreading chocolate, work fast so it does not harden before toppings are added.

Yield: About 40 pieces



Raspberry & Pistachio Dark Chocolate Bark

What is Bark?

Chocolate bark is a sheet of chocolate covered with nuts, dried fruits, and/or candies.

It looks rustic in that the toppings are not in a specific pattern.

The name “bark” seems appropriate as the chocolate shards bear a slight resemblance to rough pieces of tree bark – albeit tasty tree bark.

Chocolate bark is of French origin. Originally made as

Christmas candy, its nuts and fruits featured colors of the monastic robes of the orders of the Middle Age monks. (i)

This chocolate bark recipe makes a popular holiday dessert with beautiful Christmas colors of green, white and red for Christmas. It is so addicting. This is why bark has earned the nickname of “Christmas crack.”

The bark looks great on a tray of Christmas cookies or given as a home-made gift in a pretty box, cushioned by tissue paper.

Health Value

Pistachios, raspberries and dark chocolate are loaded with antioxidants, plus fiber, good fats and vitamin C.

Pistachios are one of the lowest-fat, lowest-calorie nuts around with high protein value. Think of them as one lean, green protein machine.

Sometime, bark is made with white chocolate. But white chocolate has a much higher sugar and fat content versus dark chocolate. The latter is the healthier choice.

When you make bark thin, it offers a gourmet experience...

much more than a thick chocolate bar piece. Another advantage of a thin bark base is that it has fewer calories than a thicker base. My dear chefs, this is desirable, given the goal to be as healthy as possible.

However, this dessert is fairly high in calories and added sugar. Therefore, avoid over-indulging. The American Heart Association suggests women consume no more than 6 teaspoons of added sugar daily; men, 9 teaspoons of added sugar per day. (ii)

The Science

Bark has a smooth, glossy sheen and crisp snap. If refrigerated, bark should not become dull or whitish (known as a bloom). This happens when cocoa butter separates from the cocoa solids and comes to the surface.

Regular chocolate needs to be tempered to prevent bloom. Tempering is a somewhat difficult process of repeated melting-and-cooling to stabilize the chocolate crystals. However, compound chocolate — known as candy-making chocolate — does

not require tempering. (iii) Home hobbyists and professionals like its ease of use and delicious taste.

Compound chocolate is made with vegetable oils (typically palm oil) instead of cocoa butter. It's much easier to work with than ordinary chocolate. It also melts at a higher temperature, so it doesn't get all over your hands when you eat it. But, it can scorch if you cook it at too high a temperature or seize if you add even a drop of cold liquid to it after it's melted.

Links

Note: Ghirardelli® wafers are compound chocolate available from Wal-Mart.

Disclaimer: Good nutrition is one of the key foundations of good health.

This column is not intended to provide medical advice. The reader should consult a physician for medical advice.

(i) thenibble.com/

(ii) heart.org/

(iii) wikipedia.or

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It's holiday season - learn the scams that are out there and share with neighbors

Hi folks, it's Rachel Wagoner.

I've been thinking quite a bit lately about the various scams and frauds that we all have to deal with every single day.

It's frustrating.

By now we should all be aware of what's "out there" seeking to steal our money and, if we want to be honest with ourselves, to injure our self-respect.

We have to worry about email scams, social media scams, robocall scams, IRS scams and Social Security Administration scams. Plus, we have to worry about our children and grandchildren's use of social media.

I mean, how do we know that when we get an email from a child, grandchild or niece or nephew, that he or she hasn't got a computer virus that winds up tricking us?

It's never-ending.

My ideas are no better nor worse than yours might be, but here are my thoughts on how to keep ourselves as safe as we can.

DO: Make sure your computer, iPad, iPhone, or other system has an up-to-date anti-virus program. Always download any updates from the company - NOT from anyone else. If you are not sure, do not download until you have someone you trust check it out.

DON'T: Do not answer your phone, be it a landline or a cellphone, unless you are positive that you recognize the caller.

DON'T: Do not call back a phone number if you get a call and then there's no voice message. Do not ever even think about returning that type of call. If someone has an important voice message, you can listen to it and decide if you want to



call back.

DO: Remember, the IRS, the Social Security Administration and the United States Marshal's office will never call you and demand money, a credit card, iTunes card, etc. - never, never, never.

Look, I can go on and on about this, and I know most of you have already read this before, however, there are plenty of folks who are vulnerable and I need you to keep watch on them as best as you can.

Talk about scams with friends and neighbors. Check out Websites for the FBI (FBI.gov), Federal Trade Commission, (FTC.gov) and your bank for valuable information.

Add "informative reading" to any other projects you have already. The only tool we have to protect our friends and neighbors is protecting ourselves first. Am I preaching?

Yes.

You see, here at our law firm, I and my law partners, Jerry Colen, and John Beck, who is a member of our law firm, have

seen too much agony from lost funds. Be careful. Be safe.

Now, for something "lighter."

One of our clients loaned money to a grandson so he could buy a car. My client really could not afford to loan the money, but, well, how could she say "no" to her grandson?

Of course, the grandson had several excuses why he could not repay the loan and then finally said he was not going to repay it because in his mind the loan was a gift.

Of course, it wasn't a gift.

Well, this is bad, but it could have been worse. My client could have guaranteed a promissory note, and even worse than that, could have had her name added to the car title.

So now, although she might lose the money she paid out, at least she will not be obligated on a promissory note and will not have to worry about liability if the grandson has an accident with the car.

What can she do now?

Well, she can always try to sue her grandson. The problem there is, the only proof she has of the loan is her check to her grandson.

Also, her grandson does not reside in Florida.

Filing a lawsuit in another state, and with no actual loan documentation other than the check, can be a losing situation.

So, what is to be done?

Maybe, all of us should remember that when our children or grandchildren ask us for a loan, we should ask ourselves if we can afford to lose all the money if the child cannot or will not repay it.

If you can afford to lose the funds,

then that's one thing. If you cannot afford to lose the funds, maybe you need to learn my law partner Jerry Colen's favorite word: "NO."

Try saying it. You'll like it!

Wishing you my very best over the holiday season and please stay safe.

- Rachel

Rachel M. Wagoner, is a partner in the law office of Colen and Wagoner, P.A. She is an attorney at law who handles matters as diverse as Wills, Trusts, Probate, simple and complex estate planning, asset protection planning, real property matters, including condominium and homeowner association matters, and title insurance matters. Rachel also provides legal advice and counsel to business and professional men and women, as well as corporate or limited liability companies in which they are involved. This column is only intended to present factual situations that may be of interest to our readers. It does not, nor is it intended to, provide legal advice. You should not rely on what is written in this column to be legal advice for your specific situation and you should always consult your own attorney for legal advice. Rachel Wagoner and Gerald R. Colen have law offices at 7243 Bryan Dairy Road, Largo, Fl., 33777. Their phone number is (727) 545-8114. In Ocala, Fl., their office is in the Town Center at Suite 11 across from the ice cream shop. Rachel and Jerry also meet clients at On Top of the World, in Clearwater, Fl. You can call or email them for directions. You are invited to visit the law firm's Website at www.colenwagoner.com. You can email Rachel Wagoner at Rachel@colenwagoner.com or email Jerry Colen at Jerry@colenwagoner.com.

Danny Kaye - the clown who could light up a room

Danny Kaye was born in Brooklyn to Russian immigrant parents on Jan. 18, 1913.

At age 5, Danny began singing and dancing on his way to becoming a Hollywood and Broadway icon.

He appeared in local clubs in and around New York, and was a big hit in the Catskill Mountains, where he perfected his style of performing.

Danny appeared in many countries that did not speak English, but he developed a style of artful communication, pantomime of body language and gymnastic face, that could express every emotion.

In the year 1939, his life changed. He met and married Sylvia Fine - a gifted pia-

nist, lyricist and composer with an influence in advancing Danny's career. They appeared together in Time magazine.

Unique among show business headlines, Danny starred on Broadway and made such film classics as "White Christmas," "Hans Christian Anderson," "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" and "The Court Jester."

According to one Hollywood columnist, "If Danny Kaye had not been born, no one could have invented him." It would have been stretching credibility far past the breaking point.

When Danny appeared on Broadway in "Two By Two" with music by Richard Rodgers, he fell on stage and broke his leg. He continued to do the rest of his perfor-

mances from a wheelchair.

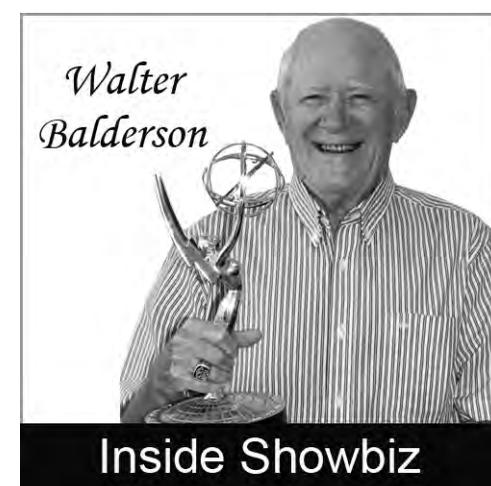
Danny's awards include Oscars, Emmys, Golden Globes, The French Legion of Honor, and the Presidential Medal of Honor.

In 1979, Danny celebrated his 15th anniversary as UNICEF's first Goodwill Ambassador and made the Guinness Book of World Records.

Most performers would rejoice to have one theatre named in their honor. Danny has three.

He died at age 70 with his wife and daughter at his side.

President Ronald Reagan said Danny Kaye was a clown who could light up any room just by smiling.



**Watch OTOW-TV Channel 732
for the latest community calendars.**

This may not be a traditional holiday season, but there are still reasons to smile and enjoy

Good news!

Good news. The holidays are upon us.

I celebrate and feel as excited as ever! Why not? Past generations have endured hardships of one form or another and still managed to create happy holiday memories.

At 55-plus, I am sure you probably have or had one parent or grandparent who lived through the Great Depression and these folks became our "Greatest Generation."

Perhaps these months of isolation will remind us to appreciate what we have rather than focus on what we do not.

If you are like me, your happiest holiday memories always seem to involve the senses. The aroma of pies baking, the sparkle of shiny lights, singing and playing holiday songs, time decorating and choosing that special gift with the anticipation of happiness upon its receipt.

Yes, social distancing does change things, but we can still create and enjoy so many of these experiences.

If you are concerned about your grandchildren, consider the fact that no matter what their circumstances, this pandemic has created more time with their families.

Moreover, hardship does not always equal a sad holiday. I asked my dad whether he received any presents when he was a kid during the Great Depression. I will never forget his reply, "Your grandma baked each of us (six brothers and sisters) our favorite pie. I got an apple pie." He said it was his favorite memory of Christmas!

Here's wishing you and yours many happy and lasting memories this holiday season and a Happier New Year, too!

The Angel Tree

It has become a tradition at On Top of the World, on the day after Thanksgiving, to put up our Angel trees at the East and West Activity Center lobbies.

Our hearts and minds are set on making the wishes of our community's children come true.

It's like the North Pole around here. Our SCA staff does a fantastic job setting up the tree and decorations. Our residents are like Santa and always come through fulfilling the wish of every child.

The organization sponsoring the Angel Tree is Pinellas County Foster and Adoptive Parents Association (PCFAPA) and their mission is "To provide quality training, support and activities for member foster and adoptive families. We strive to provide our parents with the necessary resources to deal with the many challenges they face in raising our community children."

Each Angel Tree contains tags with the names and wishes of kids in the program.

Due to Covid-19, the organization will be attempting to make the program one of less contact and still provide



Christmas to the children.

Due to the current situation, all of our children's wishes will be for gift cards for specific items that our foster parents can order online and have shipped directly to their homes. This will limit the shopping and exposure risks.

You will still see the child's name and their wishes that the gift card will purchase. This will be the best way to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Please take an Angel Tree tag and simply tape it onto their gift card – no wrappings or bags.

We will need your gift cards dropped off to the Community Service Office no later than Wednesday, Dec. 18.

On behalf of PCFAPA, the Community Service Office and all of the SCA staff, have a safe and Happy Holiday Season!

Meals on Wheels

Neighborly Care Network is pleased to announce that 500 seniors on their meals waiting list will now receive services!

But to do this, Neighborly Care Network needs an additional 200 volunteers.

Typically, volunteers choose one weekday and deliver a lunchtime meal to approximately 10-15 clients between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. There are nine locations throughout Pinellas County from which to choose.

Neighborly Care Network also recently launched a program which provides nutritious meals to formerly homeless veterans!

Interested in helping?

Simply complete their online application and choose an orientation date.

Visit www.neighborly.org, navigate to the "Ways to Give" page and choose Volunteer with Us!

Neighborly Care Network has revised its delivery protocols. Volunteers do not enter homes, practice physical distancing and are provided with personal protective equipment including facemasks, hand sanitizer and gloves.

To learn more about this and other Neighborly Care Network services, visit www.neighborly.org.

Master the Possibilities (MTP)

Registration continues to be low and it may be an aversion to Distance Learning. I'm not sure.



EAC Angel Tree

If so, I can arrange for a free online help course hosted by MTP's Education Program Manager Heather Simsay and myself.

Please email me at general_activity@otowfl.com if you would be interested in registering for such an online Zoom Help Course.

In addition, would anyone be interested in taking an Ancestry.com workshop online through MTP for a fee?

The classes would cover beginner, intermediate and advanced genealogy research, navigating Ancestry.com, creating a Family Tree and more.

Please email me at general_activity@otowfl.com and or email me some subjects or course ideas and I will share with the MTP team.

Thank you!

Please see the next page for December's MTP distance learning classes.

