



Fall Festival and Craft Show Highlights, Pages 40 & 41



OTOW NEWS



December 2025

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Volume 57

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Holiday concert is Dec. 6 and 7 and you are allowed to sing along

By Ka-Rim Troyli

The On Top of the World Chorus has been meeting on Tuesday evenings since Sept. 23 and we are excited to finally get a chance to present our winter program "Silent Night, Winter Light" on Dec. 6 and 7.

The Chorus is a diverse group of OTOW residents all with different levels of experience, who share a love of music.

We meet and rehearse. We are comprised of sopranos, altos, tenors and basses, and are led by our supportive director, Gordon McMann, and guided on the piano by our accompanist ex-



Chorus

traordinaire, Caroline Veach.

Part of the beauty of being in a chorus is sharing what has been learned and what has been created. This season we are pleased to say our Chorus

has grown in size and sound, boasting new vocal talents and is now almost 40 voices strong!

Since that first night in September, rehearsals have been satisfying and lively and we are all excited to share the fruits of our labor! We have twinkled our way through the fall preparing for the winter program.

Come kick off the season with us. You will hear holiday pieces that you already know and others that you do not know, but soon might consider a favorite.

There will surely be a few sing-alongs — and I can guarantee some

goosebumps a time or two.

Be sure to mark your calendars.

Performances will be on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 7 at 3 p.m. at the East Activity Center Auditorium. Tickets can be acquired by reaching out to a Chorus member, in advance from our information table on Mondays and Thursdays in the Auditorium from 8:30–10:30 a.m.

Additionally, tickets will be available at the door the evening and afternoon of the concerts. Suggested donation for tickets is \$5 each and both performances are open seating.

On Top of the World Chorus
presents

Silent Night, Winter Light

Directed by
Gordon McMann

Accompanied by
Caroline Veach

Saturday, December 6, 7:00 PM
Sunday, December 7, 3:00 PM
East Activity Center Auditorium

Tickets will be
sold at the door.





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On Top of the World Communities Inc., Clearwater, Florida a 55+ community.

Holidays are a popular time for fires - be prepared and never leave home while food is cooking

I am trusting that each of you enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday with family or friends.

Management Matters

Management matters around the On Top of the World Condo Community are rather quiet between Thanksgiving and New Years. The managers are focused on finishing up projects and planning for execution of new projects that have been in the pipeline.

Manager's Report and Observations

It's election time all over again at On Top of the World. Third election in one year! This time, the entire Board, plus two vacancies stand for election.

Now is not the time to be complacent! We need each owner to get motivated and vote.

Voting in elections is critical to the success of our community. Who you choose to fill the vacant seats is of critical importance.

You have the choice to re-elect seven (7) current Board members, plus two (2) new members to fill vacancies left by resignations.

You may vote for accomplished and proven capable candidates who are serious about fulfilling their obligation to ensure the fiscal health of your community.

It is of the utmost importance that every resident has the opportunity to securely and privately vote in Board elections and that every vote is counted. Please resist the temptation to allow anyone to "help" you fill out your ballot or "help" you vote online.

Resist that "help." Make up your own mind and vote.

Regardless of who wins the election, I encourage each and every resident to welcome the new and returning Board members with the wishes for best success.



Holiday Safety

I want to remind you that home safety never takes a holiday. If you are cooking up a big meal or just making batches of cookies, never leave your apartment with food in the oven without first turning off the stove.

Seems basic right?

One of the most destructive fires the community has ever had was the day before Christmas and involved cookies in the oven. The owner left for a "quick trip" to the store. When she returned, her condo and the two above her were on fire.

Never leave your apartment with the oven on.

Same point goes for a lit Chanukah Menorah. Never walk away from open flames. Hopefully you have transitioned to an electric Menorah.

Holiday lighting is another area of concern. Hopefully you have transitioned to LED lights for your tree and home decorations.

Examine your extension cords. If there are any cracks in the insulation or exposed wires because (maybe you changed out the plug eons ago), please discard the cord and do not use it. It may well be a fire hazard. Never overload an extension cord with multiple devices plugged in.

Hopefully you have transitioned to an artificial Christmas tree, and don't have a combustible cut live tree. If you haven't, check the water reservoir daily. When needles drop, it's time to retire the tree,

By now you are rolling your eyes.

Seriously, it is easy to be a bit absent minded when you are juggling multiple priorities. Please put your safety and your family's safety first.

Which brings me to the next topic.

Insurance on Your Condo and Contents

Fire events or water damage are cautionary reminders for each resident to check in with your insurance agent and make sure the insurance coverage on your unit and contents is adequate.

If you feel "lucky" and go without insurance, or believe you can self-insure any loss, please reconsider. The cost of repair or reconstruction, as well as loss of use (being displaced pending restoration), may well exceed the purchase price of your home many times over.

It is the obligation of every owner to insure the contents of their dwelling, including loss of use coverage.

Also consider, if your unit is point of origin of the casualty, you are personally liable for all damage to the Association's property as well as any damage to other units. You need a general liability coverage provided in an HO6 policy to protect yourself from losing all of your assets. Loss of use coverage will cover expenses for living and lodging should you become displaced. Displacement after a fire may be 18 months or longer!

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

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

cabinetry.

With inflation at a 40 year high, make sure you have the full replacement cost option selected on your content's coverage.

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

Buildings are insured under a master policy in the name of the Association. The deductible is \$10,000 for any casualty event per occurrence including wind/hail related damage.

Named storm events carry a separate deductible of 3 percent of the total value at the time of loss at each location involved in the loss, subject to a minimum (community wide) deductible of \$250,000 for any one occurrence.

With respect to flood (rising water), earthquake and flood resulting from a named storm, all losses, damage, and/or expense arising out of any one occurrence shall be adjusted as one loss.

For more information, please visit www.otowclearwaterinfo.com/insurance-forms/.

The problem with the highest insurance rates in the nation was not adequately addressed in the last legislative session. As a result, the market for insurance has worsened with the insolvency of several insurers and the catastrophic losses from Hurricane Ian.

I'm not optimistic the legislature will get much right in this upcoming session.

Besides casualty insurance, other steps to protecting your home are testing your smoke detector regularly and having an operable BC fire extinguisher within easy reach. Read the extinguisher operating instructions when you first purchase the unit and at least twice a year thereafter is also recommended.

I will end my article on this note, and wish each of you a very merry Christmas, a happy Chanukah, a wonderful Diwali, a safe and happy 2026.

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2025 was a very productive year

A cold snap brought temperatures to freezing and then we saw average temperatures in the mid to low 80s.

There was a terrific Fall Festival & Expo at the East Activity Center. Nancy Rogers did a great job again this year coordinating and hosting this event.

Then, of course, the arrival of our northern residents. It also gave us time to gather together, to give thanks and count our blessings with our family, friends, and the On Top of the World community.

December may bring some cooler temperatures, but it also brings the possibility of additional traffic in the community. Many residents will have guests visiting from out-of-town who are unfamiliar with the roads and traffic patterns. It is always important to obey the communities' traffic and directional signs, and now so more than ever.

Remember, all vehicles must come to a complete stop at stop signs, obey one-way signs, and the speed limit is posted at 20 miles per hour.

Along with the rules-of-the-road reminders outlined above, here are some decoration reminders for everyone:

- All outdoor lighting should be plugged into GFCI receptacles.
- Each building is permitted to have 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 depart-



ment stores.

- Do not wrap garland or decorations around the light poles at the end of 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.

We would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. May your season be filled with joy and peace.

Did You Know

Hydro jetting continues

If you live in Buildings 63-83, you should be aware that your Management Company will resume a community-wide hydro jetting project on Jan. 12, 2026. This is when contracted work will begin on the extensive job of hydro jetting kitchen and bathroom sanitary drain lines.

There is a total of 197 Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) common cleanouts and they will be replaced as needed.

If you have any questions, contact the Community Service Office at 727-683-6981 or visit them at the East Activity Center located at 2069 World Parkway Boulevard East. Your participation and cooperation are appreciated.

Did You Know

Rules for Driver Courtesy

One-way traffic signs are used to inform motorists that traffic on a street or parking lot entrance is traveling in one direction only. The one-way traffic sign

is a regulatory sign and drivers encountering a one-way sign must travel in the direction that the sign indicates. Drivers must not travel in the opposite direction of a one-way sign due to the risk of a head-on collision.

While a crisis may be avoided, the reality is that the consequences can be very real. Not following directional signs can be a dangerous decision that may not only have an impact on the driver involved, but others as well, and the outcome could be life altering.

So, the next time you encounter a one-way sign, please follow directions, for the safety of not only yourself, but for everyone in the community.

Painting/Waterproofing

The final month of 2025 will see the painting contractor transition to rear waterproof coating applications for the holiday season with Buildings 84 and 90 up next on the schedule.

As always, the painting contractor's process 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 closely to parking areas and front/rear porches which may require the temporary displacement of vehicles or property.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and keep in mind that inclement weather can affect start and completion dates.

Construction, Roofing and Large Scope Projects

Due to logistical and scheduling obstacles, an elevator improvement project previously scheduled for Nov. 3 has been moved to Dec. 1, which is about the same time that the community will be receiving this work update.

Building 96 has two elevators in total, but this project will only affect the unit on the east end of the structure across from Building 92.

The scope of work involves replacing operating components to provide for decades of future reliability. The remodeling of the elevator cab interior

is also part of the process, which provides new, updated laminate surfaces for residents and visitors to the community.

The entire undertaking should be completed in roughly three weeks' time, barring any unforeseen conditions.

Because this building has two elevators, the elevator at the west end of the building will still be available for use.

Residents and visitors of Building 96 should be aware of active work zones and exercise caution in and around these areas while the elevator is out of service.

The 2025 Calendar Year Work in Review

2025 continues to bring many challenges with an ever-tightening labor market and materials costs challenges. The Management Company continues to experience extremely long lead times for contractors to provide estimates and start/completion projects.

Due to this, the Management Company continues to employ specific trades in-house and secure its own pricing for materials used in the community throughout the year. This is a proven benefit to the community as Parkway continues its commitment to keeping On Top of the World maintained to a standard it has held itself to since the late 1960s.

Still, it was a productive year for the Management Company and contractors awarded projects by the Condominium Association's Board.

During the 2025 calendar year, the following improvements were able to be accomplished in the community:

- 4 low-slope roofing projects
- 2 elevator equipment modernizations
- 6 elevator cab remodels
- 5 building railing improvement projects
- 20 building parking lots were seal-coated
- More than 1700 fire extinguishers and 50 fire hydrants were inspected
- To date, 13 front façade painting improvements and 8 rear façade coating improvements

(Continued on page 5)

Know Your Water Heater



Water heaters traditionally last 10-15 years.

If your water heater is leaking around the base unit, is not producing normal amounts of hot water or has become noisy, it's time to consider replacing your current unit with a new one.

If your water heater fails, it could not only flood your unit, but units below you. You may be financially responsible if it causes damage to your neighbors' units.

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Signing up for RAVE 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 can provide information of critical concern to the residents.

with community improvements

After-Hours

Emergency Information

The OTOW emergency after-hours phone number is 727-799-1115. Please call this number, after hours, in the event of an emergency, such as a water intrusion into your condo.

For all other inquiries regarding general issues or questions that are not service-related, you will need to come in person to the Community Service Office.

OTOW Alerts

Signing up for OTOW-ALERTS (powered by RAVE) is incredibly easy. Simply go to www.otowclearwaterinfo.com and from the home page scroll down to the bottom of the page where the "Sign Up Now" box will be located to 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.

Alternatively, you may visit the Community Service Office to apply.

Signing up for RAVE is without obligation or cost to you. Your email and cell phone numbers are secure, never shared, and never solicited.

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 an advanced warning may save lives!

As a reminder, when signing up for community and emergency alerts, be sure to enter your building number. You can select to receive notifications via text, telephone call, and/or email. You can select one, two, or all three notification options.

Should you wish to change your notification options, you can do so by

visiting the Community Service Office, calling 727-683-6981, or email at clearwaterinfo@otowfl.net.

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 p.m., Monday through Friday, unless otherwise posted. If your call goes to voice mail, it is because the 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 once.

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 condo and is the owner's responsibility. The Association's responsibility is to the structure and common elements.



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VETERAN AND FAMILY OWNED

Popular response to survey shows residents really want a safe community

During the month of November, the board asked residents to voice their opinion on how they would like to proceed with entry gate services and gate attendants at all four entrances.

Did we need more?
Do we need less?
Do you have different ideas on how to make sure we have a safe community?

As I write this article in the middle of November, we're only halfway through the month and more than 500 residents have casts their votes and given their opinions. There are patterns developing in the submitted comments. We've gotten some very good ideas and I wanted to at least share the partial results.

The recent review of comments reveals clear priorities and strong opinions about how to protect the community while managing costs. While individual viewpoints varied widely, four major themes consistently are rising to the top.

1. Growing Interest in Automated or Electronic Gate Systems

Many residents called for modernizing the entrances with updated technology — options such as automatic gate arms, transponders, radio frequency identification stickers (RFID), license-plate recognition, or keypad entry systems gained significant attention.



Supporters believe these systems offer a more reliable, cost-efficient way to manage traffic into the community while reducing dependence on staffing.

Several residents pointed to the "Paradise-style" gate setup as a potential model, while others emphasized exploring contemporary access-control systems common in newer developments.

2. Strong Criticism of Current Gate Attendant Performance

A substantial number of comments expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of today's gate attendants.

Residents cited issues such as inattentiveness, limited interaction, lack of authority and inconsistent monitoring. Many felt the attendants provide little meaningful security and questioned the value of continuing the service in its current form.

This theme signals a broader desire for accountability, clearer expectations, and possibly a rethinking of how front-gate staffing should function.

3. Concerns About HOA Costs and the Need for Transparency

Cost remains a major factor in shaping opinions about future options.

Residents repeatedly asked for clearer financial details, particularly about what constitutes a "significant increase" versus a modest one. Without specific figures, many found it difficult to evaluate proposals involving more staffing or new security systems.

Some residents opposed any cost increase due to rising living expenses, while others said they would consider paying more if the improvements resulted in a meaningful enhancement of security.

4. Strong Support for Expanded Use of Security Cameras

Another prominent theme was the call for better camera coverage at entrances and throughout the community.

Suggestions ranged from license-plate readers, perimeter cameras, and recorded video access, to the creation of a central monitoring hub.

Many residents saw cameras as a practical way to expand coverage and

improve documentation, with or without gate attendants.

Cameras were frequently mentioned as a cost-effective supplement — or alternative — to traditional gate staffing.

A Community Engaged in Its Future

Taken together, the comments the board received shows a community deeply engaged in the conversation about safety, technology and financial responsibility. Residents clearly want a system that is both effective and sustainable, whether that means reimagining the gatehouse roles, investing in new technology, enhancing camera coverage, or finding the right balance among all three.

The full results of the survey will be posted in the January edition of the OTOW newspaper. As the board reviews options in the coming months, these four themes offer valuable insight into the preferences, concerns and hopes of the community.

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey by cutting it out of the November newspaper or going online to the Box Office.

The survey ended on Nov. 30.

To close, members of the board want to take this time to wish you all a happy holiday season. Enjoy the festivities, time with friends and family, and the joy of the season.



OTOW-TV 901 will broadcast OTOW Election Day live starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 10.

At this time, plans call for covering opening remarks, a question & answer session and the announcement of election results.

A rebroadcast will be uploaded to the Box Office (otowboxoffice.com) when ready.



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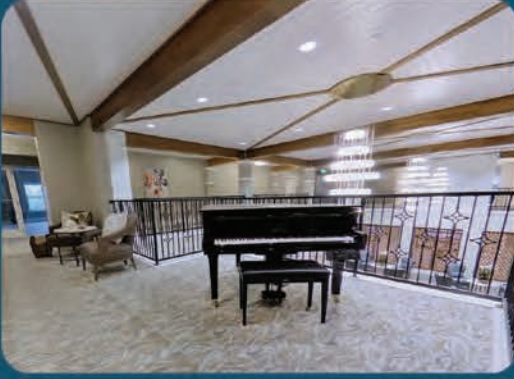
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The 2024 On Top of the World Chorus at last year's holiday concert.

(Video photo by Doug Kates)

Come sing holiday songs with the Chorus at Get Acquainted Coffee Dec. 11



By Sue Trost

Good Neighbors Association will be hosting its next Get Acquainted Coffee on Thursday, Dec. 11, from 9-11 a.m. featuring a holiday sing-along with the 2025 On Top of the World Chorus.

This event will be after the Chorus' holiday concert, but will give you another chance to sing some of the same songs featured during their concert performance. Please plan to join us to bring in the holiday season.

Good Neighbors Association is planning our events for

2026. Good Neighbors, along with the Snowbirds Club, Veterans Group, New York/New Jersey Club, The Italian/American Club and the Canadian Club will be hosting our annual Salute to Veterans on Sunday, March 1, 2026. Tickets will be free to OTOW veterans and \$10 to all others. Tickets will go on sale on Monday, Jan. 5, 2026. More details will be coming in the January 2026 edition of OTOW News.


We are wishing all of our community a very happy and safe holiday season!



(OTOW News photos by Howard Wolff)



Virginia Brown and Richard Bolonda from Florida.



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Please donate to the Angel Tree

Angel Tree

Happy holidays!
On Top of the World sponsors the Pinellas County Foster & Adoptive Parents Association. After the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, our SCA staff put up our Christmas trees in both activity center lobbies and we will once again sponsor the Pinellas County Foster, and Adoptive Parents Association Angel Tree.

The Foster and Adoptive Parents Association's mission and message are as follows:

"To provide quality training, support and activities for member foster and adoptive families. We strive to provide our parents with the necessary resources to deal with the many challenges they face in raising our community children."

The organization continues to move toward a broader giving program. The hope is that you will find something on the children's wish list below that will align with your giving abilities.

In addition, individual name tags are on the Christmas trees from the older children. All children are requesting specific gift cards.

Whether you choose to give a gift from the wish list below or a name tag off the Angel tree, or both, thank you for bringing joy to a child this holiday season.

Gift cards – Walmart, Amazon, Target and Visa to assist with stocking stuffers for older children.

Gift cards for entertainment - AMC movies, CMX movies, Tamp Bay Lightning games, bowling, Top Golf Celebration Station, Congo Golf, etc.

Diapers and wipes.

Hygiene items, antiperspirants, perfumes, colognes, body wash and body mist, etc.

Variety of toys – Vtech, Leap Frog, Radio controlled cars, dolls, etc.

STEM activities – Legos, Robotic Building, etc.

Sporting goods – fishing poles, camping gear, assorted balls, sneakers, etc.

Gaming items – newest Xbox games, controllers, headsets, etc.

Fast food gift cards – Chick-fil-A, PDQ, Chipotle, Moe's, Arby's, McDonalds, etc.

On Top of the World has generously supported the Foster and Adoptive Parents Association Angel Tree and helped bring Christmas to many adopted and foster children for over a decade. With so many worthy organizations out there, Foster and Adoptive Parents Association wants you to know that all contributions you make will positively impact their group and their children.

Pinellas County Foster and Adoptive Parents Association will need your gifts and gift cards dropped off at the East Activity Center Community Service Office by 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19.

Holiday Movie Night

The next On Top of the World Movie Night is a Holiday Movie Night.

Residents will be able to see National Lampoon's "Christmas Vacation" on Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 4 p.m., in the East Activity Center Auditorium.

This film was produced in 1989 un-



der the direction of Jeremiah Chechik for Warner Brothers.

It is rated PG 13 with a runtime of 97 minutes.

Seating in the East Activity Center Auditorium is for 80 residents, first-come, first-served. No reservations are required. Popcorn is free - one bag per resident.

The cast includes Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, Randy Quaid, Juliette Lewis and Johnny Galecki.

This movie is the sequel to two National Lampoon vacation flicks. In this film, the Griswold family is staying home for the holidays, but is being invaded by bickering relatives.

Food Truck Night

Food Truck Night returns on Wednesday, Dec. 17, from 3-7 p.m. in the East Activity Center back parking lot.

Come join the fun. Make new acquaintances or reconnect with friends and neighbors, and enjoy some delicious food that you don't have every day.

The vendors are as follows: Stevie D's Philly Cheese, Saucy Lady (Italian food), BBQ Queen, Cousin's Lobster, Slipps Ice and also Italian Affogato, which is espresso over vanilla ice cream.

Tables will be set up under the stars and a holiday music track will play while you dine with your neighbors. You can also pick up a meal to take home.

We look forward to seeing everyone!

OnSpot Dermatology

The OnSpot Dermatology Mobile Unit "Derma Drive" will be back again on Friday, Dec. 19 and Feb. 13.

The unit will be parked at the East Activity Center front parking lot off of World Parkway Boulevard East from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Here are the facts:

- 1 in 5 Americans will develop skin cancer by the age of 70.
- More than two people die of skin cancer in the US every hour.
- Having five or more sunburns doubles your risk for melanoma.
- Here's the good news! When detected early, the five-year survival rate for melanoma is 99 percent.

To make an appointment visit onspot-dermatology.com/otow or click on the flyer/link posted on the OTOW website www.otowclearwaterinfo.com. You also can call 941-444-0011.

3D Mobile Mammography

3D Mobile Mammography has scheduled upcoming visits for Tues-

day, Jan. 6, 2026, and Friday, May 22, 2026, from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the East Activity Center front parking lot off of World Parkway Boulevard.

A few facts about breast cancer that you may not be aware of:

- 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer.
- A majority of breast cancers are diagnosed in women after age 50.
- 95 percent of breast cancers occur randomly and are not hereditary.
- 20 percent of women diagnosed with breast cancer are over age 75.
- Routine mammography screenings are the best tool for detecting cancer early.

3D Mobile Mammography boasts a very easy and comfortable experience: 10-minute appointments, no doctor's order needed, all insurance accepted, same day results, the latest imaging equipment, top notch and welcoming staff, and a beautiful, state-of-the-art coach.

If you have any additional questions or would like to register for an appointment, you can do so at their website: www.3dmobilemammography.com.

A link to their website will be available at Nancy's Bulletin Board at www.otowclearwaterinfo.com.

One Blood

The Big Red Bus will be back at the East Activity Center front parking lot on Thursday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Residents can register at Nancy's Bulletin Board at otowclearwaterinfo.com, in the Community Service Office or just show up that day.

All donors will receive a \$20 Ecard, sweatshirt, mini wellness checkup, including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening.

The Honor Roll for November is Ka Man Tong, Dawn Andrade, Carol Andreski, Rex Doty, Gordon Gratiias, Patrick Thornton, Kristin Couineau, Alice Baldwin, Sandra Dorion, Jesus Mulero, Kimberly Anastasi, Linda Camire, Steven LeTourneau, Phil Scott, John Henry.

Get Acquainted Saturday

This message is for club representatives. Get Acquainted Coffee in January will take place on a Saturday, not a Thursday.

