



**First show
scheduled
for 2022**

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**Food Truck
Night a big
success**

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ON TOP OF THE WORLD NEWS

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Volume 53

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Our parade is back!



Irish Club votes to continue tradition

By Barbara Rice

Brush off the shamrocks. Stock up on green.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade is returning to On Top of the World!

The 26th Irish Club-inspired parade will step off on Saturday morning, March 5, 2022.

Beer, food, music and dancing will follow the parade at the East Activity Center. The morning will be hosted by the Irish Club and hopefully your clubs and groups will support it.

Residents have wondered about the future of the popular celebration. COVID-19 restrictions canceled the 2021 parade. Longtime parade coordinator, Mike Cooper, passed way unexpectedly in May 2021. Residents were wondering, would the show go on?

The fate of the parade was at the top of the agenda when Irish Club members met on Nov. 4 - the first time in many months.

Not only did members vote that the parade should go on, but this event will also be dedicated to Mike Cooper, who ran the parade for more than a decade.

"Mike left big shoes to fill," commented President Barbara Lenzi.

"It is only appropriate that this parade be dedicated to Mike," said OTOW News Editor Doug Kates. "No one will ever know how much work Mike put into making this parade possible. Not only did he organize the parade itself, but the post-parade fun as well. It was, and still will be, an annual event everyone in the community looks forward to attending."

Jim Bjorgo has volunteered to take



Pipes will return to World Parkway Boulevard on March 5 when the traditional Irish Club Parade returns after a one-year absence. The Irish Club is asking for your help to make the event possible.

on chairperson duties for the 2022 parade and festivities.

Tom O'Riordan has stepped up to be co-chairman.

"Jim and Tom will do a wonderful job," said Barb.

Floats, bands, antique cars, clowns and mermaids have proceeded down World Parkway Boulevard in March for 25 years.

Many clubs come out and march one after the other. Some residents dance or play instruments. Some parade participants have four feet. Some ride on two wheels. Some ride on four wheels.

Golf carts will be decorated. Flags will wave. Veterans will be honored. Patriotism will abound.

And the Irish-spirit will live on.

It is a day not to be missed. Mark your calendar. Invite the grandchildren.

Jim and Tom are committed to coordinating a parade that will have leprechauns leaping, but they are also reaching out to the community for help. Please consider being a member of the parade

committee. Please volunteer for a task - big or small.

The to-do list to get a parade underway is long, especially as we get closer to March. There is something on that list that would be a perfect fit for you.

Best part is, you do not have to be Irish!

Contact Jim Bjorgo at 727-725-4048 or email mojibjorgo@gmail.com.

Would you or your group like to participate in the parade?

Do you know an individual or a group outside of OTOW which would make an entertaining parade entry?

Perhaps the residents in your building would like to march in the parade?

Put on your thinking caps. Get creative and come up with a theme. Your neighbors would love to see you in the parade.

All parade participants are to complete a parade entry form to enable planning the parade line up.

You can also help finance the parade and have fun at the same time. Watch for

upcoming Irish Club entertainment. Proceeds from ticket sales are used to help pay parade expenses.

The club has scheduled Comedian George Casey on Jan. 27, 2022, at 7 p.m. in the East Activity Center. Tickets are \$15 for club members and \$17 for non-members.

The Byrne Brothers bring lively music and dance from Ireland on Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. in the EAC. Tickets are \$15 for club members and \$17 for non-members.

The St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance is on March 3 at 5 p.m. in the EAC. Tickets are \$25 each.

The club's holiday brunch will be at the Dunedin Golf Club on Dec. 12 at 11 a.m. Cost is \$25.

The Irish Club is collecting membership dues. Membership is \$5 per year.

Entertainment tickets and membership dues will be sold outside at the East Picnic Pavilion on Monday and Thursday mornings from 9 - 11 a.m. Barb is asking members to please volunteer to help sell tickets.

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'Tis the season to be holly and jolly, and follow a few holiday decoration guidelines

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy holiday season.

It is my hope that each of you enjoys the joy and kindness of this season.

Many of you like to cook up a storm making baked goods and dinners for family and friends. Please remember to never leave a stove unattended when cooking. If you must leave the kitchen, it is best to turn off the appliance, rather than risk a fire (it has happened several times in OTOW-Clearwater!).

That quick run to Publix for something you may have forgotten can become a real disaster

We want everyone to remain safe for the holiday and into 2022.

Quick 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.

Leasing Questions Answered

Recently your Association and the Management company received information regarding resident listings of a "room" for rent on a social media site.

It is important to remember that your Association has strict rules regarding occupancy.

Any lease or sublease of a unit is subject to Association approval prior to occupancy. The Association also requires a full background check for any prospective tenant or occupant. The minimum term of any lease is for a minimum of six (6) months/one (1) week if furnished, or a minimum of one (1) year if unfurnished.

Condo units may be leased or occupied only in their entirety. No fraction or



portion of a unit may be rented, so renting out a single room is not permitted, meaning you cannot lease out a room and continue to occupy the unit.

If you lease out the unit you will need to submit a Direct Owner Application for Lease Approval for your prospective tenants. The instructions for completing the application and the required documents are contained within the application packet which are available at the Community Service Office or at the official Website www.otowclearwaterinfo.com (click on the Association tab and then Applications).

All lease applications must be submitted annually. If you renew the lease prior to the end of the lease term, the application processing fee is waived. The paperwork may be returned to the Community Service Office to the attention of the Occupancy Department.

If you choose to continue to occupy your unit and would like to have someone live with you (no lease or rental involved), you would need to complete the Application for Approval of Residency which is available at the Community Service Office or at www.otowclearwaterinfo.com (click on the Association tab and then Applications).

Once the paperwork has been completed, it may be returned to the Community Service Office to the attention of Orientation Department. Once all paperwork has been received, a representative of the Occupancy Department or the Orientation Department will contact your occupant(s) to schedule the required interviews.

Community Road Rules

It is important to pay attention to "no parking" areas throughout the community.

In particular, please do not park in and/or block fire lanes or bike lanes.

Also, please do not park at the East Activity Center front entrance, under the awning. This area is a designated fire lane that must be kept clear for emergency vehicles.

Also, for the safety of drivers and pedestrians, it is important to obey directional signage posted entering and exiting the parking lots. All parking lots are a one-way design.

If you ride a bicycle, please park and lock it appropriately. Bicycle racks are provided at the East and West Activity Centers. Please utilize these designated areas for bicycle parking and never chain your bicycle to handicap signage, hand railings or any community fencing.

Did You Know

(1) Tipping Employees

I would like to take the opportunity to remind residents that the Management Company and your Association do not support (nor encourage) tipping or gifting to individual employees anytime throughout the year, including the holiday season.

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.

(2) Animals

Not only does Pinellas County have a very strict leash law, On Top of the World has strict rules with regard to animals residing in the community.

Animals brought into On Top of the World must be well behaved. Any breed, or variety of dog, cat or other animal, deemed especially aggressive or offensive may be excluded from On Top of the World. This is also true for any threatening or disruptive animal, as determined by the Association, in its sole and absolute discretion.

While outside the unit, all animals must be kept on a leash, or other restraint, and must be accompanied at all times by the owner.

Please don't allow your dogs to run freely along the edge of Lake Arbor for "exercise." Animal feces must be picked up immediately and disposed of properly by the dog's owner.

Your compliance with the above ensures a peaceful community for all residents alike.

Community Service Office Information

The Community Service Office (CSO) hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The office closes for lunch from noon to 12:30, Monday through Friday, unless otherwise posted.

If your call goes to voice mail, it is because staff is working with someone else. Please be patient. Calls and voicemails will be responded to during normal business hours.

Once the requested service matter is identified, a service order will be generated and submitted to the appropriate department to address the matter.

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

From time to time, it may become necessary for us to contact you with questions or clarification of your request. It is not necessary to report service requests more than one time.

If you have any questions regarding your request, and until the Community Service Office reopens, please call the Service Request Line 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 matters 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.

In the event of a life threatening emergency, please dial 911.

For a power outage, call Duke Energy at 800-228-8485.

OTOW Alerts

Signing up for OTOW-Alerts (powered by RAVE) is incredibly easy. Simply go to the otowclearwaterinfo.com website and from the home page scroll down to the bottom of the page to the "Sign Up Now" box on the left of the screen. Click to enroll.

You can also sign up from the "Stay Informed" tab located at the top of the home page.

This is without obligation or cost to you. Your email and cell phone numbers are secure, never shared, and never solicited. Alternatively, you may visit the Community Service Office to apply.

OTOW-ALERTS provides advance warning of severe weather events as well as other matters of critical concern to the residents of OTOW Clearwater Condominium Community. It is not hyperbole to say some warning may save your life!

Annual meeting reminder for Dec. 17 with

I'm sure many residents are looking forward to attending the Annual Meeting in person on Dec. 17, 2021, in the East Activity Center Auditorium.

COVID-19 protocols will allow 120 people to attend in person with social distancing and masking. We ask that only vaccinated residents attend.

The meeting will also be broadcast live on OTOW-TV Channel 732.

So anyone who wishes to participate can attend the meeting in some manner.

This is the first year that the Association is offering online electronic voting. This process was well-vetted through the Board and we anticipate increasing popularity for this voting option over time.

You may still sign up for online voting until 10 a.m. on Dec. 14, 2021. State requirements mandate that enrollment close 72 hours before the start of the meeting.

If you have not enrolled in online electronic voting, you may vote by paper ballot in person, by mailing your ballot in, or by returning it to the locked ballot boxes located at the East and West Activity Centers. Ballots must be submitted prior to the start of the 10 a.m. meeting -- at that point, voting will be closed.

I hope everyone will take part in the Board elections process by exercising your right to vote for those who represent you. It is the best way you can make your voice heard. However you vote -- online or by paper ballot -- PLEASE take the time to vote.

As usual, we have a full agenda for this annual meeting. Elections for the Board will be conducted as well as a general update of the "State of the Condominium Association."

If you have a question for the Board, you must submit it at least 24 hours prior to the meeting to ensure the Board can properly respond.

Owners wishing to speak on a specific matter at the meeting are entitled to do so in accordance with Association Rules 19 and 21. The Condominium rules are posted online at www.otowclearwaterinfo.com/governing-documents.

The horrible collapse of the Champlain Towers Condominium in Sunrise, Fla., has sparked legislative initiatives regarding condominiums statewide. The Board will give a brief report on some of the early recommendations for structural inspections of condominiums going forward.

When It Rains, It Pours

Tropical storms and hurricanes have pretty well left us alone this year. For our newest residents, who have not experienced tropical storms and hurricanes, allow me to give a brief review.

In prior storms in 2020, like Eta, the community received substantial rain -- roughly 7.5 inches -- and faced storm force winds, but OTOW fared well.

Good news for us, all condominium buildings are still above the 100-year flood zone as determined by FEMA

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



Chairman

Staff preemptively turn off elevators a few hours prior to an anticipated storm's arrival to prevent entrapments should the power go out (the fire department will not respond to emergencies when wind speeds exceed 35 miles per hour, including someone trapped in an elevator).

The elevators are restored as soon as possible following the storm passing.

After a storm, the Management Company staff survey property to remove any fallen trees or other hazards that may have happened.

Notifications both before and after the storm are sent out to residents who subscribe to receive OTOW ALERTS (RAVE) updates.

Cable and Internet Update

The process of selecting a cable and internet provider that meets the long term needs of this community has made great progress.

As of this writing, we have asked the two contenders to submit draft agreements. We will be performing a detailed review of the agreement language to ensure the proposed solutions include exceptional service level agreements. The service level agreement language defines in measurable terms, service uptime, technician response times, restoration of service guarantees, and other matters relating to the provision of reliable services.

This information will help the Board's Working Group determine a final recommendation to the full Board soon. As always, we will continue to keep you updated on progress.

Ever Wonder How

On Top of the World Got Its Name?

2021 saw many new residents join the community. I believe it is worthwhile to relate the following "origin" story.

How On Top of the World Condominiums got its name 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 that was fairly remote from nearby development (hard to believe that we were ever remote now).

Mr. Colen 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+ 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, which 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 activities of the club 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

The painting contractor will be transitioning to back of building waterproofing projects for the holidays once they complete their remaining front façade painting jobs.

The next buildings on the schedule for rear coatings are buildings 3 and 11.

The painting contractor's processes includes 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

Buildings 68, 69 and 70 are all railing improvement projects that received their permitting approval from Pinellas county ahead of their projected date and were started in the month of November.

The railing replacement schedule for the west side of property is rather brisk this year, so getting projects started ahead of forecast is always good.

As of this article, the railings vendor is projected to start the project at building 79 sometime in early December, which should finish out the calendar year in regards to this scope of work.

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.

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.

The 2021 calendar year work in review

2021 continued to present challenges as the Management Company and its business partners kept operations moving through the pandemic's peaks and valleys.

The safety and the health of employees and residents continued to be of the utmost importance while finding ways to complete projects in the time allotted.

Contractor availability remained ample, but disruptions in the supply chain and extreme pricing fluctuations made for challenges not experienced in recent history. Still, through it all, the Management Company was successfully able to contract and complete these projects:

- 4 low-slope roofing projects
- 2 shingle mansard projects
- 1 elevator equipment and cab modernization
- 7 walkway coating and 15 exterior stairwell coating improvements
- 6 streets repaved in their entirety, 4 streets partially repaved, and 5 parking lots seal coated
- Over 1,000 linear feet of valley curbing replaced
- 8 building railing improvement projects
- 2 ornamental roofline railing projects
- 10 front façade painting, 10 rear façade coating, and 1 mansard coating improvement
- 5 Duke Energy street lights added to the community

(Continued on page 5)

electronic voting and live TV for first time

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 fiscal year 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 no-

tice. 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) water softeners are permissible in the community. Please make sure you apply for a permit and receive approval prior to con-

tracting 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 sur-

face 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.

Final Thoughts

We wish you a happy and healthy holiday season. May all your days be filled with joy and gladness! Please be safe. We all want you around to enjoy this wonderful community for years to come.

FireAvert

Smoke alarm makes noise

How it works

Electric Stove

FireAvert Unit

FireAvert will hear your smoke alarm and shut off your stove.

<https://www.fireavert.com/>

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By Glzmode® Innovations

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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): 2½" x 4½" or 67 x 114 mm



The Big Red Bus will be back on Monday, Dec. 15, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and parked at the East Activity Center North Parking Lot.

One Blood's goal for our community is 12 or more donors!
All donors will receive a One Blood Blanket and a \$10 E-Gift Card plus a wellness checkup including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening!
Take this opportunity to save lives!

Registering is simple. Visit the Community Service Office or click a sign-up link on Nancy's Bulletin Board. You can also show up the day of the event.

HOW TO VOTE IN THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION ELECTION

On November 30 we mailed you the paper ballot for electing your Board of Administration. If you signed up for electronic voting, **do not** return the paper ballot. Instead, vote through your Conduu web portal.

Please follow the steps below carefully to ensure you make your vote count!

Instructions for completing and returning your paper ballot can also be found on the back of your ballot (on green paper).

There are 10 candidates who submitted their names for election to the 9 member Board of Administration.

ON TOP OF THE WORLD CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC.
BALLOT FOR ELECTION OF BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION
AT THE DECEMBER 17, 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

The following are the candidates who have qualified to run for election to the Board of Administration of On Top of the World Condominium Association, Inc. There are nine seats on the Board of Administration. You may vote for up to nine individuals by placing a mark to the right of their names. An Election Ballot voting for more than nine individuals will be disallowed.

I HEREBY VOTE TO ELECT THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION:

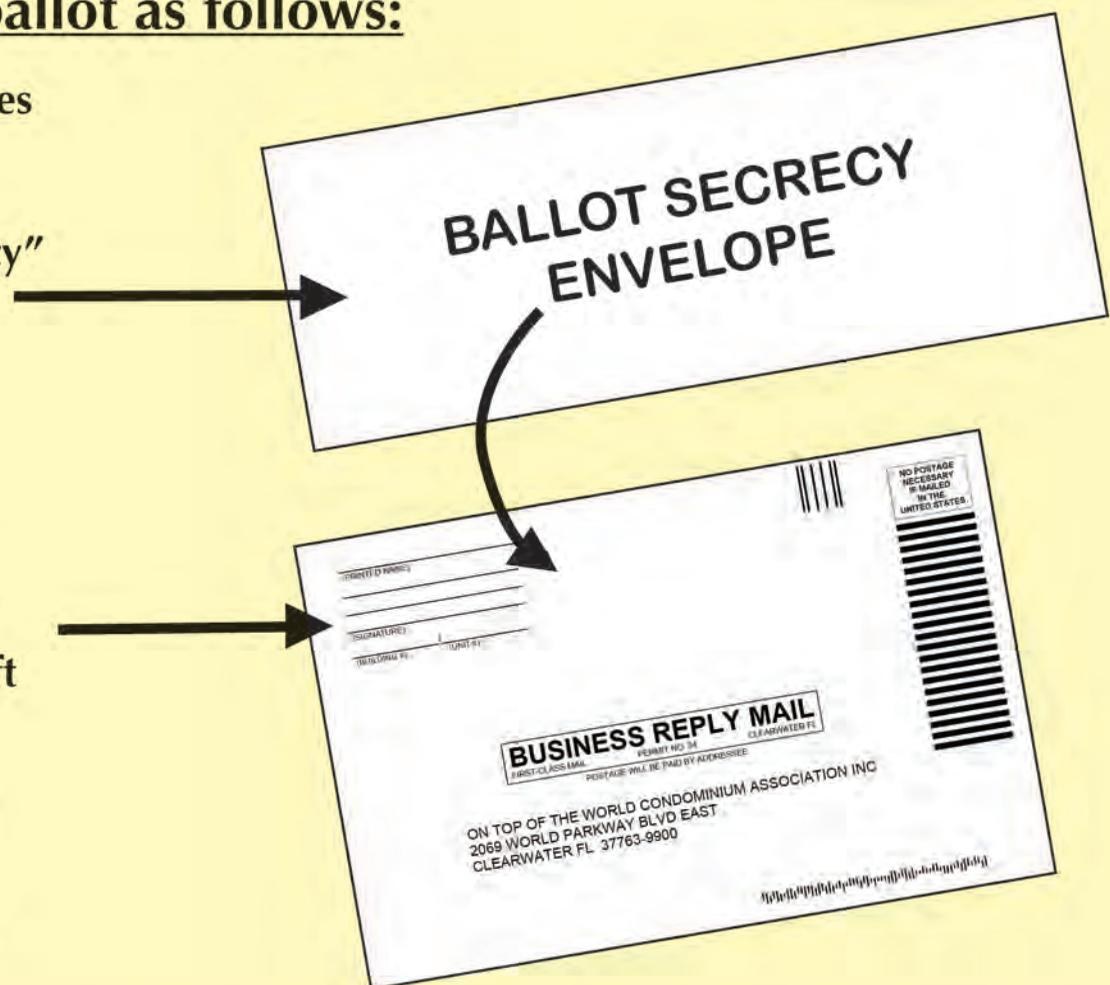
Kenneth D. Colen	_____
Leslee R. Colen	_____
Sharon Licata	_____
Charles McAllister	_____
James O'Neil	_____
Virgil C. ("Corby") Ratliff	_____
Gail Sanders	_____
Michael Spodeck	_____
Karen Sutton	_____
C. Guy Woolbright	_____

SEE THE BACK OF THIS ELECTION BALLOT FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS ELECTION BALLOT TO THE ASSOCIATION.

REMEMBER: THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 10:00 A.M. ON DECEMBER 17, 2021 IN THE EAST ACTIVITY CENTER LOCATED AT 2069 WORLD PARKWAY EAST, CLEARWATER, FL 33765.

Complete and return your ballot as follows:

1. Place an "X" next to the 9 candidates of your choice.
2. Fold and place in the "Ballot Secrecy" envelope and seal.
3. Place sealed "Ballot Secrecy" envelope into the outer return envelope.
4. Print your name, building and unit number, and signature in the top left corner in the spaces provided.
5. Return to the East or West Activity Center ballot boxes OR return by U.S. Mail in postage-paid envelope.



If you are interested in volunteering to count ballots at the Annual Meeting, please notify Nancy Rogers at general_activity@otowfl.com by December 10.



Live shows, live dances are back!

By Mary Ann O'Neil

We have a live show!

The Entertainment Committee is proud to announce our first live show since the pandemic started.

On Thursday, Jan 20, 2022, On Top of the World will feature The George Trullinger Variety Show.

If you remember The Ed Sullivan Show, you will not want to miss this performance.

George performed for us several years ago and if you missed it, you missed an evening of fun.

George, along with his sidekick, Tim, does a wonderful job impersonating The Blues Brothers, Buddy Holly and Mick Jagger, just to name a few.

Other shows we have lined up are Keith Allyn, Tribute to Neil Diamond, Anthem: A Tribute to Whitney Houston, and the Shindigs Beach Boys Show.

More information on those shows to follow in future newspaper articles.

Dust off your dancing shoes and get ready for The Southshore Cruisers Band to perform for our first dance on Saturday, Jan 22, 2022.

This band performs music from the '50s, '60s and some '70s so we can all reminisce back to our teen years. We can remember the days of dancing with our sweetheart or handsome guy at our high school sock hop!

Some of our bands for future dances include Sequel, A Taste of Love, Over the Edge Band, and Boomer Band.

So keep those dancing shoes shined and ready to trip the light fantastic!

I know you all are probably tired of hearing this, however, I want to make sure everyone has an opportunity to receive a refund for 2020 tickets.

I cannot stress enough that the tickets you may be holding have a deadline for cash back.

Those tickets will not be accepted for



The George Trullinger Variety Show will bring live entertainment back to On Top of the World

any upcoming events. You have until Dec. 15 to request your refund.

If you do not request a refund by that date, we will consider this to be a donation to the Entertainment Committee and we thank you very much.

Those of you who are unable to return to our community prior to that date, your request will be handled individually. We are trying to accommodate everyone and would appreciate it if those of you who are here in the community would re-

quest your refund before the deadline.

Please contact Mary Ann O'Neil at (727) 449-9243 at your earliest convenience to expedite your refund.

For season ticket holders, you will have the opportunity to keep your seats that you have had in the past.

Ticket sales for 2022 shows and dances will start up at the pavilion on Monday and Thursday mornings, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. beginning Jan. 3, 2022. We will return to the EAC for ticket sales on Jan 14,

2022.

