

 <h2>Help in Our Community</h2>			
Senior Services Elder Agency of Aging Elder Advocates	Elder and Community Development Home-based services, legal assistance (415) 398-2200 2100 Divisadero St., Suite 200 San Francisco, CA 94115	Elder Rights (415) 476-6655 1000 Market St., Suite 200 San Francisco, CA 94102	
Crime Management Services Crime Prevention Crime Prevention Council	Drug Court, Adult Justice & Community Services (415) 398-2200	Crime Management Services Crime Prevention Council (415) 476-6655 1000 Market St., Suite 200 San Francisco, CA 94102	
Child Services Family Child Care Council Child Services	Family Child Care Council Child Services (415) 398-2200	Family Child Care Council Child Services (415) 476-6655 1000 Market St., Suite 200 San Francisco, CA 94102	
Emergency Energy Assistance Emergency Energy Assistance Program	Energy Assistance Program (415) 398-2200	Emergency Energy Assistance Program (415) 476-6655 1000 Market St., Suite 200 San Francisco, CA 94102	
Reduced Rate Transit Reduced Rate Transit Authority	Reduced Rate Transit Authority (415) 398-2200	Reduced Rate Transit Authority (415) 476-6655 1000 Market St., Suite 200 San Francisco, CA 94102	
Material of Discards and Debris Material of Discards and Debris	Material of Discards and Debris (415) 398-2200	Material of Discards and Debris (415) 476-6655 1000 Market St., Suite 200 San Francisco, CA 94102	



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Volume 58

No. 2



Dennis Telleck, Howard Wolff and Tom Yetman prepare to take the first swim in the Gulf of Mexico for 2026.
According to Google, the water temperature at the time was 56 degrees.

First swim of 2026

By Dianne Dvorak

The On Top of the World Baby Boomers group welcomed in the New Year together at our annual New Year's Day Beach Celebration.

This special gathering is a wonderful way to begin the year — surrounded by friends and good company. We all have a very positive outlook on life and we are thankful for the glorious weather and beauty of where we live.

Over the past 13 years, we've had so much to celebrate and this new year is no different. We once again took time to appreciate the simple joys that bring us contentment: Good health, family and friends, cozy blankets, a morning cup of coffee or tea, a favorite movie, acts of kindness, candlelight, deep belly laughs, courage, warm hugs and the music we've loved through the years.

On New Year's Day we gathered at 11 a.m. on beautiful Clearwater Beach with an attitude of gratitude.

We soaked up the sunshine, enjoyed old and new friendships, and simply loved being alive and together with a short beach walk.

We hugged, gave thanks, some kicked off their



shoes and put their feet in the glorious powder sand.

Also, again this year, brave adventurous guys, Dennis Telleck, Tom Yetman and Howard Wolff took the Boomer Tampa Bay Plunge.

Yes. They went into the water on Jan. 1.

This yearly beach pilgrimage on New Year's Day is all about starting the year on a joyful note, grateful and thankful for all the good in life with hopes of much

more to come.

After the celebration, most of us headed to Frenchy's Rockaway Grill, their classic beachfront location, for lunch and joyous libations.

Many members of the Baby Boomers were not here on Jan. 1, but we still had a record 33 people in attendance.

We are thankful to Penni and Dennis Telleck for motivating, organizing and giving the restaurant a heads up to get ready for our large group.

We all left the beach with big smiles and hoped for continued connection, unity and inspiration.

Come attend a meeting to see if we are "your thing." There are no dues and no officers and we are a pretty fun bunch who bring many varied interests and ideas.

Like anything in life, it's what you put into it, what you get out of it.

We meet at 5:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday and third Thursday of the month in the East Activity Center Largo Room.

The Baby Boomers wish you and yours a very happy, healthy and lively 2026!

Make plans now. Entry gates and some community roads will be blocked from 9:30-11 am on Saturday, March 7, for the annual St. Patrick's Day parade. These roadblocks will not be lifted. You cannot bypass through the grass. Plan ahead!



WHY FEBRUARY IS PRIME TIME TO BUY

Less Competition & More Leverage: Skip the crowded spring market! February inventory is good, but you are competing against fewer buyers, allowing you to take your time and negotiate a better deal.

Serious Seller Motivation: Sellers listing in winter are often eager to close quickly, making them more likely to accept offers, cover closing costs, or agree to repairs.

Ideal Time to Verify “Florida Life”: Visit now to experience the peak, sunny season firsthand. Check out our amenities, 2 heated pools, 2 golf courses free to resident owners and so much more to enjoy while the rest of the country is gray. It’s a year round lifestyle.

Smoother, Faster Closings: With fewer transactions happening compared to the busy summer, you’ll likely experience faster service from lenders, inspectors, and appraisers, resulting in less stress.

THINKING ABOUT SELLING?

While the broader market experiences fluctuations, strategic timing can make all the difference. Maximize your return by leveraging this unique market window.

**DISCOVER YOUR HOME’S FEBRUARY MARKET POTENTIAL.
“WE TURN WINTER LISTINGS INTO QUICK SALES!”**

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE HOME VALUE ASSESSMENT!

- We care about your listing and will always strive for top dollar.
- On-site office, open 7 days a week. We’ll show your home more often and sell it faster.
- Offering on-site rental property management.
- Our sales associates have over 100 years of combined experience. We will negotiate for you, and put more money in your pocket.

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or visit us at **OTOWRealEstateClearwater.com** or
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Kenneth D. Colen, Licensed Real Estate Broker



SCA Pinellas Amenities carries facility license for musical performances

Standards for Live Performances
Volunteer resident performance groups have been a hallmark of the On Top of the World Condominiums Community for decades. Certainly, community-based performances are well-liked and supported by residents. That said, there are standards that must be adhered to.

First off is the American Society of Composers and Performers (there are other such groups, but ASCAP is the largest). This is an “umbrella” organization responsible for enforcing music copyrights and disbursing collected fees to composers.

We learned about them the hard way many years ago when one of their scouts showed up to a performance. Then the demand for fees and compliance letters started. Naturally, SCA pushed back, unsuccessfully.

Before any music can be performed live, regardless of a fee, donation, or free performance, the venue where the music/concert is performed must have a license that covers all music under copyright. ASCAP and BMI have amazingly large catalogues of work they cover. SCA Pinellas Amenities L.L.C. (SCA) carries a license for such performances.

That said, ASCAP licenses do not cover music used in dramatic performances. A dramatic performance is best defined as any musical performance or stage production involving acting, movement, costumes and performing music under copyright.

All Broadway and movie tunes (yes, even “Over the Rainbow”) fall into this category where the organization performing the music must obtain permission from the copyright holder to perform, or otherwise use the works. Purchasing the music does not convey the performance rights. Generally, there is a nominal fee charged for granting permission to perform, although any current work (such as any works from “Wicked”), the fees can be quite high.

Besides compensation to the composers of the work, they also exercise control of the integrity of the represented work being performed.

Why am I bothering with this?
Simply put, SCA wants to keep all parties on the right side of the law. The industry has become very zealous about performances and copyright enforcement.

I am thinking about a case involving a high school performance: Tresona Multimedia, LLC v. Burbank High School Vocal Music 953 F.3rd 638 (2020). The ruling went against the high school. Seems an educational institution would be an “apple pie” issue, but apparently it was not.

The primary performance copyright groups are:

- Dramatic Publishing, Inc.
- Music Theatre International
- Pioneer Drama, Inc.
- Concord Theatricals

Lease Extension Reminder
The Association Board recently received a few questions regarding lease extension and how residents can learn more about this.

As a reminder, 81 buildings at On Top of the World-Clearwater have a leasehold. Those condos were originally conveyed for a lease term of 99 years, but with OTOW now more than 50 years old, it is time for many residents to extend their lease to protect the value of their unit and to ensure that lenders would be comfortable with the remaining term of the lease.

When you sign the Amendment, your lease will be extended until June 30, 2119.

There is no additional payment required to extend your lease, no change in the way lease fees are currently being collected, no change in the amount of your lease fee, and it will have no impact on your property taxes or insurance.

Additionally, the lease extension includes capping annual increases to \$6 per year.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.otowclearwaterinfo.com/>



leasehold-first-amendment-request/.

In addition, you can send any questions to leaseFAQ@clw-info.net and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

The Basics of Safe Living in a Condominium

Besides purchasing casualty insurance to protect you in the event of some catastrophic loss, other steps to protecting your home are testing your smoke detector regularly and having an operable BC fire extinguisher within easy reach. Smoke detectors are generally hardwired affairs, but with batteries for back-up in event of a power outage. Change the batteries at least once per year or purchase an additional smoke detector with a 10-year lithium battery. It can save your life.

Purchase a BC fire extinguisher and place it within easy reach, usually in the kitchen. Reading the extinguisher operating instructions when you first purchase the unit and at least yearly thereafter is also a good safety practice. It should go without saying that knowing how to use an extinguisher is basic to using it successfully. A resident having and successfully using an operable fire extinguisher may greatly limit any fire damage.

If you think you put out a fire (grease, cigarettes, whatever), notify 911 anyway just in case there is a lingering smolder left behind.

Purchase a fire blanket and keep it within easy reach while cooking. It is designed to smother a grease fire within seconds. Never throw liquid on any grease fire. Liquid will cause a much larger fire!

If you have an authorized washer and dryer connection, the dryer vent should be cleaned at least annually. By “vent” I mean both the hose and hard vent to the roof area. This should

be done by a licensed appliance specialist. Lint build-up is not only a fire hazard, but it's build-up can adversely impact dryer performance, and drive up your electric bill.

If you still have a dryer that enters into the ceiling, it was in all likelihood an illegal installation made by an unlicensed repairman.

The Management Company has found these types installations are also illegally wired into the electrical panel, and are highly likely to overheat and cause a substantial fire. If you have any doubts, please contact Inspections Services at the Community Service Office. It's a free inspection that may save your life.

The service department has handled numerous major leaks from improperly maintained water heaters. The replacement and maintenance of water heaters is the responsibility of the unit owner. In all cases the owner found out how important having insurance is when faced with paying for the extensive damage to their unit, the adjoining units, and the Association property between the units. The Management Company will encourage the Association seek reimbursement from the unit owner for its repair work in every instance.

Purchasing Insurance on Your Condo and Contents

Fire events or water damage are cautionary reminders for each resident to check in with your insurance agent and make sure the insurance coverage on your unit and contents is adequate. If you feel “lucky” and go without insurance, or believe you can self-insure any loss, please reconsider. The cost of repair or reconstruction, as well as loss of use (being homeless pending restoration), may well exceed the value of your condominium many times over.

It is the obligation of every owner to purchase insurance for the contents of their unit, including loss of use coverage. Loss of use coverage will allow your carrier to provide you living and lodging expenses should you become displaced. Displacement after a fire may be between 6 and 18 months!

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

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

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

Please remember, another benefit of an HO6 policy is the personal liability coverage. Should you be the cause of a water leak or a fire event that dam-

ages adjoining units, you may be held liable for their damage, as well as any damage to the Association's area of responsibility between units.

The undervaluation of your contents may cause you a significant loss but most likely will not bankrupt you. If you do not have personal liability coverage, you could lose all of your assets if you cause damage to units around you and you are not adequately insured.

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

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

For more information, please visit www.otowclearwaterinfo.com then click “Association/Insurance Forms” and download the pdf document entitled: Insurance Responsibility of the Individual Unit Owner.

Damage to your vehicle while it is parked in the community is not covered by your HO6 policy. State law requires you to maintain a policy on your automobile. The prudent owner will purchase Comprehensive or Other than Collision coverage that pays for damage to a vehicle from incidents other than a collision including; fire, theft, windstorm, vandalism or flood. It also covers damages caused by falling objects or from hitting an animal.

Feeling Flush?


Think first!

The Management Company has recently been called out to deal with a range of plumbing blockages. Upon investigation of the several incidents in December, they found grout, washcloths, small hand towels, adult diapers, cat litter, and “flushable” wipes.

Get the point?

The only thing flushable is human waste and toilet paper. Everything else is NOT flushable (even so called “flushable” wipes, which may flush, but don't break down can cause some dandy blockages).

A sewerage back up can cause real problems and damage to ground floor neighbors. Please be responsible and mindful of your first-floor neighbors. Flush only human waste and toilet paper.



Training Seminar

PSTA regular bus routes have been discontinued at On Top of the World.

However, PSTA is introducing a new “Snapper on Demand” service that will help you get on a regular PSTA bus.

Don't get frustrated. Don't get confused. Attend this free seminar.



A Snapper Training Seminar will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 1 pm in the EAC Auditorium.

No Registration Required. Just Show Up!

Snapper is an On-Demand Service provided by the PSTA.

Staff will make a 30 minute presentation and then answer your questions.

- What is the Snapper Service Area?
- What hours does Snapper operate?
- How do you find and download the Snapper App?
- How do you register? Is registration necessary?
- How do you book a trip? Why is it called “Snapper?”
- How does Snapper get me to a regular PSTA bus? Where are the hubs?



Snapper comes to you and takes you to a PSTA hub.

Make sure your emergency contact Gates will be blocked, some roads

Irish Club Annual Parade
Come out and join in the fun on Saturday, March 7, for the Irish Club annual parade.
As a reminder, World Parkway Boulevard East will be blocked off for 90 minutes from 9:30-11 a.m. Do not attempt to drive on World Parkway during the parade, do not make repairman appointments or have food delivered during this time. Please notify friends and family not to visit your condo during these hours.
As a reminder, World Parkway will be blocked at all road crossings along the parade route. Barricades will not be removed once the parade starts.
Be sure to plan for this should you need to exit the community. Remember, driving on lawns to avoid road-blocks is not permitted so please plan ahead!
Help us keep the parade safe and entertaining for everyone. Enjoy the fun!

**Did You Know
Pet Waste**

One gram of dog waste contains double the amount of fecal bacteria than that of human waste.
By failing to pick it up and dispose of it properly, diseases such as E. coli and Salmonellosis could be spread to humans as well as other pets.
If you are of the school of thought that by leaving it, the waste would somehow “fertilize” the ground, well, you would be incorrect. Due to significant sources of pathogens and pollutants contained in dog waste, it will not fertilize the ground like wild animal waste does.
So, please bag and dispose of your pet’s waste in proper trash containers as soon as possible.

Emergency Contacts
Recently, it was brought to my attention that a resident belonging to a community club and having memory issues was unaware of their own personal phone numbers for an emergency contact when it was needed.
The club representative gave a wonderful suggestion to remedy this that I would like to share with you.
She asked her members to add an emergency telephone number onto the back of their lanyard so it would be easily accessible in the event of an emergency.
She also brought up a valuable point that I would also like to share with you, and that is to be sure that the contact given is someone who is able to assist and could reach out to family members or caregivers should the need arise.
There are also several wearable devices that offer real-time location alerts to assist family or caregivers of someone with memory issues such as a small GPS Tracker or other wander management systems. Please seek the advice of medical professionals for further information.

**Upcoming Projects
Painting/Waterproofing**

The painting contractor will be moving their operations to the Paradise Reserve section of the community in late January/early February to apply new waterproofing coatings to the rear of Building 96.
This project is anticipated to take two weeks to complete, provided the weather cooperates.
Their teams will then return to the east side of property to work on a couple of specialty projects as well as the front façade of Building 22.
As always, residents should be aware that the contractor will be using aerial lift equipment in the main parking areas. This will require the temporary relocation of personal vehicles as necessary. Bulletins will be 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 and completion dates.

**Construction, Roofing and
Large Scope Projects**

Building 87 will be the next structure in the annual improvement cycle to see crews from the roofing contractor arrive beginning in early February. The contractor will begin the staging of materials and will perform preliminary roof replacement activities at Building 87 just prior to the start of rooftop activities. This project is anticipated to take 4-5 weeks to complete barring weather delays.
This project will require the staged closure of the building’s parking lots, either partially or in their entirety, to allow for 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. Thank you for helping make safety a number one priority in the community.
Mid-to-late February is also estimated to be the time window when the railings contractor will transition to the next project on their schedule, which is Building 23.
This state-licensed contractor will be removing old components and replacing them with new aluminum components to meet current building and life safety codes. This improvement project is projected to take 4-6 weeks to reach full completion.
Additional repairs to the common element may be required after the project has been completed. Those repairs will be performed by the management company as with projects past.
Dust and elevated noise levels are a normal byproduct of this work and should be anticipated. Please exercise caution in the areas where these improvements are being made. Notices will be posted in advance of the work so residents should keep an eye on their bulletin boards for updates.

While the contract has not been awarded yet, residents in the Paradise section should anticipate the arrival of an underground utilities contractor sometime in early February, pending availability.
The scope of work should not affect residents directly as vehicles and equipment will be working on an underground drainpipe that carries stormwater off property from the lake. Because the work is performed entirely underground without the need for trenching, it is minimally invasive and should not prove to be a disruption to the community.
The community’s annual fire extinguisher inspections are another annual undertaking scheduled for the month of February.
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.

**Recurring Reminders for
All Community Residents**

As a reminder, in 2023 the Management Company recommenced its enforcement efforts by removing all unapproved items placed in building common areas. This includes, but is not limited to, plants (live or artificial), personal items, non-exterior rated furniture, rusted chairs/tables or in disrepair, tchotchkes, etc., as these items are not permitted to occupy common spaces.
As has been referenced in the newspaper, on the community TV channel, and the bulletins posted in all building center core lobbies, these items will be removed and disposed of without further notice. These ongoing efforts help keep the areas safe for first responders as well as maintain an aesthetically pleasing community for all to reside in. We ask that residents help keep the community’s common areas in compliance by reporting violations of this nature to the Management Company. We appreciate the community’s cooperation and support in reporting any violations of this nature so the Management Company can investigate and correct if necessary.
The Management Company would also like to thank the residents who live on the second and third floors for their cooperation in making the On Top of the World community a safer and more aesthetically pleasing place to live by removing their floor mats from the common area.

The community’s response for compliance was astounding, as has been the feedback regarding these efforts. Once again, thank you for your support in this undertaking.
Now that the notification and compliance piece has been completed, the Management Company will continue the ongoing compliance enforcement of these common areas where the mats were once located, as well as repainting areas that could not be cleaned up to community standards.
As a reminder to all residents, and in keeping with condominium rules governing common areas, any floor mats placed in the second or third floor balcony walkways or center core areas, will be removed without any further notification. Please assist us in keeping these walkway areas clear while making your community a safer and more beautiful place to live.

Inspection Services Division

The Inspection Services Division, in conjunction with the Parkway Construction Department, will continue prepping buildings scheduled for new paint coatings in the current improvement cycle. This has been an ongoing endeavor throughout the community over the last few years and encompasses the removal of all association unapproved plant hanger brackets, holiday lighting hooks that are affixed into the masonry block, hose reels and other wall and ceiling penetrations.
In keeping with association rules, these items will be removed without notice.
Residents are kindly asked to seek association approval before affixing anything to the common element in the future.
Inspection Services representatives also will be reaching out to resi-

dents of buildings that are scheduled for new paint and waterproof coatings during the current improvement cycle. The purpose of their contact will be to advise residents that the painting vendor will be color matching all external doors to the majority building color as is required by the condominium association rules. This will usually require no action by the unit owner other than to allow access to the entire door surface for the coating to be applied.

If for some reason you are not at home when this work takes place, you may contact the Community Service Office and schedule a follow-up visit from the coating vendor. We appreciate your cooperation in making this project a success across the community.
First floor unit owners will continue receiving notification from the Inspection Services Department as the Management Company works towards the removal of all unapproved decorative stones throughout the community. The stones are not only an unapproved item for use in landscaping and have the propensity to damage association and personal property alike.
The removal of plantings located above and around the potable water meters that service the individual units is also ongoing. The Management Company is asking that all residents comply and not replant the areas. Plants or other items found in these areas will be removed without notice and disposed of as they hinder the proper maintenance of these meters in the future.

Please keep in mind that the condominium association requires a modification request for any landscape alterations. Many times, decorative rocks or landscaping are installed without the advance approval of the association, and the removal and disposal of these items becomes the responsibility of the violator. Please, always apply for approval before you install.
Inspection efforts continue to focus on the tagging and removal of portable barbeque grills, including propane, charcoal, or electric, which are not permitted in any buildings’ common areas as they pose a fire risk to the structure and residents. Only grills meeting the approved Clearwater Fire Department standard are permitted on the patio of first floor units.
If you’re a first-floor unit owner and not sure if your grill complies, please stop by the Community Service Office to request a visit from our friendly Inspections Services staff.

The Management Company would like to remind residents that all water softening equipment installations require advance association approval via a modification permit. A permit application package may be obtained by visiting the Community Service Office in the East Activity Center at 2069 World Parkway Boulevard.
Residents are also reminded that only resin-style, not ion exchange or salt water softeners, are permissible in the community. Please make sure you apply for a permit and receive approval prior to contracting with a service to avoid a compliance visit by the Management Company. Thanks for your advanced cooperation.

**After-Hours
Emergency Information**

The OTOW emergency after-hours phone number is 727-799-1115. Please call this number, after hours, in the event of an emergency, such as a water intrusion into your condo. For all other inquiries regarding general issues or questions that are not service-related, you will need to come in person to the Community Service Office.

(Continued on page 5)

information is available to others closed, during parade March 7

OTOW Alerts

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

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

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

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

OTOW-ALERTS provides advance warnings of severe weather events as well as other matters of critical concern to the residents of OTOW Clearwater Condominium Community.

It is not hyperbole to say an advanced warning may save lives!

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

Should you wish to change your notification options you can do that by visiting the Community Service Office, calling 727-683-6981, or email at clearwaterinfo@otowfl.net.

