

OAKMONT NEWS

Oakmont's Semimonthly Newspaper

www.oakmontvillage.com/news

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Oakmont's Wild Side: Turkeys on Parade



Paul Roque caught this Tom herding his hens across Stone Bridge Road. (Photo by Paul Roque)

2025 Board Election Timeline

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

ALL-CANDIDATE MEET AND GREET EVENTS

Tuesday, March 11, 2 p.m., Berger

Thursday, March 13, 6–9 p.m., Berger

Find individual candidate Meet and Greet dates at oakmontvillage.com/2025-meet.

KEY ELECTION DATES

Early March—Member voting begins

April 7—Annual Meeting

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

OCF Grants in Demand

■Jim Brewer

The Oakmont Community Foundation (OCF) has awarded grants in recent months to Oakmont groups ranging from the Art Association to a new Grief Support group.

OCF provides grants to groups or individuals in Oakmont for eligible activities and projects. Among the recent recipients was the Oakmont Art Association, which organized a bus trip to the De Young Museum for 57 Oakmont residents.

"Without the Foundation's contribution, the Art Association would have either made a big loss on the bus trip to the deYoung or had to cancel it," said association president Philip Wilkinson. "Instead, we had a full bus and unfortunately a large waiting list, all because we could lower the cost thanks to the Foundation."

See **OFC GRANTS** on page 5

Oakmont Village Association Works on Annexation of Stone Bridge Duets

■Christel Antone, OVA General Manager

The Oakmont Village Association (OVA) is currently in discussions with the developer Willowglen regarding the annexation of the Stone Bridge Duets into the Oakmont community. This will allow OVA to incorporate the Stone Bridge Duets into its membership and community services.

The Stone Bridge Duets, located at the corner of Oakmont Dr. and Stone Bridge, consist of three newly built duplexes that were initially not intended to be part of the Oakmont Village Association (OVA). However, both the developer and OVA leadership now recognize the mutual benefits of integrating these properties into the community. The annexation would allow the Stone Bridge Duets residents to enjoy OVA's wide range of amenities, including recreational facilities and access to community events. Additionally, they would be subject to the OVA's rules and regulations.



The Stone Bridge Duets, located at the corner of Oakmont Dr. and Stone Bridge. (Photo by Crissi Langwell, OVA Staff)

See **STONE BRIDGE DUETS** on page 5

New Cal Fire Maps

■Christel Antone, OVA General Manager

IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM OVA GENERAL MANAGER AND SANTA ROSA CHIEF FIRE MARSHAL



The City of Santa Rosa has received updated Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) maps from Cal Fire as scheduled in the past weeks. This marks an important step in the ongoing efforts to assess and improve fire safety across the region.

In a recent communication with Chief Lowenthal, it was confirmed that the city is on track to adopt these new maps within the next 120 days. The first public presentation of the updated maps will take place before the City Council on March 18. Additional meetings will be scheduled as part of an expedited process to implement these changes.

Key Updates:

- **Changes to Very High Fire Severity Zones (VHSZ):** The new maps will include adjustments to the existing Very High Fire Severity Zones, with the introduction of new High Hazard Severity Zones in the city.

- **Community Involvement:** In response to these changes, the city is planning to engage both internal and external stakeholders, including the Oakmont community. This engagement will help inform discussions about potential modifications to the Wildland Urban Interface Fire Area.

For More Information: CAL FIRE Overview—visit the website osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/fire-hazard-severity-zones

In the coming weeks, the Santa Rosa Fire Department will provide additional updates and communications to help the community understand the local impact of these changes. Oakmont residents are encouraged to stay informed as more information becomes available.

Cal Fire's High Fire Severity Zone (FHSZ) Map identifies areas with the highest wildfire risk within State Responsibility Areas (SRA) and some Local Responsibility Areas (LRA), and is used for state-level fire regulations such as defensible space laws and building code requirements. The map is based on scientific models that consider vegetation, topography, climate, and fire history.

Santa Rosa's Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Map, created by the city, identifies areas where urban development meets wildland vegetation. It may cover more areas than Cal Fire's FHSZ map, as it includes local risk factors like evacuation routes and fire response capabilities, and guides local fire codes, building regulations, and emergency planning.

For Oakmont, fire safety regulations are set by the City of Santa Rosa because they are in a Local Responsibility Area (LRA). While Cal Fire's FHSZ map influences SRAs and some LRAs, Oakmont's regulations will be primarily guided by Santa Rosa's WUI map, which directly affects fire safety rules, building codes, and emergency planning.

Oakmont residents are encouraged to stay informed through OVA's official channels, such as the Oakmont Village website and Oakmont News, and to rely on official sources for the most up-to-date information.



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Eloise Tweeten, Founder
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New Date! Kiwanis Shred-A-Thon

■News Staff

The postponed Shred-A-Thon event has moved to Thursday, March 20, 9 a.m. to noon in the Berger Parking Lot. Hosted by the Kiwanis Club, this popular event brings the opportunity to freely and safely shred those past taxes and other financial papers.

But there is a catch: the shredding truck cannot handle any metal; this means no paper clips or other bindings; remove them before bringing to the Shred-A-Thon. Also, the shredding machine cannot process slides, x-rays or other such materials: they would jam the machine.

Kiwanis volunteers will take the box from your car, five boxes per car, empty the contents into the shredding truck and return the box to your car. They will be on the lookout for damaging items so please do not bring them.

As you might know, Kiwanis is a national organization that serves children and the Shred-A-Thon is the Kiwanis Club of Oakmont, your local club's fundraiser to support children in the Sonoma County area. We are on the web at kiwanisclubofoakmont.org and you can reach us at kiwanisclubofoakmont@gmail.com.



Tri-Tip Trolley Food Truck in Oakmont

■OVA Staff

Head to the Berger parking lot for a delicious meal from Tri-Tip Trolley on select days.

Check out the menu at triptrolley.com.

Food Truck Schedule—Lunch/Dinner, 11:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.: Tuesdays, March 11, 18 and 25.

Attend the 5th Annual Fire Safe Fair—April 24

■Katy Carrel, MYN Task Force Co-Chair, Fair Organizer



1-4 p.m. at the Berger Center, enjoy an afternoon of education and information, more than a dozen vendors, plus Mexican cuisine and refreshments that can be purchased from a local food truck.

Remember that knowledge is power, power to keep our community and your own homes as safe as possible. The participating vendors, as well as the first responders who will be attending the fair, have valuable information on actions to take on your home and property to lower the risk of home loss from a wildfire, and on being prepared for disasters.

The 2025 Fire Safe Fair highlights firewise practices and emergency preparedness, with a special focus on what residents can do to keep their homes safe. Some of this year's vendors include the Santa Rosa Fire Department, SoCo Emergency Management, CalFire, State Parks, Red Cross, Halter Project, Fire Safe Sonoma, Sonoma Ecology plus other safety and emergency groups. Oakmont committees

providing information at the fair include the Firewise Resource Task Force, OEPTF (Oakmont Emergency Preparedness Task Force for communications), and MYN (Meet Your Neighbors, the official emergency prep task force. The Oakmont Technology Learning Center will also attend and help attendees install and set up emergency alerts and notifications on their cell phones.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

The fair is in need of door greeters, general helpers, and clean-up help.

- Greeters: arrive 12:45 p.m.
- Cleanup after the fair: 4-5:30 p.m.
- General help during the fair: 1:30-4 p.m.

To learn about volunteer opportunities, contact Danielle Hannigan at dani@oakmontvillage.com.

For general questions about the Fire Safe Fair, contact myn@oakmontvillage.com.

Please note: this event is only open for Oakmont residents.

The Oakmont fifth annual Fire Safe Fair is just around the corner, and the whole Oakmont community is invited. On Thursday, April 24, from



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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.

OFC GRANTS Continued from page 1

Other grant recipients included the Asian Pacific Heritage Club, a newly formed service called the Grief Support Group, a jazz education group, and the Games Club that wanted to add to their stock of games.