The Entertainment Committee has tried to keep the cost of our events as low as possible. For us to keep providing great entertainment to our community, we had no choice but to increase the cost of show tickets to \$20. This cost is still a deal for the entertainment that we continue to bring you.

On behalf of the OTOW Entertainment Committee, may this happy holiday season bring many smiles your way!

Elvis returns to OTOW-TV on New Year's Eve

Just as a reminder, there will be no New Year's Eve party in the East Activity Center on Friday, Dec. 31, 2021.

However, the Entertainment Committee has reached out to OTOW-TV Channel 732 and has made arrangement for a previously taped Elvis concert to air in its place.

For anyone still hesitant to go out and celebrate on New Year's Eve, you can sit in your own living room and enjoy Elvis - without wearing a mask.

OTOW-TV will begin airing "A Tribute to the King" performed by Dwight Icenhower at 7 p.m. and the entire concert will repeat three times until after midnight.

The shows was originally performed live in our auditorium on Jan. 30, 2020, just weeks before pandemic restrictions went into place.

Anyone with Spectrum cable will be able to watch the concert. When searching for channel 732 do not use your up and down arrows on your cable remote. Simply tap 7 3 2.

Enjoy.



OTOW News



Pet of the Month



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Clearwater
and now a new location
near downtown Dunedin.
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Sir Flufferbutt

Sir Simon Flufferbutt is a 5-year-old Turkish Van. He was adopted by Sheila Charette from the Tampa SPCA when he was 1 1/2 years old.

He gets along well with a 12-year-old dachshund, Lulu.

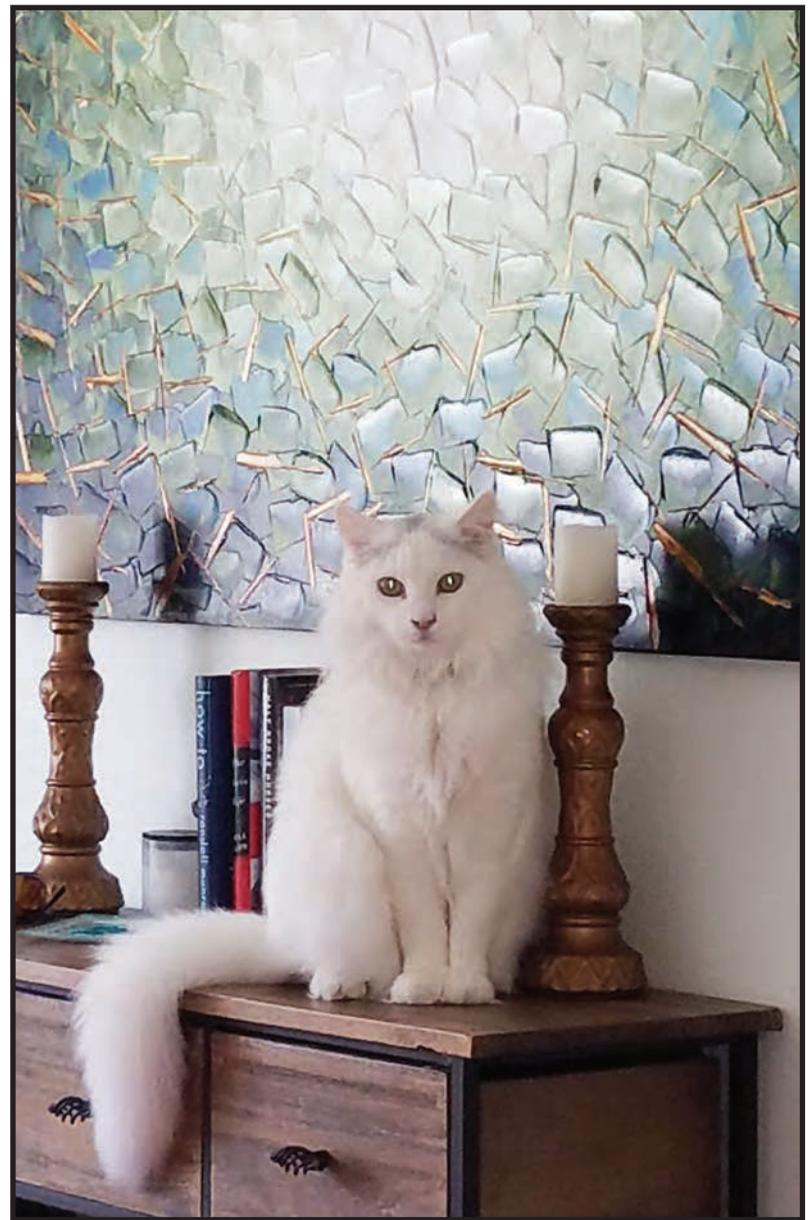
Some of his favorite things are catnip, salmon and boxes. His favorite toy is a bumblebee that flies. The bee is fun to catch.

Sir Flufferbutt has also been known to hide under beds and play with mommy's toes.

He also enjoys sleeping in his kitty condo, knocking things off of tables and drinking out of the faucet.

Sir Flufferbutt does not like it when mom takes Lulu out for a walk. All Simon can do is sit in the window and watch them go, but he is always in the window when they come back.

Simon is very friendly to everyone. Guests are welcomed with a complimentary dusting of his long fur.



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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rabies (1 year), da2pp, leptospirosis, bordetella.

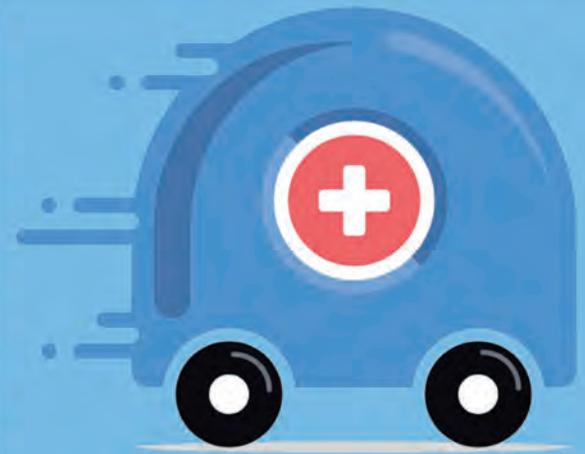
Add a heartworm test for only \$25 more.
Substitute 3-year rabies for only \$10 more.
Must present coupon.

\$95
Cat/Kitten Package

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

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OTOW Community Activities Calendar - December 2021

East Activity Center

CRYSTAL BEACH ROOM

Entertainment Committee Board: Thursday Dec. 9, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Good Karma Book Club: Thursday, Dec. 16, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Good Neighbors Knitting Group: Wednesdays, 9:00 - 11:00 am
 Coloring Book Group: Wednesdays, 12:30 - 2:00 pm
 Pray for America: Saturdays, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Philosophy Club: Tuesdays, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

LARGO ROOM

Democratic Club Meeting: Thursday, Dec. 9, 2:00 - 3:30 pm
 Good Neighbors Association: Wednesday, Dec. 1, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Bonesavers: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 8:00 - 9:00 am
 World Quilters: Tuesdays, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
 TOPS: Thursdays, 9:30-11:00 am
 Veterans Group: Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2:00 - 4:00 pm
 Art Guild Board Meeting: Friday, Dec. 3, 1:00 - 3:00 pm
 Art Guild Meeting: Friday, Dec. 10, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

CLEARWATER ROOM

Ceramics: Thursdays, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
 Caring & Sharing: Tuesdays, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

WOODSHOP: Mondays-Fridays 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

LIBRARY: Now Open Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00 pm

AUDITORIUM

Republican Club Meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 14, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
 Line Dance Club: Tuesdays, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Saturdays, 8:30 - 10:30 am
 Moving and Grooving Easy Level: Tuesdays, 9:00 - 10:00 am, Fridays, 1:00 - 2:00 pm
 Moving and Grooving Beginners to Adv. Beginners: Tuesdays, 10:00-11:30 am, Fridays 2:00-3:30 pm
 Cardio Dance: Saturdays, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Snowbirds Club Line Dancing: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm, Wednesdays
 Press Association: Thursday, Dec. 2, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

OZONA ROOM

Republican Club Board Meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 7, 1:00 - 2:00

EXERCISE ROOM

Line Dance Practice: Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 7:00 - 8:00 am
 Ladies Exercises: Monday-Friday, 8:00 - 9:00 am
 Co-Ed Exercises Class: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 10:00 - 10:45 am
 Hatha Yoga w/Marilyn: Thursdays, 10:00 - 10:45 am
 Tai Chi Flow 108: Mondays, 4:15 - 5:15 pm, Wednesday and Fridays 3:15 - 4:15 pm
 Tai Chi Short Form: Wednesdays, 2:15 - 3:00 pm
 Qigong: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 3:15 - 4:00
 Cardio Dance: Mondays 1:00, Tuesdays 6:30, Wednesdays 11:30, Saturdays 12:30

EAST ACTIVITY CENTER SWIMMING POOL

Aqua Aerobics: Monday - Friday, 9:00 - 10:00 am
 Open Hours: Mon - Sat, 8 am - 8 pm, Sun and Holidays, 9:00 am - 8:00 pm (May-Sept)

EAST ACTIVITY CENTER FITNESS CENTER

Open Hours: Monday-Saturday, 7 am - 9 pm, Sundays and Holidays 9:00 am - 8:00 pm

**FOOD TRUCK DAY
 WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8, 3-7 pm
 EAC PARKING LOT**



West Activity Center

BELLEAIR ROOM

Theater Workshop Meeting: Wednesday, Dec. 1, 6:30-9:00 pm
 Jesters Board Meeting: Wednesday: Dec. 8, 6:30-9:30 pm
 Zumba: Tuesdays and Fridays 9:00 am - 10:00 am
 Zumba Gold: Saturdays 10:00 am - 11:00 am
 Zumba Gold Chair: Thursdays 9:00 am -9:45 am
 Tai Chi Chair: Mondays, Wednesdays, 9:00 am - 9:45 am
 Ping Pong: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
 Baby Boomers Acoustic Jam: Thursdays 10:45 am - 2:00 pm
 Hatha Yoga w/Marilyn: Mondays, 10:00 - 11:30 am
 Valencia Building Meeting: Saturday, Dec. 18, 8:00 - 9:00 pm

ZOOM ONLY

Computer Club: Write to otowcc@gmail.com for next meeting

Pavilion

Lambda Social: Friday, Dec. 10, 6:00-10:00 pm
 Lambda Holiday Party: Friday, Dec. 24, 4:00 - 7 pm
 Blackout Card Game: Thursdays, 1:00 - 4:00 pm
 Food Truck Night: Wednesday, Dec. 8, 3:00 - 7:00 pm
 Lawn Bowl Luncheon: Wednesday, Dec. 1, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
 Karaoke Holiday Party: Sunday, Dec. 12, 5:00 - 8:00 pm
 Republican Club Holiday Party: Tuesday, Dec. 14, 3:00 - 10:00
 Casa Verde Luncheon: Wednesday, Dec. 8, 12:00 - 2:00 pm
 Italian-American Club Lunch: Wednesday, Dec. 15, 1:00 - 5:00
 Democratic Club Lunch: Thursday, Dec. 9, 5:00 - 10:00 pm
 Mallorca Dinner Party: Friday, Dec. 17, 3:00 - 7:00 pm
 Azores Luncheon: Saturday, Dec. 4, 12:00 - 2:00 pm
 Ticket Sales: Italian-American Club, New York-New Jersey Club, Irish Club, Jesters Club - Mondays, Thursdays 9:00 - 11:00 am

Sports

Pickleball: Tuesdays & Thursdays 4-7, Sundays, 9-12
 Tennis Club: Meets Mon-Sat 7:30-11:00 am
 Tennis Courts Open to all Residents
 7 am - 10 pm weekdays, 9 am-9 pm weekends
 Billiards Room is open for non-league play

**OTOW ANNUAL MEETING
 LIVE ON OTOW-TV 732
 Friday, Dec. 17, 10 am**

Updates/Corrections to this calendar may be posted on the Box Office: otowboxoffice.com

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Republican Club planning festive Christmas party

By Mary Jane Lofton

Republican Club event planners remind members that our Dec. 14 meeting will be a Christmas party.

The event will be a pot luck dinner with live entertainment. Please note that the party will be held at the On Top of the World Pavilion beginning at 5 p.m.

Please bring a dessert or side dish. Coffee, tea and lemonade will be provided.

We will collect non-perishable foods for Helping Hands. If you would like to participate, bring items for the bin.

We've already heard rumors that someone from the North Pole might be there.

As 2021 comes to an end, we would like to take this opportunity to say, "Thank you, volunteers, for all your help."

Because of you, our club has grown and we have been able to expand our activities. We have been active in securing many candidate petitions for the 2022



local elections. We have more members qualified to register new voters and update voter registrations than ever in the history of our club.

Statistics show there is an increase in registered Republicans in the state of Florida. It feels good to know we had a small part in making that happen.



When you attend the Republican Club meeting in December, you are encouraged to bring items for Helping Hands.



Royal Dutch ready for Christmas

On Saturday Nov. 13, Santa's elves were busy at work decorating the breezeway in the Royal Dutch building (60).

Helen Comas, the leader of the elves, was helped by at least 15 neighbors who contributed their time, decorations and money for the project. Santa and Mrs. Claus were given a day off. Helen started organizing this group of volunteers last Christmas after a couple of years of no decorations. Most of the volunteers wanted to do more and with the willing team and cooperation of those who contributed.

The project began early in the morning and by mid-afternoon it was completed.

Art Guild meetings start up again

By Sue Naylor

What does the Art Guild do?

Besides having brief business meetings and voting for Artist of the Month, there is normally a paid speaker who discusses and demonstrates how they produce their work of art.

Every new demonstration gives you new insights into what is artistically possible.

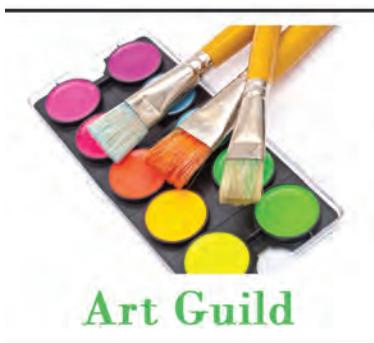
Several times after one of our presentations, I found myself at a local art store purchasing just enough supplies to get started in a new field.

Pre-pandemic, every February or March our club also has a large art show where members can sign up for a space to display their artistry. The general public is treated to an amazing array of talent with free refreshments.

Sometimes, members of our club carpool to local museums.

We also have a Christmas party for the holidays and a pizza party at the end of the season.

Finally, the Art Guild was able to meet in person on Fri-



day, Nov. 12. Our new president, Connie MacDonald, very ably conducted the meeting where members introduced themselves, various items were discussed and classes were announced.

Other classes will probably be announced in the future, but so far the following sessions are confirmed.

On Wednesdays from 1-3:30 p.m., Painting Pals will meet in the Largo Room. This activity offers members an opportunity to pursue their painting interests in the presence of fellow artists. Each person may be working in a different medium but the oppor-



Artist of the Month Sharon Kidder

tunity for learning and getting help from others is immediately available. There is no official instruction.

Rosemarie Lugg's acrylics class will start in January as will a new acrylics class led by Joe Spahalski. Joe was present to talk a

little about his methods, including the topic "The Five Stages of a Painting."

They are finding a subject, transferring the subject to canvas, correcting the painting while adding a wash, adding colors - he uses very few - and lastly, fine-

tuning the painting after assessing what is wrong with it. In December Joe will demonstrate his method in more detail.

When Joe's classes start, he will be providing all paints, paint brushes and any other supplies for a mere \$3 a session. Connie assured everyone that these revolutionary new techniques will be very exciting.

At the end of the meeting our latest Artist of the Month, Sharon Kidder, explained that her winning pastel painting was a picture of her daughter she'd done some years ago while living in Yuma, Az.

Our meetings are always on the second Friday of the month at 1 p.m. in the Largo Room of the East Activity Center. The next one is Dec. 10 so plan on attending and bringing one of your art works to display for the Artist of the Month.

The cost for all this culture is only \$15 a year so please bring your dues to the next meeting.

ON TOP OF THE WORLD NEWS

Only Good News for 52 Years - Published Since 1968

Kenneth Colen, Publisher • Doug Kates, Editor • Dave Hart, Assistant Editor

Press Association Officers

Yvonne Courtney, President,

Edwina Schick, 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 December 30.

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

On Top of the World News reserves the right to reject any advertiser within its sole, absolute and unfettered discretion. Not every advertiser is acceptable. If you, the resident of On Top of the World, have had a justifiably bad experience with an advertiser and if we have had previous complaints that are justified, we will not accept future advertising from them.

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.

On Top of the World News does not accept an advertiser solely because it is willing to pay to advertise.

Trades and services regulated by the State or County must all be licensed in order to advertise. In some cases, background checks are required. All advertisements must contain a local address or a local telephone number. Ads resembling news articles or news pages are not accepted. The submission to OTOW News of any photo, artwork or other form of copyrighted material authorizes OTOW News to use and/or print the image at later dates and in other forms in such ways as OTOW News, in its sole, absolute and unfettered discretion deems appropriate. OTOW News may not be reproduced in any way, in any other media, except in print and on official OTOW Websites.

On Top of the World News Inc., 2069 World Parkway Blvd. E., Clearwater, FL 33763. Phone Number: 727-799-3216. Online newspapers and advertising rate information are available at www.ontopoftheworldnews.com/clearwater/news.php

Press Association Volunteers This Month:

Lyn Taecker

Bob Rittner

Donna Lucas

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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



Pavilion Park

Important Phone Numbers

Community Service Office

727-683-6981

Activities Office

727-799-2734

Water Turn-On/Water Turn-Off

727-799-3417 Option 6

Emergency After Hours/Weekends

727-799-1115

A friendly reminder - the IRS never calls you to demand immediate payments

Scam Alert

This is a good time to discuss the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Please keep this column by your phone in case you ever get a call from someone claiming to be from the "I.R.S."

The IRS will NEVER call you and demand immediate payment, and certainly will NEVER call you and demand payment by a specific method such as a prepaid debit card, iTunes card, gift card or wire transfer.

The IRS will NEVER threaten to immediately bring in the police or United States Marshal or any other law enforcement agency.

The IRS will NEVER demand that taxes be paid without giving you the chance to question or appeal the amount owed.

The IRS will NEVER call you "out of the blue" to tell you about some unexpected tax refund.

(Note: These scam comments are courtesy of the IRS' official website at www.irs.gov. It's a good resource.)

Scam Alert

This is a continuation of the above scam alert.

Of course, many of you, hopefully all of you, will not answer the phone unless you are sure who the caller is. However, from time to time, no matter how careful we are, we wind up taking a call that turns out to be a scammer who lies and claims to be from the IRS, or from the Social Security Administration, or from Amazon, etc.

If it does happen, please HANG UP IMMEDIATELY.

Don't think you can "string them along"



Just hang up the phone at once.

Q. We are citizens of (a foreign country). We recently sold a piece of real property that we own in the State of Florida. The closing is set for a time when neither I nor my wife will be in the U.S. Can we have our money from the sale wire-transferred to our bank in (that foreign country)? And if so, can it be done in such a way as to be safe from being stolen by hackers?

A. Funds can be wire transferred from a U.S. bank to a bank in any country (that permits wire transferred funds into that country) so long as you have checked and verified the correct wire instructions. The transfer should be secure.

(1) You must check with the bank that is to receive the funds so you can verify wiring instructions.

(2) You must make sure that the bank that is wiring the funds has the correct wire instructions.

(3) Once you give wire instructions, you should not change them. Or, if it

is necessary to do so, you need to verify what the new wire-transfer instructions are either by going into the bank at the foreign country or talking with someone who you know for sure.

There is, however, a different concern that should always be addressed when wiring funds internationally. This concern has to do with the foreign exchange rate.

For example, suppose you wire \$10,000 in U.S. funds to a foreign country whose currency is NOT pegged to the U.S. dollar. Depending on the value of the foreign currency vis-à-vis the U.S. dollar at the time of the wire transfer, you could lose a significant amount of value in the exchange.

Q. Recently, my husband I and went to an estate planning attorney to have our wills drawn.

During the discussion with the attorney, she mentioned that although she was very pleased to represent both of us, in the event one of us came back to her without the knowledge of the other, she might have to withdraw from further representation.

What is that all about?

A. The Florida Bar Ethics Rules encourage attorneys to let both spouses know that when there is joint representation, either one has the right to have separate legal counsel.

This is because the two of them might have different economic interests and thus one might not want the other to have complete information about such separate or private assets or about how one intends to make distributions.

One example might be where one has a separate bank or brokerage account

that is made payable on death to someone other than the other's spouse — a child from a prior marriage, or a longtime best relative or friend.

Simply put, a married couple can, if they choose, have separate and independent attorneys to represent them.

Some attorneys might have their married clients sign a joint representation disclosure document.

I don't do that, but in my own law practice, there have been occasions where I've met with someone who is in a second or subsequent marriage and his/her spouse has a separate attorney for estate planning.

This is perfectly fine.

Jerry Colen (Jerry@colenwagoner.com); Rachel Wagoner (Rachel@colenwagoner.com); and John Beck (John@colenwagoner.com) are members Colen & Wagoner, P.A. Jerry Colen and Rachel Wagoner are members of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and the Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys. John Beck has a degree in finance, and a masters degrees in accounting and taxation. The law firm practices in the areas of wills, trusts, probate, real estate, elder law, Medicaid planning, and business and professional advice. This column 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 any situation. You should always consult your own attorney for legal advice. The Law Offices of Colen and Wagoner, P.A. is located at 7243 Bryan Dairy Road, Largo, Florida 33777 and in Suite 11 at Circle Square Commons in Ocala, Florida. Our phone number is (727) 545-8114. Online you can find us at www.colenwagoner.com.

Four ways to turn your water ON and OFF to protect your property and your neighbor's property

1. You can call 727-799-3417 (Option 6) weekdays from 7:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. or weekends from 7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. There is no charge for service during these hours.

For service calls from 5:30-9 p.m. weekdays or noon-7 p.m. weekends, call 727-799-1115. There is a \$35 charge (checks only, no cash).

2. Visit the Community Service Office in the East Activity Center from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday-Friday. The office is closed noon-12:30 p.m.

3. Go online to otowclearwaterinfo.com and fill out a service request form online.

4. For emergency services, call 727-799-1115.



You must be present to have water turned on, not off. Payments must be made in checks only - no cash.

