

OAKMONT NEWS

Oakmont's Semimonthly Newspaper

www.oakmontvillage.com/news

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Rainbow in Oakmont



Oakmont's spectacular rainbows never disappoint. This one was captured by photographer Maureen McGettigan on January 6.

Evacuation Study Findings To Be Presented at Town Hall

■News Staff

KLD, a firm hired to prepare an evacuation and time estimate study, will present its findings at a town hall Jan. 30 at 1 p.m. in the Berger. The event will also be available via Zoom and include a question-and-answer session following the presentation.

To understand traffic patterns and behaviors during an evacuation, the OVA and Wild Oak hired KLD & Associates to survey residents, evaluate traffic flow on roadways and prepare an Evacuation Time Estimate (ETE) study. About 1,100 residents in Oakmont and Wild Oak responded to the survey. The KLD study tested different variables to better understand how they impact time to evacuate.

The findings of the study will help to inform emergency planning and preparedness discussions in Oakmont and Wild Oak.

At-a-Glance Summary of January 16 OVA Board Meeting

■Harriet Palk

CONSENT CALENDAR

Long Range Planning Committee Charter: Revisions made. It was pointed out that the committee can address golf course planning only with the permission of the board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Firewise Resource Committee: Residents will be reminded to create a protective bubble around a house with special attention given to ember dangers in the first five feet around a house by taking a coupled approach of home-hardening actions and defensible-space landscape actions. A document, which will be included in new resident packets and firewise assessment handouts, explains the Firewise Policy.

See **BOARD SUMMARY** on page 5

2024 Slate of Candidates Announced

■News Staff

The OVA Board announced the 2024 slate of candidates at the board meeting on January 16. There are two incumbents and six candidates who are vying for three open seats on the board.

Running to keep their seats on the board are Iris Harrel and Jeff Neuman.

New candidates include Josh Axelrod, Jerry Gladstone, Tom Kendrick, Heidi Klyn, Matt Oliver and Tom Tremont.

Those seeking seats on the board will take part in a Candidates' Night on Feb. 21, starting at 6 p.m. in the Berger Center. Members will have an opportunity to submit questions.

There will be two Meet and Greet opportunities—one on March 1 at the Berger Center, and another on March 20 at the East Rec. Center, both at 6 p.m. Candidates may also choose to hold Meet and Greet events separate from these planned events.

Ballots for the election will be mailed to members by early March. Results of the election will be announced at the 2024 Annual Meeting on April 1. Voting is by mail. Ballots may also be turned in at the Annual Meeting at the Berger Center prior to the start of ballot counting at 10 a.m.



New Website for OTLC

■News Staff

Oakmont Technology Learning Center (OTLC) has launched a sleek new website that provides class registration and payments online for the first time. Linda Canar, president of the Learning Center's board, said the site, which was developed by Jeff Zalles, will be able to facilitate the group's future plans and provide Oakmont members with a more seamless experience in using the resources offered.

In addition to website advancements in registration and payment methods, students will receive immediate confirmations and reminders of class dates and times. The site also houses *Oakmont News* technology articles, a calendar and description of current and coming classes and a way to ask questions of the center's volunteer experts.

Canar said many of Oakmont's technology students are interested in learning how to use devices or explore new tips. Some of the classes currently

See **OTLC WEBSITE** on page 3

January 2024 President's Message

■Olga Ydrogo, Vice President and Acting President for January meeting

I hope you're enjoying the new year, 2024. I think of the start of a New Year as a time to look forward and to be open to new opportunities, new experiences, new friendships, and new volunteer activities, while still enjoying "old" favorites.

As a board, we regularly share information with our community on activities the OVA Board is currently working on and what is being explored as we look forward. We also receive comments, suggestions and ideas from our members. We try to understand the many different perspectives. I believe that when we consistently start from a place of respect and civility, people can be heard and their different perspectives can be shared.

With this in mind, we created guidelines on how Open Forum sessions will be conducted and what behavior we seek at our meetings. These guidelines are included in the board packet and will be posted on our OVA website for a 28-day member review period.

The start of the new year also means our annual election for the 2024-25 OVA Board of Directors has started. I believe that Directors need to be committed to representing the best interest of our member community. They need to abide by our Oakmont bylaws and current regulations as well as respond to changes in community interests, all while keeping fiduciary and fiscal responsibility as top priorities.

There will be 3 open seats and there are 8 candidates seeking a position this year. It's great to get such strong interest in volunteering to serve on our OVA board.

There are three scheduled sessions for our community to learn more about the candidates: Feb. 21 Candidates' Night-structured with a moderator (6

See **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** on page 3

Town Hall to Address Trends in Home Fire Insurance

■News Staff

A February 6 Town Hall will explore home fire insurance and current trends in the industry at 1 p.m. in the Berger Center and on Zoom.

Two speakers from the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) will be the keynote presenters. Mark Vaughn will share information about IBHS' "Wildfire Prepared Home" programs. These new IBHS home certification programs are examples of current best practices that can help homes survive a wildfire.


Steve Hawks, director of Wildfire Policy for IBHS, will present the scientific research and reasons behind the development of these programs. Insurance companies are beginning to require homeowners to perform particular actions to either keep their present insurance or to obtain new insurance, and Hawk's presentation will help homeowners understand the application of these programs.

The town hall will include time for residents to ask questions of the speakers.

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AARP Foundation Tax-Aide

■Diane Ethier

APPOINTMENT LINE OPEN FOR FREE TAX PREP

AARP Tax-Aide will be returning to Berger Center with free tax preparation service on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning February 5 through April 15 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please note there will be no service on April 1.

Appointments are required and the line is now open. You can text or call in for an appointment at (707) 582-0565 and an AARP volunteer will get back to you. If you did not already pick up a tax packet, you can pick one up during normal tax preparation hours in the Berger Center.

AARP Tax-Aide is a 100% free service funded by the AARP Foundation for seniors and those in need who may not be able to afford a paid tax preparer or cannot do their own taxes. You do not need to be an AARP member to use this service, and there is no age limit! The tax counselors and client facilitators are all trained volunteers and past annual skills tests.

Many people wonder if we can do their taxes and the answer is yes for most situations – we are trained on both standard and itemized deductions, brokerage accounts, stock gains or losses, sale of a house and many other scenarios. Call (707) 582-0565 with any questions.

Common reasons for having to turn people away include having rental income, complex Schedule K-1s, have a pension from another country, recently moved to California from another state, bought an electric vehicle and want to claim a tax credit, or have a business with a net loss or with expenses totaling over \$35,000.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Continued from page 1

p.m. at the Berger); March 1 Meet and Greet informal drop-in session 1 (6 p.m. at the Berger); and March 20 Meet and Greet informal drop-in session 2 (6 p.m. at the East Rec.).

More information will be posted on our OVA website, sent via eBlasts and included in the *Oakmont News*.

Stay tuned for updates and thank you.

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Oakmont Village Association Painting and Sign Policies

At the Open Board Meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 16, the OVA Board of Directors approved in concept the following policies. They are now available for a 28-day review by members of the Association, in accordance with Civil Code 4360. Any member comments on the proposed changes should email them to askova@oakmontvillage.com no later than Feb. 19.

PAINTING POLICY (PROPOSED DRAFT)

The purpose of this policy is to assure a harmonious appearance through careful selection of exterior colors. Sonoma County has four seasons and plenty of sunshine throughout the year. Colors that harmonize with nature are most valued here. Trim paint should enhance the body color and exterior design. These guidelines apply to exterior painting for both maintained and non-maintained areas.

- All exterior painting, including repainting an existing color, and stains for wood, concrete or any exterior surface require an Application for Approval from the Architectural Committee Office. A chip sample (not a photocopy) must be submitted with the application.

- A palette of approved house body, window and trim colors to choose from is available in the Architectural Committee Office. Not all colors will be approved in all neighborhoods due to different existing house styles and settings.

- Colors which are not on the approved palette will be considered and approved at the discretion of the Architectural Committee. A paint chip sample (not a photocopy) must be submitted with the application.

- Not all house colors currently seen in Oakmont were approved or will be approved.

- All units of duplexes, triplexes and four-plexes must be painted the same paint color(s) and at the same time. Distinct colors for entry doors may be submitted at any time for approval by the Architectural Committee.

- All exterior finishes including garage doors must be flat, low sheen, low lustre, or similar sheen except for entry doors which can be semi-gloss.

- Garage doors shall be the body color of the house or white, including off-white, if there is matching white or off-white trim or accent color. White or off-white colors on the garage door only without matching trim or accent color will not be approved. Approval of colors is at the discretion of the Architectural Committee. Custom garage doors may be approved at the discretion of the Architectural Committee.

- The homeowner is entirely responsible for the quality of the paint and its application.

- Use the specifications chart on the back of this policy to provide full details of the proposed painting scheme including walls, trim, entry doors, garage door, brick, stucco, and stone. All lines on the form must be completed.

OTLC WEBSITE Continued from page 1

listed will also have follow-up workshops available later in the year. The new URL is www.oakmonttllc.org. Spring class registration opens Feb. 10 and Canar said classes are being added to the site frequently and can be viewed prior to the opening of registration.

The OTLC is an all-volunteer organization. Canar said the center encourages volunteers of all kinds, not only teachers and assistants to share their technology knowledge, but also those who can help with non-technical duties to keep the center running smoothly.

The center is located in the Central Activity Center. Desktop computers are available there, or students may bring their own laptops and devices.

■Architectural Committee

SIGN POLICY

Real Estate Signs:

- Owners or agents can place signs advertising properties for sale or rent in a visible location on the residential lot. Signs are to be removed by the next business day after the closing of escrow or rental/lease agreement is concluded.

Non-Commercial Signs—including posters, flags, banners:

- Allowed materials: paper, cardboard, cloth, plastic, or fabric.
- Prohibited materials: lights, roofing, siding, flora, etc.
- Size limits: Signs up to 9 sq. ft., flags, and banners up to 15 sq. ft.
- Allowed locations: Yard, window, door, balcony, or outside wall of a separate interest.

Political Signs:

- Allowed materials: paper, cardboard, cloth, plastic, or fabric.
- Prohibited materials: lights, roofing, siding, flora, etc.
- Size limits: Signs up to 9 sq. ft., flags, and banners up to 15 sq. ft.
- Allowed locations: Yard, window, door, balcony, or outside wall of a separate interest.
- Display period: 60 days before and 7 days after an election.

Estate Sales/Household Sales Signs:

- One sign up to 4 sq. ft. allowed on the property and nearest cross street. Signs must be removed nightly.

Contractor and Commercial Signs:

- Prohibited within the community.

General Conditions:

- Signs must be legible, in good condition, comply with state and local laws, and may not pose safety risks in traffic or common areas.
- Signs, banners, flags, or posters are not allowed in common areas unless pre-approved by the appropriate homeowners' association or the Oakmont Village Association.

Security Installation Signs:

- Size limits: 96 sq. inches
- Limit of two signs per property, positioned no more than 3 ft above grade, and a maximum of 5 ft out from the house foundation.

Duration of Sign Display:

- Temporary signs for events: Max 30 days per occurrence.
- Other signs not explicitly covered: Max 30 days within a consecutive six-month period.



