



**OTOW residents go on 50th Honor Flight see page 21**



**Taps Across America goes through OTOW see page 37**

# ON TOP OF THE WORLD NEWS

July 2024

Published Since 1968

56 Years of Only Good News

Volume 56

No. 7



Above was a scene during an Association board meeting on June 13. Sitting at the head table, left to right, are Parkway Maintenance & Management Pinellas Vice President Dessa Barabba, Parkway Maintenance & Management Pinellas President Kenneth Colen, Parkway Maintenance & Management Pinellas Senior Accounting Manager Lenore Mulligan, Parkway Maintenance & Management Pinellas Senior Operations Manager Shawn Tobias, board member Katie Bajis, incoming Association Attorney Bennett Rabin, Parkway Maintenance & Management Pinellas Assistant General Manager Tim Martin, outgoing Association Attorney Barrie S. Buenaventura, Chairperson Maria Avdelas, and board members Nancy Burt, Michael Bernard, Stacy Rush, Cathryn Chambers, Stephanie Rinaldi and Christina Willis. Betty Cassidy is not pictured.

## Community sees appointments of new board members, new attorney and search for new management company

By Doug Kates  
OTOW News Editor

(Editor's note: In May and June, there were six board meetings in four days. This article is simply informing residents on what took place at those meetings for those who could not or chose not to attend. The intent of the following story is to bring awareness to everyone who calls On Top of the World home.)

If you are one of the 400 people who attended six Association board meetings in May and June, or were one of the 500 people who watched the meetings live on On Top of the World -TV, you have stayed current on what is going on in your community.

A great deal has transpired since board elections took place in December 2023. This article is an attempt to bring everyone up-to-date with unbiased information.

In December, Kenneth Colen, Guy Woolbright, Gail Sanders, Jim O'Neil and Chuck McAllister were re-elected to the board. Maria Avdelas, Katie Bajis, Nancy Burt and Stacy Rush were also elected for their first terms.

Since even before this election took place, representatives of an On Top of the World club, Resident4Residents (R4R), had been demanding that specific board members step down for alleged "conflicts of interest" - "when approving contracts" even though it is a simple matter to stay on a board and avoid violating a conflict of interest by declaring what the conflict is and abstaining from voting on that matter.

During the last week of May, five months after the election, Kenneth Colen, Guy Woolbright and Gail Sanders all stepped down from the board. In a statement issued to this newspaper, they acknowledged their conflict of interest.

Jim O'Neil, a part-time employee at the golf course, also stepped down. The severity side of the state law also affects part-time employees.

Chuck McAllister stepped down for personal reasons.

This left five unfinished terms on the board, which suddenly could not conduct business because there was no quorum.

With the fiscal year ending June 30, the Association had to pass a 2024-25 budget, and with a predicted, active hurricane season approaching, the Association was time-pressed to sign a new insurance agreement. In order to do so, the board needed at least five members.

A board meeting took place June 4. Residents were notified of the meeting via the RAVE alert system and the meeting was posted on the official Clearwater website, otowclearwaterinfo.com.

At this board meeting, Maria Avdeles was appointed chairperson to replace Kenneth Colen, who did not attend the meeting. It was also announced that the remaining four board members had attained a limited number of resumes. The board appointed resident Michael Bernard to be a fifth board member - the minimum number required to have a quorum and vote on a budget and insurance, as well as other matters requiring a quorum.

After Michael Bernard took a seat

on the board, residents in the audience voiced complaints that the current board should not be making board member appointments - instead arguing the entire community should have the opportunity to select replacement board members through a special election.

Some residents also spoke up that they had no idea resumes were even being accepted for the open board seats.

The current board, in their view, informed the audience that there was not enough time to organize a special election because a budget and insurance needed to be in place by July 1. One estimate stated a special election could take 4-8 weeks.

Attorney Barrie S. Buenaventura said the board legally had the right to appoint board members to complete the unfinished terms. At first, some members of the current board wanted to take the next step and appoint four additional board members as soon as possible based on the few resumes received, but because many residents spoke up and said they had no idea they could even send in a resume, the board agreed to wait.

The board did not agree to hold a special election.

The June 4 meeting ended and the previously posted and scheduled Annual Meeting was two days later.

At the June 6 Annual Meeting, the five board members returned to the East Activity Center Auditorium and watched a presentation breaking down three budget proposals and an insurance proposal. Again, previous chairperson, Kenneth Colen, was not in attendance.

During discussion, some board members were in favor of eliminat-

ing gate greeters and a drainage creek restoration project adjacent to the golf course. No budget vote, insurance vote or further board appointments took place at that meeting, but the budget still needed to be in place by the end of June.

There was further discussion of meeting again as soon as possible to appoint four new board members, approve a budget and approve an insurance policy, but then an agreement was reached to give all community residents time to submit resumes for the unfinished board terms. The board agreed one week was sufficient time. A RAVE alert was sent out that residents could submit resumes. It was also posted on the official website.

Board member Katie Bajis brought up concern, based on messages she received, that residents in the community were worried about having a board heavily represented by the R4R Club, anti-Colen or anti-Parkway Maintenance. Maria Avdeles made the suggestion that the board go member by member and state whether or not they are a member of that club. Stacy Rush and Nancy Burt both said they were not members of the club, but did use club meetings to campaign for the December 2023 election. Michael Bernard said he was not a member of any club. Maria and Katie did not provide an answer.

The next board meeting date was set for Thursday, June 13.

At the June 13 meeting, Kenneth Colen was present representing Parkway Maintenance & Management Pinellas and provided information to the board.

(Continued on page 6)



**OUR COMMUNITY-WIDE**

# OPEN HOUSE

**SATURDAY, JULY 13 – 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.**  
**SUNDAY, JULY 14 – 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.**



**ON TOP OF THE WORLD REAL ESTATE OF PINELLAS, LLC IS HOLDING A COMMUNITY-WIDE OPEN HOUSE!**

You still have time to list your home for the big event!

More than a dozen of our listings will be open and all our agents will be available.

You may pick up a schedule of our open houses at our sales office **July 10th** through **July 14th**. Also available on our website: **OtowRealEstateClearwater.com**

***We Sell the World! List with the leader in sales!***

Residents enjoy maintenance-free living and a fabulous active-adult lifestyle with two private golf courses (free to residents), two activity centers, fitness facility, pools and more. Plus, you are just minutes from beautiful Clearwater beaches!

**On Top of the World**  
**Real Estate of Pinellas, LLC**  
**Resales • Rentals**  
*We Sell the World™*

Call us at: **1.800.733.3417** or **727.799.3417**  
 For more listings visit: **OtowRealEstateClearwater.com**  
**www.facebook.com/otowflclearwater/**

**ON-SITE SALES CENTER OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**  
 2291 World Parkway Blvd. Clearwater, FL 33763 | Kenneth D. Colen, Licensed Real Estate Broker

# This community will continue to thrive

*Editor's note: Please read the page one story first for a review of the past two months.*

First, I want to thank the residents of this community for their outpouring of concerns and good wishes. The Management Company has received literally hundreds of letters from well-wishers and supporters. I personally experienced more of the same at the June 13 meeting. Thank you all for this measure of love.

It is admittedly strange to not be writing my old style article. Things change and we must move on.

I sincerely hope this very inexperienced Board does not foul things up for the greater membership in this wonderful community. They have a very steep



learning curve ahead of them, however, the Management Company is committed to working with them and their new attorney.

Not all management companies are equal. There are really only three or four management companies in Florida large enough and with the resources capable of managing a community of this size. Parkway is leaving its affairs in good order. It is in everyone's interest to assure a smooth transfer.

I will also add that it is important to hire a management company of the size and experience necessary to operate a community as complex as On Top of the World. They must also be willing to hire all the Management Company employees because of their experience and knowledge of the complexities of the community.

My understanding is that many residents have concerns about possible instability of Parkway's planned depar-

ture. I believe this is both unnecessary and unfortunate. Stay calm, no need to panic. Ultimately this community will continue to thrive because of the underlying organizational principals upon which it was developed, built, and operated for the last 50-plus years.

The On Top of the World community will continue on. I have faith in the majority of residents who have this community's best interest in mind to keep things stable and positive. I encourage residents to stay engaged and get involved in this community.

Finally, a wise attorney once told me that there are two ways to become an attorney: (1) go to law school, pass the bar, and hang a shingle, or (2) buy a condo!



## Emergency Services Phone Number

# (727) 799-1115

**This 24-hour On Top of the World phone service fields calls for the following emergency situations only:**

- **Water Intrusion/Leaks**
- **Sewer Backups**
- **No Potable Water Service to Unit**
- **Building Fire Alarm System Issues**
- **Elevator Outages or Entrapments**
- **Unit Related Electrical Loss Of Power – Full or Partial**

**FIRE or MEDICAL emergencies require that residents dial 9-1-1**

**SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR, CRIMINAL, or CIVIL issues should be directed accordingly to either 9-1-1, or the Pinellas County Sheriff's non-emergency number at 727-582-6200.**

**All other service request situations should be directed to the Community Service Office at 727-683-6981 between the hours of 8am-3pm, Monday – Friday.**

Sign up for RAVE  
and get the latest community updates  
visit: [otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://otowclearwaterinfo.com)



# PREPARE TODAY FOR A HURRICANE

**Don't wait for a bad storm to be hours away.**

**Don't think, "It will never hit here."  
The photo at left was taken in 2017. It did hit here.**

## Your Pre-Storm Checklist

1. Map out an evacuation route and choose a final, fortified destination well-inland. Tell family and friends where you intend to be during a storm. You should have one post-disaster contact - one person who is out of the danger zone, who you can contact and who will share your information with other loved ones. You may be short on power so consider limiting your contacts to one person.
2. If you stay behind, keep the following in stock: 1 week supply of bottled water and non-perishable foods, refill prescriptions, bottle opener, flashlight and battery operated radio. Do you know where these items are stored? Don't go searching for them as a storm is closing in. Keep tape and cardboard handy should a leak develop.
3. Create an inventory of your home. Use photos and videos in case some day you need to replace your items or determine the value of items lost. Special items should be stored away from your home in a safe place. Store important documents in sealable, water proof containers.
4. Bring in porch items and anything outside that could become a projectile.
5. Fill vehicle with gas. Don't wait until the mad rush starts.
6. Don't assume a storm is over. Stay indoors. Please use a flashlight and not candles. Keep refrigerator closed as much as possible.
7. Get cash. Money machines could be out for weeks.
8. Review your insurance policy once a year to make sure you are covered for a major storm. If you need to file a claim, do so immediately after a storm. Make a list of damaged items. Keep receipts. Be patient.
9. The OTOW activity centers are not storm shelters. They will not be open during a storm. If you live on an upper floor or may need assistance after a storm, plan ahead. There are nearby evacuation shelters.
10. OTOW will provide weather updates if possible using RAVE, OTOW-TV 901 and the Box Office ([otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com)).

### **WHEN A STORM HAS PASSED**

- A. If you evacuated, do not return home until authorities give you the OK.
- B. Do not go outside. Do not begin cleanup on your own. Let OTOW management personnel remove limbs, wires and all damage.
- C. Do not drive into a flooded road. Turn around - don't drown.
- C. Traffic lights may be out. Stop at all intersections where a traffic light is not working. Treat each intersection as a four-way stop.
- D. Do not use sink water until authorities give the OK. Do not eat spoiled food.
- E. Do not wear flipflops outside. Wear sturdy shoes.

Sign up for RAVE alerts.  
Community updates will be posted  
on RAVE,  
OTOW-TV Channel 901 and the  
Box Office ([otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com)).

[www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)

# Be aware, some community services

## Emergency Suspension of Services

From time to time, especially during tropical storms/hurricane events, you may find that the Management Company has suspended certain services as a precaution.

The services temporarily interrupted may include elevator, laundry and trash services.

It is never an easy decision to make, but the safety of the residents and the community guides many of these difficult choices as to when services need to be temporarily suspended.

During tropical storm events, Duke Energy may experience widespread power outages similar to the interruptions that the community experienced during Hurricane Irma in 2017. Outages of that magnitude can take days or weeks to remedy. During one of these outages, if elevators were not shut down, it would be highly possible that a resident could become entrapped inside of an elevator.

If wind speeds have exceeded a safe operational threshold, the Management Company suspends elevator services. County and local municipalities also suspend many essential services, including 911 call response, under such conditions.

If there were an entrapment in an elevator during those conditions, it could be hours before the person could be rescued.

Given this possibility, and for your safety, the Management Company acts accordingly by suspending services during such storm conditions.

Power outages are also one of the many reasons laundry services must be suspended. Trash service interruptions during tropical storms/hurricanes occur as well out of a concern for the safety of the service provider's employees. Recognizing that it is simply unsafe to be outside of your unit during extreme weather events like these should assist in an understanding of why the Management Company makes the decision to temporarily suspend these services.

## HVAC Maintenance Tips

From May through October, your air conditioning systems will be running full tilt.

These systems don't operate by themselves without proper care and maintenance. Maintenance includes changing the filters monthly and pouring vinegar into the main condensate pan to keep the main drain flowing without obstruction. Also, be sure to check the outflow outside near the compressor. If you don't see the cleaning solution coming out, the drain line is blocked and needs immediate attention.

These are reasonable, simple things any homeowner can do. However, at least once a year, have your air conditioning serviced by a professional. The technician should clean the coils in both the air handler (in home) and the compressor (outside), as well as clean electrical connections and check voltages, check system pressure to make sure there are no Freon leaks, and make sure the motors are operating properly. This level of service may prevent very damaging overflow flooding in your condo.

## Upcoming Projects

### Painting/Waterproofing

With July and the anticipated arrival of increased rainfall, the painting contractor will



work mostly on front façades of buildings.

As of this update, the contractor has Buildings 1, 5 and 11 next on their schedule.

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

## Construction, Roofing and Large Scope Projects

The vendor contracted to install new state code-compliant walkway and stairwelling systems is scheduled to begin working on Building 95 sometime late in July, pending engineering and county permit approval.

This project was expected to begin in late June but was delayed.

Residents are advised that elevated noise levels, dust, the operation of specialized equipment, and temporarily cordoned-off areas are all a byproduct of this necessary work. Residents should watch their bulletin boards for start dates and do their best to avoid active work zones while the project is underway in the best interests of safety. Thanks for your cooperation.

## Recurring Reminders

### for all Community Residents

In March of 2023, the Management Company resumed its Community Standards enforcement efforts by removing all unapproved items placed in building common areas. This includes, but is not limited to, plants (live or artificial), personal items, non-exterior rated furniture, rusted chairs/tables or in disrepair, tchotchkes, etcetera, as these items are not permitted to occupy common spaces.

As has been referenced in the newspaper, on the community TV channel, and the bulletins posted in all building center core lobbies, these items will be removed and disposed of without further notice. These ongoing efforts help keep the areas safe for first responders as well as maintain an aesthetically pleasing community for all to reside in. We ask that residents help keep the community's common areas in compliance by reporting violations of this nature to the Management Company.

We appreciate the community's cooperation and support in reporting any violations of this nature so the Management Company can investigate and correct if necessary.

The Management Company would also

like to thank the residents who live on the second and third floors for their cooperation in making the On Top of the World community a safer and more-aesthetically pleasing place to live by keeping their walkways safe and free from floor mats, clutter and other non-compliant or unapproved items.

The community's response to compliance was astounding, as has 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 re-painting 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.

## 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. Thank you for your 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 color matching applies to first floor unit doors on the rear façade of the building while all front façade doors will be color matched to the majority wall color or repainted white as currently installed.

This will usually require no action by the unit owner other than to allow access to the entire door surface for the coating to be applied. If for some reason you are not at home when this work takes place, you may contact the Community Service Office and schedule a follow-up visit by the coating's vendor. We appreciate your cooperation in making this project a success across the community.

First floor unit owners will continue receiving notification from the Inspection Services Department as the Management Company works towards the removal of all unapproved decorative stones throughout the community. The stones are not only an unapproved item for use in landscaping, but

have the propensity to damage association and personal property alike.

The Management Company asks that if you receive a notification requiring action on your part, please remove the stones 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. Often times decorative rocks or landscaping are installed without the advance approval of the association, and the removal and disposal of these items becomes the responsibility of the violator. Please, always apply for approval before you install.

Inspection efforts continue to be focused on the tagging and removal of portable barbecue grills, be it propane, charcoal, or electric, defined as violating life-safety and fire codes in any building common areas or kindled in proximity to the structure as they pose a fire risk to the building and residents.

Only grills meeting the approved Clearwater Fire Department standard are permitted on the patios of first floor units. If you're a first-floor unit owner and not sure if your grill complies, please stop by the Community Service Office to request a visit from our friendly Inspections Services staff. We're always happy to educate or assist the community as much as possible.

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.

Due to original conveyance, not all units are able to add a softening system. Please check with the Management Company's Inspection Services Division for more information.

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.

You've received a notification from Inspection Services, what now?

Inspection Services handles those matters that pertain to modification requests to the common elements and individual units as well as performing inspections of common areas within each building including, but not limited to, common areas, storage rooms, walkways, balconies, patios, laundry, and trash rooms.

Long story short, they work to ensure that community standards are kept in compliance with the On Top of the World Condominium Association, Inc. third amended and restated rules.

(Continued on page 5)

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

Must be present for water to be turned on.

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

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

(3) GO ONLINE to [otowclearwaterinfo.com](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.

Know Your Water Heater



Water heaters traditionally last 10-15 years.

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

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

# may be suspended before a big storm

Once again, thank you for your support. Should you receive notification from them, it is important that you act quickly to make any repairs or remove any items by the date requested. Failing to do so could result in damage to common elements, Association owned property, your unit, or a neighboring unit. Most often, the request may come to you due to a safety concern, such as uneven pavers.

However, should you have questions or are unsure what to do next, you can visit the Community Service Office and ask to speak to a representative from that department. They are the best sources of information in helping you understand what your notification means and what you need to do next.

Running short on time and can't stop in, you can contact the Customer Service Line at 727-683-6981 and leave a detailed message along with your contact information. Speaking with a representative will help you get the most up-to-date and accurate information as possible and according to your specific situation.

For more information regarding Inspection Services please visit the community website at: <https://www.otowclearwaterinfo.com/inspection-services-department/>.

### Maintenance and Service Requests

To ensure the most efficient processing of your maintenance or service request, please submit any requests online at: <https://www.otowclearwaterinfo.com/service-department-request-form/>.

If you are unable to access the online system, please call the Community Service Office (CSO) at 727-683-6981 and we will return your call as quickly as we can during

normal business hours.

Submitting your request yourself is the only way to ensure that your request has been received. Please do not rely on neighbors or friends to submit requests on your behalf.

Additionally, should you see something that needs to be repaired please report it and don't assume that someone else has reported it.

Once your request is received, a service order will be generated and forwarded to the appropriate department for resolution. Please keep in mind that non-emergency service requests are typically addressed in the order they are received.

In some instances, we may need to contact you for additional information or clarification regarding your request. To ensure a smooth process, please provide accurate contact information and respond promptly to any inquiries. Submitting multiple requests for the same issue is unnecessary and may slow down our response time.

For any questions about your request, please call our Service Request Line at 727-683-6981 until the Community Service Office reopens.

If you are experiencing a life-threatening emergency, dial 911 immediately.

In the event of a power outage, please contact Duke Energy directly at 800-228-8485.

As a reminder, window and door repair or replacement is the responsibility of the condo owner, while the Association is responsible for maintaining the structure and common elements.

### After Hours Emergency Information

The OTOW emergency after-hours

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

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

### OTOW RAVE Alerts

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

Simply go to [www.otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://www.otowclearwaterinfo.com) and from the home page scroll down to the bottom of the page and the "Sign Up Now" box will be located to the left of the screen. Click to enroll.

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

This is without obligation or cost to you. Your email and cell phone numbers are secure, never shared, and never solicited. Alternatively, you may visit the Community Service Office to apply.

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

As a reminder, when signing up for community and emergency alerts, be sure to enter your building number.

### Community Service Office Information

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

for lunch from noon to 12:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, unless otherwise posted.

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

The goal of the CSO is to make an initial assessment of the request and to determine if it is an emergency or non-emergency. Once the matter is assessed, a plan to resolve will be made and work scheduled.

Generally, all non-emergency service requests are assessed and addressed in the order in which they are received. From time to time, it may become necessary for us to contact you with questions or clarification of your request. It is not necessary to report service requests more than once.

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

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

### Happy Independence Day!

On this day all around the country many Americans will be attending parades, barbecues, visiting parks and pools, and most of all, watching fireworks. Some may even watch, or rewatch, the film Independence Day from 1996. Whatever you do to celebrate this patriotic day, have fun and be safe!



1. Go to [otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://otowclearwaterinfo.com)
2. On the home page, hover over the "Stay Informed" tab and click Stay Informed.
3. Provide the information requested.

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

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

Available In The Community Service Office




**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): 2½" x 4½" or 67 x 114 mm

## Storm Shelters - Get Informed Before A Hurricane Arrives

Pinellas County has 3 storm shelters available to people who are dependent on electricity or need assistance with medications. But the time to get informed about these shelters is not when a hurricane is here. The time is now. You must be pre-registered to be accepted at a county shelter.



**Please note, during inclement weather, you may experience loss of elevator service or loss of power. Please plan ahead.**

The shelters are available through the Pinellas County Special Needs Evacuation Program. Transportation to shelters is available. No pets are allowed. If you cannot find someone to take care of your pet, Pinellas County Animal Services may be able to help. If you choose to stay at a shelter, you must bring your own medical equipment, medications, blankets, pillows, change of clothing, batteries, special dietary items, sources of activities, personal hygiene products, radios, ear plugs, important papers and a list of emergency contacts.