Coyote advisory for our community

Reports indicate coyotes may be back in our community.

Please remember these four simple safety tips:

- Feeding coyotes is illegal. Coyotes will lose their fear of humans if food is left out for them.
- Please secure all garbage cans. Clean up pet food left outdoors and pick up and dispose of any fallen fruit you may see.
- Keep pets in an enclosed area. Do not let your pets roam freely, unattended outdoors. Walk dogs on a short leash.
- If in the presence of a coyote, make loud noises to scare it away.

For more information, please visit the Florida Fish and Wildlife website at <https://www.fws.gov/>

otowclearwaterinfo.com

Watch for a second Food Truck Night, a new Angel Tree and clubs starting up again in January

The world seems a little brighter to me this holiday season and I hope for you too!

The vaccine rolled out earlier in the year and the booster is now readily available at local pharmacies.

We still need to wear our masks inside the Activity Centers. We hope that barring any uptick with the virus or variants, restrictions will lift inside the Activity Centers early next year.

Please stay tuned for an official announcement after the holidays.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy new year!



raising our community children.”

Each Angel tree contains tags, which are the names and wishes of the kids in the program.

Due to COVID-19, the organization will continue to make the program one of less contact and still provide Christmas to the children. 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 tag and simply tape it onto their gift card – no wrappings or bags. On behalf of PCFAPA, thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

PCFAPA will need your gift cards dropped off to the Community Service Office no later than Monday, Dec. 20.

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

Notice to New Residents

Since the onset of the pandemic, new residents, unfortunately, have not experienced our welcoming events.

There is the Good Neighbors Association monthly “Get Acquainted Coffee” held in the East Activity Center Auditorium on the second Thursday of the month from 8:30 – 11 a.m.

We also have our weekly Monday and Thursday morning club membership recruiting and ticket sales tables.

These regular events serve to welcome and orient new residents and will be back in the near future. We look forward to meeting you there!

Meanwhile, here are two common questions I receive from new residents and I hope this helps. If you have additional questions, please feel free to email or call me.

1. How do I find out what is going on in the community?

The OTOW newspaper and official website www.otowclearwaterinfo.com are your best resources to learn about this community and find out what is happening.

The newspaper (available on the first

of the month and delivered to buildings and Activity Center lobby bins) and website include a calendar.

In addition, there are current event flyers posted on stanchions and in display cases at the Activity Centers.

My column and Nancy's Bulletin Board on the website will always have current events hosted by the SCA Health and Recreation Activity Department.

OTOW-TV Channel 732 has the same scheduling info and clubs post their own information on the Box Office at otowboxoffice.com.

2. How do I join a club?

First, check out the long list of clubs included on the website under the “Communities Activities.” Next, review the newspaper calendar to see if that club or activity is currently meeting. If so, stop by and introduce yourself.

The club rep or members will share the rules for joining and membership. If you have difficulty locating the club of your interest, please feel free to email or call me with your contact info and I will share with the club's representative. I do not give out residents contact info but can share yours with them.

Master the Possibilities (MTP)

December's classes and instructions for registration are located on page 15. As an added bonus, MTP has its pre-recorded collection called “International Perspectives with Frank DiPiero” a recording called “Hate Land USA: Domestic Terrorism in America.”

This is in addition to all the previous recordings by Frank, including talks on the Middle East, China and Russia. You get the entire collection with one registration and can watch the recordings online at any time until the end of the year.

Helping Hands

Mobile Food Dispensary

The next food dispensary will take place at the East Activity Center north parking lot in December as follows:

- Tuesday, Dec. 14 at noon.
- Thursday, Dec. 30 at noon.

The event is set to take place on the second Tuesday and last Thursday of the month. Please do not arrive before 11:55 a.m. Helping Hands directs anyone arriving prior to this time to come back or go to the end of the line.

Please note: Helping Hands is able to distribute 70 food bags for those most in need. This event is exclusive to our community and proof of residency is required.

The event will not take place during a rainstorm or high winds or a forecast that includes lightening.

The weather has to be conducive for setting up and tearing down the pantry so please consider the weather before driving over to the Activity Center.

In the event of a cancellation, Helping Hands does not reschedule. However, residents may visit the Helping Hands Facebook page to see a calendar of nearby

distribution sites for where they can participate the following day or during that week.

Residents must enter at Columbia Drive, receive bags of food in their vehicle's trunk and then drive on through to exit back out onto Columbia Drive.

Food distribution should conclude by 1:15 p.m.

On Top of the World staff, direct the traffic and Helping Hands volunteers dispense the food. Thank you for your cooperation in following all guidelines.

Club Room Reservation –

All Club and Activity Reps

As mentioned in previous columns, once notices post that all restrictions inside the Activity Centers have lifted, club and activity representatives will have an opportunity to re-establish previous room/time reservations.

There will not be a need to line up in front of the Activity Office to renew your recurring activity. Club representatives should first call me at 727-799-2734 or email me at general_activity@otowfl.com. State whether your group is ready to start up again or if not, approximately when?

I will review your file to see if we are up-to-date with club record requirements. The next step would be to complete a Facility Request form. The form is available online or in the Community Service or Activity Office. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

One Blood

The Big Red Bus will be back on Monday, Dec. 15, from 10 – 3 p.m. and parked at the East Activity Center north parking lot. One Blood's goal for our community is 12 or more donors! All donors will receive a Fleece Blanket and a \$10 e-Gift Card plus a wellness checkup, including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening!

Take this opportunity to save lives! See page 5 to learn how to register, or you can also just show up that day.

Activity Card Renewal

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

Activity Cards will not be punched or processed without proper identification and address verification.

In addition, for renewal, you will need \$3 and your expiring/expired card. If you do not have your card, you will need to bring \$25 for purchasing and processing of a new card.

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. Any noncompliance matters will be directed to the On Top of the World Association.

December
2021

Master the Possibilities



Leading in Lifelong Learning

Bundled Courses - One Flat Rate!

International Perspectives with Frank DiPiero



This course is a collection of recorded classes from MTP instructor Frank DiPiero. Frank's lectures cover the Middle East, China and the United States, the Asia-Pacific Rim, Iran, Russia, and more. Each bundle includes at least 5 complete courses! ADDED BONUS! NEW Recording just added! "Hate Land USA: Domestic Terrorism in America."

Course Fee: \$7



Women of Historical Note: Portrayed by Dee Collier

This course is a showcase of the collected recordings of women of historical note and their perspectives on their point in history portrayed by Dee Collier. Watch any video, in any order, at any time during the entire term. ADDED BONUS! NEW Recording just added! "Lizzy Jane" portrayed by Dee Collier!

Course Fee: \$7

Distance Learning OTOW Clearwater

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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ACTIVITY REPORTS



Stunning event attracts 1,000 residents

Successful Food Truck Night in November will spawn more monthly outings



From 4 p.m. to closing at 7 p.m. the lines never went down at On Top of the World's first ever Food Truck Night on Nov. 10.

Three hours after the first taco was ordered, more than 1,000 residents had waited in line for churros, pizza, ribs and ice cream.

The event was so successful, OTOW is planning another Food Truck Night for 3-7 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 8.

Restaurants on hand were Tikiz Ice Cream, Bar-B-Q Queen, Sea Dog Cantina and Corvo Bianco Wood-Fired Cookery.

A lot of notes were taken and management plans to make future Food Truck Nights even more successful.

Watch OTOW-TV channel 732 and Nancy's Bulletin Board for the very latest information on upcoming events.

Pictured on top are three visible lines of residents shortly after 4 p.m. when Food Truck Night opened on Nov. 10. A fourth line is behind the Tikiz ice cream truck. Residents lined up for the Sea Dog Cantina, The Bar-B-Q-Queen and Corvo Bianco. The lines looked this way for three hours. Also above, a Corvo Bianco pizza comes out of a portable wood-fired oven. Pictured below are the On Top of the World clubs that were represented at Food Truck Night. Good Neighbors Association was selling safety equipment and the Knitting Group was selling hand-made attire.

(Photos by Doug Kates)





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Christmas Lunch

Yea! Italian food and socializing are back!

By Will Peterson

The Italian-American Club is proud to announce that we are back.

We are now planning our future events and hope that all of you will rejoin the club and support us. Come and enjoy activities with your friends and neighbors again.

Our first and only event for this year will be our annual Christmas lunch. This event will take place at the pavilion on Dec. 15 from 1-5 p.m.

Tickets for this event will be sold at the pavilion on Mondays and Thursdays from 8-10 a.m. The lunch will be catered by Mama Felice and will cost \$20.

The menu will include baked ziti, sausage and peppers, chicken marsala, mixed salad, rolls, a vegetable medley, fruit salad and mini cheese cakes.

Soda, water and coffee will be provided.

On Feb. 16, 2022, our club will host a pizza party on Wednesday, Feb. 16. Time, location and price will be announced in a future newspaper and on OTOW-TV channel 732.

Italian American Club



Our annual St. Joseph's Dinner Dance will take place on Wednesday, March 16, 2022. Time, location and price will be announced later.

And our spring will conclude with a Farewell Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, April 13. Details to follow.

We look forward to seeing all of you at each of our events.

Remember, we are always looking for volunteers to help us out at each of our events, and of course at our ticket table once everything has opened up again.



This scene, where everyone gathers around the buffet table, will return for the Italian-American Club in December.

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Fifty reporters improve their writing skills

You might see a little improvement in the newspaper stories you read this month.

Why?

Because 50 members of the Press Association attended their annual Writer's Workshop in November to help improve their journalism skills.

The class did not take place in 2020, but returned last month with a full house.

"We had a wonderful turnout," said OTOW News Editor Doug Kates. "We still wore our masks, but at least we were able to finally gather as a group and talk about journalism."

The one-hour class covered basic journalism and bad habits.

Yes. Bad habits.

In today's world, people are so used to writing email letters and texting that they forget the basic English that their elementary school teachers taught them.

Doug reminded everyone that there are still certain words that get uppercased and certain words that get lowercased.

We never uppercase every letter in one word just to try to emphasize it in a sentence.

He said we do not replace words with symbols or characters. We also use one exclamation point and one question mark at the end of sentences.

The class also went over the use of quotation marks.

"Sometimes people forget that the final period, exclamation mark or question



Fifty members of the Press Association learn basic journalism skills during a meeting in November. This is an annual class, but it was canceled last year. Chilly was on hand to help with the instructions. (OTOW News photo by Mary Lou Wall)

mark always goes inside the final quotation mark," Doug said.

The group also practiced writing opening paragraphs based on what was unique about each story.

In the end, OTOW News had 50 improved staff members.

The Press Association will have its final meeting of the year at noon, Thursday, Dec. 2 in the East Activity Center Auditorium.

January will be the last meeting in the auditorium before the club returns to the Crystal Beach Room in February. Meetings will be back to their normal 1:30 times.

The Press Association's annual Appreciation Luncheon will take place on Thursday, April 7, at Philippe Park at a shelter to be determined later. Staff will decide

whether to have a luncheon or a dinner at the park. One of the best chefs in the county has volunteered to cook for us.

In order to qualify for the Appreciation Luncheon, a staff member must have contributed to at least three newspapers and attended at least three meetings since May of this year. There are still meetings in December, January, February and March for people to qualify.

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It's your first step toward getting the medical care you deserve. We invite you to come meet our staff and take a tour of one of our centers.



Please call Tina at
(727) 212-1160
to schedule a visit.

Veterans gather together pre-holiday

Members of the On Top of the World Veterans Group held a meeting just before Veterans Day.

The meeting took place at the Mediterranean Building (48).

It was a fabulous experience. Our friend, Ray Willis, expertly played his bagpipes. He had a narrative for each rendition of patriotic music he played. All tried to sing along. Thank you Ray!

For everyone's enjoyment delicious cookies and cake were served. Thanks to everyone who made this memorable day possible for our veterans and neighbors.



Ray Willis plays the bagpipes at a pre-Veterans Day event for the On Top of the World Veterans Group. Everyone met at the Mediterranean Building.

New members already joining Writers Ink

By Lori Gottshall

Yippee!

Writers Ink meetings have resumed.

Since I last wrote this column, we have had two in-person meetings. It feels so good, because we had not met since mid-March, 2020.

These meetings happened despite the unfortunate illness and resignation of our membership and communications volunteer. We thank Terry Babb for helping keep the club alive during the COVID-19 hiatus.

This is the thing about clubs – they survive or die on the efforts of the members. With only four previous members actively participating this month, it was a real pleasure to meet David Anderson and Laurie Fischer. These guys both seem genuinely interested in helping perpetuate a Writers Ink club at On Top of the World. That's our top priority right now.

Kim Chen graciously sent an e-mail to all explaining our need for member activism. We are determined to meet weekly no matter how small the group. I'm confident we will gain steam as the Snowbirds return.

What types of writing were shared recently?

Last week Marshall Goodman read haikus he wrote over the summer while at a remote cabin in North Carolina. This week, we had more haikus from Marty Griffin and me, personal interest prose from David and Kim, and a contemplative essay on the difference between po-



Writer's Ink

etry and painting from Laurie.

It was quite a nice range of topics and styles.

Usually, club members write for themselves, and randomness is the norm. Occasionally, the group will agree in advance to use a particular style or topic or word for an upcoming meeting. Nevertheless, such meetings also seem to be surprisingly diverse in the products that are created.

What about you? Would you like to be part of a group of folks who give and receive constructive advice?

Join us on Thursdays at 1 p.m. for writing camaraderie and another point of view. Meetings last about two hours.

Until we get a new communications volunteer, please contact me via email for meeting locations: montalo@yahoo.com.

Sign up for events

Canadian Club registration Jan. 11 at the pavilion

The Canadian Club Executive Committee will relaunch our club on Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022, with a "No-Frills" registration event at the pavilion from 4 – 6 p.m.

Registration will be free until the end of the 2021-22 season, which ends March 31, 2022.

No-Frills means that unlike normal times, we will not be providing beer, wine, cheese, crackers or grapes. Feel free to bring beverages of your choice and any snacks you prefer.

Don't forget to bring your updated OTOW Activity Card.

Event coordinators will be ready to sign you up for the Lawn Bowl Triples on Feb. 2, 2022, [Sandy Wall], Golf Fun Day on Feb. 27 at the 18 Hole Course [Laurie Fischer \$10]; Picnic on March 19 at the Pavilion [Joanne Fenn \$10] and a Blue Jays spring training game versus the Phillies on March 11 [Susan Cober].

The Club will participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 5 so please sign up with Coordinator Jackie Cornett Small if you'd like to join us.

In order to remain successful, your Canadian Club depends on volunteers to help with set-up for the aforementioned events. Please contact Jackie, volunteer coordinator at jcornettsmall@gmail.com.

Additionally, for the upcoming new season, we must fill the vice president and registrar positions.

To be fair, as you consider taking on one of these positions, it is beneficial for club continuity if these positions are filled by the same person for more than one year. Hand-over support and orientation is available.

The future is in your hands, so please contact Connie Stanley at 727-475-8888 or email stanlec62@outlook.com by Friday Dec. 10 for more details.

Wishing everyone a joyous holiday season and a very Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah.



Jesters still seeking show people



Jesters

By Evelyn Flam

In the Jesters Club last article, we gave a brief review of Stephen Sondheim's and Carole King's early careers. This month I'd like to emphasize the importance of their music.

Stephen Sondheim is considered one of the most important figures in 20th-century theater and he's been praised for having reinvented the American Musical with songs having unexpected themes that range far beyond traditional subjects with music and lyrics of unprecedented complexity and sophistication.

Carole King is considered the most successful female songwriter of the 20th Century having written or co-written 118

pop hits on the Billboard Hot 100. She was a 2002 recipient of The Johnny Mercer Award, which is the Songwriters Hall of Fame's highest honor. Many of you may have seen Carole as a 2013 Kennedy Center Honoree.

The Jester Show is titled: "A Funny Thing Happened On Broadway" featuring the music of Stephen Sondheim and Carole King.

The show will be presented the second weekend in February 2022, which is Friday, Feb. 11; Saturday, Feb. 12; and Sunday, Feb. 13.

If you would like to get tickets for our show, they are on sale at the pavilion on Mondays and Thursdays from 9-11 a.m.

You can join the Jesters or find out more by attending our Dec. 8 meeting at the West Activity Center at 7:30 p.m. If you would like to help behind the scenes, let us know.

You can also contact me at 727-797-1761, or by calling our Membership Chair Lillian Foy at 609-489-1400.

With Chanukah and Christmas coming up, I remember someone asking last year, "Which hand do you light the candles with?" The answer of course is neither. You light them with a match.

We wish you "A Joyous Holiday Season and A Happy New Year!"

As always, we look forward to getting together "Jest for Fun!"

Karaoke Christmas on Dec. 12

Karaoke for Christmas? Perfect.

Lenny and Kathy will be hosting a Karaoke Christmas Party at the East Activity Center Pavilion on Sunday, Dec. 12, from 5-8 p.m.

There will be free hotdogs and hamburgers - first come first served.

There will be trivia contests and lots of giveaways! And of course, there will be a lot of wonderful Christmas songs for singalongs!

Bring your Christmas spirit and wear your red and green!

See you there!



Pickleball has three different levels of play, competition

On Top of the World Pickleball enjoyed a barbecue at the East Activity Center Pavilion in November.

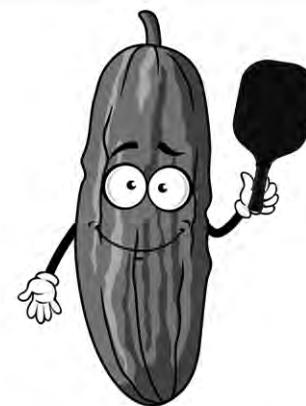
Chef Lenny Segall and Jerry grilled some delicious hamburgers, hotdogs and ribs!

It was a covered-dish luncheon so there was a variety of foods and desserts!

Now that our Snowbirds are back, pickleball is more exciting than ever! We have beginner, intermediate and advanced levels available. We have instructors for our beginners.

Please stop by the pickleball courts and check it out!

Our play dates are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 4-7 p.m. and Sundays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.



Pickleball



Helping Hands Food Dispensary

Helping Hands Mobile Food Dispensary will be in the East Activity Center North Parking Lot the second Tuesday and last Thursday of every month for an exclusive drive-thru food distribution for our residents only. The event will be at 12 pm. Please do not show up more than 5 minutes before.



Residents will enter at Columbia Drive, receive bags of food in their vehicle's trunk and then drive on through to exit back out on Columbia Drive. The entire event should conclude by 1:15. On Top of the World facility staff will be directing traffic. Helping Hands volunteers will dispense the food.

**An event is scheduled for Dec. 30
(subject to change)**

tops

"Take Off Pounds Sensibly."

Meets 10-11 a.m. Thursdays in the East Activity Center Largo Room.

We are very motivated to help you if you want to lose weight. We are a friendly group and usually go out for a healthy meal after our meetings. Because we are a part of a national club, we charge \$32 per person for yearly national dues. Please come to our meetings at no charge for one month to try us out.



**Real People.
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For more information call Libby Shear at 727-669-1486.

NY/NJ Club hosting live events in 2022



New York - New Jersey Club

By William Peterson

We are happy to say that the New York-New Jersey Club is back and we hope to be sitting at our information table in the East Activity Center by Tuesday, Jan. 11.

Until then, memberships will be sold on Mondays and Thursdays in the pavilion, but will be moved to the EAC once the facility is open without restrictions.

On Tuesday, Oct. 14, the club had a social and it was attended by over 30 members. Everyone seemed to have a good time and enjoyed the wonderful sandwiches provided by our favorite food aficionado, Mama Felice.

Denise with a Twist provided the entertainment. It was so great to see so many familiar faces.

At this meeting, the following officers were elected: President Pat Hayes, Vice



Your 2022 New York-New Jersey Club officers are, left to right, Secretary Will Peterson, Treasurer Ron Gartner, President Pat Hayes and Vice President Joe DeChiaro.

President Joe DeChiaro, Treasurer Ron Gartner and Secretary Will Peterson.

Our club had a Christmas Sweater Party on Nov. 30 and it was also well attended. There were so many sweaters to dazzle your eyes. Mama served the food and Denise played for the group.

Jan. 12 will be our Southwest Night. So, get out those 10 gallon hats and cowboy boots if you have them, but not required.

Yee haw!

The event will be held in the EAC

and we will be serving barbeque chicken and pulled pork, which will be provided by Mama.

Denise will play line dance music along with your favorite music for your dancing pleasure.

So, get yourselves ready to kick up those heels and stomp those feet! The ticket price will be \$23 per person and will start at 5 p.m.

Feb. 22 will be Sports Night in the EAC. Wear something to represent your favorite team! Feast on meatballs and

chicken parmesan provided by Mama and enjoy entertainment by the KP Duo. Price to be determined.

The New York/New Jersey Club is for anyone who lives at On Top of the World, not just those residents from New York or New Jersey.

Dues are only \$5. You must have a valid activities card to become a member and be prepared to present it when buying or renewing your membership.

Our board looks forward to seeing everyone at our events.

Theater Workshop spring show is in production

By Vicki Portsmouth

Things always start to get exciting at this time of year for Theater Workshop as we finalize the plans for our next show.

It is a bit like decorating for a holiday. There is much anticipation in the creation of the songs, dances and comedy skits in a stage production. With that, too, comes the design of props and costuming.

Oh, yes!

It is a fun time for the group.

Director Will Peterson and Assistant Director Lori Gerstein continue to work with their creative team, which is made up of Music Director Tom Portsmouth and Prop Directors Jim and Maureen Bjorgo, to select the best material for the scenes and performers.

That process continues until dress rehearsal.

The March 2022 show comes with a different twist. The story starts with "OTOWians" waiting for the arrival of friends from afar (outer space) who are looking for guidance from Earthlings to help build their own musical planet.

We will see what the nickelodeon has in store for them and for us!

If you missed auditions in November, you may still have an opportunity to



Theater Workshop was already preparing music for its spring show when auditions and rehearsals took place in November.

try out for a part. Contact Lori at lgcounselor@gmail.com or Vicki Portsmouth at vickyportsmouth@hotmail.com.

Don't delay! Cast assignments and rehearsals start Jan. 3, 2022. Join us. Become a Theater Workshop member!



Theater Workshop

Email Vicki Portsmouth at vickyportsmouth@hotmail.com or Lori Gerstein at lgcounselor@gmail.com. By phone, contact Vicki Portsmouth at 727-726-1848. Dues are \$5 for the year. All members must present a valid activity card. General meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month on video conferencing at 7 p.m. Contact one of the above for a link to the meeting.