Community Service Office Information

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

unless otherwise posted.

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

Once the requested service matter is identified, a service order will be generated and submitted to the appropriate department to address the matter. The goal of the CSO is to make an initial assessment of the request and to determine if it is an emergency or non-emergency. Once the matter is assessed, a plan to resolve will be made and work scheduled.

Generally, all non-emergency service requests are assessed and addressed in the order in which they are received.

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

If you have any questions regarding your request, and until the Community Service Office reopens, please call the Service Request Line at 727-683-6981.

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

Food Truck Night

Wednesday, Feb. 18, 3-7 pm


EAC Back Parking Lot

Cousin's Lobster, Divino's Tacos

Bria Wood-Fired Pizza, BBQ Queen

Stevie D's Philly Cheese Steaks

Don't Be Your Sink's Worst Nightmare!



CAN THE GREASE GLOB

Questions: Call Pinellas County Customer Service at (727) 464-4000

FAT+OIL+GREASE = FOG

(FOG is beef, pork or chicken fat • Oils • Lard • Butter/Margarine • Sauces/Dressings • Peanut Butter)

FOG clings to your home's plumbing, pipes and sewer system. Over time, it builds up like plaque in an artery. You may not notice the damage until it's too late. The consequences can be an overflow of wastewater into your home or your neighbor's home.

Would you drink grease from a deep fryer?
NO!
Then why give it to your sink???

Allow grease to cool. Discard into a disposable container. Place in a plastic bag. Throw out in the trash.

Do not pour motor oil, gasoline, antifreeze, paints, acids and hazardous household cleaners down any drain. Other items that don't go down a drain include "flushable" wipes, cat litter, bandages, cotton balls, nail polish, food wrappers, hygiene products, contact lenses, creams, dental floss, coffee grinds, flour, egg shells, produce stickers, medications, cigarettes, paper towels, hair and hypodermic needles.

CAUTION
Do not try AFTER using a commercial drain cleaner.

Clean A Drain

1. Start with a plunger.
2. Pour 1/2 cup baking soda down a drain then add 1/2 cup white vinegar. The chemical reaction can break down fatty acids.

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Retirement can provide challenges we didn't expect - here are some agencies willing to help



By Janet Hooper
and Diane Like

A friend recently shared, "I thought life would be easier once I retired, but it feels harder."

In many ways, life does become more challenging.

Over the years, we've also learned how to face and manage those challenges. They're simply different from the ones we navigated at age 30.

Today, many of us encounter new realities: health concerns, financial pressure, the loss of a spouse or partner, or other significant, life-changing events.

One of the greatest challenges we now face is the rising cost of living while managing a fixed income.

Throughout our lives, we met whatever came our way, but today that task can feel less straightforward.

The good news is that help is available.

Agencies such as the Area Agency on Aging specialize in programs designed to support seniors.

In addition, there are community agencies that offer services tailored to older adults while also serving the broader population.

These resources exist to help ensure we don't face today's challenges alone. At right are services and agencies to provide that hand up.

First, be aware these agencies exist to help you.

Second, cut out the information at right and save. While this source of information is being provided to you this month, it may be a while before it is printed again.

Third, you may not need this information right now, but you may know someone who does need it. Offer to share what you are reading.

Thank you.

Help in Our Community

Senior Services	Area Agency or Aging Elder Helpline	Free and low-cost transportation, home-delivered meals, legal assistance, home safety, community engagement, mental and physical health services, caregiver resources.	1-800-963-5337 727-570-9696 elderaffairs.org
Case Management Personal Care	Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services	Case management, personal care, respite, substance abuse/prevention, companionship via CHATS	727-479-1880 CHATS 727-450-7278 website 1 below
Chore Services	Pinellas Opportunity Council Chore Services	Chore services programs for frail residents over 60 to maintain independent living environments.	727-327-3091 website 2 below
Emergency Energy Assistance	Pinellas Opportunity Council EHEAP	Financial assistance for low-income households with members 60+ experiencing heating/cooling emergencies. Covers utility payment, equipment repairs, blankets, fans, etc.	727-821-0584 727-202-6803 website 3 below
Reduced fare Transit	Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority	Reduced bus fare for seniors with PSTA special citizen photo ID or government-issued photo ID.	psta.net
Medical Devices and Prosthetics	Disability Achievement Center	Medical equipment recycling program, disability equipment and modification assistance, deafs and hard of hearing services, prosthetic upcycling program.	727-539-7550 mydacil.org

FOOD PANTRIES

Clearwater	Countryside Baptist Church	2525 N. McMullen Booth Rd. Clearwater	727-726-2550
Clearwater	Helping Hands Countryside Cares	1850 McMullen Booth Rd., Clearwater	727-724-1290
Clearwater	Sylvan Abbey United Methodist	2817 Sunset Point Rd, Clearwater	727-796-3057
Dunedin	Dunedin Cares Inc	1620 Pinehurst Rd, Dunedin	813-215-7773
Palm Harbor	Feast Food	2255 Nebraska Ave., Palm Harbor	727-789-5275
Safety Harbor	Mattie Williams Neighborhood Family Center	1003 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr St. Safety Harbor	727-791-8255
Guardian Angels	OTOW	Grocery Store Gift Cards	mnmnutt59@yahoo.com

UTILITY/RENTAL ASSISTANCE

ORGANIZATION	BENEFITS	QUALIFICATIONS	CONTACT
Catholic Charities	Rent, Utilities	Appointments Only. Text 727-282-9218 for a link	727-893-1313
Espiritu Santo Catholic Church St. Vincent de Paul	Rent, Utilities, Groceries	34695, 33759, 34677 and parishioners	727-726-8477
Metropolitan Ministries	Rent, Mortgage, Utilities	Pinellas, Hillsborough, East Pasco, West Pasco	813-209-1000
The Salvation Army	Utilities (Gas and Water)	Call for an appointment	727-446-4177

WEBSITES

1 - gulfcoastjewishfamilyandcommunityservices.org
2 - poc-inc.org/chore-services-program
3 - poc-inc.org/emergency-home-energy-assistance-program

List compiled by Janet Hooper and Diane Like
Designed by Doug Kates

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Romeo voted Pet of the Year

No. This is not a predetermined stunt to promote February as the month of love.

This really did happen. In January, nearly 250 people went online and voted for On Top of the World's Pet of the Year.

Among 12 candidates, the world chose Romeo and now Romeo is crowned Pet of the Year appropriately ... in February.

Romeo is an 11-year-old Siberian Husky who was a rescue dog five years ago. On Christmas day he became the family pet to Cliff and Laura Chavis of the Austrian Alpine building.

Romeo admits he has blue eyes no one can resist.

Did you look at his blue eyes and feel obligated to vote for him? You probably did.

Romeo received 54 votes and edged out Nico who received 48 votes. Bear was third with 35 votes. Nico was Pet of the Month for June and Bear was Pet of the Month for May.

Romeo says he looks good in anything red ... well, of course he does.

He loves food, especially things dogs are not supposed to eat, like pizza.

He has his own therapuetic bed and very much enjoys his naps.

Romeo's favorite activity is sitting at the front door and watching people walk by. If you see him, wave.

Romeo can no longer take long walks, but if possible, he will be marching in the Irish Club parade as an honored guest. He also wins a \$50 gift certificate from Pam Leonard-State Farm Insurance, the sponsors for this year's competition. When you see State Farm in the parade, look for Romeo.



Romeo was Pet of the Month in December.

visit otowclearwaterinfo.com

follow the links

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Contact Us
Important Phone Numbers
Stay Informed

SIGN UP FOR OTOW ALERTS

RAVE
MOBILE SAFETY

Signing up for OTOW-ALERTS (powered by RAVE) is incredibly easy. Simply go to www.otowclearwaterinfo.com and click the "Stay Informed" tab at the top of the home page and then click "Stay Informed" in the gray box.
Signing up for RAVE is without obligation or cost to you. Your email and cell phone numbers are secure, never shared, and never solicited.
Alternatively, you may visit the Community Service Office to apply.
OTOW-ALERTS can provide information of critical concern to the residents.

Pam Leonard-Williams
CLU, ChFC
727-799-2563
We love referrals!

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CONGRATULATIONS ROMEO - OTOW Pet of the Year

Did you know there are 3 ways to turn your water on or off?

Must be present for water to be turned on.

(1) CALL: 727-799-3417 (Option 6)
Service hours are 7:30-5:30, Mon-Fri, and 7:30-11:30 am, Saturdays.
Requests during this time frame are free.

(2) VISIT the East Activity Center Community Service Office during business hours from 8:30 am - 3 pm, Monday-Friday.

(3) GO ONLINE to otowclearwaterinfo.com.
Go under the service tab to fill out a request.

After hours service is available 6-9 pm, Monday through Friday, 11:30-9 pm Saturdays and 7:30-11:30 a.m. Sundays, by calling 799-1115. There is a \$35 fee for all after hours services.

Service Policy
Residents must provide a date and time for service. A minimum 2-hour service window exists. You must be present in all circumstances for your water to be turned on. No exceptions. Payments are checks only.

PSTA seminar and Food Truck Night on the schedule for busy February

Happy Valentines Day on Saturday, Feb. 14.

Get Acquainted Coffee Saturday
Thank you everyone!
The second annual Get Acquainted Coffee Saturday was a huge success!
Thank you to all the residents who joined in. Special thanks to Summit Broadband for sponsoring the event, our Good Neighbors Association for serving goodies and distributing raffle prizes, and the Entertainment Committee for providing sound and tech.
We will hold this event again next year on the second Saturday, Jan. 9, 2027.

Snapper on Demand PSTA Bus Training Seminar
PSTA regular bus routes have been discontinued at On Top of the World. However, PSTA is introducing a new “Snapper on Demand” service that will help you get on a regular PSTA bus.
Don’t get frustrated. Don’t get confused. Attend this free seminar.
A Snapper Training Seminar will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 1 p.m., in the East Activity Center Auditorium. No registration is required. Just show up!
Snapper is an on-demand shuttle bus service provided by the PSTA. Staff at the seminar will make a 30-minute presentation and then answer your questions: What is the Snapper Service Area? What hours does Snapper operate? How do you find and download the Snapper app? How do you register? Is registration necessary? How do you book a trip? Why is it called “Snapper?” How does Snapper get me to a regular PSTA bus? Where are the hubs?
We look forward to seeing you at the seminar.

Food Truck Night
The next Food Truck Night is Wednesday, Feb. 18 from 3 – 7 p.m.
It all happens at the East Activity Center back parking lot.
Residents can dine at the Pavilion or in the lot where SCA will set up tables and chairs.
Come join the fun, make new acquaintances or reconnect with friends and neighbors. Enjoy some delicious food that you don’t have every day.
The vendors are as follows: Cousins Lobster, Stevie D’s Philly Cheese Steaks, Bria Wood-Fired Pizza, BBQ Queen and Divino’s Tacos

Farewell to Our Saturday Farmers Market
I’m sorry to report that Steve from North Lakeland Produce is no longer able to serve us.
We thank him sincerely for providing us with a Saturday Farmer’s Market this past year and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

OnSpot Dermatology
OnSpot Dermatology’s mobile unit “Derma Drive” will be back again on



Friday, Feb. 13 and Friday, March 13 in the East Activity Center front parking lot off of World Parkway Boulevard East from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Here are the facts:
• 1 in 5 Americans will develop skin cancer by the age of 70.
• More than two people die of skin cancer in the US every hour.
• Having five or more sunburns doubles your risk for melanoma.
Here’s the good news! When detected early, the five-year survival rate for melanoma is 99 percent.
To make an appointment, visit onspotdermatology.com/otow or click on the flyer/link posted on the OTOW website www.otowclearwaterinfo.com or call 941-444-0011.

Gerald Colen Presents
Attorney Gerald Colen will be in the East Activity Center Auditorium on Thursday, March 26, at 10:30 a.m. for a presentation on “Planning Ahead for Florida Residents.”
Attorneys Jerry Colen, Rachel Waggoner and John Beck will discuss Medicaid Planning, Powers of Attorney and Ladybird Deeds.
The discussion will focus on planning for Florida residents and those considering it.
Snowbirds, too, will want to learn about those important planning methods.
Rachel, John and Jerry have examined any recent changes in the law regarding these topics and will answer any questions you may have.

Irish Club Parade
The 30th Irish Club Parade will take place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 7, along World Parkway Boulevard East.
Please note gates to the east side and several roads along the parade route will be closed from 9:30 -11 a.m.
The OTOW shuttle bus will be operating starting at 8:30 a.m. from the EAC front parking lot to the Denmark Street-parking area and back and forth up to the EAC and up the parade route. After the parade, the bus will provide transport back to the Denmark lot until 1 p.m. The Jolley Trolley will be covering the West side.
The Irish Club has announced that this year’s parade will be free of politics. This means no politicians in the

parade, no election signs and no political pictures or images. No one will be allowed at the post-parade party to register residents for upcoming elections or to fill out questionnaires. At the same time, please applaud our two local political clubs as they walk by. Let’s be supportive and thank them for marching.

AARP Free Taxes
AARP free tax prep locations are nearby. Read below to learn how to register and what to bring.
For 2026, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide will again offer free tax prep in Clearwater at locations such as the Countryside and East Community Libraries, focusing on low-to-moderate income individuals, especially those 50 +plus.
Preps will run roughly Feb. 1 – April 15, requiring appointments be made online through the AARP Tax-Aid Locator website: <https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp-taxaide/locations>.
Please visit for details and to sign up for notifications. You’ll need IDs, Social Security cards and income documents (W-2s, 1099s) for your appointment.
Book appointments in advance.
Service options include in-person preparation and drop-off services where you leave documents for a volunteer to file remotely.
Bring:
• Photo IDs (driver’s license) for yourself and spouse.
• A Social Security card for everyone on the return.
• All tax documents (W-2s, 1099s, etc.).
• Bank info for direct deposit.

Listed below are AARP Tax Prep Locations and Schedules closest to On Top of the World.

Clearwater Countryside Library
2642 Sabal Springs Drive
Clearwater - 1.24 miles away
Mondays 10 am - 1:30 pm
Fridays 10 am - 1:30 pm
Language: English
In-Person

Dunedin Community Center
1920 Pinehurst Road
Dunedin - 3.03 miles away
Thursdays 9 am - 12:45 pm
Fridays 9 am - 12:45 pm
Language: English
In-Person

3D Mobile Mammography
3D Mobile Mammography will return on Friday, May 22, from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., but make your appointment now!
3D Mobile Mammography will be parked in the East Activity Center front parking lot off of World Parkway Boulevard East from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
A few facts about breast cancer that you may not be aware of:
• 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer.
• A majority of breast cancers are diagnosed in women after age 50.
• 95 percent of breast cancers occur randomly and are not hereditary.
• Routine mammography screening is the best tool for detecting cancer early.

If you have any additional questions or would like to register for an appointment, you can do so at their website: www.3dmobilemammography.com.
A link to the website also will be available at Nancy’s Bulletin Board at the website www.otowclearwaterinfo.com. You also can just show up. Walk-ins welcome!

Attention Residents of OTOW Certified Fitness Instructors
On Top of the World is seeking residents with experience and certification

or a willingness to obtain certification to lead week-day morning exercise classes.
Please contact me in the Activities Office for more information.

Attention OTOW Club Representatives
The annual club forms are available for pick-up in the Community Service Office and a due date has been set for Monday, Feb. 16.
Please stop by to pick up your packet, one per club. Club representatives will be asked to sign for the packet of forms.
Contact me with any questions at general_activity@scacw.com.

One Blood
The Big Red Bus will be back at the East Activity Center front parking lot on Thursday, Feb. 12, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Residents can register at Nancy’s Bulletin Board on otowclearwaterinfo.com, in the Community Service Office or just show up that day.
All donors will receive a \$20 Ecard, a long-sleeved T-shirt, and a mini wellness checkup, including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening! Take this opportunity to save lives!
The Honor Roll from Jan. 8 is as follows: Manuel Galan, Jr, Catherine Bajis, James Bridges, Nicholas Dowsett, James Peterson, Shannon Baker, Thomas Pettit, Gordon Gratias, Julia Dowsett, Patricia Mckittrick, Wilfredo Laracunte, Joan Procida, Phyllis Miller and Julie Hansen.

Local Shredding Events
The City of Largo is proud to announce 2026 dates for ShredFest, the free document shredding and recycling event. Largo will be hosting a free ShredFest on the following Saturdays: April 11 and Oct. 10.
Shredfest is held at the Starkey Road Collection Center, 1551 Starkey Road, from 9 am-12 pm, or until full capacity has been reached.
This easy, drive-through event allows residents to bring up to five boxes of documents for free for secure on-site shredding and recycling. All patrons are to remain in their cars during the event.
The Starkey Road Recycling Center is a facility where residents can drop off their mixed recycling at no cost, recycle used cooking oil, and pick up free, recycled mulch all year round.
ShredFest is part of the City of Largo’s sustainability initiatives.
To learn more about ShredFest or other upcoming events, visit LargoRecycles.com or call 727-587-6760.

How do I Make a Reservation on the Calendar?
The first step for making a reservation on the calendar is to email or call the Activity Office with the type of event you are planning, and preferred date and location.
Send an email to general_activity@scacw.com or call 799-2734. This starts the process. Once we confirm all the details, you will fill out the online Facility Request form.
Visit: otowclearwaterinfo.com and click on “Community Activities” and “Forms” and select the SCA Online Facility Request form. Complete and sign the form with your mouse or finger and click submit.
I will acknowledge receipt in an email. This form works better if you use Google as your browser.
Paper forms are still available and can be picked up and dropped off in the Community Service Office where I have a mailbox. Please complete the form outside of that busy office and then drop it off. I will confirm receipt.
I will acknowledge receipt in an email or phone call.

Join The Honor Roll

DONATE BLOOD

YOU HAVE GREATER POWERS THAN YOU KNOW.

On Top of the World
Thursday, February 12
10 am - 3 pm

Donors receive a long-sleeved shirt!

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

ID REQUIRED

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

oneblood
Share your power.

\$20 Ecard























Blood pressure check
cholesterol screening
pulse, iron count,
temperature.

February Calendar

Special Events (open to everyone)

Thursday, Feb. 5, 1 pm - Association Board Meeting, East Activity Center Auditorium
Saturday, Feb. 7 - Computer Club annual meeting, 11 am - 1 pm, East Activity Center Auditorium
Tuesday, Feb. 10 - Canadians Snowbird Asociation Meeting, 2 - 4 pm, West Activity Center Belleair Room
Wednesday, Feb. 11 - Canadian Club Canada Day, 5 - 9 pm, East Activity Center Auditorium
Thursday, Feb. 12 - OneBlood, 10 am - 3 pm, East Activity Center Front Parking Lot
Thursday, Feb. 12 - Good Neighbors Association Get Acquainted Coffee, 9 - 11 am, EAC Auditorium
Thursday, Feb. 12, Entertainment Commitee Show, Sixtiesmania, 7:30 - 9:15 pm, East Activity Center Auditorium
Thursday, Feb. 12 - Irish Club Parade Meeting, 4 - 5 pm, East Activity Center Largo Room
Saturday, Feb. 14 - New York-New Jersey Club Valentine's Day Dinner, 5 - 9:30 pm, EAC Auditorium
Wednesday, Feb. 18 - Food Truck Night, 3 - 7 pm, East Activity Center Back Parking Lot
Friday, Feb. 20 - Good Neighbors Association Food and Clothing Drive, 10 am - 2 pm, EAC Pavilion
Saturday, Feb. 21 - Entertainment Committee Dance, Over the Edge, 7:30-10:30 pm, EAC Auditorium
Wednesday, Feb. 25 - Italian-American St. Joseph's Dinner Dance, 5 - 9 pm, East Activity Center Auditorium
Thursday, Feb. 26 - Irish Club Concert, 5 - 9 pm, East Activity Center Auditorium
Saturday, Feb. 28 - Bingo Marathon, 12 - 4 pm, East Activity Center Auditorium
Club Information Tables, Mondays and Thursdays, 8:30 - 10:30 am, East Activity Center Auditorium