Key Dates in OVA Election

March 1—Candidates' Night, 6 p.m. Berger Center

Early March—Ballots mailed to members

March 20—Meet & Greet, 6 p.m. East Rec. Center

April 1—Results announced at annual meeting

Valley of the Moon Rotary Club



■John Brodey

WE LOVE KIDS

If you saw a recent editorial in the *Press Democrat* about the financial troubles Social Advocates for Youth (SAY) is experiencing, it paints a picture that should concern all of us. For 53 years SAY has provided an array of services for foster children and other disadvantaged youth in Sonoma Co.

This is not an isolated example of a non-profit crisis that seems to be brewing. The editorial also mentioned that even the iconic Redwood Empire Food Bank, which provided 50,000 meals in November alone to residents here and in neighboring counties, is having a funding problem.

The situation with SAY is critical and the likely loss of their Dream Center facility will have a significant impact on the breadth of their services. They have created a comprehensive care network including therapy, educational and social counseling and much more. The VOM Rotary has been a longtime supporter of SAY as Youth Services here in Sonoma Co. are a major recipient of our fundraising efforts.

As a result, it was with great interest that a recent speaker at our Thursday meetings was Marisa Binder who is the V.P. of Development for the Hanna Center. Yes, that is the new name for the old Hanna Boys Center in Sonoma. They have been carefully redefining and growing the old entity. The school remains but it is not just for boys anymore and is now the Hanna Academy.

The property is still affiliated with the Catholic church but is considered an independent non-public school. In addition to the school with a boarding component, the facilities are much more diverse in terms of the scope of services. The emphasis is on disadvantaged youth, i.e. foster kids including those aging out of the system but who still need guidance and support. The demographic range is 18-24. Short-term therapy for severe issues is new. It's all geared towards adding other programs to accommodate the range of issues so many kids face.

Addressing the impacts of trauma and educational deficits that make transitioning to adult life is fundamental to the program. Kids who may not feel academia is for them can receive career technical education in various trades. The center has training contracts with various bay area cities to enable graduates to segue into well-paying skilled employment opportunities.

Families and women with or without children can now access a mental health hub which also provides comprehensive support. There will be dormitory space for some as well. Theirs is a carefully crafted and ambitious model to augment the current array of support agencies.

While the future of SAY may be cloudy, the Hanna Center offers new hope for those among us who struggle. Marisa invited the club for a tour to see what this vision looks like. In fact, they'd love you to come visit. Check out their website at www.hannacenter.org or call (707) 933-2588 for more information. This is important work and we are all the better for it.

Oakmont Singles Social Club



■Bailey Penzotti, Priscilla Roslyn and Diane Soshnik

IT'S THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON 2024 FEBRUARY MIXER— CHINESE NEW YEAR!

DATE AND TIME: Friday, February 16, 6 p.m.

LOCATION: Berger Center

Come join the Redwood Empire Chinese Association, as we celebrate Chinese New Year, 2024, enjoying the performances of the Cultural Dancers, the Lion Dancers and the Dragon Dance.

The Dragon is the most influential symbol in the Chinese culture. The Dragon represents good luck, strength, health and also the male element Yang. The dragon is unique because it is the only mythical creature of all the animals in the Chinese zodiac and babies are born in the year of the dragon more than any other animal.

Bring an Asian appetizer or dessert to share, BYOB. Donations are appreciated, and bring small bills to "feed the Lions and Dragon." Please RSVP to Priscilla, proslyn49@aol.com by Monday, February 12.

We have invited the newest club, the Asian Pacific Heritage and Culture Club to join us for this special celebration. Come enjoy a wonderful evening, and please note, we will be gathering at the Berger Center for this event!

FEBRUARY BON APPETIT (SINGLES ONLY)

WHEN: Thursday, February 1 at 6 p.m.

WHERE: Restaurant is China Village, 138 B Calistoga Rd. Santa Rosa, CA (Safeway Shopping Center)

Reservation is for 20. Bring cash for your dinner. Send reservations to Marilyn marilyn_mckeever@hotmail.com no later than Jan. 29. Meet at Berger parking lot at 5:45 p.m.

Do you live in Oakmont? Are you Single? If so, join our club to mix and mingle with other Singles. Oakmont Singles Social Club offers the opportunity to network with other singles who may have your same interests. By joining us, you develop new friendships, enjoy meals out with Bon Appetit or reserve a seat at a singles table for Oakmont events.

To join or renew your membership to the Singles Social Club, complete a membership form in the Singles folder located at the OVA office. Place the form along with your check for \$12 payable to "OSSC" in the membership folder. As a reminder, renewal dues are must be received no later than February 1. If not received by February 1, you will no longer be on our roster nor be eligible to come to this mixer.

In addition, we encourage our members to wear a name badge. You're welcome to wear a name badge from any club you may belong to; it could be a conversation starter. To order your very own generic name badge, complete the name badge form located in the Singles folder located at the OVA office. Then, place the form and your check for \$10 payable to "OSSC" in the name badge folder.

Wii Bowling Oakmont Lanes



■Terry Leuthner

Oakmont Lanes Bowling Club is a Bowling League consisting of four-person teams that utilize Nintendo Wii to simulate the experience of bowling without the weight of a bowling ball. Any resident who has the ability of holding a small remote control in their hand while swinging their arm as if they were rolling a bowling ball will be able to join.

Anyone interested in joining our club, either as a team bowler or substitute, please call me at (707) 291-3023 or stop by the East Recreation Center on Tuesdays from 2-3:30 p.m., to see us in action. We charge \$25 for a 10-week Tournament that includes the play-offs.

We bowl every Tuesday of the month except for the fourth Tuesday. 2 p.m. League: 10 teams, 4 bowlers per team. Each bowler bowls 3 games and has his/her own handicap (80%) and average. Bowler and team results are recorded each week.

See www.oakmontlanes.com for club information, bowling dates, week results, schedules to bring cookies and to setup/tear down equipment.

NOTE: Fall 2024 10-week League began on Tuesday, Jan. 9, and is held at the East Recreation Center where all 10 teams bowl at 2 p.m. That way all teams start at 2 p.m. and finish bowling approximately at 3:30 p.m. We will start our setup at 1:30 p.m. and complete tear down of all equipment by 4 p.m.

Bowling dates for January: Jan. 30 (week #3).

Bowling dates for February: Feb. 6 (week #4), 13 (week #5) and 20 (week #6). No bowling Feb. 27 (fourth Tuesday).

Bowling dates for March: Mar. 12 (week #7) and 19 (week #8). No bowling Mar. 5 and 26 (fourth Tuesday).

Bowling dates for April: Apr. 2 (week #9), 9 (week #10), 16 (playoff tournament) and 30 (week #1 Summer League). No bowling Apr. 23 (fourth Tuesday).

RESULTS AS OF JANUARY 9 (WEEK #1 WINTER LEAGUE)

2 p.m. League: first place, Strikers; second place tie, High Rollers, Strike Outs and Phantom Strikers; fifth place tie, Pocket Hits and Alley Oops; seventh place tie, Pin Pushers, King Pins and Wii Four; 10th place, 4 Tops.

Men's High Games: Don Shelhart, 259; Ray Haverson, 249; Glenn Hewitt, 244; Charlie Ensley, 224; Terry Leuthner, 223; Scott Harris, 222; Gordon Freedman, 211; Larry Souza, 202.

Women's High Games: Sandy Osheroff, 260; Rhonda D'Agostini, 257; Vickie Jackanich, 256; Asia Delgado, 244; Felicia Laden, 244; Donnarose Ilecki, 243; Diane Price, 234; Valerie Hulsey, 225; Beverly Shelhart, 225; Peggy Ensley, 210; Elisabeth LaPointe, 208; Pat Scott, 208; Nicole Reed 204; Marie Haverson, 202.

Most of us have all bowled on a bowling league some time in our lives and here's your chance to do it again without the weight of a heavy bowling ball. Come by to see us in action and join in on the fun and camaraderie we all share together.

Performing Arts Workshop



■Sherri Hoefling

FEBRUARY OPEN MIC

The next Open Mic at the East Rec will be Wednesday, February 7 at 6 p.m. It's our own "Oakmont's Got Talent!" Come see what the locals are doing. You do not need to perform to attend. Table seating for BYOBs, bring your own Beverage and Snack! We had to take a break for January due to the holiday but are looking forward to seeing you in February.

Please join us at 6 p.m. each first Wednesday in

upper East Rec. All residents are encouraged to come "show your stuff." There will probably be a lot of musicians, but we hope the many talents of Oakmont will shine.

Comedians, poets, storytellers, jugglers? Sign up at the door starting at 6 p.m., first performer about 6:15. Slots will be 2 songs or 8 minutes. If less than 10 people sign up to perform your stage time could increase. Sound system will be provided but if you

need guitar amps, music stands, special stool, etc., please bring it.

WHO: You and your friends

WHAT: First Wednesday Open Mic

WHERE: Upper East Rec.

WHEN: First Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., next is February 7

MORE INFO: Sherri Hoefling, (707) 236-5500 or Jim Munger, (707) 775-8943

Hikers



■Scott Finn

We welcome you to join us on a hike whether you are a member yet or not and the annual membership is only \$15. Go to our website at www.oakmonthikingclub.org to join the club, get more hike details, club information, photos and lots more.

Please keep checking our website for updates.

SHORT HIKE: FEBRUARY 1 ST. ROSE NEIGHBORHOOD— DOWNTOWN SANTA ROSA HISTORY

We stroll through the historic St. Rose neighborhood and also through Railroad Square, an area settled by Italians in the early years. About 2+/- miles, all flat on sidewalks. Bring water, shade protection, snack and good walking shoes; poles optional. Heavy rain cancels. Check Hikers' website the day before for possible updates.

Depart Berger 9:30 a.m. sharp (note late start time). Hike leader is Donna McCulloch, dmcculloch2986@gmail.com, (707) 539-5730.

LONG HIKE: FEBRUARY 1 BENNETT MOUNTAIN AND HENRY'S KNOB



View of Bennett Peak.

This is a 10-mile figure-eight hike with a 1700 ft elevation gain. Views include Hood, Bald and Sonoma mountains, Bennett Valley and Mount Diablo. We'll enter the park at the Woodley trailhead for a hike up Frey Canyon to the Marsh Trail. From there we'll make our way to the Ridgeline Trail and hike up and over Bennett Peak and down to Henry's Knob for lunch and the views. We'll return on the Ridge Trail past Ledson Marsh to the Lawndale trail and finally to the East Rec Parking lot.

Bring water, lunch and poles if you like. Leave the Berger at 8:30 a.m. Hike leader is Frank Galli, (763) 360-9756.

INTERMEDIATE HIKE: FEBRUARY 8 TAYLOR MOUNTAIN

A steady climb to the summit of Taylor Mountain via the western route. Fantastic views the whole way and maybe a cow or two. A few parts of the trail are rocky, 5.1 miles and 1,171 feet of elevation so this will be a cardio workout but it will be at a moderate pace with short breaks.

Depart from Berger at 9 a.m. and should be back to Oakmont 1 p.m. Bring a snack or lunch if you wish as there are picnic tables near the parking lot so you can enjoy your lunch there when we finish the hike. Start from the Taylor Mountain Regional Parking Lot on Petaluma Hill Road. Regional Park Pass or \$7 for parking. Hike leader is Peggy Clark, pegnrod@icloud.com, (650) 274-4137.

LONG HIKE: FEBRUARY 8 ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON STATE PARK TO LASKY POINT



Lasky Point Commemorative Plaque.