**For more information, please visit [PinellasCounty.org/specialneeds](http://PinellasCounty.org/specialneeds) or call (727) 464-3800**

Continued from front page

# Community sees appointments ...

The board approved a budget, which included gate greeters and the drainage restoration project, and approved insurance coverage and deductibles for fiscal year 2024-25.

It was announced what residents could expect in an average HOA fee increase – it was later verified to be approximately \$107 a month.

It must be noted that this amount may vary between buildings based on the percent of common element calculation for each individual building.

Many residents in the audience cheered after the budget and insurance were adopted.

At this meeting, the board also appointed four new board members, including Stephanie Rinaldi, Cathryn Chambers, Betty Cassidy and Christina Willis. Overall, 25 resumes were received. The resumes can be viewed by the public at otowclearwaterinfo.com.

The nine-person, all-resident, board was then finalized. The board will remain intact unless an individual voluntarily steps down, unless there is a recall election which would have to be initiated by a resident-started petition, or until the December 2025 election.

At this same meeting, Association Attorney Barrie S. Buenaventura announced she was stepping down at the end of the month. The board then nominated, and legally appointed, Bennett L. Rabin as new board counsel. He has 40-plus years of experience in condominium law and has a practice in Clearwater.

The final meeting in June was adjourned.

### Maintenance Agreement

Next is a community matter that not only affects the board, but every individual at On Top of the World.

On May 30, a RAVE alert was sent to residents and employees who were signed up for the RAVE alert communication service.

Parkway Maintenance and Management of Pinellas, LLC. President Kenneth Colen announced he was terminating the Parkway Maintenance and Management contract agreement. There were two years remaining in the contract, which was signed in December 2021.

While no reason for the termination was listed in the RAVE alert or in a message still posted on the Clearwater official website, this newspaper obtained a statement that explained the contract was being terminated because of untruthful and uncivil personal attacks on Parkway Maintenance employees and the management president, Mr. Colen, who decided seeking a new management company was the appropriate thing to do.

After the announcement was made that the contract would expire after the required 90-day notice, Parkway Management announced the remaining contract would be honored for only three months, ending Aug. 30, unless the board and Parkway Maintenance can agree on an additional 90-day ex-

tension.

Parkway Management includes the community's general manager, assistant manager, senior managers, landscaping personnel, tree division, elevator maintenance/refurbishment, water damage/remediation department, mechanical division, building cleaning personnel, electrical services, roof replacement management, painting, and parking lot/road paving department, inspection services and ownership transfer/occupancy approval processing. Parkway Maintenance also owns a vast array of equipment, including vehicles and mowers servicing this community.

Parkway Maintenance does not include real estate office personnel, wastewater system operational personnel, the community newspaper, or SCA employees who maintain the golf courses, activity centers, tennis courts and pavilion.

Overall, approximately 200 employees are currently covered by the Parkway Maintenance contract.

Because we are a community of this size, current employees might be retained by a new company because of their experience and lack of other work force personnel in Pinellas County, but this decision is up to the new management company.

Current board members were told by counsel that it will be their decision which new management company to hire. It was recommended that all received proposals be made public information for all community residents to

review before a decision is made.


In a statement to this newspaper, Parkway Maintenance noted it does have the ability to submit its own proposal for a new contract.

Representatives of R4R have stated during several recent board meetings that Kenneth Colen would receive compensation for each OTOW employee hired back by a new management company. When asked about this claim, Mr. Colen responded, "Their statement is false. This statement, made by a resident, appears to be based on a misunderstanding of the Parkway contract with the board."

Currently, residents pay for Parkway Maintenance services, as well as use of amenities, through their monthly condominium management fee. A new management company would likely need to follow the current budget and policies detailed in community declarations. However, if the new management company increases costs, then the sitting board could possibly need to amend the budget, likely through a special assessment process, to make adjustments to the current budget to cover those extra charges.

In the short-term future, Kenneth Colen confirmed he plans on continuing his engagement with SCA amenities, the real estate office and remain publisher of the community newspaper.

As of writing this article, no future board meetings have been scheduled.



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# SUNSET FAMILY DENTISTRY

**Introducing Dr. Nhi Pham!**



Sunset Family Dentistry welcomes Dr. Pham. Nhi completed her Doctorate of Dental Medicine at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) where she gained four years of hands-on experience, including clinical classwork followed by rotational programs in both Bradenton and DeFuniak Springs. Dr. Pham has experience with a wide range of patients and dental care, and is excited to begin her career as an associate dentist at **Sunset Family Dentistry!**

Now accepting Cigna Medicare and the Cigna Savings Plan. Please call our office for more information.

**(727) 791-8823 • sunsetfamilydentist.com**  
 1831 N. Belcher Road, Suite #F-3





Dr. Wade Hancock      Dr. Ly Ngo and Dr. Cindy Brayer

*Happy Fourth of July from our family to your family!*

# Computer Club members learn that Summit technicians are here to help

By Joe Wisinski

A Summit Broadband employee recently spoke to about 50 On Top of the World Computer Club members.

Technician Wayne Edwards shared information to help make users' experience more enjoyable and problem-free. He also spoke about the on-site availability of Summit employees to assist with any issues.

Both Wayne and his colleague, Eugene Murphy, are based at OTOW.

"We are here to help with Summit problems," Wayne said. "There is no charge for our services."

Wayne provided several tips to club members. Some were:

- To avoid the problem of a recording cutting off the last few seconds of a program, choose "5 minutes late" as the recording end time. Wayne said the problem is a known issue that engineers are working on.

- Remember that you can use the Summit Broadband View app on your smartphone anywhere in the world for free. Also, Wayne encouraged using the catch-up TV service, where you can watch any program that aired in the last three days.

- If you're having issues with your TV remote, don't contact the call center. Instead, text Wayne or Eugene for help because you'll get faster service through them.

Wayne is available to assist residents Monday through Friday and Eugene works Tuesday through Saturday. Both technician's working hours are 8:45 to 4:45.

To reach Wayne, text him at 239-571-



Computer Club



Summit Broadband representative Wayne Edwards speaks to the On Top of the World Computer Club.

(Photo by Rowland Hetrick)

### About the Computer Club

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

OTOW-TV Channel 901 and Summit Broadband are trying to figure out why some residents can watch live broadcasts on channel 901 perfectly while other residents get black screens, scratchy audio or disruptions. If you try to watch a live broadcast on OTOW-TV channel 901 and are unable to enjoy it without disruptions, please let Wayne and Eugene know.

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

OTOW residents are welcome to come to the Computer Club help session any Wednesday morning from 8:30 to 10 a.m. We're located in the Learning Lab in the West Activity Center. Our services are free. Please arrive before 9:30 so we have enough time to help you.

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

## New Information Table Banner!

If you see this banner, club information tables are open.



No longer will you have the excuse that you didn't know information tables were open to purchase tickets, talk to club representatives, join a club or find out about future events.

There will be a new banner posted in front of the East Activity Center letting everyone know the information tables are open and you can come in and get all your questions answered.

The banner was purchased by your Entertainment Committee.

Information tables are taking place this summer from 8:30-10:30 a.m. on Thursdays only. When the Snowbirds begin to return, the information tables will be available on Mondays, too.

More than 20 On Top of the World clubs have information tables.



## Need More Room? We have some!

# Aaron's Stor-All



**OTOW Resident Special**  
**FREE MONTH**  
 with payment of one full month  
 (Must present this ad at time of rental)

- Indoor Units
- Air Conditioned
- Security Cameras
- Security Alarm

727-447-3133

2100 Calumet St  
 (between Hercules & Belcher)

Offer expires May 31, 2024. Cannot combined with any other offer. Offer good on one storage unit per household.

# Safety seminar, Food Truck Night and Movie Night coming up in July

Happy Independence Day on Thursday, July 4!

Looking for nearby events on or around July 4?

I've rounded up all the Independence Day events closest to our community.

Fireworks will take place at TD Ballpark in Dunedin on July 3 from 6-10:45 p.m. Fireworks are scheduled for 9:15 p.m.

Dunedin's show takes place on July 3 so it's a good option if you want to watch fireworks more than once. The event includes an golf cart parade at 6 p.m., live music, a movie, concessions and fireworks.

The patriotic golf cart parade kicks off the celebration. The parade goes to TD Ballpark where the rest of the event activities and fireworks take place.

On July 4, there will be a minor league baseball game at TD Ballpark. The Blue Jays will face the Clearwater Threshers. Fireworks will take place after the game.

Clearwater Celebrates America on July 4 at Coachman Park. The event runs from 5-11 p.m. with fireworks at 9:30 p.m.

Parking is available throughout downtown Clearwater. At Coachman Park, parking is limited.

The event includes live music and street performers throughout the park, food vendors and family activities.

After the fireworks there is a silent disco.

Note: You are not allowed to bring food and drinks into the park, but you can bring in empty water bottles.

A Safety Harbor Independence Day Celebration will take place July 4 at Waterfront Park from 5-9 p.m. Fireworks will take place at 9 p.m.

The event includes entertainment, food vendors and things for kids to do before the fireworks.

There will be a parade on Main Street from 10 a.m. to noon.

## Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Safety Seminar

A Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Safety Seminar has been rescheduled for Tuesday, July 17, from 9-10:30 a.m. in the East Activity Center Auditorium. This seminar is free and no registration is required.

The seminar is called "Situational Awareness – always be aware of your surroundings."

Deputies Jessica Hughey and Charles Skipper will teach us how to recognize other people's body language and demonstrate how you can observe signs someone may be



a potential predator.

The officers will review how to communicate information with 911 when you feel threatened and how to proceed if you are dissatisfied with how your concerns are handled.

As always, there will be time at the end or after the seminar for your questions.

## Food Truck Night

The next Food Truck Night will take place Wednesday, July 10 from 3-7 p.m. in the East Activity Center front parking lot.

Attending will be Egg Roll'n and Slipp's Ice.

This will be a pick up and go event, or you can bring your meal inside to the Kitchen/Clearwater Room or outside to the Pavilion.

Come out and enjoy some delicious food that you don't have every day.

See more details about how to preorder by visiting Nancy's Bulletin Board on the website [www.otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://www.otowclearwaterinfo.com).

## Movie Night

Movie Night returns on Wednesday, July 17, at 4 p.m., in the East Activity Center Auditorium.

The movie will be Arthur the King: (2024), directed by Simon Cellan Jones. The movie has a PG 13 rating and was distributed by Lion Gates studio. Runtime is 107 minutes. Seating is for 80, first come, first served, no reservation required.

The cast includes Juliet Rylance, Nathalie Emmanuel, Simu Liu and Mark Wahlberg.

The movie takes place over the course of 10 days and 435 miles when an unbreakable bond is forged between pro adventure racer Michael Light (Mark Wahlberg) and a scrappy street dog companion dubbed Arthur.

Based on an incredible true story, Arthur the King follows Michael Light, desperate

for one last chance to win, as he convinces a sponsor to back him and a team of athletes (Simu Liu, Nathalie Emmanuel, and Ali Suliman) for the Adventure Racing World Championship in the Dominican Republic.

As the team is pushed to their outer limits of endurance in the race, Arthur redefines what victory, loyalty and friendship truly mean.

The movie is for On Top of the World residents only and offered at no charge.

SCA provides one free bag of popcorn per resident. The Good Neighbors Association will be serving refreshments and goodies at a great price.

We look forward to seeing you!

## Movie Night Aug. 21

Here is a sneak preview for Movie Night Wednesday, Aug. 21.

We will be showcasing the 1991 comedy "What About Bob" with Bill Murray and Richard Dreyfuss.

## AAA Safe Driving Course

The next AAA Safe Driving Courses will take place on Tuesday, July 9, and Tuesday, Sept. 10 and you can register for either class now.

The in-person, onsite course is for OTOW residents only at the rate of \$20. Residents are not required to be AAA members.

The classes are held at the West Activity Center Learning Lab on the second Tuesday, every other month from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with an hour lunch break from noon – 1 p.m. Class size is limited to 30, sorry, no exceptions.

Please bring your own bag lunch and refreshments.

Registration is easy! Call 727-431-8887 with your name, address and credit card info or you may also stop by the AAA Clearwater branch at 2347 Gulf to Bay Blvd. to register.

Residents will receive a certificate of completion on the day of the course which earns you a discount on your car insurance. The instructor can also email you the certificate in PDF format if you or your insurance company would prefer. The discount will be good for three years from the day the course was completed.

Wishing you all happy and safe road travel!

## One Blood

The Big Red Bus will be back at the East Activity Center front parking area on Thursday, July 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Residents can register at Nancy's Bulletin Board at [otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://otowclearwaterinfo.com), in the Commu-

nity Service Office or just show up that day.

All donors will receive a summer tote bag, \$20 Ecard and wellness checkup, including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening!

Take this opportunity to save lives!

As the last blood drive was cancelled to accommodate the special board meeting, we do not have an honor roll list to post this month. The honor roll will be posted in my August column.

## How Do I Make A Reservation On The Calendar?

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

Email to [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: [otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://otowclearwaterinfo.com), click on "Community Activities" and "Forms" and select the SCA Online Facility Request form. Complete and sign the form with your mouse or finger and click submit.

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

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

## Activity Card Renewal

The Community Service Office (CSO) is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. (closed from noon to 12:30 p.m. for lunch).

You must bring a valid, government issued photo ID, a recent piece of mail showing your name and OTOW address, and your most recently issued Activity Card.

There is no fee for renewals, however, if your card has expired (all fiscal years have been punched at the bottom), a new card is required, and the fee is \$3.

If you do not have your most recently issued Activity Card or Access Card, the fee is \$25 for a replacement. If you already have an Access Card, there is no charge to renew. If you need an Access Card, there is a \$7 charge.

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

# 2024 Fall Festival Canceled

*The On Top of the World Activities Office regrets to inform you that our 2024 Fall Festival & Expo scheduled to take place on Saturday, Nov. 2, has been canceled.*

*We made this difficult decision because of numerous unknowns around the availability of experienced staff to manage and carry out this year's event. The only payments received to date have been from a few clubs for canopies and those fees will be refunded.*

*We understand that this change may cause great disappointment for our residents and all the resident clubs that participate. However, we are confident the company will be able to make plans to hold this event again on Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025.*

# OTOW Community Activities Calendar July 2024

## SPECIAL EVENTS

AAA Driver Safety Course Tuesday, July 9, 9 am - 4 pm WAC Learning Lab. You must pre-register.  
 Food Truck Night: Wednesday, July 10, 3:00 - 7:00 pm, EAC Front Parking Lot  
 OneBlood: Thursday, July 11, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, East Activity Center Front Parking Lot  
 Pinellas County Sheriff Safety Seminar, 9:00 - 10:30 am, Wednesday, July 17, East Activity Center Auditorium (rescheduled from June)  
 Movie Night, "Arthur the King," 4:00 - 6:30 pm, Runtime 116 minutes, Wednesday, July 17, East Activity Center Auditorium  
 Club Information Tables are now 8:30-10:30 on Thursdays only in July

## CLUB AND GROUP EVENTS

Art Guild Acrylic Painting, 1 - 4 pm, Thursdays, EAC Largo Room  
 Art Guild Painting Pals: 1 - 4 pm, Wednesdays, East Activity Center Largo Room  
 Baby Boomers Group: Meetings, 5:30 - 6:30 pm, Wednesday, July 3, and Thursday, July 18 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): 6:00 - 10pm, Mondays and Tuesdays, West Activity Center Billiards Room  
 Billiards (Scotch Doubles): 6:00 - 10pm, Thursdays, West Activity Center Billiards Room  
 Billiards (9 Ball): 1 - 3 pm, Fridays, West Activity Center Billiards Room  
 Bingo: 6:00 - 10:00 pm, Mondays, East Activity Center Auditorium  
 Caring & Sharing: 9 am - 12 pm, Tuesdays, Kitchen/Clearwater 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: 1:00 - 3:00, Mondays, West Activity Center Belleair Room  
 Democratic Club Meeting: Thursday, July 11, 2:00 - 4:00 pm, West Activity Center Learning Lab  
 Democratic Club: Happy Hour, Tuesday, July 23, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, West Activity Center Learning Lab  
 Democratic Club Board Meeting: 2:00-4:00 pm, Thursday, July 25, East Activity Center Ozona Room  
 Entertainment Committee Board Meeting: Monday, July 8, 10:30 am - 12 pm, EAC Crystal Beach Room  
 Entertainment Committee Dance: Saturday, July 20, 7:30 - 11 pm, East Activity Center Auditorium  
 Fletchers Keyboard Lessons: Mondays, 10:00 - 11:00 am, West Activity Center Learning Lab through June 17  
 French Language Society: 10:30 - 11:30 am, Wednesdays, East Activity Center Dunedin Room  
 Golden Minds Club Thursdays, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm, East Activity Center Dunedin Room  
 Good Karma Book Club: Thursday, July 18, 10:00 - 11:30 am, East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room  
 High Vibe Tribe 7 - 9 pm, Tuesday, July 9, East Activity Center Kitchen/Clearwater Room  
 Kibbitz Corner (Coffee Corner), Mondays, Wednesdays, 9:00 - 10:00 am, East Activity Center Kitchen/Clearwater Room  
 Knitting Group 9:00 - 11:00 am, Wednesdays, East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room  
 Lambda Social Friday, Friday, July 19, 4:00 - 9:00 pm, East Activity Center Oldsmar Room  
 Lambda Chat Friday, July 5 and Friday, July 19, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm, East Activity Center Safety Harbor Room  
 Line Dance Club 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Tuesdays, East Activity Center Auditorium  
 Line Dance Club Practice 7:00 - 8:00 am, Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, East Activity Center Exercise Room  
 Moving and Grooving Line Dancing: 8:30 am - 12:00 pm, Tuesdays, EAC Auditorium; 12:30 - 2:30 pm, Fridays, Auditorium  
 Music Group Tuesdays, 3:00 - 6:00 pm, East Activity Center Dunedin Room  
 Philosophy Club 10:00 - 11:30 am, Tuesdays, East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room  
 Plant-Based Living Club 3:00 - 5:00 pm, Wednesday, July 10, West Activity Center Learning Lab  
 Pickleball: Board meeting, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Monday, July 8, East Activity Center Dunedin Room  
 Ping Pong 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, West Activity Center Belleair Room  
 Pray for America Meeting, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, Saturdays, East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room  
 Press Association Meeting: Next meeting 1:30 pm, Thursday, August 8, East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room  
 Republican Club Meeting, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, Tuesday, July 9, West Activity Center Belleair Room  
 Republican Club Coffee, Donuts and Learn, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm, July 3, East Activity Center Kitchen/Clearwater Room  
 Republican Club Ice Cream Social: 2:00 - 5:00 pm, Saturday, July 13, East Activity Center Kitchen/Clearwater Room  
 Resident4Residents Meeting Tuesday, July 16, 6:00 - 8:30 pm, West Activity Center Belleaire Room  
 Social Dance: 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Thursdays, West Activity Center Belleaire Room  
 Texas Card Game Club: Friday, July 19, 3:00 - 10:00 pm, East Activity Center Kitchen/Clearwater Room  
 The Forum: (New Group) 5:00 - 7:00 pm, Friday, July 5, EAC Largo Room; 10:30 am - 12:00 pm, Thursday, July 18, Largo Room  
 Theater Workshop: General meeting 6:30 pm, Wednesday, July 3, West Activity Center Belleair Room. Social meeting follows.  
 Travel Club Friday, July 5, 2:00 - 4:00 pm, East Activity Center Oldsmar Room  
 TOPS 10:30 am-12:00 pm, Fridays, East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room  
 Veterans Group Coffee Wednesday, July 3, 2:00 - 4:00 pm, East Activity Center Kitchen/Clearwater Room  
 World Quilters 8:00 am - 2:00 pm, Tuesdays, East Activity Center Largo Room  
 Writer's Ink 1:30 - 3:30 pm, Thursdays, East Activity Center Dunedin Room