Founded in 2007, the Oakmont Community Foundation (OCF) is an independent California non-profit Public Benefit Corporation specifically organized to enhance and support educational and charitable activities within Oakmont Village Association. It is governed by an all-volunteer board of directors who are current and past residents of Oakmont. More than \$400,000 has been awarded to Oakmont clubs and organizations since the founding.

The Foundation provides an effective avenue for Oakmont residents, through tax-deductible donations. Contributions to the OCF may be directed to the General Fund for directors to award grants to eligible applicants. Also encouraged are donations earmarked by the donors for a specific club, group or activity. You can also donate funds to a group or to OCF in honor of or in memory of someone.

For information about grant applications and donation opportunities visit the OCF website at oakmontcommunityfoundation.com.

STONE BRIDGE DUETS Continued from page 1

For residents of the Stone Bridge Duets, joining Oakmont would provide them with access to the association's amenities and services, enhancing their living experience. Additionally, the annexation would integrate the Duets into the broader Oakmont community, fostering closer connections between neighbors and further strengthening the sense of community.

For the Oakmont community, the annexation of the Stone Bridge Duets is an opportunity to grow in a thoughtful and responsible manner, ensuring that the needs and interests of both existing and new residents are considered. As discussions progress, the OVA is committed to keeping the community informed.

As negotiations continue, the OVA will work to finalize the annexation agreement and prepare for the integration of the Stone Bridge Duets. Community members can expect updates on the progress of this initiative at future board meetings and through official OVA communications.

This annexation marks an exciting new chapter for Oakmont, further solidifying the community's reputation as a thriving and welcoming place to live. The developer of the Stone Bridge Duets is excited about the potential benefits of welcoming the duet owners into the Oakmont Community.



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Travel and Adventure Club

■September Holstad

OVERSEAS ADVENTURE TRAVEL COMES TO OAKMONT

Overseas Adventure Travel/Grand Circle travel will be our guest for the March, 26 Travel and Adventure club meeting.

Many Oakmont residents love to travel with (OAT) and now you can find out why. Besides land tours, Overseas Adventure Travel also has small ship adventures to places all over the world, including Antarctica. The parent company, Grand Circle travel has been in existence since 1958 and has grown to be a major travel company. One big advantage is that single travel is not charged a double charge as they also know to be solo friendly.

Come learn more about the trips they offer and specials they will be highlighting. The Travel and Adventure club meets at the West Rec. Center on the fourth Wednesday of the month, upper level, from 3-5 p.m. Hope to see you there.

Toxic Waste Collection



■OVA Staff

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2-7 PM AT WEST REC. LIMITS: 15 gallons of liquid (with a maximum of five gallons per container) or 125 pounds of solid material. Never mix chemicals. Place in sealed containers in the trunk, packed to prevent spills. Syringes/ needles must be in sealed, approved Sharps containers.

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

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

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

Tennis Club



■Diane Curtis

HAT TIP TO A PRO

The heartiest of thanks to Jack Breibart for keeping us abreast of Oakmont Tennis Club activities and concerns for the past year and a half.

In repeated illustrations of what a master wordsmith can do, the nonagenarian retired newspaper editor has kept us entertained and smiling with his droll take on Oakmont's version of the Sport of Kings while also making sure we were kept up-to-date on all things OTC. In reading his *Oakmont*



Jack Breibart.

News columns, we were favored with a glimpse into why Jack was such a beloved and respected news editor at the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

And you can breathe a sigh of relief: Jack isn't going anywhere. He just wants a change from those bi-weekly writing deadlines. Happily, you will still find him on the court at drop-ins, tournaments and Sunday socials, and his killer cross-court rockets will be on full display. As well as his dry wit. So watch out!

OTC welcomes new members. Join now by asking for the tennis folder at the OVA administrative office, then fill out the form and leave a check for \$20. Any questions can be sent to hellooakmonttennis@gmail.com.

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!

Oakmont Pétanque Club

■Don McPherson

WINE COUNTRY OPEN, SONOMA APRIL 26–27

Pétanque aficionados, from those with passion to those with a passing interest, will have an opportunity to watch top-notch play at Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club's annual Wine Country Open in nearby Sonoma, April 26–27.

The annual event, one of the major open tournaments in the U.S. and the third largest, will feature 128 players from 64 entered doubles teams. Players come from all parts of the West Coast, the U.S. at large, and internationally from France, Germany, Mexico, Canada, and other countries.



The 2025 Wine Country Open competitors include two world champions from France: Damien Hureau from Angers, the 2004 World Champion and defending WCO 2024 champion, and Dylan Rocher, nine-time World Champion and the best shooter in the world. Rocher has been playing since the age of three, first playing with his grandfather and his world champion father, Bruno Rocher. He is the winner of four World Precision Shooting Championships.

The Wine Country Open will be played all day on Saturday and Sunday, April 26–27, with the final late Sunday afternoon, in Depot Park just off the historic Sonoma Plaza behind the Vallejo Barracks and State Historical Park. Spectators are welcome—take a chair and stay as long as you like. The tournament is a great opportunity to see national and world-class pétanque players, as well as local talent, just a 25-minute drive away down the beautiful Sonoma Valley.

PÉTANQUE IN OAKMONT

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, SATURDAY

French in origin, Pétanque (pay-tonk) has been a feature of organized play in Oakmont since the 1980s. 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.

Lawn Bowling



■Mary Blake

LAWN BOWLING CALENDAR FOR MARCH–MAY

You can also find it in the Green Book and on our website.

Mon., March 17, 12:30 p.m.: St Patrick's Day Tournament
Tue., April 1, 12:30 p.m.: April Fools' Day Tournament
Fri., April 25, 12:30 p.m.: Men's Pairs Tournament
Thu., May 1: Draw moves to Mornings
Thu., May 1, 9:30 a.m.: Women's Pairs Tournament
Tue., May 6, 5 a.m.: After 5 Potluck
Thu., May 15, 9:30 a.m.: Open Pairs Tournament
Mon., May 19, 11 a.m.–noon: Demo Day
Mon., May 26, 9:30 a.m.: Memorial Day Fun Tournament
Fri., May 30, all day: Wine Country Games
Sat., May 31, all day: Wine Country Games
Email: oakmontlawnbowling@gmail.com.
Website: www.oakmontlawnbowling.com.

OakMUG



Oakmont Macintosh Users Group

■Peggy Clark

WHAT IS THE ICLOUD?

iCloud: most of us use it every day with our Apple devices, but there's still a lot of confusion about what exactly it is. John Wentworth from Technology Simplified will go through the different elements of iCloud, how each might be useful for you, along with an explanation of how Apple's Digital Legacy system helps make sure your loved ones can get to your data in the event of your passing.

Our next meeting is on Saturday, March 15, at 2 p.m. at the East Rec. Center and lasts an hour. Please arrive a bit early (1:30 p.m.) to socialize and get a good seat.

It's time to renew your dues for the year. If you're not a member and interested in joining, feel free to stop by and sign up at the door. Membership is \$10 per person per year, which includes six presentations on everything Apple.

OakMUG has made check-in a breeze. All members will receive a name tag that they'll bring to each meeting. After receiving a name tag you will not need to check in, just show your name tag.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to us at oakmontmacusersgroup@gmail.com.



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OTLC Oakmont Technology Learning Center

■Linda Canar

OTLC CLASS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Are you ready to brush up on some of your technology skills? Class registration is now open for the Spring Session of the Oakmont Technology Learning Center (OTLC). Please go to our website to learn more about our classes for spring and to register online.

To register for a class on our website go to <https://www.oakmonttllc.org>. Select "Classes" from the menu and browse through the listing of classes. When you find a class that you like, click on the "Details" button and read all the information about this particular class.

Use the "Book Now" button to sign up for this class. The first time you register you will need to enter all your contact information. After that it is in the system. You will need to enter your credit card information to check out and pay for the class. If you encounter any problems registering, please contact Peggy Clark at (650) 274-1437 or pegprod@icloud.com.

