

OAKMONT NEWS

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Berger Facility Assessment and Planning

■Christel Antone, OVA General Manager



The initial assessment of the Berger Facility, conducted by Energy Systems Group (ESG) to better understand current conditions and identify potential improvement opportunities, has concluded. This phase focused on evaluation and planning only, and did not involve construction or financial

commitments.

The assessment includes a feasibility review, analysis of historical utility data and on-site walkthroughs. Work is now underway to refine findings and prepare the information and analysis put together by ESG to handoff to OVA. We're expected to see that the first week of February.

Looking ahead, the Association has a roadmap through March, which will conclude with a development review outlining a proposed scope of work and pricing for Board consideration. Any further steps will involve engineering, permit approvals, and coordination with Berger Facility user groups to establish an appropriate timeline, which will be dependent on the scope of work moving forward.

Additional information, including next steps and a timeline, will be posted later this week on the OVA website under the front-page banner "Berger Facility Assessment and Planning."

Board Candidates for 2026 Directors Election

■News Staff

Nine candidates have qualified for the 2026 OVA Board of Directors Election. They are: Josh Axelrod, Greg Darcy, Betsy Herbert, Heidi Klyn, Thomas Mosby, Theresa (Terrie) Mui, Matt Oliver, Steve Spanier, and Merry Tantaros.

Candidates seeking seats on the board will participate in Candidates' Night on February 18, from 5-8 p.m., at the Berger Center and on Zoom. This event will begin with a one-minute introduction from each candidate, followed by a Q&A session and closing statements. Members will have an opportunity to submit questions in advance to help them better get to know the candidates.

Candidates will also host individual or group Meet and Greet opportunities in the weeks leading up to election day. Dates and details will be posted on the OVA website, oakmontvillage.com.

Ballots for the election will be mailed or emailed to

See **CANDIDATES** on page 3

Governing Documents Vote to Appear on Spring Ballot

■News Staff

The OVA Board has approved measures to put proposed changes to the governing documents on the spring ballot. The unanimous vote at the Jan. 20 meeting paves the way for Oakmont members to vote on a change in the bylaws that would set the quorum to 50% with a 55% approval threshold. The spring ballot will also seek voter approval allowing the board to bring governing documents into legal compliance.

The board has also discussed eliminating the quorum in director elections.

"We as a board remain committed to transparency, members engagement, and thoughtful governance, and we appreciate the community's continued participation in this process as we go forward," said Board President Matt Oliver.

The board plans to hold a Town Hall with OVA's attorney in attendance to answer questions from the community. A date and details will be announced soon on the OVA website, oakmontvillage.com.

The board also announced the 2026 slate of candidates for the Board of Directors. There are nine candidates vying for three open seats, including two incumbents and seven new candidates. Candidates seeking reelection are Heidi Klyn and Matt Oliver. New candidates include Josh Axelrod, Greg Darcy, Betsy Herbert, Thomas Mosby, Theresa (Terrie) Mui, Steve Spanier and Merry Tantaros.

A tenth candidate withdrew their name shortly before the board meeting.

A Candidates' Night is scheduled for February 18, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Berger Center and on Zoom.

This year, OVA approved electronic voting, allowing members who opted in to vote online. Ballots will be mailed or emailed to members on March 4, with votes due by April 5. The election will take place on April 6.

Director Jeff Neuman also some recent concerns in regard to the SESR planned development, the Burbank property formerly known as Elnoka that neighbors Oakmont.

"I want to encourage the community to recognize the work that has been done," Neuman said, noting the board's involvement over the past ten years, and the negotiated aspects of the project that include lower density of homes, an emergency vehicle access (EVA) at the builder's expense, bike trails and walking areas, and that no structures in the development will be more than two stories.

"We need to not throw sand in the gears of the agreements that have been reached so far," Neuman said. "We're in a good place on this."

On a Golf Course



Even on chilly mornings, the view at the golf course never disappoints. The Pro Shop is now transitioning to single check-in at Valley of the Moon for both Sugarloaf and VOM courses. See the Valley of the Moon club update on page 3.

Town Hall: Wildfire Expert on Important Home Retrofits

■Dave Watts, Firewise Resource Task Force

Fire scientist Dr. Stephen Quarles will share ways to prioritize how to lessen fire risk at a special town hall on Feb. 3 at 1 p.m. in the Berger and on Zoom. The event is hosted by the Firewise Resource Task Force. Quarles is a University of California Extension Advisor Emeritus and a recognized expert in how building materials and structure design fare in wildfires.

Quarles' presentation will highlight the most important retrofits that homeowners can do and how to prioritize them to lessen fire risks. He agrees that it is easy to be discouraged when facing fire risks. His approach is to give homeowners a shorter, tailored list of the most important retrofits to prioritize, and then work through other items down the line. They can sort of bite them off in manageable chunks.

He welcomes audience questions and concerns, so there will be ample time for Q&A.

Dr. Quarles brings over 33 years of experience with fire related issues. He has taught, lead primary research and helped to formulate building codes and standards dealing with wildfire. He was at the University of California for 26 years, worked for the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety for seven years and worked part time for the California Office of the State Fire Marshal, 2008-09, during the initial rollout of Chapter 7A of the California Building Code.

Officially retired, Dr. Quarles is the coordinator for his local Firewise Community in Marin and serves on the Board of Directors for Fire Safe Marin. He is a member of the American Society of Testing Materials, the National Fire Protection Association and has contributed to numerous fire related journals, committees and societies.

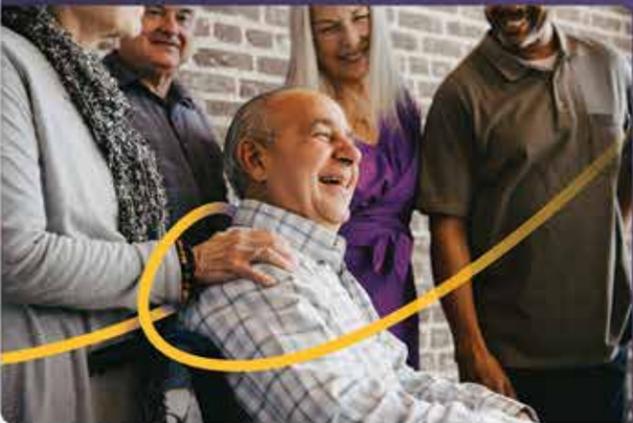


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Please Keep Dogs Leashed in Oakmont

■Oakmont Village Association

The OVA would like to offer a friendly reminder to dog owners about Oakmont's pet policies, which help keep our shared spaces safe and enjoyable for everyone.

Dogs must be on leash at all times when outdoors on Association property, per OVA policy, unless they are in a secured, fenced yard. All residents must comply with City and County laws and regulations with regard to control of pets.

Pet owners are also required to promptly clean up any fecal waste left by their pets, including in landscaped areas. Waste must be placed in a tightly sealed plastic bag before disposal.

Please remember that pet owners are responsible for any damage caused by their pets, including damage to grass, plants, carpet, stained stucco, and claw marks. Any needed repairs or replacements will be at the pet owner's expense.

Thank you for helping care for Oakmont and for being considerate neighbors.

CANDIDATES Continued from page 1

members on March 4. All ballots must be received by the Inspector of Elections no later than noon on March 24. Ballots must be mailed or submitted electronically and will not be accepted at the OVA office or on the day of the election.

Election results will be announced at the 2026 Organizational Meeting following ballot counting on April 6.

KEY DATES IN OVA BOARD ELECTION

- February 5: Candidates' signs allowed
- February 18: Candidates' Night
- March 4: Ballots sent to residents*
- April 5: Deadline for all ballots
- April 6: Election scheduled for 10 a.m.
- April 12: Candidates' signs to be removed

*Note: Ballots, electronic and mailed in, must be received by the Inspector of Elections no later than 5 p.m. on April 5.

AARP Tax-Aide Service

■Diane Ethier

FREE SERVICE FOR 2026 TAX PREP AND FILING

AARP Tax-Aide will be returning to the Berger Center Fireplace Room with free tax preparation service on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning February 2 through April 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. You do not need to be a member of AARP or a senior to use this free service.

New for this year—you may make an appointment online! Go to taxaide.info/soco and follow the prompts to select the Oakmont location. Alternatively, you can still make an appointment by texting or calling (707) 582-0565. Oakmont appointments will open up on Thursday, January 22—the same day packets will be distributed in front of the Berger Center from 10 a.m. to noon. You can also make an appointment in-person at that time.

If you miss the packet distribution, you can still pick up a tax packet during normal tax preparation hours in the Berger Center. Everyone needs to pick up a packet and complete the Intake Booklet prior to your tax appointment.

AARP Tax-Aide is a 100% free service funded by the AARP Foundation. The tax counselors and client facilitators are all trained volunteers and past annual skills tests.

Many people wonder if we can do their taxes and the answer is likely yes. We are trained on both standard and itemized deductions, brokerage accounts, stock gains or losses, sale of a house and many other scenarios. Please note we cannot do your taxes if you have rental income, are a part-time California resident, or want to take electric vehicle tax credits.

For more information visit taxaide.info/soco or call (707) 582-0565 with any questions.

Table Tennis



■Herbert Ristock

BOARD GAME NIGHT

Save the date! Our second OTTC Board Game Night is scheduled for Saturday, February 21. Full event details will be posted on our website: <https://sites.google.com/view/oaktclub>.