Clubs and Groups

-  Art Guild - Board Meeting, 3-5 pm, Wednesday, Feb. 4, Largo Room
Art Guild - General Meeting: 1-3 pm, Friday, Feb. 13, Largo Room
Art Guild - Presentation: 1-4 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 10, Largo Room
Art Guild - Acrylic Painting: 1-4 pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays, Largo Room
Art Guild - Paint and Sip: 6-9:30 pm, Friday, Feb. 6, Largo Room
-  Baby Boomers: 5:30-6:30 pm, Wed., Feb. 4 and Thur., Feb. 19, Largo Room
Baby Boomers Acoustic Jam: 10 am-1 pm, Thursdays, Learning Lab
-  Bible Study: 2-3 pm, Fridays, Crystal Beach Room
-  Bingo: 6 - 10 pm, Mondays, East Activity Center Auditorium
-  Canadian Club Karaoke: 4:30-7:30 pm, Friday, Feb. 6, Belleair Room
Caring and Sharing: 9 am-12 pm, Tuesdays, Clearwater Room
-  Chorus: Practices Mondays and Tuesdays in Largo Room
-  Coloring Book Club: 11-2 pm, Wednesdays, Crystal Beach Room
-  Computer Club: 8:30-10 am, Wednesdays and Saturdays, Learning Lab
-  Democratic Club Board: 2-4 pm, Thursday, Feb. 26, Crystal Beach Room
Democratic Club Meeting: 2-4 pm, Thursday, Feb. 12, Learning Lab
Democratic Club Happy Hour: 6-8 pm, Tuesday, Feb. 24, Learning Lab
-  Entertainment Com. Board: 10:30-11:30 am, Monday, Feb. 9, Crystal Beach
-  Fixers Club: No events this month
-  Freebirdz Weight Loss Group: 10:30 am-12 pm, Fridays, Crystal Beach
-  French Language & Culture: 11 am-12 pm, Wednesdays, Dunedin Room
-  Good Karma Book Club: 10-11:30 am, Thursday, Feb. 19, Crystal Beach Rm
-  Good Neighbors Get Acquainted Coffee: 9 - 11 am, Feb. 12, Auditorium
-  High Vibe Tribe: 7-9 pm, Tuesday, Feb. 10, Kitchen
-  Irish Club - Parade meeting Feb. 12, 4 - 5 pm, Largo Room
-  Italian-American Club: 5 p.m., St. Joseph's Dinner Dance, Feb 25, 5-9 pm
-  Jesters Board Meeting: 11 am-12 pm, Tuesday, Feb. 10, Dunedin Room
Jesters Meeting: 6:30-8:30 pm, Wednesday, Feb. 11, Belleair Room
-  Italian Language & Culture Class: Fridays, 10:30 am - 12 pm, Dunedin Rm
-  Kibitz Corner: 9-10 am, Mondays and Wednesdays, Kitchen
-  Knitting Group: 9-11 am, Wednesdays, Crystal Beach Room
-  Lambda Social: 6-10 pm, Friday, Feb. 13, Oldsmar Room
Lambda Chat: 10:30-12, Fridays, Ozona Room
Lambda Activity Night: Saturday, Feb. 28, 6 - 10 pm, Learning Lab
-  Lawn Bowl Club: No events
-  Living With A Strong Mind, Tuesdays, Feb. 10 & 24, 3-4 pm, Learning Lab
-  Music Group: 3-6 pm, Tuesdays, Dunedin Room
-  New York-New Jersey: Saturday, Feb. 14, 5-9 pm, Dinner in Auditorium
-  Philosophy Club: 10-11:30 am, Tuesdays, Crystal Beach Rom
-  Plant-Based Living Club: 1 - 2:30 pm, Wednesday, Feb. 4, Learning Lab
-  Pickleball Club Board Meeting: 1-3 pm, Monday, Feb. 16, Crystal Beach
-  Pickleball Club Game Night: 6:30-9:30 pm, Monday, Feb. 16, Belleair Rm
-  Pray For America: 10 am-12 pm, Saturdays, Crystal Beach Room
-  Press Association: 1:30-3:30 pm, Tuesday, Feb. 3, Crystal Beach Room
-  Republican Club Meeting: 6:15-9 pm, Tuesday, Feb. 3, Belleair Room
Republican Club: No extra events.
-  Spanish Club: Mondays, 10:30 - 12:00, Dunedin Room
-  Speak English: 10-11 a.m., Thursdays, EAC Dunedin Room (all winter)
-  Tennis Club: No special events
-  Texas Card Game Club: 5-10 pm, Friday, Feb. 20, Clearwater Room
-  Theater Workshop Meeting: 6-8:30 pm, Wednesday, Feb. 4, Belleair Room
Theater Workshop Club Show: Coming in March.
-  Travel Club Meeting: 2-4 pm, Friday, Feb. 6, EAC Oldsmar Room
-  Veterans Club: Salute To Veterans, Sunday, March 1
-  World Quilters: 9 am-2 pm, Tuesdays, Largo Room
-  Writer's Ink: 1:30-3:30 pm, Thursdays, Dunedin Room

Exercises and Games

- Aqua Aerobics: 9-10 am, Mondays through Fridays, EAC Pool
Bonesavers: 8-9 am, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Largo Room
Co-Ed Exercises: 10-10:45 am, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Exercise Room
Cornhole: 1-3 pm, Mondays, Belleair Room
Gentle Movement Exercises: 11 am-12 pm, Tuesdays and 3-4 pm, Fridays, Auditorium
Ladies Exercises: 8-9 am, Monday-Friday, Exercise Room
Line Dance Club Practice: 9-10 am, Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays - East Activity Center Largo Room
Moving 'n Grooving Line Dance: 9-10:45 am; Tuesdays | 1-2:45; Fridays, EAC Auditorium
Qigong: 3-4 pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays, Exercise Room
Slinmnastics: 9-10 am, Monday through Friday, Exercise Room
Snowbirds Line Dancing: 8 am-12 pm, Wednesdays, Auditorium
Social Dance with Howard: 1-3 pm, Thursdays, West Activity Center Belleair Room
Tai Chi Flow: 3:15-4:15 pm, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Exercise Room
Yoga Align and Stretch: 10-11:30 am, Mondays, WAC Belleair Room and Thursdays, EAC Exercise Room

- 9 Ladies Golf: 8:30 am, Tuesdays
18 Ladies Golf: 8:30 am, Tuesdays
Billiards 8 ball: 6-10 pm, Mondays and Tuesdays
Billiards: 9 ball: 1-3 pm, Tuesdays and Fridays; 6 - 10 pm, Thursdays;
Billiards Events: none
Mens Golf: 8 am, Wednesdays
Mixed Golf: 9 am, Fridays
Lawn Bowling: 9:30 am, Monday through Saturday, lawn bowl courts
Lawn Bowling: Valentine's Tournament, Feb. 13, and Pairs Tournament, Feb. 18 and 25, 9:30 a.m., bowls courts
Pickleball: 10am-1pm Mon, Wed, Fri | 8-10am, Tue, Thu, Sat | 3:30 to 5:30pm Tue, Wed, Thu | 9-12 Sun.
Pickleball Tournament Lunch: Saturday, Feb. 28, 12 - 6 pm, Clearwater Room
Ping Pong: 10-1, Tuesdays-Fridays, Belleair Room
Shuffleboard: 4 pm, Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Social: 2:30-5:30 pm, Feb. 4 at Pavilion
Softball: 8 am, Tuesday and Thursday mornings
Tennis: 7:30-10 am, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays | 10-1 Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays
- Swimming Pools (October-April): 8-6:30 Mondays-Saturdays, 9-6:30 Sundays
Swimming Pools (May-September): 8-8 Mondays-Saturdays, 9-8 Sundays
Library: 10-12 Mondays & Thursdays, 1-3 Wednesdays
- All-In: 1:30-4 pm, Friday, Feb. 27, Largo Room
Board Games: 1-3 pm, Wednesdays, Palm Harbor or Belleair Room
Blackout: 6:30-9:30 pm, Thursdays all year, Belleair Room (Canadian Club members)
Bid Euchre: 6:30-9:30 pm, Tuesdays, Crystal Beach Room
Casual Bridge: 1-4 pm, Tuesdays | 9 am-12 pm, Thursdays, Ozona Room
Cribbage: 10 am-12 pm, Wednesdays, Ozona Room
Dominos: 5:30-8 pm, Tuesdays, Ozona Room
Double Deck Pinochle: 1-3:30 pm, Wednesdays and Sundays, Ozona Room
Ladies Bunco: 6-9:30 pm, Wednesday, Feb. 18, Crystal Beach Room
Mahjong: 1-4 pm, Tuesdays, Fridays, Palm Harbor Room
Beginner Mahjong: 3-5 pm, Sundays, Safety Harbor Room
Mexican Train: 1-5 pm, Thursdays, Safety Harbor Room
Qwirkle: 1-4 pm, Mondays, Dunedin Room
Rummikub: 12:30 - 3:30 pm, Mondays, Ozona Room
Samba Hand & Foot Canasta: 5:30 - 9:30 pm, Fridays, Ozona Room
Spike's Euchre: 6 - 9 pm, Wednesdays, Dunedin Room

- Alonzo Poker: 5-8 pm, Mondays, Safety Harbor Room
Barry's Poker: 6:30 - 9:30 pm, Mondays and Wednesdays, Ozona Room
Bob's Poker: 6-9:30 pm, Tuesdays, Safety Harbor Room
Carol's Poker: 6-9 pm, Wednesdays and Fridays, Safety Harbor Room
Laura's Poker: 5-9 pm, Fridays, Safety Harbor Room
Richie's Poker: 5-8 pm, Mondays and Wednesdays, Ozona Room
Tom's Poker: 5-9 pm, Wednesdays, Safety Harbor Room
- ## Building Events
- American Gothic - Cookout at the Pavilion, 1 - 6 pm, Saturday, Feb. 28
- Woodshop: 8 am-4 pm Monday-Friday, EAC Woodshop
Lapidary: 1-3 pm, Monday-Friday, EAC Lapidary Room

Spring Flea Market/Craft Show coming in April

Food and clothing drive Feb. 20



By Sue Trost

Many thanks to the On Top of the World Chorus for performing at the Good Neighbors Association Get Acquainted Coffee in December.

They provided us with a wonderful holiday sing-along.

There are several events coming up for our club over the next few months.

Our annual spring food and clothing drive will be held on Friday, Feb. 20, at the Pavilion behind the East Activity Center. We are asking for new or slightly used clothing and non-perishable food items. Please check the expiration date before you donate.

Salute to Veterans will be held on Sunday, March 1, from 1-5 p.m. at the East Activity Center Auditorium. This special event is being hosted by The Veterans Group, Snowbirds Club, Canadian Club, New York-New Jersey Club, Italian-American Club, the Good Neighbors Association and SCA.

Tickets are available at information tables from all the above sponsors on Mondays and Thursdays in the East Activity Center Auditorium from 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Tickets are free to OTOW veterans and \$10 to non-veterans. A light meal will be provided. All proceeds will go to the Veterans Group and veterans organizations that support our veterans. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

The Irish Club parade is being held on Saturday, March 7. Good Neighbors Association will be selling hot dogs and soft drinks and all proceeds will go back to the Irish Club. Hope to see you there!

Our Spring Flea Market and Craft Show will be held on Saturday, April 11, at the EAC Auditorium from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Tables are \$15 apiece or two tables for \$25. Tables will go on sale beginning Monday, Feb. 2, in the EAC Auditorium at the Good Neighbors table on Mondays and Thursdays from 8:30-10:30 a.m., first-come, first-served.

Stay warm!

Spring Flea Market
& Craft Fair

Saturday, April 11th 2026
10:00 AM until 2:00 PM

East Activity Center Auditorium

Tables are \$15 or 2 for \$25
and are on sale at
The Good Neighbors table
on Mondays and Thursdays
From 8:30 AM until 10:30 AM
First Come, First Served!

Salute to Veterans

presented by the

OTOW Veterans Group • Snowbirds Club • New York-New Jersey Club
Canadian Club • Italian-American Club • Good Neighbors Association • SCA

Sunday, March 1, 1-5 PM
East Activity Center Auditorium

Free to veterans
\$10 for non-veterans
No tickets sold at the door

Music and Entertainment

Last year
more than
60
veterans were
in attendance!

All On Top of the World residents are invited to attend and honor our Veterans at this dinner.
All veterans will receive a free meal. A ticket is required for admission.
Come commemorate the 53rd anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.

Tickets are on sale 8:30-10:30 am, Mondays and Thursdays, in the EAC Auditorium
at club information tables of the sponsors listed above.

PSTA is no longer offering regular bus service at On Top of the World

Snapper on Demand will pick up residents anywhere inside On Top of the World and will take you to a hub at either the Countryside Mall or the PSTA Downtown Clearwater Transit Center.
From the hubs, riders can board a regular bus to other destinations.
You can catch a Snapper by (A) Downloading our App and booking a reservation in the app, (B) Calling PSTA and reserving a ride, or (C) Standing at the Countryside Mall Bus Stop or the Downtown Clearwater Bus Stop and getting on the bus and telling the driver where you want to go at On Top of the World.

Snapper on Demand at 727-540-1900.

The Community Service Office is no longer a village post office

The United States Postal Service (USPS) decided to remove the Community Service Office as a Village Post Office. What does that mean to OTOW residents?
For your convenience, the CSO will still sell postage stamps at the same price you would pay if you went to a post office and you can still drop off envelopes for pick-up by the USPS. We can no longer provide or accept shipping packages/boxes nor can we affix postage to the packages/boxes.
The nearest United States Post Office is located at 1851 N. Hercules Ave. which is approximately 1.6 miles from OTOW.

Pet of the Month



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

The owner will be contacted when each portrait is finished.

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

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

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

Brady and Jesse are both Pomeranians and are both 17 years old.

They live in the Flamenco building and are owned by Sandi Johnson,

Brady and Jesse are both seniors living the best life at On Top of the World.

Jesse has already lost his teeth and sight, but still knows how to find and enjoy the kitchen.



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



Guidelines for Riding the Shuttle Bus

1. You MUST have a valid Activity Card and present it to the driver upon entering the bus. The SCA bus service is exclusively for use by Association-approved residents and tenants only. If you do not have a valid Activity Card, you may not ride the shuttle bus.
2. Reservations are REQUIRED – please call 727-799-3417 Option 7 no later than 1:00 pm the day prior to your planned trip. Monday's trip deadline is 1:00 pm Friday. Please be present in the core of your building at your scheduled pick up time.
3. Shopping time is 1.0 hours for grocery stores and 2.0 hours for Countryside Mall. Those going to Sunset Point 19 Plaza will have approximately 90 minutes to shop. Shopping time begins when you are dropped off at the destination.
4. Although appreciated, the driver is prohibited from accepting gifts or tips.
5. The driver may not assist you with entering or exiting the bus or with your packages. Please do not ask him to do so.
6. The start time listed is when the shuttle bus departs the Community Service Office. The pick-up schedule will rotate weekly between low and high buildings, meaning one week pick-up will start with the lower-numbered buildings, the following week it will start with the higher-numbered buildings.
7. Seats are not assigned. They are first come – first served.
8. Seat belts must be fastened during bus movement and must remain fastened until the bus comes to a complete stop.
9. Eating, drinking, smoking, vaping, fighting, distracting the driver, or any other unacceptable actions at the discretion of the driver are strictly prohibited on the bus. Violation of the above may result in your bus privileges being revoked.
10. All route changes are at the discretion of Management.

SCA Shuttle Bus New Schedule

DATE	PICKUP TIME	LOCATION	SHOP TIME	SHUTTLE BUS
Monday	9:00 am	Publix	1 hour	SCA
	12:30 pm	Walmart	1 hour	SCA
Tuesday	9:00 am	Sunset Point 19 Plaza	1 hour	SCA
		Sprouts/Aldi		
Wednesday	10:00 am	Clearwater Mall	2 hours	SCA
Thursday	9:00 am	Walmart	1 hour	SCA
	12:30 pm	Publix	1 hour	SCA
Friday	10:00 am	Countryside Mall	2 hours	SCA

SCA Shuttle Bus (SCA)

For Reservations call (727) 799-3417, Option 7



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Expires 2-28-26



Melissa Walk, DVM
University of Florida
Veterinary Medical School



Kimberly Garcia, DVM
Tufts University
Veterinary Medicine



How can I keep my money away from relatives who have rarely communicated with me?

Q. I am 83 years old, female and a widow.

Neither my late husband nor I had any relatives other than far-away cousins with whom we rarely communicated and had no desire to do so.

I am sure, though, they'll just pop up when I pass and declare how much my husband and I loved them all.

I've looked at several charities but worry that whatever they get from me — which is a decent sum — will be wasted in administrative expenses and attorney fees for their lawyers.

I also need an executor. I love your lectures and am asking you for your thoughts.

A. What's the saying: "Where there's a will, there's relatives."

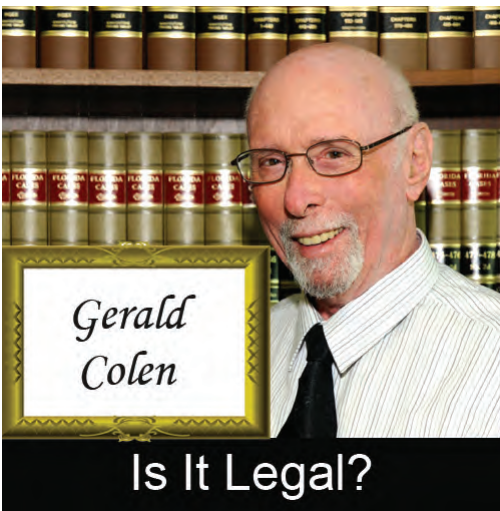
Unless there's a specific direction for a charitable distribution, the charity can pretty much use its donations as it feels they need to do. However, a properly drawn will or trust can specify how the funds must be used.

I once drew a will for a client who disliked attorneys (except me!) and I wrote in language saying none of the funds could be used to pay any attorney's fees or be cut out.

You really need to sit down with your estate planning attorney who can help you and could even be your personal representative (executor) if you wanted.

Q. I'm upset and so here goes: Why is it so difficult for folks who need Medicaid to be able to get it in Florida?

It seems to me that a married couple, where one needs Medicaid while



the other can continue with his or her life, should not have to impoverish themselves to get Medicaid.

A. As it happens, and for a married couple particularly, but even for a single person, in the State of Florida, it is not anywhere near as difficult to obtain Medicaid as people have come to believe.

My law partner, John Beck, and I, will be discussing Medicaid in Florida in greater detail at On Top of the World in Ocala and also at OTOW in Clearwater. In Clearwater it will be on March 5 with a time to be determined.

Q. What do you think of the governor's idea of doing away with home-stead real estate taxes? How should voters react?

A. Well, of course, there's probably not a lot of people who like the idea of paying taxes and you can count me as one of them.

However, I sense that there is a secondary part to your questions which would then lead me into a political discussion, which is not going to happen.

I want everyone to enjoy my column and without any concern that I have some "hidden" political agenda that I want to push. That's why I stay away from political questions and will never endorse any politician or any political position.

I am fond of telling folks that if you think you know my political views based on something I write, or from some lecture I give, you'll probably be wrong. Let's keep it that way.

Scam Alert

A few months ago, I was told that my scam alerts are "just preaching to the crowd" and that everyone at On Top of the World is already aware of scams.

So, why go over them again and again?

Yeah. Well. No.

Everyone is not always aware and even those of us (note that I include myself), who think we are smarter than scammers, get caught for a myriad of reasons.

Romance scams target men and women, who, for several different reasons, seek to interact with and then rely upon, someone who appears kindly and caring and sympathetic.

Folks with many different and very complex needs are easy targets. They are being groomed but they deny it.

The scammer promises to visit, but somehow they just can't make it.

Then comes the request for money. The story is old. We've heard it often.

Then there's the pop up on your computer saying your system is infected. Or you receive a threat that comes in a text or phone call saying you've failed to do this or that, or failed to be in court and you must pay money and do not tell anyone.

It's never-ending and as hard as we try, every now and then we let down our guard.

So, if this column helps anyone avoid a scam, it's worth it to me to write about scams over and over and over.

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



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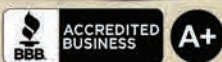
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St. Patrick's Day Parade

Saturday, March 7, 10 a.m. Post-Parade Party in the EAC Back Parking Lot
Please be aware that gates into the east side will be blocked at 9:30 am.
Several roads on the east side also will be blocked. Plan ahead.

**Cut & Save**



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We will be raffling off
Fun Baskets, a Spirit Basket,
and our Gift Card Tree.
There also will be a 50/50 drawing,
plus a raffle for a
one week stay at the Leafy Way Lodge
in the Blue Ridge Mountains (N.C.).
Tickets will be sold at the door or you can
call 727-797-2375 for advance tickets.

St. Michael the Archangel



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Women's Council


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Saturday, Feb. 28

St. Michael's Catholic Church, 2281 State Rd. 580, Clearwater

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Date: **February 24, 2026**
Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Location: 1831 N. Belcher Rd. Suite E-1,
Clearwater, FL 33765



For more details, contact:
Darlene Vargas
Business Development Director
+1 (727) 435-0121



Residents welcomed in 2026 at the Entertainment Committee New Year's Eve Bash. The event started at 9 p.m. and didn't wrap up until 1 a.m., 2026. (OTOW News photo by Mary Lou Wall)

Something different in February - Friendly Feud

By Mary Ann O'Neil
On Jan. 15, the East Activity Center was crowded with residents who attended our first show for 2026, which was sold out.
"Beautiful Loser - a Bob Seger Tribute" was a fantastic show.
These professional musicians gave us a wonderful evening of entertainment. If you missed this show, you missed a night of great entertainment.
Our first dance of 2026 featured the Sequel Band. As usual, Sequel had everyone out on the dance floor and played a variety of music. Wonderful time was had by all.
On Thursday, Feb. 12, be sure to join us for the Sixtiesmania Show. Sixtiesmania is a true celebration of the music that we all heard, sang to, and danced to during the 1960s.
Sixtiesmania takes the audience on a musical rollercoaster from the Beatles to the Doors and everything between the British Invasion, Beach Boys, Woodstock and more.
The Sixtiesmania show will be per-

formed with complete accuracy to sound exactly like those amazing recording people we know and love. Tickets are going fast, so be sure to get your tickets before this show is sold out.
On Feb. 22, our dance will feature the Over the Edge Band. This band performed here for our 2025 New Year's Eve Dance. They were dynamic that evening and I am sure that they will have you out on the dance floor all evening for our February dance.
Our next Sunday Meet & Greet will be Feb. 22, 2-4 p.m. We have something different planned but it is still free, as always. The Entertainment Committee, along with Batman Media, will present a free afternoon where you and your friends and neighbors compete for fun. Friendly Feud is a take-off of the TV game show Family Feud. So, get your six-person team together for this fun event. There is a limit of two hundred people so be sure to stop by the Entertainment Committee table on Monday and Thursday between 8:30-10:30

a.m. to get your free ticket. Everyone must have a ticket for this event. Once the two hundred tickets are given out, there will not be any at the door.
After our fun afternoon, we will provide light refreshments so be sure to stop by and join us. There are no seats reserved for this event.
Our monthly shows and dances are reserved table seating so if you want to have a great seat purchase your tickets early. The dances and show tickets are reasonable and at a fraction of the cost charged elsewhere for the same entertainment.
Shows are \$20 and dances are \$10, except for Halloween \$15 and New Year's Eve \$30.
So, get your friends together and come out for an evening of fun!
We provide ice and coffee throughout the evening. All events are BYOB and bring your snacks as well.
Just a reminder, we do not provide glasses for your drinks other than for the coffee we provide, so please bring your own glasses. The ice buckets pro-

vided for each table are to be used for the ice we provide for your drinks, not to chill your bottles or cans.
We would like to ask that when you attend our events, please do not clear the tables off. We appreciate your help, however, we have a volunteer crew who clear the tables. The reason we ask this from you is because we are having a problem with people dumping filled bottles and cups into the trash receptacles which causes the trash bags to leak as well as being heavy when we take them out to trash receptacles.
Ticket sales for shows and dances are Monday and Thursday mornings from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at the EAC. Be sure to stop by and purchase your tickets so you do not miss our events.
If you have any questions regarding shows or dances, please call (727) 449-9243 or (215) 431-4799.
On behalf of the OTOW Entertainment Committee, it is our pleasure to bring entertainment to our community.