This hike will be about 7 miles out and back. The elevation gain will be stable but it's an arduous rocky hike, nonetheless. Spectacular views of the Napa Valley abound.

Leave the Berger Center at 8:30 a.m. for a 45-minute drive to the trailhead. Bring poles, water, and lunch. Hike leader is Chris Sork, text or call (707) 495-3196.

Table Tennis Club



■Tom Kelber

TABLE TENNIS, ANYONE?

Oakmont's Table Tennis Club is active, competitive, and social—with lots of laughter.

Table tennis (also known as ping-pong) is a relatively accessible sport, open to all ages and types of athletes. Table tennis, in truth, requires skill and athleticism to master, and in turn offers real physical and mental benefits. It does require some degree of hand-eye coordination, along with general physical coordination as well. Playing table tennis provides great agility work, coordination, and cardio. Mentally, it's good for your focus and resilience. Most importantly, it is a lot of fun to play.

The general skill level is mostly intermediate and above, but we welcome beginners, who can play as a group if desired. Regrettably, we do not have the resources to provide teaching or training, but our members are friendly and approachable. The general mode of play is doubles (to include more players), and singles play is welcome when space allows. We play both older scoring (to 21) and newer scoring (best 2 of 3 games to 11). There are loaner paddles available if you don't have your own.

Feel free to email us at the address below with any questions, or to be added to our internal Google Group member list. Or just come join us to check it out!

LOCATION: Upper West Rec.

OPEN PLAY: Weekly—Tuesday at 3:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday at 3 p.m.; monthly—4 Sunday at 3 p.m.

CONTACT EMAIL: oaktclub@gmail.com

BOARD SUMMARY Continued from page 1

The Town Hall on February 6 will have two speakers from the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety who will explain their "Wildfire Prepared Home" programs and share the science behind the certification requirements. Annual Firewise Fair will be on April 5.

Environmental Stewardship Committee: Creek Inventory and Adopt-a-Creek Projects are underway; a field visit was made to Sonoma Clean Power's Advanced Energy Center; the first of a three-year oak-replanting project was concluded; a waste management project in OVA facilities has begun; additional recycle and compost bins and carts were delivered to Berger and East Rec. Three in-person events are being planned, two on creek care and another on home efficiency and electrification. There is a reduction in landfill generated with an increase in compost and recycling when a knowledgeable waste monitor is present at the bins.

PAINTING POLICY REVISION

The revised Painting Policy (in concept) as recommended by the Architectural Committee will be posted on the Berger bulletin board and included in OVA's Inside Oakmont as soon as practicable to allow 28-day review by members of the Association, according to Civil Code 4360.

2024 OVA INSURANCE POLICIES

With the support of the OVA insurance broker, insurance policies have been finalized on budget.

SIGN POLICY UPDATE

Approved the revised Sign Rules on lengths of time signs can be posted, pursuant to CC 4515 and 4360, to be included in the *Oakmont News* for dissemination to the members of the Association as soon as practicable. It was noted that the board is limited by law as to what signs can be posted but can mandate a 30-day limit.

Editor's Note: Three agenda items were removed or tabled at the January 16 board meeting. The board voted to table the Open Forum Resolution until April or May, allowing the new board to address this item. The Emergency Plan Contract Resolution was also tabled and an item for Governance Enhancements was removed from the agenda.



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Valley of the Moon Club

■ Hilary Gruendle

NINE AND WINE LADIES WEDS GOLF 2024

Nine and Wine, the infamous ladies-only golf club, begins their 2024 season on Wednesday, April 10. Our group is open to ladies of all ages and requires no handicap to participate. Beginners are welcome. We play nine holes every Wednesday with a 4 p.m. shotgun start on Oakmont's Sugarloaf course and optional happy hour and dinner at OAK following play.

Our focus is on fun and socialization, with a monthly scramble and season-end party at the end of September. The green fee is \$21, not including cart, and annual group dues are \$30.

If you have questions or wish to join our group, please email Joanne Phillips at tanzielewis@gmail.com.

OAK at the VOM Golf Club

■ Hilary Gruendle

FEBRUARY DINNER SPECIALS AT OAK

Feb. 8 and 22: Meatloaf with Mashed Potatoes and Green Beans, \$22

Feb. 2, 16 and 23: Crab Cioppino with Mussels, Shrimp and Calamari in a tomato stew, \$32

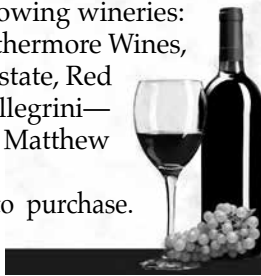
All are available for preorder to-go, to-go or dine-in. Reservations start at 4 p.m. Call today to reserve, (707) 539-0415 x 5.

SIP, SAVOR, AND RE-STOCK YOUR CELLAR WITH WEST SONOMA COAST FRIDAY, FEB. 9, 4-5:30 PM

Reservations required. Call (707) 539-0415 x 5 to reserve a space.

Taste the wines from the following wineries: DRNK, Dutton-Goldfield, Furthermore Wines, Emeritus Vineyards, Marima Estate, Red Car Wine, Joseph Jewell, Pellegrini-Olivet Lane and Paul Matthew Vineyards.

All wines will be available to purchase. The cost for this event is \$20 per person.



LIVE MUSIC AT OAK

Live music at OAK continues in 2024, from 5-7 p.m., \$8 cover charge. Call (707) 539-0415 x 5 to reserve a table.

Check our events page for more events: www.playvom.com/events.

Jan. 29: Relish

Feb. 5: Jami Jamison Band

Feb. 12: The Magic Band

Feb. 19: David Correa Trio

Feb. 26: 7th Sons Classic Rock

March 18: The Fargo Brothers

PAINT AND SIP IN FEBRUARY AT OAK FEBRUARY 28, \$45, 5-7 PM

Join us for a special paint and sip evening hosted in the Valley of the Moon Club's elegant Banquet Room! Create your own work of art on canvas with the guidance of a friendly instructor. We will be painting a beautiful ocean sunset together.

Delicious dinner and appetizers are available throughout the evening for purchase. Wine is available for purchase by the glass or bottle. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. to check in, get comfortable, and get ready with your beverage and bites.

Please note: All art supplies are included. No painting experience needed. No complimentary food or wine is included with your ticket to this event.

Limited space available. To reserve your space, go to <https://www.paintedcellarssoco.com/events/heart-of-gold-2-28-24>

Music at Oakmont



■ Judy Walker and Marlene Morrison



FEBRUARY 8: AZNAVOORIAN DUO'S PERFORMANCE AT OAKMONT

The Aznavoorian Duo, who will be the performers at our February concert will be playing an eclectic grouping of cello/piano works. As a tribute to their Armenian heritage, Ani and Marta will open with a set of Armenian Folk Songs by Komitas Vartabed, a priest who studied music in Berlin. He used his Western training to collect and transcribe more than 3000 pieces of Armenian folk music. He is recognized as the "Savior of Armenian Music," due to his efforts towards carrying on his nation's culture during the Armenian Genocide.

The program also comprises two contrasting sonatas, both stalwarts of the cello/piano repertoire—Debussy's in D minor and Brahms' E Minor, each consisting of three movements. Claude Debussy wrote his cello sonata as the first of a set of sonatas for various instruments, to be dedicated to his wife, Emma. Unfortunately, poor health prevented him from completing more than three of the intended six sonatas. In this first sonata, Debussy makes use of whole-tone and pentatonic scales together with extended cello technique and it is commonly regarded as one of the finest masterpieces written for the instrument.

In contrast, Brahms displays a more classical sonata form, initially consisting of four movements—the slow movement was later deleted. It was titled a "sonata for piano and cello—the piano should be a leading, watchful and considerate partner, under no circumstances assuming an accompanying role." Most of you pianists reading this will relate to his concept!

Interspersed with the sonata are two additional works, both fascinating in their own way. Just like Komitas Vartabed, the Spanish composer Manuel de Falla utilized folk music of his native country as a main source of inspiration for his *Suite Populaire Espagnole* which has been described as a "metaphorical journey" through Spanish culture. De Falla reproduced the emotionality of Spanish folklore and created a kaleidoscope of colorful images of music and movement.

The program concludes with Paganini's Variations on a theme from Rossini's opera *Moses in Egypt*. Interestingly, the music is written to be played on only the fourth string of the cello, which is probably best appreciated when seeing a live performance.

Please note that this concert will be the last opportunity to purchase our convenient season mini-passes for the balance of this season's Music at Oakmont. The discounted price is \$75 for three concerts, cash or check only.

Hope as many of you as possible will attend this wonderful afternoon of music.

WHEN: Thursday, February 8 at 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: Berger Center, Oakmont

ADMISSION: \$30 (cash or check only) or with season pass

OTLC

■ John Tan

ARE YOU READY TO RIDE AN ELECTRIC BIKE? THE BIKE COMPONENTS

Extra Accessories: Disc brakes (stronger, more powerful) are the norm on electric bikes. A speedometer is good for speed control. In vehicular traffic, it is a must to have front and back flashing lights.

Tires: "Fat" tires give you more maneuverability (more tread=better grip). You're able to ride on off-road terrain. Careful, as big tires are heavier and turning the steering column may be more challenging.

Battery: Batteries come in different wattage or volts. Modern electric bikes have lithium batteries (lithium ion or lithium polymer) that not only recharge quickly, but last up to 8 years.

Costs: Buy an entire electric bike with all the accessories; accessories added later cause problems with installation and extra weight. Note: Extras bought on Amazon or E-Bay may affect your warranty.

Call the sales and support department to configure the electric bike for you. They may include a buy-over-time plan. Note: Some electric bikes cost from several thousands to \$300, depending on your wants and site of purchase.

STARTING UP YOUR ELECTRIC BIKE

Wear a helmet!

Electric bikes aren't as simple as getting on and starting to pedal. Note: Electric bikes are much heavier than regular bikes. Lift it from its lying position to see if you can hold it up with your arms and legs.

Notice the weight: Ride your electric bike for the first 10 minutes without using electricity, pressing the electric button results in forward movement. Some electric bikes may give a quick jolt. Do not test the disc brakes without a helmet and any other protection on your body!

Maintenance: Electric bikes have more moving parts than a regular bike. At regular intervals, complete these and other actions.

- 1) Check tire pressure.
- 2) Test battery-charge level.
- 3) Inspect brake pads and wheels.
- 4) Grease all bearings.
- 5) Inspect and lube chain.
- 6) Fix any loose parts.

Service and Support: Make sure there is a local support and service that you can call. Find out if your warranty covers the costs of shipping the electric bike back or if you need to bring it in.

Some homeowner insurance will cover an electric bike. You would need to check with your provider before buying it to see what they cover entirely or just in parts. You also could add more insurance from a third party: sundaysinsurance.com. They can give you a quote.

Security: There currently are no products that keep your electric bike fully protected. Thieves can break most locks but will carry the electric bike into their vehicle, if they can't. A tracking system that uses GPS to follow an electric bike, similar to the Tesla security system, is in development. That system is only in a startup phase.



Canine Club

■Jean Nattkemper

STEPPING UP, STEPPING OUT

All sizes, all colors, purebreds, rescues, the dogs parade up and down the streets and trails of Oakmont. In National Walk Your Dog Month, observed during January, we are reminded that walking our dogs strengthens our bonds with them, releases endorphins to reduce stress, and addresses the growing issue of canine obesity.



