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ON TOP OF THE WORLD



Go
Bucs!

NEWS

A reminder,
Tampa is hosting
the Super Bowl
on Sunday, Feb. 7

February 2021

Published Since 1968

53 Years of Only Good News

Volume 53

No. 2

A New Year's love story in time for Valentine's Day

By Pat Cullen-Davis

We have a lovely lady, Judy Boley, who is one of our popular residents in the New World French building.

Her new year is off to a great start!

Judy's granddaughter, Jennifer Boley, was 15 years of age, in her freshman year at high school, when this new boy, Scott Hess, walked into her Algebra class.

Jennifer's heart stood still. They wrote notes to each other, went to movies and went ice skating.

This was first love for both of them.

They dated for two years, went to Homecoming together and he even bought her a bracelet that she still treasures today.

In high school, Jennifer and Scott used to listen to a band called U2. The song they loved was "New Year's Day."

They had no idea in high school that some day New Year's Day would turn out to be special for both of them. But it didn't happen right away.

As often happens with young love, Jennifer and Scott went their separate ways. Both went to college after high school and spent 32 years apart.

Both got married to other spouses, but neither relationship worked out.

It wasn't until a recent visit to grandma's condo at On Top of the World that Jennifer got a call. After getting divorced, Scott said he was taking a walk trying to figure out what to do with the rest of his life, when he called Jennifer to say "hello."

By then they were both divorced and instantly their friendship restarted.

Two years after getting back together, Jennifer and Scott married - on New Year's Day 2021.

It was a very special day and they played their very special song.

"Needless to say, Grandma was over the moon," Jennifer said. "She wept with joy and couldn't be more happy for us."

"Jenny is the best ever," Scott said. "We couldn't have found a more perfect time or perfect place to get married."

"It was a long path ... but I knew where it was going."

Not only did Grandma Judy start the year by watching her granddaughter get married, but this month she has another major event planned.

Judy will be celebrating her 95th birthday in late February.



Pictured above are Scott Hess and Jennifer Boley during the recent holiday season. At left are Jennifer and Scott on high school Homecoming Day more than 30 years ago. Today they are married.

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Same address - new design - www.OTOWClearwaterInfo.com

OTOW-Clearwater has a new website

Good news!

I am pleased to say our community website has a new look!

It's refreshing, easy to navigate and provides the most updated, timely and accurate information all in one place.

It really showcases the community and everything there is to offer here for an active lifestyle.

Need to submit a service request, update your contact information, request your water service be turned on or off, or simply want to know what to do around town? Take a few minutes and browse the new site, you'll find everything you need!

www.otowclearwaterinfo.com

COVID-19 Vaccinations and/or Testing at OTOW?

This morning I was feeling somewhat nostalgic as I glanced over previous editions of the On Top of the World newspaper.

Month after month I could see all of the hustle and bustle of fun activities offered by the many clubs at OTOW - even activities sponsored by the Community Service Office.

Bring back the Fall Festival, the Irish Club Parade, I say!

Some activities I remembered fondly and some I just couldn't quite recall, but it brought to mind just how few activities we currently have scheduled and how many of us want a return to some semblance of normalcy.

It was a time when life seemed so much more simple and enjoyable.

I want the days of the New York-New Jersey Club Taste of Coney Island Night, or the Good Neighbors Association Get Acquainted Coffee Thursday!

One way your Board is currently working to achieve bringing back normalcy is happening as you read this. Your Board, working in conjunction with Pinellas County Emergency Management, has been diligently coordinating to bring



COVID-19 vaccinations and possibly testing to the On Top of the World community.

Earlier in January, a survey went out to OTOW residents in an effort to determine the level of interest and participation in vaccinations. To date, we have not been given the number of responses. If coordination efforts are successful and subject to availability, vaccines would be administered in the East Activity Center auditorium. Recipients would be asked to remain on site for roughly 30 minutes after being vaccinated for observation purposes.

Please watch for updated information via www.otowclearwaterinfo.com, OTOW-ALERTS (aka "RAVE™"), notices posted at the Activity Centers, postings on OTOW-TV Spectrum Channel 732 as well as Nancy's Bulletin Board.

OTOW Alerts

Signing up for OTOW-ALERTS is incredibly easy.

Simply go to the OTOW-Clearwater website and from the home page scroll down to the bottom of the page to the "Sign Up Now" box 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. This is without obligation or cost to you. Your email and cell phone numbers are secure, never shared and never solicited.

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

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

Did You Know

Residents should be aware that due to an extremely high failure rate, silicone sealants are no longer approved for use as a caulking and weatherproofing product within On Top of the World Condominium Community.

Failure of the silicone sealant bond has resulted in water intrusion into units. This has resulted in significant water damage and costly repairs for owners.

Water intrusion is a serious issue that may damage belongings and lead to mold growth. Protect yourself by asking your contractor in advance if they are using an acrylic urethane or polyurethane sealant, recommended for use by your Association.

Applying the proper sealant, in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications, may prevent water intrusion.

Detailed information is available at the Community Service Office in the East Activity Center.

Community Service Office Information

The Community Service Office (CSO) hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The office closes for lunch from noon to 12:30, Monday through Friday, unless otherwise posted.

If your call goes to voice mail, it is because staff is working with someone else. Please be patient. Calls and voicemails will be responded to during normal business hours. Once the requested service matter is identified, a service order will be generated and submitted to the appropriate department to address the matter.

The goal of the CSO is to make an

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

From time to time, it may become necessary for us to contact you with questions or clarification of your request.

It is not necessary to report service requests more than one time.

If you have any questions regarding your request, and until the Community Service Office reopens, please call the Service Request Line. The number is listed below.

As a reminder, window and door repair or replacement is exclusive to the unit and is the owner's responsibility. The Association's responsibility is to the structure and common elements.

Service Request Line

If you are unable to visit the Community Service Office, the OTOW phone number to submit a service request is 727-683-6981.

Please call for general building matters in the common areas only. Please do not leave health-related emergency information on the service request line as this will delay the amount of time it takes us to respond to non-emergency service requests.

After-Hours Number

The OTOW after-hours phone number is 727-799-1115 for issues such as water intrusion into your unit.

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

For a life threatening emergency, please dial 911.

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




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Make sure you are getting community alerts

OTOW community is working

The longer I live, the more convinced I am that every year will be stranger than the last.

That said, 2020 was exceptional in so many ways.

I meet and talk to a great many people in the course of a month. My take away is that people are tired of restrictions, but wary of infection.

These are two ideas seemingly at odds with each other.

My other take away is a belief that "it has to get better in 2021." There is no guarantee to this unless we all work to make it so in our On Top of the World-Clearwater community.

OTOW Clearwater is a great place to live. There is a great deal of shared experiences about life in a small village like OTOW.

COVID-19 shouldn't ever be one that is shared. This is why Management has reached out to the Pinellas County Health Department to try and arrange an on-site vaccination program in the community.

For those who signed up to receive OTOW emails, or for those who signed up for RAVE™ alerts (phone and text), you should have received a notice about interest in an on-site vaccination program. Hopefully you did respond as the Pinellas County Health Department needed a solid idea of how many people would be interested.

In case you missed it, the link is available on the official OTOW-Clearwater website at www.otowclearwaterinfo.com.

If you don't have internet or cell service, you may visit the Community Service Office and they will assist you with your survey.

Face it, we are all in this viral stew together and want a way out. The end goal is to survive and get back to some semblance of normalcy in our social and spiritual lives.

I believe each of us has a tie to our community and a need to work together to keep OTOW as one of the safest and best active adult communities in Florida.

Unlike the division we too often see across our nation these days, the people who live here find ways to work together, to stand together and to settle our differences amicably and without casting aspersions about our neighbors.

This unity of purpose is truly one of the things that makes this community such an incredible place to live.

As you know, I have a deep love for this community and will do whatever I can to ensure that On Top of the World Clearwater remains a great place to live.

Sign Up For Critical Alerts

Signing up for OTOW-ALERTS is incredibly easy. Simply go to the official OTOW Clearwater website, otowclearwaterinfo.com, and from the home page scroll down to the bottom of the page and a "Sign Up Now" blue-green box will appear. Click to enroll. You can also click the "Stay Informed" tab and the top of the



home page and select emails or RAVE™ to enroll.

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

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

OTOW-ALERTS also provide advance warning of severe weather events as well as other matters of critical and timely concern to the residents of OTOW. It is not hyperbole to say a timely warning may save your life!

Community Service Office

The Community Service Office (CSO) is there to serve all residents of the community.

If you have a concern or a question, please visit the CSO during regular business hours, use the website, write a concise letter about your concern, or leave a phone message.

The CSO is your first contact for residents seeking answers to questions or in need of specific services of the Association.

To that end, in 2020 the CSO saw an average of 50 walk-ins per workday for approximately 17,262 residents per year. This figure is down slightly from 2019 which saw an average of 70 walk-ins per day or approximately 18,000 per annum.

The slight decrease is primarily due to COVID-19 and the restrictions that resulted. Given this, the numbers this year show that work continued even during the pandemic.

Daily calls to the service line averaged 30 calls per workday for 8,120 a year. This figure stays relatively consistent from year to year. Of the combined 25,382+ contacts per year, this generated an average rate of 3291 work orders per year.

So if you call the CSO and are put on hold, you will now know why. It's a busy office.

Inspection Services Update

First let me thank all the residents who went through the CSO to obtain modifications for work.

In 2020 there were 940 approved modifications. Actually, a decrease of 2 over 2019.

This is significant because it may mean that residents are interested in en-

suring their community remains a safe and nice place to live. Yes, condo living is very different from life in a single family home that is not part of a homeowner association. It takes adjustment to the idea that you can't just do what you please in or around your condo. What one person does may adversely affect many neighbors.

Inspection Services wrote 4682 courtesy compliance letters, of which approximately 80 percent have complied as requested or written back for clarification.

If you are reading this and fall in that silent 20 percent, take heart, building re-inspections began again in January 2021.

There were 100 vehicles tagged for various violations (expired tags, no plates, disrepair, etc. improperly parked in a no parking zone). One vehicle was towed from property.

In 2020, the Management Company sent out 10 letters to unit owners for various violations (expired tags, no plates, disrepair, etc. improperly parked).

In the "alternative transportation" area, the CSO issued 105 boat slips at Lake Arbor, as well as provided entry gate stickers for Paradise residents.

Inspection Services provided assistance to CSO staff to aid in giving residents accurate information and support in a wide range of matters, including inspections and certifications (estoppel) for pending sales.

They handled 213 washer/dryer certifications and issued 548 estoppel inspection letters regarding compliance with community rules and architectural standards.

In 2020 there were 50 water intrusion letters written. This number was down from 2019 when 70 letters were written. Of those in 2020, approximately 85 percent of the issues were resolved by compliance or agreement to comply in a timely manner.

Finally, there were nine unresolved violations sent to the Association for legal review.

Before You Leave Town

Think Again!

Water doesn't usually stay in a toilet bowl indefinitely. Water evaporates from a toilet bowl in about 30 days. Much of the pace of evaporation may depend on the humidity in your apartment. When the bowl goes dry, it is an opportunity for mice and rats to gain entry to a condo.

Kind of gross, I know, but it can become a serious problem if you return to a rodent infestation.

It is each owner's sole responsibility to protect the interior of their condo. Generally, adding a soap-based cleaner such as Mr. Clean, Fabuloso, or similar product (we don't recommend anti-freeze because of toxicity to pets) will slow down evaporation to a degree.

It is not entirely fool proof.

The other thing you'll want to do is put tight fitting plastic wrap over the bowl, make sure it is a tight seal. This also slows evaporation and serves as an entry obstacle to vermin.

Nothing is perfect or fool proof. The best strategy is to hire a home sitting service or a friendly neighbor to inspect the apartment at least weekly.

You will want them to flush the toilets, and run water in the sinks, tub and shower for a short period of time to make sure the p-trap is not dry.

Note that in my comments below, the Association continues to recommend having the Management Company turn your water off if you are leaving for an extended term. If this is the case you have several options: (1) Leave extra dilute mixture for your home inspector/neighbor to recharge the bowl, or (2) the home inspector/neighbor can request the Association to turn on the water on a specific date and then turn it off again before close of business the same day.

If you are unfortunate enough to discover a rodent infestation, notify the Community Service Office ASAP. The Association will bait and trap the areas between floors in an attempt to get ahead of any infestation. However, interior rodent control is always the individual owner's responsibility, as is restoration of the inevitable damage that mankind's most persistent pest can leave behind.

Protecting Your Property and Your Neighbors

Considerable damage happens each and every year as a result of improperly maintained heating/cooling units (HVAC).

It is absolutely critical that you have your HVAC unit serviced annually. Failing to do so puts you (and your neighbors) at risk of damage from flooding if the condensate drain line backs up.

Additionally, if your HVAC unit has heat strips to provide heat and the unit is not serviced, the heat strips may malfunction, overheat, and cause a fire.

As to the washer/dryer, unless you live in Buildings 63-65, 67-70, 77, 78, 85, or 90-96, all on the west side of Belcher Road, and you currently have a washer/dryer, it was most likely installed without approval or guidance from the Condominium Association.

More to the point, your washer/dryer would have been installed without the benefit of using a licensed plumber, electrician or appliance specialist.

This leaves you, the owner, open to significant liability in the event of an overflow or fire.

Simply put, a dryer may result in an overload at the electrical panel because it is drawing excessive power. In some cases, we have found that unauthorized dryer installations have used the same circuit breaker as the stove and HVAC. This is an open invitation for trouble.

Is an in-home convenience worth your property or your life?

If you have this situation, please call a licensed specialist and have it corrected immediately.

(Continued on page 5)

together through pandemic

If your water heater is more than 10 years old, it needs careful monitoring for possible leaks. If it is more than 12-years old, you'd be money ahead to replace it altogether.

Strangely, a leak never seems to occur when you are home. Leave for a week and you may just come back to a flood, or worse, the emergency intervention by your Association in your absence.

As a reminder, the Association recommends that you have your water service shut off if you plan to be away from your unit for an extended period of time. You may do so by calling the water service number at 727-799-3417 option No. 6.

The Community Service Office does sell, at cost, a warning device that senses dampness and alarms loudly. This same unit may also be extended to the pan in the HVAC unit, thereby giving you a two-for-one benefit. If you can change a 9-volt battery, you can also install this simple device. It makes good sense to install this apparatus in your home.

If an adverse event occurs in a property, the Association will attempt to notify the owner promptly. It is critical that the Association has updated owner emergency contact information. Please help your Association by updating your emergency contact information. You may do this through the community website or at the Community Service Office. All information is held confidential and only used in an emergency.

If you have any questions on anything I've written about so far, please go to the OTOWClearwaterInfo.com website and click Community Service Office for details. The website has a great deal of information on practical maintenance you can do to protect and maintain the interior of your home.

Property Insurance

It never ceases to amaze me the number of residents who do not carry insurance on their condo. Failing to be adequately insured leaves the owner at risk of large dollar losses in the event of fire or water damage.

I cannot stress the point loud enough or long enough that it is the responsibility of each individual owner to make sure they have adequate insurance on their personal property and on that portion of your condo not insured by the Association's master policy.

Generally, owner property coverage policies are written on the interior components of the condo and on your personal property.

Your Association's coverage ends at the interior finish of the outside perimeter walls of your condo. The tile, carpet, cabinetry, appliances, plumbing above the finish floor, air conditioning, electrical wiring from the main panel inward, and other interior components are also all the responsibility of the individual owner to insure, maintain or replace.

Insurance coverage is inexpensive

and there is no good excuse to not have your personal contents insured for at least \$25,000. Remember, the Association only insures the structure. Contents are your responsibility so please discuss limits with your insurance agent.

Damage within the interior area of your home can become quite costly, especially if a leaking air conditioner or water heater causes damage in adjoining units.

Costs of repair can really be large.

It is the owner's obligation to maintain or replace these components and their liability. Proper insurance coverage will help save you large out-of-pocket expense if that happens.

February is a great month to review your property and casualty coverage (I know this because my condo insurance rolls in February).

Your Association always recommends that you discuss your coverage with your agent, but to also request multiple bids on coverage. Checking rates really does work and can save you money on your HO6 coverage.