Join our Friendly Feud!



Pick up your free ticket now!

Presented by your Entertainment Committee and Batman Media

Sunday Meet & Greet free event!

You can attend Friendly Feud and find a team to join, or you can create your own team of 6 friends, neighbors or club members.

Sunday, Feb. 22, 2 pm, East Activity Center Auditorium

Get your tickets at the Entertainment Committee information table 8:30-10:30 am, Mondays and Thursdays, in the Auditorium.

Hurry! Tickets are limited!

Light refreshments will be served. Friendly Feud is very similar to the hit TV game show Family Feud. Your team will work together to come up with the most popular answers. Win prizes!



Presented by Batman Media

Committee



Just like Bob Seger



On Top of the World residents were treated to Beautiful Loser - a Bob Seger tribute band in January. They kind of even looked like Bob Seger and company. This concert was sold out. (OTOW News photo by Mary Lou Wall)

Entertainment Committee Calendar

FEBRUARY

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

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

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

MARCH

19 - Good Vibrations - Beach Boys Tribute, 7:30 pm, \$20

21 - Cruise Control (dance), 7:30 pm, \$10

APRIL

16 Tap Into Soul (show), 7:30 pm, \$20

18 Flashback (dance), 7:30 pm, \$10



Get Acquainted Coffee Saturday



Get Acquainted Coffee was moved from a Thursday to a Saturday in January and the event was very successful. As you can see in the pictures, a lot of residents visited the East Activity Center Auditorium to meet with club representatives. People bought tickets, asked questions and joined clubs. Get Acquainted Coffee will return to Thursday, Feb. 12 this month. Free coffee and donuts starting at 9 a.m. (Photos by Nancy Rogers and Mary Lou Wall)

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Editor: Doug Kates

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Proofreaders
This Edition

Joanne Cordes
Patti Branch
Tara Still
Mary Lou Wall
Lyn Taecker

Around The World

SECTION ONE	SECTION TWO	SECTION THREE
1: Baby Boomers 3: Ken Colen 4-5: Dessa Barabba 6: Association Board Report 7: Pet of the Year 8: Nancy Rogers 9: Community Calendar 10: Good Neighbors Association 11: Pet of the Month 11: Bus Schedule 12: Is It Legal - Jerry Colen 14-15: Entertainment Committee 16: Get Acquainted Coffee Saturday 18: Doug Kates	21: Irish Club 22: New York-New Jersey Club 23: Press Association 24: Aqua Aerobics 25: Computer Club 25: Texas Card Game Club 25: Jesters 26: Lambda Club 26: World Quilters 27: Art Guild 27: Artist of the Month 27: Philosophy Club 28: Travel Club 29: OTOW/Snowbirds Line Dance Club 30: Women's Bible Study Group (new) 31: Canadian Club 32: Democratic Club 32: Plant-Based Living Club 32: Republican Club 33-37: Sports 38: High Vibe Tribe 39: Italian-American Club	41: Queen Victoria 41: New World French 42: 25 Years Ago 42: The Gables 42: Fujiwara 43: Rural French 44: Granada 45: Polynesian 45: Bohemia 46: Butcher Block 48: Royal Chateau 49: Classifieds 51: Puzzles 51: Good Karma Book Club 51: New Library Books 52: Around the Bay

East Activity Center Ground Floor

East Activity Center First Floor

East Activity Center Second Floor

West Activity Center

Pavilion Park

East and West Activity Centers Room Maps

EAC Pavilion Park Grill Map

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Community Service Office
727-683-6981

Activities Office
727-799-2734

Water Turn-On/Water Turn-Off
727-799-3417 Option 6

Emergency After Hours/Weekends
727-799-1115

Association Board Members: Chairperson Dave Kelly, Vice Chair Diane Like, Secretary Janet Hooper, Treasurer Les Meneilly, Russell Bolin, Kathleen Cassel, Stephen Faiella, Lori Kleifgen, Dale Prunoske.

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

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**After the parade, the Jolley Trolley will take
people back to the West Side.**

WATCH FOR THE TROLLEY!

ACTIVITY REPORTS



30 parades later and Irish Club is still introducing new features



Irish Club

By Barbara Rice

Everyone loves a parade – especially the Irish Club's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Club members have been treating the On Top of the World community to this special March celebration for three decades!

The milestone 30th parade steps off on March 7 beginning at 10 a.m.

The 2026 parade will be packed with delightful entries promising something for everyone. A party follows the parade in the back parking lot of the East Activity Center.

Word is out about the wonderful reception OTOW parade watchers give our visitors. Participants from neighboring towns and counties are saying, yes, count them in the parade line-up.

Even at press time, committee members are busy recruiting entries.

OTOW clubs and individuals are creating entries to entertain their neighbors. If you or your club has thought about marching the parade route in the past, the 30th parade just might be the year to join the line-up.

All entries are required to complete a registration form. The information helps plan the line-up and provides information to the parade announcers.

You will be glad to see many of your old favorites back in the parade as well as new ones.

The Dunedin New World Celts have been a longtime parade participant. The marching barbarians are adding a new twist to their presentation this year. They will be flanked by their very unusual Japanese fire truck.

The sword toting Celts will be showing their softer side, too. They say they are bringing along Nibbles, a popular ambassador duck. Nibbles has proven to be a special, therapeutic type duck who makes appearances around the Dunedin area.

The Second Time Arounders Marching Band has heard about our great OTOW adult community. They are interested in the parade, too.

Did you march in a band in high school or college? Were you a major-ette? If so, you will identify with these marchers.

Second Time Arounders consist of former high school and college band members who come together to share their love of music and performance.



Nibbles the duck will make his first appearance at the Irish Club's St. Patrick's Day parade. The New World Celts are not only bringing Nibbles with them to march, but they are also bringing a Japanese fire truck.

(Photos courtesy of the New World Celts)



They have been in the Macy's Parade and a St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin, Ireland.

A sampling of other entries making plans to entertain down the boulevard are Shriners, a jeep club, clowns, cyclists, bands, pipe and drum bands, veterans, vintage cars, businesses with goodies, Pinellas County Sheriff, dance groups, vintage cars, and an authentic leprechaun.

The green-studded festivities following the parade will include food, entertainment, dancing and merriment.

Live music by Paddy O'Furniture has

been a crowd pleaser. Summit Broadband will sponsor the band's 2026 return.

OTOW's Good Neighbors Association will be offering the best type of hospitality. They have volunteered to grill hot dogs to sell at the party as was done several years ago. The Irish Club is grateful for their neighborly undertaking.

Pick out a great spot to unfold your chair on the parade route. Invite family and friends to share the celebration.

Sit below Irish Lane to be sure to see all parade entries.

Parade staging area is from Netherlands Drive to Irish Lane. Participants assemble on upper World Parkway Boulevard East, Netherlands Drive, Mexican Way, Israeli Drive and Jamaican Street. They feed consecutively onto World Parkway Boulevard and march past the EAC and around behind the tennis courts by way of Brazilia.

Denis O'Doherty and Carmel LeBlanc will once again announce the parade entries from the reviewing stand. The reviewing stand will return this year to the traditional spot at the three-way intersection.

Live TV coverage on OTOW-TV 901 also will return, but more details will be announced next month.

The Jolley Trolley will provide transportation free of charge from the OTOW west side to the parade and back afterwards. Pick up is planned to begin at 9 a.m. The trolley will pick up along Americus Boulevard and at the West Activity Center. The trolley does not have time to enter building parking lots. The trolley service is sponsored by Summit Broadband for the fourth year.

Larger parades mean larger expenses.

Irish Club members have worked tirelessly for 30 years to raise funds for the parade and party. Past donations from clubs, individuals and businesses have been very helpful and greatly appreciated.

Traditionally, the Irish Club brings entertainment to the EAC stage. Proceeds from ticket sales are used to finance the parade. One more show remains this year.

Paul Duffy and Darin Graves, lively multi-talented musicians and storytellers, will perform on Feb. 26 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the EAC Auditorium. Tickets are \$15 each. They can be purchased at the Irish Club information table on Monday and Thursday mornings from 8:30-10:30 a.m. in the EAC. You can enjoy an evening out and help out parade day.

Convertible vehicles are often needed since many senior participants are unable to walk the entire route. The number of golf carts available for the parade is limited. If you have an open top vehicle and are willing to chauffeur in the parade, please let a member know.

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

Meeting together helps plan a smooth running event.

Upcoming planning meetings will be held on Feb. 12 and March 5. Meetings will take place in the EAC Largo Room beginning at 4 p.m.

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

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

For those who cannot watch the parade in person, OTOW-TV will be there broadcasting live. More details will be announced in the March newspaper.

New York-New Jersey Club begins 38th year of providing entertainment at On Top of the World



New York - New Jersey Club

By Pat Hayes

The New Jersey Club merged with the New York Club in 1988 thus creating the New York-New Jersey Club.

So, we, the members of the combined New York-New Jersey Club, are currently celebrating the start of our 38th year serving the On Top of the World community.

Several years ago, we switched from having functions only during the Snowbird season to having functions on a year-round basis. We would like to thank our members, volunteers and board members for making year-round participation possible.

Also, we would like to thank the many clubs that have contributed to our success over the years: the Irish Club, the Snowbirds Club, the Italian-American Club, the Canadatian Club, the Good Neighbors Association and the Entertainment Committee.

Finally, a special thank you to all of the SCA employees who assist us. Everyone's combined effort has allowed



The New York-New Jersey Club debuted its new banner at Get Acquainted Coffee Saturday on Jan. 10. The banner features the Empire State Building, the Freedom Tower, the Statue of Liberty and the Verrazano Bridge. Look for this banner when information tables are in session on Monday and Thursday mornings in the East Activity Center Auditorium. You may even see it in the Irish Club parade on March 7.

(OTOW News photo by Mary Lou Wall)

us to bring you enjoyable, affordable events on a year-round basis!

Our first event in 2026 is our very romantic Valentine's Day dinner on Saturday, Feb. 14 at 5 p.m. in the East Activity Center Auditorium.

Felice's Italian Catering is serving meatloaf, mashed potatoes, vegetables, salad and bread. How romantic!

Scott McParland will provide music for easy listening and dancing.

Dessert, coffee, water and ice will be provided.

Tickets must be purchased in advance and are \$25.

Please stop by our friendly information table in the EAC on Mondays and

Thursdays from 8-10 a.m. to make some new friends and buy tickets!

Upcoming events include:

On Sunday, March 1, the New York-New Jersey Club will join other clubs in thanking our veterans. Salute to Veterans lunch is 1-5 p.m. in the Auditorium. Veterans eat for free. Advanced tickets are required.

On Saturday, March 7, our club will be marching in the Irish Club Parade. If you are a member of our club, please walk with us in the march.

On Tuesday, May 5, will be Hawaiian Shirt Night with DJ Frank Lebano. Felice's Italian Catering will provide subs and pasta salads. Cost is \$20.

Carla Hines will return to OTOW on Tuesday, July 14, for Dessert Night. Cost is \$12.

Tuesday, Aug. 25, will be our summer social featuring ziti and meatballs. KP Duo will provide the music. Cost will be announced later.

Our first annual Sock Hop will debut in October and our annual Ugly Christmas Sweater Night will return in December. More details on both events later.

At the New York-New Jersey Club we have a new New Year's Resolution: Let's have more fun! Come join us in 2026.

Planning Ahead for Florida Residents

A lecture by Gerald Colen, Rachel Wagoner and John Beck on Thursday, March 26, 10:30 am EAC Auditorium



The Salvation Army in Clearwater is celebrating 100 years!

1926-2026

We cordially invite you to our 100th anniversary celebrations!

Special guests: national leaders Commissioners Merle and Dawn Heatwole

March 13 - Women's Annual Dinner, 6 p.m. (Ticketed Event)

March 14 - Centennial Music Festival, 6 p.m.

March 15 - Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.

Celebration Lunch, 12:30 p.m. (Ticketed Event)

For more information or to purchase tickets Call (727) 725-9777

The Salvation Army, 1625 North Belcher Road, Clearwater



Press Association starts 2026 with first meeting on a road trip



Once upon a time, members of the Press Association pleaded with Editor Doug Kates to not hold a club Christmas party because there were already too many holiday activities planned by other clubs in the month of December. So the Press Association started a new tradition – a Kick Off the New Year Party in January. This tradition was interrupted for a few years by COVID, but returned this past January. Members of the Press Association not only met at the Varsity Club, but they also held their traditional monthly meeting. It was a nice break from the Crystal Beach Room.

Staffers ordered a variety of foods and drinks, and got updated on the latest news with the community newspaper. Among those who attended, everyone agreed to continue the Kick Off the New Year Party as an annual event. During the lunch meeting, Doug updated everyone on the Press Association's new monthly schedule. Our club has moved monthly meetings to the first Tuesday of each month so the Association Board can schedule community meetings the first Thursday of each month. The Press Association changed its meeting date so no other OTOW club



Members of the Press Association pose for a picture prior to their Kick Off the New Year luncheon at the Varsity Club. Your newspaper staff not only met for lunch, but held a monthly meeting to help make plans for the new year. (OTOW News photo by Doug Kates)

would be affected. The next Press Association meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 3, at 1:30 p.m. in the Crystal Beach Room. In March, our annual pizza party will be on Tuesday, March 3, at 1:30 p.m. at the Pavilion. If it is too cold or windy outside, the party will be moved to the Crystal Beach Room. The annual Appreciation Dinner will be Tuesday, April 7, 5 p.m. at Philippe Park. You must contribute to at least three newspapers and attend at least three meetings to qualify. Secretary

Joanne Cordes will have an updated qualification list at the February meeting. The annual Writers Workshop has been rescheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 3, 7 p.m. in the Auditorium. At the Kick Off the New Year luncheon in January, Doug announced the Press Association will be back in the Irish Club Parade after a one-year absence. If at least 10 people from the staff sign-up, we will wear our green fedoras and pass out newspapers during the parade. Please volunteer to march.

If you know someone with a convertible, ask if we can borrow it for the morning. This would allow more staffers to participate. Our Kick Off the New Year Lunch ended with Susan Trost winning the 50/50 drawing. She donated everything back to the pizza party in March. Joanne and President Tom Butcher volunteered to represent the Press Association at Get Acquainted Coffee on Saturday, Jan. 10. They donated their time to try to recruit new storytellers for our newspaper.

The Saturday Farmer's Market has been discontinued

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Proof you can be in your 90s and participate in Aqua Aerobics

By Irene Pappas

Aqua Aerobics hosted a luncheon for Rita Ronan, who turned 94 years young in January.

We don't just get in the pool and exercise each morning. We also socialize and help make each other feel young!

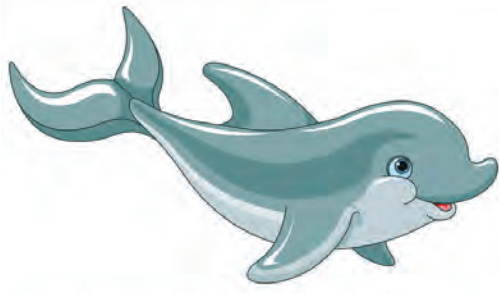
Aqua Aerobics is held every week, Monday through Friday, from 9-10 a.m., weather permitting.

Aqua Aerobics is very beneficial for everyone in attendance as it reduces pain from arthritis.

The two instructors are Lillian Foy and Irene Pappas, who now have accreditation, liability insurance and CPR training.

We encourage everyone to wear water shoes, sunglasses, covering for your head, SPF sunscreen and a water jacket if it all possible.

Aerobics is now a class and the only



Aqua Aerobics

time we don't meet is when the pool is closed or due to weather, some holidays and when the pool needs repairs.

Please come and join us as we have a lot of fun and a great feeling of well-being and camaraderie. You must be a resident. Bring your Activity Card.



Rita Ronan celebrates her 94th birthday during an Aqua Aerobics luncheon in January.

St. Patrick's Day Parade Saturday, March 7, 10 a.m.



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Computer Club recently elected its 2026 board

By Joe Wisinski

At a recent board meeting, the On Top of the World Computer Club elected its new board members for 2026.

Angie Cavanaugh was elected president.

She enjoys walking in our community and seeing many different animals. She also likes helping people in any way she can. She said she knows how important the Computer Club is to our community. This is why she volunteered to be our 2026 president.

Rowland Hetrick was elected the vice president.

He's an experienced CPA with past positions in corporate finance and accounting. He's worked with computers since the 1960s and enjoys using Excel, and taking and processing photos. He's glad to help OTOW residents with technology issues.

Lisa Pompeo was named immediate past president. She was the 2025 president.

Lisa is a life-long Boston Red Sox fan and a Clearwater Threshers season ticket holder, whose favorite activities are reading, taking care of her dog, Dallas, and helping family and friends. She has worked in technology for more than 30 years.

Cheryl Lindback was elected treasurer.

She is originally from Weston, Mass., and has worked as a registered nurse. She loves technology — most of the time — and enjoys helping people at the Computer Club.

Joe Wisinski was elected secretary.

He is a retired journalist and professor. He is a past president of the Computer Club and enjoys golfing, bike riding, traveling and helping OTOW residents learn about technology.

Dan Speer was named board member at large.

He is a fan of the Philadelphia Eagles and the 76ers. He played wheelchair basketball for 11 years, traveling all over the United States.

Charlie Wood was named board member at large.

She loves traveling and utilizing technology to enhance her travel experiences. She began using computers for her job in the mid-1980s and



Computer Club

has a passion for helping individuals and OTOW clubs with computers and technology.

Mike Wood was named board member at large.

Mike is a past president of the OTOW Computer Club. He has been working in several technology-related fields since he got his start at Radio Shack in the early 1980s and is a life-long musician who plays tuba and sings barbershop.

About the Computer Club

The Computer Club meets every Saturday morning from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Meetings take place both in person at the West Activity Center Learning Lab and using the Zoom virtual meeting platform. 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.

For assistance with technology-related issues, come to a help session in the Learning Lab on any Wednesday morning from 8:30 to 10. Please arrive before 9:30 so we have enough time to help you. Our services are free.

For more information about the Computer Club, or to ask computer service-related questions, email otowcc@gmail.com, visit our website at www.otowcc.com, or click our link in the OTOW Box Office, otowboxoffice.com.



Twenty-four people started the final tournament of 2025.

Warren Levene defends title after final tournament of 2025

By Joe DeChiaro

The Texas Card Game Club had 24 players for our last tournament of 2025.

It was also our holiday social as everyone in attendance bought a dish for everyone to share.

The final five players decided to split the prize pool evenly. They were Manny Rios, Judy Mitchell, Helen Hughes, Debbie Hall and Robin Hendricks.

Warren Levene finished as the top winner for 2025 for the second year in a row followed by Bill Whipps and Joe DeChiaro.

The next three tournaments will be held on Friday, Feb. 27, Friday, March 27 and Friday, April 24.

The members also decided to try to have two tournaments in February. There will be a "high stakes" tournament on Friday, Feb. 20 starting at 5 p.m. with a social hour. All tournaments start at 6 p.m. in the East Activity Cen-



ter Kitchen/Clearwater Room. Please send an email to: joegdechiaro@yahoo.com for more information or show up 15 minutes before the tournament begins.



Angie Cavanaugh, the OTOW Computer Club president for 2026.

Curtain closes on 'The Time of Our Lives'

By Rodger Hillier

The Jesters are very proud of the show we put on this year, "The Times of our Lives."

Our focus each year is to produce the very finest show we can. Our audience is always so appreciative and that is whom we truly do it for.

This was my first year directing and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I learned a lot and what I have accomplished gave me more self confidence.

We usually begin planning in May for the show in February. You may think that is a lot of time to prepare, but it really goes quickly. In planning the last show, we decided to go all out and spend more than ever for costumes and scenery which truly enhanced the show.

This year was one of our biggest shows with 35 cast members and backstage crew. The show had two acts and 24 scenes, plus a curtain call.

It takes a lot of work to put on a show like this.

I want to thank all of the people involved in bringing our show to the stage. The production staff, the cast, backstage crew and all of the many volunteers. The show is over and we are not at the hectic pace we were. But wait, in a few months the planning begins with hopes that the next show will be even better.