AAA Driving Course Online

I reached out to AAA to find out if they are offering the AAA Safe Driving Course online.

The answer was, yes, but right now only to AAA members.

If you are a member, you can create an account at aaa.com and that will open up the website for you to find an online defensive driving course. Once completed, you will receive a certificate for insurance discounts.

Countryside Cares Helping Hands

Every Friday afternoon, Good Neighbors Association President Jim Bjorgo and his wife, Maureen, pick up food donations from the Community Service Office and deliver it to Countryside Cares - Helping Hands organization.

Jim reports, under this COVID-19 pandemic, our residents have been incredibly generous. Coordinators and volunteers from Helping Hands send us a great big "Thank you!" as well as best wishes to all for a happy holiday season.

Activity Card Information

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

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

As a reminder, you must bring your valid activity card with you when using SCA facilities and be prepared to show it upon staff request.

At this time under COVID 19 restrictions, the SCA facilities and outdoor recreation areas are open to OTOW approved residents only and not guests. Any noncompliance matters will be directed to the On Top of the World Association.

Activity Room Reservations and Calendar

Under COVID-19 restrictions, the Activity Calendar is limited, ever changing and will not be included in the monthly newspaper.

For the most accurate calendar of recurring activities, see OTOW-TV Channel 732 where it is updated regularly.

As always, club and activity coordinators should stop in the Activity Office or contact me at general_activity@otowfl.com or 727-799-2734 to reserve the facilities and to be placed on the community calendar.

At this time, neither "events" nor "parties" that include food may be held inside the activity centers until further notice.

The Pavilion may be reserved for events that include food, however, the maximum number of residents that may gather is limited to 25 only.

Guests, including resident's family members, are not permitted to utilize the activity centers, the Pavilion or any of the outdoor recreational areas at this time.

The Pavilion's hours are currently 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

New residents seeking to join a club or to learn more about activities, welcome!

Please feel free to stop by to see me at the East Activity Center Activity Office, located at the southeast side of the building at 2069 World Parkway Blvd. East. Or, I can be reached at general_activity@otowfl.com or direct at 727-799-2734.

Master the Possibilities



Live Broadcasts and Recordings from Ocala

East to the Dawn: The Life of Amelia Earhart

Instructor: Susan Butler

Dec. 10, 1-2:30 p.m.

Hybrid Virtual Program



Amelia Earhart is an enduring icon who set more aviation records than any other woman of her day. Butler, who authored the biography that the recent film *Amelia* was based on, will talk about Earhart's life, about the making of the movie *Amelia* and about Earhart's probable end.

Course Fee: \$5

How to Be a World Changer During Uncertain Times

Instructor: Dr. Damon Friedman

Pre-Recorded, Available until Dec. 15

Dr. Damon Friedman is committed to empower people by showing them true commitment on inspiring others to follow by believing in a cause worth fighting for. This presentation will include real life stories from a visionary leader on how true humility can help empower people.

Course Fee: Free

The Atlantic Slave Trade's Supply Side: A View from Africa

Instructor: Bryant Shaw, Ph.D.

Pre-Recorded, Available until Dec. 15

We often view the trans-Atlantic slave trade from an American point of view - but what did the trade look like from the African side? This presentation highlights the influence of geography, disease and other factors that made slavery and the slave trade possible - and profitable - within Africa itself. It also raises intriguing questions regarding "race" and racism in our contemporary world.

Course Fee: \$2

Crafters & Artisans: Design Your Own Etsy Website

Instructor: Chris Kilbride

Pre-Recorded, Available until Dec. 15

So, you want to sell your handcrafted items online but don't know how. This class will help! Learn how to design your Etsy page, a sales page for each item, set up keyword searches, take photos that sell, and ship within this internationally recognized Etsy platform.

Course Fee: \$2

Register Today!

Video links and login information will be on your order receipt.

To register: email general_activity@otowfl.com or call (727) 799-2734

Give your Name, Class Title(s), Street Address, Unit #, Phone #, and Email Address

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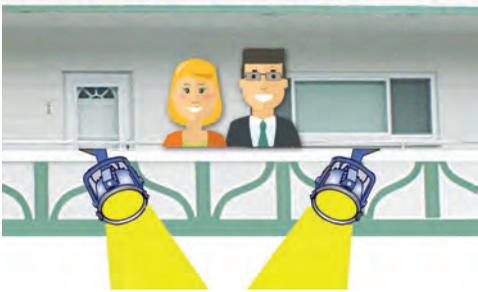
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ACTIVITY REPORTS



Sheriff's office recognizes OTOW group for two years of promoting safety

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



By Dave Beaven

Congratulations to the On Top of the World Neighborhood Watch group.

Not only has Neighborhood Watch been helping our community stay safe for two years, but was recently recognized by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department.

Neighborhood Watch had a recent visit from our Sheriff Liaison Officer, Deputy Kenisha Deg. She presented us with a plaque recognizing us going into our third year in 2021.

Over those years, we have established valuable ties with the sheriff's office and increased safety awareness among our residents.

"We are humbled to have been chosen by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office," said group representative Becky Balderson. "All we want to do is help other."

This past spring Neighborhood Watch even held a fund-raiser to collect donations for medical professionals on the front lines during this pandemic. We bought them lunch with monies collected!

Currently, in keeping with the holiday season, Neighborhood Watch has adopted a needy family for Christmas. Our group members are going to make sure that the family has nice Christmas gifts and a nice Christmas dinner for the entire family.

Especially at this time of year, it is in giving that we receive.

With the Christmas season coming up, Neighborhood Watch wants to wish everyone goodwill and cheer.

To help assure this, Neighborhood Watch wants to give our residents a few reminders so that this season is also a safe one as well.

Above all, be aware of Covid-19. It is still around. This is no time for us to let our guard down. Let's all be smart and follow the guidelines set by the Center for Disease Control regarding wearing masks, social distancing and washing one's hands.

Lock up your property. This includes



Members of your Neighborhood Watch group stand in front of the community they are working so hard to keep safe. That effort was recognized recently by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department, which presented the group with the plaque at right.

doors on your condo and your car. Put your gift shopping bags out of sight in your car trunk. Don't make your car a temptation to break into.

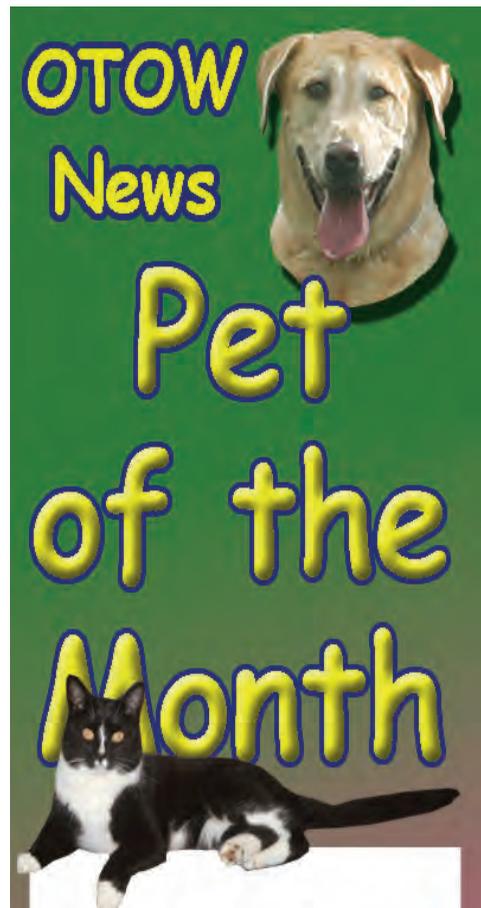
Be judicious with drinking. It's easy to over indulge at this time of year. It's also easy for us at our age to stumble and hurt ourselves. And of course, don't get behind the wheel of your car if you've had a few too many drinks.

By heeding the above three tips, we should be able to enjoy the coming holidays and many more days beyond.

If you'd like to find out more about Neighborhood Watch, go to our webpage: areawatch2020.blogspot.com.

We are also on the Box Office at otowboxoffice.com.





OTOW News
Pet of the Month

Sponsored By



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www.WoofGangClearwater.com



Hi. My name is BJ. I am a 3-year-old toy poodle living in the Swiss Alps Chalet building. My owners are Bill and Jaye Lamoreux, which makes me French, I guess. I am very cuddly and cute. I am single, but not available to date. I have a girlfriend named Molly. If you see me on the East Side, stop and say hi.

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.

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Expires 12-31-20

\$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 \$25 more. Substitute 3-year rabies for only \$10 more. Must present coupon.
Expires 12-31-20

Halloween Pet Costume Contest winners collect prizes



In October, OTOW News held its annual Halloween Pet Costume Contest, but this year it was online. The winners had to wait a few weeks to receive their prizes. Going clockwise are Bruce Lovett and Cuddles receiving their prize from Woof Gang Bakery & Grooming; Jay English and Rosie receiving their prize from Harborside Animal Hospital; Barbara Rice and Buckley receiving their prize from Creating Smiles Dental; Kirk Jansen and Boe receiving a gift certificate from State Farm Insurance; and Joan Walton and Roxie receiving their prize from Publix.



Thank You Sponsors!

Many On Top of the World pets still waiting their turn for Pet of the Month honors

By Doug Kates

As fun as it is to have a Pet of the Month winner in each edition of OTOW News, it is also a struggle to get everyone in who submits an entry.

At this time I would like to update everyone who is waiting for their pet to be selected a Pet of the Month.

Currently, there are 27 On Top of the World pets on the waiting list and some have been waiting for three years. More submissions are sent in each month.

I am not discouraging anyone from entering their pet. Just have patience, please. We will eventually get your pet in too.

OTOW News tries to get the older pets in first, then the ones who have

been on the waiting list the longest. Next month you will all meet Mongo, who has patiently waited for his turn since 2017.

The following pets are also on the waiting list. If you see a pet on this list who is no longer a resident here, please email the OTOW newsroom and let us know (otow.newsroom@gmail.com).

On the waiting list: Greg, Danny Boy, Luca, Bam Bam, Kingston, Lucas, Madigan, Flora and Lilly, Jax, Simon, Boo, Buddy, Nancy, Peanut and Elmo, Fox, Foxie, Chloe, Haylee, Lil Buddy, Roxie, Professor Peabody, Jen and Ruby, Daisy and Abby, Kiki, Try, Lexie and another Chloe.

If you submitted your pet and do not see him/her on this list, please submit again to the email listed about. We are

only taking email entries at this time, so please do not visit the newsroom. Please include name of pet, breed, age and building living in. Only current OTOW pets and owners are eligible. Please give a description of why your pet should be a Pet of the Month. Tell us about likes/dislikes, personalities, hobbies and what makes your pet special.

In January, residents will be asked to vote for our Pet of the Year. The candidates will be the 12 pets of the month for 2020. Traditionally, the winner receives a prize from Woof Gang Bakery and rides in the Irish Club St. Patrick's Day Parade. We will have to wait and see if that tradition continues next year.

On Waiting List

Greg, Danny Boy, Luca, Bam Bam, Kingston, Lucas, Madigan, Flora and Lilly, Jax, Simon, Boo, Buddy, Nancy, Peanut and Elmo, Fox, Foxie, Chloe, Haylee, Lil Buddy, Roxie, Professor Peabody, Jen and Ruby, Daisy and Abby, Kiki, Try, Lexie and another Chloe.

Up next, OTOW Pet of the Year voting

In January, people around the world will be asked to vote for On Top of the World's Pet of the Year.

Your choices will be the 12 Pets of the Month that have been featured in this newspaper this year.

Voting will take place on the Box Office. Watch for details on how to vote in the January 2021 newspaper.

You can visit the Box Office (otowboxoffice.com) and view all 12 contestants under OTOW News Contests.

More than a dozen participate in first online dance class



By Dale Stackhouse

Zoom Line Dancing has begun for members of both the Snowbirds Line Dance Club and On Top of the World Line Dance Club.

The debut class was on Wednesday, Nov. 4, at 10 a.m., with 14 participants.

They "Zoomed" in from Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Wisconsin and Canada, so there were many greetings and happy hellos among dancers who haven't seen each other in a long while.

With Ed Foland running the music, Dolly Foland led participants through



Pictured above is a photo taken last year during the annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner held at On Top of the World and organized in part by the Snowbirds Club.

several easy dances, which most members of Ed's beginners class from last season would recognize. Then everyone progressed to a few slightly harder dances

which included turns. It is a little more challenging to manage turns when you only have a computer screen and no other dancers to follow, but we will get used to

it, I'm sure.

We will miss our in-person dancing and our great parties, but all that has been put on hold until November 2021 for the Snowbirds Club.

Please watch for Ed Foland's club newsletters for updates and helpful information. If you were a member of either club last year, you are eligible for the Zoom class at no charge, but you must register first.

Another event that sadly had to be rescheduled to 2021 was our annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner.

Veterans Day, or Remembrance Day, as it is referred to in Canada, is observed on Nov. 11 to commemorate the signing of the Armistice at the end of World War I, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

The Snowbirds Line Dance Club would like to take this opportunity to thank all the veterans for their service and the sacrifices they made to protect the freedoms we all enjoy.

Co-Ed Exercise Class is back

The Co-Ed Exercise Class at On Top of the World is back and there is space for you.

The group is led by Jerry Thomas and meets from 10-10:45 a.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the East Activity Center Exercise Room.

Please bring a mask and a mat. We will supply the fun. Social distancing rules are in effect and we are limited on class size.