If you or your dog gets bored taking walks, you can make them more interesting by choosing different routes, pausing to allow sniffing, and even doing a little training along the way.

YAPPY HOUR DOG WALKS

The Canine Club's Yappy Hour Dog Walks of about 1 to 2 miles offer owners a chance to walk their dogs with others. Bring water for your pup and wear comfortable shoes. Rain cancels all walks.

Linda's Yappy Hour Dog Walk: Monday, February 12, 10 a.m. Meet at the East Rec Parking Lot

DOINGS AT THE DOG PARK

Mark your calendars, owners of curly-coated dogs! The club has scheduled a Doodle Dog Play Date on Saturday, February 17 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Small dogs have time reserved from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. every Wednesday and Sunday.

The park is a great Oakmont resource that you can

help keep clean and safe by volunteering to spend 1 hour there every week. For information, contact Peri Olinger at periolinger@yahoo.com or (707) 479-6961.

You can also do your part by emptying and cleaning the water bowls when you enter the park, a task especially important because of the new canine disease.

JOIN CANINE-ASSISTED THERAPY

Volunteers in Paws for Healing take their dogs to facilities where people benefit from dog visits. The next training dates are January 27, February 3 and February 10, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. If interested in participating, go to www.pawsforhealing.org or call (707) 775-9241.

Brightening Up the "Jupiter Barrens" for Nature

■Marie Kay Hansen, Oakmont Environmental Stewardship Committee

Since Oakmont is known for its landscaping beauty, residents may wonder about what to plant when replacing junipers that were removed for fire safety. Restoring Oakmont's barren landscapes with local native plants is an opportunity to beautify and support nature, providing an attractive, firewise, and drought tolerant environment, and a nurturing habitat for wildlife. The Environmental Stewardship Committee has some suggestions but be sure to check with the OVA Architectural Office before choosing plants.

In deciding your replacement plant beyond the 0-5' zone, consider species from native plant communities.

Habitats naturally growing nearby include our oak woodlands, which do well in Sonoma County's long dry Mediterranean summer. Additionally, they attract native wildlife including birds, butterflies and pollinating insects.

Native plants, such as toyon and coffeeberry, feed and shelter Oakmont birds, including hummingbirds, quail, robins, juncos, oak titmouse and bluebirds. Other choices could be salvia, penstemon, and



A California Fuchsia, which is one of Oakmont's native plants. (Photo by Marie Hansen)

ceanothus, which are nectar producers.

Before choosing plants, be sure to check their eventual mature height and width so plants don't get too large for the site and grow onto driveways or sidewalks. Mature plants are recommended to be away from combustible fences and buildings as well.

Once plants are thriving, manage health and shaping by avoiding hedge pruning (trimming off just the outside layers), and remove the dead inner branches to reduce fire danger.

If you're unsure which native plants will best benefit your yard, check in with the professionals at your local nursery.

The Native Plant Society (local chapter, Milo Baker) is also a good resource, including their website: calscape.org. Calscape highlights plants best suited to Sonoma County, their growing needs, and where they are sold.

The purpose and responsibilities of the Oakmont Environmental Stewardship Committee are to research, educate, and make recommendations to promote environmental sustainability in Oakmont. For questions, contact me at briza1@comcast.net.

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Oakmont Sunday Symposium



Berger Center, 7902 Oakmont Dr.
Sunday, 10:30 a.m.–12 noon / \$3 donation
www.oakmontsundaysymposium.org

■Harriet Palk

Coffee, tea and snacks are available for sale in Berger from 9:45–10:15 a.m. before the presentation begins.

JANUARY 28: ANDREW ROGERSON JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN'T SEE 'EM DOESN'T MEAN THEY AREN'T THERE

Take a tiny teaspoon of unpolluted river, lake or ocean water; and it will contain over a million microbes all invisible to the naked eye. Make no mistake. We live in the "Age of Microbes"—always have, always will.



Andrew Rogerson, scientist extraordinaire, will shine a light on this invisible, magnificent and diversified world that he has spent a lifetime investigating.

FEBRUARY 4: MICK CHANTLER RECONSTRUCTION—IT'S NOT OVER!



Alas! The Civil War did not really end in 1865, and Reconstruction did not solve all the core issues of the war. We are feeling the repercussions of those events to this day.

Mick Chantler, one of Oakmont's most loved and talented speakers, will give us

his usual mesmerizing survey of this important time.

FEBRUARY 11: ROBIN JURIS MOUNTAIN LIONS IN OAKMONT

If you have an external security camera, then chances are you caught a mountain lion exploring your property. Mountain lions play a critical role in maintaining balance in the ecosystem, but they live an extremely fragile existence in Sonoma County.



Robin Juris will help us understand these magnificent animals so that we will learn to respect them and safely co-exist with them.

Ladies Bunco Night

■Barbara Wooley

NEW YEAR, NEW GAME, NEW FRIENDS!

Looking for a fun, low stress activity for the new year? Come on over and try Bunco—the fun, easy, no-skill-required dice game. Not only is Bunco loads of fun, players have the opportunity to win cash prizes! In what other game can a player literally win for losing?



Linda Suttich proudly displays the Bunco Bear!

Beginners are always welcome. Within a few rolls of the dice, you will be an expert Bunco player. Come on over and give it a shot. Bring a friend!

Usual nights are the second and fourth Monday of each month. However, there are exceptions, so always

check your Oakmont Events Calendar. Please arrive by 6:45

p.m. for check-in. Games run from 7–9 p.m.

WHERE: Card Room—Central Activity Center

WHEN: Second and fourth Monday of each month (check Oakmont Events Calendar)

TIME: 6:45 p.m. (play is about 1-1/2 to 2 hrs.)

FEE: A \$5 fee/night is required for each participant.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Jill Butler, (760) 468-1743; Email: jillivannili@sbcglobal.net

Men's Bible Study

■Lou Lacson

GOODBYE 2023 AND WELCOME 2024

It seems we watch the ball drop every New Year's Eve. We celebrate the new year with hugs and kisses to our loved ones, family and friends. We toast each other with some bubbly concoction and wish one another a prosperous new year.

Another year will go by, and we do the same

exercises. But were we better off spiritually this time than last year, or the years gone by? Maybe this year will be different as we toast to another year come New Year's Eve.

Join us at our Men's Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Thursday, East Rec., and fellowship with us. Together we can learn more of being spiritually active throughout 2024.

Oakmont Democratic Club



■Sue Carrell

15000 HANDWRITTEN POSTCARDS

We all know and anticipate the New Year will be dominated by national and world politics. Sometimes it's difficult to be optimistic and retain high hopes for our democracy, especially for those with a progressive bent.

Due to the foresight and hard work of two Oakmont women who have taken on a massive grassroots effort to reach out to those voters (Democratic, Democratic leaning, and Independents), many of whom show a pattern of inconsistent voting and/or live in political districts that verge on a red or blue outcome in 2024, the numbers of engaged voters have risen according to national political organizations.

Sue Sandholm and Eileen Mickaelian started handwriting postcards in 2016, and they haven't stopped. In fact, they have recruited women and men from all over Sonoma County to join the post carding effort for campaigns targeted with messages to voters across the country about specific issues or candidates relevant to them including the important CA House races.

Eileen and Sue report that the group (The PerSisters) has written approximately 15,000+ postcards since 2016, 3,000 since November 2023! Based on past years, they know these numbers

will grow exponentially this election season.

If you wish to do something to help make a difference and like to write, then contact the PerSisters at the new website: www.leftfoakmont.org.

Left of Oakmont is cosponsored by three Oakmont clubs: Oakmont Progressives, Standing for Justice, and the Oakmont Democratic Club. All are welcome. Writers provide their own postcards and stamps. Sue and Eileen provide the scripts, directions, and names and addresses of the voters. You can write at home and/or join us at our monthly postcard parties.

Let's do this together!

Photo by Sue Carrell.



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Parliamo Italiano

■Jane Rinaldi

ITALIAN MOVIE SERIES THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

Parliamo Italiano will be showing some wonderful Italian movies on the first Tuesday of each month in the CAC Building, Room B from 2–3:30 p.m. These are mostly 21st century modern movies in Italian with English subtitles.

The February movie is on Feb. 6 and is entitled *King of Laughter*. The plot: Eduardo Scarpetta is a very famous Neapolitan actor whose comic stage productions and home situation rival each other.

Our March 5 film is entitled *Invisible Witness*. The plot: Adriano Doria, a wealthy Italian entrepreneur, describes the worst night of his life. Then fate intervenes and forever alters his and his wife's lives.

On April 2 we will have our next Italian movie *Il Buco*. The plot: young speleologists explore Europe's deepest cave in the untouched Calabrian hinterland - beautiful scenery.

On May 7 we will be showing *An Almost Ordinary Summer*. The plot: two families are brought together for a surprise marriage between their patriarchs.

Oakmont Pétanque Club

■Don McPherson

2024 SCHEDULE

The Oakmont Pétanque Club has announced its 2024 schedule. The club sponsors three tournaments with potluck picnic lunches each year in addition to summer evening socials and occasional matches with other clubs.

The year kicks off with the Homage to Spring Tournament on Saturday, April 20. The Bastille Day Fête will be held on Saturday, July 13. The final tournament of the year, Oktoberfest, will be on Saturday, October 19. All tournaments begin with registration at 9:45 a.m. with a potluck picnic lunch following play at approximately 12 noon.

In addition to the tournaments, the club will host Evening Pétanque Dessert Socials and games beginning at 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 13 and Thursday, August 15.

The club also plans a return of the Annual Boule Fight for Santa Rosa Bragging Rights, a home-and-home match against Santa Rosa's Pétanque La Rose. Tentative dates are Sunday, May 5 at Santa Rosa and Saturday, May 18 at Oakmont.

PÉTANQUE IN OAKMONT MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, SATURDAY

French in origin, Pétanque (pay-tonk), also known as Boules, has been played in Oakmont since the 1980s. The Club, founded in 1996,

encourages all Oakmonters who may be interested in playing or learning to play to come to the courts between Berger and the OVA offices at 9:45 a.m. on the Club Play days of Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. Club Play days are casual friendly games with teams randomly chosen. The Club has boules to lend while you're learning, and you'll be playing right away.

Anyone, regardless of experience, is welcome to enjoy the challenge and camaraderie of a simple game that is inexpensive, fun to play, learned quickly, and endlessly fascinating in its deeper levels of execution and strategy. No membership dues are required—just sign up to be on the club roster.

The Oakmont Pétanque Club, founded in 1996, has announced its 2024 Season Schedule.



Oakmont Art Association

■Elizabeth Kern



DEYOUNG DOCENT TO PRESENT ON BOTTICELLI DRAWINGS

Gretchen Turner, a docent from the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, will speak on the current exhibit, *The Botticelli Drawings*, on Friday, February 9, 10 a.m. at the Berger Center.

Botticelli Drawings is the first exhibition ever dedicated to the drawings of the renowned Renaissance artist Sandro Botticelli (1445–1510). The exhibition features rarely seen and newly attributed works of an artist whose name is synonymous with the Italian Renaissance.

From Botticelli's earliest recorded drawings through expressive designs for his final painting, the works on view reveal the artist's experimental drawing techniques and quest for ideal beauty. *Botticelli Drawings* will provide a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to understand the artistic process behind some of the best-known works of the Renaissance.

