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ON TOP OF THE WORLD NEWS



*Happy New Year
from the
entire staff at
OTOW News*

*Happy New Year
to everyone at
On Top of the World
Clearwater*



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022!

January 2022

Published Since 1968

54 Years of Only Good News

Volume 54

No. 1

Live entertainment and club tables will return to auditorium in January

It's been a while since live music took place in the East Activity Center auditorium.

It's been just as long since we've had a live theater show, club information tables, and coffee and donuts.

In January, things will finally change!

On Top of the World management has announced that on Thursday, Jan. 13, club information tables will return to the auditorium and continue each Monday and Thursday, 8:30-10:30 a.m., like pre-pandemic times.

Residents will be able to join clubs, purchase tickets to upcoming events and ask questions. The OTOW Travel Club is especially excited because members will soon be able to display their new club banner (see below).

Starting in February, the Good Neighbors Association "Get Acquainted Coffee" event will return with free coffee and packaged danishes.

The Entertainment Committee will present its first live concert in nearly two years. On Thursday, Jan 20, the George Trullinger Variety Show will be on our stage. Tickets can be purchased in the auditorium on Jan. 13.

The Jesters and Theater Workshop clubs have already started rehearsals for their live shows in February and March, respectively.

For more on the auditorium reopening, please read Nancy Rogers' column, the Entertainment Committee story and other club news inside this newspaper.



Pictured above is a scene many of us took for granted - Good Neighbors Association volunteers serving coffee and donuts at Get Acquainted Coffee events. Look for the event's return in February.

At left is the new Travel Club banner which will make its debut soon in the auditorium. Starting Jan. 13, each club will be permitted to display its banner again in front of their own information table.

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Hydro-Jetting Project begins in January

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

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

This hydro-jetting project is undertaken as a preventative maintenance measure. In January 2022, contracted work will begin an extensive project of hydro-jetting kitchen and bathroom sanitary drain lines and replacing common sanitary cleanouts.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A tentative schedule has been estab-



lished for this project, however, it is dependent upon ease of access into units and will be weather dependent. Should weather or other delays occur, notices will be sent out via an OTOW Alert. Be sure you are signed up to receive alerts prior to project commencement.

Additionally, notices will be posted in each building up to two weeks prior to the scheduled start date.

This information will also be available on the OTOW Community website at: www.otowclearwaterinfo.com under General Information and then selecting the "Hydro Jetting Project" tab.

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

An email address has been established at: clwjettingproject@otowfl.com.

If you have not yet provided keys or contact information for a key holder who will be providing access in your absence, please do so prior to the end of December so that this project starts and stays on schedule.

Your participation and cooperation is appreciated.

Lawn Bowl Court Closure

Recently, a small depression was found in the East Activity Center lawn bowl court that was quickly cordoned off by facilities management personnel as a safety measure.

Geotechnical engineers were called in to perform an initial site evaluation and provide direction to management personnel. After discussing the situation, it was recommended that a small area within the depression be excavated to determine if an old section of groundwater underdrain is at fault. After this work is completed, the engineers will return to the site to inspect the area, obtain boring samples, and perform penetrometer tests to determine subsurface soil conditions and provide a remediation plan as necessary.

Status updates will be posted on the otowclearwaterinfo.com website and at the Activity Centers. Information will also be posted on OTOW-TV channel 732 and sent via OTOW Alerts.

Community Service Office Information

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

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

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

Once the requested service matter is identified, a service order will be gener-

ated and submitted to the appropriate department to address the matter.

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

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

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

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

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

Service Request Line

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

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

After-Hours Number

The OTOW after-hours phone number is 727-799-1115 for matters such as water intrusion into your unit. For all other inquiries regarding general matters or questions that are not service related, you will need to come in person to the Community Service Office.

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

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

OTOW Alerts

Signing up for OTOW-ALERTS (powered by RAVE) is incredibly easy.

Simply go to the community website and from the home page scroll down to the bottom of the page and located the "Sign Up Now" box 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.

Signing up 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 provide advance warning of severe weather events as well as other matters of critical concern to the residents of OTOW Clearwater Condominium Community.

It is not hyperbole to say some warning may save your life!

On Top of the World Condominium Association, Inc.
Hydro Jetting Project
2069 World Parkway Blvd E
Clearwater, FL, 33763

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

OTOW Address _____ Bldg # _____ Unit # _____

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

Your Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Mailing Address (key return): _____

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

Your name: _____ Phone number: _____

Representative name: _____

Representative phone number: _____

Representative address: _____

First half of 2022 is packed full of On

I want to thank everyone who voted and participated in the December 2021 annual meeting.

Unfortunately, 20 percent of the membership's vote in the Board election had not arrived by the time the Annual Meeting started. There was not a quorum. The Board believes that many ballots were still in transit in the United States Post Office system.

As a result, no business could be conducted at the Association level.

To ensure that all residents who wished to vote in the election for the Board have the opportunity to do so and have that vote counted, the Chairman adjourned the meeting and the election was rescheduled until Jan. 5, 2022.

To ensure that all residents have the opportunity to cast their vote, electronic voting was reopened until Jan. 3, 2022.

A quorum of the Board was present so the Board was able to conduct its meeting as advertised.

The Chairman thanked all those in attendance, in person or remotely, and wished them all a very happy holiday season, a merry Christmas and a safe, happy safe New Year.



Chairman

Upcoming Projects

Painting/Waterproofing

January will bring the painting contractor to Buildings 5 and 15 to apply rear façade waterproof coatings.

The application process includes a thorough pressure washing, followed by the sealing of any hairline cracks in the masonry, and then the application of a high-quality paint coating.

As always, please keep in mind that the painting contractor will be operating in close proximity to parking areas and front/rear porches which may require the temporary displacement of vehicles or property. Thank you for your cooperation

in advance and keep in mind that inclement weather can affect start and completion dates.

Construction, Roofing and Large Scope Projects

Building 83 will be the next structure to have its stairwell railings improved with the work kicking off in the month of January, pending permitting approval from the Pinellas County building department and Clearwater Fire.

As with other stairwell specific railing projects, a licensed contractor will affect the complete removal and replacement of the aluminum components in the second and third floor center core and end stairwells.

The improvements are estimated to be complete in 3-4 weeks from the start of the project. Notices will be posted in advance of the start date so residents should keep an eye on their bulletin boards for updates. As with all other improvements, please exercise caution in the areas where this work is taking place.

January and February will also see maintenance crews performing work on the ornamental towers at Building 36. The scope of work involves the removal of masonry elements above the end stairwell towers. This will allow a specialty licensed and insured architectural foam contractor to install lightweight elements in their

place which closely resemble the components which were removed.

Being that this work will be performed from aerial lifts, we are asking all residents to please stay clear of active work zones. This project is anticipated to take 2-3 weeks to compete, once again pending permitting from Pinellas County.

The Management Company maintenance elevator and construction departments will begin their next improvement project in January as well, with Building 89 being on the schedule for elevator equipment upgrades and a total cab remodel beginning on Monday, Jan. 24. The work entails the replacement of the elevator control operating panel and software with a new state of the art unit including new hallway fixtures.

During this upgrade, the construction division will be remodeling the interior of the cab with new wall coverings, handrails, and ceiling components.

Being that both projects are coordinated at the same time, a bevy of activity will be taking place in and around the building's center core area. While every safeguard is taken during this work, we ask that residents utilize the outside stairwells if at all possible when entering or exiting the building.

(Continued on page 5)

Annual Meeting

Adjourned until 10 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2022

East Activity Center Auditorium

There were not enough ballots to have a quorum at the meeting on Dec. 17, 2021, so the meeting was adjourned until January. You may attend in person or Spectrum cable customers may watch the meeting live on OTOW-TV Channel 732.

If you have not voted yet, please use the form that was mailed to you in November 2021.

Drop off your ballot at the East or West Activity Center ballot drop boxes.

Be sure to use the return envelopes that came with the ballot.

If you need a new ballot, or envelopes, see the Community Service Office.

Electronic voting extended to Jan. 3, 2022

Pick up a copy of your OTOW News, November 2021 edition, for electronic voting instructions.

Top of the World community projects

At the conclusion of the work, a State of Florida elevator inspector will be called upon to approve the work and allow the Management Company to return the unit back to operation. Thanks for your cooperation while this two-week project is underway.

Recurring Reminders for all Community Residents

Building walkway repairs will continue as construction crews perform maintenance to the second and third floor walking surfaces.

Many buildings will see these restoration crews as the Management Company focuses its efforts on these types of repairs. This work requires the use of specialized power tools and may cause a temporary inconvenience in the form of noise and dust. Repair crews will do their best to limit the inconvenience during this necessary work. These small repair areas will also be coated as a future preventative. As always, we ask that residents please limit any foot traffic in and around any work area they may encounter.

Inspection Services Division

The Inspection Services team, in conjunction with the Parkway Construction Department, will continue prepping buildings scheduled for new paint coatings in the current improvement cycle. This has been an ongoing endeavor throughout the community over the last few years and encompasses the removal of all association unapproved plant hangar 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.

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 advance cooperation.

Although the majority of clamshell awnings have been removed, there are a few holdouts. Usually the awnings develop compromised connection points to the common element. In response, Inspection Services have been reaching out to affected unit owners to have the awnings removed and limit any further damage to the building.

As noted in prior articles, the “clamshell” awnings do not meet building code for wind resistance and have been marked for elimination by your Board. For condo owners who refuse to comply, the sale or transfer of that unit will be blocked by the

Association until the awning is removed.

Scam Alert

Avoid Being Taken Advantage of

It seems like a day doesn't go by that I don't get a card in my mailbox to the effect of “Urgent that You Contact Me! I'll buy your home.”

My first thought isn't printable. I'd like to believe this sort of scam violates Florida law. The jury is out on that, I suppose.

There's another part of this scam. Perhaps, many of you have seen it. In this one, there's a message on your phone that so and so is in the neighborhood and is looking to buy your home and the condition of it doesn't matter.

If you answer the card, or if you return the phone call, the scammer knows you are interested. You become the “mark” and then they will prey.

So what is going on?

If you received either of these scams, and that's what they are, you have possibly been contacted by someone who either wants personal information and who wants to buy your home cheaply and flip it for a large profit. They make it sound like its quick and easy money by offering cash for a quick sale of your home or condo.

“Cool” you may think, but hold on a minute. A sales price isn't mentioned. How do you know what your home is really worth?

The prospect of easy money, fast and probably without a commission, may be enticing, but how do you know if this is a real deal or just another scam to obtain private and personal information from you—which, by the way, is what it is.

For that matter, how do you know what your home is really worth on a true real estate market?

How would you feel if you left \$20,000 to \$40,000 in real value on the table?

This unfortunately happens often. It is common that homeowners, often seniors, find themselves enticed into selling their homes for below a fair market value. Scammers are not stupid. They know that our seniors have the money and are often easy prey.

According to the Florida Attorney General's office, retirement communities are targets for these predatory home-buying practices for many reasons. We may become frail from illness and need to move to a care facility. Maybe you've lost a spouse and can't bear to be in the home you shared together. Maybe medical debt is a burden and you see no other way than get living expenses before going on to lord knows what.

Oftentimes, these “fast money buyers” employ deceptive or high-pressure tactics to cheat an owner out of their home or to obtain personal and private information.

I recently read a story of a woman in a downtown Atlanta neighborhood who refused to sell, despite repeated offers. The aggregator reported her to the city for code violations. Finally, after being dunned by multiple warnings from city code enforcement, and lacking the funding to make the necessary repairs, the woman relented and sold for a below-market price. The home shortly thereafter was sold for multiples of

what she was paid. Flipping is the term for this practice, and this is the goal to begin with: fast money.

It takes some patience and restraint, but your real estate may be your most valuable asset. Know its value.

Of course, the most reliable way to value your home and also to sell it is to work with a reputable real estate brokerage firm and establish an estimate of market value based on recent sales of comparable properties.

This is fast and most brokers will do it as a courtesy.

Of course, you may be asked to sign a listing contract for the sale of your property. But that's fair if you are serious about wanting to sell. And if you are not serious, why would you ever be talking to these scammers.

Finally, a broker moderated sale may take a little longer (not by much in this market!), but you can be comfortable that you are not leaving value on the table.

If you get a mailer, ignore it. If someone leaves a phone message to the effect that he or she is in the neighborhood and wants to buy your home, do not respond. Scammers are all over us these days. Be careful, be alert and don't be afraid to ignore these calls and letters.

Personal Insurance on Your Condo and Contents

Fire events or water damage are cautionary reminders for each resident to check in with their insurance agent and make sure the insurance coverage on their 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 insure 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 damages 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 dam-

age 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 “Community” and download the pdf document entitled “Insurance Responsibility of the Individual Unit Owner.”

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

In a recent event involving a kitchen fire, having and using an operable fire extinguisher may have greatly limited the damage.

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 Association will seek reimbursement from the unit owner for its repair work in every instance.

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 and 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.



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Celebrating 50+ Years ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

Live entertainment resumes Jan. 20

Buy your tickets starting Jan. 13

By Mary Ann O'Neil

Here we go!

Let's start off 2022 by stopping by the East Activity Center to purchase your show and dance tickets for our upcoming events. Don't miss out on great entertainment right in your own backyard!

Information and ticket tables resume in the East Activity Center auditorium starting Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022.

Dance and stage show tickets are reasonable and at a fraction of the cost charged elsewhere for the same entertainment.

Shows are \$20 and dances are \$10.

Our shows and dances are reserved table seating - BYOB. So, get your friends together and come out for an evening of fun!

Our first show of 2022 will be on

Thursday, Jan. 20, featuring The George Trullinger Variety Show.

If you remember The Ed Sullivan Show, you will not want to miss this performance. George performed for us several years ago, and if you missed his show, you missed an evening of fun.

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

The Southshore Cruiser Band will entertain us on Saturday, Jan. 22. This will be a fun evening of '50s, '60s and some '70s music.

Feb. 17 will bring a Tribute to Neil Diamond. The only way to "Experience the feel of Neil!" Branson's own Keith Allyn pays tribute to Neil Diamond with

mesmerizing looks, sound and style!

For those season ticket holders, the deadline for renewing your tickets is Jan. 31. This is an opportunity to keep your seats that you have had in the past. After that date your seat will not be reserved.

For those of you who are interested in purchasing season tickets, you will have the opportunity to do so starting Feb. 3.

Ticket sales for shows and dances will be Monday and Thursday mornings from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at the EAC. Be sure to stop by and purchase your tickets.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions enacted by OTOW Management, the Entertainment Committee was unable to have a board of director's election with the general population. Thus, the election was held under these special circumstances.

The 2022 Entertainment Committee Executive Board is as follows:

President Karen Safee, Vice President Charley Wood, Treasurer Tim Beaver, Assistant Treasurer Marian Leamy, Secretary Sherry Ivey, Assistant Secretary Lu Greenhalgh, and Directors Kirk Safee, Susan Carlson, Connie McDonald, Mary Ann O'Neil and Mick Wood.

I would like to thank everyone for all the support you have given me the past three years as your president. It has been an experience and I must say I have enjoyed every minute working with all the volunteers who help keep the Entertainment Committee going so that we can bring enjoyment to our community.

Let's keep this party going throughout 2022!



**George
Trullinger
Variety
Show
Jan. 20**

New Year's Eve on OTOW-TV 732



**Dwight Icenhower
"Elvis"
in concert.
Taped in 2020
at OTOW.**

Stay home.
Stay safe.
Next year our
New Year's Eve Ball
will return.

**Starting at 7 pm
and will repeat
past midnight.**

- Your Entertainment Committee



**Birth
Day
Wishes!**

**Cheer
UP**

New at the Good Karma Café

**Come check out our
Greeting Card rack!**

OTOW
News



Pet
of the
Month



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GREG

Greg has been waiting four years to be named an On Top of the World Pet of the Month. Finally! Betsy and Brian Perry moved to OTOW in 2016 with two cats, Greg and Harmon. All four still reside in our community today. Both are indoor cats and love condo living. In fact, they just recently returned to OTOW for the winter season. Greg is 6 years old and is very friendly. He always comes to great visitors whether they are people he knows or not. He also loves being with us and being warm. Greg's cat bed had to be moved next to the computer because he had a bad habit of sleeping on the keyboard - even if someone was trying to type!. If you are on the 14th tee, you may see Greg. He watches from the window at French Renaissance II. Your shots on that hole are always being critiqued.

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



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

\$95
Cat/Kitten Package
Includes complete physical exam, fecal exam and any 2 vaccines from the following list: rabies (1 year), FVRCP, leukemia.
Add FeLV/FIV test for only \$35 more.
Substitute 3-year rabies for only \$10 more.
Must present coupon. Call for details.



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- Linda T. OTOW resident

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2535 Landmark Drive, Suite 213
Clearwater, FL 33761

OTOW Community Activities Calendar - January 2022

East Activity Center

CRYSTAL BEACH ROOM

Entertainment Committee Board: Thursday Jan. 6, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Good Karma Book Club: Thursday, Jan. 20, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Good Neighbors Knitting Group: Wednesdays, 9:00 - 11:00 am
 Coloring Book Group: Wednesdays, 12:00 - 3:00 pm
 Pray for America: Saturdays, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Philosophy Club: Tuesdays, 10:00 am - 11:30 am
 Jesters Board Meeting: Thursday, Jan. 13, 3:00 - 5:00 pm
 Entertainment Committee Volunteers Meeting: Saturday, Jan. 15, 3-5 pm

LARGO ROOM

Baby Boomers Meetings: Thursday, Jan. 20, 5:30 - 6:30 pm
 Bonesavers: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 8:00 - 9:00 am
 World Quilters: Tuesdays, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
 TOPS: Thursdays, 9:30-11:00 am
 Acrylics Class: Thursdays, 1:00 - 3:00 pm
 Art Guild Board Meeting: Thursday, Jan. 6, 1:00 - 3:00 pm
 Art Guild Meeting: Friday, Jan. 14, 1:00 - 3:00 pm
 Art Guild Pastels Class: Fridays, 10 am - 12 pm
 Art Guild: Painting Pals: Wednesdays, 1:00 - 3:00 pm
 Art Guild: Acrylics, Thursdays, 1:00 - 3:00 pm
 Irish Club Parade Meeting: Jan 28, 3:00 - 4:00 PM

CLEARWATER ROOM/KITCHEN

Democratic Club Meeting: Thursday, Jan. 13, 2:00 - 3:30 pm
 Metaphysical Meeting: Thursday, Jan. 13, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
 Ceramics: Thursdays, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
 Caring & Sharing: Tuesdays, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Lawn Bowl Luncheon: Friday, Jan. 21, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm (rain)

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

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

EAST ACTIVITY CENTER SWIMMING POOL

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

EAST ACTIVITY CENTER FITNESS CENTER

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

AUDITORIUM

OTOW Annual Meeting: Wednesday, January 5, 2022, 10 am
 Club Tables (Ticket Sales) Begin Thursday, Jan. 13. Then Mondays, Thursdays 8:30-10:30 am
 New York/New Jersey Club: Southwest Dance, Thursday, Jan. 12, 5:00 - 10:00 pm
 Lawn Bowls Dinner Dance: Wednesday, Jan. 26, 5:00 - 9:00 pm
 Entertainment Committee Show: Thursday, Jan. 20, 7:30 - 10:00 pm
 Entertainment Committee Dance: Saturday, Jan. 22, 7:30 - 11:00 pm
 Irish Club Show: Thursday, Jan. 27, 7:00 - 10:00 pm
 Line Dance Club: Tuesdays, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Saturdays, 8:30 - 10:30 am
 Moving and Grooving Easy Level: Tuesdays, 9:00 - 10:00 am, Fridays, 1:00 - 2:00 pm
 Moving and Grooving Levels 2 & 3: Tuesdays, 10:00 - 11:30 am, Fridays 2:00-3:30 pm
 Cardio Dance: Saturdays, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Snowbirds Club Line Dancing: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm, Wednesdays (No class Jan. 5)
 Press Association: Thursday, Jan. 6, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

