

On Top of the World NEWS

Where the News is Always Good

The new resident
phone directories
are here!
See Page 21
for details.



Vol. 21, No. 8 • February 2008

Community News & Update

By Kenneth Colen, Publisher

MASTER THE POSSIBILITIES: We've had a wonderful response to our Winter Master the Possibilities catalog and the Start of another "Classy Year". February has well over 50 classes! In addition, I would draw your attention to some very unique opportunities during this month:

- The Marion Bonsai Society in conjunction with MTP will host an Exhibit "The Beauty and Art of Bonsai" Feb. 7 through 9 at the Education Center. This exhibit will include docent guided tours, presentations and demonstrations. You won't want to miss this interesting and beautiful art form.

- During the week of Feb. 11, we have 21 classes that deal with health and wellness. Join these experts/practitioners for a most diverse discussion of health related topics.

- We are making very good use of the "extra" day this February. On Feb. 29 Professor Vincent Boudreau will join us for a presentation entitled "Assisting Democracy: Post 9/11 Foreign Policy". Vincent comes to us from CCNY where he chairs the Department of Political Science and is the Director of the Colin Powell Institute. He will also discuss General Powell's institution and the work it is involved in.

February is our most ambitious month to date. Each day offers a unique opportunity to learn, grow...and master some new possibilities. See you in class!

WATER CONDITIONS UPDATE: I attended a recent meeting with the Water Management District on proposed rules creating a district-wide water use caution area (WUCA). Previous to this, the south end of the Southwest District including Pasco, Hillsboro, Pinellas, Sarasota and portions of Polk County have been under a WUCA for years. A WUCA allows the District to impose draconian restrictions on water withdrawal and use. In the case of the counties named, the impositions were made because of the rapid urbanization of those areas and subsequent degradation of both water supply and quality. In the current instance, the District is trying to be proactive and avoid possible extreme reduction in groundwater levels.

The District intends to impose limits of 150 gallons per capita per day district-wide. This is really significant for retirement communities such as On Top of the World. A per capita use rule favors municipalities with large populations (large families) and disproportionately penalizes communities with small households and smaller populations. Simply put, we have been negotiating with staff to level the playing field and not penalize communities the size of On Top of the World. The District Board will meet after this article goes to press, so I'll give an update next month on the outcome and outlook for the proposed rules reform.

Fiscal 2008 Operating Budget: Not surprisingly, I have received a few letters in advance of the Feb. 13 budget meeting. Most letters share the common theme of maintaining affordability and generally question the need for the proposed increase.

As noted in my letter, the grounds maintenance budget is being held to a very slight increase, despite pressure from higher fuel costs and pressure on wages. The building maintenance budget is significantly increased due to the higher number of building repaints happening in 2008, despite the fact that we pushed the painting cycle back from three to five years on the villas and five years to seven years on single dwellings because of improved paint product quality. What we are left with is "outside" costs that we have no real control over.

These "outside" costs include insurance and solid waste disposal costs. As noted in my letter to all residents, Marion County previously credited the Association solid waste collection fees from the county-wide assessment. That is no longer the case. While we are not charged for solid waste tonnage, we no longer receive credits for bulk collection from the county. The budgeted amount covers lease and maintenance of solid waste handling facilities on site, hauling costs, and disposal fees. This is a large cost increase from previous budgets.

When it comes to insurance, there seems to be no relief from high rates. The recent bru-ha-ha between the Office of Insurance and Allstate over failure to disclose pricing methodology and then subsequently being banned from selling automobile policies in the State may actually backfire as it did in the state

➔ Continued on Page 4



Photo by Bob Woods

Members of the Movie Club and Entertainment Group show off the new big-screen television set. From left are Jeanne Nichols, Mary Ehle, Ed Morgan, Graig Ehle and Larry Wilver.

Giving Back Entertainment Group Donates Large-Screen TV to Movie Club

By BOB WOODS
WORLD NEWS WRITER

It all started back approximately 10 years ago when a group of On Top of the World residents formed the Entertainment Group here in our community. The group promotes outside entertainment on a monthly basis. This group charges admission for top entertainers who perform shows at the Health & Recreation Ballroom and along with corporate sponsors from the local area are able at times to place extra money earned in an account that eventually is given back to the community. This fund is called "Give Back."

The Entertainment Group not only provides live shows for the residents' pleasure but also provides a Movie Club that shows top-notch movies the second Sunday of each month in the Ballroom.

During the December film, 15 minutes before the movie ended, the 60-inch television on the stage died. Being told by a TV repairman it would be better to replace then fix the current set, the Entertainment Group again dug into their "Give Back" account and purchased a 73-inch TV in time as not to interrupt the Movie Club's monthly schedule.

This is not the first time this group has stepped up to the plate donating "give backs" to the community.

The group has donated the dressing rooms in the Ballroom as well as new flooring on the stage. They donated the chairs in the library as well as the benches located at the basketball courts and the lights enabling night-time play for residents playing miniature golf. The group also provided the window treatments in the Ballroom. All this and more was provided with funds from what the group calls "give backs."

The Entertainment Group provides top entertainers for the pleasure of the On Top of the World residents. They sell their tickets in the Ballroom usually starting the Monday morning after a show and continue selling tickets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays until all the seats are sold. The group advertises on our local TV channels, with posters displayed throughout the community and in their column in the World News.

The Movie Club, which is open to all On Top of the World residents, sells yearly memberships for just \$6, that's for 12 months, or \$2 per show at the door. Show time usually is around 6 p.m., immediately following the conclusion of the Friendship Club meeting.

For further information on the Movie Club contact Mary Ehle at 873-7507. Information on the Entertainment Group can be obtained by contacting Ed Morgan at 854-5159. ☺

Health & Wellness Expo Attracts A Crowd

Photo by Bob Woods

The annual Health & Wellness Expo was held Jan. 19 at the Circle Square Cultural Center.

By BOB WOODS
WORLD NEWS WRITER

The Health & Wellness Expo 2008 took place Jan. 19 at the Circle Square Cultural Center under very threatening skies. In fact, at times there was a slight drizzle in the air before the event ended with record crowds. More than 900 attendees filled out a registration form.

The Expo was sponsored by Munroe Regional Medical Center and On Top of the World Communities. I couldn't say more folks would have attended the event if the weather had been warmer with the sun shining or not. But there were plenty of folks passing through the front doors of the Culture Center in a steady but even flow.

The event covered many aspects of the medical world around us and even our own Fitness Department had a table explaining the many fitness programs offered in our community and at The Ranch Fitness Center & Spa. In fact, the fitness staff put on many demonstrations from dance to balance. Many people attended

and before the programs were completed many more chairs had to be put in place for spectators.

In the main hall, MRMC had many booths where representatives answered all types of medical questions. There was something displayed covering almost any medical questions with representatives not only from many departments from MRMC but other covered topics such as heart, diabetes, speech and hearing, eyes, feet and strokes. There were approximately 50 tables set up with some explaining services such as nursing and rehab facilities and even the TimberRidge Emergency Department was present explaining their medical services. One of the most popular exhibits was two chiropractic facilities where free massages were offered.

One exhibitor told me that he has attended more than 200 such health expos and he said that this event was the nicest and best organized one he has ever attended. Another exhibitor told me at 11 a.m., one hour and 15 minutes after the doors were opened, that she

was completely out of her give-a-ways. She told me that this was the first time this had ever happened. Most medical facilities were handing out plastic carrying bags and I don't think I saw many folks not carrying bags out loaded with all types of freebies and give-a-ways.

I asked one exhibitor jokingly if he was a dentist as I was assisting him carrying in his exhibits and I noticed a large box full of candy. He chuckled that he wasn't and that the candy was sugar-free. I never did find what medical services he was representing.

I would have to say that this year's Expo was a complete success. If you attended you would probably have to agree with me. If you missed this event then you missed receiving and gathering some very important if not interesting medical information.

Don't forget March 29. I hope you marked your calendar. The date is the Hands Across the Highway art exhibit that will also be held at the Cultural Center. This is another event you don't want to miss. ☺



Sign Up for Hoofin' It for Hospice

The Walk is
Feb. 23

By RUTH GOLDSTINE

The Eighth Annual Hoofin' It for Hospice will be on Saturday, Feb. 23, in the On Top of the World community.

The entry fee is \$1. You may register at the Health & Recreation Building from 8 to 9 a.m. on Feb. 23. This is an easy two-mile walk and will be held rain or shine.

Join us for the fun while you help raise funds to support Hospice of Marion County. Hospice has cared for patients in their last phase of life for more than 24 years. You can help continue their work by Hoofin' It for Hospice. A donation is required to participate.

Entry forms are available at the Health & Recreation Building.

For more information, call:

- Grace Raymond, Arbor Club, at 873-4954;
- Suzanne Reilly, Candler Hills, 854-0712;
- Ruth Goldstine, Friendship, 854-1128;
- Betty Chadwell, Indigo East, 286-5081; or
- Margaret Orlando, Williamsburg, 854-7306.





On Top of the World NEWS

Where the News is Always Good

The *World News* is a monthly publication of On Top of the World Communities in Marion County, Florida. This publication is written and prepared by On Top of the World residents for our neighbors and those interested in becoming a part of our community. The *World News* strives to publish only "good, informative news."

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Golden Oldies Humor

by Stan Goldstein



'Your secrets are safe with me and all my friends.'



Is It Legal?
Gerald Colen

NOTE: I am scheduled to give the following classes at the Circle Square Commons in Ocala.

• Feb. 12: "End of Life Issues Involving Advance Directives and Durable Powers of Attorney."

• Feb. 19 and 26 and March 4: "The American Civil War."

• March 11: "How to Avoid Probate Without Using a Living Trust."

Each class runs from 3 to 4 p.m. I hope to see many of you there and as usual, I will remain afterward to answer any questions any-

one has.

SCAM ALERT: SIGH. The "Nigerian" scam is still out there and apparently has been hooking some folks lately. That's the scam where you get an e-mail from some slimy person who tells you that he or she is the such and such for the recently deceased Lord so and so and he or she's got to transfer millions of dollars into a U.S. bank account and he/she wants to put it into your account and what he/she wants to give you a huge percentage if you'll just provide some "verification." That "verification" will involve you giving out some personal information about you or about your bank accounts. Some folks, who are aware that it's a scam think they can reply with some nasty email. Please don't reply at all. Just delete the e-mail.

Q. My daughter (she's 56) and her boyfriend want to come and spend a month with me. She asked me if I would either move to a motel when they are here or pay for her and her boyfriend to do that and she said it was for legal purposes. Do you know what she is talking about?

A. Nope. But that's OK because she doesn't know what she's talking about either.

Q. I want to avoid probate of my home when I die and plan to convey it to my daughter now but do it in a joint tenancy or by means of a life estate. What's wrong with that?

A. I know that many, many folks think the way you do and I understand that. My own view is that you should just keep your homestead in your name(s) alone and not put anyone on the deed with you unless that person actually resides with you on a permanent basis.

Why? The simple answer is that in my opinion your homestead is the single most protected asset you have in the State of Florida and when you put someone else's name on that property then you don't own it any more — now you and whomever you've added to the title own it. If that person has legal problems, that could affect the property. If that person become incapacitated that could affect the property. If that person goes into bankruptcy that could affect the property.

OK, so what about doing a life estate deed where you keep a life estate for yourself but set up the deed so at your death, the person you name get it. Well, if you then decided to sell the property you would need the signature of that person on any deed you might give. Look, there are so many variables involved with such a thing that it is best if you speak with your attorney and obtain his or her advice.

Q. I am 82 and my boyfriend is the same age. We are planning a cruise in a few weeks to (someplace in Mexico and the Caribbean area) and my friend intends to purchase some

Viagra for personal use and not to resell. Can he get into trouble bringing it back into the states?

A. My first thought was for you to tell him to use it all and not bring any back. Oh, well! I don't think he can get in any trouble but the truth is that I really don't know enough about purchasing medicine in Caribbean countries. I also don't know about the safety of those medicines and I wonder why your friend doesn't get a prescription from a local physician, which seems to make the most sense to me.

Gerald R. Colen is an attorney and member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and the Elder Law section of the Florida Bar Association. He concentrates his practice of law in the areas of elder law, wills, trusts, probate, real estate, business law and estate planning. This column is not intended to provide legal advice. You should always consult your own attorney for such advice. Mr. Colen is available for conferences at his law office at 7243 Bryan Dairy Road, Largo, Fla. 33777; (727) 545-8114 or at On Top of the World, in Clearwater. In Ocala, Mr. Colen is available, by appointment, for legal conferences at the On Top of the World sales office annex which is near Sid's Coffee Shop. He responds to e-mail at gcolen@tampabay.rr.com or through his Web site, www.gcolen.com.

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**Beth
Pantages
PT
Clinical
Director**

Beth has been a Physical Therapist for over 19 years. She is co-founder of this family owned business. Her experience includes Director of Rehabilitation at Doctor's Hospital in Plantation, FL, and Chief of Physical Therapy at North Ridge Hospital in Ft. Lauderdale. Beth has served as a clinical instructor for University of Miami, Nova Southeastern and Florida International Universities. She brings to the Ocala area extensive experience and post-graduate training in Cardiac, Stroke and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation. Mrs. Pantages is a popular speaker on Back Pain, Fall Prevention, Arthritis and Cardiac Rehabilitation.

- ◆ Aquatic Therapy
- ◆ Orthopedic Conditions
- ◆ Stroke Rehabilitation
- ◆ Balance & Fall Prevention
- ◆ Back & Neck Pain
- ◆ Fibromyalgia
- ◆ Sports Injuries
- ◆ Motor Vehicle Accidents
- ◆ Joint Pain & Stiffness

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2008 ENTERTAINMENT SERIES



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John Davidson
Friday, February 15, 2008
Residents — Gold \$21 Silver \$19 Bronze \$17



Smokey Joe's Café
Saturday, March 8, 2008
Residents — Gold \$17 Silver \$15 Bronze \$13



Celtic Celebration
Wyndbreaker & Inisheer Dancers
Friday, March 21, 2008
Residents — Gold \$12 Silver \$10 Bronze \$8



Charo
Thursday, March 27, 2008
Residents — Gold \$24 Silver \$22 Bronze \$20



Johnny Tillotson
Saturday, April 5, 2008
Residents — Gold \$21 Silver \$19 Bronze \$17



Man In Black
featuring Tommy Cash
(A Tribute to Johnny Cash performed by Johnny's brother)
Saturday, April 19, 2008
Residents — Gold \$22 Silver \$20 Bronze \$18



Music of The Drifters
Saturday, May 3, 2008
Residents — Gold \$24 Silver \$22 Bronze \$20



Elvis® Tribute
Dwight Icenhower, Doug Church, Ted Torres and Ronny Craig
Saturday, May 17, 2008
Residents — Gold \$25 Silver \$23 Bronze \$21



Dream Girlz
(A Tribute to The Supremes)
Saturday, June 7, 2008
Residents — Gold \$22 Silver \$20 Bronze \$18



Stage Door Theatre Presents...
"An Evening with Cole Porter and George Gershwin"
Thurs., June 26, through Sun., June 29, 2008
Dinner Show, 6 pm
Residents — \$35



Days of Disco with Flashback
Thursday, July 17, 2008
Dance the night away! (400 Max seating)
Residents — \$15



Paperback Writer
(A Tribute to The Beatles)
Saturday, July 26, 2008
Residents — Gold \$16 Silver \$14 Bronze \$12



Sock Hop with Rocky & The Rollers
Thursday, August 14, 2008
Dance the night away! (400 Max seating)
Residents — \$15



2nd Annual **Jimmy Buffett Festival**
featuring Live Bait
Saturday, August 23, 2008
Residents — Gold \$15 Silver \$13 Bronze \$11



The Flamingos
Saturday, September 13, 2008
Residents — Gold \$19 Silver \$17 Bronze \$15



Central Florida Symphony Orchestra
Saturday, September 20, 2008
Residents — \$20



Mickey Finn Show
Saturday, September 27, 2008
Residents — Gold \$17 Silver \$15 Bronze \$13



Billy Joe Royal
Saturday, October 11, 2008
Residents — Gold \$20 Silver \$18 Bronze \$16



Joey Dee & The Starliners
Saturday, November 8, 2008
Residents — Gold \$19 Silver \$17 Bronze \$15



Dueling Divas
Saturday, November 22, 2008
Residents — Gold \$13 Silver \$11 Bronze \$9

All shows begin at 7:00 p.m. and doors open at 6:00 p.m.

More shows to come ...

Ticket Office Hours:

Monday - Saturday, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm • Day of Show: 11:00 am - Showtime
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Schedule and prices subject to change without notice. Reduced ticket prices for residents of On Top of the World Communities. (Resident ID required when purchasing at ticket office.) Ticket prices do not include sales tax. All ticket sales final. Refreshments available for purchase at events. To arrange for handicap seats, call or visit the ticket office. *Online tickets subject to a convenience fee.



From Debbie's Desk Debbie Clark

As we turn the corner into February, there is one resident-run event that I would like to remind everyone about. This is the **Hoofin' It for Hospice** walk, which takes place on Saturday, Feb. 23. This event takes place every single year and is coordinated by Ruth Goldstine who works very hard at putting it together. All of the Red Hat groups participate in this event and many others get together to walk this event. All proceeds raised go to the local area Hospice. If you are interested in participating in this event, please contact Ruth.

Now onto what is coming up for the month of February? I will start with the schedule for **Happy Hours**:

- Feb 1: Roger
- Feb 8: Themed Happy Hour: Mardi Gras entertainment by Barry & Nancy
- Feb 15: Sounds of Time
- Feb 22: Ray & Kay
- Feb 29: Johnny Alston

In February, we will be introducing a new event. The **Scavenger Hunt** is for those who are new to the community or for those who have lived here for a while and are still trying to find their way around. You will start at the Health & Recreation Ballroom and make your way around to the various amenity buildings within the community plus a few other buildings outside the gates. There will be volunteers posted at each location to mark your card that you actually found your way to the location. Once completed you will make your way back to the H&R Ballroom for a lunch of hot dogs and hamburgers. Many times sitting in my office I hear conversations in the lobby that some of you do not know were the Craft

Building is or where the bocce courts are. If you are one of these residents, then this event is for you. You may register at the H&R office Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. or you may call 854-8707 to register.

In regard to the **Sterling Casino** trips, I have not forgotten about them. Please be patient. I should have the first trip on the calendar for the month of April. Please read my March article and stay tuned to Channel 17/19 as details become available.

Onto the month of March, once again due to lack of participation for the month of November and January I have taken the High Teas off of my calendar. I will leave the one in May on the calendar as this is the month of Mother's Day. I will have light entertainment and I will work with catering to change up the tea menu a little. Please read my April article for more details.

There is one event on the calendar for March I want to mention and that is the annual **Hands Across the Highway Art Exhibit**. This highlights the On Top of the World artists along with local area artists along SR 200 and the surrounding areas of Ocala. The registration for this event goes very well with close to 40 artists already registered to participate. This event takes place on Saturday, March 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Circle Square Commons Cultural Center.

Also highlighted at this event will be the winners from the Shutterbugs exhibit that took place last November. The exhibit will be on display in the foyer. So if you are one of those who like to enjoy a relaxing afternoon of wandering around some wonderful art, this is the exhibit for you. You may find a wonderful piece of art that you would like to purchase as many of the artist are willing to sell their art work.

Onto some community news. As many of you are aware, we are undergoing many renovations at the H&R building. During this time we ask you to please be patient regarding the closings of certain areas. We are trying to do this with the least impact on you. By now the ladies' bathroom off the library should be complete. I hope you enjoy the changes.

The next areas to be closed will be the men's bathroom off the gym and the ladies' locker room. These closures should happen beginning Monday, Feb. 18, and these two areas will be closed for approximately two weeks pending no major issues. We will post signs around the building as the time grows close.

Once these two rooms are complete, we will then move onto the ladies' restroom and the men's locker area.

As always, have fun and be safe. ☺



All Over Our World Lynette Vermillion

February is a busy month. We celebrate Valentine's Day, Groundhog Day, President's Day and Black History Month. So, as we celebrate history, remember your loved ones and hope that the groundhog does not see his shadow to extend winter.

Go Red For Women

February is American Heart Month, and in honor of Go Red For Women, Feb. 1 has been designated the official wear red day. Become part of the grassroots campaign to be better informed on healthy eating, exercise and the risk factor reductions ... know your numbers and understand your risk of heart disease. Take the heart checkup at www.goredforwomen.org to determine your personalized 10-year risk.

Ocala Open Golf Tournament

On March 11 through 14 Candler Hills Golf Course will host the Ocala Open for the third year in a row. One of the goals is to transform the Ocala Open into a nationally recognized professional golf tournament. There will be a \$100,000 purse and Candler Hills will also seek to raise \$100,000 for the charities Go Red for Women and Interfaith Emergency Services. We expect to draw top-quality players to Ocala. Go to www.ocalaopen.com to learn more about the tournament.

Irrigation Maintenance

Your irrigation controller should be set to water one time per week. Remember to check your irrigation system to make sure all zones are properly working and monitor your grass for stress. A zone showing signs of stress in the lawn may indicate a bad sprinkler head that needs repair or adjustment.

Recycling

Recycling saves energy, natural resources and landfill space. In most cases, making products from recycled materials also creates less air and water pollution than making products from raw materials. So, let's all recycle — we all benefit!

Household Garbage

Please do not place your household garbage on the ground in front of the Dumpster or compactor — please place it inside the Dumpster or compactor. We ask that you do the same when recycling. If you have other items that are not appropriate for the compactor/Dumpster, please take them to the 90th Street Post Office and place them in the designated area. Just follow the signs to the appropriate drop-off area. Please do not leave lawn or shrub clippings by the compactor/Dumpster. Place at the curb on your scheduled day, and we will pick up. We want to keep our community clean and well maintained. Please help and please remind your neighbor to do the same.

Health & Recreation Building

As I am sure many of you have noticed, continued improvements are being made to the Health & Recreation Building. We appreciate your patience in dealing with the inconvenience as we close rooms for remodeling. We believe it will be worth it, and we will all enjoy the result.

Golf Cart Permitting

It's important to permit your golf cart — safety, identity and insurance coverage. The permitting process helps you understand the requirements for safety equipment required to operate the cart on our roads per the Marion County Ordinance and provides you a copy of the rules for the community. Since carts may freely enter and leave through our main gate, the cart permit also helps us identify that your cart belongs in the community, and we can identify you by the permit number, should there be a need. Having insurance coverage protects you should you need it. An accident with a cart recently occurred in front of Customer Service. Having the permit number is helpful to contact family members in these type cases. You may permit your cart anytime between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday at Customer Service in Friendship Commons.

Don't forget to check out the upcoming events at the Circle Square Commons Cultural Center. Many events are already on the calendar for 2008. ☺

www.ontopoftheworldinfo.com/stayinformed

Community News & Update

By Kenneth Colen, Publisher

Continued from Page 1

of Mississippi. Capacity that currently exists could become scarce if Insurers sense the state of Florida is trying to arbitrarily control rates. As it stands now, we have quality coverage, albeit at a price. When considered on a per home basis, your association is paying \$400 per home per year. If purchased individually, homeowners may pay between \$1,200 to \$1,600 dollars per year for similar coverage.

The overhead component of the budget is a very low 3.92 percent. Operational overhead is that portion of any business operation necessary to keep the doors open (so to speak). Compared to other homeowner associations, this is remarkably low.

CIRCLE SQUARE COMMONS: Progress at Circle Square Commons: Construction is progressing at a rapid pace at the newest addition to Circle Square Commons — the Town Square. Retail shops and eating establishments will wrap around the Town Square where live entertainment of many forms will take place. If construction continues to go as scheduled, we anticipate offering entertainment from the gazebo on the Town Square 2-3 nights a week beginning in mid-March. When the Town Square is complete, we will begin offering pre-show entertainment (that previously took place on the front porch of the Cultural Center) on the Town Square. There you will have plenty of

room for dancing and refreshments!

As presented in our recent Homeowner's Association meetings, we are looking to fill the retail and restaurant spaces with tenants that fit the niche of a destination entertainment complex. That is to say that each entity within Circle Square Commons Town Square will contribute to an environment that includes art, culture, food choices and is conducive to visiting, being entertained and enjoying the company of your friends and neighbors.

With commercial construction at an all time high in Marion County, we ask that you honor us with your patience as we seek to make this a very worthwhile venture and not another "strip shopping center". There is great competition in the area for worthy retail tenants overall, much less those that would be a great fit for a destination complex 1.5 miles off U.S. Highway 200.

It is our intent to be proud of whatever is created on behalf of On Top of the World Communities and we will not settle for less. ☺

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Lawns

With the confusing weather we have been having this season, some lawns are growing and other lawns are dormant. You should mow and water as needed. In cooler weather, water approximately every 10 to 14 days, applying ¾ inch at a time. Even though grass is growing, do not fertilize yet. A cold snap could damage new succulent growth stimulated by fertilization, so wait until March to do so. Rake lawns to remove fallen plant debris in preparation for spring growth and subsequent fertilization. Use the debris under and around existing trees and shrubs as mulch. If you had a problem with annual spring weeds in the past you can apply a pre-emergent herbicide in late February.

Trees and Shrubs

If you have cold-damaged landscape plants, be careful not to prune off freeze damage too soon. Plants should bud or leaf out by March. Prune out the damaged branches just below damaged area. Never prune plants when they are flushing out. As a general rule: only prune one-third of growth at any one pruning. Be careful to prune winter and spring flowering plants such as azalea, camellia, gardenia, spirea, Indian Hawthorn, wisteria, dogwood, loropetalum, redbud, and some hydrangeas, because they are preparing to bloom. To keep them blooming remove old blooms as soon as they die. Most plants will keep blooming if they think the bloom has not been fertilized. Plants that produce flowers in the summer or fall can be pruned. Watch out for cold snaps

and be ready to protect tender plants. Covering plants during hard freezes can be time consuming. Most of the plant material installed in our home packages is either cold tolerant enough to withstand the cold or some plants installed are perennials. Perennials such as lantana, some daylilies, Mexican petunia, heather and others will come back in the spring. Prune off cold-damaged growth down to about 6 inches.

If you choose to cover your plants to protect them from cold damage, be sure to use the proper materials. Frost cloth can be purchased at the local garden center or you can use an old sheet or blanket. If using plastic materials, be careful and remove the materials as soon as the temperatures allow since damage from overheating the plant material can occur because this material does not breathe well.

Winter Annuals

Most winter annuals are cold-tolerant but the blooms will not survive a hard freeze. When a hard freeze occurs, covering winter annuals is an option to preserve the blooms. If you choose not to cover your winter color, pruning off the cold damaged blooms should not affect them. Be sure to fertilize with a bloom booster after cold damage to regenerate new blooms for color.

Irrigation Systems

When cold weather is on the horizon, make sure you take the necessary steps to protect your investment in plant material and the irrigation system. This is the first year since I have been in the industry that I have seen a backflow preventer rupture from cold damage. The backflow preventer is the brass device located near the irrigation valves. This should be covered during extreme cold temperatures with a blanket or insulation to prevent damage. If damage occurs, you should call your local plumber or irrigation contractor for assistance.

Make sure you turn the irrigation system off if freezing temperatures are expected. Cold damage alone can be damaging to some cold-hardy plants and all succulent plants. If you irrigate and ice is formed, more damage can occur, not just by the ice and cold weather, but because plants can be damaged from the added weight of the ice.

I know some of you are saying, wait a minute, this is Florida ... extreme cold? We do see a few cold snaps here and there; so be ready for possible frost later this month.

If you don't like the weather in Florida ... wait five minutes; it will change. ☺

Congratulations

Anniversaries • Birthdays • New Residents



Patricia Brown
Birthday



Marlene Kaiser
Birthday



Giulio Petta
Birthday



Frank & Elaine Staley
50th Anniversary

New Year's Eve at the Arbor Club

By DEBBIE CLARK
ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

From everything that I have heard, New Year's Eve at the Arbor Club was a success.

Thank you to all for your thank-yous and kind words of appreciation. Dave and I were overwhelmed by how well received this event was. Everyone enjoyed the entertainment provided by Ricky and Frankie. They kept everyone moving all night long; they never stopped rocking.

Onto the next item for the evening — the food was over the top. Thank you to Friendship Catering. They went above and beyond, and the food was delicious.

There also was a surprise visitor for the evening's festivities. Dave must have con-

nections with the other side as Elvis made an appearance and even performed a number of songs for us. We then moved onto to ringing in the New Year with the traditional ball drop, bubbles and the lighting of 2008.

We all owe Dave a big round of applause. Without his very creative genius the above-mentioned items would not have been possible. Thank you, Dave.

Thank you to all the residents who attended this past year's New Year's Eve celebration. Pass the word on as we are already working on New Year's Eve 2008. I do not know what we will do to top this past event, but you know we will try our hardest. ☺



Submit Articles by E-mail to
otownews@otowfl.com

Welcome to On Top of the World

- James L. and Patricia S. Ferrell, 8351 S.W. 84th Loop, Candler Hills
- William R. and Loretta C. Scheffley, 9322 S.W. 94th Loop, Windsor
- James B. and Deborah A. McCarthy, 8595 S.W. 87th St., Candler Hills
- Lillian L. Smirlock, 8583 S.W. 87th St., Candler Hills
- Phyllis A. Waterman, 8770 S.W. 82nd Court Road, Candler Hills
- John J. Walsh Jr. and Rosemary A. Walsh, 9391 S.W. 91st Court Road, Renaissance Park ☺



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Candler Hills
Mary Pat Giffin

Some of us feel like old timers living in Candler Hills but as new residents settle into our community, questions abound.

We've all been there. Where do I pick up a recycle bin? When is garbage day? Where is the local library? How do I go about getting permission for a swimming pool, expanded lanai? Who do I call for answers to sundry questions?

While I know On Top of the World provides the answers in this newspaper, on Channel 19, in all that printed material we received at closing, residents still ponder solutions. We don't take the time to seek the answers. That's where John Podkomorski comes in.

John took the initiative when he moved here about two years ago to learn about the community and he communicates his findings in a monthly e-mail newsletter. He distinguishes the information he disseminates from On Top of the World as "pull" vs. "push." In other words, you have to "pull" information from On Top of the World. "It depends on you looking for it," while he "pushes the most important points of what is happening in our neighborhood."

"I try to make it easier for people to see

what's important to them. I make (communication) simpler."

John and his wife Diane brought the community together by reserving the Candler Community Center for interest groups and new neighbor welcomes.

But first John had to establish a master mailing list, which was no easy feat. He had to pull together all the new neighbors' addresses. Then, he queried residents via e-mails about their pastimes, such as cards, crafts, travel and more. He and Diane recommended who to call, when to gather, what time and where, to participate in the women's club, the excursion club, bunco, lunch bunch, RV club, poker, golf, and more.

He went to the chamber of commerce and gathered information of interest to our new neighbors. He called people in charge of the golf leagues and various organizations to get answers. He held meetings to welcome new neighbors and answer questions. He rallied (sometimes) reluctant volunteers to help him. We'll be reporting on some of these folks in future columns. But it is John Pod, who spearheaded what we have today at Candler Hills.

To illustrate how much of a difference John makes in our community, I'd like to share an incident that occurred on Christmas Eve. Forty of my neighbors and friends were gathering at the Candler Community Center for a potluck holiday gathering. The doors to the community center were locked.

Naturally, we panicked. While the guards were working on how to get us into the room, my husband called John, thinking he might have a key. He didn't but he welcomed us to use his backyard for our party. He was serious. We didn't have to take him up on his offer but this shows you what a great guy we have in our community.

When he was asked why he takes the time to answer our concerns, he said, "I get a kick out of my neighborhood being happy. I understand that every resident asks the same questions. It's prudent to find faster ways to get answers." His wife Diane says he does it, "cause he's nuts."



Photo by Mary Pat Giffin

John and Diane Podkomorski

Regardless, John stresses that his goal is "to provide timely, accurate, complete, meaningful information to every Candler Hills resident."

We all owe John a note of appreciation. He's the first person I call when gathering information for this column. E-mail him at john@podspad.us. If you're not on his mailing list, you need to be. His newsletter is informative, comprehensive and colorful. There's also a Web site where Candler residents can access information on our neighborhood. Go to www.podspad.us/cc.

