

# OAKMONT NEWS

Oakmont's Semimonthly Newspaper

[www.oakmontvillage.com/news](http://www.oakmontvillage.com/news)

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## Vets Day Celebration



WWII Vets Wendel Freeman (a young 102 and still wearing his uniform!) and Bob Anderson enjoy the Veterans Day event at the Berger Center on Nov. 11. See Vets Club article on pg 6. (Photos by Julie Kiil.)

## Prospective OVA Board Member Information Session

■OVA Board

Are you interested in serving on the Oakmont Village Board of Directors? How do you run for a board seat, what being on the board entails, what you need to know, how much time needs to be devoted to board work? We have planned an introductory Prospective Board Director seminar to answer these and other questions.

The planned session includes personal preparation, how to run for a board seat, time commitment, OVA governing documents, understanding legal aspects, sub-HOAs, as well as financial and insurance matters. As meetings are conducted formally, an introduction to Roberts Rules will be presented.

This introductory session will provide time for questions and answers. If there is interest, in-depth follow-up sessions on topics of interest may be scheduled.

Mark your calendars for Monday, January 20, 10 a.m. to noon in the East Rec Center for this event.

For additional information please contact [askova@oakmontvillage.com](mailto:askova@oakmontvillage.com).

## Oakmonters Roll Up Sleeves—Again

■News Staff

October 29 marked the last vaccine clinic at the Berger for 2024, administering more than 1400 Covid-19, flu, RSV and pneumonia shots during three fall sessions.

“Residents here have paid attention to the need to keep vaccinations up to date to lower their risk of severe outcomes from Covid,” said Susan Chauncy who organizes Oakmont’s vaccines clinics. “Our partnership with Safeway Pharmacies has allowed us to do that in a convenient setting that reaches more than 400 of us each time we set up shop.”

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently recommended those over 65 receive a second dose of the 2024-25 Covid-19 vaccine formulation six months after their first dose. Chauncy said plans are being made now to set up Berger clinics in early spring.

The Oakmont clinics have administered 2200 to 2500 vaccines annually since the Covid-19 shots became available.

## Marzak Appointed To Board

■Jackie Ryan

The OVA Board of Directors appointed a new member to fill the unexpired term of David Dearden, who resigned his position for health reasons. In a split 4-3 secret ballot vote, Jess Marzak, a former director and board president, was selected. Three votes went to Josh Axelrod, who ran for a seat during the 2024 election. Other members interested in the appointment were Alan Silo, John DeGroot, Carl Turner, Tom Mosby and Neill Ray.

Heidi Klyn, OVA president, thanked the candidates for their willingness to serve and urged them to run for election in 2025, when four positions on the board will be vacated. Steve Spillman, who is currently secretary, was also named board vice president, replacing Dearden in that position. Marzak, who was not present, was named secretary, pending his acceptance of the position.

See **BOARD** on page 5

## Oakmont to Celebrate Winter Wonderland on the Plaza

■OVA Staff

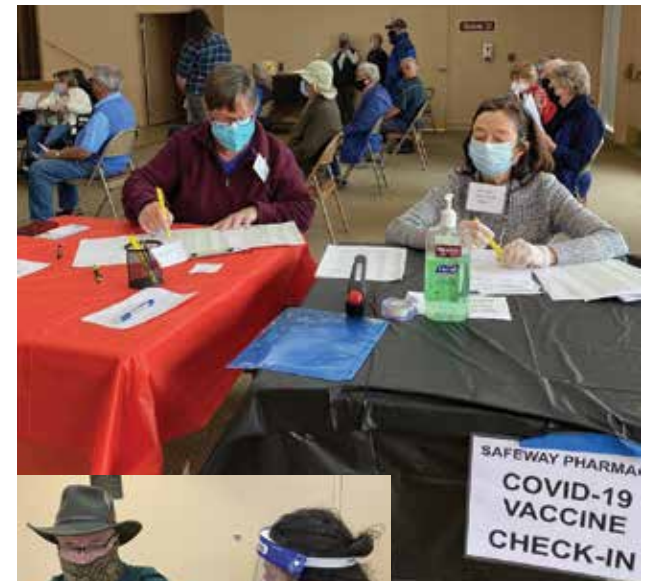
This holiday season, our plaza area outside the Berger Center will be transformed into an enchanting display of holiday trees for the inaugural Winter Wonderland on the Plaza, an event made possible through the generous sponsorships of our community’s clubs and groups.

On Wednesday, December 4, Oakmont residents are invited to the official lighting of the trees, beginning at 5 p.m. This moment will mark the start of our Winter Wonderland, filling the plaza with warmth and cheer as we light up the night together.

To continue the celebration, we will gather again on Friday, December 20 from 4–6 p.m. for a community celebration featuring holiday cookies, hot cocoa, and cheerful caroling led by the Ukesters Club.

Our Jewish Interest Group will also host a special Menorah lighting ceremony at the beginning of Hanukkah, adding to the celebration of cultural traditions within our community. Look for announcements in *Inside Oakmont* and the next issue of *Oakmont News* for exact dates and times.

We hope these events bring you joy and a festive sense of community as we celebrate this holiday season together. Make sure to stroll through the plaza starting Dec. 5 to see each decorated tree and to experience Oakmont’s Winter Wonderland firsthand. Happy Holidays from the OVA!



Oakmont’s onsite vaccine clinics started in 2021 with the release of the first Covid-19 vaccines. Since then, almost 2500 shots have been administered annually here. (Photos by Heidi Klyn)

## Fall Colors in Oakmont



The fall colors are in full effect on the streets of Oakmont. These vibrant trees were spotted on Pythian. (Photo by Julie Kiil)

## Thanksgiving Holiday Hours

■OVA Staff

The OVA Staff is thankful to be able to work with such wonderful people in a great community and would like to wish you all a very happy Thanksgiving. Please refer to the list below for holiday hours for the OVA office and facilities:

Office Holiday Closures: Nov. 28 and 29, Thursday and Friday closed for Thanksgiving.

Facility Holiday Hours and Closures:

- Thursday, Nov. 28—Thanksgiving. All facilities closed.
- Friday, Nov. 29—Open regular times, closing at 5 p.m. including all pools and spas.



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## LRPC Seeks to Fill Vacancies

■Rex Fuller, LRPC Chair

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) is looking for new members to fill vacancies. As a member of the LRPC you can help shape the future of our community. The LRPC charter states:

“The committee’s primary purposes are: (1) to advise the OVA Board of Directors and (2) to research and prepare recommendations that will assist the OVA Manager and the OVA Board of Directors in meeting the Association’s facility and staffing needs. The committee focuses on a rolling 10-year period with emphasis on the next 5 years.”

The purview of the committee includes facility utilization, long range planning, and consideration of major upgrades, or new construction.

Responsibilities:

- Attend monthly meetings and contribute to discussions.
- Provide input on community projects and future goals.

Ideal Candidates:

- Have interest or experience in planning, development, or community leadership.
- Can collaborate and think strategically about long-term needs.

If you are interested, please submit a brief statement of interest and brief résumé, including relevant experience, by noon on December 2, to askOVA@oakmontvillage.com.

## Be a Part of our Community Directory

■News Staff

Did you know Oakmont has an electronic directory on the OVA website? Located at oakmontvillage.com/directory, this member resource is a way for residents to locate contact information on neighbors and friends. The directory also allows new residents to be added and existing members to update their listings as needed, allowing contact information to be up to date.

To be listed, members need only log onto the OVA website at www.oakmontvillage.com and go to “Members” on the far right of the home page toolbar. Then click on Community Directory and follow the prompts to add your information. Members also may complete their entries on paper at the OVA office.

Besides being current, the directory is secure because it’s only available with a member password.

If you are not in the directory, please visit oakmontvillage.com/directory and follow the steps to add your listing. If there have been changes to your contact information, please update your listing to include the correct information.

Please note, this directory is solely for personal use and is not to be used for solicitation.

## OVA Employee Appreciation Fund

As the seasons change and the holidays approach, many of our members have asked, “What can we do to recognize the work of the OVA staff?” In 2016, the OVA Board approved the Employee Appreciation Fund to recognize the non-management team with a special thank-you in the form of a holiday bonus gift.

Donations will be distributed at year-end. Members

who wish to donate may contribute via check by Dec. 13 to the OVA Office at 6637 Oakmont Drive, Suite A.

Please make checks payable to OVA, and on the memo line, please write “EMP APP Fund” (OVA Employee Appreciation Fund).

The team at the OVA office is fortunate to work with the wonderful residents who make our job so enjoyable.



■Khiana Schmuhl, Valley of the Moon Club General Manager

We’d like to extend a friendly reminder to refrain from fishing on any of the golf course ponds due to safety concerns. We’d also like to remind everyone to follow the golf course walking hours located on our website at playvom.com.

Here is what you can look forward to at OAK restaurant and Valley of the Moon Golf Club.

### GOLF DEPARTMENT

Give the Gift of Golf this Holiday season and purchase a lesson package with one of our certified golf professionals: 3–45-minute Golf Lesson Package for \$200 (\$70 Savings). Promotion will be valid starting November 1–January 15. All lessons must be redeemed by March 31, 2025.

To take advantage of this great promotion please email or call one of our instructors below: James Perkins, PGA, jperkins@playvom.com, (707) 539-0415 extension 3; Khiana Schmuhl, LPGA, kschmuhl@playvom.com, (707) 539-0415 extension 4.

### GOLF SHOP 12 DAYS OF SALES

- December 13: 20% off all shoes
- December 14: 20% off all headwear
- December 15: 10% off all accessories
- December 16: 20% off all golf bags
- December 17: \$100 range Cards
- December 18: 20% off ladies’ apparel
- December 19: 20% off men’s apparel
- December 20: 20% all distance measuring devices
- December 21: 10% off golf balls
- December 22: 2 For \$99 GN polos
- December 23: 2 for \$40 headwear
- December 24: \$40 sale rack

### GOLF ON CHRISTMAS DAY

This is not a tournament but a fun way to play with friends and family. Check-in starts at 10 a.m. and golf carts must be in by 3:30 p.m. 11 a.m. shotgun start at Valley of the Moon Club. \$50 per player includes green fee, shared cart and small bucket of range balls.