The HO6 rider covers the insured owner for a portion of the deductible the Association maintains. Currently, your association maintains a deductible of \$10,000 per occurrence to property damage from any peril other than wind (such as fire). Speak with your insurance agent to make sure you have coverage in place and that it is adequate.

Upcoming Projects Painting/Waterproofing

The painting contractor will complete its current work on rear façade waterproofing in January before transitioning back to the fronts of structures in February.

Next up on the schedule for 2021 will be the front facades of Buildings 46, 47 and 53. These buildings will have new paint coatings applied and residents should be aware that the contractor will be using high-reach equipment in the main parking areas and surrounding secondary lots requiring residents to relocate their personal vehicles as necessary.

Bulletins are posted by the contractor in advance of the work so please keep an eye on the building's bulletin boards for details.

As always, please use caution in these areas while the improvements are underway and be aware that inclement weather can affect these approximate start dates.

The installation of new unit address numbers is another community improvement project that will resume with the return to front façade paint applications. As the painting contractor moves throughout the property this improvement cycle, management company crews will be installing new life-safety compliant, reflective unit numbers on the common area wall in proximity to unit front doors.

Bulletins will be posted in advance of the work advising residents of the process and what they can expect.

While any unit numbers attached to the common element wall will be removed by the painting contractor, numbers installed on front unit doors will need to be removed by the unit owner. If a unit owner wishes, they may contract with the management company for the removal of any old numbers for a nominal fee.

Construction, Roofing and Large Scope Projects

The Management Company, in conjunction with a licensed contractor, will continue the removal and subsequent replacement of the roofline element of Building 84 in the month of February.

This third phase of the project will affect residents who have assigned parking stalls on the south side of the building along Philippine Drive.

Because of shared street parking with Building 85, phased displacements of personal vehicles will need to happen. Residents affected by the work will receive a door hangar and windshield placard two days prior to when their vehicle will need to be relocated.

This phase of the project is anticipated to take two weeks to complete. Notices will be posted to the bulletin boards of the building and residents are asked to please avoid active work zones and follow ground personnel's direction in the interest of everyone's safety. Thanks for your cooperation

Building 23 will be the first structure in the improvement cycle to see crews from the roofing contractor arrive beginning in early February.

The contractor will begin the staging of materials and performing of preliminary roof replacement activities just prior to the start of rooftop activities.

Building 50 will follow shortly thereafter as the roofing contractor is scheduled to be at that location somewhere around the fourth week of the month.

Both projects are anticipated to take roughly two weeks to complete barring weather delays and will require the staged closure of the building's parking lots, either partially or in their entirety, to allow for the safe and efficient operation by the contractor.

Bulletins with exact work start dates will be posted in the building in advance of the contractor's arrival. As always, please observe all cordoned off areas in the interests of safety.

February will also be a busy month as the railing project at Building 73 will be halfway through completion.

As was stated in an earlier article, the railing vendor will continue to work on the west side of the property throughout the remainder of the fiscal year. This state licensed contractor will be replacing or adding aluminum components to the walkway guardrails and stairwell handrails, so please exercise caution in the areas where these improvements are being made. The improvements are estimated to be complete in 4-6 weeks, depending on

the scope and the size of the structure.

Notices will be posted in advance of the work so residents should keep an eye on their bulletin boards for updates.

The community's annual fire extinguisher inspections are another project scheduled for the beginning of the month.

This very important yearly fire suppression check-up takes roughly 2-3 weeks to complete and looks at all facets of the safe, reliable and efficient performance of these life-safety devices.

The management company works closely with the licensed vendor to ensure that each and every location on property is serviced according to the National Fire Protection standard.

Building walkway repairs will continue through winter and into spring as construction crews perform maintenance to the second and third floor walking surfaces. These small scale repairs require the use of specialized power tools and may cause a temporary inconvenience in the form of noise and dust. Repair crews will do their best to limit the inconvenience during this necessary work. These small repair areas will also be coated as a future preventative. As always, we ask that residents please limit any foot traffic in and around any work area they may encounter.

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

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

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

Compliance inspections by the Inspection Services division of the management company are ongoing, particularly the addressing of overplanted or unmaintained landscape around all building common areas.

Please keep in mind that the condominium association requires a modification request for any landscape alterations.

Many times decorative rocks or landscaping is installed without the advance approval of the association, which results in the removal and disposal of the items at the resident's cost.

Clutter enforcement is another item which requires constant monitoring by the management company. This includes the tagging and removal of excessive furnishings placed in the center core, walkways and end stairwells areas.

Remember, much of the material placed there may actually violate the life safety code for building access.

When is the last time you brined dinner?



The Salt Solution

Brine is a simple, salty liquid (a dry cure with water).

It doesn't sound like a big deal, but in fact, when salt combines with water, its power is magnified.

Salt in a solution penetrates food faster. It is the most effective marinade possible because it can flavor the meat down to its center via osmosis, and it results in a juicier finished dish.

And salty water can also be used to preserve food.

Brines, more so than dry cures, are an excellent way to impact seasoning and aromatic flavors.

A brine penetrates chicken, pork or vegetables rapidly and completely, bringing with it any flavors you might have added to the salty solution, such as garlic, onion, tarragon and pepper.

Cooks often use brines for pork, chicken and turkey - the three types of meat that benefit the most from brining - because they result in a uniformly juicy loin or bird that's perfectly seasoned every time.

There's a pleasing contradiction in the brine. Salt, as we know, dehydrates - it draws moisture out of the cells of meat. Yet while a brine's main effect on meat is to dehydrate it, a brine nevertheless results in a moister, juicier cut, and one that stays juicy even on reheating.

The reason for this seeming contradiction is that salt changes the shape of the protein in the meat, or bird, so that it can hold more juice than unbrined meat.

Salt allows the protein and molecules to expand, to connect more loosely, and thus contain more within each cell.

Salt makes each cell plump up.

Add Sugar

A brine should also include a third component: sugar.

Sugar helps to balance out some of the harsher effect of salt and enhances flavor.

Finally, because sugar browns so nicely, it helps to give a deep rich color to the surface or skin of roasted meats.

Another option, often desirable, is additional flavoring, such as herbs, spices, or aromatic vegetables. As the brine itself penetrates the meat, it brings with it additional flavors.

You might add tarragon, parsley and thyme to your salted water.

If you use aromatic components, it's important to heat your brine first so that the flavors fully infuse the liquid. It's then critical to chill your brine before adding your food. For small items, allow the food to rest in the refrigerator for a couple of hours after being brined. For larger cuts, allow up to a day.

Resting allows the salt within the meat to disperse more evenly.

Before you cook the meat, run it under cold water to get rid of the salt on the surface.

Always chill the brine thoroughly before adding meat to it. Choose a container that is taller than it is wide when brining larger items, such as a whole chicken or turkey or a fresh ham, because that will require less liquid to submerge the food.



A pork loin and a salmon fully brined and ready for an oven or grill.

Brine Times

The time you leave a piece of meat in the brine is critical.

If you leave it in too long, it can become unpleasantly salty. It's always better to err on the not-long-enough side.

Smaller items need only a matter of hours. Big items sometimes require a matter of days.

Suggested Brine Times

- Boneless chicken breasts 2 hours
- Pork chops 1 1/2 inches thick 2 hours
- Chicken 3 to 4 pounds up to 6 hours
- Boneless turkey breast 12 to 18 hours
- Pork loin 4 pounds 24 hours
- Fish thin fillets 1 hour
- Fish steaks 6 to 8 hours

"Salt, as we know, dehydrates - it draws moisture out of the cells of meat. But a brine results in a moister, juicier cut and one that stays juicy even on reheating."

ALL-PURPOSE BRINE

- 1 gallon of water
- 1 cup of kosher salt
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar

BASIC FISH BRINE

- Follow the All-Purpose Brine recipe above, then add the following:
- 2 sliced lemons
 - 2 sliced limes
 - 1/2 cup coarsely chopped dill
 - 6 garlic cloves chopped

It's critical, when brining any meat, fish or poultry, that it remain completely submerged in the brine. It's almost always necessary to weight the meat down. You can use a dinner plate to do so.

After brining, the meat or poultry should be refrigerated and uncovered on a rack so that it can dry and form a tacky surface.

Chicken or Turkey

- Follow the All-Purpose Brine recipe, then add the following:
- 1 bunch fresh tarragon (about 1 oz)
 - 1 bunch fresh parsley (about 1 oz)
 - 2 bay leaves
 - 1 head garlic, halved
 - 1 onion sliced
 - 3 tablespoon black peppercorns, lightly crushed
 - 2 lemons, halved

Pork Chops, Loin or Roast

- Follow the All-Purpose Brine recipe, then add the following:
- 4 packed tablespoons fresh sage
 - 1 tablespoon juniper berries, crushed
 - 2 garlic cloves lightly smashed
 - 1 tbsp freshly ground black pepper

Science of Cooking Healthy Food

By Marie

Email questions, suggestions and comments to

Marie

marieshealthyfood@gmail.com

Also, visit the Box Office

for past recipes in this newspaper.

otowboxoffice.com

Chicken Mélange is a mixture of diverse ingredients. It is the perfect dish for Sunday dinner or a cold rainy day! It is made with potatoes, butternut squash, mushrooms and juicy chicken so tender it falls apart.

Ingredients

- 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breast
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1/2 cup sliced mushrooms
- 1 large onion, large diced
- 1/2 butternut squash
chopped into 1/2 inch pieces
- 3 ribs celery, coarsely diced
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon turmeric spice
- 2 teaspoon Monterrey spice
- 1 pound baby rose potatoes, halved
- 1/2 cup chicken stock
- 1/2 cup dry sherry
- 1 can of Golden Mushroom condensed soup

Instructions

Phase I

1. Attach a sous vide circulator to a large pot and follow directions for preheating water at a low setting of 150 degrees.

2. Place vacuumed-packed chicken (thawed) in pot for an hour.

3. Remove chicken from pot and open sealed bag, saving any juices for broth.

4. Cut chicken into bite-size chunks.

Phase II

5. About 20 minutes before the chicken is done cooking, half potatoes and boil for 15 minutes. Drain.

6. Warm oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add squash, mushrooms, onion and celery to the pan and sauté for 5 minutes.

Phase III

7. Add potatoes, chicken, and spices to skillet.

8. Stir sherry, chicken broth, and condensed soup together. Add to skillet. Serves 2-4.

This is just
one example
of a
sous vide
circulator



**Chicken
Mélange**
using a Sous Vide Circulator

Introducing Sous Vide Cooking

This column is for the chefs who love new gadgets. Sous vide is French and means “cooking under vacuum.” It originated in university labs and spread to upscale restaurants in the 1970s and came to American home kitchens in 2005 (i).

Sous vide is a great way to cook meat to produce a tender, flavorful and juicy product. It is a particularly effective way to cook really tough cuts like brisket and rump roast. It offers chefs considerable time flexibility and convenience in meal preparations. Plus, it makes restaurant-quality dishes possible at home.

The recipe on this page features the sous vide technique, a relatively new way of cooking meat.

If you choose, you can hold meat in the water to cook for several hours before finishing it by searing. This means that your

meat is ready when you and your guests are ready.

The basics of sous vide cooking utilizes the following:

- Circulator
- Vacuum-sealer

A circulator is compact and simple to use. It generates heat and has accurate temperature control for slow-cooking. It also generates a gentle agitation of the cooking water to achieve even cooking. A circulator can be purchased on the Internet or in local stores. For example, Bed-and-Bath has one for \$100. Black+Decker™ makes a 7-quart digital slow cooker for precision sous-vide cooking at \$70. (These brands names are not recommendations, but are provided only as information.)

Health Value

Nutrient loss in foods occurs with exposure to high heat, air, and/or immersion in water.

Sous vide offers protection from these factors to preserve all the nutrition.

Most common cuts of meat will be fully cooked in about 1 hour. It should have no pinkness, but will provide an internal temperature of 150 degrees.

The Science

Traditionally-cooked meat uses high heat to cook from the outside to the interior. This inevitably overcooks the outer layers, resulting in a familiar dry, stringy texture.

But if the temperature is a low one, the meat cooks evenly throughout. This creates a more desirable tender and flaky texture.

Sous vide low temperature also minimizes moisture loss. The good news is, all of the great flavor and extra moisture

is retained in the sealed bag right where it belongs — in the meat itself.

Vacuum sealing is the best way for long-term freezing. An inexpensive food sealer and appropriate bags are needed. These items can be purchased in local stores or via the Internet.

It is a good step to season the meat with dry spices, ginger, garlic, or scallions before sealing the bag. Just remember that flavorings will intensify in a sealed bag.

Disclaimer / Link

Disclaimer: Good nutrition is one of the key foundations of good health. This column is not intended to provide medical advice. The reader should consult a physician for medical advice.

(i) - cooksillustrated.com/

OTOW Community Activities Calendar

East Activity Center

Crystal Beach Room

Good Neighbors Knitting Group: Wednesdays, 9:00-11:00
 Coloring Book Group: Wednesdays, 12:30-2:00
 Socrates Club: Fridays, 10:00-12:00
 Pray For America: Saturdays, 10:00-12:00
 Good Karma Book Club: Thursday, Feb. 18, 10:00-12:00

Ozona Room

Line Dance Practice: Wednesdays, 9:00-10:00

Largo Room

Bonesavers: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 8:00-9:00
 World Quilters: Tuesdays, 8:00-2:00
 TOPS: Thursdays, 9:30-11:00

Clearwater Room

Ceramics: Thursdays, 9:00-2:00
 Caring & Sharing: Tuesdays, 9:00 to 12:00

Auditorium

Line Dance Practice: Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 7:00 am-8:00
 Ladies Exercises : Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, 8:00 am-9:00
 Line Dance Beginners: Mondays, 10:00-2:00
 Republican Club Meeting: Thursday, February 11, 11:00-1:30
 Press Association: Thursday, February 4, 1:00-2:00. (Also a Zoom meeting)
 Cardio Dance: Wednesdays, Auditorium, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Exercise Room

Co-Ed Exercises Class 1: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9-10
 Co-Ed Exercises Class 2: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 10-11
 Chi Kung: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 12-12:45
 Tai Chi: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 1:00-2:00
 Hatha Yoga: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:45

EAC Swimming Pool

Open: Mondays, Tuesdays, Saturdays, Sundays 8:00-2:00
 Open: Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 8:00-6:30

Woodshop Open: Sat 8-2 Mon, Tue 8-2, Wed, Thur, Fri 8-4



West Activity Center

Belleair Room

Chair Zumba: Mondays 11:30-12:30, Thursdays 9-9:45
 Zumba: Tuesdays, Fridays, 9:00-10:00
 Gold Zumba: Saturdays, 10:00-11:00
 Ping Pong: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 10:00-1:00
 Baby Boomers Ukulele and Acoustic Jam: Thursday, 10:45-2:00

Pavilion

Democratic Club: Thursday, February 11, 12:30-2:00
 Jesters Club: Movie Shoots (Dates to be announced)
 Good Neighbors board meeting: Monday, February 15, 10:00-12:00

Billiards Room

Billiards Room is open

February 2021



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Be cautious about home warranty threats

SCAM ALERT

Recently, a client of mine dropped off a notice that she'd received from a company that appears to be offering some kind of home warranty services.

The notice I saw was a bit vague, although it did have my client's name and the address of her "property."

Basically, the notice stated that the home warranty for the property "may be expiring or may have already expired."

If you have a home warranty, then trust me, the company knows the exact date your warranty expires.

The notice went on to say something to the effect that my client hadn't contacted them to get her home warranty updated.

The company was not in any way affiliated with On Top of the World Condominium Association, Inc. or the real estate companies involved when the unit was purchased. However, the notice looks very official. It says it is "time sensitive," although I do not know for sure what that means since there was nothing in the notice which indicated when it would expire.

My guess is that the supposed offer to "update" the home warranty won't expire as long as someone is willing to pay some money.

The best thing you can do if you receive one of these flyers is to throw the flyer away.

Please Note: While there are many reputable home warranty companies with satisfied customers who benefit from their services, there are also companies that take advantage of unknowing consumers.

