

OAKMONT NEWS

Oakmont's Semimonthly Newspaper

www.oakmontvillage.com/news

February 22, 2025 • Volume 63, Number 3

At-a-Glance Summary— February 18 OVA Board Meeting

■Harriet Palk

CONSENT CALENDAR

- Approved formation of Slot Car Club.
- Approved formation of Movers and Groovers (Social) Club.
- Approved Ping Pong Parkinson's Club.

GOLF ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT—GARY SMITH

The committee will be exploring a name change to better describe what it does. Weather and related course conditions in December pretty much killed any opportunity to chip away at the revenue deficit created in the first quarter. Food and beverage performance has improved significantly under chef Josue Aguilar. Staffing has stabilized following the post-Covid employment turmoil. Food and Beverage Manager is the only open position.

Seasonal staff hiring will begin soon. Some cart path work, as well as stripping and renovation of about a dozen bunkers have been completed. Management is awaiting permit approval from state and federal agencies in order to begin construction of the irrigation dam.

Counter Service was introduced at OAK. Having patrons placing their orders at the counter with delivery to their tables lasted for only a day or two and will now return to table service.

If you have constructive comments, share them with the staff and management. As always, be aware of the walking schedule, stay on cart paths, keep pets on leash, pick up after pets and be considerate.

EAST REC PATIO FURNITURE UPDATE

Tabled until some options have been selected.

CENTRAL COMPLEX AREA UPDATE

Board recognizes community's interest in accessing information as soon as possible. Sharing incomplete or preliminary data before a full review could create confusion or lead to misinterpretations. The priority is to provide a thorough and accurate report that outlines any potential projects and their financial implications.

See **AT-A-GLANCE** on page 5

Infrastructure Audit and Future Needs Report

■Christel Antone, OVA General Manager



As part of the ongoing master planning efforts and the board's decision to explore Concept 3 of the Central Complex Master Plan, staff and a few members are conducting an audit of Oakmont's existing infrastructure and common area. This audit focuses on identifying current deficiencies, prioritizing necessary improvements as defined by our reserve study and staff assessments, and outlining a phased approach for future upgrades.

The goal is to provide a clear roadmap for necessary improvements over the next few years. This report will then be submitted to the board to include as a part of the master planning report.

With this information in hand, the board and community will be able to better understand the scope of needs in our infrastructure and common area. Regardless of the direction Oakmont takes in its master planning efforts, maintaining our existing

See **INFRASTRUCTURE** on page 5

2025 Board Election: Meet the Candidates and Key Dates

■News Staff

The 2025 Oakmont Board Election is underway, with seven candidates vying for seats on the board. Ballots for the election will be mailed to members in the first week of March. Completed ballots can be mailed, or they can be delivered in person to the Annual Meeting at the Berger Center prior to the start of ballot counting at 10 a.m. Ballots will not be accepted at the OVA office.

Candidate statements can be found on pages 4 and 5.

Residents are encouraged to stay informed and engaged by visiting oakmontvillage.com/candidates for the latest news and updates.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

The following candidates are running in this year's election: John DeGroot, Jess Marzak, Tim Nelson, Jeff Neuman, Neill Ray, Karl Turner and Robert Williams.

CANDIDATE MEET AND GREET EVENTS

Residents will have multiple opportunities to meet the candidates and ask questions before casting their votes. Below are the upcoming Meet and Greet events.

See **MEET THE CANDIDATES** on page 3



Coastal Valley Lines Brings Model Trains to Oakmont

■News Staff

MARCH 8-9 AT THE WEST REC. CENTER

Coastal Valley Lines (CVL) will showcase their impressive modular layout at the Oakmont West Rec. Center on March 8 and 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This 20 x 38-foot layout features a scenic route that takes trains through a variety of landscapes, including a golf course, bustling towns, grazing cows, the ocean, a snowy mountain with a ski lift, a lumber yard, a country church, and a switching yard. There's even an amusement park complete with a smaller-scale operating train, carousel, and Ferris wheel.

Guests of all ages will enjoy a fun scavenger hunt at this family friendly event, and aspiring train engineers will have the opportunity to operate a locomotive themselves.

Coastal Valley Lines is a group of novice to expert model railroaders from Sonoma County. The club operates their HO scale, DCC-powered modular railroad at both public and private events. In addition to hosting events, the group meets regularly for clinics, work sessions, and monthly gatherings.

Members adhere to a set of technical guidelines for constructing their modules and preparing their locomotives and cars to ensure reliable operation, making for a smooth and enjoyable experience.

For more information about Coastal Valley Lines and their upcoming events, visit their website at cvlrr.com.

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250 Mockingbird Circle

Welcome to this charming 3-bedroom, 2-bath Redwood plan home, offering a unique opportunity for buyers looking to create their dream space. Nestled on an Owner-Maintained lot with sweeping views of the Valley of the Moon golf course, this property retains its original character and is waiting for your personal touch. The peaceful surroundings make it an ideal setting for a tranquil lifestyle while still being close to many urban amenities. As you step inside, you'll find a spacious living room that welcomes natural light through large windows. The open floor plan seamlessly connects the living area to the dining room, perfect for entertaining guests or enjoying family meals. The kitchen features classic cabinetry and ample counter space, providing a functional layout that can be updated to suit modern tastes. Each of the three bedrooms offers generous closet space and plenty of room for personalization. This home presents an excellent opportunity for buyers looking to invest in a property with character and potential. Also, the washer, dryer & refrigerator are included! Whether you're interested in restoring its original features or embarking on a full renovation project, this house is ready to become your next cherished home.



IN ESCROW

150 Valley Oaks Drive

This beautifully remodeled & expanded Manzanita plan home combines modern elegance with comfort, making it the perfect sanctuary. Nestled on a desirable owner maintained street, this charming home boasts excellent curb appeal & a welcoming front porch. The exterior features classic design that complements its surroundings. Step inside to this inviting floor plan w/crown molding, plantation shutters & vinyl dual pane windows. The heart of this home is undoubtedly the beautiful kitchen, which has been meticulously remodeled to include solid surface counters, white cabinets with pull out shelves & recessed lighting. Equally impressive are the beautifully remodeled bathrooms, each showcases elegant tile work & attractive finishes. Be sure to see the laundry room off the dining room. It is large enough to be used as an office & the gorgeous bay window overlooking the yard makes it perfect for a hobby room. The low maintenance rear yard features an expanded patio and mature rose bushes, perfect for summer entertaining. There is also a Generic system installed for easy living.

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Nine & Wine Starting in April

■Khiana Schmuhl, LPGA, Valley of the Moon Club, General Manager

Every Wednesday afternoon from April to October, crowds of fun-loving women gather at the Valley of the Moon and Sugarloaf Golf Courses in Oakmont for laughs, wine, and yes... golf. Nine and Wine will begin its fifth official season in April. The ladies are diverse in age and ability but share a common desire for golf at its most fun. No handicaps. No stress. Just golf and wine. Who could ask for anything more?

The play begins with a shotgun start at 4 p.m. After the round, they meet at OAK, the restaurant at Valley of the Moon for happy hour and if desired, dinner. This

league is unique because it not only provides a quick and casual game of nine holes for the experienced golfer but also offers a structured beginner program for those wishing to take up the sport.

2025 dues for Nine and Wine are \$40; Green Fees are \$22; Cart Fees are \$14; 8-week beginner clinic is \$275.

If you are an experienced golfer and wish to join, please email Joanne Phillips at tanzielewis@gmail.com.

If you are interested in the beginner program, please contact me at kschmuhl@playvom.com.



■Superintendent Andy Tittle, Golf Professional James Perkins, and General Manager Khiana Schmuhl

GOLF OPERATIONS

Sugarloaf Clubhouse update: The Sugarloaf clubhouse has reopened. If you have booked a tee time at Sugarloaf, please check into the Sugarloaf clubhouse located at 557 Oak Vista Court. The golf operations staff sincerely appreciates your patience and understanding during the temporary closure.

Junior Golf: Our PGA Junior League Team Registration Links are now active on the PGA Junior League website if you want to look around and start summer planning for the grandkids. PGA 13U & 17U Team Registration at www.pgajrleague.com/junior-league-events.

Tournaments: Book your next corporate or company golf outing with us today by calling (707) 539-0415 ext. 3 or emailing jperkins@playvom.com.