OZONA ROOM

Republican Club Board Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 4, 1:00 - 2:00 pm
 Cribbage: Wednesdays (starting Jan. 12) 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Beginner Duplicate Bridge: Thursdays (Beginning Jan. 13) 9:00 - 11:00 am
 Contract Bridge (starts Jan. 13) 1:00 - 4:00 pm
 Italian Class (starts Jan. 14) 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

SAFETY HARBOR ROOM

Alonzo's Poker: Mondays (Starting Jan. 17) 5:00 - 8:00 pm
 Mexican Train: Tuesdays (Starting Jan. 11) 1:00 - 5:00 pm
 Bob's Poker: Tuesdays (Starting Jan. 11) 6:00 - 9:30 pm
 Tom's Poker: Wednesdays (Starting Jan. 12) 5:00 - 9:00 pm
 Carol's Poker: Wednesdays and Fridays (Starting Jan. 12) 6:00 - 9:00 pm

DUNEDIN ROOM

Duplicate Bridge: Wednesdays and Saturdays (Starting Jan. 12) 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
 Italian Class: Thursdays (starts Jan. 14) 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

EXERCISE ROOM

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

West Activity Center

BELLEAIR ROOM

Jesters Membership Meeting: Wednesday, Jan. 12, 6:30-9:30 pm
 Zumba: Tuesdays and Fridays 9:00 am - 10:00 am
 Zumba Gold: Saturdays 10:00 am - 11:00 am
 Zumba Gold Chair: Thursdays 9:00 am - 9:45 am
 Tai Chi Chair: Mondays, Wednesdays, 9:00 am - 9:45 am
 Ping Pong: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
 Baby Boomers Acoustic Jam: Thursdays 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
 Hatha Yoga w/Marilyn: Mondays, 10:00 - 11:15 am
 Valencia Building Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 18, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
 Republican Club Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 11, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
 Social Dance Class: Thursdays (Starting Jan. 13) 1:00 - 3:00 pm
 Canadian Club Blackout: Thursdays (Starting Jan. 13) 6:30-9:30
 Ping Pong Holiday Party: Friday, Jan. 14, 1:00 - 4:00
 Bohemia Building: Friday, Jan. 21, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
 Computer Club: Saturdays, 8:30 - 10 am (starting Jan. 15)

LEARNING LAB

Computer Club: Wednesdays, 8:30 - 10:30 am (starting Jan. 12)
 Jerry Colen Presents: Wed, Jan. 26, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
 Property Appraiser: Tuesday, Jan. 18, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

BILLIARDS ROOM

9-Ball Tournaments: Tuesdays, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Pavilion

Tennis Business Meeting: Monday, Jan. 3, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
 Lambda Social: Monday, Jan. 10, 6:00 - 10:00 pm
 Canadian Club Ticket Sales: Tuesday, Jan. 11, 4:00 - 6:00 pm
 Blackout: Thursday, Jan. 6, 1:00 - 4:00 pm
 Irish Club Parade Meeting: Friday, Jan. 7, 3:00 - 4:00 pm
 Texas Card Game Tournament: Friday, Jan. 14, 5:00 - 10:00 pm
 Lawn Bowls Luncheon: Friday, Jan. 21, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
 Entertainment Committee Volunteers Lunch: Sat, Jan. 15, 3-5
 Baby Boomers Meeting: Wednesday, Jan. 5, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Ticket Sales will remain outdoors through
 Monday Jan. 11, 9:00 - 11:00 am
 Italian-American Club, New York-New Jersey Club,
 Irish Club, Jesters Club

Ticket Sales move indoors Jan. 13.

FOOD TRUCK DAY
January 19, 3:00 - 7:00 pm
EAC PARKING LOT

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

Outdoor Sports

Pickleball: Tuesdays & Thursdays 4-7, Sundays, 9-12
 Tennis Club: Meets Mon-Sat 7:30-11:00 am
 Tennis Courts Open to all Residents
 7 am - 10 pm weekdays, 9 am-9 pm weekends
 Billiards Room is open for non-league play
 Shuffleboard Club: Mon, Wed, Fri 3:30-5:30
 Shuffleboard Open Hours: 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

Both golf courses open

Lawn Bowl Courts (check daily to see if open)





Holiday spirit arrived at December Food Truck Night

Not only were two food trucks added to On Top of the World's new Food Truck Night, but there was a holiday flare as well.

The Baby Boomers Club played holiday music with their ukeleles and sang along, too. Santa and Mrs. Claus

paid a visit and went table to table greeting some of the guests.

The Best Thai Food and Cassablanca Fusion were newcomers to the event. Corvo Bianco Wood-Fired Cookery, Sea Dog Cantina, The Bar-B-Q Queen and Tikiz Ice

Cream were back for a second consecutive month.

This time around, there were more vendors, shorter lines and more tables available in the parking lot for guests to eat. Food Truck Night continues in January. See the ad below for details.



Food Truck Night - January

Wednesday, January 19, 3 - 7 p.m., EAC North Parking Lot



New in January

Tasty Filipino Food Truck
and Got Lobstah Food Truck

Thurston's Catering (Hot Dogs & Funnel Cakes)

Returning

Corvo Bianco Food Truck (Italian)
BBQ Queen Food Truck and (Barbeque)
Sea Dog Cantina Food Truck (Mexican)
Cassablanca Fusion (Moroccan)

Lobster Dishes
Lobster Rolls
Rice Bowl
New Pasta Dishes
BBQ Ribs
Turkey Legs
Pulled Pork

Tacos
Burritos
Hot Dogs
Funnel Cakes
and more ...



OTOW will set up tables for seating. All we ask is you open up your table for other guests when you are finished eating.

ON TOP OF THE WORLD NEWS

Only Good News for 52 Years - Published Since 1968

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

Press Association Officers

Yvonne Courtney, President,

Edwina Schick, Vice President

Rose Pietrogallo, Secretary

Newsroom Hours: 9:30-6 Mon-Thur, 9-2 Fridays

Phone: (727) 799-3216

Next Delivery Date

January newspapers will be delivered on December 30.

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

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

ON TOP OF THE WORLD NEWS ADVERTISING POLICY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Press Association Volunteers This Month:

Lyn Taecker

Karen Sutton

Donna Lucas

Kathleen Santosuasso

Around The World in this Newspaper Edition

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		45	Mandalay			

Fitness Center

Clearwater Room

Kitchen

Good Karma Café

Tiny Shop

Men's Locker Room

Pool

Dunedin Room

Ozona Room

Safety Harbor Room

Library

Women's Locker Room

Exercise Room

East Activity Center Ground Floor

East Activity Center First Floor

East Activity Center Second Floor

West Activity Center

East and West Activity Centers Room Maps

EAC Pavilion Park Grill Map

Tennis Pavilion

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

Certified copies of deeds are free - do not pay for one

Scam Alert.

I recently wrote an article for the On Top of the World press in which I discussed a scam where persons who've closed on a new purchase soon receive a letter saying they need to have a certified copy of the deed to their recently closed property.

In many of the letters I've seen that are like this, there is no mention of a certified copy of the deed—just a plain copy.

In one of these letters, the charge was \$89.

That's money you never need to spend because you never need a copy of your deed.

Why?

Because it's recorded in the public records and you can download it for free.

Of course, if you have a copy that you got from the title company that handled the closing, you can make a copy of it, also for free.

And while I'm at it, let me keep going on scams.

1. That cute sounding Susie, who wants to talk to you about your warranty, whatever it is, is trying to scam you. She doesn't know what warranties you have. That's why her phone message doesn't mention it by name. She's a scammer. Hang up or don't answer and don't call back!

2. That letter, or other message, from a roofing company with the fabulous testimonials, that just happens to be in the neighborhood and wants to climb up on



your roof for free and give you a free estimate, is probably a scam. Wanna bet that the "free estimate" will inform you of a gazillion things that must be fixed and it won't cost you a bit because you will just be told to sign an assignment of benefits from your insurance company?

Just say no!

3. That guy who, without any notice, knocks on your door and says he just "did your neighbors windows" and will give you a free estimate. He probably never met your neighbor. If he or she makes an unsolicited knock on your door with an offer of a free whatever, he/she will be a scammer. Send her or him on their way.

4. That letter you received giving you a great opportunity to have some company pay your utility bills for you, is probably a scam. Do not sign that form. Contact your utility company directly and ask them about it. You will find out the company

charges you a fee to use your money to pay your bill. Bummer. Don't respond.

5. That guy with the stern voice who says, "Don't hang up this is not a scam!" is a scammer. Hang up. If he leaves a message and says you are about to go to jail, then check to make sure your wife hasn't already put your clothes on the curb with a note to your jailer where to find you. (Well, my wife said she did think about it.)

Q. I've been widowed for 20 years. I am now age 68. I've been seeing a widower, age 90, but he acts much younger. He's a joy.

We want to start travelling again. We can live together but for personal reasons we want to be married. He told me, "All I want from you is whatever time we have."

He said he will sign whatever pre-nup agreement I want. His children love it and seem to really like me. In my presence they told him they don't care what he does as long as he's happy.

My daughter feels "so-so." My sons don't wish to be involved. My granddaughter, who is in law school, says it's against the law for us to get married because of his age and because of our age difference. Help!

A. Your granddaughter should drop out of law school, probably get into sales. She is wrong. I strongly suggest you and your friend have a prenuptial agreement. Then marry this fellow, who obviously thinks young, acts young, IS young. What else can you ask?

Q. We love your column. We've been reluctant to ask you this, but here goes: Are you going to retire from your law practice?

A. I have no plans to retire. Like the fellow in the question, above, I think young. So, I want to keep doing the things I love, one of which is practicing law. And anyway, my wife has informed me over and over that she married me "for better or worse, but NOT for lunch."

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

Do you remember the old Showboat theatre

Not too long ago, Florida had dinner theaters all over the state that served good food and provided great entertainment.

Probably the most popular one was the Showboat Dinner Theatre - a boat that was actually "docked" on dry land on Ulmerton Road in Clearwater. It served good food and brought in the best Broadway productions with the original casts.

The property was owned by the Clearwater airport. Jim Howes, a long time friend of mine, told me the hardest thing he had to do as a manager of the airport was to auction off the boat. Younger generations were not interested in good food and top entertainment with

top Broadway stars.

The only such dinner theatre that survived, to my knowledge, is in Hudson, Fla., currently operating under a new name.

Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year. Generations of families get together to enjoy a great meal. It may only happen once or twice a year that entire families are together.

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas yourselves.

Now we turn our attention to the new year. It is that time of year when we pause and give thanks for the liberties and free-

doms we still enjoy. We are living in the best country on this planet.

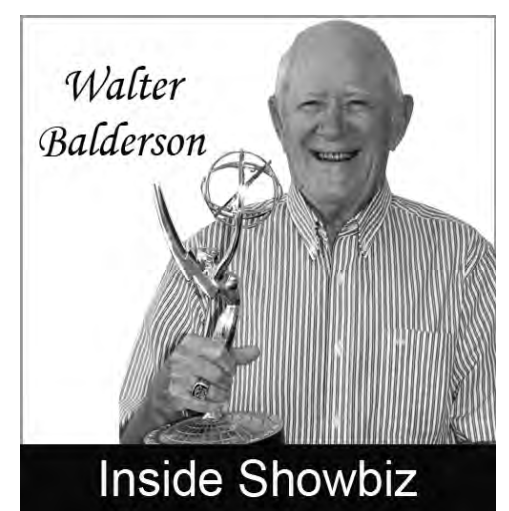
Life isn't easy, but it doesn't get any better anywhere else.

I hope you enjoyed watching your grandkids open presents and I hope you gave thanks you were able to do so.

As we close the door on 2021 be thankful for your blessings. This is a time to rejoice. I wish to thank all of you who have contacted me offering suggestions and telling me how much you have enjoyed my columns over the years.

In return, I wish you all a Happy New Year 2022.

May the best be yet to come.



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Coyote advisory for our community

Reports indicate coyotes may be back in our community.

Please remember these four simple safety tips:

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

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

Get Acquainted Coffee set for Feb. 10

Club information tables resume in auditorium starting Jan. 13

Happy New Year!

Club Ticket Sales & Recruiting Resume!

I am pleased to announce that club information tables will return to the auditorium on Mondays and Thursdays commencing Thursday, Jan. 13, from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. to recruit members and sell tickets to their various events.

For new residents, this is a great opportunity to join a club, buy a ticket to an event and meet your neighbors.

More good news!

On Feb. 10, our monthly Good Neighbors Association “Get Acquainted Coffee” event will resume. This event is held on the second Thursday of the month in the auditorium from 8:30 to 11 a.m.

As usual on a Thursday, clubs will be on hand to recruit new members and sell tickets, but our focus on this day centers on welcoming new residents to the community.

Our Good Neighbors Association will serve coffee and pre-packaged danishes from the Good Karma Outpost located in the auditorium.

New residents are invited to come up to the front of the stage to introduce themselves. You can have your picture taken and published in the community newspaper.

You can learn about upcoming events and have an opportunity to join a club. A few community announcements follow and then the highlight of the morning will be live entertainment.

I look forward to meeting you on Thursday, Feb. 10.

Food Truck Night - January

Come join the fun at the next OTOW Food Truck night on Wednesday, Jan. 19, from 3 to 7 p.m.

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

It all happens at the East Activity Center north parking lot near our beautiful pavilion area!

The reviews are in and our food truck event in December was even better than our debut in November.

SCA changed the set up and the entire operation ran so much smoother.

As per your wishes, we have added more tables and chairs. Vendors also implemented changes to their operations and menus.

Note: Tables and chairs have been set up for dining. Please be a good neighbor and ensure everyone has an opportunity to sit at a table to enjoy their meal.

What is new for our next Food Truck Night on Jan. 19?

Got Lobstah will be here serving an amazing variety of lobster dishes and



lobster rolls. Got Lobstah's menu for our event will be posted on Nancy's Bulletin Board one week prior to the event. Please check there for more details.

Flip n Tasty Filipino Food Truck also comes highly recommended with a very extensive menu. Check out the menu on Nancy's Bulletin Board at our website: www.otowclearwaterinfo.com.

Corvo Bianco will be back, but with an entirely new menu of pasta dishes. Dena, the proprietor explained, “It will be similar to those pasta bars you find at a resort.”

The BBQ Queen, Sea Dog Cantina and Casablanca Fusion will return with their popular menu items.

See more details at Nancy's Bulletin Board located at the OTOW website www.otowclearwaterinfo.com.

Property Appraiser Outreach Event

Are you taking advantage of all the potential property tax exemptions for which you may qualify?

Not sure what they are or if you are eligible?

Informative and friendly representatives from the Pinellas County Property Appraiser's Office will be here to answer your questions and help you apply for any exemptions you may qualify for, including homestead, widow/widower, senior, disability and veterans to name a few.

The event will take place in the West Activity Center Learning Lab on Tuesday, Jan. 18 from 9 a.m. to noon.

The Property Appraiser staff will be set up with their laptop computers to assist you with applying for property tax exemptions and answer any of your questions.

Documents to bring with you:

- Florida Automobile Registration and Driver's License
- Pinellas County Voter Registration and Driver's License
- A death certificate or obituary notice for widow/widower exemption
- Social Security numbers for all applicants and spouses

Master The Possibilities

Florida Law for Florida Residents and Those Intending to be Florida Residents

Learn about the “ins” and “outs” of Florida Law for residents in this popular presentation with attorneys Rachel Waggoner and Jerry Colen.

This course will be our first in-person MTP course in two years and it will take place at the West Activity Center Learning Lab on Wednesday, Jan. 26, from 11 a.m. to noon.

Seating is limited. The fee for the course is \$2.

To register email general_activity@otowfl.com or call (727) 799-2734. Give you name, class title(s), street address, unit number, phone number and email address.

See additional online MTP class options for January on page:

One Blood

The Big Red Bus will be here at the East Activity Center North Parking Lot (near Lawn Bowls) on Thursday, Jan. 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please note, this is the correct date.

Residents can register at Nancy's Bulletin Board on the website, in the Community Service Office or just show up that day. See more details at Nancy's Bulletin Board (otowclearwaterinfo.com).

Helping Hands Temporarily Suspended

Unfortunately, Helping Hands Food Pantry must temporarily cancel OTOW as a distribution site January through March 2022.

However, it's not all bad news folks.

Henry Moses, the coordinator for the pantry, would like to welcome all OTOW residents in need to receive food on a weekly basis (up to four times per month!) at the nearby Countryside Christian Church, 1850 N. McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater, location. This drive-thru pantry takes place on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 a.m. to noon. Please do not arrive before 10:30 a.m.

He said Helping Hands would also like to encourage residents to help their neighbors who are unable to pick up food on their own and even receive food for multiple OTOW households.

Residents need only bring either their neighbor's updated OTOW Activity Card or government issued I.D. card.

I will let you know in this newspaper column whether the pantry will resume at the East Activity Center North Parking area in April.

Important Message to Clubs Representatives

Please email or call me if you intend to resume your previous recurring activity.

I will note your start date on the calendar and direct you to complete the necessary paperwork.

The online Facility Request Form is the easiest to complete and I will need it to lock in your reservation through March. I prefer that you utilize this form because I receive it typed and legible.

If you have not been to the website www.otowclearwaterinfo.com to complete one, please email me at general_activity@otowfl.com and I will provide you written instructions.

Upon submission, I will receive the form both typed and legible and this brings us one-step closer to some efficiency with this reservation process.

If you do not utilize a computer or smart phone, or would prefer to complete the paper Facility Request Form, I will need to receive it accurate and legible.

The forms are available in the Community Service Office. Please pick one up and complete it in the comfort of your home. Or, let me suggest you buy a cup of coffee and complete the form at the Good Karma Café or at an available table in the Kitchen area behind the Good Karma Café.

Drop off your completed Facility Request Form in the Community Service Office. I check that mailbox several times a day and will confirm receipt in an email or phone call.

After hours, you can drop off your completed forms and checks in the secure mail slot located at the front of the East Activity Center.

Finally, yet importantly, I want you to know that if I had the time to sit with each of you as you complete your forms, I, happily, would. However, it's simply not possible with the number of duties I must carry out.

Of course, if you have questions that will take more time than an email or phone call, we can certainly schedule a meeting.

Activity Card Renewal

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

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

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

As a reminder, you must bring your valid activity card with you when using SCA facilities and be prepared to show it upon staff request. Any noncompliance matters will be directed to the On Top of the World Association.

January
2022

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This course is a collection of recorded classes from MTP instructor Frank DiPiero. Frank's lectures cover the Middle East, China and the United States, the Asia-Pacific Rim, Iran, Russia, and more. Each bundle includes at least 5 complete courses!

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Course Fee: \$7

Florida Law for Florida Residents and Those Intending to be Florida Residents

Learn about the "ins and outs" of Florida law for residents in this popular presentation with attorneys Rachel Wagoner and Jerry Colen.

This course will be held at the West Activity Center.

Seating is limited!

Wednesday, January 26, 2022, 11 am - 1 pm, West Activity Center Learning Lab - Course Free \$2

Register Today!

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

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

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



Mongo



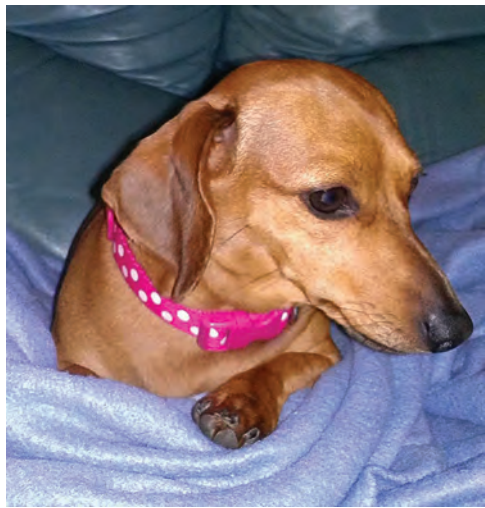
Trey



Jen & Ruby



Kiki



Haley

Pet of the Year Voting

Anyone in the world is allowed to help choose On Top of the World's Pet of the Year for 2021.