If you don't see the class you're looking for, check back in a few days as we will be adding additional classes during the month. Returning classes available this session include learning about your iPhone or Android phone; learning about your iPad; learning more about Windows 11, Google Apps, Quicken, Spreadsheets and Microsoft Word.

Also, for this spring, the very popular Sonoma County Library Online Resources will be offered again. For Mac users, iOS Sonoma will be taught this session.

Let's Dance Together

■Terry Whitten

SWING INTO SPRING WITH JITTERBUG SWING

WHAT: Beginning Jitterbug Swing partner dance classes

WHEN: Wednesdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23 and May 7, 14, 21, 28

TIME: 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 instructor, Terry Whitten to register in advance at twhitten@pacbell.net or call (415) 265-7590

Come learn some basic, fun and easy moves for Jitterbug Swing that will get you dancing together with a smile on your face. Jitterbug Swing (aka Single Time Swing) is an upbeat, fun and versatile dance that can be danced to many types of music ranging from Big Band music to Rock 'n Roll Oldies as well as many contemporary and Country tunes.

Classes will meet weekly for four sessions in April to learn the most basic steps. Then they will continue with another four sessions in May for those who want to learn pre-intermediate steps.

The classes in May require knowledge of the material taught in April. As always, it is best to come to the first class in April since each week after that will build on the material taught in the 1st week.

No partners or experience are required. We will rotate partners during the classes, although rotating is optional. Also, any ladies that want to lead and any men that want to follow are very welcome.

Join us for 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!



Lifelong Learning

■Marlena Tremont

SOLD OUT! BLUES IS A WOMAN WITH PAMELA ROSE FRIDAY, MARCH 14: 7 PM

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.



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, go to OakmontLL.org, fill out a form in the OLL folder in the OVA office or pay at the door.

Playreaders

■D. Hall

SLOW FOOD IN MARCH

Sandy White is in mid-staging of Wendy MacLeod's *Slow Food*, a riotous recounting of what happens in a badly-run restaurant. We saw Act 1 last Monday; Act 2 comes on March 10. The play features White, John Dolan and Steven Levin.

Sarah Shankman has been tapped to produce Oakmont Playreaders' April presentation.

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.



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OAK at the VOM Golf Club

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

GOLF OPERATIONS

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.
- Sunday, March 23—\$100 Range Card Sale.
- Tuesday, April 8: Par 3 Tournament, Sugarloaf GC
Call the golf shop at 707-539-0415 to sign up!

OAK

To customers and patrons of OAK Restaurant: On February 18, we returned to full dining and table service. Additionally, the full menu will be reinstated, and our operating hours will remain 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Thank you for your proactive feedback and concerns made during this trial period.

We thank you for your continued support and our staff are excited to welcome you back!

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

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.

DJ DANCE PARTY

Thursday, March 27, 5-7 p.m.: Beatles/Stones party theme

Silver Guys of Oakmont

■D. Hall

WINTER POTLUCK PLANNED

Silver Guys of Oakmont and their invited guests will stage a winter potluck on Sunday, March 9. It's at the East Rec. Center from 2-5 p.m. As usual, bring food and beverage to share.

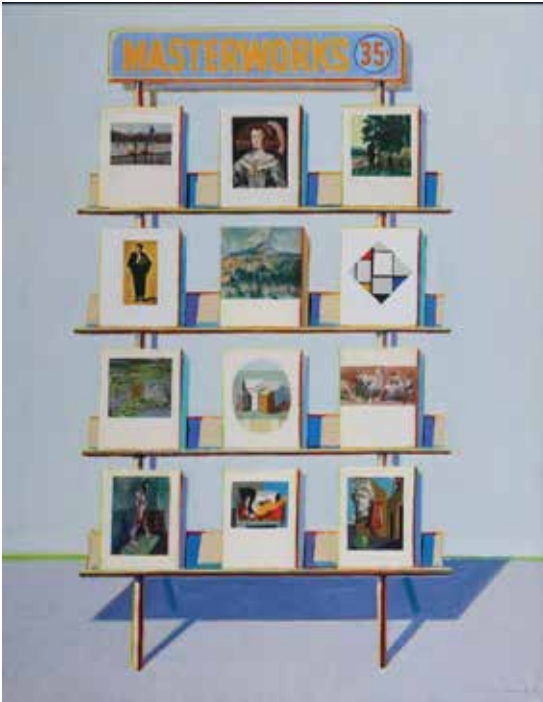
Silver Guys of Oakmont provides an opportunity for Oakmont gay men and their friends to enjoy non-political, social, and education activities. All men in Oakmont are invited to attend.

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Oakmont Art Association

■Elizabeth Kern and Legion of Honor

**WAYNE THIEBAUD: ART COMES FROM ART
A PRESENTATION BY DOCENT
MAUREEN MURRAY FOX,
SAN FRANCISCO LEGION OF HONOR**

WHEN: Friday, March 14, 10:30 a.m. Refreshments at 10 a.m.

WHERE: Berger Center

"I believe very much in the tradition that art comes from art and nothing else."—Wayne Thiebaud

Wayne Thiebaud (1920–2021) became famous for his colorful paintings of American confections and buffets. He was also a self-described art "thief," who openly drew ideas from and reinterpreted old and new European and American artworks. An influential teacher at Sacramento Junior College and the University of California, Davis, Thiebaud never stopped learning. He believed that art history is a continuum that connects artists of the past, present, and future.

Highlighting work from across the beloved artist's six-decade career, this exhibition features Thiebaud's inventive reinterpretations and direct copies of famous artworks, as well as objects from his personal art collection that inspired him. Approximately 60 quintessential works by Thiebaud—including paintings of people (alone and together); still lifes of cakes, tabletops, and other ordinary objects; cityscapes featuring soaring buildings; and mountain landscapes—offer an in-depth exploration of one of the most important and overlooked aspects of his creative practice: his passionate engagement with art history.

Docent Maureen Murray Fox received her undergraduate degree from the University of California at Davis. She spent more than 30 years working for IBM and held a variety of positions in sales and management, including as Branch Manager of the San Francisco Downtown Office. To add balance to her life and as an antidote to computers and sales quotas, Maureen got involved with the San Francisco Auxiliary of the Fine Arts Museums, which organizes the annual Bouquets to Art event.

■Kathy Byrne

OAKMONT ART FAIR: AN ART AFFAIRE COMING MARCH 21–22

The Oakmont Art Association's Annual Art Show, An Art Affaire, is coming up on Friday, March 21 from 10 a.m.–4 p.m., and Saturday, March 22 from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. at the Berger Center.

Approximately 50 artists and craft vendors will be taking part. Come see our exhibit and help support Santa Rosa High's Art Quest program by participating in our raffle.

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

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



Historian Jacques Barzun once wrote that “To understand America, one must understand baseball.” Join beloved instructor Mick Chantler as he looks at the game’s colorful 150-year history and offers insights into why this priceless cultural heritage is still as relevant and engaging as ever.

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

David Bowie defined British glam rock by combining an ever-changing visual image with flashy hard rock, introspective songwriting, electronic experimentation,



and more. Explore Bowie’s peak 15 years of creativity with historical commentary and both common and rare video and audio clips.

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

Bill Montgomery, renowned Santa Rosa historian, weaves a fascinating and colorful story of our city. Meet the explorers, colonists, missionaries, scoundrels and saints who shaped our legacy. Special guest Nick Tipon, expert Native American historian, shares the culture and lives of the Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo people.



TOMBSTONE, ARIZONA, OCTOBER 1881

Instructor: Dennis Cornell

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

Explore the times, the place, the people and the events surrounding “The Gunfight at the OK Corral.” Making the front page of the *New York Times*, this confrontation inadvertently defined modern Western movies and television shows, as shown in clips from six major movies woven into the historical narrative.



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

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.

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.



