# OAKMONT NEWS

Semimonthly

The Official Newspaper of the Oakmont Village Association November 22, 2025 • Volume 63, Number 22



Susan Chauncy, Joy Bellomo and Carol Pence (left to right) hold up frozen turkeys collected during a past turkey drive. (Photo by Julie Kiil)

# **Annual Turkey Drive Set for November 22**

■News Staff

Oakmont will hold the Ninth Annual Turkey Drive from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on November 22 in the Berger parking lot. Donations of frozen turkeys benefit the Redwood Gospel Mission's Great Thanksgiving Banquet, an annual feast held at the Fairgrounds, which provides meals to over 5,000 people.

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

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

# Mary Lantz Joins the AC Office

■Crissi Langwell, OVA Communications Director



The OVA office is excited to welcome Mary Lantz to our team. Mary has joined the Architectural Office as the new AC Administrative Assistant, working closely with residents and the Architectural Committee to support the application process. When residents

submit their applications, Mary ensures everything is complete and ready before it goes to the committee for review. If an application is rejected, she works with homeowners to adjust their plans so they meet community CC&Rs.

"My goal is to make the process as smooth and straightforward as possible for everyone," Mary said. Mary comes to Oakmont with a strong background

in administrative work. She previously served as the secretary of her local church and as the administrative

See MARY LANTZ on page 3

## At-A-Glance Summary November 18 OVA Board Meeting

■Crissi Langwell, OVA Communications Director

#### BERGER ASSESSMENT UPDATE AND TIMELINE

The Berger Center has become a key operational focus due to the condition of its boiler and chiller systems, which are nearing the end of their service life and are expected to require replacement within the next year. To ensure continued code compliance and reliable building operations, the General Manager and Operations Manager have initiated a comprehensive facilities assessment.

This assessment will evaluate a few project options, ranging from mandatory replacements to broader improvements, and will provide the Board with the information needed to make a well-informed decision on the best path forward. Throughout this process, the community will be kept informed and encouraged to stay engaged.

OVA management has officially engaged Energy Systems Group (ESG) to perform the facility

See **BOARD** on page 3

# Espresso Machine Grand Opening Invite Your Friends and Come Together for a Sip

■Bev Leve

It's here! Drop by December 11 and 12 for an introduction to Oakmont's new, state-of-the-art espresso machine in the Central Activities Center. You are invited for free samples and tidbits as part of the opening from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Karl and Patty Turner enjoying a cappuccino from the new espresso machine. (Photo by Susie Merrill)

This espresso machine. (Photo by Suste Merriti) machine produces top-quality, made-to-order coffee concoctions in less than a minute, and for a nominal \$3 (credit card or cash). Desire an espresso, cappuccino, or latte made just the way you like it? Our new addition is affordable for everyone and available during the entire time the CAC is open. Additional tables and chairs have been set up as another place to relax, meet a friend, and enjoy a cup of fresh brew.

See **ESPRESSO** on page 9

## **Sunset on Oak Leaf Drive**



Bruce Hartsough and Lesli Lee caught sight of a vivid sunset while walking Oak Leaf Drive near the golf course this month. (Photo by Bruce Hartsough)

# Invitation to Participate in "Winter Wonderland on the Plaza"

■OVA Staff

The Oakmont Village Association is delighted to announce the return of "Winter Wonderland on the Plaza," our 2nd annual tree lighting and festive holiday display event! This winter, the plaza outside the Berger Auditorium will once again be transformed into a sparkling Winter Wonderland Tree Grove—and OVA clubs are invited to be part of the magic.

OVA is inviting clubs to sponsor a holiday tree for \$60. Each sponsored tree offers a wonderful opportunity to showcase your club's creativity, holiday cheer, and unique personality. A total of 40 trees will be available, and all will be beautifully displayed for residents and visitors to enjoy throughout the season.

residents and visitors to enjoy throughout the season. Participating clubs will be responsible for decorating their trees with LED lights and weather-resistant decorations. To keep the display safe and long-lasting, please avoid glass or edible ornaments, or any decorations that could be ruined by winter weather. OVA staff will be monitoring decoration use, and are happy to provide guidance and ideas to help make your tree shine in the grove.

See WINTER WONDERLAND on page 3

# Thanksgiving Holiday Hours

■OVA Staff

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

Office Holiday Closures: Nov. 27 and 28, Thursday and Friday closed for Thanksgiving. Facility Holiday Hours and Closures:

Nov. 27, Thursday—Thanksgiving. All facilities closed.

Nov. 28, Friday—Open regular times, closing at 5 p.m. including all pools and spas.



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## OVA Employee Appreciation Fund

■Oakmont Village Association

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

Donations will be distributed at year-end. Members who wish to donate may contribute via check by December 12 to the OVA Office at 6637 Oakmont Drive, Suite A.

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

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

#### WINTER WONDERLAND Continued from page 1

The OVA has reserved the dates of Tuesday, December 2 and Wednesday, December 3 for participating clubs to decorate their trees in the Berger Plaza.

Then on the evening of Wednesday, December 3, Oakmont residents are invited to the official lighting of the trees, beginning at 5:30 p.m. This moment will mark the start of our Winter Wonderland, filling the plaza with warmth and cheer as we light up the night, enjoy cookies and hot cocoa, and celebrate the holidays together.

Last year's Winter Wonderland Tree Grove was a heartwarming highlight of the holiday season, bringing joy and connection to the community. We're thrilled to continue this new Oakmont tradition and look forward to seeing how each club adds its own festive touch this year.

To reserve your tree, please stop by the OVA office to complete a sponsorship form. The deadline to sign up is November 30. Spots are limited—so be sure to secure your tree early. Questions? Contact Amber Mariani at amber@oakmontvillage.com, or call her at (707) 539-1611 ext. 108.

Thank you for helping make Oakmont's holiday season bright. We can't wait to see your club's creativity light up the plaza!



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# Members May Now Opt-In to Electronic Voting

■Oakmont Village Association



Oakmont members now have the option to vote electronically starting with the 2026 OVA Board of Directors election. To participate, members must opt in by completing and returning the Electronic Voting Consent Form, which

will be mailed to every Oakmont household, available at the OVA office, and posted on the OVA website at oakmontvillage.com/electronicvoting. The attached QR code will lead you to the online consent form.

The OVA office must receive the opt-in form by January 5, 2026 for it apply to the April 2026 election. Members need to opt in only once to be eligible to vote electronically in future elections. Forms received after this date will not apply to the upcoming election but will remain valid for future elections.

Electronic voting will be conducted through Pro Elections, OVA's Inspector of Elections, using a secure, third-party system in full compliance with California Civil Code. This ensures ballots are safe, private, and properly managed.

Electronic voting offers several benefits, including the convenience of ballots delivered directly to your inbox, the security of a trusted system, and the timely delivery of election materials without the risk of postal delays.

Participation in electronic voting is voluntary. Members who do not return the opt-in form will continue to receive a traditional paper ballot by mail. Paper ballots remain available for anyone who prefers them. If you would prefer to continue voting by paper ballot, you do not need to do anything.

Consent forms can be filled out online at oakmontvillage.com/electronicvoting, or they may be printed and filled out, then returned by mail or dropped off at the OVA office (Oakmont Village Association, 6637 Oakmont Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95409), or emailed to electronicvoting@oakmontvillage.com. Forms will be available at the OVA office.

Questions? Contact Amber Mariani at electronic voting @oakmontvillage.com or call (707) 539-1611 ext. 108.

#### MARY LANTZ Continued from page 1

assistant to the CEO of a local athletic company. Most recently, she worked as the deli lead at Oliver's Market in Cotati.

When asked about her passions, Mary immediately mentioned her adopted Husky/Cattle Dog, Jaxx. "We adopted Jaxx when he was about a year and a half old—a wild, energetic, and somewhat destructive bundle of so much fur," she said. With help from her boyfriend, Evan, and her 20-year-old son, William, the family put Jaxx through obedience training, which led to participating in novice agility courses together.

One of Mary's favorite parts of working at Oakmont is not only meeting residents but also the many dogs who visit the office. "We have dog treats in the AC office now," Mary said, encouraging residents to stop by.

You can meet Mary in the AC Office Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please help us welcome the newest member of our team!

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#### **BOARD** Continued from page 1

assessment. ESG will conduct a comprehensive review of the Berger Center building and its systems.

ESG was selected because of their strong experience with building system evaluations, mechanical system modernization, and HVAC upgrades in facilities similar to the Berger Center. Their engineering team specializes in identifying cost-effective solutions for aging infrastructure and helping organizations compare multiple project options before committing to any work. Importantly, the assessment they are conducting comes at no initial cost to OVA. This means OVA receives a full technical evaluation, code review, and detailed project options. Costs would only occur later if the Board chooses to move forward with a specific project based on the assessment results.

#### TASK FORCE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Governing Docs Ad Hoc Committee presented three recommendations for the Board to consider. First, they proposed changing the voting threshold for amending the bylaws from a majority of all eligible voters to a 65% approval of those voting, provided at least a majority of eligible voters cast ballots. Second, they recommended giving the Board the authority to correct bylaws that conflict with the law, with safeguards that include a publicly shared attorney letter and approval by two-thirds of Directors at an open meeting. Third, they suggested holding the bylaws vote at the same time as the Spring 2026 Directors Election to increase turnout and reduce costs. The GDC is hopeful the board will vote on whether or not to adopt the committee's recommendations, and also would like guidance on the committee's role leading up to the election.

LOMAA reported the completion of moving their website to the OVA website, which can be found at oakmontvillage.com/lomaa. Primary concerns among residents include rising fire insurance costs and limited availability, firewise compliance and compliance with state legislation on irrigation of turf in common areas. Recently, LOMAA engaged with the City of Santa Rosa Water Use Efficiency Team, completed a site tour, and hosted a presentation. LOMAA's focus is on AB1572, which restricts use of potable water to irrigate non-functional turf, which could impact the landscaping of subHOA's common areas.

The Golf Advisory Committee reported strong financial performance in the third quarter, with continued positive trends and a profit over the past nine months. Tournament play is on the rise, and the club is offering appealing membership incentives, including advanced tee-time reservations, member discounts, and a limited-time \$500 food and beverage voucher. The committee noted improved restaurant food quality, while also acknowledging ongoing concerns about service. The reconstruction of the holding pond weir (dam) on the Valley of the Moon Course has been completed, funded by CourseCo per the lease agreement. Initial waterway remediation is also finished, with costs shared by CourseCo and OVA. CourseCo is currently evaluating issues on the cart paths.