Holiday Lights Video

OTOW-TV will be walking throughout our community from Dec. 7-11 taking videos of your holiday lights and decorations. All the videos will be combined into one overall OTOW Holiday Lights video that will air on OTOW-TV Channel 732 through New Year's Eve. If you plan on putting up holiday lights in front of your condo, be ready! You cannot call to arrange a time for a video of your lights to be made - just have them up by Dec. 7. Videos will be shot between 6-8 p.m and will begin airing on OTOW-TV the same week. The final video will air the following week. If you cannot get out to see holiday lights this year, don't miss seeing our own lights on OTOW-TV.



New York-New Jersey Club hoping for an August return

By Will Peterson

Your New York-New Jersey Club Board Members want to wish you all the best that the holiday season can bring during these trying times.

This year has been quite a year to say the least and we hope that all of you have managed to stay healthy.

Board members have greatly missed our monthly meetings and socials and, of course, the wonderful catered dinners, especially the ones with Mama Felice's special touch.

The New York-New Jersey Club has been watching decisions made by other clubs and has made some decisions for the near future.

Our 2020 officers will be staying in office until our election meeting in 2021. Current memberships will be held over and new members will be welcomed at the same time.

Please stay healthy into the New Year



New York - New Jersey Club

and, hopefully, as of August 2021, we will be able to start planning events once again.

We wish you peace, love and hope!

You may see us filming in the community this month

By Evelyn Flam

In our November article, the Jesters took you back to the 1960s for a look at the music of that time, including The British Invasion.

Then we went back to the 1970s when a musical bridge was created to a relaxing style of dance music. The '70s became known as The Disco Decade.

As a result, the hippie lifestyle of the 1960s connected with the disco era of the 1970s and created the yuppie lifestyle of the 1980s.

Sounds like a show!

The 2020-21 Jesters have been re-

hearsing music of the '60s and '70s and now we are now ready to start filming our 2021 spring show, "BAM - A Tribute to Boomer-Age Music."

So if you see us out on the campus with our performing and production teams, you'll know filming is finally in the works.

After all the scenes are shot, we will begin editing and have a finished product for you to see.

We hope you'll enjoy the video as much as we've enjoyed performing and putting it together.

Disco Decade Joke: "I hosted a silent

disco party in my apartment. I got a complaint from the mime next door." - And, "No!" This is not in the show.

For information about the Jesters, call us at 727-797-1761, or, email us at JestForFun21@gmail.com

As always, we're happy to answer your questions about how you can get involved, how you can be a part of next year's show, and, of course, how you can order your copy of "BAM! - A Tribute to Boomer-Age Music."

You can become a member of the Jesters by contacting Membership Chairperson Lillian Foy at 727-474-6307.



Jesters

Bonesavers has started up again three days a week

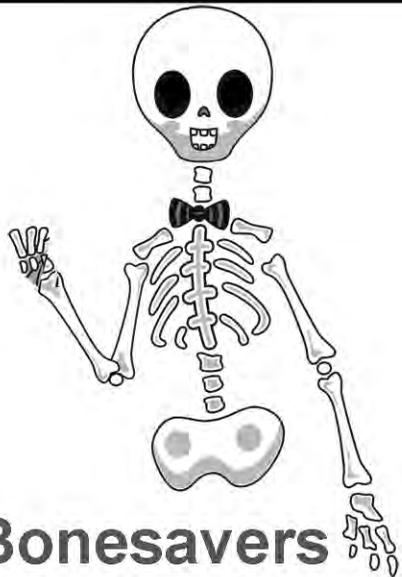
After a COVID-related shutdown this past spring, the Bonesavers exercise class is back in session.

If you are not familiar with Bonesavers, it is a program of light exercises and stretches designed specifically for seniors and perfect for staying active, increasing muscle tone and helping maintain good balance habits.

Classes meet on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8-9 a.m. at the East Activity Center Largo Room.

New members are welcome - ladies and men. Join us for fun and give your bones a bonus of flexibility and increased strength.

Please bring your On Top of the World Activity Card and a mask.





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(vacant), Vice President

Rose Pietrogallo, Secretary

Newsroom Hours: 9:30-6 Mon-Thur, 9-2 Fridays Phone: (727) 799-3216

Next Delivery Date

January newspapers will be delivered on Dec. 31

To advertise in our January edition, payments must be received by Dec. 15.

Please note, we may sell out ad space before the deadline!

ON TOP OF THE WORLD NEWS ADVERTISING POLICY

On Top of the World News is a community organization for the benefit of the residents of On Top of the World.

On Top of the World News does not accept advertisers solely for commercial purposes or income. This newspaper will be published on its regular schedule whether there are advertisers or not.

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The News endeavors to keep the standards of this paper at a high level. We do not, however, endorse advertisers or knowingly accept objectionable or fraudulent advertising. On Top of the World endeavors to publish only good, informative and worthwhile happenings of life. This newspaper will leave the daily news of life with all its strife, struggle and turmoil to commercial publications. On Top of the World News does not strive to be a profit-making entity. We take pride in the fact that the On Top of the World News staff is entirely made up of volunteers except for two professionals to coordinate the operation of this paper.

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Press Association Volunteers This Month:

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

Around The World in this Newspaper Edition

SECTION 1

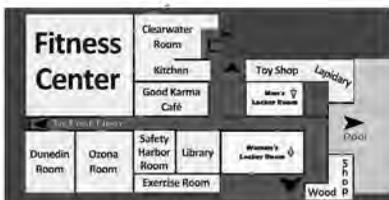
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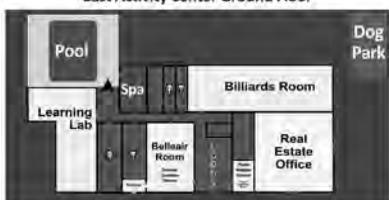
East Activity Center Ground Floor



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



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There will still be line dancing during the holiday season

By Hope Tera

Flexibility is a wonderful trait, especially when dealing with a pandemic.

Members of the On Top of the World Line Dance Club have really stepped up. We've put on masks and danced ... outside, in the Exercise Room, in the auditorium, pretty much any place with enough space for us to socially distance.

Our typical holiday celebrations have changed quite a bit, but we're still enjoying, and most importantly, we're still dancing.

This month, our celebration will be no exception. There will be merriment and fun, while we ensure safety for all.

From our family to yours, we wish you great health and the warmth of the holiday season.

Our current line dance sessions are as follows:

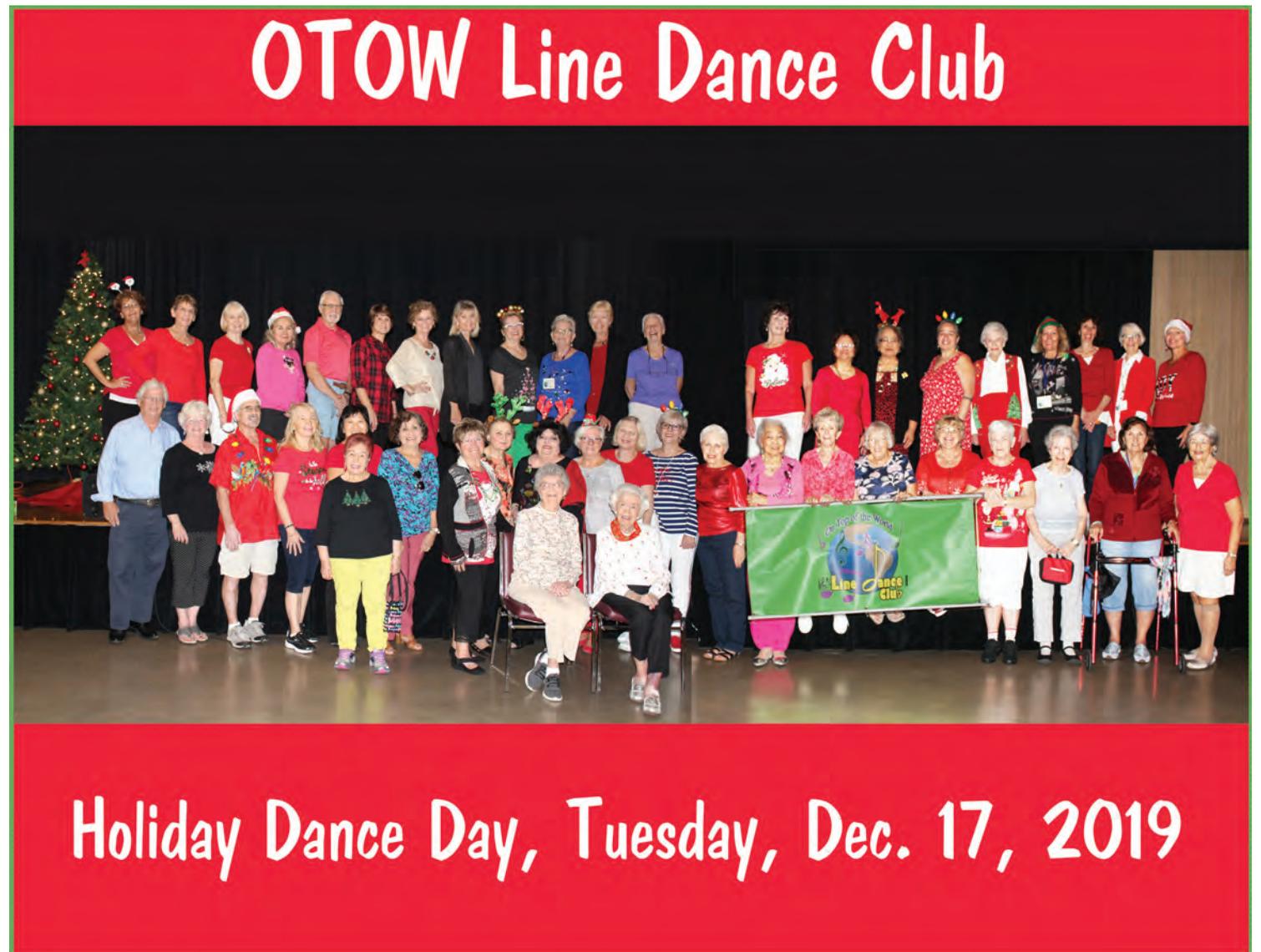
On Tuesdays we are holding Advanced Beginner sessions at 11 a.m., which are geared toward line dancers who already know the basics.

At noon we hold Improver sessions, which are geared toward experienced line dancers.

To register for either or both of these sessions, you can email our club secretary at hoptera@gmail.com or call/text her at 914-217-9206.

For folks who are new to line dancing, we offer Easy Beginner Line Dance Classes on Mondays. The sessions are full right now. To have your name added to the waiting list, or to get more information, you can email our club secretary at hoptera@gmail.com or call/text her at 914-217-9206.

If line dancing is in your blood, and you're an early riser, please join us at 7 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in the auditorium. We rehearse upcoming dances and work on new dances. No registration is required.



As we get ready to close out 2020 and start the new year, rest assured our club officers are making plans to expand our offerings for 2021 as safety protocols hopefully become less restrictive.

When you come, please follow our safety rules, outlined below.

- Practice social distancing (maintain at least 6 feet between you and others).

- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth. If you need a break, please go outside for some fresh air, until you feel better. This will help protect us all.

- Bring bottled water, if desired (water fountain is disabled).

- Bathroom in auditorium is open.

As always, you can catch a demo of some of our line dances on OTOW-TV

channel 732, weekdays at 11 a.m.

Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays the videos showcase the OTOW Line Dancing Club. Wednesday and Thursday videos showcase the Snowbirds Line Dance Club.

You can also check out the OTOW Box Office (otowboxoffice.com) for a plethora of useful information.

Next meeting Thursday, Dec. 3

Reporters encouraged to take online journalism tutorial

By Doug Kates

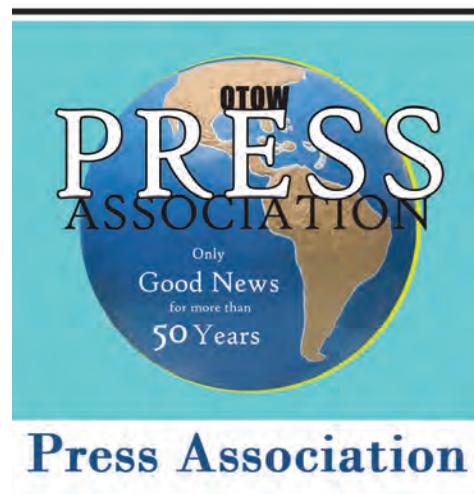
Tropical Storm Eta took care of the Press Association meeting scheduled in November, but it did not prevent news reporters from going to school.

The Nov. 12 meeting was canceled because the East Activity Center was closed following the storm.

Fortunately, reporters had something else they could do.

November was supposed to be the month the annual Writers Workshop took place. This is the only time all year when reporters are taught how to improve their writing and correct bad habits picked up by email writing.

This year the Writers Workshop is an online tutorial staff can take anytime they have some free time. It was suggested that writers take the tutorial at home when the meeting was canceled and many did. Most reported the tutorial took them only 20



minutes.

As of November coming to an end, 16 OTOW News staffers took the tutorial, but there are still many more who have

not taken the online class.

Please, before the end of the year, sit down at a home computer and take 20 minutes to learn the basics of journalism writing.

The class teaches reporters that the first two paragraphs in your story are very important in getting someone to read your story. If you keep your article to 400 words or less there is a good chance a reader will finish the entire story.

It reminds writers that we do not overuse common words just because we think it's cool to do so.

The tutorial reminds us we have to use full names of people on first reference, we do not need to list the year if publicizing an event in the current year and we never use nicknames.

The tutorial reminds us that quotation marks go after the final punctuation.

The class also tells us what we can

write about and what we cannot write about. We only report on good news and there are specific events we keep out.