Get Acquainted Coffee will be held on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026, from 10 a.m. – noon.

There will be no Get Acquainted Coffee on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026.

This event was coordinated for our OTOW clubs and community last year and it was a big hit. Let's start the new year off right and do it again.

At this January event, there will be no vendors - only OTOW club information tables.

To register for a table, please email me at general_activity@scacw.com with the subject line "Get Acquainted Saturday" on your email.

Please include your club name, your name, email address, phone number and how many tables you need (two tables max). Also include the name, email address and phone number of one other club member who can host the table in your absence.

It's so easy to participate!

The event does not start until 10 a.m. and so there is plenty of time in the morning to select and decorate a table, which are claimed first-come, first-served. Each table will include four chairs.

This event will be an opportunity for residents who work to participate, and for those who are not available to meet with clubs on Monday or Thursday ticket sale days.

It also will be a great opportunity for clubs at the start of our busiest season to recruit new members.

There is no fee for a table and Summit Broadband will be sponsoring the

donuts and coffee for all in attendance.

Good Neighbors Association volunteers will be serving the freebies from the Good Karma Outpost.

Susan Trost, president of the Good Neighbors Association, will be coordinating raffle prizes for the event. Clubs may offer a raffle prize from their own information table (optional). Susan will be calling raffles throughout the morning and bring the mic to club tables for reps to announce their prize winners.

Please stop by the Good Neighbors Association information table on a Monday or Thursday morning to let one of their reps know whether your club will be raffling off a prize.

The Entertainment Committee sound and tech engineers will bring us a light music soundtrack throughout the morning.

The deadline to register for tables is Thursday, Dec. 11.

Thank you. I look forward to hearing from all of our club and activity representatives, and enjoying a wonderful Saturday morning with everyone on Jan. 10, 2026.

Certified Fitness Instructors

On Top of the World is seeking residents with experience and certification or a willingness to obtain certification to lead week-day morning exercise classes. Contact Activities Director Nancy Rogers if you are interested.

SCA Events & Activities

How many residents would like to watch PBS programs like Ken Burns Documentaries or "Masterpiece Theater" or "Creatures Great and Small" as a group?

Would anyone be interested in a monthly game day or game night run by resident volunteers?

Please call Nancy Rogers at 727-799-2734 or send an email to general_activity@scacw.com with your feedback. Thank you.

How do I make a reservation on the calendar?

The first step for making a reservation on the calendar is to email or call the Activity Office with the type of event you are planning, and preferred date and location.

Send an email to general_activity@scacw.com or call 799-2734. This starts the process.

Once we confirm all the details, you will fill out the online Facility Request form.

Visit: otowclearwaterinfo.com, click on "Community Activities" and "Forms" and select the SCA Online Facility Request form. Complete and sign the form with your mouse or finger and click submit.

I will acknowledge receipt in an email. This form works better if you use Google as your browser.

Paper forms are still available and can be picked up and dropped off in the Community Service Office where I have a mailbox. Please complete the form outside of that busy office and then drop it off. I will acknowledge receipt in an email or phone call.

2025 Fall Festival & Expo

Thank you to everyone who attended or participated in the 2025 Fall Festival & Expo on Nov. 1.

We had more than 80 vendors inside and outside. Hundreds of people stopped at tables.


Thank you to each club which took the time to decorate tables. I am proud to announce the honor for Best of Show went to the Press Association and Most Original display went to Bingo.

The choice for top two tables was not easy, but if you turn to page 40 in this newspaper, you will see photos from some of the best decorated tables at this year's festival. It's not too early to start planning your table decorations for next year's festival.

Join The Honor Roll

DONATE BLOOD

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On Top of the World
Thursday, December 11
10 am - 3 pm

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\$20 Ecard


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cholesterol screening
pulse, iron count,
temperature.

Donors receive a sweatshirt!

Appointments are encouraged. Please visit oneblood.org/donate-now. Or just show up at the bus.

ID REQUIRED

*One offer per donor per donation. No cash value. Not transferrable. Gifts may vary. For more information please visit oneblood.org/donate

oneblood  share your power

December Calendar

Dec. 19 is
National
Ugly Christmas Sweater
Day



Special Events (open to everyone)

Wednesday, Dec. 3 - Movie Night - National Lampoon's "Christmas Vacation," 4 - 6:30 pm, East Activity Center Auditorium
Saturday, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27 - Farmers Markets, 11 am - 4 pm, East Activity Center Front Parking Lot
Saturday, Dec. 6, 7 pm and Sunday, Dec. 7, 3 pm, OTOW Chorus Holiday Concert, East Activity Center Auditorium
Monday, Dec. 8 - Canadian Club Christmas Dance, 5 - 10 pm, East Activity Center Auditorium
Tuesday, Dec. 9 - New York-New Jersey Club Ugly Christmas Sweater Party, 5 - 10 pm, East Activity Center Auditorium
Wednesday, Dec. 10 - Association Board Meeting/Election Day/Town Hall, 10 am, East Activity Center Auditorium
Thursday, Dec. 11 - Good Neighbors Association Get Acquainted Coffee, 9 - 11 am, EAC Auditorium
Thursday, Dec. 11 - OneBlood, 10 am - 3 pm, East Activity Center Front Parking Lot
Sunday, Dec. 14 - New York-New Jersey Club - Karaoke with Lenny and Kathy, 5 - 9 pm, East Activity Center Auditorium
Wednesday, Dec. 17 - Food Truck Night, 3 - 7:30 pm, East Activity Center Back Parking Lot
Thursday, Dec. 18, Entertainment Committee Show, Voices of Jazz, 7:30 - 9:15 pm, East Activity Center Auditorium
Friday, Dec. 19 - OnSpot Dermatology, 7:30 am - 3:30 pm, East Activity Center Front Parking Lot
Wednesday, Dec. 24, Lambda Club Christmas Party, 4:30 - 7:30 pm, East Activity Center Oldsmar Room
Wednesday, Dec. 31 - Entertainment Committee Dance, New Year's Eve Dance, 9 pm - 1 am, EAC Auditorium
Club Information Tables, Mondays and Thursdays, 8:30 - 10:30 am, East Activity Center Auditorium

(Please note that on December 22 and December 29, the Entertainment Committee will be the only club with an information table in the Auditorium)

Clubs and Groups

 Art Guild - Board Meeting, 3-5 pm, Thursday, Dec. 4, Largo Room
Art Guild - General Meeting: 1-3 pm, Friday, Dec. 12, Largo Room
Art Guild - Club Meeting: 1-4 pm, Wednesday, Dec. 10, Largo Room
Art Guild - Painting Pals: Times and dates to be announced later
Art Guild - Acrylic Painting: 1-4 pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays, Largo Room
Art Guild - Drawing Class: Times and dates to be announced later
 Baby Boomers: 5:30-6:30 pm, Wed., Dec. 3 and Thur., Dec. 18, Largo Room
Baby Boomers Acoustic Jam: 10 am-1 pm, Thursdays, Learning Lab
 Bible Study: 2-3 pm, Fridays, Crystal Beach Room
 Bingo: No Bingo in December
 Canadian Club Happy Hour: 4:30 - 7:30 pm, Friday, Dec. 5, Belleair Room
Caring and Sharing: 9 am-12 pm, Tuesdays, Clearwater Room
 Chorus: Holiday concerts Saturday, Dec. 6 and Sunday, Dec. 7
 Coloring Book Club: 11-2 pm, Wednesdays, Crystal Beach Room
 Computer Club: 8:30-10 am, Wednesdays and Saturdays, Learning Lab
 Democratic Club Board: 2-4 pm, Thursday, Dec. 18, Crystal Beach Room
Democratic Club Meeting: None in December
Democratic Club Happy Hour: 6-8 pm, Tuesday, Dec. 23, Learning Lab
Democratic Club Holiday Party: 5-9 pm, Thursday, Dec. 11, Clearwater Room
 Entertainment Com. Board: 10:30-11:30 am, Monday, Dec. 8, Crystal Beach
 Fixers, Fiddlers, Fumblers: No upcoming events
 Freebirdz Weight Loss Group: 10:30 am-12 pm, Fridays, Crystal Beach
 French Language & Culture: 11 am-12 pm, Wednesdays, Dunedin Room
 Good Karma Book Club: 10-11:30 am, Thursday, Dec. 18, Crystal Beach Rm
 Good Neighbors: 9-11 am, Thursday, Dec. 11, Get Acquainted Coffee
 High Vibe Tribe: 7-9 pm, Tuesday, Dec. 9, Kitchen
 Irish Club - First parade planning meeting Jan. 15, 2026, 4 pm, Largo Room
 Italian-American Club: Gasparilla, Jan. 21, 2026

 Jesters Board Meeting: 11 am-12 pm, Tuesday, Dec. 9, Dunedin Room
Jesters Meeting: 6:30-8:30 pm, Wednesday, Dec. 10, Belleair Room
 Kibitz Corner: 9-10 am, Mondays and Wednesdays, Kitchen
 Knitting Group: 9-11 am, Wednesdays, Crystal Beach Room
 Lambda Social: 6-10 pm, Friday, Dec. 12, Auditorium
Lambda Chat: 10:30-12, Fridays, Safety Harbor Room
 Lawn Bowl Club: 12 pm, Thursday, Dec. 4, Holiday Lunch, Pavilion
 Music Group: 3-6 pm, Tuesdays, Dunedin Room
 New York-New Jersey: Ugly Sweater Party, Tuesday, Dec. 9, Auditorium
 Philosophy Club: 10-11:30 am, Tuesdays, Crystal Beach Rom
 Plant-Based Living Club: 1:30-3 pm, Wednesday, Dec. 3, Learning Lab
Plant-Based Holiday Party: 1-4 pm, Wednesday, Dec. 10, Pavilion
 Pickleball Club Party Meeting: 1-3 pm, Wednesday, Dec. 3, Dunedin
Pickleball Club Holiday Party: 6:30-9:30 pm, Monday, Dec. 15, Belleair Rm
 Pray For America: 10 am-12 pm, Saturdays, Crystal Beach Room
 Press Association: 1:30-2:30 pm, Thursday, Dec. 4, Crystal Beach Room
 Republican Club Meeting: 6:15-9 pm, Tuesday, Dec. 2, Belleair Room
Republican Club Party: 12-3 pm, Saturday, Dec. 6, Pavilion
Speak English: 10-11 a.m., Thursdays, EAC Dunedin Room (all winter)
 Tennis Club: No special events in December
 Texas Card Game Club: 3-10 pm, Friday, Dec. 19, Clearwater Room
 Theater Meeting: 6-8:30 pm, Wednesday, Dec. 3, Belleair Room
Theater Workshop Club Party: 4:30-9:30 pm, Friday, Dec. 12, Belleair Rm
 Travel Club Meeting: 2-4 pm, Friday, Dec. 5, EAC Oldsmar Room
Travel Club Holiday Party: 5-10 pm, Thursday, Dec. 4, Auditorium
 Veterans Club: No upcoming events
 World Quilters: 9 am-2 pm, Tuesdays, Largo Room
 Writer's Ink: 1:30-3:30 pm, Thursdays, Dunedin Room

Exercises and Games

Aqua Aerobics: 9-10 am, Mondays through Fridays, EAC Pool
Bonesavers: 8-9 am, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Largo Room
Co-Ed Exercises: 10-10:45 am, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Exercise Room
Cornhole: 1-3 pm, Mondays, Belleair Room
Gentle Movement Exercises: 11 am-12 pm, Tuesdays and 3-4 pm, Fridays, Auditorium (No 11/14)
Kaboom: Last class was Nov. 28
Ladies Exercises: 8-9 am, Monday-Friday, Exercise Room
Line Dance Club Practice: 9-10 am, Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays - East Activity Center Largo Room
Moving 'n Grooving Line Dance: 9-10:45 am; Tuesdays | 1-2:45; Fridays, EAC Auditorium (No 11/14)
Qigong: 3-4 pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays, Exercise Room
Slimnastics: 9-10 am, Monday through Friday, Exercise Room
Snowbirds Line Dancing: 8 am-12 pm, Wednesdays, Auditorium
Social Dance with Howard: 1-3 pm, Thursdays, West Activity Center Belleair Room
Tai Chi Flow: 3:15-4:15 pm, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Exercise Room
Yoga Align and Stretch: 10-11:30 am, Mondays, WAC Belleair Room and Thursdays, EAC Exercise Room

9 Ladies Golf: 8:30 am, Tuesdays
18 Ladies Golf: 8:30 am, Tuesdays | 12-2 pm, Wednesday, Dec. 17, Holiday Party, Clearwater Room
Billiards 8 ball: 6-10 pm, Mondays and Tuesdays
Billiards: 9 ball: 1-3 pm, Tuesdays and Fridays; 6 - 10 pm, Thursdays;
Billiards Events: Holiday Party, 4-9 pm, Saturday, Dec. 13
Mens Golf: 8 am, Wednesdays
Mixed Golf: 9 am, Fridays
Lawn Bowling: 9:30 am, Monday through Saturday; 5 pm, Mondays and Wednesdays, lawn bowl courts
Lawn Bowling: Holiday Bowl, Thursday, Dec. 4, 9 a.m. | Singles Tournament, Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 15 -16, 9 a.m.
Pickleball: 10am-1pm Mon, Wed, Fri | 8-10am, Tue, Thu, Sat | 3:30 to 5:30pm Tue, Wed, Thu | 9-12 Sun.
Ping Pong: 10-1, Tuesdays-Fridays, Belleair Room | Holiday Party, 5-9 pm, Saturday, Dec. 6.
Shuffleboard: 4 pm, Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays | Meeting, 3-4:30, Monday, Dec. 8, Clrwr Rm

All-In: 2-4 pm, Wednesday, Dec. 3, Crystal Beach Room
Board Games: 1-3 pm, Wednesdays, Palm Harbor or Belleair Room
Blackout: 6:30-9:30 pm, Thursdays all year, Belleair Room (Canadian Club members)
Bid Euchre: 6:30-9:30 pm, Tuesdays, Crystal Beach Room
Casual Bridge: 1-4 pm, Tuesdays | 9 am-12 pm, Thursdays, Ozona Room
Cribbage: 10 am-12 pm, Wednesdays, Ozona Room
Dominos: 5:30-8 pm, Tuesdays, Ozona Room
Double Deck Pinochle: 1-3:30 pm, Wednesdays and Sundays, Ozona Room
Ladies Bunco: 6-9:30 pm, Wednesday, Dec. 17, Crystal Beach Room
Mahjong: 1-4 pm, Tuesdays, Fridays, Palm Harbor Room
Beginner Mahjong: 3-5 pm, Sundays, Safety Harbor Room
Mexican Train: 1-5 pm, Thursdays, Safety Harbor Room
Qwirkle: 1-4 pm, Mondays, Dunedin Room
Rummikub: 12:30 - 3:30 pm, Mondays, Ozona Room
Samba Hand & Foot Canasta: 5:30 - 9:30 pm, Fridays, Ozona Room

Alonzo Poker: 5-8 pm, Mondays, Safety Harbor Room
Barry's Poker: 6:30 - 9:30 pm, Mondays and Wednesdays, Ozona Room
Bob's Poker: 6-9:30 pm, Tuesdays, Safety Harbor Room
Carol's Poker: 6-9 pm, Wednesdays and Fridays, Safety Harbor Room
Laura's Poker: 5-9 pm, Fridays, Safety Harbor Room
Richie's Poker: 5-8 pm, Mondays and Wednesdays, Ozona Room
Tom's Poker: 5-9 pm, Wednesdays, Safety Harbor Room

Building Events

Casa Verde Social, 5-9 pm, Monday, Dec. 8, Belleair Room
Bavarian Chalet Social, 5-9:30 pm, Saturday, Dec. 13, Clearwater Room
Vienesse Villa Social, 5-8 pm, Sunday, Dec. 14, Belleair Room
Siboney Social, 5-8 pm, Wednesday, Dec. 17, Belleair
Queen Victoria Social, 12:30 - 5 pm, Friday, Dec. 26, Clearwater Room
Mallorca Social, 5-9 pm, Tuesday, Dec. 16, Belleair
Valencia Social, 6-10 pm, Friday, Dec. 19, Belleair

Swimming Pools (October-April): 8-6:30 Mondays-Saturdays, 9-6:30 Sundays
Swimming Pools (May-September): 8-8 Mondays-Saturdays, 9-8 Sundays
Library: 10-12 Mondays & Thursdays, 1-3 Wednesdays

Woodshop: 8 am-4 pm Monday-Friday, EAC Woodshop
Lapidary: 1-3 pm, Monday-Friday, EAC Lapidary Room



2025 Howl-A-Ween Pet Costume Contest



The Dog Stop Howl-A-Ween Pet Costume Contest had a lot of fans in the state of Maryland. When it came time to vote for On Top of the World's best Halloween pet costume, people from Maryland came out to vote!

Overall, 76 people went online to vote and Roxie (Officer Pooper) took first place with 67 votes. Everyone was allowed to vote for their two favorite costumed-pets. There were seven entries.

Roxie won a \$50 gift certificate from The Dog Stop, which sponsored this contest for the first time.

Roxie is owned by Joan Walton of the Victorian building (42).

Second place went to Maddie, who was dressed up as a lioness. Maddie got 48 votes and is owned by Sherry Sullivan of French Renaissance I (45).

Third place went to Princess Penelope Rose with 34 votes. She was dressed as a frog and is owned by Jennifer Harris of the Waterford building (95).

Online voters came from 15 different states, including Florida and Maryland. Voters also were from Illinois, Texas, Washington DC, Washington state, Virginia, Ohio, Nebraska, Nevada, Wisconsin, New York, Alabama, Georgia and Massachusetts.

Thank you, everyone, for participating and voting.

Joan Walton receives a \$50 gift card from Michael May at The Dog Stop in Clearwater. Joan brought along Roxie, Officer Pooper, who won the 2025 Howl-A-Ween Pet Costume Contest in October.

(OTOW News photo by Doug Kates)



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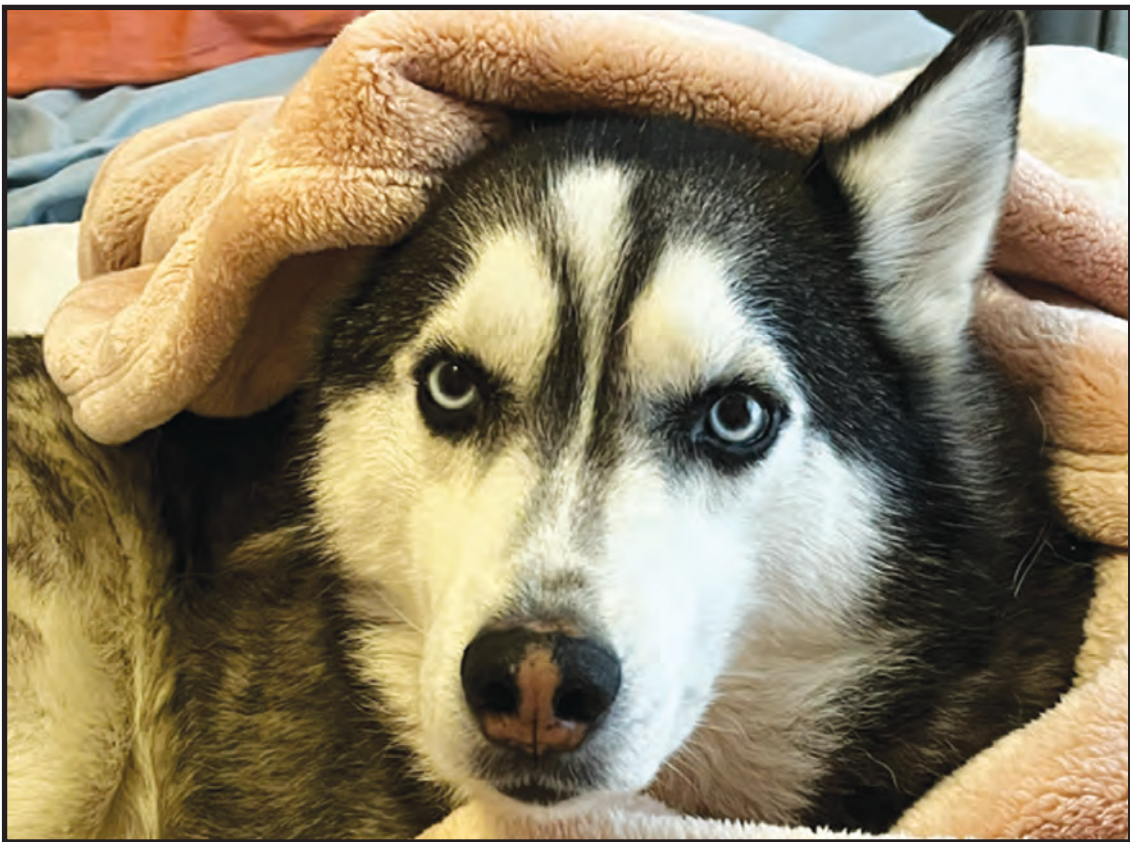


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Pet of the Month



My name is Romeo Chavis. I am an 11-year-old Siberian Husky who loves the warm Florida weather. I would love to be the "Pet of the Month" because I am not a "spring chicken dog" anymore. Just this year I had thyroid surgery and bladder surgery, and I have hip and joint pain, so I don't get around well anymore. No more long walks or jumping around for me. I don't really bark, but I do like to "husky talk" to people. I was rescued five years ago on Christmas by my new owners, Cliff and Laurel Chavis. We all live in the Austrian Alpine building. They took one look at my blue eyes and couldn't resist my good looks. By the way, I look good in anything red. I enjoy eating - especially stuff I am not supposed to eat, like pizza, and I love sleeping on my therapeutic bed that my people parents bought me last Christmas. My favorite activity is looking out the front door and watching cars and people go by.

Each month, OTOW News will feature a Pet of the Month. Any pets living at On Top of the World are eligible. To enter your pet, email one perfect photo and a brief reason why your pet deserves to be Pet of the Month. Email to otow.newsroom@gmail.com. You must include your pet's name, owners' names, breed of dog, age of dog and building you live in. You can enter more than one pet per household but they all must be in the same picture. The winning pet each month will receive a portrait for Irene Piper. The newsroom will notify you when your portrait is finished. Each monthly winner then becomes eligible for the State Farm Pet of the Year, which takes place with an online vote each January. Your pet must still be a resident of OTOW on Jan. 1 to be eligible for the State Farm Pet of the Year honors. The State Farm Pet of the Year will be announced in February and gets invited to march in the annual Irish Club Parade.

Each month, OTOW artist Irene Piper will be providing each Pet of the Month winner with a pet portrait based on their submitted photograph.

The owner will be contacted when each portrait is finished.

If you would like to contact Irene and request your own pet portrait, she is receiving emails at loislane96@hotmail.com.