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.

Upcoming Golf Events: Sunday, March 16—St. Patrick's Foursome Scramble, Valley of the Moon.

OAK

Exciting Updates to Enhance Your Experience at OAK! Starting February 5, we're introducing a new counter service model at OAK to provide a more streamlined and efficient dining experience. You'll now be able to place your order at the bar, and we'll deliver it right to your table! This transition also includes moving our daily kitchen service out of the snack bar kitchen. Rest assured, OAK's operating hours will remain the same, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For our golfers on the go, we're enhancing our snack bar offerings with convenient grab-and-go options available at the snack bar window. Plus, we're expanding snack bar hours to better serve you: Mon.–Thurs., 11 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Fri.–Sun., 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

These changes will not only improve service speed but also provide expanded morning options for our weekend golfers.

Thank you for being a part of our community and for your continued support as we make these exciting improvements. We can't wait for you to experience the new and improved service at OAK!

2025 KNIFE SHARPENING SCHEDULE

WHERE: OAK parking lot, 7025 Oakmont Drive

DATE: Last Wednesday of month

TIME: 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

COST: \$8 per knife/\$14 per garden tool

LIVE MUSIC MONDAYS

February 24: Second Street Band

March 3: Eddie & The Fog

March 10: Highway 12 Band

March 17: Coffey Park Band

March 24: Second Street Band

All Music Mondays are 5–7 p.m. and cash cover charge of \$8 at the door.

MOTOWN AND OLDIES DANCE PARTY WITH DJ DAN

FEBRUARY 27, 5–7 PM

Get ready to groove the night away—join us for an unforgettable dance party filled with great music, lively vibes, and non-stop fun! \$8 cash cover charge. Reservations can be made by calling (707) 539-0415 ext. 5.

Emergency Preparedness Task Force

■Tom Pugliese

OAKMONT RADIO VOLUNTEERS COME TOGETHER

On Saturday, February 1 the OEPTF (Oakmont Emergency Preparedness Task Force) hosted a Happy Hour social event for radio volunteers supporting the Emergency Communications (EmCom) team. The team includes Zone Communicators (ZCs), who carry walkie-talkies in the neighborhoods; Zone Net Controllers (ZNCs), who coordinate neighborhood communications from the ZCs in each of the zones (East, Central, West and Villages of Wild Oak); and Amateur Radio Operators (Hams), who provide the radio link to the Oakmont Central Information Center (ICP) and County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

to request City and County first responder support.

Approximately 30 attendees from all the support groups enjoyed their BYO beverages of choice and a variety of shared snack foods.

This was the first social event including all Oakmont radio people and resulted in a lively discussion and question/answer session. The informal gathering provided the opportunity for volunteers representing the various roles to meet each other, exchange information, ask questions and provide feedback and suggestions.

We thank all those who attended and plan to have more similar social gatherings in the future with the goal of maintaining a strong, informed and motivated emergency support team.

MEET THE CANDIDATES Continued from page 1

Additional candidate events may be scheduled, so residents are encouraged to check the Oakmont website for updates.

All-Candidate Meet and Greet:

Thursday, March 13, 6–9 p.m., Berger

At this meet and greet, all or most candidates will be available to meet people and answer questions.

Jess Marzak:

Tuesday, Feb. 25, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., CAC Birch Room

Monday, Mar. 10, 2–4 p.m., West Rec Center

Tim Nelson:

Friday, Feb. 21, 3–5 p.m., OVA Suite B

Thursday, Feb. 27, 3–5 p.m., CAC Birch Room

Jeff Neuman:

Friday, Feb. 21, 4:30–6 p.m., Fireside Berger

Thursday, Feb. 27, 4:30–6 p.m., Fireside Berger

Friday, Feb. 28, 3–4 p.m., East Rec Conference Room

Neill Ray:

Friday, Feb. 28, 2–4 p.m., CAC Birch Room

Monday, March 3, 3–5 p.m., West Rec Center

Friday, March 7, 2–4 p.m., CAC Birch Room

KEY ELECTION DATES

Early March—Member voting begins

April 7—Annual Meeting

April 7—Ballot counting begins at 10 a.m.

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OVA Board of Directors: Candidates' Statements

In Random Order



JEFF NEUMAN

I served on the OVA Board 2021–24. I identify as fiscally conservative and socially liberal. For Oakmont, this means I respectfully listen to all voices, and I'm mindful of the message of prudent spending sent by our last election. I won't waste your money or mine.

Community safety is always first. Oakmont has made significant progress in emergency preparedness and urban fire risk reduction. Our Architecture, Firewise, Emergency Preparedness, and Meet Your Neighbors groups have worked together well with full support from our General Manager. Fires and insurance challenges serve to remind us of more to be done.

Oakmont 2030 is a vital community conversation. Hundreds of Oakmonters contributed their time and ideas. We need to keep Oakmont attractive. Small actions can be taken in the direction of a long-term plan, all considering costs and benefits. No large expenditures should be pursued until the golf course note is paid off.

The current board has made headway on the bylaws revisions. Our bylaws have been eclipsed by law. This needs focus so that work is not lost.

I was the only board member to vote against the early pay-down of the (low interest rate) golf course note with excess funds from 2023. That money should have gone to reserves or to reduce a dues increase.

I wrote the charter for our Environmental Stewardship committee, which is doing great work.

My current Oakmont community service: Architecture Committee, chair; Emergency Preparedness, chair; Firewise, assessor; Technology Learning Center, chair; Sunday Symposium and Movies at Oakmont.

I'm a second-generation Oakmonter and California native. I've volunteered for the Boy Scouts of America for 25 years, currently a camp director and council board member.

I love Oakmont! Thank you for your vote!



JESS MARZAK

My wife Debra and I have owned our Oakmont home for 39 years, and have lived in Oakmont full time for 10 years. Prior to moving to Oakmont, we lived in San Mateo County, and I was a venture capitalist in Silicon Valley for 22 years. I graduated from Occidental College, and earned an MBA from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. During my tenure in the venture capital industry, I sat on the boards of directors of over 30 companies.

I have served as a director of the OVA from 2019 to 2023, and was President of the OVA in 2022. I was appointed to the board again in 2024. While on the board, I was directly involved in buying the golf courses and hiring Christel Antone.

Debra and I have watched the evolution of the Oakmont community through the purchase of the golf course by club members in 1989, the building of

the CAC in 2008, and the purchase of the golf course again by the OVA in 2019. All of these major projects caused Oakmont residents to step back and evaluate what was best for the community.

I am running for the OVA board because I want all residents to have the opportunity to consider a major renovation for Oakmont, commonly referred to as the 2030 Project. Over 750 residents (16% of the community) have participated in the 2030 Project. I believe that the OVA board should recommend a master plan to the community, and the community should vote on that proposal. No action should be taken by the OVA board without a community vote. If the community votes not to approve the board recommendation, so be it. However, we all deserve the opportunity to make our voices heard.



JOHN DE GROOT

I'm a little older today than before. But in years gone by I've learned a few things. As a Vietnam combat vet, public school teacher, union organizer and negotiator, and then after "crossing over" as a management consultant, I have always wanted to make a difference. That's why I am running for the OVA Board.

Any of the past or future challenges the board has or will contend with, can be solved by dedication and hard work. I'm in for that! Which is one of the reasons I pledge to work towards getting more people involved in both the current and future directions of Oakmont. Without this, the board's most important job of accurately discerning the wants and needs of residents, to then take reasonable action, becomes almost unattainable. My 30+ years of resolving organizational issues, and managing sensitive problems by building cohesive teams, will help encourage cooperation among OVA Board members.

I say this because it is important for you to know where I stand. My pledges are simple. I commit and promise to: 1. Listen to Oakmont residents and Board members, to understand; 2. Try not to be developing a reply while listening; 3. Be cautious but deliberate in my judgements after honest evaluation; 4. Take prompt reasonable actions after sound discernment; 5. Reserve my time and energy for the priorities of affordability and transparency.

Last, you should know I possess the honesty and ability to stand up for fairness, even if it means losing. I look forward to earning your support and bringing my talents and expertise to the OVA Board, by continuing to advance Oakmont's success.