## CARDS AND GAMES

Bid Euchre 6:30 - 9:30 pm, Tuesdays, East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room  
 Blackout (Canadian Club) 6:30 - 9:30 pm, Thursdays, West Activity Center Belleair Room (No Blackout July 4)  
 Casual Bridge Tuesdays, 1:00 - 4:00 pm, East Activity Center Ozona Room  
 Cribbage 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, Wednesdays, East Activity Center Ozona Room  
 Dominos: 5:30 - 8:30 pm, Tuesdays, East Activity Center Ozona Room  
 Double Deck Pinochle 1:00 - 3:30 pm, Sundays and Wednesdays, East Activity Center Ozona Room  
 Duplicate Bridge (Beginners) 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Thursdays, East Activity Center Ozona Room  
 Duplicate Bridge 11:00 am - 4:00 pm, Saturdays, East Activity Center Ozona Room  
 Euchre Club: Fridays, 4:00 - 6:00 pm, East Activity Center Ozona Room  
 Ladies Bunco: 6:30 - 8:30 Tuesday, July 9, West Activity Center Learning Lab  
 Mahjongg: 1:00 - 4:00 pm, Tuesdays, Fridays, West Activity Center Palm Harbor Room  
 Mexican Train Card Game (Dominos): 1:00 - 5:00 pm, Thursday, July 4, East Activity Center Safety Harbor Room  
 Poker (Alonzo's Group): 5:00 - 8:00 pm, Mondays, East Activity Center Safety Harbor Room  
 Poker (Barry's Group): 6:30 - 9:30 pm, Mondays and Wednesdays, East Activity Center Ozona Room  
 Poker (Bob's Group): 6:00 - 9:30 pm, Tuesdays, East Activity Center Safety Harbor Room  
 Poker (Carol's Group): 6:00 - 9:00 pm, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, East Activity Center Safety Harbor Room  
 Poker (Laura's Group): 5:00 - 9:00 pm, Fridays, East Activity Center Safety Harbor Room  
 Poker (Tom's Group): 5:00 - 9:00 pm, Wednesdays, East Activity Center Safety Harbor Room  
 Poker (Richie's Group): 5:00 - 8:00 pm, Mondays and Wednesdays, East Activity Center Ozona Room  
 Rummikub: Mondays, 12:30 - 3:30 pm, East Activity Center Ozona Room  
 Samba Hand/Foot Canasta: 6:00 - 9:00 pm, Fridays, East Activity Center Dunedin Room  
 Spades Night: Sunday, July 14, July 28, 4:00 - 9:00 pm, East Activity Center Dunedin 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 Kitchen/Clearwater Room  
 Co-Ed Exercises: 10-10:45 am, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, East Activity Center Exercise Room  
 Gentle Movement Exercises: 3:00 - 4:00 pm, Fridays, East Activity Center Auditorium  
 Hatha Yoga: 10-11:15 am, Mondays, West Activity Center Belleair Room  
 Ladies Exercise: 8-9 am, Mondays through Fridays, East Activity Center Exercise Room  
 Moving & Grooving Cardio Dance: 11 am -12 pm Mondays, Wednesdays, 9-10 am Saturdays, East Activity Center Exercise Rm  
 Moving & Grooving Cardio Dance Light: 12:15-1:15 pm Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:15-11:15 Saturdays, XR  
 Moving & Grooving Broadway Bound: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm, Sundays, East Activity Center Auditorium  
 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: 3-4 pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays; 2-3 pm, Fridays, East Activity Center Exercise Room

**Bingo is back.  
Amenities open July 4**

**There will be no  
Get Acquainted Coffees  
until September**

**PAVILION**  
English Gothic  
Thursday, July 4, 1 - 5 pm  
Tennis Club  
Saturday, July 13, 12 - 3 pm

**BUILDING EVENTS**  
English Gothic  
Thursday, July 4, 1-5 pm, Pavilion  
Malaguena  
Tuesday, July 2, 2-5 pm, WAC Belleair Room  
Swiss Alps Chalet  
Monday, July 1, 11 am - 3 pm, EAC Kitchen  
Villa Riviera  
Friday, July 12, 12:30-3:30, EAC Kitchen

**Information Tables**  
Club information tables  
Thursdays only in  
June, July and August.  
Tables will be open 8:30-10:30 am  
in the EAC Auditorium

**Shuffleboard  
4 pm, Mon, Tue, Wed**  
**Lawn Bowling  
9:30 am  
Monday through Saturday  
Lawn Bowls Courts**

**Pickleball** As Of June 1

**PLAY SCHEDULE**

|             |                |                |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| Mondays:    | 10 am - 12 pm  |                |
| Tuesdays:   | 8 am - 10 am,  | 6:00 - 8:00 pm |
| Wednesdays: | 10 am - 12 pm, | 6:00 - 8:00 pm |
| Thursdays:  | 8 am - 10 am,  | 6:00 - 8:00 pm |
| Fridays:    | 10 am - 12 pm  |                |
| Saturdays:  | 8 am - 10 am   |                |
| Sundays:    | 9 am - 12 pm   |                |

Newcomers welcome. Must have a valid Activity Card.

**OTOW of the World TENNIS CLUB**

**Spring / Summer Schedule**

|                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mondays: 7 am - 10 am      | Thursdays: 10 am - 1 pm |
| Tuesdays: 10 am - 1 pm     | Fridays: 7 am - 10 am   |
| Wednesdays: 7 am - 10 am   | Saturdays: 10 am - 1 pm |
| Sundays: 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm |                         |

**FACILITIES**

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

**Woodshop**  
8 am-12 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



# Food Truck Stop-And-Go



## Egg Roll'n and Slipp's Ice

Wednesday, July 10 from 3-7 p.m.  
in the East Activity Center front parking lot.  
This will be a pick up-and-go event or you can bring your meal inside to the Kitchen/Clearwater Room or outside to the Pavilion.  
Come out and enjoy some delicious food that you don't have every day.



Egg Roll'n

Visiting Nancy's Bulletin Board at [otowclearwaterinfo.com](http://otowclearwaterinfo.com) to learn how to preorder.

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# Even in our community Please use the crosswalks

By Tara Still

Be careful stepping onto roads.

As a pedestrian, when you find yourself leaving a sidewalk, a driveway, or stepping down from a curb, be sure to watch for vehicles before doing so.

There could be someone backing up or driving at a high rate of speed, or an unexpected change in terrain.

If you fall into a lane of traffic, you could be injured. This applies to bicyclists and folks on electric scooters.

Always use crosswalks and wait for the walk signal (if available). Even if the crosswalk sign tells you it is your turn to cross, please make sure all vehicles see you and are

coming to a stop.

Drivers are expecting pedestrians at crosswalks. Do not step out between two parked vehicles since drivers may not see you.

When walking a pet, especially on an extendable leash, be sure that the road is clear. Drivers may not see the leash or the pet. Keep your pet by your side until you are ready to enter the roadway.

Always walk facing traffic so that you can see what is coming towards you. Yield the right of way to drivers on the road if you are not on a sidewalk.

Remember, a vehicle is heavier than you are.



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The Impacs were here on May 18 and featured a full band. (OTOW News photo by Mary Lou Wall)

## OTOW favorite Ralph Rogers returns July 20 with a duo

By Mary Ann O'Neil

Happy summer to all!

Just a reminder that there are no shows throughout the summer months. However, we do have dances. So, keep your dancing shoes out and be sure to attend our summer dances.

Our June dance featuring Boomer Band was fun and we had a good turnout considering that a lot of our residents have headed back up north for the summer.

On Saturday, July 20, the Ralph Roger's duo Three's Company will be entertaining us for our monthly dance. This duo performed for us last year and their wonderful voices blended for many great dance songs.

Many of you remember Ralph as he entertained us many times at our Sundays-in-the-Park several years ago.

Get your neighbors and friends together and come out and support our dances.

Remember, dance tickets are only \$10. You can reserve your seat – bring your own beverages, snacks and glasses. We provide coffee and ice and great entertainment.

Just a reminder, shorts are not allowed at our dances. This includes both fe-

males and males. We would hate to have to ask you to leave.

Those of you who have not yet purchased your New Year's Eve tickets, this is a good time to do so. The earlier you purchase your tickets, the better chance you have of selecting the table you want. This is our biggest dance of the year, and we are always sold out. The cost of tickets is \$30 per person.

During the summer months, your Entertainment Committee will be selling tickets on Thursdays between 8:30-10:30 a.m. in the East Activity Center Auditorium. Even though we do not have shows during the summer, you can still purchase show tickets for our fall shows.

The three fall shows are:

- Majesty of Rock: the music of Journey and Styx on Oct. 24.
- Tom Becker: Back Home Again-A Tribute to John Denver on Nov. 21.
- Our last show for 2024 will be Voices of Jazz on Dec. 19.

Show tickets are \$20.

If you have any questions, please call 727-449-9243 or 215-431-4799.

On behalf of the OTOW Entertainment Committee, enjoy your summer and we hope to see you at our dances.

### JULY

20 Three's Company (dance, 7:30, \$10)

### AUGUST

17 Louie Bravo Trio (dance, 7:30, \$10)

### SEPTEMBER

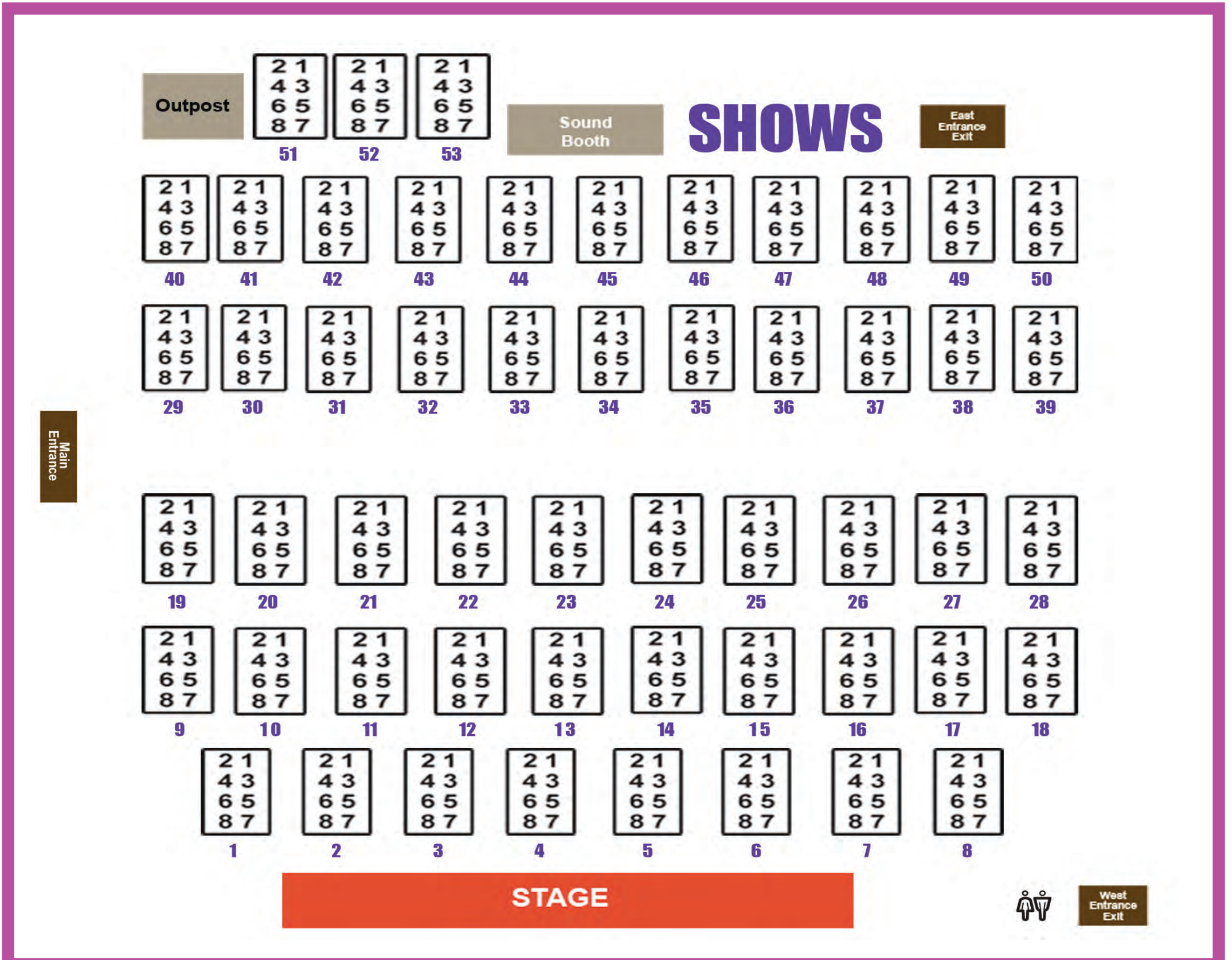
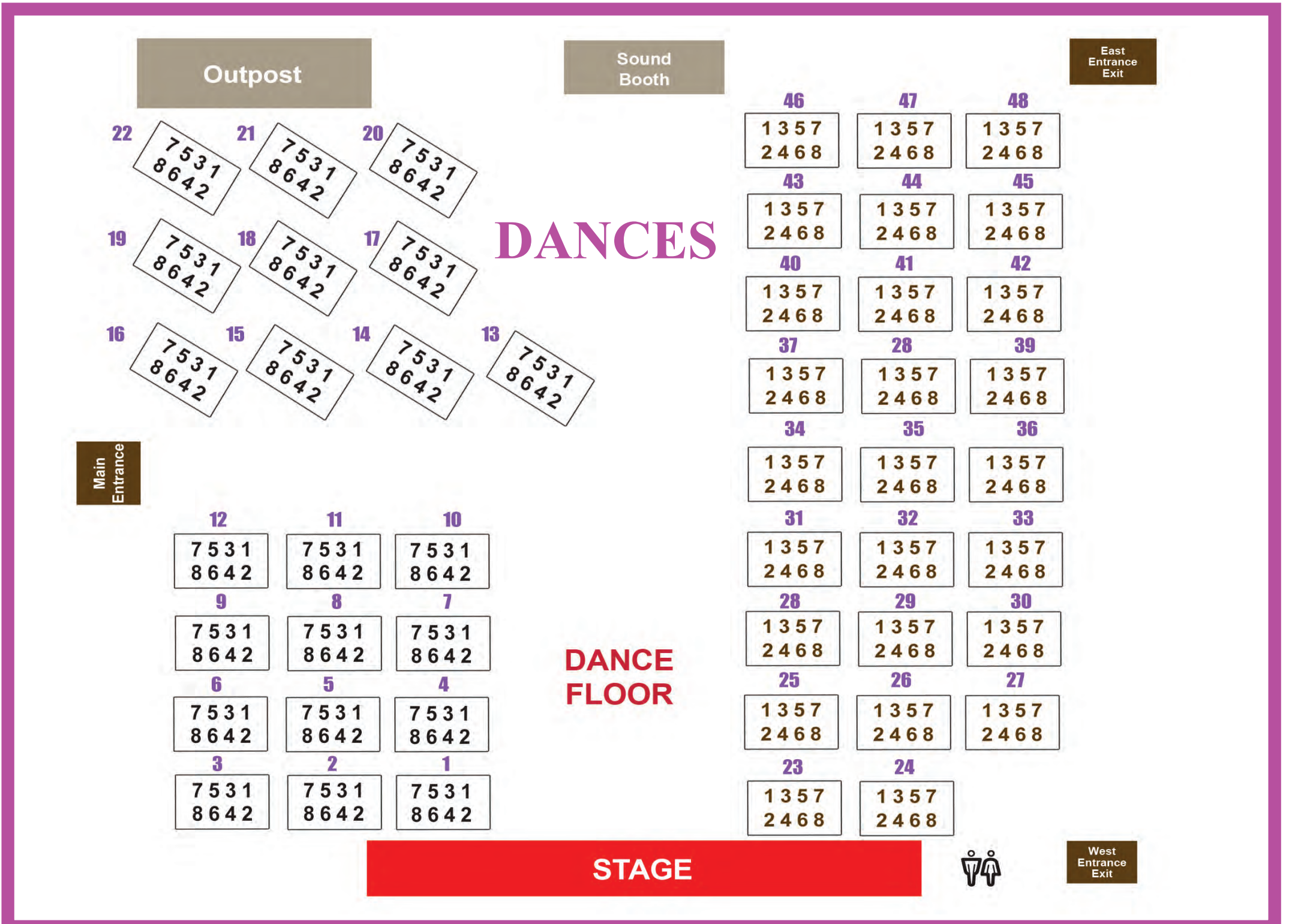
21 At Large (dance, 7:30, \$10)

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

# ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE



## Seating for Entertainment Committee events



# ON TOP OF THE WORLD NEWS

Only Good News for 56 Years - Published Since 1968

**Kenneth Colen - Publisher**

**Doug Kates - Editor**

Press Association Officers

President Tom Butcher

Vice President Donna Gagnon, Secretary Joanne Cordes

Newsroom Hours: 9:00-5:00 Mon-Thur, 9-2 Fridays Phone: (727) 799-3216

Next Delivery Date

July newspapers will be delivered on Monday, July 1.

To advertise in our July edition, payments must be received by June 15.

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

ON TOP OF THE WORLD NEWS ADVERTISING POLICY

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

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

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

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

Trades and services regulated by the State or County must all be licensed in order to advertise. In some cases, background checks are required. All advertisements must contain a local address or a local telephone number. Ads resembling news articles or news pages are not accepted.

By submitting a photo or artwork, you are giving OTOW News permission to publish it in an upcoming newspaper or future newspaper 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. If you are submitting a photo for publication, it is your responsibility to make sure people in the photo know you are submitting it for publication.

OTOW News may not be reproduced in any way, in any other media, except in print and on official OTOW Websites.

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

**Press Association Volunteers This Month:**

- Donna Gagnon
- Joanne Cordes
- Tara Still
- Lyn Taecker
- Barbara Rice
- Mary Lou Wall

## Around The World In This Newspaper

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**East Activity Center Ground Floor**  
 Fitness Center, Clearwater Room (formerly Crafts Room), Kitchen, Toy Shop, Labatory, Good Karma Café, Men's Locker Room, Pool, Dunedin Room (formerly Computer Room), Ozona Room (formerly Small Card Room), Safety Harbor Room (formerly Water Room), Library, Women's Locker Room, Wood Shop.

**East Activity Center First Floor**  
 Main Entrance, To Second Floor, To Basement, Community Service Office (service desk only), Activity Director.

**East Activity Center Second Floor**  
 Largo Room (formerly Art Room), Oldsmar Room (formerly Starlite Room), Auditorium, Newspaper OTOW-TV Office, Crystal Beach Room (formerly Sounds Room), Stage, Backstage.

**West Activity Center**  
 Pool, Dog Park, Learning Lab, Spa, Billiards Room, Belleair Room (formerly Sunroom), Real Estate Office.

**East and West Activity Centers Room Maps**

**EAC Pavilion Park Grill Map**

**Pavilion Park**  
 Lawn Bowls, Tennis Pickleball, Pavilion, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, G.

## 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

# You could have ended your day with watermelon salsa - with jalapenos!

By Ronald A Baltrunas

At the Plant-Based Living Club meeting in June, Johna Mailolli, a 13-year dietitian from the Feeding Tampa Bay organization, gave a second presentation on ways to live more healthy.

The meeting started with a treat of watermelon salsa consisting of watermelon, onion, red bell pepper, jalapeno pepper, cilantro, lime juice, vegetable oil and corn chips!

The recipe was provided.

A sample nutrition label was provided with guidelines on how to read them:

- Check the serving size and servings per container.
  - Consume foods low in added sugars, saturated fats, partially hydrogenated oils and sodium.
  - Eating more fruits and vegetables will increase vitamins, minerals and fiber. Fiber feeds the good germs in our digestive tract and promotes healthy bowel function.
  - The daily percent value is based on a 2,000 calorie diet. This is a recommendation. Each person's needs vary with their size and physical activity.
  - Physical activity is very important.
- For information on the many reasons for plant-based diets, visit Vegansalvation.



For information on our club, please visit the Box Office at [OTOWboxoffice.com](http://OTOWboxoffice.com). Scroll down and click our Plant-Based Living Club logo.

You can contact us through [Vegans10@yahoo.com](mailto:Vegans10@yahoo.com).

Our next meeting will be on July 10 in the Learning Lab in the West Activity Center at 3 p.m. Our agenda will be announced via our email list and on our OTOW Box Office web page. Come make new friends and learn new healthy things.



At right, dietitian Johna Mailolli gets ready to prepare healthy food for members of the Plant-Based Living Club.

## Pinellas County Safety Seminar Tuesday, July 17, 9 am, EAC Auditorium



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# Clarifying 80 percent law

Hello everyone.

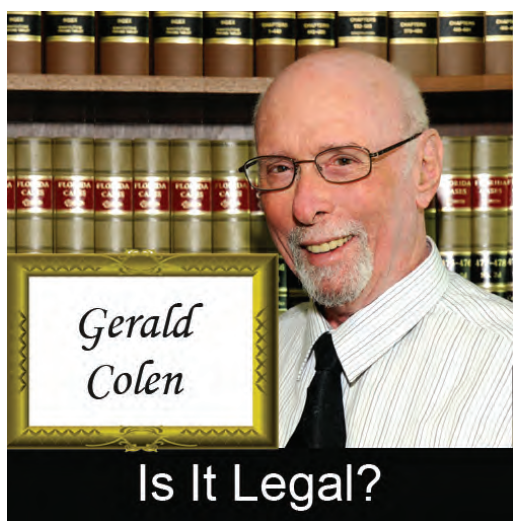
I need to clarify something I wrote in a previous column. I'm referring to the column where I discussed the Over-55 law that is part of the Federal Housing for Older Folks' Law enacted by the United States Congress many years ago.

To maintain a status as an older persons' housing community, at least 80 percent of the persons occupying a dwelling in that community must be 55 years of age or older. That leaves a 20 percent portion who can be less than 55.

I'm not going to re-write that column, but I do hope you have talked about it with friends and neighbors since my intention in writing it was to provide you with information on how that law works.

At one point in that column, I said that at On Top of the World, 80 percent of the dwellings must be occupied by at least one person who is 55 years or older and this is enforced to the extent it can be. That's probably true in all over-55 communities throughout the U.S. Then I said that at OTOW the remaining 20 percent is used for circumstances where a spouse or significant other, or someone who inherits, is less than 55, thus enabling that younger person to remain in the dwelling.

I should have clarified that this is not something that is ONLY used at the two OTOW communities. In fact, it is my understanding that most over-55 condominium and homeowners' associations throughout



the country follow the same or a similar process.

To reiterate: The over-55 rule is a federal law, enacted by the U.S. Congress many years ago. In order to allow persons who are not 55 or older to remain in a dwelling after the one who is 55 or older, passes on, most associations throughout the country, including but not only OTOW, set aside the 20 percent portion for spouses or significant others or inheritances.