Please call the golf shop at (707) 539-0415 to sign up.

### CHRISTMAS DAY HOURS

Driving Range will be open on Christmas Day from 9 a.m.–2 p.m. (last bucket sold 1:30 p.m.). Sugarloaf Golf Shop will be closed Christmas Day. Valley of the Moon Golf Shop will be open from 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

### 2025 GOLF MEMBERSHIPS

Membership pricing is available for 2025. Please visit our website at www.playvom.com for pricing

and membership information or swing by the golf shop to sign up for annual memberships. Annual 2024-member appreciation party and membership renewal party will be held on December 6 from 3–5 p.m. at OAK.

### OAK CHRISTMAS BRUNCH MENU

Prime Rib Carving Station with au jus and creamy horseradish; Salmon with Pomegranate Beurre Blanc; Smoked Salmon and Lox Platter with sliced tomato, sliced red onion, whipped cream cheese, bagels and capers; Potato Gratin; Brioche Puffs; Diced Fruit Salad; Roasted Beet Salad; Pomegranate Salad—Delicata Squash, Sliced Red Onions, Candied Walnuts, Mandarins, Spring Mix Honey Dijon Vinaigrette; Roasted Seasonal Root Vegetables; Scrambled Eggs with Herbs. Assorted Desserts.

Call (707) 539-0415 ext. 5 to book your reservations today!

### THURSDAY NIGHT SPECIALS

Thursday, December 5: Steak Night—10 oz grilled New York Strip, baked potato with butter and sour cream, roasted baby carrots, mushroom demi glaze, \$35 (make it a loaded baked potato—add \$3).

Thursday, December 12: Pork Chop—Seared pork chop, mashed potatoes, grilled broccolini, sweet apple chutney sauce, \$27

Thursday December 19: Seafood Cioppino—local fish stew with tomato broth, fresh herbs with grilled bread, \$24.

### TACO TUESDAYS EVERY TUESDAY AT OAK

\$3 tacos with drink purchase.

### COMING SOON NEW MENU AT OAK

Stay tuned for updates.

### LIVE MUSIC MONDAYS

Monday, December 2: No music

Monday, December 9: Hwy 12 Band

Monday, December 16: Karaoke and Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest

Monday, December 23: Second Street Band

All music Mondays 5–7 p.m., cash cover charge \$8 at the door.

### CHRISTMAS KARAOKE AND UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER CONTEST

December 16, starts at 5 p.m. Cash cover charge \$8 at the door. Reservations can be made at OAK by calling (707) 539-0415 ex. 5 or in person at the bar.

## 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.



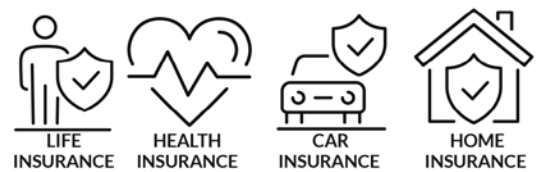
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## Music at Oakmont



■Vickie Horowitz and Judy Walker

### OUR LAST CONCERT OF 2024

For our December concert, we are thrilled to welcome back to Oakmont our favorite piano duo. It's been a while since Ann Louise-Turgeon and her husband Edward have performed on our stage and we anticipate another great concert of piano music for solo and duet works. So, all you 20 fingers aficionados—this concert's for you!



This accomplished Canadian pair, both graduates of Toronto and Yale Universities, has captivated audiences worldwide. Duo Turgeon has performed together since 1988, earning top honors, at the International Schubert Competition and the Murray Dranoff International Two-Piano Competition. Their collaboration results in

performances that blend technical brilliance with a charming stage presence.

For this concert, Duo Turgeon will explore a rich selection of pieces, from Schubert's lively "Marche Caractéristique" to Brahms' introspective "Variations on a Theme by Robert Schumann." The first half also includes Dvořák's spirited "Slavonic Dances," evoking the folk traditions of Eastern Europe.

After a brief intermission, the program continues with Gershwin's rhythmic "Cuban Overture," Ann Louise-Turgeon's own evocative piece "Winter at Gros Cap," and selections from Gavrilin's "Sketches." The concert concludes with Lecuona's vibrant "Malagueña," steeped in Spanish dance traditions.

This program promises to delight and inspire, showcasing an emotional range from playful to profound.

Please note, this concert is the first Saturday afternoon concert we have ever presented. We really hope this time will make it more attractive for those of you who work or have other obligations during the week. To celebrate the holiday season, plus our founder, Bob Hayden's 103rd birthday, we are planning a simple reception after the concert. So, please join us for a really enjoyable Saturday afternoon.

WHEN: Saturday, December 14 at 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: Berger Center

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

## Jazz Club



■Michael James

### A HOLIDAY DANCE PARTY!

Back by popular demand is the New Horizon's Swing Band! The Jazz Club had the pleasure of having this 20-piece swing band perform in August with the admission price of only \$10 per ticket. There is no better time than the holidays to have this band back for a dance party, so dust off your dance shoes, practice your favorite dance moves and join the party!

If you choose not to dance, you still can enjoy sitting cabaret-style with friends, and you are welcome to bring food and beverages to share. You may also reserve a table for six!

Get your tickets early, make your check out to Michael James Music and place it in the Jazz Club file at the OVA office, or contact me at (559) 707-2750.

P.S. There will be some gifts under the Christmas tree for a few lucky ticket holders.

WHEN: Wednesday, December 4, 2-4 p.m.

WHERE: East Recreation Center

COST: \$10 per ticket

CONTACT: Michael James, (559) 707-2750

## Current Events



■Tina Lewis

This is a very important year to discuss current events! Please join us every Friday from 1-2:30 p.m. at the East Rec. All sides of issues, from local to international, are encouraged. Come in person if you can, on Zoom if you can't.

Following the meeting join us at OAK for Happy Hour. This has become very popular, giving everyone a chance to socialize, unwind, and have something to eat and drink.

Note that there will be no meeting the day after Thanksgiving, Friday, November 29.

If you want to be put on the mailing list, including Zoom, email [tinalewis31@comcast.net](mailto:tinalewis31@comcast.net) or call (707) 758-9739

## Star of the Valley Catholic Church

■Barbara Gasparini

### STAR OF THE VALLEY CELEBRATES ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

All are invited to start the Christmas season with an inspiring Advent prayer service on Wednesday, Dec. 4. Our speakers will be Sister Joann Heinritz, a sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet, and our own parishioner, Marcy Fox. The event is sponsored by Star of the Valley Women's Circle.

Sister Joann has been a spiritual director, retreat director and instructor at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkely for over 20 years. Sister Joann also conducts parish missions throughout the United States and has been a retreat director in Ireland every summer for over 15 years.

Marcy Fox is a member of Star of the Valley Parish and has presented a series of lectures on the world's religions and led meditations and discussions for the Oakmont community. She has authored several educational workbooks and journals and led professional workshops throughout the United States and Ireland.

We are so fortunate to have Sister Joann and Marcy Fox lead our Advent Prayer service. Sister and Marcy will focus on the theme of "Choose Joy" for the prayer service.

We will then continue to celebrate Christmas at our Parish Center with an old-fashioned Christmas Carol sing-along and Christmas cookies with apple cider. Please bring the family, friends and neighbors.

WHEN: Wednesday, December 4

TIME: 3-5 p.m.

WHERE: The Advent prayer service will start in our church from 3-4 p.m., followed by a Christmas celebration in the Parish center from 4-5.

### STAR OF THE VALLEY CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIRE

Need Christmas gifts? You are sure to find lots of unique and creative items for special friends and relatives at the Star of the Valley Christmas Holiday Craft Faire.

WHEN: Saturday December 7, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

WHERE: Monsignor Fahey Parish Center at Star of the Valley Parish, 545 White Oak Drive (Oakmont)

A variety of local vendors will offer items perfect for holiday gifting. Raffle items will also be available. Come, explore, shop and get your holiday spirit started!



## Governing Document Committee Seeking New Members

■Steve Spillman, Governing Documents Chair

OVA's Governing Document Committee ("GDC") is seeking members who are passionate about shaping the future of our community. The GDC plays a vital role in reviewing and recommending updates to OVA's governing documents that will guide our community's policies and governance.

Committee members:

- Collaborate monthly with fellow GDC members to help assure OVA's governing documents are in regulatory compliance and meet the aspirations, wants and needs of current and future association members.

- Engage community members in a variety of forums to help understand their goals and concerns.

- Work with OVA's Board, General Manager and professional advisors to effectively address GDC's Charter.

- Share insights, offer suggestions, discuss alternatives and formulate solutions for the Board's approval.

We're looking for candidates who:

- Are open-minded and optimistic team players who eagerly consider diverse perspectives.

- Enjoy tackling challenges with integrity, civility and enthusiasm.

- Have a willingness to acquire new knowledge.

- Appreciate residents' varying aspiration, attitudes, wants and needs.

- Are organized and want to fully participate in creative and analytical approaches to problem solving.

- Can help embrace pragmatic compromises for Oakmont's long-term, sustainable benefits.

- Have experience with or an interest in strategic planning, policy creation or community governance.

If you're interested in joining a group of dedicated residents who are making a significant and positive difference to Oakmont's current and long-term interests, please submit a: 1. Brief letter explaining your interest in joining the Governing Documents Committee; 2. Short bio highlighting your relevant experience.

Please send your letter of interest and bio by December 2 to [askOVA@oakmontvillage.com](mailto:askOVA@oakmontvillage.com).

Thanks for considering how you can join in this important endeavor.



■Carolita Carr

### ANNUAL MEMBERS-ONLY HOLIDAY PARTY

WHEN: Friday, December 13

TIME: 5:30-doors open, 6 p.m. dinner

Yes, it's that time again, time for our member appreciation evening. We do this every year at the holiday season to thank our membership for their enthusiastic support for and continual attendance at our events throughout the year.

What a great group you are! It is also a chance for our members to mix and mingle, maybe meet new friends and reconnect with those we have met before. There will be no assigned seating. Please register for this event on our website, [oakmontboomers.org](http://oakmontboomers.org),

We will begin with appetizers and progress to a delicious buffet dinner with pork loin with fruit glaze, and turkey with all the trimmings. All you need to do (besides being a member, and registering) is bring the beverage of your choice.

