

Did you know clubs have information tables in the EAC? See page 21

Valencia residents rent a trolley to see holiday lights. See page 40

Local entertainment does not stop after the holidays. See page 59

# ON TOP OF THE WORLD NEWS

January 2023

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55 Years of Only Good News

Volume 55

No. 1

## On Top of the World's 50th New Year's Eve celebration



### Fifty!

There are 50-year anniversaries and 50th birthday parties, but there will only be one On Top of the World 50th New Year's Eve bash sponsored by the Entertainment Committee.

It will take place 9 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022, to 1 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023, in the East Activity Center Auditorium.

The event is sold out. No tickets will be sold at the door.

"We have put a lot of time and thought into this year," said Entertainment Committee President Karen Saffee. "The room will be decorated beautifully with a gold and black theme."

This is kind of an unusual 50th event. Two years ago the Entertainment Committee spent months planning for the club's 50th anniversary bash scheduled for Dec. 31, 2020. But then COVID arrived and the dance was cancelled because the Auditorium was closed.

There never was a 50th anniversary party.

In addition, with COVID still around, a New Year's Eve party did not exist in 2021 either. So the biggest annual event in our community took two years off.

What does that mean?

We never had a 50th New Year's Eve bash. It has been frozen in time for the past 730-plus days just waiting to let loose!

Karen said there will be no special ceremony and there will not be champagne glasses marking 50 years, but the evening will still be fun knowing it is the 50th of its kind.

And 600 guests are ready to party.

Soul Love Band will be in the Auditorium performing.

Karen said they are a new band, but they are very good and ready to party.

There will be music, champagne at every table and a lot of dancing.

There are new lights above the Auditorium stage so the audience should get quite a show.

At 11:59 p.m., everyone will count down the final seconds of 2022 and cheer in a brand new start - 2023.

It will be quite a night for everyone who has waited two years to bring back this On Top of the World tradition.

"Planning our New Year's Eve dance takes a lot of time and planning," said Maryann O'Neil, who was the president of the Entertainment Committee when the 50th anniversary was supposed to be held. "Decorations are considered, from table coverings to decorating the activity center to ordering New Year's Eve favors."

Maryann said not having a 50th anniversary party was disappointing for the residents and the board, but she still has a "sense of pride" that she is still on the board for the 50th overall celebration.

She said it would have been more fun to celebrate 50 during the 50th year, but expects coming back after two years off will be just as fun.

Above and below, On Top of the World couples dance during the 49th edition of our New Year's Eve bash on Dec. 31, 2019. There have been no New Year's Eve parties since so the 50th edition was on hold.

(OTOW News file photos by Mary Lou Wall)





Scott Baker



Shannon Burskey



Deborah Palmquist



Carmen Potesta



Michael Hargett



Carrie Moreno



Alice Shammass



Todd Adams



Jason Johantgen



Ken Reiss



Joanne Staffieri

# Happy New Year

from Our Team to You!

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Food Truck Night returned to On Top of the World on Dec, 14 at the East Activity Center. Residents could choose from Philly cheesesteaks, seafood, tacos or barbecued chicken. There were even margaritas. The next Food Truck Night will be Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023. Make sure you don't miss it.

(Photos by Doug Kates)

**FOOD TRUCK NIGHT 2022**

Sea Dog Cantina

Steve D's Philly Cheese Steaks

Charm City Eats

BBQ Queen



# OTOW residents take initiative to

## Florida Senate Bill 4-D Update

I want to thank the more than 700 residents who responded to the call to action to notify their legislators over the threats posed in enforcement of Florida Senate Bill 4-D.

This is an outstanding response.

The Management Company's plan is to print and deliver your letters to our legislators, to further underscore the gravity of the State's attempt to fix a problem by creating a much worse problem.

But stay tuned, there is still work to be done. As soon as we have the names and contact information for the legislators who have yet to be appointed to the committee charged with reviewing this bad piece of legislation and crafting a "fix-it" bill, we will post that information to our official website OTOWClearwaterInfo.com.

In the meantime, we have added the chair of the Senate Regulated Industries as well as the rest of Pinellas County delegation to the address list on the website. We will again ask that you send the customizable letter posted on the OTOW website to that group as well. Legislators need to hear from you about the problem they created.

By way of background, in case you missed this last month, allow me to recap the problem:

The Legislature's response to the June 24, 2021, building collapse in Surfside, Fla., was passed into law during Special Session 2022D earlier this year. Florida Senate Bill 4-D was heard in only one committee meeting in both chambers before being considered for final passage during the special session.

The usual practice is that bills of this magnitude are heard in multiple committees to get the broadest range of public input.

This bill created a statewide milestone inspection program for condominiums and cooperative buildings that are three or more stories, 30 years after initial occupancy, and for buildings located within three miles of the coast, 25 years after initial occupancy.

Community Associations are now required to conduct reserve studies and apply for recertification every 10 years. The bill would prohibit associations from waiving reserves.

When it comes to mandatory reserves, the legislation applies to all reserves (paving, painting, roofing, elevators, and now structural) and the cost to repair or replace.

This provision will have a harsh impact not only on the On Top of the World condominium community, but all 1.5 million condominiums (28,000 Condo Associations) in the State of Florida, beginning with the 2023 budget year will have an impact on future budget expenses since reserves are now mandated in the law (most likely impacting FY 2023-24 and forward).

In our case, imposing mandatory re-



Chairman

serves as required under the current law, Florida Senate Bill 4-D will add substantially to your monthly community services fee! This would be in addition to any new operating expenses that come into the next 2023-24 budget.

I don't believe anyone on the Board wishes to see anything of that magnitude imposed on residents of this Community. If the Legislation isn't fixed, the Board will have no choice but to comply with the law on the matter of adopting mandatory reserves.

The Legislative session begins on March 7, 2023. Committee meetings began the week of Dec. 12, 2022, and run through February 2023. The first special session just concluded with a bill sent to the Governor on crafting Property Insurance Relief. Nothing in that session about working on Florida Senate Bill 4-D.

If you have not already done so, please contact your listed elected officials to tell them that changes need to be made in Florida Senate Bill 4-D during the 2023 regular session. Share your concerns with the impact Florida Senate Bill 4-D will have on you personally and ask them to do all they can to fix the reserve provision to allow flexibility for Community Associations through alternative funding methods.

In the broadest sense, Florida Senate Bill 4-D will adversely affect the affordability of condominium living, and by extension the value of many condominiums, once it goes into effect.

I would expect many residents across the State, burdened by the cost of this regulatory compliance, will begin to sell, which would have the potential to collapse the market value.

Add to this, high interest rates and the most costly insurance markets in decades... you can see where I am going.

That said, I am forever an optimist.

The worst imaginable scenario will likely never happen, provided the Florida Legislature and the Governor hear from constituents and take ownership for fixing the dual crisis of community association legislation

and property insurance.

Please follow the Association home page at otowclearwaterinfo.com to find the most up-to-date information on this important legislation. We have provided a sample letter to send your legislator.

## Cable and Internet Update

Service installations started on Tuesday Dec. 7, following a slight delay due several incomplete fiber splices. Additional splicers and service installers were brought on property and processes put in place to resolve that matter very quickly.

It is not surprising that a roll out of this magnitude would have some communication glitches. Processes were reviewed and adjusted to address the lack of effective resident communication with the crews. All crews are aware they must call ahead to the resident.

As of Dec. 14, 228 residents were installed. The Summit Broadband Construction Team has verified building connectivity in 78 percent of the buildings. The remaining buildings will be fully operational by Dec. 23.

The Launch Team is proactively reaching out to residents via email and outbound calling to let them know about upcoming Summit Broadband service dates.

Anyone who has had a problem or complication during earlier installations can attend any of these scheduled service dates with Summit Broadband representatives.

I spoke with one very happy resident who loves the service, but admits it takes an adjustment period to learn the system. As she put it, "nothing major though."

Dealing with electronics can be frustrating, especially if your tech savvy grandkid is not in easy reach. To help counter that problem, the first On-Site Support and IPTV Workshops were scheduled for Dec. 12-21. More dates have been schedule for January and February. You will receive a notification or phone call what day you should attend.

I shouldn't have to point this out, but no resident should be tampering or "inspecting" any of the Summit Broadband Fiber Optic Utility cabinets. A Summit Broadband tech found a resident actively tampering in the utility cabinet. His excuse was "I'm a retired telecom employee!" That tampering interrupted service to several customers.

Entry into any communication facility is trespassing and vandalism, and can be prosecuted. We have asked Summit Broadband to report any future incidents to law enforcement.

Remember, please check the website OTOWClearwaterInfo.com/summit-broadband/ for the latest updates and most reliable information.

## Property Management Update Painting/Waterproofing

Building 28 will see the contractor painting the front façade of the structure, while Building 52 will have the rear façade re-coated in January.

We ask that residents in these particular buildings be mindful and remove any outside holiday decorations by Jan. 8, 2023, in preparation for the arrival of the painting contractor to avoid delays in completing the work. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Please also be aware that the painting contractor may require residents to temporarily relocate their personal vehicles or personal items on front/rear patios in order to reach all areas of the building. All start dates are approximate and inclement weather can affect scheduling.

## Construction, Roofing and Large Scope Projects

The new year traditionally marks the commencement of the community's roofing improvements and 2023 is no different.

Contracts have been signed and permitting applied for with Pinellas County. If deliveries of materials are held to by manufacturers, which has been a real challenge with continuing supply chain issues, the contractor should begin work at Building 57 sometime in late January.

As with all roofing system replacement projects, the staged closure of the building's two parking lots, either partially or in their entirety, will be necessary to allow for the safe and efficient operation by the contractor.

Bulletins will be posted in the building's lobby area advising of the contractor's activities during the duration of the project along with the dates of when vehicles and equipment will need to be moved.

As always, please observe all cordoned off areas in the interests of safety during this

work. Thanks for your help!

Building 89 will be the next structure to have its walkway and stairwell railings improved with the work anticipated to start in the month of January, pending permitting from Pinellas County.

As with other railing projects, a licensed contractor will affect the complete removal and replacement of the aluminum components in the second and third floor stairwells and add elements in the balcony walkways in order to meet life-safety codes.

The improvements are estimated to be complete in 3-6 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.

Also anticipated to begin in late January, and continue throughout the spring, are State mandated upgrades to specific elevators in the community. These component retrofits will require that the elevator be taken out of service for a 2-3 day period. Once the component installation is complete, the work must be reviewed by a certified State of Florida inspection service in order to return it to full operation.

In all, 22 elevators will need these retrofits. Notices will be posted in advance of the work giving at least seven days' notice so that users may make the necessary arrangements. We appreciate your cooperation and patience as we work towards making the elevators at On Top of the World even more reliable and safer.

## Recurring Reminders for All Community Residents

The Management Company would like to thank the residents who live on the second and third floors for their cooperation in making the On Top Of the World community a safer and more-aesthetically pleasing place to live by removing their floor mats from these common area.

The community's response for compliance was astounding, as has been the feedback regarding these efforts.

Once again, thank you for your support in this undertaking.

Now that the notification and compliance piece has been completed, the management company will continue the ongoing compliance enforcement of these common areas where the mats were once located, as well as repainting areas that could not be cleaned to community standards.

As a reminder to all residents, and in keeping with condominium rules governing common areas, any floor mats placed in the second or third floor balcony walkways or center core areas will be removed without any further notification. Please assist us in keeping these walkway areas clear while making your community a safer and more beautiful place to live!

## Recurring Reminders for All Community Residents

Building walkway repairs will continue as construction crews perform maintenance to 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.

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

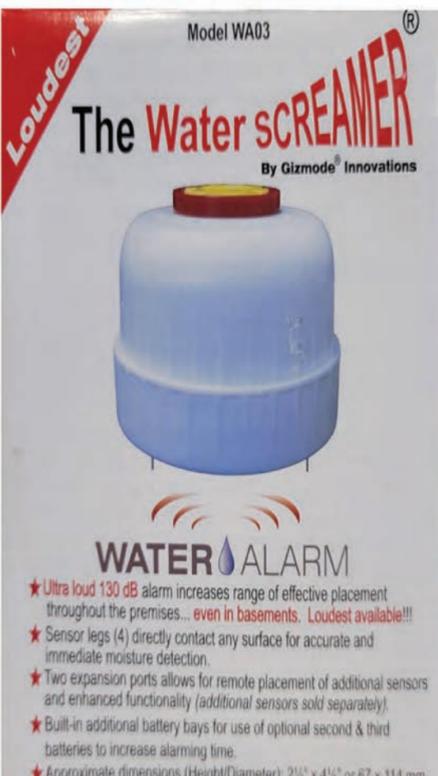
The end result is intended to provide longevity to the balcony walking surfaces as well as returning the look to its original conveyed color scheme.

The management company will post notices on affected building bulletin boards concerning the dates crews are expected to commence the work.

Please be aware of "Caution" and "Wet Paint" signs in and around these work areas.

(Continued on page 5)

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Community  
Service Office




**Model WA03**  
**The Water SCREAMER**  
By Gizmode Innovations

**WATER ALARM**

- ★ Ultra loud 130 dB alarm increases range of effective placement throughout the premises... even in basements. Loudest available!!!
- ★ Sensor legs (4) directly contact any surface for accurate and immediate moisture detection.
- ★ Two expansion ports allows for remote placement of additional sensors and enhanced functionality (additional sensors sold separately).
- ★ Built-in additional battery bays for use of optional second & third batteries to increase alarming time.
- ★ Approximate dimensions (Height/Diameter): 2 1/2" x 4 1/2" or 67 x 114 mm.

# write to their state representatives

## 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 East.

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.

Inspection services representatives will also be reaching out to residents of buildings that are scheduled for new paint and waterproofing coatings during the current improvement cycle.

The purpose of their contact will be to advise residents that the painting vendor will be color matching all external doors to the majority building color as is required by the condominium association rules.

This will usually require no action by the unit owner other than to allow access to the entire door surface for the coating to be applied.

If for some reason you were not at home when this work takes place, you may contact the Community Service Office and schedule a follow-up visit by the coatings vendor. We

appreciate your cooperation in making this project a success across the community.

Many first floor unit owners will be receiving notification from the Inspection Services Department over the coming months as the management company works towards the removal of all unapproved decorative stones throughout the community. The stones are not only an unapproved item for use in landscaping, but have the propensity to damage association and personal property alike.

To keep all residents in the community aware of this compliance issue, this notice will be published in upcoming editions of the OTOW newspaper.

The management company asks that if you receive a notification requiring action on your part, please remove the stone at the earliest convenience.

The removal of plantings located above and around the potable water meters that service the individual units is also ongoing. The management company is asking that all residents comply and not replant the areas.

Plants, or other items found in these areas, will be removed without notice and disposed of as they hinder the proper maintenance of these meters in the future.

Please keep in mind that the condominium association requires a modification request for any landscape alterations. Many times decorative rocks or landscaping are installed without the advance approval of the association, and the removal and disposal of these items becomes the responsibility of the violator.

Please, always apply for approval before you install.

Inspection efforts are focused on the tagging and removal of personal furnishings and belongings placed in outside walkways and stairwells of buildings. These obstructions present a fire concern, block egress, or are of a nature that they do not comply with written community standards.

The management company would like to reiterate to residents that barbeque grills - be it propane, charcoal, or electric - are not permitted on any balcony areas, as they pose a fire risk to the structure and residents.

Clutter enforcement has always been

one of the most recurring compliance issues at On Top of the World. These efforts make for an overall safer community in which to live. If you receive notification that an item is out of compliance, please correct the issue immediately. If you have a question, and were not able to speak with a compliance representative at the time of the notification, please stop by the Community Service Office and request an appointment. Someone will be glad to contact you.

Please remember that items tagged in common areas may be removed and disposed of without further notice.

Please help make your community safer by complying if you receive a violation tag/door hanger. Your continued cooperation is appreciated.

## Insurance on Your Condo and Contents

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

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

Also consider, if your unit is point of origin of the casualty, you are personally liable for all damage to the Association's property as well as any damage to other units.

You need the general liability coverage provided in an HO6 policy to protect you from losing all of your assets. Loss of use coverage will cover expenses for living and lodging should you become displaced. Displacement after a fire may be between 18 months or longer!

This is a good point to segue into the limits of coverage that individual condominium owners may wish to have. Contents coverage may vary greatly depending on what you own. As a basic point though, you need adequate limits to cover furnishings,

personal items, floor coverings, appliances, and cabinetry.

With inflation at a 40-year high, make sure you have the full replacement cost option selected on your contents coverage. All carriers write an HO6 rider that provides for loss assessment coverage in the event of a special assessment from the Association to cover unforeseen shortfalls or losses.

Buildings are insured under a master policy in the name of the Association. The deductible is \$10,000 for any casualty event per occurrence including wind/hail related damage. Named storm events carry a separate deductible of 3 percent of the total value at the time of loss, at each location involved in the loss, subject to a minimum (community wide) deductible of \$250,000 for any one occurrence.

With respect to flood (rising water), earthquake, and flood resulting from a named storm, all 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 5 percent of location total insured value subject to a \$250,000 deductible per occurrence.

For more information, please visit [www.otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://www.otowclearwaterinfo.com) then locate Insurance Requirements.

The problem of the highest insurance rates in the nation was not addressed in the last legislative session, as it was an election year and the legislators were busy off campaigning (not taking care of business).

As a result, the markets for insurance has worsened with the insolvency of several insurers and the catastrophic losses from Hurricane Ian.

I'm not optimistic they will get much right with the just passed Florida State Bill 2-A Property Insurance Bill. I hope the legislature has gotten it right this time. We won't know for a long while as the backlog of litigation needs to settle out over time.

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.



## Summit Broadband Dates to Reschedule Services

**Summit will be on-Site at the below dates and timeframes. These are not meetings. These times are for individual residents who experienced a service affecting issue during the install and need to reschedule the installation of services or those whose appointment did not occur as scheduled.**

**Those who have not yet scheduled or have service-related question should call this number – 1-877-678-6648**

Location	Weekday	Date	Time
Safety Harbor Room	Wednesday	1/4/2023	1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Auditorium	Thursday	1/5/2023	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Safety Harbor Room	Friday	1/6/2023	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Safety Harbor Room	Wednesday	1/11/2023	1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Crystal Beach Room	Thursday	1/12/2023	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Safety Harbor Room	Friday	1/13/2023	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Safety Harbor Room	Monday	1/16/2023	1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Safety Harbor Room	Tuesday	1/17/2023	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Safety Harbor Room	Wednesday	1/18/2023	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Safety Harbor Room	Monday	1/30/2023	1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Safety Harbor Room	Tuesday	1/31/2023	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Safety Harbor Room	Wednesday	2/1/2023	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Safety Harbor Room	Monday	2/6/2023	1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Safety Harbor Room	Tuesday	2/7/2023	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Safety Harbor Room	Wednesday	2/8/2023	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Safety Harbor Room	Monday	2/20/2023	1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Safety Harbor Room	Tuesday	2/21/2023	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Safety Harbor Room	Wednesday	2/22/2023	9:00 am to 4:00 pm

In addition, there will be IPTV Workshops for Resident installed with Summit Services. The Workshop session are RVSP only. Resident will receive an email invitation the Thursday following their installation to the next schedule Workshop.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM

You never know when OTOW or a building captain will need to get in touch with you or your family in case of an emergency. Please fill out this form and leave your emergency contact information on file in the Community Service Office. Please update once a year.

Drop Off or Mail To: OTOW Community Service Office, 2069 World Parkway Blvd E., Clearwater, FL., 33763

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Bldg #: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
OTOW Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### YOUR EMERGENCY CONTACTS (At least one name should be out of state)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make sure one person living nearby has spare keys to your condo and vehicle. List below who is holding your spare keys.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Bldg # \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_



*I'm amazed at how many people have lived at OTOW for years -- even decades -- and say they don't read the paper! I keep telling them if they don't read anything else, they need to read the first 6 pages, or so -- at least Ken's column, as well as Dessa's, so they know the important things going on at OTOW.*

*So many columns are informational, that it's hard to name them all. I especially take note of Nancy Rogers' columns, as well as Laurie Fischer's "Around the Bay." Could we ask for anymore help on what we can do with our time!*

*It was so nice to have the Fall Expo and Flea Market back again -- I really missed them! Thanks to everyone who works for the newspaper, or volunteers their time to bring us wonderful events, entertainment, dances, etc.*

*Living at OTOW is really like living in Paradise -- as a matter of fact, that's exactly where I live -- and I'm loving it!*

*Thank you to all -- and Happy Holidays!*

*- Bonnie Mack*

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



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

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

**(3) GO ONLINE** to [otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://otowclearwaterinfo.com).  
Go under the service tab to fill out a request.

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

#### Service Policy

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



People in Cozumel read OTOW News. So can you! Read OTOW News online.

OTOW News Online [otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com)

# Hydro-Jetting Project

Month	Buildings	First Floor Units ONLY
January 2023	17	1-27
January 2023	18A	1-25
January 2023	18	1-21
February 2023	21	1-20
February 2023	22	1-20
February 2023	23	1-21
March 2023	24	1-25
March 2023	25	1-25
March 2023	26	1-29
April 2023	27	1-29
April 2023	28	1-25
April 2023	29	1-21
May 2023	30 & Any Remaining Units	1-21

**If you will not be present or available at your unit during the time scheduled above, please fill out the information sheet below and mail to the address provided.**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

In case of **FIRE** or other **BUILDING EMERGENCIES**, Parkway Maintenance and Management, and your On Top of the World Condominium Association, would like you to know that every OTOW resident should have their own plan.

1. Have an evacuation plan. This is the most important piece in case of an emergency event.
2. Make note of the fire alarm pull-stations and emergency exits closest to your unit in case of fire and evacuation.
  - Exits are easily identified and illuminated by signs at the ceiling.
  - Pull-stations and fire extinguishers are located on each building's walkways and in the center core areas.
  - Only use a fire extinguisher if the fire can be extinguished easily.
3. Have a secondary plan to exit the structure if your primary exit point is blocked or unsafe.
4. Never attempt to use an elevator during an emergency as it may be available for firefighters use only. Use stairs.
5. Residents should immediately proceed to a parking lot area safely away from the building. Do not block the entrances to the parking area. Fire response personnel need clear access for trucks and equipment.
6. Calmly and plainly, call 911 and state the nature of the emergency and give your address.
7. Follow instructions given by emergency response personnel.
8. Do not re-enter a building until emergency response officials have deemed it safe to do so.
9. Planning in advance saves lives. Don't delay, plan today.





**People visiting Mount Rushmore read OTOW News**  
 So can you! Visit:  
[otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com)

# January will feature a great lecture, another food truck night and return of the Farmer's Market

## Homestead Exemption with Gerald Colen

Gerald Colen will present "Homestead Exemption" on Jan. 13, 2023, in the East Activity Center Largo Room.

Registration is required.

It is a true statement that the laws here in Florida are complicated. Not only are they complicated for Florida residents, but also for folks who have just moved to Florida and intend to become Florida residents.

A primary example are Florida's homestead laws, which provide a tax discount called a homestead exemption.

Florida's homestead laws also affect marriage rights and rights to pass on a homestead upon one's passing.

Attorney Jerry Colen, and his law partners, Rachel Wagoner and John Beck, invite you to sit down with them as they explain Florida law on Homestead.

This will be a helpful topic for residents and folks planning on becoming Florida residents.

The lecture will take place on Friday, Jan. 13, 2023, 10-11 a.m. The meeting will take place in the East Activity Center Largo Room. Seating is limited to 70 and registration is required.

To register, send an email to [general\\_activity@scaclw.com](mailto:general_activity@scaclw.com) or call and leave a voicemail at 799-2734 with same info.

When registering, please reference this lecture ("Homestead") and email your name, building, unit and phone number.

The deadline to register is Thursday, Jan. 12.

## Identity Theft Awareness Day

Identity Theft Awareness Day is Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023, in the East Activity Center Auditorium from 10:30 a.m.-noon.

Sorry. There will not be a shredding event.