Irene does not take the initial photograph. You must submit a photo and she will create the painted portrait based on the picture.

Irene also can be reached at 617-921-3272.



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On Top of the World Condominium Association Board of Administration Election December 10, 2025

ELECTRONIC (ONLINE) VOTING

Don't wait for the United States Postal Service (USPS) to deliver your ballot to you or to deliver it back to the Association. You have an option to vote electronically (online) if you desire. For more information, please visit www.otowclearwaterinfo.com/electronic-voting/.

Your Association highly recommends voting online to prevent delays.

If you are already registered to vote electronically with CONDUU, there is nothing more for you to do except vote. Electronic voting was already open as of delivery of this newspaper on December 1, 2025.

Please remember, Florida Statute requires the Association to mail the voting documents to you so you also will be receiving the same information via USPS.

Electronic voting will close December 8, 2025, at 10:00 AM (48 hours prior to the start of the Membership Meeting) so don't delay, cast your vote.

If you wish to vote by paper ballot, a ballot will be included in the Second Notice of Election, which must be mailed to owners 14 days prior to Election Day per Florida Statute. Your Association is striving to mail it earlier. Instructions for completing the ballot will be included in the Second Notice of Election voting packet. Please make sure to follow the instructions exactly to ensure your vote is valid and can be counted. Make your vote count!

Once completed, you may return the paper ballot to the Community Service Office, mail it in the self-addressed, postage paid envelope (included in the Second Notice of Election mailing -- remember to allow sufficient time for delivery), deposit it in the secured ballot box located in the lobbies of the East and West Activity Centers, or bring it with you to the meeting. Please make sure it is turned in prior to the Chairperson's announcement that voting is closed (shortly after 10:00 AM on Election Day, Dec. 10). Any ballot, regardless of the method submitted, must be received prior to the Chairperson's announcement or it will be marked as DISREGARDED per Florida Statute and your vote will not be counted. Don't let your vote go uncounted.

Make sure your mailing address is correct. The easiest way to do this is through AppFolio. More information on this new option available to OTOW condominium owners is shown below.

Instructions for Completing and Returning An Election Ballot

1. Each unit is allowed to vote ONE (1) time regardless of how many individuals own the unit.
2. Mark the Election Ballot for the candidates of your choice (up to nine (9) individuals). DO NOT VOTE FOR MORE THAN NINE (9) or your ballot will be "disregarded" (not counted).
3. Place the completed Election Ballot in the inner, smaller envelope (marked Ballot Secrecy Envelope) and seal the envelope securely. If the voter owns more than one unit, a separate inner envelope must be used for each Election Ballot submitted. THE BALLOT MUST BE PLACED IN THE BALLOT SECRECY ENVELOPE TO BE COUNTED.
4. Place the inner Ballot Secrecy Envelope containing the marked Election Ballot in the outer, larger envelope. addressed to the Association and seal the outer envelope securely. THE BALLOT SECRECY ENVELOPE MUST BE PLACED IN THE PRE-ADDRESSED RETURN ENVELOPE TO BE COUNTED.
5. The eligible voter must legibly print their name or affix a pre-printed label with the voter's name on it in the upper left corner of the outer envelope.
6. The eligible voter must print their building number and unit number in the spaces provided on the exterior of the outer envelope. This information is located on the large envelope that was mailed to you.
7. The eligible voter must sign in the designated field located in the upper left corner of the outer envelope using cursive or print. The signature cannot be typed or stamped. THE VOTE CANNOT BE COUNTED UNLESS THE VOTER SIGNS THE EXTERIOR OF THE OUTER ENVELOPE.
8. Return the sealed outer envelope to the Association (containing the inner envelope marked Ballot Secrecy Envelope and your Election Ballot) prior to the time for tabulating the ballots by

(A) Mailing it to:
On Top of the World Condominium Association, Inc.
2069 World Parkway Boulevard East
Clearwater, Florida 33763

(B) Depositing it in the ballot box located at either of the following two locations:

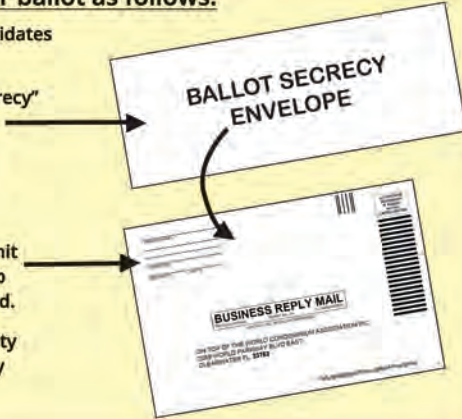
East Activity Center
2069 World Parkway Boulevard East
Clearwater, Florida 33763

West Activity Center
2291 World Parkway Boulevard West
Clearwater, Florida 33763

(C). Bringing it to the Election Day Meeting on December 10, 2025:
Steps 1 through 8 above MUST be followed for your ballot to be counted.

Complete and return your ballot as follows:

1. Place an "X" next to up to 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.



Candidates		
Katie Bajis	Stephen Faiella	Diane Like
Russell Bolin	Robin Goralczyk	Lester Meneilly
Kathleen (Kat) Cassel	Janet Hooper	Mendy Payne
Johnna M. DeNicholas	David E. Kelly	Dale Prunoske
	Lorraine (Lori) Kleifgen	

On Top of the World Condominium Association APPFOLIO – What is it?

This is a voluntary program for all Association approved condominium owners. Once you have access, you can do the following securely from your Owner Portal:

1. Modify the information on file with the Association, such as your mailing address, email address, and phone number. This is very convenient for "Snowbirds."
2. View your financial ledger with the Association including details of your charges.
3. View and download documents that have been shared by the Association including your Declaration of Condominium, the bylaws, the rules and amendments, minutes of Board Meetings, and many other important documents.
4. Submit maintenance requests for qualified areas (common areas and outside your condo).
5. View a calendar with important dates and events in the Community.

How can you request access?

- On a Personal Computer, laptop, or tablet:
1. Visit parkwaypinellas.appfolio.com/oportal/users/sign_up
 2. Enter the email on file with the Association.
 3. If the email address matches the Association records, you will receive an activation email.
 - If you do not receive an activation email, see the instructions below.
 4. Click the ACTIVATE NOW button to continue the activation process.

If you are using an Android cell phone

1. Visit the Play Store and download the AppFolio app then follow the instructions.

If you are using an iPhone cell phone

1. Visit the Apple Store and download the AppFolio app then follow the instructions

The email address you use to sign-up for AppFolio must be the same address on file with the Association and it must be unique to you. If you request access and do not receive an email invitation, check your spam or junk folder. If it is not in that folder, the email address you are using is different than what the Association has on file. You can try another email address that you still have access to or you can visit the Community Service Office or send an email to cso@parkwayclw.com. Either method will require you to complete an Owner's Information Change Form since we are required to have a signed/dated document before we can change your personal information. We will NOT provide your email address over the phone. This is for your protection.

There are agencies who help people who are victims of scams

Scam Alert

Question: Are scammers after you?
Answer: Of course, they are!

Emails, text messages, phone calls, letters. We are bombarded. It's impossible to avoid them.

Our best, and only, chance to protect ourselves is constant vigilance.

But what if we are caught or trapped by a scam?

Maybe it's the grandparent scam, the romance scam, the I.R.S. imposter scam, the telemarketing scam, the "you committed a crime and are going to jail" scam.

Maybe a trusted advisor, a friend, even a relative, fraudulently got you to invest in some worthless scheme where they made money while you were defrauded.

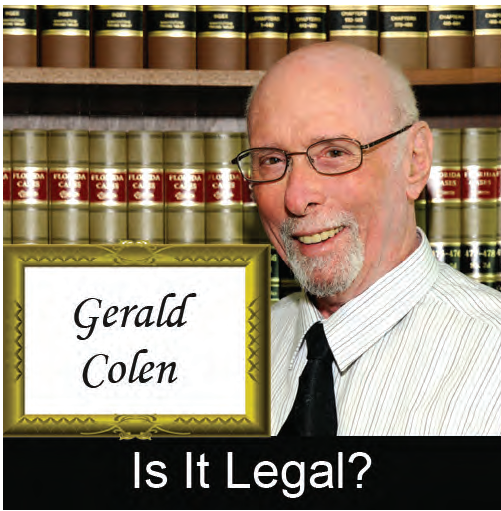
It's never-ending.

Remember this: You did nothing for which you should be ashamed. You were the victim. I urge you not to hide what happened. Instead, you should report it to your local sheriff's office whether in Marion County, Pinellas County, Hillsborough County or Pasco County. They are eager to help and are kind and courteous.

And, of course, for the tech savvy among us (I'm not one), you should also report fraud to the Federal Trade Commission (ftc.gov) or the F.B.I. (fbi.gov). You will find that no one will blame you or shame you.

Scam Alert

The Office of the Statewide Prosecutor under the Florida Attorney General's Office has announced the arrest of six



persons who are part of a nationwide criminal enterprise that targets folks who park in parking garages, malls and other parking lot areas. They look for whatever you leave uncovered inside your car.

If you left a car door open, you made it easy. If you lock your doors and they see something they want, they smash a window and steal whatever they can grab. They get important personal items in purses left in cars. Stolen items include cash, credit cards, checkbooks, driver's licenses, social security numbers, Medicare numbers and other personal information.

Statewide Prosecutor Stephanie Bergen asks us to help law enforcement by helping yourself. Leave nothing in your car. If you must leave something, lock it in the trunk.

If you frequently, or even sometimes, leave valuables in your car, break yourself of the habit and do it NOW. Protect yourself and help law enforcement in

the process.

Q. Where do you get questions for your newspaper column? I know you get questions from letters and emails. Do you get any from Facebook or other social media?

A. I get some questions from emails, but nowadays, none from letters, although if I did get them, I would consider them.

I get the bulk of my questions from my clients or from people I know or whom I meet, and they ask me something I want to print.

I am a member of the Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. They frequently post questions on issues related to matters they handle.

Since questions presented to me are almost always in the Q and A format, I just follow through when I respond.

I NEVER post anything that might be on Facebook or X (formerly Twitter.) or any social media. I cannot imagine a worse place to find anything worthwhile among the garbage that is spewed from them.

Two things. Whether I use a question or I don't, I destroy all reference to where I got it. No exception. And I should add that those sometimes cutesy questions at the end of a column are all true.

Q. Is it true that if I sign a durable power of attorney, the person I name can control my assets and steal from

me if I become incapacitated?

A. Yes. It would be a criminal act and they could be arrested for exploitation or theft. However, my partners Rachel Wagoner and John Beck, and I believe that because a durable power of attorney is an extremely important estate planning document, folks should only select someone they absolutely trust. So, always discuss this with your attorney — always.

Jerry Colen, Rachel Wagoner and John Beck are law partners in Colen & Wagoner, P.A. Jerry and Rachel are members of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, and the Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys. John has a master's degrees in taxation, accounting and a degree in finance. The law firm practices in the areas of wills, trusts, probate, real estate, elder law, asset protection for business and professionals. This column does not, nor is it intended to, provide legal advice to anyone. You should not rely on what is written in this column to be legal advice for any situation, even if it appears similar to an issue you face. You should always consult with your own attorney for legal advice. The law offices of Colen and Wagoner, P.A. is located at 1756 North Belcher Road, Clearwater, FL., 33765 and in Suite 11 at Circle Square Commons across from the ice cream shop. Phone numbers in Ocala and in Clearwater are (727) 545-8114. Our website is www.colenwagoner.com. For more information, send an email to Info@colenwagoner.com.

We are all trying to get across Belcher Road, but please stop trying shortcuts to get across quicker

By Tara Still

I have seen some crazy things at the On Top of the World entrances and exits at Belcher Road.

I have seen people use the right turning lane to drive straight across Belcher Road.

Please don't. Obey the signage in the road.

I have been on my electric bike and

watched people attempt to pass me in their vehicles at the greeter's gate.

Please don't try to pass anyone when entering On Top of the World from any gate. Electric bikes have the same rights as vehicles.

One time I saw a vehicle swing into the opposite lane in an attempt to pass someone entering the community. The result was nearly hitting the guard

shack while driving into the grass.

Please calm down. This is dangerous driving.

Please remember state laws: No driving across double solid yellow lines and do not use a turning lane to go straight.

Be careful out there.



Guidelines for Riding the Shuttle Bus

1. You MUST have a valid Activity Card and present it to the driver upon entering the bus. The SCA bus service is exclusively for use by Association-approved residents and tenants only. If you do not have a valid Activity Card, you may not ride the shuttle bus.
2. Reservations are REQUIRED - please call 727-799-3417 Option 7 no later than 10 a.m. the day prior to your planned trip. Monday's trip deadline is 10 a.m. Friday. Please be present in the core of your building at your scheduled pick up time.
3. Shopping time is one hour for grocery stores and one hour for Walmart. Shopping time begins when you are dropped off at your destination.
4. Although appreciated, the driver is prohibited from accepting gifts and tips.
5. The driver may not assist you with entering or exiting the bus, or with your packages. Please do not ask the driver to do so.
6. The start time listed is when the shuttle bus departs the Community Service Office. The pick-up schedule will rotate weekly between low and high buildings, meaning one week pick-up will start with lower-numbered buildings and the following week it will start with the higher-numbered buildings.
7. Seats are not assigned. They are first-come, first-served.
8. Seatbelts must be fastened during bus movement and must remain fastened until the bus comes to a complete stop.
9. Eating, drinking, smoking, vaping, fighting, distracting the driver, or any other unacceptable actions at the discretion of the driver are strictly prohibited on the bus. Violation of the above guidelines may result in your bus privileges being revoked.
10. All route changes are at the discretion of management.

Bus Schedule December

SCA - OTOW Shuttle Bus
NC - Neighborly Car Bus

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	SHOP	BUS
Mondays	10:00 AM	Publix	1 hour	NC
Tuesdays	No Rides			
Wednesdays	10:00 AM	Walmart	1 hour	NC
Thursdays	10:00 AM	Walmart	1 hour	SCA Shuttle
Fridays	10:00 AM	Aldi	1 hour	NC

For next day reservations, please call before 10 a.m.
Call (727) 799-3417, Option 7



Voices of Jazz will entertain us for a holiday concert

By Mary Ann O’Neil
Here we are ready to close out 2025. The Entertainment Committee has had a remarkably busy year with terrific shows and dances thanks to everyone who purchased tickets.
If you missed any of our shows or dances this past year, you do not want to miss the events for 2026. You will not be disappointed with the lineup we have for your enjoyment.
Pamphlets for our 2026 shows and dances are available at the Entertainment Committee information table 8:30-10:30 a.m., Mondays and Thursdays in the East Activity Center Auditorium.
Our Nov. 20 show featuring Divas of the ‘70s and ‘80s was a wonderful evening where we listened to songs that Whitney Houston, Donna Summer, Madonna, Diana Ross, Gloria Estefan and more brought to us during the 1970s and 1980s.
Three young ladies, along with their band, had so much energy that it was hard sitting in our seats without singing along or even getting up to dance.
Flashback Band entertained us on

Nov. 22. We love listening and dancing to the music that this group performs. As many of you know, this band performs locally and many of our residents follow them.
At our Sunday Meet and Greet on Nov. 23, we had a short meeting where On Top of the World Entertainment Committee announced the board for 2026: President Mary Ann O’Neil, Vice President Karen Safee, Secretary Robyn Harker, Assistant Secretary Lu Greenhalgh, Treasurer Tim Beaver, Assistant Treasurer Sherry Ivey, and Directors –Susan Carlson, Mike Wood, and Charlie Wood.
Our residents enjoyed horse racing after the meeting. This free event was enjoyed by our residents as they were able to bet on their favorite jockey and horse. Like we said, this event is free!
Our holiday show is on Dec. 18 and will feature Voices of Jazz. This group consists of retired teachers who perform their favorite tunes, including holiday music. The money they are paid goes towards scholarships for students throughout the area. Why not come out

and enjoy a relaxing evening before the hustle and bustle of the holidays?
Our New Year’s Eve Dance will feature the Over the Edge Band. This seasoned cover-band is renowned for its polished sound and professional stage presence, bringing a high-energy, authentic rock experience to every performance.
Just before midnight each table will toast in the new year. If you have not purchased your ticket, please stop by the Entertainment Committee table to see what tickets are still available. Our New Year’s Eve dance is always a sell-out so do not wait as there will be no tickets sold at the door. Tickets are \$30.
Please dress appropriately and bring your snacks, glasses and plates. We provide ice, coffee and pastries.
Tickets to all of our events are available Mondays and Thursdays at the East Activity Center Auditorium from 8:30-10:30 a.m.
All show tickets are \$20 and all dance tickets are \$10, except Halloween is \$15 and New Year’s Eve is \$30.
For more information please call

(727) 449-9243 or (215) 431-4799.
We hope to see each of you at our shows and dances for 2026.
We started selling 2026 show and dance tickets at the beginning of November and we are happy to say ticket sales are going great. If you want good seats, do not wait until the last minute to purchase tickets as our shows have been sellouts.
Remember the Entertainment Committee tries to bring in the best entertainment we can for the small price you all pay. Come out and support your community.
Our yearly schedule is on the Box Office (otowboxoffice.com) and each event is posted on OTOW-TV channel 901.
On behalf of the On Top of the World Entertainment Committee Board we want to thank our volunteers for the wonderful job they do. The volunteers are those who sell tickets, greet you at the doors for shows and dances, help decorate, clean up after shows and dances, post our monthly flyers in each building and do anything else they are asked to do. Our hats off to each one of you!
Happy Holidays to All!

Entertainment Committee Calendar

DECEMBER

18 - Voices of Jazz (show), 7:30 pm, \$20

31 - New Year’s Eve Ball (dance), 9:00 pm, \$30 (no tickets sold at door)

JANUARY

15 - Beautiful Loser - A Tribute to Bob Seger (show), 7:30 pm, \$20

17 - Sequel (dance), 7:30 pm, \$10

FEBRUARY

12 - Sixtiesmania (show), 7:30 pm, \$20

21 - Over the Edge band (dance), 7:30 pm, \$10

22 - Friendly Feud (similar to the TV game show Family Feud. Everyone can play. Prizes available.)



Pictured above are the five winning costumes from the Entertainment Committee halloween costume contest. Below is the band, Voices of Jazz, which will be here on Dec. 18. Tickets are still on sale 8:30-10:30 a.m., Mondays and Thursdays in the East Activity Center Auditorium. Look for the Entertainment Committee information table. (OTOW News photos by Mary Lou Wall)



It's time!

Grab that ugly Christmas sweater

By Pat Hayes

The New York-New Jersey Club has the best parties!

We are open to all On Top of the World residents and membership remains only \$5 for all of 2026.

Our information table is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 8-10:15 a.m. Come meet the friendliest group of people from New York and New Jersey that you will ever meet.

Ray Willis, Anna Amature, Laura O'Connor and Vicky Cicia will welcome you as they have all our members for the last 10 years.

The New York-New Jersey Club will finish this year with two great events.

First is our fourth annual Ugly Christmas Sweater Party on Dec. 9. The fun begins at 5 p.m. in the East Activity Center Auditorium. Cost is \$28.

This year we were very lucky to re-book DJ Frank Lebano from Brooklyn. Once again, Frank will judge our sweater contests and award one prize for the ugliest sweater and one prize for the prettiest sweater.

Felice's Italian Catering will be serving ham, mashed sweet potatoes, vegetable medley, salad and bread. We will be serving dessert, coffee, hot chocolate, water and ice.

On Sunday, Dec. 14, at 5 p.m., we are proud to sponsor Christmas karaoke with Kathy Ahrens and Lenny Segall. This free event is open to all residents of On Top of the World. No tickets or membership required.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will make a guest appearance. A Christmas dress-up contest will take place with nice



prizes (maybe bring your Christmas Sweaters from our Dec. 9 party).

Christmas trivia, giveaways, hot apple cider and light snacks will be available. Feel free to bring a dessert or appetizer. Bring your little ones who are visiting.

Scott McParland will be returning to entertain us on Valentine's Day, Saturday, Feb. 14, 2026, 5 p.m. in the Auditorium. Felice's Italian Catering will be serving meatloaf, mashed potatoes, vegetables, salad and bread. We will be serving dessert, coffee, tea and hot chocolate, water and ice. Cost is just \$25.

On Sunday, March 1, 2026, we will be co-sponsoring Salute to Veterans. More details to follow. This will be a free event for veteran residents.

On Saturday, March 7, 2026, club



Not sure if matching reindeer sweaters is an entry in the ugliest Christmas sweater contest or prettiest Christmas sweater contest? The reindeer hats are pretty! (OTOW News file photo by Mary Lou Wall)

members will proudly march in the Saint Patrick's Day Parade sponsored by the OTOW Irish Club. So please sign up to join us!

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On Top of the World News

Only Good News since 1968

Publisher: Kenneth Colen

Editor: Doug Kates

Press Association President Tom Butcher Vice President Donna Gagnon Secretary Joanne Cordes

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Deadline to advertise is the 15th of each month | **Next delivery is Dec. 30, 2025**
OTOW News can be read online at otowboxoffice.com. The advertising Rate Sheet is online under the front page

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 for this publication. If you, a resident, have had a justifiably bad experience with an advertiser in this newspaper, and if we have had previous justified complaints, we will not accept future ads from this client.

On Top of the World News endeavors to keep standards of this newspaper very high. We do not, however, endorse advertisers or knowingly accept objectionable or fraudulent advertising. 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 one professional to coordinate the operation of this newspaper. On Top of the World News does not accept an advertiser solely because it is willing to pay for an ad. Trades and services regulated by the state or county must be licensed in order to advertise. Someone in business for themselves, who plans on entering a resident's condo, must fill out an online background check form. It is a requirement even if an individual has already done a background check for another business. All advertisements must contain either a local address or local phone number. Ads cannot resemble newspaper articles. Ads must be in display ad formats. QR codes are allowed, but a website address must be an alternative option. Deadline to advertise is the 15th of each month. Payment and final ad are due on this date. Space is never saved without a payment. Your ad will not run if payment is not received.

If you submit an article or photograph to On Top of the World News, you are giving this newspaper permission to publish it - not only in the next edition, but any future edition, in print or online. If you submit a photo, please make sure people in that photo are aware you have turned it in for print and online publication. On Top of the World is not responsible for publishing people's images who wish to remain private. The individual submitting the image is responsible.

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On Top of the World News is located at 2069 World Parkway Boulevard East, Clearwater, Fla., 33763. The office phone is 727-799-3216. The newspaper and advertising rate sheet are available by visiting the Box Office website and clicking the link for downloading the current newspaper. Look for the rate sheet icon. Past editions of OTOW News are also available on the same website. Each edition is uploaded about the first of each month.

