

# OAKMONT NEWS

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## New Horizons Band Playing Free Concert at Berger

■News Staff

The New Horizons Band will take the stage Saturday, March 28, at 2 p.m. at the Berger Center for a free spring concert featuring everything from Gershwin and Cole Porter to Saturday morning cartoon themes.

The band, which was founded in 1999 by Lew Sbrana after he found retirement less fulfilling than expected, has grown from 12 musicians at its first rehearsal to a roster of 80 members today. Three of those original players are still performing with the group. The ensemble skews older by design—most members are in their 70s and 80s, four are in their 90s, and the youngest member is 61.

Saturday's program includes two marches, a ballad, a Gershwin number featuring a vocal soloist accompanied by the full band, music from Cole Porter and the Mamas and the Papas, and a medley of television cartoon theme songs.

The concert is free, though donations are welcome. Berger Center concerts regularly fill to capacity, and organizers encourage attendees to arrive early.

Those interested in joining the New Horizons Band can contact Mike Milbrath at (707) 799-4890 or mikemilbrath0@gmail.com. More information is available at [www.nhbosc.org](http://www.nhbosc.org).

## City Meeting on SESR Housing Project (Formerly Elnoka)

■Christel Antone, OVA General Manager

A proposed housing development next to Oakmont could deliver something residents have sought for more than a decade: an additional emergency access route beyond Highway 12 through a planned Emergency Vehicle Access (EVA) connection.

The Southeast Santa Rosa Senior Housing Project, often referred to as the Elnoka development, recently advanced to a new stage after Burbank Housing submitted plans to the City of Santa Rosa. The site is located along Highway 12 just northwest of Oakmont.

### COMMUNITY MEETING PLANNED

City officials and representatives from Burbank Housing will hold a public meeting on the project on

See **SESR PUBLIC MEETING** on page 7

## Yvonne Horn Was Oakmont's Gardener

■Jackie Ryan

Yvonne Michie Horn, whose name was synonymous with gardening, died Feb. 19 at 94, leaving a 50-year legacy of award-winning travel chronicles about places and gardens all over the globe.

Regardless of her wanderings, Horn always returned to her native Sonoma County, where her family owned a prune farm at the base of Taylor Mountain. She moved to Oakmont in 1997 and left an indelible mark drawn from her love of gardens and a strong commitment to the importance of access to fresh produce.



She founded the Oakmont Community Garden in 2007 with just two garden rows tended by some 20 gardeners. By 2012, Horn, who served as the group's president and head gardener for many years, had convinced the OVA Board to add a third row, and then five additional rows and most recently 14 new spaces at the western end. From the initial 20, the Community Garden grew to 118 gardeners today. Horn gave up her own gardening space in December 2025, just two months before suffering a debilitating stroke.

Fellow gardener and club secretary Shirley Phillips credits Horn's unrelenting drive for establishing the garden that now occupies a sizeable plot of land on Stone Bridge Drive. "We owe her a great deal of gratitude for her foresight and persistence to make this garden happen," said Phillips. "She lobbied hard for the community garden, for straight forward garden rules and more space to accommodate Oakmont's gardeners."

Horn's influence extended to the updated landscape at Oakmont's entrance, the medians and at the Berger and CAC. She was keenly aware of sustainable food systems and also established a weekly delivery hub at the CAC for Feed Bin Sonoma, allowing residents to enjoy fresh produce while supporting local farmers and producers.

Horn was a noted author and wrote several popular books about Sonoma County—where to eat, where to visit and what to do here. Her travel writing took readers to off-the-beaten-path gardens throughout the world and won multiple recognitions, among them the coveted Lowell Thomas Award. In her own words, she said, "I travel to wander gardens. I'm not so much interested in grand gardens or famous gardens. Rather, I search out gardens that reflect a personal passion, gardens with a historical tale to tell, gardens with a bit of 'whacky' embedded in their beauty, gardens that could exist in no other place than where they are."