Please visit the Box Office (otowboxoffice.com) between Jan. 6-9 and look for the poster announcing the contest. Click to enter the voting booth.

The 12 candidates are pictured on this page. All 12 were selected as Pet of the Month winners for 2021. Now, you will choose the Pet of the Year from this list.

When you visit the voting booth, you will be allowed to vote for your two favorite candidates.

The pet with the most votes will be crowned the winner and will receive a gift basket from Woof Gang Bakery. Plus, the winner will be invited to march in the Irish Club Parade on Saturday, March 5.

Anyone in the world is allowed to vote, but you can only enter the voting booth one time per computer router. This year cell phone voting is allowed.

Results will appear in the February newspaper.

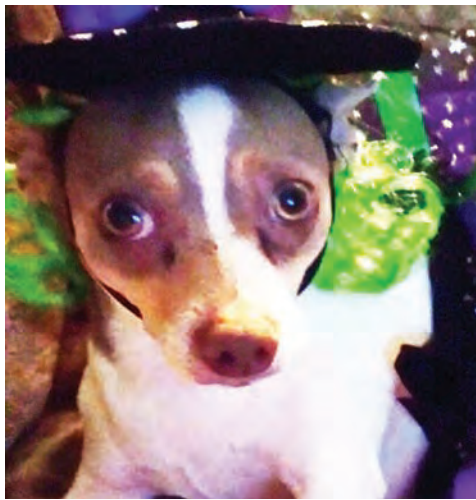
otowboxoffice.com



Peanut & Elmo



Kingston



Nancy



Buddy



Daisy & Abby



Mya



Simon

ACTIVITY REPORTS



Irish Club needs your support! Please attend parade meetings and purchase tickets for Irish shows



Irish Club

By Barbara Rice

Something old. Something new.

This is what you will see in the 26th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade scheduled to step off on Saturday morning, March 5, 2022, at 10 a.m.

The On Top of the World Irish Club's parade committee has been busy inviting and scouting parade participants.

Clubs, bands, adorable dogs and their masters, a mermaid, antique car drivers, and other favorites have said, yes, we will be there.

And, there will be new faces.

Plans are still in motion for the March celebration. There is time to join the lineup. Parade coordinators, Jim Bjorgo and Tom O'Riordan are calling for clubs, convertibles and clowns.

If your OTOW club has not marched in the parade before, this just may be the year to showcase your members on the parade route.

Convertibles are needed to transport special guests. Do you have an open-roof vehicle you would volunteer to drive in the parade?

A parade without clowns? The clowns who made us giggle in the past are no longer a group. There are plenty of fun



In order to bring bright, happy Irish smiles on March 5, the Irish Club will need community support in January and February. The Irish Club is sponsoring entertainers prior to the parade and ticket sales will help pay for the parade. Read this story and support the Irish Club events.

people who live in OTOW who could undoubtedly clown down the parade route. The committee is looking for funny volunteers to don big shoes and red noses to be clowns in the parade. Don't be shy.

Residents in each building are invited to design a parade entry. Put your heads together and create an entry.

Phone Jim at 727-725-4048 or Tom at 845-664-0504 to volunteer or ask questions.

The coordinators have set the following parade planning meetings and ask representatives from clubs and other local entries to attend. The first meeting will be on Jan. 7 in the picnic pavilion at 3 p.m. The next meetings will be inside the East

Activity Center Largo Room on Jan. 28, Feb. 11, and March 4. All those meetings begin at 3 p.m.

On Dec. 12, busy Irish Club members took a well deserved break and enjoyed a festive holiday brunch at the Dunedin Golf Club.

The Irish Club is sponsoring upcoming entertainment at the EAC. Funds from ticket sales will be used to finance the parade.

Laughs begin at 7 p.m. on Jan. 27 when comedian George Casey takes the stage. Tickets are \$15 for members and \$17 for non-members.

The Byrnes Brothers will bring lively music and dance from Ireland to the EAC

on Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for members and \$17 for nonmembers.

The St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance will be on March 3 at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$25 each.

Irish Club yearly dues are being collected. Dues are \$5.

Tickets and dues are sold at the East Activity Center Pavilion on Monday and Thursday mornings from 9 – 11 a.m. until we move indoors.

President Barbara Lenzi encourages all members to attend an important Irish Club business meeting on Jan. 10 at 1 p.m. The meeting will be in the pavilion.

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Sales begin Jan. 10.

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**Clean out your closets
Have an estate sale
\$6 lunches**

**You are not allowed a garage sale at
OTOW, so bring your stuff to our
flea market and earn extra money!**

**January 15, February 19, March 12, April 16
9 am - 1:30 pm at The Salvation Army**

Call (727) 725-9777 to rent a space (\$35)

Holiday party took advantage of the pavilion



By Mary Jane Lofton

Everybody loves to party. Ronald Reagan Republicans are no exception.

Our annual Christmas party was well attended with members all decked out in festive attire, including antlers for everyone.

Such a bunch of "Deer Republicans!"

Our outstanding music team, as always, did not let us down. Jesse Tiamson is the greatest master of ceremony for karaoke. Fernando Mariz played his guitar and Teri Klingler lead some sing-alongs.

Ann Brown and her reindeer friends supplied an endless series of holiday puns that kept everyone laughing.

We discovered many talented members among us.

Many members made nice comments about the pavilion. The outdoor kitchen had more than ample space and plug-ins kept food warm. Clean up was a breeze.

Kudos go out to the On Top of the



Members of the Ronald Reagan Republican Club traded in their elephant ears for reindeer ears for this group photo in December. This was the club's holiday party and members brought non-perishable items which were donated to the Helping Hands Food Bank.

(OTOW News photo by Jesse Tiamson)

World management team.

We welcome the New Year 2022!

We look forward to adding new members and having informative speakers. We have lots of new things planned for our club. Membership dues are due in January and are \$10. See our treasurer Mary Jane Lofton at the registration table.

We invite you to come to our next meeting. It will be Jan. 11 in the West Activity Center Belleair Room. Registration and socializing will be at 6 p.m. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Our speaker will be Christine Quinn, candidate for Congressional District 13, running for the seat being vacated by Charlie Crist.

She is a small business owner. She will be speaking on how federal government regulations are suffocating small businesses in America. Her primary focus is on the prosperity of America and ensuring our Constitution is not infringed upon!

We look forward to seeing you.

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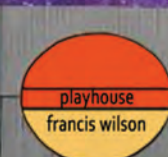
January 13 - January 23

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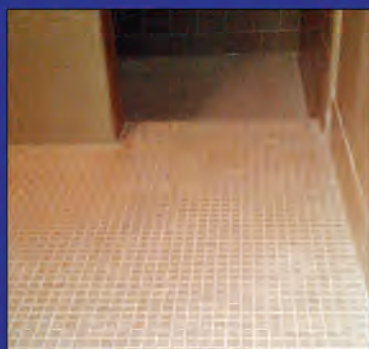
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Jesters tickets go on sale in auditorium starting Jan. 13

By Evelyn Flam

The Jesters are well into rehearsals for their Feb. 11, 12 and 13 musical variety show, "On Broadway ... The Music of Stephen Sondheim and Carole King."

If you haven't already bought tickets from a Jester, stop by the East Activity Center auditorium on a Monday or Thursday morning to buy tickets for you and your friends. They are still only \$5 a ticket and ticket sales will begin again on Jan. 13 in the auditorium.

For those of you who originally asked who Stephen Sondheim was, by now know because he passed away late last year. He was among the most important figures in 20th-century musical theater. He'd been highly praised for having "rein-

vented the American musical" with shows that tackled "unexpected themes." He blended music and lyrics that were complex and sophisticated in shows like "West Side Story" in 1957 and "Gypsy" in 1959.

Stephen went on to win eight Tony Awards, an Academy Award, eight Grammy Awards, a Pulitzer Prize, a 2015 Presidential Medal of Freedom, and had a theater named for him both on Broadway and the West End of London.

One review about Carole King's music stated she presented "a joyous celebration that cleverly threads together a memorable catalog of early rock hits such as 'Take Good Care of My Baby.'"

Taylor Swift, in her intro of Carole into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, called her

"the greatest songwriter of all time." Not all would agree, but they definitely would agree that she is one of the best.

If you would like to join the Jesters let us know. You can find out more by attending our Jan. 10 meeting at the West Activity Center at 7:30 p.m., by contacting me at 727-797-1761, or by calling our Membership Chair Lillian Foy at 609-489-1400.

I again leave you with another example of some "bad pun humor:"

"I asked my date to meet me at the gym today. He didn't show up. That's when I knew we weren't gonna work out."

The Jesters wish you a happy and healthy new year and look forward to hearing from you so we can get together - "Jest for Fun!"



Jesters

Club meetings can inspire you to write something dear

By Lori Gottshall

Holidays are usually a welcome interruption from normal routines. This year, of course, is different.

The Writer's Ink Club was just getting back into the swing of regular weekly meetings and then . . . hiatus for the season. While each meeting was attended by only a few members, nevertheless they did happen.

I am so looking forward to January, the return of Snowbirds and more attendees at our meetings.

I always go to our meetings with a sense of anticipation. What delightful morsels will our members share this week? Will we be laughing or crying? Will there be a fun-filled travelogue? Where will it take us? Will someone amuse us with a whimsical poem? Or will we be challenged by a startling point of view?

And, also, with some trepidation - will they like what I wrote? Will it make any sense to anyone besides myself?

Some topics from the past always seem to resonate with everyone. If you are wondering what to write, just start writing about some portion of your life. Literally, just start writing. Expect to re-write and edit. But get important phrases down on paper.

How did you feel in high school, or new job, or delayed education, or whenever, and did something happen that adjusted your understanding of life?

Does the situation call for prose



Writer's Ink

or perhaps an amusing rhyme?

Usually, I start out with an idea and some expectation of what the result will be. Then, along the way, the process of fleshing out the details gives me a new perspective. It no longer surprises me when a planned short story morphs into a poem, or vice versa.

What about you? Are you wondering what to write about and how you will be received?

Our group is always gentle with suggestions and supportive of all types of efforts.

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

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

Knitting table was popular during Food Truck Night

By Cheryl Butcher

Thank you to everyone who purchased something from the Knitting Group table during Food Truck Night back in November.

It was heartwarming to see the interest shown in our work and it was even nicer to have the chance to meet and talk to everyone.

We were asked to set up a table to sell our handiwork and we were very pleased at the outcome. We offered our usual lap robes, baby blankets and walker caddies, but we also had some new items made especially for that night. Christmas ornaments and tote bags were popular items. It all enabled us to make a generous profit so we can buy more yarn and keep our fingers busy.

Look for us at future Food Truck Nights (hopefully).

Having stayed stagnant in growth for a time, thanks to COVID-19, our group has recently acquired some new members. We are ever so happy to welcome them. One of our ladies doesn't even knit, but she sits, cross stitches, and participates in the discussions and camaraderie generated during the meeting.

If that interests you, come join us.



Knitting

And don't forget to check out the Knitting and Crochet instructional videos available on the OTOW Box Office. Go to www.otowboxoffice.com, click on the yellow ball of yarn, and open the videos. We'd love to hear your comments, too.

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

Barry's Texas Card Game Club returns

Barry's Texas Hold'em Club will be returning to the East Activity Center starting on Monday, Jan. 11, from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Games will take place Mondays and Wednesdays in the Ozona Room. Previous club members are welcome back. New members can join with a valid activity card. This is a club-friendly game. Please arrive 10 minutes before the start time. Action wraps up at 9:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Barry at 727-424-3275.

Philosophy Club is back

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

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



Tim Lewis wins first monthly shuffleboard tournament



The On Top of the World Shuffleboard Club has been meeting and sharpening their skills, preparing for monthly tournaments.

We have people showing up and checking things out, and many have joined the club.

In November we wore our sweaters and the evenings got pretty chilly at one point, but then December rolled in and we had been reminded why we live in Florida - we have been enjoying some very pleasant days.

The Shuffleboard Club had their first tournament on Dec. 13. We had 12 players signed up and it was quite an afternoon. The first and second place finishers were not difficult to determine, but three players tied for third place. We had added two extra frames to establish the third-place winner.

I am pleased to announce that our winner was Tim Lewis, who was able to capture the first place prize by winning all three games. He was the lone wolf.

The second place prize was won by Patrick Mahoney who went 2-0-1 with a tie.

The third place tie was between Richard Lagasse, Art Chaikin and Barbara Reece. These three players had to play two extra frames to break the tiebreaker and the winner of these three was Barbara.



At left is some of the shuffleboard action from December. Above is everyone who took part in the first tournament.

We all had fun and posed for group pictures. Our next tournament will be Jan. 19.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy, safe new year.

Shuffleboard Club meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 3:15 - 5:30 p.m.

Shuffleboard courts are open to all residents from 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. daily.

Family History Group needs new leadership

The Family History Group is hoping to begin meeting soon at On Top of the World, but first new leadership is needed.

In past years, the OTOW group has helped residents trace their family histories, have introduced methods for getting information online and has even had guest speakers.

The group is looking for a new leader who will help with all three of these duties and maybe introduce new fun to the group.

If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact Dave Cordes at davecordes48@gmail.com. Many thanks.

tops

"Take Off Pounds Sensibly."

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

We are very motivated to help you if you want to lose weight. We are a friendly group and usually go out for a healthy meal after our meetings.

Because we are a part of a national club, we charge \$32 per person for yearly national dues.

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Computer Club elects new officers for 2022

By Mike Wood

The slate of officers who will represent the On Top of the World Computer Club for 2022 was chosen on Saturday, Dec. 5, at their annual meeting.

The officers are as follows:

President Mike Wood, Vice Presidents Joe Wisinski and Scott Mascitelli, Secretary Mariann Cataletto and Treasurer Cheryl Lindback.

Board Members at Large are Terri Mikszenas, Anne Kilcup, Diane Like and Charlie Wood.

The Computer Club is starting to plan in-person gathering in late January as long as the moon is in the Seventh House, Jupiter aligns with Mars, peace guides the planets, love steers the stars and COVID subsides enough for OTOW to reopen without restrictions.

About the Computer Club

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

Sessions usually consist of presentations or discussions led by club members or guest speakers. Time is also made available to ask questions.

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

The Learning Lab is now open in the West Activity Center Wednesday mornings from 8:30-10 a.m. by appointment only. Knowledgeable Computer Club volunteers offer basic computer, tablet and smart phone program assistance and app help. The services are free to all OTOW



Computer Club

residents with a valid Activity Card. Computer Club membership is not required to get assistance.

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

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

Otherwise, for more information about the Computer Club, email us at otowcc@gmail.com, visit our website at www.otowcc.com or click our link in the OTOW Box Office, otowboxoffice.com.

First Italian-American event in 2022 is a pizza party

Martha and Sam Gonella are pleased to announce that the Italian-American Club's Christmas Lunch, which was held at the Pavilion, was very well attended with good food and music and a good time had by all.

It is now time for 2022 and we hope that you all had a great holiday. It is time to get ready to start the New Year by becoming active in our clubs here at On Top of the World!

Our first Italian-American Club event for 2022 will be a pizza party from 5 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 16. The cost will be \$12 for members and \$14 for non-members.

Our annual St. Joseph's Dinner Dance will be Wednesday, March 16, with details to be provided later on the price, time and location. This is the most important event of our season and is always well attended by our members.

And our final event of the season will be our Farewell Ice Cream Social on April 13.

Remember, we are always looking for volunteers to help us at each of our events and of



Italian-American Club

course at our ticket table once the East Activity Center has become fully opened.

Finally, don't forget to renew your membership for 2022 in January.

We look forward to seeing all of you at each of our events. You do not have to be an Italian to join the club. All On Top of the World residents are welcome with an up-to-date Activity Card.

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Have you ever been told that restoring your teeth was hopeless?

Have you been led to believe that costly implants or uncomfortable dentures were your only option?

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I can't tell you the number of times I have spoken with patients with complex dental problems who believed that their teeth could not be restored. Thanks to my training and experience, I have been able to successfully treat hundreds of such patients, many of whom are your neighbors at On Top of the World. In many cases this can be done more affordably than you might imagine.

So if you think that dentures or implants are your only options, come in for a complimentary consultation. We are conveniently located just a short drive from the west entrance to On Top of the World.



We accept most insurance plans.

Austin H. Sampson, DDS, PA
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Phone: (727) 796-8891



Update not in newspaper: Canadian Club cancels events originally scheduled for January

By Connie Stanley

As I pen this article, I'm very hopeful that everyone enjoyed a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and wishing everyone a happy, healthy and safe 2022!

I submitted the requisite documentation to Nancy Rogers, On Top of the World Events & Activities Manager and the Canadian Club is good to go!

Unfortunately, our winters plans have already seen a significant change.

In your January community newspaper in print, our club announced two events in January. But with COVID-19 back in the news, our executive board has decided to cancel those two events.

Our club's "no-frills" registration event at the pavilion on Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022, has been canceled. We have no details at this time on registering for the club, but club information tables are scheduled to return to the East Activity Center auditorium in January.

A club barbeque scheduled for Jan. 8 has also been canceled.

While January's events have been canceled, some future events are pending. The following activities are being offered: Golf Fun Day on Feb. 27 at the 18 Hole Course [Laurie Fischer \$10 - 204-890-8999]; Club Picnic on March 19 at the pavilion [Joanne Fenn \$10 - 860-658-2283] and a Blue Jays spring training game versus the Atlanta Braves on March 24 [Susan Cober \$24 - 727-754-6063].

Laurie is looking for people to assist him with the Golf Fun Day event as is



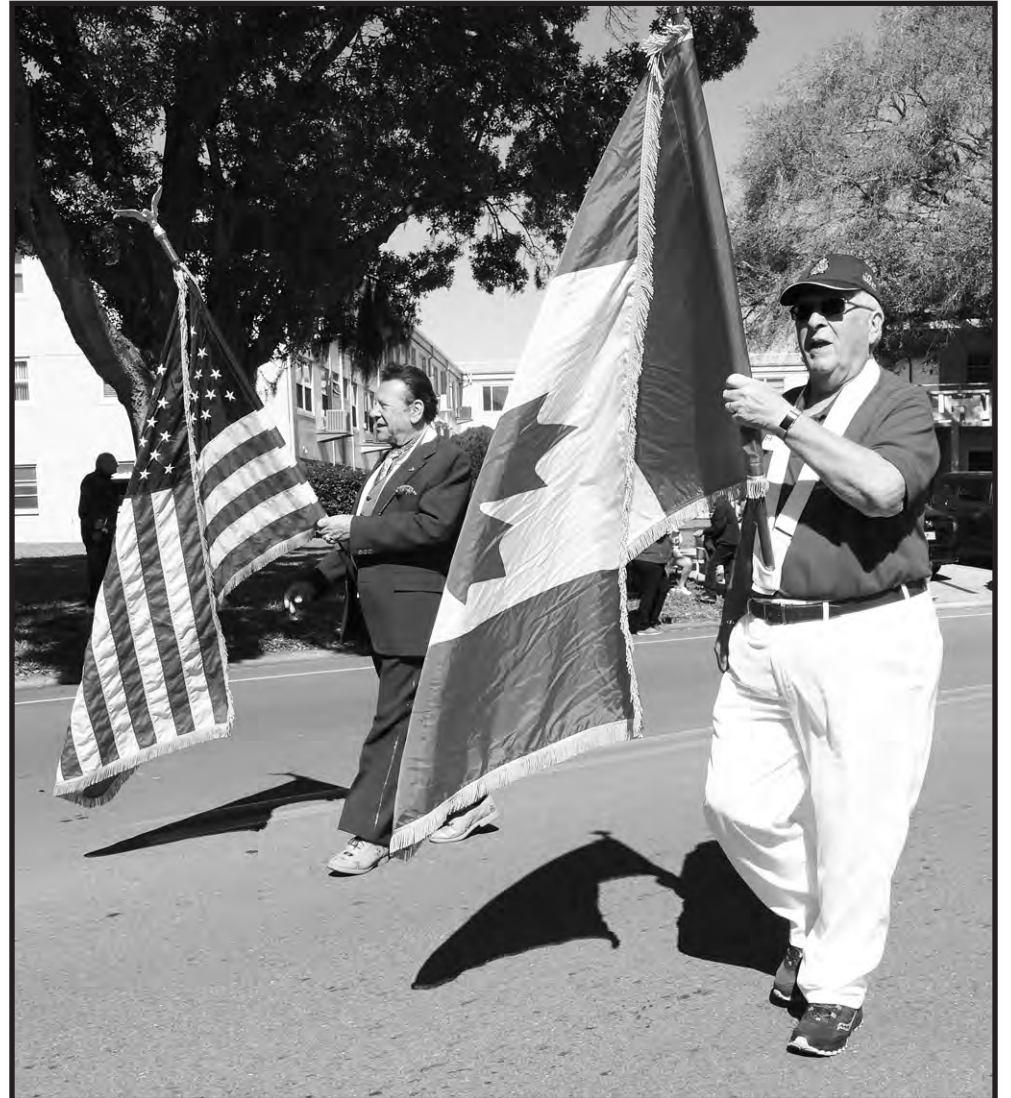
Joanne Fenn with the picnic.