I'm not going to list all the activities available to you month after month but I'll post

some new happenings and the tried and true events as space permits. For example, social bridge on Wednesday night at 7 p.m. in Community Center has taken off. Beginners are welcome. There's also some interest in a potluck supper. If you want to participate call Carolyn Axinn at 873-8731 or Bev McCarthy at 854-9416. Planning for our second annual barbecue is underway. Join Phil Moherek and his committee on Thursdays between 3 and 5 p.m. to participate in making this event successful.

In the mean time, don't hesitate to call me or e-mail with questions. I can be reached at marypatgiffin@yahoo.com or 854-8545. ☺



Indigo East
Allie Gore

Lots of information for you this month. As we begin the New Year we want to be certain everyone is included in the community directory. Contact Michael and Nancy Ludvik to request a directory, make additions and/or corrections: mnludvik@earthlink.net or 369-9973.

Items for our newsletter are directed to Roger Schwartz at schwartz8096@yahoo.com or 861-4774. Roger includes information that is of interest to the community, including referral information for handymen, or service providers with whom you have had direct experience and to whom you would refer neighbors.

He will include items for sale and/or an-

nouncements of activities or gatherings of interest to our community. If you are not receiving the newsletter, The Gazette, please e-mail or phone Roger.

Roger, Michael, Nancy and I share contact information. If at anytime you do not want to be included in our e-mails or the directory, contact one of us and we will remove you from the distribution list or lists you designate.

It appears that a phone tree to share information with neighbors who do not have e-mail is not necessary at this time. If you discover that a phone tree would be helpful to you or neighbors please contact me and I will pass the information along.

We have six community social dates scheduled for 2008. In an effort to suit more schedules we have scheduled three socials on Saturdays and three on Sundays. Our first gathering will be Saturday, Feb. 16. More information will follow by e-mail.

You are invited to help plan the remaining five socials in 2008. Contact me at indigo8062@earthlink.net for date and time of planning meetings. You are also invited to participate in any or all of the following activities that take place in our community center. Information is provided here and is updated throughout the month, via e-mail, as there are changes or additions to the schedule.

Thanks to Marge Cowie for coordinating many of the ladies luncheons in our community center this past year. Well done, Marge! Nancy Ludvik has volunteered to coordinate these events in 2008. She can be reached at the contact information noted above.

The Lunch Bunch ladies who take day trips

to enjoy lunch together and explore the area around Ocala will continue in 2008. Please contact Debbie Partin, 351-0964, for specific travel information.

Game Nights continue on the second Tuesday and fourth Thursday each month at our community center. Come join in the fun; bring a snack to share and your personal beverage.

Monday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m., and Wednesday afternoons 2 to 5 p.m. will find the mah jongg group in the community center enjoying this challenging game. If you are a mah jongg player you are invited to join either or both days. If you would like to learn to play mah jongg, Mary Ehle is the gal to see. Mary is an excellent teacher and can proudly take responsibility for having taught the majority of players in our communities. Contact Mary at 873-7507.

Joyce Diekman, 817-1364 or mtmhiker2@hotmail.com, can give you the de-

tails on the book club, which meets monthly in the community center.

The line dancing group meets on Mondays at 1 p.m. Wear smooth soled shoes; the class practices on the carpet in the great room.

Mondays, 9 a.m., the yoga class meets; bring your punch card and a mat for the floor work.

Feb. 5 is the next blood drive inside our community center. Drink lots of water the day before, have a healthy breakfast the morning of the drive, bring a photo ID and join neighbors in giving the gift of life! Thank you.

March 7 at 6 p.m. is our first First Friday gathering of 2008. At 7 p.m., we will be entertained by The Golden Troupers from the Ocala Civic Theatre. Bring a snack to share and your personal beverage. Please RSVP to me for this event.

Until next month; enjoy life; this is not a dress rehearsal! ☺

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Bloodmobile
Don Pixley

We were encouraged last month by a record turnout for 2007 (43 donors) so would like to raise the bar a bit to a very modest goal of 50 units when the drive is conducted Monday, Feb. 4. As usual, the Big Red Bus will be in the Health & Recreation parking lot from 7:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. It would be great to fill the unit to overflowing.

The recent tragic traffic accident on Interstate 4 should remind us of how quickly an emergency can occur. With many injured and taken to the local hospitals, we can only imagine how much the need for blood increased.

It could happen here! Would our supply be able to handle such an emergency? We are the sole suppliers for Marion County hospitals, so we should be very interested in keeping our supply at a level that could respond satisfactorily. This happy state can only be realized when a good number of our citizens take an hour to make a vital donation.

So, all regular and potential donors are urged to report to the donation site, and to bring a few friends and neighbors with you!

Keep your iron content up. We had only two turndowns last month. It sure would be great if I could be accused of setting a goal of 50 too low!

All donors will be awarded a T-shirt! See you all there! ☺



Lions Club
Dianne Lovely

We had quite a turnout at the Health & Wellness Fair Expo. Several people had their eyes checked and hearing tested.

Tickets went on sale in January in the Ballroom and in the Cultural Center for the Lions Annual Charity Dinner Dance. Tickets will be on sale in the Ballroom on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30 to 10 a.m. and at the Cultural Center

Mondays through Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wendy Phillips is handling the tickets. You can call Wendy at 861-0820 for further information. The Dinner Dance will be from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. on Feb. 23. The tickets are \$30 per person. Single tables are available. A cash bar will be at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the dance from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Plenty of prizes will be given out. Music will be provided by Paul Luciano Band. Dinner choices are chicken or pork with all the trimmings. The attire is semi formal.

I am always pushing how important it is to have an emergency 911 switch. This little switch could save your life. Get one today if you do not have one. Call Jim Miles at 873-1954 and he can install it for you within minutes.

Why don't you become a Lion: Call membership chairman Estelle Clark at 861-7358 or president Bob Melnick at 861-2730. ☺



Republican Club
Tony Tortora

Republican Club meetings are generally held on the second Friday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Arbor Center Conference rooms. Occasionally, the date or time changes to accommodate a special event. Always check the TV announcements for the next meeting.

The plans for the next few months are:

· Feb. 8: The guest speaker will be a candidate for county sheriff, Paul Truesdell. There will be a no cost to members picnic of hot dogs, potato chips, soda and coffee, and a sweethearts valentine cake.

· March 14: Commissioner Stan McLain has been invited to be the guest speaker.

· May 9: Candidates for County Commission District 5 are invited to speak. They are the incumbent commissioner Charlie Stone and challenger Ray Strickland.

· June 13: Candidates for County Commission District 1 are invited to speak. They are Jimmy Walton and Mike Amsden.

· Aug. 8: Candidate School Superintendent Jim Yancey will join us for the Jim Yancey Pizza Party. Republican School Board members and candidates are welcome.

The guest speaker in January was County Commissioner Charlie Stone who gave an excellent review of local issues and future plans for the county.

All Republican candidates for office are welcome at the meetings and many will attend. They are given an opportunity to introduce themselves but not to give a campaign speech unless invited to do so.

Look out for scams. I recently received a very official looking envelope that stated "Notice: 2007 Government Benefits Increase" with no return address. The document enclosed promised me a loan of over \$200,000 and implied that it was administered by the government. All you had to do was call an 800 number. After reading carefully, the fine print at the bottom advised that the lender was the American Advisors Group, Inc. (whoever they are) and that the offer was a private service not being made by an agency of the government. I further noticed that the postmark was a metered mail logo from Escondido, Calif., and only cost them 17 cents. The offer currently resides in the trash.

Be careful of these "too good to be true" offers. They target seniors and often get into their savings. Do not be fooled by these attempts to take your savings. If we could eliminate the bulk mail breaks for unwanted solicitations, the cost of mailing a letter would decrease and the garbage bags would be lighter.

See you at the next meeting. ☺



Democratic Club
Lee Wittmer

The general meeting of the Democratic Club on Tuesday, Feb. 19, will be held in Suites E and F of the Arbor Conference Center at 7 p.m. with refreshments served at 6:30 p.m. Our speaker will be Ben Wilcox, executive director of Common Cause Florida.

After graduation from Florida State University in 1976, Ben worked as a reporter for the

Florida Public Radio Network, providing reports on state government and the Florida legislature to public radio stations through the state. In 1978, he became the news director for the network and in 1994 he also became the news director for WFSU-FM, the public radio station in Tallahassee. As a journalist he covered 23 sessions of the Florida legislature and won awards from the Associated Press and the Society of Professional Journalists. He also hosted a statewide call-in program called Florida on the Line featuring the state's political leaders, including the governor, the legislative leadership and members of the state cabinet.

On Sept. 1, 1999, Ben Wilcox was named the executive director of Common Cause Florida. Common Cause is an advocate for government reform and is known as the citizens lobby organization. Its members seek to reduce the influence of wealthy special interests on public policy and make government more open and accountable to the average citizen.

As executive director, Ben Wilcox is responsible for representing the position of Common Cause before the Florida legislature on a variety of issues including election reform, campaign finance reform, open government, reapportionment and ethics reform.

We welcome anyone to our meeting who may have an interest in hearing Wilcox. ☺

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POET'S CORNER

Poetry from On Top of the World Residents

So Much to Love

By HAZEL EHLE

I love the gorgeous sun
That makes the day so bright

Also the glistening stars
As they twinkle through the night.

The moon so beautiful when full
Really brightens up the sky
Many stop to admire it
When they go walking by.

I welcome the gentle rain
Making the grass so green
And gives all the flowers
That special glow and sheen.

I love the fluffy clouds
As they go floating by
So many things to admire
Like the azure blue sky.

When you step outside
Or go for a short walk
Always wear a lovely smile
For some who need to talk.

I love to see a smiling face
So I like to wear one too
If someone sad comes along
They may smile back at you. ☺

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Photo by Lynne Callender Murray

Flamingos sun themselves at Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park, Homosassa.



Birders' Beat
Jane Callender

The Unique Birders will meet Feb. 19 in Suite H of the Arbor Conference Center.

This is our yearly planning session; come with ideas! Our president, Roberta Campbell, will host the meeting and give a report on the January field trip that she and Carole Rao organized. An extra trip in January was "Give a Hoot — Come Pick Some Fruit." We were invited to pick our own oranges for just a donation to a worthy cause, The Ocala Wild Life Sanctuary (Owls of Ocala).

The Feb. 29 field trip will be to Wood Duck

Drive in Emerald Marsh. This will be on a Friday rather than our last Thursday of the month. We will be given instructions for this trip at the Feb. 19 meeting. For further information call Roberta Campbell at 854-4814 or me at 861-2983.

The colorful flamingo is this month's bird. It is a rare straggler on the mud flats of southern Florida; most are probably escapees from various parks.

Flamingos weren't always scarce in Florida. In 1832 John James Audubon saw his first flock on Indian Key. He gushed "Ah, reader, could you but know the emotions that agitated my breast."

Whether wild flamingos ever nested in Florida is the subject of debate. One report (April 1901) suggests they did. Forty to fifty flamingos were seen sitting on whitish stumps (crater-like mud nests) on Sugarloaf Key.

Today we can see flamingos at Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park (on Route 19 south of Crystal River) where this picture was taken. Its voice is a goose-like honk, or gabbling. Feeding time at the park is quite noisy!

The flamingo is all pink except for the tip of a curved bill and black tips and trailing edges of wings. In flight it could be described as a "broomstick with wings." When flying, its extremely long neck extends droopily in front and the long legs trail behind, giving the impression that the bird might as easily fly backward as forward! ☺



Photo by Elizabeth Kyle

Ron Chard, president of the Genealogical Society.



Genealogical Society
Elizabeth Kyle

soleums, lawncrypts, ground burial gardens, monument gardens and niches.

Each garden has a different name, but the gardens follow a common mapping method. The section number is located in the center, four lots are lettered A, B, C and D with four burial sites on each lot.

When Ron and I visited, we were warmly welcomed by Tory Gee who gave us a tour and explained the mapping system to us. Thanks to Tory for taking time out of his busy day. He also shared with us the fact that he has American Indian ancestry. Maybe one of our members can share some information with him. The gardens are lovely and will be a pleasant place for our first foray into cemetery indexing. We have several volunteers. To make good progress we will need a plan and forms to indicate the information gleaned from each grave. I think Ron and I are eager to get started so that our work does not extend into the hot weather. If there is anyone who would like to volunteer give Ron a call.

Ron planned to orient volunteers at our January meeting; however, this is not a short-term project. I think that help in all areas will be welcomed over the next few months.

Our business meetings are held on the second Monday at 10 a.m. in Room 3 of the Arts & Crafts Building. There will be a sign on the door. Our presentation/mentoring meeting is held on the third Monday at 10:30 a.m. in Suites B and C of the Arbor Conference Center. ☺

Good news! By the time you read this column we will have begun our indexing of Good Shepherd Memorial Gardens. Any indexing of genealogical information is a service to current and future genealogists. This is a small part of a project to index all of Marion County's cemeteries.

This particular site is larger than I envisioned it. There are approximately 8,000 graves of different types: private mausoleums, private family estates, community mau-

Wanted: Judges for Regional Science Fair

If you are enthusiastic, have several hours to volunteer, want to encourage high-achieving students, and will serve as a positive role model, you're needed to judge the Big Springs Regional Science Fair set for Thursday and Friday, Feb. 21 and 22. This is where hundreds of students go head-to-head in the science competition moving this year to the National Guard Armory in Ocala at 900 S.W. 20th St.

The annual event draws students in sixth through 12th grades from Levy, Marion and Sumter Counties, each displaying their own unique science projects. Individual winners from public, private and charter schools advance to this regional level, with several dozen awards handed out in various categories.

Judging takes place both days, with winners

announced Friday night at a special awards ceremony at the MTI Auditorium at 7 p.m. (1614 S.E. Fort King St., Ocala). Public viewing of the projects takes place earlier Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Armory.

Regional winners advance to the Florida State Science and Engineering Fair in Lakeland April 16 through 18. State winners then continue to the International Science and Engineering Fair in Atlanta May 11 through 17.

Judges should have a math, science, technical or medical background. For more information on judging, contact Jacqua Ballas at 236-0588 or e-mail her at Jacqua.Ballas@marion.k12.fl.us.

Deadline for judges to register is Feb. 12.

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Fitness Focus
Mary Pat Giffin

Lower your Golf Score with Golf Conditioning Exercises

Do you want to lower your golf score? Do you want a more powerful golf swing? "Research has proven that strength training and flexibility can increase club head speed — a determining factor in driving distance," said Howie Davis, Health & Recreation personal trainer, who encourages you to "concentrate on functional exercises, which include a combination of movements to both strengthen the muscles as well as improve the neuromuscular coordination."

Strengthening the abs, lower back, lat muscles, quadriceps, right/left deltoids and hamstrings make a difference in the outcome of your golf swing. Each of these areas helps you to maintain your posture throughout your swing, producing a repeatable swing with fewer miss hits. From the time you begin your address to the moment you come in contact with the ball, your posture must withstand the torque of your golf swing to prevail.

At address your knees and hips are bent, which requires the strength of your quadriceps and hamstrings. Your hamstrings are under the most tension. If your hamstrings are tight, you increase your chances of subjecting your back to undue pressure and strain, as well as breaking your posture. On the other hand, if your hamstrings are loose, you are able to keep your control over your posture, and relieve any strain from your lower back.

To create the perfect back swing your trunk and lower back need to coil with minimal hip rotation. For this to happen, you require a tremendous amount of flexibility in your lower back and mid-section. Without the power of this flexibility, you will suffer restrictions and will not create any torque.

The down swing requires a substantial amount of strength and flexibility in the torso. Watch the pros and you will see for yourself that during the down swing, their upper body stays back. This is how they store the powerful energy that creates long, straight drives every time. However, if your torso remains restricted, your upper body will overcompensate for your lack of flexibility, and you'll produce a beautiful slice that will amaze even the worst players that amateur golf has to offer.

RECREATION CENTER FITNESS SCHEDULE

HEALTH AND RECREATION CENTER GROUP EXERCISE SCHEDULE
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1ST 2008 *DENOTES A FEE BASED CLASS

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7:15 Aerobics Room	Oyxcise 20 min. Video	Oyxcise 20 min. Video	Oyxcise 20 min. Video	Oyxcise 20 min. Video	Oyxcise 20 min. Video	Oyxcise 12:15 20 Min.
8:00-8:50 Aerobics Room	Cardio Mix Mary Pat	Condition & Stretch Cammy	Cardio Mix Donna	Condition & Stretch Cammy	Cardio Mix Cammy	Sunday
9:00-9:50 Aerobics Room	Circuit Burn&Firm and Firm Mary Pat	Tai Qi Po* Frank	Circuit Burn&Firm and Firm Mary Pat	Tai Qi Po* Frank	Circuit Burn&Firm and Firm Mary Pat	Oyxcise 12:15 20 Min.
10:00-10:30 Aerobics Room	Balanced Body Mary Pat	Absolutely Abs Howie	Balanced Body Mary Pat	Absolutely Abs Howie	Balanced Body Mary Pat	
10:30-11:15 Aerobics Room	Light Aerobics Mary Pat	Healthy Living Seminar 1st Tuesday of the Month	Light Aerobics Mary Pat		Light Aerobics Mary Pat	
10:30-11:15 H&R Ballroom	Power Aerobics Kitti		Power Aerobics Kitti		Power Aerobics Kitti	
12:00-1:00 Fitness Center		Cybox Orientation Howie				
12:15 Aerobics Room	Oyxcise 20 min. Video	Oyxcise 20 min. Video	Oyxcise 20 min. Video	Oyxcise 20 min. Video	Oyxcise 20 min. Video	
12:00-1:00 Fitness Center		Cybox Orientation Howie				
Aerobics Room 3:00-4:00	Your New Power* Howie		Your New Power* Howie			

***NEW: Absolutely Abs and Healthy Living Seminar**

To "stay in" your swing through, and past impact, takes a lot of strength and flexibility in your torso, legs and more specifically in your upper body — particularly in your chest and shoulders. The flexibility of your upper body is key to your success during impact, and if this area is kept tense, you will end up sporting the dreaded "chicken wing" stance, with your elbow sticking up as you swipe the ball.

Howie recommends golfers to "regularly stretch their shoulders, chest lats, trunk, torso and hamstrings because they will be able to maintain perfect body positions, and really come into impact with a lot of club head speed. They will find that not only will you make extremely accurate shots almost every time, but you will see your drives sail 10, 20, and even 30 yards further than before."

Squats and lunges, done properly, really get

into your quadriceps and hamstrings, as well as your glutes, hip flexors, and calf muscles to produce a stable base to your golf swing.

Pilates, an exercise program that has been around since the 1930s, is Tiger Woods' chief source of flexibility training. The exercises are centered almost entirely on your torso, the section of your body from the chest to the pelvis. This is called the core. It builds the strength of the torso, from the inside out. Pilates builds both strength and flexibility, and facilitates the transfer of that strength from your core to your arms and legs.

A single leg stretch, for example, strengthens the core for a more stable stance and increases the flexibility in the hips for a better hip turn.

Lie on your back and peel your upper body off the ground, keeping your chin close to your chest. Bend your right knee and position your hands on either side of the knee. Your left leg is lifted off the ground. Inhale to begin. Exhale and then switch legs, bending the left knee. Change hands to that knee and straighten the right leg. Use your abdominal muscles and pelvic floor strength to keep your pelvis still while moving your legs. Inhale to center then exhale when switching legs and hand position. Continue the breathing pattern while changing legs. Do 10 times.

Another exercise to build strength and stability is the plank. Your forearms and toes are on the floor. Keep your torso straight and rigid and your body in a straight line from ears to toes with no sagging or bending. With your head relaxed look at the floor. Hold for 10 seconds to start and work up to 30, 45 or 60 seconds.

There are reams of exercises you can do to improve your golf game. Stop by H&R and ask Howie for some suggestions. When I told him I was going to do an article on golf conditioning, he pulled out a folder with pages and pages of exercises to condition your body for a lower score on the golf course. ☺



Fitness Happenings
Cammy Dennis

Empower Your Mind and Your Muscle!

Join us in the Health & Recreation Aerobics Room every first Tuesday of the month for our free Healthy Living Seminars.

Our first seminar was held on Jan. 8 and we had a lively discussion on body composition. I explained the difference between lean body mass and body fat. We don't always want to lose "weight," we want to lose body fat!

It's vital that we exercise to prevent and reverse the effects of aging. Exercise will increase your bone density and muscle mass. I recently came across a great quote that illustrates this point beautifully: "It's less about what you lose, and more about what you gain!" Staying strong will improve your quality of life and keep you independent. Keeping your body fat down is very important when it comes to disease prevention.

Be sure to join us for the next Healthy Living Seminar on Tuesday, Feb. 5, for an in-depth look at strength training. This seminar is entitled "S.O.S." Serious On Strength!

This discussion will be led by certified personal trainers Howie Williams and Cammy Dennis. We are eager to share the importance of strength training with you and help you get started on a program of your own. Bring your questions; we are here to assist you!

Please be sure to take advantage of our free Fitness Center Orientation every Tuesday at noon. Our very own personal trainer leads this orientation; he will introduce you to the entire strength training circuit of Cybox machines. Howie Williams is available for individual personal training sessions as well; please call ahead for appointment times and training fees.

Check out our new group & schedules for the Health and Recreation Center and the Arbor Club. We have new classes and programming ... there is something for everyone. Don't forget to join us for the upcoming Healthy Living Seminars ... empower your mind and your body! ☺

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Kitti's Corner
Kitti Surrette

Strategies To Keep The Pounds Off For Good!

So you've shimmied into your smallest top or pants. You've done a victory lap around the scale. You're a big loser, and you're awesome! Now you've got to keep the pounds off — why? Because every day you prevent weight gain is another day you don't have to worry about dieting. Following are some affirmations of little things you can do to stay at your best weight. They could really make a big difference in maintaining your fabulous new self.

Start the Day Right

A study of people in the National Weight Control Registry (that's more than 6,000 people, who lost an average of 67 pounds and kept it off for at least six years) found that if they ate a morning meal, "they were better able to control their food intake all day long," explains James O. Hill, Ph.D., director of the Center for Human Nutrition at the University of Colorado. Another secret of long-term success: Eat, don't drink, your calories: beverages like lattes, iced tea and juices aren't as satisfying as whole food and add unnecessary calories.

Get Some Protein

University of Arizona scientists observed how 11 women kept off an average of 10 pounds for a year after undergoing a four-month weight-loss program. Their secret: eating substantial amounts of protein — it's more satiating than carbs or even fat. Experts recommend that the average healthy woman gets about 1/3 gram of protein for every pound she weighs, so that's a daily total of 48 grams for a 145 pound woman. Stay full longer by adding protein to every meal.

Pack On Produce

Experts are unanimous: Eat lots of fruits and veggies (five half-cup servings is the minimum; nine is ideal). High fiber, vitamin rich fruit and vegetables help you feel fuller even when you're limiting your calories, leaving less room for fat and calorie laden fare. Clearly, you can't get these foods in a vending machine, so you will need to plan ahead. Anyone would agree, "You have to be proactive to stay healthy."

Eat to Feel Full on Less

We know portions in the 1970's were two to five times smaller than they are now and that exploding serving sizes are partially to blame for the obesity epidemic. But you can go back in time, meal wise. Simply fill your plate with half as much meat, cheese, pasta or rice as you think you want to eat and double the amount of vegetables. Eating foods that are low in calories but have a lot of volume will keep you feeling full.

Work Out to Better Manage Stress

Thin women know that exercising instead of eating when they're anxious keeps pounds at bay. Walk for just 15 minutes, instead of hitting the candy counter, for just four days out of five, and you've added an hour of exercise to your week. In fact, research shows that just 10 minutes of brisk walking may increase energy for up to two hours. Try getting that kind of boost from a bag of M&M's. (Thanks to Toni I gave up M&M's) I haven't tried the walking idea but I'm putting it in my goals right now.

Plan When, Not If, You'll Work Out

Stick with a regular schedule, but be flexible enough to change the time and type of exercise. And most important, don't cancel it altogether when other obligations come up. Planning your exercise times, just like you all those other activities you do at On Top of the World, will ensure that you work out. Let's



Photo by Bob Woods

On Top of the World Communities Fitness Director Cammy Dennis gives out goodie bags and information at the Health & Wellness Expo on Jan. 19 at the Circle Square Cultural Center.

face it, with all the different times and classes that Cammy has on the schedule, it would be hard to say you couldn't fit something in for your exercise. If you miss a session, designate the next one as a challenge day: If you skipped a cardio workout, tack an extra 10 minutes onto your next one (we do have treadmills and bikes in the fitness center). Start planning now!

Love What You Do To Get Fit

You have to enjoy exercising. Think - what did I enjoy as a child? What can I do outdoors? The University of Arizona study found that those internal motivators are far more effective than external forces, such as a costly gym membership or prodding from a spouse or doctor. Sweating it out on a treadmill is just one way of working out. Activities like walking your dog, playing on a tennis team, softball team and dancing all count. Research shows that for sedentary people, participating in casual, lifestyle oriented activities like playing with your grandchildren or taking three short walks during the day (adding up to a total of at least 30 minutes) is as effective as a gym based program in improving cardiovascular health, and it's a great way to start adding activity into your life. And walking whenever you are able, can burn extra calories too. Re-

member, we also have a Let's Sit and Get fit class, in which we do some standing and walking exercise three times per week. The class meets on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 11:45 a.m. at the Arbor Club Ballroom. It's a lot of laughs. Come join in the fun!

Have a Plan B

It happens. You come back from vacation and are shocked at what you see on the scale. Successful maintainers know their weight goes up and down, but they set a range that they stay within. Establish your trigger number (5 pounds over?), and then have a strategy for taking the weight off. Start now ... say at your next meal.

Stop and Think

That means that when the waiter says, "Would you like to see the dessert cart?" you take a minute to ponder what else you ate during that meal or that day and consider whether you have room for a slice of cake in your calorie budget. Or when the "I'm too tired to" blues hit, you tell yourself you just have to do 10 minutes rather than bagging your workout altogether.

Some Other Thoughts

· Make lifestyle changes not to stay slim,

but to stay healthy. Don't ever lose weight to look good, it won't last.

· When you hit your limit, get back to basics (measuring portions, tracking exercise) until you're back to your target weight.

· Working out with weights at least twice a week maintains muscle mass, which in turn burns more calories and will make you feel and look strong.

· Focus on eating a well-balanced diet, exercising and most important getting happy. Happiness could be the best fat burner out there.

· Look forward to treating yourself to non-food items like shopping (ready, girls) or going to a spa when you reach a goal. It'll make you feel great!

I want you to go now and plan your strategies to keep those pounds off for good!

See you in class! 🌟

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Meet Your Neighbor



Virginia Pascarella has been a resident of On Top of the World for approximately two years. Virginia is a Florida licensed Interior Designer who works for Veranda Home Furnishings and Design. Virginia has been creating beautiful homes for 38 years.

Virginia and her dog, Duchess, lives in Friendship Village. She enjoys working with On Top of the World and Oak Run residents, as well as surrounding areas.

To schedule an in-home visit, call Virginia at 305-527-4490 or at the showroom.

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World Traveler
Bill Shampine

Are we packed and ready to head out? Did you remember to put back half of what you first selected to take with you? Very good! Our first stop this year is Chile. I think Chile is one of the more fascinating places in the world, although I suspect very few of us have been there. Chile was first populated by Native Americans about 10,000 years ago. The great Inca civilization began their conquests of what is now Chile in the mid-1400s. After Magellan discovered the southern route around the world in 1520 (around the south end of the South American continent), the Spanish conquistadors started coming to the region seeking gold. Santiago, the capital, located in central Chile, was founded by the Spanish in 1541. There was not a lot of gold there, but the central valley of Chile is a rich agricultural land, which proved even more valuable in the long run. The early 1800s saw a drive for independence from Spain, which finally was accomplished in 1818. Chile signed a treaty with Argentina in 1881 in which it confirmed sovereignty over the Strait of Magellan, a crucial part of the world's shipping lanes. Winning a war against Peru and Bolivia in 1879-83, Chile increased its territory almost one-third, eliminated Bolivia's access to the Pacific Ocean (still a diplomatic issue of contention), and gained valuable nitrate deposits, which led to an era of national affluence. A military coup in 1924 set off a period of political instability that continues to wax and wane to this day, with the regime of Augusto Pinochet perhaps being the best known to most Americans.

Chile is a little larger than Texas in area, but it is as thin as most of us would like to be. It is 2,880 miles long (the longest country in the world) and 286 miles wide at its widest point, with an average width of about 100 miles. Frankly, one of the things that impressed me in Chile was the challenge of making a road map. Think about it. How do you make a usable road map for a country with those dimensions? Their solution was to make a map similar to an AAA TripTik®. One result of the extraordinary length of Chile is to provide the framework for a remarkable variety of landscapes. The Atacama Desert, located in north-

ern Chile, contains great mineral wealth, primarily copper and nitrate. In fact, over a third of the world's copper comes from the Atacama Desert. Working in this desert has its drawbacks, however, as it is the driest place on Earth. It has an average annual rainfall of ZERO! Actually, scientists believe it has not rained there in more than 400 years! It is such a unique desert area that NASA has been conducting Mars-related research there for many years. The Central Valley of Chile is a rich agricultural area, which, among other things, includes some wonderful vineyards that produce excellent wines (I speak from personal experience here). The capital city of Chile, Santiago, has a population of about 5.8 million people. Southern Chile is rich in forests and grazing lands and contains a string of volcanoes and lakes. The southern coast (Patagonia region) is particularly beautiful with its labyrinth of fjords, inlets, canals, twisting peninsulas and islands. The Andes Mountain range forms the eastern border of Chile. So, you can visit deserts, lush wetlands, mountains, coastal plains, verdant grasslands, rich farmlands — take your pick! Finally, Chile also controls Easter Island and Sala y Gomez Island, the easternmost islands of Polynesia, which were incorporated into its territory in 1888.

My reason for going to Chile was in support of U.S. foreign policy by exploring the possibility of establishing a joint working relationship with the water-related governmental agencies in north Chile. [The joint effort did not pan out because they could/would not come up with any of the funding.] Regardless, I was fortunate enough to spend a week in Copiapo, located at the southern edge of the Atacama Desert. Copiapo, with a population of about 130,000, was founded in 1744 in a rich silver and copper mining area. It's relatively wet with an average of almost one half inch of rain per year! The people I met there were extraordinarily friendly and gracious, but I had a personal problem at mealtime. Chileans tend to eat a bit late. I typically would be picked up about 11 p.m. to go out for dinner. Frankly, for me, that is bedtime rather than dinner time. Even though meals did not



Penguins groom themselves along one of the many streams around Punta Arenas, Chile.

finish until 1-2 a.m., they all were at work by 8 a.m. the next morning. Siesta time is from 12-3 p.m., although the men with whom I was meeting continued to work during this time, at least while I was there. Business then reopens about 3 p.m. and stays open until about 8-9 p.m. I also visited one of the largest scallop farms in the world located in the coastal town of Caldera. There I learned that 40% of a scallop is removed for the American market. Scallops actually look something like a giant apostrophe mark, but Americans won't buy it with the tail part still attached, so the tail is removed for the American market.

Although increasing, tourism in Chile still is relatively small compared with other countries in the region. Further, the bulk of the tourists is from other countries in South America with relatively few Americans or Europeans. Tourism tends to be concentrated in the summer months (December to March), so this month is a good time for us to go there. The main attractions are places of natural beauty. In the north, San Pedro de Atacama is popular, where you can see the Inca architecture and high lakes in the Valley of the Moon. There also are two volcanoes with altitudes greater than 20,000 feet. The central Andes have many world-class ski resorts for those of us who still are snow-lovers. In the south, there is Chile Island, Patagonia, the San Rafael Lagoon, with its many glaciers, and the Towers of Paine National Park. With its giant figures carved of volcanic rock, Easter Island, located in the Pacific Ocean, is probably the

main Chilean tourist destination.

To get to Chile, we fly from Orlando to Miami and then to Santiago, a total distance of 4,417 miles. To visit other locations in Chile it probably is best to fly because the distances make driving prohibitive. I think a visit to the Atacama Desert would be interesting, perhaps by way of Copiapo, which is well off the normal tourist track, in order to get a real feel for the daily life of a typical Chilean, or possibly to Antofagasta, a large city on the coast. From the north, we need to travel to Punta Arenas in the Patagonia region, Chile's southernmost city. This is a well-known region that offers dramatic landscape vistas. As the South American continent ends, there is an explosion of islands, glaciers, icebergs and mountains. It truly is a beautiful area and the home of several of Chile's National Parks. Another traditional stop on the cruise line circuit is Puerto Chacabuco. The entire southern end of Chile is so beautiful; if we only take time to visit one part of Chile, this should be it. Of course, as one of the most popular tourist locations, Easter Island probably is well worth a bit of time, but, there are just too many places to enjoy and not enough time!