#### **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

The board approved the following appointments: Liz Lefson was approved as chair of the Oakmont Community Development Committee, and Susan Chauncy and Jim Munger were approved as members. Steve Rankin was approved as a voting member of the Architectural Committee. Monica Heath was approved as chair of the Long Range Planning Committee.

The board is revisiting the charter of Long Range Planning Committee and will bring it to the open session for a vote at a later date.

## Valley of the Moon 3 **Rotary Club**

■John Brodey

#### TRAUMA BEFORE AND AFTER

In real life, everyone experiences some kind of trauma at some point. Abuse, violence, bullying, sexual assault, and combat all leave scars. Some are much deeper than others, but they all count.

As a society, we have become desensitized to trauma's presence in our culture. Now, we even look at it as entertainment. Television offers a redundancy of shows devoted to first responders for whom PTSD is a sad given. These shows often conflate fantasy with fact, trivializing what constitutes actual trauma.

At a recent breakfast meeting, we received an important and deeply personal account of one woman's journey—a true masterclass in storytelling.

Susan Farren was an EMT for 30 years, beginning at the age of 18. On her first day on the job in East Oakland, she responded to one gunshot call and three murders. It's hard to imagine someone so young seeing and living with such horror, but that was just the beginning.

She spoke in a measured and powerful way about the toll her work took on her and her family. She married another EMT, had children, and eventually divorced, as happens in 70% of such marriages.

After finally retiring, her thoughts turned to reimagining the existing PTSD programs that had long relied on self-destructive coping mechanisms like alcohol, drugs, and suicide. But why deal with it only as post-trauma? Why not target the problem earlier, before it takes hold?

That question led to a groundbreaking idea.

First Responders Resiliency, Inc. (FRRI) is a scientifically based, comprehensive program that targets multiple sensory areas—neuroanatomy, physical energy, psychological well-being, relationships, and self-awareness. Susan created FRRI as a vital service to give those who save our lives a chance to save their

You can learn more about their remarkable work at www.resiliency1st.org. Let's do our part to support those who serve on the front lines every day.

## Oakmont Sunday **Symposium**



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

www.oakmontsundaysymposium.org

■Judie Coleman

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

NOVEMBER 23: DR. ALLAN BERNSTEIN **MUSIC AND MEMORY:** THE SOUNDTRACK OF YOUR LIFE HITTING THE RIGHT NOTE... AND THE RIGHT NEURON



Ever wonder why your favorite song can instantly transport you back to your teenage dance moves-or why grandma

suddenly remembers the words to an old tune? Dr. Allan Bernstein reveals how the right tunes can spark memories, brighten moods, and even boost brain health. From childhood favorites to timeless classics, learn why music isn't just entertainment—it's a powerful tool for memory and connection at any age.

Happy Holidays! The Sunday Symposium is on break after this presentation. See you next year on January 11 with the Buck Institute presentation.



#### **MEMBERS' APPRECIATION DINNER**

**WHERE:** Berger Center

WHEN: Friday, December 12

TIME: Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner served at 6 p.m. **COST:** No charge (members only—no guests)

**BRING:** Your beverage of choice

Join us for our annual Members' Appreciation Dinner! This special evening is our way of saying thank you for making every Boomer event so much fun. We can't wait to celebrate with you. If you haven't signed up yet, please do so on our website.

#### **2026 CALENDAR**

- January 22: Bingo
- February 21: Illegals
- April 25: Traveling Wilburys Revue
- June 27: Ronstadt Revolution
- August 22: Sun Kings
- September 17: Trivia
- October 24: Decades
- December 11: Membership Dinner

The year ahead looks fantastic! We're bringing back some of your favorite bands and introducing a few new ones. Events sell out quickly, so register early to reserve your spot.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is open to all Oakmont residents. Dues are \$15 per person, per year, payable on our website at oakmontboomers.org.

## **Oakmont Democratic Club**



■Robin Jurs

#### THERE IS HOPE!

After the sweep on November 4, there's a renewed sense of hope in the air. Members of the Democratic Alliance stood along Highway 12 with signs encouraging residents to vote—and vote they did. Americans showed up at the polls and mailed in ballots in impressive numbers. Now, we must build on that momentum as we head into the midterms.

Oakmont is the largest and strongest voting block in Sonoma County. When we vote, our voices are heard.

Oakmont now falls within Congressional District Two (CA-2). Our U.S. House Representative has changed from Mike Thompson to his longtime colleague Jared Huffman, who has represented the neighboring district in close coordination with Thompson for many years.

Want to meet Jared Huffman? We hope to host a meet and greet with him in the new year.

In the meantime, mark your calendars for two upcoming events:

December 8: The Oakmont Democratic Alliance vill host a holiday potluck party at 6:30 p.m. in the East Rec. Center.

December 17: The Oakmont Democratic Club (ODC) will meet in OVA Suite B from 3:30–5 p.m.

Visit www.oakmontdemocraticalliance.org for more details on both events.

As we approach the midterms, we need to come together as a strong, organized group of activists ready to do the work that makes a difference. We need you-truly. Our success depends on shared effort. Please consider serving on the ODC Board or on a committee. Relying on the same people year after year leads to burnout, and we can't afford that right now. Join us on December 17 to learn how you can help strengthen our ranks and increase our activism in 2026.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the club and do not reflect the official policy or position of the Oakmont Village Association.

## **Critical Firewise Information: What is IBHS?** Why Should I Care?

■Clyde Underwood, Firewise Committee Member

The Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) is an independent non-profit research organization that conducts scientific research into the best methods for preventing homes from being damaged by wildfires. Companies such as Allstate, State Farm, American Property and Casualty, Mercury, CSAA, Liberty, Farmers, Nationwide, Travelers and USAA have sponsored and funded IBHS.

Their one-of-a-kind research center in South Carolina can test full size homes and their construction features to realistic ember storms, hail, rain and up to 130 mph wind. Their mission is to deliver top-tier science and translate it into actionable guidance that can be used to prevent property damage caused by severe weather and wildfire.

The research conducted there significantly advances building science and influences residential and commercial structural design and construction, helping to create more resilient communities.

Some insurance companies in certain regions have begun exploring or adopting IBHS-related criteria as part of their wildfire risk evaluations. Requirements may vary by insurer and location. There are two levels of certification, "Base" and "Plus." Base level certification is intended for retrofitting existing homes and Plus level is intended for new construction.

Base and Plus level requirements are spelled out specifically in the IBHS documents "Wildfire Prepared Home Technical Standard" as well as "WPH—How to prepare my home checklist."

Retrofitting an existing home consists of two parts: modifications to the home itself—"home hardening" and modifications to the home's yard—"defensible space" enhancements. Both are important.

Highlights of IBHS home hardening include regular maintenance of the roof and gutters (clearing leaves, etc.) and replacing any exterior vents that have 1/4" screen with vents that have 1/8" screen.

Highlights of IBHS defensible space enhancements consist of removing all vegetation and mulch within five feet of the home's exterior walls and replacing any wooden fences or gates with metal equivalents.

There are many more requirements to the certifications. Homeowners may find it useful to visit the IBHS website at wildfireprepared.org to become aware of the requirements.

Disclaimer: This information is provided for general awareness only and should not be interpreted as legal or insurance advice. Homeowners should consult their individual insurance providers for specific requirements.

## **Current Events Discussion Group**



■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. Come in person if you can; join on Zoom if you can't. If you come in person, a donation of \$1 is requested.

Issues discussed range from local to national to international. All sides of issues are encouraged. 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)

Please note that Current Events will not meet on November 28, the day after Thanksgiving.

## Playreaders **Playreaders**



**HOLIDAY FARE PRESENTATIONS** 

With Mass Appeal in the rearview mirror, Oakmont Playreaders look toward its annual holiday presentations.



Mass Appeal readers were John Dolan and Jim Preston.
(Photo by Esther Dolan)

On December 1, Stephen Johnston will present A Christmas Reflection, which he wrote and in which he appears. Others in the cast include Wes Doerr, Margaret Applegate, and Marcel Coder.

Then, on December 8, Ginny Smith reads Christmas at Red Butte.

Oakmont Playreaders has a terrific group of men and women who read plays aloud and even do a bit of amateur acting before small audiences. Right now, we have a specific need for more men with a bit of the acting urge to fill out our casts. Is that you? No need to memorize lines! We read from a script. We are a friendly, supportive, totally unthreatening group and we just have fun. Come and see!

For more information, call John at (831) 521-7627.

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

## **Star of the Valley Church**

■Barbara Gasparini

## STAR OF THE VALLEY ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Star of the Valley invites everyone to begin the Christmas season with an inspiring Advent Prayer Service on Wednesday, Dec. 11, from 2–4 p.m.

The service will feature Sister Joann Heinritz, a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet, and Marcy Fox, a Star of the Valley parishioner. Sister Joann has served as a spiritual and retreat director for over 20 years at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, and she has led parish missions across the United States and retreats in Ireland for more than 15 years. Marcy Fox has presented lectures on world religions, led meditations and workshops, and authored several educational workbooks and journals.

Together, Sister Joann and Marcy will lead the service around the theme "Choose Light." The prayer service will take place in the church from 2–3 p.m., followed by a Christmas celebration in the Parish Center from 3–4 p.m., featuring an old-fashioned Christmas carol sing-along, cookies, and apple cider. Family, friends, and neighbors are warmly welcome. This event is sponsored by the Star of the Valley Women's Circle.

In the spirit of giving, Star of the Valley Parish is also sponsoring a Thanksgiving Drive to support Catholic Charities in serving those who are unsheltered. Donations of new or gently used blankets, sleeping bags (nylon or polyester only), warm coats, and roller bags are greatly appreciated.

Items can be dropped off on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of the Star of the Valley Parish Center, 495 White Oak Drive. Volunteers will assist with drop-offs, and Catholic Charities will collect the donations that afternoon.

Thank you for helping bring light and warmth to those in need this holiday season.

## **Letter to the Editor**

Dear Editor:

I want to bring to your attention two incidents that occurred at a neighbor's home. Recently, a political sign was taken from the neighbor's front yard. In response, a replacement sign was displayed on the front window from inside the home. Shortly after, the window itself was broken.

I do not wish to assume the motivations behind these acts, but such actions go beyond simple political disagreement. They create fear, discourage community participation, and undermine the principles of open dialogue that are the foundation of a healthy democracy.

If "diversity is our strength," then "tolerance of diverse points of view" follows, meaning respecting others' rights to express themselves, even when we disagree. It is in our differences that honest debate and progress are possible. The destruction of personal property silences voices, erodes shared values, and undermines the very diversity that is supposed to be our strength.