The club will participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 5 honoring Mike Cooper - please sign up with Coordinator Jackie Cornett Small by emailing her at jcornettsmall@gmail.com if you'd like to march with us.

In other club news, members of the Canadian Club Executive Board met with the Blackout card game board to investigate possibilities of uniting the two groups for social games - Blackout. Stay tuned to OTOW-TV Channel 732, a bulletin board near you, email blasts and the Box Office (otowboxoffice.com).

We still need a registrar and vice president to keep the club afloat. Please contact me at 727-475-8888 or email stanlec2@outlook.com.

Happy wintering wherever you may be - stay safe and well!



The Canadian flag will be waving at the Irish Club parade in March. Sign-up to march with the Canadian Club. (OTOW News file photo by Barbara Rice)

Around The Bay Entertainment

By Laurie Fischer
Happy New Year!

As we move into another beautiful Florida winter, here is a taste of the January entertainment you can enjoy near On Top of the World.

"Summer: The Donna Summer Musical" will be performed at the Straz Centre in Tampa from Jan. 11 - 16, 2022. The musical highlights Donna Summer at three stages of her life. Duckling Donna in her pre-teens starting out in Boston; Disco Donna in her late teens and 20s when she was experiencing her initial success and Diva Donna in her 50s and at the top of her career.

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

Al Di Meola is playing at the Capitol Theatre in Clearwater on Friday, Jan. 7, 2022. He is an American guitarist best known for his works in jazz fusion and world music. He began his career as a guitarist for the group Return to Forever in 1974. Between the 1970s and 1980s, albums such as Elegant Gypsy and Friday Night in San Francisco earned him both

critical and commercial success.

Gary Gulman returns to the Capitol Theatre in Clearwater on Saturday, Jan. 8 for his Born On 3rd Base tour.

With more than 25 years in comedy, he has established himself as an eminent performer and peerless writer. He is an American stand-up comedian. He was a finalist on the NBC reality-talent show Last Comic Standing in its second and third seasons. He released his first CD, Conversations With Inanimate Objects, in 2005 and his first television special, Gary Gulman: Boyish Man, the following year.

The Marshall Tucker Band's 50th Anniversary Tour makes a stop at Ruth Eckherd Hall on Friday, Jan. 21.

This multi-platinum band will be celebrating 50 years with a historic anniversary tour featuring special guests Firefall and Bertie Higgins.

Thanks to hits like "Can't You See," "Heard It in a Love Song," "Fire on the Mountain" and "24 Hours At a Time," The Marshall Tucker Band has sold millions of albums worldwide.

Grammy-winning singer-songwriter powerhouses Joss Stone and Corinne Bailey Rae will be at Ruth Eckherd Hall on Wednesday, Jan. 26.

Joss and Corinne are on a new tour

that will take fans on a journey through their indelible music catalogues.

Joss is a British singer and actress who rose to fame in late 2003 with her multi-platinum debut album, The Soul Sessions.

Corinne is a British singer and songwriter. She is best known for her 2006 single "Put Your Records On." She was named the number one breakthrough act of 2006 in an annual BBC poll of music critics.

Country Star Wynonna Judd and the Big Noise will return to Capitol Theatre on Saturday Jan. 29. Respected by the millions of fans who are drawn to her music and undeniable talent, Wynonna's rich and commanding voice has sold more than 30 million albums worldwide spanning her remarkable 34-year career.

On the sports front, the Tampa Bay Lightning continue their NHL season at Amalie Arena with six January home games commencing Jan. 6 against the Calgary Flames.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers will be at Raymond James Stadium on Jan. 2 versus the New York Jets and Jan. 9 versus the Carolina Panthers as the regular NFL season comes to an end.

The playoffs start in mid-January as the Buccaneers gear up to defend their Su-

per Bowl title.

Finally, here is an advance notice for the Broadway Musical, "Dear Evan Hansen" which will be performed at the Straz Centre in Tampa from Feb. 1 - 6.

This musical has struck a remarkable chord with audiences and critics everywhere, including The Washington Post which says it is "one of the most remarkable shows in musical theatre history."

The New York Times calls it "a gut-punching, breathtaking knockout of a musical."

NBC Nightly News declares the musical "an anthem resonating on Broadway and beyond."

See you in February for yet another busy entertainment month.

Around The Bay Entertainment is written by resident Laurie Fischer at the request of OTOW News. Material provided here is based off of various internet websites. None of the notifications were purchased. The column does not accept coverage from venue sources. The idea is to give residents a brief idea what is going on just outside this community.

Howard Wolff is proof men can line dance, too

By Leila Walker

His name is Howard Wolff.

Howard has lived at On Top of the World for three years and has been line dancing for 2.5 of those years.

Prior to moving to OTOW, Howard lived in Clearwater for 15 years. He grew up in Long Island, N.Y.

Howard has many interests. His hobbies include ballroom dancing, line dancing, biking, swimming laps and watching movies.

Howard goes to the Gulfport Coliseum on Tuesdays for ballroom dancing and on he goes for swing dancing on Wednesdays!

The hustle and the waltz are his favorite dances.

Two to three times a week, Howard bikes the Courtney Campbell Causeway.

His career included being a software engineer at Raytheon for 14 years. Prior to that he was a contract engineer and moved all over the country following his work.

You can see Howard at the 7-8 a.m. OTOW Line Dance sessions, as well as at the Tuesday and Saturday sessions.

He never gets enough line dancing!



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

From 1-2 p.m. on Tuesdays and 8:30-9:30 a.m. on Saturdays, an Advanced Improver session is being offered. From 2-3 p.m. on Tuesdays and 9:30-10:30 a.m. on Saturdays, an Improver session is offered for more experienced dancers.

The same program is offered each



Pictured at center is On Top of the World line dancer Howard Wolff, who proves even guys can line dance.

week to give line dancers additional time to learn the dances.

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

You can obtain useful information

about the OTOW Line Dance Club and other OTOW activities by visiting the Box Office at otowboxoffice.com.

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

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

Veterans Group makes plans for all of 2022

By Pamela Rosenblatt

Happy New Year to one and all!

The On Top of the World Veterans Group is making plans for 2022 and is excited to announce our schedule of upcoming events.

On Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 2 p.m., our group will kick off the year with a coffee social in the East Activity Center kitchen.

OTOW veterans are welcome to attend and bring a guest.

On Saturday, March 5, our club will be marching in the Irish Club parade. Organizers are planning a float and a couple of convertibles, so plan on participating.

If you are watching the parade from World Parkway Boulevard, you will be sure to see our group.

On Wednesday, April 4, at 2 p.m., our group will hold its second coffee social of the year.

On Friday, May 20, at 2 p.m., we will hold an Armed Forces Day celebration in the EAC Auditorium. We will be recognizing all veterans who call OTOW home. Watch for details later.

On Wednesday, Aug. 3, at 2 p.m., we will be back in the kitchen for another coffee social and then on Saturday, Oct. 15, at 2 p.m., we will all meet at the pavilion for our annual barbeque.

The year will end with a pot luck dinner on Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m. at the



pavilion.

Besides these events on the calendar, the Veterans Group conducted a socks drive for veterans during the holidays. Donation boxes were set up in the EAC lobby and newsroom and dozens of donations were made to the Bay Pines Veterans Association (VA) which helps our veterans in need.

A special "thank you" to our friends Gail Hochhauser and Susan Pall. These two gals were the driving force behind collecting more than 300 pairs of new socks for local veterans.

Even though the holidays are over, our group may continue to display the "Socks for Veterans" box at times throughout the



Susan Pall and Gail Hochhauser shows off some of the socks collected in the month of December. Donations will go to the Bay Pines Veterans Association.

year. Look for it and make a donation.

Hope to see you at our events or coffee socials. All are welcome. You can contact us at otowveteransgroup@gmail.com and you can look for announcements on

the Box Office (otowboxoffice.com)

We will also post information on your building core bulletin boards and at our information table, Mondays and Thursday mornings, in the auditorium.

Did you miss the Holiday Lights video? It will be on the Box Office until next Christmas.

otowboxoffice.com

Spring chorus concert rehearsals begin Jan. 11



Chorus

By Dana Garlick

On Top of the World Chorus rehearsals will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. in the Oldsmar Room in the East Activity Center.

It's the beginning of a new year and with it, perhaps, you will make a new year's resolutions to get more active.

We're hoping many of you will consider joining the chorus in preparation for our spring concerts April 2 and 3.

In many ways, this is a new beginning for us. It has been two and a half years since we last sang.

When people were first came to On Top of the World in 1968, Floryan Vady instigated a get-together for people who liked to sing. Fifty years later that tradition continues. I'm hoping that many of our



The 2019 OTOW Chorus in concert.

new residents, as well as former Chorus members and current residents, will join chorus and help rebuild our harmony with music.

Our theme this spring is America the Beautiful and includes favorites like "Home on the Range" and "I've Been Working on the Railroad" along with patriotic songs like "America the Beautiful" and "This Land I Love." No patriotic pro-

gram would be complete without "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

You can be part of this concert. Join us on Jan. 11 as we start practicing. We practice twice a week: Monday mornings at 10 a.m. for one hour and Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. for two hours. Dues are \$5 for half a year.

We sell tickets for our concerts and between the dues and the ticket sales and

donations, we pay for our music, our director, our accompanist, our programs and piano tuning.

We rely on generous donations from OTOW individuals, clubs and organizations, and from local businesses near us.

Please call if you have any questions. Contact Dana Garlick at 727-799-6029 or email danagarlick36@gmail.com to give us your contact information.

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**New York - New Jersey
Club**



In December, the New York-New Jersey Club held an Ugly Sweater Night and pictured above were some of the fashion statements made.

Southwest Night marks return to New York-New Jersey Club schedule

By William Peterson

Your New York-New Jersey Club Board of Directors hopes that you enjoyed your holidays and are ready to start 2022 back in the East Activity Center.

We are looking forward to having our information table in the EAC starting on Jan. 13, 2022.

So, once it is official, please come out and rejoin our club.

In order to participate in New York-New Jersey Club events, you must make sure that your Activity Card is up-to-date.

Club representatives will be in the

auditorium from 8:30 until 10 a.m. every Monday and Thursday.

On Wednesday, Jan. 12, our club will host Southwest Night. The cost will be \$23 per person and the fun will start at 5 p.m. Our menu, provided by Mama Felice, will be pulled pork and other southwest delicacies. Music will be provided by the KP Duo and they promise to have some good old fashioned line dancing for those who like to kick up their heels.

On Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 5 p.m., our club will host Sports Night in the auditorium. Wear something to represent your

favorite team if you can, but it is not required. Feast on meatballs and chicken parmesan provided by Mama Felice and enjoy entertainment by the KP Duo. Price for the event will be \$23 per person.

On Saturday, March 5, our club will participate in the Irish Club Parade. We are in need of members to come out and walk with us in the parade. So wear some St. Patrick's Day green and come out and join all of us for a fun day. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Other club activities will be posted as

they are put together by your board.

The New York-New Jersey Club is for anyone who lives at On Top of the World and not just those residents from New York or New Jersey. Dues are only \$5. You must have a valid Activity Card to become a member and be prepared to present it when buying or renewing your membership.

Our board looks forward to seeing everyone at our events and of course in the East Activity Center Mondays and Thursdays.

Holiday party included food and gifts



Democratic Club

By Donna Lukas

On Dec. 11, the On Top of the World Pavilion rang out with the music of holiday songs as members of the OTOW Democratic Club enjoyed their holiday potluck dinner party.

Feasting was the order of the day as we enjoyed sampling the appetizers, meats, salads, casseroles and desserts provided by our happy group.

Kathy Walker's lasagna was a big hit. As were Ruthann Richwine's meatballs.

Oh, the pies were delicious!

The intermittent drawing of names for selecting gift bags provided some diversion from the food.

Ted Tanner was pleased with the practicality of AA batteries in his gift bag. One guest was happy to trade the mixed nuts he could not eat with Don Ladner's stuffed snowman.

Many members got the jump on the New Year by paying their \$12 dues for 2022. Thanks for those renewals and welcome to the guests who signed up as new members!

We are starting January with the re-



Democratic Club members take a break from eating just long enough to pose for a group picture.

turn of our monthly meetings at our usual time of 2 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. However, on Jan. 13 we will be meeting in a new location. We will be in the Clearwater Room/Kitchen on the lower level of the East Activity Center.

Do you think of yourself as a leader? Would your light be shining brightly if it wasn't hiding under a basket?

Would you participate in more club activity if you could direct it?

Thanks go out to members who volunteer to post club notices on community building boards. In addition, the very important activities for 2022 have

already started with volunteers who write postcards to support the "Vote by Mail" campaign.

Our current officers would be happy to talk to you about you taking their place for a year that begins in March. Those officers have many volunteers who help keep the club active and running smoothly. In order to be eligible to hold office, or to be a voting member, you must be a dues paid member.

If you have not already paid your annual \$12 membership dues for 2022, you can do so at the Jan. 13 meeting.

Alternatively, you can send your check

made out to OTOW Democratic Club to our treasurer Glenda Greenman at 2470 Rhodesian Drive, Unit 28, Clearwater, Fla., 33763.

If you miss attending one of our meetings, please check out the information listed on our club page at the otowboxoffice.com website. Click on the "Democratic Donkey."

The Box Office website will also list information that may not have been available at the time of our most recent meeting. You can also send us an email at that site.

Good Neighbors Association already making plans to bring Get Acquainted Coffee back

By Jesse D. Tiamson Sr.

As the year draws to a close, with all the challenges that the past year has brought to the country and to the rest of the world, we look forward to 2022 with renewed hope for a better year.

When the East Activity Center returns to normal operation this month, we hope that our club will be back to normal as well.

We should be back with our Get Acquainted Coffee event with danish pastries. We have decided to replace donuts with pre-packaged pastries in these times of uncertainty. We look forward to seeing you there!

As for the Good Neighbors Association, despite the limitations, we were able to hold two drive-thru Food and Clothing Drives this past year - one last spring and the one last fall. Both were successful and we collected enough food and clothing to help our needy fellowmen.

We also participated in the last two Food Truck Nights and even sold out our safety vests and blinkie lights, as well as beverages for the diners.

As the photo shows, we even went around selling cold drinks for the diners



Jesse Tiamson, Judy Hoffman and Evelyn Tiamson pass out beverages at Food Truck Night in December.

who couldn't come to our tents.

"If you can't come to us, we'll go to you!" That's service!

Our club wants to thank Nancy Rogers for the cooperation and the facilities management for the success of the two events.

For those of you who have not yet joined our Facebook page, we encourage you to join us there so you'll be up-to-date on our activities and volunteer opportunities. Just look for us at Good Neighbors Association of OTOW Clearwater, FL.



Just answer a few questions and we'll let you in.

On behalf of the entire board and all of our volunteers, and on my first year of presidency, I hope that you all had a happy and blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year full of hope.

Take time to be kind.

Travel Club gets back into social mode with a holiday party

By Janice Berman

The On Top of the World Travel Club held its first event in almost two years to a sellout crowd.

Everyone had a wonderful time at our holiday dinner in December.

As members entered the Countryside Country Club, they were greeted by President David Berman, Vice President Linda Keebler and Treasurer Phil Meissner.

We nibbled on cheese and crackers while we said hello to old and new friends.

Everyone I talked to was excited to be dressed up and was ready for an evening of good dining and fun dancing. Events that were routine a few years ago are not taken for granted today.

The evening really got under way after all attendees had checked in. David officially welcomed members and guests thanking all who made the evening possible. He added how great it was to finally be together again and kept his tradition going by telling us a joke.

David concluded with a toast of sparkling apple cider wishing everyone good health, happiness and great things for the Travel Club in 2022.

We ate and danced then ate some more.

DJ Mike kept us on the dance floor with a mix of songs both fast and slow.



He took requests for line dances which had more people on their feet than in their seat! It was a wonderful night for sure.

Plans are underway to restart activities. Look for the Travel Club information table when club tables return on Jan. 13. We will also be introducing our new banner soon.

Our first event will be a Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, Jan. 19, at Bahama Breeze Island Grille.

Plans for February include a trip to the Hard Rock Casino and a Lunch Bunch at Ozona Blue.

The first meeting of the OTOW Travel Club for 2022 will be on Friday, Feb. 4, at 2 p.m. in the Oldsmar Room located in the East Activity Center.

More trips will be announced at that time.

We're going places. Don't you want to come?



Travel Club members enjoy a holiday dinner at the Countryside Country Club.

Make a plan to attend a pastel, acrylic, or Painting Pals class this winter season

By Sue Naylor

Happily, the Art Guild is announcing another new class to its roster.

Sharon Kidder, Artist of the Month winner for November, has kindly consented to teach a class in pastels. It will be Fridays from 10 a.m. - noon in the East Activity Center Largo Room.

The first class will be Jan. 7, 2022, which means COVID-19 guidelines will still be in effect.

If you have your own supplies, please bring them with you. If not, Sharon will advise you as to what to purchase.

Are you unfamiliar with pastels. Here is the description from Wikipedia:

"A pastel is an art medium in the form of a stick, consisting of powdered pigment and a binder. The pigments used in pastels are similar to those used to produce some other colored visual arts media, such as oil paints. The color effect of pastels is closer to the natural dry pigments than that of any other process."

Rosemarie Lugg will also be back in action in January. Her



acrylics class will be on Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. with her first class being on Jan. 6, 2022. Rosemarie just won Artist of the Month for December so be prepared to be duly enlightened.

Any and all levels of acrylic painting abilities are welcome. There is no charge for her class since Rosemarie is anxious to reach as many people as possible in an effort to get us all back on track after covid's interruptions.

Remember, acrylic paints consist of pigments suspended in a particular polymer which makes them fast-drying and odor free. They are water-based so they can be removed easily before they dry.

After the paint dries, they are

permanent, on the canvas and on your clothes.

Painting Pals is still on Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m. in the Largo Room. This time slot offers artists the ability to continue with their works with other artists who may be working in a completely different medium.

The artists often exchange helpful advice as to how to proceed. There is no instructor.

The Art Guild meets on the second Friday of the month in the Largo Room from 1-3 p.m. Our next meeting is Jan. 14, 2022. Please attend. You will be astounded.

After a brief business meeting, an artist demonstrates their techniques in their particular medium. Usually the presenter is from outside of our guild so the experience brings new insights.

At December's meeting, Joe Spahalski demonstrated his unique techniques using a water color wheel to enhance the colors and values of his works. The results were highly acclaimed by one and all.