Are you concerned you may be a victim of ID Theft?

Want to know where Florida ranks in the nation for identity theft?

What should you do to safeguard your personal information?

For the answers to these questions and more, join Pinellas County Consumer Protection in recognition of Identity Theft Awareness Week.

An investigator from Pinellas County Consumer Protection will explain the different types of identity theft, the various techniques thieves use to steal your information, and what steps you should take to safeguard yourself.

Free resources on the topic will be avail-



## Events & Activities

able. This event is free and open to the public. Registration is not required.

## Keyboard Lessons

Fletcher Music will be giving a free concert in the East Activity Center Auditorium as part of Good Neighbors Association Get Acquainted Coffee on Thursday, 12.

Immediately after the free concert will be your chance to sign up for keyboard lessons.

Come enjoy the music and if you would like to learn how to play those songs on a keyboard, you can meet Art Fletcher after the performance and sign up for six lessons.

The keyboard lessons will take place at the West Activity Center Learning Lab on Mondays commencing Jan. 16 at 10 a.m. through Feb. 20, 2023.

Art Fletcher offers these lessons to OTOW residents at an exclusive discount of \$20 for all six lessons. Payment can be made on the first day of class.

Residents can register after the concert, by emailing [general\\_activity@scaclw.com](mailto:general_activity@scaclw.com) or by calling 799-2734 (reference "Keyboard Lessons") and leave your name, building, unit number and phone number.

New residents are encouraged to attend the monthly Get Acquainted Coffee event to receive a welcome introduction to our community.

The morning gets started at 8:30 a.m. and wraps up at 11 a.m. The free concert starts at 10 a.m.

After the event, I will be available to meet new residents to answer any of your questions regarding events, activities, joining or starting a club, and even take you on a tour of the facilities.

I look forward to seeing you at "Get Acquainted Coffee."

## Food Truck Night

Come join the fun at the next On Top of the World Food Truck night on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023, from 3-7 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 northeast parking area near our beautiful East Activity Center Pavilion.

The reviews are in and our food truck event is a hit!

What is new for our next Food Truck Night?

Baton Roux will be here. This is an amazing food truck serving New Orleans cuisine, including beignets.

Steve D's Philly Cheesesteaks will return, along with BBQ Queen and Steve D's Philly Cheesesteaks.

See more details at Nancy's Bulletin Board located at the On Top of the World Clearwater website [otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://otowclearwaterinfo.com).

## Farmer's Market Schedule

The next Farmer's Markets will be Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023, and Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. in the East Activity Center front parking lot facing World Parkway Boulevard East.

## One Blood

The Big Red Bus will be here at the East Activity Center North Parking Lot (near Lawn Bowls) on Thursday, Jan. 12 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Residents can register at Nancy's Bulletin Board at [otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://otowclearwaterinfo.com), in the Community Service Office or just show up that day.

See more details at Nancy's Bulletin Board.

All donors will receive a \$20 e-Gift Card plus a wellness checkup, including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening!

Take this opportunity to save lives!

We had a successful day of blood donations on Dec. 8. One Blood collected 11 good units to send to area hospitals. Thanks to your support, One Blood received 153 total donations in 2022 and had the opportunity to save the lives of 459 patients!

Every drop counts and it begins with you.

Looking forward to another great year in 2023.

The Honor Roll from Dec. 8 is as follows: Anjanette Ellwood, Debra Godfrey, Gordon Gratas, Jennifer Harrison, Michael Lenzi, Neil Lieberman, Patrick Tuppert,

Ricky Roberts, Timothy Lewis, Anna Foss, Gail McNeil, Jeffrey Martin, Katina Riullano, Michael Patterson, Patricia Flieg, Paul Flynn, Stephanie Rinaldi

## How do I make a reservation on the calendar?

First step is to email or call the Activity Office with the type of event that you are planning, preferred date and location.

Use the following email address: [general\\_activity@scaclw.com](mailto:general_activity@scaclw.com) or call 799-2734. This starts the process.

Once we confirm all the details, you will fill out the online Facility Request form. Visit: [www.otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://www.otowclearwaterinfo.com), click on "Community Activities" and "Forms" and select the SCA Online Facility Request form. Then complete the form and sign with your mouse or finger, and click submit.

I will acknowledge receipt in an email.

If you use Google as your browser, this process will work better.

Paper forms are still available and can be picked up and dropped off in the Community Service Office where I have a mailbox.

Please complete the form outside of that busy office and then drop it off. I will acknowledge receipt in an email or phone call.

## Activity Card Renewal

Activity card renewal takes place at the Community Service Office located at the East Activity Center. The hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to noon and 12:30-3 p.m.

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.

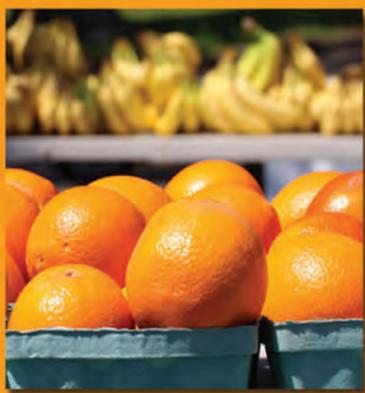
In addition, for renewal, you will need \$3 and your expiring/expired card. If you do not have your card, you will need to bring \$25 for purchasing and processing of a new card.

Residents can also obtain an electronic access card for the fitness center for \$7 (replacement \$25).

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.

## OTOW Farmer's Market

The next Farmer's Market at On Top of the World is Jan. 4, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the EAC.



### Upcoming Farmer's Market

Wednesday, Jan. 18, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the East Activity Center front parking lot.



Fresh Produce Grown Locally

Thursday  
January 12  
10 am - 3:30 pm  
EAC



On Top of the World  
Thursday, January 12  
10:00 AM - 3:30 PM  
EAC Back Parking Lot

Just Show Up

ID REQUIRED

Appointments are encouraged, please visit [oneblood.org/donate-now](http://oneblood.org/donate-now) and use sponsor code 27515



Free Blanket

\$20 E Gift Card

Mini Physical



# OTOW Community Activities Calendar

## January 2023

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Farmer's Market, Wednesday, Jan. 4, 10 am - 5 pm, Wednesday, Jan. 18, 10 am - 5 pm, East Activity Center  
 Jerry Colen presentation "Homestead," Friday, Jan. 13, 10 - 11 am, East Activity Center Largo Room (free) (The date was wrong in the newspaper)  
 Good Neighbors Association Get Acquainted Coffee, Thursday, Jan. 12, 8:30 - 11 a.m., East Activity Center Auditorium  
 Food Truck Night: Wednesday, Jan. 11, 4 - 7 pm, East Activity Center Back Parking Lot  
 Irish Club Show: Thursday, Jan. 12, 7 - 9:30 p.m., East Activity Center Auditorium  
 Building Coordinators Annual Meeting: 1 - 5 pm, Tuesday, Jan. 17, West Activity Center Belleair Room  
 New York-New Jersey Club, Sports Shirt Night, Thursday, Jan. 26, 4 - 7 pm, East Activity Center Auditorium  
 Italian-American Club Taste of Italy Dinner, Wednesday, Jan. 18, 5 - 8 pm, East Activity Center Auditorium  
 Lawn Bowl Dinner: Wednesday, Jan. 25, 5 pm, East Activity Center Auditorium  
 Good Neighbors Association Winter Clothing Drive: Saturday, Jan. 28, 8 am - 4 pm, Pavilion  
 Identity Theft Awareness Day: Thursday, Feb. 2, 10:30 a.m., East Activity Center Auditorium

### CLUB AND GROUP EVENTS

Art Guild Acrylic Painting, 1 - 4 pm, Thursdays, EAC Largo Room  
 Art Guild Board Meeting: 3 - 5 pm, Thursday, Jan. 5, EAC Largo Room  
 Art Guild Painting Pals: 1 - 4 pm, Wednesdays, East Activity Center Largo Room  
 Art Guild Water Colors Demonstration: Friday, Jan. 13, 1 - 4 pm, East Activity Center Largo Room  
 Art Guild Paint & Sip: 7 - 9 pm, Tuesday, Jan. 24, East Activity Center Kitchen  
 Baby Boomers Group: Meetings, 5:30 - 6:30 pm, Wednesday, Jan. 4 and 5:30 - 6:30 pm, Thursday, Jan. 19, East Activity Center Largo Room  
 Baby Boomers Acoustic Jam: 10 am - 1 pm, Thursdays, West Activity Center Learning Lab  
 Bible Study: Fridays, 2 - 3 pm, East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room  
 Billiards (8 Ball): 6:30 - 10pm, Mondays and Tuesdays, West Activity Center Billiards Room  
 Billiards (Scotch Doubles): 6:30 - 10pm, Thursdays, West Activity Center Billiards Room  
 Billiards (9 Ball): 1 - 3 pm, Fridays, West Activity Center Billiards Room  
 Bingo: Bingo resumes January 9, 6 p.m., East Activity Center Auditorium  
 Canadian Club Happy Hour: Friday, Jan. 20, 4:30-7 pm, West Activity Center Belleair Room  
 Caring & Sharing: 9 am - 12 pm, Tuesdays, Kitchen/Clearwater Room  
 Ceramics: 10 am - 2 pm, Thursdays, East Activity Center Clearwater Room  
 Chorus Meeting: 7 - 9 pm, Tuesday, Jan. 3, East Activity Center Oldsmar Room  
 Coloring Book Group: 12 - 3 pm, Wednesdays, East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room  
 Computer Club: Computer Help, 8:30 - 10 am, Wednesdays, West Activity Center Learning Lab  
 Computer Club: Meetings, 8:30 - 10 am, Saturdays, West Activity Center Learning Lab  
 Cornhole: 1 - 3 pm, Mondays, West Activity Center Belleair Room  
 Democratic Club: Meeting, 2 - 3:30 pm, Thursday, Jan. 12, West Activity Center Learning Lab  
 Democratic Club: Board Meeting, 2 - 3:30 pm, Thursday, Jan. 26, East Activity Center Kitchen  
 Democratic Club Happy Hour: 7 - 10 pm, Tuesday, Jan. 24, East Activity Center Largo Room  
 Entertainment Committee Board Meeting: 10 am - 12 pm, Friday, Jan. 6, EAC Crystal Beach Room  
 Entertainment Committee Dance: 7:30 pm, Saturday, Jan. 21, East Activity Center Auditorium  
 Entertainment Committee Show: 7:30 pm, Thursday, Jan. 19, East Activity Center Auditorium  
 Fixers Club Annual Meeting: 8 am - 12 pm, Wednesday, Jan. 4, Clearwater Room  
 Good Karma Book Club: 10 am - 12 pm, Thursday, Jan. 19, East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room  
 High Vibe Tribe: 7 - 9 pm, Thursday, Jan. 12, East Activity Center Kitchen/Clearwater Room  
 Irish Club Parade Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 10, 3 - 5 pm, East Activity Center Largo Room  
 Italian Classes: 10:30 am - 12 pm, Fridays, Dunedin Room and Ozona Room  
 Jesters Board Meeting: 6:30 - 9:30 pm, Wednesday, Jan. 11, West Activity Center Belleair Room  
 Keyboard Club, Fridays, 10 am - 12 pm, East Activity Center Clearwater Room  
 Knitting Group: 9 - 11 am, Wednesdays, East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room  
 Lambda Club: Social, 6 - 10 pm, Friday, Jan. 13, East Activity Center Largo Room  
 Learning To Dance with Noland: 1 - 3 pm, Mondays, East Activity Center Largo Room  
 Line Dance Club: 1 - 3 pm, Tuesdays, 8:30-10:30 am, Saturdays, East Activity Center Auditorium  
 Line Dance Club Practice: 7 - 8 am, Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, East Activity Center Exercise Room  
 Moving and Grooving Line Dancing: Tuesdays, 9 - 12 pm, 1-4 pm Fridays, East Activity Center Auditorium (Cancelled Jan. 13, 17, 31)  
 Philosophy Club: 10 - 11:30 am, Tuesdays, East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room  
 Pickleball: 3:30 - 6:30 pm, Monday through Friday, 9-12 pm, Sundays  
 Ping Pong: 10 am - 3 pm, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, West Activity Center Belleair Room  
 Pray for America: Meeting, 10 am - 12 pm, Saturdays, East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room  
 Press Association: Meeting, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, Thursday, Jan. 5, East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room  
 Republican Club: Meeting, 7 - 9 pm, Tuesday, Jan. 10, West Activity Center Belleair Room  
 Social Dance: 1 - 3 pm, Thursdays, West Activity Center Belleair Room  
 Snowbirds Line Dance: 8:30 am - 12 pm, Wednesdays, EAC Auditorium  
 Texas Card Game Club: 3 - 10 pm, Friday, Jan. 20, East Activity Center Kitchen/Clearwater Room  
 TOPS: 9 - 11 am, Fridays, East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room (please note new room)  
 Theater Workshop Board: 6 - 7 pm, Monday, Jan. 4, General meeting 7-8:30 pm, WAC Belleair Room  
 Travel Club: 2 - 4 pm, Friday, Jan. 6, East Activity Center Oldsmar Room  
 World Quilters: 8 am - 2 pm, Tuesdays, East Activity Center Largo Room  
 Writers Ink: 1 - 2:30 pm, Thursdays, East Activity Center Dunedin Room

### CARDS AND GAMES

Bid Euchre: 6:30-9:30 pm, Tuesdays, Crystal Beach Room  
 Blackout (Canadian Club): 6:30 - 9:30 pm, Thursdays, West Activity Center Belleair Room  
 Cribbage: 10 am - 12 pm, Wednesdays, East Activity Center Ozona Room  
 Dominos: 5:30 - 8 pm, Tuesdays, EAC Ozona Room  
 Double Deck Pinochle: 1 - 3:30 pm, Sundays and Wednesdays, East Activity Center Ozona Room  
 Duplicate Bridge (Beginners): 9 am - 12 pm, Thursdays, East Activity Center Ozona Room  
 Duplicate Bridge: 11:30 am - 4 pm, Saturdays, East Activity Center Ozona Room  
 Duplicate Bridge: 11 - 3 pm, Saturdays, East Activity Center Dunedin Room  
 Euchre Club: 6-8 pm, Fridays, Dunedin Room  
 Ladies Bunco: 6:30 - 10 pm, Tuesday, Jan. 10, West Activity Center Learning Lab  
 Mahjongg: 1 - 4 pm, Fridays, West Activity Center Palm Harbor Room  
 Mexican Train Card Game (Dominos): 1 - 5 pm, Thursdays, Safety Harbor Room  
 Poker (Alonzo's Group): 6 - 9 pm, Mondays, EAC Safety Harbor Room  
 Poker (Barry's Group): 6:30 - 9:30 pm, Mondays and Wednesdays, EAC Ozona Room  
 Poker (Bob's Group): 6 - 9 pm, Tuesdays, EAC Safety Harbor Room  
 Poker (Carol's Group): 6 - 9 pm, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, EAC Safety Harbor Room  
 Poker (Laura's Group): 6-9 pm, Fridays, East Activity Center Safety Harbor Room  
 Poker (Tom's Group): 6 - 9 pm, Wednesdays, EAC Safety Harbor Room  
 Poker (Richie's Group): 6 - 8:45 pm, Mondays and Wednesdays, EAC Ozona Room  
 Samba Hand/Foot Canasta: 6 - 9 pm, Thursdays and Fridays, EAC Ozona Room  
 Samba: 12:30 - 3 pm, Mondays, East Activity Center, Ozona Room

### EXERCISES

Aqua Aerobics: 9-10 am, Monday through Friday, East Activity Center Swimming Pool  
 Bonesavers: 8-9 am, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, East Activity Center Largo Room  
 Co-Ed Exercises: 10-10:45 am, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, East Activity Center Exercise Room  
 Hatha Yoga with Marilyn: 10-11:15 am, Mondays, West Activity Center Belleair Room  
 Hatha Yoga with Marilyn: 10-11:15 am, Thursdays, East Activity Center Exercise Room  
 Ladies Exercise: 8-9 am, Mondays through Fridays, East Activity Center Exercise Room  
 Moving and Grooving Cardio Dance: 11:45-1:15 pm Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:45-10:15 am Saturdays, EAC Exercise Room  
 Moving and Grooving Cardio Dance Light: 1:15-2:30 pm Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:15-11:30 Saturdays, EAC Exercise Room  
 Slimnastics: 9-10 am, Mondays through Fridays, East Activity Center Clearwater Room  
 Tai Chi Flow 108: 3:15-4:15 pm, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, East Activity Center Exercise Room  
 Tai Chi Qigong: 3:15-4 pm, Tuesdays, Thursdays East Activity Center Exercise Room  
 Zumba: Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, 9-10 am, West Activity Center Belleair Room

**All Facilities  
Closed  
On Jan. 1**

There will be no club or group events, including use of swimming pools and fitness center, on Sunday, Jan. 1, as all OTOW facilities will be closed for the holiday.

#### BUILDING EVENTS

Valencia - 5-8 pm, Tuesday, Jan. 24  
 West Activity Center Belleair Room

Siboney - 6:30-8 pm, Wednesday, Jan. 25  
 West Activity Center Belleair Room

#### FACILITIES

##### Library

10 am to 12 pm, Mondays  
 1-3pm, Wednesdays

##### Woodshop

8 am-4 pm Monday-Friday  
 (membership required)

##### Fitness Center Hours

7 am to 9 pm, Monday through Saturday  
 9 am to 8 pm Sundays  
 (closed 12:30-2:30 Mondays and Thursdays)

##### Swimming Pools (May through Sept)

Monday-Saturday, 8 am to 8 pm  
 Sundays and Holidays, 9 am to 8 pm

##### Swimming Pools (Oct through April)

Mondays-Saturdays, 8 am to 6:30 pm  
 Sundays and Holidays, 9 am to 6:30 pm

### PAVILION

Friday, Jan. 20, 12-3 pm - Lawn Bowls Picnic  
 Saturday, Jan. 28, 8 am - 4 pm, Good Neighbors Association Winter Clothing Drive



# Celebrating 50+ Years ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

## Elvis is coming back on Jan. 19, but if you were slow to get tickets - too late!

By Mary Ann O'Neil

We have a new look with our On Top of the World newspaper and now all of our pictures will be in color.

There will be no reason for you to miss our Entertainment Committee promos for shows and dances. Just look for our beautiful schedule each month.

Plus, the Entertainment Committee has purchased two new banners that will be displayed outside the East Activity Center on nights when shows and dances are taking place. If you see one of our new banners, it is either time to go home and get ready or you are being put on notice that you are gonna miss something special.

Our last show for 2022 was a dazzling one performed by The Sequel Band. This group is so lively and brings great music and entertainment to us each time they appear here at our community. If you weren't in the holiday spirit before their show, you sure were by the time you left the show.

As usual, our New Year's Eve Dance is sold out thanks to Soul Love Band. I always think it's amazing how everyone comes out for a fun evening to help bring in the New Year with friends and family and not have far to drive.

Some of you will walk over to the dance.

The cost was right, \$30 for an evening of fun. We will all celebrate at midnight with a bottle of champagne at each table to toast in the new year.

The first show of 2023 will be on Jan. 19 featuring Dwight Icenhower as "Elvis." Dwight has performed here several times and has always given us a fantastic show. He has received many awards for his performances throughout the United States. He entertains on cruise ships, private parties and music events throughout Florida.

Unfortunately, the show is sold out.

We have eight great shows scheduled for 2023, so be sure to stop by the Entertainment Committee's table and pick up a pamphlet with all the shows, dances and Sunday Meet & Greets listed.

TC & Sass Band will perform for us on Saturday, Jan. 21. This band performs locally and many of our residents have seen them, and they say they are a great dance band.

Get your dancing shoes on and gather your friends and neighbors and come out for a fun evening.



Dwight Icenhower as Elvis

We have 12 dances, including New Year's Eve, scheduled for 2023, so check those out as well.

I want to remind everyone that the Entertainment Committee provides coffee, coffee cups for our coffee and ice for all our shows and dances. We ask that our guests bring their own snacks and munchies, cups, glasses, flatware, napkins etc.

Remember, you can purchase tickets in advance instead of waiting until the last minute. This way you can get a good seat ahead of time and won't miss out on these events.

Ticket sales are Monday and Thursday mornings from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at the East Activity Center. We will be back starting Jan. 9, 2023.

If you have any questions regarding shows or dances, please call (727)449-9243 or (215) 431-4799.

On behalf of the OTOW Entertainment Committee, we wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.



Your Entertainment Committee has two new banners to remind you shows and dances are taking place. While some shows and dances do not sell out, others do. So don't hesitate when it comes to getting tickets in 2023.

## Monthly Calendar

# ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE



Tickets on sale 8:30-10:30 a.m. Mondays & Thursdays in the EAC Auditorium.  
View our entire schedule online at [otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com)

## SOLD OUT

Dwight Icenhower

No tickets sold  
at the door



## JANUARY

- 19 Elvis - Dwight Icenhower, 7:30 pm, No Tickets  
21 T C & Sass Band, 7:30 pm, \$10



## FEBRUARY

- 16 Ultimate McCartney Experience (7:30 pm, \$20)  
18 Southshore Cruisers - Sweetheart Dance  
(7:30 pm, \$10)  
19 Sunday Meet & Greet, Horse Races, 2 pm

## MARCH

- 16 Comfort Zone - Gloria Estefan Tribute Show  
(Show 7:30 pm, \$20)  
18 The Impact Band (Dance 7:30 pm, \$10)

For more information about  
the Entertainment Committee  
call (727) 449-9243.

OTOW News  
**Pet of the Month**



Sponsored By



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*Layla*

Layla is a 12-year-old Chihuahua/Boston Terrier who resides with Judy Bosnyak and Ron Cree in the Ottoman building (27). Layla loves all people and most dogs. Puppies have a little more energy than this older girl likes. She loves her walks around On Top of the World and enjoys meeting everyone. You are welcome to scratch behind her ears. If her mom talks too long, Layla just lays down and takes a break. She loves to travel and recently returned from a two week trip out west, including South Dakota and Yellowstone National Park. She liked the prairie dogs and wanted to chase a bison - until she realized the bison was a statue.

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](mailto: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.



**HARBORSIDE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

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Melissa Walk, DVM  
University of Florida  
Veterinary Medical School



Kimberly Garcia, DVM  
Tufts University  
Veterinary Medicine

**FREE FIRST OFFICE VISIT**

Valid only for dogs or cats.

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One coupon per household. Must present coupon.

Expires 1-31-23



On Top of the World  
Clearwater

Official Website

[otowClearwaterInfo.com](http://otowClearwaterInfo.com)

# Time to Vote!

## On Top of the World Pet of the Year

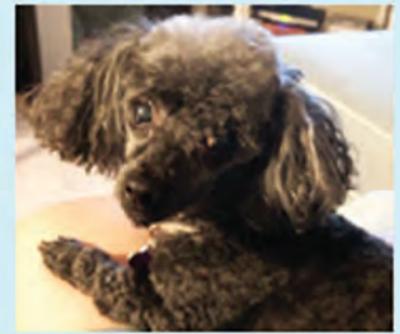
Visit the Box Office ([otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com)) and click this ad.  
You will be taken to the voting booth, which will be open Jan. 5-8.  
Each pet below was a Pet of the Month in 2022.  
You get to vote for the 2023 Pet of the Year!



