

OAKMONT NEWS

Oakmont's Semimonthly Newspaper

www.oakmontvillage.com/news

December 14, 2024 • Volume 62, Number 23

Rainbow over the Golf Course



A vibrant rainbow spanned Oakmont and the golf course on Nov. 21 during a break in the heavy rainstorm. (Photo by Tom Fleming)

Winter Wonderland Holiday Celebration on December 20

■OVA Staff

Hopefully, you've had a chance to experience the magic of OVA's Winter Wonderland on the Plaza, an enchanting display of holiday trees made possible by the generous sponsorships of our community's clubs and groups. Earlier this month, the OVA enjoyed a well-

attended tree lighting ceremony to officially kick off this inaugural holiday display. View a video of the tree lighting plus a photo gallery of the Winter Wonderland Plaza at the OVA website, oakmontvillage.com.

See **WONDERLAND** on page 5



Oakmont celebrated the official lighting of the holiday trees at the Winter Wonderland celebration on the Berger Plaza on Dec. 4. These photos by Crissi Langwell, Todd O'Donnell, and Maureen McGettigan show general manager Christel Antone with the OVA Staff tree, a shot of the crowd at the celebration, and some of the trees lit up at night. See a full gallery of photos and a video at the OVA website, oakmontvillage.com.



2024 Holiday Facility Hours & Closures

■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 holiday season. Please refer to the list below for holiday hours for the OVA office and facilities:

Office Holiday Closures: Dec. 24 and 25, Tuesday and Wednesday of Christmas week—closed. Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, Tuesday and Wednesday of New Year's week—closed.

Facility Holiday Hours and Closures:

Dec. 24 Tuesday—Open regular times, closing at 5 p.m. including all pools and spas.

Dec. 25, Wednesday—Christmas—all facilities closed.

Jan. 1, Wednesday—New Years Day—all facilities closed.

— Notice: Fee Change to One-Time CFM Payments —

■OVA Staff

Message from Condominium Financial Management (CFM), the third-party financial management company that OVA uses.

Update: Changes to One-Time E-Check Payments on Condominium Financial Management (CFM) Payment Portal.

See **CFM FEE CHANGE** on page 5

Nominations Now Open for 2025 Board Election

■News Staff Report

Nominations are now open for four positions on the OVA Board to be filled in the 2025 OVA Board of Directors election. The last day to submit nominations is Thursday, Jan. 9.

The four directors whose seats are up are Steve Spillman, Mark Randol, Olga Ydrogo, and Jess Marzak, who was voted in by the board in November to take the seat of David Dearden.

See **BOARD NOMINATIONS** on page 5

— Turkey Drive a Success —



Susan Chauncy, Joy Bellomo and Carol Pence (left to right) opened the tailgates for Oakmont's 8th Annual Turkey Drive.

The day chalked up another successful year with 53 birds donated for the Great Thanksgiving Banquet on Nov. 27 at the Fairgrounds—and an additional \$2,000 in donations. The Redwood Gospel Mission has put on the event for more than 20 years, providing a warm meal, a coat distribution, children's activities, community resources and even haircuts. (Photo by Julie Kiil)



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Holiday Season Gift and Toy Drive

■Katy Carrel

Start your shopping! The second annual Gift and Toy Drive will again benefit Sonoma County's YWCA for families impacted by domestic violence. You can help make a family's holiday merry and bright.

Toys and gifts can be dropped off inside the Berger or at the OVA office until Friday, Dec. 20. Bring your gifts for drop-off when you come to stroll among the club-decorated and lighted trees. The last chance to donate is at the holiday caroling and cookies celebration happening on Dec. 20 at the Berger.

According to YWCA Sonoma County (www.ywcasc.org) CEO Madeleine Keegan O'Connell, the most useful and appreciated holiday donations would be new, unwrapped toys, in new packaging, for ages for ages 0 to 16. Wrapping will be done after parents select appropriate gifts for their kids.

Keegan O'Connell said, "since we now operate six preschools, a toy drive would benefit the most kids. And of course, families escaping domestic violence during the holidays and staying at the Safe House will be incredibly grateful recipients of holiday gifts."

Suggestions include gift cards (grocery and gas stations are the #1 request), art supplies (non-gender specific), journals (and appointment calendars), new toys, warm clothes and new coats (ages 0-adult), hats, scarves and mittens, and umbrellas to name a few ideas.

Ordering online? Ship directly to the YWCA Sonoma County at 811 3rd Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95404.

Toy drop-off and collection can be made anytime between December 4 and 20 at the OVA office or inside Berger if you are looking at the decorated Christmas trees.

The YWCA is a dedicated domestic violence service provider, and operates: (1) The Safe House, a residential program, which provides refuge for victims of domestic violence and their dependent children; (2) the community's only 24/7 Crisis Hotline for victims of domestic violence; and (3) six childcare/preschool locations throughout Sonoma County, including "A Special Place Therapeutic Preschool" for kids who have been affected by domestic violence.

Prospective OVA and Sub-Association Board Members Invited to Information Session

■Jerry Gladstone, OVA Board

Are you interested in serving on the Oakmont Village Board of Directors or your sub-HOA Board? 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 OVA and Sub-Association 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 and sub-HOA governing documents, understanding legal aspects, 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 specific topics 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. Please leave your name and contact information as it will help us plan.

Oakmont Environmental Stewardship Task Force

■Karen Cotter

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO MAKE THE HOLIDAYS MERRY AND GREEN?

Looking for ways to minimize your holiday waste? Great zero waste presents for fellow Oakmonters could be a Sonoma County Regional Parks pass, Cafe-Citti gift card—still free delivery to Oakmont on Wednesdays—or design your own gift cards to gift a Lifelong Learning class or Sha-boom event, or a membership to Oakmont's Hiking, Singles or Garden Clubs.



Photo by Marie Kay Hansen

Gifts of service may be appreciated as much or more than a new dish towel: trim the hedge, declutter the garage, fix a hem, or explain the new heat pump HVAC systems and their 2025 rebates with a ride to Sonoma Clean Energy's Store on 4th Street, www.scpadvancedenergycenter.org. Get creative by wrapping gifts with fabric or place gifts in reusable containers like baskets or jars. Decorate with branches taken from shrubs, pine cones and branches from your yard.

Visit www.zerowastesonoma.com/lifestyles/for-the-holidays for their take on the Twelve Days of Christmas and more ideas for sustainable gifts.

If you're going to a holiday potluck at Oakmont, ask the event organizer to request people bring their own dinner-ware, cutlery, glassware and cloth napkins. If you're worried about breaking your good dinnerware, visit a second-hand shop to see what holiday plates they have in stock. Bring containers to take home leftovers—if okayed by the event leaders—to reduce food waste.