Refreshments will be served.

Oakmont Garden Club

■Patty McHugh



FEBRUARY MEETING

WHEN: Wednesday, February 14, 9:30 a.m. social, 10–11:15 a.m. meeting

WHERE: East Rec. Center, 7902 Oakmont Drive

TOPIC/SPEAKER: "In Our Own Community—The Wonderful, the Unusual, the Beautiful" presented by Carolyn Greene

Carolyn will take us on a digital and pictorial tour through our very own community to enjoy and learn about many of Oakmont's most distinctive native and exotic plants. Carolyn has put together a favored list that includes trees, shrubs, flowers, and ground covers. Learn how to identify them and learn about their history and cultural significance. Some of these plants may be those you've admired in your travels around Oakmont and wondered what they were—time to satisfy your curiosity.

Carolyn Greene is a well-known Oakmont naturalist and horticultural historian. She grew up in a nursery-owning family and has worked as a field botanist/biologist for the Natural Park Service and many other resource organizations. Carolyn was a featured speaker at our club previously, speaking about our role, as homeowners, in providing critical habitat for native wild creatures. Carolyn is passionate about nature, and we are delighted to have her speak to us again!

Do you have winter blahs? "This, too, will pass"—eventually. It will skip along much more quickly if you utilize the good days this month and next to get out and do the winter cleanup. It will energize you and by the time Spring rolls around, you'll be so happy with yourself that your garden is already tidy, and you'll be able to dig right into the 'fun' garden tasks. Go on—bundle up and get outside.

Members: Have you renewed your membership?

Non-members: Please come as a visitor to see what our club is about. It is our goal to offer varied programs at which everyone learns something valuable. Annual dues are \$15 per household.



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■Greg Fauss

PONDERING

I've been taught to ask this question after every presentation. It's a little canned and in all honesty the range of questions expected is pretty limited.

Recently my friend Tim Keener noted that in the Gospels (the four accounts of Jesus' life) "Jesus was asked over 300 questions, he personally asked over 100 questions of his own," and he answered only ... wait for it ... three!

He continues, "A question with a single right answer is about 'control' whereas the plain nature of a question is 'curiosity.' Questions come from a place of humility (I don't know what you will answer) and they allow space for individual freedom (you tell me in your own words and thoughts). If we see Jesus as a compassionate conversation partner ... he's asking us good questions that will lead us to more reflection, greater awareness of self and others, and redemptive changes in behavior."



This month we began a Bible Study to pursue such things called "Questions Jesus Asks." All are welcome. We meet in the OVA Outer Office, Suite B at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays.

Our Sunday services are at 10:30 a.m. in the East Rec Center at 7902 Oakmont Dr.

If you'd like to meet some people over a meal join us for a potluck at noon this Sunday, January 28.

For more information about us, our Saturday Morning Prayer meeting, and special events please visit our website at www.occsantarosa.org, write us at occsantarosa@gmail.com or call at (707) 595-0166.

Movies At Oakmont



WHERE: Berger Center

SCREENING DAY AND TIME: Sundays

HOSTS: Mike McInnis, Deborah Davidson, Jeff Neuman, Yllysa Snyder and Barbara Rosenlicht.

NOTE: All films are shown with English subtitles, when possible, free of charge—compliments of OVA.



**JANUARY 28 AT 2 PM
FLORA AND SON**

A single mom at war with her son is trying to find a hobby for him. One day, she rescues a guitar from a dumpster. 2023, R, 1:37.



**FEBRUARY 4 AT 2 PM
THE BURIAL**

A lawyer helps a funeral home owner save his family business from a corporate behemoth, exposing a web of race, power and injustice. 2023, R, 2:06.



**FEBRUARY 11 AT 2 PM
MAESTRO**

The lifelong relationship of conductor-composer Leonard Bernstein and actress Felicia Montealegre Cohn Bernstein. 2023, R, 2:09.

Oakmont Squares



■Barbara Wooley

HELLO NEW YEAR!

The Oakmont Squares celebrated the holidays in style with a potluck holiday dinner, and a visit from Santa. After the holiday feast, Oakmont Squares members (those who could still move) danced the night away to holiday tunes.

Club caller Lawrence Johnstone uses the "red light-green light" system, alternating dances for beginners with dance tips for the more experienced dancers so that everyone gets to dance at a comfortable level. The music is varied and spans genres from country, Big Band, classic rock and more, including Broadway standards, movie themes, and an occasional classical selection.

The Oakmont Squares will be starting a new class in the spring. Watch for upcoming announcements.

While the current class is now closed to new members, experienced dancers who wish to join the group, or to just drop in, are welcome to come

dance at any time. No partner is necessary since it is customary to switch partners often to get more dancers on the floor.

The Oakmont Squares meet Tuesday evenings from 7-9 p.m. at the East Rec. Center. Donation is \$8 per person/night or \$25 for the month. Come dance in a square and make a circle of friends.

For more information, call Jenny at (707) 367-2102.

Judith Fleenor with Santa (Red Johnson). (Photo by Jenny Watts)



Oakmont Squares celebrates the holidays!



■Carolita Carr



COMING UP NEXT

MARDI GRAS WITH THE MAGIC BAND

WHERE: Berger Center **DATE:** February 10

TIME: Doors open at 5 p.m., music at 6:30

COST: \$20 per person. Each member may bring one non-member guest. Bring snacks for your table and BYOB

Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, is on February 13 in 2024, so the Saturday before is the right time for our celebration.

We have the Magic Band, which is an Oakmont favorite. Their three different lead singers cover every imaginable style of music. The amazing harmonies will delight you. And they have the very best horn section in the Bay Area. You will want to dance to every tune. Wear your beads, masks and Mardi Gras colors and you will fit right in.

This will be the first Boomer dance of the new year, so sign up as soon as you get our email message announcing the event. We are selling out, so don't be disappointed. Act fast to be included in this evening of fun.

MEMBERSHIP

If you are new to Oakmont or have simply forgotten to renew your membership, joining is easy. The cost is \$15 per person, and you can sign up by visiting our website, oakmontboomers.org.

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Century 21 EPIC - Valley of the Moon

Oakmont Health Initiative Free Fitness Classes

■Charlene Bunas

January was named after the two-headed Roman god Janus. Simultaneously, Janus sees past and future, is the god of transitions, beginnings and endings.

Those who celebrate the end of one year and beginning of another often do it by making resolutions. Expectations are high.



BLUE MONDAY—JANUARY 15

And then, week three arrives. Temptations and old habits succeed over dreams. Earnest goals lose. The third Monday in January is known as the most depressing day of the year. There's the comedown after holidays, and the weather: cold, rainy, dark.

HOPE FROM OHI AND DOLLY PARTON

But, neither God Janus nor prognosticators of depressing days recognized the influence of OHI instructor JoRene: "Bodies want to work, muscles were made to move." Her colleague, Nicole, echoes the sentiment by asking the Friday class, "Doesn't this exercise feel great? Can't you just keep going?"



The best way to live life, according to Dolly Parton is to accept yourself with love and humor. "Depression is a part of life. Nobody's up all the time unless they're liars, phonies, hypocrites or unless something in their brain ain't working."

JANUARY 17—DITCH NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS DAY

This is the date to reflect on resolutions and realism. If there's doubt, toss them out.

2024—MAKE THE MOST OF IT

Dolly sets an example of how to treat every Blue Monday: "I've had heartaches, headaches, toothaches, earaches, and I've had a few pains in the ass, but I've survived to tell about it." And she gives advice for being a personal superhero: "When I wake up, I expect things to be good. If they're not, then I try to set about trying to make them as good as I can, 'cause I know I'm gonna have to live that day anyway."

Meeting ID: 849 7221 1947. Passcode: 558819.



■Valerie Hulsey

JOIN US AT THE POOL

Although winter weather is here the pool is still warm for our terrific Water Aerobics class. Mary teaches Monday through Thursday at 9:30 a.m. There is laughter and fun in the pool and sometimes in the Hot Tub, not to mention this is great way to exercise with no strain on your body.

Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) is not sponsoring these classes so there is an \$8 drop-in fee for all classes. Hope to see you there.

Strength and Balance Class

■Valerie Hulsey

Strength and Balance classes are held every Friday at 9:30 a.m. at the East Rec Center. The classes are not sponsored by the Santa Rosa Jr. College (SRJC) so there is a \$5 drop-in fee for each class.

Classes are limited to 72 people so come early to ensure you get a chair. Bring your Theraband for strengthening, if you do not have one you can purchase one for \$5 when you arrive.

Bring water and come and have some fun and improve your balance at the same time.

Meditation

■Joanne Davey

"Don't think about the future. Just be here now. Don't think about the past. Just be here now."—Ram Dass

OAKMONT WEEKLY MEDITATION SESSIONS AT CAC

We invite you to join one or both of our weekly drop-in meditation sessions which have been taking place for many years. Beginning and experienced meditators are welcome. We approach meditation as a non-denominational practice.

Saturdays: 10:30 a.m. in the CAC Building, Room B. This is a 35-min. meditation. This session frequently begins with a short 15-20-minute talk about various aspects of meditation.

Tuesdays: 4 p.m. in the CAC Building, Art Room. A 30-min. meditation.

If you have questions, please contact Trisha Mitchell, (650) 255-4026, or Liz Buckley, (707) 538-3235.



Oakmont Futures

■George McKinney

ROOFTOP SOLAR CAN STILL SAVE YOU MONEY

The next Futures Club meeting will be February 14 at 4 p.m. in East and on Zoom.

If you didn't get solar installed last year, you may be under the impression that rooftop solar no longer saves money. That's wrong—solar still makes financial sense for those of us living in PG&E territory.

The new economics of rooftop solar begin by recognizing that PG&E charges continue to go up at astronomical rates. This year's charge per kwh is more than 17% higher than a year ago, and PG&E is looking for another 2% on top of that to cover unexpected costs.

What is true is that the design of the ideal system has changed. As before, a qualified installer can evaluate your personal situation and make a recommendation. The optimal system will combine rooftop solar with a battery, which may also give you protection against power outages.

We're planning to have three installers here to discuss the economics of solar today. We'll also have a representative of the Sonoma County Energy Independence Program (SCEIP) who will talk about financing options.

If you plan to get an electric car or move towards electrification for space or water heating (such as installing a heat pump) or cooking, there will be information on how that can affect your energy bill and how solar can help you avoid unnecessary high costs.

If you qualify for the Medical Baseline program (for those who have a medical need for electricity like a CPAP machine), there continues to be a significant discount available through the SGIP program for most Oakmont residents.

If you already have rooftop solar, talk with your neighbors and encourage them to come and hear whether they still have an opportunity to reduce their electricity costs. If you don't already have a battery, this would be a good opportunity to find out how to add a backup battery to your system.

If you live in a duplex, triplex, or quadruplex, you may have wondered how you can get solar because you have a shared roof. There are a number of triplex installations now, and we'll talk about the process to get solar for your home.

Here are the Zoom links: Meeting ID 860 6299 0770; Passcode 809582.

Star of the Valley Church

■Peter Hardy

SUPER BOWL PARTY

Star of the Valley invites Oakmont to two exciting events, coming up in February.

On Sunday, February 11 is the annual Super Bowl Party. We will be streaming the game on a 7' x 7' screen. We will have both stadium and table seating available on a first-come basis.