We won't be doing ugly sweaters this year, but rest assured, we have something else up our sleeves for a bit of entertainment.

So, to repeat, this is free to members, and open to members only, so join Boomers to take advantage of this event and many more to come in the new year. See our website ([oakmontboomers.org](http://oakmontboomers.org)) for more information.

**BOARD** Continued from page 1

In other business, Tom Kendrick, board treasurer, said it appears the organization will finish the year with about \$300,000 in surplus, which will roll into the reserves, and the asset replacement fund is on target to be at \$5 million. The capital improvement fund, which is mainly debt service, is at \$140,000. He highlighted areas of the budget contributing to the fiscal outcomes, including administrative and payroll costs that are both under budget, mostly, he said, "thanks to Christel (Antone)" who was able to get insurance for a lower price than last year and well below the projected budget. Above the projected budget are some custodial, ground and recreation projects due to "catch-up work" and problems in the central and other pools. Kendrick also anticipates changes to the reserve study.

The issue of how the reserve study impacts finances also drew director comments, with Director Matt Oliver saying there was a need to bring clarity for the community around questions about the reserve study and deferred maintenance practices. Oliver said deferring maintenance doesn't mean neglect. "In the context of the reserve study it means that activities or items that need attention in the future without a specific timeline can occur at a later date," he said. He cited the example of a 2025 large landscape projects that can be shifted to 2026, or the assessment of a facility appliance listed for replacement can be delayed because it is still in good condition and "not financially prudent" to replace it until necessary.

In line with community fiscal communications, Oliver also updated the status of the Central Complex master planning following a vote in September to explore Plan Number 3. "There are many actions to consider to determine what actions might take place," said Oliver. "We are now in a position where can start taking the information and the (community) comments and begin to establish what the options may cost. That's our starting line today, and I know people are complaining out there, ... and now we are trying to figure out what the cost implications may be."

Director Olga Ydrogo said a key takeaway from feedback the board solicited was that "people needed costs." But the decision was only to get cost models and not to do or follow any of the proposals right now, she said, and the board understands how critical cost information is to the community. Once the information is available from a vendor, it will be shared.

**Oakmont Music Lovers**

■Judy Walker

**ANNOUNCING OUR DECEMBER 2024 SESSION**

Per some previous discussions and messages, our December session will take place with a new format. For now, our sessions going forward will be simple and informal using the following ideas:

- Audio presentations by 2-3 volunteers, utilizing a few CD tracks of their own choice and discussing why they chose that particular music.
- Live performances of mainly classical music by volunteer participants and discussion of the music afterwards.

This format will allow us to get away from the complexities of utilizing the East Rec. audio-visual equipment and will hopefully result in a more convivial setting for the current attendance level.

For this upcoming session, Carolyn Butler will share some early music (Renaissance/Baroque) and talk about the primary features of this musical period. Time permitting, Marc Helfmann and Judy Walker will also play some favorite audio clips.

Will look forward to having you join us to test out this format and keep Oakmont Music Lovers alive.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, December 3 at 10:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** East Rec. **COST:** Free

**Oakmont Christmas Bird Count 2024**

■Carolyn Rich

Announcing the upcoming 125th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) which will take place on Sunday, December 15, when a small, but intrepid group of birdwatchers ("birders") will gather to survey bird species around Oakmont. Oakmont is one of 12 count groups in a 15-mile diameter around Santa Rosa, typical of each CBC effort around the globe. So, if you see people with binoculars in your neighborhood, know that we are just out counting birds!

Dawna and James Foreman, who have participated in CBC counts since 2005, will be leading again this year.

If you are a backyard birder your observations are welcome. If you are OK with us stopping by to observe the birds in your yard, deck or patio, or would like to report, email: [mojobird22@gmail.com](mailto:mojobird22@gmail.com).

Since the CBC in Oakmont has been going for about 15 years, many neighbors are aware of our efforts. Birding as a leisure activity began to take wing in the late 1800's. By 1900, the growing US ornithological community saw a dramatic decline in bird numbers from years of competitive holiday hunting events, and the gathering of feathers much coveted by milliners. So, they organized to count rather than kill birds from December 14 through January 5. Visit a website: <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/history-christmas-bird-count>.

Redwood Region Ornithological Society sponsors the CBC in Santa Rosa. The data helps assess the health of bird populations and guide conservation action. See [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org).

CBC Count Week is Thursday, December 12 through Wednesday, December 18. We can tally all species seen during that time including Owls you see or hear. Great Horned Owl and Western Screech Owl are common here.

For more info or to join in, email Dawna at [mojobird22@gmail.com](mailto:mojobird22@gmail.com).

Happy Holidays and good birding!



**Letter to the Editor**

On October 30 at 6:45 p.m., a black and white cattle dog named "Riley" suddenly burst through the side gate of my yard in Oakmont, chasing a male adolescent deer. The dog viciously mauled the deer in my front yard. I witnessed the deer crying out in agonizing pain as the dog tore into it, ripping open its side and intestines. My husband had to physically pull the dog away, its mouth covered in the deer's blood and entrails.

The severely injured deer lay helplessly on the ground, its hind legs broken and intestines spilling out. It bled profusely for over an hour, writhing in pain. We tried to comfort the dying animal, petting it and telling it that it was loved, as we waited for help to arrive.

Police came and shot the deer to put him out of his misery. Animal Control came and took the dog away.

Witnessing a defenseless deer mauled to death was a horrific experience that should never have occurred. Dog owners must take full responsibility to keep their pets leashed at all times in public. It is inhumane and unacceptable to allow a dog to attack another living creature.

Oakmont and the City of Santa Rosa both have clear leash requirements that must be respected and followed. Negligent pet owners who fail to control their animals need to be held accountable. Take responsibility for your pet—keep them leashed at all times in public to ensure the safety of our community and wildlife.

Janette Angus

**Oakmont Cat Care Coop**

■Mary Ellen King

**NEED CARE FOR KITTY WHILE YOU ARE AWAY?**



Join the Oakmont Cat Care Coop and share the care! For Oakmont residents only. Active participation for over 15 years.

For information and to get on the list contact me at (707) 849-1581.



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## Valley of the Moon Rotary Club



■Star Power

### THANKFULNESS

Thanksgiving is upon us already! A time for food, family, and being thankful.

To me, it's just being a part of Oakmont. It's beauty and friendships have been a huge part of my life and I'm so thankful. Also, for Valley of the Moon Rotary. This particular Rotary club is a bit different than the three others in Santa Rosa. We're the "mature" ones!

Most of us in this club are retired and want to give back to the world that has sustained us. Plus, we have the time to do these great things. We're still alive and active, so we find this a great outlet to not only give back, but to form new friendships.

The local Rotary and Kiwanis clubs put on a super patriotic Veteran's Luncheon on Nov. 7 at the fairgrounds. The Oakmont Village Market prepared sack lunches for the over 400 people, who enjoyed rousing march music from Elsie Allen High School's band that got our adrenaline pumping. We witnessed the 100-year-old Ted MoneyMaker present the salute to our flag and entertain us with his great sense of humor.

The emcee, Casey Williams, acknowledged each branch of the military present, but also which combat they were a part of. There was at least one soldier from WWII. We heard soprano Crystal McDougall-Purdy and guest speaker Captain Brett Crozier, USN (retired). A wonderful tribute to our local veterans.

VOM Rotary will be winding down the year 2024 with its last meeting on December 5 hosting Cal Fire staff as our speakers. This would be a great time to drop in and join us at the East Rec. Our meeting begins at 8 a.m. and runs about an hour, but we encourage folks to come a bit earlier to chat and snack.



## Oakmont Volunteer Helpers

■Matthew Zwerling

### AGING IN PLACE: A SUCCESSFUL FORUM

The Aging in Place group held a highly successful educational forum on Saturday October 12 attended by 65 Oakmont residents interested in learning more about the challenges of aging.

The talk on the emotional aspects of aging touched on grief and loss, on social isolation and on the uncertainties we face as we age. A second talk dealt with physical safety and care options: How do we remain safe in our homes and what resources are available for help? What are options for continuing care if we are unable to stay in our home and what are the costs? How do Medicare and MediCal work in our aging concerns?

A third talk focused on one's financial resources, the escalating costs of healthcare, having an estate plan and concerns for scams. Following each presentation table conversations were lively, helping to clarify some of the points and personalizing the concerns many feel.

The Aging in Place group's next forum, tentatively set for February 2025, will focus on social isolation and loneliness. Some in our community live alone, whether by choice or circumstance. Some have lost a partner, a family member or a best friend. Some no longer drive. Some have visual or hearing impairment which limits accessibility to activities. Whatever the reason, isolation has significant, negative health consequences, physical and psychologic/emotional.

Our goal is not to solve individual issues or concerns. We hope to explore strategies and resources for coping. Small table conversations provide an opportunity to learn how we might, as neighbors and community members, improve well-being and quality of life.



**OAKMONT**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH  
Loving Community, Supportive Fellowship

■Greg Fauss

### THANKSGIVING, REPORT FROM UKRAINE AND ADVENT WREATHS

The next few Sundays will be busy and we'd like to extend an invitation.

This Sunday, on November 24 at noon, in addition to our normal service, a potluck lunch and a presentation on the latest happenings in Europe and in Ukraine await you.

Our worship service will focus on nurturing gratitude and graciousness during the upcoming holidays in sometimes fractured families and communities.

On the following Sunday, December 1 from noon-1 p.m., we will celebrate First Advent by crafting our own advent wreaths together. Hot chocolate, coffee and cookies will keep us nourished.

Otherwise, our regular Sunday Worship Service is at 10:30 a.m. in the East Rec. Center. For information about our Wednesday Morning Bible Study, Saturday Prayer, monthly potlucks and other gatherings go to [www.occsantarosa.org](http://www.occsantarosa.org), write us at [occsantarosa@gmail.com](mailto:occsantarosa@gmail.com) or call at (707) 595-0166.

## 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. (no bowling fourth Tuesdays) to see us in action. We charge \$25 for a 10-week Tournament that includes the playoffs.