Sharon Kidder was Artist of the Month for December

Reunions taking place on the line dance floor



By Dale Stackhouse

December was an active month for the Snowbirds Club.

Each week we saw additional new faces at line dancing, as more and more Snowbirds arrived at On Top of the World.

For many of us, it had been over 19 months since we had seen our old friends, so the reunions were very happy occasions.

It's amazing, that after all those months away from line dancing, the steps started to come back, and before we knew it, it was like no time had passed.

Ever committed to helping us learn,



This is what it looks like when you are sitting in the grandstand at Tampa Bay Downs and your long shot bet wins the race.

Ed and Dolly Foland attended the Florida Line Dance Classic Workshop in Orlando, where they learned new dances and teaching techniques to bring back to their students at OTOW.

A group of Snowbirds attended a live

theater production of "Centennial Casting" at Fletchers Early Bird Dinner Theater.

Others enjoyed an excursion to the horse races at Tampa Bay Downs, where Rosie Duccillo placed a bet on a long

shot, because the horse was named "Hello Rosie Say." You can see her excitement in the photo, as her horse crossed the finish line, making her a winner.

We wish you all a happy and healthy new year!

Lambda stretched the holiday season to accomodate more than one party



Joe DelGiorno was welcomed into the club in December.

By Bruce Lovett

It certainly looked a lot like Christmas at the East Activity Center Pavilion this year. And the Lambda Club definitely did its share to help.

As early as late November, passers-by could see Santa hats, Christmas baking and general merriment on display at the structure.

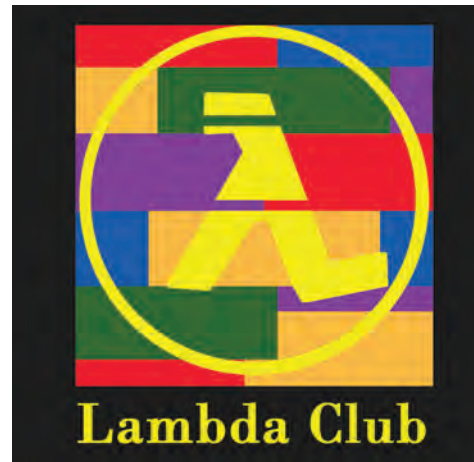
But it wasn't until Dec. 10 that the place really turned up the heat. That's when Lambda had its annual Christmas party and gift exchange.

Red and green were everywhere as the mandated colors to wear and the same colors also took over the buffet table. There was salsa and guacamole, and festively-colored desserts to frame the pot luck affair. The main table had everything from casseroles to Publix platters.

Things really started to go nuts at the gift exchange. Maybe it was Santa's magic punch, but everyone was laughing as some really wild things changed hands.

Things really did go nuts, literally, as someone went home with a massive bag of nuts and a Christmas bowl.

There's nothing like nuts to make



your Christmas festive.

Two weeks after our gift exchange, we all "donned our gay apparel" again for a little fa-la-la-ling on Christmas Eve.

Lambda has an annual tradition of providing a holiday home for those who are unable to be home for the holidays.

After a difficult 2020, that tradition returned.

There was turkey with all the fixings and a good time was had by all ... and to all it was a good night.

One of the nice things about hav-

ing the EAC pavilion is that the outdoor venue has allowed some new residents to finally join and appreciate Lambda.

One such person is Joe DelGiorno, our new year's model.

Joe was born in Astoria, Queens, N.Y. and grew up on Long Island. He is a semi-retired mental health counselor currently doing telehealth.

Joe gamely volunteered to be our New Year's baby. Fortunately for him we couldn't find a baby bonnet on short notice to fit his big head, so we threw a bandanna on it, added a little 2022 bling and presto: Happy New Year.

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

We host many social activities throughout the year, including "Winter in Florida" in January.

Should you wish for further information about how to become a member, go lambdaclearwater.blogspot.com.

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

You don't need a famous singer to bring in holiday tunes



If you want good Christmas music, you can play Elvis, Bing Crosby or Mariah Carey.

You could also invite 120 friends to the East Activity Center pavilion and let everyone sing for themselves.

That's what happened in December when Karaoke with Lenny and Kathy took place with a special Christmas night.

More than 120 On Top of the World residents showed up ready to sing, dance and eat.

Lenny Segall and Kathy Ahrens also hosted a holiday lighting party at the Austrian Alpine building where their holiday decorations were visible from the space station.

Refreshments included apple cider



A Christmas version of karaoke night took place in December at the pavilion.

There was singing, dancing and food off the grill.

and desserts, and there was more Christmas music.

Santa and Mrs. Claus made an appearance and brought candy canes.

Did you catch the 2021 Holiday

Lights video on OTOW-TV channel 732? The holiday lights display at Lenny's and Kathy's condo led off the video for the third consecutive year.

In case you missed the video, or the

lights display at Austrian Alpine, the video can be watched any time on the Box Office (otowboxoffice.com).

It was a fun night for all and set the holiday mood.

The official OTOW-Clearwater website: otowclearwaterinfo.com

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know OTOW
has its own
TV channel?



Spectrum
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Your Entertainment Committee and OTOW-TV present

Dwight Icenhower's tribute to Elvis
Taped at On Top of the World in 2020.
Stay home. Stay safe. New Year's Eve.



Starting at 7 pm on Channel 732
and restarting through midnight.

Assistant Editor Dave Hart wraps up 15 years at OTOW News

Press Association dusts off fedoras in anticipation of upcoming Irish Club Parade



Mary Lou Wall and Doug Kates show off two of the Press Association fedoras that will be worn during the Irish Club Parade in March. The Press Association is already preparing to march in the March 5 event.

The Press Association is already getting ready for the annual Irish Club parade.

Prior to the club's monthly meeting in December, Press Association green fedoras were dusted off in anticipation they will be put to good use at the March 5 parade.

Editor Doug Kates said the Irish Club parade is a group effort. He is hopeful that at least 10 members of the club will walk the parade route and pass out On Top of the World newspapers.

The first 10 people who show up at the parade checkpoint will be given the green fedoras, which the club purchased a few years ago.

Doug told club members in December it is highly unlikely a lot of golf carts will be available during the parade. So, he is asking all staff members if they know someone with a convertible, which can drive the parade route. The convertible is necessary to take staffers who cannot walk the route and stacks of newspapers will be stored inside to be passed out during the parade.

If anyone knows someone with a convertible, please ask the owner nicely and then contact Doug.

The Press Association monthly meeting this month will be noon (12 p.m.) in

the East Activity Center Auditorium. This will be our club's final meeting in the auditorium before returning to 1:30 p.m. meetings in the Crystal Beach room.

At the December meeting, staffers asked if Doug would pass out a summary list during the next Writer's Workshop. The idea is, staffers could better follow the Writer's Workshop if they could refer to the summary during the class.

Doug said great idea and will make sure a summary sheet is available. The 2022 Writer's Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 3, in the Crystal Beach room.

Also at the December meeting, Doug announced the January 2022 newspaper was the final newspaper for Assistant Editor Dave Hart, who retired as of Dec. 31, 2021.

Dave came aboard 15 years ago as a temporary employee and stuck with it for more than 180 editions.

Doug and Dave worked together for 14 years. Dave did Section 3 of this newspaper, most of the financial duties and mailed tearsheets to every advertiser each month.

He will perform his final duty in April when the Press Association holds its annual Appreciation Luncheon at Philippe Park.

Thank you Dave!

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In 2020, the membership plan saved residents an average of **\$180 per transport.**



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Theater Workshop cast sharing rehearsal stage with aliens

By Vicky Portsmouth

The start of a new year always brings strange feelings as we write a new year for the first time.

You know what is also strange?

For Theater Workshop, strange visitors from outer space are bringing strange feelings to our club as they have joined us to start rehearsals for our March show.

Anticipation and excitement are in the air as our club gets ready for cast assignments and the unveiling of our show content.

The role the aliens will play is simple.

This year our show is "2022: A Space Oddity," which takes us to the land of milk and honey as we greet new visitors – alien visitors. We are anxious to introduce



Theater Workshop

our music genres to their planet!

And, we are proud to share our great music of many styles.

A future visit by Earthlings to their planet will make us very important people in our galaxy. We're sure!

Director Will Peterson and Assistant Director Lori Gerstein are putting some final touches on the script, while Music Director Tom Portsmouth scours the record charts for just the right music for our singers and musicians. They will rely heavily on Prop Directors Jim and Maureen Bjorgo for the perfect added touches.

The 2022 Theater Workshop team is quite accustomed to their jobs, having been involved for many years with stage and house management.

Cast assignments and rehearsals start Jan. 3. If you missed auditions in November, you may still have an opportunity to

try for a part. You may prefer working backstage or helping to create costumes and props.

Ideas are always invited and welcome. Contact Lori Gerstein at lgcounselor@gmail.com or Vicky Portsmouth at vickyportsmouth@hotmail.com. By phone, contact Vicky Portsmouth at 727-726-1848.

Don't delay! "We Want You!"

You'll look great on a stage which has been empty too long.

Become a Theater Workshop member. All members must have a valid activity card.

Please check our Box Office webpage for information on Theater Workshop and our plans. (otowboxoffice.com.)

Stay safe. See you soon.

Neighborhood Watch does not patrol but can educate

By Dave Beaven

A friend asked me recently if Neighborhood Watch did patrols.

He had seen a car cruising slowly along the street one night and thought it looked suspicious.

I told him that it was most likely someone looking for a building address and was having trouble finding it, but no, we don't do watch patrols here.

In chartering our group with the Sheriff's office, we were explicitly told that they did not want us to do patrols. Police work can be dangerous.

We have all probably heard stories about older folks fighting off would be muggers. But the more likely outcome is a badly injured senior citizen.

Instead, the Sheriff's office told us that we should educate our residents here about getting good descriptions of suspicious characters and reporting it to them.

The non-emergency Sheriff's number is 727-582-6200. They are best equipped to deal with these situations.

Some other recommendations that were made by the Sheriff's office were:

- Have deadbolts installed on your doors

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



- Draw your curtains at night
- Have a peephole installed in your door
- Do not leave a spare key in an obvious place outside your door
- Don't leave your windows open at night
- Have a camera doorbell installed

While our Neighborhood Watch group does not consider On Top of the World to have a significant crime problem, we try to keep our residents informed and aware of ways to keep our community safe and thriving for our 55+ residents.

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

Blackout will continue outside until the go ahead to move indoors

By Tom Jamrozy

"Summer" Blackout continues having a great time on Thursdays from 1-4 p.m. at the pavillion. This will continue until we get the official go ahead from management to play indoors.

At that time, we will be playing indoors in the Belleair Room in the West Activity Center. At that time, we will resume playing on Thursday from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Tom Jamrozy will be offering training on Thursday in the East Activity Center 9-10 a.m. starting on Jan. 13, 2022, and again on Thursdays from 6-6:30 p.m. prior to the regular games.

We will continue to welcome new players who have attended a training session.

This is an easy game to learn and we have a lot of laughs and fun. Hope to see you there.

Explore metaphysics

Metaphysics is the study of the ultimate cause in the universe.

Metaphysics includes all religions, but transcends them all.

Basically metaphysics is religion without dogma.

A new club has been started at On Top of the World to teach, play, meditate, organize outings, invite in experts and just remember to Be Children Of God in joy and play!

Please consider joining our new club. Contact Laurie LeClaire at 727-265-1671 or email her at otowoowo@gmail.com

Meetings will take place in the kitchen (Clearwater Room) at the East Activity Center from 7-9 p.m. the second Thursday of each month.



OTOW Texas Card Game Club



Next Texas Card Game Tournament is Friday, January 14, at 5 pm, at the Pavilion. Any OTOW resident is welcome.



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SPORTS

Defensive gems keep runs from scoring

By Bob Rittner

There are games in which there are so many heroes, such dramatic plays, that it requires an epic poet, a Homer or Virgil, adequately to evoke the heroism of so many Achilles and Hectors.

The only thing mundane about this game was the final score, a 15-12 victory for the West Siders over 2nd Time Sports.

The outcome was a product of back-to-back homers by George Morgan and Bob Studwell.

And in the last inning, the gap was tightened more as four runs scored sparked by Bob Dembinski's double and Eddie Ramirez's triple before Karen French grabbed a knuckling liner to seal the victory.

It was spectacular defense that prevailed.

In a brilliant infield of Jim Kemp at third, Charles Kovarik at middle infield, Karen at second and Phil Goodwin at first, nobody would quarrel with the victory laurels going to rookie shortstop Ralph Scunziano.

Jim and Charles were outstanding. Jim played flawlessly, making chest high throws to first. Charles caught what seemed to be an impossible play on a fade-away liner to short left field.

Karen's steady play included a difficult

Softball

catch to end the game, and Phil's stretches to get outs and backing up the catcher were critical to the victory.

But Ralph's breathtaking play elicited gasps of delight as he raced to the outfield for catches, snared one-hoppers or charged slow rollers, rifled throws to first and received a relay in short center field, pivoted and hummed a perfect one hopper to nab the runner at home.

As in all true epics, both sides deserved praise.

Shortstop Bob Studwell hit for the cycle and Bob Dembinski not only caught everything near him, but also pegged a strike to second to force a runner.

Pitcher Joe Maley snagged a sizzling line drive at the mound drawing cheers from the crowd.

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

A hero on both sides of the ball, Henry

Zussman crushed a long home run to tie the game early, drove in the winning run in the ninth inning and saved the game with a running, backhanded, over-the-shoulder catch of a smoked liner to record the final out.

For the winners, Jim Kemp contributed two triples and a double among his four hits and Lance Wilson also clubbed four hits, driving in the game's first run and scoring two more.

**West Siders 14
2nd Time Sports 12**

Going to the bottom of the ninth inning, West Siders led 14-5.

A seven-run rally, punctuated by George Webb's grand slam, brought the tying run to the plate with the bases loaded, but Ralph Scunziano raced back to catch a seeming sure base hit for the final out.

**West Siders 13
2nd Time Sports 11**

In a barn-burner, the star was 11-year-old pinch runner, Theo.

Theo pinch ran a record 24 times, helping both teams with his speed and heads up decisions. He scored nine runs and challenged fielders into making some wide

throws allowing him extra bases.

What appeared to be a blowout turned into a nailbiter as George Morgan homered twice in the late innings. And while they lost, 2nd Time Sports acquitted themselves well by scoring seven runs in the penultimate inning to make the score close.

**2nd Time Sports 6
West Siders 5**

With two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning and two runners on base in a 5-4 game, Wayne Pall stepped to the plate. In the top of the inning, he had robbed a batter of a sure hit with a leaping grab of a solid liner and now the game was on the line.

Wayne stroked a hard single through the left side scoring both Bob O'Donohue and Ralph Scunziano with the winning runs.

Sharing MVP honors with Wayne was Roger Martel who three times stole hits with running, backhand catches in left field and twice threw runners out from the outfield.

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



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Scott Rogers, Pete Cosgrove, Edmund Molina and Jack Patterson win December scramble

By Ken Smith

On Dec. 3, the last four-person scramble of the 2020 season took place. The season started before the pandemic and officially ended on Dec. 24.

Forty golfers participated. First place was the team Scott Rogers, Pete Cosgrove, Edmund Molina and Jack Patterson with a score 52.

Second place was the team of Don Hill, Dave Pittenger, Dan Hyden and Len Howell with a score 54.

Third place was the team of Gary Sandine, David Saccone, Jim VanLeuven and Bill Lucci with a score 55.

Closest to the pin on hole No. 3 was Bruce MacPherson, on hole No. 5 was Dan Hyden, on hole No.6 was Mike Tomaselli, on hole No.9 was Tom Seal, on hole No.13 was Harry Barbin, on hole No.15 was Andrea Tomaselli and on hole No.16 David Saccone.

Skins were recorded by the following teams: Don Hill, Dave Pittenger, Dan Hyden and Len Howell for holes Nos. 3 and 5; Scott Rogers, Pete Cosgrove, Edmund Molina, Jack Patterson for holes Nos. 11 and 18; Gary Sandine, David Saccone, Jim VanLeuven, Bill Lucci, for holes Nos. 2 and 17; Joe Wisinski, Tom Seal, Ken Oatsvall and Jim Keagy for on hole No. 9.

Friday Golf

Results for Friday, Dec. 10

First place was Doug Silver with a plus 9. Second place was Bruce Gotts with a plus 8. Third place was Marj Olsen with a plus 7. Fourth place was Bill Lucci with a plus 6. Fifth place Harry Barbin with a plus 5. Closest to the pin on hole No. 3 was Bruce MacPherson, on hole No. 5 was Don Auger, on hole No.6 and No.9 was Bill Bernard, on hole No.13 was Harry Barbin, on hole No.15 was Bruce Gotts and on hole No. 16 was Tom Pettit. Skins were recorded by Scott Rogers on hole No.2 with an Eagle and Ken Smith on hole No.4 with a Birdie. Low Gross was Harry Barbin with a 61. Bill Bernard and Scott Rogers halved hole No.14 with Eagles.

The Friday Mixed Golf League was created to provide OTOW men and women with a venue for competition using the USGA rules of golf.

Our league uses the USGA Stableford scoring format, which is a Quota Point system used by many leagues throughout the country.

In this format each player has a point quota and they try to play above their quota not directly against other players. This allows players of all skill levels to compete



Pictured above are the winners from a four-person scramble tournament in December. From left to right are Jack Patterson, Edmund Molina, Scott Rogers and Pete Cosgrove.

fairly each week.

Volunteers are needed to help run the league and form committees that over-

see and govern the league. If interested contact Harry Barbin at 215-514-1280 or email harrybarbin1@gmail.com.

Check daily for status of lawn bowl courts



Recently, a small depression was found in the East Activity Center lawn bowl court.

That area was quickly cordoned off by facilities management personnel as a safety measure.

Geotechnical engineers were called in to perform an initial site evaluation and provide direction to management company personnel. After discussing the situation, it was recommended that a small area within the depression be excavated to determine if an old section of groundwater underdrain is at fault. After this work is completed, the engineers will return to the site to inspect the area, obtain boring samples, and perform penetrometer tests to determine subsurface soil conditions and provide a remediation plan as necessary.

Status updates will be posted on the otowclearwaterinfo.com website and at the Activity Centers. Information will also be posted on OTOW-TV channel 732 and sent via OTOW Alerts.



Ladies 18-Hole League enjoys lunch at country club

By Gloria Sayer

The Ladies 18-Hole Golf League enjoyed their Christmas Luncheon at the Countryside Country Club on Dec. 1.

As you can see in the photo, we had a very nice gathering and everyone was dressed to meet the occasion.

We had a white elephant gift table and it was such fun to see the faces light up when they saw their gift.

We had some wonderful door prizes donated to our event. Most important was a beautiful prayer Terry Kuplen said before the delicious meal. The conversations and laughter heard throughout the room were heartfelt.

Thank you to Chairwomen Verna Lundgren and Gloria Sayer for organizing this wonderful event.

I would like to share the following Ladies 18-Hole golf net-score winners. Congratulations to everyone.

November 16

Flight A: Ursula Taylor, 63, Joy Walker 63, Becky West 64, Gina Yoon 66 and Gloria Sayer 66. Flight B: Cindy Schell 62, Donna Osborne 63, Verna Lundgren 63, Rosemary Sabatino 65 and Mary Bernard 65. Flight C: Robin Goralczyk 61, Donna Smerz 62 and Rose Mulhall 63. Closest-to-the-pin on No. 15 was Becky West.

Ladies 18 Golf

November 23

Flight A: Mary Bernard 63, Becky West 63, Gina Yoon 66. Flight B: Sherry Ivey 63 and Verna Lundgren 71. Flight C: Rose Mulhall 68, Joan Yorkery 73, Suellen Dowe 75. Chip-in winner were Mary Bernard No. 9 and Gina Yoon No. 5. Closest-to-the-pin on No. 15 was Gloria Sayer.