Doors will open at 2:30 p.m. with the game beginning at 3:30 p.m. Come early and enter the \$2 and \$5 football pools with cash prizes being awarded for each quarter. During the first half we will have chips, dips, and nachos. At half-time we will have Miller hot dogs, chili and potato salad. Cost: \$8 each, which includes the game and all of the food. Beer, wine, and soft drinks will be available at an additional charge.

For food planning purposes we ask that a check be submitted for each attendee. Checks should be made payable to SOV Men's Club. Checks can be mailed to Star of the Valley Men's Club, 495 White Oak Dr., Santa Rosa, CA 95409 or dropped off in the Men's Club box located outside the parish office. Payment can be made at the door on the day of the game.

Come and root for your team and enjoy the fun.

VALENTINE BINGO

Coming up next is Valentine Bingo on February 13, at 4 p.m. Besides cash prizes, there will be secondary prizes for the winners of each game. The menu for bingo is Italian Wedding Soup, garlic bread, corn bread, and brownies for dessert. Cost is \$10 and Bingo cards are \$2 each.

We ask everyone to arrive 15-30 minutes early in order to purchase your meal and bingo cards because bingo begins at 4 p.m. sharp. There will also be a beer and wine cash bar before and after bingo.

All are welcome. If you don't play bingo, come for dinner and enjoy yourself meeting new people.

Jazz Club



■Michael James

ADD JAZZ MUSIC TO YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS!

Happy New Year! New year's resolutions have always been fun for me because if I can keep any of them, I come out ahead. Some common resolutions include exercising more, spending more time with family and friends and learning a new skill or hobby. If you like to listen to music, sing, dance or play a musical instrument, consider adding the Jazz Club to your new year's resolution list.

Did you know that music is great for your memory and reading, breathing, social life and physical well-being? Learn how music can enrich your life by participating in the February Jazz Club meeting. We will focus on melody by learning how to read a variety of music and applying it to singing and playing string instruments.

Nathan Moody, a wonderful singer and guitarist from San Francisco, will be our guest musician for February. He will share, entertain, answer questions and interact with us during the first hour of our meeting.

A core group of musicians from the Jazz Club will be performing the songs learned over the past two months. I will demonstrate melody with a variety of instruments and members can participate with string instruments such as guitar, ukulele, banjo, mandolin, violin, cello or bass. We also will be adding rhythm with percussion instruments used in January's meeting.

Come and participate or just listen. It will be fun, and it's free. Add music to your new year's resolutions!

WHEN: Wednesday, February 7 **TIME:** 2-4 p.m.

WHERE: East Recreation Center

WHAT TO BRING: String and percussion instruments
PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITY: Participate at your comfort level

Pickleball Corner



■Ed Russell

CAN YOU SPELL VAPTR?

Do you remember squeegees? Most of us know what they are but the vast majority refused to use them and for good reason. They are difficult to maneuver, take a long time and don't do a very good job. If we arrived to find wet courts, most of us would stand around watching while 2 or 3 intrepid souls did the work. Then it often took another hour of air drying for the courts to be playable. Less than a year ago that was our only option.

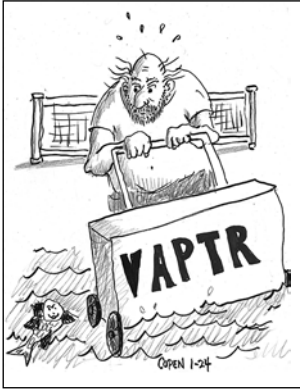
Last Spring Oakmont Pickleball Club purchased an amazing machine called VAPTR. An experienced user can dry a court in about 10 minutes. Rather than pushing puddles around the court like a squeegee, it picks up the water and stores it in a tank until we can dump it in a good drainage location.

The VAPTR is easy to use correctly but that correct use is not obvious or intuitive. Improper use has already caused personal injury and necessary repairs. We have created a team of volunteer users who have completed training and demonstrated proper techniques. These are the only people authorized to use the VAPTR.

Proper use of the VAPTR requires mindfulness. For example, even the most experienced of us can accidentally dump the holding tank if we lose focus, requiring the court to be dried again.

Would you like to help with the court drying task? One way is blowing leaves. The VAPTR is vulnerable to leaves sticking to its absorbent. Leaves need to be blown off the courts before drying. Anybody can help with that.

New Player Orientation: 9 a.m. on Tuesday mornings. Arrangements can be made by contacting Victoria Dettman at (707) 230 2958 to schedule a session. Call Jim Howard at (209) 761-8517 for demo loaner paddles.



Cartoon by Peter Copen.

Sleep Apnea Group

■Robert Flandermeyer

SLEEP APNEA WELCOMES GUEST SPEAKER GREG ACKROYD, MD

The next meeting of the Sleep Apnea Group is Tuesday, February 6 at 1 p.m. We meet in Room G of the Berger Center. Dr. Greg Ackroyd, MD of the Providence Sleep Center on College, Santa Rosa, will be our guest speaker.

Our last meeting had a full room, so come early and bring your questions. If your equipment needs help, bring it along as well. This is a remarkable opportunity to improve your health and live longer.

Call me with questions at (707) 694-8018.

New to Oakmont?

Meet with a volunteer from the New Resident Welcome Committee to learn about everything Oakmont—from governing rules, important phone numbers, activities, services, facilities and emergency prep.

Contact us at welcome@oakmontvillage.com. The Welcome Packet is available at oakmontvillage.com/article/new-resident-welcome-packet.

Lawn Bowling



■Mary C Blake

CURIOUS ABOUT LAWN BOWLING?

If you're interested in learning to bowl, email us at oakmontlawnbowling@gmail.com. Lessons are free. Usually, we have 2 to 3 lessons, one hour each, followed by a practice game.

DAILY DRAW

October through April, our daily draw (open to all OLBC members) is Monday through Saturday. Show up at 12:15 p.m. to bowl at 12:30.

Feeling a bit rusty or still not sure of some of the rules? No problem. Just ask if you're not sure of something. Or let the training coordinator (see below) know if you'd like a refresher course.

RENEW BY FEBRUARY 1

Last I checked, only about half of us had renewed for 2024. It's still only \$20 per year. Leave a check in our folder in the OVA office, made out to OLBC, or leave a check in Tony's cubby. If you want to pay with cash, give the money directly to Tony. Make sure it's clear who the money is for. And, if any of your information has changed, fill out a registration form.

COMING EVENTS

We're finalizing the 2024 calendar. Steve and Pam have already put together dates for our tournaments. Coming soon is the Presidents' Day Tournament on Monday, February 19. Sign up on the board or on-line. Show up at 12:15 to bowl at 12:30, bring \$3 and wear your whites.

GET A GRIP (SORRY, I HAD TO SAY THAT)

It's been fun helping with training and I hope to continue to do more training. For

one thing, you learn so much when you explain to someone else. The first issue we face is how we hold the bowl. When I started, so many people gave me so much different advice my hand was a twisted mess. Jim Krause saw me, said something like "relax" and my grip has been comfortable ever since. When I've been training, I usually start with whatever seems comfortable and natural for each person and it's interesting to see how many different grips (and deliveries) we have. I've shown people my grip and it's clearly not right for everyone.

So, I googled grip and found "The Delivery Doctor" on YouTube. And the grip he showed is the one I use, so I'll share that one with you. He drops his bowling hand down to the side (no bowl in it yet!) and shakes it to relax it, then flops it out in front of him, palm up, still relaxed. The fingers are close but not touching. He puts the bowl on the palm so it's following the direction of the fingers. The index and little fingers are on the ridges, the bowl will gently roll off your middle two fingers. It doesn't really matter where your thumb is.

What's your grip like?

Email: oakmontlawnbowling@gmail.com. Website: www.oakmontlawnbowling.com.



Deciding who won the spider at last year's Presidents' Day Tournament.

Tennis Club



■Jack Breibart

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Well, that went well! The Oakmont Tennis Club held its Winter Social on a chilly January 10 night inside a warm Oak Saddle Club, and I'm going to make up a new saying here, "Fun was had by all."

The food served up by the Saddle Club staff to the 59 attendees (salad, roasted veggies, mac and cheese and steak and salmon) was delicious, the music of the Second St. Band was just right and the dancing was spirited to say the least. Seems that a lot of good moves worked on over years on a tennis court pays off on the dance floor.

Besides providing a joyous night of music and food, the Tennis Club also took time to honor some of the folks who have done outstanding work over the years. Here are the honorees in no particular order, well maybe in ascending (height) order:

Melanie Gott: Melanie served as the membership chairman and was the one pumping out Email Blasts, among other duties, to the membership. She is moving to Healdsburg, but promises to drop back to Oakmont for tennis and friendship. She is being replaced by Rex Fuller. She was presented a gift certificate by club president John Hughson.

Peter Hogan: Peter is the Administrator of the Tuesday and Thursday games on the East Courts. It is he who gets up with the sun to check the courts on iffy rainy days and keeps his email readers informed. He also does not hesitate to manually get the courts in shape if needed. To join Peter's email list, contact him at pwhogan@sb.global.net. Presentation of wine was made by Arnie Herskovic.

Tony Agocs: Tony is known, respected and admired for his Thursday afternoon clinics on the West Courts for



Tony Agocs at the mic, John Hughson and Ululani McBride look on.

anyone who wants to improve their games or even learn how to play tennis. This is in addition to the top level tennis that Tony plays. Presentation of wine was made by Ululani McBride.

Brian Williams: Brian was not present, but he was acknowledged for his long-time work

running the Sunday games on the West Courts and for the humorous emails he sent out to get the games organized. He is being replaced by Neil Linneball, So, if you want to play on Sunday, get in touch with Neil at neilscience@gmail.com. Vice President Frank Passaglia accepted in Brian's absence.

I'm sure I'm not going overboard in thanking all the board members—especially Maureen Pennal and Judy and Frank Passaglia—for putting on the Winter Social.

So now, the club can turn its attention to the Sweetheart Tournament on February 14, details of which will be coming your way in Email Blasts from Rex and the next edition of the *Oakmont News*.



Tennis Clubbers enjoy the evening at the Oak Saddle Club.

CLASSIFIEDS

BODEN PLUMBING, HEATING AND AIR

For all your plumbing and heating needs. Local plumbers in business since the late 20th century, licensed, bonded and insured. Same day service is often available. Money-saving coupons! CA Lic. #659920. Please call (707) 996-8683 or go to www.BodenPlumbing.com.

GARDENING

Done with an emphasis upon a natural look since 2007. Small jobs OK. Handyman as well. Richard, 833-1806. Oakmont resident.

BABE'S TRANSPORT

A personal transportation service for airports, cruises and vacations, doctor visits, shopping and so much more. Flat fee per trip. Larger vehicles on request. All drivers Covid vaccinated. Commercially licensed and insured. TCP #40474. Call Babe's for reservations at (707) 545-2850.

MASSAGE THERAPY

Massage studio now open in Oakmont. One-hour custom massage, \$100. Book your session now. Brittany Koop, CMT, #91724. Call (707) 849-3915. By appointment only.

OAKMONT COMPUTERS

PC and Apple repair in Oakmont Village. Technical services and onsite repair. Media transfers. 6536 Oakmont Dr., (707) 282-9046.

DUMP RUNS

Yard waste, construction debris, junk garbage. Reasonable rates, free estimates. Call Erick, (707) 537-5459.