Some of the worst home warranty companies have a track record of scamming their customers by creating false charges on their credit cards, not addressing issues in a timely manner, having poor



customer service, and charging too much in annual premiums and service fees.

Let me add something. Whenever you purchase any kind of warranty or extended warranty, be it for a new appliance or new car, or anything else, it is important to read the terms and conditions and remember them.

I say this because in this age of scams and frauds, we need to assume that any letter or notice we get, where we find language that seeks to rush us into a decision, is likely to contain some form of scam.

We must be alert and we must be cautious!

If the ad has peaked your interest in obtaining a home warranty, then do your research on reputable companies instead of responding to an ad designed to intimidate you.

Q. I understand that under some federal statute called the Secure Act, I have to replan the distributions from my husband's IRA if he dies before me.

True?

A. John Beck is an attorney and mem-

ber of our law firm. This is his response to your question.

The Secure Act is very complex, and in a column like this, it's difficult to provide you with very much information on its many provisions.

Here's what can be said: As before, if the owner leaves his/her IRA to a surviving spouse, the spouse can continue to roll over that IRA into a surviving spouse's IRA. Then the surviving spouse can withdraw his or her required minimum distributions as before.

Should you name someone other than a surviving spouse as a beneficiary, then you need to discuss that with your attorney or with someone with very significant knowledge on how the Secure Act might impact a circumstance like that.

Q. It's just me and my husband. We were very young when we got married, but we've now been married 50 years.

We don't have wills and I believe we don't need them. We have living wills and powers of attorney and we've only named each other in them.

We do have children, but have had no contact with them for many years. We are totally disaffected from them and they are going to receive nothing from either of us when we pass on.

Everything we have is titled in both of our names so that if one of us passes, the other will have everything. And we have no intention of adding anyone's names to our assets as joint owners or beneficiaries.

When both of us are gone, let the State of Florida take everything. What's wrong with that?

So, why do we need wills or for sure, why do we need a trust?

A. Well, for one thing, if the premise

you are operating on is that since you and your husband do not have any wills, when both of you pass on, the State of Florida will get everything you have, then that is flat out incorrect.

The most likely scenario is that if you both pass on without any will or trust to provide where the assets of your estate goes, and without beneficiaries listed, then everything you have (after payment to any creditors) will wind up with the very children with whom you are disaffected.

If that's what you prefer, then it's OK with me. Otherwise, I think you and your wife ought to sit down with an attorney.

Jerry Colen, Rachel Wagoner and John Beck are members of Colen & Wagoner, P.A. Jerry Colen and Rachel Wagoner are members of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, and the Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys. John Beck has a degree in finance, and a masters' degrees in accounting and taxation. The law firm practices in the areas of wills, trusts, probate, real estate, elder law, Medicaid planning and business and professional advice. This column does not, nor is it intended to provide legal advice. You should not rely on what is written in this column to be legal advice for any situation. You should always consult your own attorney for legal advice. The Law Offices of Colen and Wagoner, P.A. is located at 7243 Bryan Dairy Road, Largo, Florida 33777 and in Suite 11 at Circle Square Commons in Ocala, Florida. You may call (727) 545-8114 or visit online at www.colenwagoner.com. Their email addresses are listed here:

Jerry@colenwagoner.com

Rachel@colenwagoner.com

John@colenwagoner.com

The zany comedy team of Ole and Chic

John Sigvard "Ole" Olsen and Harold Ogden "Chic" were American comedians that performed in Vaudeville, radio, Broadway and TV.

Their shows were noted for their crazy blackout gags and orchestrated mayhem.

Ole and Chic opened on Broadway in Helzapoppin and it became show business shorthand for freewheeling, anything goes comedy. Their show enjoyed a lengthy run on Broadway and spawned a movie.

Ole and Chic met in 1914 and immediately joined forces for a Vaudeville Act. No joke was too old. No song too corny. Ole played the violin and Chic played the ragtime piano.

In 1932, a presidential election year,

Ole and Chic nominated Mickey Mouse for President.

Comedy teams traditionally had a straight man and a stooge. However, Ole and Chic both took on the comedy role. Good-natured chuckling got their way through the steady barrage of gunshots and input from the audience.

When Hellzapoppin opened on Broadway, the sophisticated audiences were unprepared for the chaos to come. The producers were worried that the Broadway audiences would not accept such blackout comedy gags.

The show never played the same way twice. On some nights, songs would be interrupted for jokes and on other nights jokes would be interrupted by songs.

The team regularly appeared on the All-Star Revue NBC. Their last series was on ABC.

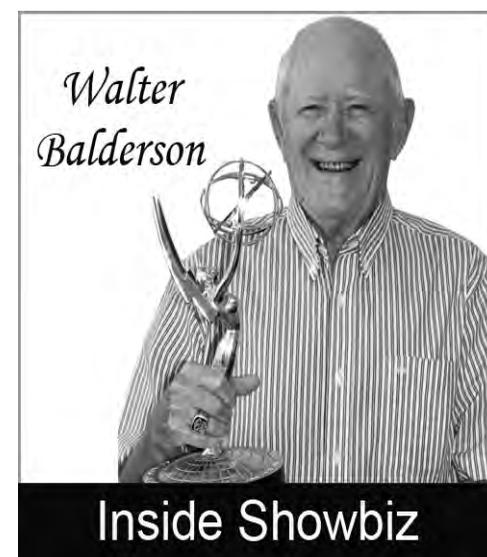
Ole and Chic continued to preside over zany comedy in Las Vegas into the 1950s.

They also appeared twice on ABC's "What's My Line" as the secret guests.

Ole and Chic had a long career and appeared in all entertainment venues. One of their last appearances was on NBC's "This is Your Life" with Ralph Edwards.

They were long-time partners and never appeared without each other.

Ole died in 1960 and Chic less than a year later. The two partners had always been close and their final resting place is in Las Vegas in adjacent graves.



Looking for information about COVID-19 vaccinations in Pinellas County? Go to <https://covid19.pinellascounty.org/vaccines/> Or call 844-770-8548.

February - so much to celebrate!

February is the month that we focus on and celebrate the health of our heart.

Are you taking advantage of all the fitness offered at our Activity Centers?

First, it is always a good idea to have an annual or biannual check-up with your physician, but once you get the green light, take a walk or ride a bike over to the Activity Centers. The Fitness Center, located at the East Activity Center, offers state-of-the-art equipment to help you maintain a healthy heart.

In-person fitness classes are also offered at both the East and West Activity Centers under COVID-19 restrictions (see calendar on page 8), or you may take advantage of the free online fitness classes with Cammy and Jessica offered through OTOW's Ocala Ranch.

Visit Nancy's Bulletin Board on the Box Office (otowboxoffice.com) for links to both live and pre-recorded cardio and strength exercise workouts.

Happy Heart Health!

Valentine's Day

Another way to celebrate the heart is Valentine's Day.

At age 55-and-beyond, none of us should need advice on how to celebrate Valentine's Day or how not to celebrate it.

But, whatever you do, open your heart, be kind, and as the song goes, "Love the one you're with!" even if it's just you!

Smile and wish someone well this Feb. 14 or extend a helping hand. I promise you will feel the love and have a Happy Valentine's Day!

It's also good for the heart and soul.

Free Shredding and Operation Medicine Cabinet

A free shredding and medical disposal event is taking place in February at On Top of the World.

In an effort to ensure public safety during this year's Identity Theft Awareness Week, Pinellas County Consumer Protection will be hosting a free drive-through shredding event at the On Top of the World East Activity Center Southeast Parking Lot, off World Parkway Boulevard East, on Thursday, Feb. 4, from 9-11 a.m.

The event is free and open to the public.

The shred is provided by Pinellas County Consumer Protection and will ensure the safe disposal of your personal documents.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Operation Medicine Cabinet will be also be on hand to collect and safely dispose of your unwanted medications.

Both events are drive-through only. No walk-ups allowed. Participants must stay in their vehicles at all times. Place all documents in a box or bag in the trunk of your car, or the bed of your truck, prior to the start of the event.

There is a limit of three boxes or bags of documents per vehicle.

Please contact Nancy Rogers with any questions at general_activity@otowfl.com



or call 727-799-2734.

2021 Annual

Activity Renewal Packets

As announced in my November newspaper column, the new 2021 Club and Activity Renewal Forms are ready for pick up.

All groups that utilize the facilities, from card players to the largest clubs, will be required to complete these forms legibly and on an annual basis.

The packets consist of rules and guidelines for starting and maintaining an On Top of the World club, a few questions to answer and forms to update.

That is it!

Please select one representative from your group to pick up a packet from either the Activity Director or the Community Service Office.

Please take time to read and complete your packet carefully and legibly. An appointment to review your completed packets will be required prior to submission.

Please email or call me and I will set up a time for us to meet. Email is: general_activity@otowfl.com or call 727-799-2734.

As a reminder, every OTOW club or activity is required to have a minimum of two residents assigned as officers or coordinators and we recommend that all groups follow a set of by-laws.

Forms must be completed and approved by Friday, Feb. 26, to place or hold a reservation on the 2021/22 calendar.

If all of your club's officers or coordinators are Snowbirds and not planning to return by Feb. 26, please request the forms via email. The completed forms can be emailed back to me or sent US Mail to: Activity Department, East Activity Center, 2069 World Parkway Blvd. East, Clearwater, FL, 33763.

In that case, the requirement to include copies of your updated activity cards can wait until you return.

I look forward to meeting and working with you again!

Free Tax Service

I have important news about AARP and the IRS free tax prep assistance!

As with most everything, there are significant changes coming to the tax preparation program. Here is the latest in-

formation that we have as of mid-January when my newspaper column was submitted.

The AARP/Tax-Aide Program for the 2021 tax season will (tentatively) begin in February 2021.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic concerns, tax assistance for clients will be mostly, or entirely, conducted remotely, rather than in-person.

Taxpayers must be able to communicate with AARP volunteers by email, telephone and online in order to receive and submit tax preparation documents.

Additionally, taxpayers will be required to provide their documents in an electronic format and by appointment.

For the 2021 tax-filing season, all open tax-aide sites will operate on an appointment-only basis. The information on how to request an appointment will vary on the AARP online site locator tool (see website link below). Service will vary with some sites accepting appointments online and others may require that you call for an appointment.

Please note that the availability and method of delivery of Tax-Aide services will be dependent on the local COVID-19 situation. Operational plans for 2021 are still under development and subject to change.

For the most up-to-date information visit: www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides in-person and remote tax assistance free of charge to anyone, with a special focus on taxpayers who are 50 or older or who have low to moderate income.

If you are not able to obtain an appointment with AARP Tax-Aide, the IRS will be offering free assistance (in person) by appointment at two Pinellas County locations:

- Pinellas County Veteran's Administration, 10000 Bay Pines Blvd., Bay Pines, FL. Call 727-398-6661.
- St. Petersburg Good Will Job Connect, 2550 34th St., St. Petersburg, FL, Call 813-419-3918.

IRS Free File Program

The IRS Free File Program is a public-private partnership between the IRS and many tax preparation and filing software industry leaders who provide their brand-name products free.

It provides two ways for taxpayers to prepare and file their federal income tax online for free:

- Traditional IRS Free File provides free online tax preparation and filing options on IRS partner sites. Partners are online tax preparation companies that develop and deliver this service at no cost to qualifying taxpayers. Please note, only taxpayers whose adjusted gross income (or AGI) is \$72,000 or less qualify for any IRS Free File partner offers.
- Free File Fillable Forms are electronic federal tax forms you can fill out and file online free. If you choose this

option, you should know how to prepare your own tax return.

Please note, this is the only IRS free file option available for taxpayers whose income (AGI) is greater than \$72,000.

To find out more about IRS Free File and what you need to get started, including forms, etc., visit

www.irs.gov/filing/free-file-do-your-federal-taxes-for-free

Helping Hands Mobile Food Distribution (Drive-Thru)

These are tough times, and for residents who may be struggling to make ends meet, Countryside Cares, Helping Hands mobile food truck (groceries) offers just that, a helping hand.

The Helping Hands Mobile Food Truck schedule is 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the days that follow:

Monday

St. George Servian Orthodox Church, 15250 58th Street North, Clearwater,

Wednesday

First Presbyterian Church, 255 5th Avenue, South, Safety Harbor

Friday and Saturday

Countryside Christian Church, 1850 North McMullen Booth, Clearwater

The schedule is subject to change so please visit the Helping Hands Facebook Page in February to ensure this schedule remains the same.

You can send an email message for additional information to helpinghands@countrysidecares.com or, call 727-724-1290.

Activity Card Information

Activity Cards are processed and issued from the Community Service Office.

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

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

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

At this time, under COVID-19 restrictions, the SCA facilities and outdoor recreation areas are open to OTOW approved residents only and not guests.

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

Master the Possibilities™



February 2021

Live Broadcasts and Recordings from Ocala

Caring For Your House Plants

Instructor: Pat Burns

February 3, 10-11 a.m.

Virtual Program

Learn about suitable houseplants and proper care for long term success. We will discuss the do's and don'ts as well as ways to maximize your use of greenery indoors.

Course Fee: Free

Understanding and Responding to Alzheimer's-Related Behavior

Instructor: Connie Storms

February 10, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Virtual Program

Learn how to decode behavioral messages, identify common behavior triggers, and learn strategies to help with some of the most common behavioral challenges of Alzheimer's disease including agitation, repetition, wandering, and aggression.

Course Fee: Free

Seniors & Crime

Instructor: Douglas Hart

February 9, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Virtual Program

Learn about ways to protect yourself, as well as to hear about current problems and examples. Instructor Douglas Hart has a Certified Information Systems Auditor background (CISA) and a Certified Fraud Examiner background (CFE). Course fee \$2.



Rachel Revere, Paul Revere's Wife: A Historical Characterization

Instructor: Dee Collier

February 16, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Virtual Program

We've all heard the poem, "Listen my children and you shall hear of the midnight ride of Paul Revere." It mentions Paul Revere by name. But were there other riders that night? What really happened April 18, 1775? We'll find out the answers to these questions and more from his second wife, Rachel, who loved him dearly and faced the American Revolution with determination and good humor.

Course Fee: \$5

Whistle While You Work

Instructor: Jessica Pinkowski

February 18, 2-3 p.m.

Virtual Program



Both brain function and physical capacity decline with age if not challenged on a regular basis. Science shows that combining both physical movement with cognitive drills improves overall brain health and physical wellness. This class highlights how to layer basic movement with brain exercises to improve memory, boost attention span and stay physically fit.

Course Fee: \$2

Register Today!

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

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

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ACTIVITY REPORTS



Where would you rather be?

In a Pennsylvania snowstorm or at an OTOW picnic table?

By Doug Kates

Eleven years ago, Sharon and Larry Wadel decided they had had enough of Pennsylvania snowstorms and icy roads.

They moved to On Top of the World and have been here ever since.

For the past four years, Pauline and Chuck Torisky have taken winter trips from Pennsylvania to visit Sharon and Larry.

That is, until mid-2020.

Finally, Pauline and Chuck decided it was their turn to leave snow and ice behind and become On Top of the World residents themselves.

This past January, the two couples took the time to enjoy their decisions. They picked up lunch at a local restaurant and found picnic table No. 3 open near the pavilion.

There was no ice on the pond.

There were birds in the water.

There were leaves on the trees.

Winter jackets? Heck no. Temperatures were in the low 70s.

“This is my favorite thing next to swimming and cards,” Sharon said.

“This is definitely going to be a new tradition until we can safely go back to restaurants,” Chuck said. “I love it.”

Sharon and Larry often took Pauline and Chuck on tours of the community, but there was one last child who had to graduate before breaking winter ties with the Keystone State.

Now there’s no going back.

For anyone who does not know, the new pavilion park has seven picnic tables that can be used for breakfast, lunch, dinner or snacks. OTOW management asks that safety guidelines be followed, which include no more than four residents per table, no guests and please wear a mask when not eating.

For those residents who like to barbecue, grills at picnic tables Nos. 5-7 are open on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m., on a first come, first served basis. No reservation required.

If you are interested in using grills Nos. 1-4, please see the activities manager to make a reservation. You only need a reservation if using a grill or the pavilion.