**Greg**



**Madigan**



**Boo**



**Fox**



**Roxie**



**Foxie**



**Lexie**



**Chloe**



**Mr. Mittens**



**Luigi**



**Sammy**



**Gracie Anne**

**OTOWBOXOFFICE.COM**

# IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Community Service Office (727) 683-6981	Water Turn On/ Turn Off (727) 799-3417	Emergency Service After Hours / Weekends (727) 799-1115	Activities Office (727) 799-2734
Leave Message If Needed	Menu Option 6		

**Duke Energy (report power outages) ..... 1-800-228-8485**  
**Pinellas County Sheriff (Non-Emergency Line) ..... 727-582-6200**  
**Pinellas County Consumer Hotline (Report Scams) ... 727-464-6617**



## BUS SCHEDULE

<b>MONDAY</b>	8:30 AM - Clearwater Mall (OTOW Bus)	12:15 PM - ALDI & Salvation Army (OTOW Bus)
<b>TUESDAY</b>	8:15 AM - Publix / Walgreens (OTOW Bus)	10:30 AM - Countryside Plaza & Mall (OTOW Bus)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	8:15 AM - Sprouts (OTOW Bus)	8:15 AM - Walmart (Neighborly Care)
	10:00 AM - DAY TRIP EXCURSION * (OTOW Bus)	11:00 AM - Walmart (Neighborly Care)
<b>THURSDAY</b>	8:15 AM - Publix (Neighborly Care)	8:15 AM - CVS Dunedin / Winn Dixie (OTOW Bus)
	11:00 AM - Publix (Neighborly Care)	12:15 PM - Clearwater Mall (OTOW Bus)
<b>FRIDAY</b>	8:15 AM - Walmart (OTOW Bus)	12:15 PM - Sunset Point 19 Mall (OTOW Bus)

The On Top of the World bus schedule will now include the OTOW shuttle bus Monday through Friday. The Neighborly Care Transportation bus will continue their Wednesday shuttles to Walmart, along with their Thursday shuttles to Publix. The bus driver only picks up passengers with reservations. Reservations are first-come, first-served, and can be made from 7 a.m., Monday, thru 1 p.m., Thursday, for any day(s) in the **current** week. However, NO reservations will be accepted after 1 p.m. for the next day to ensure the morning roster can be prepared before staff leave for the day. When making multiple reservations for your week ahead, please ensure careful planning to prevent the need to cancel. To cancel a ride, please call the bus line as early as possible. You must present your valid activity card before boarding. Please be visible to your bus driver outside your center core. No eating or drinking on the bus. Shopping time is 90 minutes.

- \* DAY TRIPS**
- First Wednesday - Downtown Dunedin / Marina
  - Second Wednesday - Downtown Safety Harbor / Pier
  - Third Wednesday - Clearwater Beach
  - Fourth Wednesday - Tarpon Springs

For Reservations call (727) 799-3417, Ext. 7



**WASTE CONNECTIONS**  
*Connect with the Future®*



## RECYCLE



### ALLOWED

- Corrugated Cardboard
- Non-Corrugated Cardboard (Cereal Boxes)
- Plastic Bottles #1 and #2 Only
- Aluminum/Tin/Steel Cans
- Newspapers/Loose Paper
- Books/Magazines



REMEMBER . . . When in doubt, throw it out!



### NOT ALLOWED

- Foil
- Styrofoam
- Glass Bottles
- Grocery Bags
- Paper Plates/Cups
- Bubble Wrap/Package Material
- Scrap Metal



WHY THE CHANGE?

The recycling market has changed. Currently Municipalities are sending recyclables to the landfill, as there has not been a market for them. In an effort to stop sending recyclables to the landfill; We are changing what can and cannot go in your recycling bin/cart.

The new markets are very strict and will not accept anything other than what is listed as ALLOWED on this brochure. Current markets only pay for "clean" recycling.

As of October 1st, 2019 bins/carts will be considered "contaminated" if they contain anything other than what is on this list.

THROW

it out!

Questions? Call 727-572-6800 • [www.wasteconnections.com](http://www.wasteconnections.com)

# Fun lectures!



Gerald Colen was a special guest speaker at On Top of the World in December as he presented a lecture to residents about the U.S. Constitution.

Jerry talked about everything from creating the document, who was involved and its significance in not only our history, but the world's history.

Up next for Jerry will be a presentation on "Homestead Exemption" on Jan. 13, 2023, in the East Activity Center Largo Room.

Registration is required.

It is a true statement that the laws here in

Florida are complicated. Not only are they complicated for Florida residents, but also for folks who have just moved to Florida and intend to become Florida residents.

A primary example are Florida's homestead laws, which provide a tax discount called a homestead exemption.

Florida's homestead laws also affect marriage rights and rights to pass on a homestead upon one's passing.

Jerry and his law partners, Rachel Wagoner and John Beck, invite you to sit down with them as they explain Florida law on Homestead.

This will be a helpful topic for residents and folks planning on becoming Florida residents.

The lecture will take place on Friday, Jan. 13, 2023, 10-11 a.m. The meeting will take place in the East Activity Center Largo Room. Seating is limited to 70 and registration is required.

To register, send an email to [general\\_activity@scaclw.com](mailto:general_activity@scaclw.com) or call and leave a voicemail at 799-2734 with same info.

When registering, please reference this lecture ("Homestead") and email your name, building, unit and phone number.

The deadline to register is Thursday, Jan. 12.



## Identity Theft Awareness Week Thursday, February 2, 2023 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

Are you concerned you may be a victim of identity theft?  
Want to know where Florida ranks in the nation for identity theft?  
What should you do to safeguard your personal information?

For answers to these questions and more, join  
Pinellas County Consumer Protection in recognition of  
Identity Theft Awareness Week on Feb. 2.

An investigator from Pinellas County Consumer Protection  
will explain the different types of identity theft, the various  
techniques thieves use to steal your information,  
and what steps you should take to safeguard yourself.

Free resources on the topic will be available.

Free event. Open to all residents.

East Activity Center  
Auditorium



# ON TOP OF THE WORLD NEWS

Only Good News for 55 Years - Published Since 1968

**Kenneth Colen - Publisher**

**Doug Kates - Editor**

Press Association Officers

Tom Butcher, President      Joe DeChiaro, Vice President  
 vacant, Secretary      Yvonne Courtney, Past President  
 Newsroom Hours: 9:00-5:00 Mon-Thur, 9-2 Fridays      Phone: (727) 799-3216

Next Delivery Date

February newspapers will be delivered on Wednesday, February 1.  
 To advertise in our February edition, payments must be received by January 15.  
 Please note, we may sell out ad space before the deadline!

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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.

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**Press Association Volunteers This Month:**

- Lyn Taecker
- Joanne Cordes
- Tara Still
- Mary Lou Wall
- Anne Younger

## Around The World In This Newspaper

SECTION 1

- 1 ..... OTOW's 50th New Year's Eve
- 3 ..... Food Truck Night - December
- 4-5 ..... Kenneth Colen
- 7 ..... Hydro-Jetting Projects Resumes
- 8 ..... Nancy Rogers
- 9 ..... Community Calendar
- 10-11 ..... Entertainment Committee
- 12 ..... Pet of the Month
- 13 ..... Pet of the Year Contest
- 14 ..... Bus Schedule
- 15 ..... Jerry Colen Lectures
- 17 ..... Chorus Holiday Concert
- 18 ..... New Residents
- 19 ..... Neighborhood Watch
- 19 ..... Get Acquainted Coffee

SECTION 2

- 21 ..... Information Tables
- 21 ..... Bingo
- 22 ..... Italian-American Club
- 23 ..... New York-New Jersey Club
- 25 ..... Jesters
- 26 ..... Cornhole
- 27 ..... Canadian Club
- 28 ..... Snowbirds Club

SECTION 3

- 28 ..... Art Guild
- 29 ..... Irish Club
- 30 ..... Democratic Club
- 31 ..... Moving 'n Grooving
- 32 ..... Travel Club
- 32 ..... High Vibe Tribe
- 33 ..... Republican Club
- 33 ..... Writer's Ink
- 34 ..... Veterans Group
- 34 ..... Press Association
- 34 ..... Vegan Club
- 35 ..... Lambda Club
- 35 ..... Ladies Exercise Group
- 36-38 ..... Sports
- 39 ..... Butcher Block
- 40 ..... Science Of Cooking
- 41 ..... Valencia
- 41 ..... New World French
- 43 ..... Rural French
- 43 ..... 25 Years Ago
- 44 ..... Englander
- 45 ..... Austrian Alpine
- 45 ..... Texas Card Game Club
- 45 ..... Lawn Bowling

- 46 ..... Loch Lomond
- 46 ..... Villa Riviera
- 46 ..... Neighborhood Watch
- 47 ..... Flamenco
- 47 ..... Vienesse Villa
- 49 ..... Mandalay
- 49 ..... Granada
- 50 ..... Around The Bay
- 51 ..... Emerald Isle
- 51 ..... Chinese Cathay
- 51 ..... Computer Club
- 52 ..... Azores
- 52 ..... Siboney
- 52 ..... Bohemia
- 53 ..... Knitting Group
- 54 ..... Pickleball
- 54 ..... Dorado
- 55 ..... Old World Spanish
- 55 ..... Hawaiian Towers
- 55 ..... Modernage
- 56 ..... Classifieds
- 57 ..... Rizal
- 58 ..... Puzzle Page
- 58 ..... Good Karma Book Club
- 58 ..... New Library Books
- 59 ..... Free Stuff



East Activity Center Ground Floor



East Activity Center First Floor



East Activity Center Second Floor



West Activity Center

### East and West Activity Centers Room Maps

### EAC Pavilion Park Grill Map



Pavilion Park

## Important Phone Numbers

Community Service Office

727-683-6981

Water Turn-On/Water Turn-Off

727-799-3417 Option 6

Activities Office

727-799-2734

Emergency After Hours/Weekends

727-799-1115



(OTOW News photos by Doug Kates)

The On Top of the World Chorus sang center stage with 300 residents in front of them and piano alongside. On stage was an elf and Santa Claus. The words to each song were projected on a screen.

# OTOW Chorus and 300 residents spend a Saturday night caroling before Christmas

By Sylvia Rieder

Anytime someone shouts, “we need more chairs,” you know you are doing something right.

In December, the On Top of the World Chorus did something it had never done before - an evening of holiday carols with the audience singing along to almost every song.

It was an experiment, but it turned out to be a hit!

Twenty minutes before the concert started, chorus members were in the Crystal Beach Room warming up their vocal chords. They had no idea how many people were walking into the auditorium and taking their seats.

It was hopeful 50 people would accept the free invitation to sing with the chorus, but when Director Beth Kendall looked out the Crystal Beach Room door and into the Auditorium, she exclaimed “There’s people here!”

In fact, there were a lot of people there.

One by one, many chorus members also peeked out the door to see the arriving crowd.

At first, there were enough chairs for 200 people, but when seats ran out, more had to be added.

By the time the chorus took their seats in front of the stage, there were nearly 300 residents, family and friends in the audience.

Not only was the event already successful, but it got even better from there.

The OTOW Chorus presented a very different Christmas performance on Dec. 3. The stage was decorated for Christmas and the Canadian Club donated decorations.

Santa sat in a rocking chair by a tree with a cup of chocolate and cookies. Mrs. Claus greeted folks at the front entrance with smiles and candy.

Our master of ceremony was a giant elf who was extremely giddy with excitement. The elf was Laurie Fischer and boy was he excited to see Santa Claus and 300 residents!



The elf greeted Santa with a big hug then guided the audience through the program with jokes, gab and Christmas carols.

Some of the songs included “Jingle Bells,” “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” and “We Wish You A Merry Christmas.”

Best of all, the words to all the carols were projected on a movie screen. No one in attendance had to read off a sheet of paper and no one had to look at their laps. Everyone simply sang with the chorus - they probably knew all the words anyway. The songs

that were picked out were the ones we most cherish for Christmas.

The audience and chorus sang 15 carols with gusto and the chorus performed four special selections in beautiful harmony.

The audience reacted by giving the chorus a rousing applause.

In just over an hour, everyone left in the Christmas spirit.

This concert was unique and free. It was a gift from the chorus to the community.

Will this format return next year? We

will have to wait and see.

The OTOW Chorus is grateful to everyone who added to our donation jars, which helps with expenses. Thank you one and all.

New singers, both men and women, are invited to join chorus. There are no auditions. If you love to sing, come to our Jan. 10, 2023, meeting at the East Activity Center Oldsmar Room at 7 p.m.

Check us out, then stay and sing.

Chorus is already making plans for its spring concert and you are invited to join.



## Thursday, Jan. 12 EAC Auditorium

8:30 am Information Tables - 9 am Coffee and Donuts



# Welcome New Residents




Julie and Chris Regan of Massachusetts  
*(OTOW News photos by Mary Lou Wall)*



Trish Murphy  
 of North Carolina



Deb Godfrey  
 of Pennsylvania



Jan Bannister  
 of Ohio



Kris Gentile  
 of Missouri



Laura Wise  
 of New York

## FOOD TRUCK NIGHT RETURNS



**Wednesday, January 11, 3-7 pm  
 East Activity Center Back Parking Lot**

Something New in January! Try a New Orleans-Style Food Truck

# Amazing!



During Get Acquainted Coffee in December, The Amazing Richie was on hand performing some of his magic tricks. One trick involved a volunteer, the volunteer's ears and flowing water. The trick was to make water flow from a bottle, through the volunteer's ear canal and then into a bucket. But there was a problem in the beginning ... the volunteer's ear canal was not big enough! So The Amazing Richie borrowed a drill from the wood shop to widen the ear canal (please don't try this at home). Once there was enough room for water to flow, The Amazing Richie completed the trick from one ear to the other ear and into the bucket. Get Acquainted Coffee will return on Thursday, Jan. 12, in the Auditorium. Art Fletcher, from Fletcher's Music, will be performing a piano concert and signing people up for keyboard lessons. On Feb. 9, Carla Hines will be here to sing Motown-style music. She was originally scheduled to perform in November, but the event was postponed for a hurricane. Get Acquainted Coffee begins with club information tables at 8:30 a.m., followed by a free coffee and a free donut for each guest at 9 a.m. Morning announcements will follow, new residents will get recognized and the entertainment will begin. There are also raffles!  
 (OTOW News photos by Doug Kates)

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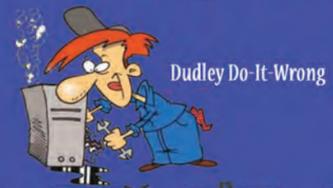
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# ACTIVITY REPORTS



These were some of the information tables open for business in December.

## Purchase tickets, join clubs, ask questions - two mornings a week throughout the winter

By Cecile Sangiamo

Sold out!

Has this ever happened to you?

Did you have good intentions to purchase tickets for an upcoming event, but didn't know how or where to go? And when you got to the front door, there were no tickets available.

Maybe you really want to join an On Top of the World club, but don't know how to do it. I have good news!

You can pick up tickets two times each week during the winter months and one day a week during the summer months.

All you have to do is visit the East Activity Center Auditorium from 8:30-10:30 a.m. on a Monday or Thursday and you will find information tables manned by volunteers of many OTOW clubs.

You can purchase tickets, join a club, get information, sign up for a dinner or dance, or just stop by and find out what is new in our community.

The Entertainment Committee has the biggest information table in the Auditorium. You cannot miss them.

You can find out about upcoming shows and dances, purchase tickets, reserve a table, get an annual schedule and sign up early for the 2023 New Year's Eve Bash.

Do you know what a Meet and Greet is?

Stop by the Entertainment Committee information table and find out. It's free en-

tertainment!

At the Travel Club information table, for example, there will be an array of day trips and Lunch Bunch dates available to review.

There are so many dates to pick from, you may not find space in your calendar.

This club just recently sponsored a bus trip to Tennessee with 44 members. We had an exciting time, often hilarious.

Would you consider going to a Toronto Blue Jays spring training game, but don't have anyone to go with? Don't want to bother buying tickets. Guess what? You can join the Canadian Club and go to a game against the Philadelphia Phillies. You'll have lots of fun and Canadian Club members know how to have fun.

When is the Phillies vs. Blue Jays game? Walk into the Auditorium. Look for the Canadian Club information table. Sit down. Join. Buy tickets. It's that simple.

If you want to get information, or indulge in political discussions, you can stop by the Democratic Club information table or the Republican Club information table.

Don't worry. They are usually on separate sides of the room.

Volunteers will be happy to cover any questions you might have about joining, future meetings, upcoming guest speakers and outings you can attend.

If you are not yet a registered voter in Florida, they can help you with one trip to

their information table.

Who else has an information table?

Good Neighbors Association, the Irish Club, the Snowbirds Club, the New York-New Jersey Club, the Veterans Club, the Fixers Club, Theater Workshop, Jesters, Chorus, the Italian-American Club and Bingo to name a few.

Good Neighbors Association has a variety of activities and you also contribute to the community.

The Irish Club is gearing up for their annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, March 4, 2023. Just visit their table Monday or Thursday to learn more. Their sign is easy to find.

The Snowbirds, of course are seasonal, but they line dance, organize cruises, and go to local theaters during the year.

Anyone can join the New York/New Jersey Club - you don't have to have a funny accent. You do need ugly sweaters, Hawaiian shirts, sports shirts and an appetite for food.

At the Italian-American Club table, you can sign up for any one of their delicious Italian cuisine dinners that are scheduled during the year, or sign up for the ice cream social. You don't have to be Italian to participate.

The spring bingo marathon is approaching. You can buy tickets for you and your guests by stopping by the Bingo Club information table on select dates.

Theater season is almost upon us. How

do you get tickets?

Don't panic.

On Top of the World has a Jesters Club and Theater Workshop Club with talented performers. Shows are coming up in February and March. You can purchase tickets now or find out how to join a show for next year.

Want to sing in the Chorus? Visit their information table. Want tickets for the Chorus spring concert? Visit their information table.

Want more information about our Veterans Group or what wood shop tools are available to residents in the Fixers Club? Stop by on a Monday or Thursday morning.

The point is, we have information tables - oodles of them. You can stop by any Monday or Thursday morning and ask questions or make purchases.

Want free coffee? Go to the Good Neighbors Association table and say hi. There is free coffee one morning each month. Ask them when the next free coffee day takes place.

(Please note: The Entertainment Committee stopped selling tickets over the holiday break, but will resume on Monday, Jan. 9. Other clubs may follow and not resume information tables until early to mid-January)



## Bingo Marathon set for April 8

By Diane Like

On Top of the World Bingo has announced its Spring Marathon will be held on April 8.

Doors at the East Activity Center will open at 10:30 a.m. and bingo will begin at noon.

Why is the marathon event so exciting to our bingo players?

It's the prize money!

Awards for each game are up to \$200 per game and the 28 different games vary from the normal Monday bingo games. This provides a change of pace.

One person was recently heard saying, "I'd love to go, but I don't know if I can play bingo all day."

While it's called a "marathon," it really only lasts approximately four hours and lunch is provided during a break.

In addition to lunch, everyone gets a complimentary donut when you arrive.



Goodie bags will also be provided.

We only have room for 200 players. If you're interested, please stop by on a Monday night or Thursday morning to get your

Monday night bingo resumes Monday, January 9. Doors open at 4 pm and game sheet sales end at 6 pm.

tickets.

Tickets are available on Mondays from 4-6 p.m. at bingo and on Thursday mornings from 8:30-10 a.m. at our information table in the East Activity Center Auditorium. The cost is \$30 per ticket. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Each resident is allowed up to two guests, but the guests must

enter the Auditorium at the same time as the resident.

If you have a group of six players or more, and buy your tickets at the same time, we'll even reserve a table just for you.

Get your tickets soon. We look forward to having you join us!



Pictured above are several members of the Italian-American Club enjoying a holiday dinner at the Countryside Country Club.

At right are previous president Pete Marchetti and his wife Kathy enjoying the night.



# Italian-American Club holiday party had everything except snow



By William Peterson  
 What a wonderful time our members had at our annual holiday party. This year it was held at the Countryside Country Club on Dec. 7. The decorations were impressive with Christmas trees in the lobby and our dining area as well. Christmas music filled the room through the entire event. The view of the golf course greenery was awesome. Although there wasn't any snow, everyone felt the glow of the holiday season. The entrées of beef, salmon and chicken with all the trimmings were classic gourmet.

Coffee was served to those who wanted it and we had two sheet cakes - one vanilla and one chocolate - to complete the meal. All of the members who were present received a holiday bag to take home with them and everyone said they had a great time and were looking forward to next year. We had a very impressive 2022 season and we hope that 2023 is even better. Our Taste Of Italy Dinner/Dance, to be held on Jan. 18, 2023, in the East Activity Center, will be catered by Mama Felice. A Day At The Races is planned at Tampa Bay Downs and will include a fabulous buffet before the races. Try not to miss out

on this event as it should be a lot of fun for everyone. Our traditional St. Joseph's Dinner/Dance will be held on March 14, 2023, with traditional Italian food of course, and once again catered by Mama Felice. Our final event of this season is our Farewell Ice Cream Social to be held on April 12, 2023. For more detailed information on cost and menus for the events, visit us at our information table on Monday and Thursday in the East Activity Center from 8:15-10:15 a.m. or online at the OTOW Box Office (otowboxoffice.com).

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# There were plenty of bright, colorful sweaters at New York-New Jersey party, but some were tough to enjoy



**New York - New Jersey Club**

By William Peterson

If you missed the New York-New Jersey's traditional Ugly Sweater Night, you really missed out on a truly fun time.

Our members were treated to a spectacular dinner catered by the wonderful Mama Felice and the Felice's Catering.

The meatballs, pasta, eggplant parmesan, shrimp in garlic herb sauce, cannoli and cheesecake were great hits.

Our club made a donation to Kimberly House and the contributors kept coming through the evening. Thanks to everyone who helped make the donation happen.

The dancing was truly fun and our DJ kept that music playing throughout the evening.

Our ugly sweater contest was a real hit. The participants were asked to come to the middle of the floor for judging, and parade around the Auditorium to show off their sweaters. Prizes were given out for the prettiest and the ugliest, and I think we might need a new "couples" category next year as there were a lot of couples decked out in matching outfits.

It was truly fun.

On Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023, club members will meet in the East Activity Centers Largo Room at 6 p.m. We will be watching film snippets from the movie Mama Mia and listening to music from the group Abba. Brush up on your Abba songs because there will be a sing-along.

Dessert, coffee, water and ice will be served and all for just \$10.

In March we will participate in the Irish Club Parade as we do every year and we hope that our members will be ready to march and wear the green.



There were a wide variety of ugly sweaters at the annual New York-New Jersey Club Ugly Sweater Party in December. As you can see, people found the best Christmas sweaters. (OTOW News photos by Mary Lou Wall)



The New York/New Jersey Club is open to anyone who lives at On Top of the World. All you need is \$5 and a valid Activity Card.

For current members, don't forget to pay your \$5 dues. Come to our table in the

EAC any Monday or Thursday between the hours of 8:30 and 10:15 a.m.

Volunteers are always welcome for any event and to sit at our information table.



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# Need a hobby for the next few months? Try working backstage for the Jesters



By Robyn Kumar  
Did you ever wish you could go back to Vegas and see Elvis perform live on stage? How about Frank Sinatra?  
In the Jesters' upcoming show "Vegas Vibes," you will be able to do so!  
Elvis, Frank Sinatra, Ed Sheeran, Norah Jones and more will be making special appearances thanks to our Jesters cast.  
Comedy "appearances" will be shared by Minnie Pearl, Joan Rivers, and Carnac the Magnificent, just to name a few.  
So get your tickets while they're hot, hot, hot!  
For all of you in the On Top of the World community who haven't had a chance to purchase tickets for the Jesters show, "Vegas Vibes," now is your chance.  
The cost of a ticket is still only \$5 and can be bought at our club information table on Monday and Thursday mornings in the Auditorium from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.  
Our fun-filled show is being performed on Feb. 10, 11 and 12, 2023.



Jesters and Theater Workshop members held a combined holiday party in December. You cannot tell who belongs to which clubs - it was a combined effort. (OTOW News photo by Mary Lou Wall)

We are so proud of all the hard work the members of our cast and crew are putting in to prepare this year's show for you. We are singing and dancing our hearts out and having so much fun doing it.  
Actually, we could still use some help behind the scenes. Maybe you would like to

be a ticket-taker on the days of our performances or even work backstage. If you think that is something you would like to do, please contact Robyn Kumar at 516-662-9640.  
Besides the fun we are having while working on our show, we have also gotten

many chances to socialize with each other at rehearsals and before and after our meetings.  
The most fun we had was at our fantastic holiday party which was held on Dec. 16 along with Theater Workshop. Yes, you read that correctly - Jesters and Theater Work-

shop had our party together!  
And why not?  
Both groups are absolutely fabulous and truly enjoyed celebrating together.  
So remember, whenever you think of Jesters, it's always "Jest for fun!"