### Scam Alert

Some scams never go away. They just keep coming in one form or another. This one is the "copy of deed" scam. It works like this. Sometime after a deed has been recorded in the public records, you get a letter. It looks mighty official, until you read it closer.

It seems to come from the city or county government or from the recording department of those agencies. It says you must have, or you should have, or you oughta have or you gotta have a copy of your deed or a certified copy of it. Send money and you'll get the deed nicely delivered to your mailbox.

**DON'T DO IT!**

It's a scam.

All you need is the original deed that's been recorded in the public records. If you can't find yours, you can go online to the court records for the county where the property is, put in the address, follow any other directions on the county's website, and voila there it will be. You can download it for free.

**Q.** I have a feeling that you do not favor lady bird deeds where a home is transferred to children to avoid probate when an owner passes. Is that true?

**A.** Nope!

Okay, I'll elaborate on what I just wrote. I favor estate planning that is designed for the specific needs of someone. Lady bird deeds may belong in an estate plan, but that estate plan should always be based upon the needs of the client. So, when someone asks me about a lady bird deed (the legal term is enhanced life estate deed), I try to explain what those deeds are, how they work and whether there are solid estate planning reasons to use them or not to use them.

**Q.** My wife passed on a few years ago.

Recently, I decided to take a "singles cruise" and as it happened my wife's sister, a widow, was on it. Neither of us knew the other would be there. We hit it off, stayed together, and we want to see each other often. However, both her son and my son say it's not moral, and more importantly, it is not legal.

Is this true?

**A.** Um ... is this some new law I never saw in any law book or other book? Wow! The things our children will say.

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



## New 'Forum' club debuts July 5

By Katie Bajis

A new club has formed at On Top of the World called The Forum.

Meetings will be first Friday of the month, 5-7 p.m. and the third Thursday of the month 10:30 a.m. - noon in the East Ac-

tivity Center Largo Room.

The first meeting will be Friday, July 5 and the second meeting Thursday, July 18.

Here is a good definition of the word "Forum." It is a place, meeting or medium where ideas and views on a particular issue

can be exchanged.

This OTOW group will not have dues and everyone is welcome. We will not only talk, but actually plan hands-on, real volunteer activities for our community. Bring your ideas, your opinions and your heart.



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## Remember when the June newspaper told you not to wrestle an alligator? I listened

So how many of you saw Dessa Barabba's column in the June newspaper about staying away from alligators if you see one?

I bet everyone who opened the June newspaper saw her column, but I bet almost everyone thought, "I will never get close enough to an alligator where I need to read the column to see what to do."

Well, guess what?

Five days after reading Dessa's column, I was sitting in my Lazyboy at home. My front door was open. It was about 5:30 p.m. It was a very normal day.

Suddenly, my dog, Logan, started barking. Oddly, he wasn't barking like he was hungry or there was a cat in the front yard. I mean, he was really barking and clawing at the door. He was borderline going crazy.

Logan does not like cats - especially on his property. So I thought maybe it was a big cat?

I continued to listen, but this turned into a very abnormal barking routine. Something was different. He was scratching the door, his tail was straight up and he was bouncing off the rug - kind of like when the pizza delivery guy gets out of his car with a pizza!

But we didn't order pizza delivery?

Now, I was comfortable. I didn't really want to get off the Lazyboy, but I had to look out the front door.

What I saw was not a cat or a pizza.

What I saw was 4 feet long.

I peeled my attack dog away from the front door and was as shocked as any person could be ... there was an alligator in my front yard, just feet from my front door.

"Oh My God," is kind of what I said. I cannot actually print the words that came out.

I looked at the alligator and he looked at me.



My first question was, "What are you doing here?"

The alligator didn't answer. I think he was looking at my dog?

I live in Safety Harbor. The nearest body of water is Alligator Lake more than one mile away. This creature, somehow, decided to take an adventure and somehow crawled at least a mile to my front door. Maybe he used the sewer lines - I didn't ask.

Whether he crawled on land or through the pipes we will never know. But there he was in front of me.

Fortunately, I read Dessa's column only a few days earlier. Dessa said, "don't wrestle an alligator - you will lose."

"Darn," I thought. That was going to be my first option. Logan wanted to wrestle the alligator, too, but I didn't let him.

I briefly considered a tag team wrestling match, but decided Dessa might get mad.

So I called 9-1-1 to see what to do.

My street is heavily traveled. Dog walkers, children, bicycles - that slab of cement above the alligator is a very popular sidewalk and I didn't want anyone walking by at din-

ner time.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office said this was not a 9-1-1 call, but transferred me to Florida Fish & Wildlife.

A message came on ... click (1) if the alligator is in your garage, click (2) if the alligator is in your swimming pool, click (3) if the alligator has bit or is biting someone.

Well, none of those choices fit me so I stayed on the phone ... then got disconnected.

Another neighbor came over and said "this is definitely a 9-1-1 call." He called and told the dispatcher to please send a deputy. Immediately.

This time they did.

While waiting for someone to arrive, another neighbor came over. She asked me to send her photos of the gator so she could share with friends on social media. I said, "stick around. You will get your own photos in a few minutes."

I told her the capture was about to take place.

Then the same neighbor's husband came home. She said, "Honey, come over and see the alligator." He thought she was nuts. You could tell the way he was walking over that he thought his wife was making up a crazy story. Then all of a sudden, "Oh my gosh. It is an alligator," he said.

More on the husband in a little bit.

Fish & Wildlife had been contacted and a trapper was allegedly en route. In the meantime, four different deputies came and went as they made sure no one got too close.

Now it was starting to get dark and a fifth deputy arrived.

She said we were not waiting for Fish & Wildlife any longer. She took matters into her own hands with alligator training in her resume.

She took a dog leash out of her patrol car, wrap the leash around the neck of the alligator and then tightened the grip.

The alligator was not happy and expressed a very negative emotion. There were some flips and flops, and the alligator tail swung in many directions.

But finally the alligator got tired and gave up.

The deputy sat on the tired alligator and pinned it to the sidewalk.

Now is where my neighbor's husband came back into the story. He held down the alligator's tail!

"I told you you would get your own photo opportunity," I said to my neighbor. "Now's the time to start taking your own pictures."

If you see a picture on social media of someone's husband smiling while holding an alligator tail, that's my neighbors!

As the deputy held down the alligator, and the husband held down the alligator's tail, another neighbor took duct tape and wrapped it around the mouth of the alligator about 30 times.

The gator was now super exhausted and did not put up a fight any longer. Within minutes he was wrapped up and the threat was over.

We all cheered ... except for my dog. He never got out of the house and was not happy. After all, he saw the gator first.

Moments later, the alligator was placed in the back seat of a patrol car. I'm told he was taken to Alligator Lake and released.

The moral of the story?

The next time this newspaper gives you advice for safety sake, please go ahead and read it. It prevented Logan and me from wrestling this alligator and it may keep you safe, too.

## Activity & Access Card Renewals

On Top of the World Clearwater residents may renew their Activity and Access Cards for the 2024-2025 fiscal year beginning Monday, June 3. The Community Service Office (CSO) is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. (closed from noon to 12:30 p.m. for lunch).

### ACTIVITY CARDS

You must bring a valid, government-issued photo ID, a recent piece of mail showing your name and OTOW address, and your most recently issued Activity Card. There is no fee for renewals, however, if your Activity Card has expired (all fiscal years have been punched at the bottom), a new Activity Card is required and the fee is \$3. If you have never received an Activity Card, the fee is \$3. If you have lost, damaged, or misplaced an issued Activity Card, the fee is \$25 for a replacement.

### ACCESS CARDS

The Access Card is required to use the Fitness Center, either pool area, and the Learning Lab. Your Access Card does not have fiscal years at the bottom of the card, but it still requires renewal each year at no cost to you. You must present your Activity Card when you renew your Access Card. If you do not have an Access Card and would like to obtain one, you must first acquire an Activity Card. In addition, you must bring a valid, government issued photo ID, a recent piece of mail showing your name and OTOW address and pay a one-time fee of \$7. If you have lost, damaged, or misplaced an issued Access Card, there is a \$25 replacement cost.

On Top of the World

John Doe  
1018 World Parkway Blvd.  
Building 99, Unit 1  
Clearwater, FL



Activity Card



### Portraits by Irene

Each month in 2024, OTOW artist Irene Piper will be providing each Pet of the Month winner with a pet portrait based on their submitted photograph.

The owner will be contacted when each portrait is finished.

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

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

Irene also can be reached at 617-921-3272

These are my two fun-loving little precious guard and emotional support doggies.

Meet Coco and Charlie!

These two created an instant bond when I met them. They are like two pups in a pod - even if they are not puppies anymore.

They are everyone's fur babies.

They bring so much attention, love and joy to all our friends and neighbors at the Rizal building, especially to our neighbors who miss their fur babies who have passed on.

Theses two really fill a void. You have to admit they are adorable.

Coco and Charlie are owned by Liz Torrens.



Each month in 2024, OTOW News will be 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:OTOW.newsroom@gmail.com) and tell us what makes your pet special. If you don't have email capabilities, drop off your photo and information at the newsroom. You must include pet's name, owner's name, building and age of pet. If the age is not included, your pet will not be eligible. Only one pet per household can win each year, but two pets from the same household can be one entry. The winner each month will receive a portrait from On Top of the World artist Irene Piper. If you are the winner this month, the newsroom will notify you when your portrait is finished. 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 Pet of the Year winner will receive a portrait and will be invited to march in the annual Irish Club Parade each March.



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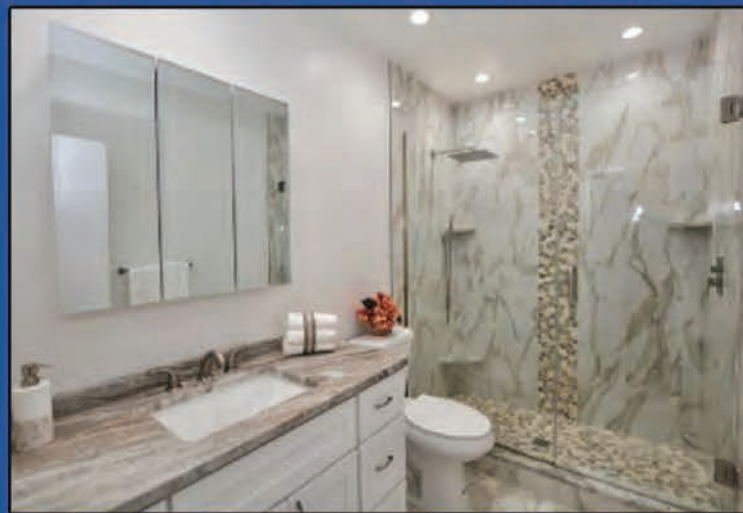
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2. Reservations are **REQUIRED** – please call 727-799-3417 Option 7 no later than 1:00 pm the day prior to your planned trip. Monday's trip deadline is 1:00 pm Friday. Please be present in the core of your building at your scheduled pick up time.
3. Shopping time is 1.0 hours for grocery stores and 2.0 hours for Countryside Mall. Those going to Sunset Point 19 Plaza will have approximately 90 minutes to shop. Shopping time begins when you are dropped off at the destination.
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| Tuesday   | 9:00 am     | Sunset Point 19/Aldi | (see below) | SCA |
| Wednesday | 9:00 am     | Target/CVS           | 1.0 hour    | SCA |
| Thursday  | 9:00 am     | Walmart              | 1.0 hour    | SCA |
| Thursday  | 12:30 pm    | Publix               | 1.0 hours   | SCA |
| Friday    | 9:30 am     | Countryside Mall     | 2.0 hours   | SCA |

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# ACTIVITY REPORTS



## 50th Honor Flight

### OTOW's Jim O'Neil and Rex Doty participate in milestone event

By Terri Mikszenas

"Welcome home soldier! Thank you for your service. Thank you for defending our country."

Those are the words said over and over again as 75 American veterans returned home last month from a day in Washington, D.C. visiting war memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices.

On Top of the World residents James O'Neil II and Rex Doty were on board for this golden anniversary flight. It was the 50th Honor Flight of West Central Florida and at the conclusion, 2,655 veterans had flown, free of charge, for this honor.

OTOW Honor Flight Coordinator Terri Mikszenas said "Emotions are always high on flight day, but this one took it to another level."

This flight required a bit of juggling, quite a bit of coordination and maybe a few white lies to orchestrate a surprise for Army veteran Jim O'Neil. Everyone was in on it and Honor Flight was excited to make it happen!

Jim's original guardian, OTOW's Chuck McAllister, had to cancel two weeks before flight day. Chuck's wife, Theresa, stepped forward to take his place and was ready to accompany Jim on flight day. She even sat in with Jim during a couple of orientation meetings as his guardian.

(So, that's what Jim was told and believed.)

What Jim didn't know is that Jim's son, James III, and his family were flying in from New Hampshire to Clearwater the evening before the flight to surprise his dad and to be his actual guardian on flight day. It was a perfect surprise with a lot of emotions from everyone.

Rex was our other OTOW veteran on board. He is an Air Force Vietnam veteran and Illinois native, who came to OTOW in 2021, joined the OTOW Veterans Group and submitted an application to go on Honor Flight.

Rex and his guardian, Karen Conkel, were a perfect match for the day – both having careers in non-profit businesses.

Rex said this experience was beyond expectation and a day filled with remembrance and kindness. His heart was further touched when he received several notes from his daughter-in-law's first grade students thanking him for his service. Each year, she has her students write letters to veterans, then sends them to Rex and he passes them out to other veterans. These were more special – they were for him.

If you are an honorably discharged veteran, and have not previously participated in an Honor Flight mission, you are eligible to make a flight.

Terri acts as our point of contact for On Top of the World - Clearwater. She can be reached at 727-252-8662.



On Top of the World veterans Jim O'Neil, left, and Rex Doty attend orientation in preparation for Honor Flight.



Jim O'Neil II and Jim's son, Jim O'Neil III, stand at the D-Day Memorial in Washington D.C.

"I was fortunate to be selected to take part in the 50th Mission Honor Flight of West Central Florida on June 4, visiting Washington D.C. I can only say that it was truly a tremendous experience culminating in a "welcome home celebration" upon our return to the Clearwater/St. Petersburg Airport that evening. I want to personally thank everyone who was involved for making this an unforgettable day. I can assure you that it provided a special feeling that was shared by everyone. Again, thank you for all the positive comments and warm sincere embraces. It was a day I will never forget. It was an honor to serve our country."

- Jim O'Neil

# New York City Hot Dog Night returns to the EAC on Aug. 28

By Pat Hayes

In August, the New York-New Jersey Club will host a return visit from "Chef Gene Amature."

For the low price of just \$10, we are having an old-fashioned New York-style block party featuring New York-style hot dogs boiled, like in hotdog carts.

All the regular fixings will be available, including beans, potato chips, cookies, coffee, hot chocolate, tea, water and ice.

DJ Frank Lebano, straight out of Brooklyn, will be here!

So get ready to meet and greet your neighbors. The party is on Wednesday, Aug. 28 at 5 p.m. in the East Activity Center Auditorium.

On Wednesday, Oct. 23 at 5 p.m., we will host Hawaiian Shirt Night in the Auditorium. Felice's Italian Catering will cater barbeque pulled pork, chicken fingers with dipping sauces, baked beans and macaroni and cheese, plus salad, bread and dessert.

We were able to get Les-n-More to provide entertainment for the evening. So bring your dancing shoes and \$25 for a ticket.

On Wednesday, Dec. 11, we will be hosting our annual Ugly Christmas Sweater Party. Felice's Italian Catering will cater ham, mashed sweet potatoes, ziti and meatballs, plus salad and bread.

As usual, we will provide dessert, hot chocolate, coffee, water, tea and ice.

Of course we will have a DJ and dancing! The cost will be \$25.

On Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025, we will have Dessert Night with singer Carla Hines. The event begins at 6 p.m. and the cost is \$10.

Carla is the lead vocalist for In Perspective Music. Her show focuses on the Motown sound and other great music from the '60s and '70s. We are pleased she has agreed to a repeat performance. The dessert is in the planning stages.

The New York-New Jersey Club is a year-round social club that believes in contributing to our community.

We are a social club open to all residents



In 2022, hot dog day took place at the Pavilion. This year it will be in the Auditorium.



New York - New Jersey Club

who are selling tickets all year long. During the summer, our information table will be active on Thursday mornings from 8-10 a.m. In the fall and spring we will be there on Mondays and Thursdays.

Come meet our dedicated volunteers Ray Willis, Laura Corel and Vicky Cicia.

We also thank the many volunteers who help put all our functions together. Because of their efforts, we can bring affordable, good times to our community. The whole idea is to have fun and meet new friends.

For example, at our recent "Sports Night," guests proudly wore clothing representing their favorite sports team. I think our fantastic DJs and our bring-your-favorite beverage policy contributes to the good times.

Our photographer, Mary Lou Wall, always captures great photos of the fun.

If you would like to volunteer to help out at events, please call Pat Hayes at 516-728-7883 or stop by our information table and speak to Laura, Vicky, Ray, Anne or myself.

of On Top of the World, regardless in what state or country you reside.

If you have a valid activity card and \$5, you qualify to be a member!

So come join us.

If you have never been a member and you join now, you will be paid for 2024 and

all of 2025.

For just \$5 - a bargain.

If you were previously a member and have not yet paid your 2024 dues, it's time to rejoin so you don't miss out on our spectacular upcoming events!

Many thanks to all of our volunteers



The Art Guild Artist of the Month display case has been relocated in the East Activity Center Auditorium. It now appears in a more convenient location next to the sound booth and in front of the Largo Room. Each month you will be able to see work from the Art Guild's Artist of the Month.

# If you've had a magical healing experience or experienced awe, please share at the next High Vibe Tribe meeting

By Laurie LeClaire

This is the month we share our reflections on events, practices and epiphanies that have inspired us over our lifetimes.

We all have had dark nights of the soul experiences which led us eventually into spiritual growth.

Many of us can remember a significant event which caused a course correction.

This month is a time to share the story and wisdom discovered in the process.

I encourage all to come with an intention to share a healing experience or a magical intervention, a synchronicity, a tool or practice which emerged to support your heart and soul.

For some of us, cancer, heart disease or addictions have brought us to our lowest point.

If you have angel stories, have traveled to vortex sites, or have had a sense of profound awe and wonder, this is your time to share.

Astrology, numerology, oracle cards, tarot cards, online YouTube videos that influenced your spiritual path are also potent tools which you might be willing to share.

Drum circles, sacred dance, Goddess circles, retreats or simple daily practices which you use that help you stay anchored are all examples to consider.

Sound healing with Tibetan bowls, crystal bowls, recorded high frequencies to distort all the 5G interferences coming from the myriad satellites and cell phones is another example.

Also, we can discuss ideas about future guests.

Jeremy McDonald, who runs metaphysical cruises and trips to vortex sites, is willing to come in the fall and I can share his website for those interested.

If anyone would like to go on a trip to Sarasota for Waxela Sananda's healing Alkywan light sphere chamber, we can discuss that, too.

I am looking forward to hearing your personal ideas.

The High Vibe Tribe meets monthly on the second Tuesday evening of each month from 7-9 p.m. in the Clearwater/Kitchen Room of the East Activity Center.

Any resident is welcome to come and bring a guest. It is a free club.

For any questions you may contact Laurie LeClaire at otowoowo@gmail.com or leave a message at 727 265 1671.



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# Sometimes our plans change - in November we will have a great time at the Cape or throw snowballs



By Tom Chalupka

Since I became president of the Travel Club last December, we have had extremely bad luck with the weather on numerous trips that I have scheduled.

The first event I scheduled was a Jolly Trolley ride to look at Christmas lights on Dec. 20 and it was a very cool evening with temperatures in the mid 50s. For Floridians, that was cold, especially if you are riding on an open trolley.

Our next trip was to Cape Canaveral for a Victory Casino cruise on Jan. 8 and it had to be rescheduled because of high winds and rough seas. However, it worked out for the best because we were able to view a rocket launch from the cape while on the boat that day.

Our club scheduled a cookout at the Pavilion on Jan. 31 and it was another cold afternoon in the 50s.

We did not escape the cold and windy weather on March 19 when we went on a Historical Boat Tour of Tampa. Forty-six of our brave members endured a two-hour cruise on the Hillsborough River in an open water taxi. Again, temperatures were in the 50s but, after thawing out, we did finish the afternoon with a fantastic lunch at the Columbia Restaurant.

In April and May things got even worse.

On April 11 we were scheduled to go to Clearwater Beach for the Pier 60 Sand Festival. Well, that didn't happen because of a tor-



Travel Club members went to BayCare Ballpark for a scheduled afternoon of fun, food and baseball, but rain brought out the tarp. Every once in a while, Mother Nature has other plans for the club.

nado warning in the area, so we went another day. On May 10 we were in Gainesville getting ready for a tour of the Kanapaha Botanical Gardens and guess what, we had thunderstorms and another tornado warning.

On May 15 we went to BayCare Ballpark for a baseball game with a two-hour buffet, and you will never guess what happened - the game got canceled because of rain.

The Clearwater Threshers have played more than 50 games so far this season and

the only game that got postponed was the game we attended.

Here is a heads up if you are making plans for the fall. Travel Club is going on an Island Sunset Cruise out of St. Pete Beach on Sept. 25 and another Victory Casino Cruise out of Cape Canaveral on Oct. 10.