It is currently December. If you are on staff and haven't taken the tutorial yet, please do so soon. There is a simple way to reach it. Go to the Box Office at otowboxoffice.com and scroll to almost the bottom of the home page. You will see a group of links including room finder, Facebook and recycling information. Look for a penguin with a notebook and camera and click. You will soon be on your way.

Even if you think your writing skills are great, the tutorial is a great refresher.

The next Press Association meeting is 1 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 3 in the East Activity Center auditorium. There will be no food or beverages and no tables. Please wear a mask and keep 6 feet apart. We will be discussing newspaper plans for 2021.



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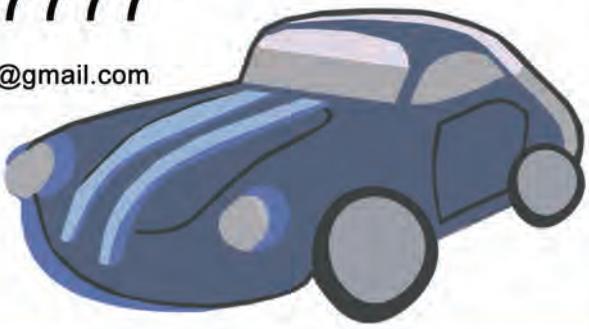
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If holding a paintbrush is difficult for you, there are very clever alternatives



Art Guild

By Mary Slack Maynard

The On Top of the World Art Guild wishes all of our friends and neighbors a healthy and happy holiday season.

The featured painting at right is of a holiday sandman painted by Rosemarie Lugg, one of the Art Guild instructors.

As we draw 2020 to a close, I think it's safe to say that this year has given us all some time for reflection ... maybe some of those thoughts have traveled into areas of creativity.

Maybe some of you have developed the desire to paint, to draw, or work in another creative avenue, but haven't tried because of the loss of dexterity.

As we age, for some of us, doing delicate work becomes difficult.

I talked to a couple of different friends over the last few weeks and in each conversation we discussed how difficult, and painful holding a paintbrush has become.

For anyone experiencing stiffness in the hands, there are a number of methods of painting that you can try. Google can provide links to many different methods.

Two such methods are pour painting and sponge painting.

Pour painting does require special paint, a heat gun or hair dryer, and a covered surface, as it is messy.

I've tried it and my art pieces have never, ever, looked like the projects on YouTube, but it was fun.



This holiday painting is the creation of Art Guild member Rosemarie Lugg. This elf wasn't crazy. He knew where to spend the holiday season.

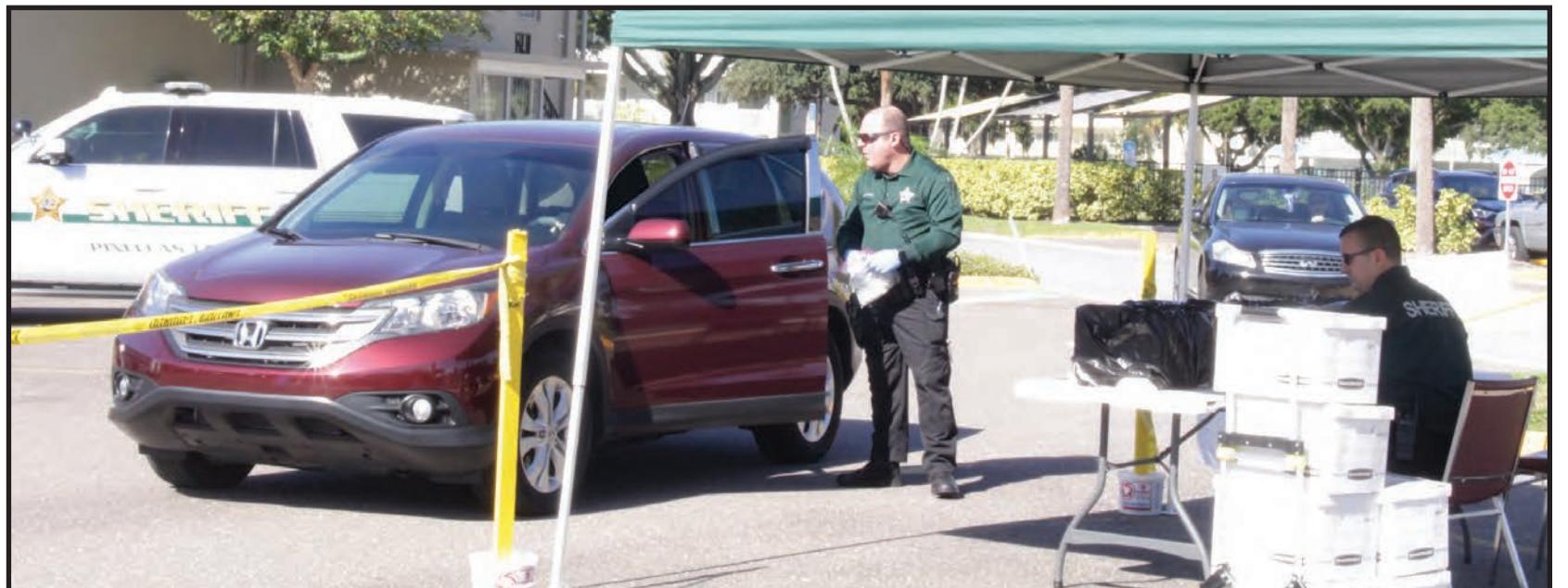
Sponge painting, on the other hand, just requires paint, a canvas or paper, and a sponge. You can experiment with a regular kitchen sponge, a paper towel, or purchase craft sponges of different sizes and textures at a craft store.

I have taken classes where most of the painting was done with a sponge. Paintings depicting fall or spring colors are some of the easiest to do with a sponge. Think of the paintings of Claude Monet or J. W. M. Turner, but with less definition!

I always believed in the "a gift for you and a gift for me" mantra. So if you want to try something new, this is the perfect year to give yourself the gift of exploration. Experiment with a new medium or style. And just have fun.

Operation Medicine Cabinet

Back in October, deputies from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department set up camp at On Top of the World for Operation Medicine Cabinet. This event usually takes place in the East Activity Center auditorium, but because of the pandemic, an alternative had to be created. Deputies stood outside as residents pulled up in their vehicles. The objective is to collect old medications not used anymore and prevent medicines from getting thrown out in the trash or flushed into the water system. No one has to exit their vehicle.






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New members join Lambda in time for Christmas - there won't be a regular holiday party - but this club still finds ways to have fun

By Bruce Lovett

Merry Christmas.

Two words that will be on everyone's lips for the next 25 days.

And Lambda's reason for usually holding not one, but two parties in December: (1) A gift exchange early in the month and (2) a Christmas Eve feast later on.

Unfortunately, this year we will have to make due with smaller, politically correct, socially distant gatherings throughout the month.

But, as always, we'll still have fun.

Lambda is an all-inclusive club that celebrate Hanukkah with equal gusto. Two holidays for the price of one.

Just like the early days of Sesame Street, this article is being brought to you by the number two.

As the announcer would say, "The number two!"

To start off, Howard Harville (of Howard's Happy Hour fame) bought two Red Factor canaries. The Colorbred is a type of Canary that is bred to produce a specific color, with no regard for singing or body shape. Red and its multiple hues are the most popular choices.

Ella and Louis, named for the Jazz legends they are forced to listen to and hopefully emulate, are really too young to definitively determine sex. Howard hopes to breed them, but could have two males, two females or any combination of the LGBT community for that matter.

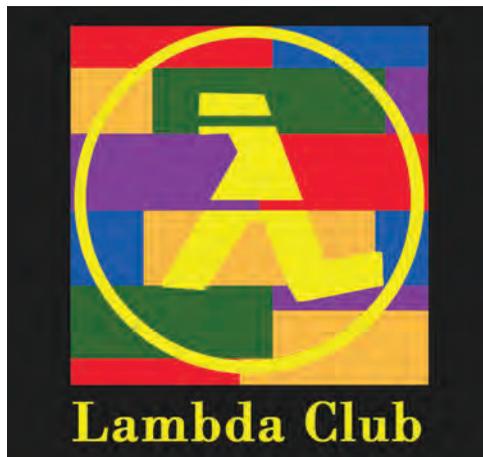
Only time will tell.

Our featured models this month are Marcel L'Heritier and Amado Daruich. (AKA Rudolph and Prancer.) They are two young seniors who were dying to get out of the cruel New Jersey winters.

Florida was always their "final destination," but they could not find the right spot until they found On Top of the World.

After years of cruising the east coast, they decided to try the west for a change of pace, very bi-coastal of them.

And after discovering Clearwater they



said in tandem, "We're home."

Now that they've been here for a while, have met some of the good folks in their building, in Lambda, and at other activities - they know they are home.

Marcel and Amado are fantastic Christmas gifts, and two of nine new members to discover Lambda despite the pandemic and the decreased social activities. Each is a gift in their own right.

And last, but certainly not least, is the marriage of our beloved fearless leader, Dave Beaven to Jack Kilgen. Two have become one.

As Dave tells it, in October 2014 they met at a party and a week later went on their first date at Quaker Steak and Lube. Not the most romantic spot, but it was halfway between OTOW and Pinellas Point where Jack lived.

In the ensuing six years, they grew even closer. Actually, never even had a fight. Jack is the artsy, spontaneous spirit which complements Dave's logical, technical one.

"We know a winning combination, and on the sixth anniversary of the month we met, we put a ring on it," Dave said.

We all wish them a fantastic life together.

Should you wish to find out more about Lambda, a club open to all LGBT residents of OTOW as well as their friends and neighbors, you can visit our



Marcel L'Heritier and Amado Daruich remind us what the holiday season looks like in New Jersey. This is just a memory photo. They call Clearwater home now.

official Web page://lambdaclearwater.blogspot.com.

We are also on the Box Office at

otowboxoffice.com or you can contact us by email at lambda@gmail.com or call Dave at 727-410-7566.

North of the border

Oops! Our holiday decorations are all in Clearwater

By Connie Stanley

I hope our American cousins, families and friends enjoyed a happy, healthy and safe American Thanksgiving within your safe bubbles.

And I hope we will all find a way to have a safe and festive Christmas season.

Well, it hasn't started snowing in my part of Canada yet, but I imagine, by the time you read this newspaper, it will be snowing in many neighbourhoods - except in Clearwater!

We had to laugh at ourselves this holiday season while at home here in Canada. It has become a reality for many Snowbirds not able to be in Florida this winter. All of our holiday decorations are at On Top of the World!

What are Snowbirds to do?

In keeping up with the tradition, we went shopping.

The holiday decorating season in Canada may not resemble exactly what we have created at our condo, but close. We will miss decorating our front porch and having Doug Kates come by with his video camera.

Doug? You are welcome to bring your video camera to Canada to film! We have Canadian Molson in the fridge.

In all seriousness, OTOW residents who are normally together this winter, are spread out around the world instead. Some may not be happy to see snow again.

But we will work around it with kind wishes to all.

From everyone over the border and destinations afar, to all our friends, we wish you a wonderful Hanukkah and Christmas season, and a Happy New Year!

Cheers to warm holiday memories!

May the closeness of your loved ones, family and friends fill your hearts with joy. May your season shine brightly with joy and goodwill!

I hope your holiday celebrations are full of lots of fun, surprises, safety and magic!

And again, we hope we can recuperate our friendly and fun gatherings in 2021!

Happy holidays to all and to all a good night at On Top of the World.

Stay safe!



Canadian Club



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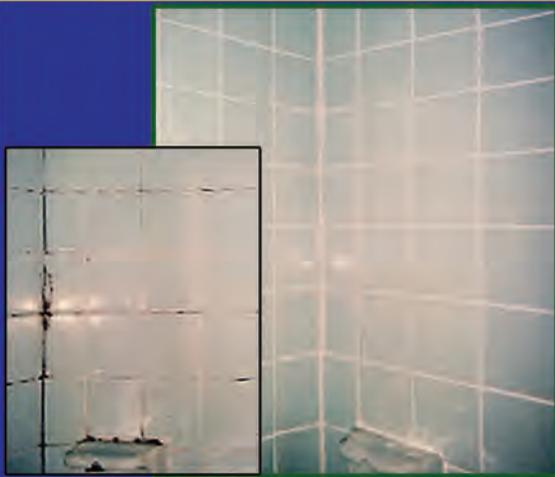
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Keep this cheery moment fresh in your minds. We won't be having a holiday party this month, but we are already planning one for 2021.

Travel Club planning a holiday party for 2021

By Janice Berman

The On Top of the World Travel Club has secured a 2021 date for a holiday party.

We will be celebrating in early December 2021 at the beautiful Countryside Country Club.

Please note the year, 2021.

Board members will be monitoring the pandemic

watching for a time when group gatherings are allowed.

Vice President Linda Keebler will update members by email.

Several members have offered suggestions for future activities. One suggestion is to have a social hour with another club to mix and mingle. Another suggestion is to have a guest speaker at our monthly meeting to talk about

an aspect of travel or share a travel story.

I would like to hear from members. Which past trips have you enjoyed the most and where would you like to go next? Day trips or Lunch Bunches?

Anyone with ideas for future trips or activities please email them to me at janberman@verizon.net.

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Current conditions are not stopping Republican Club members from meeting - see you on Dec. 2



Teresa Kawalec, right, donates Mr. Trumpy Bear to the Republican Club. President Edwina Schick accepts.

By Edwina Schick

Wow, what an exciting month we had in November!

On Top of the World Ronald Reagan Republican Club members were seen all over Pinellas County attending boat parades, car parades, rallies and flag wavings - almost daily.

