

Alyce and John Fertig: The new look of On Top of the World

Getting to Know You

A monthly feature about the people in your
On Top of the World community

by John Koning

Another new year brings the promise of renewal to On Top of the World.

We make new resolutions, we seek new opportunities and, in the case of Alyce and John Fertig, we welcome fresh new faces to our community.

If the purpose of the well appointed Fitness Center is to attract a young and active profile of residents, then John is proof positive of its success.

Most weekday mornings you will find John at the gym, relentlessly wearing down the elliptical trainers and other machines even before his work day begins.

Across the road at the West Activity Center, Alyce loves to stay lean and fit doing laps in the pool. When she's not in the water, you will find Alyce taking Cosmo, the family dog, for long daily walks to stay vibrant and healthy.

About 30 years ago, Alyce graduated from Georgia Tech as an industrial engineer and John graduated from the University of Louisville as a chemical engineer.

After school, Alyce and John met while they both worked for General Electric. He asked her to be his wife and to accompany him halfway across the continent to Colorado. She accepted both proposals.

There, in the fresh air and wide open spaces, they worked, played and raised their two sons, Michael and Paul.

In recent years, Alyce and John were drawn to Florida. For Alyce, it was a natural return to her home state and her roots.

While the family embraced the active outdoor life in Colorado, this Floridian climate we enjoy was a powerful draw – at least for the parents.

Not wanting to uproot their sons during those important high school years, Alyce and John delayed their move until the boys went off to college.

Ultimately, though, the move brought the whole family cross country.



Above, John Fertig gets a workout in the new Fitness Center before starting his work day. At right, John and his wife, Alyce, embrace a west Florida sunset.

Michael is a recent graduate of Florida State University, where he is currently employed, and Paul is studying Industrial Engineering at the University of South Florida.

After settling in at OTOW, Alyce and John went looking for a church to call home. They found it at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Duneedin where they put their faith into action daily.

Alyce passes on her formidable knowledge of the sciences to the lucky students at Calvary Christian High School while John pays it forward as a pro bono handyman to area shut-ins. He also provides computer, network and Internet technology advice to those who feel overwhelmed in today's cyber climate.

During the interview for this feature, this reporter was treated to a live concert by Crosby, Stills and Nash. OK, maybe it wasn't live, but let me say this. Sitting in "the sweet spot" in the Fertig living room with eyes closed,



the iconic trio seemed only yards away, in the flesh, mesmerizing me with the 1969 blockbuster Suite: Judy Blue Eyes, complete with all its musical intricacies. The experience came thanks to John's state-of-the-art ... turntable.

That sounds like a contradiction, doesn't it?

That's because John's audio system is much more than just a record player. John is one of thousands across this country who are rediscovering vinyl records. They believe the rebirth of this classic technology offers the best opportunity to recreate the sound the artist originally intended.

John's system comes complete

with a high end pre-amplifier that is powered by ancient looking vacuum tubes. It, together with his fairly modest, but carefully researched collection of vinyl, produces music with audible warmth, tangible depth and what John calls "sound stage."

That's the picture the music paints in your brain of the location of instruments and voices as they were recorded on the original sound stage.

If you share John's love of music on vinyl, call him at 719-330-6881. He'd love to hear from you.

Alyce and John Fertig represent the faces of the future here at OTOW, and the future looks bright!