Oh well, moving along, touring around Chile will add 3,315 additional miles to our trip; bringing us to a total of 7,732 miles. Since we happen to be almost at the bottom of the world, we are going to go ahead and go there next month! Note: even though it is summer there in March, you need to bring a jacket. ☺

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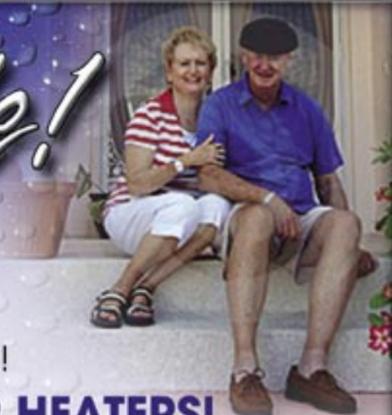
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Ask the Trainer Howie Williams

Greetings from the Fitness Center staff! We hope you guys are enjoying our new classes and programs. Let's go over some of the new programming we are offering in case you're not already involved.

Absolutely Abs

This class is dedicated as an intense 30 minutes of just abdominal and lower back exercises to strengthen the core muscle groups so important in everyday activities. You work at your own level and progress at your own speed. Adaptations are made for everyone with lower back problems and any contraindication so feel free to try it out.

SOS

Serious on Strength is our Healthy Living Seminar on Feb. 5 by Cammy Dennis and yours truly. This highlights the benefits specifically for the senior population that are so important and often overlooked.

Half Marathon Walk

This is Feb. 24 and is a great incentive to get in shape, get the legs, lungs and heart in great shape. We have a training regimen for you and Team On Top of the World wants you! Come join us for a great time.

Stability Balls

In our Your New Power Class at 3 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays we use a lot of the stability ball in our training. They are a wonderful tool to get your entire body in shape especially the abdominals and your balance. I have to shout out for the men in the class as typically men don't frequent group exercise classes as much as the women. Hey, Bev, Tony, Roger, George, kudos to you for breaking the trend. Also, I would like to welcome our newcomers who didn't even roll off their ball ... that much.

I have to admit, when introduced to the stability ball years ago, I was fairly skeptical too. After all, fitness consumers and professionals alike are constantly bombarded with new equipment and programming, some of which works and is safe, and some of which does not work and is not safe. Guaranteed, stability balls are here to stay and have probably been around longer than you think.

Where Did They Come From?

Stability ball training has its roots in rehabilitation. Physical therapists and orthopedic specialists worldwide have used this concept of training on an unstable surface since the early 1900s. Balls were used with patients who had neurological or orthopedic disorders. Today, medical doctors, osteopathic specialists, chiropractors, physical therapists and many other fitness professionals use the ball not only to treat and rehab physical injuries, but now mainstream practitioners and the public alike are getting on the ball and using it to prevent more serious physical problems before they occur.

So, What Are They?

Just in case you're wondering, stability balls are large, heavy-duty, inflatable balls that are used as a piece of exercise equipment. Not only are they bomb-proof, they're generally rated to hold up to 600 or 700 pounds, but

ARBOR CLUB FITNESS & AQUATIC SCHEDULE

ARBOR CLUB FITNESS SCHEDULE

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1ST 2008

*DENOTES A FEE BASED CLASS

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 Fitness Room					Pilates Terry	Open Swim
9:15-10:00 Arbor Club Indoor Pool	Deep Water Aerobics* Cammy	Shallow Water Aerobics* Barbara	Deep Water Aerobics* Cammy	Shallow Water Aerobics* Barbara	Deep Water Aerobics* Cammy	Sunday Open Swim
9:15-10:15 Fitness Room	Yoga* Ronnese AC Ballroom	Advanced Yoga* Ronnese Fitness Room	Yoga* Ronnese AC Ballroom			
10:15-11:15 Fitness Room	Chair Yoga* Claudia Fitness Room		Light Yoga* Claudia Fitness Room			
10:30-11:30 Fitness Room				Let's Dance* Kitti 2nd & 4th Thurs of the month		
11:45-12:30 Arbor Club Ballroom	Get Fit While You Sit Kitti		Get Fit While You Sit Kitti		Get Fit While You Sit Kitti	
1:30-2:15 Arbor Club Indoor Pool	Shallow Water Aerobics* Cammy		Shallow Water Aerobics* Mary Pat		Shallow Water Aerobics* Cammy/Mary Pat	

*NEW: "Absolutely Abs" class and Health Living Seminars at H&R see schedule for details!

the ball is also comfortable and supportive because it conforms to your unique anatomy since it is air-filled, and using the ball makes it easy to get into and out of different exercise positions because it gets you off of the floor. The ball is especially well-suited to improving ab and lower-back strength, as well as to bettering functional strength, flexibility and balance. Stability balls offer you a fun, safe and highly effective way to exercise.

Benefits of Stability Ball Training

Maintaining proper alignment on the ball stimulates the body's natural motor reflexes and encourages the body to react as a whole, integrated unit. In other words, this type of movement compares to how you move about in a normal day and training on the ball challenges the whole body to participate in order to maintain correct posture and balance, and to perform dynamic exercise movement. When using the ball correctly, the body is required to utilize various muscles for stabilization. These muscles may not have been previously challenged using traditional exercise equipment. Because the ball is versatile and dynamic the training outcome is pre-directed toward maximal results.

Abs and More!

As you work out on the ball you will find that it is especially effective in targeting your abdominal and lower back muscles. Even while training other muscle groups, the ab and back musculature is simultaneously working to balance and stabilize the body. Strong postural muscles and proper posture are important for relieving and preventing low-back pain.

The ball can improve muscle strength and endurance in all of the major muscle groups. Training with the ball can improve muscle tone, increase muscle endurance and strength, restore or improve flexibility, enhance spinal stability, complement your resistance and aerobic training programs, help you lose weight, and lastly, improve your balance, posture and coordination.

The ball is ideal for stretching and offers additional options to traditional static stretching. Traditional stretching usually re-

quires you to stretch on the floor and it can be difficult to move into and out of stretching positions.

Versatility

- The ball can be used at home or in both group exercise and personal training settings.
- It can be adapted to all ages, all fitness levels and special populations.
- The ball is portable and light weight.
- It is easy to travel with and easy to store.
- The ball is an inexpensive exercise tool.
- The ball is maintenance free over a long life.

The ball encourages "play." It brings a freshness and newness to any exercise program.

The brilliance and simplicity of the stability ball is rolled into one word — balance! Because the ball demands balance, you'll work muscles you never knew you had or challenge them in a different way. The challenge of maintaining perfect posture, on a round and mobile surface is exhilarating, fun and incredibly effective in

building functional strength, and challenging your ab and back muscles like never before! If you've ever considered exercise punishment, it's time to have a ball!

Fitness Orientations

They are free at noon every Tuesday. Please feel free to contact me for a free fitness consultation. Everyone can do something great to improve your quality of life in our fitness center. You just need to know how! Call me!

Personal Training

Personal training is available at the most reasonable rates anywhere. It's ideal for getting your individual exercise program for weight loss, muscle strength and conditioning, balance, injury rehabilitation, golf, and osteoporosis prevention and reversal.

That's it for February. We hope to see more of you come and take advantage of our Fitness Center that has added new equipment.

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Members of the Travel Toppers ventured to see the ice sculptures exhibit at the Gaylord Plams in Kissimmee in early January. Visitors had to don coats for the exhibit, which was housed at 9 degrees.



Travel Toppers
Jo Swing

Here we are in February already. For such a short month, it has a lot going on. There is Groundhog Day, two presidential birthdays, Lincoln's and Washington's, though nowadays celebrated as one, President's Day, Valentine's Day and this year Feb. 29, Leap Year Day.

Travel Toppers also has a lot going on. Wait lists are wanted for the Feb. 4 Seniors at Leisure Series offering, Irving Berlin's I Love a Piano, and the Feb. 26 Charlie Prose show in Daytona Beach. Coordinator for the Irving Berlin presentation is Alan Rickards. For the Charlie Prose show please call Helene Sternberger at 861-9065.

Reservations are now being taken for the Saturday, March 1, Smucker's Stars On Ice Show at the St. Pete Times Forum in Tampa. Please contact the coordinator Glo Hutchings for reservations.

Reservations started on Jan. 29 for the trip to Tampa Bay Downs on March 6. Pat Hood is the coordinator for this very popular event.

On Feb. 5, registration begins for the Tuesday, March 18, trip to see the Ringling Home, Museum and Gardens in Sarasota. The cost is \$37 and includes admission, transportation and driver's tip. Food is on your own. The coordinator is Toni LaGatutta.

Registration for the Saturday, April 5, trip to the Show Palace Dinner Theater in Hudson to see "Kiss Me, Kate" will start on Feb. 8. Pat Benson is the coordinator for this delightful trip.

Travel Toppers is currently taking reservations for the two-day trip to Tallahassee and Wakulla Springs that will take place Sunday and Monday, April 20 and 21. Please contact Audrey Mangan to reserve a spot on this enjoyable and interesting trip. The fishing trip that is in the planning stage for April just needs a few more avid fisher folk to be a go. This will go out of Hernando Beach into the Gulf. To be put on the list please call Jo Swing.

The report back from all who went on the Christmas Day trip to Hudson to see their wonderful holiday revue and enjoy the great buffet there was nothing but raves. Two bus loads went. Many commented on the performance of a little boy in the show who was just fantastic.

Reporting on the Jan. 3 trip to see the ice sculptures, Cathy Babero has this to say. "Thursday, Jan. 3, was the coldest day of the year — 27 degrees. That is the day Travel Toppers went to visit the ice sculptures exhibit at the Gaylord Palms in Kissimmee. Upon entering the exhibit, the group was treated to a TV presentation of Old Man Winter, and then everyone was given a hooded blue parka to put on over their sweaters, mittens and scarves as the temperature in the exhibit was a frosty 9 degrees Fahrenheit. This winter wonderland, in its fifth year, is carved from nearly two million pounds of ice. These magnificent ice sculptures are hand carved by a team of 40 international artisans from Harbin, China.

"The first sculpture displayed was a huge poinsettia which led to a walk-through igloo. There was an impressive life-size nativity scene in clear ice complete with camels, a frost proof express locomotive in color, and a walk-through candy house. All these eye appealing exhibits led up to the newly redesigned ice slides. There were three levels of slides — beginning, intermediate, and advanced. Here the child inside came out. Cathy and Pat made two trips on the intermediate ice slide. It was fun to slide on you butt on the ice. The hardest part was sitting down without falling down. Most everyone left the exhibit with rosy cheeks and proceeded to the decorated Atrium for a complimentary sup of hot chocolate."

All 48 boarded the bus for the next part of the day's adventure — the Tiffany Chapel and Museum in Winter Park. The Chapel designed in the Byzantine-Romanesque style was created for the Chicago Exposition of 1893. The chapel is of some Christian faith but not necessarily a particular denomination. It included an altar, lectern, candlesticks, tabernacle and a splendid massive baptismal font. The retdos mosaic (altar wall) shows two peacocks on either side of a bunch of grapes above which hovers a great crown. These images express the redemption — the central belief of Christianity. Some of the art was previously housed in Louis Comfort Tiffany's Oyster Bay, Long Island, N.Y., home. I found the stained glass windows to be made of intricate design using brilliant colors and beautiful hand paintings. It was a fun day with lots of new adventures. What's next?" Sounds like Cathy enjoyed the trip and is raring to go again with Travel Toppers.

Incidentally, after that trip, a woman's brown glove was found. It has a leather palm. Please call Audrey Mangan to claim it.

The next Travel Toppers meeting will be the first Wednesday of the month, Feb. 6, at 10:30 a.m. in Suite A of the Arbor Conference Center. We hope to see you there. Until then, happy travels to all ☺



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POET'S CORNER
Poetry from On Top of the World Residents

As Years Go By
BY ANNETTE SHARPE

Gather memories with one who loves you.
Cherish the love of one who cares, Treasuring each special moment
With one your every secret shares, The one who's warm and loving,
Who makes you laugh and cry, One you know will always love you
As the years go passing by. Though life may have its trials,
Its sorrow and its pain, True love can weather anything
And make things right again. Pondering what love has given
From the joy of that first kiss, Wonder at life's countless blessings,
Without that love, you'd miss. When the world all about us
Seems thoughtless and cold; Welcome are arms that gently enfold.
Treasure precious memories Of wonderful years together,
Love grows more beautiful with time, And warms two hearts forever. ☺



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**Nature
Around Us**
Doris Mauricio

African violets are among our most popular houseplants because of their compactness, brilliant coloring and their ability to produce abundant amounts of flowers almost any time of the year. A couple of months ago a dozen African violets were left off at the Master Gardener's propagation area. We knew they would not survive through the holidays without a little tender loving care.

Two of them went home with me. I gave one to a fellow gardener in On Top of the World, and I kept the other for myself. The plant was transplanted into a pot with good drainage. Never put a plant in a pot with no hole in the bottom. Water accumulating in the bottom of the pot can cause the roots to rot. African violets should be snug in their pots. If you use too large of a pot, they will fill that pot with roots before they start blooming.

Next is to find the right location for the plant. I picked a nice spot on the south side of my house, but not so close to the window so as to burn the plant. Unfortunately, this spot was in easy reach of my cat who decided that African violet leaves were very tasty. The plant was moved to a not as nice but higher location. An African violet can be watered by standing the plant for a few minutes in a bowl of water or carefully watering from the top with a narrow-spouted watering can. Do not get any water on the leaves, or they may rot.

African violets are easily damaged by overwatering. Moisten the compost thoroughly, then wait until the soil is thoroughly dry (Stick your finger down in the soil to make sure that it is dry.) before watering again. Regular feeding is necessary for African violets. They are greedy feeders and will use up the nutrients in the soil quickly, so add a liquid fertilizer to the water once every three or four weeks. Remove dust from the leaves with a dry brush.

My African violet has rewarded me with beautiful bluish-purple blooms that are so especially appreciated right now since the hard freeze has killed off all of the blooms in our flower gardens.

Don't be in too much of a hurry to prune all the damaged foliage from your outdoor plants. We could get more frosts. You should

wait to prune cold-damaged shrubs and other tropical plants such as hibiscus and crotons after they begin to sprout new growth with the onset of warm weather, maybe by late February. The damaged leaves help to insulate these tender plants from frost and further injury. When you do prune, make sure you cut into the green healthy wood.

Old Man Winter is an awesome pruner by shearing off overgrown shrubs. Several light trimmings through the spring and summer growing season will promote dense growth. New sprouts will form just behind the pruning cut, so if you want the shrub to branch down low, you need to cut some of the stems down low. In some cases, it will take some time for these sprouts to break out after cold damage, so be patient before going crazy with winter-kill pruning.

Azaleas and camellias should not be pruned until after they bloom. Several light trims to shape up branches should be all that is needed.

You may want to consider that a plant damaged beyond repair is an opportunity to try something different. Florida homeowners enjoy a vast array of plant material choices. Consider planting natives that are drought-resistant and more suitable for our climate and soil. So get out there and weed. Rake. Mulch. Tidy up. Resist the pruners for another month. Your patience will be rewarded.

Marion County Master Gardeners are on duty in the Marion County Extension office to answer your gardening concerns. You can call them at 671-8400. The Mobile Plant Clinic will be at the Central Library (Silver Springs Blvd. across from Albertson's) from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 2. Master Gardener Bill Miranda will be giving a workshop on vegetable gardening in Central Florida in the library at 2 p.m. This lecture will be very informative for those considering starting a vegetable garden or would like to include a few vegetables among your flowers. Also, this would be a great opportunity to visit Ocala's Central Library. It is quite impressive.

You can reach me at 237-3479 or dmauricio@atlantic.net. I will do my best to assist you with your concerns. On Top of the World Native Plant Club meets the second Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at the Arbor Center. Come and join them. Take time to walk the nature trail located next to the Arbor Center. Happy gardening!

*Doris Mauricio, On Top of the World
Resident and Master Gardener*



Submit Articles by E-mail to
otownews@otowfl.com

Exhibit, Lectures Focus on Bonsai Trees

By MARION-ALICE BURKE

An exhibit of bonsai trees will take place in the Master Possibilities Education Center from Wednesday through Saturday, Feb. 6 through 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be docents and experienced members available to answer your questions and explain the various styles, where the trees come from, etc., as they walk you through the display of the bonsai exhibit.

There will be drawings for door prizes each day. This display of "The Living Art of Bonsai" is free and open to the public, so bring a friend and take advantage of this event to learn more about another aspect of gardening.

Lectures on "Bonsai Basics" and "Bonsai, A Living Art" will be given on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 1 p.m. and on Saturday at 11 a.m. Thursday, there will be a workshop/demo on "The Life Stages of Bonsai" and on Friday, a special demonstration showing the creation of a landscape "Land and Water" will be given. Registration is required for classes, and may be made by calling 854-3699. Give your name, telephone number and which class or classes you wish to attend.

If you have ever had a problem with a tree or have been given one for a present, this is the time to attend and learn an entirely new concept of what is involved with bonsai, which means "tree in a dish" and is correctly pronounced "bone sigh."

For further information, call Marion-Alice Burke at 854-1896 or 286-1467.

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February 2nd — Annual International Food Festival — 11 a.m.

February 3rd — "Women's Study" — 10:30 a.m.

February 10th — Festival of Choirs — 3 p.m. at Countryside Presbyterian Church



Large print bulletins and audio amplification are available.

Activities February

Monday

7:00	Lap Swimming	AC
7:15	Oxycise	H&R
8:00	Mixed Tennis D	CTS
9:00	R.C. Flyers Club	Field
	Golden Slippers	BRS
	Woodworking	WW
	Bocce League	BCTS
	Ceramics 9-2p.m.	Art
	Practice Bridge	CR
	No Bus on Mondays	
	Ladies Billiards	PLR
	Dancing Toppers	H&R
9:30	Shuffleboard	CTS
10:00	Tennis Doubles	CTS
	Ladies Billiards	PLR
11:00	Water Walk	AC
	Boccee League	BCTS
	Lap Swimming	AC
12:00	Ladies Poker	MR3
	Line Dance (Level Two)	H&R
	Mah Jongg	CC:A
	Mens Golf Group	CR
12:15	Oxycise	H&R
12:30	Bridge	CR
	Northern Lights Mah Jongg	CC:G
	Aqua Belles	AC
	Pan Club	CC:MR3
1:00	Bocce League	BCTS
	Computer Lab	H&R
1:15	Line Dance (Int.)	BR
1:30	Shuffleboard	CTS
2:00	Happy Hookers	Art
	Rummicube	CC:E&F
2:45	Line Dance (Level Two)	H&R
4:00	Line Dance (Level One)	H&R
5:30	Mah Jongg	CC:A
6:00	Poker	MR3
6:30	Bridge	CR
6:30	Euchre II	CC:H
7:00	Wood Shop	WW
	Dominoes	CC:G

1st Week

7:30	Marion Blood Bank (All Even # Months Only)	PL
9:00	Life South Blood (All Odd # Months Only)	PL
	RC Flyers Club	CC: B&C
1:30	D'Clowns	CC: B & C
2:00	Bocce	CC: AC
2:30	Readers' Theatre	CC: D
3:30	Comp. Handicap	CC: H
7:00	Sunshine Singers	BR

2nd Week

10:00	Genealogical Society	MR3
2:30	Theatre Group	CC: D

3rd Week

10:30	Genealogical Workshop	CC: B&C
2:30	Readers' Theatre	CC: D
1:30	D'Clowns	CC: B&C
4:00	Billiards Club	Art
7:00	Sunshine Singers	BR

4th Week

3:00	Community Patrol Prog.	CC: B&C
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Tuesday

7:00	Lap Swimming	AC
7:15	Oxycise	H&R
8:00	Men's Tennis	CTS
	Travel Toppers	CC: D
	Reservations	
	Clogging	BR
8:30	Women's 18-Hole	GC
	Raquetball	HR CTS
9:00	R.C. Flyers Club	Field
	Computer Club	CC: B&C

	Hand & Foot Canasta	CR
	Woodworking	WW
	Arts & Crafts	BR
	Bus Ocala Run	
	Women's 9-Hole	GC
	Horse Shoe League	CTS
	Miniature Golf	MGC
9:30	Pinochle	MR3
	Stitch Witches Quilters	Art
10:30	Horseshoe League	CTS
11:00	Walleyball	CTS
11:30	Lap Swimming	AC
12:00	Lap Swimming	AC
	Men's Poker	MR3
	Mah Jongg	CC:A
	Cybox Orientation	GYM
12:15	Oxycise	H&R
12:30	Bridge	CR
	Stitch Witches Quilters	Art
1:00	Singin/Swingin	CC: D
	Mah Jongg	CC: A
	Badminton	H&R
1:30	The New Pretenders	HR
	Shuffleboard	CTS
5:15	Square Dance Class	AC
5:30	Mah Jongg	CC:A
	Miniature Golf	MGC
	Table Tennis	HR
5:45	Mah Jongg	CC: B
6:00	Pinochle	MR3 & Art
6:30	Duplicate Bridge	CR
	Mah Jongg	CC: G
	Pattern Dancing	BR
7:00	Mixed Poker	CC: H
	Pattern Dancing	BR
	Square Dance Class	AC

1st Week

8:00	Men's 9 Hole Golf	P.R.
3:00	Great Lakes Club	BR
	Shutterbugs	CC: B&C

2nd Week

8:00	Lions Club	Pub
9:00	Citizens Emer. Response Team	CC: E,F&G
1:30	Visually Impaired Support Group	CC: H
3:30	Alpha Investment	Art
6:30	German Club	CC: G

3rd Week

1:30	Unique Birders	CC: H
3:00	NY/NJ Club	BR
	Shutterbugs	CC: B&C
7:00	Democratic Club	CC: E&F
8:00	Lions Club	Pub
1:00	Scan/American	CC: E
3:30	Alpha Investment	Art
4:00	Diabetes Support Grp	CC: G

Wednesday

7:00	Lap Swimming	AC
7:15	Oxycise	H&R
8:00	Ladies Tennis	CTS
8:30	Men's 18 Hole	Golf
9:00	Taps on Top	BR
	R.C. Flyers Club	Field
	Woodworking	WW
	Bus Ocala Run	
	Ceramics 9-2:30p.m.	Art
9:30	Pinochle	MR3
	Crafty Ladies	CR
	Billiards 101	PI RM
11:30	Lap Swimming	AC
12:00	Ladies Poker	MR3
12:15	Oxycise	H&R
	Mah Jongg	CC:A
12:30	Bridge	CR

	Japanese Emb	CC: C
	Aqua Belles	AC
	Mah Jongg	CC: A
	Pan Club	CC: MR3
1:00	Bocce League	BCTS
1:30	Shuffleboard	CTS
3:00	Dance Committee	CC: B&C
4:00	Softball Practice	SBF
5:30	Bingo	BR
6:00	Poker	MR3
	Pickleball	CTS
6:30	Duplicate Bridge	CR
7:00	Poker	MR3

1st Week

10:30	Travel Toppers	CC: A
1:00	Stamp Club	Bank PAB
3:00	Italian/American Club	BR

2nd Week

1:45	Native Plants	CC: H
3:00	Pennsylvania Club	CC: E & F

3rd Week

1:00	Stamp Club	Bank PAB
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Thursday

7:00	Lap Swimming	AC
7:15	Oxycise	H&R
8:00	Men's Tennis	CTS
	Clogging	BR
8:30	Racquetball	HR CTS
9:00	Woodcarving	Art-B
	Art League	Art-A
	Computer Club	CC: B&C
	R.C. Flyers Club	Field
	Round Dance Classes	CC: E&F
	Hand & Foot Canasta	CR
	Bus Ocala Run	
	Miniature Golf	MGC
9:30	Shuffleboard	CTS
10:00	Round Dance Class	CC: E&F
10:30	Water Walk	AC
	Advanced Tap	HR
	Friendship Bible Study	MR3
11:00	Walleyball	CTS
	Water Walk	AC
11:30	Lap Swimming	AC
12:00	Lap Swimming	AC
	Advanced Square Dancers	CC: E&F
	Mah Jongg	CC: A
12:15	Oxycise	H&R
12:30	Sewing Bees	Art
	Theatre Group	BR
	Mah Jongg	CC: A
	Bridge	CR
1:00	Bocce League	BCTS
	Ten Pen	CTS
	Square Dancing DBD	CC: E&F
	Table Tennis	H&R
1:30	Shuffleboard	CTS
2:30	Jazz Club	CC: D
3:00	The New Pretenders	HR
4:00	Bus Grocery Run	
5:30	Mah Jongg	CC: A
	Card Game	CC: B
	Miniature Golf	MGC
6:00	Poker	MR3
	Pickleball	CTS
6:30	Bridge	CR
	Chess Club	ART
7:00	Poker	MR3
	Mixed Poker	CC: H

1st Week

10:00	NY/NJ Board Meeting	CC: H
1:00	Rubber Stamping Cards	CC: D
	Bunko Dice Game	MR3
	Opera Appreciation	CC: C
5:30	Southern Club	BR

2nd Week

9:30	Scrabble Club	AC
10:30	Latin Cardio	AC
1:30	Singles Club	CC: G&H
2:00	NARFE Chapter 2279	CH
7:00	Karaoke Night	CC: E,F&G

3rd Week

9:00	Hand & Foot Canasta	CR
	Scavenger Hunt 2/21/08	BR
1:00	Rubber Stamping Card	CC: D
	Bunka Dice Game	MR3
	S.P.C.A.	CC: H

1:30	Orchid Club	CC: B&C
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Friday

7:00	Lap Swimming	AC
7:15	Oxycise	H&R
8:00	Ladies Tennis	CTS
8:10	Water Walk	AC
8:30	Dancing Toppers	H&R
9:00	Woodworking	WW
	R.C. Flyers Club	Field
	Dominoes	MR3
	Bocce League	BCTS
	Bus Ocala Run	
9:30	Shuffleboard	CTS
10:00	Racquetball	H&R CTS
10:30	Light Aerobics	H&R
	Power Aerobics	H&R
	Water Walk	AC
11:00	Bocce League	BCTS
	Water Walk	AC
11:30	Lap Swimming	AC
12:00	Ladies Poker	MR3
	Mah Jongg	CC:A
	Mens Golf Group	CR
12:15	Oxycise	H&R
12:30	Aqua Belles	AC
	Mah Jongg	CC: A
1:00	Table Tennis	H&R
	Canasta the Old Fashioned Way	CR
	Square Dancing	H&R BR
2:00	Fun In The Water	AC
5:00	Happy Hour	AC
6:00	Cribbage	Art
6:15	Nickel Nickel	MR3
	Euchre 4	CC: A
6:30	Advanced Bridge	CR
6:45	Euchre	H&R

1st Week

1:00	Women of the World	CC: E
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2nd Week

9:00	RC Ladybirds	CC: A
2:00	New England Club	CC: E,F
7:00	Republican Club	CC: E,F&G

3rd Week

2:00	Blackjack Poker	CC: E
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4th Week

12:00	High 12 Club	TBA
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Saturday

8:00	Mixed Tennis	CTS
8:30	Men's Softball	SBF
9:00	Computer Club	CC: B&C
	Art League	Art
10:00	Mixed Tennis	CTS
10:30	Tai Chi Practice	AC
12:15	Oxycise	H&R
1:00	Table Tennis	H&R
	China Painters	Art
5:30	Open Mah Jongg	CC: A
5:45	Singles Pinochle	CR
6:30	Bridge	CR

1st Week

6:00	Ballroom Dancing	AC
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3rd Week

6:00	Ballroom Dancing	AC
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Sunday

9:00	Racquetball	HR CTS
	Miniature Golf	MGC
12:00	Mah Jongg	CC: A
	Scrapbooking	CC: D
12:15	Oxycise	H&R
1:00	China Painters	Art
5:30	Mah Jongg	CC: A
	Miniature Golf	MGC
6:00	Pickleball	CTS
7:00	Mixed Poker	CC: H

1st Week

7:00	K-9 Social Club	CC: D
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2nd Week

2:30	Friendship Social Club	BR
6:00	Movie of the Month	BR

3rd Week

2:00	American/Jewish	CC: E,F & G
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* Advance registration and fee may be required. Please check in advance.

A full list of classes can be found in the Master the Possibilities catalog, available at the Education Building at Circle Square Commons.

Location Codes

AC	Arbor Club	FF	Flying Field
AC CTS	Arbor Tennis Courts	GC	Golf Course
ACIP	Arbor Indoor Pool	HR	H&R Exercise Room
ACOP	Arbor Outdoor Pool	H&R CTS	Tennis Courts
Art	Art Studio	H&R	Health & Rec Bldg
BR	Ballroom	HRP	H&R Pool
BCTS	Bocce Courts	ICC	Indigo Community Center
CC	Arbor Conference Center	MGC	Miniature Golf Course
CCC	Candler Community Center	MR1	Meeting Room 1
CLC	Computer Learning Center	MR3	Meeting Room 3
CSCC	Circle Square Cultural Center	PL	H&R Parking Lot
CR	Card Room	PL RM	Poolroom
		SBF	Softball Field
		WW	Wood Shop

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American Club**
C.M. Casey

PHRASE: Ta suil agam go bhfuil tu I mbarr no slainte

PRONOUNCED: Taw su-ill ah-gum will tu ih marr nah slawn-che

MEANING: I hope you are in the best of health!

The Irish American Club is having its annual dinner of corned beef and cabbage on March 13 in the Health & Recreation Ballroom to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

Tickets will be \$12 and will be on sale in the H&R ballroom on Monday, March 3 from 8 to 10 a.m. for members. Tickets will also be on sale March 5 and 7 for all our friends and neighbors from 8 to 10 a.m.

**Great Lakes
Club**
Marilyn Nielsen

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and happy holidays and that the new year will be a healthy and happy one for each one of you.

There was no meeting for January as the regular meeting date fell on New Year's Day.

The December Christmas dinner party was held at the Arbor Club Ballroom and was a great success. The food was excellent; the tables were decorated so pretty, and all the members were dressed in their best "finery" to celebrate the occasion. The entertainment was provided by the M&S Duo.

Two delightful women who sang and gave brief backgrounds of some of the famous songs. They did all kinds of Christmas songs and really put us all in a holiday happy mood. It was a fun program. Our board worked hard to organize all this in a short period of time, and they deserve a round of thanks for making this such a pleasant affair.

Our Feb. 4 regular meeting will be in the Health & Recreation Ballroom and the entertainment will be a storyteller. It should be entertaining and we hope to see lots of you there. ☺



**German
American Club**
Judy Dunn

We have decided that over the next few month various members of the club would put together a presentation on various areas of Germany. Peter Gerezak will do the first one on the northwest section of Germany.

There was also a discussion on the possibility of putting together a trip to Germany. Members were encouraged to explore this with area travel agents and come back with suggestions.

Ruth Goldstein gave a presentation on Hospice and the support they have received from On Top of the World residents. The Walk for Hospice is scheduled for Feb. 23. A collection was taken up for Hospice.

New members are Eugen and Renate Mell, Ingeborg Gaitch, Eitel and Eleonore Ruhnke, and Heidi Biederman.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 12. ☺

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Entertainment for the evening will be the Spirit of Ocala Irish Dancers, Kate O'Neal, Maggie Dutton, Celtic Weavers, a piper and a good old fashion sing-a-long. Come out and enjoy the evening with us.

There are many stories about St. Patrick especially the ever popular one that he led the snakes out of Ireland and to the sea where they drowned. After researching several sites I like the information that was listed on www.abitoblarney.com/saintpatrick.

St. Patrick was born in 385 in Britain. His father was a nobleman and a deacon. At the age of 16 he was kidnapped by Slave Raiders from Ireland and transported to Ireland, which was a pagan island at the time. Sold as a slave to the King of the Northeast he tended pigs and sheep. He never lost his faith in God even in his harsh living conditions and always knew that the time would come when he could return to his homeland.

Trusting in God, he set out to make the 200-mile journey trying to find passage on a ship he faced many ordeals but never lost his faith and when he finally returned to Britain he dedicated his life to becoming a priest and his dream was to return to Ireland to teach the Irish about Christianity. During his 30 years in Ireland he founded more than 300 hundred churches and baptized more than 120,000 people.

If you are a newcomer in the community and would like to join a social club, we would be happy to have you. All we require is that you have a twinkle in your eye, a smile on your face and enjoy having a good time.