One of our members, Mary Jane Lofton, was a volunteer poll watcher during early voting and on election day.

Our November meeting included plans for 2021 goals and activities. We have a new club mascot, thanks to Theresa Kawalec, who presented our club with Mr. Trumpy Bear.

Until Covid restrictions are lifted, our meetings will be scheduled on a month-to-month basis. Every member needs to check email for scheduling details.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 2, 11 a.m. in the East Activity Center auditorium.

Don't let Covid keep you from joining The Ronald Reagan Republican Club



Republican Club

of On Top of the World! We are still accepting new members.

You may call us at 678-414-5300 or 828-508-7806 for more information.

We also have email at rrrc.otow2020@gmail.com.

We have many post-Covid plans that you will want to enjoy so please wear a mask.

We look forward to seeing you.

Democratic Club is now up to 30 minutes of fame

By Donna Lukas

Are you feeling bored and looking for some distraction?

Perhaps you long for some quiet relaxation that takes you away from today's world?

Maybe you are looking for some holiday reading in December?

You might try these for some old-time holiday memories: "The Christmas Box" by Richard Paul Evans, "Esther's Gift: A Mitford Christmas Story" by Jan Karon, and "The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus" by L. Frank Baum.

Best wishes for Happy Holidays from the On Top of The World Democratic Club.

Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, Christmas, Kwanzaa, or Festivus, we wish you happy times shared with family or friends.

Thanks to all our club members and friends who worked so hard to "Get Out



Democratic Club

The Vote" and helped President-elect Joe Biden win Pinellas County in the November election.

We have even received compliments from non-Democratic friends who recognized how much effort we put into that campaign.

Remember our 15 minutes of fame

a few months ago when CNN reporters came to interview us at OTOW?

Well, in November we received an additional 15 seconds of international fame.

A Japanese crew from TV Asahi came to OTOW to ask questions about how Covid might be affecting the votes of seniors in the presidential election. The crew spoke with some of us in the picnic area.

To give Japanese viewers an idea of retirement community living, the crew also filmed pickleball players, interviewed a resident in her home, and even stayed to film some of the amazing Nov. 1 car caravan and rally along U.S. 19.

If you want to see a small piece of how Japanese viewers watched our lead up to election night, you can check out the following link at <https://youtu.be/7-rS3j9FBAM>.

Because of facility restrictions, we will not be able to have our annual potluck

dinner we usually hold in the West Activity Center. We might be having a party in the Pavilion from 12:30-2 p.m. on Dec. 10.

If you are among the paid club members who have given us an email address, you should have received a participation question and details regarding this party possibility.

If you did not receive an email, you may phone Dave Cordes at 727-443-4706 for information.

Pavilion use is currently limited to 25 people. Mask wearing and social distancing are required. Please remember to bring your current OTOW activity card because OTOW staff will be checking for these identification documents.

Look for further information on our club page at the otowboxoffice.com website, our On Top of The World, Clearwater Facebook page, Spectrum channel 732 or group emails.

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- Read OTOW News online
 - Club web pages
- Nancy's Bulletin Board
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- And now ... Aquariums!
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People in Ireland

Read On Top of the World News



We may be retired, but we can still make awesome defensive plays

By Bob Rittner

In senior softball, we see the importance of defense in every game as unexpected catches, on the mark throws and remarkable infield play often decide the game's result.

**West Siders 4
2nd Time Sports 2**

This game was a perfect example of the defensive introduction. With a runner on base, Russell Platte raced for a soaring fly ball making a tumbling catch for the third out of the inning and keeping the score tied at 0-0.

Two innings later, and another runner on base, Cindy McCarthy prevented a certain double and a run scoring with a lightning quick grab of a scorched liner to first base.

And as if to emphasize the point, in a 4-2 game, last inning, two outs, bases loaded, George Morgan sprinted in to corral a dying quail popup that would have scored at least one run, probably the tying run as well.

There were some hitting stars as well. Bob Dembinski and Lance Wilson each had three hits for the winners.

**West Siders 8
2nd Time Sports 3**

With West Siders leading 1-0 in the sixth inning, Dick LeTourneau doubled, Bob Pugliese singled and Jim Blankenship crushed a line drive inside the right field line for a homer.

But that was all the scoring for 2nd Time Sports as the winners tacked on seven runs over the last three innings. Those final runs scored on singles by

Softball

Karen French, Robert Bannick and Joe DeChiaro, a double by Elsa Stanly and a long homer by Joe Brandao.

The defensive star of the game was Jim Tiano, who took a perfect route, racing back to his left, for a deep line drive catch in left field. He stretched to nab the ball in his webbing. A breathtaking play.

**2nd Time Sports 8
West Siders 1**

The first rout of the season was highlighted by run-saving catches by Ron Shields and Elsa Stanly.

The West Siders could not stop the hurricane of hits that rained down on them from Cindy McCarthy, Bob Dembinski, Alex Scaranda, Ron Shields, Jim Costello and Joe DeChiaro.

**West Siders 9
2nd Time Sports 8**

In keeping with this month's theme, the keys to the game were three brilliant outfield catches by the winners.

Jim Costello ranged far to his right twice, looking every bit the major leaguer, as he settled under two line drive smashes in left field. Very smooth.

Karen French raced in from right field to grab a sinking line drive at her knees.

Those three catches saved at least three runs.

In the ninth inning, Robert Bannick raced around from first base on a Joe DeChiaro double to score the winning run.

**West Siders 9
2nd Time Sports 7**

Down 6-0, 2nd Time Sports rallied to tie the game behind four hits by Joe DeChiaro and three hits from Jim Blankenship.

But in the last inning, Lenny Segall and Joe Brandao sealed the victory, each driving in a run after singles by Henry Zussman and Eddie Ramirez.

The key defensive play of the game was a tumbling outfield catch by Bob Dembinski.

**West Siders 9
2nd Time Sports 4**

As if he had never left for a summer break, Guy Bertuzzi's 2020 debut featured

a four-hit day sparking his team to a win.

Doubles by Joe DeChiaro and Bob Dembinski in the fifth inning drove in three runs, and Tara Gunning and Cindy McCarthy doubled, followed by Scott Ryberg and Jim Tiano clutch singles to add three more runs in the sixth inning. The result was turning a 1-1 tie into a victory.

**West Siders 9
2nd Time Sports 6**

The play of the day was a sprawling catch of a wicked liner at the third base line by Mike Sieber.

Kudos also go to George Morgan for two clutch outfield catches and to Scott Ryberg leaping for an over-the-head catch in center field.

Having twice overcome three-run leads, 2nd Time Sports bats went cold while hits by Robert Bannick, Bill Leping, Henry Zussman and Lenny Segall scored three runs for the win.

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Softball



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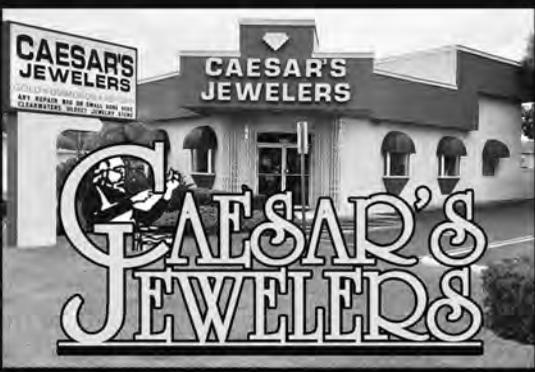



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More than 750 pounds of food, nearly 100 boxes of clothing donated at Good Neighbors charity drive



By Jim Bjorgo

Gratitude requires repeating as often as possible.

The final figures have been tallied from the Good Neighbors Fall Food and Clothing Drive on Oct. 23 and 24. The results were outstanding.

Your generosity resulted in nearly 750 pounds of food donated to Helping Hands and 109 bags and boxes of clothing, shoes and accessories that went to the needy.

From Good Neighbors Association to everyone who contributed to a worthwhile cause, we cannot begin to express our heartfelt thanks to the residents of On Top of the World-Clearwater. We have already set our sights on duplicating this effort again next March 12-13 next year.

On a daily and weekly basis, Good Neighbors Association cannot express enough thanks to all the residents who continue to put food in the Helping Hands barrel in the Community Service Office. This food is picked up each Friday afternoon for delivery to the Helping Hands warehouse for distribution to the most



Volunteers from Good Neighbors Association show off just a slim sample of the food collected in October that went to Helping Hands. Over 750 pounds were donated by residents. (OTOW News photo by Doug Kates)

needy. Please continue to fill the barrel each and every week as your contributions are most needed during this pandemic and the number of jobless continues to swell.

In speaking about our plans for 2021, our club acknowledges that the virus will most likely continue to be with us for a while longer – barring a working vaccine. But nevertheless, we have continued to plan for possible events for all of 2021 rather than not be prepared for an easing of restrictions and a downturn of virus cases.

Your Good Neighbors Association will be ready and able to get back to normal as soon as we have a break from the current status quo. We are also soliciting any ideas that we can try during the cur-

rent times.

Nothing ventured. Nothing gained.

Indoor activities are just not happening at this time and for the foreseeable future, but there is always the great outdoors.

Got any suggestions?

Time comes and goes ... and some things must change with time. With that said, President Jim Bjorgo and Vice President/Assistant Treasurer Maureen Bjorgo are announcing their retirement from Good Neighbors at the end of the year.

Maureen and I have been involved with Good Neighbors for more than 10 years in various capacities. Time, age and other circumstances have led us to this decision. We intend to continue to help

in a volunteer status as we are able. We hope to continue to assist other clubs and groups as time permits.

With these two vacancies on the board of directors, Good Neighbors is actively seeking individuals who would like to join our board with the purpose of perpetuating this wonderful organization. If you feel you have the time, talent and energy, please contact any board member, specifically Vice President Jo Dameron at (727) 725-5362.

Wish y'all the best for the holiday season and a happy and prosperous new year. Enjoy Christmas for the reason. Stay safe and keep your distance. Play the Lone Ranger – keep your mask on.

We're not elves, but we enjoy making gifts and delivering to those in need



Knitting

By Cheryl Butcher

We knitters/crocheters aren't letting this pandemic get us down!

We are very thankful to have our skill and creativity that allows us to fabricate lap robes and other items that we donate.

At our group meeting on Nov. 10, we emptied our cabinets of completed items and bagged up everything to be delivered.

We ended up with five big bags that were destined to be delivered to Kimberly Home, Atria Senior Living, Mease Countryside Hospital, Consulate and the Pregnancy Center.

It all included 57 lap robes, 10 walker caddies, 40 baby hats for the hospital's

newborns, baby blankets, sweaters, booties and miscellaneous projects like purses, adult hats and slippers.

Theresa Mayne personally delivered these bags to the organizations and she is always met with thanks and well wishes for the knitters.

Many times we receive hand written thank you notes from places and even get lunch invitations from the hospital and homes.

It is so heartwarming to know that our work is appreciated.

On Nov. 8 we participated in a Craft Fair held at an American Legion hall. We set up the table with many of our com-

pleted projects and are happy to report that they were well received.

We were able to sell quite a lot and this money allows us to purchase the yarns and fabrics that we need to continue our mission.

If you have an interest in knitting or crocheting, we would love to have you join us in the Crystal Beach Room on Wednesdays from 9-11 a.m. We are operating within the guidelines set by On Top of the World so a mask and social distancing are required.

The Good Neighbors Knitting Group operates under the auspices of Good Neighbors Association.



Celebrating 50 Years ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

Soon, Sundays full of free entertainment will return

By Marvin Flam

Everyone who resides at On Top of the World and has an up-to-date activity card is a member of the Entertainment Committee.

An annually elected, resident-volunteer Executive Board, supported by resident volunteers, is in charge and responsible for presenting shows, dances, Sunday Meet and Greets, and holiday events performed by professionals, who have appeared locally, in Florida, in Las Vegas, on cruise ships and at other entertainment venues.

The Entertainment Committee is a non-profit social club. The modest charges made for each event covers costs. Funds available after expenses go to general community improvements and support.

By participating in activities presented by the Entertainment Committee, you not only enhance your own life, but you help enrich and support your community.

In 2005, the incoming executive board was made aware that there were residents sitting home alone on a Sunday afternoon. So the idea of a get-together for those residents was developed.

Residents were given the chance to meet other residents with the opportunity to make new friends.

It was decided that this event would be provided on Sunday afternoons, once a month, from 2-5 p.m.

At this event, entertainment would be provided along with light refreshments and some surprises. The event would take place in the East Activity Center auditorium and be free to all OTOW residents!

The name originally given was "Sunday-in-the-Park" because in 2005 the



Pictured above is a scene during a recent Sunday-In-The-Park Fashion Show with On Top of the World models on stage, a DJ and an announcer. This event was put on by the Entertainment Committee. Today this would be called a Sunday Meet and Greet event.

auditorium had a park-like atmosphere with many potted trees and hanging plants throughout, along with paintings of the OTOW community.

In January 2005, the first Sunday-In-The-Park event was held. It was a fashion show with resident models and a DJ for entertainment purposes.

Since that first Sunday-In-The-Park, there had been an event every month on a Sunday. The events were well attended and enjoyed by the residents.

In 2018, the auditorium was remodeled and no longer had a park-like atmosphere. The Entertainment Committee held a contest to rename the event. The winning entry selected was "Sunday Meet and Greet."

Since then, the event goes by that

name and is still free.

Over the years, various types of entertainment have been presented during Sundays-In-The-Park and Sunday Meet and Greets. There have been fashion shows, DJs, singers, karaoke, horse races, T-shirt contests, magicians, comedians, musical groups and more.

When the Entertainment Committee can again provide events safely for OTOW residents, performers and volunteers, we will resume presenting shows, dances and the popular, free, Sunday Meet and Greet events.