I encourage everyone in our community to participate in respectful debates and show mutual respect, regardless of political beliefs. Knock on the door, or leave your name, email address, or phone number, and a request to discuss the issue. Let us work together to create an environment where ideas can be expressed without fear and where disagreements are addressed through discussion, not destruction.

Jane Gyorgy

## **Christmas Bird Count**

■Dawna Leigh

On Sunday, December 14, Oakmont bird watchers will join together to count bird species in and around our community as part of the Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Oakmont has participated in this international event—spanning the U.S., Canada, and beyond—for nearly 20 years.

The CBC began more than a century ago, replacing a troubling holiday tradition known as the "side hunt," when teams competed to shoot as many birds and animals as possible. As bird populations declined and species like the passenger pigeon vanished, Frank Chapman, editor of *Bird-Lore* (now *Audubon* magazine), proposed a more conservation-minded alternative: counting birds instead of hunting them.

In December 1900, just 27 people at 25 locations took part in the first count, identifying about 18,500 birds representing 90 species. Since then, the CBC has grown into one of the world's longest-running community science projects.

I joined my first CBC in 2006 in Vermont's Mad River Valley, where I birded with a seasoned crew through snowstorms and blizzards. We'd typically find 45–60 species, then gather for a lively potluck dinner to share our tallies and stories.

As co-leader of the Oakmont CBC, I invite experienced birders to join our count and encourage neighbors who maintain feeders, to share what birds you're seeing.

The CBC is a fun outing and a vital community science effort. Each year between December 14 and January 5, birders record all species within 15-mile "count circles." These data reveal long-term trends in bird populations, migration timing, and habitat changes—crucial insights into how our environment is shifting.

If you'd like to participate in this year's count, please contact me at mojobird22@gmail.com by December 1 for details.

# OAK at the VOM Golf Club

■Khiana Schmuhl,

General Manager, Valley of the Moon Club

The holiday season is a wonderful time to enjoy all that Valley of the Moon Golf Course and OAK Restaurant have to offer. From festive golf events to delicious meals and creative gatherings, there's something for everyone this winter. Details can be found at playvom.com.

Valley of the Moon Golf Club is now accepting membership applications for 2026. Member benefits include advanced tee time reservations, 10% off merchandise, special discounts at all CourseCo golf courses in California, and more. For more information and to sign up, visit www.playvom.com/membership/annual-membership, or call the pro shop at (707) 539-0415.

Holiday golf rates will be in effect on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, and on Black Friday, November 28. On Thanksgiving, tee times are available from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. for \$79 per player, which includes a green fee, shared cart, and small bucket of range balls. Carts must be returned by 3 p.m. The Sugarloaf Course will be closed, but the Driving Range will be open from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., and the Golf Shop from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. To reserve a tee time, call (707) 539-0415.

Beginning in November, Twilight Players Club rates will start earlier, at noon instead of 1 p.m., allowing more time to finish rounds before sunset. The perround rate will increase from \$22 to \$23 on November 15, though the monthly membership rate remains \$39.

New golf rates also took effect November 15, with weekday and weekend options available for both the Valley of the Moon and Sugarloaf courses. Cart fees are \$19 for 18 holes and \$14 for nine holes.

Golfers looking to improve their game can book private lessons starting at \$60 for 30 minutes, or take advantage of the Winter Lesson Package—three 45-minute lessons for \$200, a \$70 savings. This offer is valid through December 31, with lessons to be used by March 31, 2026.

Now is also the perfect time to book your 2026 golf outing. Valley of the Moon offers full tournament services, including planning, registration, cart tags, and contest holes. For details, call (707) 539-0415 ext. 3.

The annual Christmas Shotgun Tournament will return this December, with a \$75 entry fee that includes a green fee, shared cart, and range balls.

At OAK Restaurant, Monday music nights bring lively entertainment from 5–7 p.m., with doors opening at 4 p.m. The Coffey Park Band performs December 1, followed by the Hwy 12 Band on December 15. Cover charge is \$10 cash at the door.

Thanksgiving dinner at OAK will be served at noon on November 27, featuring carved turkey, apple cornbread stuffing, bacon brown sugar Brussels sprouts, and pecan and apple pie. Cost is \$65 per adult and \$35 per child. Reservations are required for dine-in and to-go orders. Call (707) 539-0415 ext. 5 by November 22 at 5 p.m.

OAK is also offering holiday charcuterie and party trays, along with Paint Nights on November 25 and December 30 at 4:30 p.m. for \$45 per person.

Celebrate the season at Valley of the Moon and OAK—where great golf, good food, and community spirit come together.





## Oakmont Volunteer Helpers Aging in Place

■Matt Zwerling



Photo by Matt Zwerling.

#### ESTATE PLANNING— A SUCCESSFUL EVENT

The third Saturday Forum's presentation, hosted by the Oakmont Aging in Place group, focused on "Estate Planning: The Basics" and drew a standingroom-only audience.

Comments such as "Excellent" and "Important topic with relevant information" were typical among attendees. Many shared that the presentation was a wake-up call, noting realizations such as the need to speak with an estate attorney soon and to review or update trusts and wills regularly. Other important takeaways included the value of adding a dementia rider, understanding how to plan as a single person or without a competent partner, and knowing which documents are critical and where to store them.

Attendees also suggested holding the forum annually, having backup trustees, and clarifying the titles of primary assets—such as joint tenancy or co-trustees of an outside trust—to avoid complications after death.

The mission of the Aging in Place group is to hold regular Saturday Forums on topics relevant to Oakmont residents—and often their families—as we all strive to age gracefully.

The next forum is anticipated for January or early February and will feature a speaker from the Sonoma County Council on Aging. Suggestions for future topics are welcome; please email zwermd3@gmail. com with ideas of general interest.

## Dinner for Eight

■TinaMarie Romo

Do you appreciate sharing good food and wine with friends? The Dinner for Eight group is a great way to meet new people and enjoy dinner.

The next rotation is from January to June. Over the six months, each group of eight meets four times, rotating hosts. The host couple provides the main course, and the others bring an appetizer, salad, or dessert. Each couple brings a bottle of wine to share. The groups are assigned but each group sets the dates and food assignments over the six-month period and there is a leader for each group that helps organize. There are subs available in the event someone cannot make all four dinners.

We currently have six groups, but people drop out or sometimes skip a rotation. In addition, we can form additional groups. Dinner for Eight is a subset of the Boomers Club and we ask that you be a current Boomers member to participate. You can find Boomer membership information on the website oakmontboomers.org.

I will be contacting current members by email to check if they want to continue with the next rotation. For potential new members, if you would like more information or would like to sign up, please contact me at tinamarieromo3@gmail.com or (650) 346-8193.

Bon Appetit!

## **Sleep Apnea**

■Bob Flandermeyer

## GREG ACKROYD, MD, TO SPEAK AT SLEEP APNEA MEETING

The next meeting of the Sleep Apnea Group is on Tuesday, December 2. We meet the first Tuesday of even numbered months in Berger Room G at 1 p.m.

Dr. Greg Ackroyd of Providence Sleep Medicine will be our guest speaker. If you ask Dr. Ackroyd a question about sleep, he will respond with an indepth, convincing, layered response you had not thought about, but that surely makes a lot of sense.

We discover that we also learn from each other and have time to ask further questions we had not thought of earlier.

This is a remarkable opportunity to improve your health. A landmark study presented at the European Respiratory Society International Congress in 2021 said, "using PAP (positive airway pressure) therapy as directed can significantly increase sleep apnea patients' chances of living longer."

So, bring your equipment—masks and machines—especially if you think it would be helpful to illustrate your situation. Spread the word, bring a friend.

Questions, call me at (707) 694-8018 or email me at rrflandy@yahoo.com.

## **Strategies for Independence**

■Carol Smith

#### **CLASS ON IN-HOME CARE OPTIONS**

The third class for Strategies for Independence is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 1 at 2 p.m. in the East Rec. Center. Our guest speaker will be Joe from Divine Fijians Home Care Providers. He will discuss their services and costs of care, along with information about possible insurance coverage.

Personally, I have met several Fijian caregivers in different homes over the years, and the people I have met have become so respected and appreciated as to become quasi-family members of their clients. Respectful and courteous, they are so patient and dedicated to making their client as comfortable and well-taken care of as possible. If you join us, your family members are very welcome to attend with you to provide some peace of mind if you are all considering in-home care.

Looking forward, our class will be on hiatus in January, 2026, as I deal with some medical issues. February is my goal. When we do have our next class, we will most likely have Lisa Jackson with First American Exchange make a presentation on how to restructure your 1031 exchange property into an entity that requires less work from you, while retaining your tax exemptions. Lisa is super smart and has the ability to make things easy to understand.

As always, please RSVP to me at (707) 480-1068 if you will be joining us for Dec. 1. If you have questions, email is preferable: carol.smith@cbrealty.com.

Merry Christmas and Happy 2026!

## **Passages**



Jim Knapp, born October 17, 1938, passed away November 4, 2025. A resident of Oakmont since 2013, Jim was an active member of the Veterans Club and SIRS #92. He is survived by his wife Deborah, children Sophia and Gregory, three grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Please contact OVA Communications Director Crissi Langwell by e-mail at crissi@oakmontvillage.com, to publish the name and date of death of your loved one in the *Oakmont News*.

## Café Mortel



■Linda Suhr

#### GERIATRIC CASE MANAGERS HELP SENIORS MANAGE CARE AT HOME

Perhaps you have a neighbor who has a new bruise and says he has recently taken another fall. Maybe you have a friend who makes lunch dates, then doesn't show up, but when she does, she repeats stories told just minutes before. Maybe you have a relative whose medications are a jumble, and you wonder if they are even being taken. In these situations, a geriatric case manager can offer guidance.

Also known as senior care managers, geriatric case managers will visit the senior at home to assess diet, safety, medication compliance and other important domains including the possible need for hiring help or placement. Often working with adult children or other concerned people, the geriatric case manager will discuss recommendations and then make a plan of action with an eye on quality of life.

Café Mortel is pleased to host geriatric care manager Kate Bond at our December 10 meeting. Kate will address emotional and physical aspects of healthy aging, future health care planning, options for care as we age, types of facilities, who pays for care and living options, and financial elder abuse.

With degrees in nursing and gerontology, 15 years in critical care and 17 years in geriatric case management in San Mateo County hospitals, including six years on an ethics committee at Kaiser, Kate has a deep wellspring of experience. After retiring (and lucky for us!), Kate moved to Oakmont where she began her own geriatric case management business.

Come to Café Mortel on Wednesday, Dec. 10, from 3–4:15 p.m. in the East Rec. to learn what geriatric case managers do to give guidance to seniors at home with a goal of improving quality of life. This meeting will be in person only (no Zoom). It will be recorded and posted later on the OVA website.