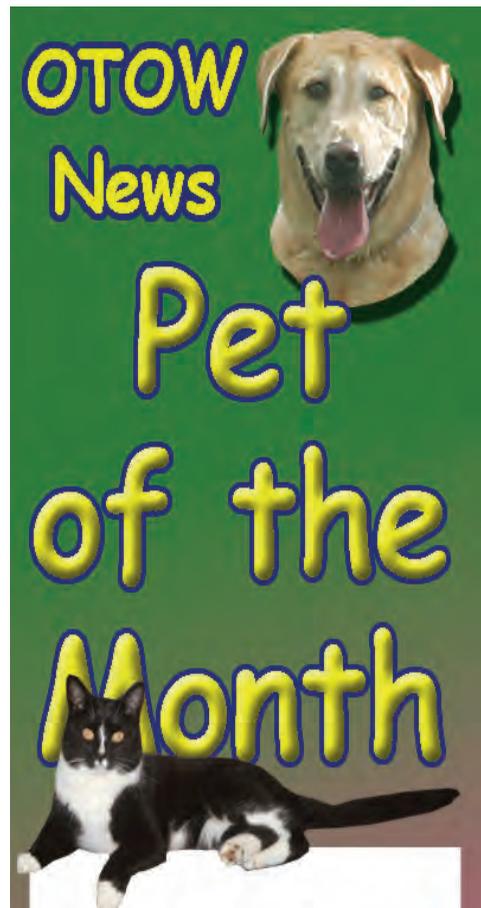
Pauline and Chuck Torisky, and Sharon and Larry Wadel enjoy lunch at picnic table No. 3 during a mild winter day in January. On Top of the World asks that you wear masks while at any picnic table, but you can remove your masks while eating. Below is a map with grill locations. (OTOW News photos by Doug Kates)

Pavilion Park Grill Locations

There are 7 grills.

Check with the Activity Director to see if the grill of your choice is available on a particular day.

general_activity@otowfl.com



OTOW News
Pet of the Month

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Hello everyone. My name is Trey - also known as Trey the Troll and Trey the Travel Dog.

My parents, Marianne and Jim Schery of the Rila Renaissance Building (41), got me at a rescue in Pennsylvania 13 years ago. I turned 15 years old on Dec. 3.

I have traveled back and forth to Florida a number of times before mom and dad bought a permanent place here in On Top of the World. I love it here. I make friends with every friendly dog that walks by my place and make more friends going for walks. It's just great to meet someone new.

I also love sniffing neighboring condos.

I troll the floor for crumbs, which is how I got my nickname "Troll." Many people would like to hire me to keep their floors clean, but I'm retired now so I decline.

Don't know why, but the last 10 months have been difficult to get into anyone else's condos to help clean up. I hope things will be back to normal soon.

I love going anywhere and everywhere with mom and dad in the car. Hence my other alias "Travel Dog."

I wish I was allowed to drive. As you can see in my picture, sitting in the driver's seat comes naturally to me.

I get to see my cousins up in Pennsylvania when we go back in the summer times, but this year got confusing because we didn't go. I'm sure the boys are wondering where I am! I hope they don't get too out of line with me not around. I have



Trey
"The Travel Dog"

trained them well.

I had a rough start in life so I still have a bit of concern when people want to pet me. Mom and dad have been so great

though that I mostly trust everyone now once I know them.

I'm glad to kind of meet you all this way. Say hi if you see me around!

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

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Expires 2-28-21

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Dog/Puppy Package

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

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

Expires 2-28-21

Pet of the Year contest goes to the birds

For the first time in the history of the On Top of the World News Pet of the Year Contest, a dog or cat did not win.

Introducing your first Pet of the Year - bird - Agatha.

Nearly 90 people from all over the continent went to the Box Office website in January and voted in the annual contest.

The candidates were the 12 Pet of the Month winners from 2020.

Of the 12 candidates, seven of them received vote totals in double digits.

Agatha got the most votes with 38, followed by Misty, an Australian shepherd, with 26 votes, and Angel, a Yorkie, with 18 votes.

Agatha is a Congo African Grey Parrot who calls Michigan and Florida home. Agatha is 29 years old and owned by Marian and David Spitzley of the Vienesse Villa Building.

Of the nearly 180 votes recorded (each voter could vote for two pets), 44 people were from right here in Clearwater.

Other people voted from Texas, New York, Massachusetts, Michigan, California, Virginia, Illinois, Kansas, Ohio and Arizona, plus Canada.

Traditionally, the Pet of the Year re-

OTOW Pet of the Year History

	2021	
Agatha	Congo African Parrot (bird)	Vienesse Villa
	2020	
Maria	Brussels Griffon (dog)	Azteca Building
	2019	
Scooter	Hungarian Vizsla (dog)	Southern Georgian
	2018	
Kitty	Calico (cat)	Brittany Farmhouse
	2017	
Mimi	Jack Russell Terrier (dog)	Swedish Traditional
	2016	
Timothy	Irish Setter (dog)	Brisbane Building
	2015	
Sasha Anna Bella	King Charles Spaniel (dog)	Dorado Building
	2014	
Sugar 'N Spice	Chihuahua (dog)	Old World Spanish
	2013	
Pearl	Shitzu-Maltese (dog)	Dorado Building
	2012	
Barklee	Dachshund (dog)	Rizal Building

ceives a ride in the annual Irish Club parade, but the event has been canceled this year.

Agatha will still receive a prize from the contest sponsor, Woof Gang Bakery, which now has two stores in Clearwater and downtown Dunedin.

Owner Chris Mansueto has never awarded a prize to a parrot before, but she is in scramble mode as you read this story.



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Line dancers strut in unison to traditional tunes

By Leila Walker

The On Top of the World Line Dance Club could not let 2020 end without a celebration!

On Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2020, during a regular line dancing class, the dancers dressed in holiday finery and danced to holiday music.

Some of the dances were the Tennessee Waltz to the music of "Silver Bells," Rockin' the Wagon Wheel to the music of "Jingle Bells," and All My Exes to the music of "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus."

That was a lot of dancing, but fun was had by everybody!

It was so nice to listen to Christmas music and dance. It put us in the Christmas spirit!

Of course, the dancers practiced social distancing and wore their masks.

As dancers left the auditorium, they were given a prepackaged bag of Christmas goodies to enjoy at home.

OTOW Line Dancing sessions are still being offered during the pandemic. The dates are as follows:

Every Monday there are Easy Beginner sessions offered, but they are currently full (we can only have 25 line dancers in the auditorium at one time).

If you would like to have your name added to the waiting list, or just want additional information, you can email the club secretary at hopetera@gmail.com or call/text her at 914-217-9206.

On Tuesdays an Advanced Beginner session is being held from 11 a.m. to noon in the auditorium. You must be registered to attend. To register you can email the club secretary at hopetera@gmail.com or



Pictured above is the new 2021 Line Dancing board. From left to right are President Leila Walker, Program Facilitator Margaret LeTourneau, Secretary Hope Tera, treasurer Ute Scheibe and Vice President Lynn Anzalone. All five stood on stage with their masks on, lowered their masks for the picture, and then put their masks back on. OTOW requires that all residents wear their masks while in either activity center. (OTOW News photo by Doug Kates)

call/text her at 914-217-9206.

On Tuesdays an Improver Session for more experienced line dancers is being offered from noon to 1 p.m. in the auditorium. You must be registered to attend. To register you can email the club secretary at hopetera@gmail.com or call/text her at 914-217-9206.

A practice session is offered on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 7-8 a.m. in the EAC auditorium. In these sessions, residents practice upcom-

ing dances on the program and work on new dances.

If you attend any of the above sessions, you must follow the safety rules. They are as follows:

1. Practice social distancing by maintaining at least 6 feet between you and others.
2. Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth. If you need a break, please go outside for fresh air.
3. If desired, bring bottled water be-

cause the water fountains are disabled.

The bathrooms in the EAC are open. You can see demos of some of our line dances on OTOW-TV Channel 732, weekdays at 11 a.m.

You can also obtain useful information about line dancing and other OTOW activities by visiting the OTOW Box Office at otowboxoffice.com

If you would like additional information about the OTOW Line Dance Club, contact Leila Walker at 727-330-6621.

OTOW Line Dancing

Offering residents a chance to learn how to line dance

Starting Feb. 1, there will be three, one-hour, beginner classes any resident with a valid Activity Card can take.

The classes will take place on Mondays in the EAC Auditorium. Times are 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and 12 p.m.

If you are interested in trying one of these classes, please contact Hope Tera at email hopetera@gmail.com or call her at 914-217-9206.

MASKS REQUIRED

SOCIAL DISTANCING PRACTICED

Snowbirds Club Zoom class has some interesting visitors

By Dale Stackhouse

Zoom line dancing continues to attract new dancers each week.

Members of the Snowbirds Club and Line Dance Club are both signing on to see what it's all about.

In addition, the Snowbirds Club has had some interesting visitors. One of the more regular ones is a 35-year-old African Gray Parrot named Yoda, owned by dancer Sue Pall. He seems to enjoy the dancing and occasionally expresses his approval with a loud wolf-whistle.

You do have to be careful around Yoda, however. Once, when Sue and her bird were out for a stroll, and had greeted another walker, Yoda yelled out, "Give me a kiss!"

Sue was grateful that the man didn't hear him!

On a couple of occasions, an interesting-looking fellow, with a large nose and dark-rimmed glasses, has dropped in during social time. He goes by the name of Eduardo the Great, and usually has a few magic tricks up his sleeve for all to enjoy.

And just before Christmas, we had a visit from a white-bearded guy in a red suit, who seemed to say, "Ho, ho, ho!" a lot.

So you never know who you will see, but you can be sure of one thing, Ed and Dolly Foland will be on hand to lead you.

Ed starts with some fun line dances, starting with the easiest ones, derived from



Ed's 12-step program, then progressing to some of Dolly's simpler dances.

Last week we introduced an 'improver' dance segment, towards the end of class, to provide a little more challenge.

Why not attempt something new when you are in the privacy of your own home and no one can see if you make mistakes?

Of course, mistakes are a part of line dancing, beginner or experienced, and there is certainly never any judgment.

That's how we learn and we are told that learning something new is one of the best defenses against aging.

For more information on how to take part in the fun, you can contact Ed Foland at endfoland@aol.com.

The Snowbirds Club is also on the Box Office at otowboxoffice.com.

See you on the Zoom dance floor!



Susan Pall



Snowbirds Line Dancing

At a ZOOM line dance session in January, some of the guests included Sue Pall and Yoda (the dancing/talking parrot) and Eduardo the Great (magician) and Dolly Foland. (Screen photo by Pat Martel)

Holidays wiped out supplies at many food banks - if you donate, Good Neighbors will deliver

By Susan Trost

Good Neighbors Association is wishing all of our community a happy and healthy new year.

We are announcing the appointment of Jesse Tiamson as our newly elected president and are looking forward to working together with him.

The annual Chili Cookoff scheduled for Feb. 24 has been canceled due to the COVID-19 situation limiting number of attendees and no food allowed in our auditorium.

We will have our Spring Food and Clothing Drive on Friday and Saturday, March 12 and 13 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Again, it will be a drive thru by the pavillion. Our volunteers will collect your donations in the parking lot.

Please keep in mind that our Food Banks have been depleted

due to the pandemic and unemployment. Any non-perishable items can be dropped off at the East Activity Center Community Service Office and deposited in the blue donation bin.

Did you know the Knitters Club is sponsored by the Good Neighbors Association? We are asking for any yarn donations to help replenish their supplies.

The knitters donate their finished items to Morton Plant Hospital, Palm Gardens and assisted living facilities in our community. Any yarn donations can be dropped off at the East Activity Center in the Crystal room (overlooking the pool) on Wednesdays from 9-11am. Any donation would be greatly appreciated.

Good Neighbors Association events can be followed on OTOW-TV Channel 732, the OTOW newspaper and our Facebook page for upcoming events.



Co-Ed Exercise Class is back

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

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

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

Shuffleboard courts are open for fun

The On Top of the World Shuffleboard Club is inactive due to the pandemic, but the courts are open for residents to use.

People who normally play in the league are meeting at the courts to play just for fun. The courts are open seven days a week starting at 4 p.m. and everyone is following all safety guidelines.

Club supplies are all provided and sanitized before and after play. If you want to join us, and there is room, stop by. Experienced and inexperienced players are welcome.

New players can learn the game very quickly and become good players after only a few games. It takes longer to really excel, but excellence is within the grasp of anyone who works at it. After just a few games, you can have great fun playing.

ON TOP OF THE WORLD NEWS

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

Press Association Officers

Yvonne Courtney, President,

(vacant), Vice President

Rose Pietrogallo, Secretary

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

Next Delivery Date

March newspapers will be delivered on March 1.

To advertise in our March edition, payments must be received by Feb. 15.

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

ON TOP OF THE WORLD NEWS ADVERTISING POLICY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Press Association Volunteers This Month:

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

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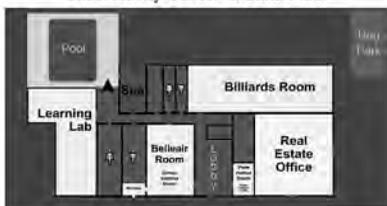
East Activity Center Ground Floor



East Activity Center First Floor



East Activity Center Second Floor



West Activity Center

East and West Activity Centers Room Maps

EAC Pavilion Park Grill Map



Pavilion Park

Important Phone Numbers

Community Service Office

727-683-6981

Activities Office

727-799-2734

Water Turn-On/Water Turn-Off

727-799-3417 Option 6

Emergency After Hours/Weekends

727-799-1115

Democratic Club members celebrate Inauguration Day and election of first female vice president in United States



Democratic Club

By Donna Lukas

Well, January is history.

We are now in the month of love and kindness. Thank goodness.

At our monthly club meeting in January, members of the On Top of the World Democratic Club discussed several historic events that happened in January.

On Jan. 5, historic elections occurred in Georgia. They were elections of the first black US senator and the first Jewish senator from that state.

We gave a thank you to our member, Ruthann Richwine, who coordinated a



Members of the On Top of the World Democratic Club got together to celebrate the inauguration in January.

postcard writing effort for those races.

On Jan. 6, our group got together and discussed the rally at the Capitol.

On Jan. 20, club members watched the inauguration of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, resulting in the election of the first female vice president in our country. We decided to

celebrate.

Also in January, some people in Pinellas County were receiving their COVID-19 vaccinations. Some got an appointment through their BayCare doctors. If you have not already taken the vaccine survey here at OTOW, go to the Box Office page and answer the questions (otow-

boxoffice.com).

Moving forward, our club is looking for new officers to take over in March. Here is an opportunity to give your leadership talents an opportunity to shine.

Please email our current president, Dave Cordes, at davecordes48@gmail.com if you are interested in becoming president, vice president, secretary or treasurer.

Our club holds a meeting the second Thursday of each month, but the location for our meetings may change for 2021. Look for further information on our club page on the Box Office website (otowboxoffice.com), OTOW-TV Channel 732 for those with Spectrum cable, or watch for group emails.

Thank you to those members who have already renewed their club membership for 2021. You may renew your annual \$12 membership in person at one of our meetings.

Alternatively, you may send a check made out to OTOW Democratic Club to our treasurer Glenda Greenman at 2470 Rhodesian Drive, unit 28, Clearwater, FL 33763.

Donate two cans of soup at February meeting

Press Association looking for a way to have its annual Appreciation Luncheon for staff

This is the time of year the Press Association begins planning its annual Appreciation Luncheon.

This is when On Top of the World says "thank you" to all the volunteer writers, photographers and proofreaders who make our wonderful newspaper possible.

But, as everyone knows, we are not in normal times.

At the Press Association meeting in January, nearly 20 members discussed options for holding the annual luncheon.