Stay tuned. Stay safe.

Please check our Box Office webpage for information on Theater Workshop and our plans.

Holiday attire required for Line Dance party on Dec. 21

By Leila Walker

The On Top of the World Line Dance Club will be having its annual Christmas celebration on Dec. 21 from 1-3 p.m. in the East Activity Center Auditorium.

Come and join us for the fun.

There will be line dancing to Christmas music such as "A Holly Jolly Christmas," "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer," "Frosty the Snowman," "Silver Bells," "A Marshmallow World," "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus," "Jingle Bells" and "Jingle Bell Rock."

There will be prepackaged takeaway snacks.

You are invited to join us. Dress in your favorite holiday outfit and experience the joy of line dancing.

The OTOW Line Dance Club regularly offers classes on Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8:30-10:30 a.m. in the auditorium.

From 1-2 p.m. on Tuesdays and 8:30



to 9:30 on Saturdays, an Advanced Improver session is being offered. From 2-3 p.m. on Tuesdays and 9:30-10:30 a.m. on Saturdays, an Improver session is offered for more experienced line dancers.

The program is offered every week to give line dancers additional time to learn



This picture was taken during our club's 2020 Christmas celebration. Line dancers dressed up in their favorite Christmas outfits. Ugly sweaters are welcome, too!

the dances.

Additional practice sessions are offered from 7-8 a.m. each Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in the EAC Exercise Room. This is when the instructors practice the dances that are offered on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

You can obtain useful information about the OTOW Line Dance Club and

other OTOW activities by visiting the Box Office at otowboxoffice.com.

You can see demos of some of the dances on OTOW-TV Channel 732, weekdays at 11 a.m.

If you need additional information, contact President Leila Walker at Leila.g.walker1@gmail.com or text/call 443-845-7842.

New OTOW club will explore metaphysics



By Laurie LeClaire

I am calling all who are drawn to the metaphysical arts to come together as a club and share knowledge built over a lifetime of interests.

Metaphysics is the study of ultimate cause in the Universe. Metaphysics includes all religions, but transcends them all. Basically metaphysics is religion without dogma.

I have spent over 30 years working as a healer in traditional hospital nursing. During that period I realized there was much more to complement

western medicine. I was fascinated by acupuncture, massage therapy, using magnets, astrology, healing touch and Reiki mastership.

I have taken courses on the Healing Angels of the Energy Field, joined a Goddess group in which we used meditations, crystals and singing bowls.

Some of us assembled in 2015 in Sarasota to bless the waters and crystalline grid.

I spent many of those years as an active church member, Sunday School teacher, prison minister and Eucharis-

tic minister in United Methodist and Episcopalian churches in Ohio.

I have always believed in the power of our spiritual centered lives. I have prayed with many patients, participated in Reiki shares in those churches as well as in healing by praying and laying on of hands and realize I have been blessed to recognize it is All from Our Divine Source.

Now let us start a club together, teach each other, play, meditate, organize outings, invite in experts eventually and

just remember to Be Children Of God in joy and play!

Please consider joining my new club in January. Contact me, Laurie LeClaire at 727-265-1671 or email otowooowoo@gmail.com

I will add you to the roster.

We will meet Thursday, Jan. 13 in the kitchen (Clearwater Room) at the East Activity Center from 7-9 p.m. for our first meeting, then monthly on the second Thursday of the month.

Around The Bay Entertainment

By Laurie Fischer

There is a busy entertainment month ahead of us with so much to see and do around Tampa Bay.

December will be especially busy as we head into the holiday season. These are just a few local entertainment ideas for you.

The Tampa Bay Lightning will continue their NHL season at Amalie Arena with games on Dec. 2, 14, 16, 28 and 31.

The Musical "Cats" is playing at the Straz Center from Dec. 7-12. This much loved musical was composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber based on the 1939 poetry collection Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats by T. S. Eliot. It tells the story of a tribe of cats featuring many great musical hits including "Memory."

The Temptations and the Four Tops will appear together at Ruth Eckerd Hall on Friday, Dec. 10.

The Temptations are an American vocal group from Detroit, Mich., who released a series of successful singles and albums with Motown Records during the 1960s and 1970s. They are among the most successful groups in popular music.

The Four Tops are an American vocal quartet, also,

from Detroit who helped to define the city's Motown sound of the 1960s. The group's repertoire has included Soul Music, Rhythm and Blues, Doo-Wop, Jazz and show tunes.

Martina McBride will be at the Mahaffrey Theatre on Dec. 10. She an American country music singer-songwriter and record producer. She is best known for her soprano singing range and her country pop material.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers will play the high flying Buffalo Bills at Raymond James Stadium on Sunday, Dec. 12 as the Bucs continue their quest to repeat as Super Bowl champions.

The Buccaneers play their second home game of the month against New Orleans Saints at Raymond James Stadium on Sun. Dec. 19. After losing a close game in New Orleans, it is time for revenge.

Sarah Brightman will make a stop at Ruth Eckerd Hall on Wednesday, Dec. 15. She is an English classical crossover soprano, singer, songwriter, actress, dancer and musician. In 1981 she made her West End musical theatre debut in "Cats" and met composer Andrew Lloyd Webber, whom she later married. She went on to star in several West End and Broadway musicals including "Phantom of the Opera" where she originated the lead

role of Christine Daaé.

On Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, 2022, the Mahaffrey Theatre will play host to the Shen Yun Performing Arts Troupe. They are a United States based performing arts and entertainment company that tours internationally producing dance performances and symphony concerts.

They are composed of seven performing arts companies with a total of approximately 480 performers. Shen Yun has performed in front of millions and has toured more than 130 cities across Europe, North America and Asia

Finally, here is an advance notice for January 2022!

"Summer: The Donna Summer Musical" is coming to the Straz Centre from Jan. 11-16, 2022.

Donna Summer was a girl from Boston with a voice from Heaven. She became the icon of an era and the inspiration for every music diva who followed.

This musical includes more than 20 of her classic hits including "Love to Love You Baby," "Bad Girls" and "Hot Stuff." It is a moving tribute to the voice of a generation.

Happy holidays to one and all!

See you in the New Year!

Blackout continues at the pavilion as new players are welcome

By Tom Jamrozy

On Top of the World residents have been playing Blackout at the pavilion for a couple of months now and we have had a great time.

Lots of laughs and conversation, as well as playing cards. We have trained some new people and refreshed some regulars.

If you are unfamiliar with this game, but like to have fun, please join us on Thursday afternoons in the pavillion 1-4 p.m. If you need to learn the game, come at 12:30 p.m. for instruction and practice. Regular games will begin at 1 p.m..

Bring water to drink and maybe a cushion to sit on and join in the fun. Hope to see you there.



Halloween Pet Costume Contest winners get their prizes



Pictured above and below are winners from the ninth annual OTOW News Halloween Pet Costume Contest. On top, left to right, are Sammy (with owner Tara Still and sponsor Sheila Devine from A Devine Touch), Little Debbie (with owner Jay English and sponsor Chris Mansueto from Woof Gang Bakery) and Legend (with owner Kirk Jansen and sponsor Dr.

Cindy Brayer from Creating Smiles Dental). Pictured below is Barbara Rice accepting an award for Buckley from sponsor Pam Leonard-Williams and staff from State Farm Insurance, Pochie (with owner David Palmucci and sponsor Heather Oliva from Harborside Animal Hospital), and finally Gigi and

(OTOW News photos by Doug Kates)



Mongo Trey Jen & Ruby Kiki Haley Peanut & Elmo Kingston Nancy Buddy Daisy & Abby Mya Simon

2021 OTOW News, Woof Gang Bakery Pet of the Year Candidates

It's almost time to vote for On Top of the World's Pet of the Year.

Throughout 2021, OTOW News has selected and featured a Pet of the Month. With the field now set, the world is asked to vote from Jan. 6-9, 2022, to decide who gets named OTOW Pet of the Year.

This year's candidates are Mango,

Trey, Jen & Ruby, Kiki, Haley, Peanut & Elmo, Kingston, Nancy, Buddy, Daisy & Abbey, Mya and Simon.

Bios for all 12 pets can be read on the Box Office (otowboxoffice.com). On the home page, look for the Pet of the Month link. From Jan. 6-9 a special web page voting booth will open. You may enter the

voting booth one time and select your two favorite candidates. Anyone in the world can vote, but you can only vote once per router.

Results will appear in the February newspaper. If the elected winner is still an OTOW resident, the crown will be received next month. If the winner is not a

resident, next up will win the crown.

The winner will receive a gift basket from Woof Gang Bakery in Clearwater and Dunedin.

The winner also gets an invite to ride in the 2022 Irish Club Parade on March 5.

Good luck to all 12 entries.

New volunteers will be a big help to Snowbirds Club during 2021-22 season



By Dale Stackhouse

As anyone who is active in a club or organization knows, it takes many hands to be successful.

The Snowbirds Club is no exception.

We have always relied on a dedicated group of volunteers to help with the many tasks that need to be done, whether serving food at parties, set-up and clean-up detail, helping to teach at line dancing or spending time behind a table to promote the club and sell tickets.

It seems that we just have to put out a request and someone is there to volunteer their services.

Such was the case with our newest member of the Snowbirds Club Management Team, Pat Martel.

Pat is a proud Franco-American, who has lived in Maine her entire life. She met her husband, Roger, on a blind date, and



Pictured above are the Snowbirds Line Dance Club management team. From left to right are Dale Stackhouse, Dolly Foland, Pat Martel and Jan Springer. (OTOW News photo by Ed Foland)

they have been inseparable ever since. They married, and Pat moved all the way across the river from Biddeford, Maine, to Saco, where she and Roger became proud parents to sons Jonathan and Stephen.

Pat is a trained paralegal/legal assistant, but while raising their sons, she and Roger developed a home-based business, Saco Bay Business Services, which provid-

ed word processing services and desktop publishing to individuals and small businesses in the area.

They retired in 2017 and began planning the next chapter of their lives.

Their parents had been Snowbirds, and after visiting Clearwater, Pat and Roger decided that was where they wanted to live.

A co-worker told them about On Top of the World. They loved the fact that it was a very active 55+ community with many amenities, as well as being dog-friendly.

The rest, as they say, was history.

They moved to OTOW in January 2018, but have embraced the Snowbird lifestyle since their sons live in the Northeast.

Pat is a woman of many interests. She enjoys baking, arts and crafts, knitting and crocheting, as well as photography and digital design.

She and Roger like to travel and attend concerts or theater productions.

Pat has always liked to dance, but had never tried line dancing. Now she is a huge fan and credits Ed and Dolly Foland as being great teachers.

Pat also loves to volunteer, so when the Snowbirds Club needed someone to help with publishing, she was there. She designed and prepared the Snowbirds tri-fold brochure outlining the full year of travel and entertainment, as well as the Snowbirds Learn to Line Dance booklet for beginners.

She also assisted in setting up the Zoom Line Dancing Classes, which many of us enjoyed last winter.

We wish you a big welcome to the team, Pat!

Travel Club hits the road for first time in over a year



By Janice Berman

Well, it is good to be going places again.

Forty-four members of the Travel Club recently took a bus trip to South Carolina and Georgia.

Tour leader, Terri Mikszenas, kept us entertained on the bus with movies, bus humor and bus bingo.

Many raffle prizes were passed out during the trip home.

Terri provided a constant supply of water and snacks. No one was ever hungry or thirsty that's for sure. She also taught us to look for the orange worm!

Our bus driver, Luis, was a pleasure. He was extremely competent and impressed all of us with his skill as a driver. A real people-person, he joined in our jokes, sang with us and danced with us at night. He became a valued member of the tour.

On our first full day in South Caro-



Forty-four On Top of the World residents took a bus trip to South Carolina and Georgia. The travel season is back!

lina, we enjoyed a guided tour of historic Beaufort, a truly beautiful southern city.

The second part of the tour took us to Parris Island. Here we learned about basic training for Marine recruits. We did see many Marines marching and training. Seeing such a concentration of young men and young women Marines has given me a better understanding to what it means to say "thank you for your service."

Our day in Savannah was also fantastic. We started with a Hop on Hop Off

Tour that covered all the historic sites in the city.

There was time for eating, shopping and sitting by the river taking in the sites and sounds. The evening excitement was provided by the Savannah Theatre where we listened to live music provided by a very talented group. The show is called The Legends Live On, From the Beatles to Bruno Mars.

We did have one day of rain that limited our ability to see some of Jekyll Is-

land and St. Simons Island. The seasoned travelers among us were undaunted. They simply put on their rain gear and stepped off the bus!

Now we can't wait to find out what trip Terri is planning for next October!

The Travel Club is back in operation. The board had a meeting to go over final preparations for the holiday party. All of the tickets have been sold. We will be back in business when the auditorium opens up for ticket sales

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Democratic Club members reminded about the history of Pinellas-Pasco Attorney General position

By Donna Lukas

Do you know what Florida elected office has been uncontested in a general election since 1964?

Do you know when you will have a chance to change that?

At the November meeting of the On Top Of the World Democratic Club, we were introduced to Allison Miller, who is a Democratic candidate for State Attorney, Sixth Circuit.

Registered voters within the Pinellas-Pasco Sixth District will have the opportunity to vote for her in the November 2022 election.

Florida has 20 judicial districts. The State Attorney in each district is the top elected attorney. This person decides which crimes and which arrested persons will be prosecuted.

Allison introduced herself by saying "Meet Change!"

She is a current long-term public defender who lives with her husband and 6 year old daughter in St. Petersburg.

Having been a victim of crime in her past, Allison said she "is not soft on crime."

The Pinellas-Pasco Sixth District sends more people to prison than any



Democratic Club

other district in Florida. The Fair Punishment Project looked at data from 2017 and 2018. It found sentences for drug possession totaled 708.56 years, costing taxpayers almost \$15 million.

Allison said she will not prosecute simple possession of marijuana cases. Expenditure of prosecutor's time and lab costs make it inefficient and not cost effective. It also does not improve community safety.

Allison voiced concern over the evolution of criminal justice from the original purpose of rehabilitation to punishment with no rehabilitative services. Her goal is to make communities safer, more pros-



Allison Miller

perous and provide racial justice. Communities need to be proactive on the front end of the criminal justice system.

Allison's official website is www.MillerforStateAttorney.com.

Contributions may also be sent to Al-

lison Miller for State Attorney, P.O. Box 18001, Clearwater, Fla., 33762.

Our second guest speaker at the November meeting was activist Beth Davis. Beth gave us an update on activities at the North Pinellas Democratic Outreach Center, located at 1402 Martin Luther King Avenue in Clearwater. Office hours are noon – 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

A current focus of action is writing Vote By Mail postcards to Clearwater voters with no phone number prior to the March 2022 election.

Beth showed us impressive statistical differences in voter turnout with and without mail ballots. Sending these postcards is a worthwhile use of our time.

It was good to see some new faces at our meeting and we appreciate the new members joining our club. If you join in December of this year, your \$12 annual dues are good for all of 2022.

During the meeting we also gave people an opportunity to sign up for our Dec. 11 holiday potluck dinner to be held in the OTOW Pavilion at 4 p.m. You can still sign up by calling Donna at 727-460-4123.



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Ladies Exercise Class is different each day of the week

By Mary Marsden

Getting and staying fit is a challenge, but you won't get bored accomplishing it at the Ladies Exercise class at 8 a.m. five days a week.

Each day is a different type of class with an instructor who is a part of our group sharing their talents.

Come join the Thursday morning program with Annisa Dickey. In the first 30 minutes, Annisa introduces us to some energy exercises which she learned from her Chinese upbringing in Hong Kong.

We do tapping exercises to wake up energy along the meridian lines. Meridians are rivers of energy (this energy or vital life force is referred to as "chi" or "qi"). There are 12 pairs of meridian lines with six pairs on each side of your body. Our meridians can be affected by stress, lack of sleep, food, air and emotional problems.

Also, we learn about yin and yang. The male, yang energy, is represented by the sun. The female, yin energy, is embodied in the earth. People have both and the goal is to balance both for a healthy life.

Annisa has a lot more to teach us about eastern medicine and works us out with an aerobic routine as well. The second half of the class is led by Norma Bastidas who puts us through our paces



Norma Bastidas and Annisa Dickey

with a mat routine to strengthen all our muscles.

You may also join Mina Osbourne every other Thursday morning. She gets the class energized with her cardio and mat routine.

Every weekday morning our team of instructors share their talents to keep us healthy and strong.

Come join us, but know we limit the class to 25 participants, so come a bit early so you won't be disappointed.

"If we did all the things we are capable of, we would literally astound ourselves," - Albert Einstein



OTOW-TV Holiday Lights video will return in December

Starting on Monday, Dec. 6, OTOW-TV will be out in our community videotaping holiday lights displays.

Doug Kates will be operating a video camera from about 6-8 p.m. on five nights. It is a very large video camera with tripod. If you see him filming, he is shooting your holiday lights and decorations.

Doug will try very hard not to film inside your condos, but it is suggested that after 6 p.m. to please have your curtains closed.

Weather permitting, buildings on the east side near the globe will be filmed on Dec. 6, followed by east and west of the golf course on Dec. 7, the Netherlands Drive area on Dec. 8, the entire west side on Dec. 9 and the Paradise section on Dec. 13.

As video are recorded and edited, they will be put on OTOW-TV Channel 732 for cable viewers to watch. The entire finished video should be ready by Dec. 20 and will be accompanied by taped music sung by the OTOW chorus.

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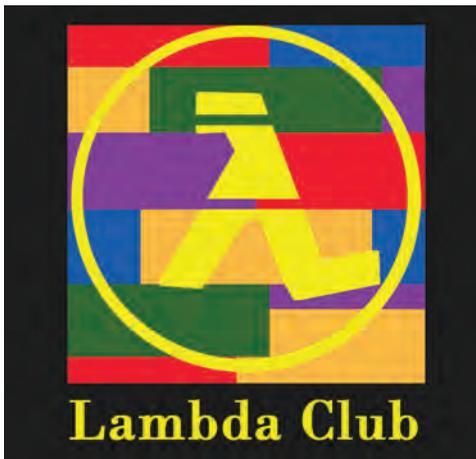
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'Family-style' gatherings return to Lambda



By Bruce Lovett

I recently heard the words "Lambda Club" being bandied about at a social event.

My ears immediately went into over-drive.

"They're just a bunch of party animals," I heard one lady say.

"They certainly are," commented her companion.

As a proud member of Lambda, I couldn't agree more.

Parties and party animals are two things we certainly know a lot about.

In reference to the latter, one need only look at the first page of the November newspaper. Two of the six Halloween pet costume contest winners were Lambda members: Jay English's Miss Debbie, which received the most votes, and Tara Still's prisoner, Sammy.

Not to mention that the current reigning "Pet of the Year" and this month's



This is an original piece of art by Lambda Club member Marion Spitzley. The scene shows pets of Lambda Club members celebrating Thanksgiving. In front of the table is Gigi. From left to right are Rosie, Miss Debbie, Cuddles, Agatha, Rochelle, Sammy and Huddles.

Thanksgiving model, Agatha, lives with long time members Marion and David Spitzley.

As for our parties, we certainly know a thing or two about those as well. This month alone we had not one, but two fantastic events.

Our annual cruise-themed party was far more successful than Gilligan's ill-fated three hour cruise.

There was Gilligan (Dave Beaven), he's the skipper too, a millionaire and his wife (plus their bird), a movie star (wanna be), the professor (retired) and Billy Ray(mond)

here at the East Activity Center Pavilion.

Not to mention there was fantastic food and drink, the beat of a Calypso steel drum and the fantastic theme song from "Gilligan's Island."

And we were back at the pavilion 12 days later for our annual Thanksgiving feast.

Hence, Agatha and the pilgrim costumes shown above.

This year we were more thankful than ever. After a difficult 2020, we were back celebrating the holiday together.

As always, our cat-loving board mem-

bers used their ovens to bake some golden birds and grateful Lambda members provided all the fixings.

The original pilgrims couldn't have done it any better.

We will be doing it all again this month to celebrate Christmas.

On Dec. 24, at 4 p.m., bring your favorite side dish to the pavilion. The turkey, again, will be provided to celebrate the most famous reindeer of all.

I have got to get these silly tunes about comical heroes out of my head. First Gilligan and now Rudolph.

But there is more.

Like November, there will be two Lambda parties for all the party animals out there. On Friday, Dec. 10, we will be holding our annual Christmas gift exchange in the pavilion. So in addition to something exciting and seasonal for the pot luck buffet, bring a wrapped gift for an unsuspecting recipient. Everyone who does goes home with a gift.

Exact time for the December party has yet to be determined. Keep your eyes on the "Lambda This Week" blog.

Lambda is a club that serves the LGBT population at On Top of the World as well as their neighbors and friends.

Should you wish further information about the club go to our Web page at <http://lambdaclearwater.blogspot.com>.

You can also check us out at the OTOW Box Office, or call Dave at (727) 410-7566.

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98 and still teching - what is your excuse?

By Mike Wood

When On Top of the World Computer Club members go to the Computer Lab on Wednesday mornings, they typically have no idea what technology issues they will be assisting with.

Club members say it is fun and very rewarding to assist OTOW residents with their laptop, tablet and smartphone issues.

The morning of Nov. 10 was no different. However, that morning, club member Charlie Wood was able to assist a delightful lady, 98 years young, who needed assistance with her iPad.

Yes, you read that correctly. Margaret Howell not only asked for assistance with her iPad, she requested help with Facebook on her iPad.

Needless to say, Charlie was extremely impressed that a woman of 98 years would even know about an iPad and Facebook.

Margaret explained that her Facebook just suddenly stopped working. Sure enough, attempting to open the Facebook App resulted in a blank page. Charlie explained to Margaret that the Facebook update was not compatible with her older iPad. Charlie was able to resolve the issue with a fairly simple reinstallation procedure.