KARL V. TURNER III

I am excited to announce my candidacy for the OVA Board of Directors. I am committed to ensuring that Oakmont remains a vibrant and sustainable place to live in for years to come. Here are my key reasons for running:

Fiscally Responsible Leadership: With extensive

experience in managing large-scale culinary operations, including executive chef positions at prestigious establishments such as the Fountaingrove Golf Club, John Ash & Co., and the Fairmont Hotel, I understand the importance of fiscal responsibility. Many of our homeowners are on fixed incomes, so continuous increases in monthly assessments and the possibility of large project-based assessments will impact on their financial security. I pledge to advocate for fiscal restraint to protect our community's financial health.

Fiscal Transparency: The recent handling of the Berger/CAC remodel project raised significant concerns due to the lack of cost disclosure and funding methods. I strongly believe that any project should proceed with full transparency regarding costs and funding, including any bank loans that might bypass a membership vote. I will work to guarantee that all financial decisions are made openly with full community input and approval.

Improving the OAK Restaurant Operations: I propose to establish a Food and Beverage Committee as a subcommittee of the golf operation committee. This committee will serve as a liaison between CourseCo and the OVA community, addressing concerns about culinary standards and profitability. This will maximize the quality and minimize the loss. If necessary, we will explore renegotiating the contract with CourseCo or finding a new management company to provide better service and financial performance.

Currently, I am honored to serve as the President of the Starry Knolls HOA.

You can rest assured I am dedicated to focusing on transparency, fiscal responsibility, and maintaining a well-managed Oakmont Village Association. I humbly ask for your support.



NEILL RAY

I want to restore homeowner trust and confidence in the OVA Board. We need to manage challenges and find opportunities together.

As a director, my priorities will be: (1) ensuring homeowner approval for large appropriations, (2) spending wisely to keep Oakmont beautiful, (3) supporting emergency preparedness, and (4) establishing legally compliant governance documents.

Professional Background: I was effectively emancipated at 14, serving as a Page in the US Senate. My other jobs include CEO, VP, Director, and National Account Manager with AT&T, EDS, Rare Medium (websites), Computer Horizons, and Optimal IT, LLC.

Currently, I serve on Oakmont's Governing Documents and Communications committees. I also teach bridge and facilitate the Oakmont Writers' League (OWL).

Education: Arizona State University—BS Business Administration and Santa Rosa Junior College—Journalism/Creative Writing.

To represent you on the OVA Board, I need you to share your ideas with me. I invite you to join me at one of my Meet and Greet events: Feb. 28, 2 p.m. at CAC Birch room; Mar. 3, 3 p.m. at West Rec.; or Mar. 7, p.m. at CAC Birch room.

Alternatively, please email to Neill4Oakmont@gmail.com and let me know what is on your mind.

We're in this together. I need your advice, and I ask for your vote.

OVA Board of Directors: Candidates' Statements

Continued



ROBERT WILLIAMS

Mission: Fiscal restraint regarding all OVA assets while working collaboratively with OVA Management. Require a vote of OVA residents on all major projects. Dissolve boundaries by having empathy for those neighbors that are homebound or are less fortunate.

Experience: I am a self-employed Insurance Broker for the past 13 years. I worked for a large insurance broker in Oakland for 22 years. I was elected as a Trustee of the company's \$40 million retirement plan. I owned and operated a successful cafe in San Francisco for many years. I spent 6 1/2 years serving in the United States Navy.

What I Stand For:

Keep dues increases as low as possible.

Maintenance of our existing facilities should always be our top priority.

Amendment of OVA bylaws and governing documents to conform to legal requirements and require approval of membership for any large expenditures.

I oppose the current 2030/CAC project as written. This is a fantasy project and not a beneficial long-range plan. Instead, let's start with "low hanging fruit" type projects that we can afford with the cash we have.

Carry out a survey of all members that is taken in the privacy of their own home without coercion or pressure to answer in a public forum.

Transparency matters. Fiscal conservative. Inclusive not exclusive.



TIM NELSON

I am excited to announce my candidacy for the OVA Board of Directors. I offer a wealth of relevant experience, a plan to better secure our financial future, and affection for our community.

My mission will be to respect the changing financial and personal needs of all Oakmont members and to support them in living with respect and dignity in their own homes for as long as they wish.

Oakmont is a middle-class neighborhood. According to the 2023 United States American Community Survey, 40% of OVA homeowners have yearly incomes below \$75,000. Over 12% of our men and 38% of our women live alone, with many of the latter facing significant financial challenges. Women receive, on average, one-third less retirement income than men. They are vulnerable to financial insecurity, especially when inflation erodes their purchasing power. I promise to be mindful of this and vote to spend OVA's money responsibly.

As an attorney for 40+ years, I understand the importance of updating Oakmont's Bylaws and CC&R's. I promise to fight to amend the OVA Bylaws to require majority of the membership approval before OVA can borrow large sums of money.

As a retired CPA with a Master's Degree in Taxation, I am well equipped, if elected by the board to serve as OVA's Treasurer, to ensure that our financial records are meticulously reviewed so other board members can focus on matters within their own expertise.

Having served on the Oakmont 2030 Sub-HOA Committee, I understand the unique interests of Oakmont's 37 Sub-HOAs, representing 42% of OVA's members. I believe past OVA Boards have neglected these interests and am committed to addressing them. I promise to work to convince the OVA Board to establish a Sub-HOA Standing Committee.

I look forward to earning the opportunity to serve you.

Travel and Adventure Club

■September Holstad

CHEF JOHN ASH CULINARY CRUISE

KSRO radio station and Oceania Cruises will be our guests at the February Travel and Adventure Club meeting, held on Wednesday, February 26. The meeting will be from 3-5 p.m. at the West Rec. Center and will feature an upcoming culinary Alaska cruise.

The Alaskan cruise is September 9, 2026 and will feature local celebrity chef, John Ash, providing a culinary class for each group participant on the cruise.

Come to the February meeting and learn about the cruise and the culinary class, while sampling Ketcham Estates wines. Please RSVP to sholstad@bellsouth.net if you are planning on coming to the meeting, so I can let the winery know how many to plan on. We will have snacks as well.

The travel club is open to all Oakmont residents and there is no annual fee for membership.



Oakmont Volunteer Helpers

■Matt Zwerling

AGING IN PLACE FORUM ON SOCIAL ISOLATION

The Oakmont Aging in Place working group will present an educational forum titled *Community Conversations: Social Isolation*. Personal loss from death, of hearing, of vision, of mobility, of independence may lead to isolation during a period of grief. This may involve short-term or long-term withdrawal from the community. Social isolation for this, and for a number of other reasons, may lead to feelings of loneliness.

The outgoing Surgeon General of the US, Vivek Murthy MD, believes we are experiencing an epidemic of loneliness, "... loneliness is like hunger and thirst, that it's a natural signal our body sends us when we're lacking something we need for survival—in this case social connection." He further has said that the antidote for loneliness is community.

We invite all of Oakmont to join us for brief presentations and small table conversations on this important topic, while building community and caring for each other. Watch for further announcements.

WHEN: Saturday, April 5

WHERE: Berger Center

TIME: 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

INFRASTRUCTURE Continued from page 1

facilities is a necessity, and that is best achieved with a comprehensive view of the costs and considerations involved in maintaining our current infrastructure compared to exploring new concepts. By outlining these factors, it will serve as a valuable resource to help the board and community make well-informed decisions about Oakmont's future.

See more details in the At-a-Glance summary.

AT-A-GLANCE Continued from page 1

Concept 3 remains under exploration with cost modeling being just one component of the broader evaluation process. Transparency remains a cornerstone of governance. A full report will be released when all necessary assessments are complete.

REQUEST BY OAKMONT GARDENS FOR AN OG RESIDENTS CLUB (ASSOCIATION)

The stated purpose is to facilitate communications with OG management. This being an in-house issue, an Oakmont Club would not be necessary or appropriate. Christel Antone will follow up.



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Oakmont Cat Care Coop

■Mary Ellen King

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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.



Oakmont Singles Social Club



■Bailey Penzotti

MARCH BON APPETIT (OSSC MEMBERS ONLY)

WHEN: Thursday, March 6 meet at 5:30 p.m. to carpool from the Berger Center

RESTAURANT: East West California Mediterranean—<https://eastwestcafesantarosa.com>

A favorite among locals and visitors alike, East West Restaurant has been prospering in Santa Rosa for over 30 years. This culinary heaven is best known for the creative menu developed by brothers Nawar and Maen, and includes a large variety of tasty, fresh and local ingredients which embrace vegan and vegetarian options.