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Dolly Foland, left, offers her yummy homemade cookies to Ann Setkowicz, Michael Payne and Dolly Newcome during a break from cornhole. Dolly says there is a secret ingredient in the cookies that helps you throw more accurately.

# Official cornhole rules: When cookies arrive you take a break

By Margaret LeTourneau

Great news!  
We now have more time to play cornhole!

If you haven't experienced the fun of playing cornhole with our Moving 'n Grooving Club, you do not know what you are missing.

Not only do people get to play several games during their stay, they get to socialize with a very jovial group.

During one particular game day in December, Dolly Foland gifted us with her delicious homemade chocolate covered peanut butter cookies!

Everyone loved them and everyone appreciated her generosity.

Thank you, Dolly!

Since our cornhole game has become so popular, we have extended the playing time by one hour. That way, many people can now choose to come a bit later when fewer people are playing.

Cornhole is now offered every Monday from 1-4 p.m., in the West Activity Center Belleair Room.

Feel free to come and try it out for a day. If you like it, we ask that you join our



club. An annual membership costs \$15 and also includes unlimited line dance and cardio dance classes offered by our club.

Let's keep moving and grooving!

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# Christmas party kicked off busy winter season with horse races and dinner theater in January



## Canadian Club

By Connie Stanley

Hello and happy 2023!

Wishing everyone a healthy, happy and prosperous new year!

While penning this article, I'm elated to announce that we had 72 participants at our Dec. 5 Christmas Dinner-Dance for which the theme was "Welcome Back."

We contracted Banquet Masters for a re-sounding successful dinner and everyone enjoyed a great evening of dancing to DJ Jody Bower's exceptional choices on the dance floor.

As of Dec. 8, the Canadian Club has a total of 220 members registered for which we, your Executive Committee, is so pleased. We hope that following the holiday season, more Snowbirds will flock south and rejoin our little On Top of the World family community.

Event Coordinator John Henry continues to sell seats for "A Day at the Races" at Tampa Bay Downs on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023.

The buffet opens at 11 a.m. and the cost is \$32 per person. Transportation is not included. Final day for purchases is Jan. 5 in the East Activity Center Auditorium.

The Canadian Club is welcoming you to an off-site dinner on Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023, starting at 4 p.m. The event is called "Birthday Club" and will take place at Ed Fletcher's Dinner Theater, 13344 49th Street N, in Clearwater.

The theatrical show is funny and entertaining, and performed by professional actors with years of experience.

The dinner is prepared by Banquet Masters, an onsite full-service caterer. The cost is \$50, which includes dinner, taxes, show and



At the Canadian Club Christmas dinner, more than 70 guests were greeted to the Auditorium by a very large balloon arch decorated in Canadian Club and Christmas colors.

gratuity. There is also a cash bar.

Final ticket sales will take place at our information table in the EAC Auditorium until Jan. 5, 2023.

The Birthday Club performance we'll be watching is about five women who get together for their birthdays, each with her own story, to drink, celebrate, commiserate, and support each other as they negotiate through marriage, work, divorce, birth and kids, while solving the problems of the world.

When one of them admits she went out with another's husband, the vodka hits the fan. Will the new member of "birthday club" make the cut?

Come celebrate the ups and downs of friendship in this humorous romp. Sounds like a comedic romp for sure!

On Friday, Jan. 20, 2023, we're offering a Happy Hour-Karaoke in the West Activity

Center Belleair Room featuring Les N More.

This is a free event for members. Bring your own beverages and a snack to share in the kitchen, where there will be a buffet table.

Also, bring a few dollars to buy "share the wealth" tickets for a chance to win a cash prize.

Our annual Golf Fun Day will take place on Sunday, Feb. 19, 2023, with Feb 26 as the rain day.

The event will take place on the 18-hole course at 7 a.m. Cost is \$12 per golfer, which includes a box lunch.

Contact Event Coordinator Harry Morrison to reserve your spot. Call him at 778-771-4886 or email [morrisonharbar@aol.com](mailto:morrisonharbar@aol.com).

The Canadian Club will be attending a spring training baseball game between the Toronto Blue Jays and the Philadelphia Phillies on Monday, March 27, 2023, 1 p.m. in Dunedin.

We have reserved 50 seats for the game. Contact Event Coordinator Susan Cober at 727-754-6063 or email [susancober@rogers.com](mailto:susancober@rogers.com).

The Club will participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 4 so please sign up with Coordinator Jackie Cornett Small by calling 502-594-2444 or email: [jcornettsmall@gmail.com](mailto:jcornettsmall@gmail.com) if you'd like to march with us.

As time draws closer, I will provide more updates and specifics on other events to members via email blasts. Also check out our Facebook page, the OTOW Box office ([otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com)) and our official website.

Please note there is an error with our Spring Fling calendar posting. Instead of Friday, March 15, 2023, it is actually Wednesday, March 15. Please hand-correct your calendars.

**Have you ever been told that restoring your teeth was hopeless?  
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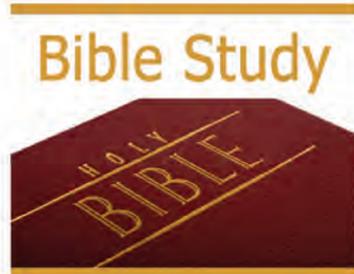
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Phone: (727) 796-8891



# BIBLE STUDY IS BACK!

The non-denominational On Top of the World Bible Study Group is returning to the East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room.



The group will meet at 2 p.m. on Fridays beginning Jan. 6, 2023.

The instructor will be Dave Hall, PhD., a retired pastor.

Questions? You may call Jim at (727) 712-0159.

Come join us and study the Bible.

# Join Snowbirds Club line dancing and get ready for guest instructor Rosie Multari in March



By Dale Stackhouse

Registration started Dec. 7 for the Snowbirds Line Dance Club.

Last season, we did not collect dues, as the pandemic caused so much uncertainty, but we are back in full swing again.

Membership is still only \$10 for the full season. Those who only attend Ed Foland's 8:30 class do not have to pay, nor do veterans or widows of veterans.

There will be someone to register you at Wednesday classes.

We are excited to announce that Rosie Multari will be returning to do a workshop for us on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, in the East Activity Center Auditorium. Those who have attended Rosie's workshops in the past will remember how much fun they are. She has a great sense of humor and the ability to make learning a new dance easy.

Many of us are still enjoying the dance, "I'm On My Way," which Rosie taught us last year.

Rosie's husband, Bruno, accompanies her and acts as a BRAT (which stands for Back Row Assistant Teacher). BRATs are invaluable for dances with turns, when you need someone else to watch.

There will be no charge for the



The Snowbirds Club will be recognizing Vietnam Veterans National Holiday on March 30, 2023, with a party in the East Activity Center Auditorium. There will be food and live entertainment. Details will follow in future newspaper articles.

workshop, but you must be a member to attend.

Another date to mark on your calendar is March 30, 2023. We will be celebrating Vietnam War Veter-

ans National Holiday with a party in the East Activity Center. There will be food and live entertainment. The party is free for veterans, \$10 for all others. More details will be

forthcoming.

As the winter season always brings a resurgence of communicable diseases, even in Florida, please let's use our common

sense. Do not attend class if you are not feeling well, and consider wearing a mask when chatting with others.

# Art Guild members will be treated to watercolor demonstration, and paint and sip in January



## Art Guild

By Julie Awot

Would you like to learn how to paint better with watercolors?

You're in luck.

The Art Guild has several new events scheduled for January and one of them is watercolors.

On Friday, Jan. 13, 2023, at 1 p.m., the Art Guild will host its first monthly meeting of 2023. This will take place at the East Activity Center Largo Room.

After a short business meeting, artist Kerry Waltz will be sharing a demonstration with watercolors, which is a medium that looks effortless, but is in fact anything but effortless.

Kerry's biography pegs her as a creative self-taught artist. Though this is factual, she also has a very impressive hands-on education. Kerry currently teaches watercolor at the Dunedin Fine Arts Center. She has exhibited extensively at many outdoor fine arts festivals on both the east and west coasts.

The On Top of the World Art Guild is honored that she will demonstrate her art process for us.

A very special treat for Art Guild members only will be a paint and sip scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 24.

The event will be in the East Activity Center Kitchen from 6-8 p.m.

Guild members will be eager to be mentored by one of our own, Alice Anderson, who will be instructing us to paint a beautiful beach scene.



Alice Anderson will lead Art Guild members in painting a beach scene during a paint and sip gathering on Jan. 24. Please preregister. You must be an Art Guild member to participate. Above is one of Alice's favorite beach paintings.

Alice is an accomplished artist. She creates in more than one medium, but recently, pet portraits are her forte.

I know some of her work was commissioned as holiday gifts for some very fortunate recipients.

This paint and sip event has limited

seating. The event is \$25 and registration is required. Please, if you are interested, email otowartguild22@gmail.com. Please put Jan. 24 paint and sip in the subject line.

Ongoing events include Painting Pals each Wednesday from 1-4 p.m. in the EAC Largo Room, and Thursdays is our weekly

acrylics class with our wonderful instructor Rosemarie Lugg. This class is also 1-4 p.m. in the EAC Largo Room.

In the meantime, beauty surrounds us and the creative spirit dwells within us all. Why not join the Art Guild and let your creativity flourish?

# St. Patrick's Day parade line-up is getting bigger - if your club is participating, please let us know

By Barbara Rice

Members of the Irish Club parade committee are starting the new year with a bang.

They already have a list of participants who will be in the 27th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, but while the list of entries is growing, the list is not done.

The committee is building the parade lineup that will step off on Saturday, March 4, 2023, at 10 a.m.

A festive party will follow the parade in the East Activity Center back parking lot. The Irish Club will serve free beer and pretzels. There will be music, dancing and food for purchase.

Parade Chairman Tom O'Riordan explained his committee has been hard at work for many weeks, but they now need some help.

A parade meeting is scheduled for Jan. 10, 2023, in the EAC Largo Room at 3 p.m.

There will not be many meetings this year, but please attend this important meeting if you are interested in entering the parade, would like to learn more, or could volunteer to help on a busy parade day.

If your club plans to be in the parade, it will be helpful for a representative to attend the meeting. If your club has not previously been in the parade, this might be the year to showcase your members.

Individuals are welcome, too, to create a parade entry. If you have questions, come learn more.

Committee members have their fingers crossed that convertible owners will again chauffer participants down the parade route in style.

If you own a convertible and are willing to drive in the parade, please let Tom O'Riordan or Colman Weir know. Irish eyes will be smiling.

Tom can be reached at 845-664-0504 or tj050659@gmail.com. Colman can be reached at 914-584-3370 or at the email address Colman.weir@yahoo.com.

A very important job is being a parade watcher. Mark your calendar. Get your lawn chairs ready. Invite friends and family to share the fun day.

For example, the Shriners will make their first appearance in our parade.

The Witches of Dunedin, Dunedin New World Celts, and Pinellas County Jeep Club have said "count us in, too."

The Clearwater High School Band and the Northwest High School Junior ROTC have accepted their invitations.

Talented East Lake High School Drama Club students are always a favorite. This year,

## We need your convertible!



In every Irish Club Parade, success depends on how many convertibles are available for clubs and groups to use. If you own a convertible, or know someone who would be willing to drive their convertible in our parade, please call Tom O'Riordan at (845) 664-0504 or Colman Weir (914) 584-3370. You can also email tj050659@gmail.com.

they will give us a peek at their upcoming performance, "Mama Mia."

Sunny SunStar, a miniature talking ambulance, will be on hand in case there are any leprechaun-size emergencies.

Kayla, the kilted dog, will return on her special scooter.

The Honor Flight crew and Pinellas County Sheriff's Department Color Guard will honor veterans and Old Glory.

A call went out to the Santa Drill Team, but they were extra busy helping out at the North Pole last month. We hope their schedules will allow them to return.

Last year OTOW-TV experimented with live coverage of the parade. At press time, it has not been determined yet if our com-

munity TV station will try again this year. The new OTOW-TV is now channel 901 on Summit Broadband fiber-optics.

The Irish Club is sponsoring two outstanding evenings of entertainment. Both are coming soon. Proceeds from ticket sales help raise funds for the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Brendan O'Connor's Variety Show will fill the EAC with Irish music on Jan. 12, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. The talented Irishman has played at the North Myrtle Beach Irish Festival for the past 12 years.

Paul Duffy's concert is on Feb. 9, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in EAC. Darin Graves, an accomplished fiddler, will join Duffy and his many instruments on stage. The talented pair

will get your feet tapping.

Ticket prices for the Duffy and O'Connor shows are \$15 for members and \$18 for nonmembers.

A gala of green will precede the parade on March 2, 2023, at the Irish Club's annual St. Patrick's dinner dance in the EAC. Music will be by Joe and Fionnula Burke. Cost is \$30 each.

Tickets to the performances and dinner dance may be purchased on Monday and Thursday mornings in the EAC from 8:30-10:30 a.m.

New club members are welcome. You do not need to be Irish to join. Annual dues are \$5 per member.

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# Democratic Club relaxes a tad with holiday festivities, but will be back on the campaign trail in January



Members of the Democratic Club celebrated the holiday season with a party in the East Activity Center Kitchen. They had deviled eggs!

By Joanne Cordes  
Happy New Year to all, from the On Top of the World Democratic Club.

May the new year of 2023 be merry and bright, with good health and great cheer.

Our club began December with our annual Holiday Party. We had a good turnout with a fabulous assortment of dishes making up the potluck dinner: Baked ham and baked beans, quinoa cranberry salad, kim-chee slaw, deviled eggs (of course, what potluck doesn't include deviled eggs?), Swedish crescent cookies, and homemade cheesecake ... these are just a few of the delicious dishes our group of 30 enjoyed.

With adult beverages and appetizers in hand, we held a brief meeting to begin the evening.

Following our meeting, we had great fun with a 50/50 drawing and a gift exchange. Books were the No. 1 popular gift. Best of all, we collected a large box full of food donations for Pinellas Hope.

Anna Foss made the donation suggestion at our last meeting and she and her husband, Michael, delivered the box to this wonderful program of Catholic Charities.

Our club did not have a meeting in December, but members were given the chance to celebrate the season together with three events in December: (1) our annual holiday

party, (2) our weekly presence in the East Activity Center Auditorium at the information table, and (3) our monthly Happy Hour gathering.

Instead of a formal meeting, we allowed plenty of free time for members to share special holiday time with family and friends at all of their other OTOW holiday season activities.

We will begin 2023 with a "get back to work" attitude. This includes closing the gap on voter registration. Right now, according to the Pinellas County Democratic Party, the Republicans are almost 2000 registered voters ahead of us in Pinellas County.

We will register new voters in person, by phone, using text messaging and using a peer-to-peer approach.

If you want to help by volunteering, join us at one of our Monday information tables in the EAC Auditorium (look for our donkey mascot, Victor, standing proudly on the

tabletop). Victor will share more details.

For the Nov. 8 election, our democratic turnout in Pinellas County was among the highest in the state, so investing in voter registration and turnout was a good strategy that should be ramped up going forward.

Our next meeting is Jan. 9, 2023, at 2 p.m. in the West Activity Center Learning Lab. Yes, we are trying something new – a different setting from the EAC Kitchen.

At the meeting, we plan to recruit candidates for the annual Election of Officers and board member appointments in March 2023.

Club members spent this past year building a solid foundation and now our field of candidates is broader than ever.

Also, on Jan. 24, 2023, at 7 p.m., in the EAC Largo Room, we'll be gathering for our first Happy Hour of the new year. We hope you'll join us for political chats with like-minded voters. Any and all Democrats living in OTOW are welcome, club member or not.

You can always visit us on [worlddemclub.blogspot.com](http://worlddemclub.blogspot.com). This is where you will find the most current information and you can check our calendar for upcoming club events.

You can visit our information table at the East Activity Center Auditorium on Mondays (only) from 8:30-10:30 a.m. to learn about upcoming club activities or chat about current events.

You can also visit our Meta/Facebook page at On Top of the World Democratic Club, Clearwater, to learn about local political events or add commentary to current events.

We are also on the Box Office, [otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com).

Yes, there is a Democratic Club at OTOW, and we are happy to meet you, to listen to what you have to say, and to have you join us in "holding to our principles to make a better community for all."

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# Bingo Marathon

## April 8

# See page 21

# for details

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# Three ways to follow your New Year's resolution: Cardio, line dancing, cornhole



By Hope Tera

Happy 2023!

It's a new year and a fresh start.

Maybe you made some resolutions. Hopefully your plan for 2023 includes staying active. There are so many reasons why it's a smart move.

One way to accomplish staying active is by joining the Moving 'n Grooving Cardio Dance/Cardio Dance Light classes offered in our community.

Six times a week, Hope Tera leads these dance classes. Here are just a few reasons why you might want to try them out:

- They're fun - the more you enjoy your exercise routine, the more likely you are to stick with it

- Burns calories and fat
- Tones your entire body
- Boosts your cardiovascular heart health

- Improves your mood
- Lowers your blood pressure
- Helps you destress
- Improves your coordination
- Increases your endurance
- Adaptable to any fitness level
- Great opportunity to socialize with a wonderful group of active people

If you are interested in giving your heart a good workout, you can try a cardio dance class with Hope Tera.

Looking for a gentler workout?

Then a cardio dance light class might fit the bill.



This is a cardio workout class led by Hope Tera in the East Activity Center Exercise Room.

How about trying some line dancing classes with Margaret LeTourneau? She caters to all levels and a great time is guaranteed.

If you just want to have some friendly competition, cornhole might suit you.

The schedule is listed with this article.

Members of our club receive monthly calendars showing dates/times/locations for our activities.

If you would like to receive a copy of our monthly calendar for January, please contact Hope Tera at 914-217-9206 or email her at [movingandgroovingotow@gmail.com](mailto:movingandgroovingotow@gmail.com).

The Moving 'n Grooving Club is always welcoming new ideas and new beginnings. If you'd like to check out an inclusive line dance, cardio dance, and cornhole club that teaches to all levels, guarantees great fun, and promotes an atmosphere of kindness and

<p><b>LINE DANCING - EAC Auditorium</b>                  Tuesdays (no class Jan. 17 or Jan. 31)                  9:00 - 10:20 Levels 1/2                  10:30 - 12:00 Levels 3/4</p> <p>Fridays (no class Jan. 13)                  1:00 - 2:20 Level 1/2                  2:30 - 4:00 Levels 3/4</p> <p><b>CORNHOLE - WAC Belleair Room</b>                  Mondays (no games Jan. 2)                  1:00 - 4:00 All Skills</p>	<p><b>CARDIO DANCING - Exercise Room</b>                  Mondays (no class Jan. 9)                  12:00 - 1:00                  1:15 - 2:15 Cardio Dance Light</p> <p>Wednesdays                  12:00 - 1:00                  1:15 - 2:15 Cardio Dance Light</p> <p>Saturdays (no class Jan. 7)                  9:00 - 10:00                  10:15 - 11:15 Cardio Dance Light</p>
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creativity, please contact Hope at 914-217-9206, email [movingandgroovingotow.com](mailto:movingandgroovingotow.com), or come to any of our activities to try them

out. You can also learn more about our club on the OTOW Box Office ([otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com)). Look for our logo.

A parade meeting is scheduled for Jan. 10 in the East Activity Center Largo Room at 3 p.m.

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# One-day road trip gave Travel Club members a choice - boat ride or holiday shopping



By Janice Berman  
 What in the world have our Travel Club members been up to lately? Well, let me tell you.

On Nov. 9 you would have found us enjoying lunch at Bonefish Grill on McMullen Booth Road in beautiful Clearwater. We filled the restaurant with 40 members. As usual, a good time was had by all.

Our November day trip was to Mount Dora. Fifty members boarded a bus at the East Activity Center to take the ride to this historic town filled with unusual shops and excellent restaurants.

Half of the members enjoyed a boat ride that offered beautiful sightseeing opportunities. I stayed on land and used my time to shop in the many unique stores along the main streets. After all, this town is known as "Someplace Special" to explore.

So many of us went holiday shopping that our bus driver had to open the bus storage area. She kept our packages safe for the ride home.

The bus ride back to On Top of the World was long, however, members said it was worth the ride to spend a day in this very



Members of the Travel Club go for a boat ride near Mount Dora. Other members spent the day holiday shopping.

special little town. We all went home tired but with a smile.

As I write this story, 25 members are cruising the Caribbean on board the Carnival Pride which left from Tampa on Dec. 4. They were scheduled to be back in time to trade in their cruise clothes for some holiday attire and join us at our traditional "Holiday

dinner and dance.

This event took place on Dec. 14 at the Clearwater Country Club. We feasted on their delicious buffet and danced to DJ-style music.

Our board members planned a festive night including some surprises.

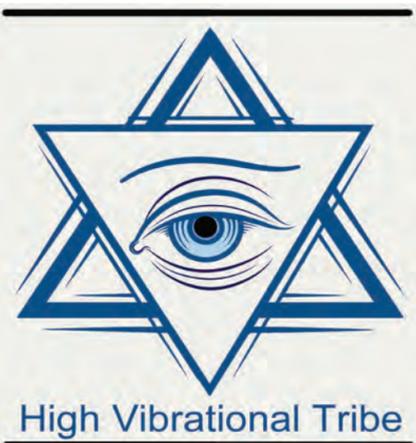
Our next general meeting is on Jan. 6 at

2 p.m. in the East Activity Center Oldsmar Room.

Travel Club information tables are open in the Auditorium every Monday and Thursday from 8:30-10:15 a.m.

Happy New Year from the OTOW Travel Club.

# High Vibe Tribe wants to know your inspiration



By Laurie LeClaire

Welcome to a mystical new year filled with inspired metaphysical activities.

In our December meeting, the High Vibe Tribe agreed that a brainstorming session is in order to honor the desires of attendees to explore energy work in its many forms, to embrace healing modalities such as sound therapy, Qigong, magnets, crystals, Feng Shui, laughter therapy, Angel guidance and invite an ever widening group of local speakers to share insights gleaned over decades of experience.

Remember, we are the original "new agers."

Tarot, shamanism, astrology, numerology, dream work and spiritual discussions all fall into the category of metaphysics.

So we are asking attendees to bring an inspired idea, totem, pendulum, crystal, energy tool or request for a specific offering.

I, myself, would love us to host a drum making workshop, create a drum circle and eventually have a sunset ceremony on one of our many local beaches. Then our High Vibe Tribe can send out positive signals bringing in more love so needed at this time in history.

Our Tribe meets once monthly on the second Thursday from 7-9 p.m. in the Clearwater Room in the East Activity Center (also known as the kitchen).

For questions, you may send a text or email to Laurie LeClaire at otowooowo@gmail.com or 727 265-1671.

## DIABETIC?

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# Political crisis resolved in time to hold December potluck dinner

By Carl Turner

At 5 p.m. on Dec. 13, when the Republican Club was preparing to have its Christmas meeting, we ran into a little problem.

The West Activity Center doors were locked and there was no way to access our meeting room.

Karen Tatge kept a cool mind and thought to contact the real estate office in the same building. Someone from the real estate office then was able to contact a maintenance worker to unlock the doors.

So Karen's persistent effort helped avert a disaster. Yay Karen! Thank you again!

Our club's normal business meeting for the night was postponed so the 64 members in attendance could enjoy a delicious potluck dinner and bond into an even more effective club.

President Carl Turner explained that an important planning activity would take place at the Jan. 10, 2023, meeting instead.

After dinner, the festivities began with Jesse Tiamson providing music and giving out reindeer antlers for all to wear.

Then two of the past presidents, Marvin Lazernik and Edwina Schick, described the early days of the club as it grew.