Any other leftovers should be placed in the compost bin. Composting allows food scraps to decompose properly, transforming them into compost that nourishes our soil and diverts food waste from landfills reducing methane emissions—a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. A great gift for the planet.

After potluck partying at Oakmont Rec. Centers, place your waste items into the appropriate waste containers that are labeled Mixed Recycling, Compost and Trash.

Curbside collection by Recology for holiday trees will take place Dec. 30—Jan. 10 on your Recology service day. After these dates, trees can be cut to fit, without the supports, inside your green bin with the lid closed.

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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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 the OVA.

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.



DECEMBER 22 TRADING PLACES

A snobbish investor and a wily street con artist find their positions reversed as part of a bet by two callous millionaires. 1983, R, 1:56.



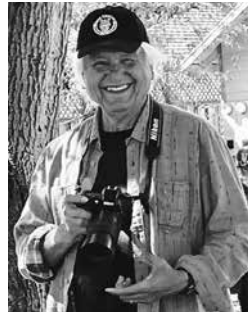
DECEMBER 29—NO MOVIE

Oakmont Pétanque Club

■Don McPherson

THE MAN BEHIND THE LOGO

In the summer of 2021 the Oakmont Pétanque Club, then with 32 members, celebrated its 25th anniversary as a recognized OVA organization. Today, with 72 members, the club looks back on a four-year period of significant growth and activity.



Carlos Chavez.

Among the many landmarks that 2021 represented was securing, for the first time, a club logo that could be used on letterhead and articles in the Oakmont News, in advertising, on club clothing, and on a display banner. The logo, featuring a quail and a pétanque boule within the text, was designed and provided, gratis, by a true friend of the club, Carlos Chavez.

A local realtor, Carlos previously had a long professional career in the North Bay as a graphic artist. A pétanque aficionado and member of the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club in Sonoma, Carlos plays most days at VOMPC. He also takes photos—about 60 photos each time. In the evening, he crops, adjusts lighting, and uses photoshop and other editing tools to create the handful of photos, some realistic, some abstract, some whimsical, that he will send out by email to club members the next morning. He also adds apt quotations, observations about the game, and musings about pétanque and the human experience.

As one VOMPC member said, "Carlos is the daily mail that holds us closer as a club. We know each other better thanks to him." Another added, "his musings are a rich mix of introspection and observation."



Woodstock at the Oakmont Courts—with just a little imagination. (Photo by Carlos Chavez)

For his volunteer artistic contributions to nourishing the pétanque community, Carlos is featured in a recent article in *Pétanque Pulse*, the national magazine of the Federation of Pétanque USA. The Oakmont Pétanque Club warmly congratulates its friend, Carlos Chavez, on this richly deserved, national recognition.

Oakmont HEARS

Hearing Education, Advocacy, Research, Support



■Richard Osborne

COPING WITH HOLIDAY NOISE

Do you think your partner/spouse might have hearing loss? It would not be much of a surprise if s/he did—fully half of the people in Oakmont have moderate to severe hearing loss.

Having the family over for Christmas? It is difficult because of the noise associated with crowded rooms especially with the grandchildren who are hard to hear with normal hearing, let alone those with hearing loss. Add to this a crowded restaurant.

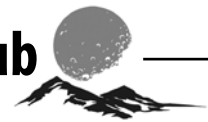
You might benefit from the HEARS club, which is designed to help us cope with this bothersome condition. Our next meeting is Friday, Jan. 10, 2–3 p.m. in the CAC.

The HEARS club strategies are to:

- Conduct informational meetings on hearing issues and state-of-the-art equipment.
- Publish articles on hearing related issues in the Oakmont News.
- Distribute information on hearing issues.
- Help Oakmont meeting and activity leaders to achieve healthy hearing environments.
- Advocate for improved OVA facilities and services including audio systems, room acoustics and arrangements.

We have an email list. Please send your name(s) and contact information (first and last name, email required, phone and address optional) to oakmontheears@gmail.com.

OAK at the VOM Golf Club



■Khiana Schmuhl, Valley of the Moon Club General Manager

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: 30–45-minute Golf Lesson Package for \$200 (\$70 Savings). Promotion will be valid through 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 EVENTS

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.

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!

THURSDAY NIGHT SPECIALS

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

TACO TUESDAYS EVERY TUESDAY

\$3 tacos with drink purchase.

NEW MENU

Check it out at www.playvom.com/the-club/dining.

LIVE MUSIC MONDAYS

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 YEARS DAY CELEBRATION JANUARY 1, 2025, FROM 3–6 PM

3–4 p.m.: Welcome reception and champagne toast

4–6 p.m.: Live Music by Coffey Park Band
\$35 per person includes entry, one drink ticket, heavy apps. Reservations can be made by calling (707) 539-0415 ext. 5.

FAMILY-STYLE DINNERS

For \$48 plus tax you receive choice of two pizzas (Pepperoni/Sausage, Chicken BBQ, Cheese, or Margherita), large Caesar Salad, large Creamy Alfredo Pasta and garlic bread (feeds up to 4 people).

Family-style to-go orders will be Fridays–Sundays starting December 13. Call (707) 539-0415 extension 5 to place your to-go order.

MODIFIED WINTER HOURS OF OPERATION

Oak Dining Room Hours: Monday–Sunday 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Snack Bar Hours: Snack Bar Hours are subject to change and are dependent on weather conditions.

Valley of the Moon Golf Shop: Monday–Sunday 6:45 a.m.–4 p.m. Last tee time booked is 3:30 p.m.

The Club at Sugarloaf: The Sugarloaf Clubhouse will be closed until the foreseeable future. Check in for all Sugarloaf tee times will be through the Valley of the Moon Golf Shop as we will start all play off of hole #4.

Note: There will be no knife sharpening in December, but will return in January.

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.

BOARD NOMINATIONS Continued from page 1

Oakmont members who are in good standing can declare their candidacy by letter, which must be postmarked or delivered by Jan. 9. Letters may also be dropped off by the same date at the OVA office, 6637 Oakmont Drive, Suite A, or emailed to Dawn McFarland (Dawn@oakmontvillage.com).

Candidates must also send a candidate's statement of up to 300 words, and a photo, by Thursday, Feb. 6. The profiles and photos will be published in the *Oakmont News*.

Those seeking seats on the board will take part in Candidates' Night on Wednesday, Feb. 19, starting at 6 p.m. in the Berger Center. Members will have an opportunity to submit questions. Other candidate's forums will be announced as they are scheduled.

