

# OAKMONT NEWS

Semimonthly

The Official Newspaper of the Oakmont Village Association

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## Neuman, Marzak, Ray and Williams Win OVA Board Seats

■News Staff



The 2025 OVA Board, Left to Right: Jess Marzak, Jeff Neuman, Heidi Klyn, Neill Ray, Robert Williams, Jerry Gladstone and Matt Oliver. (Photo by Julie Kiil)

With 1,065 votes, Jeff Neuman was the top vote getter in a field of seven candidates seeking four vacancies on the OVA Board at the election held on May 5. In a tight race that drew 1,757 ballots, the

other three spots were filled by Neill Ray with 860 votes, Jess Marzak with 857 votes and Robert Williams with 850 votes.

The new directors succeed Vice President Steve Spillman, and directors Mark Randol and Olga Ydrogo. Marzak, who filled in for David Dearman when he left the board in 2024, will remain on the board for two more years.

The newly seated board held its election of officers, with Director Oliver voted in as president, Director Gladstone voted in as vice president and Director Marzak voted in as secretary.

The OVA election results are, in order of finishing:  
Total Ballots: 1,757 ballots counted

Jeff Neuman—1065 votes

Neill Ray—860 votes

Jess Marzak—857 votes

Robert Williams—850 votes

Karl Turner III—813 votes

Tim Nelson—793 votes

John DeGroot—762 votes

## 2025 Service Awards



Jeff Neuman.  
(Photo by Julie Kiil)

Jeff Neuman and Tom Pugliese were honored with service awards at the Annual Meeting held on May 5. Neuman, who leads and contributes to multiple committees and task forces including Firewise, Architectural, and the newly formed AV Task Force, was named Volunteer of the Year by the OVA board.

Pugliese was named the Community Service Volunteer for his work with the Emergency Preparedness Task Force. Neuman was also this year’s recipient of the Susan Millar Award from the Oakmont Community Foundation. The \$1,000 award from OCF will be passed along by Neuman to an Oakmont group that meets OCF guidelines.

## OVA Architectural Office Relocation and Expanded Hours

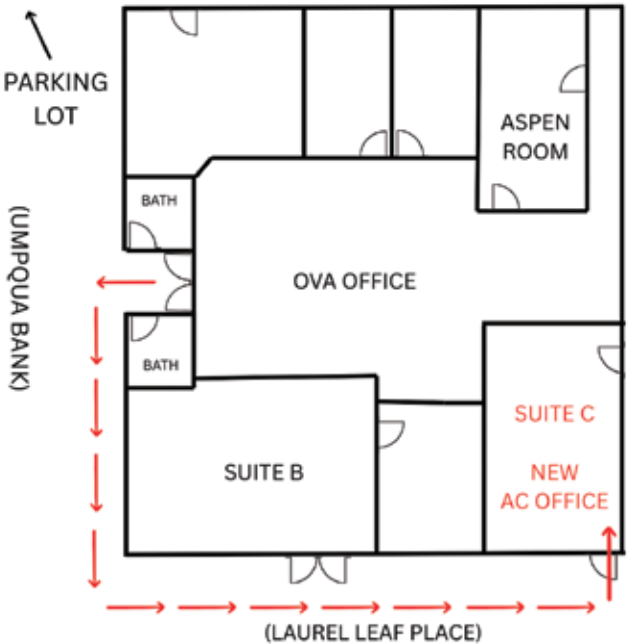
■Oakmont Village Association

The AC office is moving! Beginning Monday, May 5, Architectural will be located in Suite C at the OVA Office. Instead of being around the corner to the right of the main OVA office entrance, AC will now be located around the corner to the left, facing Laurel Leaf Place.

We’re happy to share that with this move, the Architectural Office will now be open on Fridays, giving residents added flexibility to look at samples, connect with the staff, and submit applications.

Important Parking Reminder: Visitors to the Architectural Office should continue to park in the shared parking lot in front of the OVA Administrative Office and Umpqua Bank. Please do not park on Laurel Leaf Place, as parking on that street is limited to 15 minutes or less.

We look forward to welcoming you to our new location!



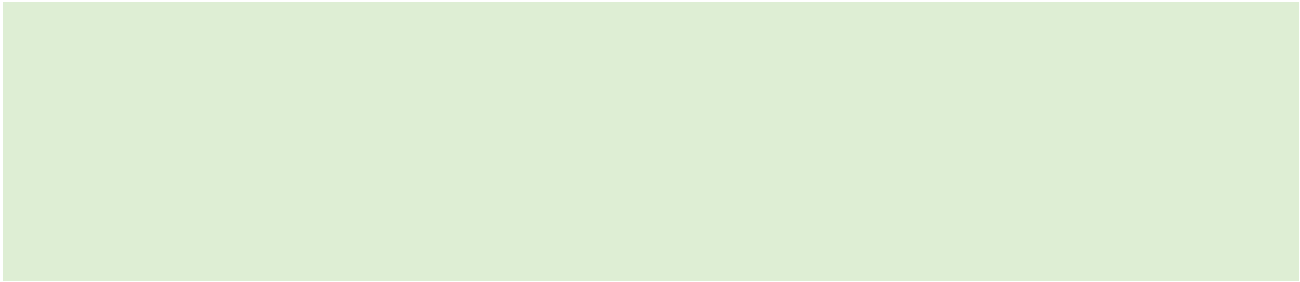
## Fire Safe Fair

On April 24, the Berger Center buzzed with activity during the Fire and Earthquake Safe Fair, hosted by Meet Your Neighbors and OVA. Residents connected with several of OVA’s emergency task forces, emergency service professionals, and vendors, gaining invaluable insights on staying prepared for any emergency.

Danielle Hannigan from OVA’s Architectural Office shares information with residents. (Photo by Crissi Langwell)



At the Fair.





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# Meet Your Neighbors (MYN) Gains Eight New CERT Volunteers

■Claudia Cappio and Katy Carrel



Kerin McTaggart, Jeff Neuman, Claudia Cappio, Matt Zwerling, Ron Otten, Katy Carrel and Carol Toth (missing is Peg Stone).

Certs is a breath mint. No, Certs is a candy mint. Remember that tagline from way back? Well, CERT is neither. It stands for Community Emergency Response Team. And for three Saturdays in April, eight intrepid Oakmonters took a 24-hour CERT comprehensive training as part of improving County-wide emergency preparedness and responsiveness. Matt Zwerling, Peg Stone, Jeff Neuman, Carol Toth, Kerin McTaggart, Ron Otten, Katy Carrel and Claudia Cappio became certified CERT volunteers.

“Community members working together is a critical component in building resilience to all types of disasters. CERT provides training and structure that add both an additional layer of skills and a new network of community interaction—both of which strengthen a community’s capacity to withstand and recover from disasters,” said Nancy Brown, Ph.D, community preparedness manager for the Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management.

The rationale behind CERT is that during an emergency or disaster, first responders will likely be

overwhelmed and can’t be everywhere at once. Enter CERT teams: local, on-the-ground trained volunteers who can fill in the gaps and assist their families, neighborhoods and other community members. For disaster preparedness, CERT teams can assist with pulling together a family emergency plan and kit with essential items.

During a hazardous event like wildfires and earthquakes, CERT team members can provide information, perform basic first aid and support professional emergency response personnel. CERT volunteers may also provide crucial assistance during post-disaster periods, such as assessing neighborhood safety and supporting clean-up efforts.