## Time to Vote on the Proposed Bylaws Amendments

■David Simpson, Governing Docs Committee Chair

All eligible OVA voters will be sent (by email or U.S. mail) an election mailer for the Spring 2026 elections. The mailer will include two separate ballots—one for voting on directors and one for voting on proposed Bylaws amendments—each with its own labeled return envelope.

Oakmont's developers wrote our Bylaws and made them difficult to amend, even when amendments are needed to keep up with changes in the laws. The two Bylaws amendments on this Spring's ballot offer an opportunity to change that.

Your ballot will have two proposed Bylaws amendments:

**Proposal #1:** This amendment addresses Bylaws provisions that conflict with the law. Currently, only OVA's voting members can amend the Bylaws. The Board of Directors has no authority to do so. Proposal

See **BYLAWS AMENDMENTS** on page 6

## Berger Center Assessment Community Update

■Christel Antone, OVA General Manager

We would like to provide the community with an update regarding the Berger Center assessment currently underway with Energy Systems Group (ESG).

This assessment is focused on evaluating the current condition of the Berger Center building and its infrastructure, as some components are aging or nearing the end of their useful life. The goal is to understand what improvements or upgrades may be needed to maintain the Berger Center as a reliable and functional space for community events and activities.

At this time, the Berger Center remains fully operational, and no decisions have been made regarding project timelines or potential closures.

Previously, we learned that the Berger Center boiler and chiller systems are at the end of their useful life and will require replacement in the near future. This evaluation is part of the Board's responsibility to plan ahead for major infrastructure replacements

See **BERGER ASSESSMENT** on page 6

## Upcoming Key Dates in the OVA Board Election

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: Both electronic and mailed ballots must be received by the Inspector of Elections no later than 5 p.m. on April 5, 2026.



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## LRPC Seeking New Members

■Monica Heath, LRPC Chair

The Long Range Planning Committee is looking for new members who are interested in developing recommendations for the board that will help determine the direction and future of our community.

The goal of the LRPC is to create a strategic roadmap, with resident feedback, that anticipates services, needs, and wants of future generations of Oakmont residents and help prepare for those needs, including lifestyle, technology, safety, land use, facilities, aging in place, and opportunities to enhance the operation and communication needs of the community. LRPC

volunteers serve as a crucial connection to listening and recognizing residents current and future needs.

This is an especially great opportunity for new residents to get involved in shaping the Oakmont future in which they will live. Experience in project management, planning, or communications is helpful but not required. The most essential skill: listening to others.

Please contact us indicating your interest, with a description of your background, by March 31 at askova@oakmontvillage.com.

## “Pop Divas Songbook” Concert Coming to Oakmont

■OVA Staff

Oakmont will host a live concert featuring Kelly Brandeburg on Thursday, April 30, at the Berger Auditorium. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with the performance beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person and available at the OVA office.



Kelly Brandeburg.

Brandeburg, who is currently appearing in the Charlie & the Chocolate Factory Global Tour, will present “A Pop Divas Songbook,” a cabaret-style program featuring well-known songs associated with artists such as Linda Ronstadt, Helen Reddy, Dolly Parton, Celine Dion, Adele, and Billie Eilish.

Her background includes extensive work in theater and cabaret. Brandeburg previously performed as Miss San Francisco in Beach Blanket Babylon, the long-running San Francisco musical revue created by Steve Silver. She has also appeared in stage productions across the United States, including roles in *Oliver!*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, and *The Secret Garden*. Her solo cabaret production, *My Favorite Barbra*, received a Broadway World Award for Best Solo Show in the Bay Area.



Marie McBride  
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### 494 Shooting Star Place

Stunning Mt. Hood plan atop Oakmont in the Starry Knolls neighborhood with views of the Mayacamas mountain range. You'll find a freshly painted interior, refinished maple flooring and new carpeting in this beautifully remodeled home where the homeowners spared no expense. Three glass sliders open to the wrap around deck in this tucked-away location. Some of the many updates and features include dual pane windows and sliders, vaulted ceilings, recessed lighting, shaker style interior doors with updated hardware, a smartly appointed kitchen with abundant storage including a walk-in pantry, granite countertops, gas cooktop, and a view over the kitchen sink that will make dish washing a treat! The primary bedroom and bathroom feature a large walk-in closet, walk-in shower, double sinks, and storage galore. There's an inside laundry room with washer and dryer included — don't miss the wine fridge. One bedroom has been converted into an office/den/music room with built-in cabinetry. The three-car garage with epoxy floor is loaded with storage options, and there's a walk-in room under the house with lighting and additional storage. **\$1,099,900**

## Toxic Waste Collection



■OVA Staff

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2-7 PM  
AT WEST REC.