Reservation is for 20. Bring cash because the restaurant will not accept separate checks. Reservation cutoff is March 3. RSVP at www.oakmontsinglessocialclub.org or email Simone Smith, ssmith8151@aol.com.



Gretchen, Joe, Jeri, Sharon and Mary Ann enjoying the February Bon Appetit outing to Trattoria Cattaneo. (Photo by Bailey Penzotti)

MARCH MIXER

DATE AND TIME: Friday, March 21, 6 p.m.

LOCATION: East Rec. Center

March is the month when everything continues turning green. Leprechauns start looking for their pot of gold at the end of the rainbows we may see in front of Hood Mountain. Not just plants but Everybody is a little IRISH in March.

For this month's mixer, come with a "lilt in your laughter," some pep in your step, and a smile on your face to enjoy a little St. Patrick's Day merriment.

And bring your civic duty because we're also voting for the next Oakmont Singles Social Club Board members. Ballots listing nominees will be available at the OVA office between March 3–19. Fill out a ballot and cast it in the Ballot Box located next to the club folders. You may also cast your ballot at the mixer.

Wear your green and name badge, bring an appetizer or dessert to share and your Irish inspired beverage of choice. RSVP via our website, www.oakmontsinglessocialclub.org by March 17. If no computer or ability to register using your smart phone, feel free to email Bailey at bailey.osc1@gmail.com.

We will continue to offer website help, if you are having any difficulty. Bring your devices and we'll see how we can help you.

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 Oakmont Singles Social Club membership visit our website at www.oakmontsinglessocialclub.org.

Oakmont Writers League (OWL)



■Neill Ray

OWL WRITERS INVITE MUSICIANS TO MAKE MUSIC TOGETHER

The Oakmont Writers' League (OWL) wants to partner with Oakmont musicians to make songs at their Feb. 27 meeting. The OWL provides the lyrics, and the musicians provide the tune.

Each Thursday at 9:30 a.m., we meet in the Birch room of the CAC, where featured members read two or three pages of their work. Fellow members provide coaching focusing on creative writing elements such as scene description, character development, narrative, dialog, and theme. We occasionally invite editors, agents, publishers, and others involved in the industry's business side to guide members in publishing their work.

If you would like to become an OWL member, send an email to me at Neill.Ray@sbcglobal.net.

Lawn Bowling



■Mary Blake

INTERESTED IN LAWN BOWLING?

Email us at oakmontlawnbowling@gmail.com, we'll teach you how. Lessons are free. Usually we offer about three lessons, an hour each, followed by a practice game. We have equipment in lots of sizes that are free for our members to use as well as used equipment to buy. Annual membership is just \$20!

It's a wonderful sport. It's outdoors with views of Hood Mountain and Sugarloaf. You'll be walking some and bending some but you aren't likely to hurt yourself. And it's a peaceful game with time to chat with your teammates as well as with your opponents.

DAILY DRAW

Our Daily Draw is Monday through Saturday. The daily draw is at 12:30 p.m. Show up at 12:15 to bowl at 12:30.

STATUS OF THE GREEN

The Green's been closed the entire month of February for maintenance. We're expecting it to open on Saturday, March 1.

Monday, March 17: St. Patrick's Day will be our first tournament of 2025 and the first tournament on our marvelous new green. We have a new team of tournament coordinators, so expect an interesting set of challenges for their first outing.



The Bowling Green will soon be ready for bowling!

2025 MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to all of you who have renewed your membership! The updated Green Book will be available in the Bowls Room on March 1!

OLBC WEBSITE

If you haven't checked out our website recently, give it a visit. The calendar isn't yet finalized, all the photos from 2024 have been posted along with our updated by-laws and the 2024 treasurer's report. EMAIL: oakmontlawnbowling@gmail.com. WEBSITE: www.oakmontlawnbowling.com.

Oakmont Vets Club

■Paul Gowins

THE WINDS OF CHANGE

February is positively blowing by us, and there are so many things to try and get a grasp on before they fly by. I now find myself wondering once again where to start. That seems to be the standard of operations now, doesn't it?

So, I begin with the low hanging fruit. On February 6 our Leadership Council had a meeting that held several notable developments for the club. First, we voted to install our first "Members and Dues" officer. Let me welcome Randy Morton to the Leadership Council as our newest Dues Director. I'm sure there will be some activity from his new office shortly.

Next, the council voted to proceed with the filing of our Articles of Incorporation intended to grant us the status of a non-profit 501(c)19, which is a Veterans Mutual Benefit Non-profit Corporation.



Photo by Paul Gowins.

Our February Newsletter will have more details on this and other club developments. There will soon follow an official bylaws filing with the IRS to finalize our new corporate status. Again, more on this in our newsletter, and check our website on the "About Us" page at <https://oakmontvetsclub.org>. We'll keep you informed as we progress.

And, then there is the matter of finalizing the design of our new club lapel pins coming soon. For those that have paid their club dues this year you will get one free. There will be a fee for those of us who have not yet remitted. Again, check our web and Newsletter for more.

Finally, the election season is now on. Oh, not that election, but our Oakmont BOD election in which our club officially has some skin in the game this time. This round promises to be engaging for us, as well as a challenge to keep ourselves informed, do our research, and vote accordingly.

Pickleball Corner



■Peter Copen

THE BACKHAND DINK

The backhand dink is one of the more important shots in all of pickleball, especially if you're a righty who likes to play on the left side of the court. Check out a YouTube video where Ben Johns, who some feel has the best backhand dink in the world:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=86qHTDv70DE>

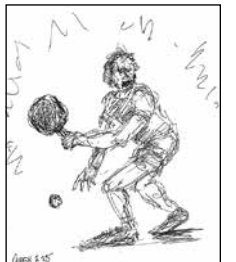
Key takeaways:

- Do not flick your wrist. Keep your wrist locked instead.
- Do cock your wrist upwards, which will put your paddle in the proper position with an open face.

New Player Orientation:

9 a.m. Tuesday mornings. Contact Victoria Dettman at (707) 230-2958. Call Jim Howard at (209) 761-8517 for demo loaner. Mentoring: Barbara Ricossa at ricossa@gmail.com.

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



Graphic by Peter Copen.

Playreaders



■D. Hall

FROM AFTER-HOURS BAR TO UNHINGED RESTAURANT

It was surreality in force when Oakmont Playreaders presented Sean Grennan's script *Now and Then* the first two Mondays of January. The theme of options available in following your dreams was characterized by a sense of doubt about what is and isn't "reality." Mark Rosen produced the play which featured Wes Doerr, Lisa Erwin, Leslie Tuche, Michael Erwin, and D. Hall.

On March 3 and 10, Sandy White will stage Wendy MacLeod's *Slow Food*, a riotous recounting of what happens in a badly-run restaurant.

After mid-year, Oakmont Playreaders will introduce old-time radio plays to its repertoire. Until then, comedy and pathos reign.

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



Playreaders offering for February: Sean Grennan's *Now and Then*, the strange tale of a mysterious visitor, perhaps a prophet, arriving late one night at Mulligan's bar, eager to speak with the bartender. Readers were, standing: Mark Rosen, Lisa Irwin, Wes Doerr, D. Hall; seated, Mike Erwin and Leslie Tuche.

Jazz Club Classes



■Michael James

MARVELOUS LIVE MUSIC FOR MARCH MEETING!

We are happy to present Jeff Diamond as our music guest for the Jazz Club March Meeting and class at the East Recreation Center on Wednesday, March 5 at 2 p.m. He plays music with the New Horizons concert band and the 20-piece swing band that performed for our holiday party.

Jeff began playing music in the fourth grade at a public school in New York. Over the years he has primarily focused on woodwind instruments, including the clarinet, flute and saxophone. He graduated from the State University of New York in New Paltz with a degree in music therapy. After working briefly at Napa State Hospital, he pursued his master's degree in education at Sonoma State University, and from 1986 to 1994 he had the privilege of teaching music at Monte Rio School District. Subsequently, he transitioned into a career in digital media at Santa Rosa Junior College. Throughout his musical journey, he's particularly enjoyed playing classical, jazz and choro music. He is excited about the opportunity to share his experiences and knowledge with the Jazz Club of Oakmont.