MARCH 16: DANCE FIRST

Many parts of the literary Samuel Beckett giant’s life: Parisian bon vivant, World War II Resistance fighter, Nobel Prizewinning playwright, philandering husband and recluse. 2023, NR, 1:40.



MARCH 23:

A THOUSAND AND ONE

After unapologetic and fiercely loyal Inez kidnaps her son Terry from the foster care system, mother and son set out to reclaim their sense of home, identity, and stability, in a rapidly changing New York City. 2023, R, 1:57.



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Bellarosa Strings Plays the Music of The Beatles

■OVA Staff

The OVA is excited to announce its next concert event, Bellarosa Strings, happening on April 17. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., with the show beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets are priced at \$30 per person and can be purchased in advance at the OVA office.



Bellarosa Strings.

An exceptional concert featuring the music of Beatles classics like “Here Comes the Sun,” “Hey Jude” and “Let It Be” performed by a five-piece ensemble of guitar, violins, viola, and cello. Bellarosa Strings is a distinguished collective based in Santa Rosa, specializing in pop and rock instrumental covers.

Known for their unique twist on classics, they perform throughout Northern California, from Sonoma to Carmel. With appearances on “The Bachelor” and alongside Smokey Robinson, Bellarosa Strings enhances events with classically rooted performances from a contemporary perspective.

This is a Beatles experience for all tastes and not to be missed.

Rovers RV Club



■Mary Montague

RV CAMPING TRIP TO MONTEREY

Oakmont Rovers RV Club is hitting the road! Join us for an exciting trip to Marina Dunes RV Park in Monterey from March 25–28. Enjoy great food, fun activities, and the company of fellow travelers. Local attractions include the Steinbeck Museum, Monterey Museum of Art, Carmel Mission, wine tasting, and scenic parks.



Marina Dunes RV Park.

Our wagon masters for this trip are Jim and Teresa Howard. For details and to reserve your spot, contact Jeff Hickman, Club President, at jeff@hickman.cc.

No RV? No problem! The RV Park offers cabin rentals, and there are hotel lodging options nearby.

We hope you'll join us on this adventure!

SIR Branch #92

■Bern Lefson

MUSIC LOVERS

March 11 is the next Seniors In Retirement luncheon at the Berger Center starting at 11:30 a.m. An excellent lunch will be provided for those who make a reservation. Our featured speaker Andrew Bradford, President and CEO of the Santa Rosa Symphony, will talk to us about the various programs at the Santa Rosa Symphony.

Bradford brings to the orchestra more than a decade of demonstrated success as a dynamic, collaborative, and innovative nonprofit leader in the performing arts sector. Originally from New York City, Bradford was trained as a cellist and received his bachelor's

degree from the New England Conservatory of Music.

This luncheon is open to members and non-members. We invite potential members to check us out by coming to one luncheon. Reservations are mandatory.

Contact Sherry at smagers9@gmail.com. More information may be found at www.sir92oakmont.org.

Upcoming luncheon speakers:

- April 11: City Council Member Diana McDonald
- May 13: Eric Johnson, CEO *Press Democrat*
- June 10: Valley of the Moon Alliance



Andrew Bradford.

Grandparents' Club

■Leslie Brockman

EASTER IS COMING SOON AND SO IS THE EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Don't miss the fun! Grandparents' Club Easter Eggstravaganza is a popular event every year, and this year is no exception.

On April 19 from 1–2:30 p.m., the Berger Plaza will be teeming with excitement as grandchildren (from toddler through teens) will be hunting for toy / candy-filled plastic eggs, selecting their own Beanie Baby and other prizes, bouncing in one of the two Bounce

Houses, getting their faces painted and their own Balloon Animal. Such fun packed into 90 minutes!

Registration opened on March 1 and continues through April 15. The best way to register is to go to our website: www.oakmontgrandparents.org and either create an account or log into your already-established account. On the Events Page, register your grandchild(ren) and also find a slot where you can volunteer to help during the event. If you've not computer savvy yet, you may get a paper registration form in our folder at the OVA office.

Prices are \$10 per child for non-club members and \$7 for Grandparents' Club members. All are welcome and we hope to see you and your grandchildren there.

You are also invited to attend our next Grandparents' Club meeting on March 25 at 4 p.m. in the East Rec. Center.

Questions? Text me at (949) 683-7725 or email oakmont.grandparents@gmail.com.



A happy young lady gets her face painted. (Photo by Julie Kiil)



Children gather their eggs on the Greensward. (Photo by Kathy Sowers)

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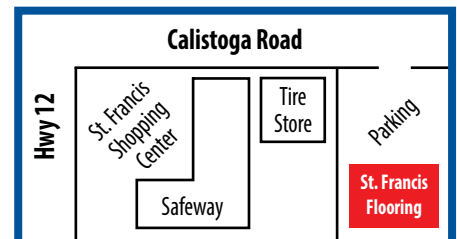
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Kiwanis Club of Oakmont



Richard Osborne

KIWANIS HELPING VOM CHILDREN'S CENTER

Well, the weather was nasty, and the Shred-A-Thon got postponed to Thursday, March 20. Meanwhile, your Oakmont Kiwanis Club continued on with its important mission of helping Sonoma County children.

At a recent meeting, we listened to Julie Hilborn from the Valley of the Moon (VOM) Children's Center. As I have been telling you, our wealthy community has terrible poverty right in our midst. The VOM Children's Center is across from Oakmont up Pythian Road. Poor, abandoned, and disadvantaged children are treated daily to something we take for granted: food, water and shelter. Their funding comes from the state, which is in jeopardy, so we gave Julie a check for \$1,000 (pictured here).



The Kiwanis mission is improving the world one child at a time. Your Kiwanis Club of Oakmont serves this mission for the Sonoma area and we have a lot of fun doing it. Please feel free to join us at our Thursday Breakfast meeting, 8 a.m. (I know that's early).

You can email us at kiwanisclubofoakmont@gmail.com and see our website kiwanisclubofoakmont.org.

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.

MARCH 13: INTERMEDIATE HIKE HELEN PUTNAM REGIONAL PARK

Stunning panoramic views of the Petaluma and Chileno Valleys, peek-a-boo vistas and majestic oaks await on this 5-6-mile, 400 ft. elevation hike. We will explore the outer and inner trails of the park on Ridge, Yarrow, Pomo, Filigree, Panoramic and Arroyo. Challenge yourself on the 125-stair steps heading down or take the alternative winding trail.

Bring poles, water, sunscreen, and lunch for the picnic area. SC Regional Parks pass. Heavy rain cancels. Leave Berger at 9: a.m. Hike leader is Marilyn Pahr, (707) 541-6430.

MARCH 13: LONG HIKE MOONRISE AND SUNSET AT SUGARLOAF

Meet at 4:30 p.m. at the Berger Center before traveling to Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. We start hiking from the observatory (1,000 ft) and cross the meadow to Brushy Peaks Trail at 2,200 ft. We experience the moonrise at 6:59 p.m. before following the Gray Pine Trail to Bald Mountain (2,729) and witness the sunset at 7:16 p.m.

This is my third moonlight hike and one thing that is amazing are the different sounds one hears during the change from day to night. And the city lights at



Full Moon on Bald Mountain.

360 degrees. 8 miles 1,800 ft. elevation gain. Bring water, power bar or equivalent, headlamp/light, and poles if desired. Hike leader is John Ferreira, (650) 766-0497.



Fern Lake view.

MARCH 20: INTERMEDIATE HIKE JACK LONDON—FERN AND LONDON LAKES

This trail starts from London Ranch Rd. where restrooms are available. It leads to Jack London State Park, passing the winery ruins and distillery before continuing to Fern and London Lakes. The trail winds through vineyards, meadows, and shaded redwood forests. 5.9 miles 1,230 ft. elevation. Bring snack or lunch.

Hike leader is Barb Marquardt, (510) 853-1320. Rain cancels. Meet at Berger Center at 9 a.m. Need State Park pass to enter and park at Jack London State Park.