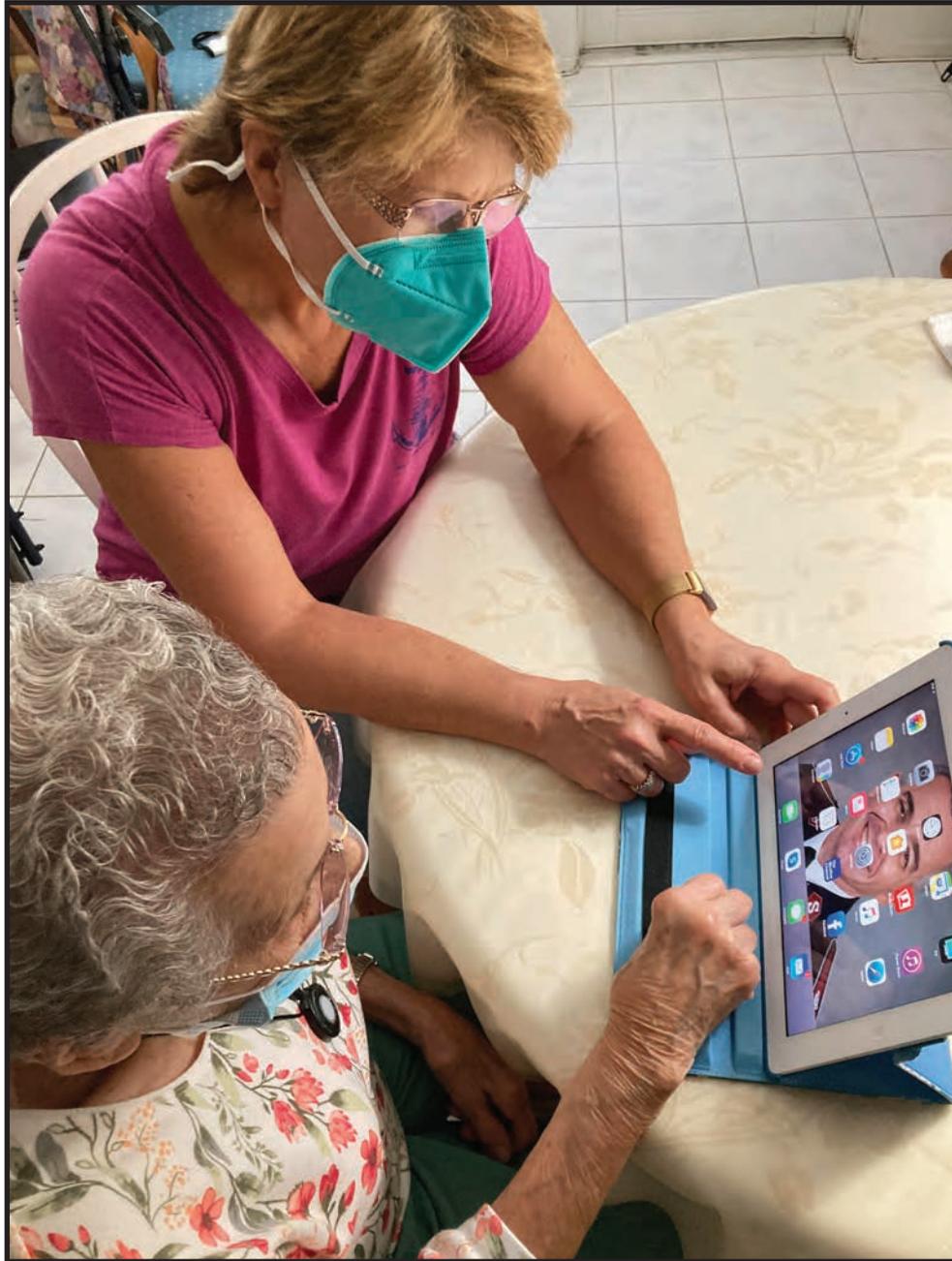
Margaret was so grateful to be able to get back on Facebook and catch up with her family and see the photos that had been posted recently. She is ecstatically back in business keeping up with family on Facebook.

About the Computer Club

The Computer Club meets every Saturday morning at 8:30 using the Zoom virtual meeting platform and visitors are welcome.

Sessions usually consist of presentations or discussions led by club members or guest speakers.

Time is also made available to ask



Charlie Wood helps Margaret get Facebook back on her computer.

questions.

In addition to the Saturday meetings, the club offers assistance to any OTOW

resident with basic technology-related questions or issues. The Learning Lab is now open in the West Activity Center



Computer Club

Wednesday mornings from 8:30-10 by appointment only. Knowledgeable Computer Club volunteers offer basic computer, tablet and smart phone program assistance and app help. The services are free to all OTOW residents with a valid activity card and Computer Club membership is not required to get assistance.

If residents have in-home computers that require service in their condos, the Computer Club does not offer an in-home repair service. The Computer Club can offer guidance and assistance in locating service providers who can address other-than-basic service needs or in-home computer issues.

Computer service-related questions can be sent to the Computer Club at otowcc@gmail.com. Responses normally are made within 72 hours after the request is received. Otherwise, for more information about the Computer Club, email us at otowcc@gmail.com, visit our website at www.otowcc.com or click our link in the OTOW Box Office, otowboxoffice.com.



Ping pong adds two new fierce competitors

The Ping Pong Club has two new members who are crushing the competition!

James Phillips moved here from California, via Michigan. He has always been in education helping others. He then became credentialed in counseling and psychology, which comes in quite handy as he works on the competition.

James played ping pong in his youth, but is starting up again to play with us. He insists it is one of the best exercises, providing eye-hand coordination as well as balance. These are all added benefits, as the best benefit is all the fun and laughing.

Scott Scheibler hails from Indiana, stating he is not important anywhere.

We disagree, as he is very important to us ping pongers.

He has worked here and there as an information technology specialist and in human resources. His wonderful wife, Malya, is a seamstress, but has yet to take up the game with us.

Ping pong continues on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10 a.m. to noon in the West Activity Center, Belleair Room. We have extra paddles for you to use. Come and join in the fun. Masks are still required inside.

Call Karen French at 907-229-2648 if you have any questions.

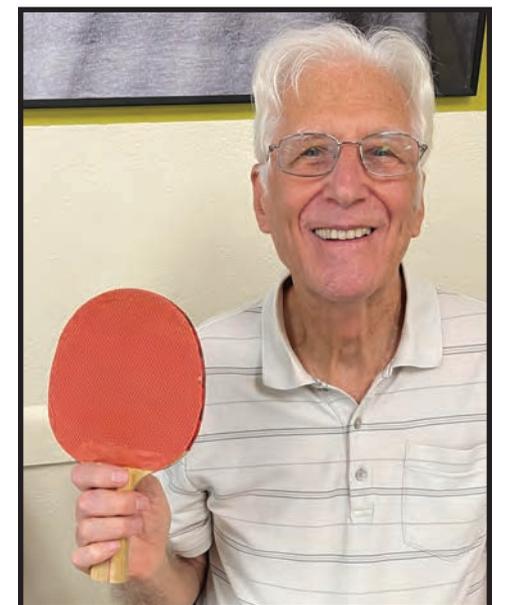


Photo at left is Scott Scheibler. Picture above is James Phillips. Both are new to the Ping Pong Club.

Thank you Ilene and Rod Bargerstock for 15 years of giving to OTOW Chorus

By Dana Garlick

Two people in our chorus can attest to the benefits of singing in a chorus.

Choir and choral singing have been part of their lives for many years. We are sending Rod and Ilene Bargerstock off with our love and gratitude for their talent, their leadership and the love of music they shared with us over the last 15 years.

As a chorus we have been separated from one another since COVID-19 came into all of our lives. President Rod Bargerstock had called an emergency meeting and said we would have to postpone our March 28 and 29, 2020, performances. Ilene Bargerstock had submitted an article to OTOW News encouraging everyone to attend. And then it all stopped.

Two years later, on Nov. 4 of last month, Rod called the officers together to tell us the good news when we might be able to begin again.

He also told of his and Ilene's decision to live closer to their daughter. He has turned over his records to Vice President Tim Beaver, but not without telling us all how much he and Ilene have appreciated being a part of the chorus.

"We have known many people here. It's like a family. We will miss you very much," Rod said.

Most of us have done little or no singing, during the time we have been away from one another, and we all feel a little rusty, to say the least.

"But singing is good for you," Rod reiterated.

Music is good for you, the experts



Chorus

also say. It's good to hear and it's good to make it. It expands the lungs, lowers blood pressure and exercises the heart.

Also singing in a chorus, with lots of other people, adds even more benefits like strengthening your autoimmune system, reducing depression and developing a sense of accomplishment when learning something new.

As we approach the holidays this year, renew your relationship with music. Listen to the songs and carols of the season. Sing along.

If you were part of a chorus in school or a choir or another chorus at some time in your life, remember the joy of harmony and song.

Also note, previous Chorus holiday concerts will be airing on OTOW-TV Channel 732 in December. Turn on the channel for scheduling information, which includes all day Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Think about joining our OTOW Chorus. We need more voices. Rehearsals begin Jan. 11, 2022. for April 2 and 3 performances. Our theme will be America



Ilene and Rod Bargerstock had been OTOW Chorus members for 15 years. We will need new voices to fill their openings.

the Beautiful. I bet you may already know a few of the pieces.

For more information about choral singing, and its impact on people, go to

www.chorusamerica.org/explore/resources and look for the impact study link.

Please think about joining us. Questions? Call Dana Garlick at 727-799-6029

Some holiday tips for keeping this season crime-free



If you know a package is being delivered, and you won't be home, ask a neighbor to grab it from your porch. If you leave the package too long, the suspicious character above will take it instead.

By Dave Beaven

Neighborhood Watch Group members all feel that the holidays are a time for celebrating with good food, family and friends.

And yet, it is also wise to keep vigilant so that this season is memorable for all the right reasons.

So we are offering our On Top of the World neighbors some tips to make this time of year safe for all.

Keep the doors locked to your condo and your vehicle. Don't make it easy for thieves to get in and steal your presents.

Also be aware of deliveries. Packages are dropped at your door with barely a knock. This can tempt porch pirates to make off with your order.

Many mail order companies use package tracking which alerts you when a delivery is made. If you're going to be away,



call a neighbor to take in a package until you return.

Be aware of online scams. Many of us are ordering gifts online. It's very convenient. But it's also convenient for scammers. It's easy for them to make a dummy site that looks legitimate, but check the spelling of the website. Examples include sites that have familiar names, such as ma-

cybestdealz.com. Note the spelling alterations in the site.

Also, often the merchandise listed seems too cheap to be true. If you order, they can get your credit card information, and you get nothing but a big hassle. Finally, don't bite when you get unsolicited emails asking you to click on a link. You could be connecting yourself to malware that can damage your computer or steal your identity.

Happy and safe holidays!

Neighborhood Watch was started by a group of residents here who want to live in a peaceful and secure environment based on mutual consideration and respect. For more information about our group, visit our official webpage at area-watch2020.blogspot.com. We are also on the Box Office (otowboxoffice.com).

Live Theater Season Is Coming ... Please support the Jesters and Theater Workshop



SPORTS

Last tennis adventure of the year



The On Top of the World Tennis Club organized its final day adventure trip of 2021 and it took place on Wednesday, Nov. 3.

There were four members and a guest in attendance as we went kayaking off the Dunedin causeway.

We started by renting a kayak for two hours and then kayaked to Caladesi Island State Park. The ride took about 25 minutes.

Once we arrived there, we walked around the island for an hour collecting shells. Then we socialized and enjoyed the sunshine.

Finally, we kayaked back to the causeway and enjoyed a late lunch at High and Dry Grill.

New members are always welcome



Having fun in the water are (left to right) Jane Collins, Joe DeChiaro, Lucy Padilla, Pete Padilla and Lynn Osborne.

to join our group and play tennis any day of the week. We play every morning from 7:30-11 a.m. and on Sunday evenings from 4:30-7 p.m.

Defense wins softball games - even at OTOW

By Bob Rittner

Softball legends Guy Bertuzzi and Joe Maley, by their demeanor and veteran wisdom, set an example for rookies Ginny Traycheff, Vicki French, Jack Wright, Charles Kovarik and George Webb, as well as for transplants from other leagues - Mike Allen, Bob Studwell, Ralph Scunziano and Joe Harrington.

West Siders 12 2nd Time Sports 12

In a game where every run was crucial, newcomers Ginny and Vicki each drove in the last run of an inning while Guy doubled with a runner on second base to clinch the tie in the last inning.

A Joe Maley leadoff line drive single scored a critical run for 2nd Time Sports.

Four batters, Jim Tiano, Eddie Ramirez, Phil Goodwin and George Webb, had perfect 3-for-3 days. Jim's case was even more impressive as he is still recuperating from knee replacement surgery.

West Siders 11 2nd Time Sports 8

Racing across the outfield, George Morgan tracked down a line drive, and despite being shielded by another outfielder's

Softball

leaping effort, still managed to snare it.

And in the infield, third baseman George Webb handled every ball hit near him and was matched by shortstop Mike Allen, whose lightning reflexes corralled a series of hard shots both to his left and right.

This spectacular defense kept the game close as both teams exchanged leads throughout the game until a two-run outburst in the eighth inning created the three-run victory.

The hitting stars for 2nd Time Sports were Charles Kovarik, who went 4-for-4 with two doubles and George Morgan, whose three hits included a double and homer.

For the winning team, Joe Harrington, Mike Allen and Jim Costello each had three hits.

2nd Time Sports 10 West Siders 7

Defense wins games.

Spectacular plays by George Morgan kept at least four West Sider runs off the board.

George snared a rising liner in deep left field to leave three men stranded and later raced in to catch a sinking liner to keep a leadoff man off base in the ninth inning.

Worth noting, too, was Jim Costello's steady play at middle infield, corralling tricky hops and skimming grounders and making dead-on throws to first.

Henry Zussman backed up to snow cone a line drive up the middle - another breathtaking play.

The longest hit of the game was Bob Dembinski's homer to deep center field. With no fence, he had to circle the bases and crossed the plate without a throw.

The score seesawed all game. No team was ever ahead by more than three runs or for more than an inning.

In the last inning, Tara Gunning calmly fielded a bouncer and threw a strike to first base to end the game with the tying run at the plate.

2nd Time Sports could finally relax.

2nd Time Sports 10 West Siders 9

At its best, baseball is poetry that uplifts the spirit and fills the soul with wonder. And of its four fundamental ingredients - hitting, pitching, running and

fielding - the last is the most balletic.

So when the tying run stepped to the plate in the final inning, everyone was on edge. Then both teams watched as a sky-high foul popup headed for the backstop. A hustling Jim Tiano gave chase. Everyone held their breaths. Jim made an amazing catch to end the game and everyone let out a raucous cheer.

Earlier, two players saved critical runs with remarkable fielding gems.

Roger Hebler, though blinded by the sun, caught a deep fly ball in right field and later stopped extra bases by grabbing a screaming one-hopper to hold the runners.

Jim Costello ran the gamut from tracking down a deep line drive with a backhanded catch to racing in to make a tumbling, shoestring grab of a sinking liner.

2nd Time Sports broke out to an 8-1 lead, but had to hold on to eke out the victory.

Bill Holland had a triple to drive in a run and Lance Wilson singled for a late three-run lead.

Mike Allen had a two-run homer in the last inning which brought the score to a close.

For information about our softball/stickball league, contact Bob Rittner at 729-7970 or visit us on the Box Office at otowboxoffice.com.

OTOW Clubs and Groups are active again!
Check out the Box Office to learn what they are up to this month.
otowboxoffice.com



Thursday Golf League is now the Friday Golf League

By Ken Smith

The Thursday Mixed Golf League is now the Friday Mixed Golf League.

The change was made due to availability and schedule conflicts.

The official start was changed to Nov. 12 because of rain Nov. 5. The 2019-2020 season will now end Dec. 24 when the champion will be declared.

The 2021-2022 season will continue and end on April 29, 2022.

The sign up and sign in requirements are changed to sign in by Wednesday at 6 p.m. to play on Friday. Register or sign in at otowboxoffice.com, look for our logo and register on our web page.

The first league meeting was held

Friday Golf

on Oct. 29 with 29 golfers present. Harry Barbin passed out copies of the Constitution and bylaws, and explanations were given for rules of play and Quota Point System.

Harry then explained the handouts and answered any questions. Other items discussed were dues, local course rules and time of play. It was decided to have a four-person scramble the first Friday in December.

Harry thanked everyone for attending and making the league a huge success

Results

Friday Oct. 29

First place was Pat Mahony with a plus 7. Second place was Bruce MacPherson with a plus 4. Third place was a tie with Ada Maloof and Joe Wisinski at plus 3. Closest to the pin on hole No. 3 was Joe Wisinski, on hole No. 5 was Mark Legin, on hole No. 6 was Mike Marsh, on hole No. 9 was Tom Petit, on hole No. 13 was Bruce MacPherson, on hole No. 15 was Dave Saccone and on hole No. 16 was Don Hill. Skins were recorded by Mark Legin on hole No. 5, Bruce MacPherson on hole No. 9 and Don Hill on hole No. 16. Low gross was Joe Wisinski with a 66.

The Friday Mixed Golf League was created to provide OTOW men and women with a venue for competition using the USGA rules of golf. Our league uses the USGA Stableford scoring format, which is a Quota Point system used by many leagues throughout the country. In this format, each player has a point quota and they try to play above their quota not directly against other players. This allows players of all skill levels to compete fairly each week.

Volunteers are needed to help run the league and form committees that oversee and govern the league. If interested, contact Harry Barbin at 215-514-1280 or email harrybarbin1@gmail.com.

Lawn Bowl events in January

By Wendy Colquhoun

As you read this article, the first lawn bowl tournament of the year will have been completed. The date was Nov. 23.

To see results, you will need to drop by the lawn bowls rink.

Interested in bowls?

We are out at the lawn bowl courts Monday through Saturday weather permitting. Tags must be in by 9:15 a.m. and game starts at 9:30.

Come by and introduce yourself. We set up lessons free of charge to all activity card-carrying residents. Tags are used to organize who plays where.

On Wednesday, Dec. 1, is the Holiday Bowl and Luncheon open to all bowlers.

On Friday, Dec. 10, the 4-3-2-1 Singles Tournament will take place. This tournament is trophy play, not for the novice.

January will be a very busy bowls

month. There will be two Trophy Play Tournaments for experienced bowlers.

Mixed Pairs Trophy Play will be Friday, Jan. 7.

Trophy Play Australian Pairs, will occur, on Thursday, Jan. 13.

Social bowling tournaments are also planned and are open to all bowlers.

On Saturday, Jan. 1, is the New Year Levee Tournament, a great way to start the New Year.

On Monday, Jan. 17, we will be hosting the Clearwater Lawn Bowls Club for a bowls and social.

The Robbie Burns Tournament and luncheon with take place Jan. 21.

Bringing the month to a close will be the Past Presidents' Dinner Dance. Wednesday, Jan. 26, is the date to save for this gala event. See any member for tickets.

9-Hole Ladies are underway and already scoring birdies

By Kathy Ahrens

Our Ladies 9-hole Ladies Golf League is back in full swing!

The weather has cooled down a bit and our Snowbirds are back.

Low scores for Oct. 19 were Paula Erange in Flight A, Anne Jarvis and Carolyn Lust in Flight B, Lois VanderBogart and Carroll Harris in Flight C, and Linda Graff and Celeste Pert in Flight D.

A birdie was recorded by Paula Erange.

On Oct. 26, low scores were recorded by Paula Erange in Flight A, Anne Jarvis and Carolyn Lust in Flight B, Margo Smith and Lois VanderBogart in Flight C, and Linda Graff and Celeste Pert in Flight D.

Birdies were recorded by Anne Jarvis, Wendy Colquhoun and Margo Smith.

On Nov. 2, low scores were turned in by Marilyn Libson and Paula Erange in Flight A, Anne Jarvis and Carolyn Lust in Flight B, Carroll Harris and Theresa Gates in Flight C, and Pat Holland and Mary Ann

O'Neill in Flight D.

Birdies were scored by Carroll Harris and Theresa Gates.

Our first league meeting was held on Nov. 9 right after our morning golf.

We discussed our upcoming events.

Our Christmas Party will be held Wednesday, Dec. 15 at the Safety Harbor Resort and Spa from noon-3 p.m.

Also a reminder, all starts for our league will be shotgun, so be here ready to golf every Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. and tee off will be 8:45 a.m.

We cordially welcome new members to our fun-filled league where we often say "Come swing with us."

If you would like to join, just show up at the nine hole course little house any Tuesday (weather permitting) at 8:30 a.m. Or contact our President Carroll Harris at 432-528-8684 for membership information and also check out our OTOW website at otowboxoffice.com.

Golf course project



On Nov. 12, several residents got together to make improvements at the On Top of the World Golf Course. Not at the fairways or greens. The picnic area next to the clubhouse. Carl Lindback, Ed Hanson, Mike Spodeck, Les Meneily, Bob Ellis, Dave Combs, Vick Ruggerio, Jay Laracunte and Roger Gebeler rebuilt and modified the picnic tables, and painted the picnic tables and benches. This was an all-day affair. A special thank you to this group for their hard work and a job well done. They were all volunteers.

OTOW Chorus Holiday Concerts on TV

On Top of the World Chorus past holiday concerts will air on OTOW-TV Channel 732 in December.

Look for past concerts at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 11 and Dec. 18, and all day on Dec. 25.



Plans underway for return of Jack and Jill Tournament

By Gloria Sayer

It is my pleasure to share with you the winners of the weekly Ladies 18-Hole Golf League. The scores reflect the net score (score minus handicap). We are good but not that good!

October 19

Flight A: Sharon Hackenmiller 62, Verna Lundgren 66, Terry Kuplen 67. Flight B: Cindy Schell 57, Karen Beaver 63, Donna Smerz 64. Flight C: Suellen

Ladies 18 Golf

Dowe 57, Donna Osborne 62, Joan Smith 63. Chip-in winner Cindy Schell on No. 6 and No. 18. Closest-to-the-pin on No. 15 was Sharon Hackenmiller.

October 26

Flight A: Sharon Hackenmiller 65 and Rosemary Sabatino 65, Ursula Taylor

67, Joyce Majewski 70 and Verna Lundgren 70. Flight B: Karen Beaver 62, Cindy Schell 63, Robin Goralczyk 64. Flight C: Joan Smith 62, Donna Osborne 62, Suellen Dowe 65, Rose Mulhall 73. Chip-in winner was Cindy Schell on No. 5. Closest-to-the-pin on No. 15 was Marybeth Devine.

November 2

Flight A: Becky West 65, Mary Bernard 67, Terry Kuplen 68. Flight B: Robin Goralczyk 61, Debbie Figaski 65, Carole Lacey 67, Donna Smerz 67. Flight C: Rose Mulhall 71, Arleen Hanson 73, Suellen Dowe 74. Chip-in winners were Terry Kuplen on No. 12 and Ursula Taylor on No. 17. Closest-to-the-pin was Debbie Figaski.