Next, MaryJane Lofton was also recognized for her efforts in those early years.

Our club then recognized three new United States citizens (Regina Hanson, Flavio Pinato and Maria Pinato) for their diligent efforts to get their citizenship. All three of our newest United States citizens have



been great volunteers for many of the Republican Club activities and are already giving back to our great country.

Next Jesse led us in singing Christmas carols and celebrating the holiday. Jesse forgot to mention that his birthday is Dec. 25, so Happy Belated Birthday, Jesse.

It was a great meeting with new and old members attending this fun and entertaining Christmas Party in the laid back atmosphere.

The next Republican Club meeting will be the second Tuesday of the month, which is Jan. 10, 2023, at the West Activity Center Belleair Room from 6-8 p.m.

If anyone has questions or wants to get personal reminders of the activities scheduled and unscheduled, please email me at carlmarvinturner@gmail.com or call me at 443-624-9303.



Celebrating the holidays are Evelyn Tiamson, Marynia Mackiewicz and Laura Broberg.

## Try your hand at creative writing in 2023

By Lori Gottshall

Happy New Year to everyone.

I wonder what 2023 will bring for the Writer's Ink Club?

We are looking forward to the return of our final Snowbirds and are happy to report a couple of new members have joined during the fourth quarter of 2022.

Still, there is always room for more. Perhaps this is the year you will start writing.

If you are wondering about what to write, the answer is anything.

Most recently, someone presented a very irreverent short story concerning Snow White and her seven little buddies. It was yet another example of the amazing variety of pieces generated by club members.

Fact or fiction, prose or poetry, there are no bad choices.

How about a character study?

Did you have a frustrating remodeling experience?

Did you go on a weekend outing?

Did the holidays move you towards nostalgia?

Retirees are really good at that and other contemplations of life.

While writing is a solitary exercise, sharing your writing and learning from peers is a wonderful way to improve your skills.

Tidbits of good technique pop out as we discuss the works presented.

A recent new member shared a comment about writing: "If you want to write well, put something of yourself in the work."

That means it is OK, and even recommended, to use phrases like "I remember ..." or "It hurt me to think..." or "I wanted to scream..."

Why not join us on Thursday afternoons at 1 p.m. in the Dune-din Room of the East Activity Center? Bring several sample copies of your work to share with the group or come empty-handed to just listen and see how it goes.



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# Veterans head back to sea

**OTOW**



**Veterans Group**

By Pam Rosenblatt

The Veterans Group Holiday Dinner Cruise out of Madeira Beach was a total success in December.

Stu Rosenblatt entertained us with a 50/50 and his version of "Let's Make a Deal" and oh what fun we had on the high seas.

Stu made it all happen for us to enjoy.

Thank you all who made the night fun, safe and memorable for years to come.

The Veterans Group will have two dinner cruises this year - in June and December. The exact dates will be announced later. Perhaps you'll be able to make one of them?

I have the schedule for upcoming Honor Flights of West Central Florida for 2023!

There will be four flights: Tuesday, April 25; Tuesday, June 13; Tuesday, Sept. 12; and Tuesday, Oct. 24.

If you are interested in attending an Honor Flight or just getting information, stop by our Veterans Group information table on Thursday mornings from 8:30-10:30 a.m.

You may even consider attending one of our coffee socials with Honor Flight's Gary Gilchrist as the guest speaker.

Our 2023 coffee socials will be held on Feb. 1, April 5 and Oct. 4 at 2 p.m. in the East Activity Center Kitchen.

You can also get more information by visiting their website: [honorflightwcf.org](http://honorflightwcf.org).



U.S. Navy Veteran Charlie Meyerrick and his spouse, Paula, enjoy festivities on the Calypso Breeze Dinner Cruise. (OTOW News photo by Pamela Rosenblatt)

## Press Association staff reports positive feedback on new newspaper format

"It's bigger."

"The color is better."

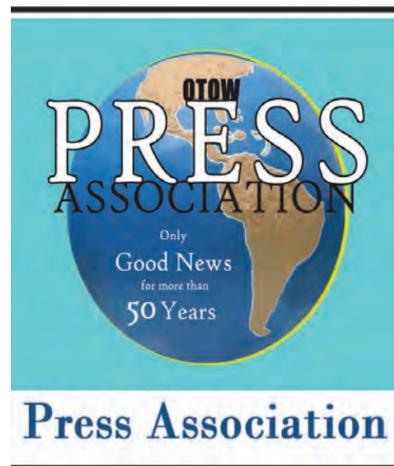
"The photographs are beautiful."

"I can finally read the stories without my glasses."

Those were some of the comments shared at the Press Association monthly meeting in December. The meeting took place one week after the redesigned On Top of the World newspaper was delivered to residents. This was the first chance for Editor Doug Kates to get feedback about all the changes that took place.

"Some people have commented that the newspapers are too bulky now, but a majority of the people like the new format," Doug said. "The new size may have come as a shock to some people. For 55 years the newspaper was printed on the same tabloid-style paper. Now, we just have to get used to the new newsprint."

In November, OTOW News switched printing companies. The new printer is located at The Villages, where there is a state-of-the-art facility designed especially for



newspapers.

Our own OTOW News staff had very little time to adjust to the new format. There was only one size newsprint available and all the ads had to be resized. Plus, black and white ads were changed to color.

"Everyone seems to have accepted the changes," Doug said. "We got the December newspaper done by deadline and we followed up with another great newspaper for January."

Those who attended the December meeting were asked to sign up to provide refreshments for meetings in 2023. Lyn Tacker volunteered for the Jan. 5 meeting, Deb Russell for Feb. 2, Fran Fairfield for May 4 and Joanne Cordes for Aug. 3. Volunteers are still needed for Oct. 5 and Dec. 7.

The Press Association meeting on March 2 will be a pizza party. All pizzas will be purchased with money from 50/50 drawings. The meeting may be moved from the Crystal Beach Room to the Pavilion, so watch for changes. Paula Schelling volunteered to provide beverages.

The Appreciation Dinner will take place Thursday, April 6 at Philippe Park Shelter No. 7. Doug said about 20 staffers have already qualified. Details will be announced later.

The Irish Club Parade is approaching on

March 4 and the Press Association hopes to have volunteers march down World Parkway Boulevard and pass out March newspapers. Doug will be designing new T shirts for the staff to wear. He wants the T shirts to be something staffers will be proud to wear all year long. Look for ideas at the January meeting.

OTOW-TV is restarting soon. Doug told staff to turn to channel 901 on the Summit Broadband network and soon they will see our new channel.

Lastly, President Tom Butcher would like staffers to suggest ideas for new content in our newspaper. If you have any new, fresh ideas that fall within our guidelines, please email Doug or present your idea at a future meeting.

The next Press Association meeting is 1:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 5 in the East Activity Center Auditorium. If no stories have been submitted about your building in the past 12 months, the building reporter position is considered open. Ask Doug if you can join our staff.

## Vegan Group discusses ways to stay healthy

By Ronald A Baltrunas

The new On Top of the World Vegan Group added nine new participants for a total of 18 now in the group.

We had much discussion about health benefits of a whole-food plant-based diet with low oil, salt and refined sugar.

High sugar and salt content are very often found in processed foods.

Whole food is cooking from scratch, which avoids the harmful chemicals found in processed foods.

Better sugar substitutes were pointed out like maple syrup, black strap molasses, date paste, coconut sugar and Stevia.

So much of this is not well known as doctors are taught little initial and recurring

nutritional training. We have to learn these things ourselves.

Some ways are websites such as Dr. Fuhrman ([drfuhrman.com](http://drfuhrman.com)) and Dr. Greger ([nutritionfacts.org](http://nutritionfacts.org)).

Members pointed out programs for reversing heart disease through diet by Dr. Esselstyn and Dean Ornish.

Some recipes were given.

Eight members had a vegan pot luck lunch on Dec. 12 in an apartment for friendship and good food.

Our next meeting will be 3 p.m., Friday, Jan. 13, in the West Activity Center Learning Lab.

There will be a report and discussion on the book "Comfortably Unaware" about

how what we eat effects our health, the environment and life on Earth.

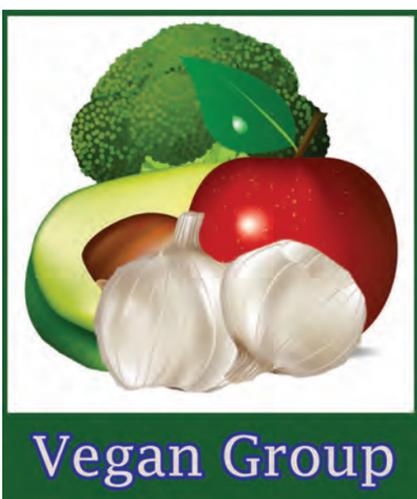
We will chat a little about celebrities who are vegans like: Arnold Schwarzenegger and Clint Eastwood.

The meeting will be open to discussing anything members want to bring up.

Due to the alarming rise in national COVID-19, flu, and RSV cases, wearing masks or face shields might be a good idea.

Veganism is more than a diet. To learn more about the environmental and moral issues visit: [www.vegansalvation.com](http://www.vegansalvation.com)

For further information about our new group, send an email to [Vegan10@yahoo.com](mailto:Vegan10@yahoo.com).





There were so many people at the Lambda Christmas Party in December that not everyone could fit into one picture - we tried our best to squeeze in as many as we could. You will also notice that most gifts are still wrapped. Some were too crazy to be on film.

## Lambda knows how to squeeze two holiday parties into five weeks, plus prepare for a ‘cruise’

By Bruce Lovett

Whoever wrote the song “Home for the Holidays” really meant to say “Lambda for the Holidays” because there are two things Lambda does extremely well: One, make people feel at home and two, really kick up their heels at holidays.

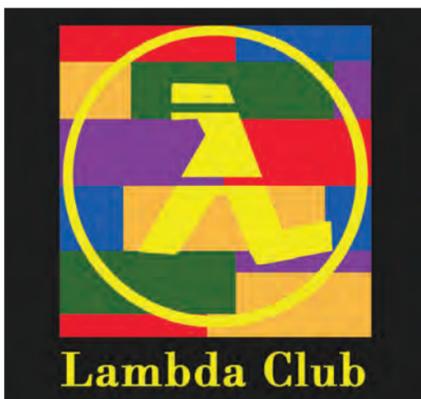
Ever since the club’s inception more than 13 years ago, Lambda has worked hard at offering a home-like atmosphere for those who have come to On Top of the World in search of Florida sunshine.

Many came here knowing no one and have no family nearby. While others come from families and/or communities where they felt marginalized or disenfranchised.

Lambda opens its doors to every member of OTOW’s LGBT+ community as well as their neighbors and friends.

And boy do they celebrate every holiday - Easter, Father’s Day, Halloween, etc.

But it is in those weeks between the



fourth Thursday in November and the last day of the year that we really shine.

This year’s Thanksgiving gave us a chance to not only celebrate turkey day, but give us a dress rehearsal for our Christmas

Eve feast. After years of COVID, we are proud to say both events went smoothly.

The Thanksgiving spread was mouth-wateringly delicious and we raised \$140 for Feeding Tampa Bay. Our Christmas collection went to Neighborly.org.

Mike Murphy, a new member to the Lambda turkey team, had a little trouble wrestling his unparoled Thanksgiving bird to the ground, but he did get it in the oven and on the platter in time for the big meal.

By Dec. 24, he had it down to a science.

Between the two gorging feasts, Mike practiced his turkey trot and Lambda had its annual Christmas party and gift exchange.

This year we had such a large turnout, Dave Beaven, our beloved leader and experienced turkey wrestler, had to cram three card tables into the corners to handle the overflow.

Fifty-seven people from all walks of life came together and shared true fellowship

and some really silly gifts.

And of course, the year will end with our usual sold out table at the Entertainment Committee’s New Year’s Eve Dance.

There were far too many other celebrations to discuss, but suffice it to say nobody does the holidays like Lambda.

And in 2023 we look forward to our Cruise Night on Friday, Jan. 13, 2023, at 6 p.m., in the Largo Room. Steel drums will be playing and bizarre rum drinks with umbrellas will be available at the bar. Remember to bring your best dish to share. Cruise cuisine has to be top notch.

Lambda is a club that serves the LGBT population at OTOW as well as their neighbors and friends. Should you wish further information about the club, go to our webpage at [HTTP://lambdaclearwater.blogspot.com](http://lambdaclearwater.blogspot.com).

You can also check us out at OTOW Box Office ([otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com)), or call Dave at (727) 410-7566.

## Morning exercises are more than a workout

By Mary Marsden

The 8 a.m. Weekday Exercise Class is not just all about fitness, but there is a big component of just supporting each other and being together.

Don’t get it wrong, exercise is a good way to prolong life, there is no question about that. But if you asked the ladies in the class, how many would exercise daily for an hour on their own, the majority would admit they only do it because of the class. Not just the class itself, but the people in the class make it fun.

We are part of something that is very good for us. We are our own little family and are happy to see Snowbirds returning and joining for the winter months to catch up on their lives again.

We are aware of the regulars who are away taking care of a sick family member or having an operation or a vacation away. Someone in the group will call or get a card signed because we care.

Just last week the group received individual “Holy Moments” (A Handbook for the Rest of Your Life) booklet from

one of our leaders because she wanted to share what she found so important in her life.

So for 2023, a reminder from our group that friendship, optimism and kindness can help you live to 100.

Also, the six best doctors in the world are sunlight, rest, exercise, diet, self-confidence and friends. Keep them in all stages of life and enjoy a healthy life.

Love the people God sent you - one day he’ll need them back.



Ladies Exercises

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# Joyous time at Christmas brunch

## 18-Hole



## Ladies Golf

By Gloria Sayer

As you can see from our photo, everyone at the Ladies 18-Hole Golf Christmas brunch dressed in their best holiday attire and the smiles convey a happy time for all.

We have such a wonderful group of women who enjoy their golf and enjoy each other whether on the links or at a party. We had guests and social members join in the fun as well. It is always great to see everyone.

The tables in the East Activity Center Kitchen were set with holiday cheer from the beautiful dishes to the mimosas to the delicious catered food and, of course, candy canes.

Verna Lundgren surprised us with homemade mini-muffins. Delicious.

I wish to thank the committee members - Gail DuCharme, Dottie Graham, Sherry Ivey, Verna Lundgren and Gloria Sayer (yes, myself) - for a wonderful setting and party.

I wish to thank Rose Mulhall for arriving early and chipping in to help as well. Many of the ladies stayed after to help put the room back in original order.

Thank you all.

As I say quite often, it takes a village and



Members of the Ladies 18-Hole Golf League pose for a picture at their holiday brunch in the East Activity Center in December.

our On Top of the World village is fantastic.

A charity the Ladies 18-Hole Golf Association supports is Caring and Sharing, and we are pleased have donated \$437 this year. Thank you to Becky West who collected the donations, the association and to one and all for your support of a very worthy cause.

The Ladies 18-Hole Golf Association had an Alpha and Omega game day on Dec. 13. You take the first six holes and the last six holes and add them up minus handicap.

Gina Yoon took first place in Flight A with a 39. Patsy Bath was first in Flight B with a 42. Suellen Dowe was top scorer in Flight C with a 46.

Our Eclectic Tournament is scheduled for Jan. 3, 10 and 17. Get ready, ladies, as you have a chance to better your score each time you play a round of golf.

Flight C Ladies will provide the refreshments. Thanks to Becky West for being in charge of the games.

The Ladies 18-Hole Golf Association has been having a great time and I would like to share the weekly awards (net scores) from December. Congratulations to all the winners.

To join the Ladies 18-Hole Golf As-

sociation, contact Membership Chairperson Becky West (filling in for Joy Walker) at 727-301-8854 or email Becky at bwest@cfu.net.

To join, you must have an updated activity card and the dues are \$35 a year.

Please come join us on our beautiful 18-hole golf course.

Chairperson Terry Kuplen is pleased to announce the annual Jack and Jill Tournament is back and is scheduled on Feb. 7 (rain date Feb. 14, 2023) at the 18-hole golf course. This is a fun tournament so all of the 18-hole ladies need to get your gentleman and join in. There is always a list of men posted on the bulletin board across from the pro shop wanting to join us.

Registration will be Jan. 24 and 27 at the green shack, 7:30 a.m. Cost to play in the tournament is \$10 per person. Lunch only for guests and social members, \$6.

Let's give this tournament a super "welcome back."

May I wish you all a very joyous, blessed and healthy new year.

**Nov. 15**

Flight A. Joyce Majewski 64, Becky West 66, Kim Norried 70. Flight B. Debbie Figas-

ki 62, Karen Beaver 67, Donna Osborne 68, Verna Lundgren 68. Flight C. Patsy Bath 54, Joan Yorkery 71, Rose Mulhall 74. Closest-to-the-pin No. 15 Rosemary Sabatino and chip-in Gail DuCharme No. 9.

**Nov. 22**

Due to course conditions the short course 1-4 and 14-18 was played twice and no scores or handicaps were calculated. However, we did acknowledge on the first go round closest-to-the-pin No. 15 won by Becky West and chip-in No. 15 won by Rose Mulhall.

**Nov. 29**

Flight A. Gloria Sayer 66, Becky West 66, Ursula Taylor 67, Nancy Lo 69. Flight B. Karen Beaver 67, Debbie Figaski 68, Verna Lundgren 69. Flight C. Patsy Bath 60, Rose Mulhall 72, Gail DuCharme 79. Closest-to-the-pin Becky West, chip-ins Carole Lacey No. 3. Patsy Bath No. 14.

**Dec. 6**

Flight A. Becky West 66, Joy Walker 66, Kim Norried 71, Ursula Taylor 74. Flight B. Verna Lundgren 60, Donna Osborne 66, Nancy Lo 69, Debbie Figaski 69. Flight C. Patsy Bath 61, Joan Yorkery 68, Natsue Dawson 72. Closest-to-the-pin No. 15 Donia Stadler, chip-ins Patsy Bath No. 1, Nancy Lo No. 8, Donia Stadler No. 13 and Verna Lundgren No. 18.

**Dec. 13**

Alpha & Omega (first six holes and last six holes minus handicap)

Flight A. Gina Yoon 39, Gloria Sayer 40, Kim Norried 42. Flight B. Patsy Bath 42, Verna Lundgren 44, Terry Kuplen 45. Flight C. Suellen Dowe 46, Joan Yorkery 47, Arlene Hanson 53. Closest-to-the-pin No. 15 Donna Smerz, chip-ins Donna Osborne No. 7 and Verna Lundgren No. 13.

# Ladies 9-Hole Golf League keeps traditional Best Ball Tournament scheduled in January

## 9-Hole



## Ladies Golf

By Paula Ergang

The Ladies 9-Hole Golf League celebrated the holidays with a luncheon at Sake Endless Sushi and Hibachi in Palm Harbor.

We enjoyed appetizers, salad, soup and sushi, and then our main course. It was a great way to taste various foods that might have been new to many of us.

We topped it off with dessert with the favorite item being fried bananas.

Thank you Kathy Aherns for making all the arrangements. It was a great choice.

The new year means the start of some of our annual events. The first is Jan. 10 with Closest to the Pin on our drives on hole No. 4.

Jan. 17 is a best ball tournament. This event was started by past member, Karen Johnson, in memory of her son who loved golf and especially best ball play.

Best ball involves teams of four people. After each golfer tees off, players decide whose ball has the best lie. Each player drops their ball in that spot for their next hit. Play continues this way until everyone is on the green. Then all players putt from the best ball spot until one player's ball is in the hole.

Marilyn Lisbon has been the chairperson



Members of the Ladies 9-Hole Golf League celebrate the holidays at the Sake Endless Sushi and Hibachi restaurant.

for this event ever since Karen moved back north. She says that it is always competitive and great fun. Plus, Marilyn contacts Karen afterwards and let's her know all the details from the day.

Now for scores from past Tuesday play:

**Nov. 15**

**Low Gross/Low Net**

Flight A: Ann Stewart, Kathy Aherns. Flight B: Pat Holland, Diana Anderson. Flight C: Patti McKay, Carole Whynot, Sheryl Barbin, Theresa Gates. Flight D: Ava Ciolli, Sheri Blaa.

**Nov. 22**

**Low Gross/Low Net**

Flight A: Paula Ergang. Flight B: Pat Holland, Diana Anderson. Flight C: Sheryl Barbin, Marge Sivek, Celeste Pert, Carroll Harris, Mary Ellen Makowski. Flight D: Sheri Blaa, Sarah Fergas

**Nov. 29**

**Throw Out Worst Hole**

Flight A: Paula Ergang, Ann Stewart, Gilda Gambacurta. Flight B: Pat Holland, Linda Graff. Flight C: Carole Whynot, Carroll Harris, Celeste Pert. Flight D: Ava Ciolli  
Birdies: Gilda Gambacurta Hole No. 3

**Dec. 6**

**3 Clubs and a Putter**

Flight A: Gilda Gambacurta, Paula Ergang, Pat Holland. Flight B: Diana Anderson. Flight C: Linda Graff, Carolyn Lust, Marge Sivek. Flight D: Theresa Gates, Sarah Fergas, Celeste Pert, Ava Ciolli.

Birdies: Gilda Gambacurta Hole No. 2, Carolyn Lust Hole No. 9. This was Carolyn's first league birdie!

There's a general meeting Jan. 17, 2023, after the Best Ball Tournament. Jan. 31, 2023, is the end of the month Wine and Nine with snacks after play.



# New golf board prepares for 2023

## Men's Golf

By Barney Hanrahan

Well, we have reached the year's end and everyone seemed to survive their scores.

We hope everyone had a good golf season and we look forward to future scores in 2023.

We thank everyone who played in the Men's Golf Association.

We have little to report regarding scheduled events in December as two of the days were either weather or holiday disrupted. That was December 16-23.

As for the latest information, we would like to report on the election of new officers effective Jan. 1, 2023.

Congratulations to Ken Nield as new president and Joseph Dowe as vice president. We would like to express our appreciation to Dave Cox, our outgoing president for all of his work this past year.

### November 30

#### Flight A

First Place: Bill Whipps, 62, Ed Sixon, 64, Roy Monthieth, 65, Tom Petit, 66, Roger Amundson, 66.

#### Flight B

First Place: Daniel Morey, 62, David Johnson, 62, Edmond Molina, 65, Ken Nield, 65, Pete Gagnon, 67.

#### Flight C

First Place: Marc Schell, 61, Ed Fox, 62, Bill Mooney, 62, Joe Iacobaccio, 63, Martin Forde, 65.

#### Flight D

First Place: Joseph Dowe, 66, Alex Miller, 67, Henry Rejman, 68, John Gill, 68, C.J.



The 2023 Men's Golf Association Board includes, left to right, President Ken Nield, Secretary Barney Hanrahan, Vice President Joe Dowe, Trustee Jay Schwallie, Treasurer Lester Whynot, Trustee Dave Cox and Trustee Marc Schell.

Messina, 68.

### December 7

#### Flight A

First Place: Roy Monthieth, 62, Ed Sixon, 63, Jeff West, 63, Jere Keiser, 65, David Saccone, 67.

#### Flight B

First Place: Bill Haener, 64, Tom Sullivan, 64, Doug Silver, 65, Edmund Molina,

65, Pete Gagnon, 66.

#### Flight C

First Place: Joe Johnson, 57, Harold Cote, 59, Martin Forde, 62, Ed Fox, 63, Bill Gambacurta, 63.

#### Flight D

First Place: John Gill 59, Bob Ellis, 62, Henry Rejman, 66, Alex Miller, 66, Ronald Murray, 68.

We are sorry we cannot show all the players, however, please log onto our web-

site: [otowmensgolffleague.com](http://otowmensgolffleague.com) and you will find all the scores.

Also, since deadline for this newspaper was Dec. 15, you can go online to review all scores for the entire month.

We thank all of you who played in our league this year and look forward to next year.

We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable new year.