Jeff Diamond.

We will have our music class from 3-4 p.m. and everyone is invited to join us! Bring your instrument and music stand, and we will supply the music. We also have instruments to use during the class including a guitar, ukulele, harmonicas, recorders and a flute.

WHEN: Wednesday, March 5, 2-4 p.m.

WHERE: East Recreation Center

COST: Suggested donation \$5

Billiards Club

■Barbara Marquardt

10 BALL TOURNAMENT RESULTS

"Baby, it's Cold Outside," but not this January day in the Oakmont Billiards Club room. The temperature in the room quickly heated up as today was our first tournament of 2025 and it was a 10-ball game!

Twelve club members competitively played in many close matches throughout the afternoon, but the final matches came down to two members: Ron Holladay and Bob Stephens. The winner after several matches was Bob Stephens with Ron Holladay as the runner up.

This was Bob's first Billiards Club Tournament win. Congratulations to Bob, and thanks to all of the club players.



Winner Bob Stephens on the right and runner up Ron Holladay.

Our club meets every Monday and Friday from 1-4 p.m. for 8, 9, or 10-ball games. Join in the fun and get out of the cold.

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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Jazz Club Concerts

■Dolora Hurst

NICOLAS BEARDE IN CONCERT

On March 8, one of the most revered singers in the country will again grace our stage in the Berger Auditorium. When he last performed in Oakmont, he received an immediate standing ovation, and then minutes of the thrilled audience shouting “Encore, Encore.” He is absolutely mesmerizing when performing. His ability to capture the feeling of the lyrics he is singing is phenomenal.



He has worked in movies, the stage, and was featured in a staged radio play starring Danny Glover. He also became part of Bobby McFerrin’s groundbreaking acappella “Voicestra” and spent 10-plus years on the road. He then became featured vocalist and narrator for Vincent Herring’s “Story of Jazz Orchestra” highlighting the 100-year history of recorded jazz music.

Mr. Bearde will be accompanied by the awarded pianist Larry Vuckovich and his quintet of extraordinary musicians including the beautiful guitar of Kai Lyons. It is seldom that we are hosts to such an incredible group of exceptional musicians. You will not want to miss this concert!

WHEN: March 8, 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.)

WHERE: Berger Center Auditorium, 6683 Oakmont Drive

TICKETS: Admission is \$40. Bring or mail check to the OVA office and leave in the Jazz Club folder.

Cabaret seating. Drinks and snacks permitted. Tables for eight people may be reserved.

For information, call (707) 537-7720.



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Quilting Bee

■Elizabeth McDonnell

THE WORLD OF CONTEMPORARY TEXTILE ARTISANS OF KUTCH, INDIA

On March 13, the Oakmont Quilting Bee and the Oakmont Arts Association will host Judy Frater who will discuss textiles designed and created by artisan designers as well as present a trunk show of artisan designed and created textiles.

Judy traveled to India at age 19 to improve her batik fabric techniques. On a trip to Kutch, she discovered embroidery and diverted to exploring the mystery of austere women creating raucous colorful tableaux.

She went on to obtain Master’s Degrees in Anthropology at the University of Minnesota and Museum Studies at the University of Washington, and continued research on traditional textiles of Kutch for over 30 years. While living in Kutch, Judy researched traditional textiles and founded Kala Raksha Trust, the Kala Raksha Museum, and Kala Raksha Vidhyalaya, the first design school for artisans.

Judy authored the award-winning book *Threads of Identity*, as well as chapters in several other books. Judy will talk about the book, which covers her work in India, how she came to launch a design education program for artisans, what she learned from them, what they learned from her, and what’s next.

She currently resides in Santa Fe, NM and teaches

the values of handcraft through lecturing and writing. In 2022, she was Artist in Residence at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and she has led annual artisan tours in Kutch since 2022.



Textiles.



Artisans.

The program will take place at the Valley of the Moon Golf Club’s Sugarloaf clubhouse on March 13 beginning at 1 p.m. Members of the Oakmont community are invited to attend. There is no charge for attendance.



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Lifelong Learning

■Marlena Tremont



BLUES IS A WOMAN WITH PAMELA ROSE FRIDAY, MARCH 14: 7 PM TABLE SEATING, \$25

Pamela Rose wants you to know that blues is not just a man and a guitar. Blues is a Woman includes song, story, and an all-woman-band dedicated to the rise of female jazz musicians. Experience an exhilarating celebration of blueswomen who powered America's musical roots including Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Etta James, Janis Joplin, and Bonnie Raitt.

SPRING CLASS PREVIEW: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, BERGER CENTER

Music and refreshments start at 2:30 p.m. Program begins at 3.

BASEBALL, YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Instructor: Mick Chantler

Wednesdays, Apr. 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7 and 14, 3-5 p.m.,
Berger Center
6-week session. Cost: \$95

DAVID BOWIE: GLAM ROCK'S STARMAN

Instructor: Richie Unterberger

Thursdays, Apr. 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8 and 15, 3-5 p.m.,
East Rec
6-week session. Cost: \$95

SANTA ROSA'S REMARKABLE HISTORY

Instructor: Bill Montgomery and special guest,
Nick Tipon

Mondays, Apr. 14, 21, 29 and May 5, 3-5 p.m.,
Berger Center

4-week session. Cost: \$65

TOMBSTONE, ARIZONA, OCTOBER 1881

Instructor: Dennis Cornell

Mondays, May 12 and 19, 3-5 p.m., Berger Center
2-week session. Cost: \$65



SANTA ROSA MARIMBA HONOR BAND FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 5 PM, BERGER CENTER

No fee, donations appreciated.

This passionate group of young musicians wowed Oakmont in 2024 and they're back! Playing on special Zimbabwean style marimbas made from padauk, a brilliant red hardwood, these talented students produce earth shaking selections of music from all over the world.

They will be led by Irene Gilchriese, local educator and newly appointed member of the Green Music Center Board of Advisors.

To register for concerts and classes, go to OakmontLL.org, fill out a form in the OLL folder in the OVA office or pay at the door.

Oakmont Sunday Symposium

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

■Judie Coleman

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

FEBRUARY 23: MARK RANDOL THE BAY AREA AT WAR

In a riveting talk, Mark Randol, will describe the important contributions the Bay Area has made to American national defense. He will show us well-known and not-so-well known places where war history was made.



Mark is an engaging speaker and you will come away with a deep appreciation for this intriguing part of our local history.

MARCH 2: KY BOYD ANNUAL OAKMONT ACADEMY AWARDS REVIEW



Come join us for Ky's Annual Academy Awards Movie Reviews and Predictions. Ky, a self-professed movieholic, is one of Oakmont's favorite speakers. He also runs the renown Rialto Cinemas in Sebastopol.

He will give us his take on the movies and actors nominated for the 2025 Oscars. We'll even vote! This is always a very lively and fun event. Bring your own popcorn!

MARCH 9: GEORGE MCKINNEY SALLY HEMINGS: THOMAS JEFFERSON'S CONCUBINE

Sally Hemings, one of the most intriguing individuals in American history, was Thomas Jefferson's slave and concubine. George McKinney will delve into the complexities of her life as a woman and a slave.



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Canine Club

■Randi Hulce



Changes For Small Dog Hours (dogs weighing 25 lbs. or less): Effective March 1, Small Dog Hour will be daily, instead of only Wednesdays and Sundays. Also added are Seasonal Hours, which should help in summertime, when the park gets quite hot. You will see signs posted to reflect these changes.

Reserved Daily—Small Dog Hour: winter, Nov. 1–Apr. 30—3–4 p.m.; summer, May 1–Oc. 31—9–10 a.m.

We kindly request dog owners, with breeds larger than 25 lbs., observe the new daily window for small dogs. We encourage respect for the safety concerns of small dog owners.

Big Dog Play Date (dogs 35lbs. or more): Saturday, Feb. 15, 10 a.m.–noon.

Doodle Dog Play Date (any size): Saturday, Mar. 29, 10 a.m.–noon.

CANINE CLUB ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC

Hope you have this on your calendar already!