You're also welcome to join us for table tennis at the East Recreation Center (upper level) during the following times:

- Tuesday: 3–5 p.m.
- Thursday: 2:30–5 p.m.
- Friday: 3–7 p.m.
- Sunday: 3–5:30 p.m.

Please visit our website for the latest schedule updates and membership information.

If you enjoy top-level table tennis, you may like watching the men's singles final at Europe Smash 2025 between world #1 Lin Shidong (China) and Truls Møregårdh (Sweden). In addition to the thrilling rallies, watch for exceptional speed, creative serving styles, and even a rare return played around the side of the net:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZALmA5MaqoE>

Compassionate Care by Chloe

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

VALLEY OF THE MOON CLUB UPDATE

What's Changing: We will transition to a single Pro Shop check-in location for both Valley of the Moon and Sugarloaf golfers on a full-time basis. This is a structure we have used in the past and, based on experience, it provides a better overall facility flow.

Benefits of the Centralized Check-In: This approach will offer all golfers a more consistent and improved experience, including:

- Direct access to OAK Restaurant before and after the round.
- A full-service Pro Shop at check-in.
- Convenient access to the driving range for warm-up.
- Management staff available at a central location.
- The ability to offer both courses to walk-up golfers.

Sugarloaf Adjustment: As part of this change, the hole order at Sugarloaf Golf Course will be adjusted so that the current hole #4 becomes the new hole #1, as it is most easily accessible from the Pro Shop. With both the General Manager and Head Professional offices located adjacent to the Pro Shop, this structure allows for increased on-site service and support for staff, members, and guests.

Over the coming weeks, Sugarloaf scorecards and tee signs will be updated to reflect these changes.

DJ DANCE PARTY

January 29, 5–7 p.m.: \$8 cash cover charge at the door. For reservations, call (707) 539-0415 ext. 2

FEBRUARY ALL-DAY SPECIALS

Thursday, February 5: Meat Loaf—Yukon mashed potatoes, corn niblets, brown gravy, \$22.

Thursday, February 12: Seared Salmon—Saffron rice pilaf, Blue Lake green beans, shredded carrots, caper butter herb sauce, \$24.

Thursday, February 19: Orange Chicken—Steamed rice, steamed broccoli, \$21.

Thursday, February 26: Super Nachos—Shredded chicken, black beans, pico de gallo, black olives, jalapeño, lime sour cream, guacamole, nacho cheese, cilantro, \$21.

LIVE MUSIC AT OAK

Make it a music night at OAK. Doors open 4 p.m., Music from 5–7 p.m., \$10 cash cover charge at the door.

- February 2: Fargo Brothers
- February 9: Coffey Park Band
- February 23: Hwy 12 Band

To reserve, contact Marisa at (707) 539-0415 ext. 2.

RESTAURANT WEEK AT THE OAK FEBRUARY 23–MARCH 1

Join us for Restaurant Week and enjoy our featured two-course lunch special. \$25 plus tax.

Entrée choice: French Dip or Poke Salad

Dessert choice: Cheesecake with fresh berries and raspberry sauce or Flourless chocolate cake

NATIONAL PIZZA DAY—FEBRUARY 9

Enjoy six complimentary wings with the purchase of any pizza. 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

VALENTINE'S DAY

FOUR-COURSE PAIRING AT THE OAK

Reservations available from 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

For full menu details and reservations, contact Marisa at (707) 539-0415 ext. 2.





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Oakmont Garden Club



■Patty McHugh

**GARDENING INTO THE FUTURE:
CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN YOUR YARD**
WHEN: Wednesday, February 11, 9:30 Social, 10–11 a.m. Presentation, Q&A follows
WHERE: East Rec., 7902 Oakmont Drive
SPEAKER: Leah Halper, Sonoma County Master Gardener

Leah Halper is a Sonoma County Master Gardener and Garden Sense Consultant who helps residents transition their yards to use less water and support more beneficial plants and animals. She is a UCANR-trained Climate Steward.

She will share positive, impactful actions we can take in our own yards and community to adapt to climate change. She offers concrete, achievable, science-based means to use in our gardens for carbon sequestration, food security, plant and animal habitat and increased resilience to extreme weather and other climate change events.

University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) Mission: We cultivate thriving communities, sustainable agriculture, resilient ecosystems, and economic prosperity in California. We do this by developing and sharing science-based solutions that are collaborative, equitable, and have both national and global impact.

Our planet is changing. We at the Oakmont Garden Club believe we can all contribute, however small, to a more sustainable world. We are always happy to bring you programs that help us in that endeavor. Enjoy!

Oakmont Movers and Groovers



■Denise Lindsey

JOIN OMG FOR BINGO

DATE: Saturday, February 7

TIME: Doors open at 4:30 p.m., and Bingo will begin from 5–6:30 p.m.

LOCATION: East Rec Center

TICKETS: Admission will be free. Each OMG member may bring one non-member as a guest. You can buy Bingo cards for \$2 each that evening. Oakmont residents who are not members of the OMG Club are welcome. Non-members who are not guests of a club member will pay \$3 per Bingo card. **TABLE RESERVATIONS:** If you plan to enjoy the event with a group, reserve a table for 8. Please email omclub2025@gmail.com and provide the names of those at your table.

Membership is open to all Oakmont residents. Dues are \$10 per person, per year, payable on our website at omgclub.org, or you may leave payment in the OMG folder in the OVA office, by cash or a check payable to OMG. Membership sign-up forms will also be available at the event. You can join at the door. We appreciate your support, whether you are renewing your membership or signing up for the first time.

We want to thank everyone for being a part of our community. Your enthusiasm and support make all the difference. We cannot wait to see you at our other events listed below for a night full of fun and friendship! Questions: Email me at omgclub2025@gmail.com or call (530) 444-0734.

March 14: Anthony Paule Soul Orchestra

April 11: Rhythm Drivers

May 16: Vodka Tasting with Comedian Jason Love

June 5: Pride and Joy SF

July 25: Christmas in July with Eddie & the FOGG

August 6: Club Night with DJ

Sept. 5: Spike Sykes & the Awesome Hotcakes

October 3: The SoulShake

November 14: Hey Jude

December 17: Member Party

Jazz Club Concerts



■Dolora Hurst

VALENTINE'S DAY CONCERT

We are excited about the fact that the former pianist of the world-famous Steinway Piano Company, Jim Martinez, will be our pianist for the Valentine's Day program on Saturday, February 14. The entire group is an absolutely wonderful group of extremely talented musicians! Jim Martinez was also a director and a 13-time CD publisher. He has worked with many of the top musicians in the country and world.

The drummer will again be Sylvia Cuenca. Sylvia is another internationally famous musician. She has worked not only in jazz clubs all over Europe, but also in Africa and the Orient. She has played in the Kennedy Center and Lincoln Hall in New York, as well as most of the jazz clubs in New York. She truly understands the voice of the drum in jazz music!



Sylvia Cuenca.

On the saxophone, we have someone who has been heard by probably everyone in the audience without them knowing it. Michael O'Neill is noted for being a superb arranger of music! He has played for both the National Geographic and the Discovery Channels, as well as at the Monterey Jazz Festival.



Michael O'Neill.

We also have a wonderful surprise for those of you with ties to the old jazz scene in the Bay Area. Bass player Chris Amburger is one of the most famous musicians who were giants in that era in Marin. They were some of the most famous jazz musicians of all time! He knew them all, and when in San Francisco, he played with them all. Come and say "Hello" if you were one of these.

The show will be at 7 p.m. on February 14. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tables of eight may be reserved. Drinks and snacks are permitted. For information, call (707) 537-7720. The last show was a sell-out, so order tickets as soon as possible.

Tickets are \$45. Order them in the OVA Office. Make checks payable to the Oakmont Jazz Club and leave them in the office file.

Playreaders



■D. Hall

WHAT IS ART? IT'S DEBATABLE

Marc, Serge, and Yvan are friends. They are three middle-aged men of comfortable means who have stayed friends with each other for 15 years. Since men of their age often lack opportunities to meet new people and sustain new friendships, their courtesy towards and their tolerance for one another's quirks and affinities have been worn raw. The subject is a painting that one of them has bought. Problem is, it's a white canvas.

Sandy White produces and narrates this reading scheduled for February 2 and 9. It features Steven Levin, John Dolan, and Mark Parsons.

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!

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

Sleep Apnea

■Bob Flandermeyer

JOIN OUR NEXT SLEEP APNEA SUPPORT MEETING

The Sleep Apnea club meets again on February 3. We meet on the first Tuesday of even-numbered months at 1 p.m. in Berger Room G.

Our upcoming meeting will feature guest speaker Dr. Greg Ackroyd of Providence Sleep Medicine. Dr. Ackroyd is known for his thoughtful, in-depth answers. When you ask him a question about sleep, you can expect a layered, insightful response that often sheds light on aspects you may not have considered, and that makes practical sense.

In addition to learning from Dr. Ackroyd, participants benefit from shared discussion. There is ample time to ask follow-up questions and learn from one another's experiences.

This is a meaningful opportunity to improve your health. A landmark study presented at the European Respiratory Society International Congress in 2021 found that using PAP (positive airway pressure) therapy as directed can significantly increase the chances of longer life for people with sleep apnea.

Please feel free to bring your equipment, including masks and machines, especially if it helps illustrate your situation. Guests are welcome, so spread the word and bring a friend.

For questions or more information, please contact me at (707) 694-8018 or rrflandy@yahoo.com.