During our training, Oakmont volunteers learned, among other topics, how to:

- Recognize hazards and life-threatening conditions and judge whether it is safe to provide assistance.
- Provide basic first aid and keep more seriously injured people safe and stable until first responders arrive.
- Perform light search and rescue and small fire suppression.
- Know the CERT teams’ place in the overall city, county, state and federal disaster response systems.
- Provide emotional support to relieve stress for other team and community members.

With training complete, MYN will be stronger, and Oakmont will have another important resource to rely on during emergencies. The county is actively reinstating the formerly defunct CERT program, so more opportunities for interested Oakmonters will be available if you missed this one. Contact Dr. Brown or Deisy Vargas at [Nancy.A.Brown@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Nancy.A.Brown@sonoma-county.org) or [deisy.vargas-sonoma-county.org](mailto:deisy.vargas-sonoma-county.org).



# Oakmont Car Show Returns with Classic Cars, Live Music and Community Spirit

■Oakmont Car Club

On Saturday, May 24, the 22nd Annual Oakmont Car Show will take place in the Berger parking lot from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“This year’s event will feature over 120 rare classic cars, including a 1916 Overland Touring, 1945 Willys CJ-2A Jeep, 1967 Alfa Romeo Gran Sport Zagato, 1978 Ferrari 308 GTS, and many more,” said Mike Murphy, Oakmont Car Show Coordinator. “The Oakmont Car Show continues to be the community’s largest attended event.”

Attendees will also enjoy live music by Sonoma County musicians Jaydub and Dino. Food options, including burgers, chips, sodas, and hot dogs, will be available for purchase from The Oakmont Market.

While admission is free, car entrants pay a \$15 exhibit fee, which helps the Oakmont Car Club make annual donations to local charities.

For more information, contact [oakmontcarclub@gmail.com](mailto:oakmontcarclub@gmail.com).





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## Conservatives Club



■Jane Gyorgy

### PLEASE PRAY FOR VETERANS WHO DIED FOR OUR FREEDOMS!

Many thanks to April’s speaker, Chief of Police of the City of Santa Rosa, John Cregan, for taking the time to speak at our Conservative Club in Oakmont. He was generous with his time and provided valuable information about our city’s crime rates and the measures being taken to improve the safety of Santa Rosa. His handouts were also very helpful in understanding the many issues he and his officers face, and how hard they work. A thoughtful Q & A session followed with pertinent questions from attendees.

The club will forward a letter to our supervisors to encourage minimal budget cuts in the Police and Fire departments. We feel he and his officers are doing phenomenal work to make Santa Rosa safer, and we thank him again for his commitment, dedication, and time.

Monthly meetings: fourth Tuesdays, 4-6 p.m., in the Berger (6633 Oakmont Dr). Food and beverage welcome.

Since our next meeting would have fallen on the day after Memorial Day at the end of the holiday weekend, there will be no May meeting. Please, pray for those veterans who gave their all so that we may continue to be free!

Members, please use the Sign-Up button on the emailed invitation to RSVP Yes, No, or Maybe.

Non-members, please email TheNewOakmontCC@gmail.com, include your and your guest’s full names.

## Café Mortel



■Linda Suhr

### BRINGING FUNERALS BACK HOME

Since pre-Revolutionary days, American families have cared for their dead at home. The wake was an intimate time when the deceased were laid out in the parlor. Family and friends gathered to communally grieve and support each other. In the aftermath of the Civil War, with so many fallen soldiers needing to be preserved and transported from the battlefield to their distant homes, the practice of embalming took hold, and with it, the modern funeral industry was born.

Today, when it comes to taking care of their deceased loved ones, many families wish to bring that sense of community and agency back home. Cafe Mortel is honored to have an esteemed pioneer in this field, Jerrigrace Lyons, speak at our Wednesday, May 14 meeting from 3-4:15 p.m. in the East Rec.



Jerrigrace Lyons.

This talk will inform you of how friends and family can create a personal ceremony or rituals for their loved one at home that may include bathing and blessing the body, building or decorating a casket, having an honoring wake and creating an altar and uniquely tailored services. You will also learn about the many new choices of disposition arising from cultural, ecological and economical needs and desires.

Jerrigrace Lyons is the founding director of the educational nonprofit, Final Passages, and is a minister, death midwife, author and educator. She has pioneered a new field of “home funeral guidance.” In the past 30 years, Jerrigrace has supported hundreds of families with their family-directed home funerals. As a renowned leader, she is dedicated to transforming the way our society views death and dying. She has appeared in several major newspapers and in the PBS documentary, *A Family Undertaking*.

This meeting will also be available on Zoom (Meeting ID: 820 8891 6512, Passcode: 969618). See you there! Questions—linda@autumnoflifeplanning.com.

## OakMUG



### Oakmont Macintosh Users Group

■Peggy Clark

### AN OVERVIEW OF APPLE INTELLIGENCE

Our board has made a tough decision to close OakMUG by November. But don’t worry, we’ll still be hosting speakers until the end of the year! If you’re a member, you can attend all the meetings for free, no need to renew your membership.

The remaining meetings are on May 17, July 19, September 20, and November 15.

Our next speaker is John Wentworth, who’ll be talking about Apple Intelligence. Join John for an overview of AI and how it can be used in everyday life, with a detailed look at Apple’s take on the technology. The meeting is on Saturday, May 17, at 2 p.m. at the East Rec. Center.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at oakmontmacusersgroup@gmail.com. We’re here to help!



■Carolita Carr

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

Those of you who were able to attend Jack Wright’s tribute to Neil Diamond know what a great show it was. For those of you who were too late to purchase tickets, we are sorry you missed it. The Berger only holds so many seats.

We have another great show/dance coming up on June 21—Nathan Owens and the Legends of Motown. Members will be notified by email on May 17 that they can start purchasing tickets. If you are a member and have been missing emails, please check your junk or spam folders.

We would also like to remind you that our events are for members and their guests. You can check your membership status, renew, or update your contact information by emailing info@oakmontboomers.org. Member dues are \$15 per year per person.

## Strength and Balance Class

■Valerie Hulsey

### MARY’S FITNESS CLASS

The Balance and Fitness class is normally held every Friday at 9:30 a.m. at the East Rec. Center. But there will be no class on May 23.

Everyone is welcome to join the classes. There is a \$5 drop-in fee for classes and 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.

## Oakmont Garden Club



■Patty McHugh

### HONEY BEES, NATIVE BEES AND ESSENTIAL POLLINATORS IN OUR GARDENS

“For the bees a flower is a fountain of life, and to the flower a bee is a messenger of love.”—Kahlil Gibran

**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 14, 9:30 a.m. Social, 10–11 a.m. Program, Q&A follows

**WHERE:** East Rec. Center, 7902 Oakmont Drive

**SPEAKER:** Shannan Carr, Program Director, Sonoma County Beekeepers Association

Shannon will talk about the Sonoma County Beekeepers Association programs, about honey bees and native bees, and about the importance of having a healthy ecosystem that supports pollinators. It is said, “Bees are nature’s magicians—pollination powers the planet.”

Shannon has been the director of the Sonoma County Beekeepers Association for four years and loves “working with our members, educating our community on the importance of pollinators and habitat, and knowing that the work we [SCBA] are doing is making a positive impact on the environment.” Website: [www.sonomabees.org](http://www.sonomabees.org).

Please Note: This will be our last meeting before the summer break. We will be back in September with another great presentation. We will provide an overview of upcoming programs later in the Summer. Happy Spring All!