MARCH 20: LONG HIKE MT. ST. HELENA

This 9.7-mile out-and-back trail near Calistoga is generally considered a challenging route. Take in awesome eye-popping views at the summit of the highest peak in the California Wine Country when we gaze upon the stunning panorama at the 4,342 summit of Mount St. Helena in Robert Louis Stevenson State Park.

The peak north of Calistoga looms large above the rolling hills of Napa and Sonoma counties. The five-mile hike to the summit has over 2,000 ft. of elevation gain, so be ready for a workout.

Bring your poles and lunch. Group departs Berger at 8:30 a.m. Hike leader is Peggy Clark, (650) 274-4137.

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HERE ARE OLSON'S TOP TIPS FOR AVOIDING THE MANY SCAMS OUT THERE:

1- MAKE SURE THERE IS A PLAN

Most timeshare exit companies will try to cancel a timeshare as there are no buyers. The only guaranteed way out is to find someone else willing to become the new owner.

2- BEWARE OF NEGOTIATORS

If anyone advises you to stop paying maintenance fees as a means of negotiating your timeshare contract, RUN! This can lead to impact on credit and other assets and ultimately encourage the resort to be unwilling to approve a transfer.

3- THERE IS NO RESALE MARKET

Accept that there are thousands of timeshares not selling for one penny. Timeshare is outdated and there is no market for resale. Do not pay timeshare listing companies to advertise something that will never sell.

ENDING YOUR TIMESHARE JUST GOT EASIER, THE REAL DEAL HAS ARRIVED.

By Laura Kelly

Thousands of timeshare owners have successfully ended their timeshares through a proven resource, We Want Your Timeshare.

The company has a unique model which is centered around a transaction with a major bonus, every client receives a 10-year membership to a travel club! In essence, your timeshare is traded into a travel club that will be able to use it. The previous owner is then able to enjoy a couple years of unrestricted travel without the hassle of timesharing systems. Offering education and resources for avoiding timeshare exit scams is a passion for their CEO Alexandra Olson.

"In an industry riddled with deceit and fraud, we give our knowledge freely and hope, if nothing else, that we can help the masses avoid being the victim of a scam."

Olson will be presenting her popular seminar again at Fairview Valley of the Moon on Thursday March 13th at 11 am. To secure a space (limited) interested timeshare owners can call 602-734-5590.

As a 15-year veteran of the timeshare industry, Olson has catapulted into the spotlight as the leading industry expert on timeshare and exit scams.

It even landed her on FOX 10 Phoenix, ABC 15, The Arizona Republic and the Phoenix Business Journal.



Whether estate planning, sick of the never-ending cycle of rising maintenance fees, or just tired of dealing with the archaic, expensive exchange system, there are plenty of reasons folks are looking to dump their timeshare. When asked about We Want Your Timeshare, Olson shares "our mission is to revolutionize the timeshare exit industry by providing a zero-risk option for timeshare owners that want out! We're very transparent about it. No risk, an amazing replacement product and a legal timeshare exit so you can be done with your timeshare forever. We're very proud of that!"



We Want Your Timeshare

Timeshare Solutions Experts

NOT SURE WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR TIMESHARE?

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- ✓ How to Avoid Scams
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- ✓ How the Timeshare Industry Has Changed
- ✓ Question and Answers



Whatever your goals are with your timeshare, we offer answers and solutions.

RSVP required please call 602-734-5590

FREE SEMINAR
OAKMONT VILLAGE
THURSDAY, MARCH 13TH 11 AM
 Fairview Valley of the Moon
 7035 Oakmont Drive
 Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Pickleball Corner



■Pete Gavin

WHO HAS IT BETTER THAN US?

It's a lovely spring day as I pull into the parking lot (windows down) to the intoxicating, joyful sound of players hitting the hollow yellow balls back and forth. Laughter and good cheer waft through the warm breeze. Two rows of paddles hang on the fence, folks waiting for the next open court. As usual, Juneau is leashed to the railing, lying on his big cushy bed.



Graphics by Pete Copen.

I place my gear on the bench, tie Augie next to his big brown buddy and give them treats from my beat-up bag. The sturdy lab nudges me, hoping for seconds. I gaze out across our beautiful courts, seeing all six in use. It's a good day.

Everyone's here: a mix of ages, genders, body-types and skill-levels. But one thing we all have in common is this is our home-away-from-home, the place we meet-up to play, laugh, chat and compete. Pickleball is our bond, and it takes us away from the stress in our lives, in the world. Here, we are kids, and recess has finally arrived.

We are grateful. Grateful to play this fun, convivial game in such a magnificent setting—nestled snugly under the thickly-wooded forests



of Annadel, the towering Mayacamas Mountains to the east. The distant hum of Highway 12, the deep blue skies, the big puffy clouds and the green, green hills—who has it better than us?

Nobody.

New Player Orientation: 9 a.m., Tuesday mornings. Contact Victoria Dettman, (707) 230-2958. Call Jim Howard at (209) 761-8517 for demo loaner. Mentoring: Barbara Ricossa: ricossa@ymail.com. Visit our website: oakmontpickleballclub.com.

Oakmont Birders

■Mary Ellen King

MAKE YOUR GARDEN COUNT FOR THE BIRDS

Oakmonters can make a positive contribution to this Spring season of rebirth. In the hills and close by live many critters that are looking for nesting and safety for their young.



Quail Forever.

Many of us love the California Quail. We see them darting across the roads—charming and cute. But have we considered how our landscapes impact them? California quail have a curving crest or plume of six feathers that droops forward: black in males and brown for females. Quail live in a relatively small area in flocks or “coveys” with 8–25 birds common. In late spring/early summer pair bonds form between males and females prior to the breeding season.

Quail search for food primarily on the ground but may climb trees. Adults eat fruits, seeds, leaves and flowers, native grasses, herbs, berries, catkins, plant galls, and insects. Young quail also feed very heavily on insects that native plants supply best. Coveys or family groups stay together through contact calls.

Quail are ground nesters, using field and border edges, shrubs, and plants for feeding, nesting, and cover. Winter, nesting, and brood rearing cover are important factors for survival. They need refuge from predators (cats, crows and jays eat eggs and chicks).

We can help quail as they enter the nesting season. Pruning trees and shrubs just as birds are seeking places to nest isn't helpful. (Our native and migrant birds nest here from February through to September.) Removing leaves and soil that shelter important insects impacts successful rearing of young. Consider the damage done when our landscape maintenance practice of using leaf blowers destroys not only cover and food but nests with delicate eggs tucked under shrubs.

Give quail and other birds a chance. Much habitat has been lost. What we do in our backyards makes a difference!

Oakmont Singles Social Club



■Bailey Penzotti

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION AND ELECTIONS! 2025 MARCH OAKMONT SINGLES SOCIAL CLUB MIXER

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

LOCATION: East Rec Center



Photo by Bailey Penzotti.

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 at www.oakmontsinglessocialclub.org by March 17. If no computer or ability to register using your smart phone, feel free to email me at bailey.oscl@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.)

APRIL 2025 BON APPETIT (OSSC MEMBERS ONLY)

WHEN: Thursday, April 3

LOCATION: To be determined

Please check our website and/or the next issue of the *Oakmont News* for further information.

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.



Marie McBride
322-6843
Private Line

6520 Oakmont Drive
marie@sonic.net

MCBRIDE
Realty

CalBRE #01169355



421 Hillsdale Drive

Warm and inviting turnkey home in Oakmont with two bedrooms, plus a den. Owners spared no expense in the many updates they've made including 19 owned solar panels, 2 Tesla batteries, new electric panel and super charger. The electric bill is nearly zero. Glass entry doors open to the inviting living room w/ remote controlled gas insert fireplace and included 55 Samsung Smart TV and Sony Sound Bar. The kitchen, dining areas, den/office and primary bedroom all overlook the lovely garden bringing the outdoors in, and engineered maple hardwood floors and neutral paint colors unify the space. Other features include a refreshed kitchen with granite counters, ample cabinets with pull-out drawers and a farmers sink. The guest bathroom has been beautifully updated, and the primary bedroom/bathroom has double sinks and redesigned closets. You'll also find dual-paned windows with two-way up/down shades, interior solid core wood doors, replaced ducting, and a hot water recirculation pump. The two-car garage has lots of storage and includes a Bosch washer/dryer. Relax outdoors on the expanded, stamped patio featuring a charming gazebo, and in the summer harvest plums, figs and apples from your backyard fruit trees. Wide lot includes the area to the left of the home for possible expansion. \$845,000



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Table Tennis



■Tom Kelber

DID YOU KNOW??