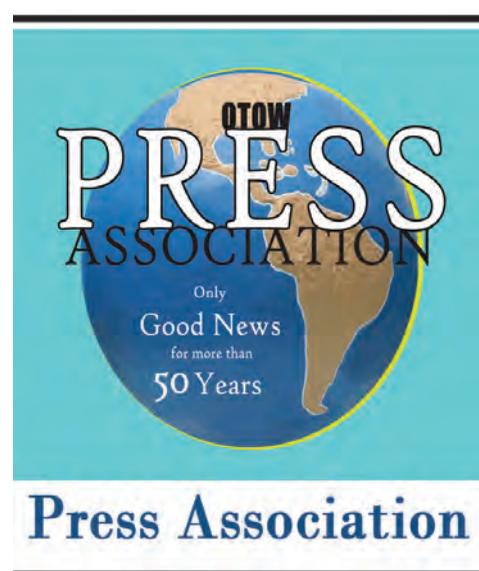
Editor Doug Kates said the event cannot be held at On Top of the World because there are too many volunteers to safely hold a luncheon. The pavilion is limited to 25 guests and our staff has more than 25 members. The event cannot be held in the auditorium because no food or beverages are allowed.

The alternative is holding the Appreciation Luncheon outdoors and outside the community.

Doug said he would not pursue a staff luncheon at an indoor restaurant because of current pandemic risks.

This leaves two options.

One option is finding a restaurant which serves food outdoors and could safely serve 20-40 people. But those



who attend would still have to come at their own risk.

Tennis writer Joe DeChiaro said his group was going to have a luncheon at a Nano's Slice House, which has outdoor seating under a tent. Doug asked Joe to give a report on his luncheon at the February meeting.

A second option is a catered picnic at Phillippe Park where anyone who has contributed to the newspaper over the

past 12 months would be allowed to attend.

Doug said staff would be required to bring a lawn chair. Picnic tables would be reserved for food and those who need to be in the shade. He would ask a majority of the staff to sit 6 feet apart in their lawn chairs. A large pavilion would be reserved through the park.

The Appreciation Luncheon would likely take place on Thursday, April 8. There are no meeting rooms available for the Press Association on this date, so a road trip would be timely.

More discussions will take place at the next meeting 1 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 4 in the EAC auditorium.

Doug is asking each staff member who attends the live meeting to donate two cans of soup to help restock local food banks. Good Neighbors Association is making an attempt to restock shelves after the holidays and Doug is hoping our staffers will contribute.

Doug is also scheduling a ZOOM meeting for the same day to accommodate staffers who cannot attend a live meeting or do not want to attend a live meeting.

Watch for an email blast with details about the ZOOM meeting.

At the January meeting, several staffers said they were not receiving email blasts. At least one email blast is being sent out every month. If you are not receiving it, please contact Secretary Rose Pietrogallo (rosebudslp@gmail.com) to make sure she has your correct email address. Be aware, Rose only sends email blasts. She does not send text messages.

Also at the January meeting, Doug thanked everyone on staff for their contributions to the January newspaper.

There were 46 stories and 44 advertisers, which is a perfect balance. But Doug said there is still a need for more stories in the rest of the newspapers this winter. He encouraged creativity, stories about future events, and even asked that current staff writers ask friends living in other buildings if they want to contribute stories.

The goal is to have more stories than advertisers each month.

If you are a new writer for your club, sport or building, please attend the Feb. 4 meeting and introduce yourself. There is also an online tutorial which goes over basic journalism. The tutorial is on the Box Office (otowboxoffice.com) and takes 20 minutes to complete.

Press Association Zoom Meeting

Thursday, Feb. 4, Time TBA for people who cannot attend the live meeting
Watch for an email blast

John Chesnut Park, Palm Harbor

During a pandemic, you can still walk in a park



By Janice Berman

Well, we made it to the year 2021!

Now we wait for an end to the pandemic and a return to group travel.

Until the On Top of the World Travel Club is able to safely restart, I would like to pivot. I will write about some of the beautiful parks and preserves here in Pinellas County.

This idea came about because of social media. I have noticed several Travel Club members sharing pictures they take on their walks. This is a good way to stay socially distanced while getting some exercise and enjoying the great Florida weather.

This month consider walking at John Chesnut State Park located in Palm Harbor at 2200 East Lake Road.

I discovered this beautiful park on my way to the North Pinellas YMCA. The park borders Lake Tarpon and has miles of well-maintained boardwalks.

The park is more than 255 acres. You



If you visit John Chesnut Park in the evening, you may see miniature deer in the woods or near the entrance. They seem to come out when most people are leaving. (OTOW News photo by Janice Berman)

will see a variety of wildlife every time you visit.

There are two nature trails, each approximately 3,000 feet in length. The North Trail begins at Shelter No. 10, running through a cypress swamp. The Peggy Park Trail (named for a park ranger) features a self-guided nature trail and is located left of a boat ramp. An elevated boardwalk runs along the boat ramp, leading to an elevated lookout tower for a scenic overview of Lake Tarpon.

The North Trail is popular with bird lovers. Walkers carry bird seed to feed the songbirds so you are always able to hear and see the many beautiful birds that call Florida home.

I find this park to be user-friendly. It has a large dog park, a playground, many benches along the boardwalk and clean restrooms that are always open.

This park was named in honor of John Chesnut, Sr., Pinellas County Commissioner from 1937 until 1953. Orga-

nizer of the Pinellas County Park Board, John worked tirelessly to make access to county parks easy for residents.

In addition to parks, John worked to build the Belleair Beach Causeway and the first Sunshine Skyway Bridge. He also worked to make possible the Gulf Beaches water system.

Hope this will inspire many readers to take the short trip to Palm Harbor to explore this beautiful park. If you do I know you will return again and again.

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Expires Feb 28, 2021

Have you ever considered wet watercolor paper before painting on it? Opens a new world of ideas



Art Guild

By Mary Slack Maynard

February in Florida is a great time to begin or continue exploring new ways of expressing ourselves artistically.

The Art Guild section of the On Top of the World Box Office website features the artwork of John Fier this month.

As mentioned in previous articles, John is a sketch artist and painter, and has experimented with various techniques over the years.

February's webpage will feature a technique that John says might be interesting to others.

"I don't remember where I got the idea, but it goes something like this: soak watercolor paper in lukewarm water for about 20 minutes. Then, staple the paper to a remnant piece of plywood. While the paper is wet, add a few colors (not too dark, just enough to let the colors flow together and tone the paper)."

Next step, take a walk in your yard.

"While the colors were setting," John says, "I went around the yard and picked up various organic things like blades of grass, weeds, leaves, etc."

"While the painted paper was still wet and lying flat on the bench, I scattered the pickings randomly over the entire surface of the work. Then, I quickly covered the work with a second sheet of plywood, clamped the two pieces together with hand clamps, and set it aside to dry."

Depending on the weather, this may take a day or two. It may also take a couple of tries to get a background image you are happy with.

The results are surprising every time.

John said he used a book of American Indian photographs by Edward S. Curtis as a reference and painted a series of Indian portraits on the prepared, dried, paper. Artists can do this for practice, but cannot sell their paintings. The original photo is copyrighted.

"I used acrylic paints for most of the pieces as I felt they worked best to cover the watercolor backgrounds," he said.

The featured photo in the book was called "Crazy Thunder."

To see more examples of this technique, please visit the Art Guild webpage on the Box Office, which can be accessed at otowboxoffice.com.

If you try this technique, please share your thoughts and results with the Guild. John's contact information is on the Box Office Art Guild web page.



There are two lessons to note in the artwork above. First, OTOW artist John Fier searched through a book called 'The North American Indian' by Edward S Curtis and discovered this image of 'Crazy Thunder' photographed in the late 1800s. Then, for painting practice only, John replicated the photo using acrylic paints for his own piece of art. This painting process is OK for practice, but artists cannot sell their art. The original photo is copyrighted. Second, John is displaying a technique where watercolor paper is soaked in water and dried before painting begins. The designs in the background come from natural items John found in his yard and pressed onto the water-color paper as it dried.

Knit something at home

During each Saturday in March, members of the Good Neighbors Association Knitting Group are going to teach you how to knit on OTOW-TV Channel 732.

You can knit for the first time in the privacy of your own home.

Interested?

What you will need is one ball of yarn and one set of knitting needles.

The group will provide basic instruction. In one hour you will be on your way to a finished product.

The video will air each Saturday at 10 a.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Each video in March will be the same, but if successful the group will make more videos later!

Knitters make/donate 659 items during a very challenging 2020

By Cheryl Butcher

Every year the Knitting Club reviews its productivity. When we meet on Wednesdays, we sign in a book with our name and the completed items we are bringing in that day. Therefore, we have a record of our output.

Then at the end of the year we can review each week's page, count the items, and calculate our yearly totals.

After completing that chore for 2020, I am pleased to report our group members made and donated 659 items.

And that's during a year that was not business-as-usual.

Comparing 2020 and 2019, this year's total was 321 fewer. But we lost 3 1/2 months of club meetings and many of our members left Florida to quarantine at their northern homes.

But the remaining members were not idle. We are very proud that we were still able to churn out so many items in our quarantine time, especially since the yarn stores we usually frequent were



Knitting

closed. We became very adept at online shopping.

Many nursing homes benefitted from our work.

Recently we delivered 30 items to Consulate Nursing Home and 17 baby items to the Pregnancy Center.

If you have an interest in knitting or crocheting, we would love to have you join us in the Crystal Beach Room on

Items Made In 2020

Lap Robes	249
Walker Caddies	89
Scarves	13
Adult Hats	3
Shrugs	3
Baby Hats	188
Baby Blankets	32
Baby Misc	11
Miscellaneous	71
TOTAL	659

Wednesdays from 9-11 a.m. We are operating within the safety guidelines set by On Top of the World so a mask and social distancing is required.

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

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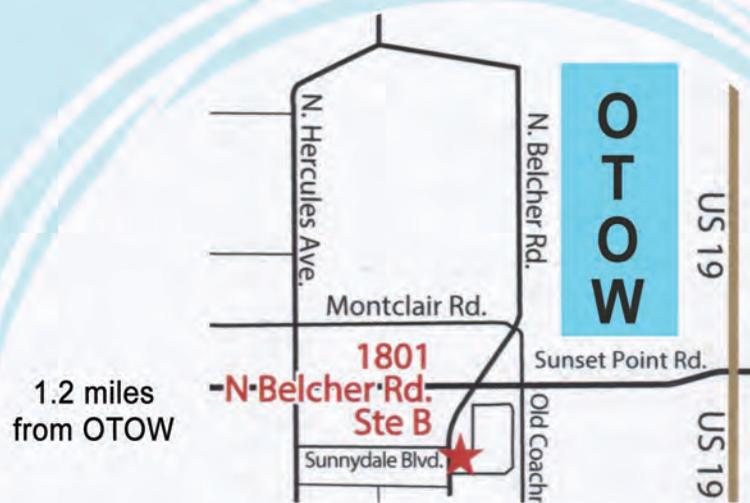
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Cathi Chamberlain returns to OTOW for second visit to Republican Club



Cathi Chamberlain was the guest speaker at the Republican Club meeting in January. She talked about her trip to the Capitol during last month's protest and she also signed her book for anyone who made a purchase.
(OTOW News photo by Doug Kates)



Republican Club

By Edwina Schick

Cathi Chamberlain, author of "Rules for Deplorables," did not disappoint.

At the Ronald Reagan Republican Club meeting in January, she had the full and undivided attention of every member.

Members made comments like "It was nice to hear the positive side and the first hand account of the Patriots March in Washington D.C."

You can learn more about Cathi at her website: www.TheDeplorableReport.com.

2021 election of club officers will be held at our March meeting. If you would like to run for an office, or nominate someone else, please email the name and office of the person being nominated to rirc-otow2021@gmail.com. They will be given the opportunity to speak to the members during the meeting on Feb. 11. This will also give the election committee time to verify the nominee meets the requirements of Ronald Reagan Republican Club/OTOW, and the On Top of The World Association.

Guest speaker for March will be Nick Adams, a four-time best-selling author, motivational speaker, television commentator, business innovator and stage-four cancer survivor.

Nick has appeared on most major television and radio programs. Governors from several states have recognized him for his work in public schools. He also runs the Foundation for Liberty and American Greatness.

Our February meeting will be begin at 11 a.m. in the East Activity Center auditorium.

Until further notice, all meetings will be held on the second Thursday of each month. A limit of 50 people at the meeting is still in place.

Please call 678-414-5300 to register to attend. Registrations are still on a first call, first serve basis.

Don't let COVID-19 keep you from joining The Ronald Reagan Republican Club of On Top of the World! We are still accepting new members.

Good Karma Book Club announces title selections for next few months

Want to engage in stimulating conversation about a book you have read? Try the Good Karma Book Club.

This month we are discussing "Educated" by Tara Westover. It is the memoir of a young woman who overcomes her survivalist family to go to college and enlarge her world view.

At right is a list of books we will discuss in the next few months.

We construct the book list from the suggestions of participants. The person who suggested the book has the option of leading the discussion.

We meet at 10 a.m. on the third Thursday of the month in the Crystal Beach Room. There are no dues. We observe social distancing guidelines and wear masks.

We also have a few guidelines for our discussion, mainly so that everyone gets a chance to talk and no one dominates the conversation.

Please join us on Feb. 18 at 10 a.m. in the Crystal Beach Room for a discussion on "Educated" by Tara Westover.

March 18

"Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine"
by Gail Honeyman

April 15

"Born a Crime" by Trevor Noah

May 20

"Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail"
by Cheryl Strayed

June 17

"The Beekeeper of Aleppo" by Christy Lefteri

For questions or more information, please call Jane Lanz at 727-754-3823 or email her at jslanz1948@aol.com.

**A reminder, the
Irish Club parade
has been canceled
for March 2021**

Computer Club Zooming into 2021

By Mike Wood

At a time when a lot of On Top of the World clubs have suspended operations, the Computer Club continues to ZOOM right along into 2021.

OK, so the play on words is intentional.

Using the Zoom virtual online meeting platform, the Computer Club has not missed a step. We are keeping club members informed and educated on popular computer-related issues.

Since in-person meetings came to a screeching halt last March, every Saturday morning at 8:30, Computer Club members gather virtually, from OTOW, all around the USA, Canada and beyond, to receive tips on a myriad of computer-related topics.

Some of these topics include, but are not limited to:

- What to look for when buying a new computer
- Free alternatives to Microsoft Office
- How to create and work with spreadsheets and other documents
- Managing passwords



Computer Club

- How to clean and tune up your computer, tablet and Smartphone
- What new updates entail and how can they help the users
- Useful Smartphone apps for seniors
- Q&A sessions on a variety of computer, tablet and Smartphone topics

The OTOW Computer Club will continue providing virtual meetings for the foreseeable future. If you are an OTOW resident and would like to visit or join the Computer Club and benefit from the camaraderie and education we provide, all you need to do is email us at otowcc@gmail.com.

Tell us that you are interested in either joining the club or attending one of our virtual meetings as a visitor and we'll be glad to email you our Zoom meeting link.

About the Computer Club

The Computer Club meets every Saturday morning at 8:30 using the Zoom virtual meeting platform and visitors are welcome. Sessions usually consist of presentations or discussions led by club members or guest speakers. Time is also made available to ask questions.

In addition to the Saturday meetings, the club offers assistance to any OTOW resident with technology-related questions or issues.

The club is working out the details to reopen the West Activity Center Computer Lab to provide in-person assistance on Wednesday mornings from 8:30-10 by appointment only starting in February 2021.

The services are free and Computer Club membership is not required to get assistance.

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

Computer service-related questions can be sent to the Computer Club at otowcc@gmail.com. Responses are normally made within 72 hours after requests are received.

Otherwise, for more information about the Computer Club, go to www.otowcc.com, visit our webpage on the Box Office (otowboxoffice.com) or email us at otowcc@gmail.com.

Good Neighbors Association is making an attempt to restock food pantry shelves after the holidays. If you make a donation, they will deliver. There is a blue, food-collection bin in the Community Service Office.





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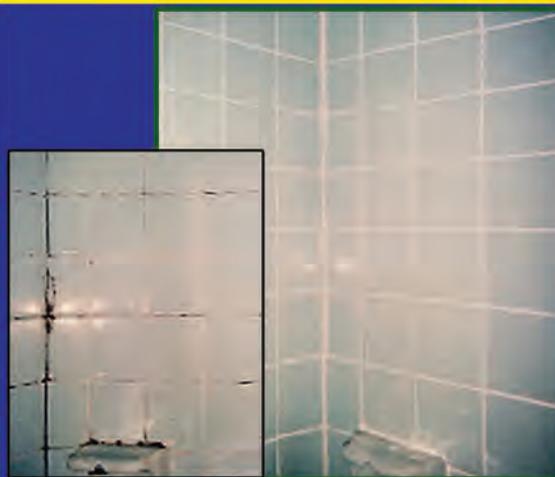
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Don't be a nobody - be a somebody

By Dave Beaven

There's an old story about a group of people who couldn't get it together.