2 p.m. League: 10 teams, 4 bowlers per team. Each bowler bowls 3 games and has his/her own handicap (80%) and average. See [www.oakmontlanes.com](http://www.oakmontlanes.com) for club information, bowling dates, week results and team schedules to bring cookies and help setup at 1:15 p.m. and tear down equipment at 3:30 p.m.

No bowling Nov. 26 (fourth Tuesday).

**Playoff Championship:** Dec. 3, 2 p.m.—top 6 teams.

**Christmas Party:** Dec. 9, West Recreation. Hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 p.m., dinner 6-8:30 p.m.

### RESULTS AS OF NOV. 12 (WEEK #10 FALL LEAGUE)

2 p.m. League: first place tie, High Rollers and Pin Pushers; third place, Pocket Hits; fourth place, Alley Oops; fifth place, Strikers; sixth place tie, 4 Tops and King Pins; eighth place, Wii Four; ninth place, Phantom Strikers; tenth place, Ghosts.

Men's High Games: Don Shelhart, 259; Glenn Hewitt, 258; Rich Laden, 236; Gordon Freedman, 228; Mike Apicella, 220; Terry Leuthner, 215; Charlie Ensley, 200.

Women's High Games: Joanne Abrams, 269; Karen Palmiotti, 266; Diane Price, 259; Robin Schudel, 258; Vickie Jackanich, 234; Sandy Osheroff, 224; Donnarose Ilecki, 216; Felicia Laden, 211; Rhonda D'Agostini, 203; Lynda Rebsamen, 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.



## Oakmont Vets Club

■Paul Gowins

### A DAY TO REMEMBER: VETS DAY 2024

What a day we had in Oakmont! On the way to the Berger this morning, having sipped only half a ration of coffee and expecting to consume the rest of the quota with tasty donuts from our generous friends at McBride Realty, a wet and grey morning unfolded. While savoring the anticipation of waking slowly in a que to begin the Parade, it became slowly apparent to this groggy old vet that something else was afoot.

While driving along Oak Trail the wind began to gust ever stronger through the trees and drove the rain in torrents onto the windshield where the wipers barely kept pace. Then, turning onto White Oak one could see several of our blue pavilions blowing across the road toward Oakmont Gardens while frantic volunteers scrambled to recapture them and keep them from blowing into pieces.

By the time we parked and made our way to the welcome dryness of the Berger it was obvious that our Parade would not be happening today.

As more attendees arrived at the doors to hear the news of the cancellation, we all naturally filtered inside to the warm dryness to have our coffee and donuts and view the wonderful displays of the Hall of Honor and to gather in gaggles around the auditorium to talk and enjoy good company and await the eventual start of a most remarkable program on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, just as age-long tradition required.

The crowd grew steadily until the Berger was packed with happily congenial attendees and soon enough the program commenced with ceremonies, and music, and excellent remarks by our Chairman John GeGroot, and an exceptionally moving presentation by our guest speaker, Colonel Misty Zelk, MD.

Check out more of our event online at [oakmontvetsclub.org](http://oakmontvetsclub.org).



Colonel Misty Zelk.

## Café Mortel



■Linda Suhr

### CHOICE AT LIFE'S END—TERRAMATION AND END-OF-LIFE DOULA SUPPORT

Calling all who care about the environment and want to choose a greener option at life's end! Cafe Mortel is presenting a free event on Saturday, December 7, from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Upper West Rec Center, 6470 Meadowridge Drive and virtually on Zoom. Come learn about a natural process that transforms human remains into nutrient-rich soil. Also learn how end-of-life doulas provide holistic support and encourage a sense of agency for the dying.

Explore the evolving world of death care with an in-depth presentation on Terramation (Natural Organic Reduction or Body Composting) and end-of-life care choices and support by local experts, including representatives of Return Home and Sonoma County End of Life Doula Alliance. Local guest speakers Richelle Swarts and Alex White will share their family's personal experience with Terramation and working with EOL Doulas.

This free event is open to all Oakmonters, but seating is limited. Register early to secure your spot. Can't come in person? Attend virtually on Zoom. More information and reservations at <https://www.returnhome/events> and scroll down to the Oakmont event.

For questions email me at [linda@autumnoflifeplanning.com](mailto:linda@autumnoflifeplanning.com).



*McBride Realty wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!*



20 Meadowgreen Circle—Triplex A-Unit—\$659,000



223 Belhaven Court—Expanded Juniper—\$850,000



6273 Meadowstone Drive—Annadel—\$890,000



432 Hillsdale Drive—Expanded Pinewood



8907 Oakmont Drive—Birch



6350 Pine Valley Drive—Meadows Plan 4

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## 2024 Winter Warmth Coat Drive

November 11—December 20

**Drop-off Box at McBride Realty  
6520 Oakmont Drive (at the entrance to Oakmont)**

**Receive one raffle ticket for each coat you donate & enter to win a bottle of wine & a \$100 gift basket full of goodies for your holiday get-togethers. Drawing will be held December 18 at noon.**



*Please go through your closets & donate your extra coats to those in need. Ask your family & friends to help donate too!  
We will be collecting coats for men, women & children.*



## OVA Presents Tribute to Dionne Warwick with Jackie Gage

■OVA Staff

The OVA is happy to welcome Jackie Gage to the Berger Center on Thursday, January 30 when the Bay Area singer performs the music of Dionne Warwick. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for the 6 p.m. show. Tickets are \$30 and available at the OVA office.



Jackie Gage.

Hailing from San Francisco, Jackie Gage cut her musical teeth in the New York music scene, performing with luminary jazz artists like Theo Croker, Marc Cary, Kim Nalley, and many others.

For this performance, Jackie Gage will sing the top hits from Dionne's catalog, including favorites

like "Alfie," "Do You Know the Way to San Jose?" and "That's What Friends Are For," as well as some hidden gems you know and love.

Join us as we welcome Jackie Gage and celebrate Dionne Warwick's enduring legacy.

## Holiday Concert at Maria Carrillo High School

PRESS RELEASE

The Maria Carrillo High School Choral Department, under the direction of Gail Bowers, will be performing their Holiday Concert on December 12 and 13 at 7 p.m. at MCHS's Performing Arts Theater, 6975 Montecito Blvd., Santa Rosa.

There will be performances by their Bass Choir, Treble Choir, Chamber Singers and 2 Jazz Choirs. There will also be a performance by the handbells.

Tickets are \$11 and can be purchased at the door. There will be a raffle each night for fun prizes!

Come see these very talented students and get in the mood for the upcoming holiday season.

## Annual Turkey Drive Set for Nov. 23

■News Staff

Oakmont will hold the Eighth Annual Turkey Drive from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 23 in the Berger parking lot. Donations of frozen turkeys benefit the Redwood Gospel Mission's Great Thanksgiving Banquet, an annual feast held at the Fairgrounds.

Your donation of food or money can also help to provide food boxes to families in need. The drive marks the eighth year Oakmont has participated in this important community outreach.



Carol Pence, left, and Susan Chauncy, at last year's turkey drive. (Photo by Julie Kiil)

If you are unable to purchase a turkey, you may still make a donation during the hours of the drive. Please drop off a check made payable to the Redwood Gospel Mission or call drive organizer Susan Chauncy, (775) 313-7911, to make arrangements for check pick up.

## Great Decisions

■George McKinney

### JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS IN DISCUSSING GREAT DECISIONS IN FOREIGN POLICY

"Great Decisions" is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. It focuses on the most critical global issues facing America today. The program involves reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book and meeting in a discussion group with your Oakmont neighbors. There are 30-minute videos to supplement the Briefing Book.

Early 2025 will be an especially interesting and challenging time to discuss world affairs, in light of the upcoming U.S. election and the global search for resolutions of the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East. These topics are included in the 2025 discussions.

You don't need to be an international affairs expert to participate. Each of us brings a fascinating personal perspective from a lifetime of learning, experiencing, and traveling. Occasionally we have a neighbor with particular knowledge of the part of the world being discussed, and we all benefit from that.

Meetings for 2025 are 10 a.m.-12 noon on Monday mornings every other week from February through mid-May in the East Rec. Center. The eight topics for 2025 are:

- 1: American Foreign Policy at the Crossroads
  - 2: U.S. Changing Leadership of the World Economy
  - 3: U.S. China Relations
  - 4: International Cooperation on Climate Change
  - 5: The Future of NATO and European Security
  - 6: AI and American National Security
  - 7: India: Between China, the West, and the Global South
  - 8: After Gaza: American Policy in the Middle East
- The only cost to participate is \$30 for the Briefing Book. We purchase them in bulk and get a discount. The videos are free online. We look forward to having you with us discussing Great Decisions.
- For more information and to join a Great Decisions discussion group, contact me at oakmontgd@gmail.com for instructions where to send the check if you wish to participate.



Great Decisions 2025 Briefing Book (Foreign Policy Association).



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## Lawn Bowling



■Mary Blake

**INTERESTED IN LEARNING TO BOWL?**  
Email us at oakmontlawnbowling@gmail.com if you'd like lessons. They're free!

### TOURNAMENTS

We had a great turnout for our Halloween Bowl and Dinner. The only remaining tournament for 2024 is the Thanksgiving Tournament on Tuesday, November 26. Since most people spend Thanksgiving with friends or family, we'll celebrate two days early. Though I have it on good authority there won't be turkeys running around on the Green, there will be some interesting twists to the game.



Rob and Denise Lenahan on Halloween. (Photo by Linda Pickell)

### ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING

Our annual member meeting was Monday, November 11. We had a quorum and, with a show of hands, our slate of incumbents was approved: Directors—Steve Pickell and Jim Brewer; Treasurer—Tony Lachowicz, Secretary—Mary Blake. Terms are

two years each. Next year, we'll be voting for one Director, the President and Vice-President. The changes to the bylaws were also approved.

### CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE BERGER PATIO

A forest of decorated Christmas trees outside of the Berger is a new concept. OVA supplies the tree and electricity. The clubs supply the lights and ornaments. Not surprisingly, Target doesn't carry lawn bowling ornaments, so we had to make our own. Thanks to Pam Dempsey and Linda Pickell for the planning and prep work! We'll decorate our tree at 11 a.m. on December 4. Bowling afterwards.