Proofreaders This Edition

Joanne Cordes
Pat Hayes
Patti Branch
Tara Still
Donna Gagnon
Lynn Taecker

Around The World

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East Activity Center Ground Floor

East Activity Center First Floor

East Activity Center Second Floor

West Activity Center

Pavilion Park

East and West Activity Centers Room Maps

EAC Pavilion Park Grill Map

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

Association Board Members as of Dec. 10: Chairperson Diane Like, Vice Chair Dave Kelly, Secretary Russell Bolin, Treasurer Les Meneilly, Janet Hooper, Dale Prunoske, Kathleen Cassel.

Send emails directly to the board: ClearwaterInfo@otowfl.net

Pirates will be invading On Top of the World again - the only way to make them happy is to feed them!

By Renee Ingrassia
Due to an overwhelming response, the Italian-American Club pirate invasion will be back on Jan. 21, 2026.
Hungry pirates will be fed by Felice's Italian Catering, featuring chicken fingers with dipping sauce, mini rice balls with sauce, macaroni and cheese, pulled pork sliders, tossed salad, bread and butter, water, coffee and dessert.
As with all our events, bring your own bottle of whatever you would like to drink. We will supply the ice.
A costume contest will take place, so if you want, put on your pirate gear.
Everyone enjoys having a little extra cash after the holidays, so in addition to a "share the wealth" drawing, everyone who attends will receive a free ticket for a chance to win a cash prize.
We want to thank those who renewed their membership along with the new members who have joined our club. To renew, join or purchase a ticket to one of our events, just stop by our information table on Monday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 until 10:30 a.m. at the East Activity Center. Please bring your updated activity card.
No tickets will be sold at the door on the day of our events.
On Feb. 27 we are going to Tampa



Bay Downs for a day at the races. Cost is \$45 which includes a program and a buffet lunch.
On March 25, 2026, we have our St Joseph's Dinner Dance and April 14 is our annual Ice Cream Social.
As this article went to press, our holiday PJ, Pizza and Game event took place on Nov 19. We thank all who attended. Please give us your feedback as this was a new type of event. We welcome all of your comments and suggestions.
We want to thank the many volunteers who have helped this year. We wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. Hope to see you in 2026.

When Pirates invade On Top of the World, they are grumpy! To make them happy like in this picture, you have to give them chicken fingers!
(OTOW News file photo by Mary Lou Wall)



Christmas at Peace Memorial



Sunday, December 14, 3 p.m.

With flute, harp and cello, these fine players will entertain us with wonderful classical and holiday music.



Sunday, December 21, 10:30 a.m.

The Fourth Sunday in Advent
A Service of Lessons and Carols
Music for choir, congregation, strings and organ



Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24, 6 p.m.

A Festival of Light Candlelight Communion
Music for choir, congregation, strings and organ





OTOW Shuttle Service

There will be no shuttle bus
service on Dec. 24 and Dec. 25.

Have a happy holiday



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LOCATIONS

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Zoom meeting will teach computer security

By Joe Wisinski
The On Top of the World Computer Club is inviting residents to join our Zoom meeting about computer security.
Just scan the QR code in this article with your smartphone, or you can enter the website address provided later in this story into your computer browser.
Safety and security are important topics for anyone with a computer or smartphone. They are also popular topics at the Computer Club meetings.
So the Computer Club invites you on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. to a free community-wide Zoom meeting where we'll discuss how to keep your data and privacy safe while using your computer, smartphone or tablet. You can join any time after 8:15. Everyone is invited.
With the gift-giving season here, we'll also talk about what to look for when buying new technology.
There is no charge or obligation.



Your questions will be welcomed.

How to use Zoom
Zoom is a video conferencing app that allows you to easily join virtual meetings from your computer, smartphone or tablet. Think of it as a meeting room for connecting with people from



anywhere.
If you've never used Zoom, go to zoom.us/signup before the meeting begins and follow the easy directions to install the app on your computer.
If you're using a smartphone or tablet, you can install the Zoom app from Google Play for Android phones or the App Store for iPhones.

How to enter our meeting
1. Enter this link in your computer, smartphone, or tablet browser (e.g., Chrome or Edge): tinyurl.com/7p6hjtcl (All the letters are lowercase).
Alternatively, you can scan the QR code accompanying this story with your smartphone or tablet.
2. If you're asked to enter a password, use "otowcc" (without the quotation marks).
3. Optional: if prompted, click on "join with video." If you do, we'll be able to see you, assuming your computer has a camera.
4. Click on "join with computer audio." You must do this or we won't be able to hear you. Optional: test your speaker and microphone by clicking on the "Test Speaker and Microphone" link.
If you have questions about how to join the Zoom meeting, please email the club at otowcc@gmail.com before 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 5.



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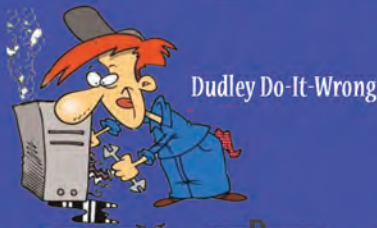
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Holiday sing-along Dec. 5

Canadian Club takes advantage of Fall Festival and Registration Night to sign-up new members



By Connie Stanley

I'm so pleased to announce that during the 2025 On Top of the World Fall Festival & Expo on Nov. 1, the Canadian Club registered 110 members, of which 16 were new!

On Registration Night, we had 72 more members register and 10 of them were new!

Additionally, we had three Share the Wealth winners who each took home \$35.

As of this newspaper going to press, the Canadian Club has 206 members and we're just getting started.

Our club's holiday sing-along takes place on Friday, Dec. 5, in the West Activity Center Belleair Room from 4:30-7 p.m. The event is free and open to the entire OTOW community.

Like all of our happy hours, this is a bring your favorite beverage event and we ask that you bring a snack to share from the kitchen buffet. Some holiday baked goodies would be most welcome!

Our club's Christmas dinner dance will be 5 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 8, with a traditional turkey dinner with all the trimming catered by Banquet Masters. Dancing music will be provided by DJ Les Weiss of Les N' More.



Pictured above are new Canadian Club members who signed up during Registration Night. (Photo by Rowland Hetrick)

Thursday, Dec. 5 is the final day for dinner dance ticket sales. Ticket Sales Coordinator Lydia Côté and Vice President Harold Côté will be selling tickets at our information table in the East Activity Center. Cost for members is \$25 and non-members is \$30.

Tickets are going quickly! For the second Christmas season, the Canadian Club is asking you to bring a new, unwrapped toy to support the Pinellas County Marines' Toys for Tots campaign. They always need gifts for children in the 0-2 and 10-12 age groups. They're usually overloaded in the 3-9 year old category.

On Jan. 14, 2025, our club will host A Day at the Races.

John Henry, coordinator for this event, is selling seats for the horse races at Tampa Bay Downs. The buffet opens at 11 a.m. Cost is \$45 per per-

son. Transportation is not included.

We are participating with the Travel Club and the Italian-American Club as a trio of OTOW clubs.

Our second event in January is a happy hour featuring Scott McParland on Friday, Jan. 16, 2026, from 4:30-7 p.m. As always, it's a BYOB activity and please bring a snack to share from the buffet table. Bring your singing voice, dancing shoes and a few dollars to purchase Share the Wealth tickets for a cash prize.

Our third feature in January is new. We will be holding a Membership Appreciation Night at no cost to any members. You will need to come to our information table on a Monday or Thursday starting Thursday, Dec. 11, until Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026, to specify what type of pizza you want and to get a ticket.

You must bring your membership

card/name badge. This is a BYOB event and Share the Wealth tickets will be sold for a cash prize.

And our club's fourth event in January is Ed Fletcher's Early Bird Dinner Theater lunch buffet and theater show on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026, at 11 a.m. The cost is \$55 per person, which includes lunch buffet, taxes, gratuity and show, "Where You Are" by Kristen Da Silva. The theater is located at 13355 49th Street N, Clearwater, on the Southeast corner of Ulmerton Road and 49th Street in a brown brick building behind the bank. Transportation is not included. The cut-off date for tickets is Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026.

More events are coming in February. Stay tuned.

We are wishing everyone a joyous holiday season, a very Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah.

Christmas karaoke open to all residents

Santa Claus is coming to the East Activity Center Auditorium and he may even sing!

A Christmas karaoke party has been scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 14, and Santa has already promised he will give singing a try.

How about you? Join Lenny Segall and Kathy Ahrens for a night of Christmas karaoke, 5 p.m., in the Auditorium.

The event is free to everyone and will be sponsored by the New York-New Jersey Club.


There will be hot apple cider, holiday snacks, giveaways, trivia and a Christmas attire dress-up



contest with prizes. In the holiday spirit? Bring a dessert to share.



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By Margaret LeTourneau
Can you feel it?
It's that special time of the year.
A time for making your New Year's resolutions.
If improving your health is your top priority, then the Moving 'n Grooving Club has got you covered.
Moving 'n Grooving can help you reach all of your health goals while keeping you motivated and on track!
Whether it's improving your balance, increasing your strength and flexibility, challenging your memory, as well as giving your body a head-to-toe workout - you can achieve it while having the time of your life.
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Our line dancing program is extremely fun and unique. Margaret, the instructor, choreographs 90 percent of the dances in order to meet a safe, yet challenging, level for our senior dancers.
Mark your calendars!
The Moving 'n Grooving Club invites you to join us in the East Activity Center Auditorium on Friday, Dec. 12, from 1:30 -3:30 p.m. for our 2026 membership drive.
We only charge a one-time fee of \$20 and it includes a year-round program offering both activities.
Classes are held in the East Activity Center Auditorium.
Let's keep moving and grooving!





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Honor Flight reaching out to Korean and Vietnam veterans

By Terri Mikszenas
Veterans who served in the Armed Forces before May of 1975 are invited to join in a journey of remembrance and gratitude.
Honor Flight of West Central Florida continues its heartfelt mission to honor those who served our nation — flying veterans free of charge from St. Petersburg–Clearwater International Airport to Washington, D.C., for a one-day visit to reflect at the memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifice.
Honor Flight proudly reports that they have now escorted nearly all of the area's World War II veterans to Washington.
Now, Honor Flight is focusing their efforts on locating and honoring Kore-

OTOW



Veterans Group

an War veterans and those who served in the Vietnam era or before.
Honorably discharged veterans, who have not previously participated in an

Honor Flight, but served prior to May of 1975, are eligible to apply.
Deployment or combat experience is not required, and every veteran who qualifies will receive the full Honor Flight experience at absolutely no cost.
Applications from the wait list will be selected based on the service dates and the date the application is submitted.
Top priority will be given to qualified veterans with terminal illness and World War II veterans.
Each Honor Flight carries 75–80 veterans aboard a private, chartered aircraft, departing four times a year from St. Petersburg–Clearwater Airport. Each veteran is assigned a personal guardian to be by their side all day. A wheelchair is available for every veteran's comfort throughout the day, if desired.
“Now's the time to get your applications in and on file,” says On Top of the World's Honor Flight Coordinator Terri Mikszenas.
If you, or someone you know, qualifies and would like to be part of this unforgettable journey, please call Terri at 727-252-8662. She will provide you with an application and answer any questions you may have.
Please note, the last memorial built in Washington D.C. was the Vietnam War Memorial. Until more memorials are built, Honor Flight applications will not be received from veterans who served beyond 1975.

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World Quilters visit quilt show



World Quilters

By Cheryl Kutchinski

The World Quilters are back from their summer break.

It sounds good to hear a room full of humming sewing machines again.

Members are sewing quilts, holiday placemats, table runners, purses and cosmetic pouches for craft shows and holiday gifts.

In October, our group had a nice visit to the quilt show at the Countryside Recreation Center. It was presented by the Quilter's Crossing of Palm Harbor Guild.

Donna Seabolt and Maria Suzi, from our group, are also members of the Palm Harbor guild. The two-day event featured beautiful quilts made by the



Members of the On Top of the World World Quilters club pose for a picture at a quilt show in Palm Harbor.

guild members.

We had lots of fun buying handmade items from their fabulous gift shop. The event also featured local vendors sell-

ing everything a quilter could want. It was like a big candy store for quilters.

Stop by the East Activity Center Large Room and see what we are sewing

for the holidays. We meet on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Don't say 'I cannot dance' - let Howard Wolff teach you the basics

By Howard Wolff

You've been invited to a wedding and you still don't know how to dance.

You've been invited to a big gala, but don't know the basic steps.

The special person in your life says "let's go dancing" but you answer "I don't know how."

What do you do?

Go see Howard.

Join Howard Wolff and Mariann Hackett for elegant social dance classes every Thursday afternoon in the West Activity Center Belleair Room.

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Social dancing is for men and women. Bring your partner to our class or we will provide you with a partner to help you learn.



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Rev. Tracey Quillen will be guest guide on Dec. 9



Rev. Tracey Quillen

By Laurie LeClaire
The High Vibe Tribe final meeting of the year (year of the snake) will be one to remember.

Rev. Tracey Quillen has agreed to guide us in ceremony. We are fortunate for her willingness to serve our community, especially since she only has a short few weeks before entering a new calling in another state as part of her ministry.

Some know Rev. Tracey has served as the minister of Palm Harbor Unity for the past several years during the pandemic and beyond.

Rev. Tracey has journeyed to sacred sites across the world — standing before the fierce and radiant Sekhmet in ancient Egypt, and daughter of the sun god Re, guardian of both life and death.

She has sojourned in the rainforest mysteries of Peru, listening to the hidden treasures of Pachamama, the



great mother who whispers wisdom through earth and vine.

She has bowed in awe before the great boulders of Stonehenge, feeling the pulse of ancient time, and has danced with the Fayes in Glastonbury, where the veil between worlds grows thin and magic lingers in the mist.

Rev. Tracey is a mystic in goddess teachings, mixing rituals and ceremonies that honor the turning of the sea-

sons.

She walks the ancient path where light and shadow dance together, weaving stories of renewal and transformation.

Now, as the wheel of the year turns toward its darkest night, she invites us into the mystery of the Winter Solstice — the sacred threshold where the sun pauses, the earth breathes deeply, and the promise of returning light is born.

This is the time of stillness, of dreaming, of planting seeds in the fertile soil of imagination.

It is the time to release what no longer serves, to honor the wisdom of the past year, and to call forth the creative energies that will blossom with the returning light.

Together, we will gather in ceremony, adorning the Yule Log with greenery and ribbons, weaving our prayers into its branches.

We will enter meditation,

meeting the Beyond — guides, ancestors, angels, and the Christ-light itself — for guidance and renewal.

And so, with reverence and joy, we celebrate the eternal rhythm: darkness yielding to dawn, endings opening into beginnings, the return of the Light.

Our High Vibe Tribe is a free group that meets once a month in the East Activity Center of On Top of the World in the Clearwater/Kitchen Room on the second Tuesday of the month from 7-8:30 p.m.

All residents are welcome and may bring one guest. So on Dec. 9 consider giving yourself the gift of celebration, gathering around the Yule Log as a living symbol of transformation as we plant seeds of intention as sparks of creative energy waiting to blossom in the springtime of our lives. You may email me at otowoowoo@gmail.com for any questions.

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On Top of the World News Editor Doug Kates conducts the annual Writers Workshop in the East Activity Center Auditorium. Forty members of the Press Association attended and learned how to improve their writing skills. In the photo above, Doug shows that 30 stories were turned into the newspaper between Oct. 13-15. He asked that stories in earlier if possible.
(OTOW News photo by Mary Lou Wall)

OTOW News Survey

During the 2025 Fall Festival in November, 125 people filled out a survey conducted by the Press Association. Below is what everyone had to say.

Do you read OTOW News on a regular basis?

Yes: 95%
No: 2%

Does OTOW News have enough news in it to inform you about what is happening in the community?

Yes: 84%
No: 2%
Sometimes: 9%

Top Three Most Read Features Each Month

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Community Calendar | 80% |
| 2. Entertainment Committee news | 72% |
| 3. Kenneth Colen's column | 63% |
| 4. Association Board stories | 59% |
| 5. Jerry Colen's "Is It Legal Column" | 56% |
| 6. Tom Butcher's "Butcher Block" | 54% |

What type of news do you want to see in OTOW News?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Informational stories | 70% |
| 2. Soft news, friendly, feature stories | 41% |
| 3. Both informational and feature stories | 28% |

How do you find out about entertainment events taking place in our community?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1. OTOW News | 83% |
| 2. Building bulletin boards | 57% |
| 3. Talking to friends/neighbors | 52% |
| 4. RAVE Alerts | 40% |
| 5. OTOW-TV 901 | 20% |
| 6. Box Office | 11% |

What would you like to see added to OTOW News?

1. A real estate section (2 votes)
2. Residents recommending restaurants (2 votes)
3. More coupons (2 votes)
4. Obituaries (2 votes)
5. Jokes or a comic strip (2 votes)
6. A section where residents can sell homemade crafts
7. Information on board candidates prior to elections
8. A section for residents offering ride shares
9. Contact information for organizations that help the elderly
10. Resident recommendations for best service people
11. One list of all community entertainment tickets for sale
12. Updates on Summit Broadband
13. A section devoted to resident trips
14. Cars for sale

Survey shows 95 percent of residents read OTOW News

Every once in a while, an advertiser in On Top of the World News will ask, "How many residents read your newspaper?"

Well, now we know - about 95 percent (or a projection of more than 7,500 residents per month).

During a survey taken at the 2025 Fall Festival and Expo, 125 residents filled out a survey form correctly.

About 95 percent said they read OTOW News on a regular basis. About 2 percent said they never read OTOW News.

About 84 percent said OTOW News provides them with enough information to understand what is taking place in our community.

The top six features in OTOW News were the community calendar, Entertainment Committee news, Kenneth Colen's column, Association board stories, Jerry Colen's "Is It Legal" column and Tom Butcher's food page.

The question was asked, what type of news do you want to read in OTOW News. About 70 percent said "hard news" informational stories, 41 percent said "soft news" feature stories and 28 percent wanted a mixture of hard and soft news.

The question was asked, where do you learn about entertainment activities happening in the community. About 83 percent said from the newspaper. The second best resource is building bulletin boards (57 percent) and the third best resource is talking to friends or neighbors (52 percent).

Also in November, the Press Association held its annual Writers Workshop taught by Editor Doug Kates.

The event got started when Activity Director Nancy Rogers announced the Press Association won "Best of Show" at the fall festival. Our table was mainly organized by President Tom Butcher, Vice President Donna Gagnon and Secretary Joanne Cordes, with help from Doug.

Then the workshop started.

This fun writing class was attended by 40 staffers who came to learn OTOW News writing styles and guidelines, or simply get a refresher course on basic writing.

Doug reminded everyone that all 90 storytellers on staff have to use the same writing style. We cannot have 90 people all freelance writing using what-



Press Association

ever grammar style they feel comfortable using.

The Associated Press has a guide book that staffers can review. OTOW News follows most of the AP style guidelines.

The class went over those guidelines.

Doug also asked storytellers to begin each story with a clever first paragraph. He asked everyone to avoid writing weather reports in their stories. And while deadline day is always the 15th of each month, he asked storytellers to turn in reports earlier if possible. Out of 50 stories submitted for the November newspaper, 30 were turned in between Oct 13-15 which burdens the editorial process.

All 40 staffers took an oath they would never put a quotation mark inside a period again.

Everyone took another oath to always use a.m. and p.m. when telling time.

AND EVERYONE SAID THEY WOULD NOT TYPE ENTIRE SENTENCES WITH UPPERCASE LETTERS BECAUSE IT LOOKS BAD AND IS HARD TO READ.

Tom Butcher made a homemade dinner for everyone and beverages were available to help staffers get through Doug's lecture.

The next Press Association meeting is 1 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 4, in the East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room.

The first meeting of 2026 will be a "Kick Off the New Year" luncheon at the Varsity Club, 1 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026. The Press Association has reserved the meeting room. Staffers are on their own to buy lunch prior to the meeting.



Dee and Larry Harkins were the winners of a gift basket donated by the Press Association and Aspirations Winery at the 2025 Fall Festival and Expo in November. People received a raffle ticket if they completed an OTOW News survey. The results of that survey are posted above.

(OTOW News photo by Doug Kates)



Members of the Art Guild welcomed visitors to their table at the 2025 Fall Festival and Expo. (OTOW News photo by Doug Kates)

Eleven people win gifts from Art Guild at Fall Festival

By Katie Bajis

The On Top of the World Art Guild raffled off artwork and painting supplies during the 2025 Fall Festival and Expo on Nov. 1.

Eleven lucky raffle winners walked away with original artworks and art supplies. A beautiful set of acrylic paints found its way into the hands of a lucky artist. The paintings were original works by OTOW artists.

The Art Guild booth had many visitors stop by and several residents signed up to be new members.

Starting in February 2026, the Art Guild membership meeting will be the first Friday of the month and board meetings will be the previous Wednesday regardless of whether the day falls in the old month or the new month.

Art Guild activities are always held in the East Activity Center Largo Room unless otherwise noted.

The usual teaching and meeting



schedules will remain the same from December through January. See the list at the end of this article.

The Art Guild's annual Christmas party will be held on Dec. 12 after the 1 p.m. membership meeting in the EAC Largo Room.

The Art Guild is also planning a Paint and Sip in January or February with an announcements forthcoming.

Art Guild Meeting Dates and Times in December

Painting Pals, 1-3 p.m. every Wednesday, EAC Largo Room except for Dec. 25. (Open to club members, free)

Painting Workshop, 1-3 p.m. every Thursday, EAC Largo Room (open to club members and all OTOW residents, \$5)

Board Meeting, 3-5 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 4, EAC Largo Room

Membership Meeting, 1-3 p.m., Friday, Dec. 12, EAC Largo Room (Christmas party after the meeting, too!)

Drawing Class, dates and times to be announced later

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Would you trust this crowd during a game of poker?

By Joe DeChiaro

The Texas Card Game Club attracted 20 players in October for the second month in a row.

Many players wore costumes while others brought sweets for everyone to share.

The final three players decided to divide the prize pool evenly. They were Ann Simsic, Bill Whipps and Warren Levene.

The final tournament this year will be on Friday, Dec. 19 which also will be our Christmas party.

New players are invited to come. Please bring a dish for everyone to share and come at 5 p.m. The tournament will start at 6 p.m. in the East Activity Center Kitchen/Clearwater Room.



Pictured above is what you would have seen at the poker table in October. Many members of the Texas Card Club dressed in costume for the Halloween event.

Fall festival was full of creative writers

By Lori Gottshall

Writer's Ink, the creative writing club at On Top of the World, meets on Thursday afternoons at 1:30 p.m.

Once the Snowbirds arrive, there are usually four to eight regular attendees. That's nice, but there could be more.

On Nov. 1, we had a table at the 2025 Fall Festival & Expo. We gave out more than 40 tri-folds and nine people signed our visitors log. It surprised me to learn how many writers live here. Every one of them would be a wonderful addition to our group.

There are at least three people who told me that they already have published books.

Two people said they keep journals for themselves, but don't consider that "creative writing." I told them that, yes, journaling fits within the definition.