Oakmont Pétanque Club

■Don McPherson

RISE OF ASIAN AND AFRICAN NATIONAL TEAMS

The most remarkable development in recent years' international Pétanque competitions is the continuing rise of Asian and African national teams, primarily from countries formerly in the French colonial empire, over traditional European powerhouses like France, Italy, and Spain.

The 2025 international competitive season kicked off in July with a veritable earthquake in the Mondial de Marseillaise de Pétanque in Marseille, France when Madagascar became the first non-French team to win the tournament, defeating the 2024 championship team from France. In August at the 2025 World Games in Chengdu, China a player from Benin won the precision shooting championship and teams from Tunisia won gold in both the women's and mixed doubles.

At the Pétanque World Championships in Rome, Italy in September, Italian Diego Rizzi won the men's singles, but teams from Thailand took gold in women's singles, men's doubles, and women's doubles. In October, Vietnam won the World Women's Triples Tournament championship and Thailand took gold in women's precision shooting in Sin-le-Noble, France.

In addition to consistent international high performance by teams from Thailand, where pétanque is virtually the national, government-supported sport, teams from Tunisia, Benin, Morocco, Burkina Faso, and Cambodia have won silver and bronze medals and have continued strong showings in international rankings throughout the 2020s.

PÉTANQUE IN OAKMONT

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, SATURDAY

Pétanque (pay-tonk), also known as Boules, 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.

ECK Spiritual Adventures Club

■Kimberly Morris

DO PETS GO TO HEAVEN? ANIMALS ARE SOUL, TOO!

You are cordially invited to our next club event on Friday, Feb. 6 in the Birch Room, Central Activity Center, from 3–4:30 p.m. where we will explore “Animals are Soul too!”

Has your beloved pet or special animal friend taught you more about Divine Love than you expected? We would love to hear your stories about the special relationship you share with your pet or animal friend. Please bring a favorite photo of them to share with us.

Harold Klemp, ECK Master writes in the introduction to his book, *Animals are Soul, too!* “If you have a pet, you are aware of the bond of love between yourself and your pet. This bond of love exists because you are Soul—a particle of God sent here to gain spiritual experience. Ultimately, to learn how to give and to receive divine love. What most people don’t realize is their pet is also Soul. Animals are Souls too.”

Within Eckankar, we explore one’s true, higher self as Soul, an eternal being created by God to gain spiritual freedom in this lifetime. Through spiritual exercises, we hope to discover deeper understandings about how to develop more Love, Wisdom, and Spiritual Freedom in life. One simple practice we offer in our club is the HU song. An ancient name for God that can open our hearts to more of God’s love in its various expressions, such as the love for, and with our animal friends.

People from all perspectives are warmly welcome to the ECK Spiritual Adventures Club. Please bring a friend or family member to help, if needed.

Interested? Please contact me at (707) 312-6369, email at ECKClubOakmont@outlook.com, or visit Calif. Website: <https://eck-ca.org> to learn more.

Bunco Ladies Night

■Barbara Wooley

TRY SOMETHING NEW FOR THE NEW YEAR!

Looking for a fun, low stress activity for the new year? Come on over and try Bunco—the fun, easy, no-skill-required dice game. Not only is Bunco loads of fun, players have the opportunity to win cash prizes! In what other game can a player literally win for losing?



Photo by Barbara Wooley.

Beginners are always welcome. Within a few rolls of the dice, you will be an expert Bunco player. Come on over and give it a shot. 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. Games run from 7–9 p.m.

WHERE: Card Room, Central Activity Center

WHEN: Second and fourth Monday of each month (check Oakmont Events Calendar)

DATES: Jan. 27, Feb. 10 and 24

TIME: 6:45 p.m. (play is about 1-1/2 to 2 hrs.)

FEE: \$5/night is required for each participant.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Jill Butler, (760) 468-1743 or Email jillivannili@sbcglobal.net

Wii Bowling Oakmont Lanes



■Terry Leuthner

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

Anyone interested in joining our club, either as a team bowler or substitute, please call me at (707) 291-3023 or stop by the East Recreation Center on Tuesdays from 2–3:30 p.m. (no bowling fourth Tuesdays) to see us in action. We charge \$25 for a 10-week Tournament that includes the play-offs. 2 p.m. League: 8 teams, 4 bowlers per team. Each bowler bowls 3 games and has his/her own handicap (80%) and average.

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

No bowling Jan. 27 (fourth Tuesday).

Bowling dates for February: Feb. 3, 10, 17. No bowling Feb. 24 (fourth Tuesday).

RESULTS AS OF JAN.13 (WEEK # 2 WINTER LEAGUE)

Results are: first place, 4 Tops; second place, Pocket Hits; third place tie, Alley Oops, King Pins and On Strike; sixth place tie, Strikers and High Rollers; eighth place, Wii Four.

Men’s High Games: Don Shelhart, 268; Glenn Hewitt, 222; Scott Harris, 211; Charlie Ensley, 209.

Women’s High Games: Peggy Ensley, 267; Joanne Abrams, 255; Joanne Bender, 246; Laurel Earles, 239; Donnarose, 236; Rhonda D’Agostini, 235; Sandy Osheroff, 235; Pat Scott, 234; Shirley Jamison, 217; Karen Palmiotti, 209; Jeanne Harden, 204; Thea Holladay, 204; Valerie Hulsey, 203.

If you’re thinking of joining us, most of us have all bowled on a bowling league some time in our lives and here’s your chance to do it again without the weight of a heavy bowling ball. Come see us in action and join in on the fun.

Happy New Year to everyone!

Cal Alumni Club of Oakmont



■Marilyn Noah

FEBRUARY DINNER AT WILD OAK SADDLE CLUB

The Cal Alumni Club of Oakmont’s next dinner is on Thursday, February 19 at 5 p.m. at the Wild Oak Saddle Club. Cost is \$62 per person.

The February speaker is Heather McLintock, from the Chapter of the Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury, speaking about The Civil Grand Jury—what it is and what they do. She served on the Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury from 2021–2022 before moving to her current position

Dinners often sell out so if interested in attending, don’t delay! Club members may register and pay for dinner on the club website, <http://www.caloakmont.org>. Guests are welcome at our dinners; contact oakmontcalalums@gmail.com for details on registering as a non-member guest.

The Cal Alumni Club fundraises to support scholarships for UC Berkeley students including scholarships for Santa Rosa Junior College students transferring to Cal. We meet for dinner at the Wild Oak Saddle Club every month except June, November and December. Our annual fundraiser is a popular wine tasting in June, and we coordinate a Big Game party every year with Stanford alums. Cal graduates and friends of Cal are welcome to join the Alumni Club.

E-Waste Collection



■OVA Staff

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JANUARY 24 AND 25, 9 AM–5 PM



E-Waste Collection will be two-day event, sponsored by Conservation Corps North Bay. They will be parked in the Berger parking lot, 310 White Oak Drive, parallel to the street. There is no appointment needed for this event.

Accepted e-waste items are computer equipment (computers, monitors, laptops, keyboards, printers, mice, hard drives), consumer electronics (DVD players, VCRs, gaming devices, stereo components, radios, PDAs, cell phones, cables), televisions (CRTs and LCDs), and office equipment (telephones, fax machines, copiers). The only kitchen appliances accepted are microwaves.

Valley of the Moon Rotary Club



■John Brodey

THE NOT SO GOOD NEWS

Okay, that’s not an inviting title but in this case, we’re talking about plastics vs. nature. At a recent meeting a fellow Rotarian, Barbara McChesney, spoke on the topic of plastic pollution. She is a co-chair for End Plastic Soup.

This is an international Rotary project. Why soup? That’s what happens when 400 million tons of plastic are dumped into our oceans every year. 80% of the plastic in our seas came from land-based activities. This is a frightening number when you consider it doesn’t degrade. It breaks down into micro and nano particles that find their way into sea life to the tune of 65% of all marine mammals.

When you consider the fact that three billion plastic line coffee cups are tossed out every day, it’s not surprising that the average person consumes a credit card-sized piece of plastic every week. Once in our bodies it impacts our health progressively leading to cancer, brain function, etc.

The mission of the EPS organization is to address how to decrease our reliance on plastic, e.g. many grocery stores are phasing out plastic bags. The other focus is on research to find ways to deal with microplastics already here. Please refer to their site for more information; endplasticsoup.org.

On another note, our Crab Feed is a month away (Feb. 28). It is shaping up nicely and there are still some tickets for sale. The crabbing season has begun and we will have the best of the best. Let’s not forget this is a charity event supporting many local nonprofits like the Redwood Empire Food Bank. Keep in mind that any extra crab will be available for sale after dinner and that no bags or containers will be allowed inside. See you there!

New to Oakmont?

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

Contact us at welcome@oakmontvillage.com. The Welcome Packet is available at oakmontvillage.com/article/new-resident-welcome-packet.

Travel and Adventure Club

■September Holstad

AMA WATERWAYS RIVER CRUISES PRESENTATION

The Travel and Adventure Club kicks off 2026 with a presentation designed to inspire your next great getaway. On Wednesday, January 28, the club will welcome Ama Waterways for an engaging look at river cruising destinations around the world.

The presentation will take place in the upper level of the West Recreation Center from 3–5 p.m., and will explore how river cruising offers an intimate, immersive way to experience some of the world's most beautiful and culturally rich regions.

Guests will learn how different itineraries appeal to different travel styles. For those new to river cruising, classic routes along the Danube and Rhine offer storybook scenery, historic towns, vineyards, castles, and iconic cities like Vienna, Budapest, Amsterdam, and Basel.