WHEN: Saturday, April 12, Noon–2 p.m.

WHERE: West Rec. Picnic Area or West Rec Center (whichever the weather permits!)

This picnic is for active Canine Club members only. More details to follow later.

PAWS FOR HEALING— STILL TIME TO REGISTER!

If your dog loves people, why not share the love! Consider volunteering with this nonprofit that brings smiles and joy to our community. Teams visit local hospitals, clinics, and assisted living facilities. Volunteers also go to schools and libraries where children read to dogs.



Certification training begins in March: Sat., Mar. from 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.—classroom; Sat., Mar. 22 from 9a.m.–Noon—Dog Evaluation by Appt.; Sat., Mar. 29 from 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.—classroom.

Requirements include that your dog be one year or older, that you have owned your dog at least six months, and that your healthy dog has basic obedience skills. Training and mentoring provided, and you can schedule visits when it is convenient for you. Choose where you want to go from the list of facilities, including Santa Rosa Memorial and Kaiser Hospital and Spring Lake Village.

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.

FEBRUARY 23: FIREBRAND

Katherine Parr, the sixth wife of King Henry VIII, is named regent while the tyrant battles abroad. When the king returns, increasingly ill and paranoid, Katherine finds herself fighting for her own survival. 2023, R, 2:01.



MARCH 2

BEETLEJUICE BEETLEJUICE

After a family tragedy, 3 generations of the Deetz family return home to Winter River. Still haunted by Beetlejuice, Lydia's life is turned upside down when her teenage daughter, Astrid, accidentally opens the portal to the Afterlife. 2024, PG-13, 1:45.



MARCH 9

THE LAST RIFLEMAN

A WWII veteran escapes his care home in Northern Ireland and embarks on an arduous but inspirational journey to France to attend the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings, finding the courage to face the ghosts of his past. 2023, PG-13, 1:35.



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Star of the Valley Parish

■Barbara Gasparini

CHANGING THE WORLD THROUGH RADICAL KINDNESS!

What does this mean? How can I be a part of changing the world? Did you know that the rights of workers, human dignity, the family as the basic foundation of society and protecting the environment are all part of Catholic Social Teachings? The mission of Catholic Social Teachings are universal—for all faiths and beliefs.

The Pastoral Council of Star of the Valley Church is sponsoring a three-session workshop on Catholic Social Teaching. Learn about the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching and its history and biblical foundations. Learn the



difference between charity and justice and how both are important responses to caring for our fellow human beings. Most importantly, learn how you can make a difference and bring radical kindness to our world.

Four of our parishioners, Len Marabella, Marcy Fox, Mike Hanlon, and Mike Apicella will lead interactive sessions on the various facets of Catholic Social Teaching.

The sessions will be held at Star of the Valley Parish Center from 3–4:30 p.m. on the following dates: Wednesdays, March 12, 19 and 26. Sessions are free.

Please come and become part of the movement to “change our word through radical kindness.”

■Peter Hardy

BINGO

Star of the Valley will present March Bingo on Tuesday, March 4 at 4 p.m. This is a change of date for this month only due to a conflict with another club.

This month’s bingo will feature Butternut Squash soup with garlic bread, corn bread, and brownies for dessert. Cost of the dinner is \$10 and Bingo cards are \$2 each. We ask everyone to arrive before 3:45 p.m. so they may purchase their dinners and bingo cards before the 4 p.m. start of bingo.

Everyone is welcome. If you don’t play bingo, then you are welcome for dinner which starts at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Café Mortel



■Linda Suhr

LIVE WITH GREATER AWARENESS, APPROACH DEATH WITH PEACE AND DIGNITY

On March 12, Café Mortel will host a special presentation by Candace English, MFT. A licensed family therapist in practice for 25 years, she is also a certified death doula who received training from the Institute for Conscious Dying in Boulder, Colorado. Candace will present cases from her doula work as well as offer an innovative practice for determining and carrying out the spiritual/emotional preferences of dying people. Devised by Tarron Estes, this format seeks to secure confidence and safety for the dying, their friends and family.

Candace is an Oakmont resident and serves as the facilitator of Oakmont Grief Support Group. Her presentation promises to be both moving and informative as we openly explore the potential for aesthetic value in the final journey of life. Join us on Wednesday, March 12, at 3:00 till 4:15 in the East Rec Center. As part of Candace’s presentation, attendees will have the opportunity to do some self-exploration, so please bring a clipboard or writing surface and a pen or pencil. Table space will be available, also. Due to its interactive nature, this presentation will not be available by Zoom. We hope to see you at the East Rec.

Oakmont Health Initiative Free Fitness Classes

■Charlene Bunas

OAKMONT HEALTH INITIATIVE ENTHUSIASTS SPEAK

Something must be working: enthusiasm for Oakmont Health Initiative classes continues to rise. In 2024, total attendance rose 9.20% over 2023, according to OHI Statistician Kathy Sowers.

OHI has regularly scheduled classes, in person and zoom. Monday, Wednesday and Friday classes await anyone willing to improve fitness.

OHI boasts two highly qualified, educated and experienced instructors. Both JoRene and Nicole are passionate. Nicole’s outreach includes diet, mental health, weight training. JoRene has certification for leading classes for people facing Parkinson’s Disease, arthritis or balance issues. Together, they represent over 60 years of guiding grateful clients to health, mental and physical. They not only teach proper form but remind and demonstrate what good form looks like.

OHI connects. Members encourage each other. There is no “star” student; all students are challenged by these two instructors... and that’s one reason for continued increases in attendance. Results. OHI produces.

“Nicole has not only helped vastly improve my physical strength and fitness, but my entire life; I have benefited from her greatly and am truly grateful for her help in my personal growth,” says Shannon.

Tudy says, “... instructors are a gift... After my knee replacement, in less than a week, I was able to stand full weight, and bend my knee to degrees impressive to therapist. The level of fitness I had going into the operation is helping me recover faster and easier than even my doctor told me would be possible.”

OHI classes are fun. The body is capable of producing 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.

OHI package is what brings Oakmonters to their first class and to the exercise commitment they make.

You are invited to the party! MWF (excludes second Friday), 9 a.m. at Berger.

Meeting ID: 832 5893 6515; Passcode: 053432.



Kathy is a regular exerciser and a total statistician. (Photo by author)

Meditation

■Joanne Davey

MEDITATING TOGETHER WEEKLY MEDITATION SESSIONS AT CAC

“Make your mind like the earth which receives all things steadily.”—The Buddha

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.



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 play-offs.

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 for club information, bowling dates, week results and team schedules to bring cookies and help setup at 1 p.m. and tear down equipment at 3:30 p.m.

No bowling Feb. 25 (fourth Tuesday).

Bowling dates for March: Mar. 4, 11, 18 (St. Patrick’s Challenge). No bowling Mar. 25 (fourth Tuesday).

Bowling dates for April: Apr. 1, 8 (Playoff Tournament, 6 Teams), 15 (Week #1 Summer League), 29. No bowling Apr. 22 (fourth Tuesday).

Teams: Starting on Jan 21, the Winter 2025 League reduced from 10 teams to 8 teams. Still 1 team is a Ghosts team (No Bowlers). If you’re thinking of joining us, now is the time.

Parkinson’s Group: It has been our privilege to have the Parkinson’s Group bowl with Oakmont Lanes over the past year. It was special for us to see them have so much fun and improve their motor skills at the same time. They have created their own Parkinson’s Ping Pong Group which provides them with greater eye/hand coordination to further improve their motor skills. They now play at the East Recreation on Thursday afternoons and soon to play on Sunday afternoons. You are always welcome in our club and the very best of luck to your exciting future.

RESULTS AS OF FEB. 4 (WEEK #4, WINTER LEAGUE)

2 p.m. League: first place, 4 Tops; second place, King Pins; third place tie, Pocket Hits and High Rollers; fifth place, Alley Oops; sixth place, Wii Four; seventh place, Strikers; tenth place Ghosts.

Men’s High Games: Don Shelhart, 266; Charlie Ensley, 237; Gordon Freedman, 235; Frank Schepergerdes, 212; Terry Leuthner, 206; Mike Earles, 200.

Women’s High Games: Sandy Osheroff, 279; Peggy Ensley, 233; Pat Scott, 227; Laurel Earles, 225; Diane Price, 215; Shirley Jamison, 214; Vickie Jackanich, 213; Lynda Rebsamen, 201.