## Oakmont Rainbow Women



■Nancy Schmit

#### MAKE A FAMILY HOLIDAY MERRY AND BRIGHT

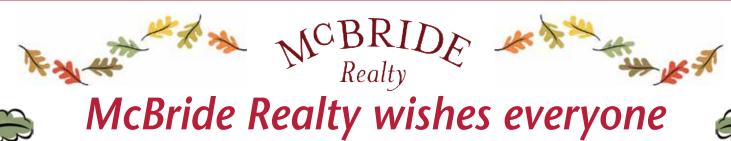
This holiday season, the Oakmont Rainbow Women (ORW) is again sponsoring a community-wide toy drive to benefit YWCA Sonoma County (www.ywcasc.org).

Donations of new toys can be dropped off anytime December 1-11 at the OVA office. The most useful and appreciated donations are new toys, unwrapped and in their original packaging, for ages 0 to 16. Wrapping will be done after parents select appropriate gifts for their kids. Gift cards are also appreciated (Target, Safeway, Visa, gas), as well as art supplies, toys and warm clothes (the control of the contro

Other collection sites and dates: you may drop off unwrapped gifts on December 3rd at the Tree Lighting event at the Berger Plaza about 5:30 p.m. and ORW will host a "drive through" donation drop-off, where people can hand off packages without even getting out of their cars, on Saturday, December 6, between 11 a.m.–2 p.m. in the Berger parking lot. Look for the canopy and a smiling ORW Santa's helper.

Sadly, this year alone, Sonoma County has experienced six incidents of domestic violence resulting in the loss of life for thirteen individuals. Since 1976, YWCA Sonoma County has been our community's singular and vital provider of comprehensive domestic violence services. We operate the only 24/7 DV Crisis hotline, (707) 546-1234 from inside the walls of the only confidential Safe House shelter in Sonoma County. Learn more at ywcasc.org—and please give generously.

The Oakmont News / November 22, 2025





# McBride Realty wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!





Donn Paulson (707) 953-5975 DRE# 00988223



Danny Paulson (707) 328-5703 DRE# 01757829



Peter Schmidt (707) 890-1335 DRE# 01472650



Jim Tosio (707) 480-3870 DRE# 00324887



Karen Sites (707) 888-5044 DRE# 01439227



Denise Paup (707) 696-0023 DRE# 01218751



Susan Irvine (707) 696-4648 DRE# 01346710



Carolyn Brown (707) 489-5263 DRE# 00683731



Barbara Sloan (707) 741-1733 DRE# 02092832



Janie Coltrin (707) 741-1733 DRE# 02100130



Nancy Devoto (707) 953-5458 DRE# 00771931



Vanessa Devoto 8 (707) 583-4202 DRE# 01976215



Linda Clark (707) 339-3711 DRE# 01290894



Ululani McBride (707) 396-0499 DRE# 01853778



Marie McBride (707) 322-6843 DRE# 01169355



Peggy Cummins (707) 538-2270 Admin Assistant

## McBride Realty

invites you to share the warmth in its annual

## **2025 Winter Warmth Coat Drive**

November 10 to December 19

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

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

Please go through your closets & donate your extra coats to those in need. Ask your family & friends to help donate too! We will be collecting coats for men, women & children. Other warm and clean items accepted this year are jeans, sweatshirts, sweatpants, warm hats, scarves, gloves, sleeping bags and blankets.

The beneficiaries of your donated items go to many local service providers, such as St.Vincent de Paul, Redwood Gospel Mission, Catholic Charities, The Living Room, Christ Methodist Church, and Shomrei Torah synagogue, to name a few.



## **Oakmont Squares**



■Barbara Wooley



Karen Martin, Steve Pimental, Barbara Wooley and Neal Wooley. (Photo by Pam Wilson)

## CELEBRATING HALLOWEEN AND GETTING READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

A fun time was had by all as the Oakmont Squares celebrated Halloween! Dancers showed off their Halloween spirit adorning themselves in orange and black. Club members danced to Halloween-inspired tunes, such as "The Devil Went Down to Georgia," "Witch Doctor" and more, taking short breaks to catch their breath and snack on sweet treats and savory snacks.

Looking ahead towards the holidays, and to support those effected by the recent shutdown, the dancing club will be collecting non-perishable food items through December 23 to donate to Redwood Empire Food Bank. If you are not a member, but would like to donate, please contact Jenny (see below for contact information).

With the recent addition of new members for the fall class, club members now make up three full squares for the green tips (class level) and two squares for the red tips (SSD level). While the fall class is now closed, experienced dancers who wish to join the group, or to just drop in, are welcome to come dance any time. No partner is necessary since it is customary to switch partners often to get more dancers on the floor.

The Oakmont Squares meet Tuesday evenings from 7–9 p.m. at the East Rec. Center. Donation is \$8 per person/night or \$25 for the month.

Come dance in a square and make a circle of friends. For information call Jenny at (707) 367-2102.

## **Toxic Waste Collection**



■OVA Staff

#### TUESDAY, DEC. 16, 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.

Here's a link to common examples: zerowastesonoma. gov/recycle-dispose/residents/common-household-

hazardous-waste-hhw.

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

Online appointments are 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.

## — Ladies Bunco Night

■Barbara Wooley

#### BUNCO LADIES COLLECT FOOD FOR REDWOOD EMPIRE FOOD BANK WHILE HAVE A BLAST PLAYING BUNCO

The Bunco Ladies broke a record with 40 players having a ball playing Bunco! On top of that, the ladies collected dozens of boxes, cans and bags of non-perishable food items for the Redwood Empire Food Bank. The food bank serves the folks in our area who are suffering food insecurity due to their circumstances and/or the recent government shutdown.

The club will continue to collect food throughout the holiday season.

Haven't played Bunco before? Come on out and learn about this fun, easy, no-skill-required dice game.

Not only is Bunco loads of fun and easy to learn, players have the opportunity to win cash prizes! In what other game can a player literally win for losing?

Beginners are always welcome. Bring a friend! Usual nights are the second and fourth Monday of each month. However, there are exceptions, so always check your Oakmont Events calendar. Please arrive by 6:45 p.m. for check-in, the first round begins promptly at 7 p.m.

WHERE: Card Room—Central Activity Center WHEN: 2nd and 4th Monday of each month (check Oakmont Events Calendar)—Nov. 24, Dec. 8 and 22 TIME: 6:45 p.m. (play is about 1-1/2 to 2 hrs.)

There is a \$5 fee. For more information, contact Jill Butler at (760) 468-1743 or jillivannili@sbcglobal.net.

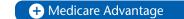


Photo by Barbara Wooley.

# Don't miss out! Open Enrollment is here!

From October 15-December 7 you can:

Enroll in or switch to:





Switch from:

Original Medicare → Medicare Advantage Plan

Medicare Advantage Plan → Original Medicare

Speak with your trusted Oakmont resident licensed agent today to discuss your options.











#### **OAKMONT SPECIAL**

Enjoy 15% OFF when you mention this ad!

#### GAS AND ELECTRIC INSERTS

Family-owned and proudly serving Sonoma County, Warming Trends, Inc. brings you top-quality gas and electric inserts, stoves, fireplaces, and decorative log sets.

Whether you enjoy the cozy warmth of gas or the modern convenience of electric, we are your trusted choice for comfort, style, and savings.





Call for your Free Site Visit: 707-578-9276

## Let's "Pitch In" for the Environment

■Carolyn Greene and Lesli Lee, Oakmont Environmental Stewardship Task Force

Over 40 Oakmonters showed up in person and on Zoom on a very rainy day in mid-October at the West Recreation Center to learn the latest in waste reduction strategies appropriate for both home and at Oakmont community facilities. The event was sponsored by the OVA and the Oakmont Environmental Stewardship Task Force (OESTF).

Recology Lead Waste Zero Specialist Cristina Yarnal presented slides about what can/cannot be recycled and composted and emphasized the importance of keeping the blue and green carts free from contamination. Check and bookmark the Recology's online search tool www.recology. com/recology-sonoma-marin/santa-rosa/whatgoes-where to answer "what bin?" The Task Force included examples of reusable place settings and fully compostable ones (2nd best practice.)



Recology rep Cristina Yarnal (right) leads a waste sorting Q&A with attendees and OESTF member Pat Parson (2nd right) and Board Liaison Heidi Klyn (center) helping at the "Community Action to Reduce Waste" Workshop in October. (Photo by Terry Parker)

The event video is up on the Task Force webpage for those who missed it or who want a review.

The program was especially relevant with upcoming holiday celebrations on the calendar. According to Sustainable Stanford (sustainable. stanford.edu/sustainable-you), Americans produce up to 25% more waste during the year-end holiday season. Fortunately, OVA makes it easier to do the right thing by providing labelled green compost and blue recycling bins, and reusable place settings at each Rec. Center. The Task Force also has also compiled a summary of best practices in Oakmont.

"Be a team player." Join us as a volunteer Waste Ambassador to help educate neighbors on what goes where at an Oakmont event that you choose to go to. Email oakmontenvirostewardship@gmail.com to learn more.



#### TWO FOR ONE; THE VALUE OF OHI

Autumn is a favorite season for OHI exerciser, Stephen. He and his husband never miss their family's huge annual Thanksgiving celebration, and although he misses having trick or treaters, he readily dives into costume for OHI's annual Halloween pre-class parade.

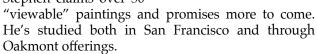
Stephen and his twin brother were born and raised in New York. They had an older brother and two wonderful parents. He graduated from Wagner College with Sociology and Psychology disciplines and soon heard the call of adventure. He was 21 when he moved to San Francisco. "By coincidence a year or so after, my whole immediate family relocated here."

In San Francisco, Stephen worked as an eligibility (social) worker for the Department of Social Services. He also met Chris; they have been together 38 years.

Twelve years ago they found Stephen celebrating. Oakmont an answer to their retirement dream. "I love the tranquility, friendliness, activities and clubs." He recognizes a natural fit between OHI classes and his joy of dance, says it's a "two for one:" dance moves and physical exercise.

An ever-ready volunteer, Stephen can be found at Oakmont's Visual Aids Workshops, Kenwood School's 1st grade, and at 6th St. Playhouse. He and Chris are always ready to try one of Sonoma County restaurants, and hardly ever miss a chance to attend live jazz performances.

watercolorist, Stephen claims over 50



Holiday starts at Halloween.