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When Lambda Club serves Cupid’s Punch it can only mean one thing - Valentine’s Day



The Lambda Club presented Earl Ballance with an Academy Award for all his media work in 2025, including newspaper reports, photographs and videos.

Association Board Meeting
1 pm, Thursday, Feb. 5
EAC Auditorium
Live coverage on OTOW-TV 901

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By Dave Beaven
Winter is over!
We got over our coldest month, January.
Lambda Club celebrated January in style as you can see in the picture. Everyone was suitably attired in cold-weather gear. But warm friendships made things tolerable.
Now it's February.
February is basically Florida's spring when flowers start blooming and pollen starts blowing around!
February is also the month known for Valentine's Day. The holiday dates back to Roman Empire times when Romans celebrated the coming of spring with a fertility holiday called Lupercalia.
Pope Gelasius, during the fifth century, banned this pagan custom and renamed Feb. 14 as St. Valentine's Day after a Christian martyr.
The fertility connection stuck, though.
As years passed, St. Valentine's Day became associated with romantic love. The color red harked back to the martyrdom of St. Valentine as well as being the color of passion.
Lambda Club will celebrate Valentine's Day on Feb. 13 at 6 p.m. in the East Activity Center Oldsmar Room. We ask that you wear red, of course.
Love songs will be playing on our sound system. The bar will be serv-



ing Cupid's Punch to put everyone in the mood. The punch is zero proof. If you're not moved by it, reach for a nearby bottle to spice things up.
As usual, our talented club members will bring tasty dishes to our buffet table to share. Aphrodisiac dishes are welcome.
Everyone is encouraged to bring a valentine's card to exchange. We all deserve a valentine on this day. As the song says: All you need is love, but a little chocolate never hurts.
Lambda is a social club for our LGBT residents, but we are open to all OTOW residents who want to get to know their gay neighbors. You can find out more about us by visiting our webpage: lambdaclearwater.blogspot.com or call Dave at 727-410-7566. Have a love-filled February!



Patriotic quilt donated to American Legion

By Cheryl Kutchinski
Members from the World Quilters group worked together to make a patriotic quilt to honor veterans. It was a labor of love, constructing quilt blocks and assembling them from donated fabric and our member's personal stash.
The final product was a colorful, cheerful and expertly made quilt.
Who would be the lucky recipient?
The quilt was enthusiastically received by the Ladies Auxiliary at the American Legion Hall in Safety Harbor. The quilt will be used to raise money for their emergency fund, which helps people in crisis during hurricane disasters.
So much good will be done and it all started with one quilt. A great way to pay it forward in our surrounding communities. Eventually, this beautiful patriotic quilt will find its way to a new home.
Fabric donations to our group are always appreciated. We meet on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the East Activity Center Largo Room. Stop by to see what we are sewing up next.



World Quilters

Art Guild membership meetings are changing dates - next one Feb. 6

By Katie Bajis

The Art Guild hosted several classes and events in January. On Jan. 9, Christine Sargent taught members how to use a grid pattern to create more accurate paintings and drawings. Hands-on exercises helped members accurately perceive images and transfer details to drawings. During the business part of the meeting, Irene Piper was voted Artist of the Month.

On Jan. 10, club members staffed an information table during a special Good Neighbors Association Get Acquainted Coffee event on Saturday, Jan. 10. Club reps recruited new members and encouraged people to submit their artwork in the Art Guild juried Art Show scheduled for March.

The usual Thursday afternoon art classes took place on Jan. 8, 15, 22 and 29 and were all well attended.

Starting in February, our club's membership meeting will take place the first Friday of the month from 1-3 p.m. For February, this will be Feb. 6 from 1-3 p.m. in the East Activity Center Largo Room.

Art Guild activities are always held in the East Activity Center Largo Room unless otherwise noted. The usual weekly art classes are scheduled for Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26 from 1-4 p.m. in the EAC Largo Room.

The Art Guild will host a Paint 'N Sip class Feb. 6 from 6-9 p.m. in the EAC Largo Room. The cost will be \$5 for members and \$25 for non-members. Participants are encouraged to bring their own art supplies, a snack and a beverage of choice. The club also will provide some art supplies. Residents can register by sending an email to Robin Megel rmegel@gmail.com.

Painting Pals will meet every Wednesday from 1-3 p.m. in the Largo Room and art classes will take place every Thursday from 1-4 p.m. in the Largo Room.



Christine Sargent teaches students how to draw using grids.

Art Guild Artist of the Month



Irene Piper is the Art Guild Artist of the Month for February. Her painting 'Early Morning Stroll' will be displayed in the East Activity Center Auditorium for the full month of February. Go and see it in person.

Do you have an opinion on how science has changed the world?

By Jerry McDonald

The newly reformed Philosophy Club wants to invite new members to join and share their views.

Philosophy Club meets every Tuesday in the East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room from 10-11:30 a.m. Anyone with a valid Activity Card is welcome to attend.

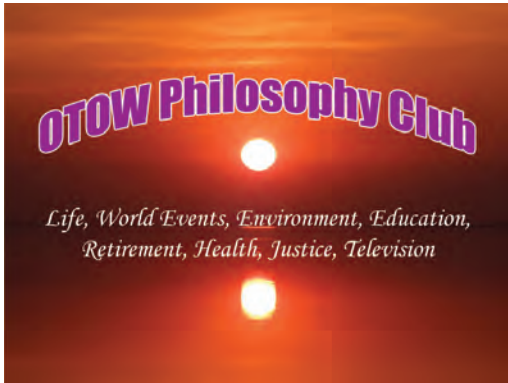
Each session is facilitated by Bill Norsworthy, Marge Green and Rachel Stone. We are a friendly group with diverse backgrounds, levels of education and life experiences.

Some meetings start with a TED presentation on our TV. Each TED show discusses a current news topic.

After the show we have a group-facilitated discussion. Sometimes a member will give a presentation on a subject that the group approves beforehand. The topics come from member suggestions.

Our club does not discuss personal views on religion or current politics. In February we will be discussing "How Science has Changed the World."

Come see what we are all about.



If you were born with two left feet, we have a line dance class for you!

Ed Foland's Class for People with Two Left Feet
Don't say you can't line dance. Ed can teach anyone.
Learn and practice his 12-basic steps to line dancing.
8:30 - 9:00 AM, Wednesdays, East Activity Center Auditorium

Ed's Line Dance Practice Class
Easy dances and turns to practice, plus learn how to social dance with popular line dances like the Electric Slide.
9:00 - 9:30 AM, Wednesdays, East Activity Center Auditorium
If you are having fun, you are welcome to stay until 11:30 AM.



Press Association Meetings have been moved from first Thursdays to first Tuesdays.
Next meeting 1:30 pm, Feb. 3
Crystal Beach Room
If you contribute to OTOW News, you belong to the Press Association



Pictured above, members of the Travel Club prepare to embark on a St. John’s River paddleboard dinner ship.

At right is one of the brilliant light displays seen at the Asian Lantern Festival.



Travel Club’s 2026 season gets off to electric start with breathtaking tour of lantern festival

By Tom Chalupka
The On Top of the World Travel Club’s first trip for 2026 was to the Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Gardens in Sanford, Fla.
We attended the Asian Lantern Festival and took a three-hour lunch cruise on the St John’s River.
This amazing display of hand-crafted lantern scenes, each glowing with thousands of LED lights along a three-quarter mile walking trail, was breathtaking.
The ocean landscapes and mythical creatures, from graceful ice dragons and unicorns to more than 50 larger-than-life displays, were a wonderful sight.
Illuminated sculptures depicting ani-



mals, plants and traditional Chinese elements lit up the night showcased by an approximate 30-foot by 100-foot-dragon.
The following day we enjoyed a three-hour lunch along the St John’s River on the Barbara Lee

dinner ship - an authentic sternwheeler with twin paddlewheels. This scenic cruise came with a three-course meal, entertainment and dancing, as well as a chance to relax and view the natural wonders of the river.
This was just the first of many exciting trips planned for the club so far this year. Others include a Mexican cruise on the Margaritaville at Sea Islander, a trip to Ft. Myers for a Murder Mystery Train ride and dinner, a trip to the Florida State Fair and Hard Rock Casino, and the Strawberry Festival showcasing a concert by Bill Haley Jr and the Comets.
We also will be going to a Clearwater Threshers baseball game watching from a party suite that includes food

and drinks as we cheer for the team.
Our club also sells tickets to Ruth Eckerd Hall’s matinee series, a Snappers Comedy Club show, Tampa Bay Downs and monthly we enjoy breakfast and lunch together at local restaurants.
In 2025 the OTOW Travel Club sponsored 49 different events and we are striving to exceed that in 2026.
We continually follow our motto, “We’re Going Places.”
Visit us at our information table, Monday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at the East Activity Center Auditorium.
We welcome any questions regarding our trips and new members are always welcome.

Qigong (Chi Kung) and Tai Chi

The Perfect Exercises To Improve Balance, Stability, Strength

Classes are now free to OTOW residents.

QIGONG 3:00-4:00 pm Tuesdays, Thursdays EAC Exercise Room <i>Ruth Pittman, Instructor</i>	TAI CHI FLOW Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 3:15 - 4:15 pm EAC Exercise Room <i>More than 20 Years of teaching.</i>
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West Activity Center Belleair Room

Thursdays 10:00 - 11:15 am
East Activity Center Exercise Room

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

Stop by any Wednesday and join our merger - you will be dancing in 12 steps

By Dale Stackhouse

Last month I announced the merger of two line dance clubs formerly known as the On Top of the World Line Dance Club and Snowbirds Line Dance Club.

Our new name is OTOW/Snowbirds Line Dance Club.

We have a temporary new logo, but may have a better one by next month.

We began a new membership drive at the Good Neighbors Association Get Acquainted Coffee event on Saturday, Jan. 10, and continued signing up members, new and old, throughout each Wednesday in January from 9-11:30 a.m. in the East Activity Center Auditorium.

It's not too late to join us in February. Just stop by during our next Wednesday session.

Cost of membership is \$20 for the calendar year 2026, and there will be many opportunities to dance!

Wednesday mornings in the Auditorium are the main event. Beginners meet 8:30-9 a.m. This class is for people who have never line danced before, or who think they have two left feet. In



fact that is how Ed Foland, the instructor, describes this class ... for people with two left feet!

Ed promises to have you line dancing by teaching a very basic 12-step program. There is no charge for this class, so what do you have to lose?

From 9-9:30 a.m. is a continuation of the beginners class. Ed incorporates the steps into simple dances. He also teaches a couple of social dances, such as The Electric Slide and Cupid Shuf-

fle, which you may have seen done at weddings, or other social events. Now you will be able to join in!

From 9:30 a.m.-noon (or however long we last), our dance instructor team consisting of Dolly Foland, Leila Walker, Carol Babini and Dale Stackhouse will take the stage to teach a full program of line dances, progressing from easier dances to ones which provide a little more challenge.

There is something for everyone. You can come and go whenever you like, or sit out any dance.

A key point to remember. Line dancers are a friendly group and will never judge you when you make mistakes. We've all been there!

It's a little different from other forms of dancing, where you can get by just by listening to the music and moving to the beat. These are choreographed dances, where you perform a number of steps in sequence, and then start over again.

That's what makes it so good for the brain as well as the body ... you are always thinking!

It may take a little getting used to, but be patient with yourself and just have fun. You will get there, I promise.

To help speed your progress, we offer practice classes on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9-10 a.m. in the EAC Largo Room. As the name suggests, we practice the dances that will be done in the Auditorium on Wednesday, so you will find them easier. Plus, we have a lot of fun. Please note that there is no longer a Tuesday afternoon class.

Hope to see you on the dance floor.

Don't forget the Salute to Veterans lunch on Sunday, March 1, at 5 p.m. The OTOW/Snowbirds Line Dance Club is one of several clubs co-sponsoring this event. It is open to all OTOW veterans and they will receive a free meal.

The cost for non-veterans is \$10.

There will be music and entertainment. Tickets are available 8:30-10:30 a.m., Mondays and Thursdays, in the EAC Auditorium.

Please remember, no tickets will be sold at the door.

Past Videos for Association Board Meetings
can be viewed on the Box Office.
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Look for the link on the Box Office home page.



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New Women’s Bible Study Group will give OTOW ladies a private place to grow

My name is Terri Latzko and I'm excited to announce that I'm starting a Women's Bible Study Group at On Top of the World.

My class will combine lessons with crafting fun.

I've lived at On Top of the World for 12 years. Prior to moving here, I spent 25 years as a Sunday school teacher and served as a women's Bible study leader back in Michigan.

Here in Florida, I've been a women's group team leader for about nine years at my local church.

Leading a women's Bible study group is truly a passion of mine. I've witnessed lives transform, miracles occur and seen an increase in joy among participants!

There's something wonderfully fulfilling about women coming together to share their experiences, which creates a powerful avenue for both spiritual growth and personal transformation.

These gatherings offer comfort, hope and strength during times of anxiety or self-doubt.

Together, we'll explore godly wisdom and advice for real-life situations, helping you discover your gifts and challenges within God's grand design.

Our common goal?

To deepen our relationship with Jesus!

I strongly believe that there's an important need for a women's-only Bible study group, distinct from co-ed gatherings. In a single-gender environment, women often find it easier to share their personal struggles and emotions, fostering deeper connections with one another. This group will provide a safe



Terri Latzko in a discussion with a student.

space to discuss topics that resonate uniquely with women, allowing for open conversations without the fear of self-consciousness.

The goal is to cultivate camaraderie and mutual support among women.

Together, we can explore Biblical figures and stories through a female perspective, gaining insights that are particularly relevant to our lives.

Women's groups have a unique ability to create a welcoming atmosphere where we can process life experiences that might feel too vulnerable to share in the presence of men. Ultimately, this group aims to help women gain a richer understanding of God's Word and learn to interpret and apply it in meaningful ways to their daily lives.

Join us for an enriching experience that will support your daily Christian journey!

We'll explore essential topics like gratitude, self-control, overcoming complaints and gossip, nurturing faith, enduring suffering and transforming our minds.

In addition to our discussions, we'll get creative. For the past four years, I've led a craft class at a local assisted living center and I can't wait to share a variety of fun projects with you, including wreaths, crafts, bottle art, wood signs and decorative crosses.

Don't worry if you don't consider yourself an artist. Everyone is welcome, and no special skills are required.

This group promises to be engaging, rewarding and enjoyable!

We'll share snacks and fellowship along the way.

I'm truly excited to embark on this new adventure and I hope you'll feel inspired to join us! This club will begin on Friday, March 13, and meet every second and fourth Friday from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the East Activity Center Kitchen Clearwater Room.

Email me at tlatzko@gmail.com to sign up and for more information. See you soon!

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Golf Fun Day set for Feb. 22

Anyone can celebrate Canada Day as long as you are with the Canadian Club on Feb. 11



By Connie Stanley

January was an active month for Canadian Club members.

On Wednesday, Jan. 14, 21 members were joined by 17 Travel Club members at Tampa Bay Downs, where they enjoyed a buffet luncheon and great horse races.

We won't delve into who won or lost the most money, but a great time was had by all!

Thanks you so much to John Henry, event coordinator, for his diligence in arranging this outing again.

On Friday, Jan. 16, our first happy hour/karaoke of the new year took place in the West Activity Center Bel-leair Room. The event featured Scott McParland from 4:30 – 7 p.m.

We had a great turnout. An abundance of snacks were enjoyed by all, and several share-the-wealth cash prizes were drawn.

There were many brave volunteer singers and a lot of line dancing, and camaraderie was enjoyed by everyone.

It was such a great evening and we'll do it all again on Friday, Feb. 6. Everyone at On Top of the World is always welcome, regardless of whether you're a Canadian Club member or not.

Our first Membership Appreciation Night was held on Saturday, Jan. 24, when our club purchased pizza for more than 223 members and 40 volunteers. It was such a great night and

2025 American League champions and World Series contenders

Blue Jays

Preseason Baseball

 Tampa Bay Rays vs. Toronto Blue Jays
Sunday, March 22 in Dunedin



For tickets contact Sue at 727-754-6063

Visit the Canadian Club information table
8:30-10:30 am, Mondays and Thursdays
East Activity Center Auditorium



CANADIAN CLUB

we may be able to offer this in the future. There were significant share-the-wealth cash prizes drawn due to the enormity of participants!

On Saturday, Jan. 31, 49 members enjoyed a delicious luncheon buffet at Ed Fletcher's Early Bird Dinner Theater and were entertained by Canadian singer, Kristen Da Silva, on stage. The show, "Where You Are," was comedic and very humorous.

Our club members will celebrate Canada Day in the U.S. on Wednesday, Feb. 11. Come out for cocktail hour at 5 p.m. Bring your own beverage of choice and the buffet dinner follows at 6 p.m.

Tickets are on sale at our club's Information table in the East Activity Center Auditorium on Mondays and Thursdays through Feb. 9. Dinner will be a choice of two entrees: either Bourbon Glazed Salmon Filet or Chicken Flo-

rentine Boneless Breast with Spinach and Provolone Cheese

Our caterer will be Banquet Masters. The cost for members is \$30 and for non-members \$35. Join us in your red and white!

Our favorite DJ, Les Weiss from Les N' More, will have the dance floor hopping all night.

Golf Fun Day will be on Sunday, Feb. 22, with a rain date of March 1. The fee is \$12 per person, which includes lunch as well as beverages.

The format of play will be best ball. The rules will be distributed by each captain. Teams will be of three or four people with an 8:30 a.m. start. No skill level is required as the focus is on fun and fellowship with some camaraderie thrown in.

We will have share-the-wealth draws so bring a few dollars to buy tickets for a chance to win a cash prize. Golf carts

will be available for \$13 and please reserve with Harry Morrison, event coordinator, who can be reached at 778-771-4886 or via email at morrisonharbar@aol.com.

The Canadian Club will participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 7. Please visit our information table if you'd like to walk with our entry. We'd love to have you join us sporting some red and white with a sprig of green.

And finally, we will be going to see the 2025 American League Champions and World Series contenders, Toronto Blue Jays, final spring training game on March 22 when they face the Tampa Bay Rays at TD Park in Dunedin. Cost for tickets is only \$42. Susan Cober is selling seats at our information table on Monday and Thursday mornings from 8:30-10:30 and they are going quickly - so don't miss out!

Democratic Club members already preparing for 2026 elections



By Dave Beaven

Do you realize that it's only seven months until election day?

That's the primary election which will determine who will be the candidates in the November general election.

Members of the On Top of the World Democratic Club have already started meeting the candidates.

January was a busy month. It started at our club meeting when Earle Ford came to speak to our members. He is running for U.S. Congress as a Democrat.

Earle has an impressive background. He served in the U.S. Army in the Airborne Infantry. After that, he got a law degree and worked as a state prosecu-



Democratic Club President Dave Beaven and U.S. Congress Candidate Earle Ford.

tor and with the Internal Revenue Service. He entered the political race because he wants to build a government

that works for everyone. His website is: electearle.com.

Later on in the month, our club host-

ed congressional candidate Brandt Robinson at our monthly happy hour. Brandt has been a history teacher at Dunedin High School for 29 years and a recipient of the Human and Civil Right Achievement Award by the Florida Education Association.

He has a passion for supporting public education as well as working on affordability and health care for all of our population. His website is: brandtforcongress.com.

Speaking of elections, are you registered to vote in Pinellas County? This would apply to our new residents.

You can go online to register or pick up a registration form at our club information table on Monday and Thursday mornings from 8:30-10 a.m.

We also encourage people to vote by mail. If you voted by mail in the last election, you must submit a new request to get a mail ballot. Do this by calling the elections office at 727-424-8683 or go online to voteinpinellas.gov.

You also can check your registration status there.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, Feb. 12 at 2 p.m. in the West Activity Center Learning Lab. Find out more about our club by visiting our webpage: worlddemclub.blogspot.com.



People attending the Plant-Based Learning Club meeting in January discovered that drinking cold water before a meal can boost metabolism. (OTOW News photo by Mary Lou Wall)

Twenty-one simple weight loss boosters

By Kathy Brumbaugh
Start packing your diet with real food that grows out of the ground and you should see your pounds coming off naturally.
Didn't you make a resolution to get down to your ideal weight in 2026?
The "daily dozen" on nutritionfacts.org is a list of 12 foods that you should make a part of your day, everyday. The list will inspire you to include some of the healthiest of healthy foods into your daily diet.
In "How Not To Diet," Dr. Michael Greger offers us some tools that can drive or boost further weight loss for any stubborn pounds that remain.
At the January meeting of the Plant-Based Living Club, we discussed 21 weight-loss boosters.



Did you know? A 1/4 teaspoon of black cumin taken everyday appears to reduce stubborn fat?
Randomized control trials also found

1/4 to 1 1/2 teaspoons a day of ground ginger significantly decreases body weight for just pennies a day.
We also can boost our metabolism by simply drinking two cups of cold water before each meal. Eating raw vegetables before a meal follows a weight loss strategy of pre-loading a meal with negative calorie foods.
These are only four of 21 weight loss "tweaks" we are practicing daily.
The best available weight loss evidence so far suggests the healthiest diet is one that minimizes intake of meat, eggs, dairy and processed foods. It maximizes an intake of fruits, vegetables, legumes, whole grains, nuts, seeds, herbs and spices.
That gives Plant-Based Living Club members a lot to learn and discuss at

our monthly meetings.
So, if you have a desire to incorporate more plant foods into your diet, please join our meeting on Feb. 4 at 1 p.m. in the Learning Lab at the West Activity Center. February topics of discussion include successes and any challenges of using the "daily dozen" and "weight loss" tweaks.
We will learn how easy it is to ferment a cruciferous vegetable and use it to pre-load a meal.
For more information about the Plant-Based Living Club, email me at kbrumbaugh51@gmail.com.
For more information on veganism visit VeganSalvation.com.
We also have a link on the Box Office (otowboxoffice.com).