Until next time. "May your troubles be few and your blessings be more." ☺



**Pennsylvania
Club**
Pat Utiss

The entertainment at our January meeting was a very interesting talk from the district office of the Marion County Sheriff's Department. Capt. Jim Burton and Detective Ed Mabley spoke to us on frauds, scams and general topics of interest to those of us in the southwest Marion County area. I think the many questions from the membership attested to the interest in the topics the gentlemen brought to us.

At the meeting, the date for our April trip to jai alai was announced. We will be going on April 11 at noon. We have started a list of those who are interested in going. I do not need a final count until two weeks before we go, so if you are interested, give me a call at 861-2831. You do not have to be a member of the club to go with us. We have done this each year, for many years and those who go, always have a good time.

Our entertainment for February will be the Sunshine Singers. This meeting will be Feb. 13, which is our normal meeting day. As usual, we will meet at 3 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center, Suite E. The business meeting begins at 3 p.m., but come early for refreshments and fellowship.

I will end with a reminder. Our dues are still \$5 per person, per year. Since, our club year runs, per calendar year, the dues for 2008 are now payable. Hope to see you in February. ☺

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**100
Grandparents**
Barbara Greenwood

The "grandparents" are always appreciative of the wonderfully warm welcome that we receive when we visit Romeo Elementary School in Dunnellon each month. Kathy Hultman, principal, and Lisa Coy, assistant principal, greeted us at the bus when we arrived on Jan. 10. They escorted us into the Media Center where Mrs. Lakin and Mrs. Thomas were on hand to help us get to our designated classrooms. Mrs. Coy and Mrs. Thomas saw to it that we didn't go into the classrooms hungry. There were plenty of delicious choices of fruit, cake and cookies, as well as a variety of beverages for us to enjoy.

It is both a privilege and a joy to enter the classroom and see the children sitting expectantly, awaiting the stories that we will be sharing with them. In most cases, the books we read are chosen by the teacher. In some classrooms though, the "grandparents" have brought in their own materials to share with the children. Either way, it's always fun just being with these youngsters and listening to what they have to say.

We travel to Romeo by school bus. The "grandparents" meet in the Health & Recreation Center parking lot at 9 a.m. The bus arrives soon after.

Also in the parking lot are Marlyn and El-

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Computer Club
Sherry Surdam

Well, I don't normally do this but I'm going to get on my soapbox! Over the holiday season I received at least a half-dozen "warnings" from well-meaning friends about various products and the horrible things that could happen to me if I eat or drink anything containing one or another of them. Aspartame, aka NutraSweet, Equal, Spoonful and, I'm sure, a host of others, was the most popular one I received. According to the e-mail (it's an old hoax, one from 1998), Aspartame is responsible for brain tumors, cancer and multiple sclerosis. Another e-mail of a more recent vintage (first made the rounds in 2006) stated that Aspartame was originally developed for use as an ant poison "... and only changed to being considered non-poisonous after it was realized that a lot more money could be made on it as a sweetener than as an ant poison..." The other e-mails were also warnings about other products, not one of which had any merit!

While I appreciate the good intentions, as I'm sure you all do, before you pass along these "warnings" it is an excellent idea to check with an internet site that specializes in ferreting out hoaxes. There are several available, including www.snopes.com and <http://hoaxbusters.ciac.org/HBSearch.html>. Simply type a word or phrase in the search box provided — in this

case you'd type "Aspartame" — and you will get a listing of the more popular e-mails on that subject and report on whether they are real or a hoax. I have not yet received one that proved to be true!

Along the same line, e-mails regarding viruses can be checked out by going to one of the antivirus program sites such as McAfee or Norton. They will have a listing of the current virus threats as well as a list of the hoaxes. The sites to check for hoaxes are Norton at www.symantec.com/avcenter/hoax.html and McAfee at <http://vil.mcafee.com/hoax.asp>. Chances are that whatever antivirus program you use will have similar information available.

The Saturday class schedule for February is as follows: on the 2nd is a business meeting to be followed by Q&A as time permits; the 9th is a program on file associations and how to make a file open in a program of your choosing; the 16th brings a beginner's class called "Out of the Box"; and on the 23rd Don Sommer will tell us about networking. Please join us.

If you have tried to access some of the sections of our Web site and found that the password you had no longer works, be sure to check with our membership chairmen. We change our password each year and those who have not renewed their membership do not get the follow-up e-mail giving current members the new password.

All meetings are held at 9 a.m. at the Arbor Conference Center, Suites B and C, on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. If you aren't a member yet but want to see what we do, come on up and give us a look-see. I think you'll find we have much to offer both novice and more experienced users!

For Mac users, we have increased our sessions and will now hold them on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month (this month it will be Feb. 12 and 26). These days are dedicated to classes and/or questions and answers on the Mac operating system.

As always, be sure to check the calendar on our Web site at www.cccocala.org for the dates of our presentations and for any scheduling changes that are inevitable. Hope to see you soon and happy computing! ☺



Southern Club
Bob Bland

The frigid weather on Jan. 3 did not detain our membership in attending the meeting.

Good southern cooking, fun and fellowship always warms the heart and following the Christmas holidays, we all needed a new beginning. As usual, our southern cooks prepared a delicious meal for us and there was a variety of entrees and desserts. Of course, those collards and cornbread are always a favorite. Knowing how much we enjoy the Southern Club, perhaps you are southern-born or a 15-year resident of the south and a resident of On Top Of The World, we think you should visit. Try us — you'll like us!

We received several visitors including Melissa Roskosky, Tyler Cleveland, Larry Gray, Fred and Annette Garman. Bob and Flo Wright rejoined our organization. We also had some very special guests that will be mentioned later. Speaking of visitors, Ruth Goldstine stopped by to encourage our members to join with her on Feb. 23 from 8 to 9 a.m. at the Health & Recreation Center for a two-mile "hoofing it"

walk for Hospice. If you have not signed up for this worthwhile cause, give Ruth a call at 854-1128 to get your registration form and get your sponsors.

Mike Connolly gave a report to the club in regards to gifts that were donated by members for children in the forest for Christmas and what a report he gave. What a blessing it was to know that our organization had a part in making Christmas, so special for many children that most likely would have had a very bleak season. Again, we thank Mike and his associate firemen for their dedication in making this such a meaningful experience.

Our membership elected to have a special meal for the month of March since it will be St. Patrick's Day and all the Irish will be celebrating. We will serve corned beef and cabbage at a cost of not more than \$4 per member with nine members volunteering to cook. Tickets will be available at the February meeting.

Our entertainment for this evening was "Just Us and Friends." We were truly entertained by some of the best. Dan Shortway began with a wonderful rendition of "Oklahoma" followed by Charlotte Hancock's explanation of the difference between "Friends and Southern Friends." Then the duo known as "Take Two," composed of Linda Sisto and Peter Rockfeld, rendered several musical selections to delight the audience. There were other forms of entertainment including Dan Shortway playing the saw and our own Bill and Jean Monroe, completing the evening with "God Bless the USA" by the audience. We thank Jean Monroe for bringing us this wonderful evening of fun and laughter and to our guests that entertained — we thank you and invite you to return to our club.

You will not want to miss the Feb. 7 meeting when we will have the orchestra from the First Baptist Church Ocala under the direction of Rev. Craig Konicek, associate minister of music. ☺

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American Jewish Club
Irene Rudick

We are going into the New Year with a busy schedule for our membership.

Our next meeting will be Feb. 17 at 12:30 p.m. in the Candler Hills Clubhouse. This meeting is our annual paid-up membership lox and bagel lunch. Along with this treat we will have Rabbi Jaye of B'nai Darom as a guest speaker. I'm sure you remember his fascinating speech he presented to us last year. Please RSVP to Sandy Wolf at 861-5674 before Feb. 10.

Our Lunch Bunch is going to The Mission Inn, Wednesday, Feb. 20. Make sure to sign up for this fun afternoon. For more information call Jean Singer at 873-1877

The Lunch Bunch committee is planning on lunch and the Singing River Tours cruise on March 19. Be sure to sign up early.

Our Sunshine Lady, Dorothy Bresky at 854-0284, is available to give you information and answer your questions about our organization. ☺

Avalon Social Club
Lorriane Rourke

We hit off the new year with our January event being a soup/chili/bread tasting and for those folks that didn't make it, well you sure missed a great event. Remember you can always bring a dish from Publix or Winn-Dixie if you aren't up to cooking. Even when we designate a type, we won't turn down other dishes.

This month had a surprisingly smaller turnout, which made for a fun time as everyone was able to visit. Did we ever have an abundance of food with the variety we had. I never tasted or saw such a variety and oh so much of it. Tons left over and mmm mmm good. We had wonton soup, chili, spicy chili, turkey chili, chili with cocoa in it (just a taste and yummy), bean and ham soup, taco soup, tortilla soup, beans, chicken noodle, ham soup, a variety of breads and muffins to drool over, and even a Swedish Limpa bread (it was good and every last crumb was eaten). Yes, we always allow for some desserts to finish off the meal. People were asking about recipes so maybe we need to identify the dish and who the maker was so they can ask!

Our next event is Feb. 4 at the Arbor Club

Ballroom. It will be our traditional bring a dish; no seating will be assigned. Bring an appetizer, casserole, vegetable, fruit, meat, bread, main dish, salad, soup or dip (no desserts, please, as we assign these — never fear, there will be something and it's a surprise). Also bring any serving tool you need, and your own non-alcoholic beverages. I did have ice this time but cannot guarantee that. We will provide the paper products. We're making this the Valentine's event so if you can, wear something red. We'll have a game to play afterward so get ready for some rocking good laughter.

Please note we have the dates for these listed on the TV news as well. Setup is 4:30 p.m., arrival at 5 p.m. with the event running from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Early birds we put to work. The 50/50 raffle raises funds for the paper products/decorations and we'll do something special if we find we have an excess at year end. The March get-together will be our Mardi Gras event, so plan your masks now (optional). I want to thank all my helpers who are too many to name. Without this small core of folks, we'd never get the event organized, set up and picked up. You are wonderful folks, every one of you. Also, we have a query for Avalon women who may be interested in getting together weekly to golf 18 holes. Please contact Judy Harmon at 854-5720 if you are interested.

For questions, contact Lorraine at 390-2120. ☺

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On Top of the World NEWS

Upcoming Publication Date
February issue: Thursday, Feb. 28

Mid-Florida PHYSICAL THERAPY

Sydney Salat, PT **Brian Peterson, PTA**

Sydney M. Salat, PT graduated from the University of Florida earning a Bachelor's degree in Physical Therapy. Sydney interned at the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center in Fishersville, VA. She has been a physical therapist with Mid-Florida Physical Therapy for 25 years. Sydney specializes in orthopaedic rehabilitation.

Brian Peterson, PTA graduated from Central Florida Community College's Physical Therapist Assistant program. Brian specializes in treating vertigo and vestibular conditions.

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Shutterbugs Photography Club photos by Ray Cech, left, and Marilynn Cronin, right.

I hope everyone had a joyful and peace filled holiday season and may the New Year bring health, knowledge, and happiness to all!

Exciting news: We finally have a Web site: www.otowspc.com. Please go online and check us out! There is lots of info, even it if is still under construction.

After the election in December, the executive board for 2008 will be: Gary Uhley, president; Ray Cech, first vice president; Tom Frostig, second vice president; Mike Gattozzi, treasurer; and Marilynn Cronin, secretary.

If any of you received a new camera as a holiday gift, come to a meeting and get help in learning how to use it. Most of our members have already renewed their membership for 2008 and we are welcoming new members all the time. Don't miss out on the education or the fun. Come out and join and learn what a great hobby photography is.

ShutterBugs has started off the New Year by expanding our meetings to four Tuesdays a month instead of two. The new



**Shutterbugs
Photography**
Marilynn Cronin

format is as follows: The first Tuesday is a class given by Tom Frostig on basic Photoshop Elements 4/5. The second Tuesday is a "show-and-tell" of the month's challenge, and a speaker on a basic camera/photography lesson or guest speaker. The third Tuesday will be an advanced class on Photoshop Elements 4/5, again given by Tom Frostig. The fourth Tuesday will be a field trip. Remember, you don't have to attend all four weeks if you don't want to—just the classes in which you have an interest — although I recommend attending all of them a couple of times and then deciding.

Gary Uhley taught a class on the basics of the camera at the Jan. 8 meeting. We also shared our holiday photo challenge shots, which included some great family portraits and holiday lights.

The Feb. 12 basic photography lesson will be on black and white photography given by Ray Cech. There will also be a "show-and-tell" of photos on both our field trip to Lowry Park Zoo, Tampa, and January's challenge on animals, for a total of three per person.

A few of our upcoming field trips are to the Butterfly Rainforest Museum, Alligator Farm in St. Augustine, tour of Shalom Park with Dr. Robinson (learn the history of the park), and Paynes Prairie. Upcoming challenges are black and white photos, flowers, action shots, and landscapes. Challenges are shot on your own; shootouts are group trips. The challenges and shootouts are great venues to learn about your camera and photography, as well as observe how we frame/see the same subject from different perspectives. The shootouts have been a great opportunity to get to know each other, as well as

any spouses who come along.

Photo Tip

It takes only a quick look at the calendar section of the local bookstore to see that nature is one of our favorite subjects — with good reason. Five minutes spent in the company of a clump of wildflowers or aiming a lens at a mountain stream has a powerful ability to mend the frayed edges of modern living. And we experience a rekindled sense of that serenity every time we look back at our outdoor photographs. It's not surprising then that next to photographing family and friends, we probably spend more time photographing nature than any other subject — and certainly couldn't ask for a more diverse challenge. Part of the fun of nature photography is that you never know what you'll find and you need never travel farther than your own back yard in search of interesting subjects.

From the creepy crawly beasts hiding beneath garden stones to the stars shining radiantly at night, even the most mundane of locales provides a veritable jungle of opportunities. So get out there — use your macro or landscape modes — and take advantage of the local photo opportunities.

ShutterBugs Photography Club stresses education, sharing, and fun!

The ShutterBugs meet on the four Tuesdays of the month (no meeting if there is a fifth Tuesday) at 3 p.m. in Suites B and C of the Arbor Conference Center. All On Top of the World residents at all skill levels are welcome to join. If you would like more information about ShutterBugs, please contact Gary Uhley at 854-8536 or e-mail him at guhley@cfl.rr.com. ☺

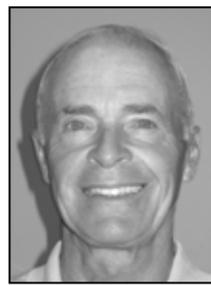


Winter Holiday Celebration hosts Debbie and Dan Partin welcome club members to their home.

What a wrap up to another year of fine food, entertaining fun, good times and camaraderie at our recent club function! Thanks to the initiative and gracious volunteering of club members Debbie and Dan Partin, our group celebrated an end of year Winter Holiday Celebration at their home. Twenty-four members came for the celebration of fine food and fun.

Debbie and Dan had extended an invitation to all club members to come together on Dec. 15 for a festive evening. Normally our dinners are held on the next to last Saturday of each month. Because that date would fall on Dec. 22 and the closeness of the Christmas holiday, the club decided to have the party early as had been done in previous two years.

This was our third all-member function this year. This time, as well as other all member functions, the menu was hors d'ouvers and desserts. As in the past there was some concern about whether there would be



Favorite Recipes
Dinner Club
Luke Mullen

enough food to fulfill a meal.

And just like other times that question was immediately answered after viewing and tasting the many different types of foods brought by club participants. This effect came about by Debbie and Dan coordinating, in advance, for each couple attending whether to bring either two hors d'ouvers or two dessert dishes that would provide an optimum selection of each appetizer and dessert. The result was that the selection of items proved to be more than sufficient to satisfy filling the need for a full sit down meal. There were even some leftovers that were taken home to serve as part of another meal.

After the "dinner dining" was completed, all guest couples participated in a grab bag/gift swap, a.k.a. Yankee Swap. Each couple was asked to bring a wrapped \$10 hospitality type gift to the party. Our master of ceremonies for this event was club member Sue Bourland. At the outset Sue outlined the rules of how the swap was to be conducted and it was a great success. This activity brought a lot of fun to participants and ended when all had swapped and exchanged gifts.

Everyone attending the event had an enjoyable food experience and a wonderful fun-filled evening. The club periodically sponsors all-member type evenings throughout the year. These events are the result of fellow members volunteering to undertake hosting these functions to accomplish this entertaining evening.

Presently, the club is not accepting any new members. For information on our waiting list, please call Luke at 304-8104. ☺

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Bandstand Showcase
Dean Gilchrist

Nothing like that was in the offing, so we proceeded to look for opportunities to support musical groups who were making a significant contribution to our community.

It didn't take long to find a major need at The Kingdom of the Sun Concert Band, which, you may remember, performed two free concerts for Bandstand Showcase and several previous concerts sponsored by the On Top of the World Southern Club. When we told the director of our intentions, we learned they had been putting off the purchase of some needed percussion equipment in order to buy music stands, so we purchased the 80 music stands and storage racks they needed, and they were able to get the other equipment directly. The band was very appreciative of this effort and included special thanks in their concert programs.

We also contributed to the Richard B. Salisbury Endowed Chair for Music Scholarship at Central Florida Community College, and we expect this donation will qualify for State of Florida matching funds.

We did some detective work to find local clubs which were benefiting the community as a whole and found the library in need of materials to build a new bookcase, the labor for which was donated by the Wood Shop. We also gave them some cash that will cover their petty cash requirements for a while into the future.

The money was of course easier to give away than to accumulate. During the eight-year run and approximately 40 concerts, Bandstand Showcase averaged net revenue of close to \$100 per concert; we gained sometimes and lost on others, and there were a couple times when back-to-back losses would have wiped us out. Thanks to you, our patrons, volunteers and sponsors, we ended on a positive note.

Bandstand Showcase Board of Directors:
Fran Bernardini, Frank Palotta and Dean Gilchrist



Women of the World
Marsha Vieu

The January meeting of Women of the World started 2008 off with a bang. Our guest speaker was Ruth Dyer. Ruth's presentation was dear to all our hearts — closet and cabinet organization. Her talk was very interesting because it contained many good tips on how to handle those messy areas of our home. Additionally, Ruth spoke on tips for painting; one idea included how to take an item whose colors we love and choose wall colors to complement it. All of us went away with our heads filled with organizing and decorating ideas.

Now that the holidays are behind us, we can turn our attention fully to our next big event — the Fashion Show, which is March 8. Tickets were sold prior to the January meeting and we had a big turnout. There are approximately 120 tickets left. Tickets will once again be sold before the Feb. 1 meeting from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. After the meeting, any remaining tickets will be sold by telephone. Anyone in need of a ticket should call our second vice president, Nancy Grabowski, at 873-4315 and arrange to purchase it.

A number of members signed the sheets at the January meeting indicating that they would be donating baskets for the Fashion Show. We thank you! However, we are still in need of more baskets and hope more of you will consider making and donating a basket for the raffle. Joan Connelly will be chairing up the coordination of the baskets. At the Feb. 1 meeting a sample basket will be shown so that those who have not attended the event in the past can get an idea on the construction of the baskets. We also need volunteers from our wonderful, handsome, willing husbands to serve as waiters at the event. If anyone wishes to volunteer, please contact one of the officers.

The next person to be introduced to you is Nancy Delp. She is our competent communications chairperson for the telephone and e-mail committees. Nancy is the one responsible for informing all of you about upcoming meetings and events. Nancy and her husband,

Don, moved to On Top of the World from Des Moines, Iowa, and have lived here about four years. Nancy also received a welcome letter and attended a Women of the World meeting and became involved because she liked the idea that we did charitable work. Nancy is active in deepwater aerobics, condition and stretch, water walking and working out at the gym. She also is a member of the 100 Grandparents Volunteers and reads to the children at Romeo Elementary School. Additionally, she enjoys going to the Ocala Civic Theatre, playing bridge, mah jongg and enjoying the company of friends and a good glass of wine. The things in Nancy's life that she is most passionate about are family and friends.

The nominating committee, headed by first vice president Bobbie Roeder, will begin its task in February. The committee will prepare a slate of officers for 2008-09 to submit to the membership in April. Any willing volunteer should approach the committee to have her name added to the slate.

Some of you might hesitate to step forward for a variety of reasons, including the often-heard "time." However, think in smaller segments such as a committee position for one event. The success of our organization has always been the many helping hands we possess. Committees such as the Rags to Riches and the Golf Cart Parade are only two examples.

We are positive there is a scrapbooker among us who could maintain the high quality of our history album. Likewise, we know a number of you within our group are terrific shutterbugs and could provide the pictures needed for the album. We could use the creative spark from others to help with the table décor at the luncheons.

Our wish list also contains a spot for a computer savvy gal who can contact members with timely reminders. She would welcome the assistance of a telephone operator to spread the word to our members without computer access. A sunshine sweetie (or group of them) is also needed.

We hope we are striking the responsive chords many of you possess. It takes all of us to maintain our legacy as the prime charitable and social organization that we have become over the past 25 years.

We have a Sunshine Committee that strives to send out special "hugs" (in the form of cards) to members who are ill, have suffered a loss, or are in need of a friendly greeting. If you know someone who needs such a hug, please send her name and address to Nancy Grabowski at Nnutss456@aol.com or call her at 873-4315. This committee functions year-round; we don't want to forget any of our members when they need us the most. We hope to see all of you at the Feb. 1 meeting.

For any of our residents (in any On Top of the World community) who are not WOW members, we hope you will consider joining us and becoming part of our wonderful group. We look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting. ☺

Bandstand Showcase Drops The Curtain

This final column for Bandstand Showcase has been a long time coming. After announcing last spring that we would discontinue our concerts, we stalled around for several months hoping an interested party would step up to the plate, take the \$3,800 surplus we had accumulated, and continue along the path we had covered since 1999.

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Friendship Social Club
Jinny Adolph

Once again our meeting is after our deadline with the newspaper and I will pass on the information I have. The "mystery" entertainment is still kind of a mystery. It is mystery music and skits. I'll be there just to finally find out what is going on.

Once again I have been asked to pass on the message that we have to wear our name badges in order to be served refreshments. There is a reason for this, above and beyond wanting to let others know who you are and where you are from. It seems there is a small number of people who are not above joining us for fun but love to help themselves to our refreshments. No, it isn't going to break the club to share with a few extra people, but it will not cause starvation for anyone, either. Our dues are not extreme and I don't think in the spirit of fair play that we are being unreasonable.

Next month's entertainment will be Fred Campbell, a singer. Hope to see you all in February on the second Sunday, Feb. 10. Don't forget your badges and that friendly smile to say hello to those you don't know. ☺

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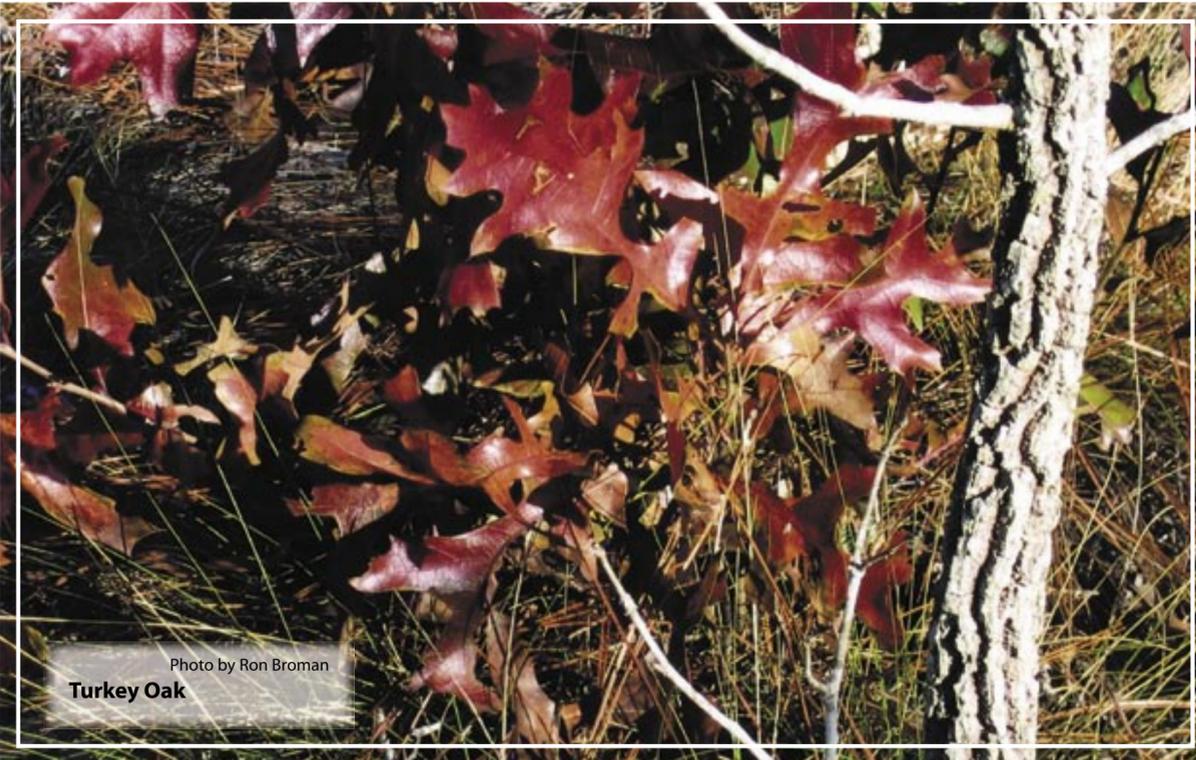
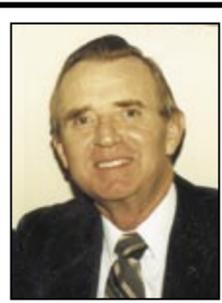


Photo by Ron Broman
Turkey Oak



Native Plant Club
Ron Broman

Perhaps this article will be a bit less lengthy than before as I'm writing it sitting up (more or less) in bed in Munroe Regional Medical Center. I've had some kind of "episode" requiring a low-salt, low-fat diet and probably the worst excuse for eggs one can imagine. No problem. The nurses are angels, believe me! Their caring and dedication make the concept of nursing as a calling alive and well!

My girlfriend won't let me shirk my authoring duties, so she brought a whole bag of research material. (Not really, let's be honest, I asked Betty to bring it.)

The picture you see is of the Turkey Oak, *Quercus laevis*. It happens to be the second branch of the sandhill community triumvirate: longleaf pine, turkey oak and wiregrass. "It is abundant and reaches good size [30 ft] on dry sandy ridges, sandy bluffs, and hammocks of the coastal region."

"The common name refers to the shape of the three lobed leaves that resemble a turkey's foot. The Latin species name *laevis* means smooth and describes the nearly hairless leaves." (1)

"In North America, this species is commonly known as just Turkey Oak, but this invites confusion with the Turkish and southern European species *quercus cerris*, Turkey Oak. The name of the American species derives from the acorns being a popular food of the Wild Turkey." (2)

Once again we can enjoy the common names and appreciate the need for botanical names.

Wild turkeys are not the only animal that depend on *Quercus laevis*.

"The acorns of the turkey oak are an important food source for large and small animals in the sandhill community." (1)

The fox squirrel *Sciurus niger*, is one mammal that inhabits the sandhill community and depends on the Turkey Oak, and fox squirrels are becoming threatened.

The leaves and bark of *Quercus laevis* are diagnostic and, the more I read, the more I find them intriguing.

They are "deeply cut — with spreading, sickle-shaped lobes, persistent although dead."

[This] "habit of retaining its leaves after they die is shared by only two or three other trees."

You may recall a previous article (December 2007) in which we looked at the persistence of fruit on the Arrowwood mentioning their stems versus the petioles of leaves.

One source presents a hands-on activity with Turkey Oak leaves suggesting that their position on the branches can be used as a sundial. (4)

As you can observe in the picture, many of the dead, persistent leaves have brilliant red color. How is all this related?

I'm hypothesizing that the petioles, the stem-like structures that attach the leaves to the branches, might be part of the answer. Perhaps they are extra strong or shaped a special way to react to the sun's position.

The bark of *quercus laevis* is gray and deeply grooved, providing excellent cover dependent critters such as the grey lizards with bright blue bellies.

If you want to have a fantastic experience in the wild, come walk the Longleaf Pine Trail. I read an entry in the visitor's book at the entrance to the trail the other day. It said, "Walked the trail, saw nothing, heard nothing. Better luck next time."

I hope this little article might have a positive effect of opening the possibilities of perception. How we perceive determines our observation, our behavior and our becoming.

Perception of self and others just might be more of the reasons why the doctors and nursing staff at Munroe are such angels!

(1) www.sfrc.ufl.edu/4h/Turkey_oak/turkeoak.htm

(2) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Turkey_Oak

(3) *The Native Trees of Florida* by Erdman West and Lillian Arnold, University of Florida Press, Gainesville, Fla., 1956

(4) *A Learning in Florida's Environment (LIFE) Field Lab. Office of Environmental Education - Florida Department of Environmental Protection June 2, 2007*

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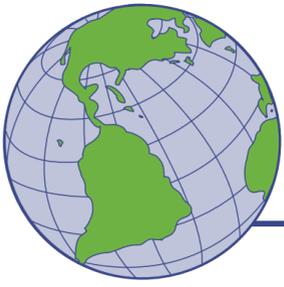
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On Top of the World NEWS

Where the News is Always Good

Scenes from the Sock Hop Happy Hour, Page 28.



Section 2

Vol. 21, No. 8 • February 2008



Telephone Directories Available

They are finally here — the 2008 On Top of the World telephone directories.

All through the month of February the directories will be available for pick up at the Health & Recreation Information Desk from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

After Feb. 29, books may be picked up from 8 a.m. until noon only.

Don't throw out the 2007 directory just yet; consider keeping the old directory in your car in case you ever need it. ☺



Photo by Bob Woods

A Cracker Village is part of the Silver River State Park.

Old-Time Florida a Short Ride Away

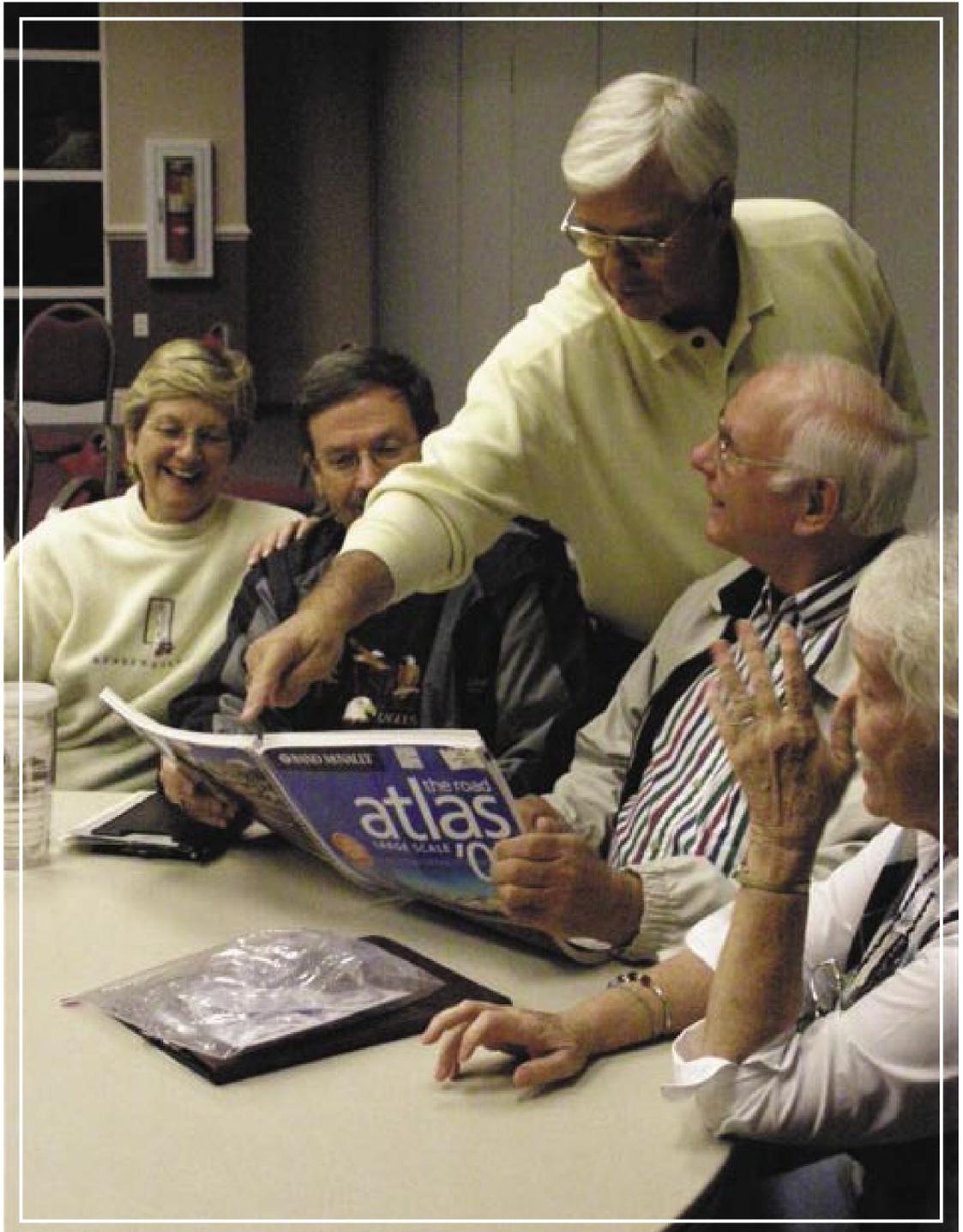
By Bob Woods
WORLD NEWS WRITER

How about visiting something special right in our own back yard? I refer to a special place, in fact a state park, that not only is within a tank full of gas away from On Top of the World, but with some vehicles just a little more than a gallon away, that is a gallon round trip.