(Photos by Charlene Bunas)

Stephen's life shines through art, his involvement with people, and his enthusiasm of autumn. Who else would don a banana costume to march in the annual OHI parade? Stephen lives with the confidence of a boy well raised.

OHI classes are Mon., Wed., Fri. mornings, Berger, 9 a.m. If needed, check with health professional. Zoom: 850 1489 7161/998608.



PICKLEBALL PUSHUP Pickleball at Oakmont

is for Oakmont residents and their guests only! New Player Orientation: 9 a.m. Tuesday mornings. Contact Victoria Dettman, (707) 230-2958. Call Jim Howard at (209) 761-8517 for demo loaner.



Pickleball Corner 🐓



Graphic by Peter Copen.

## Oakmont Village Library

■Marilyn Pahr

■Peter Copen

#### **FALL INTO READING**

Oakmont residents, you're sure to find something to enjoy—no fees, no due dates, no library cards, no sign outs—just browse and take them home or relax

in the comfortable reading areas. The library is located in the CAC (Central Activity Center) and is open from 6 a.m.--9 p.m. 7 days a week.

Our shelves are bursting with books. The library accepts donations please,



only pristine copies, recent bestsellers in hard back preferred. No old textbooks or academic materials we've already graduated! If you have more than 12 items, please contact the library first—do not drop of materials at our door.

The Oakmont Village Library volunteer team welcomes you to join this active group. Each volunteer spends about 4 hours a month processing, sorting and shelving library items.

To volunteer, donate or inquire, email oakmont villagelibrary@gmail.com for more information.

#### **ESPRESSO** Continued from page 1

Bringing this treasure to Oakmont is the brainchild of retired Chef Karl Turner. When the Oakmont community came together to discuss what Oakmonters wanted, one of the most frequently mentioned items on the wish list was a common area. Karl was part of the café/common area subcommittee that resulted from the 2030 discussions, and as a former executive chef of five-star hotels, he knew the intrinsic camaraderie that comes from sharing refreshments—and that's how this achievement began.





637 Fourth St. · Santa Rosa · 707.546.2424

#### ■Richard Osborne

## **Kiwanis Club of Oakmont**



## OCTOBER SHRED-A-THON RAISED FUNDS FOR LOCAL STUDENTS

The Kiwanis Club, in partnership with the Oakmont Village Association (OVA), held its semiannual public service event, the Shred-A-Thon, on Thursday, October 30. While turnout of attendees with shredding was lighter than usual, club members cheerfully assisted attendees by unloading their materials and ensuring

everything was securely shredded on-site.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated and contributed. Donations from this event directly support upcoming Kiwanis initiatives benefiting the scholarships for seniors at local high schools.

If you would like to be a part of this wonderful cause, please contact us at kiwanisclubofoakmont@gmail.com or come to our Thursday morning meeting in the Berger at 8:30 a.m.

## **Movies At Oakmont**



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

HOSTS: Mike McInnis,
Deborah Davidson, Jeff Neuman

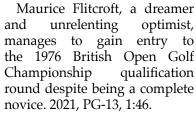
and Barbara Marquardt.

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

## NOVEMBER 23: *MATERIALISTS*

An ambitious young New York City matchmaker finds herself torn between the perfect match and her imperfect ex. 2025, R, 1:56.

## NOVEMBER 30: THE PHANTOM OF THE OPEN



#### DECEMBER 7: MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE—THE FINAL RECKONING

Hunt and the IMF pursue a dangerous AI called the Entity that's infiltrated global intelligence. With governments and a figure from his past in pursuit, Hunt races to stop it from forever changing the world. 2025, PG-13, 2:49.

## DECEMBER 14: NICKEL BOYS

A powerful friendship develops between two young Black men as they navigate the harrowing trials of reform school together. 2024, PG-13, 2:20.

**Oakmont Birders** 

■Barbara Kendrick

## BIRDS WORTH WATCHING: WILSON'S SNIPE

This month we welcome a new addition to the "Birds Seen in Oakmont" list: the Wilson's Snipe. Snipes are in our area from September through April, coming down from their far-north breeding grounds. Although fairly common birds, they're notoriously difficult to see. The individual who showed up in an Oakmont yard by the golf course recently was likely not our first visitor but the first to be reported.



A Snipe in the grass. (Photo by Tom Grey)

Snipes are stout, long-billed shorebirds about the size of a fat robin. Their plumage—mottled brown and buff—is described as "cryptic," meaning they blend in well with their surroundings. They

have a dark stripe extending through the eye, with white stripes above and below. Their tail and legs are relatively short.

Snipes gravitate to wetlands or marshy areas, ephemeral pools, or even sizable puddles, where they use their long bills to probe the mud for worms and small invertebrates. With eyes set unusually far back on their head, they can actually see behind them as they feed—useful for avoiding ambush. When not eating they tend to sit still, relying on camouflage. If startled, they take off in erratic zig-zag flight, like a drunken pilot. They can hit speeds as high as 60 mph, very respectable for a shorebird.

"Snipe hunt" pranks aside, actual snipes have been hunted for centuries, and they still are. Despite this, they're not endangered, thanks to that nearly 360-degree vision and fast, evasive flight.

Look (closely) for a Wilson's Snipe in the wetter parts of Oakmont or around the edges of Spring Lake or other lakes or ponds. Or maybe by a nice big puddle in your own yard after a hard rain.

Have questions about birds? Need a "Birds Seen in Oakmont" checklist? E-mail bkendrick@jps.net.



Photo by Rich Osborne.



■Greg Fauss

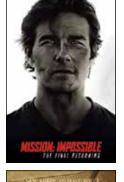


#### ADVENT WREATH MAKING

This Sunday we'll be celebrating Thanksgiving a few days early on November 23 with a gratitude-themed service followed by a potluck.

And in preparation for Advent and Christmas we will be making our own Advent Wreaths from 12–1 p.m. this Sunday, Nov. 23, in the East Rec. Center. Everything needed will be available for free.

Our Sunday Worship Services begin at 10:30 a.m. in the East Rec. Center. For information about our Wednesday Morning Bible Study, Thursday evening survey of the Christian faith—Alpha, our Saturday Prayer meeting, and other gatherings go to http://www.occsantarosa.org, write us at occsantarosa@gmail.com or call us at (707) 595-0166.



Materialists





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

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

#### **DECEMBER 4: SHORT HIKE** DOWNTOWN SANTA ROSA/BURBANK GARDENS/JULLIARD PARK/SOFA

We'll visit the Luther Burbank home and gardens with holiday decorations (\$10 admission), and then to Julliard Park—a historic Santa Rosa City Park. We will visit the Prince Greenway, South of A Street (SOFA) art community with an optional stop at Cafe Frida for a snack/lunch. About 2.5 level miles with some rough sidewalks and pavement. Heavy rain

Depart Berger 9:30 a.m. (note departure time). Check OHC website December 3 for updates. Hike leader is Donna McCulloch, (707) 539-5730, dmcculloch2986@ gmail.com.

#### **DECEMBER 4: LONG HIKE** LAKE SONOMA/WARM SPRINGS DAM

Starting from Grey Pine Flat we go through oak woodlands, redwood groves, grasslands along the Dry Creek Trail to the archery range. At the highest elevation of the



Lake Sonoma View from trail.

day, it's down to the shore of Lake Sonoma to follow the Rancheria Trail to Madrone Point for lunch. Returning via the ½ Canoe and No Name trails. National Parks Pass or \$7 needed for those driving.



10 miles with 1,800 ft. elevation.

Meet 8:30 a.m. Berger Center. Bring lunch/snack, liquids, layers, and boar repellent. Hike leader is John Ferreira, (650) 766-0497.

#### **DECEMBER 11: INTERMEDIATE HIKE** TRIONE-ANNADEL SP—COBBLESTONE/ **ILSANJO LOOP**

We will carpool to the parking area near the Cobblestone trailhead on Channel Drive off Violetti, ascend Cobblestone to Squirrel in the Hand and Rough Go as far as Lake Ilsanjo, where we will stop for lunch, returning via Rough Go and Orchard to Cobblestone. About 6 miles, 800 feet elevation gain. Dress in layers.

Bring lunch, water, sunhat and sunscreen, lunch, water, poles if needed. Leave Berger 9 a.m. Hike leader is Florentia Scott, hikingscott@yahoo.com or (707) 591-1929.

#### **DECEMBER 11: LONG HIKE** SHILOH RANCH REGIONAL PARK

will hike the Creekside Trail to the Pond to enjoy the ducks, geese, frogs and turtles. Then take the Pond Trail to the Mark West Creek Trail followed by the Canyon Trail and the Big Leaf Trail. And if it's open, we will add part of the Ridge Trail to a wonderful vista point overlooking Windsor and Santa Rosa. So, depending on trail closures, the hike will be



6-7 miles with 900-1100 feet elevation gain.

Bring water and lunch and meet at the Berger Center parking lot for departure at 8:30 a.m. Hike leader is Randy Vincent, (707) 538-3530.

but get your reservations in early because our event

limited number of tickets available. Leave your cash

or check made out to Michael James Music in the Jazz

Tickets are only \$10 per person and we have a

### Oakmont Lanes Bowling Club is a Bowling League Shiloh Regional Park trail.

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.

See www.oakmontlanes.com for club information. No bowling dates left in November.

Bowling dates for December: Dec. 2, Fall League 2025 Championship Tournament at 2 p.m.; Dec. 4, Bowling Christmas Party, East Recreation, 5-8:30 p.m. No bowling Dec. 9, 16, 23 and 30—break for the Holidays.

Oakmont Lanes Christmas Party: Thursday, December 4 at the East Recreation from 5–8:30 p.m. Cocktails/Appetizers at 5 p.m., Dinner at 6 p.m. Grab bag (\$15) at 7 p.m. Italian dinner catered by Oakmont Village. All Bowlers and Substitutes welcome.

On Dec. 2 and 3, we will decorate our Oakmont Lanes Christmas Tree at the Winter Wonderland on the Plaza.

Halloween Challenge: A bowler received a \$5 gift card to Safeway if they bowled a strike in the 1st and 3rd frames of a game, hence Halloween 10/31. Winners are: Joanne Abrams, Richard Adamczyk, Laurel Earles, Mike Earles, Charlie Ensley, Peggy Ensley, Glenn Hewitt, Shirley Jamison, Elisabeth LaPointe and Sandy Osheroff.

#### **RESULTS AS OF NOVEMBER 4** (WEEK #11, FALL LEAGUE)

Results are: first place, Strikers; second place, King Pins; third place, Alley Oops; fourth place, 4 Tops; fifth Place, Pocket Hits; sixth place, Wii Four; seventh place, High Rollers; eighth place, Ghosts.