State Rep. Kim Berfield stops by to talk about new legislative year



By Deborah Russell
The Ronald Reagan Republican Club kicked off the new year with a gathering of approximately 50 members.
Our meet-and-greet began at 6 p.m. with sign-in and registration of new members. I'm pleased to say our club is growing and has been very busy on Thursday mornings at our information table in the East Activity Center!
The business meeting began at 6:45 p.m. with a prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and our National Anthem.
New members were from Miami, Danville, Ill., and Covington, Ill., and were welcomed at this time.
We announced new business, including participation in the Jan. 10 Good Neighbors Association Get Acquainted Coffee Saturday, which was a great success for us.
A suggestion was made by our treasurer that next year's Christmas party should be held at a restaurant again, since last year's event was a success in every way.
Our speaker this evening was our



State Rep. Kim Berfield joins Republican Club members at their meeting in January.

favorite state representative, Kimberly Berfield.
Kim covered many aspects of Florida Legislature that she is involved in.
Some of the topics included, organ donation. People who donate their organs should be allowed medical leave from their job.
Fiscal responsibility. Approximately \$40 billion of the \$117 billion budget goes to healthcare. They are working out exactly what part and how much is actually going to healthcare.
Health insurance companies: They must disclose to consumers who their

companies are and the amount they are appropriated by their affiliates, so consumers have a cost comparison.
Kim is introducing a bill to help mobile home owners with rent due.
Kim also is working with her colleagues to better use police cameras to solve crimes and will continue to discuss turning hemp into liquid beverages.
Kim is definitely hard at work for the people! We wish to continue to show her our support.
Please stop by our Thursday morning information table from 8-10 a.m. for

more information and to sign Kim's petition for re-election. If you do, you get a free cute rubber ducky!
Remember, your vote counts!
Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at the West Activity Center from 6-10 p.m. in the Belleair Room. Please come early and get acquainted. Snacks and beverages are provided.
For more information, please contact me at depruss11@gmail.com, call 727-515-8211, or contact Vice President David DiNardo at 603-300-6727.

Get Acquainted Coffee
Thursday, Feb. 12, 9-11 am, EAC Auditorium
One free cup of coffee and one free donut to all who attend



SPORTS

Over the years, many volunteers have made it possible for us to go golfing

By Barney Hanrahan

As we enter 2026, I think back on the history of the On Top of the World Men's Golf Association and the many members who have devoted so much time to keeping the league alive.

These men have given much of their personal time over the years and it is unfortunate how so few players say thanks or appreciate the time spent to keep our club operating.

Although it is rewarding to see more players joining our club, it is our hope these volunteers are appreciated.

We have seen proof that the number of players has increased. Two outings last month had a larger turnout. On Jan. 7 and Jan. 14 we had 69 active players.

However, as indicated, there is fresh new blood, new names and we hope they will gradually step up to support the operation of the league.

Here's a little recent league history: Jay Schwallie, Lester Whynot, Ken Nield, Joseph Dowe, Ron LaFond, Jay Laracuenta, Marc Schell and George Mead have donated a lot of personal time to keep our league going.

There are many past members who should be recognized, too, but these are our current leaders. We thank you all for your service and support. Without them there would be no OTOW Men's Golf Association so next time you see them give them a welcome thanks.

The OTOW newspaper is seldom recognized for its service to our league. The one-person staff and handful of volunteer proofreaders make sure our reports are ready before going to press. We thank you for your contribution. Without you there would be no



MEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION

monthly newspaper reports. The annual Jack and Jill Golf Tournament will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 10, so make sure you sign up. This event has always been a good time so don't pass up the opportunity to play. And finally, there is a slight change to the number of golfers shown for the Jan. 7 report. There was no play at end of December, so I added a few more names in the Jan. 7 report.

The Scores January 7 Flight A

Top Scores: Fred Blatz 60, Mike Crittendon 61, Doug Silver 65, Paul Cairns 65, Brian Kreilach 65, Tom Stephens 65, George Mead 66, David Johnson 66, Gary Sandine 67, David Saccone, 67.

Flight B

Top Scores: Andy Polselli 61, Dale Drenning 62, Tom Sullivan 63, Bob

Beals 64, Jim Anzalone 64, Mike Schuyler 64, Bill Holland 65, Bill Haener 65, Henry Rejman 65, Jeff West 66.

Flight C

Top Scores: Keith Miles 56, Jeff Martin 58, Roger Shockley 59, Dan Hyden 60, Sal Vasapolle 64, Tom Petit 65, Glen Meyers 65, Jack Drewiega 65, Ken Nield 66, Len Picone 66.

Flight D

Top Scores: Irving Hernandez 62, Ken Schifferie 62, Jim Valloreo 64, Vincenzo Maranto 64, Tim Palmquist 65, Joseph Dowe 65, Sonny Morris 69, Bill Robertson 73, Guy Bertuzzi 74.

Blatz 63, George Mead 65, David Saccone 65, David Johnson 65.

Flight B

Top Scores: Jeff West 61, Lester Whynot 61, Bill Haener 61, Tin Finan 61, Joe Coyne 63.

Flight C

Top Scores: Roger Shockley 60, Glen Meyers 62, Keith Miles 62, Bill Gambacurta 63, Bob McGrogan 64.

Flight D

Top Scores: Vincenzo Maranto 59, Joseph Dowe 62, Bob Ellis 62, Guy Bertuzzi 63, Jack Gow 65.

Sixty-nine players.
Nice turn out.

January 14

Flight A

Top Scores: Mike Walker 63, Fred

Clothing-Food Drive
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EAC Pavilion

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SPORTS



Our ladies are getting better at driving the green - just ask Gilda Gambacurta



By Paula Ergang
And we're off!
The On Top of the World Ladies 9-Hole Golf League has started their 2026 tournaments.
We had our first Best Ball Tournament on Jan. 20 right after the newspaper deadline so I'm providing the report below.
Our Flight Tournament is next on Feb. 17. Players in each of the four flights will compete for the lowest score.
The entire February schedule is as follows:
Feb. 3 is Low Gross/Low Net. There will be a board meeting afterwards. It's also the day to sign up for the Flight Tournament.
Feb. 10 is a Three Clubs and a Put-ter Tournament.
Feb. 17 is the Flight Tournament.
Feb. 24 is a Low Gross/Low Net Tournament with our Nine-and-Wine and snacks, plus the 50/50 raffle.
New members are always welcome into our league.
If you think you can't join now because of the tournaments, you still can. There's only one day this month with a tournament day. You can still come out and golf the other Tuesdays.
Remember, golfing on Tuesday is a



Gilda Gambacurta is all smiles after landing just over six and a half feet from the pin on hole no. 4.

way to start on your handicap, too. Call Carroll Harris at 432-528-8684 if you would like more information.
We have a few week's scores to report.
Dec. 9
Count Odd Holes Only
Flight A: Paula Ergang had 23 and

Gilda Gambacurta 24.
Flight B: Sheryl Barbin shot 25 and Dot Hughes had 27.
Flight C: Mendy Payne and Diana Anderson each had 27.
Flight D: Mary Ann O'Neil and Mary Ellen Makowski both had 31.
Birdies: Marilyn Lisbon had a birdie

on hole No. 2.
Dec. 16
Low Gross/Low Net
Flight A: Marilyn Lisbon scored 35 and Gilda Gambacurta had 43.
Flight B: Ann Stewart had 44 and Sheryl Barbin scored 45.
Flight C: Sheri Blaa shot 45. Marge Sivek had 47 and Nancy Erhardt had 46.
Flight D: Mary Ann O'Neil and Mary Ellen Makowski had 55.
Birdies: None
Jan. 6
Low Gross/Low Net
Have no fear, 24 of us celebrated the new year on Jan. 6 with golf and snacks after play.
Flight A: Marilyn Lisbon scored 36. Paula Ergang and Pat Holland had 41.
Flight B: Nancy Erhardt shot 40 and Jan Pettit 46.
Flight C: Mendy Payne had 42. Dot Hughes and Laura Chesson shot 45. Judy Bergeron had 47 and Diana Anderson 49.
Flight D: Mary Ann O'Neil shot a 52 and Deb Barnes had 57.
Birdies: Carroll Harris and Marilyn Lisbon had birdies on hole No. 2 and Paula Ergang on hole No. 4.

Jan. 13
There was another good turnout on Jan. 13 for our Closest-to-the-Pin competition on hole No.4.
The last time we had closest-to-the-pin, no one made it on the green on their drive. This time we had players who drove the green, but it was Gilda Gambacurta who broke the jinx and landed just over 6 feet from the pin.
Congratulations Gilda!

Birthdays make ping pong even more fun



By Marie Clodge Valdes
What do club members Rashanee Turner, Barbara Moon, Phil Henne and Livia Constantinescu all have in common?
They were all born in January and they all love to play ping pong, of course!
On Jan. 13 the On Top of the World Ping Pong Club celebrated all their birthdays with music, decorations, photos, coffee, cake and other fun snacks, as well as our usual fun ping pong games.
We have some exciting news --- the Ping Pong Club is planning to participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade this year for the very first time and we



When four ping pong players all share a birthday in the same month, it can turn into quite a celebration. We already enjoy playing ping pong together. Throw in four birthdays ... and wow!
are already in our planning stages.
Janice Wisinski and Tom Rivera are heading up this initiative for the club and we are excited to see what is in store.
Doug Kates, our On Top of the World news editor and graphic artist, has generously offered to help with our new banner design. Look for us!
This month we welcome Reto Guruswami and Ata Tursucu as our two newest members of the ping pong club. It has taken them no time at all to regain their skills from years ago and to join in the fun.
If you would like to learn how to play ping pong, or renew your love of the game from years ago, we invite you to join us at the West Activity Center Bel-laire Room from 10 a.m. to noon, Tuesdays through Fridays.
We are a fun and social group that loves to play. All skill levels are welcome.



Sue Beals leads Flight B during back-to-back outings

By Jackie Miles
The On Top of the World Ladies 18-Hole Golf League would like to give a shout out to Verna Lundgren and Mary Patterson for providing food, fun and games for our holiday luncheon.
Great job ladies!
We also would like to thank league members for their generosity with our recent Caring and Sharing fundraiser, which raised \$271.
Thank you, ladies, for your generosity.
The weather did not cooperate this past December, but here are the results for the days we were able to play:



Dec. 9
Top Scores: Flight A – Gloria Sayer 70, Mary Patterson 71 and Verna Lundgren 72. Flight B – Sue Beals 69 and Nancy Lo 70. Flight C – Arlene Hanson 69, Jackie Miles 70, and Natsue Dawson 82.
Gloria Sayer had the closest-to-the-pin on hole No. 9, Nancy Lo had closest-to-the-pin on hole No. 15, and Gloria Sayer had the longest putt.

Dec. 23
Top Scores: Flight A – Barbara Moon 69 and Kim Norried 69. Flight B – Sue Beals 67, Joan Smith 68 and Donia Stadler 69. Flight C – Nancy Buzzell 61, Frances Urba-Day 63 and Natsue Dawson 66.
Barbara Moon had the closest-to-the-pin on hole No. 9, Sue Beals was closest-to-the-pin on hole No. 15, and Kim Norried had the longest putt.



The 18-Hole Ladies Golf League holiday luncheon took place in late December. There were more than 20 members in attendance.

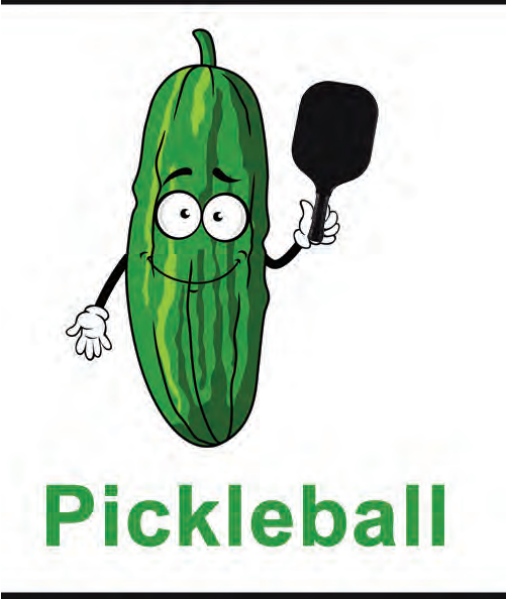
Sue Beals had a chip-in on hole No. 9 and Kim Norried had a chip-in on hole No. 17. Way to go ladies!
One final note. The OTOW Ladies 18-Hole Golf League would like to announce that their spring picnic is scheduled for Thursday, March 26 at noon at the Pavillion. There will be a sign-up sheet on Tuesdays prior to golf on March 3, March 10 and March 17. Guests are invited for a cost of \$5.



Pickleball players pose for a photo in December.

Pickleball is on the rise - nationally and at OTOW

By Marina Davidovich
Pickleball here. Pickleball there. Pickleball everywhere!
New pickleball facilities are opening up rapidly in Pinellas County. It's becoming one of the most popular sports in the country.
According to the sports and fitness industry association, the game has seen a participant increase of more than 310 percent over the past three years.
Here's a round-up of new pickleball facilities and courts that opened throughout Pinellas County this year alone:
Dill Dinkers, St. Pete Athletic Club, Pickle and Pint, Dink House, Pickle Ball in the Parks.
We're so lucky here at On Top of the World to have our own pickleball courts. Our club is growing, but there's always room for more athletic, happy, fun-looking people.
Our orientation sessions are held on Tuesdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. No need to make reservations. Just show up!
We love to play hard on the courts, but we also love to party! The photo above was taken after our holiday party in December.



Registration ends Feb. 3 for Jack & Jill

By Jackie Miles
The On Top of the World Ladies 18-Hole Golf Association will host its annual Jack and Jill Golf Tournament on Tuesday, Feb. 10. The rain date is Feb. 17.
The event will be held at OTOW's 18-Hole Golf Course and will conclude with lunch and an opportunity to participate in a share-the-wealth drawing.
This is a two-person tournament. Volunteers will be offering mulligans for \$1 each if you wish to participate, non-transferable before playing.
The event is an 18-hole shotgun start and alternate shot. Women tee off on odd holes and men tee off on even holes. An awards ceremony will follow.
Last year's top finishers were rewarded for their efforts from a prize pool. There also will be prizes for closest-to-the-pin on hole No. 15 for women and hole No. 16 for men.
All golf league members and guests are invited to participate if they have a valid OTOW Activity Card.
Single golfers will be paired with other players.
There will be a sign-up sheet on the men's bulletin board for those wishing to play in the tournament.



Registration fees are \$20 per person or \$40 per couple and guests. Lunch is \$7 per person.
As a convenience for those interested in playing in the tournament, registration forms will be available at the golf course green house on Tuesday, Feb. 3 from 7:45-8:15 a.m.
Prior to tournament day, pairings, and hole assignments can be viewed on the bulletin board at the golf course.
The tournament day check-in begins at 7:30 a.m. and tee-time is 8:30 a.m.
For more information contact Becky West (727) 301-8854.



Tennis Club members at the Hog Island Fish Camp in Dunedin.

Annual tennis luncheon

By Bruce McMaster
The On Top of the World Tennis Club had its annual holiday luncheon at Hog Island Fish Camp in Dunedin on Dec. 17.
It was well attended by 28 members.
Members enjoyed some great seafood, and some good camaraderie, plus partly favors were given to members as they entered the dining room.



Please be aware.
Gates to the east side will be closed from 9:30-11 a.m. on Saturday, March 7



Bob Dembinski blasts two game-winning hits in two games; Gene Abood wins a game with ninth-inning home run

By Bob Rittner

In a game with many heroes and heroic moments, the honor for Player of the Game goes to Bob Dembinski.

Blue scored 10 runs, White 9 and Red 5. Two teams played defense while one team batted.

A series of outstanding catches in the outfield helped Bob's Blue team stay close to White and then catch and pass them. But the climactic moment came in the last inning.

White tied the game 9-9. Bob led off the bottom of the inning, and on the first pitch, lashed a line drive between the outfielders for a walk-off homer.

His starring performance should not obscure the great defense of outfielder Gene Abood, who appeared seemingly out of thin air to corral several line drives up the gap.

Ray Woolsey continued his power display with another home run deep to right field while fellow White players Eric Ortiz, Rodger Hillier and Tony Martinez all had perfect three-hit days.

White 10, Red 6, Blue 4

Remember these names: Bo Voigt, George Morgan, Eric Ortiz, Gary Zimmerman, Dan Joyce, Paul Miller, Don Mandeville, Lenny Segall, Eddie Ramirez, Bob Dembinski and Ray Woolsey.

Each of them made a spectacular play in this game, whether racing into foul territory to catch a pop-up (Eric) or fading back into the outfield for an over-the-shoulder catch (Lenny, Bo and Gary).

Some outfielders (George, Dan, Bob, Ray and Paul) seemed to materialize out of nowhere to catch sinking line drives while infielders (Eddie and Don) gobbled up ground balls that seemed beyond their reach and fired strikes to first base for the out.

Then there were the power hitters,



Ralph Scunziano and Richard Mierzejewski, each of whom homered. Richard's blast soared over the fence while Ralph's line drive split the outfielders. He went into overdrive to circle the bases.

George Morgan had a perfect four-hit day - one of them a triple.

Field 1
Red 10, Blue 8
Field 2
White 8, Red 6

On field one, the Red team got four consecutive singles in four different innings when they scored seven of their 10 runs.

Charles Kovarik was involved in all four hitting streaks.

For the Blue team, Don Mandeville and Karen French each had four-hit days.

On field two, Mike Blaa starred at the plate and in the field, swatting a double and single to drive in two runs and racing to make a catch in deep right-center field that seemed headed for home run territory.

Steve Letourneau at third base fielded a series of sizzling hits and made accurate throws to first base to get outs.

For the Red team, Lenny Segall, at

middle infielder, seemed always in the right spot to grab pop flies, line drives or grounders, frustrating numerous White team rallies.

White 12, Red 6, Blue 6

The culture in our league has us rooting for each other, whether teammate or opponent.

So when a fine play is made or solid hit recorded, everyone rejoices.

There were plenty of joyful moments in this game.

Catchers, not usually the heroes, played a big part as Denise Cook got a putout with a fine catch.

Later in the game, Bob Rittner snagged a long throw from Gary Zimmerman, pivoted and threw to third baseman Don Mandeville to complete an unusual double play. And Rodger Hillier alertly covered the plate to get an out on a throw from Lenny Segall.

There was also a diving stop in the shortstop/third base hole by Gary that he turned into a force out at third base. Running catches in the outfield were recorded by Gene Abood and Rick Champ to rob batters of extra-base hits.

The hitting hero was Tara Gunning who smashed a blast far beyond the center fielder and brought home two runs to get the White team on its scoring binge.

Field 1
Red 14, Blue 13
Field 2
White 10, Red 8

Gene Abood's second homer came in the ninth inning and was the clinching score.

It brought home two runs and drove in Guy Bertuzzi, who led off with a single. The runs gave Red a 14-11 lead that held up when the home team could only score two runs in the bottom of the inning.

Outstanding shortstop play by Steve Letourneau halted a number of Blue rallies while Mary Anne Benuzzi at second base and Dan Joyce in left field frustrated Red batters with excellent defense.

White scored three runs in the eighth inning to win the game as Joe DeChiaro, Bo Voigt and Charles Kovarik each singled and were driven home when Melvin Tennille singled and Joni Edwall doubled.

Leading hitters were Bob Dembinski for Red with four hits, including a triple and two doubles, and Bo and Charles for White, each with two doubles on their four-hit days.

Field 1
Blue 6, Red 4
Field 2
Red 11, White 10

Blue third baseman Bob Dembinski's clutch RBI double drove in two runs in the bottom of the ninth inning for the win.

His at bat was set up by Tara Gunning who had another perfect day at the plate.

In game seven of the 1952 World Series, the Yankees were ahead 4-2 in the bottom of the seventh inning with two outs and the bases loaded. Jackie Robinson popped up to no-man's land between pitcher, catcher and first base. If it landed, at least one run would score, possibly two. But from apparently nowhere, second baseman Billy Martin dashed in to make a shoe-top catch ending the threat. The Yankees held the lead and won the championship.

The situation in our game was less dire, but with a runner on third in a tie game, White second baseman Mary Anne Benuzzi darted behind the mound to make a similar heart-stopping catch, holding the runner at third base.

In the next inning, Robert Bannick singled and Dan Joyce tripled for a one run lead that held for the Red team.

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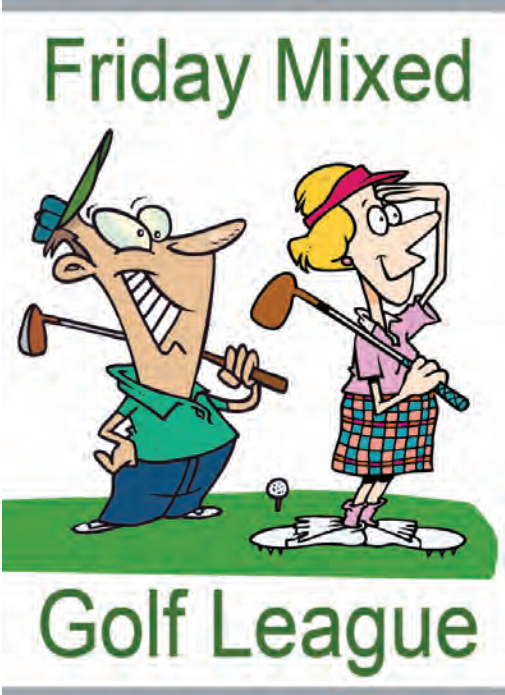
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John Pellegrino and Jim Keagy win second tournament of championship season



By Sheryl Barbin

The Friday Mixed Golf League held their second tournament of the championship season on Dec. 19 - a two -person shamble.