If there are the same number or fewer qualified candidates than the four open positions, the board of directors may vote to seat the qualified candidates by acclamation without member balloting.

Ballots for the election will be mailed to members by early March. Results of the election will be announced at the 2025 Annual Meeting on April 7. Voting is by mail. Ballots may also be turned in at the Annual Meeting at the Berger Center prior to the start of ballot counting at 10 a.m.

WONDERLAND Continued from page 1

The celebration continues with another fun holiday event. Join us on Friday, Dec. 20, for a special community celebration at this festive display. Beginning at 4 p.m., enjoy holiday cookies, hot cocoa, and cheerful caroling led by the Ukesters Club.

Adding to the celebration, the Jewish Interest Group will host a special Menorah lighting ceremony to mark the start of Hanukkah, highlighting the rich cultural traditions within our community. Check *Inside Oakmont*, OVA's weekly eblast, for details on this upcoming event.

Through Dec. 20, you can also bring an unwrapped new toy to support the YWCA toy drive. The final opportunity to donate will be during the community celebration.

We hope these events bring joy and a festive sense of togetherness as we celebrate the holiday season. Happy Holidays from the OVA!

CFM FEE CHANGE Continued from page 1

For owners using the E-Check/One-Time Payment option via our portal (portal.condofinancial.com), please be aware of the following important update:

We have recently been informed by First Citizens Bank that a processing fee will now apply to one-time E-Check payments. This change is mandated by the bank, and CFM, the third-party financial management company that OVA uses, is unable to waive or opt out of these fees.

To minimize costs for our members, we want to highlight the following fee structure: \$2.25 processing fee for a one-time eCheck payment; 2.95% processing fee for a one-time credit card payment; no fee for scheduled ACH payments via Auto-Draft.

If you'd like to avoid processing fees, enrolling in Auto-Draft/ACH is a free and convenient option. To enroll, simply visit the Payment Screen on the portal.

Please note this only applies to owners using the E-Check/One-Time Payment option.

Thank you for your understanding as we implement this change. For questions or assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us at askova@oakmontvillage.com, or Condominium Financial Management (www.condofinancial.com) on behalf of Oakmont Village Association: (925) 566-6800.



SIR Branch #92

■Mike O'Callaghan

NEW NAME FOR SIR

The SIR (Sons in Retirement) Club of Oakmont has been retitled to SENIORS in Retirement and is now open to both women and "sons" membership.

Good friends, good food, good fun, good speakers! Our luncheon speakers for January to June 2025 are:
January: Santa Rosa Councilwoman, Diana McDonald

February: Pets Life Line, Oliva Kristiansen
March: SR Symphony Conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong

April: Iris Harrell, Insurance
May: Eric Johnson, CEO, Press Democrat
June: VOM Alliance

All seniors: Interested in good times? Call Mike, (707) 888-6583; Marianne, (707) 953-5302; or Jack, (707) 843-7408. Come check out the Seniors in Retirement of Oakmont. Enjoy!

Our monthly luncheon meeting is on the second Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. at Berger. Reservations are mandatory to attend.



Photo by B. Lefson.

Valley of the Moon Rotary Club



■John Brodey

A BIRD IN THE HAND

If a picture is worth a thousand words, a photograph taken by Kent Porter is worth ten thousand words. You may not recognize his name, but you've seen his Pulitzer Prize-winning photographs in the Press Democrat over the last 30 years.



Photo by Kent Porter.

At a recent VOM Rotary breakfast, Kent graced us with an amazing slide show of his work. It covered a dazzling and dizzying array of subject matter. Over the decades Kent has documented local high school athletics. In fact, he is just back at work after being flattened by a 200 lb. football player while shooting from the sidelines. Taking meaningful pictures is not for the faint of heart nor the impatient.

As Kent narrated his slide show, he gave real context to each picture; what were we looking at, what was the story behind it? He is a self-confessed weather geek and his amazing shots of nature in action were stunning. During the season he often goes to the plains of the Midwest to capture the fury and beauty they offer. It was there that he captured the 100% totality of the recent solar eclipse.

While he does travel a bit, he made a point of telling us that 80% of his portfolio was taken within a 20-mile radius of Santa Rosa. Most of us don't realize how much there is right under our noses, like the northern lights from late summer. He explained his creative process as we viewed images running the gamut of human emotion, nature in all its complexity. The highest form of art makes us think as well as feel. He can take you to another place and time.

Kent will be doing a Sunday Symposium on Feb. 9. Don't you dare miss it!



■Greg Fauss



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVE

We are in the middle of the Advent season which means there are just two more Sundays until Christmas Eve!

Please join us any Sunday, but also on Christmas Eve at 4 p.m. for a short, meaningful service with special music in the East Rec. Center.

Many of us will be busy in the coming days, but my encouragement to myself and others is to make time to reflect on the meaning of Christmas and to help those in need.

That God would choose to visit us in the most humble of ways, born to a poor teenager, who soon thereafter would become a refugee and then, as a young adult, Jesus would train to become a carpenter and live a normal life among us until age 30, that all says a lot. It says that we are seen and loved by God, every day. It says that God desires a relationship with us. And that's just the beginning of all that we can reflect upon and celebrate at Christmas time. So please consider joining us, if only on Christmas Eve!

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.occantarosa.org, write us at occantarosa@gmail.com or call at (707) 595-0166.



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New Horizons Band Performing Free Holiday Concert

■News Staff

Mark your calendar for Sat., Dec. 21 at 2 p.m., when the New Horizons Band of Sonoma County brings their annual holiday concert to the Berger Center. This festive event is free and sure to fill you with holiday cheer.

This year's program is packed with timeless holiday classics and more. Sing along to favorites like "Frosty the Snowman," "Jingle Bell Rock" and "The Christmas Waltz." The program also features Morton Gould's lighthearted and jazzy "Pavanne," the enchanting "Voyage of the Northern Lights" and "Overture to a New Horizon," a stirring piece celebrating the joy of music-making for older adults. Of course, no holiday concert would be complete without the iconic "Sleigh Ride," complete with the unforgettable whinny of the sleigh-pulling horse.

As a special highlight, Oakmont's own John Z. Ray will step out from behind the conductor's podium to serenade the audience with "Christmas from the '50s," featuring classics like "There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays."

This beloved annual event draws a crowd, so be sure to arrive early to secure your seat. Join us for an unforgettable afternoon of free, live music and holiday spirit on Dec. 21 at 2 p.m.

Jewish Interest Club



■Howard Sidorsky

BECOMING A US RABBI AFTER GROWING UP SECULAR IN ISRAEL

Our speaker on December 15 promises to be quite interesting. Rabbi Ron Koas will discuss becoming a rabbi in the U.S. after growing up secular in Israel.