Fascinating facts about Table Tennis (TT) that might surprise:

1. TT Was Once Illegal. Unbelievably, table tennis was banned in the USSR during the early 20th century. The government believed the sport could damage players' eyesight and nerves. Thankfully, that changed.

2. One of the Fastest Sports Ever. A TT ball can travel at speeds of over 60 miles per hour during a professional match—faster than most cars on city roads! Players need lightning-fast reflexes.

3. Originated as a Parlor Pastime. TT began in England in the 1880s as an after-dinner activity for the elite. People used books as paddles and as a net. Balls? Often corks or rubber balls.

4. Name "Ping Pong" Was Trademarked. In the early 1900s, "Ping Pong" was trademarked by a British company, J. Jaques & Son Ltd., who sold the rights to Parker Brothers. The official sport is called "Table Tennis."

5. Spin Game Is Insane. If you've ever played casually, you know adding spin can throw off your opponent. Did you know pros can spin the ball up to 9,000 revolutions per minute? That's faster than most car engines rev!

6. China Dominates the Sport. China has been the undisputed king of TT for decades. Since the sport's inclusion in the Olympics in 1988, Chinese players have won over 80% of the medals.

7. Balls Surprisingly Fragile. Ever accidentally crushed a TT ball? It's no surprise, considering they're only 0.7 millimeters thick. Despite their fragility, these balls can withstand high-speed impacts and still bounce perfectly.

8. Longest Rally—Over 8 Hours. In 2024, two players in England set the record for the longest TT rally, which lasted a jaw-dropping 13 hours, 36 minutes, and 36 seconds. Imagine the stamina and focus required!

Come join us at West Rec., Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday from 3–5 p.m.

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.

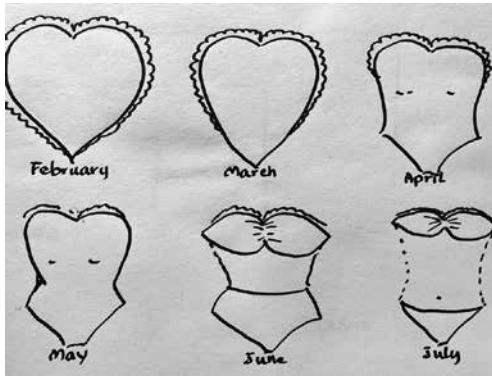


Oakmont Health Initiative Free Fitness Classes

■Charlene Bunas

BARRIERS TO BEGINNINGS AND REASONS TO QUIT

A decision to exercise may come after a health professional has suggested it. Joining OHI is another decision. Fortunately, that challenge may be pretty straightforward. Consider:



Progress in motion. (Cartoon by author)

1. Large goals divide into smaller actions. Example, Oakmont Health Initiative meets three times a week. Break one week into three classes and three decisions. Each decision relies on exercise shoes. Not slippers. So, dress in work-out clothes early morning and get to class without compromise.

Once in class, note that JoRene and Nicole divide complicated sets into smaller segments. One goal, many steps.

2. Excuses are barriers to beginnings and reasons to quit. Do you feel comfortable going to class alone or must a friend be your companion? Are you anxious about the level of exercise you'll find? Are you self-conscious about age, ability, shape? Do you hate cold mornings? Hot days? Excuses block beginnings and justify quitting. Be. Pro-active; recognize an excuse for the sabotage it does.

3. Respect barriers and consider rebuttals. If they're honest, most exercisers have similar hesitations. In class you'll meet people who are interested in getting/staying fit. Out of the 60+ regular attendees, the age-range is about twenty years. Both instructors are well trained to lead that broad demographic. Classes are in good hands! Respect the teachers. All bodies are unique. Respect yourself. Embrace where you are on your exercise journey.

4. Insecurities are lessened by reminders of incentives. Why begin exercising? Appearance, emotions, energy, strength, stamina, flexibility? Fun.

5. Rewards recognize successful progress. Once that first class is over, reward yourself with something of equal value. As the goal increases, so will the reward. Attend an entire week and reward yourself with increased status. Just imagine your reward after you've joined the "year-round OHI club!"

Zoom: 832 5893 6515. Password 053432.

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.



Balance and Strength

■Valerie Hulsey

MARY'S FITNESS CLASS

Balance and Strength class is held every Friday at 9:30 a.m. at the East Rec Center. There is a \$5 drop-in fee for classes. Don't forget to bring your TheraBand for strengthening. If you do not have one, you can purchase one for \$5 when you arrive.

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

Meditation

■Joanne Davey

MEDITATING TOGETHER

WEEKLY MEDITATION SESSIONS AT CAC

"A wise person, upon acknowledging the truth, becomes like a lake; clear and deep and still. Find friends who love the truth."—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.

Water Fitness



■Valerie Hulsey

The weather is getting better and better, and the water is even more inviting! Please join us at the West Pool for 50 minutes of exercise and fun.

There is a drop-in fee of \$8. Classes are held Monday through Thursday at 9:30 a.m.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

CLASSES ON FRIDAYS

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

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

Oakmont HEARS Hearing Education, Advocacy, Research, Support



■Richard Osborne

SMARTPHONE APPS FOR HEARING IMPAIRED

There is a plethora of apps for your smartphone. Come to our HEARS meeting on March 14 at 2 p.m. in the CAC Birch Conference Room where we will conduct an overview of the major apps that help with hearing impairment. Plus, bring your smartphone (Android or iPhone) and be shown how to install them.

We are most interested in the free apps like "Live Transcribe," Ava, Otter, and CaptionCall which use Automatic Speech to Text (ASR) to convert spoken words into text on your screen. Others can alert you to a dangerously loud environment. Also very useful is the Roger device (not a smartphone app) and captions under PowerPoint and Zoom (again not a smartphone app).

If you are comfortable with installing apps, we welcome you to come and help others who may not be as comfortable as you.

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.

Bowling dates for March: Mar. 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).

Starting on Jan. 21, the Winter 2025 League reduced from 10 teams to 8 teams. Still one 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 Oakmont 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. 18 (WEEK #6, WINTER LEAGUE)

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

Men's High Games: Don Shelhart, 263; Charlie Ensley, 226; Gordon Freedman, 214; Mike Earles, 200.

Women's High Games: Sandy Osheroff, 300; Vickie Jackanich, 279; Joanne Abrams, 258; Robin Schudel, 249; Laurel Earles, 225; Pat Scott, 217; Karen Palmiotti, 215; Elisabeth LaPointe, 213; Barbara Koch, 204.

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.

Bocce Club



■Mary Piumarta

THE CLOUDS PARTED

... the rain stopped, and the sun came out to shine on the Bocce Club's Valentine Tournament on Feb. 15. There was a good turnout and everyone had a great time. The winners of the tournament were Mike O'Leary, Fritz Spotelson, Gail Schlee, Ann Miller, Eileen Huff, Chris Duda, Tony Sarram, and Judy Aikens.



Mike O'Leary, Fritz Spotelson, Gail Schlee and Ann Miller.



Eileen Huff, Chris Duda, Tony Sarram and Judy Aikens.

Participants celebrated with bubbly and chocolate covered strawberries provided by the Social Committee.

If you would like to join in the fun, submit an application with the OVA office along with \$20. annual membership fee.