We had a great turnout for our Christmas ornament painting party. Thanks to everyone who came. It was so much fun to see a different side of our lawn bowlers. We painted Styrofoam balls to look like bowls and filled clear ornaments with photos from 2024.



Our holiday tree with gift tags for foster children. (Photo by Linda Pickell)

## Oakmont Singles Social Club



■Bailey Penzotti and Priscilla Roslyn

### ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY AND WHITE ELEPHANT EXCHANGE

**DATE AND TIME:** Friday, December 20, 6 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** East Rec. Center

How much fun is it to bring in the festive season by having a Holiday Mixer, live music by our very own member and classical pianist, Louise Bettner, and gift exchange? Maybe an impromptu sing-along? Wear your favorite ugly sweater or sparkly, festive holiday wear and bring an appetizer or dessert to share, a wrapped gift for the gift exchange (under \$20) your beverage of choice with the spirit to enjoy a mix and mingle with fellow Singles members.



VP Alan or Communications Director Bailey enjoying holiday cheers together. (Photo by Bailey Penzotti)

Please RSVP via our website, oakmontsinglessocialclub.org or email Priscilla at proslyn49@aol.com.

'Tis the season to be jolly, so come and enjoy a festive night with lots of fa la las and wonderful camaraderie!

Remember to wear your name badge to the East Rec. Center.

### DECEMBER BON APPETITE (OSSC MEMBERS ONLY)

**WHEN:** Thursday, December 5, meet at 5:30 p.m. to carpool from the Berger Center

**RESTAURANT:** El Coqui Puerto Rican Cuisine, 400 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, elcoqui2eat.com

"It's like hangin' out in Old San Juan."—Guy Fieri  
"Your ticket to Puerto Rico! Steak, Chicken and Pork Chops cooked with authentic Puerto Rican seasonings, served with sweet plantains or fried tostones. Cuban sandwiches and more homemade favorites."

Reservation is for 20. Bring cash because the restaurant will not provide separate checks! Reservation cutoff is December 2. RSVP on our website: www.oakmontsinglessocialclub.org or email Melissa Wright, mwwright305@yahoo.com.

### 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 as you. For more on membership visit our website at www.oakmontsinglessocialclub.org.

## Parkinson's Support Group

■Christine Nota

### WE CONTINUE TO MEET TWICE A MONTH

The Oakmont Parkinson's Support Group meets the first and third Fridays of every month, 10–11:30 a.m. at West Recreation Upper Meeting Room. The group includes people with Parkinson's and their Care Partners who tend to be spouses or friends. All are welcome.

Group discussions include challenges and solutions for living well with Parkinson's. Many meetings include speakers who help us better understand the disease, learn adaptations and strategies of how to thrive

despite the disease and the normal aging process. We also host a Care Partner Support Group once a month and a weekly in-person exercise class designed for people with Parkinson's or other movement disorders.

The group hosts fun activities which builds friendships and community. Our discussions are lively, real and hopeful.

For more information or to join the email list for announcements of activities, email me at chrisnota@gmail.com.

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## Toxic Waste Collection



■OVA Staff

**TUESDAY, DEC. 17, 2–7 PM AT WEST REC. LIMITS:** 15 gallons of liquid (with a maximum of five gallons per container) or 125 pounds of solid material. Never mix chemicals. Place in sealed containers in the trunk, packed to prevent spills. Syringes/needles must be in sealed, approved Sharps containers.

**NOT ACCEPTED:** Explosives or ammunition, radioactive materials, biological waste (except syringes), TVs, computer monitors and other electronics, business waste.

Online appointments are now available. To sign up, visit zerowastesonomahhwevent.as.me/Oakmont.

You can also call (707) 364-6927 to schedule an appointment. Only 100 appointments available—first-come, first-served.

## Oakie Folkies Musical Jam Club

■Ken Smith

### OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATION AS A MUSICAL JAM THEME

The Oakie Folkies Club celebrated Oktoberfest as a musical jam theme with several members donning Tyrolean inspired costumes.

Oktoberfest inspired libations and snacks complemented the musical activities.

Instruments in the jam included guitars, accordion, ukuleles, autoharp/zither, cello, keyboard, shaker and cajon. Songs played spanned the gamut from traditional to jazz to folk to 50s and 60s rock to movie musical to Americana and more.

The evening saw a turnout of more than a dozen musicians plus spouses and friends as audience, additional voices and impromptu percussionists.



Steve Gilford on Zither/Autoharp with his wife Elfi.



John Derby doing hula in lederhosen.

John Derby's surprise treat was a traditional hula dance in lederhosen. John grew up in Hawaii and often chooses songs from the islands as he plays his ukulele bass.

Join the Oakie Folkies fun on the second and fourth Wednesdays from 7-10 p.m. at the West Rec. upper level. Bring your instrument/s and music charts to share.

Oakie Folkies are planning a Holiday Party and St. Patrick's Day Party. Watch for announcements in the Inside Oakmont, email and *Oakmont News*. For more info contact: jandove@comcast.net.

## Women's Golf Club at Valley of the Moon

■Kathy Faherty

### JOIN NOW! PLAY IN 2025!

Looking for a regular tee time on Thursday mornings year-round and playing with a welcoming group of women golfers? Join the Women's Golf Club at Valley of the Moon (WGCVOM)!

This is an 18-hole group that regularly plays on the Valley of the Moon course. All handicaps are welcome and you always have the choice of playing from the Yellow tees or the Red/Yellow combo tees. Every week is a mixer, so you will quickly get to know and play with everyone in the group.

If you enjoy competition and playing with a partner, you will have the opportunity to participate in one or both of our traveling teams that have four-ball Match Play events at 10 private courses in the area without paying green's fees.

For further information, please contact our Membership Chair, Chris Carter, at (415) 720-8274. Membership forms are located on the counter just inside the Clubroom in the Pro Shop.

## Canine Club

■Jean Nattkemper



### THE THANKSGIVING DOGS

The "First Thanksgiving," painted in 1912, memorialized and idealized the Pilgrims' celebration of a successful harvest in 1621, a year after the Mayflower landed in Plymouth. The painting shows the Pilgrims, the Wampanoag, and a Spaniel, one of two known dogs that had sailed on the Mayflower.

According to historical records, the dogs, the Spaniel and a Mastiff, were an essential part of the Plymouth Colony. The Spaniel helped with hunting, and the Mastiff acted as a guard. When two men became lost while collecting materials for thatch roofing, the dogs kept them warm through the night and helped them find their way back to the village the following day.

### YAPPY HOUR DOG WALKS

PJ's Yappy Hour Dog Walk: Friday, November 29, 10 a.m. Meet at the Catholic Church parking lot.

Linda's Yappy Hour Dog Walk: December 16, 10 a.m. Meet at the corner of Oakmont Drive and Greenfield.

### PLAY DATE AT HAPPY TAILS DOG PARK

Dogs of any breed weighting 25 pounds and above, the Dog Park is reserved for you on November 26 from 1-2 p.m. A great chance for your dog to romp and play with other energetic, enthusiastic pups.

### RESOURCES FOR YOU AND YOUR DOG

Visit the club website (<http://www.oakmontcanineclub.org/>) for a variety of resources. Include your dog in the Photo Gallery by e-mailing Steve Huntley with a photo, the name of the dog, and the words "Photo" and "Photo Gallery" in the subject line. Mail to [shuntley@huntleyenvironmental.com](mailto:shuntley@huntleyenvironmental.com).

### DOGWOOD EVENT

Dogwood Animal Rescue Project is holding its annual Holiday Event on the lawn at Berger Center on Saturday, December 7, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Featured are some of Dogwood's animals, crafts for sale, raffles, and giveaways. Dogs allowed.

## Oakmont Sunday Symposium

Berger Center, 7902 Oakmont Dr.  
Sunday, 10:30 a.m.-12 noon / \$3 donation  
[www.oakmontsundaysymposium.org](http://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.

### NOVEMBER 24: SUE CARRELL SO, YOU FANTASIZE ABOUT RUNNING A B&B

In 1974, armed only with lots of energy, optimism and an open heart, Sue Carrell purchased and renovated an old residence in Mendocino for guests. She will regale us with all the trials and challenges



she had to overcome to make MacCallum House one of the very first well-known bed and breakfast operations in California.

### DECEMBER 1: NO MEETING

### DECEMBER 8: BOB AYERS AND ALY TAMBOURA CAN A PRISON NEWSPAPER HELP KEEP AMERICA SAFE?



Prison: punish or rehabilitate? That's the issue for prisons in the U.S. today. If you punish a prison inmate, will that stop him from repeating his offense? Or does creating a positive experience and teaching marketable skills work better?

Former warden of San Quentin, Bob Ayers, strove to implement effective remediation strategies with the help of then-inmate Aly Tamboura.

### HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Enjoy friends and family. Eat well, drink well and celebrate life.

See you again on January 5, 2025, with Dr. Minna Schmidt of the Buck Institute.

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## 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](http://www.oakmonthikingclub.org) to join the club, get hike details, club information, photos and more.

For a complete description of each hike and to register, please keep checking our website for updates.

### DECEMBER 5: SHORT HIKE SANTA ROSA MCDONALD HISTORIC DISTRICT

Santa Rosa's tree-lined McDonald Avenue Historic District is one of the most desirable neighborhoods in Santa Rosa, and should be festive with holiday decorations. Approximately 3 miles of level walking on occasionally rough sidewalks. Bring water and a snack. Rain cancels.

Check club website Dec. 4 for possible updates. Depart Berger at 9 a.m. (check-in 8:50 a.m.). Hike leader is Donna McCulloch, (707) 539-5730.

### DECEMBER 5: LONG HIKE BIG ROCK RIDGE

The trail from Big Rock Ridge includes a 7.1-mile hike along with 1,322 feet of elevation gain. The landscape is less-than-lush but the rolling hills are soft and there are thickets of deep green trees and occasionally unexpected clouds.



Big Rock Ridge, Lucas Valley.

Please bring water, lunch and hiking sticks as desired.

Depart the Berger lot at 8:30 a.m. Hike leader is David Steinberger, (909) 480-5809.