**LIMITS:** 15 gallons of liquid (with a maximum of five gallons per container) or 125 pounds of solid material. Never mix chemicals. Place in sealed containers in the trunk, packed to prevent spills. Syringes/needles must be in sealed, approved Sharps containers.

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

Online appointments are available. To sign up, visit [zerowastesonomahhwevent.as.me/Oakmont](http://zerowastesonomahhwevent.as.me/Oakmont).

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

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## Passages



Janet Farley (Upjohn) Gavagan (1927–2026) passed away on February 11, 2026, after having lived in Oakmont for the past 30 years. She was a member of the gals gourmet and bridge groups and was an avid reader. The family is holding a memorial on June 21 at The Stuart Ave Inn/Kalamazoo, Michigan.

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



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## OVA Board of Directors: Candidates' Statements

*In Random Order*



**GREG DARCY**

Hello, my name is Greg Darcy. I'm the owner of Darcy's Fine Jewelers in Santa Rosa at 50 Old Courthouse Square, Suite 301. I've been serving Sonoma County residents since 2009. I'm also a resident in the Oakmont community, residing at 6608 Fairfield Drive.

I've been a Bay area resident my whole life, working and playing as far south as San Jose and as far north as Santa Rosa. I'm a very hard-working person who cares about being the best I can be to whomever I encounter. I am highly motivated to get the job done right, which has made me very successful in business and life.

Some positive traits I have are honesty, hardworking, the willingness to listen to people, no matter the subject. I'm also willing to admit when I'm wrong. My wife loves that one! I like most all sports, wanting to participate as well. I enjoy cooking and surrounding myself with family and friends.

I'll look forward to helping all my fellow Oakmont residents have the best experience while living in the community.

I can be reached by e-mail at [Greg@Darcysfinejewelers.com](mailto:Greg@Darcysfinejewelers.com) or on my cell phone (707) 799-0552.



**HEIDI KLYN**

I have lived in Oakmont since 2007, first part time then full time from 2011. I am a second generation Oakmonter for my parents retired here in 1998. I retired from being an Optician growing several practices, raised two children and worked in my husband's manufacturing company working with research and development for new innovations with many well known companies.

I have served on the OVA board three terms since 2018, as Vice President and President in 2024. I am running again for I have the experience and feel some projects need to be accomplished. I helped purchase our two golf courses, solar panels, the diesel back-up generator. Helped with modernizing the East Rec, and West Rec water damage.

I started the first ever Vaccine Clinics in Oakmont bringing in hard to get Covid shots during the pandemic. When there were outbreaks, I had our County Health Department bring in portable testing stations and we traced the sources, we gave out free testing kits often. July of 2022 I was honored in the *Press Democrat* with the "North Bay Spirit Award" for having everyone's back during the pandemic and other feats with the title of "Boomer to the Rescue."

I helped to get the dog park, brought in the Peanuts statues for Charles Schultz played our courses weekly. I was on the first Berger Ad Hoc Committee, did refresh the building, help start the Cannabis Club, President of the Boomers Club, Vice President of the Asian Pacific Heritage Club.

I feel I am a candidate who listens to the community not what one or two people desire but the majority. Since I am active here, I see the many needs that

need to be implemented. Effective leadership is not about making speeches or being liked. Leadership is defined by results not attributes.



**JOSH AXELROD**

Hello Oakmonters! I moved to Oakmont in 2021 to be closer to my three daughters and discovered what a wonderful community this is. I've made some great friends and enjoy walking through our beautiful surroundings, which continually remind me how fortunate we are to live here.