November 30

Flight A: Joy Walker 60, Becky West 64, Terry Kuplen 68. Flight B: Donna Osborne 65, Sherry Ivey 66, Linda Rice 76. Flight C: Arlene Hanson 74 and Joan Yorkery 79. Chip-in winners were Donna Osborne No. 2 and Arlene Hanson No. 4. Closest-to-the-pin was Joy Walker. The 50/50 winner was Debbie Figaski.

December 7

Flight A: Becky West 65, Terry Kuplen 70, Ursula Taylor 70, Dottie Graham 70, Gina Yoon 70, Nancy Lo 74. Flight B: Mary Bernard 59, Rosemary Sabatino 64, Donna Osborne 65, Debbie Figaski 65. Flight C: Joan Yorkery 59, Arlene Hanson 75, Rose Mulhall 75. Chip-in-winner was Carole Lacey No. 16. Closest-to-the-pin Mary Bernard.



Members of the 18-Hole Ladies Golf League celebrate the holidays with a luncheon at the Countryside Country Club.

Our Eclectic Tournament is scheduled Jan. 11, 18 and 25. Players will have three weeks to try and better their scores on all 18 holes.

Our General Membership Meeting will take place on Jan. 25, 2022, and will follow a shotgun start at 8:30. Further information will be announced later. The general meeting will be held under the trees at the golf course.

If you desire to join our Ladies 18-Hole Golf League, please contact Membership Chairperson Becky West at 727-

301-8854. Our January chairperson is Linda Rice (727) 669-7853. Please call Linda to sign up for golf or to cancel golf play.

Everyone must have an updated activity card to join.

Thank you to all the women who volunteer, as I have said before, it takes a village.

Happy New Year, may the New Year (2022) bring you good health and happiness. Be kind.



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

TAI CHI / SHORT FORM (New class)

Wednesdays, 2:15-3:00 pm
EAC Exercise Room

All classes in January
will be free to residents
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QIGONG

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays 3:15-4:00 pm
EAC Exercise Room

CHAIR TAI CHI (New class)

Mondays and Wednesdays
9:00-9:45 am
WAC Belleair Room

See calendar on page 10 for Ruth's classes.
All classes are \$2.

Tampa Bay Lightning welcome OTOW Tennis Club to a hockey game

By Joe Dechiaro

I bet you've never seen On Top of the World featured on the scoreboard at a Tampa Bay Lightning hockey game?

Well, it was!

On Monday, Nov. 16, the OTOW Tennis Club took a trip to watch the Lightning play the New York Islanders inside Amalie Arena.

During the game, the Lightning used the scoreboard to welcome Tennis Club members.

Club members also enjoyed an early dinner at the Columbia Restaurant on the Riverwalk. We were able to reserve outdoor seating across from the Tampa Bay Marina.

After our pre-game meal, we walked to the arena to watch the game, which was very exciting. We had great seats 15 rows



from the ice behind the Lightning net.

To the delight of nine of club members, the Lightning won 4-1. One Islanders fan went home disappointed.



At right are eight members of the OTOW Tennis Club at a Lightning game. One fan went home sad. Can you guess which one?

9-Hole Ladies celebrate holidays with lunch



Members of the On Top of the World 9-Hole Ladies Golf League celebrated the holidays with a luncheon at the Safety Harbor Resort & Spa.

Jesters 2021 movie to air in January on OTOW-TV

For those of you who were away during the pandemic, our Jesters Club did something for the first time in community theater history - made a movie.

The 2021 Jesters show was canceled on stage, but the cast went from performing a live show in the auditorium to putting the script on film.

The movie was then aired on OTOW-TV channel 732 where residents could watch safely in their own living rooms.

A lot went into this movie.

If you were away, you didn't get a chance to watch the movie. But good news! OTOW-TV will replay the movie from Jan. 7-9 at 7 p.m.

Be sure to watch it!

Scenes were videotaped outdoors and indoors, and cast were filmed separately so there were no large groups.

Then the editing took place because scenes were filmed out of sequence.

Marvin Flam, the producer of the show, met with Doug Kates from OTOW-TV in the summer of 2020. It was then decided the technology was available for a movie.

Marvin also wanted the audience to know the challenges in producing a movie and what the cast did to pull it off.

Unfortunately for the entire community, Marvin passed away shortly after production started, but the movie went on and his directions were followed.

Please watch "Bam! A Tribute to Boomer-Age Music" in January.

Key West food and bar hopping



My wife, Cheryl, and I have been to Key West many times. If you have not driven to Key West, I would recommend you do it at least one time. The drive on US1 through the Keys is beautiful.

We have eaten in many restaurants during our visits.

The Cuban Queen has the best Cuban sandwiches I have ever had.

For breakfast we like Pete's and Blue Heaven.

At Blue Heaven, you sit on the patio behind the restaurant and watch the chickens run around, and of course, you have to try the mile high Meringue Key Lime Pie.

For dinner we enjoy The Grand and Martin's.

Also, we have taken sunset dinner cruises.

Bar hopping is like New Orleans. There are tons of bars, but only a few stand out. They are Hog's Breath, Sloppy Joe's and Captain Tony's just to name a few.

Now about the food.

Key West seafood is inspired from fresh catches along its own sparkling waters. This includes shrimp (called Key West Gold), snapper, yellowtail, grouper and conch.

Most of the cooking influences come from the Southern U.S. and the Caribbean.

Here are a few Key West recipes I think you will enjoy and they are easy to prepare.



Seared Grouper with Peasant Meat Juices

Snapper Meuniere

Ingredients

Four 6-ounce snapper fillets
Old Bay Seasoning
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 stick cubed unsalted butter, softened
1 tablespoon minced shallots
2 tablespoons white wine
1/4 cup lemon juice
2 tbps chopped fresh parsley leaves
Freshly ground pepper

Directions

1. For the snapper meuniere: Preheat the oven to 200 degrees F.

2. Lightly season the snapper fillets with the Old Bay Seasoning. Lightly dredge the seasoned snapper in the flour, shaking off any excess. Set a 10-inch saute pan over medium-high heat and add the olive oil to the pan. Once the oil is hot, place the snapper fillets to the pan, 2 at a time, and cook for 2 1/2 to 3 minutes per side. Place the cooked snapper on an oven-proof platter and place in the oven while you cook the remaining fillets.

3. Once the snapper is cooked, return the skillet to the stovetop and set on medium heat. Add the butter to the pan and once melted, add the shallots. As the shallots cook and the butter stops foaming, after about 30 seconds, add the white wine, lemon juice and parsley to the pan. Continue to cook for 15 to 20 seconds, swirling the pan occasionally. Remove the snapper from the oven and pour the sauce over top of the fish. Serve immediately.

Shrimp Scampi with Cherry Tomatoes

Ingredients

3 1/2 tablespoons kosher salt
1 pound spaghetti or fettuccine
3 tablespoons olive oil
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 pound cherry tomatoes sliced
1 tablespoon paprika
1 teaspoon chili flakes
1 cup white wine
1 cup heavy cream
1 pound large shrimp, peeled and deveined
1/4 cup chopped fresh chives
3 tablespoons fresh parsley leaves, chopped
2 shallots, minced

Directions

1. Fill a pot with water over high heat. Add 3 tablespoons of salt and bring to a boil. Add the pasta, and gently stir using tongs to make sure the pasta doesn't stick to itself. Cook the pasta till al dente, drain & set aside.

2. In a skillet set over medium heat, add the oil. When hot, add the garlic, tomatoes and the 1/2 tablespoon salt, Sauté until the shallots are translucent, 2 to 3 minutes. Stir in the paprika and chile flakes, and sauté for 1 to 2 minutes. Pour in the white wine, scraping up any bits on the bottom of the skillet. Bring to a simmer. Add the cream and return to a simmer for 1 minute. Add the shrimp and cover with the sauce. Cook, stirring to make sure the shrimp cooks through, 3 to 5 minutes. Add the chives and parsley, and toss to mix. Serve the shrimp and sauce over the pasta.

Seared Grouper with Peasant Meat Juices

Ingredients

4 (6 ounce) grouper fillets
Creole seasoning
4 tablespoons olive oil
1 medium eggplant, peeled and diced
1 cup chopped yellow onion
Freshly ground black pepper
1/4 pound Kalamata olives, halved
1 tablespoon chopped garlic
1/2 cup milk
salt

3 tablespoons chopped green onions, green parts only
1 tbsp finely chopped fresh basil leaves
1/2 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme leaves
2 cups chicken stock
Celery Root Mashed Potatoes
1 pound celery root, peeled and cubed
3/4 pound Idaho potatoes
peeled and cubed
Freshly ground pepper
3 tablespoons butter

1/2 cup peeled, seeded and chopped fresh Italian tomatoes

Directions

1. Season both sides of the grouper with Creole seasoning. Heat a large non-stick saute pan, over medium heat, add 2 tablespoons of oil. Sear the grouper for 2 to 3 minutes on each side. Remove from the pan and set aside. Add the eggplant and onions to the pan. Season with salt and pepper. Saute for 3 to 4 minutes. Add the tomatoes, olives, green onions, and herbs. Season with salt and pepper. Saute for 2 minutes. Add the reduction and bring to a boil. Simmer for 2 minutes. Return the grouper to the pan. Cook for another 2 minutes, basting the fillets with the sauce.

2. Put the celery root and potatoes in a large saucepan and cover with salted water. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to medium and cook until tender about 15 to 20 minutes. Drain, then return the potatoes, celery root to the pot. Add butter and stir and mash until it melts completely. Add the milk and stir to mix.

To serve, lay each fillet on top of a mound of potatoes in the center of the plate and spoon the sauce around the grouper. Garnish with parsley.



Email questions, suggestions and comments to

Marie

marieshealthyfood@gmail.com

Also, visit the Box Office
for past recipes in this newspaper.

otowboxoffice.com

Ingredients

Savory French Crêpes with Ratatouille filling

Crêpe

2 large eggs

3/4 cup milk

1/2 cup water

1 cup flour

3 tablespoons butter (melted and browned)

1/4 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon dried oregano

Yields: 12 crepes = 4 servings

Ratatouille filling

6 cups (1 pound) eggplant, 1/2 inch pieces

1/2 cup mushrooms

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon lemon-pepper seasoning

1/2 cup cherry tomatoes, sliced lengthwise in quarters

1/4 cup red onion, diced

1/2 cup yellow pepper, diced

2 tablespoons black olives, chopped

Yields: 2 1/2 cups for 12 crepes

The Science

Refrigerating batter allows bubbles to subside so crepes will be less likely to tear during cooking.

Also, this rest period permits its protein to relax and the starch to expand, creating a velvety texture. (iii)

Crêpes are similar to thin pancakes. The main difference is that pancake batter has baking powder. Without baking powder, a crepe does not rise (as pancakes do) and its edges become crispy while the center remains soft.

It is perfectly acceptable for a crepe to have irregular edges.

Browning the butter adds a nutty richness to the crepe. It's a very French touch.

Très délicieux!

Disclaimer

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



The idea for this column originated with a reader who wants to learn more about crepes. I welcome requests like this. Email column ideas and questions to:

marieshealthyfood@gmail.com

Crêpes are a wrap with a bad rap — many people have the impression that crepes, being a French creation, are difficult to make. Truth is, crepes are easy. They make a fancy entree at a New Year's brunch.

Crêpes are either sweet or savory. This column will, of course, focus on savory crepes since sweet crepes are a high-caloric sugary overload. Savory crepes are healthy and are becoming immensely popular with healthy fast-food restaurants. (i)

Savory is a flavor difficult to describe. It's definitely not sweet or sour. Steak, mushrooms and roasted vegetables are savory.

Savory foods are often rich and dark and have a flavor that result in taste receptors dancing in your mouth.

Here are some classic suggestions for savory crepes fillings:

- Ham, gruyere cheese, roasted tomatoes.
- Mushrooms, spinach, shredded mozzarella, hollandaise sauce.
- Smoked salmon, dill cream cheese.
- Eggs, bacon, chives.
- Chicken, pesto, provolone cheese.

Instructions

1. Blend crepe ingredients for 10 seconds. Refrigerate batter one hour.
 2. Meanwhile, sauté eggplant and mushrooms. Mash eggplant with a fork. Stir in remaining ingredients. Remove from heat.
 3. Have all utensils, equipment and plates arranged on counter before starting to cook crepes. The process goes quickly, so pay attention to avoid overcooking.
 4. Heat a 10-inch nonstick pan over medium heat and coat with butter. Heat until butter sizzles.
 5. Pour a scant 1/4 cup of batter in circles around the center of pan. Swirl pan to spread batter into roughly an 8-inch circle. Swirling is important to get a thin crepe.
 6. Cook 45 seconds until edges begin to brown. Gently flip, using a thin spatula. Cook for 30 seconds, then move it to a large platter.
 7. Cover platter with towel, until all are ready to be served.
 8. Repeat until all batter is used.
 9. Add generous tablespoon of filling to lower portion of crepe. Then fold crepe in half.
- Batter will keep for up to 48 hours refrigerated so you can pre-make the batter a day before a busy New Year's Brunch. You could even make the crepes several hours prior to brunch. Store them up in a single layer in a reusable plastic bag (no refrigeration needed.)

Don't worry if your first crepe fails. That is common. Just keep going and the next ones will be great.

Health Value

Compared to pancakes, crepes contain fewer calories because they are quite thin.

Gluten-free crepes can be made using chickpea flour instead of wheat flour. Chickpea flour boosts protein, plus is high in iron and fiber, but is low in carbohydrates. Bob's Red Mill makes a chickpea flour.

Use a nonstick pan to avoid oiling pan between each crepe. The French famously use fat-rich ingredients. Recent studies have found whole-fat dairy is not bad for heart disease, especially for those later in life. Avoiding butter and cheese is less important than once believed. (ii) However, my dear chefs, we want to minimize fat intake due its high caloric level.

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BUILDING REPORTS



Adventures in Hawaii awaited OTOW resident, sister

By Donna Gagnon

"Hawaii is paradise born of fire." So wrote Rand McNally, American map publisher.

From the moment I made a spontaneous decision to go to Hawaii for the first time with my sister, Debbie Gagnon Rivera, we began to plan, yet nothing could have prepared me for the breathtaking beauty that awaited us. Debbie has been to Hawaii several times and she was excited to experience it again.

We were greeted at the airport with Aloha hugs and Pikake (Arabian Jasmine) leis from my niece, who lives on Oahu.

For almost three weeks Debbie and I explored popular tourist sites and places considered off the beaten path.

A personal goal for me was to be able to make the steep climb at Makapu'u Point Lighthouse trail within the Kaiwi State Scenic Shoreline, at the southeastern point of Oahu. This lighthouse, which was built in 1909, has the largest lens of any lighthouse in the United States. The elevation of the lighthouse stands at 637 feet above sea level. The winding and steep path can be unforgiving due to the sun and heat, but unforgettable because of its panoramic picturesque views. There are various legends about Makapu'u. Some believe she was a Tahitian goddess that lived in a cave on this volcanic slope.

The many lookouts along the scenic drive were spectacular with tidal pools, Halona Blowhole Lookout, a sandy beach, Koko Crater Botanical Gardens and beautiful colors with clear water.

Between late November and May you can see migrating humpback whales playing in the ocean. We were able to see the outlines of other Hawaiian Islands in the distance.

Our reward for making the climb up to Makapu'u Point Lighthouse was the exhilarating feeling of accomplishment and the endless views and a local treat known as malasadas, which is Portuguese sweet bread.

On another day, we hiked Manoa Falls Trail. It was muddy and rocky and spectacular. The slope up took us to an 800-foot elevation gain. We were in a rainforest environment with lush and magnificent views at every turn of the winding path. The sounds of birds, including cockatoos and parrots surrounded us as well as the stream flowing beside us. At the top of our ascent we were able to view the 150-foot waterfall. Debbie climbed down to the basin for more photos while I stayed at the viewing area above.

The climb back down to the bottom was a challenge because of the mud and rocks. This was much different from the lighthouse hike because of the elevation gain being greater at the falls than the lighthouse, which was a steep paved path. My sister has a Garmin watch that indicated that our climb was equivalent to 28 flights of stairs. Our reward for this amazing hike was açai bowls served in half of a carved-out pineapple and the unforgettable memories of this experience.

O'ahu is known for its craters and the Ko'olau mountain range which was



Austrian Alpine resident Donna Gagnon and her sister, Debbie Gagnon Rivera, explored Hawaii for three weeks and found that, as map publisher Rand McNally said, "Hawaii is a paradise born of fire." (Photos provided by Donna Gagnon)

our daily view as well as Kane'ohe Bay and Mokolii Island, a constant reminder that we were really in paradise. Some of our other adventures include visiting the following places:

Ho'omahalia Botanical Gardens is a 400-acre rainforest environment with many plants from around the world. It was created as flood protection for Kane'ohe.

Kualoa Ranch, a 4,000 acre living ranch was a stunning place where the mountains touched the bay. We did a catamaran tour of Kaneohe Bay and a Jungle Expedition Tour which took us 1,700 feet up to glorious views of the bay and the mountain range.

Another day, we drove to Hale'iwa

on the north shore for more coastline and surf. The Polynesian Cultural Center was a wonderful experience of six island cultures and customs as well as a Hawaiian buffet and show entitled "Ha," which means "Breath of Life." The use of fire and torches took my breath away.

Diamond Head Lighthouse above Waikiki Beach was fun to see and because of the time of year, more surfers were spotted here than on the north shore.

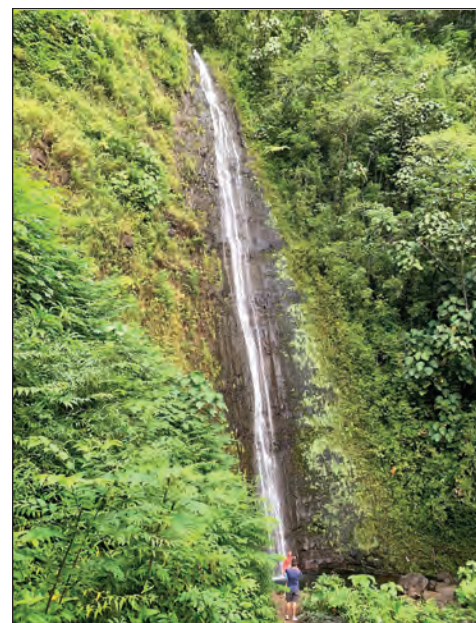
During a stroll around Kilauea, we discovered a chocolate factory that sources its cacao from Hawaii. Because Hawaii is close to the equator, it is the only state to boast of its cacao production. We enjoyed a chocolate-tasting experience.

Our final hike, a day before our return to Florida, was to the point of the western side of O'ahu called Ka'ena Point. This was a much easier hike along the rugged and stark coast, totally exposed to the sun.

I hope I'm lucky enough to return someday. There is so much more to see and experience and know about this paradise island. The "aloha spirit" of family and community is strong.



Makapu'u Point Lighthouse



Manoa Falls



Donna Gagnon and Debbie Gagnon Rivera at Koko Crater overlook of scenic shoreline.