They were named everybody, somebody, anybody and nobody.

You have probably already heard it.

Anyway, there was an important job to be done and everybody was sure that somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but nobody did it.

Somebody got angry because it was everybody's job.

Everybody thought anybody could do it, but nobody realized that everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that everybody blamed somebody when nobody did what anybody could have done.



The poem by Loretta Brody, a British poet, certainly rings true.

The motto of Neighborhood Watch is: "We look out for each other."

We all need help from somebody from time to time. Is there a somebody in your building?

I'm referring to a reliable person who

helps with information when new residents move in. This person often helps organize holiday decorations and occasional social events to let residents meet and chat with each other.

When building issues come up, this person helps to arrive at solutions that work.

In most buildings, this somebody is called the building coordinator or captain.

Building coordinator is strictly a voluntary position, but we do follow On Top of the World's guidelines.

The main requirement is this person wants to be helpful.

In general, when a building has a coordinator, it makes for a stronger, more supportive community which is in line with the goals of Neighborhood

Watch.

Residents value having a person available to share concerns with. If your building does not have a coordinator, consider becoming one. You will get to meet more neighbors and your efforts will be appreciated.

I am speaking from experience as I am the coordinator of Building 4. If you have any questions, you can contact me at areawatch2020@gmail.com.

You may also contact Valerie Martin, She is a resident who volunteers to help find building coordinators and get them started.

Her email is vmart0027@gmail.com.

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

Show production will continue when everyone gets vaccinated

By Evelyn Flam

As the new year began, The Jesters had started to film scenes for our spring movie "BAM - A Tribute to Boomer Age Music."

As we explained in our January article, the club stopped production of the show in order to protect the health of our cast and crew.

We are now polling them to see how many have been vaccinated and see who is ready to get back to work.

So you may see us out on the campus again with our Performing and Production Teams.

While the coronavirus is no laughing matter, as Jesters we can't resist sharing a little much needed humor that we've come across during the pandemic:

1. I've watched people and can't help but wonder why they feel they have to wave at the end of a Zoom call?

2. One person posted that this year she is not going to Europe because of the pandemic. In past years, this same person has not gone to Europe because she doesn't have any money.

3. I learned that in New Zealand, health experts - not politicians - are making all the decisions about how to deal with the pandemic. As of today, New Zealand has zero COVID-19 cases.

Wow! Science or common sense?

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

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

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

We look forward to hearing from you and getting together "Jest For Fun!"



Jesters

Valentine's bash will be private this year, but craziness will return in 2022

By Bruce Lovett

Before the pandemic, on the second Friday of each month, Lambda Club had a themed social.

Every time I wrote an article, the first half of the story would be spent talking about the fun we had at the previous social. The rest of the article would be about the upcoming social, plus its theme, what to wear and what to bring for the pot luck that month.

There might be one or two other activities to throw into the story and then I'd close off the story with the club's mission statement and how to get in touch with us.

In past years, the January story has always been about our "Winter in Florida Party," which gave us a chance to dress like penguins in the northern gear we had abandoned when moving south. We would pose for silly pictures.

The February column was always about plans for our Valentine's party, which every seven years actually fell on Feb. 14.

This year, neither our Winter Party or Valentine's Day party will take place. But Dave Beaven, our fearless leader, has assured us that when things start returning to normal next year, and we get the OK from On Top of the World, you'll be seeing pictures of crazy people in winter clothes and hear



Lambda Club

about our Valentine's bash again.

This year, Valentine's Day, like New Year's Day, gives couples a chance to get romantic by themselves without having to worry about parties or dinner reservations.

In our March article, look for some interesting Valentine's tales.

Lambda is a club that serves the LGBT population at On Top of the World as well as their neighbors and friends. Should you wish further information about the club, go to our webpage at <http://lambdaclearwater.blogspot.com>. You can also check us out on the OTOW Box Office (otowboxoffice.com), or call Dave Beaven at (727) 410-7566.

Pandemic can't stop holes-in-one

Congratulations to two recent holes-in-one.

Mike Crittendon recorded his ninth ace on the par 4 18th hole. This was witnessed by Peyton Grogan and Bill Lucci.

Bob Valenti recorded his first hole-in-one on the par 4 5th hole. This shot was witnessed by Mike Crittendon, Bill Lucci and Peyton Grogan.

Fantastic shots guys.

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SPORTS

If you want to see 'young' men and women dive for softballs, you should take in an OTOW game

By Bob Rittner

2nd Time Sports has supplied us with beautiful shirts, embroidered with our logo. We appreciate their support and encourage our players and anyone interested in On Top of the World activities to visit their store. Be sure to identify yourself as an OTOW resident.

West Siders 11 2nd Time Sports 11

Jim Tiano became Captain Clutch in the ninth inning.

Down by six runs, 11-5, in the top of the ninth inning, 2nd Time Sports rallied for four runs to bring up Jim with two people on base.

By rules, a team behind by more than three runs may always catch up, but cannot score more runs to take the lead. Thus, when Jim homered to become the game hero, he was credited with only two RBI in a three-run home run.

The game finished in a tie.

West Siders 7 2nd Time Sports 6

A real nail-biter as the West Siders erased a one-run lead in the top of the last inning, scoring two runs on singles by Joe Brandao, Dick LeTourneau, Scott Ryberg, and a double by Bill Lepping.

West Siders 10 2nd Time Sports 7

Three players on 2nd Time Sports had great days. Henry Buyny tripled on a perfect three-hit day, Jim Kemp did the same and Henry Zussman homered.

But the star was West Sider's Lenny Segall, who was also 3-for-3 and whose three-run homer, the longest hit this season, broke open a close game.

West Siders 7 2nd Time Sports 5

Sliding is against our rules, but diving for a ball is not.

Joe DeChiaro twice took advantage of that anomaly, stretching prone to the ground first to spear a low liner that he turned into a double play and then later diving for a grounder deep in the hole and throwing the runner out at first base.

2nd Time Sports turned three of the game's four double plays, largely due to the strong arm of Jim Kemp.

But 2nd Time Sports could not overcome a home run by Joe or a four-hit day by Henry Zussman.



Tara Gunning and Robert Bannick model new On Top of the World softball shirts worn by players each game day morning. Purchasing the shirts was possible from a donation by 2nd Time Sports.

(Photo by Jim Kemp)

West Siders 6 2nd Time Sports 6

The mental side of softball can be as critical to a game's outcome as the physical side.

Having already doubled against an

extreme shift, Cindy McCarthy hustled in from first base to back up the catcher on a throw to the plate and nabbed a runner by a hair to keep the score tied in the ninth inning.

Other outstanding fielding plays dominated the game. Scott Ryberg stole a

Softball

home run with a brilliant over-the-head catch of a deep liner. Roger Hebler also caught a deep fly destined for home run territory. Shortstop Lenny Segall raced into short left field for a dying quail pop-up stalling an incipient rally.

2nd Time Sports 10 West Siders 7

Spectacular catches defined this game.

Joe Brandao at third base twice raced to the fence to backhand short pop-ups at his knees, leaving spectators breathless in admiration.

On offense, Joe and Joe DeChiaro mirrored each other, each hitting two doubles, a triple and back-to-back homers.

West Siders 10 2nd Time Sports 2

A rare blowout as Joe DeChiaro and Joe Brandao each homered and Rick Champ tripled in his perfect four-hit performance.

Jim Costello stopped more damage with two running catches in the outfield.

West Siders 9 2nd Time Sports 7

The law of unintended consequences strikes.

By rule, and the vagaries of chance, Rick Champ ended up pinch running in five consecutive opportunities. He proved a great baserunner, scoring three times from first base and surviving to play again.

Both Joe DeChiaro and Henry Buyny homered. Henry's smack came in his first game eligible to use the metal bat. And it was a blast!

But three hits by Lenny Segall, and a combined 9-for-10 by the last five batters in West Siders order, Bob Dembinski, Alex Scaranda, Bob Fields, Bill Lepping and Bob Rittner, sealed the victory.

Kudos to Bob O'Donohue for a brilliant catch in deep center field.

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



Pictured at left are Karen French, Julie Stephans, Bruce Bandini and Karen Walker. Bruce is showing off an enlarged pickleball racquet he made for beginner players. Above is a group of pickleball players who played New Year's Eve.

Pickleball on a windy day reminds us of children playing whiffleball

Pickleball is a growing sport here at On Top of the World and the equipment is getting even bigger!

Bruce Bandini presented our club with an enlarged paddle during an all-you-can-eat pizza party in January.

On one Sunday, we spent four hours playing pickleball and listening to golden oldies

music!

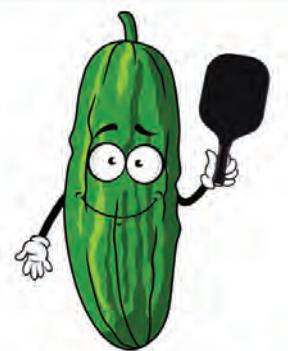
While league play doesn't officially begin until after the pandemic, players are getting together just for fun.

We have had lots of laughs over playing in the gusty wind! The pickleball is like a whiffleball when the wind is blowing! Reminds us of our younger years.

We are now up to 80 members and growing. We meet every Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays from 4-7 p.m. and every Sunday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Come join us for a fun time and make a lot of friends.

Call Kathy Ahrens at 727-804-1827 for more information.



Pickleball



Tennis players take an afternoon off to golf and dine

By Joe DeChiaro

The On Top of the World Tennis Club put down their racquets for one afternoon and went golfing instead.

Residents went to the OTOW nine-hole golf course and had some fun while following all safety guidelines. Carol Murphy got a hole-in-one on hole No. 4 which was witnessed by Terry Murphy and Paula Ergang.

After golfing, we went to Nona's Slice House off Main Street in Safety Harbor. Even though it rained, we sat under a canopy and were kept warm by heated burners around our table. We enjoyed a variety of food, which included pizza, sandwiches, salads and appetizers. Everyone enjoyed the golf outing and the dinner.

The tennis group is planning our next golf outing for Friday, Feb. 12. While there is no league play during the pandemic, residents are still meeting to play, tennis, golf, dine and keep busy. We always welcome new members. We play every morning except Sundays from 7:30-11 a.m.



At top left, tennis players grab golf clubs for a change during an afternoon in January. Above, those same tennis/golf players met for dinner at Nona's Slice House in Safety Harbor. They ate outdoors under a tent.



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Entertainment Committee's goal is to create a lot of noise in the auditorium on Dec. 31, 2021

By Marvin Flam

After 50 years of greeting the New Year at the annual, sold out, noisy and fun New Year's Eve Ball, the East Activity Center auditorium was quiet for the first time on New Year's Eve 2020.

Two shows taped live here years ago, and presented by the Entertainment Committee, were aired New Year's Eve on OTOW-TV Channel 732 instead. We hope that you tuned in and it helped you welcome in 2021!

Obviously, this wasn't the way we expected to celebrate the new year. It was, of course, impossible to figure out 2020.

It was grim, it was sobering and and it was unbelievable.

Any one of the major recent news stories has felt like the story of a lifetime. The Coronavirus Pandemic, Black Lives Matter, the Western Wildfires, the presidential election and the assault on the Capital in Washington. You might expect one major story during a 12-month period ... but five?

A sixth major story is the cancelation of exciting social events here at On Top of the World.

Our activities have been severely curtailed with respect to the COVID-19.

Social distancing, masks and washing hands, are all required by the Center for Disease Control, the Florida Health Department and OTOW management. Their guidelines are still the order of the day as we proceed through 2021!

There is a light at the end of the tunnel,

however. The COVID-19 vaccine is being distributed and facilities may open later in the year as more people get vaccinated.

Maybe, before 2021 is over, the Entertainment Committee will be able to resume shows, dances and Sunday Meet and Greet entertainment events safely for the OTOW residents, performers and volunteers.

Our "wish list" goal is to celebrate New Year's Eve on Dec. 31, 2021, and make it a sold out-event.

The Entertainment Committee recognizes that the OTOW audience continues to change. We are exploring some new surprises, ideas and entertainment! We are evaluating the sound and lighting systems and have plans to upgrade them once we are active again.

Remember, every resident with an up-to-date activity card is automatically a member of the Entertainment Committee. There are no dues.

We need your support and input. If you have any ideas regarding entertainment, please email us at entcom2014@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support.

If you purchased tickets for any 2020 canceled show or dance, contact Mary Ann O'Neil at 727 449-9243 or email: entcom2014@gmail.com regarding a credit for tickets to future shows and dances or to request and receive a refund. You must provide the tickets that you purchased.



In 2018, The Flamingos performed right on our East Activity Center auditorium stage. Stay tuned to see who the first performer of 2021 might be.

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

Check the bulletin boards in the East

Activity Center and the West Activity Center. Also check your building's bulletin board.

The fun will continue! Don't miss it.

Visit the Box Office for club updates (otowboxoffice.com)

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BUILDING REPORTS



Ladies from the Dorado building fill luminary bags with sand and a candle during a private remembrance service on Jan. 19. Every resident of the building could dedicate a luminary bag to someone who has passed away during the pandemic.

Dorado residents create a way to safely remember those they have lost

By Doug Kates

We are in a pandemic.

But for those who have lost loved ones or know of individuals who have lost their lives, there is much more to this pandemic than masks, social distancing and washing hands.

For thousands of people nationwide, the reality is they don't even get to say goodbye to those who have passed.

Hospital visitations are almost nonexistent. Funeral home services are extremely restricted.

Prepandemic, we took for granted being at someone's side as they moved on, and holding a service so everyone could come and pay their last respects.

But what are we able to do one year into this pandemic with no sign of normalcy ahead?

Betty Dethmers, of the On Top of the World Dorado building, knows of loved ones lost in Colorado.

She said there were no goodbyes, no funerals and no gatherings of family and friends. Instead, a church decided to light luminaries in honor of those who have passed and invited people to witness the luminaries as a way to pay their respects.

It was also a time of reflection.

This was in Colorado. People in all 50 states are burdened with the same conditions. And right here at the Dorado building, at least 20 residents know of someone who has died from the virus.

Mourning has been difficult.

We have 91 buildings in our community. If 20 residents from just one building are trying to cope with losing a loved one or friend, imagine more than 1800 people across our entire community dealing with the same conditions.

Edwina Schick and Betty decided it was time to help.

Following the example of the church in Colorado, residents in the Dorado building chipped in and purchased luminary bags, sand and candles. Every resident was given the chance to decorate a bag for a loved one lost - and it didn't have to be just COVID-19 related - the luminary could honor anyone who has recently passed and last respects could not take place.

On Tuesday, Jan. 19, the same day our country held a national COVID-19 day of remembrance in Washington D.C., residents from the Dorado building held their own luminary service.

There were 42 memorials lining the north and south sidewalks to the core. Each luminary was supported with an American flag.

Some of the luminaries had hearts.

Some of the luminaries had doves.

Almost all the luminaries had the word "love" written on them.

By nightfall, all the luminaries were glowing and people from around the community walked by to reflect.

Dorado resident Fernando Mariz even grabbed his guitar and people sang



These are just five of the 42 luminaries decorated and displayed on Jan. 19. At right is the night scene when half of them glowed on the south side of the building.

songs, "Amazing Grace" and "Hallelujah" were just two of the titles.

This building ceremony was just for Dorado residents, but Edwina recommended that residents from other buildings in our community hold the same private ceremony.

Edwina wasn't sure if her group would ever hold another luminary event, but she did make one promise. There are 73 units in her building. The day the very last person gets vaccinated, everyone will return for another gathering.



OTOW News dedicates this article to former OTOW News writers Lil Cervinka and Patrick Ellingham. Lil, a former resident, passed away from COVID-19 early in the pandemic. OTOW has a puzzle area in the lower floor of the East Activity Center. Maintaining that area was Lil's obsession. Patrick, our former club secretary, was awaiting a life-saving surgery, but never received it because the procedure was not available early in the pandemic.