ONE WAY PLUMBING, INC.

Dependable experts serving you and your neighbors with excellence and integrity for over 20 years. Licensed, bonded and insured. Senior discounts available. CA Lic. #854537. Find us on the web at www.onewayplumb.net or call us at 537-1308 for all your plumbing needs.

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Trimming, pruning, topping, removal, stump grinding. Fire protection. Licensed and fully insured. CA Lic. #955271. Free estimates. Call Felix at (707) 753-3032.

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Carpentry, drywall, electrical, plumbing, installation and assembly. Other imaginative jobs welcome! Fair hourly rate. www.thehandylance.com. (707) 881-7292.

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Quality affordable work at reasonable rates. Interior painting including rooms, cabinets, railings, decks, fencing. Pressure washing and more. Call Michelle, (707) 378-3600.

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Locally owned and operated Dependable Doors offers full servicing, repair, and replacement of garage doors and motors. Call Casey at (707) 775-8009 for all of your garage door needs. Lic. #1016951.

REPAIRS PILING UP? CALL RAY

No job too big or too small. Heating, water heaters, plumbing, electrical, drywall, patching, painting, appliance repairs, honey do's, etc. Quality and affordable. Ray, (707) 280-2699.

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Home, office, move-outs. Window, bed linens and much more. 19+ years of experience. References upon request. 548-9482 or marthal1041@att.net.

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Gavin Anderson, local Sonoma resident. 20+ years experience. Senior pricing. Free estimates. Call 935-6334.

HANDYMAN RESIDENT

Ask for Ricky, a personable "Jack of all Trades" with great attention to detail. I meet your quality goals and prioritize Oakmont residents. Let's discuss the work and its cost. (408) 838-5618.

CUSTOM WORKS CONTRACTING

Licensed, Bonded, Insured Contractor, Lic. #833926 (check lic. # on CLSB website). USMC Veteran-operated and owned. Here to help out the Oakmont community in all trades for repairs and maintenance, door/windows replacements, kitchen and bathroom remodels, decks, fences, and much more. Please call Jamie Flatt for free estimates on projects. (707) 721-4002.

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Qualified to care for all your needs. Available 24/7 or hourly. 20+ yrs. experience providing honest, reliable, dedicated, competent, compassionate care, with a sense of humor. Native CA, clear background check with fingerprinting. Specialize in Dementia. Starla, (925) 698-6312. Many references and website available. Not an agency.

TONY'S GARDENING SERVICES

General landscape, mowing, yard maintenance (free fertilizer included, so your grass and plants can be greener than ever), high weed clearance, clean-up, hauling, trimming, pruning and gutters. Free estimates. Ref. available. Tony Sandoval, (707) 321-2958.

VALLEY OF THE MOON PLUMBING

We are a local plumbing company that can take care of all your plumbing needs from service and repair, to remodels and additions. Call today to schedule a free estimate. (707) 800-2043.

HAVING TROUBLE GETTING YOUR GARBAGE TO THE CURB FOR PICK-UP?

I can come to your home to put your trash receptacle to the curb Wednesday afternoon, and bring it back on Thursday afternoon. Call Dan Lennox, (707) 889-0205.

RESIDENTIAL POWER WASHING AND WINDOW CLEANING

Servico Window Cleaning Co. Free estimates. Call today, (707) 249-3343.

COMPUTER OOPS?

Oakmont Onsite Personal Computer Services. 11+ years helping Oakmonters. Call Chuck for all things computer and Tutoring. References available. Over 350 satisfied Oakmont customers. \$50/hr., one hour minimum. (707) 293-8011.

MARY KAY

Mary Kay® products offer you so many ways to enhance your beauty and well-being. Innovative skin care, on-trend color, pampering bath and body products, and so much more! Let's find your favorites. Call Cheryl, (707) 596-2769.

SONOMA VALLEY LEGAL SERVICES

Providing legal services for Estate Planning, including preparation or amendment of wills, trust, healthcare directives and powers of attorney, Family Law Mediation and other non-litigation family law services. Call for a free 30-minute consultation. Attorney Bailey Penzotti, (707) 615-3220.

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Interior/Exterior. 30 yrs. experience. Single rooms or full interiors. Friendly and honest. Morse Painting, Lic. #656306. Call Dan, (707) 799-5823.

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Beyond massage pain relief. Mobile or office. Therapeutic approaches. CA Cert. #21935. www.marksenzig.com. (707) 480-1226.

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Window cleaning, power washing and solar panel cleaning. Over 20 years in Oakmont. Call Alex, (707) 291-0429.

PROFESSIONAL WOMAN NEEDS ROOM TO RENT BY AUGUST 2024

Therapist, responsible, non-smoker, prefers furnished or unfurnished, safe tranquil environment. If you have a room available or know someone who does, please get in touch by calling (831) 359-8856 or email sandi@willowtreasantarosa.com.

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Professional fruit tree and rose pruning, ornamentals. All aspects of general landscaping. Monthly service. Older experienced gardener. Call (707) 252-3138 or (707) 338-1807.

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Easy to work with, reliable. Reasonable pricing. Oakmont/Sonoma references. 32 yrs. experience. Remodels, electrical, plumbing. Hardwood floors. Free estimate. Ernesto, (707) 974-0359.

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Consultative sales and installation. Local suppliers. Father and son team, 30 years of experience. Lic. #527924. www.doorbeautiful.com. Call (707) 539-3196.

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Interior/exterior professional painting. Small jobs OK. Call Leo at (707) 579-2680.

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Zipper or easy buttons, 1/2 sleeves for comfort, sizes 38-46. Great designs. Go to www.DHallShirts.etsy.com.

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I have 20 plus years of experience in all phases of the construction industry and worked for several people in the Oakmont community. I am here to advertise my skills with any jobs you may need done. Call Travis Meyers, owner and operator, (415) 261-1617.

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Collaborating with a few CNAs to provide professional caregiving in your home. Post-surgical support, dementia care, assist with pets, light housekeeping, bathing, shopping, personal advocacy, transportation to medical appts, travel companion. Looking in on loved ones in Assisted Living or SNF facilities. 3-hr. minimum, excellent local ref., not an agency. Kai, (707) 833-5078 or email kaiwie.f@gmail.com.

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Loving, patient, experienced. \$25 per walk or call. Text Annette, (619) 993-6834. You and your dog will be very happy!

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Will provide transportation to and from medical appts/shopping. Friendly visitor and/or support. Please leave a message for Jan, (707) 538-4626.

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Offering all fencing installed and repaired. Custom gates. Free estimates. Licensed, bonded and insured. CA lic. 1017531. Call (707) 843-0041.

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Pruning, trimming, hedges. Fruit trees, stump grinding. Fall clean-ups. Pressure washing. Over 20 years of experience. Free estimates. Call Alex, (707) 322-1646. Lic. #06530716.

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- Classified ads of 150 spaces or less, (payment to accompany this form) \$25 per insert
- Pre-paid standing ads of 150 spaces or less, for a period of 3 months (6 issues) \$120
- Pre-paid standing ads of 150 spaces or less, for a period of 6 months (12 issues) \$216
- Pre-paid standing ads of 150 spaces or less, for a period of 1 year (24 issues) \$384

A space is a letter (including those in the heading), punctuation mark, and a space between the words in the ad. Additional \$4 for the next 40 or less spaces. Whenever applicable, CA state license or certification number must be included.

DEADLINE: 10 days prior to publication.

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... is owned by the **Oakmont Village Association** which, through its board, sets editorial policy.

The **OVA** has contracted with **CJM Productions** to handle typesetting, layout, printing and free distribution of the *Oakmont News*, the latter by U.S. mail, to each home via 3rd class mail.

CJM Productions also handles advertising for the *Oakmont News*. **CJM Productions** and the **Oakmont Village Association** assume no responsibility for the content of any ads that appear in the *Oakmont News* nor do we endorse or recommend any product or service advertised herein.

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Oakmont Village Association

OAKMONT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Hours: M–F 9 AM–5 PM—Open during lunch
Tel 707-539-1611

6637 Oakmont Dr., Ste. A

OVA E-mail: askova@oakmontvillage.com

Website: www.oakmontvillage.com

Book appointments with staff at: oakmontvillage.com/staff

MAINTENANCE OFFICE

Hours: Daily 6 AM–10 PM

Tel 707-539-6720

Maintenance Building (next to Central Auditorium)

CONDOMINIUM FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (CFM)

OVA Accounting

Tel 800-585-4297

OAKMONT NEWS

Tel 707-206-1957

E-mail: cjmprod567@gmail.com

PAS MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Hours: M–F 9 AM–Noon, and 1–4 PM

Tel 707-539-5810

6572 Oakmont Dr., Ste. A

(for Association Maintained Homes)

ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE

Hours: M–Th 9 AM–Noon, 1–5 PM

Tel 707-539-1611

6637 Oakmont Dr., Ste. A-1

E-mail: ale@oakmontvillage.com

Violations: dani@oakmontvillage.com

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BULLETIN BOARDS

There are three OVA bulletin boards, one at each recreation center, where OVA events can be posted. Please bring in notices to the Events Coordinator at the OVA Office. Size is limited to 8.5"x5.5". Items "For Sale", "For Rent" or "Want to Buy" can be put on a 3"x5" card and left at the OVA Office.

LOCKER RENTALS

Annual Locker Fee \$30 (January 1–December 31). If you wish to rent a locker, come to the OVA office and give us a check, your information and the number of the locker you want to rent. You provide the lock. We can prorate the annual fee. Daily use lockers are free. NOTICE: Weekly locker inspections are done by OVA Maintenance. Locks could be sawed off with no prior notice and locker contents removed on all unpaid lockers. Items will be held in OVA Maintenance office for 30 days. If you have any questions, please contact the OVA Office M-F 707-539-1611

GUEST PASSES

The following are OVA Guest Pass types and duration: 1) Guest from outside Sonoma County—up to 90 days; 2) House sitters—up to 90 days (OVA host must present written request to OVA Office for approval prior to visit); 3) Guests living in Sonoma County—2 days per card, and no more than 3 cards per month. Guest cards are available during regular hours in the OVA Office for a \$25 non-refundable fee. Guests accompanied by their Oakmont host are not required to have a Guest Pass.

STREET CLEANING

City streets in Oakmont are cleaned by the city early on the fourth Friday of each month. Residents who want their streets swept should avoid street parking overnight on those days.

NEED A RIDE? GIVE A RIDE! OAKMONT VOLUNTEER HELPERS

We provide the following services to Oakmont Residents:

- Transportation to medical/dental appointments in Santa Rosa only
- Meals on Wheels, 707-525-0383

COORDINATOR Rides to Medical Appointments

January 16–31
Ron Kaufman 707-541-6713

February 1–15
Jen Rabalais 808 938-4479

If you would like to be a volunteer, please call 707-539-8996.

Donations to Oakmont Volunteer Helpers are appreciated and tax deductible. Mail your check payable to Oakmont Volunteer Helpers, 6637 Oakmont Dr., Ste. A, Santa Rosa, CA 95409. Thank you.