Wine and food lovers will enjoy hearing about cruises along the Bordeaux and Douro Rivers, where vineyard visits, tastings, and regional cuisine are a central part of the experience. History and culture enthusiasts may be drawn to itineraries on the Seine River in France or the Main and Moselle Rivers in Germany, which feature medieval towns, art, and centuries of European history.

For travelers looking beyond Europe, the presentation will also highlight more adventurous destinations, including the Mekong River in Vietnam and Cambodia, the Chobe River in Africa, and the Magdalena River in Colombia, each offering a distinctive blend of culture, history, and striking landscapes.

The talk will also cover practical details, including cruise lengths ranging from 7 to 14 nights, along with themed sailings such as Holiday Cruises featuring European Christmas markets, Celebration of Wine cruises, sailings with Smithsonian Journeys experts, and specialty cruises for beer lovers.

Whether you're actively planning your next trip or simply enjoy learning about destinations around the globe, this presentation offers a chance to explore what modern river cruising has to offer. Plan to join the Travel and Adventure Club on Wednesday, January 28, and start the year with a little travel inspiration.

Ikebana

■Kathy Carter

LEARNING THE ART OF IKEBANA— JAPANESE FLOWER ARRANGING

The art of Japanese flower arranging, Ikebana, is centuries old. Over these centuries, many schools with their own unique styles have emerged.

Classes in Ikebana are currently offered at the Central Center art room on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Upcoming classes are January 28, February 25, and March 25. Emphasis is on utilizing plant materials that each student has readily available to them. The goal is to learn Ikebana in a relaxed and friendly environment.

The class is taught by Ron Kodo Brown, a certified teacher of the Sogetsu (Grass Moon) school of Ikebana. Ron has been a student and teacher of Sogetsu Ikebana for over 40 years. He holds the second highest rank in the school, KOMON. He has exhibited for many organizations in the Bay Area and in various states in the U.S., as well as several foreign countries.

The fee for the class is \$25 per session. The classes are ongoing with seasonal themes. You do not need to attend each class, and you only pay for the ones you attend.

Hope to see you there!

Those interested in attending these classes should contact Ron directly via email at kodobrown@gmail.com.

Oakmont Cloggers

■Giselle Mottiez

NEW CLASS: INTRO TO CLOGGING

WHERE: Lower West Rec. Center

WHEN: Tuesdays at 3 p.m., starting January 27

COST: \$8 per class

What to wear: Please dress comfortably and wear hard-soled shoes if you have them. Tap shoes are fine but not required.

Info: Clogging is a lively American Folk Dance that is great exercise and tons of fun! Come join us for this beginning class where you'll learn the fundamental movements of clogging by integrating them into steps and dances. You'll be dancing in no time!

Instructor: Contact Michele Hill at RedwoodCloggers@gmail.com. Michele brings 40 years of dance experience and a great enthusiasm for clogging. She

leads a local clogging dance club (Redwood Country Cloggers), is a nationally known instructor, president of the Northern California Cloggers Association and hosts an annual clogging workshop in Santa Rosa that draws dancers from all over the western United States.



Photo by Michele Hill.



Hikers

■Colleen Keegan

We welcome you to join us on a hike whether you are a member yet or not. 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, keep checking our website for updates.

JANUARY 29: LONG HIKE SUGARLOAF—BRUSHY PEAKS TO BALD MOUNTAIN

Starting from the Ferguson Observatory, we climb the Meadow Trail to the Heritage Tree. Then we follow the rolling ridge of Brushy Peaks trail and taste the views of the hillside vineyards. At the top of Bald Mountain, we'll have 360-degree views of the Valley of the Moon. Returning via Headwaters, Vista, and Meadow Trails. Nine miles with 2000 feet elevation gain.

Bring water, lunch or a snack, and a State Park Pass or \$8. Entry fee. Depart Berger at 8:30 a.m. Hike leader is John Ferreira, (650) 766-0497.

JANUARY 31: ANNUAL MEMBER POTLUCK BERGER CENTER AT 5 PM

Bring an appetizer, a main dish, salad, or side dish. Sign up/RSVP on the hiking club website. Please bring a reusable plate and utensils. The club will provide dessert and coffee. No charge for members, \$10 for guests. Socialize with other members and enjoy a speaker presentation.

FEBRUARY 5: SHORT HIKE ST. ROSE/RAILROAD SQUARE HISTORY WALK

We stroll through the historic St. Rose neighborhood and also Railroad Square, an area that was settled by Italians in the early years. About 3.5 flat miles on some rough sidewalks. Bring water, snack and good walking shoes; poles optional; optional bakery stop.

Rain cancels. Depart Berger 9:30 a.m. sharp (note later starting time). Hike leader is Donna McCulloch, (707) 539-5730, dmcculloch2986@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY 5: LONG HIKE BIG ROCK RIDGE

Take the Big Rock Trail to explore sections of the Lucas Valley Open Space Preserve. We will experience stellar views of Marin's Mountains while meandering through a mixed range of elevation and biomes. Approximately 7.5 miles with 1350 feet elevation gain.

Bring water, lunch and hiking poles as desired.

Depart Berger at 8 a.m. (note early start). Hike leader is Peggy Clark, (650) 274-4137.

FEBRUARY 12: INTERMEDIATE HIKE SUGARLOAF WATERFALL AND HILLSIDE LOOP

We will descend the Canyon trail into a lovely Redwood grove, then ascend Pony Gate to Stern, Lower Bald Mountain, Meadow and Hillside trails, proceed up Hillside to lunch at a lovely viewpoint overlooking the park, and return to cars via Creekside Nature trail. About 5.3 miles, 900 ft. elevation gain.



Big Rock Ridge.

Dress for weather, bring water, lunch, poles if needed. Leave Berger 9 a.m. Hike leader is Florentia Scott, (707) 591-1929, hikingscott@yahoo.com.

FEBRUARY 12: LONG HIKE CATARACT FALLS

Incredible waterfalls one after the other. An outstanding experience not to be missed. Hike includes many steps. Eight miles and 2000 feet elevation gain.

Bring poles, lunch, water, dress in layers. Depart Berger at 8 a.m. (note early start). Hike leader is Martin Johns, (330) 815-5167.



Sugarloaf Waterfall.

APRIL 27–30: SAVE THE DATE SPRING TRI-NIGHTER AT ASILOMAR IN PACIFIC GROVE



Soroptimist International Oakmont Wine Country

■Denise Bickert

AFTERNOON TEA

Are you looking to escape the winter doldrums? Get out of the weather, and join Soroptimist International of Oakmont Wine Country for our third annual Afternoon Tea.



The Tea will be held Saturday, March 7 at 1 p.m. Enjoy a delectable menu of traditional tea sandwiches, scones, and wonderful desserts while sipping tea or raising a glass of champagne. There will be great raffle prizes and for added fun, a hat contest.

The Tea is our primary fundraiser and the proceeds go to our scholarship program. This month we awarded two scholarships to deserving women in the community. With your support we have been able to provide these grants every year since our club was chartered in 2020. Helping women attain economic empowerment through education and training is a core value of the International Soroptimist organization.

Tickets are \$50 per person. If you would like more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Betz Tyler at betz@betz-tyler.com or (707) 321-8783.



Slot Car Club

■Ray Wells

CHRISTMAS SLOT-CAR RACING REPORT

Sugarloaf hosted the OSCC for three days of slot-car racing over Christmas 2025. Two tracks were operational, one with four single lanes, while the longer two-lane track had several lane changers and a pits area used for refueling, plus crazy bumps along the back straightaway. Cars were going every which way as the marshals darted in and out at the crash zones. You could tell children were having fun by the level of screaming as they struggled with the first problem in slot-car racing: "why is my car upside-down?"

An hourly cycle of practice then 40-lap races worked well, with Sam setting a fastest lap time of 7.02 on day one. Dean and Caroline traded fastest laps and race wins on day two. On day three the cars were modified to reduce grip and make things slower by taking out the second magnets. Driving required more concentration as cars drifted on curves and struggled to accelerate out of the corners.

Day three's highlight was a new youngest driver record of 3.5 years who used a finger-blocking driving style to avoid crashes.



Almost perfect body repair. (Photo by Ray Wells)

Many people asked when the club usually meets so we are planning a more permanent track installation and a regular race schedule, maybe monthly. As always, a big thank-you to the helpers behind the scenes that make this happen.



■Greg Fauss



YEAR IN REVIEW

What happens in a year at church? Quite a bit, actually!

If you're interested in getting a quick overview of what our church has done and experienced in 2025, join this Sunday for our Annual Meeting. We'll have a potluck and remember the past year through photos and some stories. We'll also discuss our finances, our new budget and our plans for 2026.

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



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Oakmont Squares



■Barbara Wooley

SQUARE DANCING 101

What is Square Dancing? Square dancing is a casual social dance consisting of four couples arranged in a square who follow a series of specific steps (calls) announced by a "Caller."



Photo by Barbara Wooley,

What are "Calls?" Calls are named dance moves that are recognized world-wide. Some common calls would be "Do Si Do," "Promenade," "Sashay," and "Grand Square." Some calls are part of a globally recognized lists called "SSD" and "Mainstream" while other, more complicated calls are referred to as "Plus" or "Advanced."

What is a "Caller?" A caller is a person who announces (calls out) dance moves either improvised or in a predetermined sequence. The caller may speak and/or sing their calls. Of course, the calls go hand in hand with the music selected by the caller. Music chosen could include old fashioned reels, classic country, holiday and contemporary songs, and popular show tunes.