## John and Ada Maloof team up to win Shamble Tournament

By Ken Smith

Forty-two players participated in the Friday Mixed Golf League Shamble Tournament on Friday, Dec. 9.

First place was the team of John Maloof and Ada Maloof with a plus 5. Second place was the team of Fred Schick and Peyton Grogan with a plus 4. Third Place was the team of Joe Wisinski and Bill Whipps with a plus 4. Fourth place was the team of Ron LaFond and Joe Johnson with a plus 3. Fifth place was the team of Gary Sandine and Doug Silver with a plus 1.

A match of cards was used for plus 3.

Closest to the Pin on hole No. 5 was the team of Fred Schick and Peyton Grogan, on hole No. 6 was Len Howell and CJ Messina, on hole No. 9 was John Maloof and Ada Maloof, on hole No. 13 was Don Hill and Jim Keagy, on hole No. 15 was Ron LaFond and Joe Johnson, and on hole No. 16 was Bruce MacPherson and Scott Rogers.

Skins were recorded on hole No. 1 by the team of Tim Carr and Ken Oatsvall, on holes Nos. 4 and 12 by Jim Stewart and Don Hahs, on hole No. 6 by Fred Schick and Peyton Grogan, on holes Nos. 8 and 10 by Bruce MacPherson and Scott Rogers,

## Friday Golf

on hole No.11 by Jim VanLeuven and Fred Peace and on hole No. 15 by Ron Lafond and Joe Johnson.

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

We play every Friday, weather permitting. The Championship season is November through April. Summer and fall golf continue May through October.

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



John and Ada Maloof won the Friday Mixed Golf League Shamble Tournament held in December. They were also closest-to-the-pin on the ninth hole.

## Jack and Jill Golf Tournament

Feb. 7 (rain date Feb. 14, 2023)

Registration will be Jan. 24 and 27 at the green shack, 7:30 a.m.  
Cost \$10 per person. Lunch \$6 for guests and social members only.  
Sponsored by Ladies 18-Hole Golf League.

The ladies in the league must find a 'Jack' for a partner.  
Interested 'Jacks' can try to find a 'Jill' in the league who needs a partner.

# SPORTS

## Business meeting came with pasta



By Joe DeChiaro

The On Top of the World Tennis Club held its annual business meeting on Saturday, Nov. 12.

Each member brought a small side dish while the club catered two pasta trays of Italian food from A & N Deli.

There were 42 residents in attendance including five new members.

The meeting started with an invocation by Bruce McMaster, followed by opening remarks by President Joe DeChiaro.

Dave Berman entertained the group with a tennis joke and Treasurer Bill Carey reported on the current club's finances.

Topics of discussion included a new mini-set court, a round-robin event on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023, and future club trips to the Miami Open, French Open or a tennis cruise.

The club also organizes a monthly luncheon, monthly golf outing at the 9-hole course and a monthly dinner.

The dues remained at \$15 which a portion goes to the purchase of tennis balls.

New members are always welcomed - just show up in the morning at the tennis courts and we will sign you up.



More than 40 residents attended a business meeting and dinner for the On Top of the World Tennis Club. New members are always welcome

## OTOW softball players make great catches on and off the field

By Bob Rittner

Bob Rittner made two brilliant catches in December.

First, at the aptly-name Paradise Restaurant, he announced his engagement to Ginny Traycheff, also a softball player.

Second, was a spectacular catch at the mound of a vicious low-liner, hit so hard the runners had no chance to get off their bases.

But to be entirely fair, that play could not be compared to a diving short-hop catch at third base by Bob Voigt, who tagged the base for a force out and threw home to nab a runner expecting to score.

Paradise Blue won the three-way battle with six runs, Paradise Red scored five runs and Paradise White scored three runs.

**Paradise Red 12**  
**Paradise Blue 2**  
**Paradise White 2**

Routs are rare in our league, but Red scored in every inning while Blue and White were out-defended.

Hard hit balls found gloves. The primary culprit was middle infielder Charles Kovarik who let nothing get by him and he made strong throws to nab runners.

**Paradise White 11**  
**Paradise Red 10**  
**Paradise Blue 7**

Some plays take your breath away. Bob Voigt, at third base, went airborne to backhand a screaming liner, saving at least



one run.

Catcher Kathi Finley lunged forward to grab a foul ball inches off the ground for a critical out.

Phil Goodwin stretched to his limit to bring down a high throw at first base, and Mary Anne Benuzzi backed up and stretched high to catch a rising liner.

The close fought game was decided by a three-run last inning that culminated in Bob Dembinski's two-run double to the opposite field.

**Paradise Blue 12**  
**Paradise White 10**  
**Paradise Red 7**

A game with a lot of wows! With a runner on first base, shortstop Mike Allen dove to snatch a hard grounder

and get a force out at second base. Wow!

With two runners on, middle infielder Bob Studwell backhanded a ball behind second base, spun around and threw the lead runner out at third base. Wow!

On a smash up the middle, shortstop Joe DeChiaro went to his knees, scrambled up and threw a bullet to nab the batter before reaching first base. Wow!

With a runner hustling around second base, center fielder Gille Chartrand cut a ball off in the gap and threw a one-hopper right to the bag at third, which Eddie Ramirez backhanded for the out. Wow!

**Paradise White 11**  
**Paradise Red 4**  
**Paradise Blue 2**

Every hitter for the Whites had at least two hits, led by Rick Champ and Ralph Scunziano with three apiece. Frank Whitney slugged a lone triple. Melvin Tennille continued his hot streak with two more hits giving him 10 in his last 12 plate appearances.

On defense, Eddie Ramirez made two dazzling backhanded stops at third base, nabbing runners at first base with perfect throws from deep near the foul line.

**Paradise Red 12**  
**Paradise White 8**  
**Paradise Blue 6**

Until the penultimate inning, this was a one-run game. Then Red scored four runs to gain the victory.

Ralph Scunziano's two triples and a single drove in seven runs.

But the most dramatic moment came when Gille Chartrand tripped rounding third base, got up twice to continue his circuit, and ended up crawling the last few feet to score.

It was an inspirational example of senior citizen resilience and determination.

Scott Ryberg made a fine running outfield catch and sparked on offense with a perfect three-hit day.

It was a pleasure to welcome back Wayne Pall, our smooth first baseman, always in position to back up plays and regularly making remarkable scoops of tough hops.

**Paradise Blue 10**  
**Paradise Red 6**  
**Paradise White 4**

Shortstop Ralph Scunziano was on the ground, threw backhanded towards second base where Charles Kovarik stretched down and away to catch the ball in his webbing for a force out.

A typical play on this day.

Roger Martel sprinted toward the left field foul line to backhand a long drive just before it hit the ground.

First baseman Frank Whitney speared a screaming liner high over his head and doubled a runner off base.

Catcher Bob Fields kept his foot on the plate while stretching full length to catch the throw to save a run from scoring.

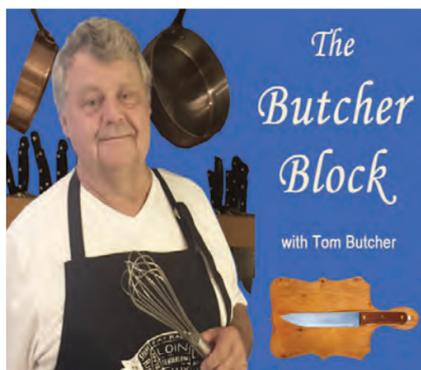
And people call us seniors ...

### OTOW Softball Plays

Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:45 a.m., Safety Harbor Community Park

You must have a valid activity card to play

# Soups from Around the World



Food historians tell us the history of soup is probably as old as the history of cooking.

The act of combining various ingredients in a large pot to create a nutritious, filling, easily digested, simple to make/serve food was inevitable.

This made it the perfect choice for both sedentary and travelling cultures, rich and poor, healthy people and grease lovers.

Soups have evolved according to local ingredients and taste.

New England chowder, Spanish gazpacho, Russian borscht, French onion, Chinese won ton, Campbell's tomato and Italian Pasta E Fagioli (later Tom's version) are all variations on the same theme.

Sharing soup is a wonderful ritual of family meals, especially during the winter months.

Though the soup itself may be simple, or just one of many courses, I like to give it the attention (and garnishes) it deserves. I have one rule for serving soup, whether it's for a formal occasion or for an everyday supper, hot soup goes in warm bowls and cold soup goes in chilled bowls.

Let's not forget that here in Florida, where we have very hot summers, cold soup can be very nice. This includes gazpacho, vichyssoise or peach soup (yes, a refreshing fruit soup alongside a fresh salad make a great summer lite lunch or dinner).

Adding flavor to any soup is simple and easy. One sure way is to drizzle some of the best extra-virgin olive oil you have over a bowl of minestrone just before serving. Freshly grated cheese always delivers extra flavor.

Like I said, what is so great about making soup is you can take a basic soup recipe and make it your own with the ingredients you and your family like.



## Pasta E Fagioli

### Pasta E Fagioli (Tom's Version) Ingredients

4 sprigs fresh thyme  
4 sprigs fresh sage  
1 large sprig fresh rosemary  
1 bay leaf  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
1 tablespoon butter  
1 cup chopped onion  
1 pound sweet Italian sausage cut into small pieces  
2 teaspoon minced garlic  
5 cups chicken stock  
3/4 cup elbow macaroni  
2 (14.5 ounce) cans red kidney beans, drained and rinsed  
freshly ground black pepper  
1/3 cup freshly grated Parmesan  
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil  
2 large potatoes peeled  
1/2 cup dry white wine  
Parsley for garnish

### Directions

Wrap the thyme, rosemary, sage and bay leaf in a piece of cheesecloth and tie with kitchen twine.

Heat 1 tablespoon olive oil and butter in a stock pot over medium heat. Add the onion, sausage, and garlic and sauté for 5 to 8 minutes.

Add the chicken stock, wine, potatoes, beans and the herbs.

Cover and bring to a boil over high heat, decrease the heat to medium and simmer until the potatoes are very tender, about 10 minutes.

Discard the herbs. Puree 1 cup of the beans mixture (without the sausage, potatoes) in a blender until smooth.

Fish out the potatoes to a plate, mash coarsely with a fork and return them to the pot.

Before putting the puree back into the soup, add the macaroni and boil with the lid on until it is tender but still firm to the bite, about 8 minutes.

Return the puree to the remaining soup in the saucepan and stir well. Season the soup with ground black pepper.

Ladle the soup into warm bowls.

## Roasted Beet Borscht

### Directions

Heat the oven to 400 degrees. Scrub the beets and put them on a large piece of aluminum foil; season with salt and pepper, add 3 thyme springs, and drizzle with 3 tablespoons olive oil. Bake until the beets are tender, about 1 hour. Set aside. When the beets are cool enough to handle but still warm, slip off their skins, and chop them into large chunks.

In a large heavy bottomed pot over medium heat, add the remaining 3 tablespoons olive oil. Put in the onion, carrots, garlic, and remaining thyme and cook until softened and just starting to color, about 10 minutes. Add the warm chicken stock and simmer until the vegetables are tender, about 20 minutes. Remove the thyme sprigs. Put the chopped beets into a blender and add the cooked vegetables and most of the stock. Blend until smooth, add more stock if the puree is too thick. Add the vinegar and honey; season with salt and pepper. Blend again to incorporate flavors. Borscht can also be served cold.

To make the garnish, grate the apple on the large holes of a box grater and mix in the dill. Serve in bowls, garnished with a big dollop of sour cream and topped with the apple and dill mixture.

### Cooking Tip

When blending hot liquids: Remove liquid from the heat and allow to cool for at least 5 minutes. Transfer liquid to a blender or food processor and fill it no more than halfway. If using a blender, release one corner of the lid. This prevents a vacuum effect that creates heat explosions. Place a towel over the top of the machine, pulse a few times then process on high speed until smooth.

### Ingredients

1 pound beets  
Kosher salt and ground black pepper  
6 sprigs fresh thyme  
6 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
1 medium onion chopped  
2 carrots chopped  
2 cloves garlic chopped  
6 cups chicken stock heated  
1 tablespoons honey  
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar  
1 Granny Smith apple peeled  
2 tablespoons chopped dill  
Sour cream for garnish



# Eggplant Ziti



Email questions, suggestions and comments to

**Marie**

marieshealthyfood@gmail.com

Pasta is a favorite comfort food. Pasta is possibly one of the world's greatest convenience foods. It is easy to make and everybody likes it.

My dear chefs, adding pasta to any casserole containing lower-fat meat is a budget-friendly strategy. And the best part? Lean meat will never be dry because pasta adds moisture.

Ziti is a classic pasta dish. If you don't have ziti pasta on hand, rigatoni or penne pasta will substitute. These all have rough, tubular-shapes desired to efficiently "grab" the sauce. The addition of eggplant makes this version vegetarian. Roasted eggplant imparts an appealing slight bitterness from its skin and sweetness from its flesh which contrast beautifully with the slightly acidic spaghetti sauce and sweet ricotta.

January is a time when lots of friends and family gather. Ziti is ideal for a large gathering of friends or family.

## Eggplant Ziti Ingredients

- 1 large eggplants
- 2 tablespoons salt
- 6 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, peeled and minced
- 4.5 cups spaghetti sauce
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 cup whole-milk ricotta
- 1 pound ziti
- 1 yellow onions, chopped

## Instructions

1. Trim ends of eggplant. Cut into 1-inch cubes and place half in a large bowl. Toss with the 1 tablespoon salt and dump into colander. Repeat with other half. About 8 cups total. Drain for one hour. Rinse under cold water. Drain well and pat dry between two cotton towels.

2. Preheat oven to 400 degrees fahrenheit. Place half eggplant in a large bowl and toss with 1 tablespoon oil. Spread in even layer on parchment paper-lined baking sheet. Roast for about 25-30 minutes, until eggplant is browned and very tender, turning the eggplant once or twice during the roasting. Repeat with remaining portion in a second baking sheet.

3. After eggplant is roasted, bring large pot of salted water to boil for pasta. Stir pasta into the boiling water and cook for about nine minutes until al dente, stirring often. Drain, retaining one-half cup of the cooking water. Place the drained pasta back into the pot.

5. Pour in half of the sauce and retained pasta cooking water into the pasta. Stir. Remove pot from the heat and stir in parmesan. Add garlic and onions. Stir.

6. Add most of the ricotta by large tablespoons, stirring gently, to melt it. Stir in remaining sauce and eggplant. Stir in teaspoons of the remaining ricotta at the last moment so they do not melt into the sauce. They serve as pockets of a flavor bursts to surprise the lucky eater.

Serves 6. Leftovers reheat well in microwave.

## The Science

Cook the pasta al dente otherwise it will be overcooked. Al dente describes the texture of cooked pasta when it's tender, but firm and chewy.

My dear chefs, pasta will be bland if you don't sufficiently salt its cooking water. Add a tablespoon salt per quart of water to season it properly. Yes, the average American consumes too much sodium. But the real culprit is not home cooking or even the table salt shaker. Processed foods and restaurant food account for 70 percent of our dietary intake. (i)

The water in which the pasta cooked is rich with starch — this will help bind pasta and sauce together and make the sauce silkier. So save 1/2 cup of cooking water to add to the sauce. Rinsing pasta will wash away the starch. So drain, but don't rinse ... unless making pasta salad or a stir-fry.

Also, don't add oil to the pasta water in hopes of preventing the pasta from sticking. (ii) Oil attaches to pasta after draining, preventing sauce from sticking to it. Instead, stir the pasta very often ... especially at the beginning. A large pot is needed to do this efficiently.

## The Health Value

When eaten in moderation, pasta can be part of a healthy diet. Whole-grain pasta may be a better choice. It is lower in calories and carbs and higher in fiber and nutrients than refined pasta. (i) But most people prefer the mouthfeel of refined pasta. Ingredients you add to the pasta are just as important to consider health wise.

(i) [pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/](http://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/) (ii) Kitchen Wisdom. Claire Sullivan.

(iii) [www.smithsonianmag.com](http://www.smithsonianmag.com)

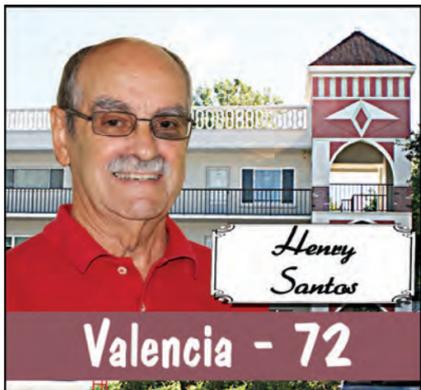
This column is not intended to provide medical advice. The reader should consult a physician for medical advice.

# BUILDING REPORTS



While preparing for a Jolly Trolley ride to see holiday lights, Valencia residents posed for a picture and yelled in unison 'Happy New Year!'

## 'Happy New Year!' from the Valencia building



As we prepared to load onto the Jolly Trolley this past month for an unbelievable holiday lights tour, our group from the Valencia building stopped to pose for a picture, and, in unison, wished all our neighbors a Happy New Year.

This was an extraordinary tour - just ask anyone who was on board.

We visited several neighborhoods that really take great pride in showing their holiday spirit and decorating to the hilt.

We saw a neighborhood where the holiday lighting of several homes were synchronized to music - quite impressive!

We also saw a whole neighborhood that combined a very patriotic theme with their

holiday lighting - truly inspiring.

But the unanimous favorite choice of our group was the most awesome display at a private home that was decorated to such an extent that it even produced snow for those of us who didn't get enough of it up north. This display would make Disney jealous. It was remarkable.

Many thanks to Cathe Gaulin and all those who helped to organize this event. It was truly a great time.

Valencia residents, please mark your calendar for our annual Valencia building business meeting and January social. It will be at the West Activity Center Belleair Room on Jan. 24, 2023. Set up will be at 5:30, followed

by a social hour and then the business meeting at 7 p.m.

Residents are welcome to bring a dish to share during the social. The building will provide some beverages and appetizers.

Residents are asked to let Building Coordinator Valerie Martin know, in advance, if they have particular topics to be discussed during the building meeting.

We also will be collecting building dues and our treasurer will provide a financial report.

We hope to see everyone there as this has always been a well-attended event. Again, happy new year to everyone.



New World French residents pose with their decorated lanterns. (Photo by Jackie Weber)

### Lanterns make perfect decorations

Did you know lanterns make the perfect Christmas decoration?



Here's proof.

The New World French building held a Christmas party in December and the building's wing angels decorated lanterns for table settings.

The party was held at Alfano's Italian Restaurant. We had a private room for our group of nearly 40 residents and guests.

The wing angels arrived early to decorate the tables, issue name tags and collect packages ready for a white elephant game. We had the room for four hours. It was so much fun and it was a great get-together for the building.

The venue is also booked for next year. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy new year.

# New Year, Better Vision!



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## Building-wide effort Residents decorate then share lunch

What does it mean when the calendar reads "December?"

Food, fun, friends and parties - religious celebrations from all denominations and the start of a new year.

Happy New Year!  
Welcome 2023.

In December, Rural French residents had a busy and fun month that brought friends and neighbors together.

It started when Stan Doran and Lars Ferling decorated our building. They headed out and hung up all of the Christmas wreaths around our building.

Four days later, on Sunday, Dec. 4, Ed Fox, Jim LeBlanc and Shawn McGovern brought down the artificial Christmas tree, five tables and all the decorations.

The tree was assembled, lights lit and the decorations left on the tables.

At 10 a.m., anybody from our building who wanted to finish the decorating came to the core. Working together, the decorating was completed and what a beautiful job they did on our Christmas tree.

Then the four 6-foot long tables were covered and decorated in preparation for food arrival.

The fifth table was set up solely for our menorah. Stu and Lorie Gernstein said that on the first night of Hanukkah, after sundown, they would take care of the lighting of the menorahs bulbs. Then they would continue to light one bulb on each of the next seven nights. That would complete the eight days and nights of Hanukkah which is the celebration of Jewish religious freedom.

Work was finished and it was time for a pizza party in the core.

The building supplied the pizza for this celebration. Everyone brought a dessert to share plus their own beverage of choice.

Randy Matney was asked to order the pizzas. She did a great job. Randy ordered eight pizza pies from Nona's Slice House in Safety Harbor. We had two tables full of pizza and two tables full of dessert. This looked like a lot of food but more than 30 people came to celebrate our building's holiday season together.

Good pizza and a bunch of sweet tooth's



took care of all that food.

When it was over, there wasn't very much food left behind to put away.

On Tuesday, Dec 13, we ate again.

Jim and Carmel LeBlanc hosted a Christmas/Hanukkah luncheon. Carmel made up goodie bags as a small treat for all who attended.

This year's holiday luncheon was held at the Olive Garden in Clearwater. This seems like it might be a building favorite. It was requested that we return to the Olive Garden restaurant that we've visited before, so we did.

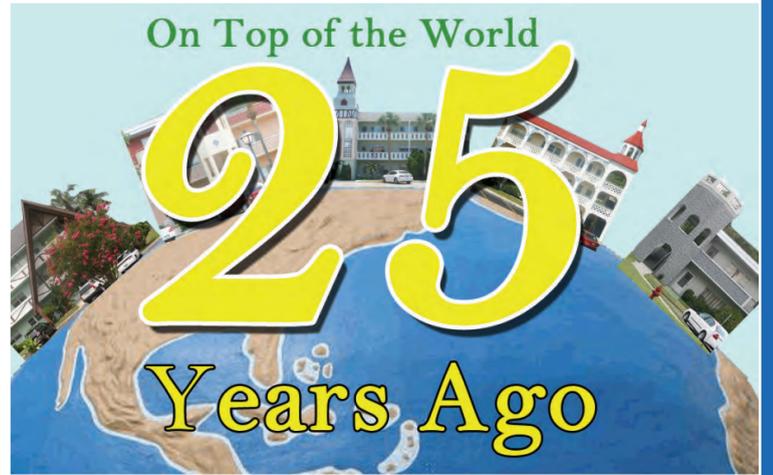
The luncheon had 24 friends and neighbors who were able to attend and fill their bellies. We ate plenty of food and some of us had leftovers to take home for another lunch or dinner.

Don't get left out. Check the building bulletin board regularly and sign up for our next luncheon on Thursday, Jan. 12, at Benedict's Restaurant in Dunedin. Details to follow.

Here we are heading into January.

The holidays are almost behind us, but our building functions don't have to be. That's totally up to you to make things happen. If you have any ideas or suggestions for building fun or get-togethers contact our building president Ed Fox. Put it together and make it happen. To many times good ideas are lost forever because they aren't talked about or implemented.

Have a happy and safe 2023.



January, 1998

**OTOW Case-Western Study:** Every year since Case Western Reserve University started its aging research at On Top of the World in 1989, there has been good news for our residents. And this year, as the project's ninth year got under way on the Veranda on Dec. 22, 1997, the positive results continued. Our seniors (age 74 and up at the start) are living longer than their counterparts in a Cleveland study by Case, where the university is located. OTOW residents also outlive their fellow residents who return to their former hometowns, mostly up North. The study also credits our seniors with a more active lifestyle and a positive outlook on life that extends their active later years.

**Theatre Workshop:** The Theatre Workshop held its annual Christmas party on Dec. 3, 1997, and it was simply great. The caterers served 132 hungry people (this has got to be a new record). We were all in great company as we had good music, good food, and the dancers really strutted their stuff, and yes, a wonderful time was had by all. What more can I say, except Happy New Year to all! Now on a more serious note, remember the next meeting will be on Jan. 7, 1998, at 7:30 p.m.

**Jesters:** On Dec. 10, 1997, the Jesters met for the last time in 1997. But just wait 'til 1998! It was a terrible night weather-wise and the attendance of only 84 members was lower than usual. Yet, spirits were high. Everyone's thoughts were on our upcoming show, Feb. 21-22, 1998, called "Broadway Extravaganza." Doris Atkins, our director, and co-director Lu Erskine are pleased to announce that the show is coming along nicely as planned.