### DECEMBER 5: INTERMEDIATE HIKE UPPER FALLEN BRIDGE TRAIL AND FERN LAKE LOOP

This trail starts at the parking lot off London Ranch Rd. where restrooms are available. It then leads to Jack London State Park, passing the historic winery ruins

before continuing to Fern and London lakes. The trail winds through vineyards, meadows, and shaded redwood forests. 5.9 miles, 1230 feet of elevation gain.

Leave Berger Center at 9 a.m. Rain cancels. Hike leader is Gil Grangier, (650) 390-3224.



Jack London Vineyards in November.

### DECEMBER 12: LONG HIKE LAWSON TRAIL

The Lawson Trail, within Hood Mountain Regional Park (HMRP), is named after the Lawson family, who owned property there as well as a gas station at the corner of Hwy 12 and Melita Road known as Lawson's Corner. The former Lawson property is a recent acquisition to HMRP causing the park to construct the Lawson Trail.

This professionally built trail winds its way up to a ridge top which offers excellent views. We'll explore newly acquired property just beyond the former Lawson land before wandering past two ponds as we gradually return to the parking lot. This is a hike of approximately 7 miles with an elevation gain of 1000 ft. Wear weather appropriate clothing; bring a lunch, liquids and hiking poles if needed.

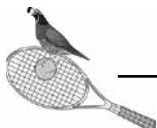
Depart the Berger lot at 8:30 a.m. Hike leader is Dave Chalk, (707) 972-8988.

### DECEMBER 12: INTERMEDIATE HIKE MARE ISLAND

Mare Island became the first United States Naval base on the West Coast in 1854. Closed in 1996, it was conveyed to the City of Vallejo in 2002 for reuse and redevelopment. We will hike 5-6 miles through a treasure trove of history including the historic shipyard, Officer's quarters, hospital base and chapel. No real elevation gain. Option to dine at Mare Island Brewing Company and tour the museum.

Leave Berger 9 a.m. Rain cancels. Hike leader is Marilyn Pahr, 541-6430.

## Tennis Club



■Jack Breibart

### ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

All stories have a back story. Well, maybe not all. My metric guru tells me that numbers show only 67.3% of stories with back stories.

Anyway, this story is in the 67.3%.

It was a sparkling late October day on the West Courts, a perfect day for tennis and the annual Women's Doubles Tournament. There were 16



Rebecca Coker, Claire Tosio, Ruth Lane and Maria Smith.

women and one alternate rarin' to go. Instead of the usual random card draw, the authorities, my word, decided that for more even competition they would assign eight cards to the stronger players and eight cards to just under the stronger players.

The strategy paid off with lots of competitive matches. When the action was over, the four finalists were Rebecca Coker, Ruth Lane and Claire Tosio in that order, with Maria Smith in the select group but out of the money.

The awards were made by Tennis Club vice president Frank Passaglia, and it was reliably reported they were well beneath the \$4.8 million that Coco Gauff hauled away for winning the recent WTA season final tournament in Saudi Arabia. The biggest women's payoff ever.

Okay, now here is the back story: three days before the tournament was scheduled, the club had only three entries, which sent organizers Judy Passaglia and Maureen Pennal into a panic, very mild. There was even talk about maybe postponing the event. But after many phone calls, emails, texts and maybe pigeons, word got around and the response, from members and non-members of the club, brought 16 players and the one alternate to the West Courts for a perfect day of tennis.



The competitors at the Tennis Club's Women's Doubles Tournament.

## Pickleball Corner

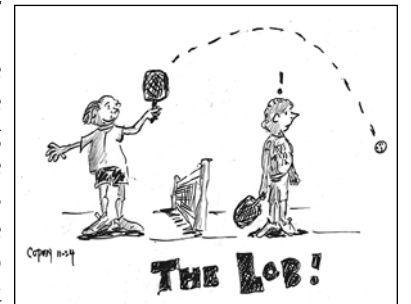


■Peter Copen

### LOVING THE LOB

The offensive lob is a high, strategic shot meant to push your opponents back off the kitchen line and disrupt their control of the court.

Unlike a defensive lob, which is more about buying yourself time, the offensive lob is about seizing the opportunity to go on the attack and put your opponents on their heels.



Graphic by Peter Copen.

Why use an Offensive Lob?

- Your Opponents Are Overcommitted: If they are leaning forward too much.
- To Change the Game's Rhythm: Most players expect either a dink or a speed-up when you're at the NVZ line.
- Against Specific Weaknesses: If your opponent struggles with overhead shots, has limited mobility, or there's bright sun in their eyes.

When is it worth it? Here are some considerations:

- Skill Level: At beginner and intermediate levels, opponents often have less refined footwork and might struggle to adjust quickly.
- Advanced Players: Against seasoned players, lobbing can still be effective, but timing and disguise are everything.

Here's a step-by-step guide:

1. Body Position: Stand parallel to the NVZ line with a stable stance.
2. Paddle Action: The paddle should be open or slightly tilted back, allowing you to loft the ball high and deep over your opponent's head.
3. Low to High Motion: Like a dink, your motion should be low to high. Use your legs to generate power, bending your knees and pushing up as you make contact with the ball.
4. No Flicking: Keep your wrist stable throughout the motion. You're not flicking the ball; you're smoothly lifting it upward, using your legs and arm together for consistency.

**New Player Orientation:** 9 a.m. Tuesday mornings. Arrangements can be made by contacting Victoria Dettman at (707) 230-2958. Call Jim Howard at (209) 761-8517 for demo loaner. Mentoring, contact Barbara Ricossa at [ricossa@ymail.com](mailto:ricossa@ymail.com). Visit our website site at: [oakmontpickleballclub.com](http://oakmontpickleballclub.com)

## Sleep Apnea

■Bob Flandermeyer

### WE WELCOME GUEST SPEAKER GREG ACKROYD, MD

The Sleep Apnea group will meet on Dec. 3 at 1 p.m. in Berger Room G and Greg Ackroyd, MD will be our guest speaker.

We meet to get our masks and machines optimized to give us proper oxygenation and less obstructive and central sleep apnea. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and to learn from others.

Dr. Ackroyd will be available for an hour plus to take questions. Bring your mask and machine and your list of concerns. Doctors in the area are interested and supportive that we have a meeting like this.

We will also discuss cleaning your device and frequency of replacing durable medical equipment.

Sometimes you can acquire free equipment that others have extra. If you have unused extra late model machines, bring them in to share.

## Oakmont Health Initiative Free Fitness Classes

■Charlene Bunas

### THANKSGIVING SPIRIT NOW AND LATER

How to continue Thanksgiving spirit throughout the year. Recognize benefits rather than roadblocks; hear laughter instead of shouts; see rainbows rather than storm clouds; see what you have, not what you lack. Take control over how you respond to hot button triggers. It begins with recognizing three things for which you are grateful.



Kathy's first thought turned to her dog Callie. Pets are sources of comfort, exercise and even humor. No wonder she's grateful to her pooch.

*Grateful for an occasional chair session. (Photo by Charlene Bunas)*



*And they raise their thankful hands. (Photo by Charlene Bunas)*

Irina holds thanks for family and "living the beautiful life in retirement." As she put it, "people in my home country cannot believe I live in an all-inclusive resort."

Newcomer Lynn's first response to the question was "this exercise class." Jim added to that: "JoRene's a kick and adds so much to Oakmont."

JoRene laughed and said, "Yeah, after an hour pumping those stress reducing hormones, we're all more positive."

The body is capable of producing by itself certain "Happy Hormones:" dopamine, which makes us feel good; serotonin, which reduces depression; and endorphins, which make us happy and thus help to reduce physical pain.

Although the practice of gratitude may feel contrived at first, just like exercise this mental state grows stronger with use and practice.

OHI students are grateful for three free guided work-out sessions a week. Three! Free! In person at Berger or on Zoom, 9-10 a.m. Mon., Wed. and Friday. Class does not meet the second Friday of the month. Additional information is on Oakmont Health Initiative website.

To any newcomer, a word of caution: just be careful when you begin, classes can seem tough. They are. To the beginner, advice is this: check with doctor, wear appropriate shoes, drink water and be grateful.

## Proposed NIA Movement Class

■Lisa Erwin, Instructor

### NEW MOVEMENT FITNESS CLASS SEEKING MEMBERS

**Nia** Come experience NIA—a fusion of dance, martial arts and mindfulness practices. NIA emphasizes healing and moving in your personal body's way. Instruction is modified according to class members' physical abilities.

NIA increases and encourages flexibility, self-expression, joy of movement and music, for all levels of ability and intensity. It is a program for everyone, regardless of age, health or fitness level. Further information can be found at nianow.com.

Please join us for an introductory session with opportunity to experience some of the variety of movement in NIA and to ask me any questions on December 8, 4:30-6 p.m. in the West Rec., Lower Level studio. I hold a White Belt in NIA, and am interested in teaching the ongoing class twice a month (60 minutes) in this time slot.

If you are interested in the class, but not able to attend on Dec. 8, please send an email to me at lderwin2014@yahoo.com. Introductory session is free!



■Valerie Hulsey

The weather is still good and the water even better, so please join us at the West pool for 50 minutes of exercise and fun.

There is a drop-in fee of \$8 and classes are held Monday and Wednesday at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m.; Tuesday and Thursday at 9:30 a.m. Newcomers are encouraged to join one or both of these smaller classes. We look forward to seeing you soon.

### CLASSES ON FRIDAYS

Julie's water exercise class continues at the West Pool every Friday at 10:10 a.m. There is a drop-in fee of \$8 per class.

Or you can exercise to a recording for free on Friday at 8:50 a.m. (no instructor).

## Meditation

■Joanne Davey

### MEDITATING TOGETHER WEEKLY MEDITATION SESSIONS AT CAC

"The you that goes in one side of the meditation experience is not the same you that comes out the other side."—Bhante Henepola Guneratana

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

**Saturdays** at 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** at 4 p.m. in the CAC Building, Art Room: A 30-min. meditation. We approach meditation as a non-denominational practice.

If you have questions, please contact Trisha Mitchell, (650) 255-4026.