Oakmont Lanes is starting our 17th year. Thanks to everyone who has made Oakmont Lanes so successful with all the fun and camaraderie you share together. 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.

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.

Conservatives Club of Oakmont



■Jane Gyorgy

A GALA NIGHT

Numerous club members and others gathered on January 20 for our inaugural gala in the Upper West Rec. Some arrived in evening wear to celebrate the occasion in style, including a gentleman in a tuxedo. Champagne and various wines flowed, and our members provided many appetizers as we streamed the galas from the East Coast.

The following week saw our first monthly gathering. Three representatives of Braver Angels were our speakers. They provided a documentary on the Red Blue Engagement workshop, answered questions, and informed us of their intention to hold a Red Blue workshop in early March. For more information, go to <https://braverangels.org/attend-a-workshop>, scroll down to Standard Workshops, then see the "Red Blue Engagement."

Jack Tibbetts, executive director of St. Vincent de Paul, Sonoma County, and advocate for solutions to our homelessness crisis, will be our speaker at our meeting on February 25.

Jack has long held a passion for serving others, and homelessness is near and dear to his heart. While in college, he set up a nonprofit, Warm for the Holidays, partnered with local businesses, and provided thousands of coats and jackets to Sonoma County's homeless people yearly. This experience further motivated Jack to serve this population. Elected to the Santa Rosa City Council in 2016, he resigned in December 2022 to accept his position at SVdP Sonoma County.

Members may RSVP via the invitation email by clicking on the Sign-Up button or RSVP via email.

If you want to join or attend the meeting, email: TheNewOakmontCC@gmail.com. Please include your full name and the full names of any guests you intend to bring.

We meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month in the Berger Center, 6633 Oakmont Dr., 4-6 p.m. Food and beverage are welcome.

Oakmont Democratic Club



■Robin Jurs

OAKMONT DEMS BRING INDIVISIBLE SONOMA COUNTY TO OAKMONT

Many Oakmonters are wondering where to turn, what to do in this time of change in our country. Some are tired and discouraged. First and foremost, we must take care of ourselves and one another. We need to build community right here in our midst. There is a lot we can do, and if we do it together, we will gain strength and insight from one another.

On Monday, March 10 the Oakmont Democratic Club will bring Indivisible Sonoma County to our monthly meeting. They are taking steps to restore our spirit and our motivation to act on behalf of justice and the rule of law.

The national Indivisible Organization is a grassroots movement based on the vision of democracy—of, by, and for the people. The local, Sonoma County Indivisible will share with us who they are and what they are doing locally to support this vision.

Join us Monday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m. to socialize and at 7 to hear about Indivisible Sonoma County. We welcome all Oakmonters who are looking for ways to awaken their spirit and find a path toward revitalization.

For more information and event updates, see the Oakmontdemocraticalliance.org website.

Asian Pacific Heritage and Culture Club

■Curtis Chong

DOCUMENTARY FILM SERIES: CHINATOWN

WHEN: March 19, 2 p.m.

WHERE: East Rec Center, 7902 Oakmont Drive

Admission is free.

This documentary tells the SF Chinatown neighborhood's story from the point of view of those who have lived their lives there. The program is narrated



by folklorist Charlie Chin and features the poetry of performance artist and poet Genny Lim.

Thousands of tourists flock through its streets every day. Its curio shops, all-night restaurants and crowded alleys have been celebrated from Broadway to Hollywood. But few people know the human drama and history that are hidden in the streets and faces of San Francisco's Chinatown.

This one-hour documentary tells the neighborhood's story from the point of view of those who have lived their lives there, from the first immigrants who came to "Gold Mountain" in search of work and wealth, through the pain of a century of isolation and racism, to the recent arrivals who even today are revitalizing America's gateway.

Kiwanis Club of Oakmont



■Richard Osborne

YWCA SPEAKS TO KIWANIS ABOUT CHILDREN IN CRISIS

At this printing, the ever-popular Shred-A-Thon is history, and our next big fund-raising event, "Margaritas and Carnitas" will be on August 23.

At a recent meeting, a representative from YWCA spoke to us about the great work they are doing to help children in crisis. In this wealthy community, it is surprising how many abused women must escape and leave their home with small children in tow in the middle of the night because of violent abuse at the hands of the fathers.

YWCA gives them a place to live. Children are housed in a large house and the children have access to playthings, food, and most importantly of all, a way to work out their anger. Pictured here is Kiwanis giving \$1,000 to help the YWCA in their cause.



Photos from the meeting by Richard Osborne.

If you would like to be part of this fun club and help Sonoma County children, please feel free to join us. Our club is on the web at kiwanisclubofoakmont.org and you can reach us at kiwanisclubofoakmont@gmail.com.



Oakmont Pétanque Club

■Don McPherson

2025 WORLD GAMES IN CHENGDU, CHINA

Pétanque is among the 34 sports comprising 60 distinct disciplines chosen for competition in the 253 medal events of the 2025 World Games, August 7-17 in Chengdu, China. The International World Games Association, recognized by the International Olympic Committee, has organized the multi-sport World Games every four years since 1981 for worldwide sports disciplines that are not yet included in the Olympic Games.

The IWGA prioritizes gender balance and includes para-sports in its competitions. To determine what national federations would be invited to participate in Pétanque, the IWGA ranked national teams according to their combined international tournament performances in 2023 in the Chengdu medal categories of men's and women's Singles, Mixed Doubles, Triples, and Precision Shooting. The top three teams in the 2025 rankings are Thailand, France, and Tunisia. The United States ranks 17th.

Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province and well known as the Giant Panda Breeding Research Base, is a city of 20 million people in south-west China. Participants in the Games will include 5,000 athletes plus their coaches and competition officials. The 2025 World Games will be streamed live at: <https://live.theworldgames.org>.

PÉTANQUE IN OAKMONT MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, SATURDAY

French in origin, Pétanque (pay-tonk) has been a feature of organized play in Oakmont since the 1980s and an OVA-recognized club since 1996. Pétanque is social, fun to play, and learned quickly. Because boules are tossed rather than rolled as in its boules sports cousins Bocce and Lawn Bowls, Pétanque is three dimensional and endlessly fascinating in its deeper levels of execution and strategy. Players compete equally regardless of age, gender, or disability.

The club encourages Oakmonters who may be interested 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 for casual friendly games with teams randomly chosen. The club has boules to lend while you're learning, and you'll be playing right away.

Oakmont Progressives



■Robin Jurs

THE OAKMONT DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE IS BACK!

Feeling overwhelmed by the changes in Washington? You're not alone. Let's stay informed, engaged, and connected while taking care of ourselves.

Formed as a collaboration between the Oakmont Democratic Club, Oakmont Progressives, and three other groups, ODA is continuing through 2025 to provide education, social events that build community, and opportunities to act.

WHAT'S AHEAD IN 2025?

Second Mondays: Educational meetings with expert speakers on local, state and national issues. Hosted alternately by the Oakmont Progressives and Oakmont Democratic Club.

Fourth Thursdays: Social events—documentaries, discussions, or small fundraisers benefiting local organizations.

All events will be held at the East Rec. Center. Join us—together, we're stronger!

Visit oakmontdemocraticalliance.org for updates.

Oakmont Music Lovers

■Judy Walker

PRESENTATION BY JOHN BURCHARD

For our March session, I'm so pleased to welcome back John Burchard who has given us so many interesting presentations in the past. He has prepared a list of topics to discuss and will also provide examples with live piano excerpts.

His first topic will explore Schubert's "March Militaire" originally written for four hands on one

piano but he will use a transcription for solo piano.

Next, he will play some segments of Chopin's "Fantasie Impromptu" which will be familiar to many of you. Even though this is a popular, well-regarded piece of the piano literature, Chopin apparently did not get it published during his lifetime. John will discuss possible reasons for that.

The third subject for exploration will be the musical

form known as the fugue, used by most of the world's great composers in one version or another. John will demonstrate a number of examples including one of his own compositions.

We now focus on more intimate discussion groups and do hope you can join us for this interesting session.

WHEN: Tuesday, March 4 at 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: East. Rec. Center **ADMISSION:** Free

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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 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.