We will bring in the best entertainment available that will include OTOW past favorites, as well as exciting new entertainment, as we move forward into the future.

If you purchased tickets for any 2020 cancelled show or dance, please contact Mary Ann O'Neil at 727 449-9243 or email entcom2014@gmail.com. We will make sure you get a credit for tickets to future shows and dances, or receive a refund. You must provide the tickets that you purchased.

You can view future scheduling information on OTOW-TV channel 732. Everyone on Spectrum gets OTOW-TV.

You can also check bulletin boards in the EAC, the West Activity Center and on your building's bulletin board.

We wish you a great and enjoyable holiday season, and please take care and be safe.

We will see you soon. "The Fun Will Continue!"



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To learn more about our Center and the structural heart conditions we treat: [MortonPlantHeart.org](https://www.mortonplantheart.org)



Morton Plant Hospital

BUILDING REPORTS



Kathy Ahrens and Lenny Segall stand in the middle of their holiday decoration display across the street from the East Activity Center. Actually, you can see the glow from the West Side. Yes, there are penguins, Santas, snowmen and reindeer and a whole lot more. Next time you drive by, stop and take a closer look.

Creators of winter wonderland are not crazy - just excited to bring smiles and joy to OTOW residents

By Joe DeChiaro

This time of the year, there is always a rather large glow visible across the street from the East Activity Center.

You cannot drive by without admiring it. In the spirit of Christmas, you have to take a look.

Lenny Segall and Kathy Ahrens have been decorating the front of their On Top of the World home for the holidays for the past 10 years. Each year, they add new decorations to their display, which reached a new pinnacle this year with a snow-blowing machine.

Everything you see above is on their property and follows community decorating guidelines.

You could just say, Lenny and Kathy get very excited for the holidays.

"We love to make people happy and

we enjoy seeing smiles on their faces," Lenny said. "It usually takes me eight hours to get all my decorations out and then another eight hours to get everything up in front of the home."

This year the snow will make everything even more special. There will be "snow" every night between 7-8 p.m. and when someone is home there will be candy canes passed out to visitors.

If that's not enough, Lenny has been asked by other residents in the Austrian Alpine building to help decorate other parts of the building. You can see his work on the second and third floors, too.

In fact, even during my interview with Lenny on his front porch, many residents stopped by to see his decorations and take pictures.

His new snow-blowing machine

brought smiles to kids who walked by.

This isn't the only contribution Lenny and Kathy make to our community every year. Together, they have entertained residents over the past nine years, including once a month with karaoke. Both supply food and drinks for everyone who attends.

Even once in a while during the summer months, Lenny and Kathy have organized karaoke for a Good Neighbors Association Get Acquainted Thursday event.

Lenny is past president of three OTOW clubs, including softball, where he influenced many of the rules used by players today.

Lenny and Kathy organized the new pickleball league, where 153 members joined in the very first year.

And Lenny often supplies pizzas for both softball and pickleball events.

Lenny is also active in summer stickball and Kathy is on the 9-Hole Ladies Golf League.

Away from our community, Lenny is a former trainer, owner and driver in professional harness racing.

Best part is, many years ago Lenny and Kathy knew each other up north, but were just friends. Lenny retired here 11 years ago and crossed paths with Kathy once again.

Today they are both retired and life-long partners.

Christmas is a time of giving and receiving. For the past 10 years, Lenny and Kathy have done that and much more within our community.

It's one thing to bring joy during the holidays ... it's another thing to bring joy year round.

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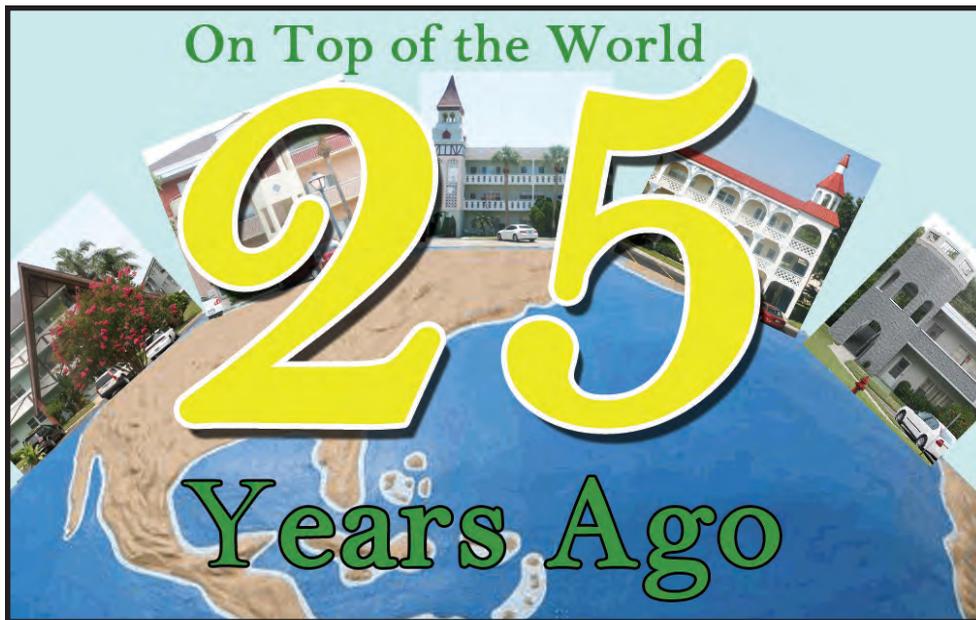
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**A look back at the OTOW News
December, 1995**

- **Fun Club:** We wish all our members a wonderful holiday season! At our upcoming holiday party dinner dance, we will be reminded once again of the festive season that we are in. Joy to the world and to all who are in it. May each and every one of us extend to one another good wishes for the holidays and display good will toward one another, thus making OTOW an even better place to live.
- **Singles Club:** Our November meeting was opened with a Thanksgiving prayer given by Mildred Gifford, one of our past presidents. Mildred then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Delicious cupcakes and coffee with a Halloween theme were served by Jennie Wind and her committee. Blanche Purtell announced forthcoming programs. She thanked Diane Brew, who had volunteered to help Blanche during the months that she would be away.
- **New England Club:** In the spirit of Thanksgiving, members of the New England Club take this opportunity to express appreciation to a few members for their dedication to the club during the summer under unusual circumstances and when all other officers were away. After Bert Corey resigned as president and moved away from OTOW, our club was in the good hands of Irene Caputo, Penny Duffy, Al Mills, Mildred and David Patterson and Rita Waters.
- **Kiwanis Club:** Recently, John H. Williams III, Governor of the Florida Kiwanis District, was in Tallahassee to receive a commemorative plaque from the State of Florida recognizing Kiwanis partnership with the state in an Immunization Program for Children. Kiwanis is honored to receive this recognition from the State of Florida for their participation in this program.
- **Shuffleboard Club:** The nice cool days have encouraged all our members to come and enjoy playing on the courts. We are starting to see members who went north for the summer. We would like to invite anyone interested in playing to come and join the club. We play every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 1 p.m. sharp.
- **Cordoba Building:** As I write this, I have to remark about what wonderful weather we are having and I'm hoping it will continue. Also isn't it great that we are having our building painted just before we decorate for the holiday season? Betty Catau visited Baltimore again to be with her daughter and family. Her son, Paul, came from Cumberland, Md., to spend a week with them. The highlight of her stay was a trip to the Balto-Arena to see the "Wizard of Oz" on ice. During a visit to Baltimore's beautiful Inner Harbor, she naturally had her fill of steamed blue crabs!

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Bill Gipperich and Mary Ann Nargi at the recent Emerald Isle hot dog and chili dinner.

Emerald Isle holiday party is scheduled for Dec. 12

Yay, we're opening the windows — that fresh air really feels good!

November not only brings cooler weather, but along with it comes the return of our winter residents. Welcome back to Gemmy Brown, Nikki and Tom Seal and Lori and Bob McKee. Marge and George Hotaling are down from New York State and this time intend to become full-time residents.

Our holiday party this year will be here on the third floor core on Dec. 12. Save the date — it's a must event if you want to have a good time.

Happy birthday to Ewa Polittanski. A huge thank you to Ewa for the wonderful seasonal decorations she creates as each holiday arises. Also, many thanks to Cheryl Butcher for filling in for me in October.

Our building residents recently held a hot dog and chili party in the core. About 20



residents attended. Marge Gipperich made a delicious pot of chili and Tom Butcher grilled the hot dogs. Marge also topped off the evening with a fabulous homemade apple crisp. Yours truly contributed the chocolate cake, courtesy of Publix.

On Top of the World
Fitness Center

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Application for Approval of Residency

If you...

- plan to reside in a condominium in which you are NOT the owner (you are NOT listed on the deed)

Direct Owner Application for Lease Approval

If you...

- are leasing (renting) a condominium

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

Granada residents will hold holiday party Dec. 8

We started the month off with a concert presented by Mr. Fun.

The concert venue was our backyard, which held attendees from various buildings (social distancing obeyed). Saw dancers and singers enjoying themselves, but unfortunately it was too dark for a good photo op.

Our November building luncheon was held at the new Our Place Clearwater, formerly Georgie Boys on Missouri Ave. Same owners as Our Place on Main Street in Dunedin. Always nice to get together with our neighbors for great food and company.

This month our building luncheon will be our holiday party at Alfano's on Dec. 8 at noon.

We will be decorating the lobby of our building on Dec. 5 at 10 a.m. Coffee, donuts and music will help get us in the spirit.



Sign up on the bulletin board to help.

Looking forward to seeing the decorations around the On Top Of the World community and wishing everyone a wonderful, blessed and safe holiday season from the residents at Granada.



Granada residents enjoy a building luncheon recently at Our Place in Clearwater.

Worldwide 'grandparent scam' is not going away anytime soon

Within the past few years, On Top of the World residents featured in this newspaper have been contacted by phone claiming that a grandchild was in jail and needed bail money, sometimes even from overseas locations.

The callers had the correct names of the grandchildren, the correct towns and the correct grandparents' phone numbers. However, the phone

call was a scam to try to get the grandparents to fork out large sums of cash. Investigators believe the scammers may have read this newspaper online to gather information.

Since the first such incident, the OTOW News is requesting that building writers no longer list the names and locations of grandchildren in stories. All residents should be aware that this is a common

scam everywhere in Florida and the entire country — not just here at On Top of the World.

If you get a call claiming that a family member needs money, ask questions and double-check the information.

Try to check on the whereabouts of the child in question yourself. If it sounds suspicious and you think it may be a scam, call the police.



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Pedestrian safety is paramount at Belcher Road crossing

The intersection of Belcher and World Parkway Blvd. can be extremely hazardous to pedestrians trying to cross Belcher. While driving, before you turn onto Belcher, make sure no one is in the crosswalk. By law, pedestrians do have the right of way in these situations.

A resident of On Top of the World, Pam Thompson, at one time was a Pinellas County Sheriff crossing guard. She says, "A work shift didn't go by where a driver didn't stop from making a turn in front of or around me, honk at me or flip me off. I was holding a stop sign up, blowing a whistle and had children in the crosswalk, when these drivers decided they were more important than safety or the law.

"As a former crossing guard, we all

thank you for your patience in stopping for us and all pedestrians."

A green light for a driver to cross Belcher does not eliminate their need to be on the lookout for a pedestrian attempting to cross. To reiterate, drivers must always yield to pedestrians.

Pam continues, "When the light on World Parkway turns green to cross Belcher (applies to Sunset Point Rd. also), the pedestrian light will also give the "go" to a pedestrian who has pushed the button....While this may not seem fair to drivers because they have a green light, too, that is just the way traffic light programs work.

"Plus, for pedestrians, please only push the light button once; hitting it multiple times doesn't make it change



Danger for pedestrians lurks at the intersection of Belcher Rd and World Parkway Blvd.

faster and may only lead to breaking the switch." The only exception to this is the very rare case where there is a 4-way stop with an all-pedestrian phase or pedestrian scramble and there are

diagonal walk lines painted on the street allowing a pedestrian to cross diagonally across two streets at once. At these crossings, all cars must stop totally and all lights are red.

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Computer Club invites residents to attend Zoom meetings



Computer Club

By Joe Wisinski

Although the On Top Of the World Computer Club cannot currently meet face-to-face, we're still holding meetings.

The Computer Club meets through Zoom, a video conferencing application, every Saturday morning at 8:30.

Just like at our in-person meetings, we hear technology-related presentations and answer questions from our club members.

(We haven't figured out how to share coffee and doughnuts through our computers, alas.)

Our club sessions focus on learning about computers, smartphones, tablets, and other technology.

For example, during a recent meeting a club member gave a short presentation on "customizing your Internet browsing."

We then answered members' ques-



The Computer Club meets on Zoom every Saturday morning. This is what it looks like when about 20 people get together and Zoom at the same time.

tions, such as "how to uninstall a printer and install a new one."

Another recent question was about giving away an old iPad. Our member wanted to learn how to wipe out everything on the device.

As a service for our members who cannot attend on Zoom, we record our meetings and upload them to YouTube.

Some members also access the videos to review what we learned.

Now the club is offering everyone at OTOW the opportunity to view one of our meetings and learn about what the club does. You can go to YouTube to watch one of our typical meetings. Just type the link below into your computer's Internet browser. Note that the link is

case sensitive, that is, you'll need to capitalize the "U."

The link is: bit.ly/3nqqbyU

After you watch our meeting, if you're interested in joining us on Zoom on a regular basis, send an email to otowcc@gmail.com. We'll reply with the details.