Squared dancing is a fun way to keep your mind and body active, and to meet new people. Oakmont Squares Club caller, Lawrence Johnstone, uses a "red light-green light" system, alternating dances for beginners with dance tips for the more experienced dancers so that everyone gets to dance at a comfortable yet challenging level.

Experienced dancers who may be thinking about joining the group are welcome to come dance at Mainstream Level. No partner is necessary since it is customary to switch partners often to get more dancers on the floor.

Stay tuned for information on the next beginner classes.

The Oakmont Squares meet Tuesday evenings from 7-9 p.m. at the East Rec. Center. Come dance in a square and make a circle of friends. For information call Jenny at (707) 367-2102.



Grandparents' Club

■Leslie Brockman



Photos by Maureen McGettigan and Julie Kiil.

FUN FOR YOUR GRANDCHILDREN AND YOU!

It's the time of year again when Oakmont Grandparents Club begins planning for its fun activities this year. Won't you join us?

The first planning meeting of 2026 is this next Tuesday, January 27, 4-5 p.m. at the East Rec. Center, when we'll talk about the upcoming Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday, April 4, from 1-2:30 p.m. It's an afternoon for toddlers through teens, filled with toy-and-candy-stuffed plastic eggs, bounce houses, face painting, balloons, and prizes.

It's also that time of year when you will want to

renew your membership in Grandparents' Club. Go to our website: <http://www.oakmontgrandparentsclub.org> to renew for the low cost of \$20 per family per year. Not yet a member? You can begin membership on the same site. Another option is to fill out the membership form in our folder at the OVA office, attaching a check or cash.

Mark your calendars for the ever-popular Grandparents' Week: July 26-31. More details about those many classes and events to be announced soon.

Grandparents' Club meets regularly from January through August, the fourth Tuesday of the month, 4 p.m. at East Rec.

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Oakmont Art Association

■Linda O'Connor

ART AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The American Revolution still retains a romantic and chivalrous feeling compared to the later horrors of the Civil War. With 175 high resolution images of the great artworks, pamphlets and other artifacts of this period, this program will address the conflict between England, the mother country, and the American colonies. With the help of France this would lead to America's independence on July 4th, 1776.



Landing of the Pilgrims by Corne, 1805.

All of us who live here will reflect on or learn about this extraordinary period and its leading characters, from George Washington, George III King of England, Paul Revere and many others now lost in our memory. Art from its contemporaries with a thin layer of history will tell this wonderful tale.

Presenter, Christian Quintin was born on the northern coast of Brittany in France. He studied at the Beaux Arts Academy in Paris. He is an accomplished artist in pen and ink drawings, oils and pastels, which have been exhibited in many galleries and group shows in several countries. In addition, Christian has been the recipient of numerous public commissions. His website showcases his art. He has been art lecturer for Oakmont Lifelong Learning courses.

WHEN: Friday, February 13, refreshments at 10, program at 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Berger Center

Lifelong Learning



■Marlena Tremont

TWO NEW CLASSES START SOON!



PLAYFUL POETRY

WEDNESDAYS, FEB. 4, 11 AND 18, 3-5 PM, BERGER

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

GENETICS FOR NON-SCIENTISTS

MONDAYS, FEB. 9 AND 16, 3-5 PM, BERGER

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

BRUCE KAPLAN AND CLAUDIA RUSSELL
THURSDAY, FEB. 12, 7 PM, BERGER

Tickets \$25, Theater Seating.

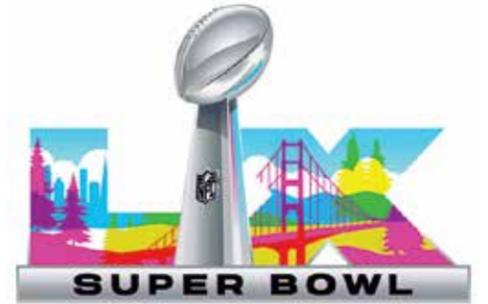
This melodic duo weaves together homespun humor, friendly storytelling, and folksy tunes. While Claudia is known for her emotionally stirring voice and timeless guitar, Bruce rounds out the performance with masterful mandolin picking and a quiet spark of authenticity.



Together, Kaplan and Russel tip their hats to string bands, blues divas, jazz cats, Village folkies, Bakersfield cowboys and Laurel Canyon troubadours. Please join us for a mid-winter blues chasing concert.

For more information or to register for classes or concerts, go to

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



Movies at Oakmont Super Bowl Watch Party at Berger

Football fans are invited to gather for a fun afternoon on Sunday, Feb. 8, at the annual Super Bowl Watch Party, hosted by Movies at Oakmont.

The celebration begins right after the Sunday movie, *The Amateur*, which will start early at 1 p.m. in time for kickoff at 3:30 p.m. Settle into theater-style seating and enjoy the big game on the big screen. This is a bring-your-own snacks and drinks event, so feel free to arrive with your favorite game-day treats, whether that's popcorn, chips and dip, or your favorite celebratory beverage.

Whether you're a die-hard football fan, someone who loves the commercials, or just looking for a lively way to spend a Sunday afternoon, this annual tradition is a welcoming way to cheer on your favorite team (or commercial) with friends and neighbors.

Movies At Oakmont



WHERE: Berger Center

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

HOSTS: Mike McInnis, Deborah Davidson, Jeff Neuman and Barbara Marquardt.

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

JANUARY 25: THE NAKED GUN

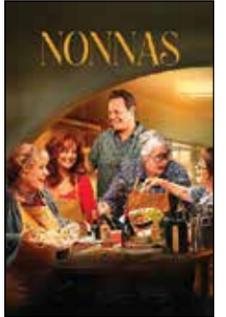
Following in his father's footsteps, a detective works to solve a murder case and save his police department from closure. 2024, PG, 1:37.



FEBRUARY 1: NONNAS

After losing his beloved mother, a man risks everything to honor her by opening an Italian restaurant with actual grandmothers as the chefs. 2025, PG, 1:51.

Note: February 8 will have an earlier movie showing at 1 p.m., followed by the Super Bowl Watch Party, with kickoff at 3:30 p.m.



FEBRUARY 8: THE AMATEUR

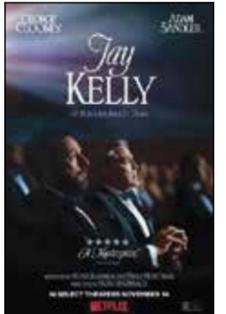
When his supervisors at the CIA refuse to take action after his wife is killed in a London terrorist attack, a decoder takes matters into his own hands. 2025, R, 1:52.

Note: Early start, 1 p.m.



FEBRUARY 15: JAY KELLY

Famous movie actor Jay Kelly embarks on a journey of self-discovery, confronting his past and present with his devoted manager Ron. Poignant and humor-filled, pitched at the intersection of regrets and glories. 2025, R, 2:12.



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■Carolita Carr

2026 CALENDAR

- 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.

Asian Pacific Heritage and Culture Club

■Gary Andersen



**LEAP OF FAITH DOCUMENTARY
HOW THE SEBASTOPOL ENMANJI
TEMPLE WAS SAVED**

WHEN: Wednesday, February 11 at 2 p.m.

WHERE: West Recreation Center

Please join us for this special presentation of the documentary film *Leap of Faith*, produced and presented in person by Sonoma County filmmaker

Lina Hoshino. This is the story of how the Sebastopol Enmanji Buddhist Temple was saved from arsonists during WWII at a time when the Japanese American congregation was living in the internment camps. This is a heartwarming story of compassion and community.

In addition, we will discuss the history of the Enmanji Temple building itself. It was originally built and constructed in Japan for the Japanese Pavillion at the 1933 Chicago World's Fair. Following the end of the World's Fair it was disassembled and shipped to Sebastopol, then reassembled and dedicated as the Enmanji Buddhist Temple in 1934.

Several members of the Sonoma County Japanese American community have been invited to attend to share their history and experience. February 19 is the annual Day of Remembrance, the date in 1942 when Executive Order 9066 was signed that led to the incarceration of over 120,000 West Coast Americans of Japanese descent, over half of whom were US citizens.

Canine Club

■Steve Huntley

**DOGWOOD BINGO COMING SOON
TO THE BERGER CENTER**

Do you love dogs, and do you love Bingo? Join Dogwood Animal Rescue Project for the 2nd Annual Dogwood Bingo at the Berger Center on Saturday, February 7! Doors open at 12:30 p.m., Bingo play runs from 1:30-4 p.m.

This event is sponsored by the Oakmont Canine Club, but you do not need to be a Canine Club member to participate. Pre-registration at \$40 per person is required. This event sells out fast! You can pre-register at <https://dogwoodanimalrescue.org/events> or via the Canine Club's own



Gilbert.

Peri Olinger by email at periolinger@yahoo.com.

Would you like to be a Happy Tails Dog Park volunteer? One of seven volunteers visits the dog park once a week for about an hour each time and refills dog waste bag dispensers, inspects the sail shades, fencing, and deck for any damage, inspects the grounds for doggie waste and cleans it up and disposes it in waste cans, and in general looks for anything else out of place or damaged. You do not have to be a member of the Canine Club to be a dog park volunteer. Currently, we need a Saturday volunteer and a back-up volunteer.



Cooper.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Peri Olinger at periolinger@yahoo.com or (707) 479-6961.