I'm sure we will have beautiful, wonderful weather for these two events, but in case you believe in jinxes, you might want to reschedule your other events. It's almost guar-

anteed to rain or be cold!

From Nov. 19-20, we are going to the Kennedy Space Center. You are invited to join us. We will either have a wonderful time with beautiful weather, or we will pair into teams and have a snowball fight.

Either way it will be fun.

All joking aside, the Travel Club is planning many new adventures no matter what the Florida weather has in store for us.



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Amy Collins  
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Sunday, July 21  
Thomas Hall  
dramatic baritone

Sunday, July 28  
Susan Clelland  
concert pianist

# Republican Club members can learn about local candidates and upcoming meetings and coffee sessions

By Carl Turner

The Ronald Reagan Republican Club started off June with our free monthly educational coffee, donuts and learn session from 10:30-noon on June 5.

We hold this event the first Wednesday of each month in the East Activity Center Kitchen/Clearwater Room.

These monthly coffee sessions are especially interesting for conservative newcomers to learn the ins and outs of local, state and national politics and some of the people involved.

To learn more, the next monthly coffee meeting will be Aug. 7 at the same time and place as above. (We are skipping the July 3 date because of the July 4 holiday.)

On June 11, our club had its monthly meeting the second Tuesday of the month in the West Activity Center Belleaire Room from 6-8 p.m. We had a 45 minute meet and



greet, a 30 minutes business meeting and then a 45 minute speaker forum.

The first speaker was Keith Eshelman, who is a building liaison for his building. He shared information on how he contacted the

Republican voters in his building; emphasizing that it was easy and took very little time.

The second speaker was Danielle Marolf - candidate for Pinellas County School Board - District 1. She stated that the school board election is the day of the primary. She is a small business owner; starting her own private school due to the frustration she had with the public schools for her own children.

She recommends 1. Academic rigor to bring academic standards up higher than the current third grade reading score levels of only 59 percent. 2. Parental engagement for teaching accountability to children for their actions. 3. Safe schools: Disposing of books that are inappropriate (too explicit/graphic) for children. 4. Teach critical thinking. Give teachers the ability to discipline students. Hold them accountable for their actions. 5. Trades and internships: Promoting the idea

for students to consider going into a trade, as an option instead of going to college. Coordinate with local businesses to have students work as interns in their businesses.

The third speaker was Mark Phillips - executive leadership for Pinella County GOP.

He encouraged us to vote for Danielle Marolf and promotes liberty and freedom. He encouraged us to go out and meet people face to face, and to spread the word in a positive way. He is adamant regarding disposing of porn-type books for young children that are currently in our schools' and public libraries.

Next month's club meeting will be July 9 from 6-8 p.m. in the West Activity Center Belleaire Room and will feature Ed Hooper, who is our Florida Senator for District 21.

If there are any questions, please call Carl Turner at 443-624-9303 or email him at carlmarvinturner@gmail.com.

**2024 Fall Festival has been cancelled.**  
**For details, see page 8.**

## CASINO Night

Saturday, Sept. 7  
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# Ruthann Richwine is one reason why volunteers make our Democratic Club a strong unit

By Dave Beaven

A club is only as strong as its members and the On Top of the World Democratic Club has a number of members who hold our club together.

This month I would like to recognize club member Ruthann Richwine for her volunteer spirit.

Whether it has been phone banking or texting or sitting at our club information table or participating in club functions, Ruthann has pitched in and participated.

She hails from Indiana, which is considered a Republican-tilted state, but it just goes to prove that we Democrats are everywhere, even here in OTOW.

So, thank you Ruthann for being the caring person you are.

As you know, we are in an election year. It's hard to escape from all the ads on the internet and the news on TV. We have been hosting candidates running for office and getting to know their qualifications straight from the individuals.

Last month, Mark Weinkrantz was our guest speaker. He is running in the Aug. 20 primary to be our District 13 congressional representative.

In July, we will schedule another prima-



ry candidate. We certainly appreciate these folks who are stepping forward to serve us in government.

The Democratic Club meets every second Thursday of the month at 2 p.m. in the West Activity Center Learning Lab. This month will be July 11.

If you are looking for like-minded OTOW residents, check us out. We like to talk about politics. We even have a monthly happy hour to hash out the country's problems amongst ourselves.

Find out more about us at our official webpage: [worlddemclub.blogspot.com](http://worlddemclub.blogspot.com). Or call Dave Beaven at 727-410-7566.



Congressional candidate Mark Weinkrantz and Democratic Club President Dave Beaven.



## Next R4R meeting set for July 16

By Hope Tera

On June 18 (third Tuesday of the month), the Resident4Residents Club (R4R) held its monthly meeting, at 6:30 p.m. in the West Activity Center Belleair Room.

There was a good turnout and residents had an opportunity to share their questions, concerns and issues they'd like to see addressed.

The open forum, round-table format worked well.

Our next meeting is set for Tuesday, July 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the West Activity Center Belleair Room. We encourage all residents to come hear from your neighbors and share your thoughts



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# It helps to have the most chips when the tournament is over

By Joe DeChiaro

The Texas Card Game Club held a tournament in May and it attracted 18 players.

Newcomer's John and Dinah Isabel finished in the prize pool the last two tournaments. This proves even new players can win.

During the May tournament, it was agreed by the three final players that Arthur Pacillo would be declared the winner. With time running out, Arthur had the most chips.

The next three tournaments will be held on Friday, July 19, Friday, Aug. 30 and Friday, Sept. 27 at 6 p.m. in the East Activity Center Kitchen/Clearwater Room.

Please show up 15 minutes before start time if interested or send an email to joegdechiaro@yahoo.com for more information.



At the finals table in May were Dinah Isabel, John Isabel and Arthur Pacillo. Who won? Count the chips.



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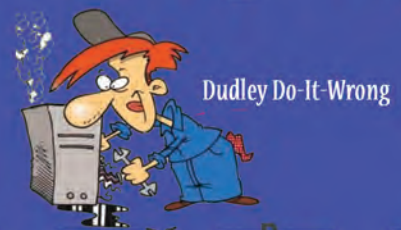
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# If you can describe yourself as zany, you may be a good fit on the 2024-25 Jesters



By Valerie Martin  
 We jest for joy, we jest for fun, and we know how to get it done. We are the Jesters. Why not be one, too?

As you can see in the photo, our zany creative team is hard at work putting together our 2025 comedy variety show. Looks like it's going to be a zinger. Lots of acts, routines and skits to keep the chuckles coming. Got some ideas?

We are all ears.

You, too, can help your families, friends and neighbors enjoy an On Top of the World tradition with a special evening of Jesters entertainment.

Please join us for the fun and joy that comes from giving others some real belly laughs when they need them most. Be a member of the "powerhouse of fun."

If you have a desire to be on stage or work behind the scenes, we are happy to hear of your interests and talents.



The creative team consists of, bottom row, left to right, Cheryl Pollack, Valerie Martin and Robin La-Chance. On top are Joleen Clemmer, Michelle Fournier, Robyn Kumar and Rodger Hillier.

Please email me, Valerie Martin, at [vmart0027@gmail.com](mailto:vmart0027@gmail.com) or call Director Robyn Kumar at 516-662-9640.

You may visit us at a future information

table in the East Activity Center some upcoming Thursday. Look for us.

We have meetings, socials and parties to keep all members involved and to keep them en-

joying the wonderful vibe that fuels our efforts.

Many wonderful friendships blossom in the Jesters. Be a part of our group jest for fun.

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| THE BRITISH INVASION (CONCERT)   | Nov. 2nd             |
| THE WIZARD OF OZ                 | Dec. 5th - 22nd      |
| THE LADIES OF THE CAMELLIAS      | Jan. 9th - 19th      |
| THE OSCAR WINNERS (CONCERT)      | Jan. 25th            |
| MAN OF LA MANCHA                 | Feb. 13th - Mar. 2nd |
| THE SUNSHINE BOYS                | Apr. 3rd - 13th      |
| COLE PORTER'S BROADWAY (CONCERT) | Apr. 19th            |
| KISS ME, KATE                    | May 1st - 18th       |

**Tickets are on sale now!**

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[FrancisWilsonPlayhouse.org](http://FrancisWilsonPlayhouse.org) / (727) 446-1360

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# Around the Bay

Clearwater Area Entertainment  
By Mike Wood



## Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young family & friends perform live July 19

The bay area July music scene is providing us with great shows all around the area, even though most of the live theater venues are taking the month off.

Alternative rock concerts at The Sound, a Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young show at the Capitol Theater, John Lodge (Moody Blues), Missy Elliott and Morgan Wallen headline the concert scene.

You won't want to miss the live theatrical performance of The Rocky Horror Show at the Straz!

And for those of you who will be enjoying time with your families, the Zubrick Magic Theater has just what you need for a perfect family night out together.

Remember to look for the **\*Must See\*** pick performances and shows!

For more information on these and other live music and theater concerts and shows around the bay, keep reading!

### Ruth Eckerd Hall Venues

With all of the shows put on at Ruth Eckerd Hall venues, the following are some of the highlights.

All tickets and information for the following venues are available through their website: [www.rutheckerdhall.com](http://www.rutheckerdhall.com).

### The BayCare Sound at Coachman Park 301 Drew St, Clearwater (Note the new name)

July 6

20 Years of Tears Tour – Huge lineup of Alternative rock bands in a one-day extravaganza starting at 5:30 p.m. and running well into the night!

July 27

Sad Summer Fest - featuring nine top pop punk, alternative rock and emo pop rock bands. This all-day event starts at 1 p.m.

July 31

Lindsey Stirling with special guest Walk Off the Earth – YouTube sensation performs many of her world-renowned, violin-showcased dance hits live!

### The Nancy & David Bilheimer Capitol Theater

405 Cleveland St, Clearwater

July 6

Live Today Love Tomorrow Tour MMXXIV featuring The Alarm, Jay Aston's Gene Loves Jezebel and Belouis Some – great British Rock-and-Roll show.

July 9

John Lodge – The Moody Blues bass guitarist and songwriter performs Moody Blues classics!

**\* July 19**

Our House: The Music of Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young – CSNY family and friends

perform some of their classic hits live! **\*Must See\***

### Ruth Eckerd Hall 1111 McMullen Booth Road Clearwater

Ruth Eckerd Hall is taking July off. Come back next month for a great lineup of concerts, highlighted by The Australian Pink Floyd Show!

### Other Venues around the Pinellas County side of Tampa Bay

#### Francis Wilson Playhouse 302 Seminole St, Clearwater

Francis Wilson Playhouse is taking the month of July off. Come back next month for what will hopefully be their August unveiling of their 95th season lineup!

Tickets and showtimes are available on their website at [www.franciswilsonplayhouse.org](http://www.franciswilsonplayhouse.org).

#### freefall Theater

6099 Central Ave, St. Petersburg

The freefall Theater has no shows listed for July. We'll keep you posted next month with information on their August - September show Fable!

Dates, showtimes and tickets available on their website: [www.freefalltheater.com](http://www.freefalltheater.com).

#### West Coast Players

21905 US Hwy 19 N, Clearwater

What seems to be a common happening in live theater around the bay, the West Coast Players are also taking July off. Stay tuned for information on their 2024-2025 season that we'll bring to you as soon as it is posted.

Tickets are available on their website: [www.wcplayers.com](http://www.wcplayers.com).

#### Palladium Theater

253 5th Ave N, St. Petersburg

Six great shows highlight the July lineup at the Palladium Theater. Shows and bands include Faithfully Rocks the Palladium, Boogie Woogie Blues Piano Stomp and Al Downing Honors – Concert and Celebration.

Visit their website [www.mypalladium.org](http://www.mypalladium.org) for show dates, times and tickets.

#### St. Petersburg City Theater, 4025 31st St S, St. Petersburg

The St. Petersburg City Theater will return in August with a great lineup of shows for their 2024-2025 season.

Visit their website for dates, showtimes and tickets: [www.spcitytheater.org](http://www.spcitytheater.org).

### Central Park Performing Arts Center 105 Central Park Dr, Largo

The Central Park Performing Arts Center has three great shows this month, featuring Deana Carter, Comedian Jen Kober and Larry Carlton.

For tickets and showtimes, visit their website [www.largoarts.com](http://www.largoarts.com).

### Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center 4951 78th Ave. North, Pinellas Park July 21

Down South Ultimate Country Dance Party – a great evening of dancing, drinks and munchies for all country music lovers!

Visit their website for a full list of all the Pinellas Park shows, showtimes and tickets at [www.pinellas-park.com/1772/Performing-Arts-Center.com](http://www.pinellas-park.com/1772/Performing-Arts-Center.com).

#### Zubrick Magic Theater

1211 1st Ave N Suite 101

St. Petersburg

**\*Must See Family-style magic shows every Thursday through Sunday, starting July 15.\***

All Friday and Saturday shows start at 7 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

Editor's note: I recently heard from some residents who advised me that this is a fantastic, family friendly, must-see show! Therefore, I'm keeping it on my list of **\*Must See\*** shows, especially if you have family coming to visit over the summer!

Zubrick Magic Theater is now also an advertiser in this newspaper!

Tickets available on their website [www.zubrickmagic.com](http://www.zubrickmagic.com).

#### Early Bird Dinner Theater

13355 49th St N, Clearwater

Early Bird Dinner Theater shows will return in September with the premier of The Second-to-Last Chance Ladies League. at 11: a.m. and 4 p.m. Shows are Thursdays through Sundays.

All performances include lunch or dinner and a show.

Tickets are available on their website, [www.earlybirddinnertheater.com](http://www.earlybirddinnertheater.com).

#### Dunedin Showcase Theater

1920 Pinehurst Rd, Dunedin

The Dunedin Showcase Theater will be back in the fall with their 2024-2025 lineup of great shows.

Dates, showtimes and tickets are available through their website at [www.dunedinshowcasetheater.net](http://www.dunedinshowcasetheater.net).

#### The Mahaffey Theater

Duke Energy Center for the Arts

400 1st Street South, St. Petersburg

Comedy shows and youth summer

campus highlight the lineup at the Mahaffey Theater in July.

Show dates, times and tickets are available on their website, [www.themahaffey.com/shows-and-events](http://www.themahaffey.com/shows-and-events).

### Fantastic Venues Across the Bay

#### The Straz Center

1010 N Macinnes Pl, Tampa

**\* July 17 – 28 (Thursdays – Sundays only), The Rocky Horror Show – a great chance to see this iconic show live!**

Relive the music and antics of Dr. Frank-N-Furter, Rocky, Riff Raff, Janet, Brad and the rest of this amazing cast with this **\*Must See\*** live performance!

#### July 18-21

Shrek The Musical, Jr. – a fun musical for the entire family!

Dates, showtimes and tickets are available on their website at [www.strazcenter.org](http://www.strazcenter.org) for these venues: Jaeb Theater, Shimberg Playhouse, TECO Theater, Morsani Hall and Riverwalk Stage.

#### Amalie Arena

401 Channelside Dr, Tampa

July 24

Missy Elliott with Busta Rhymes, Ciara and Timbaland – Enjoy this “avant-garde solo superstar” as she performs many of the Grammy Award winning songs from her six Recording Industry Artists Association platinum certified albums.

The full listing of shows and tickets are available through the Amalie Arena website, [www.amaliearena.com](http://www.amaliearena.com).

#### Raymond James Stadium

4201 N Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa

July 12

Morgan Wallen, One Night at a Time 2024 Tour – Country Music superstar performs his biggest hits. Guest appearances by Jelly Roll, Nate Smith and Bryan Martin.

Concert and parking tickets available on the website, [www.raymondjamesstadium.com](http://www.raymondjamesstadium.com).

Even though most of the live theater venues are taking the month off, you can see that there are still plenty of great performances in July “Around the Bay!” Come back next month for more fantastic live music and theater show announcements!

*(This column is provided to On Top of the World residents as a source of community entertainment. All information was obtained off the Internet. No business in this column paid to have their information provided.)*

## Fourth of July is an historic day for great shows and music

By Robin Scent

Happy birthday America!

As a kid, I always felt the Fourth of July marked the unofficial halfway point of summer and was the release date of some of Hollywood's best Americana movies.

Blockbusters like “Independence Day” and “Back to the Future,” the chick flick “A League of Their Own,” the comedic “Coming to America” and the docudrama “Apollo 13” all opened on Fourth of July weekends.

While Broadway shows historically open in spring or fall, there are plenty of patriotic playbills.

Since 2015, “Hamilton,” Lin-Manuel Miranda's musical masterpiece about the life of Founding Father Alexander Hamilton,



has left folks longing to be “in the room where it happened.”

In 1969 it was Sherman Edwards and Peter Stone's “1776,” the suspenseful story of the days leading up to the signing or not signing of the Declaration of Independence.

But by far Broadway's most prolific patriot is the incomparable George M. Cohan.

From 1904 to 1920, George and his friend, Sam H. Harris, created more than 50 musicals, plays and revues. Once they had five shows running simultaneously on the Great White Way! The first of which, “Little Johnny Jones,” gave us the classics “Give My Regards to Broadway” and “Yankee Doodle Dandy.”

George also wrote or co-wrote more than 500 songs including the toe-tapping “You're A Grand Old Flag” and the fight song of World War I, “Over There.”

George's life was also the inspiration for the 1942 film “Yankee Doodle Dandy” and the 1968 musical “George M!” starring Joel Grey.

In 1940, George became the first person in any artistic field to receive this honor. So

as we “raise a glass to freedom” to celebrate our great country's 248th birthday, we remember not only our Founding Fathers, but also those who immortalized them in shows and songs.

The next Theater Workshop meeting will be Wednesday, July 3, at 6:30 p.m. followed by an open mike celebrating America. Our own Mr. Fun, Bill Hauser, will be looking for anyone to help with a star-spangled sing-along and members also can feel free to present patriotic prose or Yankee Doodle dancing!

New members are always welcome and all members should mark their calendars for our annual picnic under the pavilion on Sept. 4.

# Lambda Club started with an idea and is going strong 15 years later with 45 members

By Earl Ballance

Did you hear the joke about the bakery that started up the same time as the Lambda Club? They needed 15 years to rise to the occasion, but Lambda Club managed to rise without any doughnuts.

This month, Lambda Club celebrates its 15th anniversary at On Top of the World under the leadership of David Beaven.

Fifteen years ago David had a brilliant idea. Why not bring like-minded folks from the LGBTQ community at OTOW together for some good old-fashioned fun and camaraderie.

And just like that, Lambda Club was born.

David moved here from Maryland back in the '80s and settled into the Tampa area.

His mom moved to OTOW for her last five years and David moved in with her as her caregiver. David stayed because he liked the place.

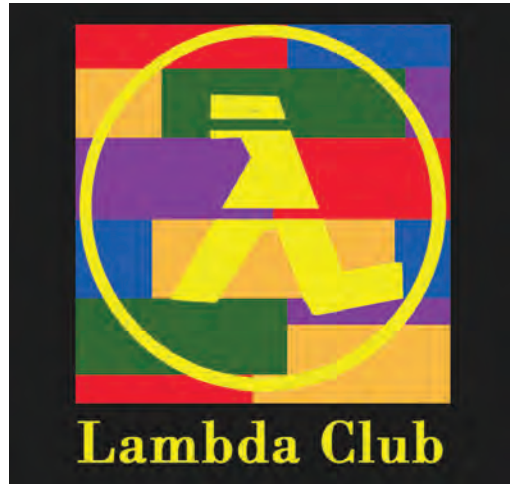
David said, "In the beginning, the club started with nine people." He explained that the first gatherings were at local restaurants or socializing at cocktail parties at different homes. Now there are 45 active members, however, it's been noted the gatherings have swelled well above that number lately.

Lambda Club is just one of the organizations David is involved with. He remains active with Neighborhood Watch, the Good Karma Book Club, the Philosophy Club, the Coloring Book Club and is currently the president of the Democratic Club.

Of the many activities Lambda Club offers its members is a monthly potluck social that is theme based. The next one is Friday, July 19 at 6 p.m. in the Oldsmar Room. You haven't experienced culinary delight until you've devoured a Cinco de Mayo potluck feast.

Hope no one is allergic to tacos.

At the monthly book club nights, members choose different books every month and gather for lively discussion. It's amazing



to see our diverse taste in literature.

June's book selection was Fried Green Tomatoes by Fannie Flagg. I am sure the discussion group had a lot of juicy details to "ketchup" on. July's book choice will be Naked by David Sedaris. The discussion will take place July 25.

For the sports enthusiasts, there's Lambda's Monday meetups at the golf course, weather permitted, or the Wednesday walking tours exploring different neighborhoods, parks or malls.

David tells his group that if they get lost, just say they're taking the scenic tour.

Lambda Chat is on the first and third Fridays at 10:30 a.m. in the East Activity Center Safety Harbor Room.

On Fridays at 5 p.m. are Lambda Zoom calls.

And let's not forget to mention those occasional game nights at the East Activity Center, last minute pool parties, and yes, all those in-home gatherings that believe they don't need a reason to get together.

Lambda Club indeed has an abundance of activities.

David puts out a weekly newsletter to its Lambda Club members. It not only re-



David Beaven and Jack Kilgen

minds everyone of upcoming events, but also provides a monthly calendar and posts birthday reminders with pictures and contact information of the members. No one is left out, which fosters a sense of closeness in the community.

Lambda Club members cannot express enough gratitude for David and Jack Kilgen, his husband, for their commitment to Lambda Club. Making OTOW more than just a place to live, we promote a vibrant community where laughter is echoed, hearts are connected and memories are made.