Regardless of what size car you may drive, at the most it would only take a couple of gallons. Sound pretty good to you? It surely did to my wife, Bev, and I after I talked to a fellow On Top of the World resident who just happens to be a volunteer at this park. Sound interesting? Let me tell you a little more about it.

The park is the Silver River State Park located just on the eastern side of Ocala near the Silver Springs Theme Park located off Silver Springs Boulevard (State Route 40) off Baseline Road (County Road 35). Just before the theme park at the water slide, take a right and head down the road approximately one and a half miles and the park entrance will be on your left. An entrance fee

➔ Continued on Page 35



Photos by Bob Woods

Members of the Tall Tale Travelers look over a road atlas and discuss their next travel destination. Seated are, from left, Sandra and Doug Ensley, and Jay and Evelyn Hartz. Standing is John Gyson.

Tall Tale Travelers New Club Forms for RV Enthusiasts

By Bob Woods
WORLD NEWS WRITER

When I was a kid watching the very early stages of television or heading to the Saturday afternoon matinee at the local movie theater and I heard the term "wagon master," I knew right away that I was watching a western movie with a wagon train heading toward the west and the Pacific Ocean. Usually the wagon train consisted of many wagons of various sizes and shapes containing families with one person in charge. Generally speaking, the "wagon master" is a strong, tall individual with power in his voice when words are spoken. In other words, he is the boss.

Would you believe right here in On Top of the World we have many "wagon masters" who have controlled a caravan or so-called wagon trains driven by hundreds of horses? I am referring to motorized recreation vehicles or better known as RVs and there was one "wagon master" in control.

I would like to explain. There is a fairly new club within On Top of the World called the Tall Tale Travelers. This is a group of our neighbors who enjoy camping and member Jan Neustadt said, she prefers the simple luxuries of an RV and flatly told me she does not like camping in tents. This club is open to all On Top of the World residents regardless of your camping desires.

There are members with large and small RVs and camp trailers including a pop-up trailer. The group welcomes anyone that enjoys camping even if they utilize their camping skills in a tent. All are welcome, even those who have never camped before or would just like to learn a little more about camping. The club has no officers, nor do they have any yearly dues. As Ed Neustadt told me, "camping in a RV is a different way of camping but not



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the cheapest."

The group meets the third Wednesday of the month in Suite G at the Arbor Conference Center at 6:30 p.m. At present there are approximately 15 families that are members of the Tall Tale Travelers. Each month a different "wagon master" is selected and that title makes that member in charge for that month on where the club will go camping. Sometimes the club travels to destinations during the week and then there are times they venture out on weekends. It all depends what and where the campground is located and if there are openings for how many RVs and campers that will be going.

The monthly "wagon master" makes all the arrangements and decides where the group is going. Basically Neustadt said, "We are a group of people getting together having good times." The club has camped recently at Payne's Prairie Preserve State Park up near Gainesville, Hillsborough State Park plus many other locations. The group's January trek took them to Cape Carnival. The club plans short trips each month, mainly during the winter months within the state of Florida.

Usually during the summer months members head to all parts of the United States visiting family and friends and at that time there is no organized group camping trips.

Want to become a member? Want to join a group of folks who enjoy camping? How about making one of your childhood dream's come true by becoming a "wagon master?"

Then by all means show up at the group's next meeting. In the meantime, if you have any questions concerning the group please call Ed Neustadt at 873-9145 or e-mail him at e_neustadt@yahoo.com. ☺



**Director
of Golf**
Jeff McDonald

All Over the World

The year just started and it seems to be in a rush. I am looking forward to a great year.

Andy and his staff have the courses in good condition and it is nice to hear most of you having a good time as you enjoy playing. We are very fortunate to have a company that affords the superintendent the staff and equipment that is needed to be successful. When you see Mr. Colen and Lynette Vermillion around be sure to thank them.

I can not thank all of you enough for the support that you are showing Nick and the golf shop staff by buying your golf equip-

ment and apparel from them. Remember to get your tickets for the Fool's Day Give-A-Way each time that you make a forty dollar purchase or more.

The Ghin system is going well and I hope all of you are able to lower your handicaps this year.

If you have not volunteered to help with the Ocala Open yet, please contact Gwen to do so at 854-2765. Please invite as many of your friends as possible to join you at Candler Hills to watch some of the world's best golfers in March. As soon as we know who will be playing in the tournament we will get their names posted in the golf shops.

Should there be any of you who run or own a business and you would be interested in an opportunity to advertise and help make an impact on the Ocala market, please contact Jeff McDonald at (352) 854-2765.

For those of you, who enjoy watching good golf, keep in mind that Candler Hills will also host the Future Collegians World Tour in March and the North Florida Senior Open in April. For details concerning these events check in either of the golf shops at your convenience.

Candler Hills Golf Club

The Ghin system is going well and I hope all of you are able to lower your handicaps this year.

Because it was necessary to merge the two systems in order to become one association a few of the handicap numbers had to be changed. We have contacted those people and we are sorry for the inconvenience.

Have fun and play well. 📞



**Candler Hills
Men's Golf**
Garry Gerlach

The new officers for 2008 are Fred Spain, president; Gil Schofield, vice president; Garry Gerlach, secretary; and Paul Fratarangelo, treasurer.

The board thanked Dave Masaschi who served as the first president during the first year of this association. Dave was instrumental in getting the association off the ground and getting us organized.

The key areas that the board has already begun work for 2008 are President's Cup and Club Championship tournaments as well as the Member/ Guest scheduled for Oct. 17 and 18.

Tuesdays continue to be a challenge in getting organized. As we get more players, it is really important to be on time Tuesday mornings. Be at the pro shop by 7:30 a.m. Some mornings they get us off early, so if you want to hit balls and putt, get there earlier. Be in your carts ready to go at least 10 minutes prior to your tee time.

We will be working with Jason Schuman on better organization as we prepare for play next summer. We will also be trying to see if we can work into shotgun starts.

If you sign up to play and have not paid your dues for 2008, you will not be on the list to play. Do not be surprised, you must pay your dues prior to playing.

For those players not playing regularly, you are missing a great time. So please consider joining us next year and come out and play. The idea is to have fun and enjoy the camaraderie.

If you are not receiving the weekly e-mail update, contact Garry Gerlach at

bubba@otowhomes.com.
See you on the links.

Candler Hills Men's League Results Four Man Team • Shamble Nov. 13

245—Chris Piotrowski, Mike Rec, Stan Jarmel, and Dick Williams; 249—Bryant Giffin, Gerry Lisinski, Lenny Pabon, and Fred Hobbins; 249—Larry Joseph, Dave Masaschi, Dick Pleinis, and Richard Dupras; 253—Fred Spain, Paul Fratarangelo, Jim McGrath, and John Menzies.

Two Man Team • Best Ball Nov. 20

59—Dick Masterson and Tony Mysterly; 60—Paul Moltisanti and Jim McGrath; Roger Whittle and Jack Gustafson; Dick Williams (blind draw); 61—Steve Kupsch and Bob Shively; Bruce Venlavsky and Mike Buschur.

Individual • Stableford Nov. 27

47—Bruce Venlavsky; 43—Dick Pleinis; 42—Steve Kupsch, Mike Krajokovich, and Gerry Lisinski; 41—Tim Beaty, Gil Schofield, Larry Joseph, Chris Piotrowski, Paul Fratarangelo, Fred Spain, and Garry Gerlach; 40—Tom Racinowski.

Four Man Team • Best Ball Dec. 4

55—John Larson, Steve Kupsch, Bob Cowie and Mike Krajokovich; 57—Jay Borden, Dick Williams, Dick Masterson, and Nick Nimerala; 58—Bryant Giffin, Frank McCray, Bill Horton, and Lenny Pabon.

Four Man Team • Scramble Dec. 11

64—Mike Rec, Gil Schofield, Gene Kelly, and Richard Dupras; Gerry Lisinski, Bob Cowie, and Phil Moherek; Jay Borden, Bruce Venlavsky, Dick Masterson, and Tom Martinetto.

Individual Low Net Dec. 18

63—Ed Poszony; 65—Paul Moltisanti; 68—Frank McCray; 69—Mike Buschur; 71—Fred Jankowski, Tom McGurk, and Roger Whittle; 72—Bob Cowie.

Four Man Team • Two Best Balls Jan. 8

115—Gerry Lisinski, Bruce Venlavsky, Phil Moherek, and Fred Hobbins; 116—Fred Spain, Jim McGrath, John Menzies, and Marc Schaffer; 122—Mike Buschur, Paul Fratarangelo, Dick Pleinis, and Ed Wilson. 📞



**Golf
Tip**
Sally Collins

become the scoring clubs. How close you may ask? Realistically, the distance from the green where you could hit a full 9 iron or less.

This is where I see too many golfers with a set configuration that doesn't allow them a great deal of flexibility in shot selection.

One reason golfers hit the ball longer today than 20 years ago is the manufacturers have changed the lofts on the short irons. What used to be a 9 iron loft is now the pitching wedge. The gap wedge (a club with 49 to 52 degrees of loft) has replaced the former pitching wedge.

If your set of clubs goes from the pitching wedge to the sand wedge, you may have an eight to 10 degree difference in these two clubs. Most of the other clubs in your bag have a three to four degree difference. This means you need to attempt to change your swing a great deal as you get closer to the green.

If your full pitching wedge goes 100 yards and your sand wedge only goes 45 to 50 yards, that is too large a distance difference not to have a club in between. Hence, the need for the gap wedge. This club would allow the "club to do the work" with the extra loft it has versus the pitching wedge.

Too many golfers focus their club selection energy on the driver and fairway metals; change your outlook and examine the clubs that allow you to hit the ball more accurately. You'll be surprised what that third wedge might do for your score! 📞

J. Hodd, R. Rogers. Alone in 5th with 73 was I. Lisinski, C. Johnson, R. O'Neil and E. Rapacz. Three teams tied for 6th with a 74: P. Del Vacchio, B. Leclerc, C. Arnold, G. Mazzaferro and N. Nicholas, R. Cleveringa, C. Rosinski, M. Marta and G. Lisinski, P. Macmurray, I. Gackowski, D. Muller.

We will be playing a Scotch Twosome Feb. 2. I'm sure you don't need it but for any new golfers to our Saturday Scramble here's a quick synopsis of a Scotch Twosome. This is a man/woman twosome. Each drive, then each hit the other's drive and pick the best of these shots; the selected shot is alternated through the hole. On par 3's one drive is selected and then alternate shots through the hole.

Just for future reference, the sign-up sheet will be in the Pro Shop approximately two weeks before the scheduled scramble and you will have until the Thursday before to sign-up. The fee is \$2.50 per person. If you cancel on the day of the scramble you will not get your money refunded. Please don't forget to call the Pro Shop if you will be unable to make it. The rally time is 8:30 for February and we tee off at 9 a.m. Please come on time.

Our hosts for February are Linda and Bill Bervinkle; they will be sitting in their golf cart just off the path at the flag area. Please check in with them when you drive up.

See you at the flags. 📞

Let the Club Do the Work

Many of you have heard the term, "Let the club do the work," meaning don't swing too hard but instead, the club will execute the shot for you.

This is truly a myth. However, in this case, I am talking about the short irons with the proper set configuration.

As we get closer to the green, the short irons



**Handicap
Committee**
Patricia Del Vacchio

I got to thinking just how lucky I am to live here at On Top of the World. We have two private golf courses, green fairways year round, no tee times, nice people in the Pro Shop, nice rangers and dozens of ball marks on the greens. This is terrible, folks. I've played city courses, state park courses, and other public venues in my golfing years and our greens are going to look like those if we don't take care of them. I've always wanted to be able to hit a ball just the way you should so when it hits the green it makes a mark; can't do it; but there are those of you that can and do and you don't repair. Please, all of us need to pay heed; if you see a ball mark fix it; if you hit the green with your ball, look for a ball mark and fix it.

Jan. 5 was a pretty nice day; considering the very cold weather we had prior to that day. Fifty-six of us participated in the Modified Scramble and 52 percent of us were paid. Tim O'Neil, Joe Rosinski, Phyllis Jarskey and Serine Rossi were the big winners with a gross 68 ... yeah!

A close second was J. Furfaro, D. Miller, R. Leclerc, and R. Hoovler with a gross 69. Following on their heels with a 71 were B. Ovrebo, R. Rossi, D. Macmurray and J. Rice. Tied for 4th with a 72 were: E. Klodzen, P. Del Vacchio, M. Rose, N. Cleveringa and M. Lyon, D. Coleman,



**Candler Hills
Golf Club**
Jason Schuman

I hope everyone's new year is off to a good start. After a fairly quiet January, things will start to pick up a bit in February. Feb. 7 will be the largest of the Mini Demo Days. Nike, Taylor Made, Cobra, Ping and Cleveland will all be present with all of the newest equipment. It

will be held at the Candler Hills practice facility from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. so mark it on your calendar.

On Feb. 17 we will be having the Sunday Couples Sweetheart Ball. Cost is \$16 per player (plus applicable golf fees), which includes dinner afterward (includes coffee, tea or soda) and prize fund. You can sign up in the golf shop.

We are getting geared up for the Ocala Open, being held March 11 through 14. We need your help! We will need the help of many volunteers to make this a successful event. If you are interested in volunteering for one or all of the days please see a member of the golf staff to sign up. 📞



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Ladies 9-Hole Golf
BJ Leckbee

Have you looked at our bulletin board lately? It has developed a severe case of pizzazz, thanks to the creativity of Jean Flynn and Gretchen Saker. Jean plans to change the theme each month during the season, so now you have another reason to check it out regularly.

We've invited the 18-hole ladies' league to play with us on Feb. 12. Judy Kane and Dot Wagner are planning a continental breakfast and 9-hole scramble, followed by lunch and prizes. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. This is a once a year opportunity. Don't miss it!

The invitations from other clubs are arriving, and Lucy Q is posting them on the bulletin board. Sign up immediately if interested,

as the spots are quickly filled. If you snooze you lose your opportunity to play at these special events.

Our own invitational to other clubs is taking shape. Remember the date, April 1. Eighteen clubs have been invited for a continental breakfast, golf, lunch and prizes. Jeff McDonald and his team are handling the golf portion. Drawing prizes, as in the past, is dependent upon contributions by our members. Some prepare gift baskets and some provide items to be grouped with others. Whatever your preference, please get your gift to Alice McDaniel or Marie Segovis at least one week prior to the tournament. The theme is Spring Fling, and the committee is working hard to ensure that our guests enjoy a wonderful spring day here at On Top of the World.

There's only one scorecard this time, thanks to the holidays and some very unfriendly weather. On Jan. 15, a select group of hardy ladies braved cold temperatures and gusty winds to play an informal round in lieu of the planned scramble. Kudos to those who were undaunted by wind and weather.

Reminder to all players: Please post your scores for all rounds played. This will provide a true handicap to be used to determine flights for league play.

Fewest Putts
Jan. 8

Chip-ins: Carol Bell, Charlie Hassett, Cathy Hathaway

12—Dodie Phillips; 14—Pauline Beloin, Mary Carson, Marlene Floeckher, BJ Leckbee, Jan Moon; 15—Joyce Auckerman, Therese Bell, Grace Bock, Mary Hart, Cathy Hathaway; 16—Carol Bell, Pat Black, Jean Flynn. ☺



Ladies 18-Hole Golf
Mary Lyon

The name tags are in so be sure to pick yours up or stop by the pro shop to order one. While you are there, take time to meet our new assistant pro, Mike West.

Dee Johnson reminds everyone to sign up for the hole in one, the cost is only \$1. Check the bulletin board for information on the Feb. 12 tournament. The "Cupid Open" scramble for that Tuesday will be hosted by the 9-Hole W.G.A. Let's all get together and have a great day.

The general membership meeting was held after golf on Jan. 8. The theme for the day was "black tie." The golf outfits were outstanding with a variety of styles and ingenious ideas. Many players expressed a desire to do this again next year. Jean Culp, Janet Juhlin, Angelita Pena and Mary Driver formed the committee.

Because the Christmas and New Year's holidays fell on a Tuesday this year our league play was limited in December. Play was also called one day due to cold weather.

Scramble
Jan. 8

71—Janet Juhlin, Georgette Perrault, Andrea Flannery, Dorothy Muller; tie at 72—Nancy Nicholas, Margie Wade, Shirley Smagner; Joan D'Addio, Jo Ann Rooney, Rose Hoovler, Carolyn Cummings; tie at 73—Sandy Chase, Rosemarie O'Neil, Connie Shirley, Ellie Rapacz; Beverly Overbo, Marti Marta, Betty Crippen; Mary Lyon, Ester Lang, Ruth Border; Iro Lisinski, Marilyn Rose, Elsie Calabrese. ☺



Men's Golf Association
Paul Del Vacchio

Feb. 6 is Chicken Day. Please sign up on the computer, put your \$5 in the envelope provided and put it in the brown box in the lounge. Don't forget to do both. We will also be selling Mulligans for Hospice, two for \$2.

We have scheduled for April 16 and 18 a Member/Member Tournament. This means you and another MGA member choose each other for play. On the first day we will play one best ball of the two-man team. On the second day the play will be alternate shot or two-man scramble. Handicaps: the difference between each member cannot exceed eight strokes, even if your handicap is higher; which means a partner may have a higher handicap but only be allowed to have an eight-stroke difference from his partner. On Friday, the 18th in the evening we will have a dinner. The cost of this event will be approximately \$25; this includes dinner and prize money. Anyone wishing to include his spouse or significant other will only pay for the dinner. Are you interested? You have probably already seen the questionnaire in the lounge; please let us know if this is something you would like to participate in.

FYI: The MGA will not play at On Top of the World on Wednesdays when the Links Course is closed this summer. We will play at Candler Hills on Tuesday at no cost for our members. We only pay Candler's MGA for the game that day. On Top of the World management does not want to close the Tortoise & Hare course for league play when the Links course is closed; that is why they are allowing us to play for free at Candler.

Do not forget to pick up your 2008 MGA booklet. It will keep you informed about the coming events and tournaments. Please read your booklet. There are changes in the rules. Along with our local rules changes the USGA has changed some of the rules for golf. One of the changes for 2008 and beyond is that a player will be able to lift his ball for identifica-

tion anywhere on the course; including bunkers and water hazards. Along with that privilege comes the penalty for playing a wrong ball anywhere on the course. Previously there was no penalty for playing a wrong ball from a hazard. The penalty for hitting a wrong ball is loss of hole in match play and two strokes penalty in stroke play Rule 15.3 A and 15.3 B.

We all want to win and be considered a low handicapper but please let's not let our ego get in our way. If your daily scores are in the 80s, but when it comes time to play on men's day are your scores in the high 90s or higher? Are you playing by all the rules of golf when you post a low weekday score? Please consider the effect you have on your playing partners in a team event and in an individual event what effect does your play have on the other players in your foursome? In a team event is your play taking your team out of the event because your score is not even close to your handicap? Are you competitive with them? Are the players in your foursome asking you to recount the score on some of the holes that you played? If you get nervous when playing on men's day consider asking the tournament director's to use your MGA handicap, which is only a handicap using only your MGA scores and not your everyday play handicap so you and your team mates are competitors and comfortable with you in their foursome.

Remember, March 19, 21 and 26 we will be playing the MGA Club Championship. Please mark these dates so you can play in our championship.

If there are any comments or complaints, please make me aware and I will bring it up at the monthly Advisory Committee.

Words of Wisdom: Dave Stockton, complaining of the difficulty of playing Poppy Hills Golf Course in Pebble Beach, California, was heard to say; "Even the men's room has a double dogleg."

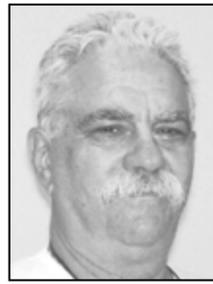
See you around the course.

MGA Results
MGA Chicken Day - Dec. 12
Tortoise & Hare

64—Jerry Chase, Paul Del Vacchio, John Hodd, Jack Martin; tie at 66—Harry Brower, Jerry Dean, Ray Hellman, Charles Mattingly; Colin Adamson, Dick Fields, Alan Mudie, Fred Rodriguez; 67—Ed Desmarest, Chuck Doyle, Millard Sadler, Bruce E. Venslasky; tie at 68—Bill Krusen, Sal Ledonne, Bud May, Glen Swiger; Steve Becker, Tom Fragapane, Kas Kaske, Bob Selmon.

Links

63—Larry Joseph, Tony Magri, William McGarry, Bill Walker; 65—Leslie Jinney, Jon Hill, Ross MacDonald, John Pachin; tie at 66—Douglas Coleman, Ken Cotte, Rudy Normandin, Vince Nucason; Robert Carter, Rick D'Addio, Dick Dzik, Gordon Phillips; Raymond Beloin, Jack Border, Bud Harris, Jimmy Johnson. ☺



Social Club
Mort Meretsky

Get your paper and pencils out. First, our Super Bowl party is Sunday, Feb. 3, at the

Health & Recreation Ballroom, from 4 p.m. until? Bring your own drinks (non-alcoholic) and snacks; the club will provide the food. Second, our next poker/blackjack is on Friday, March 21, at the Arbor Conference Center at 2 p.m. Third, On Top of the World is having a staff event at the Arbor Conference Center in April, so there is nothing planned for April.

Larry and Margaret say there is still room available for our cruise in December. It's a seven-day cruise leaving from Port Canaveral on Dec. 7. Roundtrip bus service will be available for only \$25 per person. The cruise is to the eastern Caribbean with stops at the private island of Coco Cay, St. Thomas and St. John, and St. Martin before returning to Port Canaveral. The prices, per person, are: \$440 for inside cabins, \$500 for promenade cabins, \$539 for outside cabins, and \$638 for balcony cabins. Call to get rates for suites and the single person rate. There will be a \$50 per cabin credit. Everyone must also add \$211.77 for port taxes and government fees. Deposit amount due is \$250 per person. Your group leaders are Larry Wilver, 861-0609, and Margaret Orlando, 854-7306. You may also contact Affordable Travel toll free at 1-877-553-8537.

See y'all at the Super Bowl Party on the third. ☺

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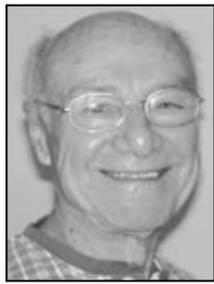
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Billiards
George Tookmanian

The officers from 2007 will retain their positions in 2008: Richard Impressa, president and recording secretary; George Tookmanian, treasurer; Kathy Lorenzo, first vice president; and Penny Wilson, second vice president. Richard reports details of a letter sent to management for consideration in the upcoming budget planning to include painting the poolroom, setting a schedule to clean or vacuum the floor covering, to recover the two small tables, and the one older table. All of this is to continue to maintain the poolroom in a pleasing decorum. The club is doing its part to maintain the equipment by buying cleaning supplies to keep the playing surfaces clean, and the balls are cleaned periodically.

Bocce Club
Ray Shultz

Welcome to the New Year and I hope that everyone had a pleasant holiday. The people in last month's photo were, from left, Mary Ann Shahady, Bob Terrant, Jerry Willett (rolling) and Joanne Willett. Have you ever wondered how many people play in the Bocce Club? The Bocce Club is made up of 12 leagues comprised of 50 teams with four players to a team. That gives us about 200, plus we also have match play with about 16 players and free play with an approximate average of 24 players. So by these numbers we have a total of 240. Bocce is scheduled for play five days a week, Monday through Friday, generally in the morning and early afternoon. I'd like to share some of the club's board activities with you so that we all know what's happening. Tom Martinetto, who is our statistician, drafted a plan for the Best of Bocce playoff tournament to be held prior to the Bocce Banquet in April. Some minor changes

So one can learn how some of our dues money is spent. Personally, I have been very glad to see most players are taking good care to not sit on the rails of the tables, and they brush the playing surface when they are finished. One thing I should like to add on brushing the table is, do not brush in circular strokes, use straight strokes and in one direction only, from the head of the table to where the balls are racked, or going with the "nap" of the cloth. The club is planning to sponsor a "mixed" tournament. As of this writing the date has not been set, but please keep an eye on the bulletin board if interested. It should be a lot of fun. No matter your skill level, sign up and stroke your best! We could use some gals to sign on to play. A little tidbit in closing for your reading pleasure. I came across an article about Napoleon and Wellington, who were supposed to be avid players on the tables of that era. There is a "Taverne Wellington" in the Belgian town of Waterloo, and it is there where Wellington planned his strategy. Of course it was not named Taverne Wellington at that time. The Duke had his own custom-made table by the famed George E. Magnus of London. Napoleon also had his own table crafted by Thurston's of London. This table had a bed made of oak. It wasn't till some years later that slate beds and rubber cushions were adapted. Seems like while Napoleon was in exile he played a lot of pool. One pundit claimed that Napoleon tucked his hand under his vest to hide the blue from the chalk.

are to be made before distribution to league representatives. Most of the club members know that we had requested the courts to be recovered in 2007 and were told we are on the list for this year due to lack of funds at the time. However, due to receiving numerous complaints concerning the poor condition of the bocce courts (mainly the covering or carpet), we organized a committee of four to investigate what could be done to rectify the conditions. The committee did their research gathering photos, samples, job cost estimates and improvement plan with the intent of presenting their findings and recommendations to the Recreation Department. I was informed that nothing could be done until after the fiscal year ends in March and only the coverings would be replaced. We are still hoping to have a meeting before the job is awarded so as to provide for extended wear of the covering (savings) and customer satisfaction (you). I came across an article on the Internet concerning our troops in Iraq and found out that in some areas one of their leisure activities is playing bocce. What do you think of that? The board approved that I send a letter to them to see if we might donate some of our bocce balls that we do not use, which I have done.



Shuffleboard
Robert Riedeman

There was a decrease in the number of players at the December weekly shuffleboard sessions because of the comings-and-goings of folks during the holiday season. However, the New Year has started off with a bang including a general membership meeting on Jan. 10 followed by a Lee's Chicken luncheon in the Health & Recreation Ballroom. Club member John Mataya reports that he participated in the State Senior Games Championship at Cape Coral on Dec. 8, playing in the 80- to 85-age bracket and winning a silver medal with a second place finish. He reports that the courts at Cape Coral are extremely fast because they are sprinkled with a silicone substance called "beads." Unless the courts

are a true flat surface this compounds errors in accuracy. The play for the gold at Cape Coral was the best two out of three games. John came within a whisker of winning the first game, but unfortunately missed what would have been the winning shot and then went on to lose 35 to 28. He later lost the second game by 20 points. The oldest player at Cape Coral was a mere 98. He won the gold medal since he was the only person in his age group. Having played in the National Games six times this individual shows that shuffleboard is truly a game for all ages. The winners in league play for December were:
Monday AM: Men, Bob Schuck; Women, Vicky Lentz.
Monday PM: Men, Lou Fisher and Jerry Griffin; Women, Helen Foskett.
Tuesday PM: Men, Paul Agarwal; Women, Grace Rohde, Dorothy Migliaccio and Betty Cheetham.
Wednesday PM: Men, Dean Millward; Women, Helen Martinez.
Thursday AM: Men, Russell Schlaak; Women, Carol Lopez.
Friday AM: Men, Frank Chamberlain; Women, Elaine Austin and Lela Manross.

Next Publication Date:
March issue, Feb. 28

On Top of the World Bus Schedule

The new bus schedule goes into effect Monday, Feb. 4.

PICK-UP	ROUTE	TIME
Circle Square Cultural Cntr.		8:45 am
Indigo East Community Cntr.		8:50 am
Crescent Ridge 1 & 2	97 th Lane - 99 th Ave - 96 th St	9:00 am - 9:02 am
Americana Village	89 th Ct. Rd - 85 th Terr. Rd.	9:05 am - 9:07 am
Friendship Village	96 th Lane - 84 th Terr - 93 rd St	9:08 am - 9:10 am
Friendship Colony	83 rd Terr - 90 th St - 87 th Ave - 97 th St	9:12 am - 9:15 am
Friendship Park	97 th St - 94 th Lane	9:17 am - 9:20 am
Friendship Village	89 th Ct Rd - 92 nd St Renaissance	9:21 am - 9:25 am
Williamsburg	90 th St - 91 st Cir East 91 st Cir West	9:26 am - 9:30 am
Providence	90 th St - SW 96 th Terr - SW 92 nd Pl Rd - 96 th Ct Rd	9:31 am - 9:32 am
Arbor Club Parking Lot		9:33 am - 9:34 am
Avalon		9:35 am - 9:40 am

OCALA RUN: TUE., WED., TH & FRI ARRIVE PICKUP

1 st run	Lowe's	9:45 am	11:20 am
	Paddock Mall	9:50 am	11:40 am
	Wal-Mart Superstore	10:00 am	11:40 am
	Target	10:15 am	11:40 am
	K-Mart	10:15 am	11:45 am
2 nd run	Gaitway Plaza	10:27 am	11:45 am
	Paddock Mall	11:50 am	
	Wal-Mart Superstore	11:55 am	1:40 pm
	Target	12:00 pm	1:40 pm
	K-Mart	12:00 pm	1:40 pm
	Gaitway Plaza	12:00 pm	1:40 pm
	Paddock Mall (Final Pickup)		1:45 pm
Publix (Final Stop of the Day) Heath Brook	½ Hour		
Thursday Grocery Run (local Publix)	4:16 pm	5:15 pm	
Sam's Club - 3 rd Friday of the Month	1:00 pm	2:30 pm	
Beall's (Hwy 200/CR 484) 2 nd Friday of the Month	9:50 am	11:40 am	
(No regular runs - only Hwy 200 west of OTOW)			



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otownews@otowfl.com by noon the 14th of the month

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**Friendship
Amateur Radio**
Ed Brendle

Congratulations to these new "hams" and a special thanks to Arnold Hansen, W3BPP, and Ron Toller, N4US, for conducting the successful exam. These new inductees will have the privilege of having a free annual membership in the Friendship Amateur Radio Club.

The next meeting will be Feb. 11 with the ARRL program and will be held at 1:30 p.m. at the auxiliary Sheriffs Station on West SR 200. All hams are invited and members are urged to attend and to bring a guest.

The FARC is open to all "hams" and their families. If you are interested, and not currently licensed, the FARC has instructors who can assist in teaching theory to help you earn your license.

We have members who offer their expertise in radio and computers. The club newspaper and notices inform members of the club's many activities. In addition, the FARC has a 2-meter net that meets on Monday at 4 p.m. on 145.170 MHz (except for Monday of the monthly meeting), and a CW net on Tuesday at 7 p.m. on 21.145 MHz.

For more information, call Ed Brendle, KA1INC, at 873-4354.

Softball
Bill Leon

Softball is coming back to the On Top of The World field.

Work has been done to eliminate the humps and bumps we had on the field, and the grading has the field ready for a makeover.

A lot of work is yet to be done but it is a start. There have been many people asking me when the field will be ready and I am trying to get an expected time frame, but I must say things are looking good.

Team members are anxiously waiting to start playing on our own home field. Come on down and see what's taking place.

We look forward to once again be able to run around the bases and invite teams to play. In the meantime, we will wait for the completion.