Two ladies are working on cookbooks. Each one has a unique concept for her recipes. I'm thinking that once they get to know each other, they might become good friends.

I lost count of the folks working on family histories or biographies



of other interesting people.

There are business cases and corporate procedure writers, as well as textbook editors and religious training staff.

Poetry was also mentioned now and then.

Do you write, but did not stop by our table to find out about us?

Perhaps a visit to any of our meetings will help you decide to give us a try. We meet 1:30 p.m. in the Dunedin Room in the basement of the East Activity Center.

You can e-mail me with questions: montalo@yahoo.com

Have you ever seen a giant scrapbook - you will very soon

By Rodger Hillier

The holiday season has arrived.

Just like the title of the Jesters' upcoming show, "The Times of Our Lives," the holiday season should also be a time of our lives.

This year's show is one you will not want to miss. The cast and crew are going all out to make this show spectacular.

Since the title of the show is called "The Times of Your Lives," a scrapbook will be helpful to look back at all the memories. We have decided, in order to have a large audience be able to see the scrapbook, we needed to make it 8 feet high with giant pictures.

We are also going to have a flying dancer who will dazzle you - something no show has ever done before.

We are going to have volunteers from the audience come up on stage and perform with the cast. It should be a lot of fun!

The show will be performed on Friday, Jan. 30, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026, at 7:30 p.m., and our matinee will be on Sunday, Feb. 1, at 2 p.m.

Tickets for the show are only \$5 and



they do make wonderful gifts for friends and family. One ticket can be used for any performance. So, buy a lot.

You may purchase tickets at our Jesters information table in the East Activity Center Auditorium on Mondays and Thursdays between 8:30-10 a.m.

We have monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of the month in the West Activity Center Belleair Room at 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy the holidays. Any Jester will tell you, "We are jest for fun."

On Monday, Dec. 22 and on Monday, Dec. 29 - the Entertainment Committee will be the only club with an information table in the East Activity Center Auditorium



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Republican Club welcomes author of state-mandated book ‘The Buried Stories of Communism/Socialism’



By Deborah Russell
The Ronald Reagan Republican Club meeting on Nov. 4 was quite informative.
The meeting, called to order at 6:45 p.m., opened with a prayer by President Deborah Russell, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of our National Anthem.
Deborah then introduced a guest speaker, Marianna Davidovich, to talk about her book, “The Buried Stories of Communism/Socialism.”
Marianna is the daughter of Felix and Marina Davidovich, who live here at On Top of the World.
Our club learned that this book is used as a guide in the curriculum for educators in grades K-12 in Florida, which was approved by Governor Ron DeSantis’ team to teach the history of Communism and Socialism each Nov. 7, and is promoted as “Victims of Communism Day.”
The governors of both Florida and Texas now require this curriculum on that date of Nov. 7!
Felix and Marina fled Russia in the 1970s. Marianna was a baby coming to America to escape communism.
Marianna has been appointed by President Trump’s Administration to



Author Marianna Davidovich (blue jacket) and Sheriff Bob Gualtieri (white shirt) were guests of the Republican Club in November.

help dismantle the Department of Education and give authority back to the states.
Our keynote speaker of the evening was Sheriff Bob Gualtieri. He was elected sheriff more than 14 years ago and is the former president of the Florida Sheriffs Association.
Bob spoke to us about the issue of “open carry” of weapons in Florida. He mentioned places open carry isn’t allowed: playgrounds, school yards, airports and government buildings. Private buildings, such as restaurants, grocery stores, etc., may not allow open carry either, depending on their own preference. Improper exhibition of weapons at a protest is also against the law in Florida. A weapon may never be pointed at someone at any time.
Bob noted that Florida has abolished Obama’s law whereby the government was not allowed to help ICE officers. The sheriff also explained that the reason we have long-term facilities for dangerous illegal immigrants is that it can take up to four years for the immigrants to have a court date.
The sheriff then reminded us, for emergency issues please call 911 and for non-emergency issues call 727-582-6177.

I hope this information will be useful to everyone.
Members, please don’t forget to purchase your \$5 Christmas party ticket at the East Activity Center Republican Club information table on Thursday mornings, between 8-10:30 a.m. Your money will be refunded when you arrive at the party Dec. 6, from noon to 3 p.m. at the Pavilion.
There is no December meeting. Meetings will resume in January.
For more information please contact Deborah Russell at debruss11@gmail.com, or call 727-515-8211.

Baby Boomers will cheer loudly when Lewis Michaels is on stage

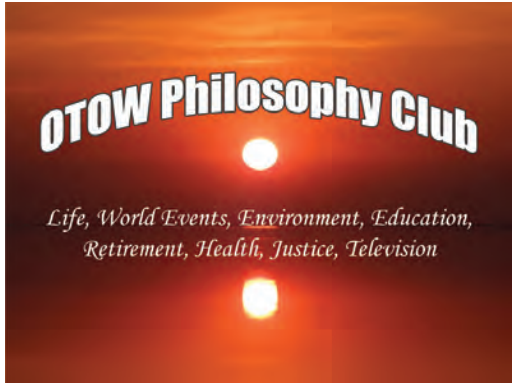


By Dianne Dvorak
One of our Baby Boomers, Lewis Michaels, opened his home years ago to those in our group who wanted to have fun, play music and jam.
As the Baby Boomers group grew over the years, the jam moved to the West Activity Center Learning Lab to accommodate everyone.
If you love music, the Baby Boomers are for you. We jam together!
On Dec. 18, Lewis will be on a bigger stage - our own East Activity Center Auditorium stage.
Lewis is a member of Voices of Jazz, which our Entertainment Committee booked to play here on Dec. 18.
Many from our own Baby Boomers group have bought tickets and plan on coming out to support Lewis and the large jazz ensemble. Tickets can be purchased from the Entertainment



Our own Lewis Michaels is the current keyboard player for Voices of Jazz, which will be here in concert on Dec. 18.
Committee on Mondays and Thursdays from 8:30-10:30 a.m. in the Auditorium.
This will be another fun way to enjoy the holiday season. We are so happy and proud that one of our own has found his niche in Voices of Jazz.
The Boomers are back to Friday biking. We meet at the EAC front parking lot at 10 a.m. and go riding. We bike from there to the Ream Wilson Trail to Safety Harbor, most times stopping for coffee, snacks or breakfast at Cafe Vino Tinto (our favorite local coffee roaster).
From there we either head on to Philippe Park or back on the trail, or some choose to come back on Main Street to Sunset Point Road.
We are flexible. It’s a beautiful ride. It’s open to all who ride, but helmets required. Please join us.
Bowling will begin again. Boomers bowl on Mondays, starting Dec. 8, at 10 a.m., at Maple Lanes off of US 19 in Clearwater. Games are a deal then. It’s open bowling, no commitment. We bowl when we want to and we are open to guests. We get there 10 minutes early so we gather for fun. Then we check in and pay together so we know how many lanes to get in a row.
There is no competition and no long term league - just laughs. We are out by around 12ish and then whoever wants to go to lunch from there, we meet up.
It’s a hoot. Come join us.
Baby Boomers is a meet-up group with online ideas. We meet twice a month. the first Wednesday and third Thursday of the month, at 5:30 p.m. in the EAC Largo Room. There are no dues or officers, just a willingness to want to meet people, hang out and have fun adventures in OTOW and around the Tampa Bay Area.
Meetings are casual and we always welcome newcomers. Many of us have found great besties for over 12 years now.

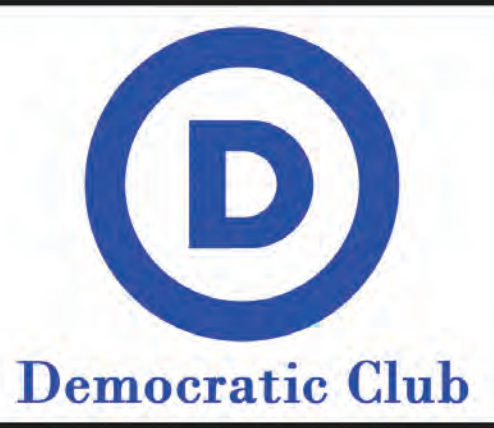
Philosophy Club topics for December



The newly formatted Philosophy Club picks a different weekly topic each session and then members of the group share their opinions.
On Dec. 2 we will discuss “Do schools limit creativity.”
On Dec. 9 we will discuss “How to speak so people will listen.”
On Dec. 16 we will discuss “What makes a good life.”
Philosophy Club is a friendly group of people with diverse backgrounds, levels of education and nationalities. Many of us love to travel and have visited a variety of coun-

tries.
Each meeting begins with a TED presentation on TV. Our facilitator, Bill Norsworthy, leads us in conversation. We do not discuss politics or religion.
Philosophy Club meets from 10-11:30 a.m. every Tuesday in the East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room. We do not meet during weeks with holidays. Any On Top of the World resident is welcome to join us.

Democratic Club greeters enjoyed meeting you at the 2025 Fall Festival & Expo



By Dave Beaven
The Democratic Club had a grand time at the Fall Festival last month. I got over to the Auditorium at 9:30 a.m. in an effort to beat the crowds coming at 10 a.m., except people were showing up as early as 8:30 a.m. Luckily, we had our two early hosts “openers” on duty at our table.
Glenda Greenman and Mary Anne Nargi greeted residents with a smile and our table had many visitors.
We had a special guest with us that day - Bryan Beckman. He is running as a Democrat in next year’s election for state representative in our district. Bryan was able to chat with many of our On Top of the World residents and collected more than 70 petitions to help qualify his candidacy for the ballot.
You can see some of the festival ac-



The Democratic Club table during the 2025 Fall Festival & Expo

tion at this link:

<https://bit.ly/4nLoxGT>

Many thanks to our Activities Director Nancy Rogers for her efforts in putting this day together.
Coming up in December is our holiday get together. We'll be meeting in the Kitchen/Clearwater Room on

Thursday, Dec. 11, at 5 p.m. for a celebration of good friends and their support during the past year.
The club will handle the meat entree and beverages. Attendees are asked to bring a dish to share. There also will be a random gift exchange. To participate, bring a wrapped gift.
Next year, there are mid-term elections and we'll be back to business. But

this month is a time to relax and enjoy each other's company for a bit.
Everyone should take thanks in being able to live here.
If you would like to find out more about our club, go online to our webpage: worlddemsclub.blogspot.com.
Or you can call me at 727-410-7566.
Wishing everyone a happy holiday season.

Snowbirds Club line dancing is back with a progression path from easy dances to challenging dances

By Dale Stackhouse
Wednesday mornings at the East Activity Center Auditorium were pretty quiet for several months, but now the Snowbirds Club is starting to make a little noise.
Since early November, more and more people have been showing up for Snowbirds Club Line Dancing.
Yes, we've started up again.
From 8:30-9 a.m., Ed Foland teaches his class designed for absolute beginners, or as Ed likes to say, people with two left feet.
If you have ever thought that you would like to try line dancing, but were a little afraid, this is the class for you.



Ed's 12 Step Program will get you started.
Once you are comfortable with some of the basics from Ed's class, you may

want to stay a little longer and try out your new skills. Dolly Foland starts her class around 9:30 a.m. with easy dances that progress to more difficult dances. This part of the class is about two hours.
Leila Walker, Carol Babini and Dale Stackhouse have been acting as assistant teachers. You may see them assisting with the instructions.
We hope you will come out and give Snowbirds Club line dancing a try. Not only is it good physical exercise, but it is also wonderful for the brain since you are always thinking and learning new patterns.
You will find our club a very welcom-

ing group, with absolutely no judgment. We encourage you to stay as long as you can, to challenge yourself, or just learn by watching.
What have you got to lose?
A reminder, the Snowbirds Club is one of the sponsors for the annual Salute to Veterans on March 1, 2026. This year is the 53rd anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War on March 29, 1973.
Come out and thank our own veterans for their service.
It is always a memorable evening.
More information will be forthcoming in other articles.



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Thirty years ago our Irish Club came up with an idea - on March 7 that idea reaches a milestone

By Barbara Rice

Thirty years ago, a crazy new dance called the Macarena was finding its way onto the On Top of the World dance floor.

Thirty years ago, Snowbirds paid \$1.15 a gallon to fill up the gas tank on their journeys south.

And, 30 years ago, Irish Club members were pioneering the very first OTOW St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Irish eyes are sure to be smiling down upon the 30th St. Patrick's Day parade that will step off on March 7, 2026, at 10 a.m. on World Parkway Boulevard East.

A party in the East Activity Center back parking lot will sure to be a gala of green. Festivities will include food, music and dancing.

Invitations are being sent far and wide to potential parade participants. If you have a favorite past parade entry, chances are good they will return this year.

If you know a group, entertainer, or owner of a vintage car that you think would be great in the parade, please let a committee member know.

Clubs and individuals are invited to create a parade entry. If your club has not been in the parade in the past, this may be the year to showcase your members on the parade route.

Parade planning meetings have been scheduled. A representative from each community entry is encouraged to attend.

Planning meetings will be held Jan. 15, 2026, Feb. 12, 2026, and March 5, 2026. All meetings will take place in the East Activity Center Largo Room beginning at 4 p.m.



Irish Club

Helpers are needed on the busy parade day. If interested in finding out more about helping, attend a planning meeting or contact a member.

Meeting together helps plan a smooth-running event.

Convertible vehicles are often needed since many senior participants are unable to walk the entire route.

The number of golf carts is limited. If you have an open top vehicle and are willing to chauffeur in the parade, please let a member know.

Irish Club members have worked tirelessly for three decades to raise funds for the parade and party. Traditionally, the club brings entertainment to the community. Proceeds from ticket sales are used to help pay for the special March day. This means you can enjoy a fun evening while supporting parade day at the same time.

The club has managed to schedule the return of two musical entertainers for the Auditorium. Both are well known to the community.



This is the Comedy Connection Smile Team, which is one of the longest active participants in our parade. They will be back for our 30th parade.

The Eddie Coffey Variety Show will take stage on Jan. 22, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Paul Duffy will perform on Feb. 26, 2026, beginning at 6:30 p.m..

Tickets for both shows are \$15 each and may be purchased at the Irish Club information table in the Auditorium on Monday and Thursday mornings from 8:30-10:30.

Donations from clubs and individuals to the parade fund are also greatly appreciated.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the 30th parade. Invite family and friends to attend. Tell new neighbors about this fun-filled day. Line the boulevard!

OTOW comes alive early on parade day. Typically, visiting parade entries roll through the gates from Tampa, Clearwater, Dunedin, St. Petersburg, and Largo. They report they love to entertain down the OTOW parade route because of the wonderful interaction with parade watchers along the way.

Be sure to give them another wonderful OTOW welcome this year.

A sampling of visiting participants who have already said they will be in the parade lineup are Shriners, St. Andrews Pipe and Drum Band, Sunshine City Dancers, Dunedin Highland Middle School Pipe Band and Kilties, Roscoe the Leprechaun, Scariff School of Irish Dance, Pam Leonard-Williams State Farm Insurance, Comedy Connection Smile Team Clowns, Darkside Jeep Crew and Pinellas County Sheriff.

Jolley Trolley will return to provide free transportation for OTOW west side residents to and from the parade route. The trolley is again sponsored by Summit Broadband. The schedule will be posted closer to parade day.

St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee Chairman Tom O'Riordan may be contacted at 845-664-0504 or emailed at tj050659@gmail.com.

Irish Club President Colman Weir may be contacted at 914-584-3370 or emailed at Colman.weir@yahoo.com.

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Speak English

Making food can improve vocabulary

Ben Farrell was the guest speaker at a Speak English class in November.

He demonstrated the art of making pickled cucumbers, perfect for salads or snacking, just like the old way.

Ben is an On Top of the World resident and donated his time.

During his demonstration, Ben carried on conversations with people who took the class. We learned new words, such as kosher, sea salt, ingredients and "smashed" - something you do to garlic.

Ben shared a family recipe and we thanked him for his knowledge with us.

After trying the pickled cucumbers, we also learned some other new words: tasty, hot, spicy, delicious and yummy.

Speak English meets 10-11 a.m. every Thursday in the East Activity Center Dunedin Room. The class is taught by Lola Dickert and Eugene Z.

Anyone with an active Activity Card is welcome to improve their English and have some fun.

Travel Club members ride buses and can also fish



Christine Scarpato catches the biggest fish of the day - a 31-inch cobia.

By Tom Chalupka

The On Top of The World Travel Club is always looking for new places to go and new experiences for our members to enjoy.

In 2025 I feel that we have accomplished that goal.

Florida, and especially the Tampa area, have so much to offer in the way of adventure, culture and entertainment to explore. It helps to keep our members active.

I'm not a fisherman, but one of the many new adventures that stands out with our club is boarding a fishing charter. In October, we went fishing!

Our experienced captain, Tyler Barton of Sureel Fishing, took us to his favorite fishing areas off of the Belleair Bluffs coast. During a four-hour charter, everyone continuously caught fish that included Spanish mackerel, trout, catfish and cobia.

Christine Scarpato caught the biggest fish of the day - a 31-inch cobia which, sadly, needed to be tossed back because it was 2 inches too short for keeping.

Who knew we all had talent to fish!

For this holiday Christmas season, our club will be taking in the Jolley Trolley Christmas Lights Tours. We also have



scheduled trips to "Shopapalooza" in St Petersburg, a Clydesdale Farm Christmas experience in Ocala and a tour of holiday decorations at the Safford House in Tarpon Springs.

This year, for the first time, the OTOW Travel Club holiday dinner will be 5 p.m. in the East Activity Center Auditorium. The event will be on Dec. 11. We'll have a large crowd and lots of fun.

The club is looking forward to a very active 2026 and if you are interested in finding out more, we will be at our information table in the Auditorium every Monday and Thursday from 8:30-10 a.m.

We also have a monthly meeting 2 p.m. on the first Friday of every month in the EAC Oldsmar Room. Please join us. We're going places.

In today's world, Lambda veterans can celebrate and reflect on their service

By Earl Ballance

Last month, the Lambda Club rolled out the red carpet for a special social event entitled, "A Salute to Our Veterans," where the spotlight shone brightly on 15 extraordinary members who bravely served in the military.

This wasn't just another social gathering. It was a heartfelt tribute that aimed to honor their service while shining a light on the unique challenges they faced during their time in the armed forces.

Serving in a time when being gay was not just frowned upon, but often outright dangerous, took immense courage. Many service members lived in silence, hiding their identities to safeguard their careers and avoid discrimination.

Being who we are was never a choice. It has always been about embracing the beautiful truth of our authentic selves.

In celebrating our uniqueness, we can inspire others to do the same and



create a more inclusive and accepting community.

Lambda cannot say "thank you" enough to all of our veterans, especially throughout this community.

Next came Thanksgiving.

Lambda held a Thanksgiving social the day before Thanksgiving — because, let's be honest, no one's going to turn down turkey two days in a row.

Next month's social is scheduled for



Lambda Club celebrated Veterans Day in the Largo Room.

Friday, Dec. 12 at 6 p.m. in the Oldsmar Room. Join us for an evening filled with holiday cheer, where the bar will be serving up Santa's Punch — because nothing says "Merry Christmas" like a cocktail!

Christmas music will be playing to put everyone in the spirit.

The bar will be serving Santa's Punch with a Christmas-themed potluck dinner. Christmas music will be playing to put everyone in that Christmas spirit. Members are encouraged to wear red and green.

But the highlight of the night? Our much-anticipated annual gift exchange! Bring a gift to receive a gift, and who knows, you might just find the perfect excuse to part ways with that questionable item you've been holding onto since last year.

Or maybe it's time to seek revenge on that gift you received last year that you absolutely did not ask for.

We will be collecting cash donations for the Dunedin Cares Food Pantry, because, let's face it, nothing says "festive" like helping those in need.

Lambda Club is proud to partner with Dunedin Cares, knowing that our contributions can make a significant difference, especially this time of the year.

But wait, there's more!

This Christmas Eve we're throwing a

dinner for our Lambda family. Yes, you heard that right! This festive feast is geared to make its members feel less "Home Alone" and more "Home for the Holidays."

Lambda Club is always looking for ways to reach out to the community to get to know each other better.

Lambda's Monthly Calendar

Lambda Chat: 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., each first and third Friday in the EAC.

Lambda Walkers: 12 p.m., Wednesdays at the Countryside Mall. Lunch after walking.

Lambda Zoomers: 5 pm, Friday with Howard Harville.

Lambda Shuffleboard Meet-up: 1:30 p.m., Mondays.

Lambda Bookclub: Taking a break for December, but will resume after the first of the year. Anyone who has a suggestion for a good read book, contact Bill Raymond at braymond3@gmail.com or call(727) 599-8317.

Lambda Club has been a beacon of hope and acceptance for the LGBTQ community. They have an ongoing commitment to create safe places to be unapologetically themselves.

Need more information about Lambda? Go to the official webpage at <http://lambdaclearwater.blogspot.com> or contact David Beaven at (727) 410-7566.

A portrait of Rebecca Bernai, a woman with blonde hair, smiling.

Introducing Rebecca Bernai

Did you know that studying a foreign language is one of the best ways to keep your mind sharp?

New Spanish class for beginners starting Monday, January 5, from 10:30 am-12:00 pm in the East Activity Center Dunedin Room. To register, call Rebecca at 720-810-6269.



Imagine watching a golf ball soar 174 yards over water and landing in a cup

By Barney Hanrahan

Golf is one of those sports, like bowling, where your individual performance determines the final score.

You have three other teammates in foursomes, but individual scores still lead to wins.

You don't always come out on top as a team, but your score does reflect your effort and whether you succeeded.

We are very proud to announce that David Saconne achieved a hole-in-one on hole No. 17 with his Titleist driver. He was awarded the cherished hole-in-one-hat from Jay Shwallie.

What is remarkable of David's achievement is that hole No. 17 has water running its length and catches more balls than the green or fairway.

For those of you unfamiliar with hole No. 17, you have to strike the ball and clear 174 yards of water just to land on green grass, nevertheless find the hole.

Our congratulations to David, who is one of the nicest players you'll ever meet. This was his first hole-in-one and we hope he has many more.

When asked if he realized he had hit the green, and put the ball in the hole, he replied, "No. I didn't even see the hole."

Those who play understand how difficult 17 can be.

A reminder: Election for officers will be held in December. If interested in joining league management, put in your name as a candidate.

Now on to some of the most important league news - the scores.



October 15 Luncheon

Flight A

Top scores: Stanley Doran, 60. Jere Keiser, 60, Nilson Sabadin, 63, David Johnson, 63, Mike Crittendon, 65.

Flight B

Top scores: Bill Haener, 63, Daniel Morey, 64, Ed Sixon, 64, Jim Anzolone, 67, Paul Cairne, 67.

Flight C

Top scores: Jay Laracuente, 61, Peter Gauvin, 65, Tennyson Spiceland, 66, Roger Shockley, 67, Henry Rejman, 68.