Seventy-nine players participated.

First place went to the team of John Pellegrino and Jim Keagy with a plus -19. Second place went to Ed Sixon and Fred Peace with a plus-11, third place went to Don Hahs and Tim Carr with a plus-11, fourth place went to Don Auger and Verna Lundgren with a plus-8 and fifth place went to Joe Wisinski and Ken Smith with a plus-7.

Sixth place went to Tom Pettit and Darilyn Bedel with a plus-6, seventh place went to Bill Whipps and George McNeil with a plus-5, eighth place went to Mike LaViolette and Gary Sandine

with a plus-4, ninth place went to David Saccone and Bill Gambacurta with a plus-4 and 10th place went to Andy Corbeil and Gary Piccoli with a plus-4.

Eleventh place went to Bill Higgins and Jack Patterson with a plus-3, 12th place went to Mike Palermo and Chris Regan with a plus -3, 13th place went to Bruce MacPherson and Scott Rogers with a plus-3, 14th place went to Andrea and Mike Tomaselli with a plus-2, 15th place went to Harry Barbin and Deb Young with a plus-2, and 16th place went to Mark Clear and Drew Deagler with a plus-1.

All ties were broken by a match of cards.

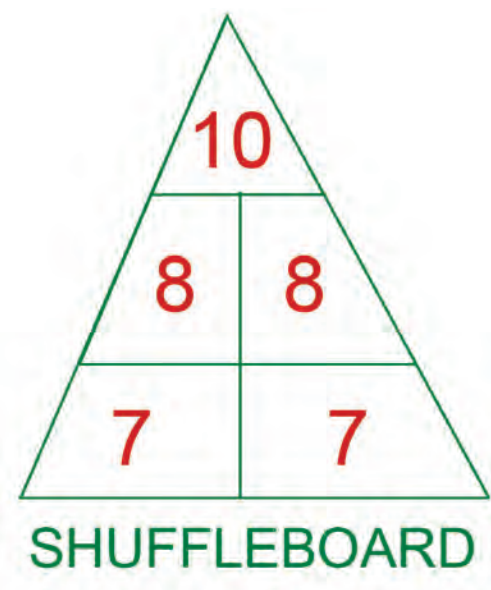
Closest-to-the-pin winners were awarded on hole No. 3 to Len Picone and David Johnson, hole No. 5 to Pey-

ton Grogan and Joe Coyne, hole Nos. 6 and 15 to John Pellegrino and Jim Keagy, hole No. 9 to Bill Higgins and Jack Patterson, hole No. 13 to David Saccone and Bill Gambacurta, and hole No. 16 to Edmund Molina and Mark Legin.

Skins were awarded on hole No. 2 to Andy Corbeil and Gary Piccoli, hole No. 6 to John Pellegrino and Jim Keagy, hole No. 7 to Don Hahs and Tim Carr, hole No. 11 to Bruce MacPherson and Scott Rogers, hole No. 12 to Bill Whipps and George McNeil, hole No. 13 to David Saccone and Bill Gambacurta, hole No. 15 to Don Auger and Verna Lundgren and hole No. 16 to Bill Higgins and Jack Patterson.

Remember to sign up on the Box Office website by Wednesday at 6 p.m. for Friday's play.

Stop by the shuffleboard courts and watch our tournament



By Tim Lewis

At the annual meeting of the On Top of the World Shuffleboard Club in December, the club re-elected President Tim Lewis and Vice President Richard Lagasse.

New officers elected were BJ Reece as treasurer and Jacqueline Patterson as secretary.

Our annual Singles Tournament will be held Feb. 2 and 3. Small cash awards



An evening of fun at the On Top of the World shuffleboard courts.

are given out to the top finishers. This is a members only event. Participants must have registered and paid annual

dues by Feb. 1.

For information about our shuffleboard club, contact Tim Lewis at

(207) 441-3472 or check our courtside bulletin board.

40 Get Acquainted Coffee visitors try out lawn bowling

By Kathleen Walter

A huge thank you from the On Top of the World Lawn Bowls Club goes out to the Good Neighbors Association for Get Acquainted Coffee Saturday on Jan. 10.

We were so grateful for the opportunity to share the love we have for our sport with the many people who attended the event.

Our club members were able to interact with numerous individuals in the Auditorium, and more than 40 people came over to the lawn bowl courts to roll a few bowls. Hopefully many will consider joining our club.

If you were unable to attend our open house, we invite you to stop by our courts any day, Monday through Friday, at 9:30 a.m., when we hold our practices. We will gladly welcome



you! No knowledge or experience is necessary, and we provide instruction and equipment to all with an activity card.

Never heard of lawn bowling? No problem! Most of our current members never did either until they moved to OTOW.

In addition to our daily practices, several tournaments have recently occurred.

Congratulations go out to our winners: Rick Muchler in the Singles Tournament, Barb Lenzi and Luba Bialova in the Open Pairs Tournament, and Sandy Wall and Beth Conversi in the Rabbi Burns Tournament.

Our monthly lunch in the



This was open house at the Lawn Bowls Court during Get Acquainted Coffee Saturday on Jan. 10.

Pavilion was held following the Rabbi Burns Tournament. We enjoyed delicious hoagies and other goodies prepared by Beth Conversi and Brian Wil-

son.

Our busy tournament schedule continues into the months of February and March. A Valentine's Tournament will be on

Feb. 13, followed by a Pairs Tournament on Feb. 18 and 25. Four additional tournaments are scheduled in March.

Our monthly lunch in February will occur following the Valentine's Tournament at the Pavilion.

We are so proud that many of our members are getting quite skilled at lawn bowling and have chosen to travel to additional events throughout Florida. This month 12 bowlers will be participating in the 2026 West Coast Grass Open Triples League that takes place at the courts in Sun City Center. This league will be especially challenging for our members as the Sun City courts are real grass. Since we bowl on rubico, a durable fine ground slate surface, it will take some adjustment. We wish them luck.

Look for us at the parade.

With Year of the Snake ending, what energy will Year of the Fire Horse bring

By Laurie LeClaire

The month of February marks the beginning of the long-awaited Year of the Fire Horse. To be precise, Feb. 17.

The first new moon in the Chinese astrology calendar starts the year of the fire horse.

So I invite members of the High Vibe Tribe on Feb. 10 to take the year they were born and look up the Chinese character that represents that year.

We plan to outline the key significances and differences from our current year, which is the snake. This year finally unwinds on Feb. 16.

We will discuss the key differences in the energies arriving and willingly put the layers of shedding from the snake skin energies of 2025 in the past.

We can help you discover what your Chinese sign is and, if you are curious, link it to your western astrology sign.

This meeting will be an opportunity to learn and share openly. We will discuss the characteristics of the horse and how adding the element of fire changes the speed and trajectory of the year.

I will bring a book authored by Suzanne White entitled "The New Astrology. A Unique Synthesis of the World's two Great Astrological systems: the Chinese and the Western" to share and allow others to pour through the book if it fascinates anyone.



We will play with the energy of the Unicorn, other horse beings from the Angelic realms, who are returning to Earth to aid us on our paths. They bring messages of hope and remind us to stay positive as we prepare for a golden future.

We will each have an opportunity to

write and speak our Fire Horse year intentions in ceremony and if so inclined sing and dance in the fire element and envision a New Earth rising.

We will bring oracle cards for those interested and uplifting music from songs of love from the '60s. The last year of the Fire Horse was 60 years



ago, 1966 to be exact. So why not listen to the music of that era?

The High Vibe Tribe is a metaphysical club open to all residents of On Top of the World and meets once monthly on the second Tuesday of each month in the Clearwater/Kitchen Room of the East Activity Center from 7-8:30 p.m.

We welcome anyone with interests to attend. You may address any questions to me at otowoowoo@gmail.com

So plan to be there on Feb. 10.

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The Italian-American Club had just sat down for a nice, pleasant dinner in the East Activity Center Auditorium. Then in barged 50 pirates demanding food and drink. Total chaos took place as the hungry pirates took over the dinner tables and forced the disc jockey to play pirate music. Funny. This happens every year. Pictured above are some of the hungry pirates. At right are the second and third place costume winners.

(OTOW News photos by Mary Lou Wall)



Italian food and music - annual St. Joseph’s Dinner Dance set for March 25

By Renee Ingrassia

Are you ready to go to the horse races?

The Italian-American Club and the Travel Club will be heading to Tampa Bay Downs race track on Feb. 27.

At the time this article went to press, only a few tickets remained. Stop by our information table for more details.

We had a fun time at our Gasparilla event in January. Our community’s favorite disc jockey, Les N’ More, provided fantastic dance music. We also installed our 2026 club officers.

The Italian-American Club will be proud to join The Veterans Group, Good Neighbors Association, The New York-New Jersey Club, the Snowbirds Club, the Canadian Club and SCA in a

Italian American Club

Salute to Veterans on March 1. A hot dog meal with dessert and coffee will be served. Veterans will attend free of charge, but must pre-register. Tickets for every-

one else are \$10 apiece. All proceeds will go to support the Veterans Group and organizations that support our veterans.

Our club’s annual St Joseph’s Dinner Dance will be held on Wednesday, March 25. Dinner will be provided by Felice’s Italian Catering, with music by DJ Frank Lebano.

Our club’s Ice Cream Social will take place on Tuesday, April 14. We listened to our members and this year the event will begin at 6 p.m. so you can enjoy dinner at home and join your friends for dessert!

We are already planning next season’s events. By popular demand, we will be bringing back A Little Latin Twist on Wednesday, Sept. 23, and our Holi-

day PJ Party on Nov. 18. For more information and to purchase tickets, stop by our information table at the East Activity Center Auditorium on Monday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 until 10:30.

We are always open to innovative ideas for events.

Finally, we extend a heartfelt thank-you to all of our volunteers who help make every event possible. Each event involves many tasks and the more helping hands we have, the easier the work becomes.

As attendance grows, our dedicated volunteers ensure that our events are successful and enjoyable for everyone.

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(OTOW News photo by Sally Herman)



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COMMUNITY REPORTS



Queen Victoria residents celebrated together and rented transportation so everyone could join in



Residents from the Queen Victoria building had a busy last quarter of 2025 and kept busy ringing in the New Year! There was an Oktoberfest in the building core with brats, sauerkraut, pretzels and beer cheese.

Everyone enjoyed a Friendsgiving dinner the Friday after Thanksgiving and the event was hosted in the East Activity Center Kitchen-Craft Room.

December was a time to greet other residents while decorating the core. We decorated the trees alongside the building.

Then it was "Tis the season." The building had an evening out at Island



Queen Victoria residents pose for a picture inside Island Way Grill where they gathered for a December party. They even rented a transport van to help residents make the trip.

Way Grill in Clearwater. We even rented a transport van to make it easier for those who have a hard time traveling.

On Boxing Day there was another gathering for our building. We had a holiday meal in the EAC Kitchen.

Then our year went out on a fun note. We gathered as neighbors in the Auditorium for the Entertainment Committee's New Year's Eve bash.

In February, there's an event at The 8 O'Clock Theater (105 Central Park

Drive) in Largo. The show is My Fair Lady and we will attend as neighbors.

Tickets are \$30 each and can be purchased through Margo English by calling 727-791-6972.

This doesn't happen every day - our newest resident is looking for a job

Residents from the New World French building had a great party during the recent holidays. The event was hosted in the core, on the second floor by Suzy Vesely, Reta Carney and Gin Upton.

We had several bingo games with prizes. Everyone who attended received a present.

Tim Hill, one of our residents, also sang. He has a very nice voice. In fact, he is singing with the Jesters at their January/February show.

New resident, Denise Ferguson, has moved here from Pittsburgh, with her dog, Gabby. Both love walking the beaches and enjoying the beautiful weather.



She is now looking forward to living in Florida and looking for a job. She is training to be a teacher.

Denise Ferguson with
her dog Gabby.



Don't End Up In The Dog House!
Valentine's Day is Saturday, Feb. 14.

Don't wait until Feb. 13 to make dinner reservations.



February 2001

By Randae Van Denover

World Events

Israel held a rare standalone election for prime minister without a simultaneous Knesset vote. Likud leader Ariel Sharon defeated incumbent Ehud Barak in a landslide, winning about 62.4 percent of the vote amid the violence of the Second Intifada and deep disillusionment with the peace process.

Turnout was unusually low for Israel, about 62.3 percent, and this was the only time in Israeli history that the prime minister was elected directly in a special election without new parliamentary.

Economic Initiatives

Early 2001 was a critical time for economic policy as the U.S. grappled with the fallout from the year's earlier dot-com bubble burst. Under newly elected President George Bush Jr., an aggressive monetary easing was initiated to prevent a recession with the help of the Federal Reserve, led by Alan Greenspan.

The Fed cut interest rates by 1 percent in one month. This was later followed by the famous George Bush tax cut which made a new lower 10 percent income tax bracket.

In his first televised address to Congress on Feb. 27, Bush promoted a \$1.6 trillion, 10-year tax cut. Thus, the era of low-interest rates began, which defined the early 2000s economy.

U.S. Business Events

A California electricity crisis peaked in early 2001, forcing a confrontation between state intervention and federal free-market ideology.

California faced rolling blackouts and its major utilities were near bankruptcy. California Governor Gray Davis pleaded for federal price caps on wholesale electricity. The incoming Bush administration favored deregulation and market mechanisms and initially rejected requests to impose regional price caps, arguing they would discourage investment in new power plants. Thus, the California governor signed emergency legislation in January authorizing the state to enter the power business directly, spending billions to buy electricity for its citizens — a massive expansion of state power necessitated by the market failure.

Beyond this big Feb. 1 power purchase authorization, California's electricity problems continued with high wholesale prices, threatened blackouts and political pressure on regulators and utilities, shaping energy debates nationally.

TV Trends

The most prominent social trend to emerge in early 2001 was the explosion of reality television. "Temptation Island," a Fox reality series exploring relationship dynamics, premiered with 16 million viewers for its debut episode. This show exemplified the emerging fascination with unscripted drama and intimate human conflict ... themes that would come to define the genre throughout the decade.

Fashion Trends

Another early 2001 trend also coincided with the emergence of Y2K fashion aesthetics, particularly the hyper-pink color trend that would dominate the early 2000s.

Later that year, the movie "Legally Blonde" would cement bright pink as a symbol of bold, unapologetic femininity in popular culture. In February 2001, Fuchsia Rose was named the Color of the Year by Pantone. The fusion of purple and pink shades marked a nod to femininity, sensuality and power. At the time, the selection was seen as a bold and brave choice. This was the second year in Pantone's history for naming a color of the year and they continue to do this every year since.

Technology Trends

Chat rooms, message boards and AOL Instant Messenger were new platforms through which people interacted online, establishing communication patterns that would eventually evolve into modern social media.

In conclusion, early 2001 represented a critical inflection point where reality television became mainstream entertainment, televised talent selection transformed pop music production, and society began its gradual digital transformation

Dusting might prevent you from watching TV



Gables neighbor, Remo Melucci, learned the hard way how easy it is to fall into the trap of blaming technology when something doesn't work.

Here's his story and a lesson for us all.

Out of the blue, Remo's TV remote stopped working. He unplugged the modem and the router and nothing helped.

Next was the dreaded phone call to to speak with a service tech. The call started out fine. The tech walked Remo through rebooting the system as well as some mysterious maneuvers only known to a select few.

But still, the remote did not work.

Now it was time to face the music — the service technician said he would show up the next day.

The following day the service technician, Kevin, showed up, picked up the remote and turned on the TV without a problem.

Remo gave an undisguised look of pity.

Kevin quickly checked some connections, said everything was OK and then left for his vehicle.

Relieved, Remo sits down in his favorite chair and makes an attempt to turn on his TV.

Nothing!

Remo runs back to the door yelling desperately, "Wait Kevin, come back!" Kevin comes back.

Remo, back sitting in his favorite



Remo Melucci tries to explain that his ceramic cross somehow moved on its own and covered up the laser sensor used with his TV remote control.

chair, demonstrates how the remote is not turning the TV on.

Kevin spots the problem.

He walks over to the TV, moves a heavy ceramic cross and has Remo try the remote again.

It worked.

Duh!

Your TV remote, along with other remotes, works using a light laser. If the laser cannot find the target on your TV, it won't work. In this case, Remo's cross was blocking the target from his chair, but not from other areas of the room.

Lesson learned.

Remo blamed the person who dusted last for moving the cross.

Thank you Remo for your sense of humor and sharing your story!

On a more mundane, but important topic, building dues are once again being collected this February. Look for additional information as we set a place, date and time. Dues are \$10 per unit (not individual) to help us cover costs associated with the building.



Anna Brinkerhoff, right, made sure her birthday was not forgotten.

Holiday birthdays sometimes get lost

Those of us born between Thanksgiving and Christmas may feel we've been handed the short straw sometimes. During holiday celebrations, birthdays usually get lost in the shuffle.

However, one Fujiwara resident didn't want the world to miss her milestone 65th birthday in December so she planned an awesome party to celebrate reaching Medicare!

Anna Brinkerhoff, our own hostess with the mostest, is usually known for throwing the best Memorial Day parties. But rather than having a barbecue this time, she hosted an open house and delighted all her neighbors and friends with an assortment of hot and cold buffet items.

She made spanakopita (Greek spinach pie), rigatoni with meatballs, fried chicken, cold cuts and rolls, several types of salads, and finished up with



ambrosia and birthday cake.

Everyone enjoyed her hospitality and were thrilled to be able to celebrate with her. Some of the neighbors chipped in to get her onboard credit for her upcoming cruise and she's looking forward to using it in the casino!

Food and Clothing Drive

10 am - 2 pm, Friday, Feb. 20

EAC Pavilion

Building meeting with important information set for Feb. 7



Name change!
While reading our community newspaper, you'll notice that each writer is no longer called a building reporter. We are now called "storytellers!"
With that said, my February story will start off with "once upon a time!"
Rural French residents started off the new year when our building volunteers got together on Saturday, Jan. 3, to take down all of our Christmas decorations. This was a fast job thanks to the good, helping hands that we had.
But I'm sorry to say that we had no pizza party afterwards, like the one we enjoyed after the decorations were put up in December.
We held a building dinner on Wednesday, Jan 7. The dinner was held at Rumba Island Bar & Grill in Clearwater. Jim and Carmel LeBlanc hosted this dinner where 25 neighbors got together for food and conversation.
Mark your calendars and make sure you attend our building meeting on Sat-



Twenty-five residents from the Rural French building attended a dinner party at the Rumba Island Bar & Grill in Clearwater. This was the first of many gatherings for the year,

urday, Feb. 7, at 3:30 p.m., in our third floor core. Bring a chair because Building Coordinator David McClellan has a lot of information to pass on and discuss with us. We hope that you can join in on the meeting.
Keep checking our building bulletin board for any building updates, activities or information that you may enjoy being a part of. If you have an idea, you can sign up to host a building lunch,

dinner or gathering.
Any building functions can turn into a fun time for all. If you set it up, your neighbors might join in and have a good time.
Our building treasurer, Sandy Sturr, is collecting your annual \$20 donation. This money is used for building supplies, decorations and activities like our building barbecue and pizza party.
Ask your wing captains, Sandy or

your neighbors where to drop off your donation. If \$20 is out of your budget, anything you can afford will be appreciated.
Fun things don't happen by themselves! Get out and make them happen. Become a part of organizing something, or anything! Just do it!
It's often said that if you want to go on a mini vacation, try laughter.
Have a good month.

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Third floor of Granada building is like a bird sanctuary - you are invited to take a walk

The new year welcomed back vacationing Granada residents to our neighborhood, finding their condos and friends happy to see them.

Our January building lunch at Grillsmith gave us a chance to catch up on what's going on here.

The next luncheon will be held at Bacon Street Diner (at Countryside Mall) on Monday, Feb. 9, at 1 p.m.

Our building meeting on the



green will be held on Thursday, Feb. 26, at 4 p.m. It's a

good time to socially get together and bring suggestions and ideas for future activities or concerns. Just bring a chair and your beverage and snack or dessert if you want to share.

We will have our popular 50/50 drawing so bring some dollar bills to join in.

Have you noticed we have a perfect walking path on the second and third floors? It's covered and has a hand-rail for safety. Everyone needs

to get out once in a while for fresh air. Try it - if only for a few minutes. It's almost like a bird sanctuary.

From where our building is located, we often see and hear parakeets lined up on wires, blue jays doing a lot of chirping and we definitely know when big cranes are around.

And that's just the wildlife. If you listen closely you can hear the occasional human yell "fore" from the golf course.

This is a great time of the year, even if you need a sweater. At each end of our building there is a little patio area to sit in. Or, if you have a folding chair, you can sit outside your door. Just remember to put the chair away when finished.

Flip that TV off and do something really good for yourself.

Got an idea for a future Granada article? Please contact Toni Young or Linda Faust. Everyone stay well.



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How about a Christmas decoration dismantling party?

Polynesian residents took a cruise together - does your building do that?



Residents of the Polynesian building have been enjoying a lively calendar of social activities which highlight the strong sense of community within the building.

Recent events have brought neighbors together for fun, great food, and — most importantly — wonderful fellowship.