**Italian
American Club**
Marie Norwood

Tickets for the pizza party on March 5 are being sold at our next meeting on Feb. 6. The price for this party will be \$7 per person. This price includes coffee or tea. You may bring other non-alcoholic beverages as you choose.

We also look forward to a club picnic in May. The cost of either \$4 or \$5 has not yet been determined. We will be informed later of the cost.

We encourage new members to join us. A delightful group of line dancers, the Country Kickers, in their colorful costumes, entertained us at the January meeting. This group, led by Sue Moody, included some of our members in their dancing. This proved to be a challenge to some.

Don't forget to invite your friends and neighbors to our next meeting. See you then. Happy New Year to all.



Members of the Chess Club include Walter Lamp, Spencer Corkorum, Sam Slade, Ray Bock, Josephine Drago and Doug Ross.

**Chess
Club**
Sal Lanzetti

At our regular chess meeting in January, we celebrated one of our senior member's Bob Fanion's birthday. He is in the front center of the photo and has been residing at On Top of The World Communities in Friendship Village

with his lovely wife Terry since 1994.

Several members were present to enjoy the evening, including Walter Lamp, Spencer Corkorum, Sam Slade, Ray Bock, Josephine Drago and Doug Ross. Doug Ross started the chess club about a year ago and the membership has grown quite a bit since. Currently there are 14 members, two of whom are avid chess players; both Bob and Sam play at Oak Run and The Freedom Library in addition to our Thursday nights.

Anyone interested can call Doug at 304-8393 or Sal Lanzetti at 237-5065.

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Mini Golf
Jack Coyle

Providence Putters
Dec. 18

Ladies: 46—Emmy Ricciardone; 57—Inge Vogt.
Men: 42—Kurt Vogt; 48—Bob Maxwell.

Dec. 25

Merry Christmas; no golf.

Jan. 1

Happy New Year; no golf.

Jan. 8

Ladies: 48—Inge Vogt; 51—Eva Miller.
Men: Kurt Vogt; 46—Bob Maxwell.

Sunday Mini-Golf
Dec. 23

Ladies: 45—Florence Soens; 46—Eva Miller; 48—Emmy Ricciardone; 50—Eleanor Krowka; 52—Jean Miranto.

Men: 40—Dick Soens; 42—John Ricciardone.
Dec. 30

No golf.

Jan. 6

Ladies: 46—Eleanor Krowka; 47—Florence Soens; 48—Eva Miller; 57—Jean Miranto; 58—Bernadette Jacobson.

Men: 37—Bob Maxwell; 42—Dick Soens.

Jan. 13

Course wet — no scuba gear available.

Thursday Mini-Golf
Dec. 13

Ladies: 43—Eva Miller; 47—Florence Soens; 48—Emmy Ricciardone; 54—Eleanor Krowka; 59—Jean Miranto.

Men: 39—John Ricciardone; 43—Dick Soens; 47—Bob Maxwell.

Dec. 20

Ladies: 44—Eva Miller; 47—Eleanor Krowka; tie at 48—Florence Soens and Emmy Ricciardone; 61—Jean Miranto.

Men: 35—Bob Maxwell; 42—Dick Soens; 46—John Ricciardone.

Dec. 27

Ladies: 46—Emmy Ricciardone; 48—Eleanor Krowka; 49—Florence Soens; 50—Eva Miller; 53—Bernadette Jacobson; 58—Jean Miranto.

Men: John Ricciardone; 44—Dick Soens.

Jan. 3

No golf.

Jan. 10

Ladies: 40—Eleanor Krowka; 44—Eva Miller; 46—Florence Soens; 48—Chris Rest; 55—Jean Miranto.

Men: 35—Ben Rest; 42—Dick Soens.

**Praise
Break**
Connie Walters

You are invited to a peaceful hour of praise and worship music designed to refresh and relax. Please come to Indigo East Community Center on Tuesday, Feb. 12, at 10:30 a.m. for a praise break.

Connie is an accomplished musician using keyboard and vocal, and you are welcome to sing along with her. Come be inspired, encouraged and uplifted. For further information you may call 873-7198.

**Pattern Dance
Club**
Barb & Joe McArdle

We are very excited with all the dance events coming up:

Sherry Ashenfelter has asked our group to perform at her Big Deal on

Sunday, March 30, from 2 to 5 p.m. We are currently practicing two dances for the occasion.

Itural Center will be ready in the spring. We will be learning all types of dances so we can use it to its fullness.

We meet every Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 8 (6 for extra help). For more fun and practice, we meet Sunday evenings at the Arbor Club from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

For more info, call 369-1220.

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Canine Club

Bobbi Lipka
(Pictured: Ellery)

Dr. Charles Gerhart will be our featured speaker for the Feb. 3 meeting. He'll advise us as to how we can best protect our pets from the dangers of parasites. Recently, some dogs in the community have experienced some severe problems. Parasite infestations are more common when dogs congregate together, as

in our community. It is extremely important to pick up after your pet, to avoid spreading parasites. Bags should be deposited in a waste receptacle, not in the sewers, where they cause more expense for the community.

Save the date: Marion County's Neuter Commuter will visit Friendship Plaza, across from Winn-Dixie, on Friday, Feb. 8. They offer low-cost spaying and neutering. For just \$25, your dog or cat can be spayed/neutered and microchipped, and get a rabies vaccination and county license. You must make an appointment for this service by calling 307-1351 Tuesday through Friday. The Neuter Commuter will also offer walk-in rabies immunizations, free with the purchase of a license, from 2 to 3 p.m. that same day.

Our January meeting with Nancy Fox, animal behaviorist, was a great success. We were pleased that representatives from Oak Run's Canine Club were also in attendance. We're looking forward to some cooperative efforts between the two clubs. Delicious and healthy refreshments were offered by Anna Lunt and Fran and Bill Young.

We continue to welcome new members. Our meetings are the first Sunday of each month at 7 p.m. in Suite D of the Arbor Conference Center. For more information, please call Bobbi Lipka at 237-1245. Happy tails to you! 🐾

SPCA

Melanie Vittitow

The January meeting of the SPCA had yet to be held at the time of this writing, but we were scheduled to make plans for upcoming meetings and to decide which local and national rescue groups that we will support. Feisty Acres in Williston is one of the local groups under consideration. They are a cat rescue organization that recently agreed to take a cat that a resident of On Top of the World could not keep. Feisty Acres has several cats and kittens that are looking for homes but one in particular is well suited for our consideration. Misha is a pretty tabby who recently lost her owner and is in need of another senior household to adopt her. She is one of those cats who love to cuddle and be petted. She is current on all her shots. Please call Arlene Cole at 875-9761 if you are interested.

We have rescued another dog so that makes two that we are sponsoring who are being cared for in a foster home and desperately need a home of their own. Both are large dogs, and may not be suited for some of our older residents, but I'm sure there are some baby boomers here that could care for them. One is a young Shepherd mix (Sheba) and the other is a Lab/pit bull mix (Angel Boy). They each weigh about 65 pounds and need exercise, but we have a nice dog park for that. If

you don't feel you can handle a large dog but know someone who could, please let him or her know about our two. The foster parent is Judy Smith and she will be happy to introduce you to either dog. Her number is 861-1775. We have pictures of both dogs that we can show you at our meeting.

In February, we will be taking a tour of the Owls Sanctuary. We will meet at the Arbor Conference Center at 12:45 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 21. Since we will be carpooling, we need to know how many will be going. If you were not at our January meeting to sign up, please call Jodi, so she'll have a count.

For my closing, here are some tips on house-training from the Tufts University Veterinary School. If your dog soils the house without a medical problem, he needs a round of retraining. First you need to feed him on a regular schedule, and take him out after eating, as this seems to trigger intestinal reflexes.

If he does not go on schedule, then he needs to be restricted inside where you can watch for signals that he is ready. Take him out again every 15 or 20 minutes until he has performed. Don't forget to praise him when he gets it right! The last step is to thoroughly clean the soiled areas with odor neutralizers specifically made for pet mistakes. These three steps should get him back on track within a week or two.

For more information on the SPCA, call Jodi at 861-9765 or Melanie at 873-8690. New members and new ideas are always welcome. 🐾

years ago. He played one of the two Spanish guys in this past fall's production of "Female Version of The Odd Couple". Besides participating in the Theatre Group, he enjoys playing golf.

Several years ago, the Theatre Group established a memorial scholarship fund at CFCC. Later it was changed to an endowment fund for the purpose of awarding scholarships to CFCC students in the performing arts program, with emphasis on the drama students. Our donations are met with matching funds from the state.

The Theatre Group voted to add another \$2,000 to this fund making the total value of the fund over \$20,000. A \$700 scholarship is going to be awarded by CFCC to a deserving student this next term. To be eligible, a student must have at least a 2.5 grade point average and be working toward a degree. Preference will be given to drama students and then to other students in the performing arts program.

Mark your calendars for April 11 and 12 for "Meet My Husbands."

The next meeting of Theatre Group is Feb. 11 at 2:30 p.m. in Suite D of the Arbor Conference Center.

The monthly board meeting will be at 1:30 p.m., same place, same day. Board meetings are open to interested members and of course the regular meetings are open to all. 🐾



Theatre Group
Marcia Miller

By the time you read this, hopefully, rehearsals will be underway for this spring's production of "Meet My Husbands" by Fred Carmichael. Tom MacHaffie will be directing. Tom has had previous directing experience prior to coming to On Top of the World. And to help in directing this play, it won't hurt that he has played the role of Tim in this play down in Clermont.

Tom and his wife Edith moved to Avalon area of On Top of the World less than two



Anything But Bland

Executive Chef Dave Bland

When I started at On Top of the World, I had a vision of what we would achieve as a culinary team.

We made many strides at Candler Hills Restaurant and I am very optimistic about the improvements. At Candler, we have built a team that is focused on putting out three exceptional meals a day with fresh ingredients and excellent products. I have promoted Greg Beal as my sous chef at Candler. He shares my passion for cuisine with a country club background and more years in the kitchen than myself. Of course Candler always has delicious daily specials that you won't want to miss. Plus the view isn't bad either!

I am also excited to welcome a brand new catering chef, James McCulloch, who has joined the culinary team. Recently, I have focused my efforts on training and mentoring him in shaping the catering department to be something we can be proud of. Together we have already put out some great meals.

James and I are also building the Friday Night Happy Hour at The Arbor to be a themed, exciting and fun event with great food and friends. I challenge you to give it a chance; go there hungry — you will be impressed! In addition, we put out the New Year's Eve Celebration at The Arbor. I'm still getting accolades from residents saying that it was the best New Year's celebration to date.

The Pub has been coined the best kept secret at On Top of the World. We have a brand new menu, which will continue the tradition of offering great wholesome food. And you won't want to miss the Wednesday Night Prime Rib special.

Don't forget to join me for my monthly culinary class at the Cultural Center. Check the Master the Possibilities schedule for dates and times. I truly enjoy teaching and interacting with everyone and always hear such positive feedback. Thanks for keeping the class full!

If you have any suggestions for the above-mentioned venues, feel free to e-mail me at dave_bland@otowfl.com. 🐾

New England Club

Debbie Partin

The New England Club will meet on Feb. 8 and we will be celebrating Valentine's Day. Come and enjoy a meal, good conversation and meet new friends. For information, call Debbie at 351-0964. 🐾



Dish & That Recipes

Jean Breslin

Well, dear friends, Valentine's Day is just around the corner. May your hearts be filled with love and happiness, all year long.

If you aren't planning to go out for dinner, perhaps you'd like to make something special. Here's a suggestion for you to consider.

Basil & Balsamic Veal Scallops

(Chicken breasts may also be used)

Serves 4

1 pound veal scallops
1 1/2 cups flour
1 teaspoon garlic salt
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
1 teaspoon brown sugar
1 tablespoon minced fresh basil
1 cup chicken stock

Pound veal scallops to 1/4-inch thickness. Mix flour and garlic salt on a large plate and dredge the veal on both sides. Heat the butter and oil in a sauce pan, over medium heat. Place veal in sauce pan, without touching, and brown on both sides quickly. It should take about one minute per side. If making more than one batch, you may need a little more olive oil. When browned, transfer scallops on to a warm platter. Stir 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar, 1 teaspoon brown sugar and 2 tablespoons basil into the sauce pan. Cook a few seconds, then stir in the chicken stock and cook at a lively bubble for 1 minute. Pour the sauce over the veal and serve.

Broccoli-Spinach Casserole

1 10-ounce package frozen chopped broccoli, thawed
1 10-ounce package frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained
1 can cream of mushroom soup
2 large eggs, lightly beaten
1 small onion, diced
1 cup shredded Cheddar Cheese
1/2 cup mayonnaise
salt and pepper to taste
18 (Ritz) butter crackers, crushed

Stir together first eight ingredients in a large bowl until combined. Spoon mixture into a lightly greased 8-inch by 8-inch baking dish. Sprinkle evenly with crushed crackers. Bake 350 degrees for 40 minutes or until set.

Enjoy! 🐾

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D'Clowns
Paula Magen

Greetings from D'Clowns. In February we celebrate the birthdays of presidents Washington and Lincoln. Valentine's Day is on Feb. 14 and Ground Hog Day on Feb. 2. The legend has it that if the ground hog sees its shadow there will be six more weeks of winter. If it doesn't see its shadow spring is right around the corner. Here's hoping!

The beginning of January turned out to be busy. One activity dovetailed another by just a few days. But we were there to meet the challenge. D'Clowns started off at Summerville's Memory Support Unit where you can find us the first Wednesday of the month. We had such fun, as did the residents. It's no problem

filling an hour of entertainment. The residents enjoyed our skits, music, magic and jokes. They especially love tossing balloons with us. A few days later we were at TimberRidge Nursing Home to participate in the wheelchair exercise class. We add laughter to the program. New clown "Happy" joined us and fitted right in. After that it's on to "Kids and Cookies" in the main dining room. The four- and five-year-olds are bused in from Childhood Development Services to participate in a craft activity with the seniors. It is a joy to see the two diverse age groups working together. D'Clowns assist the children and they love seeing us. Juice and cookies and beads complete the activity.

We are pleased to introduce our newest clown "Happy." Annette Berman moved here more than a year ago. She was born in Boston, Mass., and has three daughters and three grandchildren. Annette loves to travel. She wants to be included in everything D'Clowns do. Welcome "Happy!"

One of the Clowns Codes of Ethics is "I will appear in as many clown shows as I can." As such, Clown "Robin" will be booking our future shows and walk-a-rounds. Our group plans to become more active in the community.

Many thanks to Dorothy Hertzler for the Mardi Gras beads. The seniors and kids alike love 'em.

"All the world loves a clown" as the saying goes. This is an invitation for you to join us. Meetings are the first and third Monday in Suite B of the Arbor Conference Center at 1:30 p.m. For more information, call 873-3433. ☺



Wood Shop
Ray Utiss

Our annual membership meeting was a huge success. There were so many people in attendance, it was standing room only. Our members heard each officer speak of the things that have happened during the past year. Next, each officer spoke of plans for the coming year and their areas of responsibility. Each member had their chance to ask any question they had. It was very informative and a well organized meeting.

Refreshments and cookies were served with the meeting. I am sure the members enjoyed the meeting as well as the directors.

Our president stressed safety is our No. 1 concern at our Wood Shop.

See you at the Wood Shop. ☺



Opera
Tony Donato

On Dec. 22, Trudy and I attended an opera film at the historic Marion Theatre in downtown Ocala. The La Scala Opera Theatre in Milan presented Verdi's "Aida" in digital cinema big screen. To us, it was a huge success because all the ingredients were present — great opera by the greatest Italian composer, outstanding music, good singers, grand spectacle directed and designed by Franco Zeffirelli, and marvelous picture and sound. Although only 90 people attended, most of them seemed very pleased with this "Aida." In our case, we probably will attend four of the six monthly attractions. The remaining La Scala schedule for 2008 is as follows:

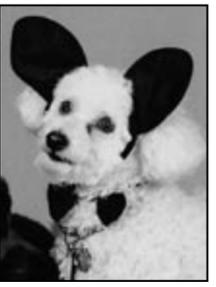
- "La Traviata," Verdi, 131 minutes, Saturday, Feb. 23, at 2:30 and 7 p.m.
- "Maria Stuarda," Donizetti, 153 minutes, Saturday, March 29, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 30, at 2:30 p.m.
- "La Forza Del Destino," Verdi, 160 minutes, Saturday, April 12, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 13, at 2:30 p.m.
- "Il Trittico," Puccini, 188 minutes, Saturday, May 17, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 18, at 2 p.m.
- "La Rondine," Puccini, 107 minutes, Saturday, June 14, at 2:30 and 7 p.m.

The general admission is \$25. "Aida" was filmed a year ago but the remaining six will be shown within a month of actual performance.

At the second session of our Opera Appreciation Class X on Jan. 3, we viewed Verdi's "Il Trovatore." The 1988 MET performance by Luciano Pavarotti, Eva Marton, Sherrill Milnes and Dolora Zajick were enjoyed very much by our group, which has 23 members now. Our friend and colleague, Joe Fanelli, who presented "Madama Butterfly" last year, will offer Bizet's "Carmen" in February.

Our schedule is as follows:

- Feb. 7: "Carmen" by Georges Bizet with Sofia von Otter and Marcus Haddock (video).
 - March 6: "L'Elisir D'Amore" by Gaetano Donizetti with Anna Netrebko and Rolando Villazon (DVD).
 - April 3: "The Voice of Firestone" television videos of 1959 to 1965 with Eleanor Steber, Leonard Warren and Lauritz Melchior.
- The class will meet on the first Thursday of the month at the Arbor Conference Center in Suite C from 1 to 3:30 p.m. The fee is \$10 total for the three sessions. For more information, call Tony on 861-4211. ☺



Ocala Clown Express
Charlie the Clown Dog

Hi, folks ... it's me again, Charlie the Clown Dog (aka) Sir Charles de Belmont. Folks, I know what I am talking about; I am a senior just like you are. I have white hair and am full of knowledge.

Where did I get the knowledge from, you ask? Why, from training meetings at Ocala Clown Express.

We are a very busy clown group, doing charitable clown work for our community. We are at the Munroe Regional Memorial Center (downtown) weekly for the Marion County

School District's safety program. We cover Hospice with their needs, Children's Home Society, Relay for Life, programs for the local sheriff's department, Romeo Elementary School, Eighth Street Elementary and many other charitable functions.

Last year alone we covered 43 gigs for our community. We have trained professional clowns on staff with a program set up just for training new clowns. If you have never been a clown before, within three short months, we will have you up and about doing clowning.

We have a training program for regular clowns and also have a program for want-a-be-clowns that are still working. It's our clown associate program. We will get you ready for when you do retire, and in the meantime you can help us out on weekends. You will be able to proceed at your own "speed" to be ready for the clowning world. It is a wonderful "act of charity" to be able to give back "much" to the community and have fun at the same time.

If you would like information on our regular clown group or our associate clown group, you can call our president, Dotsy the clown, aka Carol White at 873-9223, or you may call me, Charlie the Clown Dog. (Well, I can sure type but I can't talk yet, so if you call our house ask for Rosy Nosy, aka Marge at 291-0077.) I have her trained well on how to answer questions on clowning and training. We enjoy introducing want-a-be-clowns into the clowning world. Got to leave now, I have Rosey Nosy trained to take me out for my walks. Thanks, Charlie the dog. ☺



Square Dancing
Maureen Lea

We had a few Florida winter days and had to cut back some vegetation, but there is no cutting back on the number of occasions and opportunities to square dance.

In January, we switched to Tuesday night without a hitch or "hitch 6" for the round dancers.

On the first Tuesday, we had more than eight squares for the regular dance, and the round dancers also filled the floor. At times, the Arbor Club seemed to be bursting at the seams. We were raided by Orange Blossom Squares on Jan. 15, and several club members went to Winterfest in Lakeland, which is always a treat.

A Beginner's Ball was sponsored by Oak Run on the 26th with Witt Brown calling. Again, thanks for all the support; the Beginner Balls are very important to the new dancers.

Now we're into February and we are starting off with a guest caller, Sue Maricozzi. Don and Loretta Hanhurst (our club caller and cuer) are going on a well-deserved square dance vacation cruise. Efforts are being made to obtain a guest cuer, but we may have to settle for a tape of our own Loretta.

Feb. 12 will be our Valentines Dance, so grab your honey and go ahead and eat that chocolate, because you will dance off any extra calories.

The Winter Whirl will be held on Feb. 23 at the H&R Ballroom with Jim Cosman from Georgia calling the square dance and Loretta Hanhurst as cuer on rounds.

I'm sorry to report that Dottie Huston has resigned as the chairman of our Social Committee. We all wish Dottie the best and look forward to seeing her at club events.

Well, Happy Valentine's Day, and get out there and dance, dance, dance! ☺



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Neuter Commuter Bus Visits Friendship Plaza

The Marion County Neuter Commuter bus will be coming to On Top of the World to perform low cost spaying and neutering, as well as rabies immunizations and licenses.

The bus will be parked at the Friendship Plaza, all day on Friday, Feb. 8. Dogs and cats are eligible.

A package is available, which includes spaying or neutering, a microchip, rabies immunization, and county license, for a total cost of \$25. The same package is only \$5 for those on government assistance.

You must make an appointment for the spaying/neutering surgery by calling 307-1351, Tuesdays through Fridays. Pets must be at least four months of age to be eligible for the surgery.

Rabies shots are free with the purchase of a license. For neutered pets, the cost is \$3. Unaltered pets must pay \$35. Anyone needing the shot and license can simply walk-in to the bus between 2 and 3 p.m. on the 8th.

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-- Jay, Linda & "Sashi" Besecker - The Villages

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Scenes from the Happy Hour Sock Hop

Photos by John Ware

Jan. 11 saw another fun-filled Happy Hour, with our 50's Sock Hop. Barry and Nancy did an exceptional job, going into their archives for some really great 50's and 60's tunes. Many thanks to all who broke out their 50's outfits, which really added to the Sock Hop theme.





**New York/
New Jersey**
Terry Zarrella

Once again the New York/New Jersey Club's Christmas party was a huge success. Many club members attended and received gifts from Santa Claus. Mrs. Santa Claus (Jackie Palotta) made out like a bandit winning the 50/50 and receiving a gift from Santa also. The food was outstanding and we must thank Bruce in writing for the great job he did again this year.

Many guests got up to dance to Fay and Ray's tunes. Everyone had a stupendous time and truly enjoyed themselves. Santa did a marvelous job as he always does and even his "ditzzy" elf appeared again this year. We must thank Carol Berta for getting all the gifts for the party and her husband Bob for printing up all the tickets. Angie and Bob Hook who are in charge of setting up for the party did a marvelous job and made our tables look appealing and festive.

Now down to business ... Liz Ettell is selling tickets for our annual Tampa Bay Downs Trip. Tickets are available at the Health & Recreation Ballroom every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 to 10:30 a.m. Members' price per ticket is \$37 and \$38 for non-members. If you haven't bought your ticket as yet and wish to attend, please see Liz Ettell or call her at home; she's in the phone book. The price per ticket includes the bus, buffet, admission and tips. The trip is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 5, and two buses will be leaving at 8:30 a.m. It's a fantastic trip and everyone truly enjoy

themselves.

Now for the parking for Tampa Bay Downs trip. Here are the instructions as given to me by Audrey Mangan (of Travel Toppers) and everyone must adhere to them. Do not use the maintenance entrance to the parking lot. You must drive to Southwest 81st Loop (go down Southwest 99th Street until you hit Southwest 81st Loop), make a right and drive between the first and second storage units to the end; turn right. Go across storage unit and down the ramp and circle around to park. Face the ramp and park between the two white signs. You must face the ramp so that each car is parked close to one another. Someone will be there to help you do what must be done. Please try and carpool to make more space available. Your cooperation regarding this matter will be greatly appreciated.

I will write about January's entertainment in my next column. At February's meeting, Bunny Barba will be hosting a quiz show and would like new members to volunteer. We always have the same familiar faces participating and we would love to see new members winning prizes and having fun. Please see Bunny before the meeting to volunteer to be a contestant

Also at February's meeting we will be selling tickets for March's covered dish party. We are keeping the price the same as last year at \$3 per person. Members must also bring a dish to be sampled by other members ... just enough for about six to eight servings. The dish could be anything from a salad, casserole, dessert or sugar-free item. A list will be available at February's meeting where our ticket takers are seated to write down what you will be bringing to March's covered dish.

To all new residents who have recently moved to On Top of the World who resided in New York or New Jersey and would like to join our club — please note that we meet every third Tuesday of the month in the Health & Recreation Ballroom at 2:30 p.m. The meeting starts at 3 p.m. but come early to meet and perhaps make new friendships while sharing our fabulous desserts, coffee and iced tea.

It's a great day out and we have lots of audience participation. Once again we've tried to schedule a varied entertainment schedule for the coming year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I'm in the phone book. In the meantime stay healthy, be happy, laugh often. ☺

**Community
Patrol**
Joe Berger

I would like to invite all residents to attend one of our meetings, which is generally the fourth Monday of each month at 3 p.m. in Suites B & C of the Arbor Conference Center.

On occasion, we have field trips to the Marion County jail or the Marion County Farm, which is run by the inmates. If any of our residents are interested in attending these trips, call and let me know or contact any one of our officers.

At present, we have more than 80 members who unselfishly give their time for the benefit

of us all.

I would like to give a special thanks to two of our members, John and Joyce Guyson, for spreading the need for members in Indigo East. John was born in the Netherlands, and came to the United States in 1964. He has an extensive background in the hotel and restaurant business and was one of the originators of the Long John Silver seafood restaurant. John has been retired for five years and came to On Top of the World two years ago. He has found Indigo a great place to live and both he and his wife are very active in other organizations. At last count, I believe John and Joyce have recruited about 24 members. Keep up the good work, folks.

The officers who can be reached for information on the Community Patrol are Gary Rodoff 291-7508, Jim Miller 854-4947, Sal Lanzetti 237-5065 and Joe Berger 237-7185. ☺



**View from
the Library**
Peggy Greer

Hey, Grisham fans ... I have some exciting news for you! John Grisham has his first non-fiction out. It's "The Innocent Man." His 19 previous books were all fiction. Why the crossover? At the end of this book, in the author's notes, Grisham writes that he read Ron Williamson's obituary in The New York Times and it was a lengthy writeup. He instinctively

knew there was a much greater, untold story here. That was in December of 2004. "The Innocent Man" was published in 2007.

Grisham admitted that even as an attorney, he hadn't given any thought that there were innocent people on death row. At the time of this book being published, 180 prisoners have been proven innocent and freed through DNA testing. One hundred eighty! That number will certainly give one pause.

Charging ahead like a freight train leaving the station, page one of "The Innocent Man" starts moving and goes non-stop till the end. There are no detours, no lag time or layovers, no philosophical day dreaming, just information, information and more information. As the story unfolds you will see that there were huge mistakes made by both law enforcement and the judicial system. With such an uneven balance in power, it is easy to see how a person with little monetary means and psychological problems can be used as a scapegoat to put closure to a five-year-old murder case. Crooked and incompetent police along with a prejudiced, incompetent judge make for a sad case.

It will be interesting to see if Grisham continues with non-fiction. It was easy to see that his thorough research was done with passion. Maybe this book will encourage its readers to view court cases through objective eyes. ☺

**Embroidery
Chicks**
Jan Johnson

December and early January were spent finishing up our fleece tops and hats for Romeo Elementary School in Dunnellon. More work on this project will continue during the summer when we are over and done with the holiday rush.

Every lady needs another purse! We began a very convenient purse, with embroidered outside pockets and a gorgeous lining inside, one that really shouts, "Look at me!"

Lorraine Brokhof is our purse instructor and she brought her own purse to demonstrate for us. To see a finished item of what we are trying to imitate is a really really big help. The lining was made first to give us practice, so that when we made the outside of the purse, we will know what we are doing. We will finish up with the fabric strap and sewing the lining and outside together. Then we are ready for the "sticks", as I call them. The sticks are the two pieces of wood that have strap holes in each end. This type of purse allows for a lady changing her mind — she can change her purse to suit her mood, removing the undesired purse from the sticks and now attaching the desired purse to the same set of

sticks. Very handy. Lorraine tells us that she has 14 sets of purses at home for the same set of sticks. How fashionable!

Our previous guest instructor, Carol, will return to teach us a new technique that she designed to create a block-in-the-hoop. She is a great instructor and we are glad to see her again. Cost will be \$5.

We are planning a road trip to the Suwannee Valley Quilt Shoppe in Trenton, one hour away. Delicious food for lunch and dessert — a great draw over and above the fabric. The fabric selection is out of this world and the staff is just wonderful.

Ruth Kinney came to her first Chicks meeting and is learning how to use her new machine. I think she will have a great time!

Now, a reminder about the Tampa Original Sewing and Quilt Expo, to be held on Feb 21, 22 and 23. Many vendors, classes, demos, etc., for the quilter, sewer and machine embroiderer will be available. This is a once-a-year show and lots of fun. More info is available at sewingexpo.com or (800) 699-6309.

Interested people may stop in to see us on the first and fourth Fridays of each month, in Suites B and C at the Arbor Conference Center, or call Theresa at 291-7570.

I hope someone received a new embroidery machine over the holidays and is eager to learn. She will change from an everyday housewife, a "Desperate Housewife," to a blazing Chick, with embroidered designs all over her life. Yea, Chicks! ☺



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Crafty Ladies
Rosalie Grubowski

We are entering February already. Winter is half gone and we only had to suffer through a few cold days. I sure hope all the sicknesses of the winter are gone for 2008.

Last month I neglected to announce the name of our newest member. She is Edie Howard. Edie brings much talent and productivity to our club. Welcome, Edie. We also have a lady who has been absent for several months and has returned. She is Mina Childer and we are so glad to see she is back. Right now Mina is working on a beautiful afghan of various shades of light purples plain and variegated.

We received two donations in January of supplies such as thread, material, beads, fabric paints, all sizes of ribbons and other types

of craft items. They were donated to us by Kay Smith and Audrey. Thank you both so much for all your donations.

Here are some of the projects being worked on by our crafty ladies. Louise Green is working on a wall hanging in crewel embroidery. It is a lake scene on a beautiful medium blue material. Rosemary Borgia who is one of our newer ladies is working on embroidering flowers on the edge of bath sheets/towels. Anyone would be proud to own these towels with the beautiful flowers.

Toni Kirchner is our children's mittens person. She has just turned in 87 pairs of mittens plus seaman hats and vests. Toni is always busy knitting to keep the school children warm. She uses every color of yarn you can think of to make these mittens. Jacky Nolte knits some of most gorgeous lap robes I have ever seen. She recently created three robes one in each of the following colors, purple, yellow and red. She is currently working on a shawl in beige with an eyelash yarn called popcorn. It is such a beauty. Everyone marveled how it is turning out.

Rosemarie Perillo has made many great creations in the hat department for our school children. Every one is different and in such pretty shades. I can see the children having a hard time selecting which one to choose. Nancy Scott has made several lap robes and one in particular has caught everyone's eye. It is made with Bernat Baby Coordinates Sweet Stripes. It is a blue and white combination that makes it own design as she creates the lap robes.

Next month I hope to highlight a few more of our members so don't be surprised to see your name appear in our future columns.

If you have anything to donate to our causes, just give Rosalie a call to make arrangements for pick up or delivery.

If you wish to know more about us, call Rosalie at 861-1391 or come to the Card Room in the Arts & Crafts Building (that's the building across from the water tower) any Wednesday morning. Our meetings are held year round from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Until next month be happy, healthy and keep being "Crafty" Ladies. ☺

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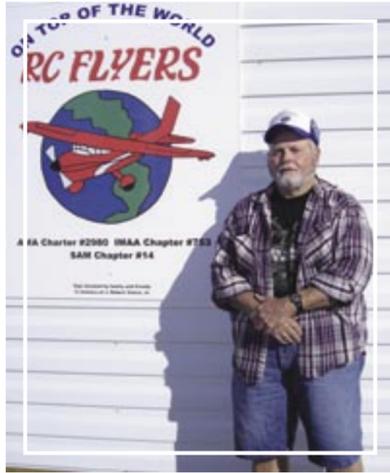
R/C Flyers
Mike Zuckerman

We've had some cold weather, but that only curtailed flying for a few days. Up north, the winter is for building next season's airplanes. Here the winter is also for flying!

Congratulations to Tom Jellifer — our newest solo pilot! He has graduated from the On Top of the World R/C Flyers comprehensive training program, now headed by vice president Ted Pope.