Flight D

Top scores: Harry Crawford, 60, Jim Valloero, 65, Ken Nield, 66, Tim Palmquist, 70, Bob Ellis, 70.

October 22

Flight A

Top scores: Jere Kaiser, 58, Stanley Doran, 62, Fred Blatz, 65, David Saccone, 66, George Mead, 66.



David Saccone
after his ace

Flight B

Top scores: Bill Haener, 62, Daniel Morey, 62, Ronald Huber, 63, Paul Cairna, 65, Ed Sixon, 67.

Flight C

Top scores: Tim Finan, 57, Guy Bertuzzi, 60, Henry Rejman, 62, Glen Mey-

ers, 63, Bill Holland, 64.

Flight D

FTop scores: Harry Crawford, 61, Ken Nield, 61, Bob McGrogan, 63, Jim Valloero, 64, Joe Ventimiglia, 64.

October 29

Flight A

Top scores: David Johnson, 61, Stanley Doran, 62, Fred Blatz, 63, George Mead, 64, Bob Beals, 64.

Flight B

Top scores: Jack Sousa, 61, Ed Sixon, 64, Paul Cairns, 65, Bill Haener, 66, Daniel Morey, 67.

Flight C

Top scores: Tim Finan, 59, David Baldwin, 60, Bill Holland, 61, Peter Hauvin, 61, Jeff Martin, 63.

Flight D

Top scores: Harry Crawford, 64, Ken Nield, 66, Joe Ventimiglia, 66, Bob McGrogan, 67, Tim Palmquist, 68.

November 5

Flight A

Top scores: Fred Peace, 61, Fred, 62, Nilson Sabadin, 63, Doran Stanley, 64, Mike Walker, 65.

Flight B

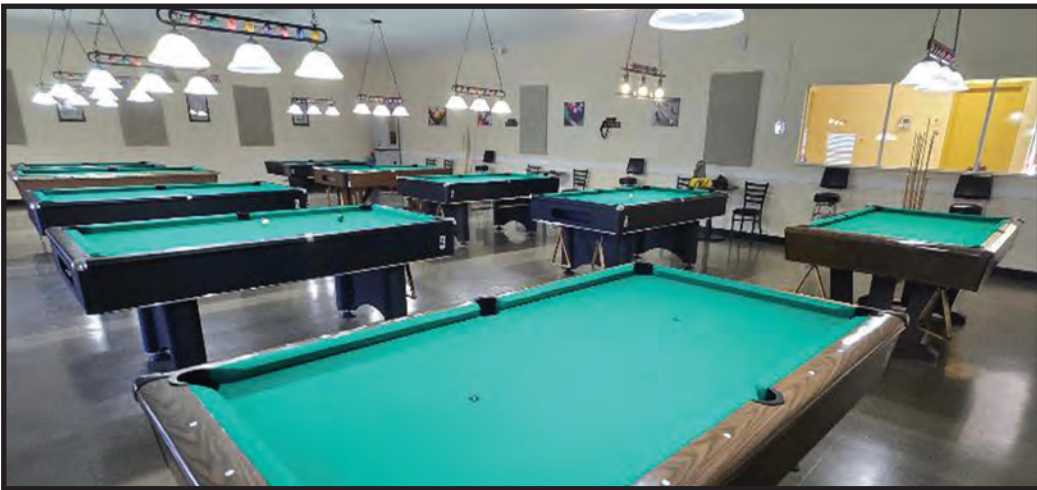
Top scores: Jay Schwallie, 59, Ron Lafond, 59, Fran Majewski, 61, Joe Coyne, 63, Tim Finan, 63.

Flight C

Top scores: Guy Bertuzzi, 59, Bill Holland, 59, Edmond Molina, 61, Harry Crawford, 62, Jeff Martin, 64.

Flight D

Top scores: Keith Miles, 58, Ken Nield, 63, Bob Ellis, 64, Sonny Morris, 64, Tim Palmquist, 65.



Pool tables in the West Activity Center Billiards Room look almost brand new thanks to a replacement project.

Thank you for our refurbished tables

By Tom Chalpuka

The On Top of the World Billiards Club would like to thank Parkway Management and the On Top of the World Board of Directors for repairs and replacement of cloth on the billiard tables in the West Activity Center Billiards Room.

The repair work helps the billiard tables work like brand new. Thanks again.

All residents of OTOW are welcome to join the OTOW Billiards Club. Our weekly schedule begins on Monday and Tuesday nights starting at 6 p.m. We play 8-ball with Monday nights being for more experienced players and Tuesday night being for the less experienced players and beginners.

On Thursday nights, starting at 6 p.m., we play 9-ball for all players regardless of each player's abilities.

Billiards can be played and enjoyed



by anyone regardless of age, size, or gender and it is a very easy game to learn how to play.

Never get discouraged as you play, however, because billiards is a very difficult game to master. We work at it every week to get to be the best we can.

If you like an enjoyable challenge and fun-filled competitions, this could be the game for you. Join us anytime.

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Nine-hole Ladies League already has four tournaments completed for fall season

By Paula Ergang

The On Top of the World Ladies 9-Hole Golf League resumed playing Oct. 7.

Each week we add a few more players as the Snowbirds return.

And, thanks to OTOW and maintenance, the course was reseeded, trees were trimmed and repairs were made to get the course in great shape for play.

Here are our latest scores.

Oct. 14

Throw Out Worst Hole Play

Our final score was determined after deducting our handicap and the score of our worst hole from our gross score.

The Flight A winner was Paula Ergang with 26. The Flight B winner was Lainey Quarello with a 21. The Flight C winner was Sheryl Barbin with a 22. The Flight D winner was Celeste Pert with a 22.

Birdies were recorded by Sheryl Barbin on hole No. 4, Anne Jarvis on



No. 5 and Paula Ergang on No. 8.

Oct. 21

Low Gross/Low Net Play

Flight A: Anne Jarvis had 41 and Paula Ergang 43.

Flight B: Suellen Dowe shot a 45 and Lainey Quarello had 51.

Flight C: Sheryl Barbin scored 42.

Dorothy Hughes and Wendy Colquhoun both had 45.

Birdies: None

Oct. 28

Closest to the Pin on Hole No. 4

Flight A: Pat Holland shot a 37 and Paula Ergang 40.

Flight B: Jan Pettit had a 43 and Lainey Quarello 47.

Flight C: Sheryl Barbin had 44. Dorothy Hughes shot 46. Sheri Blaa and Nancy Erhardt had 47.

Flight D: Laura Chesson shot 49 and Rosemary Lepping had 51.

There were no winners for Closest to the Pin.

Nov. 4

Low Gross/Low Net

Flight A: Anne Jarvis shot 39. Pat Holland had 42.

Flight B: Ann Stewart scored 44 and Lainey Quarello 49.

Flight C: Nancy Erhardt had 44.

Wendy Colquhoun had 49 and Marge Sivek 50.

Flight D: Laura Chesson scored 48 and Rosemary Lepping had 56.

Birdies: None

In December will have weekly themes, too. Dec. 2 is Three Clubs and a Putter. Dec.9 is Count Odd Holes Only. Dec. 16 will be Low Gross/Low Net. Dec. 23 is Open Play, play for fun. Dec. 30 is Low Gross/Low Net and a New Year's celebration.

We also have our Christmas luncheon on Dec. 10. Nancy Schifferle started planning last spring and has reserved The Safety Harbor Spa and Resort for noon. Watch for details and the sign-up-sheet on the bulletin board.

Ready to join the league and the fun? All you need is your handicap. Contact Carroll Harris at 432-528-8684 to get information.

From me and all our league members, we want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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SPORTS



Anyone for a little night tennis?



The On Top of the World Tennis Club went on the road again and spent a fall evening playing on the clay courts at the McMullen Tennis Center. Competition was fierce and fun was had by all into the early evening under the lights. Pictured above are Charles Kovarik, Izzie Polselli, Kay Van Hosen, Julie Stevens, Janice Berman, Chuck Torisky, Bruce McMasters and John McIntyre. The Tennis Club also held a women’s tennis night under the stars in November. Julie Stevens organized the event and may organize a second event.

Verna Miles shoots net 55 to win Flight B in play on Nov. 4

By Jackie Miles

The On Top of the World Ladies 18-Hole Golf League is up and running for the 2025-2026 season.

We would like to welcome another league member, Cynthia Flaspohler. Welcome Cynthia!

As this season begins, we would also like to welcome back all the Snowbirds. Let the fun begin.

Here are the results for the past few weeks:

Oct. 14 results are as follow: In Flight A, first place went to Barb Moon with a 68 and second went to Verna Lundgren with a 72.

In Flight B, first place was won by Jackie Miles with a 66, second place by Joan Smith with a 70 and third place by Linda Rice with an 83.

Oct. 21 results are as follows: In Flight A, first place went to Joyce Ma-

18-Hole



Ladies Golf

jewski with a 68, second place went to Verna Lundgren with a 71 and third place went to Nancy Lo with a 75.

In Flight B, first place was won by Jackie Miles with a 63, second place went to Joan Smith with a 65 and third place went to Carole Lacey with a 71.

Oct. 28 results are as follows: In Flight A, first place was a tie between Joy Walker and Ursula Taylor, shooting 66s. Second place was also a tie by Becky West and Joyce Majewski with a 68. Third place was won by Nancy Lo with a 71.

In Flight B, first place went to Jackie Miles with a 65, second place went to Mary Beth Devine with a 71 and third place was a tie by Carole Lacey and Arlene Hanson, both with a 73.

Nov. 4 results are as follows: In Flight A, first place went to Joyce Majewski with a 63, second place went to Becky West with a 65, and third place was a tie between Joy Walker and Kim Norried with a 67.

In flight B, first place went to Verna Lundgren with a 55, second place went to Karen French with a 64 and third place went to Barbara Moon with a 67.

In flight C, first place was won by Jackie Miles with a 70, second place was Arlene Hanson with a 76, and third place was Natsue Dawson with a 77.

We held a closest-to-the-pin, a chipping in contest and a longest putt contest. The winners were:

Oct. 14: Closest-to-Pin on No.15 went to Joan Smith, and longest putt and chip in went to Barb Moon.

Oct. 21: Closest-to-pin on No. 9 went to Joyce Majewski, closest-to-pin on No. 15 went to Jon Smith, longest putt went to Joan Smith and a chip-in was made by Nancy Lo!

Oct 28: Closest to pin on No. 15 was made by Joy Walker, and longest putt on No. 4 was made by Carol Lacy.



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New championship season is under way



By Sheryl A. Barbin
Seventy-one golfers came out on Friday, Nov. 7, for the opening day of the Friday Mixed Golf League 2025/2026 championship season.
Harry Barbin, league president, welcomed everyone and reviewed league rules, course conditions and pace of play.
He informed us that the league committee voted to change the rule on “playing the ball down.” The new rule is “move the ball anywhere.” This means you can improve your lie in the rough and the fairway as long as the ball stays in its current condition. The ball can be moved one club length, but no closer to the hole. You can mark the ball, pick it up, clean it and replace it.

The only exception is on the green. You cannot move the ball on the green except to mark it.
Here are the results from play on opening day.
First place went to Joe Ventimiglia with a plus-9, second place went to Jeff Chesson with a plus-7, third place went to Ada Maloof with a plus-7, fourth place went to Paul Meyers with a plus-7 and fifth place went to Ken Smith with a plus-7.
Sixth place went to Sheryl Barbin with a plus-6, seventh place went to David Saccone with a plus-5, eighth place went to Peyton Grogan with a plus-5, ninth place went to Tim Carr with a plus-5 and 10th place went to Ed Sixon with a plus-4.
All ties were broken by a match of cards.
The closest-to-the-pin winner on hole No. 3 went to Dan Hyden, hole No. 5 to Bruce MacPherson, hole No. 6 to Jeff Chesson, hole No. 9 to Harry Barbin, hole No. 13 to Jim Stewart, hole No. 15 to Dave Hansford and hole No. 16 to Tom Pettit.
Skins were awarded on hole No. 4 to John Pellegrino, hole No. 6 to Ken Oatsvall, hole No. 8 to Mike Tomaselli, hole No. 9 to Harry Barbin and hole No. 16 to Bill Whipps.
Low Gross went to Paul Meyers with a score of 66 for 35 points. Nice round, Paul!

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Lawn bowling is like 10-pin bowling except your ball doesn't go straight or end with a crash



By Kathleen Walter
Never heard of lawn bowling?
Well, you are probably in the majority at On Top of the World.
Until my husband and I joined the Lawn Bowls Club four years ago, I had never heard of lawn bowling either.
Ten pin bowling, of course, we'd been doing that since high school.
Bocce, sure, we never played, but we knew people who did.
Now, whenever someone asks me about lawn bowling, I say it is like 10-pin bowling or bocce ball.
"Yes, there are some similarities, so if you like either you should give lawn bowling a try," I say.
My husband and I did and it was love at first roll!
The object of lawn bowling is to roll your bowls (yes bowls, not balls) closer to the target than your opponents. Unlike both 10-pin bowling and bocce, the bowls are elliptical and weighted with a bias. The sport is played on a court that has a surface of either grass or rubico. At OTOW, our courts are rubico which is a durable synthetic surface that mimics the look and feel of grass.



Lawn bowlers preparing for a morning of competition.

Fun facts - lawn bowling can be traced to ancient Egypt, with artifacts dating to 5000 B.C. It evolved over the centuries in both Greek and Roman societies. The sport was popular in medieval England but was often banned by monarchs who feared it distracted from archery.
The modern version of lawn bowling, with organized rules, first appeared in Scotland in 1848. Although not an Olympic event, the sport is currently played worldwide.
The U.S. has a national lawn bowling team called Team USA. Sandy Walls, an OTOW resident, was the former coach of Team USA. Sandy continues to compete internationally and greatly enjoys coaching the members of our club.
So whether you played 10-pin bowling or bocce, or even if you did neither, lawn bowling may be calling your name.
We are fortunate to have a wonderful club and beautiful courts right in front of the East Activity Center. Join us anytime we are practicing - Monday to Saturday at 9:30 a.m., or Monday and Wednesday evenings at 5 p.m.
Simply show up and introduce yourself. We will gladly provide instruction and all equipment. If you would like to watch a tournament, stop by the courts at 9 a.m. on Dec. 4 for our Holiday Bowl, or on Dec. 15 and 16 for our Singles Tournament.
Questions? Contact our president, Roxanne Deagler, at rdeagler@yahoo.com.
We look forward to meeting you on our courts!

Ping pong always finds time to celebrate holidays, veterans, new players and birthdays that start with 9

By Marie Clodge Valdes
The Ping Pong Club had a special celebratory "Friendsgiving" lunch at Duff's Buffet this past November.
Our group really doesn't need any occasion to celebrate and have fun, as we do this whenever we play and get together, but it was a great afternoon regardless.
We have welcomed two newcomers to our club: Kay Van Hoesen and Richard Dallet, and we were also excited to welcome back more of our Snowbirds for another fulfilled season of ping pong.
On Nov. 11, we celebrated Veterans Day as well as November birthdays for three of our club members - Tom Fahey, Janice Wisinski and Derrick Beeler.
We also surprised Terry Whitman when she joined us to help celebrate her 95th birthday. Her daughter, Debbie, surprised her with a beautiful birthday cake which we were all invited to try...and it was amazing!



Ping pong and billiards players met for dinner in November and even celebrated a 95th birthday.

We decided to take a picture of all the Ping Pong Club members and Billiards Club members who were present for the celebration.
Our next event will be our annual Holiday Dinner and Dance Party on



Dec. 6. If you would like to join in the fun and learn how to play ping pong, stop by the West Activity Center Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon. All levels of players are welcome.

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Defensive plays get credit for four games decided by two or less runs

By Bob Rittner

One of the most difficult plays to make in senior softball is catching a foul pop-up behind the catcher. When they are popped high in the air, they are difficult to track, often forcing catchers to crane their necks over their backs to find their trajectory.

Mary Szafranski caught her second high pop-up in one game and was in position to nab a third until the backstop nicked it and changed its direction.

Two batters were sent packing.

The Red team scored 9 runs, the Blue team 8 and the White team 6 in a game where two teams took turns playing defense while each team batted.

The Red team was led by Ray Woolsey whose 4-for-4 day included three doubles, four RBI and three runs scored.

Lenny Segall also contributed to the Red's score with a three RBI double while the winning tally came in when Bob Dembinski's two-out clutch hit drove home Ray in the last inning.

For the Blue team, Tara Gunning hit two doubles and two singles in a perfect day at the plate. As middle infielder, she was the pivot on two double plays.

The White team led briefly when they scored three runs in the fourth inning for a 6-5-3 margin. The runs came courtesy of Jim Tiano's leadoff single followed by Reto Guruswami's double and then singles by Bo Voigt, Robert Bannick and Tony Martinez.

White 11, Red 7, Blue 7

Key hits were delivered by Ralph Scunziano, who tripled home a run in the first inning and scored on Tara Gunning's single to contribute to a three run outburst.

Ralph then hit a three-run homer in the third inning giving his team a 6-5-4 lead and hit a sacrifice fly in the fifth inning to drive in the third run of that inning. That would provide White with a lead they would not relinquish.

On that sacrifice fly, Bob Fields made a fine catch in deep right center field, but speedy pinchrunner Robert Bannick beat the throw home.

George Morgan and Bob Dembinski each had perfect 3-for-3 days at the plate, each slamming a double and driving in and scoring a run.

For the Blue team, Ray Woolsey continued his assault on pitchers hitting line drives that seemed to leave a jet trail in the air, and Mark Manns had a perfect four-hit day.

The Red team was led by Lenny Segall's 3-for-3 day that included a double and Eddie Ramirez, who also had a perfect 3-hit outing.



The fielding stars were Bo Voigt of Blue who gobbled up every ball hit near him and Mark Manns who manned the hot corner, aptly named as he snagged numerous whistling line drives near third base.

White 8, Blue 7, Red 6

A furious rally, keyed by Barry Yellets' two run inside-the-park-homer, brought Blue within one run of White and left runners on second and third with just one out.

But Gene Abood caught a pop-fly behind second base and when the runner on third tried to score, Gene threw a strike to catcher Bob Fields to seal White's victory.

To add to his game MVP credentials, it was Gene, whose triple leading off the last inning, led to the run that separated winners and losers as he was driven home with the eighth run on a Mark Manns single into left field.

Bob Dembinski, with a single, double and triple and four RBI was the hero for Red while Barry added two doubles to his log for Blue.

Also noteworthy was the airtight defense of Melvin Tennille at second base, short circuiting Blue's scoring opportunities at least three times. His gold glove defense gobbled up grounders and short hops over and over.

For Red, Mike Blaa made a spectacular over the head catch of a long line drive into left field, while Gail Potter corralled a soaring fly ball in right center field to stymie a White scoring opportunity.

Blue 14, Red 12, White 7

Gold Glove fielding kept scores down. Among the defensive stars were Reto Guruswami of Red who ranged far and wide to catch line drives or turn hard grounders into outs. Charles Kovarik of Red manned the hot corner stopping smashes and shot hops down to third base and throwing bul-

lets to first base for numerous outs.

Jim Costello of Blue had to back up to snag a long fly ball destined for the fence while teammate Ray Woolsey turned a series of long fly balls into centerfield into outs as well.

But the highlight play of the game was a running catch along the right field fence by Jim Tiano, robbing the batter of a certain triple and possible home run. His last second stretch to catch the swiftly dropping liner brought all players to their feet.

On offense, Mark Manns slugged a home run deep over the left field fence and newcomer Hunter Christian, in his first ever at bat with us, tripled to right field and followed that up with a double and home run.

Gail Potter had a perfect three-hit day, scoring two runs and driving in two more.

The key to Blue's victory was a five-run sixth inning which brought them from last place into a tie for first and led to the win by scoring the maximum three runs allowed over each of the next two innings. Bob Dembinski's two triples in that onslaught led to four of the runs as he scored twice and drove in two more. The winning margin came on Robert Bannick's two run inside-the-park homer.

Blue 14, White 8, Red 5

In a dazzling display of quick thinking and determination, catcher Karin Robinson pounced on a ball a few feet in front of the plate and went sprawling, but reached with her bare hand to grab the ball and with her glove hand stretched to touch the plate to force out a runner trying to score. All three teams applauded.

The White team, behind 12-1 in the sixth inning, scored six runs, the last four runs on consecutive homers by Tom Holland and Ray Woolsey to pull within hailing distance of the leader.

But the Blue team was relentless, driven by perfect four-hit days by Elbe Ramirez and Bo Voigt, and strong defense led by second baseman Melvin Tennille, who snuffed out two rallies with a stop of a short hop and later scooping up a low line drive before it hit the ground.

Elbe's hitting line showed a home run and triple, and Bo laced two doubles among his four hits.

White 8, Blue 7, Red 5

With one out in the bottom of the last inning, Tara Gunning laced a hard single into left field scoring Ray Woolsey with the winning run.

Ray had already hit two balls over the fence and doubled. Now he singled to lead off the last inning, moved to second

on Tony Martinez's single and after a fielder's choice moved him to third base. He scored the winning run on Tara's hit.

Through five innings, the game was tied at five runs for each team. White forged ahead with two runs in the sixth inning but was tied by Blue in the middle of the seventh inning. Richard Mierzejewski led off that inning with a home run, and tied the game when Bill Holland followed with a single and scored on a long double by Bo Voigt.

Red had begun the game with three consecutive hits, but failed to score. Their star hitters, Mark Manns and Barry Yellets performed well, each with perfect three-hit day, but the supporting cast kept coming up short.

For Blue, Richard, Bill and Bo carried the offense, each with three hits while Ray's heroics inspired clutch hits from Tony, Tara, Charles Kovarik and Guy Bertuzzi.

Also critical in the game was defensive excellence at second base by Melvin Tennille for Blue and Tony. Bill Holland made a spectacular running catch in left field to save an extra base hit, and Barry Yellets threw out two runners at the plate.

Blue 10, Red 6, White 5

Led by Bo Voigt's perfect three-hit day, and a long three RBI double by Elbe Ramirez, Blue romped to victory.

Ray Woolsey's spectacular running catch at the outfield fence of a line drive as well as pristine outfield play by Hunter Christian kept the Red team at bay.

After putting down the Red team in order in the first inning, Guy Bertuzzi allowed just one hit in the second frame and one more in the third inning. He allowed more than one run in just one inning, that coming on George Morgan's two RBI triple.

Bill Lepping of the Red team matched Guy's masterful pitching After permitting the White team to score the maximum allowable three runs in the first inning, he settled down to allow just single tallies in the fourth and sixth innings.

Melvin Tennille sparked at bat with two hits in two tries, one a double, and outstanding defense at second base. And for the Blue team, Mary Anne Benuzzi caught everything in her sector between first and second base.

We always welcome visiting relatives to play with us, and at this game, Jim Tiano's grandson, Josh Bird, contributed with stellar outfield play and two hits, including a triple. He credited grandpa for his softball excellence.