Rabbi Ron Koas—
Beth Ami.

Rabbi Koas was raised in a secular Jewish family in Tel Aviv. He fulfilled his military obligation and became an officer in the army. After the army, he developed an interest in education and taught Israeli history and geography at a Tel Aviv high school. He also studied theater in Ramat Gan at the Beit Zvi School for the Performing Arts.

Before immigrating to the U.S. in 2002, he relocated to Australia for a few years where he worked in the education field. After arriving in the U.S., he worked as education director for six years at the Park Avenue Synagogue in Manhattan, a Conservative congregation with about 2,000 families and individual congregants. It was during his time at the Park Avenue Synagogue, that he decided to become a rabbi. He will discuss in detail what led him to that decision.

In 2013, he started working as an associate rabbi at the Marlboro Jewish Center in Marlboro, New Jersey. After eight years he became the senior rabbi at Congregation Beth El in Norfolk, Virginia. Now he leads Congregation Beth Ami in Santa Rosa and will share his decision to relocate to the West Coast with us.

The program will begin at 2 p.m., and take place at the East Rec Center. A \$2 donation per person is requested.

As usual, bring a snack or beverage to share. Coming early to help set up is always appreciated.

Everyone in Oakmont and their guests are invited to all JIG sessions.

InvestOAK



■Joe Mundyk

IMPORTANT DISCUSSION ON INVESTING IN SECURITIES

The last meeting of the year of the InvestOAK Club will be on December 20 from 10–11:30 a.m. at the Central Activity Center, Room B.

The subject of the next meeting will warn to be very careful about investing when the stock market is at its current historic highs, particularly if cyber currencies are advanced, such as Bitcoin, Ethereum, Dogecoin and others. This could bring up abuses in overvaluation of trendy stocks such as at the beginning of the Internet, "Covid" stocks (Peloton, Zoom, etc.), EV, Solar and Renewable Energy firms, Artificial Intelligence stocks, Nuclear Industry and now Fusion Energy companies.

Uncovering some of these irregularities were performed by short seller Hindenburg Research. They reported in early 2023, that India's largest company, the "Adani Group" was pulling the largest "con" in corporate history. Last week almost two years from the initial report, the CEO and founder was charged in N.Y. by the S.E.C. with the scam. It's a dangerous world lurking to take ones hard earned retirement money.

After this discussion, we will have our annual Holiday Party. Please join in the fun.

The content discussed in InvestOAK meetings is only for informational purposes. One should not construe in the meeting discussions or presentations advice or endorsement for investing. One should consult with a qualified fiduciary that will give you the required advice for investment.

Kiwanis Club of Oakmont



■Richard Osborne

KIDS NEED KIWANIS

Kids need Kiwanis, a national organization that serves children all over the world. Your local Kiwanis Club of Oakmont meets every Thursday at 8 a.m. for a delicious hot breakfast followed by working on a service project. Pictured below are Kiwanians in front of their monthly food collection, to be donated to the Redwood Empire Food Bank.

In the November 9 *Oakmont News*, we told you about the good work being done by the Maria Carrillo Key Club. Their picture shows them in front of Olivers holding a bake sale to raise money for UNICEF. Soon we will be starting work on Christmas stockings filled with goodies for the chemo patients at Kaiser Hospital.

Your Kiwanis Club of Oakmont holds an ever-popular, twice-yearly Shred-A-Thon and the next one will be on February 13.

Please feel free to join us at any of our meetings. Find us at kiwanisclubofoakmont.org.



■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!

Oakmont Garden Club



■Patty McHugh

HOW TO GROW AND MANAGE A HEALTHY HOME AND GARDEN

The Oakmont Garden Club does not meet in December, but we'll be back on January 8 with another innovative program, "How to Grow and Manage a Healthy Home and Garden." Suzanne Bontempo, Plant Harmony, a self-professed Environmental Activist and Green Thumb, will share her passion and vast knowledge on several garden and plant topics.

Suzanne is the program coordinator of Our Water our World which focuses on promoting clean water by reducing our use of harmful pesticides around our homes and in our gardens. She conducts programs on specific topics and offers consultation to gardeners, clubs, agencies and private companies.

Bring your garden questions for Q&A and your notepad! More on this in the Dec. 28 publication.



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2024 Winter Warmth Coat Drive

Remember that the 2024 Winter Warmth Coat Drive continues through December 20. Please go through your closets and donate your extra coats to those in need. We are collecting coats for men, women and children.

Thank you for your generosity this Holiday Season!

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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.

Oakmont Art Association

■Philip Wilkinson

BUS TRIP TO MARY CASSATT EXHIBITION—JANUARY 14 AT THE LEGION OF HONOR

The Art Association will have an excursion to the Legion of Honor for the Mary Cassatt exhibition. The Oakmont Community Foundation is providing a grant to pay for bus transportation. The trip will be open to any Oakmont resident in addition to OAA members.



Painting by Mary Cassatt.

The bus will leave the Berger parking lot at 9 a.m. and return by approximately 4:30 p.m. Lunch is not included but the museum restaurant has good meals. Deadline for sign-ups is January 1. We expect this will be a very popular trip so sign up as early as you can.

If you are interested, contact Bob Tanner at bob.tanner100@gmail.com, (707) 806-2100, for more info.

Admission to the Legion of Honor is free for deYoung members. For this trip, we're asking deYoung/Legion of Honor members to pay \$10 to cover snacks and driver tip; \$35 for non-members of the museum.

Please mail your check, made out to the Oakmont Art Association, \$10 for Legion of Honor members and include your membership number, or \$35 for non-members. Include your telephone number and a contact person in the event of an emergency. Mail this to Bob Tanner at 5997 Stone Bridge Rd., Santa Rosa, CA 95409.



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PARISA BEHROOZI DDS

First United Methodist Church of Santa Rosa presents

The Longest Night

A service of Hope and Healing




Saturday, December 21st
7pm

We hope you will join us for a beautiful candlelight service of choral music, meaningful meditation, comforting Scripture, and touching symbolic remembrances of those we've loved and lost.

Together, we can reclaim the hope and light that the love of Christ promises to us.

First United Methodist Church of Santa Rosa
1551 Montgomery Dr.
No admission fee: Freewill offerings accepted

First United Methodist Church of Santa Rosa presents:




Sunday, December 22nd
10am

As a part of the worship service, this contemporary cantata is presented by the FUMC Chancel Choir with special guest Spencer Greene (a Metropolitan Opera winner)

1551 Montgomery Drive
Santa Rosa

Following the first two chapters of Luke, this cantata reflects on the power and significance of the events leading up to the birth of Christ.