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# Pickleball Corner

■Peter Copen



## PICKLEBALL FACTS (NOT ALTERNATIVE ONES)

Tennis legend Andre Agassi will make his professional pickleball debut at the U.S. Open Pickleball Championships alongside one of the best players to pick up a paddle, Anna Leigh Waters, who has won 148 Professional Pickleball Association titles (gold medals). She is known across her sport as the greatest women’s player of all time—at 18 years old.

Pickleball is the fastest-growing sport in the United States. An estimated 48.3 million adults dinked, hit and volleyed a small polymer ball over a 34-inch net between 2022 and 2023, according to the Association of Pickleball Professionals (APP).



Graphic by Peter Copen.

In 2015, 10 years ago, when I first came to Oakmont and started playing pickleball, there were around 2 million adults playing.

“While tennis is growing, it’s much less expensive to repaint a tennis court into two pickleball courts than to build new ones from scratch,” according to the United States Tennis Association (USTA) chief executive.

Austin, Texas, is America’s pickleball capital in 2024. Austin Metro Pickleball Association has reported approximately 3,000-3,500 registered members. An estimated 15,000-20,000 people play pickleball at least occasionally in the greater Austin area.

Seattle had the most pickleball courts with 20.5 courts per 100,000, followed by St. Petersburg, Fla. as of June, 2023.

Joyce Jones is 95 years old and still playing competitive pickleball. And for her love of the game, she’s been recognized as the oldest competitive pickleball player in the world after Guinness World Records bestowed the honor on her in Jan. 6, 2025.

The Oakmont Pickleball Club has 183 members none of whom hold a Guinness world record (except perhaps in serving stouts).

**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 WWW site: <https://oakmontpickleballclub.com/>.

# Jewish Interest Group

■Howard Sidorsky



## ISRAELI COMEDY MOVIE

On May 18 in the East Rec. Center at 2 p.m. the Jewish Interest Group is presenting an Israeli comedy from 2016. This film was one of the highest grossing films in the last 20 years in Israel. It is in Hebrew with English subtitles.

Come and enjoy this film which addresses faith, segregation and sexism in a peppery, entertaining way. We’ll provide the popcorn, you can bring drinks to share (or anything else you’d like). Or bring a nosh to share, or maybe something to drink. And if you can come at 1:30 to help set up, it would be appreciated. Again, 2 p.m. in the East Rec. Center on May 18.

# Valley of the Moon Rotary Club



■John Brodey

## ‘THE TIMES’, THEY ARE A CHANGING

It takes vision to stay ahead of the curve, especially for responsible news media organizations which have long been considered the fourth branch of government and essential to a healthy democracy. I remember delivering the Washington Evening Star (D.C.) when I was 13 and becoming a news junkie in the process. My son, Sam, is a national political reporter for the Boston Globe and I take my news seriously.

Understandably, seeing that our upcoming breakfast meeting speaker would be Eric Johnston, COO of Sonoma Media Investments which includes the Press Democrat, had me drooling. A gifted speaker, Eric provided context as his news media career was shaped by the belief that the digital age would have significant impacts upon print media. He prioritized developing digital platforms to address the demographic shifts in usage.

He also shared recent reports from the NY Times showing that they had 10.36 million subscribers in 2023, of which 9.7 million were digital only. In the last quarter of 2024, they had 300,000 new digital subscribers. This is certainly the key to expanding revenue and readership.

As the largest news gathering organization between S.F and Portland, SMI is making an investment toward this end by increasing staff and developing additional digital tools to provide more timely updates for readers including daybreak, lunchtime and evening emails. They are expanding coverage of the north bay to provide neighboring communities with the same coverage we enjoy.

These are difficult times for newsmen/women. Since 2004, the country has lost 2,100 newspapers. And now, social media has blurred the line between truth and propaganda. Much like our justice system, responsible reporting has been ruthlessly cast as nothing more than a political weapon. True journalism does exist but it needs our support.

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# Sign up for Spring Vaccination Clinic

■Oakmont Village Association

Appointments are now available for a vaccines clinic on May 15 at the Berger from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vaccines offered are 2nd dose 2024-25 COVID (Pfizer), RSV (for ages 60+), Shingles (Shingrix), Pneumonia (Pneumovax 23) and Tetanus (Tdap).

The CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that people aged 65 and older, as well as those who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, receive a second dose of the 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine six months after their first dose.

You can make an appointment at [www.safeway.com/vaccinations/group-clinic/OakmontSR2024](https://www.safeway.com/vaccinations/group-clinic/OakmontSR2024).

Consent form: [oakmontvillage.com/article/informed-consent-for-immunization](https://oakmontvillage.com/article/informed-consent-for-immunization).

Please bring your consent form with you to the clinic. You can download and print the at the link above. If you are not insured, please prepay with the Safeway pharmacy by calling (707) 539-2129. Safeway is unable to bill Kaiser members.

# Oakmont Democratic Club



■Sue Carrell

## LET’S TALK ABOUT THE ECONOMY

The Oakmont Dems are busy gearing up for the outreach, protests, marches and zooms going on over the next several months in Santa Rosa and other cities in Sonoma County. Stay updated by checking our website regularly at [oakmontdemocraticalliance.org](https://oakmontdemocraticalliance.org). Soon you can also check out [sonomacountycoalition.org](https://sonomacountycoalition.org) for more information about events throughout the county. This group has recently been organized and their website is a work in progress. We will let you know when it is up and running.

Our recent fundraiser, an evening of Bingo, pizza, salads and home-made cookies was a huge success. Everyone enjoyed getting out for an evening of socializing with like-minded neighbors and having a good time. At the request of attendees, we plan to repeat this success at future socials. Stay tuned.

At our regular monthly meeting on May 12, we will listen to an interesting, well-informed speaker on the economy and tariffs, a topic we’re seeing get lots of attention in the news lately. Dr. Jon Haveman has been a speaker at Life-Long Learning in the recent past and was very well received. Socializing starts at 6:30 p.m. at the East Rec. The program starts at 7.

Our June 9 meeting will feature Young Dems from SSU and SRJC. You won’t want to miss hearing what the younger generation is thinking these days about their future. Why has their interest waned? Why have they turned away from active participation in politics, even voting?

Finally, on May 22, at our monthly social, we will have a brief video followed by round table discussions. Of course, snacks, wine, and soft drinks are always available. Food, wine, or financial contributions are always appreciated.

See you soon. We look forward to growing our community of resistance with you.

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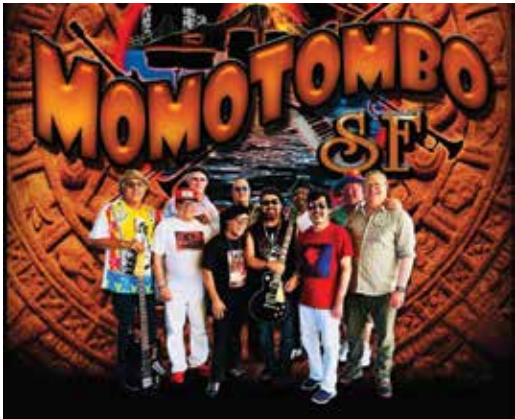
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## Music on the Green

■OVA Staff

The OVA and Valley of the Moon Golf Club are excited to kick off their annual Music on the Green event on Sunday, June 8 at the VOM driving range at 7025 Oakmont Drive. Starting at 3 p.m., this free event will have food and beverage available for purchase by cash only.