ATTENDANCE CONTEST (THE GAME WITHIN THE GAME)

To add to the fun, we have started an Attendance Contest. Each month, a new attendance sheet will be posted at the Bocce hut. Put your name down and tally each time you come to Bocce during that month. This includes all daily play times, tournaments and evening Bocce. (Coming to play on your own doesn't count). We will give out prizes to the three top participants at the end of the year. For new members, a prize will be given separately.

This contest will run for the entire year. Numbers will be posted at the end of each month so you know where you stand. So, come out and play more and get a little competition going among your Bocce buddies. Any questions, call Pat Paulson, (707) 953-6691.



■Brinda Peterson



LENT HAS BEGUN

Most people know something about Easter, but Lent? Not everyone knows all that much about it so bear with me as I give a quick outline.

Lent began on Ash Wednesday, March 5, runs through the Sunday before Easter, Palm Sunday, and ends on Maundy Thursday, April 17, just before Easter. It is rich with symbolism and deep spiritual experiences, celebrated in Christian communities throughout the world.

Lent is derived from the Latin word for fortieth. It lasts 40 days and recalls the 40 days that Jesus fasted and was tested in the desert at the beginning of his ministry. The overriding theme is reflection and lament for all that is not right in our own lives and in the world. It is typically observed by prayer, fasting and/or abstinence from something, and charitable giving. The idea is to recall the sacrificial life of Jesus.

On Wednesday you may have noticed a few people with a cross marked with ashes on their foreheads. The ashes symbolize confession and repentance and are often made from the previous year's dried out Palm Sunday branches.



Cup of ashes.

This recalls the tragic reversal Jesus experienced, who was celebrated by crowds as he entered Jerusalem only to be put to death by crowds five days later.

We welcome everyone to partake in the season of Lent at our regular Sunday Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. in the East Rec. Center. For information about our Wednesday Morning Bible Study, Saturday Prayer meeting, monthly potlucks and other gatherings go to www.occsantarosa.org, write us at occsantarosa@gmail.com or call at (707) 595-0166.

Conservatives Club



■Jane Gyorgy

CONVENTION OF STATES ACTION CALIFORNIA DIRECTOR TO SPEAK THIS MONTH

Our February meeting speaker was Jack Tibbetts, the Executive Director of Saint Vincent De Paul Sonoma County. SVdP provides emergency and basic needs services to everyone in need, regardless of creed, race, status, or origin.

On March 25 at 4 p.m., our speaker will be Alison Moon, the state director and District Captain of the Convention of States Action California. She will share her experiences and insights related to her work with the organization, including its efforts toward convening an Article V Convention of States. Find out more about this organization at ConventionOfStates.com.

The Conservatives Club meets monthly on fourth Tuesday from 4-6 p.m. in the Berger (6633 Oakmont Dr). Attendees are invited to bring food and/or beverages to share. You do not have to be a member to attend Conservatives Club meetings; all are welcome.

To ensure enough chairs and printed name tags for everyone, RSVP with your and your guest's full names to TheNewOakmontCC@gmail.com.

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.

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.”



Oakmont Vets Club

■Paul Gowins

VETS CLUB PRESENTS A HEALTH AND WELLNESS EVENT

As March begins with lamb-like weather, it's a perfect time to get out and enjoy our beautiful neighborhoods. Take in the fresh blossoms, sculpted landscapes, and, of course, the yard signs characteristic of this season in our community. These signs remind us all to vote in the election cycle running through March, with votes being counted on April 7.

This month also brings celestial wonders. On the evening of March 13, we'll be treated to a total lunar eclipse, complete with a striking blood moon during the umbra, lasting into the midnight hour.

Then, just two weeks later on March 27, mark your calendar for a different kind of alignment—the first health and wellness event hosted by your Vets Club. Held at the Berger Center from 2:30–5:30 p.m., the event will feature several excellent practitioners offering bodywork, healing therapies, acupuncture, chiropractic care, and more. Sessions will include cutting-edge treatments like electromagnetic pulse therapies, which can help with heart rhythm regulation, pain management, and PTS symptoms.

Looking further ahead, we will soon host a series of in-depth presentations and workshops to guide you through accessing the services and benefits you deserve from the VA. Watch for details about these valuable events. This spring, we'll also unveil our newly minted, beautiful club lapel pins.

Finally, don't forget to save the date for our April 18 concert and dance featuring Death and Taxes! This event will be our final fundraiser to support the premiere Honor Flight, taking our vets to Washington, D.C., from April 28–30.

We hope to see you at these exciting events!

Valley of the Moon Rotary Club



■John Brodey

THANK YOU

Now that the dust has settled on our annual VOM Rotary Crab Feed Fundraiser, I know I speak for all my fellow club members in thanking you, our neighbors, for its success. It takes a lot of preparation to put it all together (thank you volunteers). And the big day (Saturday) was an exhausting 12-hour marathon.

Unsurprisingly, I had no problem talking myself into a vegetable-like state the next day. When I finally emerged Monday afternoon and got in my car to see a movie, I noticed a rather unpleasant smell. Skunkish, but not quite. I put the windows down and hit the road. It was sunny and warmer.

After the show, I returned to my car, opened the door and proceeded to pass out. It was “funkier than a mosquito's tweeter,” as Tina Turner used to say. Something had died. I saw nothing but then did a dive under the seats. It was there I found not one but two Ziploc bags of crab. I don't know how they got there... they sure didn't crawl. My car may smell like it was fished out of the bay, but it was for a good cause.

A few days later we had our weekly Thursday meeting, and it was time for our Student of the Month Award. This is always an inspiring and feel-good moment. The award is not about academics per se but our motto: Service Above Self. Two teachers from Austin Creek Elementary described why Sarah Taylor was their obvious choice for the award. Words such as role model, kind, helpful, caring and engaged were used to describe someone of great character. Despite what we read, it seems altruism is alive and well in our schools and it deserves to be recognized. Thank you, Sarah!

Soroptimist International Oakmont Wine Country



■Denise Bickert

SECOND ANNUAL SOROPTIMIST SPRING TIME TEA

SI of Oakmont Wine Country just celebrated its five-year anniversary. The club had a rocky start, chartering a month before the Covid epidemic but we kept plugging away and today have almost doubled our original membership.

The mission of Soroptimist is to help women and girls achieve economic empowerment through education. Our club works toward that goal by granting scholarships to women who are head of household and pursuing their education. We have granted scholarships every year since our charter. In addition, locally we support victims of human trafficking through our work with Redemption House of the Bay Area.

We are hosting our Second Annual Spring Time Tea Saturday, April 26 at 12 noon. This year we are excited to offer more seating, a raffle, and a hat contest, judged by the audience. The menu reflects traditional High Tea with sandwiches, scones and an array of delicious desserts. Tickets are \$60 and all proceeds will support our scholarship fund and community outreach.

You may be aware of our club from seeing our flamingos decorating resident's yards. Or you may have attended one of our annual Book Faires which have featured Sonoma County authors. While both of those activities benefit our neighbors, and raise money, the Tea is our primary fundraiser of the year. We thank you in advance for your support.

If you would like more information or tickets to the Tea, please contact me at deniseb.siowc@gmail.com or (707) 623-7413.



■Judy Walker

APRIL 10 CONCERT ANNOUNCEMENT



Personal photo provided by Bob's daughter.

It is with deep sadness that I announce the passing of our founder, Bob Hayden, at 103 years. He died peacefully in his sleep in the early hours of Saturday, February 22 at Spring Lake Village Health Center.

Bob had the vision and the will to bring classical music to Oakmont 35 years ago, starting with small gatherings of like-minded people who were invited to play for each other. His concept blossomed into The Oakmont Concert Series and more professional local musicians were engaged to perform. It subsequently grew to include the finest U.S. and international chamber musicians.

When Bob moved to Spring Lake Village in 2010, he graciously handed over the baton to Rosemary Waller and, based on Bob's model, the organization thrived under her leadership with the new name of Music at Oakmont, continuing to present a wide range of ensembles performing an ever-increasing wealth of music. For many years after he moved to Spring Lake Village, Bob and his wife Alla attended our concerts, always seated in the front row at their assigned “founders' seats.”