Perhaps there are some potential R/C pilots among the readers of this paper. The On Top of the World R/C Flyers have a program to introduce radio control aircraft flying to newcomers. It is called the Introductory Flight Program.

The club has an aircraft and instructors that are available to provide a sampling of what this hobby/sport entails. There is no cost and no obligation for this opportunity. It is simply offered to any resident who would like to try



Tom Jellifer, our newest solo pilot!

his/her hand at flying a model airplane.

During the past year we had a fairly large number of folks who enjoyed both the brief ground instruction and the flights. Some have decided to continue in the hobby while others just wanted to give it a "once in a lifetime" try. If you are interested, call Dick Rose at 854-9424 and he will add you to the list. We schedule these flights periodically depending on weather and availability of both the instructors and the students.

Many people ask whether radio controlled flight is similar to flying a real aircraft. The short answer is "yes." The aerodynamics are



Photos by Mike Zuckerman

The Introductory Program R/C Aircraft, with instructors Dick Rose, left, and Bob Wroblewski.

exactly the same, the control inputs are exactly the same, the big difference is the "pilot's" sensory inputs, which are much different. Both depend on good vision, some eye/hand

coordination and as in all learning experiences the ability to take instruction. The biggest thing they have in common is that it is fun, so you have to be willing to have fun! ☺



R/C LadyBirds
Ruth Kuntar

Happy Valentine's Day and a heartfelt welcome to our newest member, Linda Rose.

Our Valentine's Day party takes place at the Arbor Club on Feb. 9. Please contact Mary Jo Wiley or Rita Mandl to sign up. April 18 is the date of the Rags-to-Riches/Trash-to-Treasures event. Please start setting aside those gently used items to be sold at our table. On April 23 the two-mile Hoofin' for Hospice takes place here at On Top of the World. To date \$72,000 has been raised for Legacy Hospice, so we do make a difference, ladies. Contact Gloria Scicluna to participate. Jean Jarmel tells us the 50's Party calendared for March 8 is in the planning stages, so continue to check your e-mail for announcements on this and all upcoming LadyBirds events.

We extend our sincere thanks to Cathy Fanelli for arranging the in-depth identity theft seminar in January, to Gloria Scicluna for the January birthday party, and to Renee Aden and Nancy Dreimiller who led the lunch-bunch to the Horse and Hounds in late January.

Rositta Marietta Reich was born in Hungary to German parents who had fled Germany hoping to escape political and racial persecution. By 1939 a new regime came to Hungary, and LadyBird Rita "Rositta" Mandl was about

to live through some of the most turbulent times in Eastern Europe and the world. When Rita was three years old, the family was exiled from Hungary, transported to Vienna, and handed over to the Gestapo. Fortunately, Rita's parents had Dutch passports and were allowed to leave the detention camp. Dressed in peasant clothing and with Rita sitting on the handlebars of a stranger's bicycle, Rita and her parents were smuggled over the border back into Hungary. Her very first memory is of that return trip. They stopped at a village. While Rita's parents were negotiating with a farmer, she wandered off into a very tall, grassy area only to be confronted by a wild boar! Her screams brought the stranger to her rescue.

Back in Budapest the family went into hiding and withstood detention camps. From 1939 to 1945 Rita and her family moved fifteen times and spent three months in a cellar during World War II. In April of 1945 the Russians liberated Hungary, and Rita, her mother, and father emerged from their bunker. Her brother was born in August of that year, and her father, a dentist, at last had an opportunity to open his dental office. Life was good until her father attempted to return to Berlin to determine if any of his family survived the war (none did). Hungary, in 1949, was under a communist regime and leaving the country was not an option. Rita's father was arrested and jailed for seven months as a political prisoner. His opportunity to open a dental office was gone, and the family was without a wage earner. In 1950 he had a major stroke, and Rita, at 13 years old, helped to care for her father as best she could.

In the spring of 1956, Rita met her husband, Bela, and by October of that year, the Hungarian uprising began. Rita and Bela left the country and escaped first to Austria, then France, and finally to Montreal, where they arrived on Jan. 13, 1957, with \$5 in their pocket, and no knowledge of the language. They worked in a factory where ballpoint pens were assembled and wages were 50 cents an hour. In July of 1957 Daughter Rita was born. For a time Rita became a stay-at-home mom. She rented a typewriter and learned to type. In

1958 Robert was born. Rita began work in the library at McGill University typing catalogue cards, and Bela took a teaching position at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. Life again was good. The Mandls became Canadian citizens and applied for permission to immigrate to the United States. In 1965 another son, Robert, was born. Two years later they were granted immigration to the United States. In the interim years, Rita's father passed away in Hungary and her mother immigrated to New York City. It is there Rita and Bela first came to live and work in the United States. Rita took a position at the American Museum of Natural History Library and remained at that job for 10 years. During this time she also took several continuing education courses in management at New York University, and this led to a job offering in the word processing/information technology field, a field Rita continued in for the balance of her working career. For the next 20 years, the Mandls lived in Manhattan. Their daughter attended Queens College. Son George graduated college and went to work for the American Stock Exchange. Later, Son Robert enrolled at Syracuse University.

Life changed radically when Rita's mother became ill. After nine months of Rita's continual care, her mother recovered, and moved

to San Diego. For the first time in her life, Rita had no one to worry over. The children married and had children of their own, gifting Rita and Bela with eight wonderful grandchildren. Life was again good.

The next move was to Connecticut, and Rita commuted to Manhattan by train four hours a day to continue working for a restoration architect. Of Connecticut, Rita says, "I had my own house, garden, snow, sleet, but it was great."

Rita's mother returned to Connecticut to live in an assisted living facility. At age 89, she entered a nursing home. Rita left her job in New York and went to work at the hospital located across the street from the nursing home. In February of 2003, Rita's mother passed on.

There was no longer a need to stay where temperatures sometimes reached below zero and the snow could get knee-high. Rita and Bela "found Ocala and On Top of the World. Life is good" ... once again! Here Rita is an avid gardener, an officer in the Native Plant Club, and a volunteer in both the library and for the Ocala Sheriff's Department.

Thank you, Rita, for sharing this slice of your life with us and for reminding us of the meaning of freedom, courage, and family. ☺

Concert Chorus Jean Nuncy

On Top of the World Concert Chorus Formed

An organizational meeting of the newly reformed On Top of the World Concert Chorus was held in January. Director Jean Monroe led a discussion of future plans for the group. It is anticipated that the chorus will perform both a spring and Christmas concert for On Top of the World audiences. To date, 35 singers have auditioned and been accepted for the chorus.

Time and location for weekly rehearsals have been changed to Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Health & Recreation Ballroom. Special thanks go to The Sunshine Singers who have very generously offered their music and piano for use by The On Top of the World Concert Chorus.

All On Top of the World residents who feel comfortable singing four-part arrangements and want to be considered for this group should call Jean Monroe at 861-0323 or Jean Nuncy at 291-0529 to arrange for an audition. ☺

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Photo by Lynn P. Stock

Welcome!

Welcome to John and Rosemary Walsh, the first residents to close on their home in Renaissance Park.



Katie Brooks



Joe Beddia

Entertainment Group Presents Twin Bill

On Saturday, March 1, the Entertainment Group presents its only "twin-bill" of the show series.

From the moment he walks on stage at 7:30 p.m. you will be helplessly captured by his mystical presence. Audiences ask the same question: did he just walk off the movies set during his daughter's wedding and suddenly "just appear?"

This is the first impression you will get at "Godfather of Performance Show." This truly unique comic, singer, musician and impersonator is Joe Beddia. This one-man show is said to be one of the most action packed shows.

Impressions of celebrities like Jimmy Durante, Carol Channing, Rodney Dangerfield, Lawrence Welk, Ray Charles and Richard Simmons will simply dazzle you ... not to mention Joe's most famous impression, a look-a-like, sound-a-like Marlon Brando of the "Godfather." Music and song are pleasantly woven into the mix along with "off-the-wall" audience participation to make one of the most enjoyable, exciting, creative show.

Following Joe a favorite performer returns.

If you saw last year's show "Nashville Meets Branson" at On Top of the World you will remember Katie Brooks.

Katie is a singer, musician, entertainer and song writer from Nashville. Katie has shared the stage with such performers as Chet Atkins, Boots Randolph, Norm Crosby, Peter Marshall, Crystal Gayle and the Oak Ridge Boys just to name a few stars.

One of the reasons she is listed in "Who's Who" and in "Outstanding Young Women of America" is because of her patriotism and concern for America's military and hospitalized veterans. Katie was given a special service award by the Department Of Veterans Affairs for her performances in all the V.A. medical facilities in the contiguous United States.

Tickets are \$6 general and \$8 reserved with a limit of four per purchase.

As usual, tickets are for residents of all On Top of the World communities and their houseguests.

Tickets are on sale from 8:30 to 10 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the Health & Recreation Ballroom. ☺

Northern Sound to Perform at Mardi Gras Dance

The Dance Committee presents Mardi Gras at the Health & Recreation Ballroom.

The Dance Committee invites all residents of The On Top of the World Communities and their overnight guests to a Mardi Gras Celebration at the H&R Ballroom.

The date is Saturday, Feb. 16, from 7 to 10:30 p.m.

The band will be Brad Turk and his five-piece band, "Northern Sound."

The dress is casual or Mardi Gras style, such as masks.

The cost is \$7 per person, \$14 per couple, no limit on number.

A singles table will be available.

Some of the features of the evening will be a Bead Tossing Parade, a Mardi Gras Cake and coffee time, and snacks at the table.

Tickets are on sale in the H&R Ballroom from 8 to 10 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays until we are sold out.

For more information, please contact Gordy Phillips at 854-7981.

See you there! ☺

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If residents would like to donate equipment, it would be most helpful.

For more information, call the Health & Recreation Department at 854-8707.

The Happy Hookers

Carole Toye

Here it is February already; Yvonne is still up north visiting family so here I am again. All the Christmas gifts are done and now the ladies are busy with other projects.

Pat Wallace is making a broomstick lace afghan; Ruth Phaneuf is almost finished with a hooked rug wall hanging (we still have ladies hooking). Pat Utiss and I resurrected a couple of projects we had set aside, Pat a counted cross-stitch piece and I'm finishing a crewel embroidery tea cloth. Baby blankets are being made by Carol Berta and Vicky Seitz.

Jackie Nolte is making a stole with regular yarn and eyelash thread, how beautiful. Karen Nace always has a unique item to work on. This time instead of making designer handbags, she is making a counted cross-stitch baseball player wall hanging for her 14-year-old granddaughter. Hats for the school children are being made by Cecily Lucas, Rosalie Grubowski and Hilda Woodcock; Carol Lopez is embroidering a table scarf.

Teach, always teaching ... Jackie Palotta is teaching Therese Bell knitting and Carol Berta is teaching Maureen Wolfe how to crochet covers for hangers.

Luncheon update: Our next luncheon will be Feb. 4 at 1 p.m. at the Sand Wedge in Spruce Creek Preserve, not the Mason Jar. Please call me, Carole Toye, at 873-1646 if you plan to go, as I need an accurate count.

As you can see, we all do different things, come join us on Mondays, 2 p.m. in the Craft Room. ☺



Line Dancing
Sherry Ashenfelter

Jack and I teach four dance classes on Monday, because we have fun sharing our excitement and knowledge about line dancing.

Perhaps we are line dance addicts. We line dance when we are home alone. We dance with our cats. We keep dance shoes in the car trunk, in case of an unexpected chance to dance.

We hear background music in a fast food restaurant, a car dealership, or a shopping mall and our feet burst into grapevines and jazz squares. Dance programs are circled in our television guide.

We buy wide-leg pants that fit over dance sneakers. We choose movies because of the dance scenes.

It is hard for us to carry on a conversation for longer than five minutes without bringing up the topic of dance. Our vacation destinations are dance festivals.

Would you like to share the fun?

Our dance classes are held September through June. Most students begin in September, but some snowbirds, new residents and others join later.

For information, phone Sherry and Jack at 873-9440. ☺

Cancer Support Group Meets Second Monday

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church is hosting a new support group for people who have experienced any form of cancer, caretakers or anyone interested in learning more about living with cancer. This group meets on the second Monday of each month at 2 p.m. at Benson Hall, 3453 N.E. Silver Springs Blvd.

The purpose of the group is to provide information/education about cancer, give mutual support, share experiences and find new ways of handling problems. Two parish nurses, Bonnie Schulze and Patricia Woodbury, will facilitate the group. For further information call St. Matthew's at 629-5948. ☺



Rubber Stamping Greeting Cards
Margaret Hanrahan

Cold weather was just the inspiration for our January meeting. It was a hot cocoa matchbook folding card. Impish little mice after a cup of hot cocoa adorned the cover of this card. Inside was a packet of hot cocoa to be sent along with an encouraging and comforting message.

Our next project was three-fold. We did two different winter cards using trees and layering techniques to create shrubs and bushes giving them each a dimensional appearance. The third card this day was "for men only." Using a preprinted background paper of basketball textures and words, a banner was made using masking techniques to create a pile of basketballs. Along with chalks for shading, it, too, had a nice dimensional look.

We meet to encourage, inspire and assist one another. Because we have grown so much we have split into two groups. One group meets on the first Thursday and the second group meets on the third Thursday of the month. If you have questions or want to join us please call Margaret at 732-3282. ☺



Singles Club
Pat Wellington

The On Top of the World Ballroom Dance Club continues to grow with new members joining us in January for waltz lessons. It's easy to join because you don't need a partner. That means that singles are welcome.

Every month dance instructor Trish Sands teaches a new dance. In February the dance will be swing; in March the cha cha and in April the tango. Cost is \$20 a month per person for four lessons. There is also a small yearly club fee.

The lessons are open to outsiders as well as to On Top of the World residents. We meet on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to noon at the Arbor Club. Come a few minutes early to sign up. For more information, call Pat Wellington at 237-8050 or Steve Kallas at 854-0534. ☺

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Sewing Bees
Rita Miller

Happy New Year everyone. Here's to a great 2008. We don't have a lot to report this month as we only had one work bee in December. But, 22 members gathered at the Ocala Hilton for the annual holiday luncheon on Dec. 13. The restaurant was beautifully decorated, the food was delicious and small gifts were exchanged in the holiday spirit. Members enjoyed visiting and sharing holiday plans.

Our president Marcy gave the annual end-of-the-year report. We're proud to say we donated 743 items to seven agencies. 117 quilts, 136 stuffed animals, 317 tote bags, 123 pil-

lows, and 50 stockings were contributed to the following agencies: Kimberly's Cottage, Guardian Ad Litem, Genesis House, Munroe Regional Medical Center, Ocala Regional Medical Center, Homeless Children of Marion County, and the Pediatric Team of Florida. Since we've had an increase in membership, we're hoping to do even more in 2008.

Our January meetings were mostly quilt workshops. We'll continue on with stuffed animals, pillows, and tote bags.

Members are reminded that if they have any projects that they would like to teach, to bring them to the meeting to see if there is any interest. Marcy will be presenting a scalloped placemat class in February.

If any of you have made a New Year's resolution to do something for charity, come join our group. New residents in all of the On Top of the World communities are welcome. We have a fun time sewing for children. Our items are simple and we furnish the sewing machine and fabric. Our meetings are held Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. in the Art Room of the Craft Building (near the Mini-golf course).

We can always use contributions of fabric suitable for children's projects, sewing supplies, quilt batting, and polyfil stuffing. It's estimated that we used more than 600 yards of fabric last year, much of which was donated. If you have any items which you no longer have a use for, call Rita at 237-6660 or Marcy at 854-1181. ☺



Stitch Witch Quilters
Ann Weldishofer

In January, Pat Quintan had led a class in free-motion quilting in the morning, and did a great job! Many of the gals have a head start on quilting their projects.

There were correspondences from some of the agencies we donate our comfort quilts to, and it was noted that an average size for them is 42-inch by 54-inch. Treasurer Pat noted a need for some fund-raising activities if we are to continue producing as many as we have been doing.

Tekla announced the lineup for comfort quilt workshops for the next few months. On Feb. 19 and 26, Tekla will do Squares In A Frame; and on March 18 and 25, Renee Aden will do The Volunteers.

Jane said we have our room reserved through 2009, Marcy Benz will help with the calling committee, and Harriet Park will be travel coordinator. She thanks everyone for offering their help.

As possible fund-raisers, we decided to look into getting a table at the Trash and Treasure Sales, to participate in the Fall Arts and Crafts Sale, and we raised our dues a bit.

Margaret Hanrahan offered to chair the Trash and Treasure Sale for us.

Jane thanked Florence Wright, Ethel Beckett, and Margaret for the delicious refreshments we all enjoyed. ☺

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ON TOP OF THE WORLD RESIDENT



Happy New Year!

The Northern Lights group rang in the New Year with Ralph Sickler as the baby New Year and John Elfring as Father Time.

The Movie Club to Enjoy 'Next' on Big-Screen TV

By MARY EHLE

I am sure that by now you have heard the great news. We have a new and much bigger TV to show the movies on. This was all provided by your faithful attendance to the movies and to the entertainment shows.

Many of you may not realize but the Movie Club is a partner and an extension of the Entertainment Group. We contribute to the main treasury any excesses we have and then they are a "give-back" to the communities. We sponsor all the flowers that are given to shut-ins at Christmas and provide for the main meats for the potlucks. Thank you for your participation.

Now the movie for Feb. 10 in the Health & Recreation Ballroom will be "Next" starring Nicolas Cage, Julianne Moore and Jessica Biel. Cage has the ability to see the future and change the outcome of events before they happen. I found it a very exciting movie and thought provoking.

February is also our potluck. We will be

serving meatballs and sausage, both hot and sweet. Please bring a dish of food to pass and all your own table service. You need your own beverage and please remember a serving utensil for your food dish. The meal will be served at 5:15 p.m. Try to have your things at the Ballroom by 5 p.m. so that we can get all set up.

I am going to attempt to show the ending of the movie we had in December when our TV quit. I will run this film while we eat so you can catch the ending if you wish. I will not show the whole film; only the last part that we missed.

For those who do not want to come to the potluck remember that the movie is still played for you. The main movie will start at 6 p.m. The Movie Club is open to any On Top of the World resident and their overnight house-guests. The yearly dues are \$6 but if you only want to pay as you go it is \$2. If you have been to the theatre you know what a bargain this is. Hope we see you at the movies. ☺



Red Hat Society
Vivian Brown

What wonderful weather we've been having, except for a couple of cold days, you just can't beat it. It's great to live here in Florida.

Hope every one is getting ready for the PJ party on Sunday, Feb. 24. See you all there.

Remember ladies, to smile and pass them along, because when you smile the whole world smiles with you, and I like to think if the whole world is busy smiling, peace on earth is possible.

THE RAZZLE-DAZZLE RED HAT DAMES had a terrific holiday season, but we all partied too much, ate too much and just overdid too much. Now reality has set in and we are busy trying to lose weight, and are slowing down a bit. Our January hostess is Joan Bolling, and she has selected Harry's on the Square for our luncheon. We haven't been there in a while so it should be fun. Stay well ladies and God bless. ... *QM Vivian Brown*

COOL CATS IN RED HATS held their annual Christmas party at the home of their Queen Mum. Seventeen of the 19 members of the group were there to party and spread cheer to all. The two missing are our snowbirds that have not come south yet. We missed them and are looking forward to them joining us in the new year. At the party we picked who will host each month of 2008. Some have already lined up wonderful adventures for the Cats to go on. Everyone brings delicious goodies to the party to eat. What a variety we had! We promise to diet next year. Each year, instead of having a gift exchange, the Cats give to a charity. They picked Hospice and donated \$105 to that cause. ... *Queen Mum Janet Fragapane*

THE BON AMI RED HATS held their Christmas party Dec. 14 at the home of Joann Jones. A potluck lunch was shared and gifts exchanged. Fourteen members were present. As a new group, many of our monthly meetings

have been held at the homes of our members so that we may get better acquainted, which has been enjoyed by all. In January, our hostess, Teddi Ackerman, has made plans for a luncheon at the Asian Fusion restaurant, followed by a "beverage" and a surprise after at Teddi's home. We will continue brainstorming plans for our participation in the February Pajama Party at that time. ... *QM Daryl Howard*

THE GLITZY GALS celebrated their third anniversary with a mystery luncheon at QM Mary Curry's home. QM Mary and Vice Queen Bea Maxwell were our hostesses and their husbands were our servers. There were 13 items on the menu with mystery names so it was a guess as to what you were ordering and the implements also had mystery names. There were three courses and for each course you chose the number of foods mentioned and two implements but all foods had to be chosen. All courses were ordered before any food was served so no one could change their order.

It was an exciting time as our courses were served and the mystery names were matched to the real food and you may or may not have the right utensil to eat the served items on your plate. A big thank you to Mary and Bea for a delicious lunch, beautifully decorated tables and a great start to the New Year. Before lunch we had our inspirational candle-light ceremony as a part of our anniversary celebration. The girls who decorated their golf carts and participated in the parade had a fun afternoon. It was good to see so many spectators this year. A special thank you to the committee and all who worked to make the parade a big success. Plans are progressing for our entertainment for the Pajama Party. February will be our Valentine's Party. "If life gives you limes, just rearrange the letters and return a smile." ... *QM Mary Curry by Janet Wahl*

THE RED GEMS: Our party in the Herlong Mansion in Micanopy was a treat for everyone. We enjoyed seeing the old fashioned decor inside the mansion, but regretted we didn't have enough time to tour the gardens. After lunch in the dining room, surprise favors were given to our members and guests. Our hostess Mary Hensley brought in potted petunias — purple of course, which added a lovely colorful touch. We adjourned to the quaint parlor and exchanged gifts around the big beautiful Christmas tree. I don't think we have ever taken as many pictures at any event than we did this day. Our Vice Queen Lois Frear has been keeping a photo album for us which we will review at a future meeting. It will be a lot of fun seeing our year, 2007, as the photos recorded our monthly get together. ... *QM Loretta Troutman*

Please send your chapter's activities to Vivian Brown, e-mail: vivjcb@cfl.rr.com by the eighth of the month or phone 291-0246. ☺

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☞ Whole herb-roasted chicken

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☞ Kahlua crème brulee' with fresh raspberries

☞ Long-stemmed strawberries dipped in chocolate served with Bavarian cream

Coupons and discounts do not apply to holiday menus.

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Temple Beth Shalom Presents Cantorial Concert on March 9

The upcoming Fourth Annual Cantorial Concert, "Israel at 60: Melodies of Milk and Honey," is part of a worldwide, year-long celebration of Israel's 60th birthday. Presented by Temple Beth Shalom and starring Cantor/Rabbi Samuel Dov Berman, this community-wide concert will be held at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 9, at the Appleton Museum of Art, 4333 N.E. Silver Springs Blvd. in Ocala.

The musical event will benefit the programs

and activities of Temple Beth Shalom.

Featured performers include guest cantors and cantorial vocalists, Cantor Harold Orbach of Detroit, Cantor Deborah Jacobson and Joy Katzen-Guthrie, both of Palm Harbor, Dale Berman of Ocala and Steve Berman of Los Vegas and more special guests.

Tickets donations are \$25 general admission, \$22 seniors and may be purchased by calling Gary Green (352) 347-2481. ☺

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175-80R-13	175-65R-14	195-70R-14	215-70R-15	205-65R-15	225-60R-16
185-80R-13	185-65R-14	195-75R-14	215-75R-15	205-60R-15	235-60R-16
175-70R-13		205-70R-14	225-75R-15	235-75R-15	



Karaoke Friends Vivian Brown

This is a group of people who love to sing, and it keeps on growing.

We started out having karaoke just once a month and decided it wasn't enough so a second evening was added. As the group kept growing, we thought, how about once a week. Now, George and Judy have it the second Thursday evening of the month at 6:30 to 9 p.m. in Suites E and F of the Arbor Conference Center and the fourth Tuesday of the month at Candler Hills from 7 to 10 p.m.

Since this is a big commitment, I have obtained the first and third Monday evening of the month from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in Suites E and F of the Arbor Conference Club.

Take my word for it — karaoke is addictive. Once you start you just can't get enough, but this addiction is so good for you. If you're singing, you have to be happy and it's the best medicine you can take. All karaoke is open to all On Top of the World Communities. There are no dues or fees.

Whether you are 40, 60, 80 or 100, you can still sing. It's the only group where for entertainment, you are one of the stars

Please come and join us each week and sing for good health. ☺



Photo by Bob Woods

Karaoke meets from 6:30 to 9 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at the Arbor Conference Center.

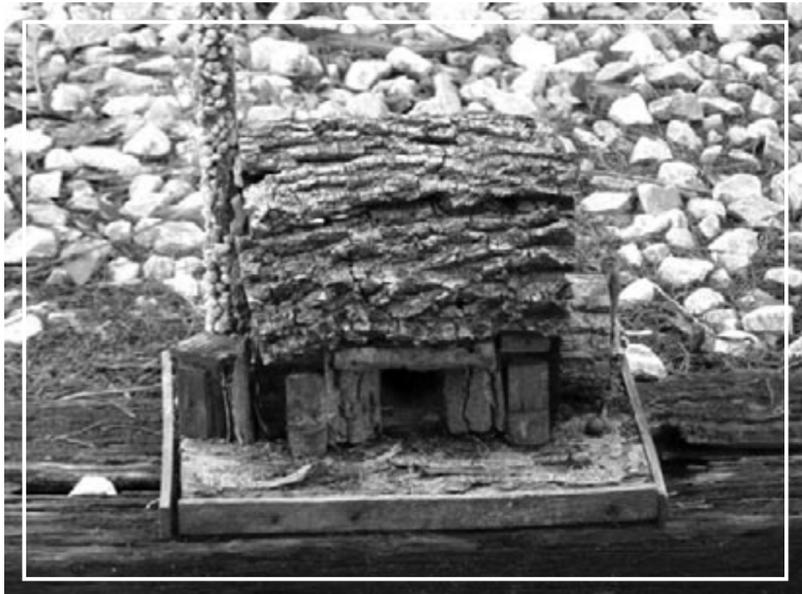


Photo by Bob Woods

This little house is nestled somewhere in our world ...

By BOB WOODS
WORLD NEWS WRITER

Do you know where this house is located within the confines of On Top of the World? I know some folks know exactly where this little house is located as many folks pass it by daily. In fact, I would be willing to bet that some people have passed this little decaying structure daily and have never seen it nor have any idea where it is located.

In case you are interested it is located along the steps leading from the parking lot at the rear of the Health & Recreation Building and if anyone has ever parked there to frequent the pool, the Pub, or to use the back door to the

Ballroom or the library, then those individuals had to pass this little house.

It is on the right side of the steps under the protection of many tree limbs. Look around the next time you utilize those stairs and this little house will be sitting there on top of a railroad tie. ☺

On Top of the World
Communities

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Mah Jongg Mary Ehle

Wonderful news! Three people have stepped up and are going to take over the job of the breakfast preparation and decorations for the tournament. You are still asked to bring a snack like you always have. We just are making a change in who is doing the fancy work and taking charge of the grab bag drawing. Always bring a wrapped gift worth \$5 and attach your name. You bring one and you get one.

The tournament will be here before you know it. It is on Saturday, March 1. Please send me your checks soon. I have to prepare the lists and will not be able to accept checks near the end. As it gets close I have to always have four for a table. This means if you are late you will have to wait until I get a whole table or you won't be able to play. This can happen. Jokers to you. ☺

Sherry's Mac Computer Tip

By SHERRY SURDAM

As a previous long-time user of PCs, I found that I very much missed a couple of desktop shortcuts I used frequently, such as a shortcut for shutting down or restarting my computer.

I recently found a neat little group of applications — for free, though contributions would certainly be welcome — that allows you to do routine tasks such as shutting down, restarting, sleeping and ejecting CDs with just one click — all through the dock! And the latest version has additional new dockables, "Backup Time Machine," "Hide Apps," and "Lock Screen." You can put icons for just the ones you personally find useful on the dock or you can have them all.

Check it out on the Apple Web site at www.apple.com/downloads/macosx/system_disk_utilities/dockables.html. While you're there check out all the other program offerings. Many of them are free!



Stephanie's PC Computer Tip

By STEPHANIE ROHDE

Microsoft Works®

For less than \$40, Microsoft Works® 9.0 introduces you to word processing, spreadsheet and database program applications without having to purchase the higher caliber and far more costly Microsoft Word, Excel or Access respectively. You can also keep track of your calendar, contacts and addresses, budgets, correspondence, to-do lists, recipes, inventories, and more. For additional information please visit: <http://www.microsoft.com/products/works/default.mspx>

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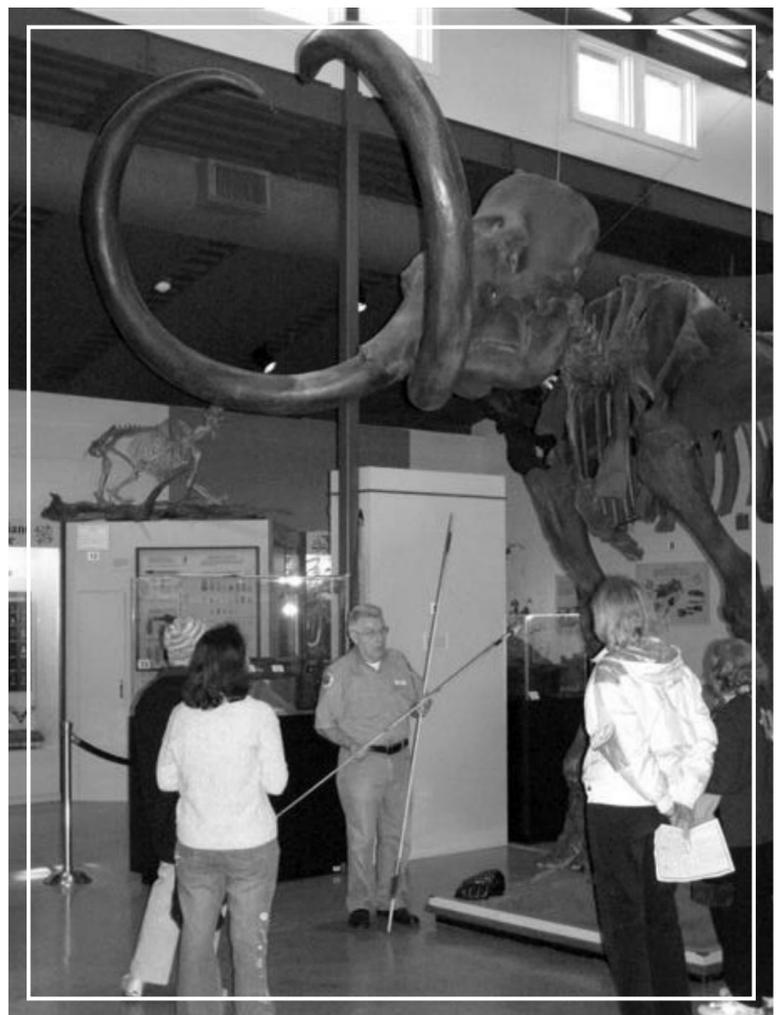
Photo by Joe Veres

School children listen to Silver River volunteers explain about the Cracker Village located at the state park.



Photos by Bob Woods

Above, the Silver River State Park is located just down U.S. 40 in Silver Springs. At right, are you smarter than a fourth grader? Did dinosaurs roam in Florida?



Silver River State Park

If You Like Your Visit, Why Not Volunteer?

◀ Continued from Page 21

to this park, as all Florida State Parks is just \$4 per car load (up to eight passengers).

I was talking to Joe Veres who is a volunteer at the state park and also a volunteer with the county school administration. His volunteer work basically has him doing the same job at the same place at different times. Within the state park is a Cracker Village and museum that actually belongs too and is a Marion County school facility.

During the week volunteers give tours to county school children who visit the facility during a one-day field trip. All fourth and seventh grade students enrolled in our county's public schools visit the park each year. That is a total of around 15,000 students. That's a lot of kids and the program could not be as successful as it is without the services of the volunteers. Out of the approximately 25 to 30 volunteers at this facility, eight are residents of our community. Joe and his wife, Susan are two of those volunteers.

Some of these volunteers work directly with school field trips while some staff the museum gift shop. By the way, before I forget, entrance to the museum is \$2 additional and is open to the public only on weekends. During the summer months when school is not in session, the museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers also serve as boat captains or crew on river tours and help lead some nature hikes. Normally on weekends the museum is manned by a state park ranger or volunteer. Joe Veres is a volunteer for both facilities. Joe told me "the park service mans the museum on weekends and holidays. No ranger, then volunteers takes over. No volunteers, the museum stays closed."