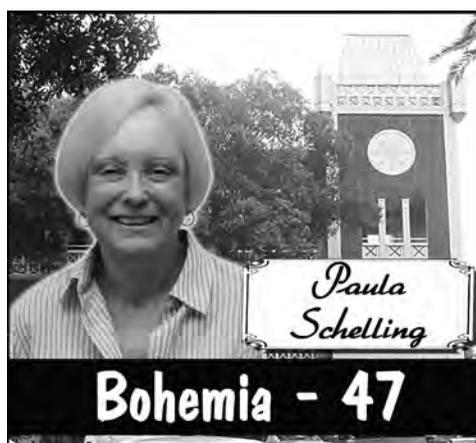
Bohemia hosts Japanese TV news crew

The Bohemia Building was privileged to host the Japanese TV station, Asahi, and Katsujiro Inokuchi a lead reporter along with his crew. Their focus was to learn more about 55-plus community living.

They informed us that Japan does not have exclusive 55-plus all-encompassing communities, and none with the amenities that On Top of the World offers. It was an afternoon of interesting and exciting cultural exchanges.

The building girls recently ventured out to explore often-overlooked treasures. They began their day at the Amish Country Store in Largo, finding unique items and taste-testing tempting treats. After lunch at Abe's Place, they continued onward to Ward's Seafood Market, where one can enjoy a meal or take home fresh, sometimes hard to find, seafood.

With the onset of fall, the building women's Bunco group has resumed play.



The group has been together for close to five years and at various venues. This year, after playing at Clearwater Country Club for two years, they have returned to playing here at home.

This month we feature longtime resident Nancy Kennedy. Nancy and her husband Pat had been coming to

Clearwater since 1977 to visit Nancy's mother, an OTOW resident.

It was in 1995, when Pat retired from the Chicago police force, that they left Chicago to move here permanently.

Nancy has always been an active building member. She was instrumental in arranging our morning building coffees and annual Christmas dinner. Most important, Nancy held the position of our building treasurer for 15 years.

She is most fortunate to have family within driving distance residing here in Florida. She has two sisters in Estero Beach and a brother in Bonita Springs. Her children, three girls and one boy, along with her 12 grandchildren and three great grandchildren, remain in the Chicago region.

We thank her for the many years of dedication to help lay the cornerstone that makes our building a family.



Holiday lights video clips will be taken by the OTOW News staff From Dec. 7-11. There is no need to call for an appointment. Clips of the lights will be shown on OTOW-TV Channel 732 during this period and through New Year's Eve. Watch for your holiday lights on OTOW-TV.

Some Handy Pinellas County Phone Numbers

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- Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Non-Emergency Line 727-582-6200
- Pinellas County Consumer Line (scams, rip-offs, etc.) 727-464-6617





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Sturdy flags withstand the onslaught of Eta

(This article was written by Dorado resident Mary Jane Lofton.)

Neither Covid-19 nor Tropical Storm Eta could deter Dorado residents from their mission of honoring America's history and her veterans.

In early 2020, our building purchased one hundred American flags to display on Memorial Day, Flag Day, the Fourth of July and Veterans Day.

As the sun shone brightly on Tuesday, Nov. 10, the flags were placed around the building lining the corners of Parkway Blvd., Americus Blvd. and Philippine Drive. Drivers blew car horns and waved in approval, and On Top of the World veterans saluted their flag.

And then came the fierce winds and downpour of Eta! Soaked, but unfaded, not one flag was blown away. In the new



sunshine of Nov. 12, as it has for the last 208 years, the Star Spangled Banner still waves "o'er the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave." Dorado says, "God bless America!"



Gwen Lemke and Lois Darling get ready to place our American flags around the Dorado Building (#83) to honor our veterans.

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Joe Maley plays taps from his balcony in observance of Veterans Day.

RILA RENAISSANCE BUILDING

From his balcony, Korean War vet honors all veterans

By Gerri Jaeger

Joe Maley played taps from his balcony on Franciscan Drive in honor of Veterans Day. He served in the Army in Korea and was assigned to the Inspector General. Thank you to Joe and all our brave veterans for your service.

Anyone interested in becoming our building reporter, see Gerri Jaeger. It's a

nice way to interact with your neighbors and let us all know what is going on.

We would also like to start our ladies lunch back up in January. Check the board.

I would like to thank all who helped with the building Christmas decorations this year. It's so nice to know we have a great group of caring neighbors.

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Expires December 31, 2020.

Gardener lovingly tends her many varied exotic plants

Lucy Ames is a gardener, with about 50 bonsai trees, 30 orchids, Christmas cactus, philodendrons and more. She says working with plants is relaxing, but challenging to know each plant's needs. "When you see the blooms or growth, it makes everything worthwhile. Just makes you smile," Lucy said.

She worked at a flower shop and greenhouse for five years and loved it. "If you ever find a job that you would do without getting paid, that is what you should be doing," Lucy smiled. Through her gardening classes and personal experiences, she learned about flowers, trees, soil, landscaping, and the environmental and nutritional needs of plant varieties.

She thinks for every plant you have, consider what its natural environment would be, then try to duplicate that in your home or garden. For example, think of where ferns grow, which is usually under tree canopies or in slightly damp areas; so these may grow best by duplicating that environment. Sometimes changing environments such as different temperature and light may cause plants to experience shock. With love and patience, Lucy has found most plants do well.



Lilac, cherry, jade, elm, guava, and water jasmine are a few bonsai Lucy has on her patio. Lucy started working with these small trees that mimic the shape and style of mature, full-size trees in 2012. She found it difficult to grow them inside even though she has ultraviolet grow lights for sun duplication. Her bonsai trees range from 7 to 18 years old.

Lucy has compiled an information booklet with each tree's name and specific needs, such as pruning and fertilization. She said, "Not every plant has the same need as the other. Many are quite different.



Bonsai gardener and Southern Georgian resident Lucy Ames cultivates lilac, cherry, jade and other bonsai trees, as well as orchids, cactus and other plants.

Most of the trees are in small pots. When it is really hot outside, I sometimes check with a water gauge twice a day to make sure they aren't dry. Those little pots can become like an oven."

Working at the greenhouse and flower shop was enriching. In a company essay, Lucy wrote she enjoyed being in the flower

business, because when someone thinks enough of a person to give flowers for an occasion, the recipient would just have to be touched in some positive way. "I wanted to be involved in that sending process," Lucy smiled. "You cannot get mad when you receive flowers."

 **Season's Greetings from the OTOW News!** 

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Building 'spruce up' culminates with holiday decor

"It's time to spruce up the building," our Austrian Alpine residents decided.

With time on our hands, spruce up we did!

First, Bob Young restored our five wood and cast iron benches to better than their former beauty. Our first-floor benches look brand new as do those on our second and third floors. Thank you, Bob. They should last another 20 years.

Next, our bulletin board jingles for the holiday with a festive garland and 24 red stockings with the names of our beloved pets. Yes, we have 24 animals in our building and we love every single one.

Multicolored lights deck the second and third floors on both sides of Austrian Alpine, thanks to the stringing expertise of Lenny Segall, Kathy Ahrens, Bob Young and Mike McDowell.

Many hands made light work of the tree decoration in our first floor core. Donna Gagnon and Virginia McDowell organized the decorating by having volunteers safely adding ornaments at different times. Bob Young and Mike McDowell did the heavy lifting. Kathy Ahrens donated the tree. Once again, our core tree adds colorful cheer to the holiday.



The installation of our new flagpole is underway as Donna Gagnon organizes the purchase, placement and approval.

Our proposal for native Florida, drought-resistant plantings on both sides of Austrian Alpine has been submitted to On Top of the World for approval, along with proposals for additional plantings around our building signs. These plantings would replace the grass, which is sometimes green but requires lots of water and pesticides.

All of our building improvements were voted on during our 2020 Building Meeting. Thank you to all of our building volunteers who help make Austrian Alpine a lovely and lively place to live.



Kim Anastasi lends a hand to the Austrian Alpine tree decoration project.

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Building decoration is complete and residents are ready for the holidays

Whew! We made it to December!

The building is decorated, and we're (mostly) ready for the holidays. This is the time to be thankful and take joy and comfort in the good things in our lives.

We don't have to be religious to celebrate. We can decorate our homes, and prepare our favorite foods, invite friends over, do charitable works, and think about happy times, events, and those we hold dear.

We can celebrate mini-miracles and great athletic victories this month.

The mini-miracle that comes to mind, took place on Dec. 25, 1914, in Europe. It is estimated that around 100,000 British, French, Russian and German troops were involved in a series of mini-truces when German soldiers began singing carols. Other soldiers, enemies, joined in! They climbed out of bunkers and came together in singing, shaking hands, smiling into each other's eyes and even exchanging small gifts of cigarettes and coins with astonishing, spontaneous warmth.



Genuine civilized human interactions happened in the middle of No Man's Land. The warmth and camaraderie ended however, in 1915, when the bloody conflict erupted in its full technological fury. Can we look back and wonder if, and hope that, such truces might ever happen again?

Closer to home, we can joyously contemplate the fact that the world champion hockey team is our very own Lightning right here in Tampa Bay!

For this Michigan girl, it was unthinkable back in 1992.

Unlikely as it is to have ice hockey in Florida, have you ever wondered about how this sport began? The first time that hockey was actually played happened on Dec. 25, 1855. The story goes that soldiers of the Royal Canadian Rifles at the Tête du Pont Barracks (Kingston, Ont. Canada) were clearing ice from Lake Ontario when they began to play a game using field hockey sticks and lacrosse balls. The improvised game eventually evolved into one of the world's most beloved sports: ice hockey.

The first organized indoor game of ice hockey took place on March 3, 1875, in Montreal. And, we can say "the rest is history."

Continue to stay safe and enjoy the holidays celebrating mini-miracles in your own lives.

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Solstice, Advent, Posadas Navidenas, or Festivus, let joy be unconfined!

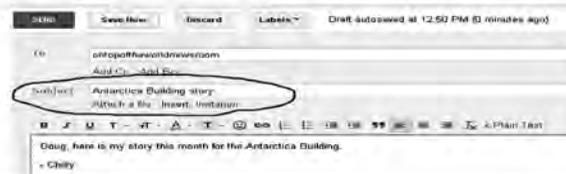
ATTENTION WEST SIDE DRIVERS

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!

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICE:
8:30 A.M. — 3 P.M.
(LUNCH 12-12:30 P.M.)
EAST ACTIVITY CENTER

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.



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December 2020 (Subject To Change)

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Countryside Mall

Tuesdays 12:30 p.m.

Target

Wednesdays 8 a.m.

Sprouts

Wednesdays 11 a.m.

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

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Time to start preparing those holiday treats

Well, December is upon us. No one will be sad to see this year end.

It was certainly different. Thanksgiving was rather quiet, much to the delight of the turkey population.

Well, it's time to break out the cookie and fudge makings. (No pandemic will stop happy eating.)

There was an idea to have a Christmas dessert on the second-floor core. That area worked very well for the Bucella's anniversary party. Please look for any notices on our core bulletin board.

Let's dust off every holiday decoration we have and bid adieu, with a great sigh of relief, to 2020. Certainly was one for the history books.

You may have observed much activity on the first-floor end unit lately. Well, meet and greet Earl Balance and Mike Murphy, new neighbors here at the Villa.

These two retired globe-trotters have enjoyed many adventures, including living in Costa Rica for a number of years. They enjoyed coastal living at first until the lush mountains with coffee plantations beckoned.

Their various volunteer efforts there included teaching art to elementary students as well as English to adults.

Finally returning stateside, they lived



in various areas of Florida until setting sights on On Top of the World, first living in the Punjab building until settling here in the Villa.

Before retirement, Earl was employed for many years in the food industry. Besides many other talents, Earl is an accomplished artist.

Mike retired from Savannah River Nuclear Laboratories, where he was a procurement engineer. Both are extremely talented, as seen by the extensive renovations in and out of their new home. I particularly enjoy seeing "Old Glory" waving in the breeze. Their patio is lovely. Both are wonderful neighbors and we all welcome them aboard.



New Viennese Villa neighbors Earl Balance (at left) and Mike Murphy. Welcome!

Sharon Clifford continues her scarf project. So another reminder, please, any unneeded yarn goes her way.

Speaking of Sharon. I have been fortunate enough to have her pooch Kevin visiting. Also Poulin's sweet Izzie as well. When here, both join me with eggs for breakfast. They love them and it helps stop their shedding

Anniversary and birthday greetings to all December celebrants. Sincerely hope one and all enjoy a peaceful Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa.

Until next we meet, please, stay safe and remember any news fit to print, send to fresca@maine.rr.com



Friday get-togethers have resumed

Aloha and Happy Holidays everyone!

The holiday season is quickly upon us. Trees are beginning to peek out of front windows, Menorahs, too. You can feel the excitement in the air and smell the delicious cookies and other things being prepared to share with neighbors and friends.

Although we may be celebrating the season in a more subdued manner this year, we still have much to be thankful for. Our wonderful On Top of the World neighbors, friends and our own families immediately come to mind. We might not be gathering in a traditional manner as we are used to, but the love and spirit lives on in all of us.

The afternoon get-togethers around the flag pole on the Brazilia side of the building have once again started up. They are held Fridays at 3:30 p.m. Bring a chair and a beverage of choice. Relax and get to know your neighbors better. Social distancing is practiced so no worries there. It's such a delightful way to wrap up your week and begin the weekend.

I wish you much love, joy and peace for a happy and healthy holiday season and New Year.

Mahalo, my friends.

Resident knows how to motivate others

There's a whole lot of moving and shaking going on at Villa Riviera.