Listeners will identify with the emotions of the characters in the story and experience the miracle of Christmas in a profoundly personal way.



5:00pm-Featured in this worship service will be a time for children to participate in the Christmas Story.

Tuesday, December 24th
1551 Montgomery Dr

8:00pm- Steep yourself in the spirit of God's love as we embrace the scriptures, music and a thoughtful message culminating in a candlelight celebration.

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Asian Pacific Heritage and Culture Club

■ Anne Marie Siu Yuan

DOCUMENTARY RESISTANCE AT TULE LAKE WITH Q&A WITH HENRY KAKU

DATE: Wednesday, January 8 TIME: 2-4 p.m.

PLACE: Berger Center COST: Free

This documentary tells the long-suppressed story of incarcerated Japanese Americans who defied the government by refusing to swear unconditional loyalty to the U.S.

Henry Kaku is a Judo instructor in Petaluma—he holds a 6th degree black belt. He is also an Origami instructor and was here at last year's AAPI Heritage month celebration to teach us the art of Origami.

Henry was born in Japan. The rest

Vicky and Avtar Kumar and the Dancing Divas. (Photo by Gary Andersen)



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of his family were American citizens who were forcibly relocated and incarcerated in American internment camps in California during World War II. At the end of the War, Henry's family was deported to Japan and their citizenship was revoked. Henry shared his family's story at the Japanese History and Culture event last September.



Henry Kaku.

MEMBERSHIP

If you have an interest in Asian and Pacific Islander heritage and culture, please consider joining the club. You can join online at www.asianpacificheritagecultureclub.org. Membership is \$15 a year. Club members meet monthly on the fourth Wednesdays at local Asian restaurants for fun and fellowship, and we also have several members-only field trips and social and cultural events planned throughout the year.

In November, we held our first club social celebrating Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights—presented by club members Vicky and Avtar Kumar—with spicy vegetarian samosas and sweet and delicious burfi, Bollywood music, and a performance by the Oakmont Dancing Divas to Jai Ho from Slumdog Millionaire.

Check out the club website for details about other upcoming events.



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Oakmont Singles Social Club



■Bailey Penzotti

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY AND WHITE ELEPHANT EXCHANGE HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

WHEN: 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. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share, a wrapped gift for the gift exchange (under \$20), your beverage of choice, and the spirit to enjoy a mix and mingle with fellow Singles members.



Grandma got runover by a Reindeer. (Photo by Bailey Penzotti)

Please RSVP via our website, oakmontsinglessocialclub.org (let us know if you need help navigating the website) or without a computer, to Priscilla, 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.

DO YOU LIVE IN OAKMONT? ARE YOU SINGLE?

If so, join our club to mix and mingle with other Singles. Oakmont Singles Club offers the opportunity to network with other singles who may have your same interests as you. For more information visit our website at www.oakmontsinglessocialclub.org.

■Charlene Bunas

PERSONAL HOLIDAY GIFT UGLY SWEATERS—NOT!

Holidays are here, ready or not. Some folks are ready: presents have already been made, wrapped and sent; wreaths and trees garnish exterior and interior of house. These people have parties planned and dinners prepared. Guess you could call them Readies.

Their laid-back neighbors are cutting back on presents, cards and parties. Perhaps these people are also ready, just on another level. They could also be called Readies.

Regardless of holiday considerations, everyone prepares for inclement weather. Winter means warm

sweaters, and that meant, in the past “The OHI Annual Ugly Sweater Contest.” Not this year! Traditions may be halted and so it is... a fond memory.

Instead, OHI focuses on exercise shirts, tights and, most importantly, shoes. Wearing appropriate clothing, drinking water and enjoyment are the rules of the class. Oh, and recognizing personal fitness. This is one gift each exerciser can accept every class. Give yourself a holiday present: health, vigor and vitality: exercise through the holidays.

Come to class, Monday, Wednesday, Friday at the Berger, 9 a.m. You’ve already got a jump on the annual New Year’s Eve exercise resolution. You are Ready.

Meeting ID: 832 5893 6515. Passcode: 053432.

Oakmont Health Initiative Free Fitness Classes



Nostalgic sweaters don OHI exercisers.



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Water Fitness



■Valerie Hulsey

Rain or shine, you are invited to join Mary's Water Aerobic classes at the West pool for 50 minutes of exercise and fun.

Mary is teaching one class from 9:30–10:20 a.m. Monday through Thursday. There is a drop-in fee of \$8 per class.

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).

Strength and Balance Class

■Valerie Hulsey

MARY'S FITNESS CLASS

The last fall Balance and Strength class was on Friday, December 13. We will restart class after the holidays on Friday, Jan. 10 at 9:30 a.m. at the East Rec.

Wishing everyone happy holidays and a reminder to practice at least one thing we did in class every day!

Meditation

■Joanne Davey

MEDITATING TOGETHER

WEEKLY MEDITATION SESSIONS AT CAC

"To meet everything and everyone through stillness instead of mental noise is the greatest gift you can offer to the universe."—Eckhart Tolle

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.

Conservatives Club



■Jane Gyorgy

LAST MEETING OF 2024

Our last meeting of 2024 was held on Tues., Nov. 26.

Our first meeting of 2025 will be on January 28, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Berger Center, 6633 Oakmont Drive.

As of January, all regular meetings will be held in the Berger Center on the fourth Tuesday of every month, and always from 4–6 p.m. Given the hour, you are welcome to bring food and beverages to share. If you are interested in becoming a member or attending a meeting without becoming a member, email TheNewOakmontCC@gmail.com.

Our November speaker was Matt Heath, Chairman of the Sonoma County GOP. Mr. Heath reported that as of November 6, 2024, of the 57,064 Sonoma County registered Republicans, President Trump received 63,252. No updates have been provided. However, the final count will be reported on December 13.

We will have our Conservatives Club Inaugural ball on Monday, January 20, 2025, from 6:30–9:30 p.m. (formal attire, although appropriate, is not required) at the West Rec. Center. This is a no-charge, BYOB and F (F for food) event. Members may RSVP to the invitation via our SignUpGenius account or send your and your guest(s) full names to TheNewOakmontCC@gmail.com.

We wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and a Happy New Year!

Billiards Club

■Barb Marquardt

ZAPPARELLI DOMINATES 12-PLAYER 8 BALL POOL TOURNAMENT

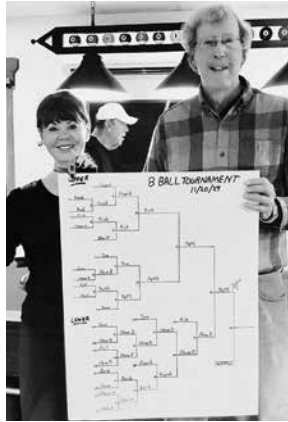
Twelve skilled competitors gathered at the Oakmont Billiards Club on Nov. 20 for an intense pool tournament that showcased high-level strategy and precision. The event featured a double-elimination format ensuring every player had a fair shot at climbing to the top.