Music kicks off at 4 p.m. with Momotombo SE, a 10-piece group of musicians that include alumni from Malo and Santana. Dance the afternoon away to the sounds of Latin jazz, rock, and Afro Cuban beats.

This year’s menu includes the following: Wine, beer and margaritas—\$10; Burger, potato salad, and coleslaw—\$20 (Beyond Burgers available); Hot Dog, potato salad, and coleslaw—\$20; Chicken Caesar wrap, potato salad, and coleslaw—\$20.

Please bring your own lawn chairs or blanket to the event, and cash for food and beverage. An onsite bar is available. No outside food or beverage, please.

## Slot-Car Club

■Ray Wells

### OSCC EASTER RACE REPORT

The Slot-Car Club held an Easter event at the West Rec. for grandchildren. Two tracks were ready at noon, and when children arrived there were thrills galore. Several races were held on the small track with winners taking a selfie with the OSCC trophy.

Progressing to the bigger track, several prospective members tested their luck but the children migrated over and several more races were staged resulting in winner and Fastest Lap selfies. One little girl kept losing her car which was being attracted by the tennis courts. She may have a career designing missile defense systems. Meanwhile the fences on turn 7 required constant repair and may include ballistics gel in the next design.

The last event of the day was won by Ford, who beat his grandpa by 2 laps. He kept complaining the green car needed more brakes but his pleas fell on deaf ears as he was beating us.

The next OSCC event will be a real committee meeting. See our new folder in the OVA office to join the club (currently no fee), and pick up a copy of the monthly newsletter.



Photo by Ray Wells.



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## 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.

To be put on the mailing list, including Zoom, email [tina.lewis31@comcast.net](mailto:tina.lewis31@comcast.net) or call (707) 758-9739.

## Hikers



■Scott Finn

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

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

### MAY 15: LONG HIKE JOHNSON TRAIL TO GUNSIGHT ROCK LOOP



View from Gunsight Rock.

From the Pythian Road parking lot in Hood Mountain we will journey up the Johnson trail up to the Panorama Ranch trail until we reach the Hood Mountain and Goodspeed trails hiking towards Gunsight Rock for lunch. Then back down Upper Johnson to the Pond trail and ending at the Pythian Road lot. Bring plenty of water, lunch/snack and layers.

This hike is about 6.6 miles with over a 2,000 ft.

elevation gain. Meet up at the Berger Center at 8:30 a.m. Hike leader is Cindy Toran, (707) 321-3262.

### MAY 22: 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 trails. 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. Sonoma County Regional Parks pass or \$7. Heavy rain cancels. Leave Berger at 9 a.m. Hike leader is Marilyn Pahr, (707) 541-6430.

### MAY 22: LONG HIKE TOMALES POINT

The Tomales Point Trails offers spectacular views of Tomales Bay and the Pacific Ocean. Starting at Pierce Ranch and traveling to the end of the Point Reyes Peninsula, this hike is out-and-back with an elevation gain of 1000 ft. and a total distance of 9 miles. We will likely see Tule Elk and may even see frolicking whales.

Bring plenty of water, lunch/snack and layers. This hike is a 1-1/2-hour drive from Berger so we will be leaving at 8 a.m. Hike leader is Peggy Clark, (650) 274-4137.



Tule Elk at Point Reyes.

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— Eugene M.

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■Don McPherson

Oakmont  
Pétanque Club

RULES: FAILURE TO MARK  
CIRCLE AND JACK

The rules of Pétanque require the throwing team to mark the position of the circle and the cochonnet and to measure if there is any doubt about who holds the point. In casual play, these rules are often disregarded. Nevertheless, failures to mark and to measure frequently invoke other rules in two common situations: throwing out of turn and picking up the circle prematurely.



Max Hinchman (foreground) points in his game while in the background Steven Payette measures in his game and Gail Ruder, Gordon Blumenfeld, and Ellean Huff determine who holds the point in their game.

When both teams have unplayed boules, a team throws out of turn if it is holding the point. Under the rules, however, the out-of-turn boule remains in play and the situation is regarded simply as a mistake. Rationale: even though the throwing team has the obligation to measure if there is a question, both teams share responsibility for determining whether there is any doubt. If the opposing team has not raised a question, it also has committed an error leading to a boule

being thrown out of turn. It's important for both teams to have a measuring device available while playing. When a team picks up the circle before all boules have been played, the teams must attempt to agree

where the circle was and replace it. If they cannot agree, the opposing team places the circle where it believes it was and the team that picked up the circle prematurely may not play any more boules. The opposing team continues throwing its remaining boules.

PÉTANQUE IN OAKMONT  
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, SATURDAY

French in origin, Pétanque (pay-tonk), also known as Boules, has been played in Oakmont since the 1980s. The Club, founded in 1996, encourages all Oakmonters who may be interested in playing or learning to play to come to the courts between Berger and the OVA offices at 9:45 a.m. on the Club Play days of Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. The Club has boules to lend while you're learning, and you'll be playing right away.

Star of the Valley Church

■Anna Jean

DEMENTIA CAREGIVING ESSENTIALS

Star of the Valley Church is hosting a half-day forum on Dementia Caregiving Essentials, presented by Alzheimer's Association and sponsored by Tweeten Eldercare Advisors, on Thursday, May 15 from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Complimentary lunch is included.

This half-day education forum, will offer insights into identifying the role of caregivers, building a support team, planning for future care changes, and exploring various respite care and housing options.

The forum will be held at the Monsignor Fahey Parish Center, 495 White Oak Drive, Santa Rosa. The forum is free, and registration is required. To register, go to [tinyurl.com/CaregivingEssentials2025](https://tinyurl.com/CaregivingEssentials2025) or call (707) 573-1210.

InvestOAK



■Joseph Pundyk

INVESTOAK TO EXPLORE TARIFFS  
AND GLOBAL MARKETS

The next meeting of InvestOAK will take place on Friday, May 16. The agenda includes a discussion on the progress of the new administration in implementing its tariff policies, which are expected to impact global stock markets and economies. Currently, tariffs have been imposed on steel, aluminum, and foreign-made automobiles, with ongoing negotiations between nations. The group will examine how these tariffs might influence the global investment landscape.

As of April 27, U.S. stock market indexes have rebounded by 10% following a 20% decline earlier this year. However, much could change over the three weeks leading up to the meeting.

A comparative analysis of investment opportunities in the EU and Asian markets versus U.S. investments will also be explored. Additionally, there will be a new segment on evaluating stocks, bonds, and Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), focusing on basic parameters to assess their risks and returns.

The following topics are also on the agenda:

- Whether tariffs can help reduce the national debt and U.S. budget deficit.
- The benefits of corporate, federal, and municipal bonds.
- An overview of preferred stocks.

We are pleased to welcome new members to the InvestOAK Club, whose contributions have greatly enriched our discussions.

The meeting will be held in the Birch Room of the Central Activity Center from 10–11:30 a.m. Please arrive early to secure a seat.



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# Oakmont Sunday Symposium



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

**MOTHER’S DAY, MAY 11: NO MEETING**

**MAY 18: EMILY CORNELIUS (AND FRIENDS)  
SNEAK PEEK: WHAT’S UP  
AT THE 6TH STREET PLAYHOUSE**



Yowza! We all love the 6th Street Playhouse—the oldest community theatre in Sonoma County. Its mission is to “engage, inspire and educate” ... and they sure do! In a lively, high-energy presentation, Emily Cornelius (and some of her friends) will tell us what the Playhouse is all about, and give us a live preview of their summer shows. Hang onto your hat! This will be fun!