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A look back at the OTOW News January, 1997

- **Good Neighbors:** Wednesday, Dec. 11, 1996, at noon marked the final meeting of the year of our G/N organization. It was a very special and delightful event at which time the officers for 1997 were installed. This also was the annual Christmas luncheon. Approximately 140 members and guests were present. Under the capable direction of First Vice President Sue Mills and her talented committee, plans for this beautiful event were carried out to perfection.
- **Shalom Club:** "City Lights" will be the production at the Musicana Theater when we meet to enjoy the afternoon of Jan. 15, 1997, at noon. The theater is located in the shopping center at 1560 McMullen-Booth and 590. Our fabulous menu: prime rib; chicken (grilled or Hawaiian); and broiled salmon. For our vegetarian dieters, eggplant parmesan. Did I leave anything out? Oh, yes, salad.
- **Lapidary Club:** October has two birthstones: opal and tourmaline. No other gem is like the opal. A diamond gives sparks of colored light, while an opal seems to hold them within itself, sort of like tiny colored flames. The ancient Romans valued opals next to emeralds. The Arabians thought that the opals fell from heaven in a flash of lightning and that is why the opal has so many colors. The Mayans of America decorated their homes and houses of worship with inlays of opal from Mexico and Honduras.
- **Softball "All Stars" Profiles:** Ross and Gail O'Handley live in Sydney, Nova Scotia, and have two daughters and three grandchildren. They have been coming to Florida for 20 years. Ross plays an excellent left field and has tremendous power to right and center fields. He has coached both boys and girls fast-pitch teams. In 1967, his team was the Maritime champs in Canada. When he finds some ice, he loved to ice skate. Oh, by the way, Ross also was an alderman in his home town of Sydney.
- **Casa Verde:** Nov. 30, 1996, was the beginning of the joyous Christmas season for Casa Verde residents. Everyone, men and women alike, came out early to decorate the core and trim the tree. When all the work was done, there was only a short time before everyone gathered in the core for a delightful tree-lighting party. All the traditional Christmas carols were sung under the direction of Orval Taylor and keyboardist Helen Langford. The ladies brought a fabulous array of snacks, dip, spreads and cookies, along with punch, eggnog and coffee.
- **Polynesian:** Our Christmas luncheon, held at the Clearwater Beach Hotel, was a big success, thanks to Harold Updike's planning. The little Poinsettia centerpieces were so pretty. And of course, Bill Nicholson was in good voice as emcee.

A Note For Dog Walkers

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Resident has special memories of Winter the dolphin

Winter, the famous prosthetic-tailed dolphin touched many lives before her recent passing. She holds a special place in Nagoya resident Jill Vanslette's heart.

They connected even before Winter became famous.

Jill has driven the Clearwater Jolley Trolley at Clearwater Beach for many years. She explained the trolley company has always had a close relationship with Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

"I cried when I first saw Winter," Jill said. The tailless baby dolphin's plight was sad. Jill was awed by the aquarium staff's dedication that saved the dolphin.

The remarkable work being done at the small marine hospital was not widely known at the time.

Then, Hollywood had the idea for a hit movie: "Dolphin Tale." The aquarium became a bustling movie set. Movie stars and crews arrived.

Jill's first role was to transport cast to the set. The unique trolley caught directors' eyes. Harry Connick, Jr. asked her for a personal walk through.

It was decided the trolley needed to be in the movie.

On cue, Jill drove her trolley into two memorable scenes of the movies. The



many of us who have seen "Dolphin Tale," will remember stars, Hazel and Sawyer, perched in the houseboat crow's nest. The trolley is seen cruising the causeway.

Jill and the trolley were again directed to appear in the climatic carnival scene.

She was happy the movie would tell Winter's courageous story.

Winter lived 16 years at the aquarium. Jill met visitors from many countries and all over the United States who wanted her to take them to see the motivational dolphin. Some were disabled children. Some were paraplegic veterans. They returned inspired.



Jolley Trolley driver Jill Vanslette stands beside her trolley, which was used extensively during the production of the movie "Dolphin Tale." She has permission from Jolley Trolley to use the photo and story. (Photo provided by Jill Vanslette)

The aquarium's buildings and work expanded before her eyes.

Jill made visits to a thriving Winter. Gave her thumbs up for a job well done.

The Jolley Trolley's first memorial

sign to Winter was put on Jill's trolley. Winter will not be forgotten!

Clearwater Marine Aquarium announced that Winter the Dolphin passed away on Nov. 11, 2021, due to an intestinal abnormality.

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Bagpiper Ray Willis shown with Hawaiian Towers residents Trish McGarren and Jolene Clemmer. Ray entertained building dwellers recently with holiday tunes.

Popular bagpiper wows Hawaiian Towers folks

Residents of Hawaiian Towers were entertained recently by Ray Willis and his bagpipes. Holiday music was played and Christmas carols were sung. Holiday treats of cookies were served. It was a very enjoyable evening.

I would like to welcome all new residents to our building.

Thanks to Trish McGarren and Jolene Clemmer for decorating the first-floor hallway. They did a fine job.

Enjoy the New Year!



OTOW CLEARWATER WEB SITE:
www.otowclearwaterinfo.com

Rila Renaissance News

By Gerri Jaeger

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

I want to thank all who helped me decorate and then remove the Christmas decorations. Also a big thank you to those that allow us to plug into their unit for our lights. You all are truly a blessing to me. I encourage our new neighbors to get involved in our building activities and get to know your neighbors.

Get into the habit of reading our bulletin board in order to stay informed

of what we are doing such as lunch dates, pizza party, dues collection, etc.

We will be collecting dues of \$10 per condo in late January and we are going to have a clean-up day with a dumpster in order to rid our storage rooms of unwanted items. I need everyone to help me with this, please.

We still need a building reporter. It's a great way to meet and talk to your neighbors and it's not a hard or taxing job. Let me know if you are interested.



A good turnout of Mandalay residents enjoyed their holiday dinner at Island Way Grill.

New residents were among holiday dinner attendees

Mandalay Building residents celebrated their holiday dinner at Island Way Grill. This restaurant is always a favorite with our building dwellers.

We had a better turnout this year. Four new residents were among the attendees.

This was an ideal venue to welcome new residents and become better acquainted with all in attendance.

The waiter took our photos.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!



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Decorations were brought back to life just in time

Siboney building has had many years of Noel signs and large wreaths. Over the years they took a beating, and last year they were unavailable to display.

This year being in a better state of mind, residents and board members decided to bring them back to life.

Last month we made plans to have a core party and a decorating party. To our surprise, we found out that the wreaths were refurbished with the help of Susan Roach and her sister Mary Jane. They were beautiful and with a generous donation from Bob and Barbara Stone for new decorations, they came to life again.

President Tom Tarka checked out the Noel signs and repaired the lights. Then he rounded up a team of men to hang the signs. We appreciate your help Skip Heller, Ralph DeVoe, Dave Mathewson, Denis Sexton, Peter O'Keefe, Todd Smeltzer, Eric Gregory, and of course, Tom Tarka. We are so happy to see the signs back up this year.

We had 25 residents join in at our core party and tree decorating party. We enjoyed great food and desserts, holiday music, and the tree looks beautiful.

The Jesters will be performing on



stage this year. Please stop by the pavilion on Mondays and Thursdays between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., as we will be selling tickets for the shows, which run February 11-13. Note that we will move the ticket selling location from the pavilion to the East Activity Center on Jan. 13. If you have any questions, see Lillian Foy or Lyn Taecker.

The show is "A Funny Thing Happened on Broadway." For a mere \$5 you will enjoy a fun night of song, dance and comedy.

Happy New Year everyone. Let's hope it's a great year and we move forward without any fear.



Siboney Building's Noel sign and a large wreath were restored to their former beauty, thanks to some very helpful building volunteers.

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Cheerful Modernage residents, 35 in all, enjoyed the building's Christmas party at Johnny's Restaurant. (Photo by Deborah Russell)

Nearly three dozen at Modernage party



The holiday season is certainly celebrated in a big way by our building residents, and 2021 was no exception! Our building was beautifully decorated by helpful neighbors, making another year brighter for everyone.

This year's Christmas Party was held at Johnny's Restaurant on Route 590, Clearwater. Our group of 35 cheerful people filled the decorated room to capacity! We had several tasty entrees to choose from as well as beverages of our choice. Dessert was optional; mine was tiramisu, and quite tasty.

The room was buzzing with laughter, people catching up with each other and it was great to see so many smiles in one place!

We had a name lottery to win small gifts and basically everyone went home with a parting gift to remember the evening.

Many thanks to the efforts of Marge Sivek, Agnes Helm and several other very helpful people who made this occasion so wonderful!

Happy New Year!



Handmade baskets raffled off at luncheon

The Bohemia building closed out 2021 with a flurry of activities. It started with a building coffee for the volunteer decorating committee. The day closed with a wine and cheese party to view the building lighting. We want to give a shout out to Ralph Ledesma who designed and lead the decorating team.

We held our annual Christmas luncheon at Clearwater Country Club. Eleven volunteers created beautiful baskets that were raffled off. We collected close to five hundred dollars that goes to charity. This annual event fulfills many niches. The basket contributors get the opportunity to show their artistic skills, the winners get awesome baskets to use themselves or give away as a fine Christmas gift.

The girl's day out group headed to St. Petersburg again, this time to view beautiful Sunken Gardens, decked out in holiday fashion. The most difficult decision the girls faced that day was which of the choice restaurants that surround the gardens, should they have lunch at.

It was noted that December has more building residents birthdays than any other month of the year. We celebrated birthdays of Mike Lane, Lena Betti, Maria Denehan, and Carol DeLisle. We wished them all a happy birthday with various types of celebrations.

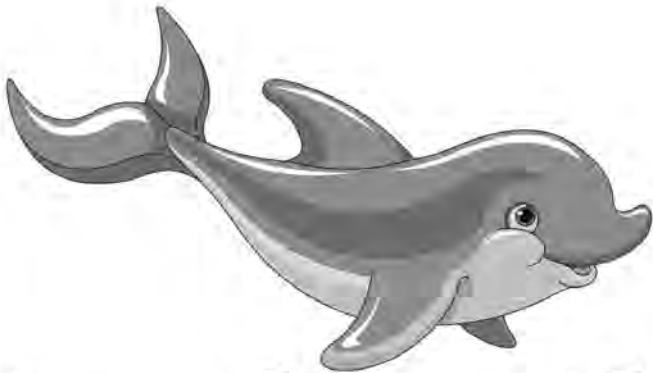
Holidays are the best! We had residents whose families came to visit, we had residents who traveled near and far to see family, and residents who took to the seas. One thing we know is that we wish everyone a happy New Year.

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Second-floor core may be new go-to venue for events

Welcome to a New Year!

Our Christmas party was held in a new place! Our second floor core seems to work nicely for events. No one left hungry. Food as always was delish, as was the company. Karen and Kirk Safee along with Tim and Karen know how to throw a party.

Some of our neighbors left for Christmas with families. New York beckoned to Theresa Gates, Joan Coyle and Minnie Bucella. Rosalie Borselli ventured to Sarasota with daughter and family. The Allens enjoyed Christmas Eve with their son and family. All have happily returned to our swaying palms, especially those who ventured north.

Apparently, I have been approved by Kevin Clifford (pictured) to be his new staff, seeing to his every need. Kevin enjoys morning walks with his pal Lynn Costanza.

Kevin has been the unofficial ambassador here at the Villa, greeting all he meets with a tail wag. Officially, Kevin Clifford Leonard Fairfield is sporting the new harness — a welcome gift from Chris Costanza.

Son Mike escaped the cold of Maine for the holidays here. Best place to recoup after knee surgery. Mike's wife, Colleen, arrived for New Years.

We certainly helped the local economy



with dinner out! Mike and Colleen are off to Maui after their Florida visit. Mike, being a professional photographer and videographer, got some great pictures while here. He has been a member of the Weather Channel photographer staff for some 30 years.

Many helping hands did their magic with decorating the Villa this season. Jim Farmer and Scott did the Ecuadorian side, Finlandia by Earl Balance, Tim Beaver and Kirk Safee.

Thanks to Karen Safee, Carroll Harris, Eleanor Albano, along with Gimma Cima, the core was decked out in splendid fashion. Now to pack it all away for next year.

Kudos to the On Top of the World service department, who were ever so



"Kevin Clifford," new friend of Viennese Villa reporter Fran Fairfield.

prompt coming over in answer to my query. We are indeed fortunate to have a crew that responds almost before you hang up the phone.

Well it's that time, so from Kevin and me, we wish you and yours, all OTOW staff

and management, our great newspaper and proofreaders in particular, a prosperous New Year.

Birthday and anniversary greetings to all who celebrate this month. Any news fit to print send to fresca@maine.rr.com.

Building captain and Marine vet obtain and install flagpole

Did you know the United States flag should never be flown at night unless it is illuminated?

For years, the Costa Rican Drive side of the Mandarin building has been putting out a small United States flag every morning and taking it in every evening before dark.

After many conversations of our residents wanting to have a flagpole and big flag, two of our residents began the quest to get approval from On Top of the World.

Building Captain Rick Figaski and Keith Faulkner, resident Marine veteran, submitted the proper request forms, drew up plans, and furnished pictures of the area where the pole would be placed.

They answered all the questions and any requests for further information about the installation and type of the pole. After several weeks, the request was granted and a work permit issued.

Keith and Rick took it upon themselves to contribute the pole, flag and solar light



so our nation's flag could fly 24 hours a day. Keith Faulkner dug the hole and installed the pole, flag and solar light.

All labor and costs for the project were donated. No money from the building's fund was used. Several of the residents from that side of the building have been so appreciative, they have made contributions to the project.

It's a beautiful sight to walk out the



The Mandarin Ladies Day luncheon for December was held at Ford's Garage. It included a special appearance by "Eduardo" (in hat and nose). (Photo by Ed Foland)

door and see our nation's flag flying day and night. Thanks to Keith and Rick for all their hard work getting approval and installing the pole. It is very much appreciated.

The Mandarin Building Ladies' luncheon was held at Ford's Garage. It was

a reunion of sorts with past, present, and new residents in attendance.

The appearance of Mandarin's own "Eduardo" (aka Ed Foland) showing off his tricks and jokes made for an extra-special treat.

Attention OTOW News writers ...

When submitting your stories to the newsroom by email, please put the name of your building, group or sport in the subject line of the email.



News from Emerald Isle: holiday party, newcomers, games

Wow! 2022 Happy New Year, everyone. Let's pray for a healthy year.

Back in 2021, on Dec. 6, our building residents held our annual holiday party. This year it was at the Island Way Grill. We had a great turnout and the food was delicious, as always. Thank you, Cheryl Butcher, for the lovely gifts and door prizes.

We have some new neighbors. A big Emerald Isle welcome to Susan Loren and David Allen.

Several Snowbirds have returned. Welcome back to Sue Naylor, Marilyn Trokey, Jack Fack, Treva and Larry Olinger. More to come.

Thanks to all of Santa's helpers who did such a magnificent job of decorating our building. The stars added a special touch.

Follow-up on Game Day: Nancy Younts, Cheryl Butcher, Maryann Nargi, Marge Hotaling and her daughter, Debbie, and yours truly attended. Several women



brought games to play. We chose to play "Uno" and had loads of fun.

The next session was held on Dec. 13 at Cheryl's home. Join us in January. Bring your game on!

Watch for a notice for our annual building meeting this month. Food will be served, of course. Be sure to sign up.



Thanks to Maryann Nargi for this photo of a group of Emerald Isle residents enjoying the building's holiday party.

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All aboard the 'Holly' Jolley Trolley for a holiday lights tour

By Jayne Dowdy
Chinese Cathay Reporter

It was a Holly Jolley Trolley ride for the Chinese Cathay building!

Residents, a few friends, family, and Santa all piled into the beautifully-decorated open-air trolley for an extraordinary holiday lights tour through The Lights of Lake Park Estates in Seminole, along with a few other notable homes in Pinellas Park.

The Lights of Lake Park Estates collects donations benefiting Hospice along the route and has raised over a million dollars over the last 29 years for the organization.

The tour ended with a drive through nearby Beckett Lake Estates in Clearwater, where many homes were decorated with flags and red, white, and blue lights to recognize our veterans and support our troops.

Andy, our Santa, led the whole trolley in singing the "Star-Spangled Banner" to end a truly special evening!

We sang "Happy Birthday" to Hue Ellen Mcquay's son, Maurice, who was celebrating his birthday. Maurice is a veteran and the family was very touched when we sang the "Star-Spangled Banner."

The evening was a great hit and we hope to make this tour an annual event!



Chinese Cathay residents enjoy a Holly Jolley Trolley ride through a few of Pinellas County's most colorfully-decorated neighborhoods.

Happy New Year from the OTOW News!
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What's with all the giggling, jiggling and jingling?

Some of us were giggling. Others were jiggling. Still others were jingling. And one person was giggling, jiggling, and jingling! Try saying that three times fast.

Where did all this fun happen? At the American Gothic Holiday party at the Dunedin Country Club, of course!

Why were we giggling? Because it was a great party. Why were we jiggling? Because we ate too many Christmas cookies. Why were we jingling? All guests were asked to bring something that jingled.

And jingle we did!

Everybody had a wonderful time. Thank you to CJ and Ann Messina for arranging the party.

If you haven't noticed lately, our building, especially the core, looks amazing. Next time you are in our neighborhood, take a walk through the AG core. Maureen and Gary Smith festively decorated our holiday bulletin board, and Ron Clements built us a cozy fireplace. It's beautiful! Thank you and kudos to all those AG neighborhood friendly elves who showed up to help decorate, drink coffee, eat donuts, and chat.

So, what's planned in American Gothic for next month and for next year?

We'll continue to have a social each month that we call our "Come as You Are"



meet and greet neighborhood social. Bring something to drink, something to share, and let's have some fun! Times, dates, and places change, so be sure to check the bulletin board for more information.

At our second monthly social in December, we were lucky enough to have Ron Clements and his guitar. Ron led us in our favorite Christmas carols. Everyone loved it. We are hoping he makes another guest appearance at our next monthly social for another sing-along. Oldies anyone?

Also, a reminder for the ladies: Sign up for the monthly "Ladies Only Brunch." A group of lovely ladies meets at 11:30 at various nearby restaurants for brunch.



American Gothic residents helping to "jingle in" the holiday season are, from left to right, Bob and Elaine Ellis and Shirley and Pete Gagnon. (Photo by Dennis Telleck)

And don't forget to make a New Year's resolution! Here are some easy ones. Take a walk. Smile at your neighbors. Name all the birds you see. Count how many building cores you can walk through.

Besides getting some great exercise, you'll see glitter, lights, a lot of little dogs, and all your neighbor's creativity.

We live in a lovely neighborhood. Let's all enjoy it.

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On Top of the World decorates for the holidays

If you were to walk the entire OTOW community to see every holiday light and decoration, you would cover about 16 miles. Or, you could have watched OTOW-TV 732 and saw the best the community had to offer. Here are some photos from the best videos. The 2021 Holiday Lights Video will be on the Box Office until next Christmas.



watch the video at
otowboxoffice.com



(Video photos by Doug Kates)



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Ginger Currier, age 99, on the left and Josie Marsiglio, 98, on the right helped trim the tree during the Mallorca building decorating event.

Mallorca decorating event

Early in December, our building residents came together to decorate. How we decorate is awesome, Hope you all drove by to see it or at least watched the OTOW-TV channel 732 video.

Jim Rudderham, Denny Haynes, Charlie Kovarik, Bev Paulan, Brooke Pennypacker and Vito Conforti wrapped our trees in lights with Dick Kuplen's supervision. Ursula Taylor, Doris Bullis, Rita Rudderham and Maureen Finguerra untangled and hung building lights. Jane Owen, Joise Marsiglio and I decorated our trees.

Terry fixed us lunch after using Josie's porch for coffee and in the morning Ginger Currier hosted an after-party which was filled with food we all contributed to. All in all it was a super successful day with lots of socializing and, obviously, good food.



Then it was on to the Christmas dinner on the 17th, which was more food and fun!

Hope everyone had a great Christmas and will have a Happy New Year.



New World French Wing Angels include, from left to right, Danielle LaRochelle, Pat Cullen-Davis, Virginia Upton, Reta Carney, Audrey Fontaine and Carleen Layton.

Annual party get-together

Our annual party for the New World French building was held Dec. 11 at Alfano's Restaurant. Residents and friends totaled 36, with a three-course meal.

The party lasted from 12:30 p.m. to approximately 4 p.m. A great time was held by everyone.

The building's Wing Angels organized the table decorations, programs, name tags and games, also the decorating of our buildings.

Thank you, Wing Angels, for all your great work in making this a happy and friendly building!