Mon.–Fri. medical rides before 9 AM or after 4 PM are subject to limited volunteer driver availability. No service on weekends or holidays. Please call at least three full working days prior to appointment.
We regret that we are unable to provide either wheelchair or emergency service.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR WRITER GUIDELINES

The *Oakmont News* welcomes letters of up to 250 words from residents to express opinion, criticism or praise. They must include the writer's name and Oakmont address, although the address won't be published. See details on how to send them at <https://oakmontvillage.com/submit>. While letters to the editor may be edited for length and spelling, they are not edited for accuracy. Opinions are that of the writer and not necessarily the Oakmont Village Association.

POOLS & JACUZZIS

Access to OVA pools is by magnetic card. Call OVA Office, 707-539-1611 if you need a permanent new member pool access card or to register for a temporary guest pool access card.

WEST: 7 AM–9 PM

(Closes 7 PM Wednesdays for cleaning)

EAST: 6:30 AM–9 PM

(Closes 7 PM Mondays for cleaning)

CENTRAL: 5:45 AM–9 PM

(Closes 7 PM Tuesdays for cleaning)

JACUZZI HOURS: Same as facility. No one under 18 years in West and East pools and Jacuzzis.

CENTRAL POOL HOURS FOR PEOPLE UNDER 18:

Labor Day–Memorial Day: 11 AM–2 PM daily

Memorial Day–Labor Day: 12–4 PM daily

Children must be accompanied by an OVA member/resident or adult with a valid guest pool access card.

NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY AT ANY OVA POOL.

ALL FACILITIES CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY.

STORAGE UNITS AND PARKING

Oak Creek RV & Self Storage
SP176, www.storagepro.com
707-913-7326

LIBRARY

Central Activity Center, 310 White Oak Dr.
Hours: Daily 6 AM–9 PM. Closed Christmas Day. It is run by volunteers. All donations are gladly accepted. Materials we cannot use will be passed on to others.

OAKMONT COMMUNITY GARDEN ON STONEBRIDGE

For more info on signing up, email
Oakmontcommunitygarden@gmail.com.
Contact for current availability.

HAPPY TAILS DOG PARK

6302 Stone Bridge Rd
Open to residents of Oakmont Village Association from sunrise to sunset. Small Dog Hours are from 3–4 p.m. on Sundays and Wednesdays.

FITNESS CENTER

Central Activity Center, 310 White Oak Dr.
Daily 5:45 AM–9 PM. Closed at 7 PM on Tues. for cleaning. Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas day.

BE ON OVA E-MAIL LIST

Know what's going on in Oakmont. You'll receive the weekly "Inside Oakmont" newsletter, Board Meeting notices and agendas, special notices and meeting announcements. To join the OVA's e-mail list, visit oakmontvillage.com/inside and enter your information to subscribe.

2023–2024 OVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Elke Strunka, Treasurer
(Non-voting officer)
elke@oakmontvillage.com

GENERAL MANAGER
Christel Antone
christel@oakmontvillage.com

OVA BOARD MEETINGS

Townhalls 1st Tuesdays of the month
and board meetings 3rd Tuesdays
of the month, 1 PM

Always online via Zoom and in-person when possible. All residents are welcome. Information to join online is e-blasted out to the community for every meeting along with the in-person location when applicable. Sign up for e-blasts from OVA at oakmontvillage.com/inside.

The Board of Directors of Oakmont Village Association reserves the right to select those articles submitted for publication that seem appropriate to the purpose of this association.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL OFFICIALS

County Supervisor Susan Gorin
District 1

Phone 707-565-2241

Address: 575 Administration Drive,

Rm. 100A, Santa Rosa 95403

Email: Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org

City Councilwoman Dianna MacDonald
District 3

Email: dmacdonald@srcity.org

Address: City Hall, 100 Santa Rosa Ave.,
Rm. 10, Santa Rosa 95404

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE IN OAKMONT

- CityBus #16 bus takes residents to 5 different shopping centers weekday mornings and around Oakmont afternoons.
- Sonoma County Transit #30 bus goes to Memorial and Kaiser Hospitals and downtown Santa Rosa. Returns via Oakmont to Sonoma.
- Schedules available at OVA office.

Oakmont Birders

■Barbara Kendrick

SAME BIRDS, NEW NAMES

In a move that created a flutter in the birding world, the American Ornithological Society (AOS) has decided to change the names of nearly 80 species of North American birds that are named eponymously—that is, after people. The AOS’s reasoning is that some of these namesakes participated in what are now understood to be racist or other hurtful activities, and rather than having to evaluate the conduct of each person, it was better to simply change all the names.

Renaming is, according to the AOS press release, “an effort to address past wrongs and engage far more people in the enjoyment, protection, and study of birds.” The changes will take place over several years, and for some time there will be an overlapping use of names as bird watchers get used to it all.

The AOS will make the final choices but is enlisting suggestions from the birding community for appropriate names for the



The Black and Blue Jay? (Photo courtesy of Tom Grey)

Bewick’s Wren, Cooper’s Hawk, Hutton’s Vireo, Lawrence’s Goldfinch, Nuttall’s Woodpecker, Say’s Phoebe, Steller’s Jay, Townsend’s Warbler, and both Allen’s and Anna’s Hummingbirds, to mention a few of the eponyms found in Sonoma County.

The birds’ scientific names, in Latin, will not be altered. Thus, the common name of the uncommonly lovely green-and-rosy-hued Lewis’s Woodpecker, named after Merriwether Lewis, will change, but the science will still know it as *Melanerpes lewis*.

Ideally, changing the common names will also result in them being more descriptive, making it easier for bird watchers to remember these birds. Suggestions can focus on appearance, habitat, or behavior—such as the Tiny Terror Hummingbird for the feisty little Anna’s.

Have a question about birds? Need an ID for a visitor to your yard? Want a “Birds Seen in Oakmont” checklist? Send an e-mail to bkendrick@jps.net.



The Bandito Warbler? (Photo courtesy of Tom Grey)

Oakmont Dancing Divas

■Anne Marie Siu Yuan

CELEBRATION OF WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH—A SONG AND DANCE REVUE

Every year, March is designated as Women’s History Month—a month dedicated to honoring women’s contributions in US history. To celebrate, attend a free community event in the Berger on Saturday, March 16, at 3 p.m., featuring performances by The Oakmont Silver Liners, The Redwood Country Cloggers, The Coaches Corner Line Dancers, The Oakmont Dancing Divas and more.

The origins of Women’s History Month date back

to 1978 in Santa Rosa when the Education Task Force of The Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women planned a “Women’s History Week.”

In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 2–8, 1980, as National Women’s History Week.

In 1987, after being petitioned by the National Women’s History Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to honoring and preserving women’s history, Congress proclaimed March 1987 as “Women’s History Month.”

Playreaders



■D. Hall

AUDIENCES FLOCK TO MONDAY READINGS

Broadway should be so fortunate! Oakmont Playreaders are now turning away potential audience members due to full houses. Hint: get there early.

Marcel Coder just completed her staging of *Shallow End*, by Wendy MacLeod combined with *Post-Its*, by Dooley and Holtzman.

Looking forward, Sarah Shankman presents *Check, Please*, by Jonathan Rand on Feb. 5. It’s a riotous series of scenes between couples where four readers play multiple characters. The cast includes Shankman, Marcel Coder, John Dolan, and D. Hall.

On Feb. 12, Star Power presents *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*, by Nora Ephron and her sister Delia. It’s about clothes we wore and the memories they invoke as we inventory our closets. Again, multiple readers play several roles against a backdrop called the *Clothesline*. Performing are Sandy White, Jackie Kokemor, Rebecca Kokemor, Linda Emlen, Yvonne Horn and Kathy Johnson. Power narrates.

Join us the first two Mondays of every month at 2 p.m. in Room B of the Central Activities Center.



*Playreaders welcomed the new year on January 8 with the whimsical **Complaint Department** and **Lemonade** by Kamron Klitgaard, a whirlwind of madcap grievances from excessive Oreo filling to the price of cheese. Readers were Dennis Hall, Marcel Coder, Star Power and Jeff Sheff. (Photo by John Dolan)*

Lifelong Learning



■Marlena Tremont

TWO CLASSES AND A CONCERT SLATED FOR FEBRUARY

US MAP WORKSHOP STITCHING MEMORIES

Instructor: Robert Mahar

Mondays, Feb. 5–19, 3-week session

Cost \$70 plus \$20 Supplies

Class Size Limited to 24. Online registration only!
No walk-ins.



This class embraces a community storytelling spirit while stitching memories on a vintage US map. What are the places you’ve called home? Places you’ve traveled? Share your memories. All supplies provided. Course includes

basic stitches for beginners. Seasoned stitchers apply longstanding skills to this uniquely personal creation.

Robert Mahar, artist and past associate producer of NBC’s *Making It*, currently teaches historical craft traditions across the US. He spent 13 years as a contemporary art appraiser.

ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS AND GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Instructor: Angela Nardo-Morgan

Thursdays, Feb. 22–Mar. 14, 3–5 p.m., East Rec.

4-week session. Cost: \$65

Explore the urgency of climate change and the moral imperative it poses to humanity through discussions of our responsibility to wild species and ecosystems and to present and future generations of humans dependent on critical ecological systems. What are the



biggest environmental challenges and can we make a difference?

Angela Nardo-Morgan is a Councilmember of the North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council and Director of Philanthropy and Development for Marine Conservation Institute.

This class is available in person, on Zoom or as a recorded session to watch at your leisure. Purchase multiple classes for the same person at the same time and save 25% off the total!

SONOMUSETTE: SONGS FROM THE ROMANTIC CITY OF PARIS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 7 PM BERGER CENTER, TICKETS \$25



Table seating. Tables of 8 available. Complimentary chocolates provided for each table.

Formed in 2016 by Robert Lunceford, accordionist, SonoMusette has become the darling of all who celebrate the spirit and tradition of a 1900s French sidewalk cafe.

Should you feel that Lunceford plucked his merry band of music makers straight off of the streets of Paris, you wouldn’t be far off the mark. Mimi Pirard, soloist lived as a child in France and sings fluently in her father’s native tongue.

Pirard’s and Lunceford’s collaboration pairs decades of musical experience with a passion for bringing French Chanson to the ‘moderne’ era. What better way to revive the great performances of Edith Piaf, Jacques Brel, Charles Trenet and Django Reinhardt?

Spanning the 1930’s to the 1960’s SonoMusette’s audiences may enjoy once again enchanting hours on the streets of Paris captivated by the beat of violin, piano, accordion and drum. Recent performances include diverse bay area venues such as Sweetwater Music Hall in Mill Valley, City Lights Theater in San Jose, and The Freight & Salvage in Berkeley. Sonoma County residents have enjoyed Pirard and her troop at Bricoleur Vineyards in Windsor, New Cotati Cabaret, Cloverdale Performing Arts Center, and the historic Sebastiani Theatre in Sonoma.

To register for the Environmental Class or the SonoMusette concert, go to OakmontLL.org, fill out a form in the OLL folder in the OVA office or register at the door. Registration for the Stitching class is online only.

Experience the spirit and tradition of a 1900s French sidewalk cafe. Allow the charms of Parisian icons Edith Piaf, Charles Aznavour and Jacques Brel to invite you to into an intimate city of romance.

Three ways to register for the Environment Class or the SonoMusette concert: 1. Go to OakmontLL.org; 2. Fill out a form in the OLL folder in the OVA office; 3. Pay at the door.



Marketing your home:

- Discover pricing your home correctly
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As an Oakmont resident, I will be there for you throughout the entire process.

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Allan Bolchazy

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