Our May 18 presentation is Sunday Symposium’s season finale. Enjoy your summer and we will see you again on September 7 with our new presentations.

# Let’s Dance—Together!

■Terry Whitten, Instructor

## WALTZ INTO SUMMER WITH COUNTRY DANCING!

**WHAT:** Beginning Country Waltz partner dance classes  
**WHEN:** Wednesdays, June 4, 11, 18, 25 and July 2, 9, 16, 23, from 4-5:15 p.m.

**WHERE:** Lower West Rec Center

**COST:** \$10 pp for single class. \$8 pp if 2 or more classes are purchased at the same time

**RSVP:** Please contact instructor, Terry Whitten to register in advance at [twhitten@pacbell.net](mailto:twhitten@pacbell.net) or call (415) 265-7590

Country dancing is very popular in Sonoma County and Country Waltz is a favorite dance. In addition to a wide variety of Country Waltz songs, many of the steps can also be danced to a lot of standard Ballroom Waltz music. The most basic beginning steps of Country Waltz will be taught in June and we will continue with more intermediate steps in July. All classes will build on the material taught each week. No experience is needed for starting at the beginning of June but the July classes will require knowing most of the material taught in June.



No partners are required as we will rotate partners during the classes. However, rotation of partners will be 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. A number of studies also indicate that partner dancing may actually increase mental acuity and reduce the possibility of cognitive decline. Some even say that dancing makes you smarter! It is definitely good for our muscles, balance, brains and spirit!

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

# Bocce Club



■Mary Piumarta

## HISTORY OF BOCCE

The game and sport of bocce has survived the ages. Evolving from its earliest known origins in Egypt circa 5200 B.C. to its current place today among players spanning the globe, bocce truly is a sport for the masses. Although the play of the sport has changed, the basics have remained. It is a competitive game of skill, strategy and ability. Like many sports, it sharpens the reflexes and judgment while encouraging good fellowship among players. One of the best things about Bocce is that it can be played by young and old alike.

As empires expanded and cultures melded, bocce was passed from the Egyptians to the Greeks to the Romans who are responsible for the bocce style we play today and for its name. Italy takes claim of bocce in its current form with Italian migrants populating countries throughout Europe, North and South America and Australia sharing the game in their adopted countries.

The United States is no different. While bocce is growing in popularity across the nation, Italian Americans continue to be some of the best players and strongest advocates of the game. Bocce is currently the fastest growing ball sport in the world and the second most played ball sport behind soccer.

If you would like to join the fun, come to New Member Orientation on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. on the Bocce courts at the East Rec. Center. Contact Pat Paulson, (707) 953-6691 for more information. Regular Club play is Monday through Saturday at 9:30 a.m. during summer hours. The Mother’s Day Tournament is this Saturday, May 10 at 9:30.

If you are a non-member and would like to reserve the courts other than regular club times, contact Bob Swift, (707) 548-5409.



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  - ADDITIONS
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# Movies At Oakmont



**WHERE:** Berger Center  
**SCREENING DAY AND TIME:** Sundays at 2 p.m.  
**HOSTS:** Mike McInnis, Deborah Davidson, Jeff Neuman and Barbara Marquardt.

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

**MAY 11: THE BRUTALIST**  
A visionary architect flees post-war Europe in 1947 for a brighter future in the US and finds his life forever changed by a wealthy client. 2024, R, 3:36.



**MAY 18: THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO**  
After escaping from an island prison where he spent 14 years for being wrongly accused of state treason, Edmond Dantès returns as the Count of Monte Cristo to exact revenge on the men who betrayed him. 2024, NR, 2:58.



**MAY 25: A COMPLETE UNKNOWN**  
In 1961, an unknown 19-year-old Bob Dylan arrives in NYC with his guitar and forges relationships with musical icons on his meteoric rise, culminating in a groundbreaking performance that reverberates around the world. 2024, R, 2:21.



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■Greg Fauss

## MOTHER’S DAY

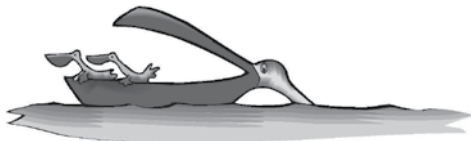
We all have, or have had a mother. At the very least, some mother has given us life.

Beyond this point some of us have been fortunate to have good experiences. Others have had terrible experiences. Many have found themselves in a motherly role themselves by giving birth, by “mothering” as an aunt or friend, or even by taking care of a parent or someone in need.



Despite eliciting a range of emotions, Mother’s Day is still a holiday with which we want to engage. We invite you to join as we celebrate it this Sunday.

Our Sunday Worship Services are 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](http://www.occsantarosa.org), write us at [occsantarosa@gmail.com](mailto:occsantarosa@gmail.com) or call us at (707) 595-0166.



# Tennis Club



■Diane Curtis

## A COURT OF ONE’S OWN

It’s hard to dispute OTC President John Hughson’s devotion to tennis, especially when you know that when he bought a pie-shaped ¾ acre to build a house for himself and his family in Paradise (the California town), a top priority was to also build a tennis court. Which he did. John was hands-on in laying and compacting road base, spreading red clay over that base, and installing an automatic sprinkler system. “It was a fantastic court. It was like playing on a cushion,” he recalls.



Photos provided by John Hughson.

John hit balls with his wife and taught his children to play on that court, and it was a center of their outdoor life for 10 years until they moved to Angwin, where he was executive administrative pastor and his wife Joan a nursing professor at Pacific Union College. He remains active with the college as pastor emeritus.

John became fascinated with tennis when he saw college athletes in his Michigan hometown playing. He took P.E. tennis at La Sierra College, but his game truly developed, he says, when he was a student missionary in Hong Kong and took lessons there. A 4.0 player, tennis has been a part of his life ever since, through Fuller Theological Seminary and Andrews University, through pastoral work in Paradise and Angwin and in Oakmont, where he and his wife have lived for five years.

Lately, John, 80, has been sidelined with peripheral neuropathy and is in treatment, but he has every intention of getting back on the courts. “I shall return,” he says.

As president of OTC, John meets regularly with other board members to approve the budget, process new members, and plan tournaments, social mixers, and the annual dinner at the Saddle Club.

## New to Oakmont?

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

Contact us at [welcome@oakmontvillage.com](mailto:welcome@oakmontvillage.com). The Welcome Packet is available at [oakmontvillage.com/article/new-resident-welcome-packet](http://oakmontvillage.com/article/new-resident-welcome-packet).



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with Patricia Daniels,  
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# Canine Club

■Steve Huntley

## ALONG WITH SPRING COMES DOGGY EXERCISE AND MORE

The dangers of spring. With spring comes warmer weather and more sunlight hours which in turn awakens many critters from hibernation such as bears, rattlesnakes, and yellow jackets. Along with those critters come beautiful flowers, increased bee activity, ticks, poisonous mushrooms, and dangerous weeds such as foxtails that can lodge in the mouth, nose, and ears of your pooch. Be aware of these things at the dog park and when walking your dog in the neighborhood.



## DOG PARK NEWS

Happy Tails Dog Park welcomes all dogs residing in Oakmont! A reminder that the small dog play time hours changed from 3 p.m. every day to 9 a.m. every day on May 1. The dog park is now reserved for small dogs, 25 lbs or less, for 1 hour each day from 9–10 a.m.