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It's (kinda') like the Riviera for holidays in the sun

Everyone knows the Riviera (Villa Riviera, that is) is the place to go for a sun holiday. While there, you can catch a glimpse of beautiful people and attend glimmering parties.

But this year returning Snowbirds got a bit of a surprise when they found the place had become a winter destination for another reason: skiing.

Overnight a mountain of snow, dubbed the North Pole because of its seasonal appearance, appeared outside the core of the building. As the sled perched atop it proved, the mound of white stuff could be used for all types of winter activities.

And after a hard day of hitting the slopes there is nothing like a little "après-ski" relaxation where cocktails and conversation dominate. And there certainly was a lot to talk about.

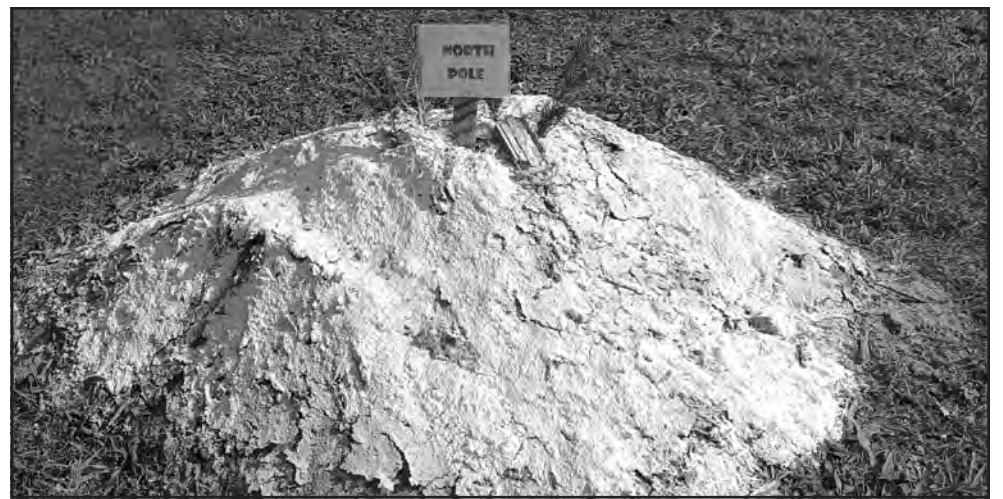
First there was the fantastic Christmas luncheon at the Olive Garden. Close to 40 people got together and enjoyed an afternoon out. The social committee had little Christmas favors for everyone that attended, and a few lucky people went



home with some extra holiday cash.

The 50/50 draw has become a staple at our social events to help defer a few of the costs. But instead of giving all of the money to one lucky winner, it has been decided to divide the 50% that is given away to spread the wealth.

There is also the mystery man, wearing fashionable sunglasses that has been seen roaming around the building. Is he a movie star? A member of the Kardashian clan? Is he in Witness Protection?



Villa Riviera's "mountain of snow," dubbed the North Pole because of its seasonal appearance, awaits "winter sports" enthusiasts who visit the building. (Photo by Margaret Whitaker)

No, he's Carl Turner, who recently bought a unit here in the building. Carl is a retired nuclear engineer who worked on numerous installations across the country. The trendy sunglasses are temporary, as he gets eye corrections completed so he can see better to hit the slopes in the future.

And last but not least, people are talking about the new front and back

patios the Whitakers are having installed. Margaret, the creative genius behind our bulletin boards, decided the dirt they had to dig up needed a little decorating before they took it away.

Alas, our ski slope was only temporary. But we are still a fantastic sun destination filled with beautiful people and fantastic parties.

See a new resident? Be a good neighbor and introduce yourself

Hau'oli makahiki hou. Happy new year to my fellow Polynesians! May we all be blessed with good health, happiness and prosperity in 2022. We deserve it!

Our building has been graced with lots of visitors celebrating the holidays with their family and friends in the warmth and sunshine of our beautiful state and our little village here at On Top of the World. We are very fortunate to reside here and enjoy this tropical beauty on a daily basis.

We also have more new neighbors who have arrived and now call the Polynesian building their home. If you happen to see new faces, by all means introduce yourselves and welcome them.

It's nice to drive around and see so many smiling faces out walking, biking and chatting with others. In my 32 years of visiting and living here, it is nice to see such an increase in these activities. Our community appears to be getting younger, and with that change comes renewed energy and enthusiasm. Speaking of which, Fridays at 3:30 on the Brazilia side of the building near the flag pole is the weekly



gathering of neighbors and friends. Come on out and enjoy yourselves.

On a very happy note, residents Deb and Bill Hicks, are the proud parents of Brittany Hicks, who recently participated in the pinning ceremony for nurses at Saint Petersburg College. Congratulations go out to this young lady and best wishes for a lifetime of career satisfaction. Mom and Dad are beyond proud.

Mahalo to you all.



Polynesian resident Bill Hicks, Brittany Hicks with her baby, and Deb Hicks.

Check out OTOW-TV Channel 732

Worldwide 'grandparent scam' is not going away anytime soon

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Festive lights for a festive, happy building

By Jesse Tiamson

If there's one occasion that brings a neighborhood together, it is Christmas. Building 44, French Renaissance II, is no exception. And every year it keeps on improving.

Four years ago, when my wife and I just moved in to this building, we put up a used Christmas tree that was donated to the building by a resident. It was headed for the trash bin. We decided that we could decorate it and put it up in our core for everyone to enjoy.

Before then, we were told by our neighbors, that it was more than 15 years ago when the building got decorated for Christmas. Since then, we had been doing it and more neighbors had been gradually joining us for the efforts.

Last year, when the pandemic hit the country, we decided to put up lights on the entire second floor of our three-story building to counter the depression that set in as a result of the lockdown. Since then, we had been decorating the core for every holiday.

This year, we decided to go all out and light up even the third floor! It was quite a challenge, since not every unit had outdoor power outlets on their balcony. And with one long building (this building is popularly called the "Berlin Wall"), it took good planning to achieve that goal.

And more people stepped in to help. Residents started to donate their time, talent, and treasure. It didn't take much convincing to come up with the funds to buy the materials, as well as ideas to do it. Most residents were willing to let us use



their outdoor outlets to power our lights. So after taking down our Thanksgiving decorations, we worked on it for seven straight days, sometimes staying after dark to complete a certain task.

On Dec. 7, we turned on the switch for the reveal! The whole building lit up brightly and a sense of neighborliness engulfed us all for the achievement!

My heartfelt thanks to the following residents who helped me and my wife, Evelyn (she led the hallway and lamppost decorating), do the physical work: Jeanne Hopper (who led the core setup along with her friend from Greenbriar, Jacline Weisgerber), Judy Hoffman, Gloria Agosto, Bill Harrison and Tom Hackett.

And I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge and thank all the residents who chipped in to buy the materials and those who willingly let us use their outdoor outlets to power up those bright lights!

Happy people equal happy building equal happy neighborhood.
Happy New Year to all of you!



This building core display was just part of the numerous decorations that adorned the French Renaissance II building. (Photo by Jesse Tiamson)

Some Handy Pinellas County Phone Numbers

- Duke Energy Power Outages 800-228-8485
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- Pinellas County Consumer Line (scams, rip-offs, etc.) 727-464-6617

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Lovely 'Queen of the Night' blooms for all to see

Several residents met in front of resident Christine Schott's residence to see beautiful "Queen of the Night" flower blooms, which occur only once a year. Not only are they beautiful, but the fragrance is just wonderful. Thank you, Christine, for sharing!

Residents have done a marvelous job decorating their units with lights and trees for all to see. Mrs. Claus (aka Janice Catapano) and her band of merry elves decorated the building with lights on the second and third floors plus a beautiful Christmas tree and Menorah in the first-floor core. Much of the work was accomplished during our newly-established Friday Happy Hour events, which have been quite a success.

Fujiwara residents enjoyed a wonderful holiday dinner in December at the Olive Garden, with many folks in attendance. Many carpooled and no one who wanted to attend was left behind.

In travel news, Pat Landgraff visited her daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter in Danville, Ind., during a 9-day visit for Christmas. Pat says she is thrilled that she was able to visit her children and grandchildren this holiday season.

Happy New Year to all!



This "Queen of the Night" flower at the Fujiwara building blooms only once a year.



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If you wish to make any other changes to your association records, such as email address or phone number changes, please feel free to enter that information on this form below:

Building is beginning to communicate with emails

Similar interests bring some of the Dorado building residents together. Sunday evening turned out to be one of those spur of the moment times. Neighbors met at Lenny Segall and Kathy Ahrens's Christmas Karaoke Party at the EAC pavilion. This became a party within a party.

Our residents are so looking forward to things getting back to normal and to have some neighborly get-togethers. Some events are planned well ahead of time but some are more spur of the moment. Carl Meyers has our annual outing at Tampa Bay Downs planned and Cheryl Milner is busy planning our monthly luncheons.

Watch for notices on the core bulletin board. Also, for safety reasons, we will now communicate with emails. Email will give more details of our get-togethers.



We have an email and phone number list of residents that is updated continuously. If you are not receiving emails and would like to get our notices, be sure to email me at edwina.schick@gmail.com.



Dorado residents enjoy Lenny Segall and Kathy Ahrens' recent Christmas Karaoke Party held at the East Activity Center Pavilion. L-R are: Lenny (Santa), Sharon Wadel, Larry Wadel, Lois Darling, Robin Kumar, Carl Andersen, Ellen Andersen, Edwina Schick, and Fernando Mariz. (Photo by Mary Lou Wall)

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR COYOTES

In September, a report indicated coyotes may be back in our community. Please remember these three simple tips:

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

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



Carrabba's Italian Grill was the site of the Malaguena holiday dinner on Dec. 10. (Photo by Phyllis King)

Malaguena celebrates the holiday season big time

Everyone was ready to celebrate this year!

The Social Committee organized the first annual Malaguena Toy Drive and it was a success. Thanks to Joni Benedetto, who organized the effort and collected the toys in both lobbies on Dec. 6 and 7.

We asked residents to contribute new unwrapped toys, and they delivered! My husband Paul and I delivered the carload of toys to the Salvation Army office on Dec. 8, where we were met by residents Don and Connie Canning and other members of the Church.

The lobby and chapel were beautifully decorated for Christmas. The Salvation Army folks were gracious and very grateful. They assured us the children to whom the toys would be given would be thrilled. This was a heartwarming experience and one I hope becomes a building tradition.

Speaking of traditions... We had our annual Holiday Dinner at Carrabba's Italian Grill. Over 30 Malaguenans came for dinner. We didn't have a private room, but we sure took up most of the dining area!

Because our building is large, with two distinct wings, residents don't always



know folks who live "on the other side." Also, several new residents moved in over the past year and it was great to see them.

The dinner brought everyone together and there was much laughter and chatter. The restaurant staff did a great job with taking orders and delivering the right entree to the right person!

So what's ahead from the Social Committee? We are tentatively planning a pizza party in February, but plans aren't definite yet. Be sure to watch the bulletin boards for notices and sign-up sheets.



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A wrap-up of Austrian Alpine holiday activities

Austrian Alpine holiday high jinx hit new heights with our classy core decorating, puffy bows, jolly bulletin board, scrumptious brunch and maximum people participation.

Many thanks to Donna Gagnon, Tiffany Schad, Joyce Jennings, Kim Anastasi, Virginia McDowell, Marilyn Whelan, Bob Young, Lennie Segall, Dottie Ferrence, Joanne Hudson, Joyce Monahan, Jean Donnelly, and Pat Sheridan for organizing, designing, baking, donating, decorating, smiling and simply being kind.

Our brand new tree was fluffed and twinkled by our talented team of decorators led by new resident Joyce Jennings, former florist and boutique owner.

Joyce Monahan won the gift basket during the tree decorating event.

The Island Way Grille provided our holiday brunch, which included oysters, salmon, roast beef, pork, assorted sides and many desserts. Tiffany Schad organized the brunch and donated the prizes for our Christmas trivia contest.



Many Austrian Alpine residents contributed to the Homeless Empowerment Program (HEP) on Betty Lane. Our generous contribution provides food and shelter to those in need, many of whom are our veterans. A thank you note from Megan Risser of HEP is on our bulletin board.

Our annual building meeting and storage room cleanup are coming up. Check the bulletin board for details.



A tale of two Joyces: Joyce Jennings adds her decorating talents while Joyce Monahan takes away the gift basket.

ATTENTION WEST-SIDE DRIVERS

As you enter on World Parkway and approach Americus Boulevard, remember to come to a complete stop before making your turn. Do not pass a left-turning car on the right, inasmuch as that blocks the other driver's vision and could cause an accident. Remember to make a complete stop when you come to any stop sign

within the On Top of the World community. The other cars and pedestrians around you are depending on it, even though you may not see them. A "rolling stop" places you and others at risk of an accident. Stop, look both ways, and look in front of you. Thanks for being a cautious and safe driver!

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Which application do you need?

Application for Approval of Owner	If you... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are purchasing a condominium have inherited a condominium are being added to a deed of a condominium
Application for Approval of Residency	If you... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> plan to reside in a condominium in which you are NOT the owner (you are NOT listed on the deed)
Direct Owner Application for Lease Approval	If you... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are leasing (renting) a condominium



(Limit 7 passengers on each run)

OTOW BUS

Schedule/Riding Guidelines

Walmart

Wednesdays 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Publix

Thursdays 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Sprouts

Fridays 8:15 a.m.

Aldi

Fridays 10:30 a.m.

This is a temporary change to our normal bus schedule.

The locations and times above are subject to change. Watch OTOW-TV, The Box Office and Nancy's Bulletin Board to learn when the normal bus schedule has returned.

The bus driver picks up passengers with reservations only. Reservations are first come, first served, and may only be made 24 hours in advance. We cannot accept multi-day reservations. You must present your valid activity card before boarding.

The bus driver is not permitted to assist passengers in any way.

No eating or drinking on the bus. Shopping time is limited to 1 hour, 15 minutes.

Face masks are recommended.

(727) 799-3417 Ext. 7

Box Office Sudoku

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

OTOW NEWS

WORDMIX

Unscramble the six words listed below.

If you unscramble correctly, the first letter of each word will spell out the secret word of the month.

If you cannot come up with the secret word of the month, then redo at least one of the six scrambled words.

A

R

E

N

G

B

R

T

O

I

T

A

M

A

E

L

U

U

A

M

N

T

U

D

B

O

N

R

E

Y

C

T

A

N

U

A

SECRET WORD:

Previous scrambled words: guano, ethic, nickel, infect, unarmed, special. Secret word: genius

OTOW NEWS CLASSIFIED ADS

This classified ad listing is a service to the On Top of the World community. There is no charge to residents for this service. Items must be priced under \$500 and the ad wording must be 20 words or less, including phone number. Submitter's name and building name must be included, but will not be published. **If submitter's name, building and unit number are not included with the ad, it will not be accepted for publication.**

Please note: We do not accept ads for automobiles, firearms, yard/building sales, units for sale or rent, or employment. Drop ads off at the newspaper office. We cannot accept ads over the phone. Ad deadline is the 15th of the month preceding publication date. Ads received late will be placed in the next available issue. Only one (1) ad per person per month will be accepted. Unless otherwise stated in the ad, phone numbers are within the (727) area code.

FOR SALE

Beautiful dining room table w/chairs, 4 months old \$350 firm. 714-227-4504

Rarely-used Shark Ion RV700 robotic vacuum with docking/charging station, remote control and rubber boundary markers \$65 OBO. 510-3726

Large bird cage on wheels, 55"H. Cage itself is 28"Hx20"D \$60. 531-7412

Golf cart, nice \$10. 266-4078

New Gourmia digital air fryer, in box with directions, 6-qt. capacity; Aero Crisp with 7-piece set. Best offer. 442-0555

Buffet side board, 17½"W x 35"H x 39"L, excellent condition, must see. Make offer. 726-7163

Men's 21-speed "Diamond Head" bicycle, red in color, excellent condition \$85; Maytag "Neptune" deluxe washing machine, works great \$75. 240-1403

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

Good Karma Book Club

FOREWORD BY DOMENICO STARNONE

Thumpa Lahiri

"A window into the mind and soul of a New York Times bestseller"

Interpreter of Maladies

STORIES

WINNER of the PULITZER PRIZE

Masks are still required in rooms.

10 a.m., Thursday, January 20
"Interpreter of Maladies"
By Jhumpra Lahiri

10 a.m., Thursday, February 17
"Eliza Hamilton: The Extraordinary Life and Times"
By Tilor J. Mazzeo

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

Need more information, write to Jslantz1948@aol.com or call 727-754-3823



DIABETIC? WHY FINGERSTICK WHEN YOU CAN SCAN?



FreeStyle Libre 2 Now Available



FreeStyle Libre 14 day system

- It's discreet and easy to check glucose with the FreeStyle Libre 14 day system.¹
- Provides accurate glucose readings² without fingerstick calibrations.
- 14 days of glucose monitoring
- No fingersticks*

Due to **COVID19**, Medicare has now made it easier than ever to qualify.

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

Fingersticks are required for treatment decisions when you see Check Blood Glucose symbol, when symptoms do not match system readings, when you suspect readings may be inaccurate, or when you experience symptoms that may be due to high or low blood glucose. REFERENCES: 1. Data on file. Abbott Diabetes Care. 2. FreeStyle Libre 14 day User's Manual.

Indications and important Safety Information: The FreeStyle Libre 14 day Flash Glucose Monitoring System is a continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) device indicated for the management of diabetes in person age 18 and older. It is designed to replace blood glucose testing for diabetes treatment decisions. The System detects trends and tracks patterns aiding in the detection of episodes of hyperglycemia and hypoglycemia, facilitating both acute and long-term therapy adjustments. Interpretation of the System readings should be based on the glucose trends and several sequential readings over time. The System is intended for single patient use and requires a prescription.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Remove the sensor before MRI, CT scan, X-ray, or diathermy treatment. WARNINGS/LIMITATIONS: Do not ignore symptoms that may be due to low or high blood glucose, hypoglycemic unawareness or dehydration. Check sensor glucose readings with a blood glucose meter when Check Blood Glucose symbol appears, when symptoms do not match system readings, or when readings are suspected to be inaccurate. The FreeStyle Libre 14 day system does not have alarms unless the sensor is scanned, and the system contains small parts that may be dangerous if swallowed. The FreeStyle Libre 14 day system is not approved for pregnant women, persons on dialysis, or critically-ill population. Sensor placement is not approved for sites other than back of the arm and standard precautions for transmission of blood borne pathogens should be taken. The built-in blood glucose meter is not for use on dehydrated, hypotensive, in shock, hyperglycemic-hyperosmolar state, with our without ketosis, neonates, critically ill patients, or for diagnosis or screening of diabetes. Review all product information before use or contact

Abbott toll-free 855-632-8658 or visit www.FreeStyleLibre.us for detailed indications for use and safety information. For full indications for use and safety information, visit <https://www.FreeStyleLibre.us/safety0information.html>. FreeStyle, Libre and related brand marks are trademarks of Abbott Diabetes Care Inc. in various jurisdictions. Other trademarks are property of their respective owners C2018 Abbott. ADC-09691 v1.0 10/18 [PTAN 7840060001]

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- Pelleve™ Skin Tightening
- The Roper Lip Laser Procedure
- Laser Toning
- Thermage® Procedures
- Active/Deep FX™ Fractional Laser for Wrinkles
- Juvederm XC®, Bellafill®, RHA®, Restylane L®, Sculptra™, etc.
- Facial Vein Treatment
- Botox® Cosmetic
- ALMA Accent, Exilis & Zwave Cellulite Procedures
- Laser Hair Reduction
- Photodynamic Therapy
- Sclerotherapy & Laser Leg Vein Therapy
- Skin Medica & Javani Ultrasound Facials & more!
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- Age Spots
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- Spider Veins
- Port Wine Stains
- Hemangiomas
- Other Birthmarks
- Stretchmarks

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Susan S. Roper,
M.D., F.A.A.D.

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