Men's High Games: Don Shelhart, 241; Glenn Hewitt, 233; Charlie Ensley, 225; Richard Adamczyk, 202.

Women's High Games: Laurel Earles, 259; Joanne Abrams, 255; Sandy Osheroff, 249; Peggy Ensley, 214; Marie Haverson, 200.



#### ■Michael James

#### **HOLIDAY DANCE PARTY!**

The New Horizons 20-piece swing band will be playing all your favorite dance songs from Duke Ellington to Frank Sinatra on Wednesday, December 3. The band consists of Oakmont residents as well as many other senior citizens playing trombone, trumpet, saxophone, clarinet, piano, bass and drums. John Ray, the leader of the band, will be singing along

We will have cabaret seating so you can bring your favorite food and beverage to enjoy the afternoon in

the convenience of your own community. You can reserve a table of 8 Club file at the OVA office. The party is from 2–4 p.m. so get there early! Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Any questions call me at (559) 707-

2750 or email: mjamesblue71147@gmail.com. **WHAT:** Holiday Dance Party with the New Horizons

20-piece swing band

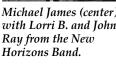
WHEN: Wednesday, December 3 WHERE: East Rec. Center

**TIME:** 2–4 p.m.

was sold out last year.

**COST:** \$10 tickets sold in advance







New Horizons 20-piece Swing Band.





■Larry Souza

#### **NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH 2025**

Ring in the New Year with style! The Sha-Boom Club is inviting Oakmont residents to close out 2025 in style with its New Year's Eve Bash, set for Wednesday, December 31 at the Berger Center. The celebration promises an evening of lively music, great food, and festive fun.

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., and the event runs until 10 p.m. Guests will enjoy live music by the Sonoma Shakers, a complimentary champagne toast, and a selfie photo booth to capture the night's memories. Dinner will be provided by Sweet T's Catering, known for their delicious cuisine.

The dress code encourages guests to "Sparkle and Shine—Dress to Impress," setting the stage for a glamorous evening to welcome the new year.

Tickets are \$115 per person and can be purchased by check, payable to Sha-Boom at the OVA office. Because this popular event traditionally sells out quickly, attendees are encouraged to buy tickets early.

Groups wishing to sit together should submit all checks in the same envelope. Tables seat eight people.

For more information or questions, contact Linda Van Bockern at lvanbockern@comcast.net or (707)

## **Wii Bowling Oakmont Lanes**



■Terry Leuthner

#### ■Jane Gyorgy

## OCTOBER FEATURED SPEAKER: NORTH BAY YOUNG REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT

Our October 28 meeting featured Stephen Perez, President of the newly-formed North Bay Young Republicans. Stephen told us how he was "swept up" in current events of the Petaluma City Council and decided to organize the NBYR, representing Sonoma,

## Conservatives Club



Marin, Napa and Solano counties.

An energetic presentation, followed by questions from the audience regarding the Young Republicans, ensued. Stephen spoke about the club's direction and plans at both the high school and college levels, as well as how they are approaching their target audience of 18–35-year-olds.

Their mission and direction will be to support activities to promote limited government, to restore personal freedoms where applicable, teach the ideals of lower taxation, and work vigorously to increase voter registration and turnout.

We found Stephen and the goals of the NBYR very impressive. They are a dedicated group of young people. We believe the future of conservatives is in good hands. Bravo, Stephen and the NBYRs!

As stated before, there will be no December meeting. We look forward to seeing you on the fourth Tuesday of January at 4 p.m., in the Berger.

We wish a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a Very Happy New Year to all!

## Lifelong Learning |



## TWO WINTER CONCERTS TO CLOSE OUT THE YEAR

**HELLA FITZGERALD** 



Hella Fitzgerald.

WHEN: Thursday, December 4, 7 p.m.

WHERE: Berger Center TICKETS: \$25. Table seating.

Immerse yourself into the lyrical history of Ella Fitzgerald and the sexy smokey musicians that brought us R & B, jazz, funk, and jive, styles that changed our musical world view and touched our souls.

Hella's bandleader Lilan Kane has performed at Great American Music Hall, NOLA's French Quarter Festival, and the Fillmore Jazz Festival. Along with her talented band, they have collectively been rated "Best Of" in several San Francisco musicianship categories. Find the music in yourself.

#### BARBARA HIGBIE AND FRIENDS WINDHAM HILL WINTER SOLSTICE CONCERT



Barbara Higbie.

WHEN: Thursday, December 18, 7 p.m.

WHERE: Berger Center

**TICKETS:** \$35. Theater seating.

Celebrate the season with recording artist, pianist, fiddler and singer-songwriter, Barbara Higbie, and her brilliant musical friends. Please join us for the return of this high energy group, performing seasonal classics. Expect a splash of pyro-technic fiddle tunes, and favorites from the multi-platinum selling Windham Hill Winter Solstice series.

Featuring: Guitarist/vocalist, Vicki Randle; Cellist, Mia Pixley; Percussionist, Michaelle Goerlitz; Bassist, Kofy Brown; and Mandolin prodigy, Jasper Manning.

Concert tickets may be purchased online at oakmontll.org, by placing a check in the OLL folder at the OVA office, or at the door if seating still available.

#### **COMING IN 2026**

Thursday, February 12: Bruce Kaplan and Claudia Russell

Friday, April 10: Marimba Group

Friday, June 19: More Joy Friday, September 18: Pamela Rosa, Women of the 60s

Friday, November 6: Sonomusette

Friday, December 18: The Bluebyrds

## Oakmont Singles Social Club



■Bailey Penzotti

## **DECEMBER MIXER—HAPPY HOLIDAYS! DATE AND TIME:** Friday, December 19, 6 p.m.

WHERE: East Rec. Center

To finish out 2025, we're getting together to welcome in the winter solstice and festive season. Our annual Holiday Mixer will have live music by our very own member and pianist, Louise Bettner, and gift exchange. We'll laugh, sing, eat, drink and be very merry.

Wear your favorite ugly sweater or sparkly, festive holiday wear. Bring a wrapped gift for our annual gift exchange; practical, re-gift OK and/or silly. Something for a member who's been good or bad (Santa won't be checking his list before our mixer). Bring an appetizer or dessert to share, a beverage of choice, and your holiday spirit to enjoy a mix, mingle and spread the cheer with fellow Singles members.

Please RSVP via our website, www.oakmontsinglessocialclub. org (Activities page). If you need assistance with the website, please contact Alan @ alans25028@ hotmail.com. If no computer, feel free to email Kat at KAT9433@ icloud.com. to RSVP to this mixer.

Remember to wear your name member. (Photo by badge to the East Rec Center.

\*\*Remember to wear your name member. (Photo by Bailey Penzotti)



Santa's Helper will deliver wrapped gifts to each member. (Photo by Bailey Penzotti)

## DECEMBER 2025 BON APPETIT (OSSC MEMBERS ONLY)

WHEN: Thursday, December 4

WHERE: Rosso Pizzeria, 53 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa In the fall of 2025, a cherished neighborhood pizzeria in Santa Rosa reopened with new owners, but with the same wood-fired soul. "Our food is created from fresh, organic, locally sourced seasonal ingredients. The Tuscan wood-burning oven gives you the true Neapolitan style of crisp, yeasty, wood fired pizza. The wine bar boasts more than 50 wines from around the world to pair with the best pizza in Sonoma County."

Reservation is for 20. Bring cash because the restaurant will not provide separate checks! Meet at Berger Center parking lot by 5:30 p.m. to carpool to the restaurant.

Reservation cutoff is December 1 or when the 20 slots are filled. If there are 20 members confirmed before this date, you will be placed on a waitlist. RSVP on our website: oakmontsinglessocialclub.org or email Simone Smith, 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.

## **Lawn Bowling**



■Mary Blake

#### INTERESTED IN LEARNING TO BOWL?

Email us at oakmontlawnbowling@gmail.com. Training is about three lessons followed by a practice game. Membership is \$20 per year.

#### **DAILY DRAW**

Daily Draw is at 12:30 p.m. Bowlers should be there at 12:15.

#### **MEMBER MEETING**

Our Annual Member Meeting was Monday, November 10 at noon. We had a great turnout! It was a beautiful day, making the turn-out all the more impressive. We enjoyed a light lunch, chatted a bit, and elected our new board.

Board members are now: President, Jim Brewer (new); Vice President, Michelle Macintosh (new); Treasurer, Pam Dempsey (new); Secretary, Mary Blake (older than the hills); Director, Richard Goodwin (new); Director, Steve Pickell (old); Director, Barbara Serafin (new).

Items raised by members during the meeting and to be discussed by the new board:

- 1. Changing days that we switch from morning to afternoon and back to better match general weather conditions.
- 2. Holding a 50/50 fundraiser.
- 3. Bonnie Johnston has been doing a wonderful job sending out get well cards to members when needed. But her schedule is making this more difficult. Would anyone like to take over the job?

Meeting minutes will be available on our website.

## THANKSGIVING TOURNAMENT The date is Tuesday, November 25—Yardstick.

2025 AWARDS GALA AND HOLIDAY

PARTY AND GIFTS FOR KIDS
Pick one (or two or three) children's names off the tree. Follow instructions. And sign up for our Awards Gala and Holiday Party on Friday, December 5 at the

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



An Evening Game in August. (Photo by Mary Blake)

#### ■Russ McCracken

#### OAKMONT MEN'S GROUP IS FORMING A SECOND SUPPORT GROUP

Over the last 14+ years, our 12-person Oakmont Men's Group has become very popular and often has a waiting list. Therefore, we will be organizing a new group for men, along the same lines as our existing group. Like our existing group, the new group will meet twice a month and will focus our discussions on issues relevant with aging men.

## Oakmont Men's Group

Such issues include, but are not limited to, the challenges of acceptance of diminished physical abilities, development of new hobbies and interests, health problems that you or your spouse/partner are facing, how aging effects relationships, the mental challenges of aging, the loss of a mate, and many other challenges that aging presents.

If you need a forum to discuss men's issues with other men in a safe and confidential place, you are invited to contact us and have your name placed on our waiting lists.

Our present group meets twice a month for two hours and currently has two openings. There are no attendance requirements or dues. Our group is non-religious, non-political, and open to all men of Oakmont, married, single, gay, or straight.

For more information, please contact me at (707) 703-9578 or email me at russell@sonic.net.

## CLASSIFIEDS

#### **BODEN PLUMBING, HEATING AND AIR**

For all your plumbing and heating needs. Local plumbers in business since the late 20th century, licensed, bonded and insured. Same day service is often available. Money-saving coupons! CA Lic. #659920. Please call (707) 996-8683 or go to www.BodenPlumbing.com.