One of the highlights was a delightful dinner at Kobe Steakhouse where 18 residents and friends gathered for an evening of conversation, laughter and shared meals.

The group also came together for a Christmas decoration dismantle party, turning a seasonal chore into a festive and social occasion.

Adding to the excitement, residents



A large group of Polynesian residents met at Kobe Steakhouse for dinner. This month, residents are planning a Super Bowl party.

recently enjoyed a cruise to Mexico and Belize aboard Royal Caribbean's Rhapsody. The trip was filled with memorable moments, fun ports of call, and camaraderie. A full recap, along with a photo or two, will be featured in next month's edition and on our building's Facebook page.

Looking ahead, plans are underway for a Super Bowl potluck party. Details regarding time and location will be post-

ed on our bulletin board and shared within the building's private Facebook page. The date is Feb. 8.

With lots of new events happening often, residents are encouraged to regularly check the bulletin board or reach out to Susan Miller, Diane Bigelow, Deb Clarkson or Kathi Finley for the most up-to-date information on upcoming activities.

These gatherings are known for

fun times, amazing food and wonderful company. Residents are also encouraged to join the private Facebook group, Building 9 Polynesian, to stay informed, connect with neighbors and engage with the community from the comfort of home.

The Polynesian continues to thrive through shared experiences, proving that great neighbors make a great place to live.

Bohemia elects new building president, treasurer

Seeing in a new year can take shape in many ways.

Twenty-six residents from the Bohemia building followed a long-time tradition of starting out the new year with an evening out at Jack Willies Tiki Bar in Oldsmar. There was food, friends and music.

Some spent the evening at Ruth Eckerd Hall, in a more serene way, by taking in the music of Johan Sabastian Strauss - an annual tradition.

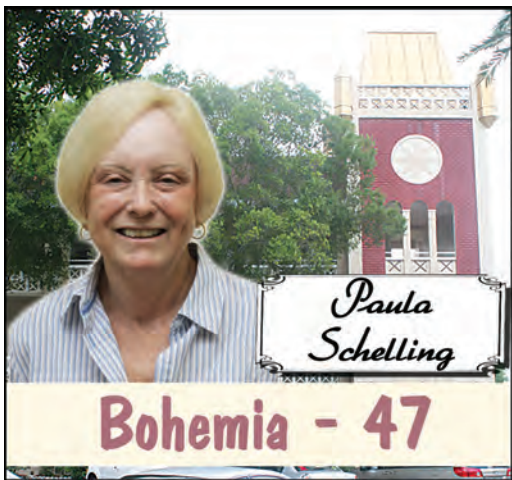
Others attended parties or chose to cuddle up in their pajamas to watch the ball drop on TV.

In each of our own ways, we welcomed in 2026.

Not letting time go to waste, Bohemia residents met for their annual building meeting on Jan. 12. This meeting gave residents time to reflect on the past year and ask questions about their concerns.

A printed survey was presented to each attendee to offer their opinions on what activities they want to continue or delete. It presented them with an opportunity to express ideas on where they would like to dine and to offer new ideas for inhouse activities.

As a part of our yearly meeting, new



building leaders are selected. Our new president is Max Freitas, our new treasurer is Tricia Mlodzinski and the secretary, Paula Schelling, remained on for another term.

This meeting gave residents the chance to actively participate, make decisions and choose the direction they'd like to see us go.

They were able to sign-up for the activity committee, wing captain, holiday decorating and charitable contribution committee to name a few.

A thank you goes out to all of those who give of their time to make our building a happy place to reside.

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This weekend, try something different - a hearty meat, such as German cuisine



German cuisine has been one of the most influential cuisines in the world, evolving from humble beginnings to becoming a culinary powerhouse.

From its origins as a peasant food, made from simple ingredients, to its modern-day status as a collection of masterpieces, German cuisine has come a long way.

The origins are rooted in the country's history of poverty and deprivation.

During the Middle Ages, Germany was a largely rural society with a subsistence economy. Food was mainly sourced locally, with ingredients such as grains, root vegetables, legumes, and wild game being the main source of nutrition.

People in Germany ate primarily to survive, and meals were often simple and unvaried.

German cuisine is known for hearty, flavorful, comfort food centered on meats, especially sausages, like Bratwurst. It also includes potatoes, cabbage (sauerkraut) and fresh bread. Plus, sweet and sour treats from apples or vinegar, famous baked goods, pretzels and rich desserts, such as Black Forest Cake (see recipe below).

Staples include dumplings (spaetzle) (see recipe below) and slow-roasted meats (sauerbraten).

Other dishes are schnitzel or breaded cutlets (see recipe below) and soft egg noodles, called spaetzel, often served cheesy (kasespatzle) or with onions and bacon.

Expect lots of potatoes (roasted, mashed or salads), rich gravies, cabbage and regional specialties like Swabian Maultaschen (dumplings) or hearty stews.

Sauerbraten, which means “sour roast,” is often called Germany’s National Dish. It is made by marinating a beef roast in a sour-sweet marinade for 2 to 3 days before browning it, then simmering the meat in the marinade for several hours, resulting in a very tender roast and a delicious sauce.



Pictured above, Pork Schnitzel with Spaetzle.

PORK SCHNITZEL

Ingredients

- 4 boneless pork loin chops (about 5 to 6 ounce)
- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 large eggs
- ½ cup milk
- 4 cups plain dried bread crumbs
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 sprig fresh thyme
- lemon wedges

Directions

1. Begin by placing each pork loin chop between two sheets of plastic wrap and gently pounding them out with the flat side of a meat tenderizer until they are an even ¼-inch thick.
2. Put the flour in a shallow dish and season with salt and pepper. Whisk the eggs and milk in another shallow

dish and season with salt and pepper. Put the bread crumbs in a third dish and again season with salt and pepper. Lightly dredge each piece of pork in flour, then in the egg and finally into the bread crumbs, pressing the bread crumbs onto the pork gently so they have a nice coating.

3. Lay the breaded pork loin cutlets in a single layer on a plate lined with parchment and refrigerate, uncovered for 10 to 12 minutes to allow the coating to dry out a little and adhere to the pork chops.

4. Heat oil and butter in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add the fresh thyme sprig and let it fry for 1 minute to infuse the oil. Remove the thyme sprig and reserve. Gently lay the cutlets into the pan and cook until golden brown and crispy, about 3 minutes per side. Remove the loin chops to a paper towels to drain. Season with salt and transfer to a serving platter while hot. Garnish with lemon wedges and the fried thyme sprig before serving.

SPAETZLE

Ingredients

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons salt
- ½ teaspoon ground pepper
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 2 large eggs
- ¼ cup milk
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh chives

Directions

1. In a large bowl, combine the flour, salt, pepper, and nutmeg. In another bowl, whisk the eggs and milk together. Make a well in the center of the dry ingredients and pour in the egg-milk mixture. Gradually draw in the flour from the sides and combine well; the dough should be

smooth and thick. Let the dough rest for 10 to 15 minutes.

2. Bring 3 quarts of salt water to a boil in a large pot, then reduce to a simmer. To form the spaetzle, hold a large holed colander or slotted spoon over the simmering water and push the dough through the holes colander or slotted spoon. Do this in batches so you don't overcrowd the pot. Cook for 3 to 4 minutes or until the spaetzle floats to the surface, stirring gently

To prevent sticking. Dump the spaetzle into a colander and give it a quick rinse with cool water.

3. Melt the butter in a large skillet over medium heat and add the spaetzle; tossing to coat. Cook the spaetzle for 1 to 2 minutes to give the noodles some color, and then sprinkle with the chopped chives and season with salt and pepper before serving.

BLACK FOREST CAKE

Ingredients Cake

- 1 box chocolate cake mix for two 8 inch rounds, plus necessary
- Strong brewed coffee, as needed
- Buttermilk, as needed

Cream

- 4 cups heavy whipping cream
- ¾ cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon almond extract

Cherries

- One 24-ounce jar sour cherries, drained
- 2 tablespoons kirsch
- Chocolate, for shavings, for garnish

Directions

1. For the cake: Make the cake according to the package instructions, but substitute half of the water with coffee and the other half with buttermilk (most likely it will call for 1 cup total water). Bake in two 8-inch round cake pans according to package instruction. Let the cake cool completely.
2. For the cream: Using an electric mixer, beat the cream, sugar and almond extract together in a large bowl until stiff peaks form.
3. For the cherries: Combine the cherries and kirsch in a small bowl.
4. To assemble: Use a serrated knife to cut the cakes in half horizontally. Create layers of cake, cherries and whipped cream, repeating. Top the cake with whipped cream, a few cherries and chocolate shaving.

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For our ‘younger’ residents, always remember that help with a simple task is very welcome

Happy new year to everyone reading this newspaper!

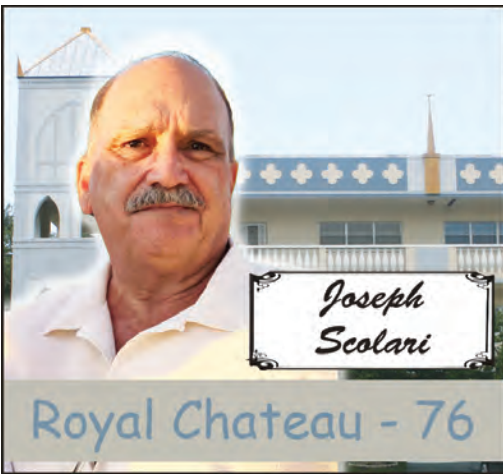
In case you didn't realize it, we are all getting older - in a good way. Many residents are getting up in years and need help with some basic things that many of us consider routine.

Remember your neighbors. Basic socialization, such as saying "hello" and "how are you doing" is not only basic communication, but sometimes the only interaction some people have in a day.

Bring some sunshine into your neighbors' day.

Many people are afraid to ask for help. A simple thing like getting on a ladder and changing a light bulb becomes an impossible task as we age. But for many "younger" people, it is a simple way to help out. Even the younger residents need to remember that one day they will be in the same situation.

There are several people in the Royal Chateau building who are able to



help with minor repairs, like changing an AC filter or adjusting a screen door closer. Talk with your neighbors. Offer assistance. This interaction will make everyone feel more warmth in our community.

On another note, several items have been lost or misplaced around our building.

A 6-foot table, owned and used by the building for center court meetings,

is missing. If you put it away trying to help clean up after a center court gathering, please let the organizers know where it is.

A second item, a cart used by the person who refreshes the building bulletin board, is missing. The contents of the cart were found in the bin where the monthly newspaper is distributed. It is possible it was just the building maintenance staff cleaning up, but we would really like the cart back. In the future we will put a note on the cart so everyone knows why it is sitting there overnight.

Sometimes it takes two days to set up the bulletin board, especially if the ladder is being used, or if we are trying to make the board extra attractive for our senior residents. If someone is able, and you see people trying to refresh the board, stop and lend a hand.

A small group of residents attended our January lunch at Cricketers British Pub and enjoyed the social time.

It was a fun way to get to know your

neighbors.

The February and March building lunches are being planned, possibly a Valentine and St. Patty theme. During the luncheons we will discuss events and travel plans that also will help us watch over our building and neighbors.

On a neighborhood note, get to know some of your neighbors' habits. Some people have a habit of opening their front door or some routine activity. If you do not see a neighbor out for their usual activity, a quiet knock on their door to see how they are doing may be helpful.

You are not being nosy. You may be saving someone's life.

Richard Barrett's grandkids are here. You may see them walking up and down the walkway. They are here to visit their grandpop.

If you have any future items you would like to see in this newspaper, please share the information. Find me! Happy February.

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Classifieds

OTOW News classifieds are for On Top of the World residents only. You may place an ad to sell or seek to buy using up to 40 words. You cannot sell anything for a price of more than \$500. You cannot sell condos, cars, bedding or used clothing. No business ads. No companion ads. Classifieds must be dropped off at the newsroom in person before the 16th of each month. You may be asked to show your activity card. One classified per household per month. You must ask to have your ad run twice.

Rarely Used

For sale: Four-wheel walking frame with seat, \$45. Robot Roomba vacuum cleaner, \$30. 18-inch free standing fan, \$15. Two bench chairs, \$12 each. Call 905-442-0737.

Three-Wheel Bike

For sale: Three-wheel bicycle. Seven speeds. Very clean. Asking \$200. Text message to Sue at 1-905-257-8839.

Golf Stuff

For sale: Men's right handed Ping G20 irons. Asking \$100. Taylor Made driver with senior shaft. Asking \$50. Sun Mountain golf bag \$25. Two-wheel pull cart golf cart, \$10. All in good condition. Call Fred at 727-542-7327.

Rubber Kayak

For sale: 15-foot, one-person, canvas rubber kayak, paddles, life jacket. Very old, but still usable. Asking \$99 or best offer. Call Ron at 727-466-3348.

Resin Table

For sale: 34-inch square folding card table. Heavy duty. White resin foldable. Excellent condition. Asking \$35. Four folding chairs, excellent condition. \$10 each. Ladies liv bike. Excellent condition. \$200. Call Rita at 727-698-9689.




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901

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Can't watch meetings on OTOW-TV 901?

The Box Office is broadcasting Association Board Meetings live.

Plus, you can visit the Past Board Meetings page and review any meeting since June 2023.* Just visit the Box Office, click the Past Board Meetings link, select the correct date ... and watch.

Association Board Meetings

June 12, 2025 (annual meeting)	
June 5, 2025 Information Meeting on Voting and Reserves	
April 30, 2025	April 17, 2025
February 27, 2025	March 27, 2025
January 30, 2025	January 16, 2025
Meet The Candidates Morning - January 9, 2025	
Meet The Candidates Evening - January 9, 2025	
Nov. 7, 2024 Hurricane Response Review	
Nov. 22, 2024	Dec. 19, 2024
Oct. 15, 2024	Oct. 2, 2024
Sept. 20, 2024 Selection Committee Created	Sept. 11, 2024
September 5, 2024	July 25, 2024
July 18, 2024	July 15, 2024
June 13, 2024	June 4 and 6, 2024
May 22, 2024	April 24, 2024
April 11, 2024	February 20, 2024


* Not all past board meetings are archived on the Box Office.

Interviews with management companies are not available.

Some future meetings may not be available.

But the dates listed can be watched anytime when Internet access is available.

All videos are copyrighted. Recording, downloading and uploading are prohibited.



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Every Tuesday
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EAC Crystal Beach Room

Freebirdz

10:30 am -12:00 pm,
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Crystal Beach Room
Sit, talk and
lose weight.
No membership.





Pull Tabs for Tampa Shriners benefits Children who need Wheelchairs


Hey, On Top of the World neighbors. Just a little reminder. Please continue to collect pull tabs from any soda cans, beer cans, juice cans, food cans, etc. Just contact me, Connie Stanley, at 727-475-8888 or bring the pull tabs to the Canadian Club information table on any Monday or Thursday from 8:30-10:30 a.m., in the East Activity Center Auditorium. Also, OTOW clubs with dinner-dances, I'll be back with red solo cups again! Thank you for contributing to such a worthy cause.

Social Dance with Howard

1-3 pm, Thursdays
West Activity Center Belleaire Room
Singles or couples. Men needed!
Residents pick the dances to learn.

Qwirkle Group

Qwirkle is a fun tile game full of colors and shapes. Residents are getting together now to play together. It is easy to learn but challenging to master. Come join us. No experience necessary.




Mondays 1-4 p.m.
East Activity Center Dunedin Room
Everyone Welcome!
Call Sherrie Markey at 717-873-1066.



Year-Round
Thursdays, 6:30-9:30 pm
WAC Belleair Room
Must have a valid activity card and be a member of the Canadian Club.
Bring spare change.

Blackout

Learn how to play at 5:50 pm




Speak English

A class at On Top of the World taught by Lola Dickert and Uegene Z. We meet for 1 hour every Thursday from 10-11 am in the East Activity Center Dunedin Room. The class is free. There is no homework. This is your chance to learn how to speak English more fluently. Just bring your Activity Card.


French Language and Culture Society

11 am - 12 pm
Wednesdays
EAC Dunedin Room



Bonesavers

Mondays, Wednesdays,
Fridays
8:00 - 9:00 am
Largo Room

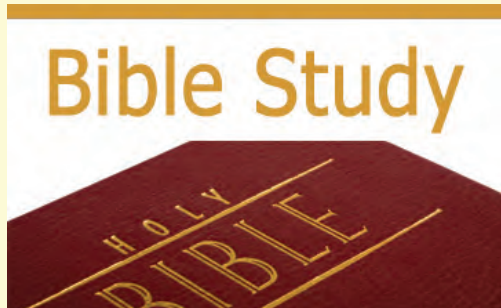


Shuffleboard

Open to all OTOW residents with a valid activity card.

Join us during league play and we have equipment available.
Mon-Tue-Wed 4 pm
East Activity Center





Bible Study

2 PM
Fridays
Crystal Beach Room
All Denominations
Welcome

Example:
DEFINR
“Finder”

OTOW NEWS WORD FINDER
ADEEIRSTV

There may be more than
one answer for a word.
Your answers might not match
the answers listed next month.

Make words below by filling in the blanks. You can only use the letters shown above in blue type.

E

D

D

A

V

S

R

R

E

R

V

D

E

BRAIN TEASE

4

1

6

1

2

1

6

3

3

6

1

4

6

4

2

3

1

To do the Brain Tease above, you must put a number 0-9 in each white square. The trick is, each number can only appear one time horizontally and vertically. Start with a row or column with only one white square. As you fill in squares, the rest of the board will get easier to manage.

OTOW
News

WORDMIX

Unscramble the six words listed below.
If you unscramble correctly, the first letter of each word will spell out the secret word of the month.
If you cannot come up with the secret word of the month, then redo at least one of the six scrambled words.
Please note, none of the secret words are plural.

S

E

R

U

N

T

I

B

R

O

C

A

T

A

N

V

X

E

I

O

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SECRET WORD:

Last month's scrambled words: NEVER, IRONY, NOTICE, EVENLY, TWINKLE, YARDAGE. Secret Word Last Month: NINETY

Good
Karma
Book
Club

A post-read book
discussion group.

A NOVEL



USA TODAY AND PUBLISHERS WEEKLY BESTSELLER

THE LIFE WE BURY

ALLEN ESKENS

10 am, Thursday, February 19

“The Life We Bury”

By Allen Eskens


10 am, Thursday, March 19

“The Berry Pickers”

By Amanda Peters

All of our meetings take place in the East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room.
For more information, see our web page on the Box Office (otowboxoffice.com).
You can also call Jane at 727-754-3823.

LIBRARY



New Books

“The Invisible Woman” by James Patterson
“Gone Before Goodbye” by Harlan Coben and Reese Witherspoon

Thank you Good Neighbors Association
for funding to buy these books!

Join the OTOW Library for \$5.
Renew your membership so we can buy new books.
Hours: 10-12 Mondays, 1-3 Wednesdays, 10-12 Thursdays



Clearwater area shows and concerts in February

Happy New Year On Top of the World.
For the past two-plus years, I've been providing you all with live concert and theater performance information around Tampa Bay. The time has come for me to move on. With that in mind, I've enjoyed doing the research for concerts and shows, although my time moving forward is more limited than it was before.
In this final article, I leave you with a list of all the venues I have researched with all their web-based contact information.
We've had a good run. Thank you for your support.
`See y'all at future live concerts and theatrical performances "Around the Bay!"
- Mike Wood

Ruth Eckerd Hall

- Feb. 1: A1A Jimmy Buffet Tribute
- Feb. 3-4: Riverdance 30
- Feb. 11: Florida Orchestra "Love and Destiny"
- Feb. 14: Gipsy Kings
- Feb. 16: Sixties Mania
- Feb.19: The Tina Turner Musical
- Feb. 21: Dirty Dancing in Concert
- Feb. 22: Florida Orchestra "Bruchs Violin Concerto No. 1"
- Feb. 24: Neil Berg
- Feb. 26: Steve Hackett
- Feb. 27: Jay Leno
- Feb. 28: Righteous Brothers.

The BayCare Sound at Coachman Park, 301 Drew St, Clearwater

- Feb. 14: Inzo
- Feb. 27: Styx

The Nancy & David Bilheimer Capitol Theater, Cleveland St, Clearwater

- Feb. 1: Los Lonely Boys
- Feb. 4: The Wood Brothers
- Feb. 5: Matthew Morrison
- Feb. 6: Chazz Palminteri The Musical
- Feb. 13: Eagles Tribute
- Feb. 17: The Robert Cray Band
- Feb. 19-20: The Outlaws
- Feb. 21: ELO Experience
- Feb. 22: Amy Grant
- Feb. 23: Big Bad Voodoo Daddy
- Feb. 24: Garrison Kellor with Erica Rhodes
- Feb. 26: Classic Albums Live - Led Zeppelin II
- Feb. 27: Spyro Gyra
- Feb. 28: Tribute to Fleetwood Mac

Francis Wilson Playhouse, 302 Seminole St, Clearwater

- Feb 12-March 1: "How to Succeed"

TheatreFor, 1863 N. Highland Ave, Clearwater

- Feb. 1, 6, 7, 8: "Truth Will Out" (Shakespeare)
- Feb. 13-15: "Love Letters"

Early Bird Dinner Theater, 13355 49th St N, Clearwater

- Feb 1-15: "Where You Are" by Kristen Da Silva
- Feb. 28: "Baggage" by Sam Bobrick

THEATER WORKSHOP

presents



"Welcome to Our Speakeasy"

EAC
Auditorium

Friday March 13
7:30pm
Saturday March 14
7:30pm
Sunday March 15
2:00pm