It's not too early to start planning for the upcoming Lambda cruise on the Oasis of the Seas scheduled for April 2025. It leaves from Ft. Lauderdale to Aruba, Curacao, Coco Bay

and Bahamas. This cruise is guaranteed to find the ultimate treasures - unlimited buffets and beautiful beaches!

For more cruise information, contact Marcel L'Heritier at Mlhert57@gmail.com.

Interested in joining the open discussion Book Club Event? Contact Bill Raymond at braymond3@gmail.com or call Bill at (727)599-8317.

Need more information about Lambda? Go to our official webpage at <http://lambdaclarwater.blogspot.com>.

You can also check us out on the Box Office ([otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com)) or call Lambda Club President Dave Beaven at (727) 410-7566.



Before a bullfight in Spain, people read OTOW News. You can too! Just visit [otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com)



In early spring, the Gentle Movement Exercise Class held a session in the Auditorium and it was a big hit.

# Gentle Movement Exercise Class will be moving into the Auditorium for more space

When is change good news?  
 Check out the picture above. Do you recognize the location?  
 These happy Gentle Movement Exercise Class students are waving to you from the East Activity Center Auditorium because their classes will now be held in this bright and spacious room.  
 Yes, this is a good room change.  
 Are you struggling with balance issues?  
 Are you recovering from or coping with hip, knee or foot issues?  
 Are you arthritic?  
 Have you had a stroke and need to regain mobility?  
 Do you have multiple sclerosis or Parkinson's disease?



Do you have neuropathy?  
 Are you less active and feeling more isolated?  
 Have you stopped going to activities because they're too fast or too demanding?  
 Then this slow, methodical and total

body chair exercise program might be perfect for you.

This one hour chair exercise program is brought to you by the Moving 'n Grooving Club and is taught by Margaret LeTourneau. It is held every Tuesday at 11 a.m. and every Friday at 3 p.m. in the East Activity Center Auditorium.

Margaret has also changed her line dance times which are held in the auditorium.

On Tuesday she will teach line dancing from 8:30-10:45 a.m. and on Friday from 12:30-2:45 p.m.

The first half hour of line dance will be for level one. Then levels 2, 3 and 4 will be presented throughout the rest of the line dance time.

If you have any questions, please email [movingandgroovingotow@gmail.com](mailto:movingandgroovingotow@gmail.com).

Remember, "Movement is Medicine!"

**Tuesday**

Line dance level one ... 8:30-9:00 a.m.  
 Line dance levels 2, 3, 4 ... 9-10:45 a.m.  
 Gentle Movement Exercise ... 11 a.m.

**Friday**

Line dance level one ... 12:30-1:00  
 Line dance levels 2, 3, 4 ... 1-2:45 p.m.  
 Gentle Movement Exercise ... 3 p.m.

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 July 20th at 10 AM: Supervisor of Elections Julie Markus - Largo office  
 August 24th at 10 AM: "Identity Protection" - Dunedin office.

**MEET AND GREETs**  
 Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30 am, 1 pm and 3 pm - Largo office  
 Fridays, 11 am and 1 pm - Dunedin office

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# Before summer officially began, Baby Boomers attended two events together before traveling off



By Dianne Dvorak

Eighteen members attending a Baby Boomers meeting in the summer is very big news.

And it must have been the hot dogs and game night after the meeting that brought them to a party at the East Activity Center Kitchen on June 5!

Linda Shane was the lead on setting up for the party with Marielenga Fraga, Gloria Agosto and Gina Burke procuring and prepping the hot dogs and supplies with Johnny Geanakos providing the condiments.

Valerie Martin brought music and games and Nancy Dunn led a group of four through a new game called Azul.

Thanks to all who volunteered and came out to what is usually a very slow time for the Baby Boomers meetings!

Would have loved to have seen you all in a picture, but you must have been having such a fun time, no one thought about it. That happens so often.

This past spring, several of the Baby Boomers enjoyed listening to the Yacht Rock show in our East Activity Center Auditorium. We love to support our amazing Enter-



Members of the Baby Boomers group recently attended the Yacht Rock music show sponsored by the Entertainment Committee. It was only appropriate to wear ship captain hats.

tainment Committee which brings us great shows and tribute bands. Yacht Rock was one of three shows we attended as a group this year. Now you know why we are all wearing captain hats in the picture above!

Several of us were either Snowbirds or

Sunbirds, so it was our final fun outing at OTOW until our fall return.

Good times are precious.

Friendship and smiles are priceless.

To many of us, our friends at OTOW have become our family. Come join us for

an opportunity for camaraderie and fun and to meet new folks at a Baby Boomers meeting 5:30 p.m. the first Wednesday and third Thursday of the month in the Largo Room. We are a meet up sorta group with no officers or dues.



## Cardio Dance & Cardio Dance Light

**Cardio Dance**  
Mondays & Wednesdays 11 am - 12 pm  
Saturdays 9 am - 10 am

**Cardio Dance Light**  
Mondays & Wednesdays 12:15 pm - 1:15 pm  
Saturdays 10:15 am - 11:15 am



Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes, and bring a refreshing drink.  
Must have a valid activity card.

Cardio Dance is an intense, heart-healthy workout. Cardio Light is for individuals who want a less intense class.  
Cardio Dance is free with membership to the Moving 'n Grooving Club. We meet in the EAC Exercise Room.



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## On Top of the World Line Dance Club

*The original line dance club.  
A little more traditional.*



**Line Dance with us in the EAC Auditorium  
Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m.**

**Practice, Socializing, Fun in the EAC Exercise Room  
7-8 am, Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays.**

Do you want to participate in a club that offers you physical and mental exercise as well as fun and socialization? If your answer is yes, you need to be line dancing! There are no dues. It is free! Contact Leila Walker at 443-845-7842 for additional information.

**We hope to see you on the dance floor!**





## OTOW MOVING 'N GROOVING DANCE CRUISE

DATES: 2/8/2025 - 2/15/2025    ITINERARY: Port Canaveral to Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic | St. Thomas, Virgin Islands | Tortola, British Virgin Islands | and Great Stirrup Cay, Bahamas

SHIP: Norwegian Epic

**RATES\***

Prices are listed PER PERSON, based on 2-person occupancy and include cruise fare, taxes, and port charges. The do not include gratuities or insurance.

Mini-Suite starting at: \$1310.54/person  
Balcony starting at: \$1148.54/person  
Interior starting at: \$837.99/person

**PERK ADD-ONS**  
(2 for Interior, 4 for Balcony or higher)

**Beverage Package:** \$152.60/person service charge  
**Dining Package:** \$19.80/person service charge for 2 meals balcony or mini-suite; \$11.80/person service charge for 1 meal interior.  
**150 Wi-Fi Minutes:** Complimentary  
**\$50 Per Port Excursion Credit:** Complimentary

**UPGRADES (AFTER PERK ADD-ON)**

**Premium Beverage:** \$243.60/person (bottled water, Starbucks, and premium liquor)  
**Premium Dining:** \$82.70/person (3 meals per person instead of 1)  
**Premium Wi-Fi:** \$279.93/person (unlimited call, text, Facebook, and FaceTime - no streaming)

**OPTIONAL ADD-ONS**

**Pre-Paid Gratuities:** \$140/person  
**Travel Insurance:** \$109 - \$199/person




To book, please contact Goulds Travel by submitting a registration form at: [www.gouldstravel.com/otow](http://www.gouldstravel.com/otow) and a travel specialist will be in touch within 48 business hours. \*Please note, special group rates are subject to change based on availability. If you prefer to meet in-person, Goulds Travel does have office hours By Appointment Only. We look forward to chatting with you soon!!



## BROADWAY Bound

10:30 am to 12 pm SUNDAYS

EAC Auditorium





# SPORTS

## A true Fourth of July celebration

By Barney Hanrahan

It gives me immense pleasure to introduce you to one of my favorite members of On Top of the World Men's Golf League - a member since 2001.

Phil Smerz.

Phil married my sister, Donna, on Nov. 30, 1968. They are parents to four children, and are grandparents and great grandparents.

Phil is one of those true heroes we never hear about in our OTOW family.

Phil was born in Chicago, went to Mendel High School and in 1964 enlisted in the Army during the height of the Vietnam War. He served from 1964 to 1967.

He joined the 82nd Airborne Division and was stationed in a combat zone in the Dominican Republic for 15 months and was later transferred to Vietnam to the First Cavalry Division as an Airborne Ranger. His duty was working long range reconnaissance patrol.

While there, Phil made 79 parachute jumps.

Phil received two Purple Hearts and endured three separate bouts of malaria which he still suffers from today.

After leaving the Army, Phil began his career with Grinnell Fire Protection as a specialist in sprinkler protection ranging from businesses to airport fire prevention.

His specialty helped him expand and eventually he took over multi-state management on behalf of Grinnell.

Phil retired in October 2001 and he and Donna moved to On Top of the World.

While living at OTOW, Phil participated in all sorts of activities, especially golf. He served as president of the league in 2007 and continued multiple functions to support the league.

Donna has been active in Women's Golf since moving to OTOW.

Anyone who has ever-played golf at OTOW knows Phil, a remarkable friend.

His amazing commitment to life was challenged in November 2021 during the COVID crisis when he was transported to the hospital. Donna was actually told to start planning for the obvious.

But Phil wasn't done.

He resisted the disease and fought to reclaim life. He was treated from November



### MEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION

2021 to February 2022.

Phil is registered as a long term COVID survivor of which there are regrettably few.

For a bonus, several months ago, Phil was honored by Honor Flight of Western Central Florida.

You won't get a long conversation from Phil if asked about his past or recent illness, but there is not a golfer that doesn't consider him a friend. Trust me, this is an article I wanted to write a long time ago, but found it difficult to get Phil to approve.

From Vietnam to COVID to now ... and he still laughs with all of us as if nothing seems out of place.

I am truly honored to call him my brother.

For those who ask, Phil is doing fine. Happy Fourth of July!

#### GOLF RESULTS

**May 22**

**Flight A**

Top scores: Nilson Sabadin, 61, Mike Crittendon, 64, George Mead, 65, Bob Beals, 65, Mike Schuyler, 66.

**Flight B**

Top scores: Ronald Huber, 60, Kevin Murphy, 62, Tim Finan, 62, Dermot Keane, 64, David Saccone, 65.

**Flight C**

Top scores: Joe Johnson, 58, Henry Rej-



Donna and Phil Smerz

man, 60, Tim Palmquist, 62, Roger Amundson, 63, Sal Vasapolle, 63.

**Flight D**

Top scores: Jim Mutschler, 59, Paul Seggelin, 64, Jim Cadwell, 65, Joe Ventimiglia, 65, Les Meneilly, 72.

**May 29**

**Flight A**

Top scores: Jim Anzalone, 65, Mike Schuyler, 65, Bill Haener, 66, Nilson Sabadin, 67, Mike Crittendon, 67.

**Flight B**

Top scores: Jere Keiser, 60, David Saccone, 63, Ronald Huber, 65, Jerry Jordan, 65, Dermot Keane, 66.

**Flight C**

Top scores: Jim Valloro, 60, Marc Schell, 61, Jack Gow, 63, Harry Crawford, 65, Joe Johnson, 65.

**Flight D**

Top scores: Jay Laracunte, 63, Joe Ventimiglia, 65, Jim Caldwell, 66, Jim Mutschler, 70.

**June 12**

**Flight A**

Top scores: Jay Schwallie, 63, Nilson Sabadin, 63, David Johnson, 66, Jerry Fugatt, 68, Bill Haener, 68.

**Flight B**

Top scores: Bob Beals, 62, Stanley Doran, 63, Roger Amundson, 63, Ronal Huber, 64, Mike Schuyler, 65.

**Flight C**

Top scores: Jim Caldwell, 65, Dermot Keane, 65, Harry Crawford, 66, Guy Bertuzzi, 67, Jack Drewiega, 69.

**Flight D**

Top scores: Jay Laracunte, 65, Jim Mutschler, 66, Bob Ellis, 73.

## If you want to try out the nine-hole league before next season, just show up on any Tuesday morning



By Paula Ergang

Another year in the books.

The On Top of the World Ladies 9-Hole Golf League is on their summer break.

Our last league play was in May. Now the only play on Tuesdays is for whoever comes out at 8:15 a.m. to keep up with their game.

Traditionally, our season ran from October to March, ending with our awards banquet in April. That meant April and May were the start of the new season before the summer break.

That schedule started to be confusing so we made a change. Members voted to have the season begin in October and end in May.

Now that we're on our break, let's look back on our 2023-24 season.

We were happy to welcome 11 new members.

How can we forget when Sheryl Barbin



Pat Holland, Carole Whynot, Marge Sivek, Theresa Gates and Sue Beals tied in our spring Jackpot Play event.

had three birdies in one round?

Then there was the day Anne Jarvis shot a par 33.

A special cake was shared when Marge Sivek celebrated her "80-something" birthday.

Tournament winners were announced at the spring luncheon.

Our Jackpot play tournament in April ended in a five-way tie and a putt off.

And, of course, there was the morning

when one nameless member was so intent on renting a cart that she forgot to put her clubs on it until we were heading out on the course!

As you can see, we do more than just golf. We have fun and develop friendships.

If you're interested in the league, come out on Tuesdays at 8:15 a.m. to meet some of the year-round golfers. Then you'll be ready to join in October. Or you can call Car-

roll Harris at 432-528-8684 for information.

Enjoy your summer no matter where you're spending it. Watch the OTOW newspaper in September for our starting date.

Now for the last of the scores until October.

**May 7 Low Gross/Low Net**

Flight A: Sue Beals 43, Anne Jarvis 45, Flight B: Geri McIntosh 37, Ann Stewart 40, Flight C: Celeste Pert 40, Marge Sivek 41, Carole Whynot 43, Flight D: Ava Ciolli 49.

Birdies: Sheri Blaa, Sue Beals, Joan Yorkery and Anne Jarvis hole No 2, Celeste Pert No. 5.

Chip In: Geri McIntosh on hole No. 2.

**May 14: Low Gross/Low Net**

Flight A: Sue Beals 40, Marilyn Lisbon 40, Shirley Johnson 46, Flight B: Geri McIntosh 41, Joan Yorkery 41, Sheryl Barbin 43, Flight C: Celeste Pert 46, Marge Sivek 48, Carole Whynot 48, Carolyn Lust 50, Flight D: Sarah Fergas 53 and Ava Ciolli 58.

Birdies: Geri McIntosh and Joan Yorkery on hole No. 2, Anne Jarvis No. 8.

**May 21: Low Gross/Low Net**

Flight A: Anne Jarvis 38, Barbara Moon 39, Flight B: Ann Stewart 46, Joan Yorkery 47, Flight C: Carroll Harris 48, Mary Ann O'Neil 51, Carole Whynot 49, Flight D: Sarah Fergas 53, Ava Ciolli 55.

Birdies: Anne Jarvis on hole No. 2.



# SPORTS

## Quiches for French Open - Yorkshire Pudding for Wimbledon?

By Marie Clodge Valdes

At the end of May, some of the On Top of the World Tennis Club membership gathered for a potluck luncheon to celebrate the famous French Open Tennis Tournament.

Tennis play was followed by a social in the Pavilion with an amazing selection of French foods, desserts and beverages. There was a variety of quiches, nicoise salad, croissants, macaroons and many other delicious treats enjoyed by the group.

Before our potluck ended, the group decided to take a photo presenting their new Tennis Club banner. We were happy to celebrate this event before our remaining Snowbirds returned home for the summer.

On July 13, we will be celebrating the famous Wimbledon Tennis Tournament. This will be our second annual mini-tournament day, followed by a social with prizes for all and awards for the winning doubles team.

This year, our club has been listening to our membership and planning more events and socials to bring everyone together and to have lots of fun!

We welcome all levels of players, and if you would like to have some fun, think about joining us.

Our tennis schedule hours are as follows:

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 7-10 a.m.; Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.; and Sundays, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

We invite you to join us on the tennis courts!



Tennis Club members display their new banner for the first time. Look for it in the Irish Club parade as this group will march for the first time next spring.

## Summer season has started in Friday Mixed League

By Sheryl Barbin

Now that the Friday Mixed Golf League championship season has ended, the second season has started and will continue during the summer.

Here are the results from play on Friday, May 31.

We had 30 players on a hot, windy Florida day and we played in 3 1/2 hours. First Place went to Fred Schick with a plus-7, second place went to Mike Dieterich with a plus-5, third place went to Ken Smith with a plus-4, fourth place went to David

Saccone with a plus-3 and fifth place went to Len Howell with a plus-2.

Ties were broken by a match of cards.

Closest-to-the-pin on hole Nos. 3 and 16 went to Harry Barbin, hole No. 5 Art Reilly, hole No. 6 David Saccone, hole No. 9 Deb Young, hole No. 13 Dan Hyden and hole No. 15 Don Hill.

Skins were awarded on hole No. 7 to Peyton Grogan, hole No. 8 to Jim Stewart, hole No. 10 to Rick Muchler, hole No. 13

to Jerry Fugatt and hole No. 18 to Bruce MacPherson (eagle).

Low gross went to Harry Barbin and David Saccone for a score of 69 - 32 points. Nice round Harry and David!

Remember to sign up by Wednesday at 6 p.m. for Friday's play. Friday sign in is between 8:30-8:45 a.m. for a 9 a.m. shotgun start.

For more information on our league, please contact Harry Barbin at 215-514-1280 or email him at [harrybarbin1@gmail.com](mailto:harrybarbin1@gmail.com).

Here are some helpful tips for faster play.

1. Hit when you are ready.
2. Sign up deadline is 6 p.m. on Wednesdays.
3. Feel free to assist others in your group.
4. Plan your next shot before you get to your ball.
5. Be ready. Putt when it is your turn.
6. Don't leave your clubs on the green.
7. After a double bogey, pick up your ball.

## Friday Mixed



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# SPORTS

## After 44 years without ping pong, Oscar Kanter appreciates On Top of the World and its Ping Pong Club



Oscar Kanter

By Karen French

The Ping Pong Club continues to have a fabulous time Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Belleaire Room of the West Activity Center.

We play oldies and goodies music from our phones through speakers and guess the tune and singer.

We are thankful to have snacks, including cookies, coffee, candy, donuts and other miscellaneous treats of the day.

Call Karen French at 907-229-2648 for more information.

Thank you Oscar Kanter for being the fabulous treasurer for the Ping Pong Club for four years. We appreciate all you do for us in keeping track of dues and expenses.

Oscar was born in Brooklyn and later became a systems programmer and analyst for the IBM mainframes (that was a while ago!). As of July, he will be married to his phenomenal wife, Barbara, for 58 years.

How did they meet, you ask?

They met on a blind date and have hit it off together ever since. They have two children. Michael lives in Oklahoma and Charlotte lives in North Carolina.

Two grandchildren round out the family. Oscar is very much into DooWop! We listen to these older songs every time we get together for ping pong. Oscar played ping

pong when living in Palm Beach, setting up a ping pong table in the garage and playing with friends. He then moved to Oklahoma and didn't play ping pong for 44 years. He is

thrilled to be living in On top of the World for 10 years and enjoys ping pong with other like minded pongers again. Come challenge Oscar, one of the best players in our club.



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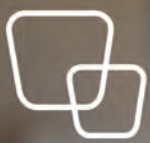


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# COMMUNITY REPORTS



## New tradition continues ... Taps heard throughout On Top of the World community



On May 27, On Top of the World neighbors visited the Nagoya building where flags lined the street and a Taps Across America tribute was taking place.

Laurie LeClaire trumpeted "Taps" that resonated across the golf course. She joined a solemn, million-mile chain of buglers who played simultaneously nationwide.

Neighbors paused "to remember all men and women who served honorably and those who made the ultimate sacrifice to our nation."

The time, 3 p.m., was first proclaimed in May 2000 as the national moment to pause and remember. It was put into law by the United States Congress in December 2000.

Our OTOW gathering sang "God Bless America" together and saluted Old Glory with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Taps Across America was inspired in 2020 when Americans could not celebrate Memorial Day together during the COVID pandemic days. Buglers were invited to play "Taps" from their front porches at the same time across the country.

Thousands of front porch musicians have since tuned in from all parts of the United States each Memorial Day.

This is the third year Laurie has put OTOW on the Taps Across America map.

Laurie has also shared her brushed-off trumpeting talents at OTOW events.

She sounded "Taps" at the Snowbird



Clubs' Veterans Appreciation Party in March and she played "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" at the OTOW Chorus concert in April.

Laurie played coronet in high school and then a 1970 Conn Connstellation silver plated trumpet. She played alternate in the Bowling Green Falcon Marching Band.

Many years later, she took her trumpet to a music store to determine its value. She was asked to play the trumpet for them. They said she produced good sound and encouraged her to keep it and play the trumpet.

Laurie brushed off the trumpet and began practicing ... and we are glad she did.

"I encourage others to pick up an instrument and add joy to their lives," she said.

At left, Laurie LeClaire plays "Taps" during Taps Across America.

## Flamenco holds annual Memorial Day feast and remembers armed service personnel who made it possible

I can always remember waiting for Memorial Day with eager anticipation.

It only happens once a year and I counted down the days.

Many people who grew up in the North remember Memorial Day as the unofficial first day of summer. There was literally a law where I lived that public pools could only be open between Memorial and Labor Day. It did not matter if it was 100 degrees outside. We were hot and bothered. Unless, of course, you were lucky enough to know someone who was affluent enough to have their own private pool. Unfortunately, I didn't know any.