**Lawn Bowling:** The annual meeting was held on Dec. 1, 1997, with approximately 50 members attending. Bill Broad presented a Ranking Committee report asking that the ratings in the Constitution be amended to read Novice, Lead, Senior-Lead, Vice-Skip, and Skip. Since the motion was passed unanimously, Bill and his committee have now reviewed the ranking of all members and made the necessary changes according to the criteria presented in his report. While our Novice players cannot enter tournaments for which there is a trophy, they are encouraged to participate in the daily draws, fun tournaments, and the Tuesday night and Saturday morning Jitneys.

**Cordoba Building:** Forty-seven residents and guests met at Marco Polo restaurant on Saturday, Dec. 13, 1997, for our annual holiday luncheon. It really was a very nice gathering. Everyone was in a holiday mood despite the rainy day. It was good to see so many of our new residents turn out for the party. Thanks to Pat Alder and Margaret Carter for their efforts in providing all of us with the very pretty angel and drum favors. The entertainment was provided by Albert and Pat Roland, guests of Bob and Pat Alder. Pat played the piano and they both sang to the delight and enjoyment of everyone. We especially had fun participating in the "Silverware Symphony."

**American Swiss:** Welcome to 1998! Hope everyone had a happy holiday season. All the buildings were lovely with their lights and decorations. Our building celebrated with a holiday dinner and party at one of our local restaurants. Twenty-three residents attended and enjoyed a special evening together. Lorraine Curran flew to California the week-end before Christmas. She attended the wedding of her daughter, Cecelia. All the brothers and sisters also joined the celebration with brother, Michael, giving the bride away. Ava Burns and Jim Archy went "a-cruisin" again. This time they traveled through the Panama Canal in their dancing shoes. They said it was a great trip.

# YOGA with Marilyn

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<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: orange;">QIGONG</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Tuesdays, Thursdays 3:15-4:00 pm EAC Exercise Room</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em; color: orange;">Ruth Pittman, Instructor</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: orange;">TAI CHI FLOW</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 3:15 - 4:15 pm EAC Exercise Room</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em; color: orange;">20 Years of Teaching at OTOW</p>
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# New residents got to see the festive side of Englander



It was celebration time at the Englander! The holiday spirit was with us as we gathered for Christmas in the core with appetizers to share, holiday carols in the air and lots of catching up with our neighbors.

Thank you to Diane Kaplan for organizing this fun and festive event.

New residents Jimmy and Lili Kwok, who moved here from Palm Coast in July, were introduced, as were Betsy and Cliff Kirchner, who are still in the process of settling in as Snowbirds from Minnesota.

Welcome to the Kwoks and Kirchners. May you have many wonderful years here at the Englander.

Jimmy and Lili's daughter, Amy, also joined us with her two very adorable and entertaining children.

Earlier this month, Terri Mikszenas announced that she would be stepping down as "Godmother" of the building after 16 years. We are fortunate to have Mitch Gerstenblith volunteer to take on the role for our building. Congratulations to Mitch and his first lady, Linda.

Captain Mitch's first duty was putting up the holiday wreaths - great job Mitch!

The building had a festive vibe just in time for our holiday party.

Englander residents welcomed the holiday season early in December with a 'Christmas in the Core' celebration.

Our building treasurer, Diane Kaplan, will continue in her role and you know she'll be waiting for the knocks on her door from

those who wish to settle up before she comes looking for you!

month for organizing and cleaning out the storage room.

Just a reminder that January is the

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



## Holiday lights ceremony

It wasn't even Thanksgiving yet when Austrian Alpine lit up with its annual Christmas lights.

Lenny Segall and Kathy Ahrens held an official lighting ceremony after the November holiday and people came for snacks and beverages.

It was a beautiful ceremony with Santa and Mrs. Claus. There was music, food and it even snowed.

Kathy enjoyed a wonderful visit from her daughter, Kristen, and granddaughter. Marsha Fisher enjoyed a Thanksgiving week visit from her daughter, Amy, from California..



# Finally, an actual Texas winner



By Joe DeChiaro

It hasn't happened often, but the Texas Card Game Tournament in December actually produced a winner!

Bill Whipps defeated Warren Levene at the final table and time allowed us to finish.

The final flop produced a straight for Warren, but then Bill drew consecutive hearts on the turn and river to win with a flush.

This month also marked the one-year anniversary of our club, which is still growing. We now have 48 members and each tournament is drawing 20 or more players.

The first three tournaments of 2023 are



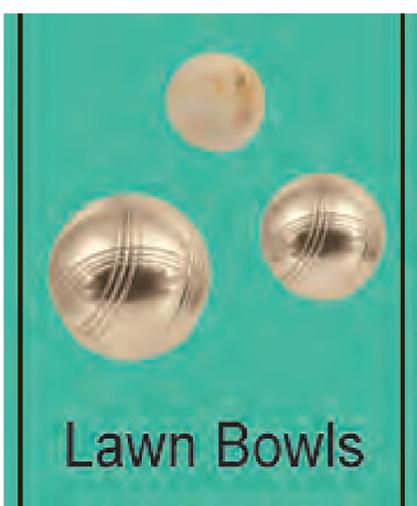
One of the persons above was the winner in the Texas Card Game Tournament held in December. Can you tell who is smiling? From left to right are Bill Whipps, Warren Levene and Pat Hayes. More than 20 players started the event.

Friday, Jan. 20, Friday, Feb. 17 and Friday, March 17. For more information on the monthly

tournaments, you can send an email to: joegdechiaro@yahoo.com or show up 15

minutes early on any 5 p.m. tournament night.

# Lawn Bowl tournaments get started again



By Helen Grose

On Top of the World Lawn Bowling daily games and tournaments have begun again for 2022-23.

The Snowbirds are back from the north and we are very excited to welcome all past and new members to the club.

We have several new members that just finished training and are adding much to the club. If you are interested in learning the game, Dottie Graham coordinates lessons. Please contact Dottie at 727-238-8995 to set up a date and time that is convenient for you. The club provides bowls for training.

Our lawn bowling schedule is Monday through Saturday. We sign in at 9:15 a.m. and start play at 9:30 a.m. sharp. Everyone is welcome to come and watch.

Like many of the clubs, we do organize luncheons, and other fun activities.

As a newcomer myself, who started last year, I find the club very warm and welcoming. I had good teachers who are always ready to give praise and words of encouragement.

Our Christmas tournament was Dec. 5 with a luncheon following at the Pavilion.

The first place winning team was Sandy Wall, Ken Murphy and Gabriel Tailefer.

On Wednesday, Dec. 14, we had a 4-3-2-1 Single's Tournament. The winners of this tournament were Luba Bialova took first place, Barbara Lenzi took second place and Sandy Wall third place. The tournament was a lot of fun.

The following events are planned for January 2023:

Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023, - New Year's Levee at 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023 - Mixed Pairs Trophy Tournament

Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023 - Australian Pairs Trophy Tournament

Friday, Jan. 20, 2023 - Rabbi Burns Tournament followed by luncheon at the Pavilion.

Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023 - Past Presidents Dinner/Dance, 5-9 p.m. at the East Activity Center. The theme is "Aloha."

Everyone is welcome to "take a trip to Hawaii" with us Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023 - Canadian Club Triples Trophy Tournament.

More events are planned for the month of February. We hope you come out and give the game a try or just watch and cheer the players.

# Loch Lomond may consider polka dot day as a future building-wide event



It was navy polka dot day at Loch Lomond. Watch the bulletin board for the next polka dot day. (Photo by Nancy Maczka)

Happy New Year 2023!  
As we settle into the realization that another year has arrived, let's begin by being grateful for all that we have - health, happiness, creature comforts and, of course, our loved ones.

It's always lovely to have our Snowbirds back, too!

This winter season in our community feels really normal again, traffic and all, for the first time in several years. We need to be especially cautious at the three-way stop entering from the Belcher Road gate onto World Parkway Boulevard.

Loch Lomond residents have fingers crossed for a social event or two in 2023, but they are yet to be confirmed. Give me a buzz if you have any ideas and watch the bulletin board.

Meantime, I ran into Marie Mikuliza the other day in her navy and polka dot sundress. And what a coincidence, it was my navy and white polka dot day, too.

Polka dots on parade!

Nancy Maczka was on hand to snap a picture before I had to struggle taking a selfie!

Marie happened to be especially bubbly, not because of our matching outfits, of course, but we did have a laugh. She was anticipating a visit from her daughter, Colleen,



from California, who was arriving the next day for Marie's birthday. Colleen's visit was planned, but when her brother, Rob, from Atlanta, showed up, it was a surprise.

A nice dinner at Carrabba's was in store to cap off the day. Happy belated birthday, Marie.

Of course, we can't forget Enid Goodman who also celebrated her birthday in November. Many happy returns, Marie, and Enid.

Reminder, we will post the birthday list for a refresher soon.

Stay safe everyone.

# If there is eggnog, Villa Riviera residents will decorate, eat, drink and be merry



When people envision the French Riviera, they don't think of Rudolph or Santa Clause. But when thinking about On Top of the World's Villa Riviera, it's impossible not to see Christmas spirit exuding from the cute green building.

It flows like seasonal eggnog down a snowy mountain top.

As soon as Thanksgiving was over, pilgrims and pumpkins magically disappeared. In their place were Christmas wreaths and twinkling window lights.

On the first Sunday after turkey day, a mob gathered in the ground core lobby with treats to share and ideas to turn this tiny space into a winter wonderland.

As the accompanying picture showcases, so many people crowded around the tree for a picture that you can hardly see the tree.

And that doesn't account for the ones not in the picture that were gorging on everything from fried chicken to cupcakes, those decorating the mailboxes, and anyone working in the storage room or taking the pictures.

It was a great afternoon and once again



Behind all these people is indeed a Christmas tree and it made the core special for the holidays.

proved that Christmas is more about people coming together than it is about commercialism.

And 10 days after this picture was taken, that eggnog kept flowing as we had our annual holiday lunch in the back room at the Olive Garden. Close to 40 people came together for two and a half hours of seasonal merriment and food.

Carl Turner, our fearless leader said a few words prior to lunch. Thank goodness he kept them to a minimum as he was facing a hungry mob. He thanked everyone for coming and gave a heartfelt thanks to departing social committee members Deb Turisi and Linda Pregonzer. Their hard work

has done a lot to bring the building together.

Sharon Flint will be remaining on the committee and she and Carl are looking for volunteers to join them.

He also mentioned the need to get residents' contact info and the annual \$10 dues to him in unit 40 before the end of the year.

Carl closed by mentioning Kenneth Colen's recent column in December's paper commenting on the very real 2024 condo fee hikes being pushed through the current state legislature.

You have a voice. Please check both the paper and the bulletin board on how you can do your part to save OTOW.

The meeting ended with our usual 50/50

draw which helps fund events like those mentioned above and gave two lucky winners \$28 in extra Christmas spending money.

And while talking about shopping, Cindy Zou, a long-time resident of Villa Riviera, and a breath of sunshine everywhere she goes, has finally bought her unit outright and can now call OTOW her permanent home sweet home.

By coincidence, the beach, T-shirt and design boutique, The Hide-A-Way, where she assists, has also settled in a new location at the Clearwater Beach Holiday Inn at 521 A Gulfview Blvd.

That's a wrap on 2022. Here's to 2023.

## In search of more good news - visit the Neighborhood Watch blog page

By Dave Beaven

Civility is defined as politeness and courtesy in behavior or speech. It means showing respect for others. It is the way we relate to each other in normal society.

An example is the resident driving his neighbor to a doctor appointment. Or the person delivering Meals on Wheels to a shut-in resident. Or even something as simple as holding the door open for another person. That's humanity at its best - many little acts of kindness that make us civilized.

And yet, if you watch the news, there are always stories of bad things happening. What does that say about civilized society? Some

people get depressed about the news, but you could say that these stories are news because they are unusual. After all, day by day, the vast majority of us go about our business in a civil manner. The news shames the bad actors among us and reinforces norms by always including a good news story in their reports. In fact, people acting civilly is so common that it isn't news. It's just the way it is. And that's something to be thankful for.

Neighborhood Watch consists of a group of residents here who want to live in a peaceful and secure environment based on mutual consideration and respect. To find out more, go to our website: [area-watch2020.blogspot.com](http://area-watch2020.blogspot.com).



# Flamenco did not let the holidays pass without a building-wide dinner



The best part of this holiday dinner was being together as a building.

Everyone knew it was coming. There were no surprises. It was on all the worn calendars hanging on the refrigerator doors.

There was a big red circle around the eighth of the month. It was a topic of much discussion before a consensus decision was reached, but a decision was finally made.

There is almost everything to choose, from: fresh seafood to New York pizza.

It was finally agreed that the annual Christmas party for the Flamenco building was to be at the Paradise Restaurant in Safety Harbor.

There were games. There were prizes. There were decorations and even a few surprises.

Lorraine Gendron, Charlotte Symley, and Barbara Krepela performed hours of

meticulous preparation to make it a fun day for everyone.

There was talk of Christmas plans. There was talk of Christmas presents. The best thing of all, however, was breaking bread and sharing wine with what were once

neighbors, who have evolved into a few that we really care about.

I think we sometimes forget how fortunate we are. Besides the beautiful beaches and the fantastic weather, we have so many different places to have a relaxing meal.

# Viennese Villa ends 2022 with holiday party, cocktails and new addition to the 'family'

Welcome to the new year!

Viennese Villa continues to wear its festive Christmas decorations thanks to a few very dedicated elves.

The Villa's Christmas dinner at Olive Garden was well attended. Thanks to Carroll Harris and Karen Saffe, some handsome prizes were handed out to lucky ticket holders.

A holiday cocktail party held around our tree in the core was also well received. Glasses of nog were raised to toast the holidays.

Earl Balance and Mike Murphy have a new housemate. Lucy is a 6 month old, very

energetic, Labradoodle. Very nice addition to the Villa's four-footed family.

Tim and Karen Beaver had great fun with family on a recent visit. A sail on a private ship proved to be a hit for everyone.

The new card system to enter the pool should be in place in January. It promises to be the most secure place in On Top of the World.

Wonder if the gates will follow suit? Hopefully, the new year will have a storage rooms cleanout day. For many, it's difficult to even reach assigned spaces due to items in the way. Some people simply have no room whatsoever.

A huge thank you to Carroll Harris for replacing the laundry room folding table.

Painting the balconies with a non-skid surface will be welcomed on those rainy days.

Our newspapers' new look has been very well received thanks to Editor Doug Kates. We all know it must have been a lot of work on your part to make the transition.

Well, that's it for our old year.

Birthday and anniversary wishes to all celebrants.

Remember, any news fit to print send along to [fresca@maine.rr.com](mailto:fresca@maine.rr.com).



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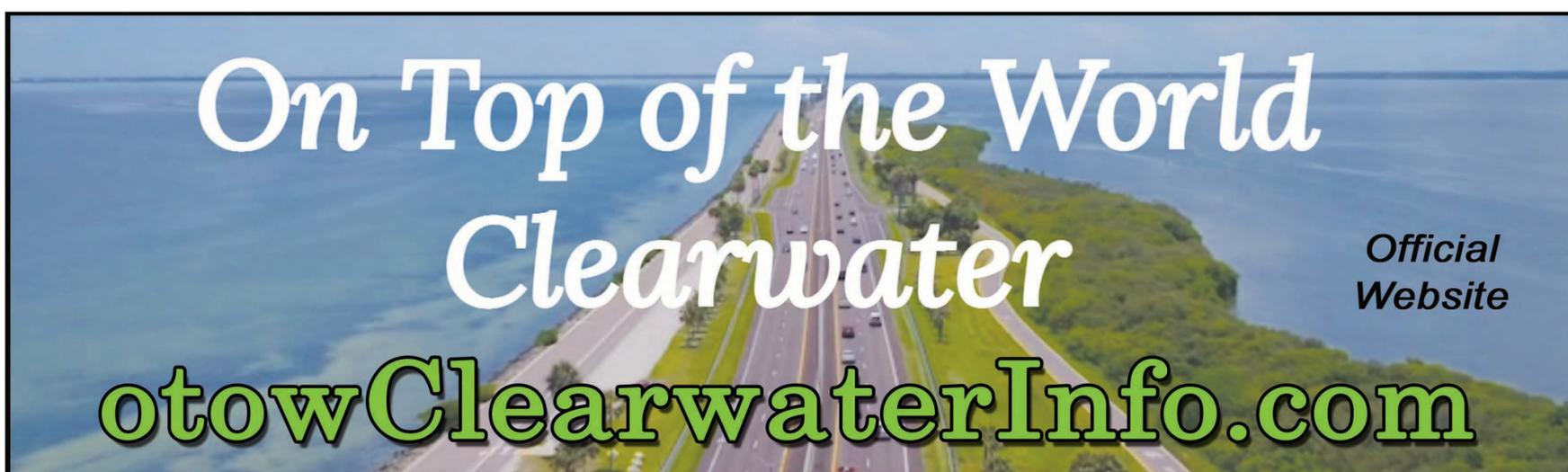
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# The Box Office

What Our Clubs Are Up To

**otowboxoffice.com**



# On Top of the World Clearwater

Official Website

**otowClearwaterInfo.com**

# Happy holidays from Island Way Grill



Mandalay residents celebrated our holiday dinner at Island Way Grill on Dec. 8.

We had a wonderful turnout totaling 20 residents.

We enjoyed good food and great camaraderie. This was an ideal venue to welcome new residents and get better acquainted with all in attendance.



Twenty residents celebrated the holidays with a dinner on Clearwater Beach.



Granada residents sing Christmas carols as they decorate the core tree.

## Snowmen in Dec., Tarpon Turtles in January

With 2022 behind us, we are all ready to start 2023 with new resolutions and new beginnings.

Ho ho ho!

Thank you so much to all who took part in our wrapping up the year end with our new seasonal decorations in our building this year. Everyone had so much fun as they gathered to share their ideas and a helping hand to help make our building one of the best on the street.

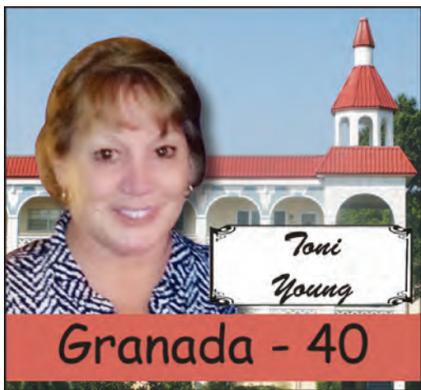
Our first floor core looked fantastic!

Christmas Carols were sung and donuts were eaten as everyone shared thankfulness and kindness amongst our Granada friends and family.

Ruthann Richwine, along with Linda Faust and others, say thank you on behalf of those who donated to "Wreaths Across America." Once again, they placed wreaths in remembrance and in honor of 400 fallen soldiers who fought and died for our freedoms and were rested at Dunedin Municipal Cemetery, 1885 - 2022. Thank them for their patriotism.

Our first building luncheon will kick off the new year and will be held on Jan. 9, 2023. The sign-up sheet will be next to the elevator on the first floor. We have a few new residents and hopefully they will join us. What a great way to meet neighbors. Rides are available if you need it.

We will be enjoying lunch at the Tarpon



Turtle at noon, 1513 Lake Tarpon Avenue, Tarpon Springs.

We had a wonderful time at our building holiday party this year. We met at Alfano's Restaurant in Largo.

December was a great month for Barb Jamrozky. She celebrated her birthday on Dec. 4 with friends and family, and enjoyed an impressive cruise to the Caribbean.

As 2023 brings in a new year, it's a time to remember that we need to be kind to others and to be thankful for friends and family.

What is your New Year's resolution?

My husband and I wish for "World Peace."

Happy New Year to all!

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# Local entertainment does not end with the end of the holidays

Happy New Year!  
I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season with family and friends. Here's to a great 2023 together!

As always, entertainment thrives here in the Tampa Bay area.

## Ruth Eckerd Hall (Clearwater)

Jan. 13: The Mavericks, having survived on the music scene for more than three decades, the eclectic rock and country group, known for crisscrossing musical boundaries with abandon, has gone through three distinct phases since it was founded in 1989.

Jan. 14: Larry the Cable Guy is selling out theatres and arenas across the United States. He has been doing comedy since 1991 with a wide variety of styles like character comedy, redneck comedy, country comedy, observational comedy and satire.

Jan. 19: Riverdance's 25th anniversary returns to Ruth Eckerd Hall ... as you've never seen it before! A powerful and stirring reinvention of this beloved favorite, celebrated the world over for its Grammy award-winning score and the thrilling energy and passion of its Irish and international dance.

Jan. 22: World of Musicals brings the very best of musical theater to life. This captivating production is an emotional journey through the great world of musicals that will leave you spell-bound.

This select cast of highly talented and accomplished performers have been

featured in worldwide smash hits on London's West End such as Jesus Christ Superstar, Hairspray, West Side Story, Titanic, Wizard of Oz, Mary Poppins, among many others.

Jan. 28: Air Supply, celebrating more than 45 years, the hit-making duo of Graham Russell and Russell Hitchcock are known for their songs Lost in Love, All Out of Love, The One That You Love, Sweet Dreams and Making Love Out Of Nothing At All. Join one of pop music's most enduring powerhouse touring bands for a night of non-stop hits.

## Mahaffey Theater (St Petersburg)

Jan. 7: The Florida Orchestra (An American in Paris) presents a jazzy night of music by groundbreaking composers.

Gershwin captures beautiful sights and intense sounds in his postcard from An American in Paris.

Jan. 19: John Oates and Guthrie Trapp. Sit back and experience a once in-a-lifetime intimate musical concert by John Oates along with Nashville Super Guitarist Guthrie Trapp as they perform an eclectic blend of blues folk and mega hits.

Enhanced with behind-the-scenes stories, the audience will get a glimpse into the fascinating world of the songwriter's art and craft.

Jan. 20: Kathleen Madigan's 32-year comedy career is showing no signs of slowing down!

Kathleen has been touring 250 nights

a year on the road and has risen from performing in comedy clubs to performing in marquee theaters with sold-out shows.

Jan. 21: The Florida Orchestra Beethoven concert spans town and country.

In Beethoven's Symphony No. 6, he is in awe of the power of nature, with a prayer-like sense of gratitude after surviving the storm.

Jan. 22: The world famous Glenn Miller Orchestra brings timeless classics like In the Mood, Moonlight Serenade, Chattanooga Choo Choo, Pennsylvania 6-5000, String of Pearls and Tuxedo Junction back to the stage.

Even 80 years after founding his famous orchestra, Glenn Miller's music is alive and well.

Jan. 29: "The Greatest Love of All," Whitney Houston's musical legacy is brought to life in this critically acclaimed tribute show described as "mind-blowing spot on."

## Straz Center (Tampa)

On stage until Jan 22: "Hamilton" is the story of America then, told by America now.

Featuring a score that blends hip-hop, jazz, R&B and Broadway, Hamilton has taken the story of American founding father Alexander Hamilton and created a revolutionary moment in theater — a musical that has had a profound impact on culture, politics and education.

Opening Jan 31: "Tina - The Tina Turner Musical" reveals a comeback story like no other — of a woman who dared to defy the bounds of racism, sexism and ageism to become the global queen of Rock 'n' Roll. Tina — The Tina Turner Musical is a celebration of resilience and an inspiration of triumph over adversity.

Follow the Tampa Bay Lightning at the Amalie Arena as they continue another successful National Hockey League season.

Jan. 10 vs. Columbus; Jan. 12 vs. Vancouver; Jan. 24 vs. Minnesota; Jan. 26 vs. Boston and Jan. 28 vs. Los Angeles.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers are closing out their 2022 National Football Season at Raymond James Stadium.

The Bucs play Jan. 1 against Carolina and maybe in the NFC Divisional Playoffs, depending on how the season finishes.

Happy New Year, one and all!  
Enjoy the Entertainment Around the Bay as we enter 2023!

*(A majority of this column comes from content found on the Web. No one paid to have their information published. This information is provided to our residents just to give everyone an idea what's available for entertainment each month.)*

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# Thirty attend party where truffles were welcomed

Happy 2023 everyone!