Dogs play at Happy Tails Dog Park.  
(Photo by Steve Huntley)

The Canine Club supports the dog park through volunteerism. Every day an Oakmont resident volunteer walks the dog park looking for damage, refilling doggy waste bag dispensers, and picking up doggy waste. It's a healthy walk and usually only takes a half an hour or less. Please contact Peri Olinger at [periolinger@yahoo.com](mailto:periolinger@yahoo.com) if you would like to volunteer.

The Oakmont Canine Club is currently accepting new member applications. You don't even need to own a dog to join, you only need to love dogs. Applications are available in the Canine Club folder in the OVA office or can be downloaded from our website at [www.oakmontcanineclub.org](http://www.oakmontcanineclub.org).

## SAVE THE DATES!

Poodle/Havanese/Bichon Play Date at the dog park is on Saturday May 31, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

All upcoming Canine Club events may be found at [www.oakmontcanineclub.org/events](http://www.oakmontcanineclub.org/events).

■Richard Osborne

# Kiwanis Club of Oakmont



## JILL BUTLER MADE KIWANIS AWARE OF VISUAL AIDS CLUB HELP FOR CHILDREN

Did you know that right here in Oakmont, a group of dedicated volunteers is making a global impact—one book at a time?

The Oakmont Visual Aids Club meets weekly at the West Recreation Center, where they prepare and mail specially adapted books and games for blind and visually impaired children around the world. Their hands-on work brings accessible education, entertainment, and the gift of literacy to those who might otherwise go without.

At a recent Thursday morning meeting of the Oakmont Kiwanis Club, club member Jill Butler gave a moving presentation about the Visual Aids Club's mission and efforts. She passed around samples of the tactile books and materials they create—each one a testament to the love and care poured into this vital work.

The Oakmont Kiwanis Club is proud to support causes like this, and we welcome anyone who wants to make a difference. Come join us for our Thursday

Breakfast Meeting at 8 a.m.—yes, it's a bit early for some, but trust us, the camaraderie (and coffee) is worth it, and the mission is even more so.

Whether you're interested in learning more, getting involved, or just want to meet like-minded community members, we'd love to have you. Reach out to us at [kiwanisclubofoakmont@gmail.com](mailto:kiwanisclubofoakmont@gmail.com) and visit our website at <https://k11349.site.kiwanis.org/> to learn more.

Together, we're turning compassion into action—and making the world a little brighter for children everywhere.



Photo by Richard Osborne



**Marie McBride**  
**322-6843**  
**Private Line**  
6520 Oakmont Drive  
[marie@sonic.net](mailto:marie@sonic.net)

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## 6259 Meadowstone Drive

This pristine El Verano floor plan in Oakmont has been lovingly cared for. The gorgeous chef's kitchen with generous island, Thermador double ovens and six burner gas range is the heart of this home and opens to the family room with a raised hearth fireplace and views of the Mayacama mountain range.

Some of the many features include owned solar panels with battery backup system, new roof, luxury vinyl flooring throughout most of the home, recently painted interior, dual pane windows, air conditioning, and a glass sunroom to enjoy the views year-round. Two glass sliders take you to the decks overlooking the impressive views, including from the primary suite with walk-in closet and spacious bathroom. You'll find updates such as new garage doors and opener, new water heater, new washer/dryer, new refrigerator, new door hardware and window coverings, plus so much more. The delightful yard has everything a gardening enthusiast would want including raised bed planting boxes, a potting bench, rose garden, and fully refurbished drip system.



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Eloise Tweeten, Founder  
Oakmont resident since 2012



■D. Hall

# Playreaders



## GOING FROM CROWD CAST TO TWOSOME

The first offering for May by Oakmont Playreaders featured William Inge’s *Glory in the Flower*, staged by Steven Levin.

Next up, on May 12, is Peter Manos’ *Tale of Two Spectators*. In a park, a man and a woman secretly watch their respective spouses carry on an affair. As time goes on, we realize they have been meeting like this to watch their spouses for quite some time and have even developed something of a bond with each other, despite their predicament. And perhaps they have discovered a little more about themselves and their lives, as well. Yvonne Horn and Steven Levin star.

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

# OAKMONT LAWN BOWLING CLUB

# JOIN US

# MONDAY MAY 19

# at 11 am for

# SMASH


# the

# Jack

# No experience needed.

# We'll bring the snacks!

# Next to the CAC



# Oakmont Singles Social Club



■Bailey Penzotti

**MAY MIXER—OUTSIDE SPORTS!**  
**DATE AND TIME:** Friday May 16, 6 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** West Rec Center—picnic area

April showers bring May flowers and sunshine for outdoor activities and socializing. We will have two or more outdoor activities for you to enjoy including Bocce Ball and Horseshoes. Members of our Oakmont Bocce Ball Club may provide a demonstration and instruction of the use bocce ball lanes located above the picnic area. Equipment is provided.

Wear your name badge, bring a picnic-style appetizer or dessert to share and your fun inspired beverage of choice (umbrella drinks anyone?).

RSVP via our website, [www.oakmontsinglessocialclub.org](http://www.oakmontsinglessocialclub.org) by May 12 at 12 noon. If no computer or ability to register using your smart phone, feel free to email Kat at [KAT9433@icloud.com](mailto:KAT9433@icloud.com) or Bailey at [bailey.osc1@gmail.com](mailto:bailey.osc1@gmail.com).



Photo by Bailey Penzotti.

**JUNE BON APPETIT (OSSC MEMBERS ONLY)**  
**WHEN:** Thursday, June 5  
**RESTAURANT:** The Swiss Hotel Restaurant, 18 W. Spain St., Sonoma

“There’s something so charming about this place that brings a smile to my face every time. The bar area is cute for a drink or appetizer and feels right out of a movie set.” With indoor and patio seating, we’re sure to experience a treasure in Sonoma County. For our meals, there will be several offerings to choose from at same prices. We, therefore, will share the total costs for our meals equally (range TBA). As always, drinks are paid separately by each member.

Reservation is for 20. Bring cash to pay for your share of the meal cost and your drink(s) that will be paid separately. The restaurant will not provide separate checks!

Reservation cutoff is June 2. RSVP at [www.oakmontsinglessocialclub.org](http://www.oakmontsinglessocialclub.org) or email Simone Smith, [ssmith8151@aol.com](mailto:ssmith8151@aol.com).

**DO YOU LIVE IN OAKMONT?  
ARE YOU SINGLE?**

If so, join our club to mix and mingle with other Singles. Oakmont Singles Club offers the opportunity to network with other singles who may have your same interests as you. For more Oakmont Singles Social Club membership visit our website at [www.oakmontsinglessocialclub.org](http://www.oakmontsinglessocialclub.org).



# Oakmont Vets Club

■Paul Gowins

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS EVENT AT OAKMONT GARDENS**

Did you miss us in the last Oakmont News issue while we were otherwise occupied? Well, it looks like we will have to make up for lost time with a full smorgasbord of club news. Lucky for us, we have a big bundle of recent events to offer. Over the past few months, we’ve been collectively building momentum to get to this point in our club’s master plan, and we’re happy to share the exciting results of all our efforts.