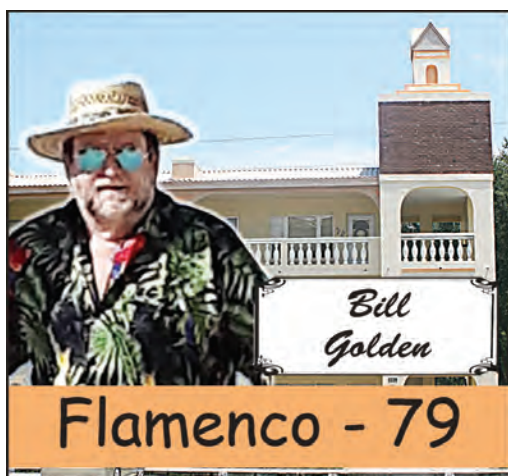
When we grew up, we realized the real significance of the day.

At the Flamenco building, we usually do not need an excuse to get together, but we had our annual Memorial Day dinner anyway. We had the usual picnic staples, including hotdogs, deviled eggs and corn on the cob, as well as everything else we could want.

It was not a day to start a diet.

However, there was an actual reason for the feast. This day is really about honoring the sacrifices of armed services personnel who fought and died protecting our nation.

Farmers, truckers, accountants, teachers,



and factory workers gave up their everyday lives to fight. Without them, we would not be able to enjoy our bountiful freedoms.

We should never forget their gallant efforts.

My dad served on an aircraft carrier during World War II. He was the guy with the flags that guided in the returning aircraft.

I once asked him what war was like. He simply said, "Don't ask."

On the Fourth of July, wave your flags proudly.



Food and thanks have become a Flamenco tradition on Memorial Day.

**All amenities will be open on the Fourth of July**



## July 1999

(Our monthly 25 Years Ago column reflects world news from 25 years ago)

By Randae Van Denver

### World News

Falun Gong was founded in China in early 1990s. It was a religious movement whose fast-growing popularity drew from old cultural traditions. The religion teaches meditation exercises and preaches virtues of truth, benevolence and forbearance to gain higher morality and salvation. In July 1999, the Chinese government banned Falun Gong and launched a large-scale crackdown. Falun Gong has no history of violence or terrorist activities, although they are critical of the Chinese government. The Chinese regime has never been able to adopt a tolerant attitude toward dissent of any kind. In the recent years, the persecution involves imprisonment and targeted executions through forced organ removal.

### U.S. Events

The Liberty Bell space capsule is recovered in Florida during a July 1999 expedition sponsored by the Discovery Channel. It was recovered almost 38 years to the day since it sank. The lid to the capsule never closed and water flooding into the capsule caused the sinking. It was found at a depth of more than 15,000 feet -- 3,000 feet deeper than the wreck of the Titanic. The Mercury capsule, flown by experienced astronaut Gus Grissom for 15 minutes in space on July 21, 1961. Gus Grissom survived the crash and was not responsible for failure to close the lid. The spaceship was launched from Cape Canaveral (now the Kennedy Space Center.) The lid was not found due to the great difficulty of locating something so small in such deep water.

### Florida News

As of 1999, 38 states legalized capital punishment. Florida was one of only four that still used electrocution as the sole method of execution at that time. However, July 8, 1999, was the last time the electric chair was used in Florida. Florida shifted to use of lethal injection in 2000.

### Sports

Lance Armstrong wins the first of seven consecutive Tour de France titles on July 25, 1999. But in 2012, he is disqualified for drug cheating throughout his professional cycling career. Armstrong was banned for life by the UCI, stripped of all his results and prizes from August 1, 1998, onwards (including seven Tour de France titles and one Olympic medal).

### Movies Contribution

Comedies are generally a good bet for holiday releases. On July 4, 1999, "South Park: Bigger Longer, and Uncut" was released during the series' most popular era. The film was certainly the conversation starter of summer in 1999 with its searing depiction of media censorship. The film represents the best of Trey Parker and Matt Stone's aptitude for kickstarting controversy in a hilarious manner and the soundtrack is just as uproarious over twenty-five years later.

### Local Oddities

Using countless bottles, tile mosaics, and bowling balls, the private Florida residence known as Whimzeyland has a non-stop explosion of color. Florida artists Todd Ramquist and Kiaralinda have spent the last 20-plus years turning their home and neighboring properties into flamboyant works of art. Originally known simply as the "Bowling Ball House" for the 500-plus painted bowling balls littering the yard in various formations. Pyramids, stacks and walls of bowling balls adorn the grounds, surrounded by a dizzying landscape of color created by the other works of recycled art. Gardens made of colored bottles, rainbow mosaic pathways and bright ceramic sculptures abound creating an almost otherworldly atmosphere. Whimzeyland is in Safety Harbor.

### OTOW News

July 1999 holds the dubious distinction of being the only month that OTOW Press did not publish a paper. The reason for this is no longer known, but most likely it was due to technical problems beyond the control of the OTOW Press Club. Needless to say, its absence was sorely missed and all rejoiced when it returned on its reliable monthly schedule.



Janis Catapano

## Even Janis Catapano didn't realize the party she was getting

Milestone birthdays are always a good reason to have a party. But when the milestone is 75 and the celebrant is a much beloved building captain, then it's time to really celebrate in style!

Janis Catapano has lived in her Fujiwara condo since 2009. Prior to that, her dad had lived there since 1985. She is well-versed with the building and does a great job taking care of resident issues and supervising our annual decorations.

She is also our go-to for dog-sitting and special events.

Some of Janis' neighbors connected with her family and planned on surprising her with a party in the West Activity Center. Somewhere along the line, Janis stumbled onto the surprise, but didn't let on. While she was expecting a small family gathering, she was surprised by all the people who came to wish her well.

Besides her three children, Donna from Ohio, Matthew from New Port Richey, and Gina from Denver, she enjoyed visiting with her five grandchildren, a brother from Tam-



pa, cousins from Tallahassee and Fort Myers, a nephew from Long Island, 14 building residents, seven friends from her Tuesday movie group, and two of her water serobics instructors.

Everyone enjoyed great food and a video photo album featuring Janis from 1949 to 2024. With any luck, we will be celebrating lots of future birthdays with her!

## Bohemians traveled to at least nine states in June

June was a month that Bohemians were on the move. They covered roughly 9,000 miles, by my estimation, of the United States.

Mae Tremblay headed to Maine to visit her daughter and take in her grandson's graduation.

Maria Denehan and sister, Lucy, were in upstate New York for her grandnephew's baptism.

Vicki and Tom Vorie visited New York and Georgia, spending time with family members.

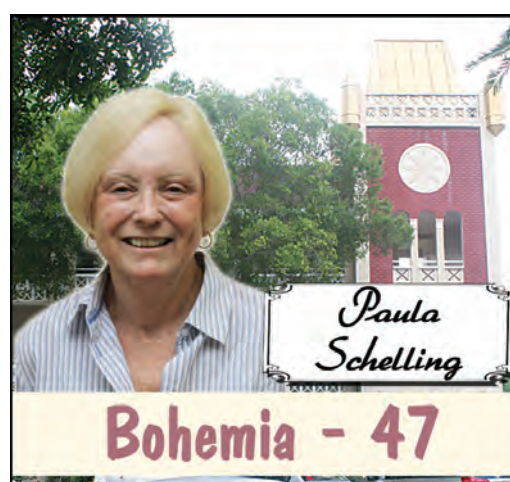
Carol DeLisle and Pam Arnold flew to Michigan to attend Carol's granddaughter's wedding.

Steve Roszczewski's travels took him to Wisconsin for a religious conference.

Heading west, I visited Olympia, Wash., for my granddaughter's graduation.

Jenny Fowler took off to Pompano Beach this year for her annual reunion with her brothers. They each traveled here to Florida from various places, Alabama, Kentucky and one from Montana.

Nancy Kennedy is finalizing her trip to



Chicago, then heading to Virginia. All had great stories and pictures to share about their adventures.

The Bohemia building dinner in June was held at the Varsity Club. As close to us as it is, it was a first time for some residents to have been there. We had 18 residents in attendance and all enjoyed their meals.

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Above, Valencia residents enjoy an afternoon at American Legion Post 273 in Madeira Beach. The view included the coastal waterway. At left is Name That Teen for July.

# Valencia heads for Madeira Beach

Several Valencia residents decided to lengthen the Memorial Day weekend and enjoy a wonderful lunch and great afternoon at Madeira Beach American Legion Post 273.

This venue is, without a doubt, probably the best location for a gathering like ours. It has a scenic location and view of the inter-coastal waterway. This is always a favorite.

Also this past month, the ladies luncheon group, our Dining Divas, expanded

their "go too" locations by adding a new restaurant to their list, The Garden Grill.

They are always looking for new and exciting locations to dine and that seems to add to the popularity of their ever-expanding group.

We also celebrated Flag Day by raising two newly purchased flags for our Valencia building. All in attendance pledged our allegiance to the flag.

After the pledge ceremonies, several

from the group went over to Clearwater Family restaurant for a nice breakfast and some chat.

Next up, Gus Longois is hosting an outing to see a Threshers baseball game on July 4. The cost includes admission to the game and afterward a great fireworks display - probably one of the best in the area. See Gus if you are interested in going. He still may have tickets available.

And now for the Name That Teen contest. The photo at left is a young girl when she was about 6 years old. Do you know who she is? Here's a hint, the letters in her name plus an additional four letters are "FREE TIME SAVER."

The June teen was in fact Lester Meyers, and of course all who took a stab at a guess were correct. Again, you guys are too smart. Thanks, all, for participating.

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# 50th anniversary calls for a second honeymoon



Mary and Christopher Casey will be married 50 years July 28, 2024.

The Caseys were married at St. George Parish in Framingham, Mass., on July 28, 1974. They honeymooned in Maine and New Hampshire.

After their honeymoon, they settled in Framingham, Mass. Mary is from Framingham and Christopher is from Natick, Mass.

They moved to Clearwater in 1981 with their two daughters to be closer to Mary's parents. They lived in Largo before moving to On Top of the World in 2001.

They were English Gothic building captains for several years and Mary also was the building reporter for about a year.

They are having a get together with family and close friends later this month. In the fall they are going to Helen, Ga., for a second honeymoon.

Mary and Christopher Casey shortly before their 50th wedding anniversary.

*(OTOW News photo by Mary Lou Wall)*



For the low price of just \$10, the New York-New Jersey Club is hosting an old-fashioned New York-style block party featuring New York-style hot dogs boiled, like in hotdog carts.

All the regular fixings will be available, including beans, potato chips, cookies, coffee, hot chocolate, tea, water and ice. The party is on Wednesday, Aug. 28 at 5 p.m. in the East Activity Center Auditorium.



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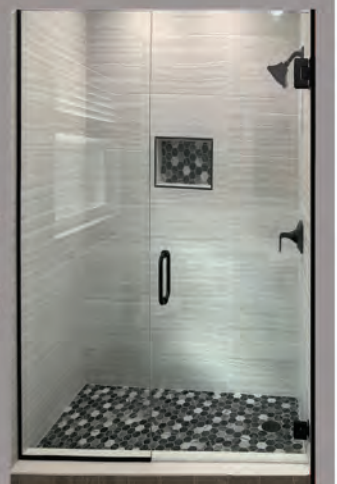
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# New residents get a gift bag

Bavarian Chalet residents are so very blessed to have Madeline Fontaine as one of their building captains.

She is responsible for the bike room, the storage rooms and making sure all new residents receive a welcome gift.

Madeleine keeps a list of those who have bikes stored in the bike room and a waiting list for those needing a place to store their bike.

She sweeps the bike room and the storage rooms frequently making sure they are clean and free of debris.

For the past three years, one of Madeleine's favorite responsibilities is to purchase small gift bags, a variety of gift items, and then deliver the welcoming gift to the new residents. Along with the gifts, she includes important information, including a resident emergency form to be completed and returned to her to be kept in the secretary's emergency information booklet.

Madeleine takes her responsibilities very seriously and has been known to make sure the elevator floor is clean and the pictures on the corridor walls are neatly arranged.

Most importantly, she has a positive attitude toward all the residents and usually brings smiles to all.

We are blessed to have her as one of five building captains and so proud to call Bavarian Chalet our beautiful home.



Betty Spoerl  
Bavarian Chalet - 25



At right is building captain Madeleine Fontaine, who is showing off one of three gift bags ready for new residents.

# Really, really proud of new flag and pole



Karen French  
French Renaissance I - 45

French Renaissance I celebrated Flag Day with a brand new flag pole and flag, donated by Mike and Donna Mitrani.

A majority of Donna's family is military, and Mike's dad was in the Navy. They both are extremely patriotic and wanted the U.S. flag waving in front of our building, feeling strongly in the expression, "God bless America."

We deeply appreciate their generosity and patriotism. Thirty-two people from our building and surrounding buildings came for the event, filled with patriotic music and discussions. There were also red, white and blue snacks.

Come by and see our new flag flying high in front of our building.

Flag Day celebrates the history of the U.S. flag annually on June 14. Since 1777, the American flag has represented freedom and unity for Americans. Flag Day allows us to celebrate not only freedom, but the symbol of it as well.



Donna and Mike Mitrani, left, donated a new flag and pole to the French Renaissance building. Above is the ceremony that took place on Flag Day in June.





**OTOW NEWS  
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# At Rural French, as soon as you move in, you qualify for a lunch trip

On Wednesday, June 5, 15 Rural French residents ventured off to Eddie's Bar and Grill in Dunedin.

This was our monthly luncheon that was planned and organized by Judy Wennerstrand.

We enjoyed a relaxing afternoon of socializing and good food. Our waiter did a good job of keeping our glasses full and getting our food to us hot and all at the same time.

Our neighbor, Hedi Greer, had a visit from her friend Margo English, who also joined in on our luncheon. As always it's nice to get together with neighbors to enjoy a meal.

We got to meet our two newest residents - Howard and Tootsie Harman. They had just moved in and hadn't even finished unpacking, but found the time to join us for lunch.

Before moving to On Top of the World, Howard and Tootsie lived in their Clearwater house for 57 years. They remember passing by as the OTOW front entrance was just starting to be built. They lived in the development behind New World French (1) and they could watch it being built from their house.

Howard and Tootsie decided it was time



to downsize from their home of 57 years to a maintenance-free condo lifestyle. What better place could they have picked other than OTOW's Rural French building? They've already met some of their neighbors, joined us for lunch and have already gotten their names in OTOW News!

Now they are looking forward to settling in, golfing and joining in on some of the activities that are offered here. Welcome to our building!

Happy summer to all.

Keep checking our building bulletin board for any updates or activities.



Rural French residents visit Eddie's Bar and Grill in Dunedin. There isn't a single empty glass!

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*What's the difference between stock and broth?*

# It's not a coincidence that many of your favorite foods start with a stock or broth



What is the difference between stock and broth?

Stock is generally made from bones and broth is generally made from flesh. In both cases, they are often supported with aromatic vegetables, but in the case of stock, left unseasoned for maximum flexibility in recipes, whereas broth will usually contain at least salt and pepper.

Broths, stock and brodos, as the Italians call them, have been used as the cornerstones of some of the world's best loved dishes for hundreds of years. Recently there has been a growing realization that these simple, seeming mainstays of every cook's kitchen are, in fact, nutritional powerhouses that contain the building blocks of good health.

Whether consumed on their own or used in recipes, broths are among the most nutritious foods you can eat, full of amino acids and minerals.

One of the great mysteries, when cooking certain dishes, may be whether to choose stock or broth. They are often spoken of and used in place of one other although there are significant differences in the preparation and nutritional profiles.

They both add flavor to recipes, although broth can be used as a soup while stock is traditionally used as more of a base. Cooks have likely used one or the other in a pinch.

Take note that the broths and stocks you buy at the store are notorious for being loaded with sodium, so check the labels before purchasing and look for varieties that are labeled "low salt or "unsalted" as you can add salt as needed.

In an age when many chefs are eschewing animal protein in favor of its vegetarian alternatives, there are some sources of protein that simply can't be ignored, providing they are sourced from grass-fed animals that are reared and treated humanely.

While vegetarian proteins are superb in themselves, they rarely supply the abundance of amino acids required for rebuilding and repair.

Broth, made from beef bones, is mineral-rich and contains complete rebuilding nutrients vital to those who wish to pursue a natural anti-aging approach to their health



On top is finished broth. At right is cooking the broth.

without resorting to facial fillers and other synthetic methods to create a youthful look.

The collagen found in the marrow of bone broth is far more bio available to the body than any supplement alternative or cosmetic injectable facial treatment and works with the body's natural repair systems over a longer period of time.

Think of every culinary remedy known to your grandmother (and she doesn't need to be Jewish to know the healing properties of chicken) and, without a doubt, your list

will have started with chicken soup.

The mineral content of chicken bones, especially zinc, is superb for supporting the immune system in helping to combat simple fatigue-related illness right through to major illness. Chicken broth is the panacea we have all sought and always had at our side. It's believed that the regular consumption of chicken broth in soups and stews allows people to age gracefully without the use of facial fillers and plumpers, as the abundant collagen released in broth-making has served

people so well.

Oxtail has long been neglected due to its high fat content, but it has a wonderful flavor and responds well to slow cooking.

The Chinese have always valued ox tail as the ultimate comfort food and braise it with a variety of spices. It is now making a big comeback, due not only to its high marrow content, (think Osso Bucco) but also that fat is now being trimmed from the tail before it's sold.

## Classic Beef Bone Broth

### Ingredients

3 pounds beef bones like beef knuckles  
2 sticks celery roughly chopped  
2 medium carrots  
2 medium onions unpeeled and roughly chopped  
1 mixed bunch thyme, sage and marjoram tied together with string  
8 cups water  
4 tablespoons apple cider or red wine vinegar  
ground black pepper to taste

### Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Spread the chopped bones over a large roasting sheet pan and place in the oven to cook for 45-50 minutes until well browned and sticking to the pan. Add a splash of water to the pan and stir to loosen the bones and remove any congealed juices. Transfer the bones to a large stock pot.

2. Place all the vegetables and herbs in the stock pot and pour over enough of the water to cover. Add the vinegar and a generous grinding of black pepper, then cover the pan and bring to a boil. Reduce to a gentle simmer and leave to cook, covered for 12 to 24 hours, regularly topping up the water to ensure it is always covering the bones.

3. Cool the broth to room temperature, then strain through a piece of cheesecloth into a large bowl.

## Dark Rich Chicken Broth

### Ingredients

2 pound chicken feet  
10-12 chicken backs  
4 pints water  
2 red onions unpeeled and quartered  
2 garlic cloves crush  
2 stick celery chopped  
2 carrots unpeeled and chopped  
2 bay leaves  
5 sprigs thyme  
1 teaspoon fennel seed  
10 black peppercorns  
Sea salt to taste

### Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Spread the chicken over a large baking sheet pan and place in the oven to cook for 30 minutes until golden and crispy.

2. Place the chicken feet and bones in a large stock pot, together with remaining ingredients. Bring the chicken backs and feet to a rolling boil, before reducing the heat to a gentle simmer and leaving to cook, covered for 3 to 4 hours until the bones and chicken feet are soft and leaching their marrow into the broth.

3. Cool the chicken broth to room temperature, then strain through a piece of cheesecloth into a large bowl.

# Anyone can bring hot dogs to a Fourth of July party - be the one who brings sun-brewed tea

**Science of Cooking Healthy Food**  
 By Marie



Email questions, suggestions and comments to  
**Marie**  
 marieshealthyfood@gmail.com



**Southern Sun Tea**

Iced tea was popularized and commercialized at the landmark 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis.

Due to the hot summer of 1904, people went in search of cold drinks, including newly introduced iced tea.

Green tea was first brewed in China around 2737 BC. Long revered in many cultures throughout Asia, its popularity has soared in the West – particularly the U.S. – in the past two decades.

Today, tea is the second most consumed beverage, after water.

This ancient beverage has a longstanding reputation for supporting physical and mental health. Two to three cups of green tea per day may offer health benefits, such as reduced risk of heart disease, stroke and Type 2 diabetes.

Scientific inquiries report that green tea:

1. Has significantly more polyphenols than black tea. Polyphenols are anti-oxidants that can boost your immune system, reduce inflammation and support cardiovascular and metabolic health. They help to prevent fatty buildup in arteries, possibly reducing cholesterol levels.

2. Quickly calms and relaxes by increasing dopamine levels in the brain. This may decrease blood pressure.

3. Facilitates burning of body fat through fat oxidation.

4. Improves insulin sensitivity and may help protect against Type 2 diabetes.

Green tea contains a small amount of caffeine. One 8-ounce cup has 30 milligrams ... far less than 90 -100 milligrams of caffeine in a typical cup of coffee.

Green tea provides the alertness associated with caffeine without the “jittery” feeling often experienced as a side effect of coffee. But decaffeinated green tea is available if you are particularly sensitive to caffeine.

**Weight loss benefits of green tea**

One of the reasons that green tea may be especially beneficial for weight loss is its unique combination of catechins and caffeine.

True teas all contain some level of catechins. These are a naturally occurring polyphenol linked to increased metabolism which causes conversion of fat for energy.

Green tea, especially matcha-grade green tea, contains the highest levels of catechins. Combining green tea with exercise seems to enhance the effectiveness of catechins.

Certain fruit juices added to green tea further enhance significantly its effectiveness. Fruit juices stabilize the catechins in the acidic stomach and small intestine. In order of effectiveness, the recommended juices are

orange, lemon, lime or grapefruit.

Don't be stingy with the juice – adding 10 percent juice or more is helpful.