November 9

Flight A: Mary Bernard 63, Becky West 63, Sharon Hackenmiller 64, Kim Norried 69, Gloria Sayer 69. Flight B: Verna Lundgren 62, Donna Osborne 64, Sherry Ivey 68, Robin Goralczyk 68. Flight C: Rose Mulhall 67, Arleen Hanson 74, Joan Yorkery 75. Chip-in winners were Rose Mulhall on No. 10 and Gloria Sayer on No. 12. Closest-to-the-pin on No. 15 was Kim Norried.

On Dec. 14 we will play our second (fun) game called Alpha and Omega.

Becky West always comes up with some interesting monthly games. We will have a social hour after the game and we can discuss our good shots and not so good shots. You know we all have them!

Plans are on their way for the Jack and Jill Tournament, Feb. 8, 2022. The chairperson will be Terry Kuplen. The Jack and Jill Tournament is always a fun and well run event, and we expect nothing less this time around.

Becky West and Dot Graham, from our Rules Committee, will try to keep us on the straight and narrow. Thank you Becky and Dot for taking this on. Now and then we all have a senior moment and have to be reminded of the rules and etiquette of golf. Thank you to all who volunteer, you are appreciated more than you know.

If you desire to join our Ladies 18 Golf League, please contact Membership Chairperson Becky West at 727-301-8854. Becky can get you started in this active and fun league. Our December chairperson is Suellen Dowe, 727-301-6973. Please call Suellen to sign up for golf, or to cancel golf play. Everyone must have an updated activity card to join.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Philosophy Club is back

The On Top of the World Philosophy Club is meeting again. The group will get together from 10-11:30 a.m. every Tuesday in the East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room.



Join us for interesting and lively conversations. Each week is a different subject. You may come just to listen. You may volunteer to present a topic, but we do not discuss religion or politics. Please be respectful of different values. Coffee, water and tea are available. Everyone must wear a mask.

Philosophy Club also has a new email address. You can write to us with questions or subject suggestions - please no personal comments. Write to: logic.2sense.club@gmail.com.

YOGA Schedule Changes

Starting December 1

Mondays 10 am WAC Belleair Room
Thursdays 10 am EAC Exercise Room

30 years yoga instructor & massage therapist
For more information call or text Marilyn at 239-464-9421

Masks required • \$3 class fee

Pickleball!



PLAY SCHEDULE

Tuesdays 4 - 7 pm
Thursdays 4 - 7 pm
Sundays 9 am - 12 pm

Starting Sept. 21 for the winter season.
Newcomers welcome. Must have a valid Activity Card.

<h3>TAI CHI / SHORT FORM</h3> <p>(New class)</p> <p>Wednesdays, 2:15-3:00 pm EAC Exercise Room</p> <p>Classes in January will be free to residents who served in the military.</p>	<h3>THE PERFECT EXERCISE</h3>  <p>All classes improve balance, strength and flexibility.</p> <p>QIGONG Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays 3:15-4:00 pm EAC Exercise Room</p>	<h3>CHAIR TAI CHI</h3> <p>(New class)</p> <p>Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00-9:45 am WAC Belleair Room</p> <p>See calendar on page 10 for Ruth's classes. All classes are \$2.</p>
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Good Neighbors Association volunteers.

Good Neighbors collects 328 pounds of food for Helping Hands charity

By Jo Dameron and Sue Trost

A Good Neighbors Association Food and Clothing Drive was held on Oct. 23 and was a huge success.

Our one-day event yielded 95 30-gallon bags of clothing and 328 pounds of non-perishable food.

The clothing was donated to the Shepherd Center to be given to those in need. The food was donated to the Helping Hands food bank.

This event would not have been possible without the help from our volunteers who so graciously offered their help in separating and bagging clothes and boxing up the non-perishable food items.

A special shout out to those volunteers Cheryl Pollock, Maureen and Jim Bjorgo, Dela DeLaPaz, Trudy and Ray Willis, Petra Gonzalez, Judy Hoffman and Mary Browne. We thank you so much for your dedication to this oh-so-important event.

We are wishing our On Top of the World residents, the SCA staff and Parkway Maintenance a happy, healthy and safe holiday season!



Fixers, Jewelry-Making groups to hold January meetings



The Fixers Club annual meeting will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022, at 9 a.m. in the East Activity Center Clearwater Room behind the Good Karma Café.

The meeting will include the elections of officers for 2022.

We will accept self nominations from the floor for all positions.

Anyone with a valid activity card is welcome to attend.

Many of you have asked, "How do I join the jewelry-making group?"

I am happy to announce that the group is back. Anyone interested in tapping into their creativity and trying their hand at sparkly things is welcome to join.

Hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. until noon.

Membership fee is \$35. Just bring your valid activity card.



Jewelry Making

Socks For Veterans

The OTOW Veterans Group is collecting new socks for veterans in need. Over the holiday season, if you would like to make a donation, purchase a new pair of men's or women's socks and drop them off at the collection bin located at the OTOW newsroom, second floor of the East Activity Center facing the pavilion. Socks will be accepted until Dec. 18. The newsroom is open until 5 p.m.



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To see if you now qualify call **727-306-2741**

Fingersticks are required for treatment decisions when you see Check Blood Glucose symbol, when symptoms do not match system readings, when you suspect readings may be inaccurate, or when you experience symptoms that may be due to high or low blood glucose. REFERENCES: 1. Data on file. Abbott Diabetes Care. 2. FreeStyle Libre 14 day User's Manual. Indications and important Safety Information: The FreeStyle Libre 14 day Flash Glucose Monitoring System is a continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) device indicated for the management of diabetes in person age 18 and older. It is designed to replace blood glucose testing for diabetes treatment decisions. The System detects trends and tracks patterns aiding in the detection of episodes of hyperglycemia and hypoglycemia, facilitating both acute and long-term therapy adjustments. Interpretation of the System readings should be based on the glucose trends and several sequential readings over time. The System is intended for single patient use and requires a prescription. CONTRAINDICATIONS: Remove the sensor before MRI, CT scan, X-ray, or diathermy treatment. WARNINGS/LIMITATIONS: Do not ignore symptoms that may be due to low or high blood glucose, hypoglycemic unawareness or dehydration. Check sensor glucose readings with a blood glucose meter when Check Blood Glucose symbol appears, when symptoms do not match system readings, or when readings are suspected to be inaccurate. The FreeStyle Libre 14 day system does not have alarms unless the sensor is scanned, and the system contains small parts that may be dangerous if swallowed. The FreeStyle Libre 14 day system is not approved for pregnant women, persons on dialysis, or critically-ill population. Sensor placement is not approved for sites other than back of the arm and standard precautions for transmission of blood borne pathogens should be taken. The built-in blood glucose meter is not for use on dehydrated, hypotensive, in shock, hyperglycemic-hyperosmolar state, with our without ketosis, neonates, critically ill patients, or for diagnosis or screening of diabetes. Review all product information before use or contact Abbott toll-free 855-632-8658 or visit www.FreeStyleLibre.us for detailed indications for use and safety information. For full indications for use and safety information, visit <https://www.FreeStyleLibre.us/safety0information.html>. FreeStyle, Libre and related brand marks are trademarks of Abbott Diabetes Care Inc. in various jurisdictions. Other trademarks are property of their respective owners C2018 Abbott. ADC-09691 v1.0 10/18 [PTAN 7840060001]

Christmas goose with roasted potatoes



Christmas Goose Port Gravy & Goose Fat Roasted Potatoes

The first thing I think of when I hear Christmas Goose is the movie "The Christmas Carol" where Ebenezer Scrooge asks a young lad to go to the market where a fat goose was hanging in the window.

Ebenezer said, "Buy it and take it to the house of Tiny Tim for Christmas dinner."

In Europe, a roasted goose on the holiday table has been a tradition since ancient times. And while turkey may be plumper, it's nothing like the taste of goose.

The tradition of a roasted goose on the holiday table goes way, way back.

The people of ancient Greece and Rome may have been celebrating different festivals, but they did so with the very same bird as we do.

From medieval days, right through to the Victorian depiction in Charles Dickens, the goose has remained the ubiquitous bird throughout Europe.

Unlike that other holiday bird, geese are naturally migratory, evolving with thicker skin and inbuilt systems for reserving energy in the form of fat stored beneath the skin and in the liver to sustain them in their high altitude travel.

Their very same nature also affects the texture of the bird's lean, all-dark meat, making it firmer with a more resilient tooth than turkey.

Given these differences, it is only logical that they should call for different methods of cooking as well.

That is also the reason why a goose does not have to go through the brining process as does the turkey.



Wine suggestion Pinot Noir

from the Willamette Valley, Oregon

GOOSE INGREDIENTS

1/2 cup chopped yellow onion,
Plus 1/2 cup chopped yellow onion
1/4 cup chopped celery
1/4 cup chopped bell pepper
1 teaspoon salt
plus 1 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon cayenne
plus 1/4 teaspoon cayenne
1 domestic goose about 10 pounds, well rinsed and patted dry, neck and giblets reserved
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1/2 cup chopped carrots
2 bay leaves
3 cups Ruby port

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
2. Combine 1/2 cup of the onions, celery, bell peppers, 1 teaspoon of salt, and 1/4 teaspoons of cayenne in a mixing bowl.

Remove any excess fat around the opening of the cavity of the goose. Prick other fatty areas with a fork at intervals.

Do not prick the breast.

Stuff cavity with vegetables mixture.

Season the outside of the goose with the remaining 1 teaspoon salt, 1/4 tea-

spoon cayenne and the black pepper.

Place the goose in a large roasting pan, roast until the internal temperature is 165 degrees. Save the goose fat drippings for the roasted potatoes.

3. Combine the remaining 1/2 cup onion, carrots, bay leaves and port wine in a medium-size sauce pan, place over medium heat and bring to a boil.

Cook the mixture until it thickens and reduces to about 1/2 cup - about 30 minutes. Strain through a fine mesh strainer and let cool.

4. Using a pastry brush, glaze the goose with the port wine reduction and return to the oven for five minutes to allow the glaze to caramelize and set. Remove from the oven and let it rest for 20 minutes before carving. Serve with the Port Gravy and Goose Fat-Roasted Potatoes.

PORT GRAVY

2 teaspoons vegetable oil
Giblets and neck from the goose
1/2 cup chopped onions
1/4 cup chopped celery
1/2 cup carrots
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
5 bay leaves
1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
2 tablespoon flour
2 cups Tawny port
2 cups water

Directions

1. In a large saucepan, heat the oil over medium heat. Add the giblets and neck, and brown, stirring three to four minutes

2. Add the onions, celery, carrots, salt, pepper, bay leaves and thyme, and cook, stirring often, for three to four minutes. Add the flour and stir to combine. Cook, stirring for five minutes.

3. Add the wine, bring to a boil and cook, stirring occasionally, for five minutes. Add the water and bring to a boil.

Reduce the heat to medium and simmer for about one hour. Remove from the heat and strain into a container and keep warm until ready to serve.

Goose Fat Roasted Potatoes

2 pounds baby yellow potatoes
1 teaspoon salt,
plus 1 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup goose fat, dripping from the roasted goose.
2 teaspoons minced garlic
1 tablespoon fresh chopped rosemary
5 sprigs rosemary, as garnish

Directions:

1. Scrub potatoes and place in a large pot. Cover with cold water and add 1 teaspoon salt. Bring to a boil.

Reduce the heat to medium-low and simmer until fork tender, 10 to 15 minutes. Drain and cool under cold running water. When completely cooled, slice them in half lengthwise, and place in a bowl.

2. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

3. Season the potatoes with 1 teaspoon of salt and 1/2 teaspoon black pepper. Add the goose fat to a 12-inch non-stick, ovenproof pan or skillet over medium-high heat.

4. Once the fat is hot, add the potatoes to the pan, cut side down. Sear on the stovetop for one minute, then place the pan in the oven.

Roast for eight to 10 minutes. Remove the pan and add the garlic and chopped rosemary. Toss the potatoes in the pan to coat them and serve immediately with the rosemary garnish.

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for past recipes in this newspaper.*
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Ingredients

- 3 teaspoons butter
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1 cup onion diced
- 1/2 cup celery diced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 cups half-and-half cream
(or use canned evaporated milk)
- 14 ounces chicken broth
- 1 teaspoons dried basil
- 1 teaspoons Italian seasoning
- 1 cup chopped carrots
- 1 cup fresh spinach leaves, chopped
- 2 cups shredded turkey
- 16 ounce package of dry potato mini-gnocchi
- salt and pepper

Instructions

1. Pre-chop/slice/shred all vegetables or turkey prior to start of cooking. Remove long stems from the chopped spinach.
2. In a large pot add butter and olive oil. Over medium heat sauté onions, celery and garlic until tender.
3. Add flour and slowly stir in 1/4 cup stock until all flour lumps are gone. Cook for another minute, continuing to stir.
4. Slowly add the half-and-half and chicken broth. On medium-high heat, stir continuously for several minutes.
5. Add the thyme, carrots and turkey. Bring to a gentle boil for about 5 minutes.
6. Turn down heat to a simmer. Add spinach and gnocchi and cook for 2-3 minutes.
7. Salt and pepper to taste. Garnish with chopped parsley and serve immediately. If re-heating, do so on low heat and do not boil.

Serves 8

Disclaimer

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



Gnocchi

Why not use leftover Christmas turkey in a creamy gnocchi soup? It is a simple meal which is appropriate after a heavy Christmas Day meal. Plus, it is comforting on a cold, rainy night. Serve this as a complete meal with crusty bread and a side salad or antipasto salad.

Gnocchi (pronounced ne-yok-kee) may be derived from the Italian word nocchio, meaning a knot in wood. It has been a traditional Italian pasta since Roman times. Gnocchi are little dumplings typically made from semolina flour and stuffed with mashed potatoes.

Gnocchi is versatile and can be baked with creamy cheeses, sautéed with wintery veggies, or dressed in a tangy tomato sauce. Gnocchi is available in the grocery as dried pasta or as fresh in either the refrigerator or freezer sections. The fresh version is about 50 percent pricier than the dried version. Fresh is considered to be the best store-bought gnocchi, but it has the shortest shelf life.

The very best gnocchi has a fluffy, tender texture and is best made fresh made by your Italian Nonna.

Tips

Continually stir the sauce to prevent separation. Don't let the sauce get too hot as it can separate. Plus, high heat and/or long cooking will make gnocchi chewy and gummy.

Use fresh spinach. Frozen spinach becomes mushy in the soup.

Dice vegetables small and the same size so they cook through evenly. The is true for the shredded turkey also.

You can use cooked chicken or Italian sausage in lieu of turkey.

Do not freeze this soup because the dairy will separate and gnocchi will become soggy.

The Science

My dear chefs, how will you know when gnocchi is cooked enough ... but not too much?

Gnocchi floats when they are cooked. They sink when they are overcooked.

Why?

Heat causes some of the moisture from the potato and starch inside the gnocchi to evaporate and form gas bubbles. However, these bubbles have no place to go. They are locked in by the rest of the gnocchi dough. This expansion can decrease the density of the gnocchi.

If enough gas bubbles have formed, the density of the gnocchi will have decreased enough so it floats. (i)

Best to get them out of the water while they still float.

Health Value

Cream soups are characteristically rich due to a high fat content. If you are a more health-conscious person, then canned evaporated milk would be an ideal option.

Half-and-half is equal parts cream and milk, however, evaporated milk is a healthier choice. Canned evaporated milk is regular milk that has had a large portion of its water removed to create a concentrated milk. This gives evaporated milk a creamy texture and flavor, although you may notice a slightly caramelized flavor.

The evaporated version saves a few calories and cost, and is a better choice for diabetics and people with cholesterol or weight problems. Do not confuse evaporated milk with sweetened condensed milk.

There is a fat-free half-and-half cream, but, my dear chefs, you would likely dislike its flavor.

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BUILDING REPORTS



Hydro-Jetting

If you live on first floor of buildings 1-15 be prepared for upcoming project

By Dessa Barabba

If you live in buildings 1-15, you should have received notice from your Management Company regarding the up and coming sewer hydro-jetting project.

As a reminder, this was discussed during the June 11, 2021, General Meeting.

As a preventative maintenance measure, in January 2022 contracted work will begin an extensive project of hydro jetting kitchen and bathroom sanitary drain lines and replacing common sanitary cleanouts.

Currently, this project will commence with phase one (1) on or around January 10, 2022, with an anticipated completion date of no later than June 30, 2022.

In order to complete this project on time, the target goal is to complete four (4) first floor units and two (2) cleanouts per day.

The project will begin with building one (1) and proceed in building numerical order until completion of this first phase of the project at building 15.

Access to your unit must be provided for approximately two to three hours with additional access provided at a later date should a follow-up be required.

The impacted units will be contained to first floor units exclusively and any necessary follow-up appointments will be scheduled by the Management Company.

If your unit will be vacant during this period, it will be necessary for you to appoint a representative to provide entry to your unit during your scheduled time.

In the event you do not have a personal representative, please complete the form and return it with your unit key to: On Top of the World Condominium Association, Hydro-Jetting Project, 2069 World Parkway Blvd E, Clearwater, FL, 33763. Keys will be returned to you once the project has been completed.

A tentative schedule has been established for this project, however, it is dependent upon ease of access into units and will be weather dependent.

On Top of the World Condominium Association, Inc.

Hydro Jetting Project
2069 World Parkway Blvd E
Clearwater, FL, 33763

Cut and mail back form along with personal representative information or include key with form.

OTOW Address _____ Bldg # _____ Unit # _____

Please complete the following if you are mailing your key (include):

Your Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Mailing Address (key return): _____

Please complete the following if you are assigning a personal representative:

Your name: _____ Phone number: _____

Representative name: _____

Representative phone number: _____

Representative address: _____

Should weather or other delays occur, notices will be sent out via an OTOW RAVE Alerts. Be sure you are signed up to receive alerts prior to project commencement.

Additionally, notices will be posted in each building up to two weeks prior to the scheduled start date. This information will also be available on the OTOW Commu-

nity website at: www.otowclearwaterinfo.com under General Information and then selecting the "Hydro-Jetting Project" tab.

If you have any questions, contact the Community Service Office at 727-683-6981. Please leave your name and phone number if you require a return phone call.

You can also send an email to: clwjettingproject@otowfl.com.

If you have not yet provided keys or contact information for a key holder who will be providing access in your absence, please do so prior by the end of December so that this project starts and stays on schedule.

Your participation and cooperation is appreciated.



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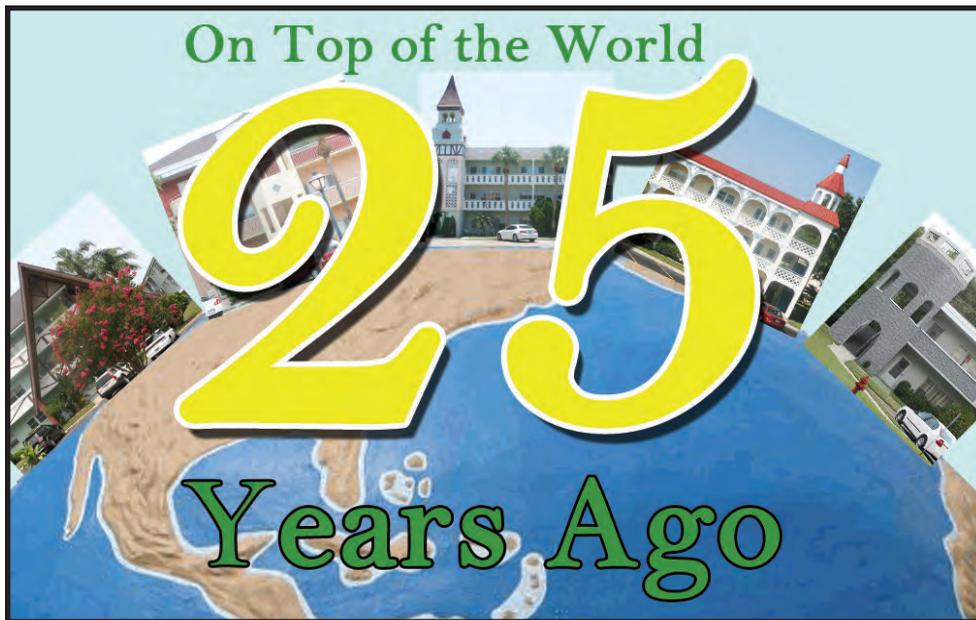
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**A look back at the OTOW News
December, 1996**

- **Nancy's Notes by Nancy Davis, Activities Director:** The shopping malls have taken on the look of the holidays, as well as have many homes in our surrounding communities. Christmas is truly a time when our surroundings are clothed in elegant beauty. It is also a time of giving and sharing. Love dominates our feelings and most of us feel more generous than at any other time of the year.
- **OTOW Press Association:** Johnny Johnson was instrumental in getting Bob Henderson as this month's guest speaker. Bob is an editor at the St. Petersburg Times bureau here in Clearwater. He told us several amusing stories that he has heard over the past 30 years working for the Times. Bob updates his stories to keep his readers informed as to what's going on in the lives of the people he writes about.
- **Canadian Club:** Our registration evening on Nov. 15, 1996, gave our members an opportunity to sign up for the activities that the Canadian Club offers. A program of events was given to all members. If you missed the meeting and wish to join the club, our treasurer, Helen Dunbar, will be taking registrations at the Christmas party (Tuesday, Dec. 17, 1996) and also at the social games nights.
- **Tennis Club:** We wish everyone happy holidays! More than 60 members of the Tennis Club gathered at the West Activities Center on the evening of Nov. 13, 1996. We all enjoyed a fabulous potluck. During the meeting, which followed the dinner, Club President Salerni thanked all those who helped him during these past two years.
- **Cordoba:** The traditional holiday party is a highlight on the Cordoba calendar, providing an opportunity for us to celebrate the social and religious spirit of the season. I encourage all residents and their guests to attend. The party will be held at the Clearwater Country Club, Saturday, Dec. 21, 1996, at 12 noon. Turkey dinner with all the trimmings is \$12 per person, including tip.
- **Americana:** There is something magical about December! With our celebration of Christmas, everyone is making preparations for entertaining, putting up decorations, and being a bit more friendly. However, if you live in the Americana, we are friendly all the time! It also means a full house for many of our residents who may have visitors for the holidays. Our building luncheon at Bridges was super — the food was great, as was the service. Thanks to Sally and Gene Huff for organizing it.