**UPCOMING EVENT  
JUNE 19 WELLNESS DAY**

Mark your calendars! The next Wellness Day will be held at Oakmont Gardens on June 19. After the success of our first Health and Wellness event in March, we’ve partnered with Oakmont Gardens to bring you another opportunity to explore treatments and resources for your health and well-being.

This event will feature returning favorites like The6 and Dr. Reiff, along with additional participants to be announced. Don’t miss out—sign up by emailing us at [pngowins@yahoo.com](mailto:pngowins@yahoo.com).



The6

**RECENT EVENTS RECAP**

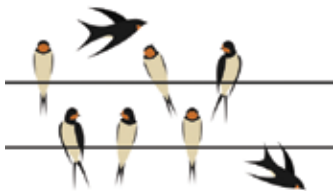
**March Health and Wellness Event:** Held at the Berger, this event was a huge success and inspired the ongoing partnership with Oakmont Gardens mentioned above.

**April 18 Fundraising Dance/Concert:** Our final fundraising dance/concert at the Berger featured the incredible Swing Band, Death and Taxes. Thanks to your generous support, we raised over \$3,000 to send two Oakmont veterans on the North Bay Honor Flight. On April 28, John DeGroot (our club Chairman) and Leonard Kemp embarked on this once-in-a-lifetime journey to Washington, D.C.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our events and initiatives. Stay tuned for more updates!.



John DeGroot and Leonard Kemp.  
(Photo by Karen DeGroot)



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# Meditation

■Joanne Davey

## MEDITATING TOGETHER WEEKLY MEDITATION SESSIONS AT CAC

“...with an eye made quiet by the power of harmony, and the deep power of joy, we see into the life of things.”—William Wordsworth

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

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

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

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

# Wii Bowling Oakmont Lanes



■Terry Leuthner

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

Anyone interested in joining our club, as a team bowler or substitute, please call me at (707) 291-3023 or stop by the East Recreation Center on Tuesdays from 2–3:30pm (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: 8 teams, 4 bowlers per team. Each bowler bowls 3 games and has his/her own handicap (80%) and average.

See [www.oakmontlanes.com](http://www.oakmontlanes.com) for Club information, bowling dates, week results and team schedules to bring cookies and help setup at 1 p.m. and tear down equipment at 3:30 p.m.

Bowling dates for May: May 13 (week #4), 20 (week 5, Memorial Day Challenge). No bowling May 27 (fourth Tuesday).

## RESULTS OF APRIL 29 (WEEK #2, SUMMER LEAGUE)

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

Men’s High Games: Charlie Ensley, 268; Don Shelhart, 263; Glen Hewitt, 223; Frank Schepergerdes, 203; Richard Adamczyk, 202; Mike Earles, 202; Terry Leuthner, 200.

Women’s High Games: Sandy Osheroff, 267; Robin Schudel, 236; Peggy Ensley, 232; Laurel Earles, 226; Diane Price, 226; Shirley Jamison, 225; Vickie Jackanich, 216; Carolita Carr, 211; Elisabeth LaPointe, 203.

Oakmont Lanes is now in our 17th year. Thanks to everyone who has made Oakmont Lanes so successful with all the fun and camaraderie you share together. If you’re thinking of joining us, now is the time as we have just started our 10-week Summer League on April 15. 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.



■Valerie Hulsey

Wow, the sun has been shining and the water is warm so please join us at the West pool for 50 minutes of exercise and fun.

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

We look forward to seeing you soon.

## CLASSES ON FRIDAYS

July’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

## MEN WEARING HEARING AIDS

The number one complaint I hear is “my husband won’t wear his hearing aid.” Here is my reply: “Some men would rather believe the TV is broken, their wife is whispering, and waiters are speaking in riddles before admitting they might need a hearing aid.”

1. Hearing Aids equals “I’m Old Now” Starter Pack. To some guys, wearing a hearing aid feels like the gateway drug to orthopedic shoes and yelling at clouds. It’s not about hearing—it’s about identity. The logic goes: “If I put this tiny device in my ear, I’m basically one shuffle away from early bird specials and golf visors.”

2. Denial: Not Just a River in Egypt. Try telling a man he might have hearing loss, and you’ll witness Olympic-level denial. “You’re mumbling.” “The acoustics in this restaurant are terrible.” “You should speak up.” In reality, he hasn’t clearly heard a full sentence since 2018.

3. That One Time... in 1994. A lot of guys are haunted by their first (and possibly last) experience with a hearing aid back when they were the size of a walkie-talkie and sounded like a robot underwater. They don’t know today’s hearing aids are small, smart, and Bluetooth-enabled. You can literally stream sports radio through one.

4. The Adjustment Period: A Rude Awakening. When you first put in a hearing aid, suddenly everything is loud again. Birds are screaming. Paper is rustling like a thunderstorm. Your spouse is talking. It’s overwhelming, and men don’t love feeling out of control—especially not from their own ears.

5. The Hassle Factor. “Oh great, another gadget to charge, clean, and complain about.” Yes, hearing aids require upkeep—but so does that 20-year-old grill in the backyard, and nobody’s abandoning that.

6. “I’m Fine”—A Male Motto. Even when they’re clearly missing half the conversation and answering questions with “Huh?”, many men will proudly declare, “I’m fine.” It’s the same “fine” that applies to skipping doctor appointments and lifting heavy things with bad knees.

How to Help Them Hear the Lightbulb Moment? Want to nudge a man toward better hearing? Try these:

- Mention how cool the new tech is: it syncs with his phone.
- Tell him he’s missing all the juicy gossip.
- Get a friend or celebrity he likes to model hearing aids (if Harrison Ford wears one, they all can).
- Or simply say: “You know what’s really manly? Actually, hearing what people are saying.”

Final Thoughts: Hearing aids aren’t about admitting defeat—they’re about staying connected, tuned in, and a little less likely to agree to something they couldn’t hear in the first place.

ChatGPT helped me with this article. Contact me if you would like to try it too: [oakmonthears@gmail.com](mailto:oakmonthears@gmail.com).

## 2025–2026 OVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## POOLS & JACUZZIS

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

WEST: 7 AM–9 PM

(Closes 7 PM Wednesdays for cleaning)

EAST: 6:30 AM–9 PM

(Closes 7 PM Mondays for cleaning)

CENTRAL: 5:45 AM–9 PM

(Closes 7 PM Tuesdays for cleaning)

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

CENTRAL POOL HOURS FOR PEOPLE UNDER 18:

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

Memorial Day–Labor Day: 12–4 PM daily

Children must be accompanied by an OVA member/resident or adult with a valid guest pool access card. NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY AT ANY OVA POOL. ALL FACILITIES CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY.

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

**COORDINATOR**

**Rides to Medical Appointments**

**May 1–15**

Maggie Schmidt 707-890-1347

**May 16–31**

Nadine Condon 602-503-8288

We provide the following services to Oakmont Residents:

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

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

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

Mon.–Fri. medical rides before 9 AM or after 4 PM are subject to limited volunteer driver availability. No service on weekends or holidays.

Please call at least three full working days prior to appointment.

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

## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL OFFICIALS

**County Supervisor Rebecca Hermosillo, District 1**

Phone (707) 565-2241

Email: [rebecca.hermosillo@sonoma-county.org](mailto:rebecca.hermosillo@sonoma-county.org)

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

**City Councilwoman Dianna MacDonald, District 3**

Email: [dmacdonald@srcity.org](mailto:dmacdonald@srcity.org)

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



## Domino Club



■Brian Huckins

### MIX THOSE DOMINOS

The Oakmont Domino Club meets every Thursday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the Central Activity Center Card Room.