Hats off to Cheryl Butcher. About 30 neighbors attended an early evening holiday party dinner at the Island Way Grill. Cheryl has a way of making everyone feel special.

There were holiday gifts at each place, which turned out to be delicious chocolate truffles. My favorite.

Also, we had drawings for gift cards at Publix and Walmart. No, I wasn't a winner this time, but shared joy with those who did win.

Surprise guests were former residents Marge and Bill Gipperich. Several early return Snowbirds also attended.

Thank you to those who helped decorate. Our building looked great for the holidays. Thank you to Judy Hetrick who contributed the following personal anecdote.

Here is her story:

"Recently, in September, I returned home to Chambersberg, Pa. I met several of my former neighbors, all in their 90s, but still driving. We attend church every Wednesday

for breakfast and a hearty game of shuffleboard. I think there is something in the water there. They should bottle it. They would make a fortune.

"I finally got to see the glorious fields of sunflowers. Acres with brown centers, green with brown, and of course the traditional yellow and brown. They all turn their faces to the sun. How wonderful it is to see! It draws you to them and you don't want to leave."



Each resident brought a decoration to hang on the Christmas tree.

## Our tree was naked but residents helped out

Few things are better than people coming together as neighbors to celebrate the holidays and spread good cheer!

This year we were able to put our huge building Christmas tree together on the first floor core by the mailboxes. It was beautiful, but bare... so a notice went up to bring an ornament for the tree on Dec. 7 and we had a great turnout!

Everyone brought an ornament to decorate our tree and it was a true joy to walk through the first floor core and admire.

We also shared dessert, coffee and great fellowship.

A special thanks to everyone who participated in decorating our building for the holidays!



## Nearly 350 residents received help from the Computer Club in 2022

2022 was a big year for the Wednesday morning On Top of the World Computer Club community help team.

Every Wednesday morning between 8:30 and 10 a.m. at the West Activity Center Learning Lab, members of the Computer Club assist OTOW residents to learn about, understand and resolve their technology issues.

Computers, cell phones, tablets, printers and other technology problems are handled by the club members with a good-working knowledge in those areas.

The following is a list of the number of OTOW residents, listed by their category issue presented, who were provided with solutions to their dilemmas:

- General computer issues – 162 residents
- Cell phone issues – 111 residents
- Tablet issues – 64 residents
- Other technology issues – 10 residents

As you can see by these numbers, between 4-6 club members assisted almost 350 residents resolve their tech-



Computer Club

nology issues and learn how to remedy their situations in the future.

The Computer Club looks forward to working with residents in 2023 and for hopefully many years to come.

The Computer Club also conducted its annual elections.



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# Thanks to those who decorated our tree



## Luncheon set for Feb. 4

The Azores building held its annual building meeting on Dec. 5.

The residents discussed the budget and upcoming picnic, scheduled for Feb. 4, 2023, at the Pavilion.

The most significant issue discussed was the purchase of a solar light to replace the Mexican Way flagpole light.

**Your building reporter has until the 15th to turn in stories. Please be early with story ideas.**



Here at Siboney, we were busy decorating our building. A special thanks to Tom Tarka, Peter O'Keefe, Ralph DeVoe, Joe Morrissey and a stranger named Bill for putting up our beautiful wreaths and the tree.

At our monthly core party, we had great food and desserts. We all helped decorate our tree and a fun time was had by all. Twenty-five residents attended.

This year our holiday party was held at the Belleair Room in the West Activity Center. We thank Joyce Hetrick and Sue Watlington for finding us a place to have our party. Residents brought food and beverages to share and what a better way to celebrate the holiday season.

Happy New Year to everyone and let's hope 2023 will be happy and healthy for all of us.



President Tom Tarka putting up the star on our tree with assistance from Lyn Taecker, Kathy Edelheiser and Sue Watlington.

## Bohemians collected 700 pounds of food for donations in 2022

The holiday season is drawing to a close but the Bohemians sure knew how to celebrate.

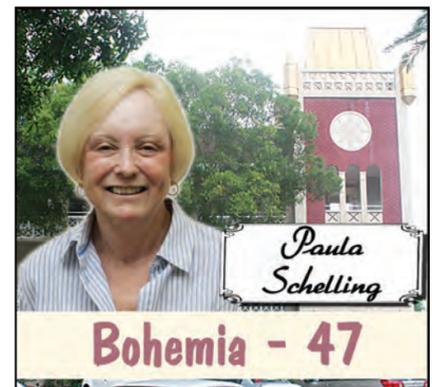
They started at the beginning of December with a building decorating party that made Bohemia look spectacular. The day ended with a wine and cheese party as residents watched the building's official lighting.

We consider ourselves as a building with heart. We have our annual baskets, put together by volunteers, that we raffle off at Christmas. This happens at our holiday luncheon at the Clearwater Country Club. The proceeds from these baskets are donated to a charitable organization.

At each building event, we collect canned goods that are donated to a local food bank. Our annual goal is to reach 500 pounds of food. This year we have collected over 700 pounds, which exceeded our goal.

There is an annual holiday cocktail party in our building, where each guest is asked to bring underwear and socks for a donation to Clothes to Kids. This year more than six shopping bags were filled through the generosity of our residents.

When one reflects on the spirit of giving



within our building, it makes one proud to be a Bohemian.

Fourteen years have passed with the women's walking group still together. They walk three days a week at the mall. The size of the group varies from day to day. Some days there may be two or as many as eight.

One particular day, the girls happened upon Santa and couldn't resist a visit.

We hope you all had a good holiday and wish each and every one of you a happy, healthy, new year.

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# End-of-the-year means time to make a donation



## Knitting

By Cheryl Butcher

Phew!

The Knitting Group has been a busy bunch of women!

This summer we decided to donate homemade knitting crafts to an orphanage in Tampa for Christmas, and since then we have been very busy making all sorts of items that we thought kids would want and appreciate.

We brainstormed and decided to make sweaters, vests, hats, purses, slippers, lap robes, headbands, ponchos, and anything else we could think of.

And one member, Linda Dubrowsky, donated two American Girl Dolls complete with a wardrobe of clothes that she had made.

We are so happy to have the skills and be able to donate to such a worthy organization. Hopefully the children will enjoy all of the things we made. The last time we did this,



Knitters in the OTOW Knitting Group show off some of their projects that will be donated to a local orphanage. The group has been busy all year with this donation project. From left to right are Becky Perry, Betty Karabotsios, Theresa Berry, Cheryl Butcher, Linda Dubrowsky, Diana Anderson and Theresa Mayne. (OTOW News photo by Doug Kates)

we received handmade cards from the kids expressing their thanks, and that makes it all worthwhile.

The sales we had at the Fall Festival and Flea Market helped us buy the yarn and supplies to make all of these items.

Thanks to the Good Neighbors Association,

we will continue to have a table at upcoming Food Truck Nights. Your interest and purchases are deeply appreciated.

We will continue to make lap robes, baby blankets and hats to donate to nursing homes and hospitals. We have recently added three new members and we would love to

have more.

If you have an interest in knitting or crocheting, we would love to have you join us in the Crystal Beach Room on Wednesday mornings from 9-11 a.m. The Good Neighbors Knitting Group operates under the auspices of Good Neighbors Association.

# If you hear whistling at the Dorado building - it's probably Fernando

We are all familiar with the TV sitcom "Everybody Loves Raymond" but here at the Dorado Building it's "Everybody loves Fernando."

Fernando Mariz is our "Honey-do guy." He is always willing to help others.

He spreads a lot of cheer around our building by doing simple things like whistling. Whether he is coming or going, most of the time he is whistling cheerful tunes.

Have you heard the phrase smiling is contagious?

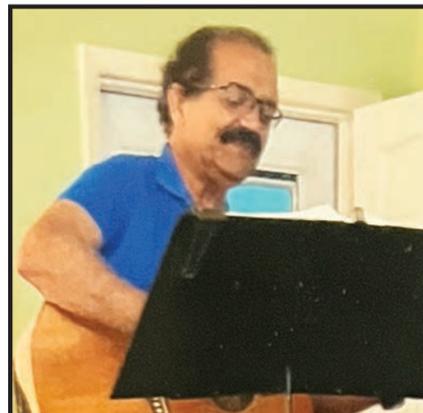
Well, Fernando proves that phrase to be correct. Most of the time he has a smile on his face.

Fernando just returned from a visit to his native Brazil.

When he is not traveling the world, one might see him riding his bicycle. Just like in the 1985 movie "Pee-wee's Big Adventure," Fernando also finds riding his bike an adventure. Since bicycles have become so advanced, it's not surprising to see Fernando on his electric bike all decked out in colorful LED lights riding with the Night Riders here at On Top of the World.

For the Christmas season he joined the decorating committee to be like the Griswold family in the movie "National Lampoons Christmas Vacation." The committee also recruited Robert Bannick and Joey Schick for help to transform the Dorado building entrance and core into a cozy homelike setting.

Family is important to Fernando. He is proud of his children and should be. One is still in college, another a doctor, and another is a lawyer. But it was his daughter, Barbara, that made



At left, Fernando Mariz playing his guitar for residents. On right, Fernando in tux going to his daughter's wedding.

"Father of the Bride" this year. Congratulations, Fernando! Music, dancing, and exercise are a big part of the life here at OTOW. That is what attracted Fernando to choose to live here. It fits him perfectly because of his many talents. Not only does he love sports, but he also plays the

guitar and the keyboard. He sings at many of our gatherings. "Sweet Caroline" is one of the most requested songs.

You should also hear him sing Lee Greenwood's "Proud to be an American." Fernando is one proud American!



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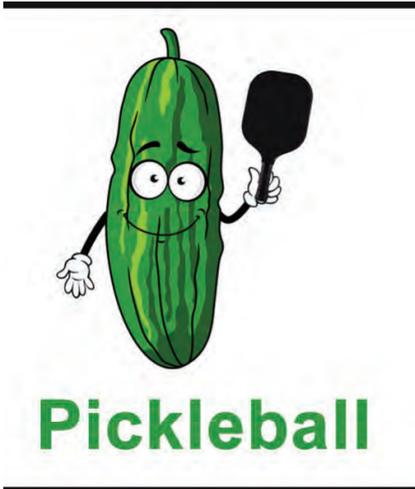
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There were not enough seats for the crowd that attended the Pickleball Christmas Party in December. The picnic tables under the roof and outside the pavilion were all filled and the buffet line included a variety of Italian food and sandwiches. (OTOW News photos by Doug Kates)

# Next year Pickleball Christmas Party may need a bigger pavilion



By Kathy Ahrens  
 Our On Top of the World Pickleball Club enjoyed a large Christmas gathering at the Pavilion in December.  
 More than 100 members attended our annual party. Food was catered by Joey's Italian Restaurant and everyone brought a side dish to pass.  
 This was free of charge and everyone had a good time singing and dancing!  
 Entertainment was provided by our very own Mr. Fun and his wife, Bella.  
 Between eating, dancing and singing we even slipped in a small meeting! Our new board members were voted in and ready to start in January.  
 Our club was formed four years ago by Kathy Ahrens and Len Segall. Since then it's grown from 67 members to more than 100.

We have four nets, and separate intermediate and advanced levels of play.  
 We meet Monday through Friday, 4-7 p.m., and Sundays, 9-noon. We always have instructors for teaching and extra paddles. Dues are \$15 which cover replacing balls and monthly barbecues.

We are planning men's and women's tournaments to start the new year. There will even be trophies.  
 We have a pickleball cruise coming up Jan. 7-14 which is open to all OTOW residents.  
 Our club will be marching in the OTOW

Irish Club Parade this year. Look for us!  
 If you're ever in a pickle and are wondering what to do, come exercise with us and make new friends. This club is for you.  
 Stop by anytime and watch how we play.  
 For more info call Kathy or Lenny at 727-560-2620.

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# Good thing there are people at Old World Spanish who like to start parties - how about another one?

Greetings from the Old World Spanish building.

Gratefully, in these past few years, it is a select few of our Snowbird residents who spark the rest of us to get ready for the holiday season. Thanks very much to Phil Vose, Dick Sinnett and Phil Gullickson for hanging the building wreaths and lights on the even number side, and setting up the core's Christmas tree.

And thank you to Mary Smith, with assistance from Lynda Lafair and Celia Brannon, for decorating the odd number side.

This is the incentive I need, and maybe other neighbors do, too, to begin the many trips to the storage room for boxes of decorations, trees, and wrapping paper that only see daylight a few weeks of each year.

Many thanks to one of our favorite Snowbird couples, Mary Smith and Gary Seymour, of Ottawa, Canada, for hosting our fun holiday party.

Mary and Gary have been residents since 2019. They and their beautiful, red stable German Shepherd, love spending winter afternoons on their back porch. And if neighbors stop by to chat, then all the better.

According to Gary, Mary loves to entertain. And so, how fortunate for all of us in the Old World Spanish building that Mary is a party-starter.

A great group of neighbors attended – an almost equal amount of odd and even



Joanne Cordes  
Old World Spanish - 5

unit numbers. There were some delicious party dishes shared with the potluck lunch, e.g., Waldorf salad, pigs-in-a-blanket, meatballs, cranberry brie bites, sausage and peppers, with a large assortment of BYOBs.

And fabulous fellowship, with a whole bunch of embellished stories, brought about loads of laughs.

Not to be outdone by Mary's "hostess with the mostess" reputation, Gary is a great story-teller, although it is possible that he just makes it up as he goes along.

I hope we have another party again soon. Valentine's Day is right around the corner ... hint, hint.

Last Valentine's Day, I found outside my front door, two wine glasses filled with candy



You don't have to ask these residents twice if they want to come to a party. This was part of the crowd for a holiday gathering in December.

and an unsigned note that read: "meet in the core at four." Turned out it was Mary's invitation for a small gathering of neighbors for cocktail hour.

Now that we have introduced ourselves in the joyful setting of a party, I hope acquaintances become friendships. And I am definitely looking forward to interviewing more neighbors so I can write more stories

for this newspaper. We all do have interesting backgrounds, possibly more interesting to others than to ourselves. But we have only to share our well-remembered past, and we've created a story.

Let's keep the good cheer going for the rest of 2023.

Wishing all of you love, health, and happiness in the new year.

## Twenty-five Hawaiians enjoy an Outback dinner



Yvonne Courtney  
Hawaiian Towers - 34

Fun, fun, fun. That is what residents of the Hawaiian Towers building enjoyed at their holiday luncheon in December.

Twenty-five residents went to Outback Steakhouse where everyone chose something different off the menu.

The company was the best part. And, to whoever paid for my lunch, thank you!

Those who did not join us should take note there will be more happenings in 2023. Be on the lookout for future announcements.



Twenty-five Hawaiian Towers residents had dinner at Outback Steakhouse in December.

Please, everyone, stop dumping your junk in the trash room. There are signs up

stating no dumping. It is our responsibility as a building to get rid of these items. So please

stop. Everyone enjoy the new year.

## Here's to hoping large gatherings will continue all through 2023



Deborah Russell  
Modernage - 28

And so this was Christmas, 2022! Residents from Modernage celebrated at Carrabba's Italian Grill restaurant on Gulf to Bay Boulevard, Clearwater.

As you can see from our photo, we had a lovely gathering of neighbors.

Special thanks to Marge Syvek for her masterful efforts in planning this wonderful event! No stone went unturned with Marge providing gifts for all and a drawing for special prizes.

As we move into the new year, we carry our hopes and dreams for family and friends to continue these celebrations of life and love.

After two-plus years of lockdowns and separations due to the pandemic, our newly regained freedom to celebrate life's simple pleasures brings joy and relief to many across the world.



Modernage residents celebrated Christmas at Carrabba's Italian Grill.

Right now we can enjoy seeing our friends from Canada and other distant lands

to catch up on Christmas and New Years gone by!

New memories are just a second away! We have so much to be thankful for and

I would like to wish you all the happiest New Year ever!

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# Classifieds

Any On Top of the World resident with a valid Activity Card can place one classified ad in OTOW News each month. You are limited to 40 words, which includes your phone number. You may not use OTOW News classifieds to sell vehicles, your condo, bedding, or anything valued at \$500 or more. You may not use this section to find a roommate, rent your condo and for dating services. Classifieds can be dropped off in the newsroom during business hours or placed in our drop box in the Crystal Beach Room. Classifieds cannot be submitted over the telephone.

**For Sale**  
Fusing glass COE 96. Six pieces. \$5 each. Text Barb at (732) 778-4094 or call (727) 669-0111. Please leave message..

**Bicycle For Sale**  
Schwinn 20-inch folding bicycle. Like new. \$80. Call Richard at (727) 723-0240.

**Shower Doors**  
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**Gem Stone Polisher**  
Facetron machine for shaping and polishing gem stones. Asking \$490. Call Josephine at (727) 723-9479.

**For Sale**  
For sale: Food processor (\$10), miscellaneous lamps (\$10 each), matching coffee table end table (\$50), Sun Beam Stand Mixer (\$10). Call Duane at (319) 651-1236.

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## OTOW CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

*To ensure timely delivery of On Top of the World mailings, please use this change of address form. This form will allow for permanent or temporary change of address. This form may be dropped off at the Community Service Office in the East Activity Center or mailed to:*  
**OTOW Condominium Association, Inc., Attn: CSO, 2069 World Parkway Blvd E., Clearwater, FL 33763**

Building Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This change is: \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent \_\_\_\_\_ Temporary; Effective \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Owner Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Current Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Don't forget to notify the United States Post Office of the change!**  
**(Submit new form upon return)**

# The key to a beautiful garden might be talking to your plants - at least a 'good morning'



Mona Markey talks with her plants every morning to see if they are happy. (Photo by Charlie Wood)

Mona Markey is the second generation On Top of the World resident of her unit in the Rizal building and she loves gardening.

Mona says her love for gardening, and knack for growing beautiful plants, came from her dad, who started the beautiful gardens at her unit.

Every morning she greets her plants and, while talking to them, she carefully observes the changes from her prior viewing.

Are there new blooms today?

Are there buds which will be blooming tomorrow?

Does a plant like and flourish in a specific location, or is it telling her that it would like to be repotted?

Mona asks these questions of her "green kids" and carefully observes and listens to what they tell her.

The Plant Guy on Instagram is one of Mona's sources for guidance. She uses only natural fertilizers, like coffee grounds, banana water and vegetable compost.

The Plant Guy has also taught her to appreciate the worms and bugs that a garden attracts, and to invite them to her garden as they are good for the plants.

Mona loves to take walks around the community observing gardens of others. She can often be found talking with neighbors about their plants and flowers, and sometimes asking if she can take a clipping for a new addition to her own garden.

Mona has been a full-time resident here for about four years now, having moved from Chicago. She said that her biggest gardening challenges were learning about the tropical plants that we have here in Florida, and embracing them.

You probably won't find an Elephant Ear (Colocasia) in a garden in Chicago!

*(There are gardening guidelines for first floor units at On Top of the World. If you are considering starting your own garden, please check with the Community Service Office first for guidelines.)*

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<input type="text"/>	4	<input type="text"/>	2	<input type="text"/>	6

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.

H S U O E

R O N G A

R L X E F E

B N M E I L

B E T A L E A

E K A O T T U

SECRET WORD:

Last month's scrambled words: Title, ORGAN, MISTER, BLONDE, OBESITY, YARDAGE. Secret Word Last Month: TOMBOY

# OTOW LIBRARY



## NEW BOOKS

- "Dreamland" by Nicholas Sparks
- "The Christmas Spirit" by Debbie Macomber
- "Long Shadows" by David Baldacci
- "Triple Cross" by James Patterson

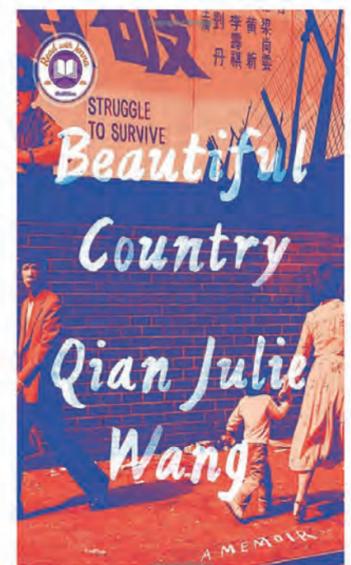
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# Good Karma Book Club



10 a.m., Thursday, January 12  
"Beautiful Country"  
by Qian Julie Wang

10 a.m., Thursday, February 9  
"Matrix"  
by Laura Groff

All of our meetings take place in the EAC Crystal Beach Room  
For more information, see our Webpage on the Box Office:  
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Need more information, write to [Jslantz1948@aol.com](mailto:Jslantz1948@aol.com) or call 727-754-3823

# Free Activities

All Year Round!



## Aqua Aerobics Classes

If The Outdoor Temperature Is Over 62 Degrees, We're Exercising

Need a fun way to exercise?  
Join our exercise classes each morning.  
All are welcome. Classes are free.

9-10 a.m., Weekdays, East Activity Center Swimming Pool

## Social Dance Lessons

Social Dance Lessons will continue. Instructor Fred Mills allows his students to pick the dances to learn and there are a ton of dances to choose from. He will teach Cha Cha, Foxtrot, Hustle, Rumba, Salsa, Swing, Waltz and more.

Fred's classes are open to all residents with a valid activity card. Social Dance takes place every Thursday afternoons, 1-3 p.m., in the West Activity Center Bel-leair Room.

## Shuffleboard Club

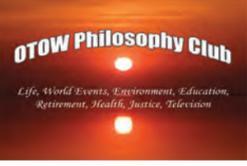
Monday through Sunday

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

## Philosophy Club

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.



## Pickleball Play Schedule



Sundays 9-12  
Mondays through Friday 3:30-6:30  
Training takes place Mondays at 3:30

New players welcome. Must have a valid Activity Card.

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 \$37 per person for yearly national dues. Please come to our meetings at no charge for one month to try us out.

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



## Bonesavers

The Bonesavers exercise group meets every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8-9 a.m. in the East Activity Center Largo Room.

We use hand weights and ankle weights, a towel and a chair.

If you want to try it out, just come over and borrow the weights we already have available.

Men and women are both welcome.

## Ballroom dance classes



Ballroom dance classes will take place at 1 p.m. every Monday in the East Activity Center Largo Room.

The instructor is Noland Shade, who teaches beginner dancing to help couples learn how to dance socially.

Dance lessons are taught at a slow pace so anyone can learn how to dance over time.

No pre-registration is necessary. Simply show up and learn.

## Mahjongg players wanted over the fall

Wanted: Mahjongg players to fill in at our afternoon games. We play Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 1-3:30 p.m. in residents' condos. Please call Libby at 727-669-1486. No experience needed!

## Billiards

9-Ball Tuesdays 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
8-Ball 6:30 - 10:00 p.m.

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays

## Ceramics

Thursdays

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Clearwater Room

## Pray for America

Saturdays

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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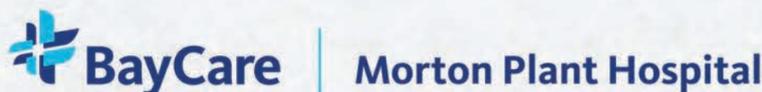
# We care about results, not awards. Which is apparently how you get both.

Morton Plant Hospital has been named one of the top 100 hospitals in the U.S. eight times.\*

At BayCare's Morton Plant Hospital, we don't spend a lot of time worrying about awards. We're too busy giving our patients high-quality medical care. Morton Plant Hospital is well known for its advanced medical technologies and outstanding patient care, with more than 50 specialties represented among our medical teams. We can easily connect you with a top specialist if needed, plus you have access to the entire network of BayCare doctors and services. And BayCare has been recognized as a top performing health system in the country for the fourth year in a row.\* Just a few of the reasons why BayCare's Morton Plant Hospital is your better choice for health care.



Learn more: [MortonPlant.org](http://MortonPlant.org)



\*Fortune/Merative™ (formerly Fortune/IBM Watson Health)