## Oakmont Pétanque Club

■Don McPherson

### INTERNATIONAL PÉTANQUE BAR/CAFÉ "MOVEMENT"

Since opening in 2020, Brooklyn's Carreau Club has become not only a gathering place for New York City's five pétanque clubs but also a mecca for Pétanque aficionados visiting the Big Apple. Located on Brooklyn's waterfront, Carreau Club has nine indoor courts, a restaurant/café offering a full bar with a French-inspired casual fare menu, and four outdoor lighted, heated courts. Besides being available for a spontaneous game to walk-ins, the facility has become a venue for regular tournaments, team play and club play.

The idea for Carreau Club came from Boulebar, which was established in 2004 and boasts 13 locations in Sweden, Denmark, and most recently, two new locations in London. Not just a bar and French café with pétanque courts, Boulebar considers itself part of a "movement." As CEO Henrik Kruse told The



*Longtime club member Max Hinchman points in a recent game.*

Times of London, "This egalitarian sport is much more than just a game, it's a way of life, a mindset, and an experience to be shared across generations."

Soon after Boulebar opened its first London location in Southbank it opened a second location in Spitalfields with ten indoor courts. Like the Carreau Club in Brooklyn, the London locations have become destinations for pétanque enthusiasts across the U.K. as well as engines of organized growth. Pétanque is enjoying explosive growth in the U.K., where there are now 154 recognized clubs with 30,000 members.

### PÉTANQUE IN OAKMONT MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, SATURDAY

The club encourages all Oakmonters who may be interested in playing or learning to play pétanque (pay-tonk) 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. The club has boules to lend while you're learning, and you'll be playing right away. Club play days are casual friendly games with teams randomly assigned.

## Fitness Club



■Janice Weekes

### SIGN UP NOW FOR FINAL HOLIDAY PARTY

The Fitness Club will hold the final Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 4, 5 p.m. at OAK Restaurant. There will be a delicious dinner followed by dancing to the live music of Glory Dayz.

Stop by the Fitness Center to pick up your registration form. All Fitness Club members are entitled to a free ticket to the event. Guests and non-members will pay a fee.

The deadline for registration is Wednesday, Nov. 27.



# CLASSIFIEDS

## BAYSIDE REMODELING AND CONSTRUCTION

Oakmont specialist—since 1986, general contractor John J. Coyle. Free design and consultations. Bathrooms, kitchens, roofing, additions. We do it all. Licensed, insured, bonded. Local references. (415) 879-1634.

## 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](http://www.BodenPlumbing.com).

## 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.

## 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) 203-2247.

## GALUS PAINTING

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

## WANTED: GARAGE SPACE

Looking for a clean, safe, garage space to rent for winter storage of a 1966 Classic Lincoln Continental. If you have available garage space, please contact me at: Michael Webb, (707) 833-2167 (home), (707) 483-0083 (Cell). Email: [michael@ireko.com](mailto:michael@ireko.com).

## GARAGE DOOR SERVICES

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.

## GARDENING

A natural look since 2007 and without the dreaded roar of a leaf blower machine. Small jobs OK. Richard. Oakmont resident. 833-1806.

## 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.

## MARTHA L PROFESSIONAL HOUSE CLEANING

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

## CARPET, UPHOLSTERY AND TILE CLEANING

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.

## TREE TRIMMING

Pruning, trimming, hedges, mowing. Fruit trees, stump grinding. Pressure washing. Over 20 yrs. of experience. Free estimates. Now accept credit cards. Visit website: [ajyardservice.com](http://ajyardservice.com). Call Alex, (707) 322-1646. Lic. #06530716.

## THE VINE LANDSCAPING

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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.

## JOSH BEGIN ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

For all your electrical needs, including rewiring, troubleshooting, generators, panel upgrade, lighting, EV chargers, security/landscape lighting. Available 24/7. Lic. #461220. Free estimates. Call (707) 690-2541. Visit [www.beginbuild.com](http://www.beginbuild.com).

## 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.

## HANDYMAN/CARPENTER

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

## DOORS AND WINDOWS

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

## PAINTER/HANDYMAN

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

## FOR ALL YOUR PAINTING NEEDS

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

## GARDEN TRIMMING

An emphasis upon a natural look, since 2007, and home projects as well. Small jobs OK. Richard, 833-1806. I'm an Oakmont resident.

## GUITAR LESSONS

Cut to the chase guitar lessons by the 2024 California Music Hall of Fame recipient Al Ferguson. No reading music or theory. Just pick up the guitar and play taught. Oakmont resident. Al Ferguson, (909) 583 1342.

## OAKMONT'S PAINTING SERVICES

29 years in Oakmont. Many Oakmont references. Great work at fair prices. License #1108640. Bonded and Insured. (707) 528-8222 or email [OakmontsPainting@gmail.com](mailto:OakmontsPainting@gmail.com).

## HANDYMAN SERVICES

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

## CHRISTO TRANSPORTATION

Based in Oakmont, available for airport transport at competitive prices. Commercially insured with TCP 32055. Call Chris, (707) 205-8109.

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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](http://www.onewayplumb.net) or call us at 537-1308 for all your plumbing needs.

## AIR CONDITIONING REPAIR

Cooler weather is on its way! Heating, Cooling, service and repair. Serving Sonoma Valley. Call Vince Parish at Ridgeback Mechanical, (707) 666-5056.

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Mowing, hedge trimming, pruning, planting, weeding, raking and dump runs. Reasonable rates. Call Erick, (707) 537-5459.

## PET MAN DAN

I am an established dog walker in Oakmont. I walk one dog at a time, unless you have more. Available for a dog walk in the mornings. Licensed and insured. References available. Call or text Dan Lennox, (707) 889-0205,

## 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.

## HAIRSTYLIST

Personal In-Home Full Service. Exclusive for Oakmont members: travel fee waived. See reviews at [Hairbysofia.com](http://Hairbysofia.com). Call or text, (415) 370-3126. I will come to you at your convenience!

## PET CARE SERVICES

Senior discounts. Reasonable rates. Kitty nail trim house calls, pet sitting and walks, rides to vets in Sonoma County. Local references. 20+ yrs experience. [elainesteele60@yahoo.com](mailto:elainesteele60@yahoo.com), call/text: (510) 967-9660.

## FURNISHED HOME FOR RENT

Oakmont 2 BR, 2BA plus office. Beautifully remodeled/open concept, views, available now, with min. 30-day stay. Seniors 55+. No pets. \$3200 per month + security. Call (707) 346-1928 for more details.

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Beautifully remodeled 2 bed/2 bath in quiet neighborhood. Available now. Seniors 55+. No pets. \$3,200 per month and \$4,800 security deposit. Call (707) 595-3413 for more details.

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■Marie Haverson

## SHA-BOOM PRESENTS HAPPY NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

**WHEN:** December 31 **WHERE:** Berger Center  
**TIME:** Doors open at 4 p.m.; appetizers 4:30–5:30 p.m.; Buffett dinner 6–7 p.m.; music by “Glory Dayz” Band, 7–10 p.m.

**COST:** \$125 per person

Buffet dinner is by Charlie’s catering. We will have linen tablecloths and napkins, hats and party favors. Please BYOB.

Menu is as follows: Appetizers—meat, cheese and fruit trays; Buffet Dinner—Grilled Chicken, Prime Tri-tip, Penne Pasta, Tossed Green Salad, dinner rolls and butter; Dessert—brownies, lemon bars, cookies.



Welcome 2025 to Oakmont with “Glory Dayz,” a dynamic group of seasoned fun-loving professional musicians, featuring Frankie Adel, former lead singer of “Sha Na Na.” With their infectious energy and exceptional talent, they’re guaranteed to ignite our event. From timeless classics of the 50s and 60s to today’s chart toppers, their diverse repertoire ensures there’s something for everyone. With electrifying performances and a seamless blend of genres, “Glory Dayz” will create an unforgettable atmosphere, keeping everyone at Oakmont dancing all night long. Their undeniable presence makes them the perfect choice for our NYE celebration!

We will bring in the New Year at 9 p.m. East Coast time.

For best seating, please get your reservations early, as it will sell out fast.

Please make checks payable to Sha-Boom Events Club, include a note with the names at your table so that you’re all seated together, and place in our folder in the OVA office. You may also mail them to Marie Haverson at 7111 Oakleaf Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95409, or drop them in the mail slot (right side of garage door). Any questions, feel free to call me at (707) 539-6666.

Please remember, no refunds.

I can’t wait to celebrate with you!

## Playreaders

■D. Hall

### NEW VERSION OF A CHRISTMAS CAROL COMING IN DECEMBER

Just coming off Ginny Smith’s production of Eric Chappell’s mystery, Summer End, Oakmont Playreaders turn attention to the holidays with a new and enticing version of Dickens’ A Christmas Carol.

The version being staged is by Julio Martinez, called Keeping Christmas Well. It features most of the characters familiar in the original version, but is re-told in a festive and novel way. It’s a big cast, including: Jim Preston, Margaret Applegate, D. Hall, Steven Levin, Mike Erwin, Blanche Kaiser, Wes Doerr, Star Power, and Marcel Coder.

Come and see it at 2 p.m. on Monday, December 9 in Room B of the Central Activities Center.

Oakmont Playreaders meet the first two Mondays of every month in Room B.

## Conservatives Club

■Jane Gyorgy

### WATCH PARTY, VICTORY CONVOY, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER MEETINGS

Club members turned out in great numbers for the election night Watch Party at the not-yet-open-to-the-public-as-of-that-night El Fogon Restaurant. A fabulous All-You-Can-Eat Taco bar, with delicious Spit-Roasted Pork Al Pastor, Carnitas, and Chicken plus all the fixings, mango, strawberry, and Original Margaritas, beer, and wine, was included, and a great time was had by all.

A Victory Convoy was held on Saturday, Nov. 9, which traversed Oakmont, and was met with cheers from many Oakmont residents. Upon exiting Oakmont, it extended west down highway 12, then onto 101 south to Petaluma. The front-page Sunday edition of the Press Democrat featured the convoy and gave it the top half of page A-6 and included photos of cars decked out in American Flags, balloons, MAGA hats. The convoy was met by waving and cheering residents.