And, another reminder, the dog park is currently reserved for small dogs (25 lbs. or less) from 3-4 p.m. daily. Otherwise, all dogs of any size or breed are welcome anytime during regular hours.

The next special doggie play date at the Happy Tails Dog Park is the Berniedoodle / Bernise Mix Play Date on Saturday, January 31, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Not a member of the Oakmont Canine Club? Annual membership dues are only \$12 for individuals and \$20 for households. Go to <http://www.oakmontcanineclub.org> for more information on how to join this exciting club!

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Gabriella and Stan

Oakmont Birders

■Barbara Kendrick

BIRDS WORTH WATCHING: CROWS AND RAVENS

American Crows and Common Ravens are easy to see and hear in Oakmont all year round. But it's not always easy to tell these large, solid-black birds apart.



American Crow with rounded tail. (Photo by Tom Grey)



Common Raven with formidable bill. (Photo by Tom Grey)

Here are some tips:

Relative size: Although ravens are significantly larger than crows (averaging 25" head to tail versus 17"), this doesn't help much because they almost never stand side by side for comparison. Ravens have more massive bills and shaggier throat feathers; crows appear sleeker.

Tail shape: When they are flying, look at the shape of the tail. A raven's tail ends in a wedge or V shape—think of the "v" in "raven." A crow's tail is shorter and appears squared off or gently rounded in flight.

Flight pattern: Crows fly with steady, methodical wingbeats, like they're rowing. They rarely glide and never soar. Ravens have lighter wingbeats and often glide and soar like hawks.

Ravens are also amazingly acrobatic, performing loops and barrel rolls with ease and engaging as pairs in aerial ballet worthy of Cirque du Soleil.

Calls: Crows "caw" and ravens "croak." This isn't as easy to differentiate by sound alone as one might hope (but the Merlin smartphone app works well). If you see a perched bird calling, watch its posture. Crows often flair their tails as they vocalize. Calling ravens tend to thrust their heads forward and fluff out their throat feathers.

Numbers: Crows are extremely social. If you see a flock, you're seeing crows. They can congregate in huge numbers. Ravens are typically seen alone or in pairs (they say "Nevermore" to crowds). But a single large black bird flying over or perched on a streetlight could be either. Observe closely and figure it out!

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



Branch #92

■Carolita Carr

SIX MONTHS OF INTERESTING SPEAKERS

The SIR vision is to become the best active seniors' organization by improving longevity through providing opportunities for physical, mental and social engagement. And SIR 92 here in Oakmont takes that vision seriously! We have a luncheon with a speaker on the second Tuesday of the month, beginning at 11:30 a.m., and a variety of outside activities/events, sure to appeal to all.

Our membership includes both men and women, and we are currently seeking new members-anyone who agrees with our vision. We invite prospective members to attend our "no host" luncheons (\$35 per person) to check us out. Just make a reservation by contacting Sherry at smagers9@gmail.com or (707) 486-2310.

The speakers for our February 12 luncheon are Anne Belden and Paul Gullixson who will discuss their book *Inflamed* about the Tubbs fire.

Jazz Club Classes



■Michael James

FEBRUARY FUN WITH THE JAZZ CLUB BAND

The Jazz Club Band has been enjoying the music we have learned in the past year and we want to share it with you for our February meeting! Our group has grown to about a dozen members of singers, guitar, ukulele, percussion, piano, saxophone, clarinet and trombone players. We had a chance to perform at our Holiday Jazz Club meeting/party in December during the intermission of the performance by our special guests, The New Horizons Swing Band. The Jazz Club Band played a few of our favorite holiday songs and the audience really enjoyed singing along.



Photo by Michael James.

The 12-member Jazz Club Band will be performing some of their favorite classic hit tunes on Wednesday, February 4, at the East Recreation Center. Songs we all know well, such as "My Funny Valentine," "Autumn Leaves," "Misty" and "Don't Get Around Much Anymore" will be performed.

You all know someone in the group because they live right here in Oakmont! Louise Bettner, Rebecca Gilbert, Chris Hansen, Martha Walters, Gretchen Siemens, Linda Green, Doc Sevarese, Karen Brenner and Michael James, all of whom are pictured in the attached photo (plus a few other special guests). We will hand out music for the audience to participate, so bring your friends for a fun-filled afternoon of music.

The second hour will be an open jam, so bring your instrument and music stand. We will provide the music.

WHEN: Wednesday, February 4

TIME: 2-4 p.m.

WHERE: East Recreation Center

COST: Suggested donation \$5

Tennis Club



■Diane Curtis

HARD-WORKING VP

Many of us know Rex Fuller from his deft play on the Oakmont courts, but those who haven't had that privilege have met him online through his regular tennis email blasts. He is OTC's 2026 vice president and is continuing the electronic communications role that first brought him to the board two years ago and that keeps our community well-informed about tennis events and issues. He has the added job this year of working as second in command with OTC President Frank Passaglia and other board members on all things Oakmont tennis.

Rex's skills in finance, research, diplomacy and sound decision-making were honed during a career that ranged from economics professor to college president. Armed with a Ph.D. from the University of Utah-Salt Lake, he started his career at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse followed by administrative positions at Colorado



Rex Fuller.

State University-Pueblo and Eastern Washington University. He retired as president of Western Oregon University in 2020, when he and his wife Susan returned to their native California full-time.

Rex, who served as chairman of OVA's Long Range Planning Committee and was involved in the demanding work of developing alternative plans for the Central Complex, is also embracing detailed tasks as OTC vice president. He has taken it upon himself to study the antiquated OTC bylaws with the goal of updating them.

As for the fun part, after a six-month court hiatus following hip surgery, Rex is back playing and urges other tennis aficionados to join OTC for fun, practice and camaraderie.

And another thing: Check out the calendar for 2026 OTC events in the December 27 *Oakmont News*. Coming up is the popular Saddle Club Winter Social Dinner (with rousing music you can dance to) on February 12. For more information, write to hellooakmonttennis@gmail.com

Oakmont Vets Club



■John De Groot

VIETNAM JUNK NAVY TOUR

On Jan. 29, Oakmont Vets Club member Dave Moore, a 1963 Naval Academy graduate, will give a presentation at 4 p.m. in the Berger Center on his tour in Vietnam as a naval Junk Force Commander. After two destroyer tours learning Anti-Submarine warfare, David was sent to San Diego. There for four months he received "pre" Vietnam training. This included exposure to the language, customs and culture of the country, as well as weapons and SERE training (survival evasion, resistance and escape).

On completion, David arrived in Saigon just after the first TET Offensive. He was given an M-16, extra mags, carrying gear, and a briefing. Then, it was off to Binh Ba Island, near the tip of the Cam Ranh Peninsula. Coastal Group 26, made up of both wooden and motorized Junks, was one of 22 such junk sites spread along the entire coast of South Vietnam. Each base consisted of approximately 10 junks and 148 sailors.

Please join us as we learn of Dave's baptism, that did not include running water, indoor plumbing, or electricity (except sometimes at night).

As this new year begins, we want to thank-you for your past support of the Vets Club. It has been vital. Because of it we have been able to engage in supporting



Naval History and Heritage Command.

programs for veterans throughout the North Coast. Our support of North Coast Veterans Outreach along with our new North Bay Honor Flight Hub, have each been gratified to receive our assistance.

As we begin 2026, will you please renew your support for the year. Your cash or check of \$20 can be left in our folder at the OVA offices. Please remember though to let us know who it's from. Your gift makes a real difference. Thank you!



Pickleball Corner

■Peter Copen

2025 PICKLEBALL HIGHLIGHTS

Sonoma County received 5.33 inches of precipitation from the atmospheric river event that spanned from Dec. 19 to the day after Christmas. 5.33 inches of rain can produce anywhere from 26.5 inches (over 2 feet) to over 79.5 inches of snow (over 6 feet), depending heavily on the air temperature and humidity.



Graphic by Peter Copen.

Innovations in smart paddles and noise-reduction equipment addressed long-standing barriers to growth at the community level.

An AI-generated video of a pickleball-playing robot bamboozled far too many people into believing it was real (check it out!).

A serious Olympic conversation began (and LA '28 closed the door). As the world entered a Winter Olympic year, pickleball reached an inflection point: LA '28 no longer seems a realistic target.

A single global calendar and world rankings were launched. The formal launch of the Global Pickleball Alliance delivered something the sport had never had before: a unified international calendar and a rolling world ranking system. For the first time, performances across continents could be compared on equal footing, impacting both elite professionals and competitive amateurs worldwide.

In spring 2025, India's Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports officially recognized the Indian Pickleball Association as a National Sports Federation. This single decision unlocked government pathways, funding eligibility, and international legitimacy in one of the sport's most important growth markets (and where 178 million people said that they play).

Equipment rules and certification drew clear lines. Throughout 2025, governing bodies and pro tours formalized new paddle certification requirements, delisted certain equipment for sanctioned play, and clarified what "legal" means at different levels.

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

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 \$2 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) 758-9739.

Domino Club

■Brian Huckins

MIX THOSE DOMINOS

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

We play the popular Five-up Game (more commonly referred to as the San Francisco Five-up Game). Two, three or four can play. The four-handed or partners game is our preferred format.

A slight wager has been known to add to the interest.

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

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

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

Oakmont Singles Social Club

■Bailey Penzotti

FEBRUARY MIXER: IT'S CHINESE NEW YEAR!

DATE AND TIME: Friday, February 20, 6 p.m.