We will honor Bob's legacy at our April concert featuring the wonderful Trio Zimbalist, whose playing greatly impressed us at their debut here a few years ago. Their program includes works that Bob loved—the Beethoven “Ghost” and the Brahms C Major trios—so it seems an appropriate time to show our gratitude and respect for this amazing man.

Please join us at what will be an inspiring event.

WHEN: Thursday, April 10 at 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: Berger Center

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

NEED A RIDE? GIVE A RIDE! OAKMONT VOLUNTEER HELPERS

COORDINATOR

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March 1–15 Matt Zwerling 707-539-8996

March 16–31 Ron Kaufman 707-541-6713

We provide the following services to Oakmont Residents:

- Transportation to medical/dental appointments, including pet appointments in Santa Rosa only
- Rides to events and activities within Oakmont
- Meals on Wheels 707-525-0383

If you would like to be a volunteer, please call 539-8996. Donations to Oakmont Volunteer Helpers are appreciated and tax deductible.

Mail your check payable to Oakmont Volunteer Helpers, 6637 Oakmont Dr., Ste. A, Santa Rosa, CA 95409. Thank you.

Mon.–Fri. medical rides before 9 AM or after 4 PM are subject to limited volunteer driver availability. No service on weekends or holidays. Please call at least three full working days prior to appointment.

We regret that we are unable to provide either wheelchair or emergency service.

HOW TO CONTACT 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

Oakmont Ukesters

■Michael James

BEGINNER UKULELE CLASSES

Learn to play the ukulele. You are not too old and it's not too late!

The ukulele is the most popular instrument of the 21st century. Why? Because it is easy to learn and play, and you can purchase one for under \$100. Last year we had 15 new students and most of them are still playing and singing each week with the Ukesters Club. We have been invited to

sing and play for Grandparents' Week and The Oakmont Gardens!

I am your music instructor and I love teaching because it brings so much joy to seniors who have always wanted to play a musical instrument. If you don't have a ukulele, I have two to loan out for the duration of the class.

We meet every Friday morning from 10-11 a.m. at the OVA, suite B for the months of March and April.

It will only cost you a \$5 donation to cover the music, paper and binders. Sign up early because class size is limited.

Music is great for your hearing, vision, hand to eye coordination, memory, and your social life. So come and join us for some fun! "Music is What Feelings Sound Like."



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

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

RESIDENTIAL POWER WASHING AND WINDOW CLEANING

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

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Oakmont Onsite Personal Computer Services. 11+ years helping Oakmonters. Call Chuck for all things computer and tutoring. Reference available. Over 350 satisfied Oakmont customers. \$60/hr., one hour minimum. (707) 293-8011.

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GUITAR LESSONS

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

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Oakmont Visual Aids Workshop

■Jill Butler

CHILD'S PLAY OR SERIOUS BUSINESS? IT'S BOTH AT OAKMONT VISUAL AIDS WORKSHOP!

Here, we create tactile books for visually impaired and blind children around the world. The "child's play" happens every Monday morning at West Rec. from 9-11 a.m., where 30 to 50 dedicated women gather to trace, cut, and glue, crafting conceptual tactile books with joy and purpose. These free books are distributed globally to teachers and parents of special children.

Behind the scenes, the "serious business" of this non-profit organization is just as impressive. Volunteers handle accounting and bookkeeping, speak to organizations, purchase supplies, collect

donated materials from local businesses, and prepare components like wallpaper and matte board for book covers. The process also involves printing and brailleing



the words on each page, organizing orders, sending thank-you notes to supporters, and maintaining inventory to ensure orders are fulfilled.

On mailing days, which occur every other month, extra help comes from the dedicated husbands of our volunteers. They pack books into mailing boxes and transport them to the main post office for shipment.

If you're interested in being part of this rewarding effort, please join us at West Rec. on Mondays at 9 a.m. We'd love to have you!



Photos by Jill Butler.

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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.

MARCH 9: GEORGE MCKINNEY SALY HEMINGS: THOMAS JEFFERSON'S CONCUBINE (DAYLIGHT SAVING STARTS)

Sally Hemings is one of the most intriguing individuals in American history. She was Thomas Jefferson's slave and became his concubine. She bore him seven children, four of which survived.



George will delve into her life, examining the complexities of her existence as both a woman and a slave at that period of our history, and he will offer insights into Jefferson's private life.

MARCH 16: CAROLYN GREENE DO YOU BIRD? THE AMAZING BIRDS OF OAKMONT AND BEYOND

You may think you have no interest in birds, but (warning!) expose yourself to a little birding and even you can become addicted—in a positive and fun way! Carolyn, with her experience as a field biologist



with the National Park Service and other organizations, knows her stuff. She will share facts and stories about birds, along with fascinating research. In this compelling talk, she'll discuss how we can help our flying friends to live and thrive.

MARCH 23: GEORGIA KELLY MONDRAGÓN: WHAT MAKES IT WORK?

In Spain's Basque Region, Mondragón Cooperative Corporation is the largest and most successful complex of worker-owned businesses in the world—with over 100 businesses and 80,000 worker-owners. Mondragón has over 70 years of remarkable success and generates over 7% of Spain's GDP. They have proven that this business model works and is a viable economic option.



How did they do it? What makes it successful? Georgia will tell us all about this unique and inspiring culture of cooperation.

Canine Club



■Jean Nattkemper

DOGGY DOINGS FOR MARCH AND APRIL Happy Tails Dog Park—Changes for Small Dog Hours:

For dogs weighing 25lbs or less, effective March 1, Small Dog Hours are daily, instead of only Wednesdays and Sundays. Also added are Seasonal Hours, to help in summertime, when the park gets quite hot. You will see new signs posted at the dog park to reflect these changes that say: Reserved Daily—Small Dog Winter Hours 3–4 p.m., November 1–April 30; Summer Hours 9–10 a.m., May 1–October 31.

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.

Special Play Dates for March and April:

Doodle Dogs: Saturday, Mar. 29, 10 a.m.–noon, any size
 Rescue Dogs/Mixed Breed: Saturday, Apr. 26, 10 a.m.–noon, 35 lbs+

CANINE CLUB MEMBERS ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC

WHEN: Saturday, April 12, noon–2 p.m.
WHERE: West Rec. Picnic Area or W. Rec Center (whichever weather permits!)

Club is providing Burgers, Garden Patties, Hot Dogs, and all the condiments, prepared by Oakmont Market. Members bring desserts, salad, and appetizers, so there is plenty of free food!

Pawsarotti's display table and Prize Giveaways add to the fun. If you are a current club member and plan to attend. RSVP by Apr. 5 to periolinger@yahoo.com. We need to know entrée choice and how many there will be in your party. Sorry, you must leave your pooch at home for this event.

PAWS FOR HEALING NOW IN SANTA ROSA

This nonprofit canine assisted therapy organization wants you and your dog if your dog loves people and has basic obedience skills. Spring Training dates are March 15, 22, and 29.



Teams visit local hospitals, clinics, and assisted living facilities. Volunteers also go to schools and libraries where children read to dogs. You can schedule visits when it's convenient for you. Choose where you go from the list of facilities.

To share your dog's love, go to the website: www.pawsforhealing.org. Or call Oakmont resident, Donna Forst, (707) 775-9241 with your questions.



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Oakmont Democratic Club



■Sue Carrell

SPEAKER SERIES ANNOUNCED

The Oakmont Democratic Club alternates meetings with The Progressives at the East Recreation Center on the second Mondays of the month at 6:30 p.m. The club has announced a speaker series for March 10, May 12 and June 14.

March 10: Pat Sabo, member of the Sonoma County Democratic Party Central Committee. *Note: Speaker for March 10 has changed.*

For up-to-date information about the speaker series and club activities, please visit the Oakmont Democratic Alliance website at www.oakmontdemocraticalliance.org.

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