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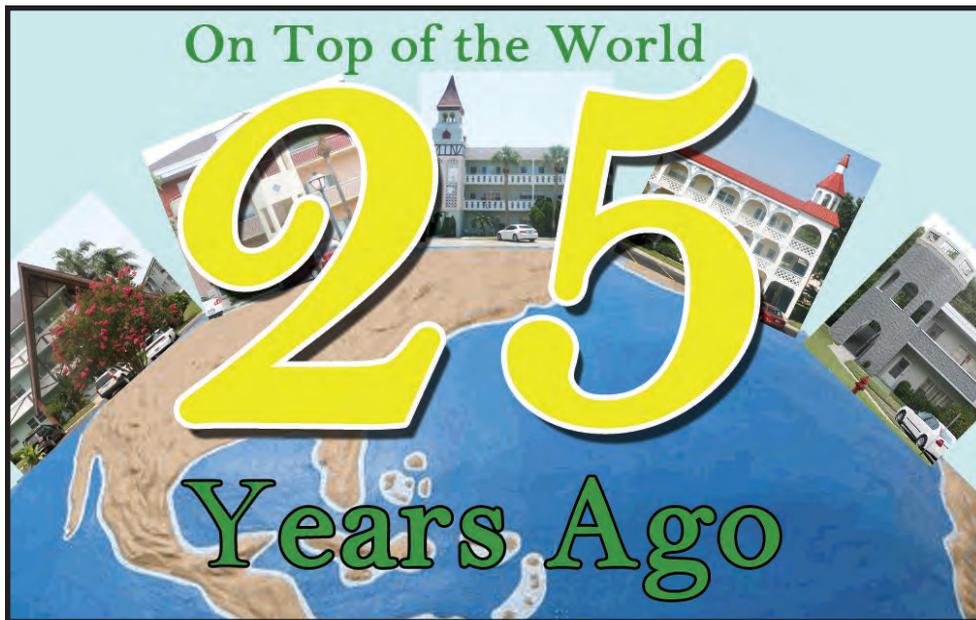
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A look back at the OTOW News February, 1996

- **OTOW Jesters:** It is said that “Absence Makes the Heart Grow Fonder.” This was certainly true at the Jan. 10, 1996 meeting, the first Jesters meeting of the year. Present were 104 members who hadn’t seen each other since the early part of December. Our next meeting is set for Feb 14, 1996.
- **Married Women’s Club:** Wednesday, Feb. 14, 1996, is the date of our book review luncheon. Cost is \$10. There is a general meeting Feb. 16, 1996, in the East Activity Center Card Room. We will have Dr. John and Millie Geert show slides on their trip to Russia. On, Feb. 29, 1996, in the East Activity Center Card Room, Mrs. Mina Hibbard will present a book review. Lunch is at noon.
- **Canadian Club:** A total of 76 club members attended the annual “Day at the Races” event. Forty-one enjoyed the buffet package in the auditorium with the other 35 having reserved seating in the Veranda area. This year there were a number of winners bringing money back with them (more than in other years).
- **Great Lakes Club:** On Friday, Feb. 2, 1996, at 7 p.m., the curtain will open on the Great Lakes Club’s presentation of the Johnston Fantastic Symphony Steel Orchestra. As you sit back in your chair, you will be enthralled by the captivating sounds produced by a group of exceptional musicians on steel drums, an instrument which originated in Trinidad during World War II.
- **New York/New Jersey Club:** A general meeting was held on Jan. 24, 1996, in the East Activity Center auditorium. Our president, Spero Zulich, called the meeting to order. One hundred and twenty people were in attendance. It was a lively meeting, with discussion on a pre-St. Patrick’s dinner dance. It will be held Feb.28, 1996, at the auditorium. Happy hour will be 5–6 p.m. (BYOB.) Menu includes corned beef and cabbage, with potatoes, salad, veggies, coffee, tea and dessert. Dancing will be to the music of “One of a Kind” Dave Davis. Price is \$8.
- **Friday Mixed Bowling:** The holiday schedule did not hold our scores down. Jim Harris rolled consistently with 540, 504, 478 and 499 series over the past four weeks. Helen Clark shone with her first 500 series, rolling a 504. Newcomer Bruno Schimkosky is to be reckoned with: 60 points over average and 60 points over high game. Brenna Donnelly is holding onto high average at 151, but Martha Wanzer is fighting back with a nice 459 series.
- **Saratoga Building:** On Dec. 11, 1995, a small group from the Saratoga Building joined 209 people from seven other buildings at the Kris Kringle Dinner Dance at the East Activity Center. They enjoyed a delicious dinner as well as conversation and dancing to the tuneful Mario Deleon Band.

A Note For Dog Walkers

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

Always pick up while walking your dog.

Be sure to keep your dog hydrated.

OTOW resident films religious shows for WMOR-TV

On Top of the World resident, Rev. Dr. Eddie Donnally, is making films for WMOR's paid broadcast schedule at 8 a.m., Saturday mornings.

The show is called “The Power of One” and airs on Spectrum cable channel 12.

Eddie has been an OTOW resident since 2011. He films a variety of religious programs on location throughout the area. Once he filmed a church service at The Salvation Saloon in Palm Harbor. He does not focus on one denomination - just interesting stories.

OTOW News will have more on Rev. Dr. Eddie Donnally in a future edition, but for now, you are invited to check out his next show this Saturday morning.

For more information visit <http://eddonnally.com/>

Open Enrollment - Medicare Advantage Plan

From now until March 31, a special Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment period is taking place for people who want to change plans.

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SHINE is also holding several informational meetings on ZOOM. For a schedule of topics and meeting days, please visit their website.



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OTOW couples express the Valentine spirit

The tradition of Valentine's Day is when people usually express affection with greetings and gifts.

The holiday has origins in the Roman festival of Lupercalia, held in mid-February. The festival, which celebrated the coming of spring, included fertility rites and the pairing off of women with men by lottery.

This world is filled with different relationships. People meet due to friendships, divorces, church, work or travel. Some pairs have been married for decades. Others have lived together for several years before thinking about marriage.

Bob and Marilyn Miller met in their early 20s at work — through Marilyn's brother. When Bob picked Marilyn up, he asked where she wanted to go. She said, "You asked me on the date, so you make the decision of where we go."

Marilyn learned later that he decided he was going to marry her since she didn't tell him what to do. Fifty-six years and still going strong.

Carlos Ramirez had a happy 30-year marriage, but when the widower turned 62, a friend introduced him to a young lady from Columbia. Carlos has visited Columbia to see the young woman, and they talk online



frequently. Who knows what will happen to this duet in the future?

Hieronim Worjcik and Maria Piskorz met on New Year's Eve at a Polish church in Los Angeles. Since each of their first marriages had ended, this time the couple spent several years together, traveling and visiting other places before deciding to marry. After some years in the West, they settled in Florida since it reminds them of the Polish summer.

Ed and Michelle DeJoy have known each other for 19 years. They were co-workers at a gym, trainers, teachers and also video game friends. This wasn't their first relationship, but romance soon bloomed and the two married in 2018 (see photo).



Southern Georgian residents Michelle and Ed DeJoy and "Tinkerbelle."

When Victor and Maria Arce met at church in Washington, D.C., they realized that they emigrated from the same town in El Salvador—but eight years apart. Maria came to the U.S. to be with her mother and to attend high school. Victor had been working in America since 1971. After they became empty nesters, Victor and Maria moved to the Sunshine State in 2005.

Walt Disney once said, "Laughter is timeless. Imagination has no age. And dreams are forever." So enjoy Valentine's Day doing what you wish—dancing, eating chocolate, or anything that brings a smile to your face.



Emerald Isle meeting held outdoors

(The column this month was written by Cheryl Butcher in the absence of our usual reporter, Glenda Greenman.)

Happy Valentine's Day to the Emerald Isle family. Don't forget to do something special for your special someone.

It is so nice to see our friends arrive for the winter months. Welcome to Bud and Catherine Goeke, Lance Goonan, Linda and Dave Custer, Nikki and Tom Seal, David Bucchiere, John Hooker, and Treva and Larry Olinger.

Laverne Iorio spent several weeks in Chicago visiting family in December and was very glad to return home to sunshine. Marge and Bill Gipperich welcomed family visitors as their daughter and her husband from St. Louis spent a week with them.

We held our annual building meeting in January in the safety of the great outdoors. Cheryl Butcher, our Building Coordinator, presided and brought us up to date with building activities.

All of our 2020 events (eight of them) were fully funded with the building dues we pay. If you have not been able to go to any of the parties, please try to come this year. Our event coordinators do a wonderful job of planning and executing all of the activities. They're always trying to plan new things.

When normality returns to our world, we will be able to resume luncheons at local restaurants. If you have any ideas or would like to help, just let them know.

Judy Hetrick is constantly surveying the state of the storage rooms. Please make a good effort to police your area and clean it up. There are violations that will have to be corrected to make sure all of the rooms comply with On Top of the World rules. See Judy if you have any questions on what's allowed.

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At OTOW, love is all around if you just look

The sixties were known as the “decade of love” and the radios were filled with songs about it. Little did they know they were setting the stage for Villa Riviera in the year 2021.

Love is everywhere you look. Both sides, the even on Ecuadorian and the odd on Finlandia, have couples celebrating golden wedding anniversaries this year.

First up, the even side. On Dec. 31, 1968, the future Mrs. Liz Sharpe had to be talked into attending a Brooklyn, N.Y., New Year’s Eve party with two girlfriends. Liz didn’t want to be the fifth wheel as both of her companions had dates for the evening.

Fortunately, she went, and on Jan. 1, 1969, at 1:26 a.m., she met Jack. The next week he took her to Jack Dempsey’s famous New York restaurant for dinner followed by a night at Radio City Music Hall. And the rest, as they say is history.

On May 1, 1971, they made it legal, and this May they will be celebrating 50 glorious years together.



Meanwhile, earlier in 1968, and further upstate (Schenectady), little Lydia Lucarino finally got to go out with an older altar boy named Harold Cote, on whom she had maintained a crush for years. Fortunately Mrs. Cote, Harold’s mother, worked at the school Lydia attended and passed Lydia a note from her son. Lydia finally went on a date with him and after spending the next few years going to far

too many proms, on July 17, 1971, she got her ex-altar boy to the altar. Two children and four grandchildren later, they will be celebrating their golden anniversary on the odd side.

After that cute little story about puppy love, it seems appropriate to end our annual Valentine’s article with a story about just that: puppy love.

Judy Oldenburg moved to Villa Riviera in 2020. After retiring from the medical field on New Year’s Day in 2010, she became a Snowbird, dividing her time between Lakeland, Fla., and Kelley’s Island, Ohio (in Lake Erie), where she served on the Chamber of Commerce. In 2016, she made Florida her permanent home and last year moved to OTOW.

Judy is a very young-looking and very fit senior who I am sure turns many a man’s head. But it is her live-in companion, Annabelle, a 2-year-old Chihuahua cross she rescued a year ago that has caused quite a fuss among all the male dogs in the building.



“Rusty” (at right) has on a bow tie and “Annabelle” is wearing a new outfit made for their commitment occasion (see story).

Fortunately, Rusty, a beagle cross, stole Annabelle’s heart and was smart enough to put a ring on her. Seen here is a picture of their little commitment ceremony. Unlike old time love birds Jack and Liz and Lydia and Harold, this will be their first Valentine’s Day together.

Worldwide ‘grandparent scam’ is not going away anytime soon

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Taking hope and joy from 2020 into the New Year

“Joy to the world. Joy to the fishes in the deep blue sea, Joy to you and me!” These happy lyrics are from “Joy to the World” by Three Dog Night and they rightly describe the attitude of our Austrian Alpine residents as we move into February 2021.

Our new flagpole and flag on the Australian Way side of our building is the latest addition to our building’s beautification projects. Solar powered lights illuminate both of our flagpoles now.

Two volunteers will be flag stewards in charge of putting the flags at half-mast when ordered by the President. They will also take down the flags when there are high winds and flag-shredding storms. Thank you, Rich Hayes and Tiffany Shad for volunteering as our flag stewards!

Many residents are carrying happiness from 2020 into the coming months by building on those activities and gratitudes that kept them upbeat.

Here are some responses to the question of what brought you joy in 2020 that you’re bring forward into 2021.

“My family and the love that we share for each other,” noted Virginia McDowell.

Marilyn Whelan wrote, “Along with COVID-19 and restrictions placed on our lifestyle came a gift. We each had the opportunity to reflect on our busy lifestyles and take a breather. In this building we reached out to each other, helping where needed and encouraging each other.



We came to enjoy our home a bit more, to cherish the phone calls of friends and neighbors for human contact.”

Tiffany Schad said the joy she carries forward is “Moving to Florida from Virginia, meeting new people, riding horses and open water swimming.”

New friends bring joy to our wonderful Bob Young, who helps us in so many ways.

Donna Gagnon said, “What gives me joy is a supportive and loving family, the ability to contribute productively to my community and the connection with family and neighbors.”

Many other residents commented on this topic. Responses are posted on our sunny bulletin board.

Together we’ll stack and build on the positive in our lives. Joy to you and me!



Austrian Alpine resident Tiffany Schad, who leases her horse, Watson, is learning the art of dressage, a form of equine conditioning. Riding horses is a joy that Tiffany hopes to carry over through the New Year.

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A not-so-scientific American Gothic cookie poll

Hi, neighbors. What makes the neighbors at American Gothic so sweet?

We eat cookies. And, we eat a lot of cookies! A recent survey of our favorites included all kind of delicious cookies.

What kind of delightful cookies, you ask?

Well, it turns out that some folks' favorite cookies are oatmeal, with optional raisins and/or walnuts. That's finger-licking good!

Others love chomping on good old-fashioned warm and gooey chocolate chip cookies, and some prefer them with almonds. Yum! One couple loves snickerdoodles. I have a neighbor who favors pizzelles.

A friend told me she prefers orange milanos. One neighbor fellow loves chocolate marshmallow cookies. And my own favorites are gingerbread cookies with a little orange glaze.

So you see, we eat a lot of cookies here at AG. Maybe that is why we are smiling all the time!

If you love your sweets but don't have a lot of baking skills, here is a three-ingredient sweet treat that is easy-peasy to make.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Mix one box of Spice Cake mix with one cup of water and one 15 oz. can of pumpkin.



Dump all three into a lightly-greased baking dish and bake for 45-50 minutes.

You can sprinkle a bit of cinnamon on top to finish off this healthy dessert.

In other outstanding American Gothic news, Ron Clement recently took to the golf course to relieve some stress. On the ninth hole, Ron made history!

Ron may be the first person in the history of golf to hit a "pole in one!" He teed off and the ball veered way left, headed for a utility pole that lines our course.

To see where it landed, check out the picture. And voila, a pole in one! Ron said, "I left the ball attached to the pole as a testament to my aim."

Well, that's the news for February, folks. Hope 2021 is keeping you smiling!



Here is the result of Ron Clement's "pole-in-one" golf shot. (Photo by Ron Clement)

OTOW News Website: www.ontopoftheworldnews.com



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Recent happenings include an update on the 'scarfs for the homeless' project and a resident's 98th birthday party

Welcome hearts and flowers month. Sharon Clifford extends thanks to Dana Garlick (and an unknown person) for their large donations of yarn, and to Mike Murphy for his generous donation for Sharon's scarfs for the homeless project. Quite sure there are many who are cozier in these brisk winter days because of Sharon's generosity.

It was nice seeing Vickie Stetter, who stopped by recently. Vickie is now living on the West side of On Top of the World, but comes by occasionally to say hello to her former neighbors.

Speaking of neighbors, Elaine Power began her 98th ride around ol' Sol with a small party of pals in her "pod." They included French Renaissance friends Dana Garlick, Pat Brennon and Goca Kranenberg. Elaine's daughter, Lynn Costanza, Chris Tuttle and yours truly were also on hand. Cake, flowers and laughter were the order of the day.

The "Zoom" meeting application has certainly made isolating a bit nicer for all of us. Rosalie Borelli takes full advantage of this service to catch up with family, especially those great-grand kids.