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SPORTS

There is a time for everyone to try pickleball - we meet in the mornings and afternoons

By Patti Branch
and Marina Davidovich

The Pickleball Club held its semi-annual meeting and fall social on Nov. 16 in the West Activity Center Belleair Room.

Approximately 55 members enjoyed a Thanksgiving dinner of ham and turkey provided by the club, and each guest brought side dishes and desserts.

We presented the newly elected officers for the 2026-2028 term and thanked Barry Yellets, board president and treasurer, and Scott Scheibler, secretary, for four years of hard work and dedication.

We renewed memberships for the 2026 season and welcomed several new members.

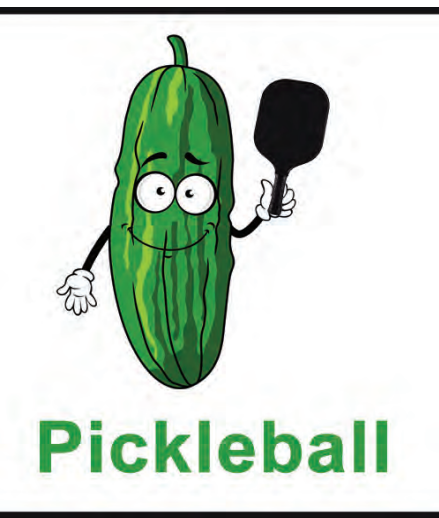
Instead of game night in December, our club will host a holiday party on Monday, Dec. 15 in the Belleair Room. We will have food, games and a gift exchange.

Pickleball is part tennis, part ping-pong, part badminton, it's a sport anyone can jump into and instantly enjoy.

From teens to grandparents, players are hooked on the quick rallies, friendly laughs and addictive fun. Who knew a paddle, a wiffle ball and a funny name could create such a sensation!

Here, at On Top of the World you can join the Pickleball Club. All you need is an activity card and \$15 for an annual membership.

We play Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings from 8-10 a.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:30-5 p.m. and Sundays from 9 a.m. to noon. If you are new to the sport, try our orientation sessions on Tuesday afternoons at 3:30 p.m. The first hour is dedicated to new player instruction.



On top is the Pickleball Club Board for the 2026-28 seasons. From left to right are Vice President Sharon Bora, Secretary Patti Branch, President Marina Davidovich and Treasurer Joanne Whelan. At right is what the food table looked like during the club's semi-annual party in the West Activity Center. The featured attraction was turkey and trimmings.

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2025 Best of Show Table - The Press Association

2025 On Top of the World Fall Festival & Expo



2025 Most Original Table - Bingo



OTOW News photos
by Doug Kates

Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025

COMMUNITY REPORTS



Something for everyone at flea market/ craft show

If you browsed every table, there was something for you to purchase. From Christmas decorations to paintings to jewelry, there was something that deserved a closer look.

The Good Neighbors Association Flea Market/Craft Show took place Saturday, Nov. 8, in the East Activity Center Auditorium. The room was filled with tables.

Did you see the good-smelling fragrances for sale? How about the plates? If you're into politics (or not) there were shirts with a variety of messages.

The Knitters Club had a table. So did the World Quilters.

Several members from the Art Guild had tables and most of the painting came in a frame.

The Flea Market/Craft Show is an annual event to start your Christmas shopping or just to browse around. If you missed this one, look for it again next year.



Nov. 8
2025
EAC Auditorium

(OTOW News photos
by Mary Lou Wall)



December 2000

By Randae Van Denver

World Events

December 1, 2000 – Vicente Fox won the Presidency of Mexico, as the opposition candidate to the long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party party (PRI). PRI had held the presidency continuously for more than 70 years since the 1929 Mexican Revolution. With Fox's landmark election, Mexico's image changed to that of a modernizing democracy and credible economic partner. The U.S. saw Fox as someone who "spoke their language" economically and politically. Fox supported the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) enthusiastically. U.S. businesses welcomed Fox's pro-market approach. He was seen as friendly to U.S. investors and open to expanding cross-border cooperation. Unfortunately, he was unable to maintain power and lost the next presidential election.

Reactor Shut Down

December 15, 2000 – Ukraine shut down the last working reactor at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, marking the official end of operations at the site, which was the scene for a nuclear disaster in 1986. There is only speculation that a sudden 1986 shutdown would have left Ukraine with very minimum electricity and would have impacted Russia's supply as well. Outside pressure from Europe primarily led to full closure.

U.S. Business Events

December 28, 2000 – Montgomery Ward, one of the oldest American retail chains, announced it would close all 250 stores and 10 distribution centers, ending 128 years of business. It was under competitive pressure from big-box discounters like Walmart and Target, and had trouble keeping up with changing retail trends. The fall exposed that the traditional department store model was no longer competitive in price, experience, or selection. The shift was to specialized stores or massive discount chains. This accelerated the long-term decline of indoor shopping malls, especially mid-tier ones.

Sports

On Dec. 2, in Atlanta, in the ninth annual Southeastern Conference Championship Game, the No. 7 Florida Gators defeated No. 18 Auburn, 28-6. With that win, Florida attained its sixth conference title in 10 years - the first since 1996. That was the same year the Gators also claimed the national championship. Steve Spurrier was the head coach for both of these big wins. He won the most games as coach in Florida's football history. He reigned as coach the next year. Steve led the Florida Gators for 12 seasons from 1990 to 2001.

Movies

Cast Away, with Tom Hanks in the lead, was the most popular movie in December 2000. This classic movie had such powerful storytelling. Tom delivered a mesmerizing performance and the film's theme of survival, isolation and hope struck us. Behind the waves was a production so extreme it pushed Tom and the crew to their breaking points.

Florida's Infamous Faux Pas

For five weeks, Florida's Election Board was unable to determine who had won the state's electoral vote – stalling declaration of the presidency. On Dec. 12, 2000, the US Supreme Court released its 5-4 decision in George W. Bush vs. Al Gore, settling the recount of the "hanging chads" dispute in favor of George over Al. Immediately, then-Gov. Jeb Bush pushed for changes that make it easier for residents to vote and easier for officials to tabulate the results. Since that embarrassing faux pas, Florida has been recognized as one of the best systems in the nation with further refinements made as warranted.

Clearwater News

In 2000, The Catholic Shepherds of Christ Ministries purchased the former Seminole Finance building, located at 21649 U.S. 19 N, for about \$1,400,000. They did so to maintain the vision on the building's glass wall which was first noticed around Dec. 17, 1996. When first noticed, the Atlas Obscura reported nearly 500,000 visitors flocked to the site in the first few weeks. The vision is about 60 feet tall by 20 feet wide with rainbow/iridescent qualities that led people to perceive it as an outline of Lady Mary in prayer. In 1998, a hand-carved 18-foot cedar crucifix was mounted outside in front of the vision. Even to this day, believers and curious visitors sometimes come to the site to pray or leave flowers. On Dec. 12, 2000, a very large number of visitors (particular from the Hispanic community) gathered for devotions.

New flag at Saratoga



When Nancy Dunne discovered the Saratoga building flag was getting faded by the Florida sun and was getting torn from nearby palm trees, she decided it was time for a new one. So she went back home to Vermont, got a flag she was not using, and brought it back to Florida. Pictured above, Nancy (left) and Roger Nicols prepare to raise the new flag on this past Veterans Day.

Decorations and food led to a sudden party

A fun gathering in the Dorado building turned out to be a big surprise for fairly new resident Sue Yost.

Having moved here just a year ago, Sue still considers herself as a newbie, however her apartment was completely decorated in full fall foliage of maple trees, pumpkins and artwork by the first week of September.

One neighbor after another neighbor saw her condo full of color and it encouraged her to have a fall gathering.

This was perfect timing because fall is Sue's favorite time of the year and a party added to the fun. Some even came in costume just to have fun.

When neighbor Karen Kaplan saw Sue's fall display, she knew her elegant figurines would help put this condo decor over the top.

That's all it took.

With those two working together on decor, the only question left was what to feed the people?

Now, everyone in the Dorado building knows Sue and Karen can't cook.

No problem!

Sue had her mother's lasagna recipe from back when she was a little girl living in New York. Not knowing just how many neighbors would be showing up, she didn't want to be short on food, so off to the store she went. Let's just say six or seven pounds of mozzarella cheese, four or five pounds of ricotta cheese, tomato sauce and noodles galore was the start of a three-day cooking binge. There were at least one or



two more trips back to the store for more cheese and more cheese and more cheese.

Come Friday, Oct. 31, the aroma from the lasagna alone started drawing friends and neighbors in.

Laughter from seeing some of the characters that showed up was addictive. There were pirates, cats, spiders, several pumpkins, a Kentucky hillbilly, a cowboy, the famous Marlboro man and an old man ghost still smoking his last cigarette.

Some of the guests who had planned to just drop for a few minutes had so much fun they stayed for the whole evening.

Yes, there was enough lasagna for everyone to take some home.

Thumbs up to Karen and Sue for hosting such a fun party in the Dorado building - aka The Fun Building.

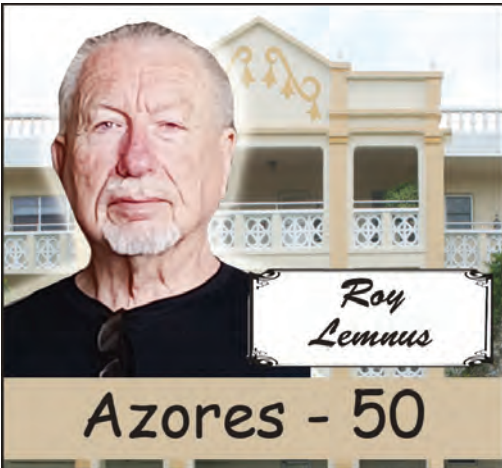
Get Acquainted Saturday

Saturday, Jan. 10, 10 am - noon

East Activity Center Auditorium

Club Information Tables

As soon as summer ended, Azores residents started planning socials



After a summer hiatus, Azores residents started off the fall season with a bang.

At the beginning of the month we went to Bacon Street Dinner In the Countryside Mall. We had a private room that we filled completely with our residents, who enjoyed food and social interaction.

Two weeks later we had a birthday party for Jean Fowlie at Joey's Italian Restaurant.

At the end of the month we had a potluck Halloween party in the core of the third floor. Five tables were filled with culinary delights made by our residents.

Plans are in motion for get-togethers in December.



Residents met in the third floor core to celebrate the Halloween season at the Azores building. Residents brought enough food to fill five tables.

Food Truck Night

Wednesday, Dec. 17, 3-7 pm, EAC Back Parking Lot

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We are eating Mexican in December



Twenty-eight residents enjoy dinner at Queen’s Pizza as Snowbird season events start to pick up.

Well, things are off and running for another season of fun with friends at the Brahman building.

As has been the case all year round, our breakfast club continues to meet every Tuesday morning. Now that we are starting a new season with our Snowbird friends, we are planning monthly dinners to celebrate all the birthdays for each month. Our first get together was at Queen’s Pizza in October and we had 28 residents.

Fortunately, we had five volunteers who offered to plan monthly dinners for November and December, and January, February and March of 2026.

Please sign-up in the core for these events as they become available. Also advise the event coordinator if you are celebrating a birthday during that month, so you can participate in planning the birthday celebration.

First up was Bud and Gloria Sayer. They organized a dinner at Rumba Island Bar & Grill on Nov. 17 at 5 p.m.

Next will be Paul Cairns and Denise Bearden, who volunteered to organize



a dinner at a Mexican restaurant in December.

Thank you to all those who participate in our building get-togethers. It’s great getting to break bread together.

A very special thank you to all those who volunteered to organize the rest of the seasonal get-togethers at our first get together!

Now all I have to do is participate and report on our many celebrations.



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Six different chili recipes shared at Austrian Alpine event in November



Cliff and Laurel Chavis hosted a fantastic fall fun event centered around a chili bar.

Twenty-seven Austrian Alpine residents attended, and kind neighbors even delivered bowls of chili to the doorsteps of others who couldn't make it.

We enjoyed at least six different chili dishes brought by several talented neighbors. The spread included plenty of toppings, nachos and cornbread.

The beverage and dessert bar featured water, iced tea and lemonade, alongside a variety of tasty treats like homemade cookies, brownies, pecan pie, a caramel dip with apples, cream cake with fruit and much more.



Thanks to everyone who contributed something to this successful event and came out to enjoy the early evening dinner

Chris Rathbun and Nelson Sparks recently enjoyed an overseas adventure to Italy. They based their stay in the stunning town of Torri del Benaco on a beautiful lake and explored iconic destinations like Venice, Verona and in Bardolino they attended a wine festival. They took in museums and cultural

centers throughout their journey and were surrounded by beautiful, charming villages on the lake.

The trip held personal significance as Chris's father was born near Lago di Garda (Lake Garda). One of Chris' highlights was visiting the beautiful city of Limone on Lake Garda, rumored to be home to a special genetic mutation that protects its inhabitants against cardiovascular disease, contributing to the population's longevity.

Finally, as we commemorate this holiday season, we are reminded that not everyone is fortunate and many neighbors in our community face food insecurity and health concerns.

Our neighbor, Caesar Garcia, is the director of Hope Villages of America on Druid Street. This food bank, and many others, urgently need our donations. Please join me in supporting these crucial efforts!

Angel Tree, Dec. 1 - Dec. 19

East and West Activity Center Main Lobbies

Read Nancy Rogers' column on page 8 for more information.



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Englander recognizes two 90th birthday parties - one in Memphis and one in the WAC



For such a small building, Englander sure has a lot going on!

People are coming and going, and traveling near and far, while others are finding plenty to celebrate right here at home.

Welcome home to our Snowbirds, Kelli and Tim Convery, who spent their summer months in Freedom, N.H. They would have liked to have stayed longer, but when the temperatures start to dip, it's time to pull out the long pants and ankle socks. You know it's time to head south!

Susan Marchand and her sister, Mary, hit the road on a memorable trip through Tennessee, Arkansas and North Carolina. One of the most touching moments came in Chattanooga where Susan reunited with her childhood school chum after 50 years apart.

Along the way, they enjoyed a stop in Hot Springs, Ark., and another stop in



Bobbie Collins is shown seated with her grandson, Clay, while party hosts son Clay, daughter, Sharon and daughter-in-law, Jackie stand.

Bryson City, N.C., just in time to catch the tail end of the Smoky Mountains' fall foliage.

Their main destination was Memphis, Tenn., where family gathered for their annual birthday celebration. It

was a milestone year — Mary's son turned 66, her granddaughter 23 and the grandest celebration of all was for Mary, who marked her 90th birthday in style!

Of course, Susan — now a proud

first-time grandmother — was delighted to show off photos of the newest addition to the family tree.

Back home, it was party time in the West Activity Center where family, friends and neighbors gathered for a surprise 90th birthday celebration honoring Bobbie Collins.

The event was lovingly hosted by Bobbie's daughter, Sharon, son Clay and daughter-in-law Jackie, while neighbor George Algozzina provided the musical entertainment.

The room was filled with laughter and conversation as neighbors mingled and connected with friends from Bobbie's earlier years.

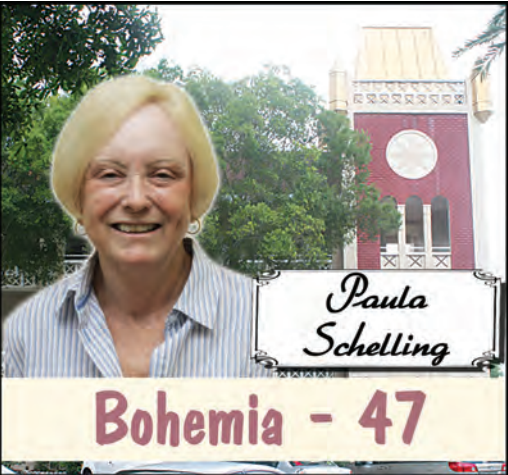
Guests shared stories of past adventures and fond memories from their spirited card-playing days.

A lovely luncheon was served and the afternoon was sweetly topped off with specialty cakes — just the right touch for such a wonderful milestone.

And finally, my husband, Dick, and I enjoyed a recent visit with former neighbors Jerry and Diane Kaplan in their beautiful new home. Though they're still settling in, they asked us to extend warm greetings to everyone and to let you know they miss our On Top of the World family — especially their Englander neighbors.

As another year comes to an end, Dick and I send our warmest wishes for a happy, healthy and joy-filled holiday season.

Bohemia residents closing in on 1000 pounds of food donated in 2025



Years ago, the Bohemia building dubbed itself "the building with heart." This moniker still applies today.

Need a ride to the airport, you got it.

Need a support system with you at your doctor visit, you got one.

Need something from the grocery store, no worries.

You're in the hospital, you'll have visitors.

These are just a few ways that neighbors help neighbors in our building.

The kindness and generosity of our building extends beyond its walls. Due

to various circumstances, food banks find themselves in desperate need of contributions. Knowing this, we were able to contribute 498 pounds of food from October through November to our local food bank.

This added to our previous collections brought us close to 800 pounds of food thus far this year.

With one event remaining to collect food, we hope to once again reach our goal of 1000 pounds.

Veterans Day, you may recall, was very chilly, but this did not dampen our

spirits. The activities committee sponsored a Friendship pot luck dinner. We honored our veterans and mingled with our fellow residents. It was a perfect opportunity for our new people to meet one another.

We closed out the month of November with volunteers coming together to decorate the building for Christmas. At the end of day, we celebrated with wine and cheese and the annual lighting of the building



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Building-wide decoration party set for 10 a.m., Dec. 13 - food if you join us



Welcome to our new residents who moved in during the past several months.

Pat, Paula, Terri, John, Vera and Sherry.

We hope the new residents will join us in our monthly gatherings for lunch or dinner and enjoy our company while decorating the building for the various holidays.

We have decorated the building for various holidays and seasons in the first-floor center core as a building activity. We plan to decorate the first-floor common area on Dec. 13. There will be coffee snacks after the decorating party begins at 10 a.m.

If you have personal, traditional decorating preferences that you would like to contribute, please bring them so we can include all personal preferences.

The holiday decoration removal and storage event will be on Jan. 3, 2026, unless there is an overwhelming preference to keep decorations up longer.



This Halloween display was put up so visiting grandkids had something special to greet them

Kathy has consistently decorated her unit at the east entrance in an exceptional manner.

It is always a joy to visiting grandkids when one of our residents' decorates for Halloween.

You can see in the picture above

what building grandkids were able to see this year.

Thanks to our Social Committee, we have had several enjoyable gatherings during the past few months and we are planning a holiday party in December.

The November lunch at Bonefish Grill was well attended and enjoyed by

all.

A holiday gathering in December will be at the Highland House at the Dune-din Golf Club. See our building bulletin board for details. RSVP is required with a \$10 deposit given to the building treasurer by Dec. 5 to secure your attendance.

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Place in a plastic bag. Throw out in the trash.
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CAUTION
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Clean A Drain
1. Start with a plunger.
2. Pour 1/2 cup baking soda down a drain then add 1/2 cup white vinegar.
The chemical reaction can break down fatty acids.

Duck? Turkey? Ham? Or something to shock your guests?

It's the holidays - time to get creative with your main course and side dishes



Christmas celebrations can look different for everyone.

While some people have huge parties with large families, others book a vacation, spend time with friends or plan a festive night with just one other person.

Whatever your holiday tradition may be, one thing that always remains important is the food. From Christmas cookies and sweets, to crowd pleasing Christmas appetizers, festive side dishes and breakfast bakes, the holidays are a time to cook up something special and celebratory.

As I have said many times, there are two types of people. Those who eat to live and those who live to eat. I am the latter. I am a true foodie. This is the time of year I live for. This is my Daytona 500, my Indy 500, my Masters and my Super Bowl all rolled up into one.

I love to plan for the feast, put together the guest list, get out old recipes and use special dinner plate settings.

There are a couple things I like to do before the special holiday. Once I get the guest list completed and the menu



planned, I like to mail out the menu to the guests. This also gets them excited.

I also like to set up the dining room table a couple of weeks in advance. Because every time I walk by it, it gets me in the mood and more excited.

Now for planning the feast.

As I said, during the holiday season I start pouring over all my cookbooks and dragging out old family recipes.

My wife, Cheryl, had a father who made the best Four Rose Egg Nog! Yes, I will share the recipe with you.

Then there is the shopping.

I love going to different types of gro-

cery stores searching for the various ingredients for the feast.

But let's not forget the old standards: turkey, baked ham, Beef Wellington, Christmas goose and gingerbread cookies.

And this time of the year I like to think outside of the box with meats and vegetables.

If you are serving baked honey glazed ham, serve with a German Gewürztraminer or a Riesling.

If you are serving a Beef Wellington, serve with Cabernet Sauvignon or a Burgundy.

If you are serving a Christmas goose, serve with White Zinfandel or a Beaujolais.

Slow-roasted duck is my go-to recipe for when I want to really impress people at a holiday feast, especially when there are no rules dictating the menu.

I still love turkey, but a truly excellent roast duck brings something altogether more special to the table. When done right, a bite of duck is ridiculously tender and succulent. Its assertive, robust flavor is deeply satisfying.

Slow Roast Duck

Ingredient

- 2 (5 1/2 to 6 pound whole duck
- ¼ cup plus 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 2 naval orange, halved
- 4 cups water
- ½ soy sauce
- ¼ cup honey Working

Directions

1. Set wire rack in rimmed baking sheet. Working with one duck at a time, use your hand to remove large fat deposits from the cavity opening. Using kitchen shears, trim excess neck skin from top of the breast and from cavity. Remove tail and first two segments from each wing, leaving only drumette.
2. Rub 2 teaspoons of salt into the cavity of each duck. Rub remaining 10 teaspoons of salt onto the skin of the ducks (5 teaspoons on each duck). Place ducks on prepared rack. Refrigerate uncovered for 24 to 48 hours.
3. Adjust oven rack to lower-middle position and heat oven to 300 degrees. Set-rack in roasting pan. Stuff cavity of each duck with two orange halve. Tie legs together with kitchen twine. Position ducks breast side up, crosswise in V-rack, in opposite directions, leaving space between ducks.
4. Bring water, soy sauce and honey to a boil in a small saucepan over high heat. Remove from the heat. Ladle boiling water mixture over tops of the ducks, allowing mixture to pool in the bottom of the roasting pan. Roast ducks until thermometer inserted into thickest parts of thigh registers 190 to 195 degrees, which will take 3 ¼ to 3 ½ hours.
5. Remove ducks from the oven and increase oven temperature to 450 degrees. Once the oven has reached 450 degrees, continue to roast the ducks until the skin is deeply browned all over, 10 to 25 minutes. Let ducks rest on the V-rack in the pan for 45 minutes. Carve ducks and serve.