Most of the shaking is because of the inimitable Fran Barker. Those close to her call her "Ma", because although she doesn't use a machine gun, she is a fierce one when it comes to organization. Two Saturdays in the last six weeks she mobilized tenants and got the storage rooms cleaned. She had people thin out and identify their property.

Then, later in November, she got people together to pull newly-discovered (along with the old standby) Christmas ornaments out of the same rooms to decorate the building for the holidays.

In January, Fran hopes to work on the bike room. So please put your name and unit number on any bike you have in there so we know which models belong and which can be donated to charity.

Also shaking were Steve and Sharon Flint, from New York, ready to make On Top of the World their new home. They put a lovely new patio out front and gave it a housewarming in grand style. A table was set up in their parking space filled with enticing beverages and delectable edibles. People sat on surrounding patios, the side walk and the lawns.

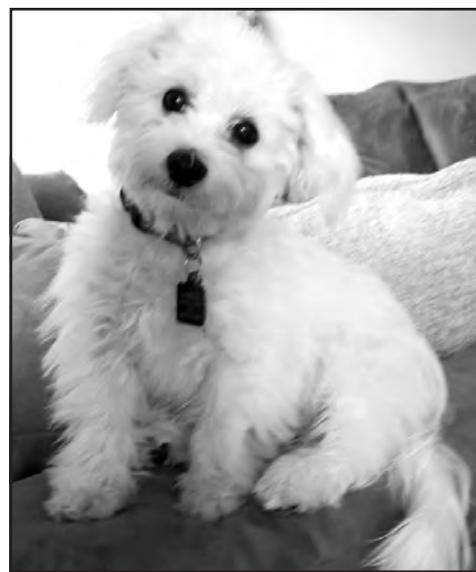
All three of the above events proved the building's need for new banquet tables.



The old wood ones bought decades ago by the building are both heavy and rotting. New plastic ones would be a major asset. If a one-time fee of \$5 was contributed by each unit we could purchase light plastic ones. They would be available for building and private resident functions. Please see Fran or Steve/Sharon to drop off your contribution.

We have three new residents. Two have two legs and one has four.

Nancy and Tom Huffman arrived from South Carolina. Nancy is originally from Bogota, Columbia, where she is a retired federal prosecuting attorney and still maintains a private law practice. Tom is retired from the Navy and a subsequent



Margaret and Charles Whitaker's newly-adopted pet lives in a core ground floor unit and now serves as our "guard."

surgery practice in Colorado, where he also served as a county commissioner.

Margaret and Charles Whitaker have adopted a new four-legged fur baby, a Bichon Frise, and can be found daily guarding the ground floor core area. But for a treat or good belly rub he will let any one pass. Thank goodness or we would never have gotten the storage rooms cleaned or the lobby decorated!

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. Always clean up while walking your dog.

BE SURE TO KEEP YOUR DOG HYDRATED.

OTOW After-Hours Emergency Number: 727-799-1115
(Water intrusion, elevator entrapment, building alarm malfunctions, and electrical problems)

Building decorating techniques, policies change over time

Due to deadline requirements, I cannot report who decorated the lobby of the building, nor can I give you info regarding the Espana Christmas party (which, at this point, I understand will be held in the lobby).

I have had many people mention the screws in the first floor arches, so I'm going to go back many years and explain to all you new residents why the screws are there.

In 1993, for the Espana's first Christmas, my son decided to decorate my condo for me. He taped white lights in the three arches in front of my condo. They looked great, but the tape at the top of the arches broke loose and every morning, I had to take a broom and push the tape back up.



A gentleman on my wing liked my lights and decided to copy what I did, so he taped white lights to his arches. When they had broken loose every morning, he

decided to do something about it. The next year, he got several men to help him put screws in all the arches on both sides of our building so that the lights could be held up by the screws.

Note: This practice is no longer permitted at On Top of the World.

Several years ago, the white lights were not put up in our arches for Christmas. I asked people why and I received many different answers. One was that they couldn't get enough help to check the lights prior to installing them. Another was that they couldn't get people to install the lights. And another was that OTOW said that they could not put the lights in the arches.

In a related decorating matter, an article in the November 2020 issue of the

OTOW News issue stated that lights are no longer permitted on bushes or other landscaping. The article stated that lights on the bushes hinder and are a potential danger to the landscaping technicians who trim the bushes.

Please follow current OTOW decorating guidelines as stipulated in the above article.

The Espana recently held a pizza party. Residents were asked to bring a chair and a drink and the building supplied the pizza. The party was held on the grass, the front patios and some of the parking lots on the odd side of the building. There was a good turnout.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Swimming Pool Hours

Effective November 1

East Activity Center Swimming Pool

Saturday through Tuesday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wednesday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

West Activity Center Swimming Pool

Every Day 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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."



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:

Surprise birthday party for long-tenured NWF resident

Selma Feldman recently celebrated her 90th birthday here at On Top of the World. She is the longest-residing owner in New World French, having moved into her condo in 1989 with her husband and daughter.

The family was very involved in a number of activities, such as dancing, shows, and card games. Maybe some of the residents might still remember Selma.

She still likes to join our residents for lunches and dinners, although at present there are obviously fewer such events.

Danielle LaRochell, who is a great cook, decided to host a dinner for Selma and a few of her friends, and invited others from the building to enjoy birthday cake and drinks.

The event turned out great, Selma was amazed and so happy to be remembered for her birthday. It is



so nice to be remembered and to mix with friends.

We also celebrated another birthday, at a later date. Audrey Fontaine turned 80 years of age. We had a get-together, again at Danielle's, for cake and drinks.

Audrey is a new resident. She recently moved here from Fort Myers, but originally came from Massachusetts.



Birthday celebrant Selma Feldman is seated in the middle, flanked by Virginia Upton and Judy Boley. Hostess Danielle LaRochell is standing behind. (Photo by Pat Cullen Davis)

OTOW News Web Site: www.ontopoftheworldnews.com

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French Renaissance I & II - 44 & 45

Welcome new residents to French Ren

We are very blessed to have three new residents in our building.

Tom and Linda Sullivan rented in our French Renaissance I building from 2019-2020. They loved us so much they bought their own place right here in our building!

They are from Massachusetts, where he worked in law enforcement and she was a grammar school teacher. Their hobbies include golf, fishing, pool and chess. They enjoy most riding their bikes on our fabulous trails in our area.

Welcome, also to Sofiya Pokrasova. She is originally from the Ukraine, moving here from New Jersey. She worked in information technology as a programmer for over 50 years. She also worked with a medical company in dialysis, retiring in 2019.

She has a son in Palm Harbor and one in Pennsylvania, and enjoys her four grandchildren. Sofiya is certainly enjoying her life here, with walking, swimming and exercising. We are happy to have all of you with us to enjoy our fabulous community.

Each evening, many of our residents get together (with plenty of distance between) to discuss the activities of the day and share ideas from near and far. This may still be the main activity for many, as they continue to stay away from larger groups.

OTOW Bingo News

By Lillian Foy

Lucille Greenhalgh, Bingo Vice President, spearheaded a large toy donation from the club to Operation Toy Soldier, a program facilitated by Veterans Funeral Care. The drive collects toys for kids of parents who are currently deployed or have recently returned home.



There will be Chorus for Christmas!

OTOW-TV Channel 732 Presents
(Three concerts on your living room TV)

Three OTOW Chorus Holiday Concerts in December

Sunday, Dec. 19, 7 pm

2014 OTOW Chorus Holiday Concert

Thursday, Dec. 24, 7 pm

2018 OTOW Chorus Holiday Concert

Friday, Dec. 25, All Day

2019 OTOW Chorus Holiday Concert

Everyone on Spectrum cable gets channel 732.

Do not click your up and down arrows on remote. Just type 7 3 2.

Getting geared up for Siboney's holiday season

We hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. Now it's time to get ready for the fun holidays. This year's holiday party will be on Dec. 10. Please sign up if you will be attending. It will be at Alfano's Italian Restaurant in Clearwater.

Recent news from Cele Radeloff is that she is enjoying the company of her "fur grandbabies," who are adorable English Labs. She is keeping busy doing counted cross-stitch projects, writing and reading. She keeps in touch with us and her longtime friend, Edna Mae Jordt from the Dorado Building. She wishes all of Siboney residents a happy holiday season and a healthy New Year.

Please follow the On Top of the World guidelines when decorating your condo this year for the holidays. Our building will be looking for volunteers to help put up our Noel signs and decorate the Christmas tree. Look for info on the bulletin board. Please sign up to help. Let's make our building shine again, despite the pandemic.

The Jesters are busy rehearsing for their 2021 show. Meetings are being held a few days a week through Zoom, an app that is very popular for meetings this year.



Unfortunately, we will not be performing on stage, so the show will be videoed and put on a DVD. In addition, residents can view the show on OTOW-TV, Channel 732. Dates and times will be announced.

This will be my eighth show and I am excited about seeing the results. Our residents have been very supportive in the past and we want to give them a show to enjoy this year, especially in this time of uncertainty.

Happy holidays and a healthy New Year to all. "See you Next Year"



Holiday Lights Video

OTOW-TV will be walking throughout our community from Dec. 7-11 taking videos of your holiday lights and decorations. All the videos will be combined into one overall OTOW Holiday Lights video that will air on OTOW-TV Channel 732 through New Year's Eve. If you plan on putting up holiday lights in front of your condo, be ready! You cannot call to arrange a time for a video of your lights to be made - just have them up by Dec. 7. Videos will be shot between 6-8 p.m and will begin airing on OTOW-TV the same week. The final video will air the following week. If you cannot get out to see holiday lights this year, don't miss seeing our own lights on OTOW-TV.

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

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.
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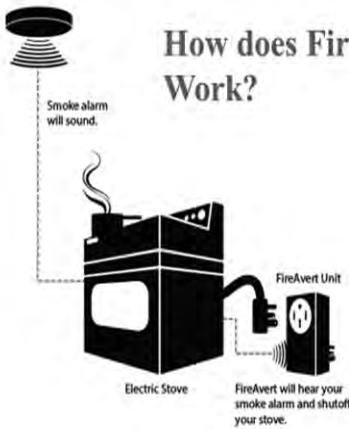
Residents must provide a date and time for service. A minimum 2-hour service window exists. Field personnel answer requests from 7:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. weekdays and 7:30-11:30 a.m. weekends. There is no charge during normal business hours. You must be present in all circumstances for your water to be turned on. Your signature is required.

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- ★ Ultra loud 130 dB alarm increases range of effective placement throughout the premises... even in basements. Loudest available!!!
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- ★ Two expansion ports allows for remote placement of additional sensors and enhanced functionality (additional sensors sold separately).
- ★ Built-in additional battery bays for use of optional second & third batteries to increase alarming time.
- ★ Approximate dimensions (Height/Diameter): 2 1/2" x 4 1/2" or 67 x 114 mm



Box Office Sudoku

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

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 M R C H

N W L A I

E N U B M R

W N P O T U

L T E N E G A

M I T E E T R

SECRET WORD:

Last month's scrambled words: debut, roman, arabic, garter, orchard, nitpick. Secret word last month: DRAGON

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 submitters's name, building and unit number are not included with the ad, it will not be accepted for publication.**

FOR SALE

- Tan leather couch, two end tables, one cocktail table \$375; suitcase plus tote bag, 4 spinner wheels \$30. 692-7028

- Woman's 26" Schwinn bike, 7-speed, like new \$80. 726-4306

- Pet Gear airplane-approved travel backpack, with handle and wheels, for small cat or dog \$25. 717-602-3667

- Vizio 32" TV \$100; Mattress Firm queen size adjustable frame \$300. 601-5169

- New wheelchair for sale, only used three times \$50. 726-5202

- Sony DVD/CD video player DVP-SR210P \$25; GE AM/FM clock radio \$15; Timex multicolor watch w/diamond chips \$15; Lenovo computer \$20. 856-302-3422

Please note: We do not accept ads for automobiles, firearms, yard/building sales, apartments for sale or rent, or employment. Drop off ads at the newspaper office. We cannot accept ads over the phone.

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.

- Tyson DC28 vacuum cleaner, hardly used \$60. 200-7998

- New Lenox champagne glasses, children's games and books, green ratan, table for small Christmas tree, sewing machine. 432-0729

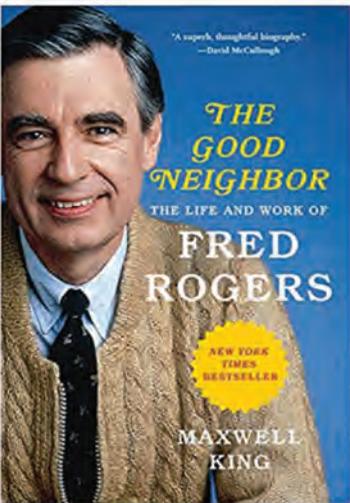
- Coastal entertainment center; Coastal wine cabinet; glass top dining table w/six parsons chairs; glass coffee table w/two matching end tables. 847-951-2284

WANTED

- Slide projector wanted, preferably a Kodak Carousel. 365-1505

- Canoe or kayak wanted including existing storage rack on the lake. 813-417-3035

Good Karma Book Club



10 a.m., December 17
"The Good Neighbor: Life and Work of Fred Rogers"
 by Maxwell King

10 a.m., January 21
"The Stars Are Fire" by Anita Shreve

Space in the Crystal Beach Room will be limited and safety guidelines will be in place.
 For more information, see our Webpage on the Box Office:
otowboxoffice.com - look for our link

Please wear a mask. It is required.

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- Companionship
- Meal planning/preparation
- Light cleaning, laundry and errands
- Bathing, dressing and grooming
- Memory care
- Pediatrics
- Short-term care
- Long-term care
- ...and more

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