We play the Popular Five-up Game (more commonly referred to as the San Francisco Five-up Game). Two, three or four can play. The four-handed or partners

game is our preferred format. A slight wager has been known to add to the interest.

It is easy to learn and anyone who can add, subtract and divide can play the game. The fundamentals are simple and can be learned quickly. The finer points can be managed with a little study and practice.

Looking for players of all abilities to join. Lessons are available.

Please contact me at (415) 602-9083 or [bvhuckins@gmail.com](mailto:bvhuckins@gmail.com).



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Oakmont couple seeks help for handicapped partner. Weekdays, permanent, flexible 2-3 hrs. daily. Gender irrelevant. Help with meal prep, errands, dishes, laundry, etc. No personal care needed. Driver's license required. Car provided. Call Bill, (858) 531-3361.

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Pawsitively Clean is a locally owned pet waste removal service. Reliable and affordable. We scoop so you don't have to! Call, text or Email today: (707) 710-POOP (7667) or [nopooleftbehind@gmail.com](mailto:nopooleftbehind@gmail.com).

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

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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.

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### MOBILE NOTARY

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Lawn Bowling



■Mary Blake

OPEN TO ALL OAKMONTERS!  
SMASH THE JACK!

Curious about lawn bowling? Join us Monday, May 19, at 11 a.m. for an hour of fun. We supply the equipment and some simple training, just to give you a chance to see what it's like. Or, if you already know you want to learn to bowl, email us at oakmontlawnbowling@gmail.com. Lessons are free.

DAILY DRAW MOVED TO MORNINGS

Our Daily Draw is Monday through Saturday. Be there at 9:15 to bowl at 9:30 a.m.

MEN'S PAIRS TOURNAMENT

It was a cruelly cold, windy day. But the men—and the spectators—persevered. We had 16 men on 8 teams. The four teams continuing to the next round



James Chang, Jim Krause, Jerry Garland, and Jim Brewer in the 2025 Men's Pairs Tournament.

were: Kevin Johnson (skip) with David Aiken to bowl against Jim Krause (skip) and Jim Brewer; Greg Goodwin (skip) and Gerry Macintosh to bowl against Steve Pickell (skip) and John Jaye.

As I write this, the second round is scheduled for Tuesday, April 29.

COMING EVENTS

Thursday, May 15: Open Pairs Tournament.

Monday, May 19, 11 a.m.: We're doing something new and very different to encourage Oakmont residents to take up lawn bowling. Daily Draw will still start at 9:30, but we'll open the rinks to all comers at 11 for a friendly game called "smash the jack!"

Remember, our full calendar of events is on the bulletin board outside the bowls room and calendars of socials and tournaments are on the shed. The calendar is also in the Green Book (get yours in the bowls room if you don't have one) and on our website. You always can also email me, but I seem to be getting more and more prone to typos, so be forewarned!

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

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Billiards Club

■Barbara Marquardt

8 BALL BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT—  
APRIL 24

Spring is here, the blossoms are blooming, the weather is warming, and the Billiards Club is bursting with competition. The 8 Ball Tournament was composed of 13 club players in a double elimination play (2 match losses and you are out). As the games moved along, each game being one match, the games turned out to be very competitive, Steve Fuller moved out into the lead winning his first four games to get into the finals.



Winner Steve Fuller on the left and runner-up Tom Kilber.

Once Tom Kelber played his way through the “one loss bracket,” he joined Steve Fuller in the tournament finals. Steve Fuller only needed to win one final match game, while Tom Kelber needed to win both final match games to win the tournament.

Tom won the first of two final match games and the pressure was now on. However, Steve Fuller rose to the occasion and pushed through on the second final match game and beat Tom to win the 8 Ball Tournament.

Congratulations goes to Steve Fuller for the tournament win and Tom Kelber for his competitive play.

Thanks to all participants for making this another highly competitive and fun tournament!

Oakmont Birders

■Barbara Kendrick

BIRDS WORTH WATCHING—AND  
HEARING: MERLIN IS ALMOST MAGIC

If you have even the tiniest awareness of the natural world (and you clearly do if you bother to read this column), you will occasionally wonder, “What’s that bird I’m hearing?” Identifying birds by ear is challenging. Most birds have both a song (longer, often more intricate) and a call (usually just a single sound), and some have several or even many different songs and calls. Even seasoned bird watchers struggle with keeping it all straight.

Now, technology swoops to the rescue! The Merlin app for your phone opens a whole new way to get to know what birds you are sharing your environment with. It’s available for iPhones and Androids from your preferred app store and is totally free—thanks to the generosity of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>).

Once you’ve loaded Merlin on your phone, open the app, and you’ll see three ways to ID birds. The one I’m focusing on here is Sound ID, because I think it’s easiest and delivers the best results. When you hear a bird or birds singing, tap the microphone icon above “Sound ID” and hold the phone up to start recording. As soon Merlin picks up a bird sound, it lists the most likely bird. Click on bird’s name and you’ll see a photo of it and a description. Now you know who is serenading you! Merlin will keep listing birds as long as you are recording. When you’re done, just click the red button to stop recording.

Sound ID works completely offline, so you don’t need to be in WiFi range to identify birds you hear. Merlin is truly easy to use and enjoyable—give it a try!

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



Warbling Vireo living up to its name.  
(Photo by Tom Grey)



Black-headed Grosbeak, a tireless singer.  
(Photo by Tom Grey)



■Charlene Bunas

CONSISTENCY REAPS REWARDS

A teacher and a preacher move to Oakmont from Marin, and they head to the....?

Well, if you are Cate and Joel, you head to the Monday, Wednesday and Friday Oakmont Health Initiative classes. Longtime advocates of healthful living, the couple recently said that “we’ve always been consistent with exercise.” Instantly recognizing the benefit of OHI sessions was a no-brainer for them.



Photos by author.

Since joining, Cate and Joel have been regular attendees. Cate says, “we are each other’s motivation, especially when one of us tries an excuse to skip.” Remembering the 80/20 rule, they admit that “just getting to class is sometimes the hardest step,” then the energy and friendliness of the group kicks in.

Also, other students have been encouraging and supportive. One nearby exerciser once quipped, “my joints are as old as I am; they don’t lie,” Joel smiled. He confessed and added, “When either hip gives me the ‘too much’ signal, I listen and moderate that exercise.” But he doesn’t quit! He’s “in it to win it.”

As they’ve been embraced by the group, they in turn have been positive examples of their consistency. They pay close attention to leaders JoRene and Nicole, but respect their personal abilities to limit their kicks or temper their jumps. They are careful about their diet but admit to “an ice cream or nibble of candy as a sometime treat.” In Oakmont, they’ve discovered “Sundays at Berger” (morning Symposium and afternoon Movies) and look forward to exploring even more that their new community offers.

Their joy is evident. Both claim to be well seasoned octogenarians and neither let a little thing like “aging” get in their way!

Meetings: Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 9 a.m. at the Berger.

Zoom: 832 5893 6515; Passcode: 053432.

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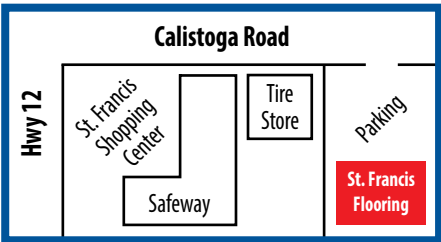
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