FEBRUARY 27: INTERMEDIATE HIKE ANNADEL—WOODLEY PLACE TO LEDSON MARSH—THE LONG WAY

One of our "backyard" hikes via an alternative route and with a slightly different focus. No climbs too steep for enjoying the scenery or having a conversation. Good companion hike to Dave's hike on Lawndale and Schulz trails later in the spring. Bring water, lunch and appropriate clothing. About 5-6 miles, 600 ft. elevation gain.

Depart from Berger at 9 a.m. Hike leader is Doug Morrell, (970) 376-0928.



Annadel Meadow.

FEBRUARY 27: LONG HIKE ANNADEL WATERFALL HIKE

This hike will follow some of Henry's favorite trails and points of interest in Annadel, including the Schultz Waterfall. Henry was our legendary hike leader from the 1990s and early 2000s. The hike will be about 6-7 miles with about 1000 ft. elevation gain. Bring lunch and water (hiking poles are recommended).

Meet at Berger parking lot at 8:30 a.m. Hike leader is Randy Vincent, (707) 538-3530.

MARCH 6: SHORT HIKE HEALDSBURG RIDGE OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

Less than 3 miles, 300 ft. elevation gain at naturalist pace; early Spring wildflowers, views. 40-min.

drive. Bring lunch and/or stop at Big John's Market wonderful deli after hike.

Depart Berger 9 a.m. and return at approximately 1:30 p.m. Bring usual; poles suggested. No restrooms or water. Rain cancels. Check OHC website March 5 for possible changes. Hike leader is Carolyn Greene, (805) 443-7289.

MARCH 6: INTERMEDIATE PLUS HIKE UMBRELLA TREE, NORTH SONOMA MT. TRAIL TO POWER TOWERS AND BACK

A fantastic view from the Umbrella Tree at the North Sonoma Mountain Regional Park will be enjoyed after an exhilarating climb. We'll then return to the North Slope Trail and hike to the Power Towers for lunch before our return. This 7.5-mile hike will have an elevation gain of 900 ft. Bring liquids and lunch in addition to weather appropriate clothing and hiking poles if needed.

Depart from the Berger lot at 9 a.m. Hike leader is Dave Chalk, (707) 972-8988.

MARCH 6: LONG HIKE BARNABE PEAK

360-degree views with a shady ascent on our hike up to the peak in Samuel P. Taylor State Park. Mostly shaded on a well refurbished trail, with great views from the fire tower location in all directions, including Tomales Bay. Then a steady descent to the Lagunitas Creek Valley and return by the Cross Marin Trail through the redwoods by the campsite and finally a very shallow stream crossing back to the car. 9.5 miles and 1500 ft. elevation.

Bring lunch and water, and poles. Leave the Berger at 8.30 a.m. Hike leader is Peggy Clark, (650) 274-4137.



Barnabe Peak Vista.

Oakmont Garden Club



■Patty McHugh

COMMUNITY SEED EXCHANGE AND BACKYARD REGENERATIVE GARDENING

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, March 12, 9:30 a.m. Social, 10-11 a.m. Program, Q&A follows

WHERE: East Rec. Center, 7902 Oakmont Drive

TOPIC/SPEAKER: Peggy Rose, Seed Exchange Volunteer, Passionate Regenerative Gardener

Peggy has a fascinating history demonstrating her love of plants. She was a commercial organic farmer in the 90's, is a permaculture and regenerative farming practitioner, spent two years in Bolivia 2006-2008 growing her own food and became a Food Forest gardener upon her return and since. Peggy's creed: "Be a force in the world (from your backyard) for nurture, resilience, self-reliance; care for the plants and animals and birds and they will care for you."

We love bringing you programs that promote these ideals, thus doing our part for the planet while giving you inspiration to make your own personal contribution. This program will cover information about the Sebastopol Community Seed Exchange, its mission, history, and how they plant, grow, harvest, thresh and distribute seeds and continue into regenerative gardening. Seed saving and regenerative gardening go hand-in-hand.

The Community Seed Exchange is a free library of more than 200 varieties of seeds free for the taking. The volunteer crew can likely tell you what the plant looks like, their taste and texture and how to use them, as many of the volunteers have grown and tested them in their own gardens. You will find unusual plant seeds that you won't find elsewhere. The Exchange grow seed crops that do well anywhere in Sonoma County.

The words "exchange" and "library" are loosely used, as visitors are not expected to bring seeds to exchange and are not expected to return anything. They do, however, accept donations of seeds that they may grow and test in their own gardens.

One-time visitors welcome!

NEED A RIDE? GIVE A RIDE! OAKMONT VOLUNTEER HELPERS

COORDINATOR

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February 16-28 Bev Leve 707-539-2802

March 1-15 Matt Zwerling 707-539-8996

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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 LOCAL OFFICIALS

County Supervisor Rebecca Hermosillo, District 1

Phone (707) 565-2241

Email: rebecca.hermosillo@sonoma-county.org

Address: 575 Administration Drive, Rm. 100A, Santa Rosa 95403

City Councilwoman Dianna MacDonald, District 3

Email: dmacdonald@srcity.org

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

Let's Dance—Together!

■Terry Whitten, Instructor

LEARN TO DANCE FOXTROT IN MARCH

WHAT: Beginning Foxtrot partner dance classes

WHEN: Wednesdays, Mar. 5, 12, 19 and 26; 4-5:15 p.m.

WHERE: Lower West Rec. Center

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

RSVP: Please contact me to register in advance at twhitten@pacbell.net or call (415) 265-7590. Class size may be limited as Foxtrot requires more space than many other dances.

I'm so glad to say that there has been a big interest in the partner dance classes I've taught in the past 3-4 months with record numbers of people attending! Foxtrot is the dance that will be taught in March. It is a classic dance done to a variety of music ranging from Frank Sinatra standards to songs by Michael Buble, Natalie Cole, Rod Stewart and even the Beatles and Stevie Wonder. It can also be danced to slower Swing and Country 2-Step music.

Over the four classes, we will build on the material taught each week so it's best to start with the first class of the month. Although we can occasionally accommodate someone starting on week two, it may not be feasible if the class has reached capacity. No partners or experience required. Rotation of partners will be optional. Also, any ladies who want to lead and any men who want to follow are welcome.

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

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



Bocce Club



■Mary Piumarta

COME OUT AND LEARN TO PLAY

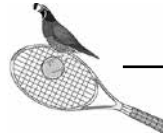
If you have always watched people having fun playing Bocce Ball, now is your chance to join them. Bocce is a great way to get out in the sunshine, make new friends and enjoy a great game.

We will be having New Member days with play instruction on the first Tuesday of each month. The

next instruction day is Tuesday, March 4 at 1 p.m. So, circle your calendar and join us on the courts at the West Rec Center.

For more information, contact Pat Paulson at (707) 953-6691. If you have already decided to join, pick up an application at the OVA office and submit it there with a \$20 annual fee.

Tennis Club



■ Jack Breibart

FULL COURT PRESS

I haven't taken a poll (they are usually worthless anyway) but I am going to go out on a strong limb and say the tennis players are happy over the new days for somewhat organized play.

The word is from Peter Hogan, the unofficial Czar of sorts of week-day tennis on the East Courts.

What Peter has suggested is expanding play from Tuesdays and Thursdays to Monday through Friday, starting at 10 a.m. (until the courts get lights) to around noon. Hopefully this will relieve some of the pressure on Tuesdays and Thursdays when so many players show up and there is a long waiting time to get your place in the rotating games. Peter manages a tightly held email list (and has refused to turn it

over to Elon Musk) where you will get information on the weather and up to the minute reports on the condition of the courts. And just for exercise, Peter and his sidekick, Arnie Herskovic, will also swab out the courts on post rainy days.

If you are new to Oakmont and you want to be part of all of this, go to the administrative office, ask for the Tennis Folder, fill out the form and leave a check for \$20. Even if you do not play tennis, you gain a lot of prestige for your resumes.

And a belated cheer for Madison Keys for her victory in the Australian Open which enriched her bank account \$2.2 millions dollars, and which will pay for many of her favorite breakfasts of eggs, avocado and toast.



On a busy day on East Courts, Jack Horwitz prepares to serve to Don Buckley with Arnie Herskovic at the net and Bill Nasi as Don's partner.

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