WHERE: Berger Center

Oakmont Singles Social Club will gather to celebrate the Lunar New Year. This year, we will be entertained with by members of the Santa Rosa Chinese Christian Church including cultural dance, traditional Chinese music instruments and chorus. Please bring an Asian inspired appetizer and/or dessert to share.

Please RSVP no later than February 16 at 5 p.m., via our website (Upcoming Activities/Oakmont Singles Club) or email your Activities Director, Kat at KAT9433@icloud.com.

If you need assistance with the website, please contact Alan @ alans25028@hotmail.com.

Remember to wear your name badge to the Berger Center.

FEBRUARY BON APPETIT (OSSC MEMBERS ONLY)

WHEN: Thursday, February 5, at 5:30 p.m.

RESTAURANT: Ausiello's 5th Street Sports Bar and Grill, 609 5th Street, Santa Rosa

Burgers and fries and frickles and more. Welcome to Ausiello's! This restaurant was established in 2000 and has been a community icon ever since. From their do-it-yourself condiment bar to the charm of their father's denial to play a Dodger game, their regulars know that when they're here, they're family, and they're sure you'll feel it too.

Our reservation is for maximum of 20 members and open until February 2 at 5 p.m. or when the 20 slots are filled. If there are 20 members confirmed before this date, you will be placed on a waitlist.

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. RSVP on our website: February Bon Appetit—Ausiello's 5th Street Bar and Grill/Oakmont Singles Club or email Simone Smith at 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 <http://www.oakmontsinglessocialclub.org>.

Oakmont Parkinson's Support Group

■Christine Nota

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE SPEAKERS, EXERCISE CLASS AND PING PONG!

The Oakmont Parkinson's Support Group meets the first Friday of every month, 10–11:30 a.m., West Recreation, upper meeting room. Most meetings include a knowledgeable speaker with expertise in Parkinson's or aging and a round robin for sharing how members are doing and anything they have experienced or learned recently about living with Parkinson's Disease (PD). The meetings welcome people with Parkinson's and their family and friends. The focus is continuing to live well despite the disease.

Support group members exercise together every Tuesday, 9:30–10:30 a.m., East Recreation Center. The class is taught by PD-Connect, a nonprofit based in Sonoma and Marin Counties. PD-Connect focuses on living well despite PD and using exercise as medicine to delay the disease.

Research has shown this is possible. PD-Connect says that "exercise is the medicine but not all exercise is created equal," which is the value of exercising with an experienced PD-Connect physical therapist. The exercise class focuses on challenging balance, agility, strength, coordination, and aerobics. Moderate to high intensity exercise is shown to help slow the progression of the disease. People with other conditions or limitations are welcome.

In addition, members of the support group formed the Oakmont Ping-Pong Parkinson Club. The club plays ping-pong twice a week at West Rec. Ping-Pong improves PD symptoms and may delay the disease. Members of the club have experienced considerable improvements in how they are feeling and they are having a blast.

If you are interested in any of these activities, please contact me at chrisnota@gmail.com.

Oakmont Volunteer Helpers

■Matt Zwerling

VOLUNTEER HELPERS— A VALUED SERVICE ORGANIZATION

It is time to start thinking about your New Year 2026 resolutions. I would suggest you add volunteering for Oakmont Volunteer Helpers to your list.

OVH is one of the most valued service organizations in Oakmont, providing rides for residents (for over 35 years) to medical appointments within Santa Rosa city limits. Being a driver has a number of real benefits for drivers: helping those with transportation needs (sometimes for medical appointments they would rather not have!), meeting and getting to know other Oakmont residents (this is typically really fun!), and being invited to a celebratory luncheon. There is actually no number of hours which you need to commit to driving. The only real requirement is to help get the resident to and from their appointment. The more drivers we have available the less often you need to drive.

OVH also has need for Coordinators, those who are the liaisons between the riders and the drivers. Much of the work is now done by computer other than speaking with the resident requiring a ride and the time commitment is less than 30 minutes/day for a two-week shift.

Call me (707-539-8996) or send an email (zwermd3@gmail.com) if you are interested. I can assure you the support you provide will be welcomed and appreciated.

Oakmont Village Association

OAKMONT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Hours: M–F 9 AM–5 PM—Closed 12–1 PM
 Tel 707-539-1611
 6637 Oakmont Dr., Ste. A
 OVA E-mail: askova@oakmontvillage.com
 Website: www.oakmontvillage.com
Book appointments with staff at: oakmontvillage.com/staff

MAINTENANCE OFFICE

Hours: Daily 7 AM–10 PM
 Tel 707-539-6720
 Maintenance Building (next to Central Auditorium)

CONDOMINIUM FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (CFM)

OVA Accounting
 Tel 800-585-4297

OAKMONT NEWS

Tel 707-206-1957
 E-mail: cjmprod567@gmail.com

PAS MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Hours: M–F 9 AM–Noon, and 1–4 PM
 Tel 707-539-5810
 6572 Oakmont Dr., Ste. A
 (for Association Maintained Homes)

ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE

Hours: M–Th 9 AM–Noon, 1–5 PM
 Tel 707-539-1611
 6637 Oakmont Dr., Ste. A-1
Community Relations Specialist
 Alejandra Pulido, 707-539-1611 ext. 104
 alejandra@oakmontvillage.com
Architectural Applications Coordinator
 Mary Lantz, 707-539-1611 ext. 105
 maryl@oakmontvillage.com

AVAILABLE IN OVA OFFICE

GAS SHUT-OFF WRENCH.....\$12
 TENNIS COURT KEY.....\$2
 RESIDENT ACCESS CARD.....\$30 EA
 REPLACEMENTS.....\$30 EA
 GUEST ACCESS CARD.....\$30 EA

BULLETIN BOARDS

There are three OVA bulletin boards, one at each recreation center, where OVA events can be posted. Please bring in notices to the Events Coordinator at the OVA Office. Size is limited to 8.5"x5.5". Items "For Sale", "For Rent" or "Want to Buy" can be put on a 3"x5" card and left at the OVA Office.

LOCKER RENTALS

Annual Locker Fee \$30 (January 1–December 31). If you wish to rent a locker, come to the OVA office and give us a check, your information and the number of the locker you want to rent. You provide the lock. We can prorate the annual fee. Daily use lockers are free. NOTICE: Weekly locker inspections are done by OVA Maintenance. Locks could be sawed off with no prior notice and locker contents removed on all unpaid lockers. Items will be held in OVA Maintenance office for 30 days. If you have any questions, please contact the OVA Office M-F 707-539-1611

GUEST PASSES

The following are OVA Guest Pass types and duration: 1) Guest from outside Sonoma County—up to 90 days; 2) House sitters—up to 90 days (OVA host must present written request to OVA Office for approval prior to visit); 3) Guests living in Sonoma County—2 days per card, and no more than 3 cards per month. Guest cards are available during regular hours in the OVA Office for a \$30 non-refundable fee. Guests accompanied by their Oakmont host are not required to have a Guest Pass.

STREET CLEANING

City streets in Oakmont are cleaned by the city early on the fourth Friday of each month. Residents who want their streets swept should avoid street parking overnight on those days.

NEED A RIDE? GIVE A RIDE! OAKMONT VOLUNTEER HELPERS

We provide the following services to Oakmont Residents:

- Transportation to medical/dental appointments, including pet appointments, in Santa Rosa only
- Meals on Wheels, 707-525-0383

COORDINATOR Rides to Medical Appointments

January 16–31
 Bev Leve 707-539-2802
February 1–14
 Ron Kaufman 408-205-2208

If you would like to be a volunteer, please call 707-539-8996. 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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR WRITER GUIDELINES

The *Oakmont News* welcomes letters of up to 250 words from residents to express opinion, criticism or praise. They must include the writer's name and Oakmont address, although the address won't be published. See details on how to send them at <https://oakmontvillage.com/submit>. While letters to the editor may be edited for length and spelling, they are not edited for accuracy. Opinions are that of the writer and not necessarily the Oakmont Village Association.

POOLS & JACUZZIS

Access to OVA pools is by magnetic card. Call OVA Office, 707-539-1611 if you need a permanent new member pool access card or to register for a temporary guest pool access card.
 WEST: 7 AM–9 PM
 (Closes 7 PM Wednesdays for cleaning)
 EAST: 6:30 AM–9 PM
 (Closes 7 PM Mondays for cleaning)
 CENTRAL: 5:45 AM–9 PM
 (Closes 7 PM Tuesdays for cleaning)
 JACUZZI HOURS: Same as facility. No one under 18 years in West and East pools and Jacuzzis.
 CENTRAL POOL HOURS FOR PEOPLE UNDER 18:
 Labor Day–Memorial Day: 11 AM–2 PM daily
 Memorial Day–Labor Day: 12–4 PM daily
 Children must be accompanied by an OVA member/resident or adult with a valid guest pool access card.
 NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY AT ANY OVA POOL.
 ALL FACILITIES CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY.

STORAGE UNITS AND PARKING

Oak Creek RV & Self Storage
 SP176, www.storagepro.com
 707-913-7326

LIBRARY

Central Activity Center, 310 White Oak Dr.
 Hours: Daily 6 AM–9 PM. Closed Christmas Day. It is run by volunteers. All donations are gladly accepted. Materials we cannot use will be passed on to others.

OAKMONT COMMUNITY GARDEN ON STONEBRIDGE

For more info on signing up, email Oakmontcommunitygarden@gmail.com. Contact for current availability.

HAPPY TAILS DOG PARK

6302 Stone Bridge Rd
 Open to residents of Oakmont Village Association from sunrise to sunset. Small Dog Hours are from 3–4 PM every day.