Patti Zapparelli emerged as the undisputed champion demonstrating consistent skill and composure. Her dominance was on full display during the final match, where she clinched the title.

Steve Dieterle fought his way to a commendable second place finish. Despite an early loss, Steve staged an impressive comeback. Though unable to dethrone Patti, Steve's resilience and strategic play earned him well deserved recognition.

The tournament was a celebration of skill, sportsmanship and passion for the game.

Congratulations to all the players for a fun day!



Patti Zapparelli, winner, on left and Steve Dieterle.

Oakmont Birders

■Barbara Kendrick

THE GIFT OF MORE BIRDS

Want to give someone who enjoys birds—maybe yourself—a gift that will bring happiness every month of the year? Try the following suggestions—guaranteed to bring more birds to your yard.

Buy a suet cage and a 12-pack of C&S No-Melt Peanut Suet (or another flavor). Home Depot has a great price on these. Hang the cage from a tree limb or a free-standing shepherd's hook pole such as you would use for a hanging basket. Suet attracts more birds than any other food. Even birds that prefer insects and have no interest in your seed feeder will happily come to suet.

You may see Nuthatches, Chickadees, Woodpeckers, Sapsuckers, Flickers, Brown Creepers, Wrens, Yellow-rumped and Townsend's Warblers, Kinglets, even the occasional Band-Tailed Pigeon. Suet feeders are easy to keep clean—just soak the cage for 15 minutes in sudsy water with a few drops of bleach after each suet cake is eaten.

Full disclosure: Squirrels also like suet and will make ingenious attempts to reach your feeder. You may be able to deter them by adding baffles (sold at birding shops and online), but they're tenacious. They don't really eat that much, so sometimes it's just better to share.

Invest in a birdbath. You don't need a large or fancy one—the smallest, plainest varieties are fine.

Shallow is important—no more than 1-1/2 inch deep is ideal. Birds come to bathe and drink, not swim! Change the water often and scrub the birdbath out occasionally. If you don't want to bother with a formal birdbath, a large shallow bowl or dish put on the ground will work too.

Happy holidays to everyone! Have questions about birds? Want a "Birds Seen in Oakmont" checklist? E-mail bkendrick@jps.net.



White-breasted Nuthatch enjoying suet. (Photo by Anita Easland)



Red-breasted Sapsucker ready for the holidays. (Photo by Tom Grey)

Let's Dance—Together

■Terry Whitten, Instructor

LEARN TO DANCE NIGHTCLUB 2-STEP IN 2025

WHAT: Beginning Nightclub 2-Step partner dance classes

WHEN: Wednesdays, Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29 and Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26 from 4–5:15 p.m.

WHERE: Lower West Rec.

COST: \$10 pp for single class. \$8 pp for two or more classes purchased at same time

Nightclub 2-Step (NC2S) is one of the most popular partner dances in Sonoma County and is danced to a large variety of slower ballad type music. Examples of songs that NC2S can be danced to are: "I Will Always Love You" by Whitney Houston, "Because You Loved Me" by Celine Dion, "All of Me" by John Legend, and "Let It Be" by The Beatles. No partners are required for the classes as we will rotate partners. However, rotation of partners will be optional. Also, any ladies that want to lead and any men that want to follow are very welcome.

Because of the popularity of this dance, it will be taught over the course of two months rather than just one month. The most basic beginning steps will be taught in January and we will continue with more intermediate steps in February. All classes will build on the material taught each week. No experience is needed for starting in January but the February classes will require knowing most of the material taught in January.

Join us for a fun way to get exercise and meet great people. A number of studies also indicate that partner dancing may actually increase mental acuity and reduce the possibility of cognitive decline. Some even say that dancing makes you smarter! It is definitely good for our muscles, balance, brains and spirit!

To register or for any questions, please contact me at twhitten@pacbell.net or call (415) 265-7590.



Slot-Car Club

■Ray Wells

SLOT-CAR RACING EVENT IN JANUARY

The next Oakmont Slot-Car Club Race Meeting is on Monday, January 13, 2–9 p.m. in the West Rec. Center.



Photo by Ray Wells.

The track will be medium difficulty with two lanes and a lap of around 10 seconds, several lane changers and our signature dual lane pit stop for refueling. Our first event ran a team race for one hour which was continually hectic. This time we will alternate every half hour between open practice and a team race for the second half of each hour. We hope to have 6 teams with driver changes at refueling stops. Even if you have not signed-up, you are guaranteed to get on a team to improve your driving skills and sense of humility.

Our objective is to have fun driving 1/32-scale model cars that are evenly matched and maybe tune them up with new tires, pick-up braids and oil. We run Carrera GTD cars but other makes can be digitally chipped if you want to bring your own. There are lots of YouTube videos of Carrera slot-cars but nothing beats actually racing.

This is a new club which needs 20 members to become sanctioned. Please contact me at Raywingit@comcast.net to join the club.

Hikers



■Scott Finn

We welcome you to join us on a hike whether you are a member yet or not and the annual membership is only \$15. Go to our website at www.oakmonthikingclub.org to join the club, get 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 19: SHORT HIKE SONOMA VALLEY REGIONAL PARK/ LAKE SUTTONFIELD, GLEN ELLEN

Approximately three mostly flat miles on wide dirt trails, 150 feet elevation gain. Newcomers—OHC members or not—especially welcome.

Depart from Berger at 9 a.m. (check-in 8:50 a.m.). County pass or \$7 day use fee. Check OHC website December 18 for any updates. Hike leader is Jan Preston, jypreston@paccos.com, (949) 433-7330.

DECEMBER 19: LONG HIKE JACK LONDON PARK SUMMIT



Jack London Park Vineyards.

Hike through the vineyards and redwoods to the top of Sonoma Mountain. From the Jack London SHP upper parking lot, we will follow the Lake Trail, Lake Spur, Upper Lake Trail and Mountain Trail and Mountain Spur to the Park Summit.

Around 8 miles with 1,600 feet of elevation gain. Bring layered clothing, water and lunch. Poles are useful due to some rocky sections and bring a Jack London SHP pass, if you have one. Hike leader is John Schwonke, (707) 292-7359.

DECEMBER 26: LONG HIKE TAYLOR MOUNTAIN SUMMIT AND NEW OPEN SPACE TRAILS



Sky Lupine Trail, Taylor Ridge.