**SEASON'S GREETINGS
FROM THE STAFF AND
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OTOW NEWS**



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Long-time couple purchased first condo 29 years ago

History has been revealed at the Granada building. While welcoming back Stan and Arlene Berger from New Jersey, there is some gossip about who is the oldest or who has lived here the longest.

Our very own designated "Dad and Mom" of Granada purchased their first condo at On Top of the World 29 years ago. Arlene was 60 at that time and Father Stanley was a little bit older. They have lived in the Granada Building for more than 20 of those wonderful 29 years at OTOW.

They have enjoyed many years of outside barbeques, helping with holiday decorating, monthly luncheons, "Meet and Greet on the Green" with a drink each 4th Thursday, sharing ideas and meeting new neighbors.

Arlene was the original reporter for our Granada Building. She had been an editor and wrote editorials for a New York publishing firm as well as writing in some New Jersey publications.



You will also see their smiling faces in occasional commercials for a mattress company and energy company that are televised locally.

The yearly Tampa Bay Downs luncheons were a big hit! Let's bring back those memories and make some new history in the Granada Building!

We have a suggestion box located on the table in core for any ideas or building activities that you would like to add to. Express yourself and let's make memories

Please sign up for our annual holiday dinner: Alfano's Restaurant, Dec. 6 at 4 p.m., 1702 Clearwater Largo Road in Clearwater. We need to make reservations so early sign-up is greatly appreciated.

We will be having our building decorating get together Dec. 11 at 10 a.m. "All hands-on deck" to deck the halls, put up lights and decorate our tree. We encourage all the strong and all willing residents to participate and volunteer as we have some heavy wreaths to hang.

The sign-up sheet for this activity is on the bulletin board, core, main floor next to elevator. We will be serving coffee and donuts and holiday music to get the energy flowing.



Granada Building featured residents Stan and Arlene Berger.

Please note that we will not meet for our regular monthly luncheon in December.

If you have any news for the upcoming paper to be published, please contact me: toni.one@icloud.com

Thank you and have a wonderful holiday season!

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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Pizza party, birthday bash are Polynesian highlights

Aloha and happy holidays Polynesian neighbors!

Recently, 26 neighbors and friends gathered under a menacing sky to have our first major event of the season. A pizza party with many side treats made by residents was enjoyed by all. The camaraderie was evident and new neighbors and guests were welcomed into the fold. The rain held off for an hour and then sent us running for cover as the skies opened up. Nothing could dampen our spirits, however. Everyone enjoyed themselves and said how much they look forward to the next event.

Also held at our building was a 93rd birthday bash for Lloyd LaBonti, retired United States Marine fighter pilot. Neighbors, and family turned out for this shindig planned and executed by Antoinette Russell. Thank you, Lloyd, for your service. Semper Fidelis, dear neighbor.

This is a reminder to keep your eyes on the bulletin board for upcoming events. December activities will include decorating the building and a holiday gathering.

Also, On Top of the World posts important notices on the bulletin board and they are not necessarily printed on



eye-catching neon paper anymore. Please scan the bulletin board frequently as notices are added often.

As this year winds down and comes to a close, let us reflect back on the good things that have happened. Be thankful for the friendship of your neighbors, and the willingness they put forth to help each other when the need arises. As that old expression goes, "You get as good as you give."

I wish you all a happy, healthy and safe holiday season. Mahalo to all you wonderful Polynesians.



Antoinette Russell and Lloyd LaBonti ready to cut the cake at Lloyd's 93rd birthday party.

Residents enjoy sunset cruise, farewell party



A green flash at sunset and a farewell soiree are just two recent Austrian Alpine highlights.

Although the first sunset cruise attempt was rained out, and the second try resulted in a quick return to shore with the worst storm of the summer fast-approaching, the third sunset cruise of the summer was a success for the intrepid group of Austrian Alpine fun-seekers.

In fact, it was just another day on the good ship Parrottdis Express for our group as the cruise headed to open water and then on to St. Petersburg. There were many dolphins leaping near the boat for the duration of the two and a half hour cruise.

A family of three dolphins, Mom and Dad and Baby, followed for close to an hour. The captain slowed down periodically, so Baby could catch up to the boat.



Norita Evans, Howard Harville and Joanna Hudson were among those sharing laughter, good food and karaoke at a recent farewell party.

Beer, wine and rum punch added to the laughter and there was even cake to celebrate Tiffany Schad's birthday.

As the Parrottdis Express headed back to Clearwater, the sun set in a blaze of red and orange over the ocean, and a green flash lit the top of the sun as it disappeared.

Our other highlight was a well-attended farewell party for Howard Harville, Dick Tavares and Mel Gurney. Howard and Dick are moving to a first-floor unit across

from the golf course. Mel is moving to a house near On Top of the World.

Our building co-coordinator Tiffany Schad hosted the party where good food, best wishes and karaoke prevailed.

More celebrations in the months to come at affable Austrian Alpine!

Thank you to Rich Hayes for replacing our American flag in time for Veterans Day. Also, to all of the veterans in our building, thank you for your service to our wonderful country.

Holiday fire safety reminder: candles

One of the leading causes of home fires, especially in the holiday season, are candles that have been left unattended. Be sure to extinguish all candles prior to leaving your home and before retiring for the night. Also do not place them near flammable objects or material. With their delightful aroma and wonderful glow, candles can add a wonderful holiday touch to your home, but remember to always use good safety practices while enjoying them.

Extra copies of the OTOW News are available in the East and West Activity Centers. Copies are also available in the OTOW newsroom.



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Holiday season in full swing at Malaguena

The Malaguena Building has big plans for the holidays!

We had a terrific building dinner on Oct. 27 at the Sunset Grill. It had been a year and a half since our last building-wide event, and 21 residents were happy to socialize. Everyone had a good time.

The Malaguena holiday dinner will be at Carrabba's Italian Grill on Gulf-to-Bay, Dec. 10, at 5 p.m. Information and sign-up sheets are on both bulletin boards. Please sign up by Dec. 7 so we can give the restaurant an accurate count.

Want to make a child happy this year? The Social Committee thought it would be nice if we did something special for children this holiday season. If you'd like to participate, please bring a new, unwrapped toy to the lobby on the dates and times listed below. Members of the Social Committee will be on hand to collect the toys, which will be given to the Salvation Army to distribute. Giving a toy is optional, but if you decide to contribute, please give new and unwrapped toys only.

Monday, Dec. 6, 9-10 a.m., North lobby, near the mailboxes; 6 p.m., South lobby, near the mailboxes.

Tuesday, Dec. 7, 9-10 a.m., South lobby, near the mailboxes; 5-6 p.m., North lobby, near the mailboxes.

Monday, Dec. 6 will be a busy day! That's when we'll decorate our two lobbies for the holidays. We meet in the South lobby first at noon to set up a tree and other decorations.



When the South lobby is done, we'll move to the North lobby where a table will be set up. Please bring cookies or other goodies to share.

In the spirit of the holiday, residents George and Katie Zeller will be setting up their traditional Dickens Village. It all started in 1984, when she and her husband George were walking through Robert's Christmas Wonderland in Clearwater. There they saw the Department 56 Dickens Village Christmas Houses, a set of seven houses. According to Katie, "It took me three times to go back to the store to look at these houses to justify paying \$175 for the set." After that, the start of a tradition was underway. Each year, Katie would go to Roberts and buy a few more houses.

"Over the years, I managed to collect approximately 180 houses and accessories."



George and Katie Zeller's Dickens Village Christmas Houses. (Photo by Katie Zeller)

If you'd like to see the Zeller's Dickens Village, stop by their condo in the Malaguena Building, Dec. 4, from 1-3 p.m.

paper? Have a question for the Social Committee? Send an email to our new email address: malaguena84@yahoo.com.

Wishing everyone the happiest of holidays.

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This Thanksgiving display will soon be replaced with a holiday-themed one.

Seasonal decorations are the norm for these dwellers

Having just completed our Thanksgiving decorating at French Renaissance II, we are ready for our Christmas decorating. Jeanne Hopper has returned for the winter and has volunteered to help with our Christmas decorating this year. We are looking forward to Jeanne's creative touch.

We are welcoming the return of two of our Snowbirds couples, Roger and Jeanne Hopper from South Carolina, and Wayne and Linda Dubrawsky from Buffalo, N.Y.

We wish all a very happy holiday season and a great New Year.



Susan Trost

French Renaissance II - 44



Fujiwara resident Anna Brinkerhoff threw a patio party for many of her neighbors.

Well-attended patio party was chance to meet and greet

Greetings from Building 30!

Anna Brinkerhoff, who moved into our building about a year ago (she has lived in On Top of the World for many years), decided to throw a patio party so she could get to know her neighbors.

All who joined Anna were grateful that she hosted this event so they could get to know her and other residents. Fujiwara has added many new faces this past year, and this was the perfect way to make introductions in a casual setting.

This reporter was unable to attend, but did hear and see much about the barbecue which featured a wide array of food and beverages (some of them adult). Everyone raved about the spread.

This get-together inspired our building to begin weekly happy hours in the core each Friday at 4 p.m.



Tara Still

Fujiwara - 30

In travel news, Pat Landgraf recently returned from a Thanksgiving trip to Waukesha, Wis., where she visited with her daughter, son-in-law, and two grandchildren for nine days. Pat was excited to see her family and to do a lot of Christmas shopping during her visit.

Decorating event Dec. 3 includes refreshments; Christmas party announced

Our long-awaited new resident, Denny Haynes, has finally arrived with his girlfriend Katie, who is so cute and furry!

She is part King Charles and part Cocker Spaniel and very friendly. Denny moved here from Liverpool, N.Y., and is already getting acquainted with the other New Yorkers in our building. He arrived just in time for all of our party activities that Dick and Terry Kuplen have organized.

In November, we had a welcome back party on Jim and Rita Rudderham and Dick and Terry's back patios. It was great fun to see everyone again.

Now that December is here it is decorating time. Dec. 3 is the date, with coffee and pastries available. So come on down and help. At cocktail time, Ginger Currier will host another party thanking everyone.

Another trip to the playhouse is scheduled.



Elsie Paulan

Mallorca - 39

And now for the drum roll: ta-da! Our annual Christmas party will be Dec. 17 in the pavilion. Check our building's bulletin board for details.

If we survive all these parties, we will look forward to 2022 and then wait and see what fun Dick and Terry will plan for us.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

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Building officers re-elected for two years

Since its opening in the 1980s, the Azores building has been all about the holidays. I know this because I used to visit my in-laws, who were always thrilled to share the latest on how building residents were embracing the season. I recall several years of proud announcements that the Azores had won a trophy for best-decorated building.

On Top of the World no longer awards trophies, but other than that, and fewer gelatin fruit molds at the core party, not much has changed. There is still a strong holiday spirit here, which is lovely.

Holiday social planning started early this year, with a building meeting expertly led by Building Captain Ann Setkowicz. At the meeting, Ann, along with Assistant Building Captain Nancy Steffens, Treasurer Peggy Longfellow, and Secretary Debbie Rivera were unanimously re-elected



for a two-year term. Congrats to them.

More than 25 building residents enjoyed an excellent lunch recently at Red Lobster. Many thanks to Marie Pirrello for organizing it. Next up on the social calendar is the annual picnic at the OTOW Pavilion and of course, our Christmas party.

Paul and Nancy Steffens recently returned from Arkansas, where they visited with their six grandchildren and the children's parents. (The six grandchildren got top billing in Nancy's report so I am going with that.)

Their son lives on a big hill situated on a private road so there was plenty of space for everyone to enjoy the peaceful countryside. Paul and Nancy raved about their son's cooking, especially his beef brisket that could compare to any top restaurant.

Debbie Rivera and her sister Donna Gagnon recently returned from a trip to Hawaii, where they did some pet sitting for Debbie's daughter. I wish someone would ask me to pet sit in Hawaii.

Wishing everyone peace and joy in the holiday season.

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."



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American history was theme for November events

November was the month when we concentrated on our forefathers.

In keeping with that theme, the women of the Bohemia building recently attended a corn husk doll making class at the Safety Harbor library. Corn husk dolls go back a thousand years when corn was the agricultural mainstay of the Native American. The dolls were created by the northeast tribes.

Legend has it that the creators' homes and cattle would be blessed with good health by having the dolls on their premises.

Staying with an historical theme, the lady's field trip for November was to Heritage Village in Largo. They strolled through this rustic park and experienced what life was like for the founding families of our area.

Some of the sites they saw were the McMullen log cabin, the H.C. Smith general store, an original train depot with an actual caboose, a sugar cane mill and Harris school. These are just a few of the many historical structures this park has



to offer. The girls ended their adventure with lunch at one of their favorite Largo restaurants.

Our annual Bohemiafest was a tremendous success this year with over 50 building residents in attendance. The traditional menu of bratwurst, sauerkraut, German potato salad, beer and wine are always an incentive for a great get-together. The cooler weather was an additional help in drawing more of us outdoors.

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Building activities include parties, luncheon, decorating

There's been a lot happening on the Riviera lately — the Villa Riviera, that is. Although being such an attractive-looking building filled with beautiful party-goers does make the two destinations interchangeable.

Steve and Sharon Flint decided to make Florida home two years ago selling their place up north. But this year a granddaughter's wedding forced them to be away a little longer than expected. So upon their return they more than made up for it.

As soon as they had settled in, they moved their car to the street, and had their neighbors do the same. Then they set up tables in the two parking spaces so people could bring food and drink. A good old fashioned block party was soon underway. Over the course of a couple of hours, between 30 and 40 neighbors stopped by to say howdy and have a good time.

As soon as Daylight Saving Time ended, Steve and his buddy, John Turrisi, got busy in the storage room, found the Christmas lights and, after getting themselves untangled, managed to turn the building into a sparkling wonderland. We could easily be confused with one of those five-star hotels on the real Riviera.

That got the rest of the building started. We no longer have the late, great Fran Barker to get the building motivated during the holidays, so instead, our social directors put a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board asking for elves to help decorate. A great group turned out on Nov. 27. Snacks



and punch were provided by attendees, and by the time the afternoon was over, we had done Fran proud.

A 50/50 draw was held and one lucky recipient went home with big bucks. She has asked that her name be withheld, as she is tired of being hit up for money! The good news is that from now on every time the building gets together there will be a 50/50 draw.

In addition, a sign-up sheet has been added advertising a Christmas luncheon to be held on Dec. 15. If you haven't already done so, please put your pen to work and get your name up there by Saturday, Dec. 10. We need an exact count to give the restaurant.

Talking about bulletin boards, hats off to Margaret Whitaker for quietly taking over from Fran and ensuring the lobby bulletin board is both current and eye-catching. Margaret is a retired school teacher and administrator who certainly



The two Fireball breathing Santas of Villa Riviera, John Turrisi and Steve Flint, try to untangle themselves before adorning the building with Christmas lights. (Photo by Sharon Flint)

knows her way around a piece of cork. She keeps us abreast of recent On Top of the World news (for those who might not read this fantastic publication) and building events.

Should you have any questions about what is happening at Villa Riviera or OTOW, you need only take a moment when picking up your mail and look at Margaret's handiwork.

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Building meeting focuses on upcoming events

At long last American Gothic is ready for those lovely time-honored holidays. Bring on the fun!

Here is how we planned for the merriment.

Our annual building meeting was well attended. CJ Messina, our building coordinator, presided over the meeting. Prior to the meeting, CJ provided residents copies of important information we would be discussing at our meeting. A copy of that information can be found on our bulletin board. Following the meeting, we had a pizza party. Yum! Thanks to CJ and Ann Messina for all they do.

Ann Messina, our treasurer, reported on the status of our funds. Maddy Heise suggested some of our funds might go for replacing a tree. One preferably with color.

Annual dues are \$15. Please give your dues to Ann Messina or Joe Borowczyk.

During our meeting, there was a lively discussion about planning neighborhood and holiday socials, among them a Nov. 27 "Light Up the Building" party. It was a cool gathering of creative decorators who transformed our building into sparkle, glitter, shimmer and shine. Add some donuts, a little music, laughter and coffee, and magically American Gothic is ready for the holiday season.

Jingle jingle! Next, CJ announced our holiday dinner at the Dunedin Country



Club on Dec. 8. We will be jingling the night away. Please wear or bring something to jingle to our party. The sign-up sheet is located on our bulletin board.

Next, Ann Messina has once again started her Ladies' Breakfast Club. There is a sign-up sheet and important information about breakfast on the bulletin board.

Finally, for even more fun, we decided to begin a series of early evening building socials. This will be a very informal event, like a "come-as-you are" gathering. We are meeting in the big backyard behind the odd-numbered condos. Bring a chair, a drink, maybe some cheese. Everyone is welcome. More information is on the bulletin board.

Here are some gentle reminders to help our neighborhood stay happy.



Kimberly Norried's "Ellie Mae" is American Gothic's Christmas card to everyone. Happy holidays to all! (Photo by Kimberly Norried)

We are proud of the American Gothic neighborhood and hope to keep it tidy. Here are two gentle reminders of challenges we have had recently.

1. AG is mostly a pet friendly place, but some people are not following the rules. Please keep your dog on a leash and

do clean up after Fido.

2. Keep the core and laundry room clean. On Top of the World is not responsible for the disposal of construction debris, appliances, computers or TVs.

AG sends warm wishes and smiles to everyone. Happy Holidays!

Happy holidays from the OTOW News. Have a wonderful New Year!



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Spirit of holiday giving alive and well at Dorado

“You can give without loving, but you can never love without giving.” — Robert Louis Stevenson

Dorado building residents are full of the Christmas spirit. They are collecting non-perishable food to give to Helping Hands. Next to our beautiful Christmas tree in the core is a decorated donation box. We have arranged with On Top of the World and Helping Hands for pickups of collected items. This makes it easy for all our residents to participate and enjoy that feel good feeling.

Giving is love in action, and love is the common thread that runs through every human being. Now science tells us why. Studies show giving increases our heart health. We live longer, our mental health is better, and our stress is lowered.

There is evidence that we get a natural high during gift giving. We actually secrete feel good chemicals in our brains, such as serotonin and dopamine.

I remember the first time I felt that feeling. I was a young girl, raised up in the hills of Tennessee. My sisters and I picked up soda bottles from the side of the road to earn the one cent return deposit. We bought



our mother a small box of stationary. To this day I remember how excited we were the whole week just waiting to see the smile on her face when she opened our gift.

Ann Brown says Christmas is her favorite holiday because it's the ultimate giving season. She has passed her love of giving to her daughters, April Brown and Aimee Brown. Since moving to Clearwater, they have donated five trees and 44 wreaths to the ARC of Tampa Bay charity.

Mary Jane Lofton assisted with this month's story.



Dorado residents in the spirit of “Giving is their Holiday” theme. They are already at work gathering items to donate to Helping Hands. Left to right: First row: Karen Welsh and Edwina Schick; second row: Lois Darling, Fernando Mariz, Ann Brown; third row: Betty Dethmers and Mary Jane Lofton.

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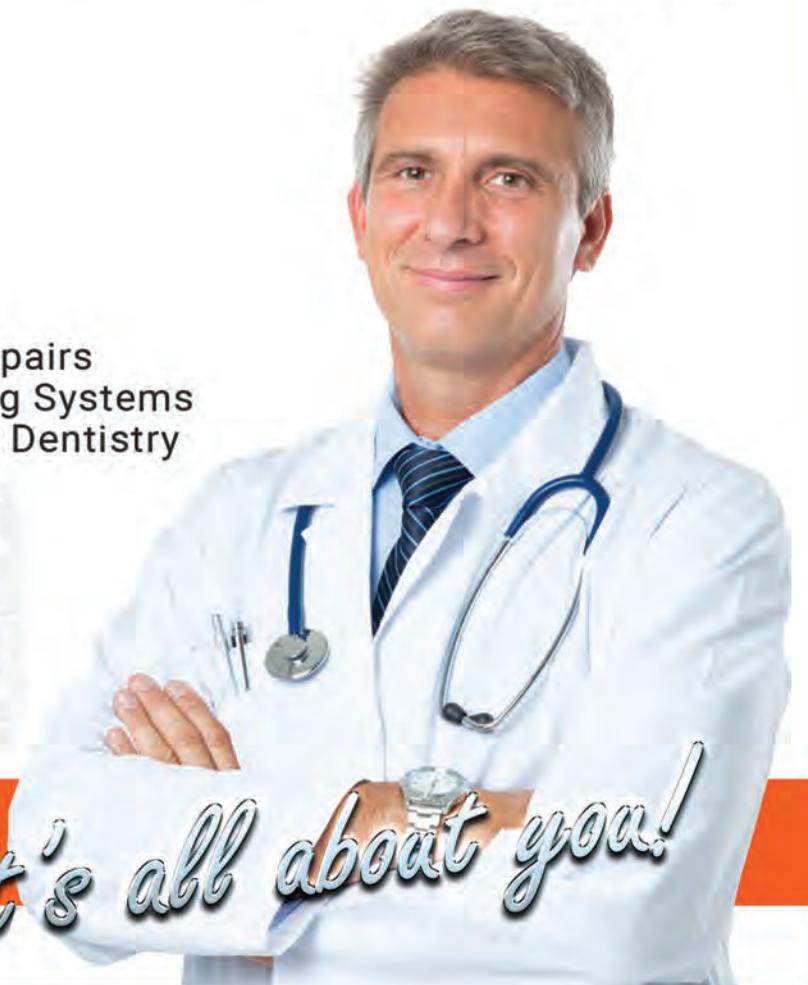
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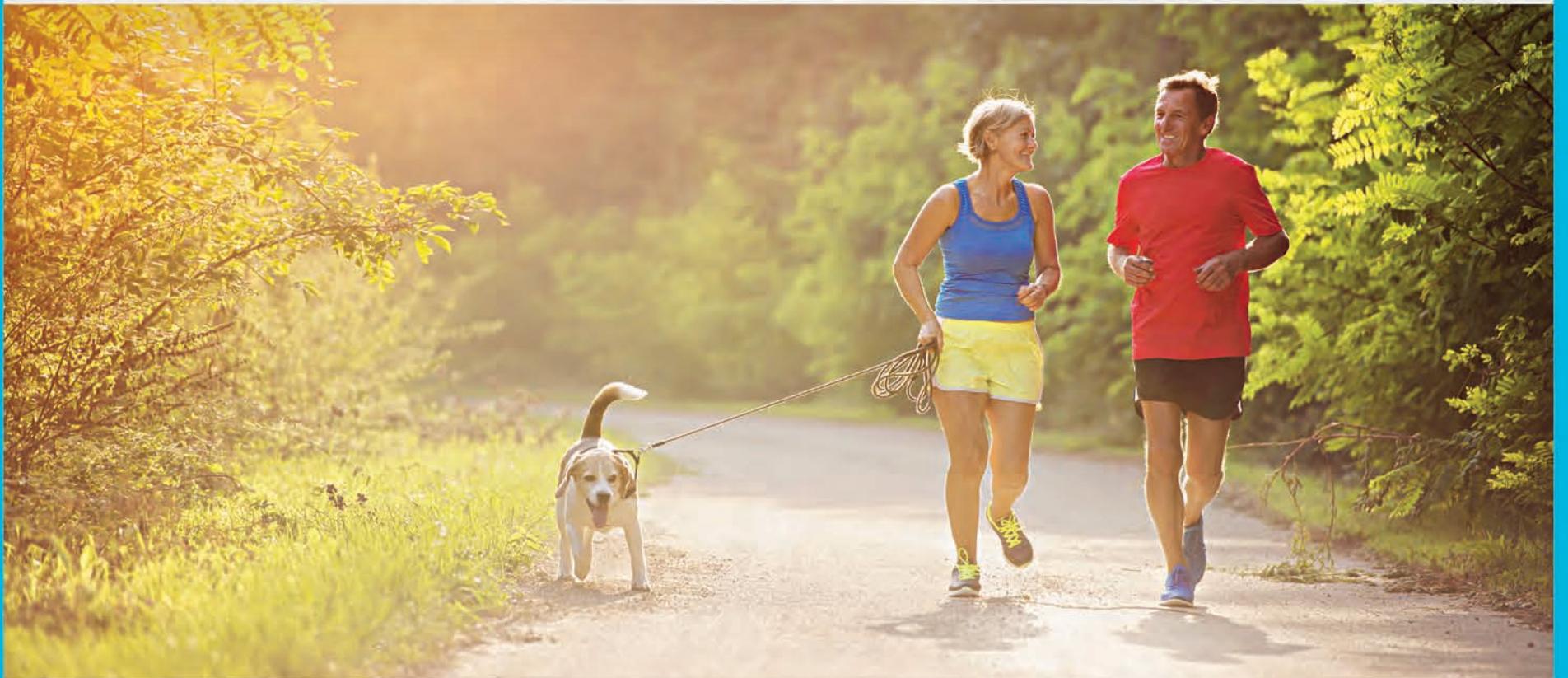
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Surprise birthday bash for Korean War vet, 89

Like the old adage, "seasons come and seasons go," sometimes so do our neighbors. We are always sad to see them go, but welcome new ones!