#### **BABE'S TRANSPORT**

A personal transportation service for airports, cruises and vacations, doctor visits, shopping and so much more. Flat fee per trip. Larger vehicles on request. All drivers Covid vaccinated. Commercially licensed and insured. TCP #40474. Call Babe's for reservations at (707) 545-2850.

#### **ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR**

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

#### **YOUR PERSONAL CAREGIVER AND ADVOCATE**

Available 24/7 or hourly, nights, longterm or short-term. 20+ yrs. experience providing honest, reliable, dedicated, competent, compassionate care, with a sense of humor. Native CA, clear background check with fingerprinting. Specialize in Dementia. Starla, (925) 698-6312. References and website. Not an agency.

#### ONE WAY PLUMBING, INC.

Dependable experts serving you and your neighbors with excellence and integrity for over 20 years. Licensed, bonded and insured. Senior discounts available. CA Lic. #854537. Find us on the web at www. onewayplumb.net or call us at 537-1308 for all your plumbing needs.

#### TREE TRIMMING

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

#### MARTHA L PROFESSIONAL **HOUSE CLEANING**

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

#### **CARPET, UPHOLSTERY AND TILE CLEANING**

Gavin Anderson, local Sonoma resident. 20+ years experience. Senior pricing. Free estimates. Call 935-6334.

#### **COMPANION WANTED**

Immediate opening 10-20 hrs. a week, hrs. and days flexible. Walks, mild exercise, drives (my car is fine), etc., and a reminder to take my pills. \$20/hr. plus all expenses paid. You must be kind, have a good sense of humor, maybe even like cars. Send a brief resume to Don Angel, dangle650@gmail.com.

#### **CHRISTO TRANSPORTATION**

Based in Oakmont is available for your transportation requests at fair pricing. Our vehicles are new, well maintained and carry commercial insurance, TCP 32055. Call Chris at (707) 205-8109. www.christolimo.com.

#### **DOORS AND WINDOWS**

Consultive sales and installation. Local suppliers. Father and son team, 30 years of experience. Lic. #527924. www. doorbeautiful.com. Call (707) 539-3196.

#### **REPAIRS PILING UP? CALL RAY**

No job too big or too small. Heating, water heaters, plumbing, electrical, drywall, patching, painting, appliance repairs, honey do's, etc. Quality and affordable. Ray, (707) 280-2699.

#### HANDYMAN RESIDENT

Ask for Ricky, a personable "Jack of all Trades" with great attention to detail. I meet your quality goals and prioritize Oakmont residents. Let's discuss the work and its cost. (408) 838-5618.

#### **OAKMONT'S PAINTING SERVICES**

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

#### THE PET PROTECTOR AND **COMPASSIONATE CAREGIVER!**

Pet Sitting—small and large animals. Housesitting too! Private transportation services. Fall and Winter holidays availability. Expert and experienced caregiving for over 17 years. Overnights, 4-12-hour shifts, post-surgical, memory care, companionship. Excellent and current references available. Call/text Hillary, (707) 757-0057.

#### YOUR FRIENDLY HANDYMAN

Oakmont's trusted resource for carpentry, drywall, electrical, plumbing, installation and assembly. Fair hourly rate. Call (707) 881-7292. Websit

#### **ERIC WILSON, REMODELING SPECIALISTS**

Kitchens, baths, rehabs, decks, patios, roofing, plumbing, electrical, insulation. Fire and water damage repair. Quality service, reasonable rates. Proudly serving locally for over 30 years. Free estimates. Lic. #669482. Visit our website: www. specialtyimprovementsunlimited.com. Call today, (707) 328-3555.

#### **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.

#### RELIABLE **LANDSCAPING SERVICES**

Taylor's Eco-Friendly Landscaping provides reliable landscape maintenance services that are 100% electric and much quieter. We show up rain or shine, unless we notify you beforehand. Call or text Kevin at (707) 364-0210.

#### FOR ALL YOUR PAINTING NEEDS

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

#### **VALLEY OF THE MOON PLUMBING**

We are a local plumbing company that can take care of all your plumbing needs from service and repair, to remodels and additions. Call today to schedule a free estimate. (707) 800-2043.

#### **PET MAN DAN**

I am an avid walker with a dog walking business. I walk 1 dog at a time, unless you have more. I am licensed and insured, with references available. Call or text Dan Lennox, at (707) 889-0205.

#### **SONOMA VALLEY LEGAL SERVICES**

Providing legal services for Estate Planning, including preparation or amendment of wills, trust, healthcare directives and powers of attorney. Family Law Mediation and other non-litigation family law services. Call for a free 30-min. consultation. Attorney Bailey Penzotti, (707) 203-2247.

#### **GALUS PAINTING**

Professional interior/exterior painting. Kitchen/Bath cabinet special. Lic. #626311. Call (707) 579-2680.

#### **PRECISION TILE**

Professional tile installation. Renovations. New builds. Proudly serving Sonoma County and surrounding areas. CSLB #1110538. Call Daniel, (915) 355-3213.

#### **COMPASSIONATE PERSONAL** ASSISTANT/COMPANION

Errands, food prep., pet care, light housekeeping, companionship. Also, soothing professional Celtic Harp and Music for Special Occasions. 40 yrs. exp. References. Call or text Jewel at (503) 487-7338. Oakmont resident.

#### **AIR CONDITIONING REPAIR**

Heating, Cooling, service and repair. Serving Sonoma Valley. Call Vince Parish at Ridgeback Mechanical, (707) 666-5056.

#### **TONY'S GARDENING SERVICES**

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.

#### THE AWAY GUY

Regular house checks, plant watering, bird feeders, out and in of trash bins, etc. \$30/visit. 25 yrs experience. References. Richard Worth, richardworth@att.net, (707) 529-3494.

#### **GARAGE DOOR SERVICES**

Locally owned and operated Dependable Doors offers full servicing, repair, and replacement of garage doors and motors. Call Casey at (707) 775-8009 for all of your garage door needs. Lic. #1016951.

#### **HOUSE CLEANING SERVICES IN OAKMONT**

We do deep cleaning, move-out cleaning, and regular cleaning. 15 years of experience. Please call Noemi at Noemicleaning, LLC, (707) 228-2114.

Updated duet home on the golf course. Serene w/beautiful view, 1,400 sf, 2 bd/2ba, 2-car garage. Landscape and water included. 336 Rockgreen Pl. Avail 12/01/25. \$3,000/mo. plus OVA dues of \$128 pp. Agent Andrea at HDC, (707) 578-8840.

#### Oakmont News

. . . is owned by the **Oakmont Village Association** which, through its board, sets editorial policy. The **OVA** has contracted with **CJM Productions** to handle typesetting, layout, printing and free distribution of the Oakmont News, the latter by U.S. mail, to each home via 3rd class mail.

**CJM Productions** also handles advertising for the *Oakmont News*.

CJM Productions and the Oakmont Village Association assume no responsibility for the content of any ads that appear in the Oakmont News nor do we endorse or recommend any product or service advertised herein.

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#### **Oakmont News Classified Rates**

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

#### **DEADLINE: 10 days prior to publication.**

We accept checks made to CJM Productions and mailed to 2105 Longhorn Circle, Santa Rosa, CA 95401; Venmo (@agnes-reznikov) or Zelle (cjmprod567@gmail.com). Tel (707) 206-1957 • cjmprod567@gmail.com

## **Strength and Balance Class**

■Valerie Hulsey

#### **MARY'S FITNESS CLASS**

The Balance and strength class is held every Friday at 9:30 a.m. at the East Rec. Center. Not only do we work on our balance skills we have lots of fun doing so. The laughter in the room is always contagious.

Everyone is welcome to join the class. There is a \$5 drop-in fee and don't forget to bring your TheraBand for strengthening. If you don't 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

"When we align our actions with our deepest values, intention becomes a quiet kind of power."—Tara Brach Our meditation circle is growing! 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

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. Beginning and experienced meditators are welcome.

We approach meditation as a non-denominational practice.

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

## **Oakmont Slot Car Club OSCC**

■Ray Wells

#### SLOT-CARS UPDATE—NOVEMBER

All OVA residents with a proximity card are considered members of the Slot-Car Club—no membership fees required. Family members are welcome to participate in club events; all attendees are simply asked to sign the event register.

The club will host three days of racing at the Sugarloaf facility on December 27, 28 and 29, featuring two tracks and 18 Carrera digital 1/32-scale GT cars with 12 hand controllers available for use. Participants may bring their own compatible cars and controllers but should indicate this on the sign-up sheet (see below).

The smaller track will be designated for younger children and beginners. It includes crash zones to make learning more forgiving. Drivers accelerate by pressing down with their thumb and brake by lifting up before sharp turns. With seven different types of corners—some fast, some slow—practice is key to mastering the course.

The larger track will host 10-minute races each hour, with practice sessions in between. Races will include a simulated fuel mode, requiring cars to enter the pit every 15 laps or so for refueling to maintain top speed. If enough participants sign up, drivers will rotate so everyone has the chance to compete in at least one race per hour.



Track design by Ray Wells.

More information and a sign-up sheet are available in the Slot-Car Club folder at the OVA main office, where residents can pre-book a time slot. Pre-registration and driving are not required—spectators and volunteers to help marshal the cars are always welcome.

## Water Fitness



■Valerie Hulsey

## GOOD TIMES AT WATER AEROBICS CLASSES

Hard to believe it's the middle of November and the weather has been great. We do have class Rain or Shine and no matter what the water is warm so please join us at the West pool for 50 minutes of exercise and fun. Just look at the picture below taken on Nov. 10—the weather was perfect and you can tell by the picture how much fun we have during class.

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**

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).

### **Gakm**⊗nt Pétanque Club

■Don McPherson

## EXPLOSIVE PÉTANQUE GROWTH IN THE U.K.

The Pétanque world is abuzz regarding an unmistakable emerging trend: the explosive growth of pétanque in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

"Boules" has long been visible in England because of the substantial number of British expats and annual holidaymakers who visit or live in the south of France. But in recent years a deliberate effort by national pétanque bodies to promote the sport has paid off with substantial growth.

The national associations have created ongoing media campaigns featuring pétanque to raise public awareness. In addition, they have encouraged local clubs to partner with the panoply of existing sports clubs (lawn bowling, soccer, rugby, tennis, etc.) to add pétanque with multiple levels of membership. They also have supported efforts of towns and villages to secure grants for converting unused potential recreational land to pétanque terrains.