We will park at the Taylor Mountain North entrance on Kawana Springs. First we will take the Sky Lupine trail to the Taylor Mountain summit. Return on Sky Lupine to the Highlands connector leading to the new open space trails. We will climb the east knoll peak and make a loop on Colgan Highlands, Barn Fork and Upper Colgan Creek trails. Return on Highlands connector to Sky Lupine trail.

About 9.2 miles and 1910 ft. of elevation. A Regional Park Pass or \$7 required. Bring water, lunch and poles as needed. Depart the Berger at 8:30 a.m. Hike leader is Frank Galli, (763) 360-9756.

Oakmont Ukesters



■Rebecca Gilbert

HOLIDAY PARTY

The Oakmont Ukesters invite our friends and neighbors to join us in an hour of holiday music—feel free to sing along if you like—then we'll make merry and socialize. Refreshments will be served.

WHEN: Tuesday, December 17, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

WHERE: Upstairs at the West Recreation Center

All are welcome. We hope you can come!

Pickleball Corner



■Peter Copen

PICKLEBALL? TENNIS?

When Novak Djokovic warned earlier this year that tennis clubs might soon be converted into pickleball courts, it sounded like an overstatement—until you take a closer look at the numbers. Pickleball, once dismissed as a backyard pastime, has erupted into a nationwide phenomenon, leaving tennis scrambling to keep up. In America alone, the sport's growth is nothing short of staggering, with participation skyrocketing by over 200% in just three years. Now, a jaw-dropping \$855 million investment is being projected to tackle the sport's surging demand, cementing its position as a game-changer in the world of recreational sports.

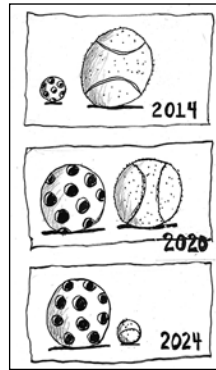
This isn't just about courts and paddles; it's a cultural shift. Pickleball has broken barriers that traditional sports struggled to touch, attracting everyone from Gen Z to retirees. Its appeal? Accessibility, affordability, and a pace that invites inclusivity.

Even Serena Williams, arguably the greatest tennis player of all time, has hinted that pickleball might be her next chapter. And she's not alone—Venus Williams shares her enthusiasm, celebrating the sport as a way to promote movement and wellness.

With \$855 million poised to fund the construction of 24,500 new courts across the U.S., the future of pickleball looks brighter than ever. This unprecedented investment isn't just about meeting demand; it's about shaping the next era of sports in America. Could this be the moment when pickleball steps out of tennis' shadow and claims its own spotlight? One thing is clear: the game is no longer just for weekend warriors—it's a full-fledged movement.

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.

Visit our website: <https://oakmontpickleballclub.com>.



Graphic by Peter Copen.

Playreaders



■D. Hall

CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS WITH A NEW DICKENS

Not to let December slide by without a play, Oakmont Playreaders presented a new Christmas play by Julio Martinez on December 9. Keeping Christmas Well artfully combines events in Charles Dickens' life with scenes from his *A Christmas Carol*. Produced by John Dolan, the cast featured Dolan, Jim Preston, Margaret Applegate, D. Hall, Steven Levin, Peter Krohn, Blanche Kaiser, Wes Doerr, Star Power, and Marcel Coder.

Playreaders will be on hiatus until January 2025, when Sylvia, the talking dog, returns to Oakmont.

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



The cast of recent Summer End, by Eric Chappell: Jonathan Hayden, Ginny Smith, Marcel Coder, Sarah Shankman and Osha Hayden. (Photo by John Dolan)

Tennis Club



■Jack Breibart

THE NEW LOOKS LIKE THE OLD

A few weeks ago, Novak Djokovic surprised everybody in the tennis world, or almost everybody, by announcing that his old rival, Andy Murray, would be joining his team as a coach, at least through the 2025 Australian Open.

But what was not a big surprise was the outcome of the Tennis Club's annual meeting and election at the Berger Center before the Atmospheric River hung over Oakmont for a while.

As expected, all the board, with one exception, was approved for another term. I haven't read the bylaws of the club—and probably won't—but I would assume there is nothing in there about term limits. And that's a good thing.

The one exception to the board's roster is at treasurer where Dave Coar is retiring and Ed Loaiza was voted in. Otherwise, the status held at quo: John Hughson, president; Frank Passaglia, vice president; and Judy Passaglia, secretary.

Holding on to their chairs are Maureen Pennal, social; Rex Fuller, membership; and Arnie Herskovic, maintenance.



The New/Old Board: Rex, Judy, Ed, Frank, Arnie, John, Maureen and Dave.

There were other matters on the agenda of the meeting, which was attended by 15 members of the club, plus the board.

The good news from the meeting was that the club has a commitment from Oakmont leadership to repair the cracks on both the East and West Courts, hopefully in the spring of next year. The club is also looking to get repairs to the nets on the courts and will explore the possibility of adding a shed for added storage on the East Courts.

Planning is also underway for the annual Dinner-Dance Social on January 9. So, dust off those dancing shoes which have been in your closet for a year. And watch your emails for details.

In closing, a tip of the hat to Peter Hogan and Arnie for their stellar work in squeegeeing the East Courts into playing condition on post-rainy days.

Boomers' Dinner for Eight

■Denise Bickert

Do you enjoy good food, wine, and meeting new friends? Boomer's Dinner for Eight will be starting a new rotation in January, 2025. Dinner groups are made up of four couples and meet four times at a member's home over six months.

The host couple provide the main course, the others bring an appetizer, salad or dessert and a bottle of wine to share. Hosting rotates between the four couples. Each group sets their schedule and menus.

Boomers Club membership is only \$10 a year and you can sign up at oakmontboomers.org.

If you would like more information, or are interested in joining Dinner for Eight please contact TinaMarie Romo at tinamarieromo3@gmail.com.



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GOLF CART SALE

2021 EZGO RXV ELITE 2.0. Purchased 6 months ago for \$6200. A quick sale is now necessary and the price is only \$3900. Call Gordon, (707) 539-5962.

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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.

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

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

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Oakmont Vets Club

■Paul Gowins

SWING IN 2025, AND SEND VETS ON AN HONOR FLIGHT!

For months we have been promoting North Bay Honor Flights in nearly every publication we have issued. But we have also recently been previewing our club's plans to send some of Oakmont's own deserving vets on the premiere Honor Flights next year. Well, fasten your seat belts ladies and gentlemen because we are now taxiing into position to fly that plan!



Death and Taxes Swing Band.