Our building is filling up quickly with new neighbors as well as our Snowbirds returning. All are looking forward to getting caught up and getting to know each other anew.

We are counting the days until we can gather and enjoy each other's company. The weather is cooling down a bit giving us an opportunity for porch sitting and welcoming everyone back. Let's get to know our new neighbors and look out for each other.

Bill Boll is one of our longtime residents, and what a special person he is! Bill just celebrated his 89th birthday. Some of Bill's closest neighbors threw him a surprise party shortly after his birthday. It was a wonderful surprise with a great time had by all!

Bill has been a permanent resident of the Mandarin building for approximately 19 years and served as building treasurer for a while. Not only was Bill busy doing



building business, he also sang in a barber shop quartet for many years. Whenever anyone asks Bill how he is doing, he always replies he is "upright" or "vertical."

Bill is a veteran who served in the Army during the Korean War. We thank Bill and all of our other veterans for their service to our country. Thank you all!

Remember, to have a good neighbor, you have to be a good neighbor!



Mandarin neighbors gather around Bill Boll to celebrate his 89th birthday and honor him as a Korean war veteran. (Photo by Stefaine Campbell)

First building meeting since the pandemic held at Siboney

Our building meeting was held in the building core on Oct. 31. A combination of core party and general meeting was held. Over 25 residents were in attendance. A few new residents were introduced.

We want to welcome new residents John Spencer and Pam Riley, from Indiana. John is retired from the military and their hobbies include golfing. Hearing about our community from their friends, we are glad they have chosen this building in which to live.

The November meeting was held in our core of the building and refreshments were served. Board members voted on having it at the building instead of the Belleair Room at the West activity center.

We normally offer coffee and delicious cakes and cookies at our monthly meetings, but unfortunately we couldn't have food or beverages in the Belleair Room. Please consider attending our monthly meetings and we promise you will enjoy the refreshments.



We hope things will soon open up at On Top of the World. Shows, dances, possibly bingo and many other events. Both theater groups will be getting ready to bring their shows to the stage in the auditorium this year. Please support them by buying tickets.

Look in the paper for the dates of the performances, and for \$5 you will have an evening of song, dance and comedy.



The first Siboney building meeting since February 2020 was held in the building core. It was held by Tom Tarka, building president.

This month is my favorite time to show my holiday spirit. I usually decorate my windows with lights. We hope all our neighbors do the same. Let's light up the building and brighten up this holiday. Please

read the poster on the bulletin board to follow the safety rules.

Happy Holidays to all our residents and have a safe and healthy New Year. See you next year.

My time with Winter the dolphin

Winter, the famous dolphin, died Nov. 11, despite life-saving efforts to treat a gastrointestinal abnormality. The following story is by one of our Rila Renaissance residents, Leora Hamm, who worked with Winter at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

By Leora Hamm

Winter was found by a fisherman in Mosquito Lagoon, Fla., abandoned by her mother and tangled in a crab trap line in December, 2005.

I was a volunteer at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium when Winter arrived and had the opportunity to help care for her. She was estimated to be 2 months old and weighed only 75 pounds. The trap's line had cut off circulation to Winter's tail flukes, which led to the loss of her tail. Her tail fell off the first week at the aquarium.

Winter required around-the-clock care and was a very sick little girl. While most dolphins in this situation wouldn't survive, Winter adapted to her new physical form, a new prosthetic tail, and made a complete recovery!

She was an inspiration to people with disabilities. A film based on Winter's story, "Dolphin Tale," was released Sept. 23, 2011, and made Winter famous. Winter died Nov. 11, 2021.



New Villa residents were long-time RVers

Holidays are upon us already. Dust off those decorations, ready the guest rooms and make dinner reservations.

This month welcome a couple with jackrabbits in their boots. Meet Al and Moe Allen and furry pal Sam.

For the last 20 years, after Al retired from the Crystal River nuclear power plant and Moe from a radiologist office in Inverness, Fla., they traveled the country in their recreational vehicle visiting every state but North Dakota.

They were not ready to settle down, however their vehicle was ready for its retirement, leaving them as Moe says, "homeless." Their son wanting them closer to his home found the perfect spot for very active parents at On Top Of the World. So when you see Al and Moe walking Sammie, welcome them aboard.

Pat Sprouse enjoyed a wonderful visit with her son in Virginia. It was their first visit in over two years due to the pandemic. Pat was glowing upon her return.

Also enjoying family, a grandson in this case, was Sheryl McKay.

Travel bug bit Jim Farmer, Bruno Nardizzi, Earl Balance and Mike Murphy, who had a great couple of weeks down Mexico way, in Puerto Vallarta.

Want to extend kudos to our maintenance department. I had an issue



and they responded in quick fashion. Amazing how they are able to do that with so many units to contend with. So thanks to them.

Our Christmas party information is listed on the core bulletin board. This year it will be held in the second core. Please take note of time and date. Kirk and Karen Safee are in charge. Our building elves are busy decorating the villa in festive fashion. Great job.

Now I shall deliver a personal message — to all of you, my neighbors, dear friends, the newspaper crew, and those dedicated OTOW workers and management who make our life so pleasant here — a most safe and happy holiday to you and yours wherever you may be.



New residents Moe and Al Allen with their furry little pet, Sam. (Photo by Fran Fairfield)

Wishes to all celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. And merry Christmas!

Until next year remember, any news fit to print, send to fresca@maine.rr.com.



Holiday lights video clips will be taken by the OTOW News staff again this year. There is no need to call for an appointment. Clips will be shown beginning Dec. 7. Be sure to watch for your holiday lights on OTOW-TV Channel 732.



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Aqua Aerobics class goes out for pizza

By Irene Pappas

On Oct. 29 the Aqua Aerobics class attended a luncheon at Queen's Pizza.

There were 36 people in attendance and everyone enjoyed their entrees and each other's company.

Ann Gerling was a real hit as she was dressed as a witch. She is our oldest participant and has lived here for 36 years. When I grow up I want to be just like her!

A real treat was when former instructor Elsie Jane Anderson showed up. She has a winning personality and lit up the room.

The Aqua Aerobics winter season is in session, weather permitting. The outside temperature needs to be 62 degrees or higher. Please come and enjoy the benefits of this program and the laughter!



Aqua Aerobics class does pizza at Queen's Pizza.



Emerald Isle's holiday party set for Dec. 6

Season's greetings to all! Can you believe the end of the year is almost here?

Hanukkah came very early this year, on the tail of Thanksgiving, so there's no confusion regarding what to celebrate.

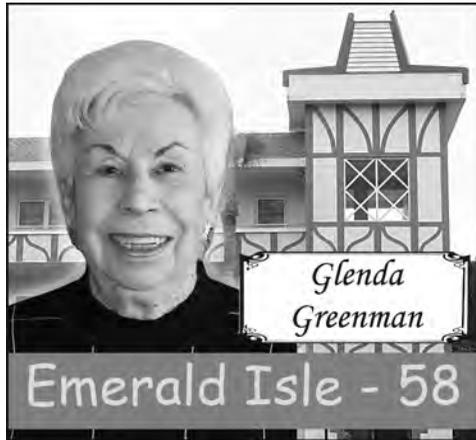
Our holiday party will be on Dec. 6 at the Island Way Grill. I'm really looking forward to it. They always send a bus, so no driving. It's not too late to sign up.

October's group gathering was lunch at the Rumba Island Bar & Grill. I'm told everyone had a great time.

As you old-timers know well, our building loves to dine out. In November our luncheon was at the Clearwater Family Restaurant. Yours truly and husband Marshall sponsored this event and over 20 people attended. They loved the surprise gift in honor of my birthday.

Tuesday, Nov. 16, we tried something new, a game day here at Emerald Isle. The first meeting was at my home. More about that next time.

Right after Halloween ended (in the dead of night I think), Ewa



Politanski replaced our decorations with a Thanksgiving theme. We're so appreciative of the way Ewa keeps our entire building in tune with each holiday as it arises. Thank you so much, Ewa.

Welcome to a new neighbor, Jim Dennison. Also, Andrew Brown is gone and we will miss his cheery smile.

Happy December birthdays to Dave Pittenger, Cheryl Butcher and Tom Seal. See you in 2022!



Emerald Isle residents enjoy their November luncheon at Clearwater Family Restaurant.

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100-year-old quilt gets restored to become special gift

New World French resident Reta Carney recently restored an antique quilt for her granddaughter.

The quilt, shown in the photo, is well over 100 years old. It previously belonged to Reta's great-grandmother from Arkansas, who herself did a lot of quilting. There was no TV or Internet then, so ladies quilted, knitted and sewed.

Reta had kept the quilt in a drawer for over 40 years taking it with her every time she moved. Just recently, her granddaughter mentioned she would like a nice quilt and could she make her one? Of course, Reta thought of the heirloom in the drawer.

The background is a plain white design with the flowers, so Reta decided to stitch the white area with the same design as the flowers. She has stitched all the quilt by hand, and even re-stitched all the flowers.

The quilt looks beautiful and is in excellent condition, with no marks, and not



discolored in any way after all these years.

Reta and her husband Gene are planning a trip in the near future and will surprise her granddaughter with this historic and lovingly restored quilt — such a lot of history and beautiful memories for the family.



Reta Carney shows off her beautifully-restored quilt. (Photo by Pat Cullen-Davis)

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 Newspaper Web Site:
www.ontopoftheworldnews.com



Contemporary Building

By Diane Hanrahan. Happy holidays from the Contemporary Building to everyone in the On Top of the World family!

RMF
 Care Management, Inc.
Problem Solver for the Elderly

Patient & Family Advocacy • Consulting
 Care Management • Crisis Intervention

Placement Services
(Skilled & Assisted Living Facilities)



"Our nursing team has provided professional guidance to our clients and their families for over 24 years."

Ruth Fanovich
 RN, LHRM & Owner

Overwhelmed? Unsure what to do next?
 Parent or spouse refusing help?
 Alone with no one to be your advocate?

Enlist the help of experienced and
 compassionate professionals.
 Call today for more information.

727-787-8677 RMFHomeCare.com

American Legion Post 7

1760 Turner Street, Clearwater
 December Entertainment Line-Up

Monday 12/6 & 12/13 from 6:30 to 9 pm "Carlo"
 Every Tuesday 6:30 to 9 pm "Boomer Band"
 Bar Poker on Wednesday at 5 pm
 Every Thursday 6:30 to 9 pm "Jerry Bell"
 On Fridays 7 to 10 pm "Bill Castner"

Saturday 12/4 7 to 10 pm "Flashback Band"
 Saturday 12/11 7 to 10 pm "Sequel Band"
 Saturday 12/18 7 to 10 pm "Saddle Tramp Band"
 Closed on Sundays
 Closed 12/24, 12/25 and 12/31

OTOW Residents Welcome



Chinese Cathay Building



By Jayne Dowdy. These Chinese Cathay residents are stuffed and looking for their stretchy pants after celebrating "Friendsgiving" together! Friendsgiving is a Thanksgiving feast held by and for friends and includes lots of good food, drink, and laughter. We enjoyed the most incredible potluck buffet during our celebration that included turkey, ham, sides, breads and desserts. These residents are magnificent cooks. We are already looking forward to doing it again next year!

All Year Round!
(Unless pool is closed)

Aqua Aerobics Classes

If The Outdoor Temperature Is Over 62 Degrees, We're Exercising

Need a fun way to exercise?
Join our exercise classes each morning.
All are welcome. Classes are free.

9-10 a.m., Weekdays, East Activity Center Swimming Pool

Have you ever been told that restoring your teeth was hopeless?
Have you been led to believe that costly implants or uncomfortable dentures were your only option?

If the answer to either of these questions is yes, I have good news.



I'm Dr. Austin Sampson. I have 46 years experience in reconstructive dentistry.

My professional accomplishments include:

- Post graduate training in **bite-related disorders** and **TMJ**
- Membership in the **Heritage Registry of Who's Who**
- Recipient of the **Top Doctors & Dentists, Florida Doctor Awards**

I can't tell you the number of times I have spoken with patients with complex dental problems who believed that their teeth could not be restored. Thanks to my training and experience, I have been able to successfully treat hundreds of such patients, many of whom are your neighbors at On Top of the World. In many cases this can be done more affordably than you might imagine.

So if you think that dentures or implants are your only options, come in for a complimentary consultation. We are conveniently located just a short drive from the west entrance to On Top of the World.



We accept most insurance plans.

Austin H. Sampson, DDS, PA
2555 Enterprise Road, Suite 1
Clearwater, FL 33763

Phone: (727) 796-8891



DID YOU KNOW?

All applications for occupancy of a condo are available in the Community Service Office or on our Website!



otowclearwaterinfo.com

Which application do you need?

Application for Approval of Owner	<p>If you...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are purchasing a condominium • have inherited a condominium • are being added to a deed of a condominium
Application for Approval of Residency	<p>If you...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<p>If you...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are leasing (renting) a condominium



(Limit 7 passengers on each run)

OTOW BUS

December 2021 (Subject To Change)

Schedule/Riding Guidelines

Walmart

Wednesdays 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Publix

Thursdays 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Sprouts

Fridays 8:15 a.m.

Aldi

Fridays 10:30 a.m.

This is a temporary change to our normal bus schedule.

The locations and times above are subject to change. Watch OTOW-TV, The Box Office and Nancy's Bulletin Board to learn when the normal bus schedule has returned.

The bus driver picks up passengers with reservations only. Reservations are first come, first served, and may only be made 24 hours in advance. We cannot accept multi-day reservations. You must present your valid activity card before boarding.

The bus driver is not permitted to assist passengers in any way.

No eating or drinking on the bus. Shopping time is limited to 1 hour, 15 minutes.

Face masks are recommended.

(727) 799-3417 Ext. 7

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 the ad wording must be 20 words or less, including phone number. Submitter's name and building name must be included, but will not be published. **If submitter's name, building and unit number are not included with the ad, it will not be accepted for publication.**

Please note: We do not accept ads for automobiles, firearms, yard/building sales, units for sale or rent, or employment. Drop ads off 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.

FOR SALE

La Z Boy Luxury Lift power recliner, brown color, lightly used, excellent condition \$200.
796-1348

Golf cart \$10. 266-4078

Department 56 Christmas houses and accessories with boxes, excellent condition. Houses starting at \$20, accessories starting at \$5. 726-2996

Six beige heavy metal folding chairs with red padded seats, excellent condition; two black metal folding chairs. Make offer. 560-5710

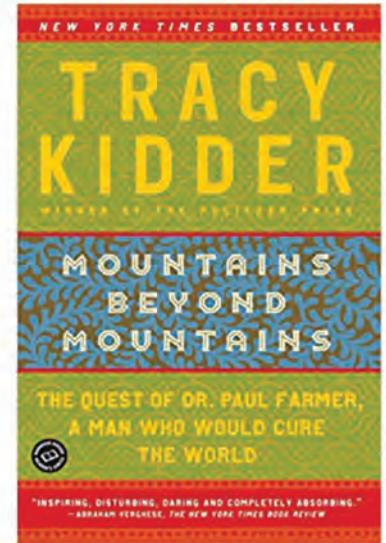
New 26" round glass top and metal end tables; 36" round glass top table; 31" oak round table. 244-5638

JBL powered subwoofers, 120 watts \$60; Sony STRDH590 5.2 channel surround sound stereo home theater receiver \$150. Manuals included. Pics/details 644-8524



Tell our advertisers you saw their ad in this newspaper.

Good Karma Book Club



10 a.m., Thursday, December 16
"Mountains Beyond Mountains"
By Tracy Kidder

10 a.m., Thursday, January 20
"Interpreter of Maladies"
By Jhumpra Lahiri

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

Need more information, write to Jslantz1948@aol.com or call 727-754-3823

We match all competitors' written quotes

Grout Problem? No Problem!

Don't replace the tile, restore it and save \$\$\$

From Old to New in just One Day!

Tired of moldy, missing, dirty, cracked grout?

Specializing In:

Clean & Seal Tile & Grout
RegROUT and Caulk Showers & Tubs

Recolor Grout

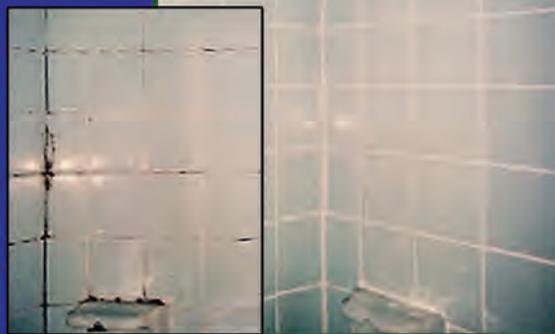
Repair Grout & Broken Tiles

**SATISFACTION
GUARANTEED!
FREE ESTIMATES!**

30% OFF

**Tile & Grout
Cleaning**

With this coupon.
Not valid with any other discount.
Minimum \$250.



Before

After



Services available 7 days a week

Services available 7 days a week

**CALL
NOW!**

Grout Tech

Lowest Rates Guaranteed

727-768-6828

We are a family business - bonded and insured - License #C11060



Bently

Plumbing Plus, Inc.

No Job

TOO BIG or SMALL

We're #1 in the #2 Business



Milo



Rheem 30 MED \$995

If needed: ball valve \$35, pan \$35
6 year warranty on tank, 2 years on labor
(Offer not to be combined with coupon or other discounts.
Permit fee not included.)

- Service
- Repipes
- Slab Leaks
- Remodeling
- Water Heaters
- Faucets

\$10 OFF
Service Calls
With This Ad
Coupon not valid with any other coupons or specials

- Water services
- Drain Cleaning
- Sales & Service
- Water Softeners
- New Construction
- Sinks

- Sewer Installation and Repair

We will dispose of old units.

FREE ESTIMATES

License C-8261
State RF 0067108

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS / DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED

727-786-3366

Please Note: All quotes are based on payment being made by check or cash. A 3.75% customer service fee is applied to all invoices being paid by a debit or credit card.

Aaron's Stor-All

Inside Storage Units

- 100% Air Conditioned
- Security Cameras
- Alarmed

2100 Calumet Street
(between Hercules & Belcher)
Clearwater, FL

447-3133

Mention this ad and we will waive the registration fee!



Offer expires December 31, 2021.
Cannot be used with any other offer or discount.
There is a \$25 one-time registration fee.

* NOT VALID WITH SPAREFOOT RESERVATIONS

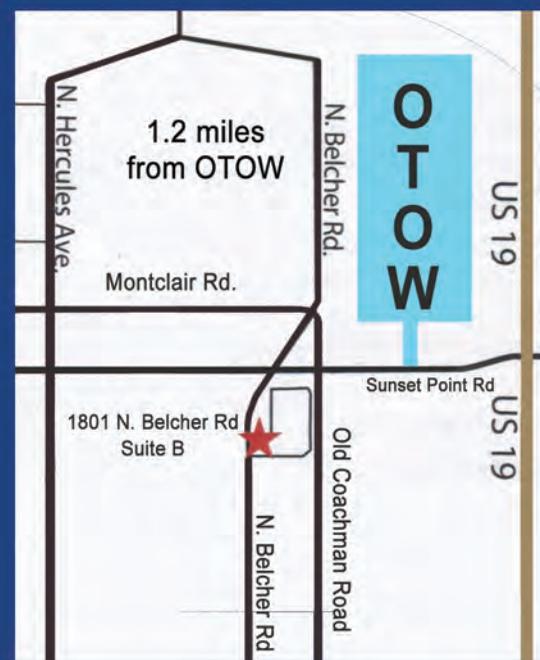
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has been providing the highest quality of medical and
aesthetic dermatology services in 23 locations
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Panos Vasiloudes, MD, PhD
President and CEO

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