The Cracker Village is a collection of buildings representing a small Florida settlement dating around the late 1800s. The village comprises a typical homestead and barns along

with outbuildings, and of course, what resident wouldn't be complete without an old fashioned outhouse. This must be a hit with the kids who only know the flushing facilities. There is also a school house, church and a blacksmith shop.

The village is known as the Environmental Education Center and the museum opened its doors in 1991 providing hands-on education to Marion County students about Florida history and ecology. The village buildings are open only to the public during "Ocali Days" which is the second weekend in November. The village and museum are accessible only on weekends during the school year and in the summer months when school is not in session. Weekends and during the summer months the village buildings are accessible only for viewing from the outside.

The Silver River State Park comprises some 5,000 acres encompassing the entire Silver River. The Silver Springs theme park is within the state park but is leased to a private concern. The spring itself is the largest limestone artesian spring in the world spewing some half a million gallons of water per day. The spring has become famous with its glass-bottom boat rides transporting passengers over the spring and along a portion of the Silver River. The water from the spring flows five miles through the park to the Ocklawaha River and the Silver River is basically an undeveloped wilderness except for the theme park.

The park has many trails wandering through the woods and has some great picnic areas not to mention campsites and cabins for rent. It is a great place to visit and its right here in our backyard. When Bev and I visited the Silver River Museum, Joe Veres was busy at work. Not only did his volunteer duties consist of collecting the museum's entrance fees and collecting money for purchases from the museum's gift shop but Joe was explaining the history of Florida to many visitors.

He asked one question in which all visitors in a small group got the answer wrong. The question was, "did dinosaurs roam

Florida?" Most answered yes and Joe announced to those including myself and an out of the area schoolteacher that "everyone had just failed the fourth grade." Joe explained that when dinosaurs roamed the world Florida was under water. Joe Veres pointed to an enormous set of teeth hanging from the museum's ceiling and he told those who were still opened mouth that the only prehistoric creature roaming where Florida is situated today was a giant prehistoric ancestor to the great white shark. The set of teeth would scare anyone as Joe explained that this creature was longer than the museum building.

How would you like to become a volunteer at the Marion County School facilities Silver River Museum and Environmental Education Center located within the Silver River State Park?

The museum offers a wide range of opportunities for volunteers including the museum's gift shop staff, tour boat captains or crew, living history interpreters, nature walk leaders or assistants, archaeological collections along with curations, clerical support/date processing and grant writing projects. The state park can use volunteers also.

If for some reason you don't want to become a volunteer, then by all means, check out this museum. It contains all kinds of artifacts from Florida's past and even has the skull of a new species of a saber-tooth tiger that was featured in National Geographic magazine. A visit to this museum would not be a waste of time.

If you would like to become a volunteer, contact Scott Mitchell or Linda LaMont at 236-5401. Their e-mail addresses are Scott.Mitchell@marion.k12.fl.us or Linda.Lamont@marion.k12.fl.us.

If you have any questions or need additional information about the program contact Joe or Sue Veres, 861-8005. They are your On Top of the World neighbors. They are volunteers. ☺

Card Clubs & Games

Monday Afternoon Bridge

Sara Anderson

Dec. 17

1: Shirley Stolly and Mary Roberts; 2: Joyce Wolchak and Iro Lisinski; 3: Joan Lord and Mary Carol Geck; 4: Myra Butler and Phyllis Bressler.

Dec. 31

1: Marie Dare; 2: Geri Cassens; 3: Eleanor Giardina.

Jan. 6

1: Mary Carol Geck and Joan Lord; 2: Ann and Bill Mahoney; 3: Ida Rosendahl and Carol Thompson; 4: Dick Mansfield and Carol Rosenberg.

Monday Night Bridge

Shirley Johnson & Eleanor Giardina

Dec. 17

1: Myra Butler; 2: Ray Dietz; 3: May Holtz; 4: Ida Rosendahl; Cons. Betty Barney.

Dec. 31

1: Phyllis Bressler; 2: Bill Hunter; 3: Ray Dietz; 4: Don Lamb; Cons. May Holtz.

Jan. 7

1: Betty Barney; 2: Dick Mansfield; 3: Shirley Johnson; 4: Miriam McNeely; Cons. Helen DeGraw.

Tuesday Afternoon Bridge

Agnes LaSala & Shirley Johnson

Shirley Johnson; 2: Eleanor Giardina and Geri Cassens; 3: Mazie Millward and Ray Dietz.

Dec. 11

1: Ray Dietz and Mazie Millward; 2: Joe Zwick and Bernie Kelly; 3: Pat Holmes and Betty Morris.

Dec. 18

1: Shirley Stolly and Betty Morris; 2: Shirley Johnson and Phyllis Bressler; 3: Eleanor Giardina and Geri Cassens.

Tuesday Night Duplicate

Bill Raines

We welcome new duplicate bridge players to our game. For more information, or to find a partner, call 873-0073.

Dec. 18

1: Doris Keathley and Mary Carol Geck; 2: Doug Miller and Ernie Lord; 3: Ida Rosendahl and Dick Mansfield.

Jan. 8

1: Ruth and Harry Tindall; 2: Joni and Ted Jarvais; 3: Ida Rosendahl and Dick Mansfield; 4: Betty and Bill Raines; 5: Joan Lord and Rose O'Rourke; 6: Doug Miller and Ernie Lord.

Wednesday Afternoon Bridge

Fran Griswold

After a wonderful Christmas luncheon we are ready to enter a new year of enjoying all our bridge players. Santa Claus did not attend our party on Dec. 19 but we had a short visit from Ken Colen to extend his holiday greetings. I was given a very nice gift certificate to be enjoyed at a fine restaurant and this was most appreciated. We are so lucky to be in such a caring and compassionate group. The Rape Crisis Spouse Abuse Center, and myself, are so fortunate to be the recipients of such a very generous club.

Remember, we meet each Wednesday at 12:15 for a 12:30 p.m. play.

Happy Valentine's Day to one and all.

Dec. 12

1: Fran Griswold 5840; 2: Ida Rosendahl; 3: Helene Stemberger. Cons: Gloria Richards.

Dec. 19

1: Carol Thompson 5460; 2: Marge Starrette; 3: Ida Rosendahl; 4: Mary Culberson. Cons: Ruth Goldstein.

Jan. 2

1: Betty Barney 4810; 2: Shirley Stolly; 3: Mary Culberson. Cons: Carol Johnson.

Jan. 9

1: Carol Thompson 7670; 2: Helen Stemberger; 3: Esther Lang; 4: Phyllis Bressler.

Wednesday Evening Duplicate Bridge

Doris Keathley

Dec. 12

1: Doug Miller and Caryl Rosenberger; tie at 2: Harry and Ruth Tindall and Doris Keathley and Ida Rosendahl.

Dec. 19

1: Harry and Ruth Tindall; 2: Mary Carol Geck and Joan Lord; tie at 3: Bill and Betty Raines and Doris Keathley and Ida Rosendahl.

Jan. 9

1: Harry and Ruth Tindall; 2: Bill and Betty Raines; 3: Ted and Joni Jarvais; 4: Bill and Edith Hunter; 5: Joan Lord and Mary Carol Geck.

Thursday Afternoon Bridge

Ginnie Barrett & Marion Turbin

Dec. 20

1: Maize Millward; 2: Marge Starrette; 3: Nancy Shaver.

Dec. 27

1: Maizie Millward; 2: Nancy Shaver; 3: Ginnie Barrett.

Jan. 3

1: Marge Starrette; 2: Agnes La Salle; 3: Betty Legg; 4: Shirlee Walcott.

Jan. 10

1: Joan Lord; 2: Marge Starrette; 3: Marion Turbin; 4: Nancy Shaver.

Thursday Night Bridge

Helen DeGraw & Ida Rosendahl

Dec. 21

1: Ginny Barrett; 2: Elsie Helwig; 3: Mildred Lane; 4: Carol Thompson; Cons. Tom Marta.

Dec. 27

1: Dick Mansfield; 2: Ida Rosendahl; 3: Don Lamb; 4: Jim Mahoney; Cons. Gail Tirpak.

Jan. 3

1: Lorraine Lamb; 2: Ginnie Barrett; 3: Bill Hunter; 4: Phyllis Bressler; Cons. Iro Lisinski.

Jan. 10

1: Carl Woodbury; 2: Fran Griswold; 3: Lorraine Lamb; 4: Jan. Smith; Cons. Helen DeGraw.

Friday Night Bridge

Betty & Bill Raines

Foursomes are required for this delightful evening of Rubber Bridge. You may bring your own or call 854-8744 for help in finding partners. Or, if you wish, you may be added to our sub list until you find partners.

Dec. 14

1: Bill Raines; 2: Bill Hunter; 3: Edith Hunter; 4: Eleanor Giardina; 5: Betty Raines. Grand Slam: Edith Hunter and Bill Raines.

Dec. 21

1: Dick Mansfield; 2: Joan Lord; 3: Ruth Tindall; 4: John Buccu; 5: Eleanor Giardina.

Dec. 28

1: Caryl Rosenberger; 2: Kay Wood; 3: Ruth Tindall; 4: Carol Thompson; 5: Mickey Martin. Grand Slam: Eleanor Giardina and Ginnie Barrett

Jan. 4

1: Jack Martin; 2: Eleanor Giardina; 3: Edith Hunter; 4: Dick Mansfield; 5: Caryl Rosenberg.

Jan. 11

1: Rose O'Rourke; 2: Catherine Edwards; 3: Marjorie Benton; 4: Elly Rapacz; 5: Bev Ovrebo.

Friday Night Euchre 4 Fun

Irene Pisani & Nancy Kowsky

To all residents and employees we wish you good health and happiness now and throughout 2008.

Our Christmas party was a smashing success. We thank all of you for attending. We are looking forward to our third year of Euchre 4 Fun. Remember that you make it happen.

Come and join us on Friday at 6:15 p.m. at the Arbor Conference Center, Suite A. Come one, Come all! Call Nancy 237-2679 or Irene 873-4173 for more information.

Dec. 14

Tie at 1: Joann Shea, Pat Snable and Billy Swing; 2: May Holtz; tied at 3: Mary Hilovsky, Betty Legg and Gerry Pinter; 4: Gitte Agarwal; 5: Dick Torzewski.

Dec. 21

1: Irene Pisani had a perfect game of 60. Congratulations; 2: Betty Legg; tied at 3: Dick Torzewski and Bill Eberle; 4: Jerry Pinter; tied

at 5: Genny Brenner, Jan Harris and Sami Odeh.

Dec. 28

1: Mary Knight; 2: Paul Agarwal; 3: Billy Sing; 4: Sami Odeh; tied at 5: Dick Torzewski, Genny Brenner and Betty Legg.

Jan. 4

1: Betty Legg; 2: Jerry Harris; tied at 3: Hank Kolb and Paul Agarwal; tied at 4: Irene Pisani, Mary Bartel and Edith Kolb; 5: Pat Snable.

Jan. 11

1: Zane Barnett; 2: Jo Swing; 3: Genny Brenner; 4: Billy Swing; tied at 5: Pat Snable and Nancy Kowsky.



Friday Night Euchre

Joe Askenase

Dec. 14

Four-Handed Game

1: Lou Fisher; tie at 2: Helen Foskett and Russ Riegler; tie at 3: Marge Fisher and Diana Riegler; tie at 4: Marcy Askenase and Viola Horton; 5: Clarence Lietzow.

Dec. 21

Five-Handed Game

1: Helen Foskett; 2: Lou Fisher; 3: Russ Riegler; 4: Diana Riegler; tie at 5: Joan Sigafoos and Rich Miles.

Dec. 28

Five-Handed Game

1: Rich Miles; tie at 2: Helen Foskett and Diana Riegler; 3: Russ Riegler; 4: Lou Fisher; tie at 5: Vi Horton and Joan Sigafoos.

Jan. 4

Five-Handed Game

Tie at 1: Joan Sigafoos and Rich Miles; 2: Russ Riegler; 3: Bridget Hughes; 4: Marcy Askenase.

Six-Handed Game

1: Vi Horton; 2: Lou Fisher; 3: Helen Foskett; 4: Diana Riegler; 5: Maria France.

Jan. 11

Four-Handed Game

1: Marge Fisher; 2: Clarence Lietzow; 3: Bridget Hughes; 4: Russ Riegler.

Five-Handed Game

1: Helen Foskett; 2: Lou Fisher; 3: Rich Miles; 4: Joan Sigafoos; 5: Marcy Askenase.

Six-Handed Game

1: Diana Riegler; 2: Maria France; tie at 3: Lee Morgan and Virgil Taylor; 4: Vi Horton.



Cribbage

Dorothy Skillman

Dec. 14

1: Ray Bock; 2: Rich Fluet; 3: Greg Skillman; Cons: Elsie Helwig.

Dec. 21

1: Alberta Sarris; 2: Elsie Helwig; 3: Frank Chamberlain; Cons: Luke Mullen.

Dec. 28

1: Mary Ehle; 2: Mary Lou Chamberlain; 3: Sheila Howell; Cons: Alberta Sarris.

Jan. 4

1: Frank Chamberlain; 2: Mary Lou Chamberlain; 3: Elsie Helwig; Cons: Greg Skillman.

Jan. 11

1: Rich Fluet; 2: Anne Jagielski; 3: Ed Fullmer; Cons: Greg Skillman.



Tuesday Night Pinochle

Viola Horton

On Dec. 18, Jo Swing brought in homemade treats for our enjoyment. Thank you, Jo.

Come up and play on Tuesday night all you pinochlers. No partners needed. Be in the Art Room of the Craft Building by 5:45 p.m.

Dec. 4

Single Deck Winners

1: George Dertinger; 2: Vernon Uzzell; 3: Audrey Bartolotta.

Double/Triple Deck Winners

Tables 1: Vi Horton; 2: John Berish and Billy Swing; 3: Elsie Helwig and Jim Mazzotta; 4: Mary Lou and Frank Chamberlain; 5: Virgil Taylor and Ray Bock.

Dec. 11

No Single Deck Games

Double/Triple Deck Winners

Tables 1: Alberta Sarris and Vi Horton; 2: Irene Pisani and Billy Swing; 3: Elsie Helwig and Glen Kuntz; 4: Ray Bock and Virgil Taylor.

Dec. 18

Single Deck Winners

1: Al Novotny; 2: Vernon Uzzell; 3: Lois Rider.

Double/Triple Deck Winners

Tables 1: Jim Mazzotta; 2: John Berish, Jim Keller and Joe Scriver; 3: Ray Bock and Virgil Taylor; 4: Rich Fluet and Greg Skillman.



Saturday Night Pinochle

Elsie Helwig

Dec. 15

1: Elsie Helwig; 2: Greg Skillman; 3: Billy Swing.

Dec. 22

1: Vi Horton; 2: Elsie Helwig.

Dec. 29

1: Audrey Bartolotta; 2: Billy Swing; 3: Ed Fullmer.

Jan. 5

1: Dottie Findlay; 2: Elsie Helwig; 3: Vi Horton.

Jan. 12

1: Gene Hubbard; 2: Jo Swing; 3: Dottie Findlay.



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Where in the World?

By BOB WOODS
WORLD NEWS WRITER

Do you have any idea where this seagull is located?
Many of you have traveled by this seagull sitting on a flowered covered rock with the American flag fluttering in the breeze.
I will tell you this — it is not on either coast but right here in On Top of the World.
Still wondering where it is? Still guessing?
Those traveling on Southwest 99th Street will see this display on the corner with Southwest 92nd Street. In case you don't know where Southwest 99th Street is, it is the main drag running from the front gate to Candler.

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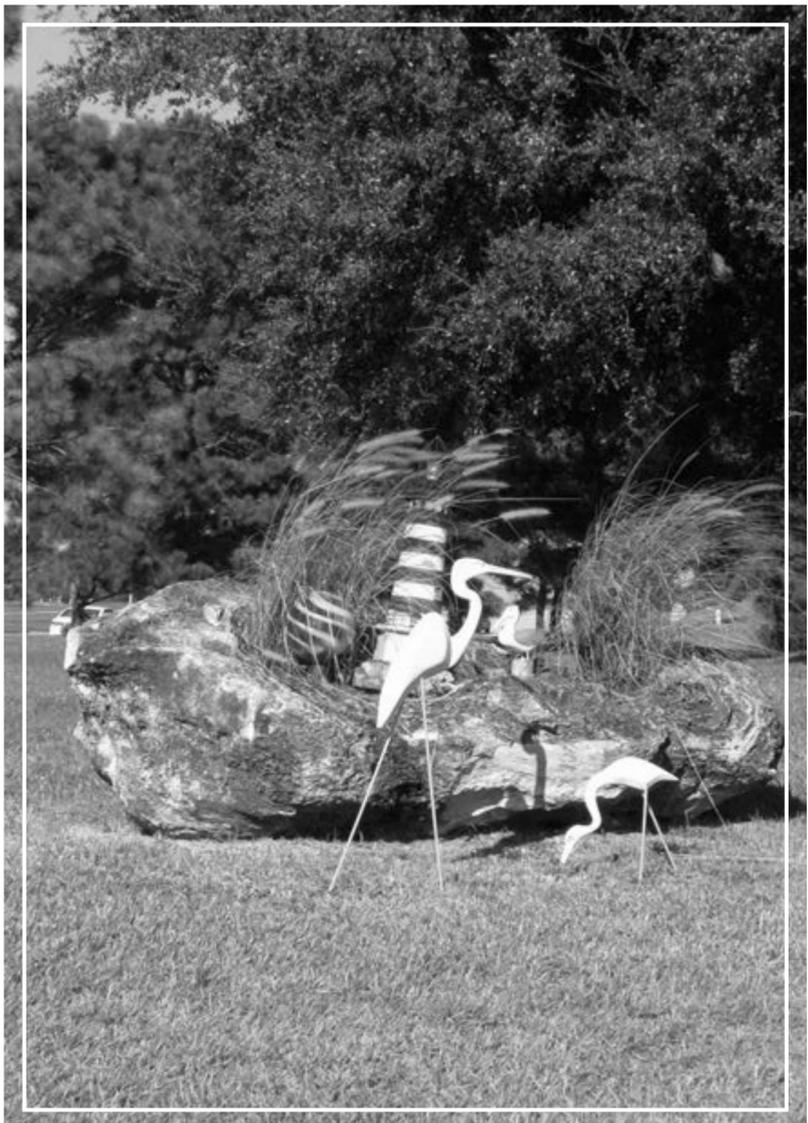
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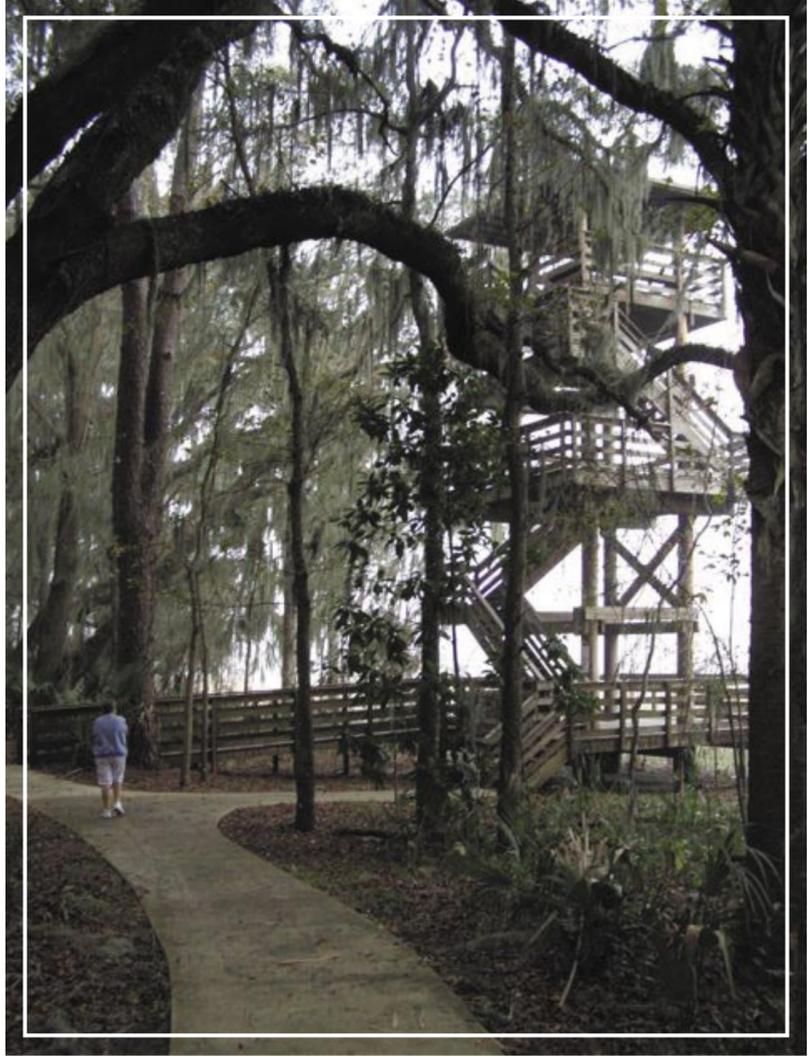
Where is This?

Do you have any idea where this scene is displayed right here in On Top of the World? I would be willing to make a wager that just about every resident who travels anywhere in On Top of the World has passed this scene and most likely has never taken any notice. I realize that some of you folks know exactly where this display is located but the biggest majority of you have no idea. Am I right? Do you know where this lighthouse is which is situated on a rock with a beach ball and seagull with egrets near by?
Give up? For those of you who have no idea where this scene is located it is at the intersection of 99th and 94th Streets. Ever travel the main drag running from the front gate to Candler and perhaps traveling to the Arbor Club? Then you have passed this intersection where the scene is displayed. If you haven't seen this display take notice next time your at this intersection. 🌐



Photos by Bob Woods

Deer, above, can be seen at Paynes Prairie Preserve south of Gainesville, on foggy mornings. Right, a 50-foot observation tower offers vast views of the prairie.



Visit Paynes Prairie Preserve

BY BOB WOODS
WORLD NEWS WRITER

I recently read an article in the Sunday travel section of the Star-Banner that encouraged people to visit Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park located off Route 441 just south of Gainesville. It is about 35 miles from On Top of the World and you can be there in just about 40 minutes travel time. It is one of those short trips that are less than a tank full away type deals from Ocala.

A hop and a skip up Interstate 75 exiting at the Micanopy exit and a couple of miles further you enter the park. Well, I have said to myself and at times to my wife, Bev that we ought to venture to this state park and check it out.

I strongly recommend a visit to this park. There are many trails of various lengths to traverse from as little as three-tenths of a mile in length. Most of the trails are dirt covered, but I must warn you that there are trippers in place, in the name of roots protruding above the surface. I would have to state that the trails Bev and I ventured upon are all handicapped accessible.

One trail that leads from the parking lot toward the Visitors Center is paved as is the trail leading from the Visitors Center toward the observation tower. Now this tower is 50 feet in height and only the bottom section is accessible to the impaired. The remaining tower has many, many steps. But the view from either position is just great overlooking hundreds of acres that at one time was a lake, then a ranch and now a vast grassy area where wild horses and bison roam amongst Sand Hill cranes.

Now let me tell the story of our visit to this park. When we left the comforts of our home, it was slightly foggy, but a comfortable temperature. Reaching the park around 8:20 a.m. or so the fog in this area had thickened somewhat. After paying our entrance fee of \$4 at the main gate we traveled slowly down the main road heading toward the Visitors Center.

About a mile or so into the park I noticed a little movement in the right shoulder. Going back to my hunting days I knew right off what that movement was. It was a small herd of white

tail deer. I stopped the car, camera in hand, and took some pictures hoping they would turn out as the fog was pretty heavy at this point. I shot a bunch of photographs hoping something of an image would appear. A little further up the road again I noticed movement on the edge of the wooded area next to the shoulder. Again there were more deer, and again I took more pictures. Now the fog was beginning to lift just a little and of course, I saw no more deer along the side of the road.

Upon reaching the Visitors Center it was obvious at this point of our visit, since there were no other vehicles in the parking lot that we must be the first to arrive. Reaching the Visitors Center, a sign on the door stated this facility opens at 9AM and it was just before that time with 10 minutes to spare. Bev and I decided to head toward the observation tower. After reading the map of the park given me at the gate, we headed in that direction. I was hoping that all kinds of wildlife would be present in the prairie but to my disappointment I couldn't see anything as the fog was thick. We saw nothing but sounds off in the distance told us that many sand hill cranes were present.

Returning to the Visitors Center we discovered it was still closed, so we decided to take a stroll along one of the short trails. All we saw for quite awhile was a few song birds and a couple of squirrels. Bev noticed something along the trail and she hastily hurried by the object. She told me there was a large snake curled up next to a small dead branch. It was a large snake completely motionless because there was still a chill in the air. I took a couple of pictures of this snake, believing it was dead. I tossed a small stick, hitting it slightly. It moved. It was not dead. I moved quickly down the trail.

This trail led us right back to the observation tower and by now the fog had completely lifted. We could see for miles out across the prairie but saw nothing except many flocks of sand hill cranes. On our way back to the car we discovered the center was still closed and we continued on toward the RV campground, which was close to one of the remaining bodies of water.

We saw all types of water fowl in the lake, eagles flying over-

head and I finally found out the true meaning of "snowbirds." We came upon thousands of robin red breasts flying around the trees, roosting and foraging for food on the ground.

We traveled slowly toward the main gate and I had a few questions for the park ranger on gate duty. I asked this ranger if there was really a herd of wild horses and bison. She informed me that there's truly a herd of each but at times they are hard to see. She told me there were more than 11,000 acres that they roam. She also added that no one in this particular area had reported seeing them for at least one week. I guess I will have to wait until my return trip to this preserve to take my chance on seeing them.

The huge prairie that is the mainstay of this state park was once an enormous lake. Back in 1871, extremely heavy rains flooded this basin, and the flooded area became known as Alachua Lake. This lake was so large that steamers traveled around the lake transporting lumber, passengers and other cargos. What was called the Alachua sink, I would call a large sinkhole, drained. In 1902 cattle operations were in full swing on the lush, green grasses of the prairie.

In the Visitors Center are some of the artifacts of that era and looking through the windows of the center I could see one of the propellers from a steamer that is displayed. The center is a museum of the prairie. The entire park encompasses some 21,000 acres and became Florida's first state preserve in 1971. It is also a National Natural Landmark.

This park, like all Florida state parks, is open from 8 a.m. until sundown, 365 days a year. It is a nice getaway and the price is right, \$4 a carload with up to eight passengers. There are plenty of places to have picnics and restrooms are scattered throughout the area.

The information sheets concerning Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park state that each visit is a new experience. I can see what they mean. There was lots of wildlife we didn't see; maybe next time we will. If you are a bird watcher, then this is the place to visit. Bring along your binoculars.

For additional information call the park at (352) 466-3397..

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Golf Bag: Spaulding, ladies, pink and purple, like new, \$20. 873-3347

Golf Cart: Like new, worth looking at. 854-6539

Golf Clubs: #1, 3, 5 Dunlop woods, light weight, mid-flex, lo-torque, new grips, extra long for great distance, \$150. 873-4759

Golf Clubs: Left-handed, new Callaway FT-I driver; 3 and 5 woods; 4 iron and 4. Great price. Purchase separately or all together. 291-8890

Classified Section

The Classified Section is a service to the On Top of the World Community. There is no charge to residents as long as it is not of a business nature. There is a \$500 limit on FOR SALE items. Items valued at more than \$500 (i.e. golf carts) may be listed, but price will not accompany the ad. Auto, apartment, home, timeshare and real estate ads WILL NOT be accepted.

SERVICE ads will be accepted from residents and non-residents. A three-line minimum rate is \$12; four lines is \$17.50 and five lines is \$20. A six-month rate, paid in advance, is also available. Call 854-0248 or leave a message for more information. Payment must accompany each ad. Send ad and check to The World News, 9850 S.W. 84th Court, Suite 300, Ocala, FL 34481.

DEADLINE: On Top of the World resident ads must be in the box next to the Press-room door (in Friendship Commons next to Customer Service) no later than noon on the 13th of each month. Ads will appear once unless renewed in writing.

Golf Equipment: Men's left hand clubs, iron, putters and woods, bag, balls, shoes, gloves, all in one package. 854-6351 after 4 p.m.

Golf Shoes: Arnold Palmer, new in boxes, men's 9-1/2; 2 pair white/whiskey, 1 pair black/brown. \$20. 873-3347

Golf Travel/Storage Bag: Handle, shoulder strap, wheels, new, \$15. 873-3347

Media Player: Anders Nicholson table model 4-way player - turntable, CD, cassette, radio; beautiful oak finish, almost new, \$40. 873-2979

Misc. Items: Arnold Palmer golf shoes, new, in box, size 11, \$40; ladies bike, like new, \$50. 237-7255

Misc. Items: Boy's winter jacket, 18-20, new; clothes hamper; ladies bowling shoes, 7-8; twin-size bedspreads; king-size bed rail. 873-4289

Misc. Items: Computer desk, Hewlett-Packard Pavilion MX50 desktop computer, Lexmark X125 copier-sends and receives fax. \$250. 843-0229

Misc. Items: Noritake china, "Beverly" 93 piece service for 12, no chips, best offer; Singer console sewing machine, used once, \$40. 237-4143

Misc. Items: Two twin beds, maple, with mattresses. \$75 each. Patio furniture, round glass table with four sling chairs. Asking \$300. 873-4242.

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Sony DVD-CD Player: Surround sound with 6 speakers, like brand new, \$200. 237-2577

Television: Fisher 25" with stereo sound, \$30. 873-3347

SES Estate Sale: 8547-A S.W. 92nd Place. Entire contents of home: Ethan Allen furniture, exercise equipment, oil paintings. Too good to miss. Saturday, Feb. 2, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

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Alterations by Betty: Alterations by appointment only. 50 years experience. A Pine Run resident. Call Betty at 237-9909

Alterations by Ernestine: Alterations, experienced. On Top of the World resident. Call 861-0259.

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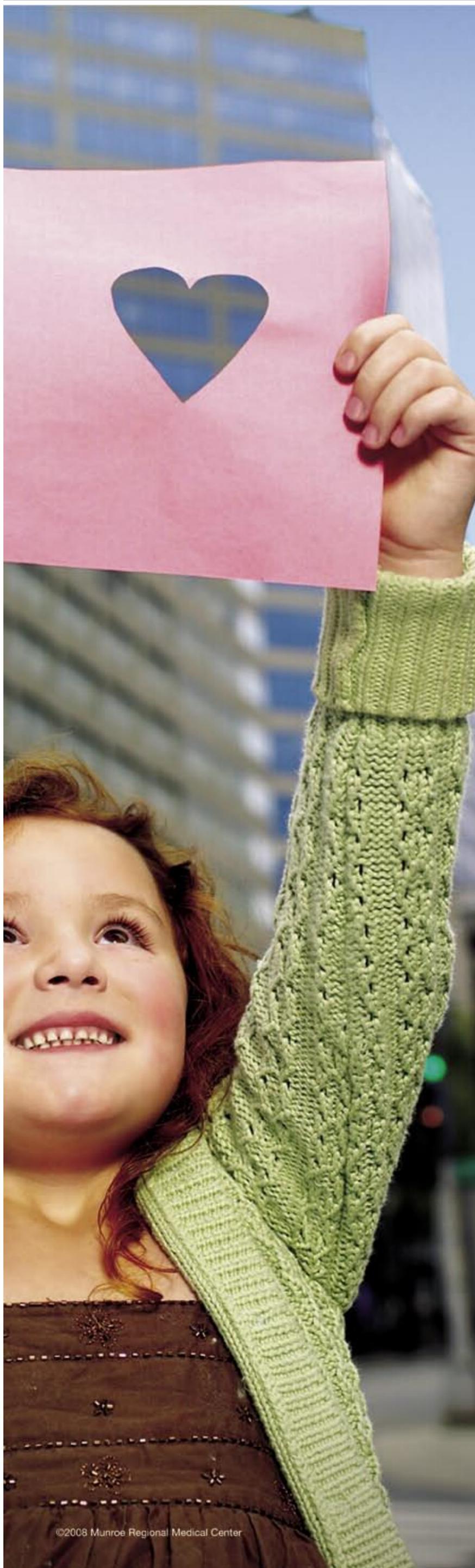
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