We are announcing our club's first big fundraiser event held at the Berger Center on January 4, opening with a festive social mixer (BYOB, and an appetizer dish) starting at 5:30 p.m. Then there will be a concert and dance at 7 p.m. featuring a 40's and 50's Swing Band called "Death and Taxes," which we know are the only things in life inevitable for us all.

Tickets will be \$25 in advance, and \$27 at the door. You can leave us a check at the OVA office to go into our club file or, know that our "Donations and Transactions" page at oakmontvetsclub.org will soon be taking your ticket orders right on our site for your convenience. Of course, we will be happy to sell you a ticket at the door if there are any left by then.

If you're curious about the band go to the "Events and Calendar" page on our website where you will find a YouTube link to a band performance. We hope to see you all there swinging in the new year while we put Oakmont Vets on the map!

Check our site for new club announcements which we will pass on as we finalize our plans. Don't miss the Vets Club tree displayed at the OVA "Winter Wonderland on the Plaza." We had a fabulous 2024. We expect an even better year in 2025!

Official News Sources for Oakmont

■News Staff

A lot is happening in Oakmont! To keep up to date with all things in our community, be sure to follow the official news and information sources for Oakmont Village Association. This would be this *Oakmont News* newspaper, our website at oakmontvillage.com, and our e-blasts, including our weekly *Inside Oakmont* email newsletter.

To sign up for our email newsletter and other e-blasts, follow the instructions at oakmontvillage.com/eblasts.

Silver Guys of Oakmont

■D. Hall

ANOTHER POTLUCK—THIS TIME, LUNCH

Silver Guys of Oakmont will stage a luncheon potluck for its members and residents only on Monday, December 16. It's at the East Rec. Center from 12 noon–2 p.m. As usual, bring food and beverage to share.

Silver Guys of Oakmont provides an opportunity for Oakmont gay men and their friends to enjoy non-political, social, and education activities. All men in Oakmont are invited to attend.

Current Events



■Tina Lewis

This is a very important time to discuss current events! Please join us every Friday from 1–2:30 p.m. at the East Rec. to hear all sides of issues from local to international. 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.

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

Just For Fun Games Club

■Phillip Herzog

WE PLAY GAMES AND IT'S SO FUN NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Are you looking for a New Year's Resolution that you can succeed with? Resolve to take a break from life now and then and play games! Resolve to make new friends. Resolve to learn new games. Well, for that matter, don't resolve anything and come join us anyway!

This year we will again be having our annual NYE Party. It will be at CAC Room B. It will begin with a social potluck at 6 p.m. followed by games, and at 9 p.m. we will welcome in the new year. Please plan to bring an appetizer, salad, main dish, or dessert to share. Bring your own beverage, plates and service; or paper and plastic will be available.

To RSVP or for questions, send an email to: terrylyneparker@gmail.com.

ABOUT THE JUST FOR FUN GAMES CLUB

The Just for Fun Games Club is a great place to make friends and play all sorts of old and new games including board games, card games, tile games and dice games. We meet every Saturday at 1 p.m. in the Card and Game Room in the CAC. However, sometimes we also play online, to do so we use Zoom for communication and the website Board Game Arena for the games. Please call or email ahead to confirm the schedule.

There are multiple games being played at the same time, so you will always be able to choose what game you want to play. It's never too serious—because we play games Just for Fun!

The club has a good selection of games on hand and players often bring new and different games as well. Everyone is welcome to come and have a good time at the Just for Fun Games Club. For more information contact me at Just4FunGamesClub@earthlink.net or (707) 843-3053.

2024–2025 OVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

E-mail: askova@oakmontvillage.com

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heidi.klyn@oakmontvillage.com

David Dearden, Vice President

david.dearden@oakmontvillage.com

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tom.kendrick@oakmontvillage.com

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Christel Antone

christel@oakmontvillage.com

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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.

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COORDINATOR

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Marianne Neufeld 707-953-5302

December 16–31

Bev Leve 707-539-2802

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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







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with Patricia Daniels,
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Canine Club

■Randi Hulce

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO OAKMONT DOG LOVERS! DECEMBER DOGGY DAYS

Check out the Canine Club Tree at Berger Plaza Winter Wonderland on Friday, December 20. A community celebration begins at 4 p.m., featuring holiday cookies, hot cocoa, and caroling.



EARLY BIRD BENEFIT

All current members may take advantage of your "Early Bird" renewal benefit by renewing 2025 membership in December. Cost \$10 individual and



\$16 household. After December 31 dues are \$12 and \$20. Make check payable to Oakmont Canine Club and drop it in the club folder at OVA office by December 31.

New members always welcome. New Member Application form is also available in the Canine Club folder. If you are not a current member, please enclose that form with your \$12 or \$20 check.

December Yappy Hour Dog Walks

- Linda's Yappy Hour Walk: Meet 10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 16, Corner of Oakmont Dr./Greenfield Cir.
- Pj's Yappy Hour Walk: Meet 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 27, West Rec. Parking Lot (near Horseshoe Pits).

These dog walks are casual, self-paced, and about 1-2 miles. Open to all Oakmont residents and all dog breeds and sizes. Wear comfortable shoes and bring water for yourself and your pup.

AT THE DOG PARK

- Bring your balls and frisbees to Big Dog Play Date: Saturday, Dec. 14, 10 a.m. to noon. Open to all dogs weighing 35lbs+, any breed.
- The park is reserved 3-4 p.m., every Sunday and Wednesday, for dogs less than 25lbs. Thanks to all for respecting safety concerns of small dog owners by observing these hourly windows each week.
- Reminders: Please do not bring dog treats, food, or drink of any kind (except water) into the Dog Park. Also, watch your dog; be ready to use waste bags and receptacles located throughout the park.

Happy Tails Dog Park, located at 6302 Stonebridge Rd., behind the Community Garden, Open sunrise to sunset and available to all Oakmont residents.

Oakmont Cat Care Coop

■Mary Ellen King

NEED CARE FOR KITTY WHILE YOU ARE AWAY?



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



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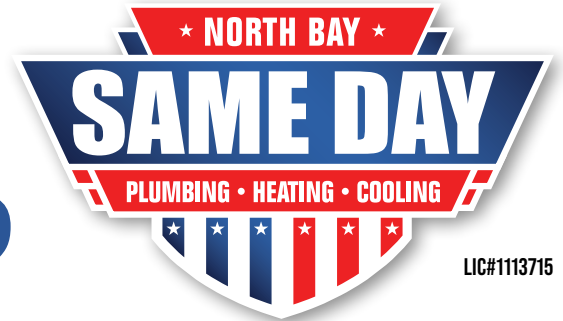


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