Cajun Fried Sweet Potatoes

Ingredients

- 5 tablespoon sugar
- 1 ½ teaspoons salt
- 4 pounds sweet potatoes peeled and sliced ¼ inch thick
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 ½ teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 2 pounds lard for frying

Directions

1. Whisk sugar, cinnamon and salt together in large bowl. Set aside. Line two rimmed baking sheets with triple layer of paper towels. Melt lard in large Dutch oven and heat over medium-high heat at 350 degrees.
2. Add one-third of sweet potatoes to lard and fry until tender and lightly browned in spots, 8 to 10 minutes. Transfer sweet potatoes to one prepared sheet. Return oil to 350 degrees and repeat twice more with remaining sweet potatoes, dividing fried potatoes evenly between prepared sheets.
3. Transfer sweet potatoes to bowl with sugar mixture and toss to coat. Add vanilla, if using, and toss again.

Four Roses Egg Nog

Ingredients

- 6 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 pint of milk
- 1 ounce rum
- 1 pint Four Roses (Whiskey)
- 1 pint heavy cream
- 1 gallon vanilla ice cream

Directions

1. Separate six eggs whites and the yolks into two separate bowls
2. Beat the whites and yolks separately
3. Add ½ cup of sugar to yolks while beating, and add ¼ cup sugar to the whites after they have been beaten very stiff.
4. Mix the egg whites with the yolks.
5. Stir in 1 pint of heavy cream and 1 pint of milk.
6. Add 1 pint of Four Roses. (Whiskey)
7. Pour the mixture into a punch bowl and top with scoops of ice cream.
8. Let people serve themselves.



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The Gables will be taking advantage of Snowbird season to bring back socializing



The Gables building is undergoing a rejuvenation of sorts, bringing together old friends and new residents, Snowbirds and renters, to enjoy friendship, fun and common interests.

After a short hiatus, The Gables now has co-coordinators who are excited to help unite our building and develop social responsibilities extending beyond our walls.

As a small start, a group of residents met at Clearwater Family Restaurant to plan a holiday party on Dec. 2. Enjoying great food was also on the agenda.

Conversation revealed the great diversity and life experiences brought to the table. We are hoping to bring some of these life stories of our multi-talented residents to the On Top of the World community in future newspaper stories.

Americans traveling abroad are known for saying hello and smiling at



In a new effort to bring back social events to The Gables building, residents met at Clearwater Family Restaurant.

strangers they meet in the street - a custom not always seen in other countries. What we have discovered is how we have an assimilated group from many different countries and we want to bring together their experiences and cultures, customs and foods, as well as provide a different viewpoint of who we are as a nation.

In our small group at lunch, we found Coleman Weir, who has come to the

United States from Ireland, by way of New York.

Lucia Fonseca has roots in Columbia, Josephine Borg is from Malta, a small island south of Sicily, Tom Ingram is from New Jersey, and Mike Foss, is most recently from Upstate New York.

Everyone had an opinion on what exactly is meant by "Upstate New York" which led to a lively discussion and much laughter!


We are looking forward to meeting and learning more about our neighbors.


The Gables is a friendly, caring neighborhood. Grouches and gripers need not apply.

If you have a friend living at The Gables, give them a call and join us for our next event. There is always room for one more at the table!

EAC and WAC swimming pools will be open Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve

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Please give 24 hours notice.
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Saturday Farmer's Market

East Activity Center Front Parking Lot

**December
6, 13, 20, 27
11 am - 4 pm**

Maggie Reinhart loves the art classes here



I am going to highlight a new resident at the Emerald Isle building. Her name is Maggie Reinhart. She lives on the Rhodesian side of the building with her husband, Ron. She has previously lived in Denver and Los Angeles. Her home was located in the middle of a mountain range in a very lovely location. She has four children and four grandchildren. Her family started to migrate to Florida, and Maggie and Ron decided to follow. They both enjoy being close to family. She told me they both love On Top



Emerald Isle residents enjoy a backyard party in November. If you had a folding chair, you had a seat. Everyone brought food to share.

of the World and all it has to offer. They are glad they chose to live here. I love hearing that. Maggie started out taking art classes in high school and has continued her love of art to this day. She has painted people and pets, and various other things. She joined the Art Guild Acrylic Painting Club here at On Top of the World and not only loves it, but has be-

come quite good at it. It is more difficult because the subject appears to jump out of the frame at you. The club meets on Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. in the Largo Room for anybody who loves art and wants to try something new. Maggie was once selected as artist of the month in this club for her work. She is also the board secretary. It is a good thing for any artist or aspiring artist to join. You get to enter all the classes, currently available are drawing and acrylic. You can also enter the monthly artist of the month contest as well as attend workshops throughout the year. There is an annual art show each spring. The classes are taught by Rosemary Lugg. Maggie is very talented and I particularly enjoy her pet portraits. She can also do portraits, scenes and landscapes. Her work would be a welcome addition to your home. If anyone has a story to tell or knows of one, please email me at crazygma0809@yahoo.com. I will be happy to write it.

Granadians will be decorating windows for Christmas



The Granda building Christmas luncheon will take place at the Olive Garden restaurant in Clearwater at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 4 instead of at The Grillsmith. Olive Garden will have a room set aside for us. Please sign up by 4 p.m., Dec. 3 for reservations. According to Parkway Management, we are not to block or impede the stairways or walkway with any Christmas lights or decorations. Please read last month's newspaper for guidelines. Also, a notice from Parkway is posted on the bulletin board in the core lobby. Please read. Sarah Wybo is leading up a window decorating contest. Let us get in the spirit and decorate! Let's make our windows beautiful for all to see! Don't be a humbug! Voting should be no later than Dec. 10th. There will be a box to drop off your votes in the core. Take a "Window Walk" and vote. See contest information on the lobby bulletin board. We will have a potluck dinner on Dec. 11. The sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board. Please sign up if you plan to attend. We will announce the

window winners and Sarah will present prizes. We also will be decorating the Granada tree on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 10 a.m. Tom and Barb Jamrozy will be serving coffee and donuts as always. We have some birthdays to celebrate in December. See the birthday board and wish everyone an incredibly happy birthday: Barb Jamrozy, Dascilda Allen and any others. Happy birthday! Until next month ... have a beautiful holiday season, Merry Christmas and please, let not your hearts be troubled!

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Association Board Meetings live.

Plus, you can visit the Past Board Meetings page
and review any meeting since June 2023.*
Just visit the Box Office, click the Past Board Meetings link,
select the correct date ... and watch.

Association Board Meetings

June 12, 2025 (annual meeting)	
June 5, 2025 Information Meeting on Voting and Reserves	
April 30, 2025	April 17, 2025
February 27, 2025	March 27, 2025
January 30, 2025	January 16, 2025
Meet The Candidates Morning - January 9, 2025	
Meet The Candidates Evening - January 9, 2025	
Nov. 7, 2024 Hurricane Response Review	
Nov. 22, 2024	Dec. 19, 2024
Oct. 15, 2024	Oct. 2, 2024
Sept. 20, 2024 Selection Committee Created	Sept. 11, 2024
September 5, 2024	July 25, 2024
July 18, 2024	July 15, 2024
June 13, 2024	June 4 and 6, 2024
May 22, 2024	April 24, 2024

* Not all
past board
meetings are
archived on the
Box Office.

Interviews with
management
companies are
not available.

Some future
meetings may not
be available.

But the dates listed
can be watched
anytime when
Internet access
is available.

All videos are
copyrighted.
Recording,
downloading and
uploading are
prohibited.

Social Dance with Howard

1-3 pm, Thursdays

West Activity Center Belleaire Room

Singles or couples. Men needed!

Residents pick the dances to learn.

Qwirkle Group

Qwirkle is a fun tile game full of colors and shapes.
Residents are getting together now to play together.

It is easy to learn but challenging to master.
Come join us. No experience necessary.



Mondays 1-4 p.m.
East Activity Center Dunedin Room
Everyone Welcome!
Call Sherrie Markey at 717-873-1066.



Year-Round

Thursdays, 6:30-9:30 pm

WAC Belleair Room

Must have a valid activity
card and be a member of
the Canadian Club.
Bring spare change.

Blackout

Learn how to play at 5:50 pm

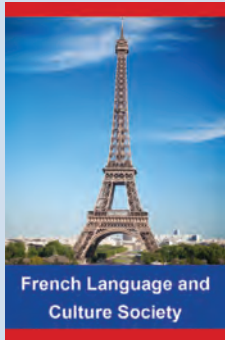
French Language and

Culture Society

11 am - 12 pm

Wednesdays

EAC Dunedin Room



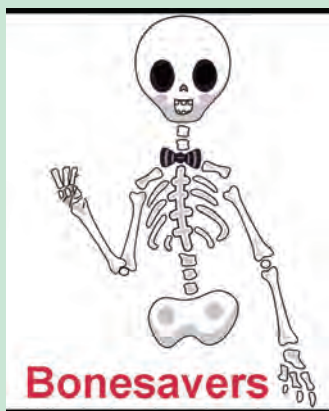
Bonesavers

Mondays, Wednesdays,

Fridays

8:00 - 9:00 am

Clearwater Room



OTOW Philosophy Club

Life, World Events, Environment, Education,
Retirement, Health, Justice, Television

Philosophy Club

TED TV Interviews
Follow-up Discussions

Every Tuesday
10-11:30 am
EAC Crystal Beach Room

Freebirdz

10:30 am -12:00 pm,

Fridays

Crystal Beach Room

Sit, talk and

lose weight.

No membership.



Pull Tabs for Tampa Shriners
benefits

Children who need Wheelchairs

Hey On Top of the World neighbors. Just a little reminder.
Please continue to collect pull tabs from any soda cans, beer cans, juice cans,
food cans, etc. Just contact me, Connie Stanley, at 727-475-8888
or bring the pull tabs to the Canadian Club information table
on any Monday or Thursday from 8:30-10:30 a.m., in the East Activity Center Auditorium.
Also, OTOW clubs with dinner-dances, I'll be back with red solo cups again!
Thank you for contributing to such a worthy cause.

Shuffleboard

Open to all OTOW residents
with a valid activity card.

Join us during league play and
we have equipment available.
Mon-Tue-Wed 4 pm
East Activity Center



Speak English

A class at On Top of the World taught by Lola Dickert
and Uegene Z. We meet for 1 hour every Thursday from
10-11 am in the East Activity Center Dunedin Room.
The class is free. There is no homework.
This is your chance to learn how to speak English
more fluently. Just bring your Activity Card.

Polynesian building residents held special trick-or-treat event for select grandchildren



Halloween was extra sweet this year at the Polynesian building.

Twin grandsons and their cowardly lion friend delighted residents during an evening of trick-or-treating fun.

Dressed as little “Cats in the Hats,” the twins, and their friend, made their rounds guided by orange ribbons on doors that signaled who was ready for a visit.

Laughter and smiles filled the walkways as the costumed trio brought a touch of Seuss-inspired magic to every stop.

Residents were ready with treat bags, candy, and even their own costumes. And the twins had a surprise bag of goodies for everyone they visited.

The boys loved giving back and seeing everyone smile. After the candy buckets were full and the photo ops complete, everyone gathered for a lively pizza party where residents and guests shared stories, laughter and plenty of slices.

The event was such a hit that our building captain, Debbie Clarkson, is already planning to make it an annual tradition.

“Everyone had such a wonderful time,” one resident said. “We can’t wait for next Halloween!”



These trick-or-treaters knew which residents were in the Halloween spirit. They followed the orange ribbons on doors.




There were 46 residents from the Chinese Cathay building in the East Activity Center Kitchen/Clearwater Room.



Friendsgiving had 46 guests


‘Friendsgiving’ at the Chinese Cathay building continues to grow each year with a record breaking 46 people in attendance this past November! Wanda Outten hosted this year’s event and did an outstanding job organizing this annual potluck feast. We are all thankful for her hard work and friendly personality! Our building is truly blessed with great neighbors and we look forward to many more Friendsgivings in the years to come!



Happy Holidays

from the 90 people who make up the

Press Association



Classified

OTOW News classifieds are for On Top of the World residents only. You may place an ad to sell or seek to buy using up to 40 words. You cannot sell anything for a price of more than \$500. You cannot sell condos, cars, bedding or used clothing. No business ads. No companion ads. Classifieds must be dropped off at the newsroom in person before the 16th of each month. You may be asked to show your activity card. One classified per household per month. You must ask to have your ad run twice.

For sale: La-Z-Boy leather sofa color gray. 86 inches. 5 years old. Good condition. Asking \$400. Two La-Z-Boy end tables with file cabinets. \$200. Dining room table with 2 inserts and four chairs. \$100. Call Paula at 727-509-9002.

For sale: Elliptical exercise machine. New. Asking \$30. Call Mary at 814-932-2782.

For sale: Stainless steel cookware. 10 pots and pans, including steamer, 6 lids, 2 handles. Very good condition. \$200. Call Niki at 317-625-2881.

For sale: Need a Christmas gift? 22 glossy 8x10 professional promotional photos of Disney World Resort from 1996. Each photo is different and rare. Do you know a Disney collector? \$1 apiece or \$10 for all. Call Debbie at 724-961-3379.

For sale: Complete collectors set of Roosevelt dimes from 1946-1979 (less only 5 non-silver, post-1964 dates) in blue Whitman coin folder. Asking \$150. Would make a nice Christmas gift. Call Marty at 386-753-7173.

For sale: VIVE Scooter. 5 years old. Asking \$500 or best offer. Call Vetra at 804-405-6982.

BRAIN TEASE

	3		1		2
4			3		
	1		5		3
	5	1		2	4
5			4		
	4		2		6

To do the Brain Tease above, you must put a number 0-9 in each white square. The trick is, each number can only appear one time horizontally and vertically. Start with a row or column with only one white square. As you fill in squares, the rest of the board will get easier to manage.

OTOW News

WORDMIX

Unscramble the six words listed below.
If you unscramble correctly, the first letter of each word will spell out the secret word of the month.
If you cannot come up with the secret word of the month, then redo at least one of the six scrambled words.
Please note, none of the secret words are plural.

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SECRET WORD:

Last month's scrambled words: Swamp, erupt, ethnic, saddle, avenger, worried. Secret Word Last Month: SEESAW

Good Karma Book Club

A post-read book discussion group.

HOW TO READ A BOOK

10 am, Thursday, December 18

"How To Read A Book"

By Marcia Woods

10 am, Thursday, January 15

"The Light Eaters: Unseen World of Plants"

By Zoe Schlanger

All of our meetings take place in the East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room.
For more information, see our web page on the Box Office (otowboxoffice.com).
You can also call Jane at 727-754-3823.

LIBRARY

New Books

"Ripeness" by Sarah Moss

"The Proving Ground" by Michael Connelly

"The King's Ransom" by Janet Evanovich

"Exit Strategy" by Lee Childs

"The Intruder" by Freida McFadden

"Remain" by Nichole SparksMiller

Join the OTOW Library for \$5.

Renew your membership so we can buy new books.

Hours: 10-12 Mondays, 1-3 Wednesdays, 10-12 Thursdays



More than 50 holiday shows, concerts and performances a sleigh ride away

Happy holidays everyone!
It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas... isn't just a line from a holiday favorite Christmas carol, it's what the live music and theater scenes are transforming the bay area into this month.

Wow, more than 50 different holiday shows, concerts and live performances are highlighted for your holiday enjoyment!

Remember to look for the ***** for my ***Must See*** pick performances and shows. For more information on these and other live music concerts and theater shows around the bay, keep reading!

Ruth Eckerd Hall Venues
With all of the shows put on at Ruth Eckerd Hall venues, the following are some of the highlights.

All tickets and information for the following Ruth Eckerd Hall venues are available through their website www.rutheckerdhall.com.

The BayCare Sound at Coachman Park
301 Drew St, Clearwater
Dec. 4, Dark Star Orchestra – critically acclaimed orchestral Grateful Dead concert experience.

Nancy & David Bilheimer Capitol Theater
405 Cleveland St, Clearwater
Dec. 11, Peter White Christmas with Mindi Abair and Vincent Ingala.
Dec. 12, Shaun Cassidy, The Road to Us Tour.
Dec. 13, Bruce Hornsby, Grammy-winning musical show you won't want to miss.
***** Dec. 20, Rockapella Christmas. If you love a cappella music, it doesn't get any better than this! ***Must See***
Dec. 21, Celtic Angels Christmas – “immerse yourself in the electric ambience of an Irish Christmas.”

Ruth Eckerd Hall
1111 McMullen Booth Road Clearwater
Dec. 6, Lady A, This Winter Night's Tour – Country music trio performs your holiday favorites.
Dec. 7, Three Dog Night with special guest Herman's Hermits starring Peter Noone.

Dec. 11, Trisha Yearwood Christmas Symphony – Grammy-winning country singer puts on a Christmas show you won't want to miss.
Dec. 12, Sarah Brightman, A Winter Symphony – the world's best-selling soprano will enthrall you with this fantastic orchestra backed show.

Dec. 14, Allman Betts Family Revival – If you like the Allman Brothers, this is the show for you.
Dec. 19, Cirque Musica: Holiday Wonderland – don't miss this annually sold-out show.

Dec. 21, Holiday Pops featuring the Florida Orchestra.
***** Dec. 22 and 23, Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol – Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol takes on a whole new look with the music of 11-time Grammy-winning singer and composer Dolly Parton. ***Must See***

Other Venues around the Pinellas County side of Tampa Bay

Francis Wilson Playhouse
302 Seminole St, Clearwater
***** Dec. 4-21, Annie – Don't miss this double Tony Award-winning holiday show. ***Must See***
Tickets and showtimes are available on their website at www.franciswilsonplayhouse.org.

TheatreFor
1863 N. Highland Ave, Clearwater
Dec. 11 and 18, 7 p.m., Nuts for the Holidays – an adult comedic jab at all the things that drive us nutty during the holiday season. Presented by the Cracked Nut Players.
Tickets and showtimes are available on the website www.theatrefor.com.

freefall Theater
6099 Central Ave, St. Petersburg
Dec. 1-7, Death Trap by Ira Levin – A classic thriller from the author of Rosemary's Baby and The Stepford Wives.
Dates, showtimes and tickets available on their website: www.freefalltheater.com.

West Coast Players
21905 US Hwy 19 N, Clearwater
Dec. 5-14, The Humans. This one-act, Tony Award-winning play is one you won't want to miss!
Tickets are available on their website: www.wcplayers.com.

Palladium Theater
253 5th Ave N, St. Petersburg
Dec. 5-7, The Nutcracker, presented by the Academy of Ballet Arts, Inc., highlights a great lineup of 18 live holiday shows.

Dec. 19-21, Holiday Sparkle presented by the St. Petersburg Opera wraps up the theater's holiday season. Visit their website www.mypalladium.org for show dates, times and tickets.

St. Petersburg City Theater
4025 31st St S, St. Petersburg
Dec. 12-21, A Christmas Carol – A

WWII radio play inspired by real local events. Visit their website for dates, showtimes and tickets: www.spcitytheater.org.

Central Park Performing Arts Center
105 Central Park Dr, Largo
Several great shows this month, highlighted by: Dec. 7, Christmas with the New York Tenors “will inspire and entertain audiences of all ages.”
For tickets and showtimes, visit their website www.largoarts.com.

Zubrick Magic Theater
1211 1st Ave N Suite 101 St. Petersburg
Must see family-style magic shows every Thursday through Sunday in December.
This show is an On Top of the World resident favorite for all ages.
Dec. 4-31, Zubrick Holiday Spectacular - Amazing feats of magic with a holiday twist.

All Friday and Saturday shows start at 7 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets available on their website www.zubrickmagic.com.

Early Bird Dinner Theater
13355 49th St N, Clearwater
Dec. 1-14, On the Farce Day of Christmas – an entertaining and comedic situational holiday play.
11 a.m. and 4 p.m. shows Thursdays through Sundays. All performances include lunch or dinner and a show.
Tickets are available on their website, www.earlybirddinnertheater.com.

The Mahaffey Theater
Duke Energy Center for the Arts
400 1st Street S., St. Petersburg
Nineteen great shows at the Mahaffey this month, highlighted by: The Vienna Light Orchestra, Frozen in Concert, A Very Broadway Christmas, The Nutcracker Ballet and Handel's Messiah featuring The Florida Orchestra and The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay.
Show dates, times and tickets are available on their website, www.mahaffey.com/shows-and-events.

Tarpon Arts Performing Arts Center
324 Pine Street, Tarpon Springs
Dec. 3-7, A Merry Christmas at the 1883 Safford House Museum, a festive Victorian Christmas. While you're there, make sure to pick up your copy of their 2026 season brochure, then stay tuned to this article for upcoming show and concert highlights!

Dec. 14, The Edge Effect, A Capella Christmas – a wonderful musical show for all ages!

Show dates and tickets are available through their website, www.tarponarts.org.

Fantastic Venues Across the Bay

The Straz Center
1010 N Macinnes Pl, Tampa
Several shows will be playing this month at the Straz and its affiliated theaters, highlighted by:
Dec. 5, Handel's Messiah
Dec. 4-23, A Christmas Carol, A Live Radio Play.
Dec. 10-14, Les Misérables.
***** Dec. 19, Holiday Pops, featuring The Florida Orchestra, The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay and the Tampa Oratorio Singers. ***Must See***
Dates, showtimes and tickets are available on their website at www.strazcenter.org for these venues: Jaeb Theater, Shimberg Playhouse, TECO Theater, Morsani Hall and Riverwalk Stage.

Benchmark International Arena formally Amalie Arena
401 Channelside Dr, Tampa
Four live concerts are taking place this month at Benchmark International Arena, highlighted by: Dec. 7, Stevie Nicks Live in Concert – The Fleetwood Mac icon returns live on her own.
***** Dec. 14, Trans-Siberian Orchestra: The Ghost of Christmas Eve Tour. There will be two shows, a matinee at 3 p.m. and an evening show at 7:30 p.m. ***Must See***
The full listing of shows and tickets are available through the Amalie Arena website, www.amaliearena.com.

See y'all in January.

Something new for OTOW News!

Do you have a special family recipe that you would be willing to share with the rest of the On Top of the World community?
Here's your chance!

OTOW News is going to start publishing recipes that have been in your family for generations!
All you have to do is email a list of ingredients, a description of how to make your recipe and tell us how your family has cherished this recipe for years. The recipe can be for anything - breakfast, lunch, dinner, appetizers, desserts and beverages.

YOU MUST ATTACH IN YOUR EMAIL

- A SELF-TAKEN PHOTO OF A FINISHED RECIPE. YOU CANNOT EMAIL A PHOTO FROM THE INTERNET.

Email your recipe to otow.newsroom@gmail.com. Include your name, building number and condo number. Email must include an original quality picture taken by you, plus list of ingredients, instructions and family history story. Your story will not be published without all conditions above.

1 recipe per condo every 12 months

OTOW Residents Only

It's time for you to share your secret family recipe with everyone here at On Top of the World!