A 2022 study found that drinking four or more cups of green tea daily was linked to a 44 percent lower risk of abdominal obesity. This association was only seen in women. However, limit your daily intake of tea to six glasses as oxalate present in the tea has been shown to damage kidneys when taken in excess.

**The Science**

If you find green tea is too bitter, it's not the tea. It likely due to the brewing technique. Avoid scalding hot or boiling water to brew your green tea. This can burn delicate tea leaves.

First warm water to 170-180 degrees

farenheit and then add tea leaves to steep. Leaves tend to be high in tannins and boiling water may extract excess tannins, which results in a highly astringent flavor.

The same thing can happen when tea leaves are steeped too long. Don't steep green tea leaves longer than two to three minutes. Any longer and you'll also end up with a bitter cup.

Using loose tea leaves produces a superior tea. The loose leaves can circulate through the warm water and swell. This swelling means the maximum flavor and color can be extracted.

In a generic supermarket brand tea bag, there are smaller or broken leaves. In very cheap tea bags, leaves are practically a powder. When tea leaves become broken or crushed, their essential oils are destroyed,

resulting in an inferior flavor. Furthermore, tea bags themselves lessens the movement of the water through the leaves, thus extracting less flavor.

**To make Southern Sun Tea**

Sun tea typically has a pleasing mild flavor because of the gradual heating from the sun.

Combine a gallon of cool water and eight green tea bags in a large container. Cover with a lid. Preferably use glass as plastic may release unwanted chemicals in the sun. Put it outside in a bright, sunny spot.

The time in the sunlight will vary depending on a few factors, including the type of tea, container size, but mostly the temperature outside. Allow two to three hours to steep. Color is the best way to tell when it is ready. Once to your liking, remove tea bags and refrigerate.

Yes, this is a safe process. Use filtered or distilled water to avoid any bacteria that could come from tap water. This helps reduce contamination since the water is not being boiled. Don't leave it in the sun for more than four hours. Less steeping time means less time for bacterial growth.

Additionally, wait to the end to add sugar or any additional flavors or garnishes.

Lastly, refrigerate immediately once ready and consume within a few days.

**Past “Butcher Block” and “Science of Cooking” columns can be revisited by going to the Box Office website. The link is below.**



**otowboxoffice.com (look for the Past Recipes link)**

**Links**

- i. medicalnewstoday.com
- ii. eatingwell.com
- iii. drweil.com

# Waterfalls, snorkeling off a private island - mud baths! - must be a trip to Fiji



Lisa Torrens, Jerry Esposito, Skip Peeples and Jeannie Peeples enjoying cocktails at happy hour.

When I asked Rizal residents Jerry Esposito and Lisa Torrens why they chose Fiji for their vacation last month, Lisa told me that it was because they wanted to have a truly epic experience.

After a stop in Redondo Beach, Calif., to spend time with friends and enjoy some sights, Jerry, Lisa and Lisa's sister and brother-in-law, Jeannie and Skip Peeples, boarded a flight for the 11-hour trip to Nadi, on Fiji's main island of Viti Levu.

They found the Fijian people to be extremely welcoming and most gracious hosts.

Their Fiji adventure began with a short cab ride to a ferry boat, which took them to the private island of Sonaisali, Fiji, owned by DoubleTree Resort.

After a few nights there, they relocated to Pacific Harbour, a couple of hours away on the southern coast of Viti Levu Island. There they spent eight luxurious nights at a beautiful air bed and breakfast.

During their stay in Fiji, they were quite busy seeing the beauty Fiji had to offer.

They visited the Sri Siva Subramaniya Swami Temple in Nadi. This is the largest Hindu temple in the Pacific. The vibrant colors of the temple's exterior would be enough to make anyone want to see more!

Speaking of colors, Lisa said they really enjoyed their hike up to The Garden of the Sleeping Giant, also in Nadi. This botanical garden features beautiful indigenous plants, including a plethora of gorgeous orchid varieties.

There are 330 islands that make up the Fiji archipelago and with so much water

around, their trip would not have been complete without snorkeling the area's pristine waters.

The foursome took a boat to uninhabited Schooner Island to do some underwater sightseeing while donning masks and snorkels.

For a change of pace, they ventured to Sabeto Hot Springs and Therapeutic Mud Pools. What better place for beneficial mud baths and relaxing full body massages!

One of the highlights of their trip was visiting some of Fiji's spectacular waterfalls! A hike in the rainforest is required to see some of the more beautiful falls. Naiwaisomo Waterfall was no exception and its beauty did not disappoint.

Lisa told me that it took nearly four days to adjust back to east coast time upon their return home, not surprising for a 16-hour time zone difference.

Was it worth it?

Absolutely, they said!

In fact, their next trip will likely include Nanuya Levu, Turtle Island and Champagne Bay, three popular South Pacific filming locations. These are best known as backdrops for the 1980 Brook Shields movie, Blue Lagoon.

Lisa concluded by reiterating that their Fiji vacation was truly epic. They thoroughly enjoyed traveling with family and cannot wait to return!

## Club Information Tables Thursdays only in the summer 8:30-10:30 am, EAC Auditorium



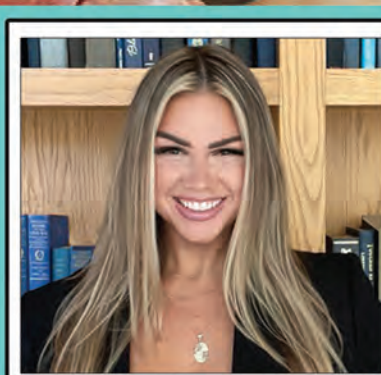
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# Austrian Alpine takes in a baseball game - in a party suite!



Austrian Alpine residents pose for a photo outside their party suite at BayCare Ballpark.

How do you beat the summer heat? Austrian Alpine residents and several guests attended a Clearwater Threshers baseball game at BayCare Ballpark and kept cool in a party suite stocked with unlimited food and beverages.

Bob Young stepped up to the plate and organized this special event. He ran with the idea and enjoyed making this event a home run.

Let's go team!

Reggie and Joyce Jennings stayed cool in the party suite and when the team mascot came to visit our suite, they had an especially fun time with "Phinley."

Mike and Ginny McDowell wore their favorite Phillies jersey and T-shirt. We love their team spirit.

Bob made sure that everyone was having fun. There was a lot of excitement and laughter throughout the game.

Jim Lutz scored a good seat outside the suite and had a great time.

It didn't matter that we had a rain delay

or that the game went into extra innings.

There was the crack of the bat, the pop of the ball into the glove, fans chanting and cheering. It was baseball fun and memorable moments.

Did I forget hot dogs?

"A hot dog at a game beats roast beef at the Ritz," said Humphrey Bogart.

We hear that Bob is already planning for another baseball game early during next

year's season. And there will be fireworks.

Thank you, Bob, for hosting this first time event for Austrian Alpine residents and for knocking it out of the park.

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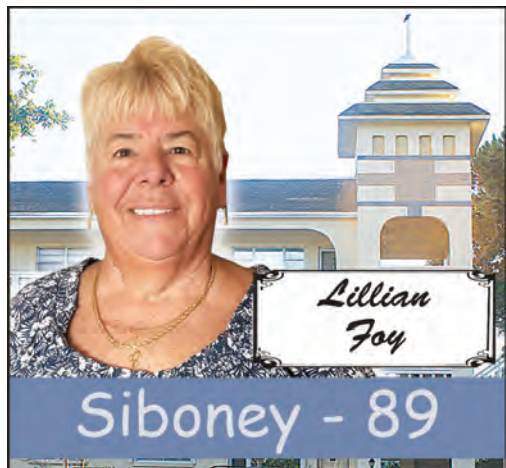
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# Siboney was there when Honor Flight landed in June



Siboney residents joined other residents in welcoming home the latest celebrants from Honor Flight.

Honor Flight of West Central Florida (HFWCF) is a Tampa-based non-profit organization.

Its goal is to transport America's veterans to Washington, D.C. at no cost to visit the memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices.

Priority is currently given to World War II and Korean veterans, along with those other veterans who may be terminally ill.

Departure for this one-day trip to Washington, D.C. is from the St. Petersburg – Clearwater International Airport (PIE).

Residents from the Siboney building are proud to say they were at the airport when the latest Honor Flight took place. It is something every resident should do at least one time.

The flight arrives late at night and we welcome home the honorees with waving flags and cheers.

You have to be there to understand the emotion.

Also at the Siboney building, we are all mostly staying indoors due to the severe heat. The best way to beat the heat is to go out early morning or later after dinner time.

From our building to you, please be

careful and drink plenty of water.

Recently our building had a luncheon at Ha Long Bay Bistro. We had fun talking with our neighbors.

We welcome new neighbors to our building: Cindy Chandler and Dave Gallo. They moved here from Dunedin. Dave re-

tired from All Star Corp in Baton Rouge and Cindy retired from Environmental Protection in Tallahassee. Dave enjoys outdoor photography and Cindy enjoys decorating and shopping. They moved from Tallahassee to Dunedin three years ago. We are happy that they chose our building to live in. We are

a fun building and have many luncheons and holiday parties so we hope that they join us.

Happy Fourth of July to all. Please be safe and remember our poor fur babies who have anxiety during firework displays. Wear your red white and blue and God Bless America.

## Our building has wonderful 'godmothers' too



Lynn Costanza

Happy birthday, America! Pictured at left is our very own Florida-born Patricia Lynn Power Costanza.

Lynn left Florida and became a New Yorker where she taught school, married and raised her son, Chris.

She returned to Florida to care for her mom, the late Elaine Power, who was our oldest resident.

Lynn and husband, Daniel, bought Charley Coffin's place. Their son, Chris, is a prolific well-published writer. His pen name is CJ Crowley. Chris writes sci-fi and mysteries, as well as environmental issues.

You'll often see "godmother" Lynn walking Kevin, my dog. Lynn, Chris and Dan, who splits time in New York, enjoy our corner of paradise.

Remember that name CJ Crowley.



Thanks to Connie McDonald, the keeper of our main bulletin board, who posts current events and my "hen scratchings." Be

sure to look for new notices on the board.

So far the legend of the old Indian burial ground that protects us from severe weather has held true. However, everyone should always have water ready, top off the gas tank, have a flashlight handy and batteries for a radio.

Dollar store solar lights are also handy. Lets hope none are needed.

Instead of buying your own fireworks for the Fourth of July, consider donating to a local shelter.

Our four-legged friends will thank you. Enjoy a safe happy Fourth. And thank you all for the card during my "bump in the road."

Till next we meet. Remember any news fit to print, email to fresca@maine.rr.com.

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# A tip from Englander - take a train to the Grand Canyon - you'll love it

Thanks go out to Mitch Gerstenblith and Diane Kaplan for arranging our Englander luncheon last month.

Sorry! There was so much chatter that I forgot to take a photo.

Congratulations to first-time grandmother, Susan Marchand. Son, Jason, and wife, Sarah, welcomed a beautiful and healthy baby boy to the family.

Our feathered friends owe Marc Schell their appreciation for acting as crossing guard for two sandhill cranes. Marc stopped cars coming around the corner of Switzerland Drive to Swedish Drive allowing them safe crossing. We have enjoyed having these visitors spend time in our Englander surroundings and we remind drivers to slow down at this intersection.

Everyone got to finally meet Tim and Kelli Convery, our newest building residents. They hail from Kennebunkport, Maine, and have already joined in many community activities. May you always enjoy your new home.

Travel seemed to be a dominant topic of the day. Mitch and Linda Gerstenbliths were looking forward to their upcoming Alaskan cruise, and George Algozzina was leaving the next day for a relaxing riverboard cruise from Budapest to Amsterdam.

Hopefully, there weren't any pirate warnings on this cruise, like his last trip.

Not to outdo George, but how about a train robbery?

Englander residents Bobby Collins and her daughter, Sharon Noel, had just returned from an Arizona vacation where they met up with Sharon's two daughters Brittany and Amanda.



They started out in an Airbnb in Flagstaff and drove to Williams, Arz., to catch the historic Santa Fe Train to the south rim of the Grand Canyon.

They said the train ride was so much fun! They never expected the "wild west show" at the train depot before boarding the train or guitar playing singers on the train, and certainly not a "train robbery" on their way back home - just like the old wild western days!

Sharon told us, "We had such a great time on the train, and it was also absolutely amazing seeing the Grand Canyon for the first time!

Brittany and Amanda went hiking, while mom and I walked around and enjoyed the gift shops, hot dogs and the views!"

Sharon highly recommends the Santa Fe train excursion if you want to relax, have some fun, and see the scenery.

"And, it's really a wonderful way to get to and from the Grand Canyon!"



This was the view inside a train ride to the Grand Canyon. If you want to see the view out the window, you need to book your own train.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Forwarding address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Forwarding Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Don't forget to notify the United States Post Office of the change!**

**(Submit new form upon return)**

# New Bedford Guests



During the month of June, Bedford residents visited Prohibition Dune-din. We had a great turnout with 14 neighbors coming together to bond and socialize. We had a couple of new faces joining us, too. On the left are Frank Zapata, Dave Purcell, Robin Becker, Dave Becker, Jay Auch, Phyllis Dumdie and Joe Popelik. On the right are Alan Wong, Barbara Wong, Jerry Jordan, Sally Herman, Sylvia Auch, Nickie Ar-bucho and Cindy Popelik.

# Classifieds

### Stereo Speakers

For sale: Home stereo speakers for sale. Asking \$100. Cerwin-Vega. VS-100 Series with new foam rings. Cables included. Floor-standing speakers 28 inches high by 13 inches wide by 11 inch deep. Call or text Donald at (813) 727-2692.

### Chandelier

For sale: 18 inch Tiffany-style chandelier. Fruit motif. Asking 4150. Call Tom at (727) 771-5526.

### Dog Ramp

For sale: Dog ramp to get on/off a bed. Asking \$25. Call Charlie at (727) 536-7639.

### Scooter

For sale: Scooter belonging to former resident is for sale. Electronic, very good condition, paperwork and manuals included. Scooter can be picked up in Palm Harbor. Call (727) 458-4539.

### Chairs

For sale: Two stuffed winback chairs, off white. Asking \$50 apiece. Glider rocker \$35. Magazine rack with natural wood, black spokes, \$15. Call Helen at (727) 560-5710.

### Old License Plates Wanted

I am a collector. I am looking for old license plates, Eisenhower dollars and half dollars. Call Lyle at (727) 487-3347.

### Three-Wheeler

For sale: Three-wheeler and it works! Call Thomas at (727) 249-3525.

**OTOW News is read all over the world**

**Even at the Egyptian pyramids**

**You can read OTOW News anywhere just by visiting [otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com)**

**RESCHEDULED**

# Safety Seminar

## Pinellas County Sheriff's Office



Wednesday, July 17, 9 am, EAC Auditorium

**No Registration Required**

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office will present "Situational Awareness - always be aware of your surroundings." The presentation will teach you how to recognize other people's body languages and demonstrate how you can observe signs someone may be a potential predator.

**Taught by Deputy Jessica Hughey and Charles Skipper**

# 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



## Bible Study

2 pm, Fridays  
Crystal Beach Room  
All denominations welcome

## OTOW SHUFFLEBOARD

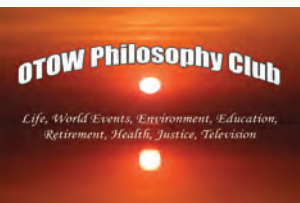


Shuffleboard is open to all OTOW residents with a valid activity card. Just show up and play. We have the equipment.

## 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.




## Social Dance Lessons

Social Dance Lessons are now being offered by instructor Howard Wolff, who allows his students to pick the dances to learn - and there are a ton of dances to choose from. Howard will teach Cha Cha, Foxtrot, Hustle, Rumba, Salsa, Swing, Waltz and more.

Howard's classes are open to all residents with a valid activity card. Social Dance takes place every Thursday afternoon, 1-3 p.m., in the West Activity Center Belleair Room.

tops  
"Take Off Pounds Sensibly."




Curious what our club is all about? Stop by as a visitor on any Friday at 10:30 a.m. for one of our meetings. We will be in the East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room.

Our TOPS Club focuses on lifestyle change to help people lose weight and learn how to keep pounds off sensibly. Join us for support and accountability. Included in your yearly dues, besides a magazine, is a digital health library, webinars from experts, fitness guides and recipes. Hope to see you at a future meeting.

**Real People. Real Weight Loss.®**

Meets 10:30 am-12 p.m. Fridays in the East Activity Center Crystal Beach Room.



## Bonesavers

The Bonesavers exercise group meets every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8-9 a.m. in the East Activity Center Clearwater 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.

## Qigong (Chi Kung) and Tai Chi

The Perfect Exercises  
To Improve Balance, Stability, Strength

Classes are now free to OTOW residents.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <h3>QIGONG</h3> <p>3:00-4:00 pm Tuesdays, Thursdays<br/>2:00 - 3:00 pm Fridays<br/>EAC Exercise Room<br/>Ruth Pittman, Instructor</p> | <h3>TAI CHI FLOW</h3> <p>Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays<br/>3:15 - 4:15 pm<br/>EAC Exercise Room<br/>20 Years of Teaching at OTOW</p> |
|---|---|

## Duplicate Bridge

Beginner duplicate bridge takes place 9 a.m. to noon, Thursdays, in the East Activity Center Ozona Room.

Regular duplicate bridge takes place 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays, in the East Activity Center Ozona Room.

## Billiards

9-Ball  
Fridays  
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

8-Ball  
Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays  
6:30 - 10:00 p.m.

## Mah Jongg in a condo

There is a group of Mah Jongg players that plays Mondays in different condos throughout the spring and summer. This group plays from 1:30-3:30 pm. If you would enjoy visiting a neighbor's condo and playing Mah Jongg, give Libby a call at 727-669-1486.

## Pray for America

Saturdays  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Crystal Beach Room

## Casual Bridge

New bridge players, and not-so-new bridge players, are welcome to join Casual Bridge.

We meet 1-4 p.m. every Tuesday.

The club will meet in the East Activity Center Ozona Room, the former puzzle room.

Come enjoy some fun card playing while challenging your skills - old and new. No partner necessary.

For further information, contact Carlos at loresc@yahoo.com



## Canadian Club Social Games

# BLACKOUT



Thursdays, 6:30 - 9:30 PM  
WAC Belleair Room  
Year Round

Coordinator Tom Jamrozy is available to train new players at 5:50 p.m. each Thursday, followed by practice games from 6-6:30 p.m. and regular games running from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Bring your own beverage of choice. Must have a valid activity card.

## Experienced Mah Jongg players wanted

Are you ready to toss your tiles again? If so, there is a group of experienced Mah Jongg players that meets each Friday afternoon from 1-4 p.m. in the West Activity Center Palm Harbor Room.

We mainly adhere to the National Mah Jongg League guidelines with just a few variations.

No sitting at home in your room wishing you were playing Mah Jongg! Bring your lucky Mah Jongg card and join us Friday afternoons. We look forward to seeing you. If you have questions, please stop by the Palm Harbor Room before our games begin.

# BRAIN TEASE

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 4 | 9 | 6 | □ | 5 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 1 |
| □ | 9 | 3 | 4 | □ | 6 | 1 | 8 | □ | 2 |
| 0 | □ | 5 | □ | 6 | □ | 9 | □ | 1 | □ |
| 2 | 7 | □ | 9 | □ | 1 | □ | 5 | 4 | 0 |
| 5 | 1 | 4 | □ | 9 | □ | 7 | 3 | 6 | 8 |
| □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | 8 | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| 4 | 6 | 0 | □ | 5 | □ | 2 | 9 | 8 | 7 |
| 3 | 2 | □ | 8 | □ | 9 | □ | 7 | 0 | 5 |
| □ | □ | □ | 5 | 7 | □ | 8 | 4 | □ | □ |
| □ | 3 | 2 | 0 | □ | 7 | 5 | □ | 9 | 4 |

Every line horizontally and vertically will eventual have all numbers 0-9 without any number repeating. Start with a line with only one missing number and as you begin to fill in missing squares, the other lines will be easier to figure out.

**OTOW News WORDMIX**

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

T I S H F

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A E M B R

---

I T R M B E

---

A U W D P R

---

A R Y O T Y L


---

M E L N U R A

**SECRET WORD:**

Last month's scrambled words: Frisk, UNDER, nozzie, native, exotica, toffery. Secret Word Last Month: funnel

## OTOW LIBRARY



NEW BOOKS!

“Toxic Pray”  
By John Sanford

“Camino Ghosts”  
By John Grisham


“The 24th Hour”  
By James Patterson

Join the library for \$5.

We need volunteers so we can offer more open days.  
Renew your membership for \$5 so we can buy books.

Hours: 10 am-12 pm Mondays, 1-3 pm Wednesdays

Good  
Karma  
Book  
Club



10 a.m., Thursday, July 18

“On Earth We Are Briefly Gorgeous”  
by Ocean Vuong

10 a.m., Thursday, August 15

“The Butterfly’s Daughter”  
by Mary Alice Monroe

All of our meetings take place in the EAC Crystal Beach Room  
For more information, see our Webpage on the Box Office:  
[otowboxoffice.com](http://otowboxoffice.com) - look for our link

Need more information, write to [Jslantz1948@aol.com](mailto:Jslantz1948@aol.com) or call 727-754-3823

# IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

|  |   |   |                                     |
|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Community Service Office<br>(727) 683-6981 | Water Turn On/ Turn Off<br>(727) 799-3417 | Emergency Service<br>After Hours / Weekends<br>(727) 799-1115 | Activities Office<br>(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