FITNESS CENTER

Central Activity Center, 310 White Oak Dr.
 Daily 5:45 AM–9 PM. Closed at 7 PM on Tues. for cleaning. Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas day.

2025–2026 OVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

E-mail: askova@oakmontvillage.com

- Matt Oliver, President**
matt.oliver@oakmontvillage.com
- Jerry Gladstone, Vice President**
jerry.gladstone@oakmontvillage.com
- Jess Marzak, Secretary**
jmarzak@oakmontvillage.com
- Heidi Klyn, Director**
heidi.klyn@oakmontvillage.com
- Jeff Neuman, Director**
jeff.neuman@oakmontvillage.com
- Neill Ray, Director**
neill.ray@oakmontvillage.com

Robert Williams, Director
robert.williams@oakmontvillage.com

Tom Kendrick, Treasurer
 (Non-voting officer)
tom.kendrick@oakmontvillage.com

GENERAL MANAGER
Christel Antone
christel@oakmontvillage.com

OVA BOARD MEETINGS

Townhalls 1st Tuesdays of the month and board meetings 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 1 PM

Always online via Zoom and in-person when possible. All residents are welcome. Information to join online is e-blasted out to the community for every meeting along with the in-person location when applicable. Sign up for e-blasts from OVA at oakmontvillage.com/inside.

The Board of Directors of Oakmont Village Association reserves the right to select those articles submitted for publication that seem appropriate to the purpose of this association.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL OFFICIALS

County Supervisor Rebecca Hermsillo
District 1
 Phone 707-565-2241
 Address: 575 Administration Drive,
 Rm. 100A, Santa Rosa 95403
 Email: rebecca.hermsillo@sonoma-county.org

City Councilwoman Dianna MacDonald
District 3
 Email: dmacdonald@srcity.org
 Address: City Hall, 100 Santa Rosa Ave.,
 Rm.10, Santa Rosa 95404

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE IN OAKMONT

- CityBus #16 bus takes residents to 5 different shopping centers weekday mornings and around Oakmont afternoons.
- Sonoma County Transit #30 bus goes to Memorial and Kaiser Hospitals and downtown Santa Rosa. Returns via Oakmont to Sonoma.
- Schedules available at OVA office.

BE ON OVA E-MAIL LIST

Know what's going on in Oakmont. You'll receive the weekly "Inside Oakmont" newsletter, Board Meeting notices and agendas, special notices and meeting announcements. To join the OVA's e-mail list, visit oakmontvillage.com/inside and enter your information to subscribe.

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.beginbuild.com.

YOUR PERSONAL CAREGIVER AND ADVOCATE

Available 24/7 or hourly, nights, long-term 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

AIR CONDITIONING REPAIR

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

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.

REMODELING AND RENOVATION SPECIALIST

Kitchens, Baths, etc. Detail-oriented. Since 1984. Call Josh Begin Construction, (707) 690-2541. Lic. #461220.

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.

MARSHALLS PLUMBING

Drain Cleaning, Water Heaters, faucets. 25 years exp. Senior Discounts. (707) 681-1011. CA License #541596.

FEELING UNCOMFORTABLE?

Jin Shin Jyutsu® is a gentle healing Art that harmonizes body, breath, and emotional discomforts. Through simple use of hands, fingers, and breath, participants learn ways to revitalize, find ease and relax. Offered as a small self-help class. Contact Oakmont resident, Jin Shin Jyutsu practitioner Dawna Leigh, (415) 755-7008. www.hands4harmonyJSJ.com.

BEST DOG WALKER IN OAKMONT

Excellent references. Loving, patient and dependable, your fur baby will love me! \$25 per responsible, attentive walk. Please call or text Annette, (619) 993-6834. Looking forward to meeting you and your dog.

HANDYMAN/CONTRACTOR

Call FM Works with all your home improvement needs. Specializing in bathrooms remodels, dump runs, home repairs, painting, windows and doors. Call Freddie at (707) 732-0102.

WINDOW AND PRESSURE CLEANING SERVICES

Windows, screens, gutters, pressure cleaning. Homes, decks, patios, walkways and driveways. Holiday special free estimates. Contact Dennis Russo, (707) 249-3343.

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.

ENTRY DOORS, PATIO DOORS, INTERIOR DOORS

Installation. Local Suppliers. Father and son team, 30 years of experience. Brad Chiaravalle and Anthony Chiaravalle. Lic #527924. www.doorbeautiful.com. (707) 539-3196.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Looking forward to being your Painter and Handyman in 2026. 30+ yrs. experience. Licensed and Bonded. For details call Dan at Morse Painting, (707) 799-5823.

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.

CA law requires all CA licensed contractors to list their license number in their service advertisements. CA law also requires contractors performing work totaling \$500+ (incl. materials & labor) must be licensed by the Contractor State License Board (CSLB) to work in California. For information contact the Contractor's State License Board at www.cslb.ca.gov.

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

Oakmont Health Initiative Free Fitness Classes

■Charlene Bunas

START WITH A GOAL

At January's after-class brunch, 50 OHI members gathered with gourmet food, mimosas and bottomless coffee. When asked about resolutions, their answers varied.



Buffet tables offer gourmet yield. (Photo by Charlene Bunas)

Olivia offers Mimosas. (Photo by Kathy Sowers)

Most people, like Kate, deflected, "I never make resolutions." Jim quipped, "Resolutions to what?" Someone else said, "I'm so done with that."

A few proclamations were about health: "eat with mindfulness; exercise with intent." "Lose weight" seems to be a traditional choice.

Co-chairs of the event, Olivia and Joan were philosophic: Olivia said she will be "a kinder, more devoted friend" in 2026. Anyone who knows this woman instantly feels a devoted friendship. Obviously, her fellowship with others is a priority.

Joan's personal goal is to be "less of a control freak." She may see herself as taskmaster but applause at the brunch expressed appreciation for results.

Like Joan, Dominic wants to "let go," to be "more whimsical." He aims to be "more relaxed, less driven, less ambitious." He discovered the value of relaxation when he was in sales. As his goal-focused intensity cooled, his sales numbers climbed.

Other answers included excitement and determination. Rhonda wants to read more books completely, rather than just the synopsis/review provided by *New York Times* or *New Yorker* magazine. Cary said, "I'm gonna to play at least 24 rounds of golf." Then he fretted his semi-commitment and wondered if he "would be held accountable."

Oakmont newcomer, Sue, was practical and to the point: "I just want to get my house in order!"

In retirement many folks feel they've "been there, done that." In reality, regardless of age, motivation is sparked by defining any want or a need. That leads to a plan, and a goal.

The day that starts with a goal has a good chance to end in success.

Mon., Wed., Fri., 9a.m. at the Berger. Zoom: 850 1489 7161/998608.

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 \$10 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

"Do you have the patience to wait till your mud settles and the water is clear? Can you remain unmoving till the right action arises by itself?"—Lao Tzu

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, Birch Room: 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.

Water Fitness



■Valerie Hulsey

EXERCISE AND FUN AT THE POOL

As of this writing, we have only had one really rainy day. The weather may be chilly, but the water is toasty warm. Water Fitness classes meet rain or shine, so please join us at the West pool for 50 minutes of exercise and fun. You can tell by the picture how much fun we have during class.

There is a drop-in fee of \$10 and classes are held Monday through Thursday at 9:30 a.m. We look forward to seeing you soon.



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.

JANUARY 25: LEONARD MCMAHON, PACIFIC SCHOOL OF RELIGION BLESS THIS MESS: FAITH AND POLITICS WHY DEMOCRACY NEEDS CONFLICT

Conflict isn't something to eliminate in a democracy—it's the fuel that drives real engagement. Mr. McMahon shows how we can move from toxic discord to productive disagreement rooted in ethical reflection and collective moral imagination. The method he uses is effective, simple to learn, and surprisingly hard to forget.



FEBRUARY 1: SUSAN FARREN, RESILIENCY1ST.ORG

BATTLING THE STRESS OF PTSD: SAVING THOSE WHO SAVE US

Susan Farren fought her way through a lifetime of harrowing challenges and her own battle with PTSD—fuel that drove her to found First Responders Resiliency, Inc. Hear the gripping story of her resilience, her healing, and the creation of a groundbreaking program reshaping the well-being of those who risk everything for us.



FEBRUARY 8: JULIANNE BRADBURY, PEPPERWOOD

BACKYARD BEASTIES: MEET THE CUTEST LITTLE MONSTERS AROUND

Curious about the hidden world of creatures crawling, hopping, and sunning themselves in your backyard? Environmental educator and scientist Julianne Bradbury will pull back the curtain on Pepperwood's cutting-edge research, hands-on stewardship, and dynamic education programs.

Come discover the extraordinary amphibians and reptiles living just outside your door—and why their survival is more connected to yours than you might imagine.



FEBRUARY 15: TERRY EBINGER, CINEMAANDPSYCHE.COM FORBIDDEN LOVE, HOLLYWOOD STYLE: ROMANTIC COMEDY TAKES ON THE CENSORS

In 1934, the Hays Code imposed harsh censorship, banning nearly all on-screen sexuality. In response, the "Hollywood Comedies of Remarriage" cleverly slipped forbidden desire past the censors with



sparkling innuendo, absurd romantic games, and irresistible star chemistry. Packed with top writers, visionary directors, and iconic actors, these films became Hollywood's most stylish acts of rebellion. They tempered the fire—which fueled the desire...





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