In general, the efforts have been to use hospitality as a hook and to promote casual play and an all-ages, social outdoor experience rather than promoting the vision of "a traditional French game" and competitions. The objective is to attract large numbers of players of all ages primarily interested in the game as a social activity, some of whom will then become interested enough to also begin competing in tournaments within and for their clubs.

For Pétanque England alone, 2,645 members were reported in 2023 in over 150 affiliated clubs. In addition, Pétanque Scotland reports 26 affiliated clubs, Pétanque Wales reports 9, and the Irish Pétanque Association (Northern Ireland and Republic) reports 16. By comparison, the Federation of Pétanque USA reports 2,045 members in 2025 in over 50 affiliated clubs nation-wide.

#### PÉTANQUE IN OAKMONT: MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, SATURDAY

Pétanque (pay-tonk) has been a feature of organized play in Oakmont since the 1980s. The club, founded as an OVA organization 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. Club Play days are casual friendly games with teams randomly chosen. The club has boules to lend while you're learning, and you'll be playing right away.



■George Pappas

#### ANNOUNCING 2025 TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE

Since its founding in 1947, the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program has been devoted to delivering hope and holiday joy to children in need. Nationally, Toys for Tots has distributed an astonishing 708 million toys to 314 million children, making a profound difference for families across the country.

Locally, the Sonoma County campaign continues this legacy of caring. In 2024, 8,449 children in Sonoma County received 23,203 toys, thanks to the ongoing generosity of our residents and the tireless work of Marine volunteers. This year, the Oakmont Veterans Club is proud to sponsor the 2025 campaign, helping ensure every child experiences the magic of the season.

The community is encouraged to participate by donating a new, unwrapped toy at any of the following drop-off centers:

Wells Fargo Bank, 6585 Oakmont Dr., 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Mon.–Fri.

McBride Realty, 6520 Oakmont Dr., 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Tue.–Sun.

Valley of the Moon Golf Club, 7025 Oakmont Dr., 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun.–Sat. (restaurant and Pro Shop)

Collection runs through December 19. All items collected will be distributed by Marines to support local families and spread holiday cheer throughout Sonoma County.

For nearly eight decades, Toys for Tots has brightened the holidays for countless children—your kindness ensures this tradition continues. The Oakmont Veterans Club and Marines extend heartfelt thanks to all who contribute, reminding us that each toy represents not just a gift, but a message of hope.

Season's greetings to the Sonoma County community, and thank you for supporting Toys for Tots in 2025.

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

## COORDINATOR Rides to Medical Appointments

**November 16–30** Bev Leve 707-539-2802 **December 1–15** Gloria Heinzl 707-843-0224

We provide the following services to Oakmont Residents:

Transportation to medical/dental appointments, including pet appointments in Santa Rosa only

Ridge to graphs and activities within Oakmont

■ 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

## **Lifelong Learning**



■Marlena Tremont

#### WINTER CLASS PREVIEW

Meet the instructors. Munch on snacks. See friends. WHEN: Wednesday, December 10, refreshments and music 2:30 p.m.; Program at 3 p.m. **WHERE:** Berger Center

#### RACE, CLASS AND GENDER IN THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE MONDAYS, JAN. 12, 19, 26 AND FEB. 2, 3–5 PM, BERGER CENTER

4-weeks. Cost: \$65 or \$48.75 with discount



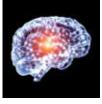
Explore the evolution of American social and political discourse from the founding generation to the present. How these identifiers have been defined and utilized to empower or

oppress particular groups constitutes an important chapter in U.S. history.

Andre LaRue has taught courses in History and American Culture numerous Bay Area colleges, retiring recently after 30 years at SRJC.

#### THE NEUROLOGY OF AGING WEDNESDAYS, JAN. 14, 21, 28, 3-5 PM, BERGER CENTER 3-weeks. Cost: \$50 or \$37.50 with discount

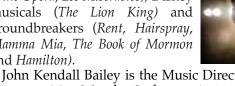
This course will focus on ways to prevent, minimize, delay or adapt to changes in the nervous system as we age, looking at recent research including diets, exercise, brain stimulation and newer medications.



Allan L Bernstein, M.D., a Neurologist at UCSF, has extensive experience in migraines, strokes, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease and other causes of memory loss.

#### MUSICAL THEATER THURSDAYS, JAN. 15, 22, 29, AND FEB. 5, 12, AND 19, 2-4 PM, EAST REC. 6-weeks. Cost: \$95 or \$71.25 with discount (Note: Early start time)

An in-depth look at the musicals from our time, including composers Stephen Sondheim and Andrew Lloyd Webber; epic productions (Phantom of the Opera, Les Misérables); Disney musicals (The Lion King) and groundbreakers (Rent, Hairspray, Mamma Mia, The Book of Mormon and Hamilton).



John Kendall Bailey is the Music Director of the Mozart to Mendelssohn Orchestra, Artistic Director of Chora Nova, and Principal Conductor of the San Francisco Composers Chamber Orchestra.

#### PLAYFUL POETRY **WEDNESDAYS, FEB. 4,11 AND 18, 3–5** PM, BERGER CENTER

3-weeks. Cost: \$50 or \$37.50 with discount



Designed for both new and experienced writers, this course will explore the imagery, rhyme and rhythm in poetry and teach the

essential elements of writing. Experiment with new poetic structures, play with sound, and engage the senses to evoke emotion.

Stacey Alysa Dennick is a writer, editor, and SRJC professor known for lively classes that emphasize the craft of writing and encourage interactions between students.

#### **GENETICS FOR NON-SCIENTISTS** MONDAYS, FEB. 9 AND 16, 3–5 PM, **BERGER CENTER**

2-weeks. Cost: \$35 or \$26.25 with discount

Back by popular demand, Dennis Drayna offers a class for people without a scientific background that will give a broad overview of genetics and its relevance to our lives today. Topics include molecular genetics,



genetic engineering and the Human Geome Project. Dennis Drayna is an Oakmont resident with a PhD in Genetics from Harvard who worked at the Department of Molecular Biology at Genentech and the National Institutes of Health.

Purchase multiple classes for the same person at the same time and save 25%. For more information or to register, go to OakmontLL.org, complete a flyer in the OVA office or pay at the door.

## **Oakmont Art Association**

■Linda O'Connor

#### FRENCH IMPRESSIONISTS MANET AND MORISOT FRIDAY, DEC. 12, BERGER, 10 AM **REFRESHMENTS, 10:30 AM PROGRAM**



Edouard Manet, The Balcony (detail), 1868–1869. (de Young/Legion of Honor)

Edouard Manet (1832–1883) and Morisot Berthe (1841 - 1895),close friends and pivotal figures in Impressionist Paris, embodied striking contrasts in personality and style. Manet, born into privilege, was celebrated for his wit, sociability, and charm, qualities that allowed him to navigate 19th-

century Parisian

culture with ease. Morisot, by contrast, was admired for her reserve, elegance, and intelligence—virtues consistent with the expectations of a bourgeois woman of her era.

These differences carried into their painting. Manet's art emphasized bold graphic power, ambitious scale, and frequent references to the old masters. His canvases conveyed assurance and grandeur, as he sought to challenge tradition while shaping modernity. Morisot's works, however, shimmered with light and fragile surface effects, evoking ephemerality and the fleeting nature of perception. Her paintings often seemed poised to dissolve before the viewer's eyes.

Their working habits diverged as well. Manet painted mostly in the studio, constructing seemingly spontaneous works through careful revision and reworking. Morisot, trained as a plein-air painter, captured landscapes and figures directly in shifting outdoor light, developing a decisiveness that defined her approach.

Together, they represent complementary poles of Impressionism: Manet, rooted in ambition and mastery; Morisot, attuned to fleeting impressions of atmosphere and light.

Presenter Christina Crosby, graduate of Art History at Poloma College and Docent at the Fine Arts Museums. Christina shares her love of art with museum visitors at both the de Young and Legion of Honor and gives lectures throughout the Bay Area. She also loves to travel, with museums always a featured part of the itinerary.

## **Bocce Club**



■Mary Piumarta

The Bocce Club days and hours have changed to Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 1 p.m. All other times are open to OVA members and guests. Court reservations must be made by contacting Bob Swift at (707) 548-5409.

For players who wish to learn the game, come to the courts on the first Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. and join in the fun. For more information, contact Pat Paulson at (707) 953-6691.

The Bocce Club's Holiday Party will be held at the East Rec Center on December 13 at 5 p.m. Dinner will be catered and served by The Bird. Dinner includes a choice of Salmon or Rib Eye. Entertainment will be provided by The O'Hara Brothers Band. Price is \$50 for Bocce Club members and \$65 for non-members.

Announcement and reservation forms have been e-mailed to members. Also, forms are available in the Bocce Club folder at the OVA office. They must be returned in an envelope to the OVA office Bocce folder by November 28 along with a check made out to Tony Sarram, club treasurer.

Dues for 2026 are \$25 and checks can be submitted with your dinner reservation form. For members who have just recently joined after September 1, your membership dues will carry over to next year.

## Canine Club |



■Steve Huntley

#### GIVING THANKS TO ALL THE DOGS, **BIG AND SMALL**

We are now just a few days away from Thanksgiving Day! All dogs deserve special treats on this day. According to the American Kennel Club, safe foods for dogs on Thanksgiving Day include unseasoned sweet potatoes, apple without core/seeds, turkey meat without bones/skin, green beans, peas, and pumpkin. Please be careful: many human foods that we think might be safe for dogs can actually be toxic, including chocolate, raisons, grapes, onions, and garlic (www.akc.org/expert-advice/nutrition/ thanksgiving-foods-for-dogs).

Another reminder that the next special doggie play date at the Happy Tails Dog Park is the Big Dog Play Date on Saturday, November 29, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. This special play time is for dogs 35 lbs. or more.

For 2025 Canine Club members there is still time to renew your membership for 2026 at a discounted rate. For current members, early renewals of your 2026 annual dues are discounted to \$10 for individuals and \$16 for households if you renew your membership before December 15.

Are you an Oakmont resident





who wishes they had a dog to walk, play, and cuddle with? There are many rescue organizations with adoptable dogs throughout Sonoma and Napa counties. Canine Club VP Peri Olinger publishes an extensive weekly newsletter for Canine Club members that highlights many of these rescue organizations.

The good news is, you don't have to have a dog to be a Canine Club member, yet, by being a club member you get Peri's weekly newsletter containing all the information you need to find the right dog for you! Just go to http://www.oakmontcanineclub.org for more information on how to join the club.

And finally, coming up next month is the Dogwood Animal Rescue Project Holiday Adoption Event which will take place on Saturday, December 13 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on the Berger Lawn. This event is sponsored by the Oakmont Canine Club.