Our November meeting will be our last one in the Oakmont Gardens Meeting Room, 301 White Oak Dr. (across from the Lawn Bowling Green). As always, the meeting is on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 4–6 p.m. This month’s speakers will be Matt Heath, Chairman of the Sonoma County GOP, and Robert Tognetti, District 4 Captain for The Convention of States.

Since next month’s meeting will be on Christmas Eve, there will be no December meeting.

Plans are underway for an Inaugural Ball on January 20, 2025, from 6:30–9:30 p.m. Stay tuned.

Starting in 2025, all meetings will be in the Berger Center, always on the fourth Tuesday, from 4–6 p.m.

Members are asked to RSVP Yes, No, or Maybe either on the invitation or via email to TheNewOakmontCC@gmail.com. Always include the first and last name of you and your guest(s) for printed name tags.

If you want to join the club or attend a meeting, email TheNewOakmontCC@gmail.com.

## Leave the Leaves

■Marie Kay Hansen, Oakmont Environmental Stewardship Task Force (OESTF)

Our community is well known for lovely gardens, and since healthy plants need healthy soil, gardeners regularly head to local nurseries to purchase (often heavy) bags of compost and soil amendment. But wait. Our yards already have a source—leaves—which are most abundant in the fall, right now.

Leaves left on the ground become mulch and compost that buffer soil from excessive heat and cold and soften the compacting effect of raindrops, allowing water to sink into the soil, where it is stored and will be available to plants during the long dry season. Decomposing leaves add soil nutrition, while providing critical shelter, food and habitat for insects, birds and other wildlife.

However, leaves left on the ground can be a fire hazard, so they must be at least five feet from a home and no deeper than three inches and interspersed with non-combustible walkways or rock areas.

Compost happens, and leaves will eventually turn to compost; reducing their volume and surface area will speed the process as larger thicker leaves should be chopped as finely as possible.

Keeping leaves in place also reduces the need to collect, transport and process them off site, results in free mulch and fertilizer and less time, effort and cost in comparison to purchasing soil amendments.

There is a whole ecosystem living in fallen leaves. Let’s help it thrive.

For information about Oakmont Environmental Stewardship Task Force projects, email me at briza1@comcast.net.

## 2024–2025 OVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Mark Randol, Director**

mark.randol@oakmontvillage.com

**Olga Ydrogo, Director**

olga.ydrogo@oakmontvillage.com

**Tom Kendrick, Treasurer**

(Non-voting officer)

tom.kendrick@oakmontvillage.com

**GENERAL MANAGER**

**Christel Antone**

christel@oakmontvillage.com

## POOLS & JACUZZIS

Access to OVA pools is by magnetic card. Call OVA Office, 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.

## NEED A RIDE? GIVE A RIDE! OAKMONT VOLUNTEER HELPERS

**COORDINATOR**

**Rides to Medical Appointments**

**November 16–30**

Barb Lowell 707-538-0333

**December 1–15**

Marianne Neufeld 707-953-5302

We provide the following services to Oakmont Residents:

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

If you would like to be a volunteer, please call 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.**

## 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

## Bocce Club



■Elean Huff

### BOCCE CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY

Bocce Club held its last tournament of the year, the Falling Leaves Tournament. It was the women vs. men in which we had a tie. It was the first time that the men outnumbered the women in a long time. We were fortunate in having Tony D'Agosta come to our aid. The winning teams are listed below.

We have one more event, the Holiday Party which is December 7. It will be held at the East Rec., starting at 5 p.m. Be sure to sign up for this fun event. The last date for sign-up is November 28.

Bocce dues are due and must be paid by January 1, 2025.

The last two years have been a lot of fun, hard work at times and mistakes at times too. I have met so many nice people the five years of belonging to the Bocce Club.

We are a friendly group, competitive sometimes, but are welcoming to new people. So, if you are thinking of joining a club, come out at 1 p.m. Monday through Saturday and learn the game of Bocce.



Men's team: Mike O'Leary, Eugene Mai, Gordon Freeman and Larry Schlee.



Women's team: Barbara Newton, Gale Schlee, Tony D'Agosta and Margaryta Sarram.

## Lifelong Learning



■Marlena Tremont

### WINTER 2025 CLASS PREVIEW

**WHEN:** Wednesday, Dec. 11 **WHERE:** Berger  
**TIME:** 2:30 p.m. music and refreshments, 3 p.m. program begins

#### ETTA JAMES AND RAY CHARLES: LIVES, TIMES AND MUSIC

**Instructor: Pamela Rose**

**Mondays, Jan. 13, 27, Feb. 3, 3-5 p.m., Berger  
3-week session. Cost: \$50 (Note: No class on Jan. 20)**



Despite tremendous adversity, Soul Masters Etta James and Ray Charles, created an individual sound that straddles jazz, blues, country, R & B and gospel. Explore their lives, times and music with in-depth biographical detail, archival footage and sing-a-longs.

Pamela Rose is an internationally renowned San Francisco jazz and blues vocalist. Her latest show, "Blues is a Woman," is currently touring the West Coast.

#### THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION

**Instructor: Mark Jordan**

**Wednesdays, Jan. 15, 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 26,  
3-5 p.m., Berger**

**6-week session. Cost: \$95 (Note: No class on Feb. 19)**

Relive the adventure of Lewis and Clark as they lead a group of U.S. Army volunteers (and a teen-age girl and her baby) through the vast territory of the Louisiana Purchase. It is an epic story that is rich in historical, scientific, and political significance.



Mark Jordan, J.D. UC Berkeley, received the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Meritorious Achievement Award in 2020. He has traveled the trail by car, canoe and on foot.

#### FOUR DAVIDS, FOUR GREAT SCULPTURES

**Instructor: Lynn Ostling**

**Thursdays, Jan. 9, 16 and 23, 3-5 p.m., East Rec  
3-week session. Cost: \$50**

The rediscovery of the beauty of the human form

is a hallmark of Italian Renaissance art. Explore how the four different interpretations of the Old Testament figure, David, by sculptors Donatello, Verrocchio, Michelangelo and Bernini dramatically influenced other Renaissance and Baroque artists.



Lynn Ostling, retired Art History professor, author and lecturer taught at Sonoma State and SRJC, in Classical Greek and Renaissance studies.

#### FLEMISH, DUTCH AND BRITISH ART

**Instructor: Christian Quintin**

**Thursdays, Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20 and 27,  
3-4:30 p.m., East Rec**

**5-week session. Cost: \$60 (Note: Shorter class time)**



Spend five weeks exploring the masterpieces of Flemish and Dutch artists like Hieronymous Bosh, Pieter Brueghel the Elder, Rembrandt and Vermeer. Then dive into British art from the Romans to the 19<sup>th</sup> century miniatures to the art

of Turner and Constable.

Christian Quintin studied at the Beaux Arts Academy in Paris before moving to the United States in 1981. His works have appeared in galleries across the U.S.

#### THE FASCINATING WORLD OF MICROORGANISMS

**Instructor: Andrew Rogerson**

**Mondays, Feb. 10, 17, 24 and Mar. 3, 3-5 p.m., Berger  
4-week session. Cost: \$65**

Explore the unseen and amazing diversity of microorganisms and their beneficial or detrimental impact on humans. Be amazed by new discoveries in this exciting science—new emerging infections, new organisms, and new tools to facilitate discovery.



Andrew Rogerson is as a professor, researcher and author who work includes Coast Guard ballast water treatment systems and sewage management systems for cruise lines.

Class registration now open at [OakmontLL.org](http://OakmontLL.org).

## Movies At Oakmont



**WHERE:** Berger Center

**SCREENING DAY AND TIME:** Sundays at 2 p.m.

**HOSTS:** Mike McInnis, Deborah Davidson, Jeff Neuman and Barbara Marquardt.

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

**NOVEMBER 24**

### MAYFLOWER: THE PILGRIMS' ADVENTURE

The Assembly of the Pilgrims decides to emigrate to America because of the persecution they suffer by the English crown. 1979, NR, 1:37.



**DECEMBER 1—NO MOVIE**

**DECEMBER 8**

### BEVERLY HILLS COP: AXEL F

Axel Foley returns to Beverly Hills after his daughter's life is threatened for a family reunion that includes old pals John Taggart and Billy Rosewood to uncover a conspiracy. 2024, R, 1:58.



**DECEMBER 15**

### GHOSTLIGHT

When a construction worker unexpectedly joins a local theater's production of *Romeo and Juliet*, the drama onstage starts to mirror his own life. 2024, R, 1:55.



## Oakmont Birders

■Barbara Kendrick

### BIRDS AT THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

If you are looking for a good birding spot in Oakmont, it's hard to beat the Community Garden on Stonebridge. For convenient access and a large variety of species, especially in the fall as many crops go to seed, sunflowers are falling down, and the last tomatoes split enticingly on the vines, you can easily spot several dozen bird species around the garden—even without binoculars. You don't even have to go inside the fence to enjoy the show. You can watch the action by strolling around the perimeter or relax on one of the nearby benches.

The hours around sunrise and sunset offer the most birds, but any time will do. In addition to the always-present smaller species—House Finches, Lesser Goldfinches, Anna's Hummers, Bluebirds, and an assortment of Sparrows—there can be Hawks hunting the fields and Ravens performing aerobatics. California Quail and Acorn Woodpeckers call and Northern Mockingbirds sing. In the



Say's Phoebe makes a fall appearance. (Courtesy of Tom Grey)

the morning, in the taller pines near Annadel you can see Turkey Vultures warming themselves with widespread wings, and watch Wild Turkeys plummeting down from their sleeping roosts. In the evening, Great Egrets make their leisurely way to Spring Lake, flapping like white dishtowels in the breeze. Flocks of crows fly west to—well, who knows where.

Among the more unusual and attractive birds you can find around the garden in the fall and winter is the Say's Phoebe. Related to the familiar Black Phoebe, the Say's variety is a grayish brown with a delicate wash of peach on the belly. Like many flycatchers, they perch on fence posts and swoop out after insects, usually returning faithfully to the same post. Now is a great time to spot one.

Have questions about birds? Want a "Birds Seen in Oakmont" checklist? E-mail [bkendrick@jps.net](mailto:bkendrick@jps.net).





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