Son Mike drove down for an all-too-brief visit. He joined the Friends in Focus camera club for a few outings. Mike got some dandy sunsets, sunrises and a number of fine nature shots.

We donned masks and, armed with hand sanitizer, visited the new pier in St. Petersburg. Surprisingly, it was almost empty, so social distancing was not an issue. We were the only passengers on the open-air tram.

Tarpon Springs was also virtually empty as we drove through.



Viennese Villa resident Elaine Power celebrated her 98th birthday with friends and family including (left to right) Pat Brennon, Goca Kransenberg, Fran Fairfield, guest of honor Elaine Power, Elaine's daughter, Lynn Costanza and Chris Tuttle. (Photo by Dana Garlick)

Mike has returned to the frozen north. Will see his handy work on the Weather Channel. That's all the winter I want to see!

Well, Valentine's Day is upon us. Candy, posies and maybe a takeout meal for your special person — maybe in that order. Remember, a larger tip would be a

nice gesture in these strange times.

Until next we meet, birthday and anniversary wishes to all celebrants.

Please limit items in exchange bin, and firmly close the trash room door.

Stay safe and wear a mask. Any news fit to print, just send to fresca@maine.rr.com.

Happy Valentine's Day from the Staff and volunteers of the OTOW News

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Don't let your Canadian 'neighbours' confuse you - their language is influenced by four countries and eight dialects

Everyone who lives at On Top of the World knows someone who is Canadian.

Most of us have heard a Canadian say "I'm going bowling" when in fact they roll a little white ball, on a lawn, that doesn't knock down pins, but crashes into other colored balls.

Sometimes Canadians confuse us?

Well, you are in for a treat today. Even though most classes at On Top of the World have been canceled and most classroom activities are on hold, Connie Stanley from the Canadian Club has graciously volunteered to teach us about her "Canadian language."

For starters, people from Canada are Canadians, but hockey players from Canada are Canadiens.

Understand?

No?

Oh well. We are not off to a very good start then.

Let's try this.

If an American agrees to something another American says, the first American will say "right" or "correct" or "I agree."

But a Canadian has a much more simple way of expressing an agreement. They simply say "eh."

Right?

"I was astonished last season when we were at one of our events and an American club member friend said "eh" to me," Connie said. "I almost fell over. I said to myself, 'we must have a literal influence.'"

Typical Canadian English is spoken by Anglophone or multilingual people who were born in Canada who live in urban areas. Canadian English is a derivative of several waves of immigration and settlement over more than 200 years. That's why the language has obvious influences from the U.S., Britain, France and Ireland!

Canadian and American English are very similar in pronunciation. In fact, they are so similar that they are frequently categorized as North American English.

One of the most noteworthy differences between Canadian English versus American English is the spelling - after all, Canadians use British spelling, eh?

Well not entirely. Canadian spelling combines British and American rules and adds some domestic idiosyncrasies.

Americans spell "color" and Canadians spell "colour."

Americans spell "center" and Canadians spell "centre."



What did they say?

Canadian	American
Chesterfield	Couch
Cheque	Check
Cupboard	Cabinet
Kleenex	Tissue
The letter Z [zed]	Z [zee]
Forty-pounder	Forty ounce bottle of liquor
Twenty-sixer	Twenty-six ounce bottle of liquor
Leff-tenant	Lieutenant
Hydro	Electricity
Elastic	Rubber band
Coloured pencils	Crayons
Garbage	Trash
Washroom	Restroom
Grade 10, 11	freshman, sophomore
Tea towels	Kitchen towels
Silverware	Cutlery
Housecoat	Bathrobe
Bureau	Dresser
Tuque	Winter hat
Eaves trough	Rain gutter
Pylon	Traffic cone or safety cone
Dressing gown	Night shirt
Duo-tang	Folder
Serviette	Napkin
Plasticine	Play dough, silly putty
Hilroy	Exercise book
Freshie	Drink crystals
Pop	Soda
Kangaroo	Hoodie
College Diploma; University Degree	College
Garburator	Disposal
Double - Double	Two sugars - two milk
Eh? [Ay?]	"right?" / "isn't it?" / "don't you agree?"
Freezies	Freeze pop; Ice pop
Two-four	Case of 24 cans or bottles of beer
Dart (or lung dart)	Cigarette
Kitty Corner	Diagonally from something
Texas Mickey	101 ounce bottle of liquor
Runners; sneakers	Running Shoes
Gong Show	Event that has got completely out of control
KD [Kraft Dinner]	Macaroni and cheese
Caesar	Bloody Mary

Americans spell "theater" and Canadians spell "theatre."

The British influence on Canada also calls for doubling consonants. English says "traveled" and "counseling" and "marvellous."

The Canadian-British influence says "travelled" and "counselling" and "marvellous."

Conversely, words derived from Greek influences such as realize and recognize, are spelled with an "ize" ending.

In Canada, our British counterparts end in "ise."

But Canada is not only influenced by British and Irish, Canadians are also influenced by American English.

You will rarely find a Canadian who

says "motorway" instead of highway, or "lorry" instead of "truck."

In America, the front of a vehicle is a "hood." The British influence would rather use the term "bonnet."

Still confused?

Consider this.

There are eight dialects in Canada, according to the Calum Marsh, National Post. They are: Aboriginal English, Cape Breton English, Lunenburg English (part of Nova Scotia), Newfoundland English, Ottawa Valley English, Pacific West Coast English, Quebec English and Inland Canadian English. Each dialect has a complicated history, too.

You might think it is only difficult for a Canadian to use a fluent language in the United States, but sometimes it is difficult for Canadians just living in Canada.

"Once upon a time," Connie said, "I was teaching Emergency Preparedness Operations in St. John's, Newfoundland, and everyone in the class started chatting all at once to answer a question. I had to put my hand up in a "stop" fashion and ask them to speak one-at-a-time. I literally couldn't understand them!"

At left is a fun chart to help with some of the different translations between common American words and common Canadian words.

A Canadian may say "washroom" while an American will say "restroom."

A Canadian may say "housecoat" while an American will say "bathrobe."

A Canadian may say "pylon" while an American will say "traffic cone."

Lastly, an apology to all the Canadian residents who read the Canadian Club story each month in this newspaper.

Yes, in Canada a board of directors is called "the executive." But in the United States "executive" is an adjective that describes a noun. Therefore a noun has to follow.

Canadian Club writers have tried so hard to slip the word "executive" into stories each month, but Editor Doug Kates catches it every time and calls it an "executive board."

Club members have tried bribing Doug with Canadian beer and beer glasses for years, but we cannot get him to change his mind. Eh?

So don't be confused. When you see "executive board," it really is "the executive."



Canadian Club

Attention All Canadian Club Members

The Executive is trying to make club plans for the fall of 2021.

But with the pandemic, members are scattered all over the world.

Please take the time to fill out a Canadian Club survey and tell us what you are thinking.

The important information you provide will help the Executive plan ahead.

The survey is on the Canadian Club webpage on the Box Office (otowboxoffice.com).

From the home page, click the white box with all club names, then click our logo.

There are only six questions.

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Share your love for others on Valentine's Day

Ahhh, February! A month to celebrate, as we know, two seemingly different and perhaps opposing observances.

One, of course is Valentine's Day, the day of romantic love and affection for spouses, children, teachers, and "Best Friends Forever." So, get thee to your favorite card store and pick up a handful of cards and send some lovely or silly cards. Surprise a favorite neighbor, maybe? And don't forget the mail carrier.

Sharing loving warm feelings makes people smile. Makes the world smile.

The other monthly observance, of course, is Presidents Day. Remember in school when we celebrated the birthdays



of Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln on Feb. 15? In more

recent times, it has evolved to include all presidents of the United States.

So maybe this is a time to take a deep breath and honor the difficult, complicated, yet exalted job of those who have served. Positive thoughts go a long way to our own longevity, and isn't that something to celebrate?

By the time you read this, you will already have flipped your calendar to February, so you have noticed that Valentine's Day, as always, falls on Feb. 14, and Presidents Day on Feb. 15.

While we are celebrating, let us note that Audrey Hamilton celebrates her birthday this month. Many happy returns!

Once again, I must remind residents to take a little time to clean out the storage areas. We may soon find ourselves in a situation that fire hazards may exist.

Let me know if I can do anything to help eliminate unwanted "stuff" that maybe someone else can use.

Please continue to use the OTOW newspaper bin for small items, magazines, books, household items. Do not place bags full of old clothes, lamps, furniture in the bin.

Stay safe, wear your mask, and practice safe distancing. Hopefully, everyone soon will have received vaccinations so we can inch our way back to near-normalcy.



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Granada residents enjoy a luncheon in January at the Columbia Restaurant on Sand Key. (Photo by Lee Seymour)

Granada meets Cuba, culinary-wise

I am looking forward to new things this year. Peace of mind, exercise for my health and spirit, new opportunities for personal growth and better times ahead.

2021: First month down and 11 more to go!

We took down holiday decorations in record time of 25 minutes due to the cold weather.

We had a great turnout for our January luncheon at the Columbia Restaurant on Sand Key for lots of laughs and plenty of Cuban



dishes. Our Feb. 15, our luncheon will be held at Tarpon Turtle Bar &

Grill at noon. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

Our "gathering on the green" is held the fourth Thursday of each month starting at 4 p.m. on the grassy areas. Gives us a chance to check in with our neighbors and enjoy a drink and good conversation.

Soon spring is in the air, grass and trees are getting green, more birds start singing their melodies and the water in the pools and Gulf are warming up.

Enjoy life, look ahead and not back. See you all soon.

ATTENTION DRIVERS & CYCLISTS

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



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

Some examples of Siboney's past events

A message to our new residents about this building.

We are usually a very active building, although since March 2020, we have been staying safe and being very cautious.

As a building, we normally have a monthly meeting from September until April. A monthly luncheon is also scheduled and a signup sheet is hung on our bulletin board.

Here are a few events that have taken place over the years. We have had lovely Easter pot luck dinners held in the Sunrise (now called the Belleair) Room. For many years we had Valentine's Day breakfasts at the First Watch restaurant in Clearwater. Our holiday parties were held at Island Way Grill. We were picked up by vans, compliments of the restaurant.



My favorite events were our annual picnics at Philippe Park. Good food, games and socializing with our neighbors.

We also had great Oktoberfests in the core. Dozens of residents joined in.

The food was delicious. The club supplied the bratwurst, hot dogs, German potato salad, sauerkraut rolls and sheet cake. We played polka music and enjoyed a full table of desserts.

So my suggestion is: When things are back to normal, please attend our monthly meetings to find out what events will be coming up, and watch channel 732 on your TV to find out what great things are happening here at On Top of the World.

Many clubs will be looking for new members and exercise classes will be looking for people to join.

Audrey Decker's sister Karen is visiting from Connecticut and we hope she is enjoying being in sunny Florida.

Happy Valentine's Day everyone. Don't forget your "sweetheart."



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OTOW Clearwater Website: otowclearwaterinfo.com

Polynesian dwellers look to springtime

Aloha Fellow Polynesians!

Now that the holidays are over and spring will be upon us with steady, warmer temperatures, more folks will be out and about from the building visiting with each other in the cores and on the building grounds. (Please mask up and follow social distance whenever you are outside.)

I'd like to welcome Tom and MaryAnn Weidner, who are usually here in the summer. They are thrilled to be out of the cold in the Chicago suburbs. This is their first winter down here and it is nice to see them taking advantage of the mild weather.

It's also nice to have neighbors on both sides. Coincidentally, my neighbors on either side of me are from the west Chicago suburbs, as was I. Three in a row: tic, tac, toe!

Also a shout out to Frank and Rosemary Lazzaro. They decided to leave



New Jersey for a few months and head down here for the sunshine and warmer temperatures. Lots of new folks moving in too. Exciting times for our building, indeed!

Because there are fewer folks who ventured to come down this winter, or in the case of our Canadian friends, are

not allowed to come across the border, our annual building dues of \$10 have been suspended. We will revisit the issue when we have returned to some sort of normalcy.

Steve Crosmer, who takes care of many of the patriotic decorations and flags, has just replaced the American flag on the Canadian Way side a few months ago, complete with a brief ceremony.

The flag on Brazilia Drive has been taken down and is being replaced as it, too, has been battered by the weather.

Keep your eyes on the bulletin board for details of the upcoming ceremony. Old Glory will be flying again soon.

That's all for now, my fellow Polynesians. If you have any news that you would like to see in my articles, please contact me. Until next time, Mahalo!



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

OTOW NEWS
WORDMIX

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

A N E V I

R L A T U

C S U M E I

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E I G N N V E

W A Y O R D A

SECRET WORD:

Last month's scrambled words: DOUGH, ULTRA, FABRIC, FIDDLE, EMOTION, LETTUCE. Secret Word Last Month: DUFFEL

OTOW NEWS CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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Frigidaire electric wall oven, rarely used, clean inside and out \$150 negotiable. 600-8850

Beautiful top grain leather electric wallaway recliner, comfortable, spotless, like new. Purchased from Hudson Furniture. Photos available. \$200 OBO. 239-464-9421

30" countertop range with exhaust fan; 24" wall oven; 18 cu. ft. refrigerator. All in excellent condition. \$250 for all. 400-6006

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

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

Queen-size mattress frame \$20.

Call 262-515-4153 or 262-515-4407

Two new suitcases; four new afghans; one large wall mirror; new pots and pans.

432-0729

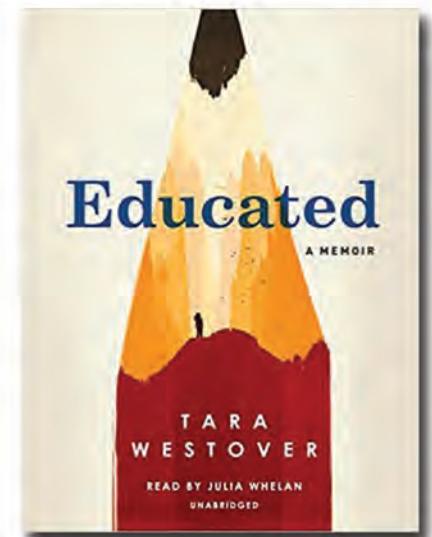
GE 30-pint dehumidifier, 3 speeds, auto shutoff, like new \$60; Bikemate bike work stand, like new \$20. 571-334-8190

WANTED

Tennis player wanted rated 3.5 (+/- 0.5) who is interested in playing singles at OTOW.

607-724-7661

Good Karma Book Club



10 a.m., February 18

"Educated" by Tara Westover

10 a.m., March 18

"Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine"
by Gail Honeyman

Space in the Crystal Beach Room will be limited and safety guidelines will be in place.

For more information, see our Webpage on the Box Office:

otowboxoffice.com - look for our link

Please wear a mask.
It is required.

Need more information, write to Jslantz1948@aol.com or call 727-754-3823



While On Top of the World continues to enforce safety guidelines in our community, there are still plenty of things to do. The tennis courts are open for anyone to use, as are the shuffleboard courts, horseshoe pits, nine-hole golf course and 18-hole golf course. At this time, these facilities are open to residents only with a valid activity card. Foursomes are now allowed at the golf courses, but only people living in the same unit can ride golf carts together. Check with the pro shop for other guidelines. Preparing to hit the ball is Karen Whitt to Bruce McMaster. (OTOW News photo by Doug Kates)



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STRATFORD COURT OF PALM HARBOR



New Year. New Lifestyle. Start 2021 with a new outlook, a new style - a new home!



Don't Miss Your Chance For New Year Savings!

Reopening has begun, allowing our residents to ease back into a more active and engaged daily routine. The health and safety of our residents has always been, and continues to be, our top priority. Masks, social distancing, disinfection, small social gatherings and careful sanitation are keystones for our team members and residents for all of our amenities and activities.

Residents can enjoy our swimming pool, our Signature Dining experience featuring 5-star gourmet meals, exercise room, our hair and nail salon and in-person and virtual classes. Following CDC guidelines and ensuring social distancing rules, our residents experience all that Stratford Court of Palm Harbor has to offer. ***And now, you can too with in-person tours resuming!***



Call (727) 312-0455
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