I began my career as a high school math teacher and later transitioned into a career in technology. Over the years, I have worked at several startup companies and concluded my career at Microsoft. These experiences strengthened my abilities in working with teams, strategic planning, budgeting, and managing complex projects—skills well-suited to the responsibilities of our current OVA HOA Board.

Since moving to Oakmont, I have been actively involved in Oakmont Lifelong Learning, the Long-Range Planning Committee, and the Governing Documents Committee. I have been fortunate to work with great team members and I am proud of the work we have achieved thus far.

As homeowners and investors, we are jointly responsible for keeping Oakmont and its facilities desirable and well-maintained. I will work to modernize aging facilities with reasonable spending and community priorities in mind. In this planning and execution, we should look out 3-5 years to continue move in a clear and consistent direction.

I believe all OVA Board projects should have clearly defined goals with deliverable dates, measurable outcomes and, regular progress updates shared with the community. I will work to publish a "scoreboard" that would be easily accessible through print and electronic channels.

As a member of the Board I would encourage all discussions to be open to the public and keep executive sessions to only topics required by law. Transparency and accountability build trust and fosters engagement.

I would be honored to serve on the OVA Board to help Oakmont continue to thrive in the coming years.



**MATT OLIVER**

As President of the OVA, I am seeking re-election to the 2026 Oakmont Board of Directors. I believe our community is in an extraordinary time where our board must make strategic decisions that benefit all of Oakmont.

I have kept my promise to avoid wasteful spending and I will continue to facilitate open discussions, respect different points of view and promote collaboration and community engagement.

I'm committed to the financial stability of Oakmont and I will continue to work to keep Oakmont a

desirable and affordable active adult community.

Across the community, members are focusing on the board's direction for the Central Complex area. The process of prioritizing initiatives must continue, and in the past year I have begun to lead the evaluation of the widely discussed Central Complex options and how to effectively marshal our financial resources in a timeframe that makes sense.

Another key initiative is updating our Bylaws and CC&Rs, a process started this past year. By evaluating outdated provisions, this work will ensure compliance with state laws, reduce risk and increase our efficiency.

As a continuing OVA director, I will rely on my board experience as well as my professional business background and skills to bring sound judgment to the planning, design and engineering process for Central Complex projects.

I believe my record will contribute to responsible decisions, and outcomes that are best for all of Oakmont—today and in the future.

Respecting community members and understanding their different perspectives will guide my service commitment. I believe working collaboratively with other Board Members, our volunteer committees and the community at large is vitally important to reach our goals.

I will strive to govern with transparency and be certain our members are informed and that our processes are transparent.

I ask for your vote.



**STEVE SPANIER**

I love Oakmont. And I'm proud to say that I also love many Oakmont residents. Thanks to all of you, and despite seemingly continual turmoil in the outside world, my thirteen or so years here have been the most rewarding and joyful of my life.

We're a wonderfully invigorating and supportive community that has not just survived but thrived for more than six decades. And we all seem to know it. I could not even begin to count the number of people who have earnestly and sincerely told me that they feel incredibly fortunate to live here. My sentiments exactly.

This will be my third OVA election and I'm hoping for similar results as in the first two because I really want to serve. I want to give back to the community that has given my wife and I so much. I want to help continue the legacy of so many Oakmont volunteers down through the years who have donated their time and energy to making this community the very best it can be.

As before, I stand for experience, balance and thoughtfulness. If elected, I promise fiscal moderation, communication and transparency. I promise to lift people up rather than tear them down. I promise to demonstrate and promote kindness and discourage unkindness at all times. I promise to work with you, the board and our staff to thoroughly research and then address our issues to preserve all that is good about our home and avoid all that would harm us.

It would be a privilege and honor to serve you again, so I humbly ask for your vote.

For more information on my qualifications, platform and policy ideas, please visit my website at [spanier4ova.org](http://spanier4ova.org). Thank you!

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**TERRIE MUI**

Hi, I am running for the OVA Board of Directors because I am deeply committed to Oakmont and bring proven experience in leadership, finance, and collaboration. I can represent the interests of all Oakmont residents.

My husband and I chose Oakmont for its lively, engaged community—friendly, forward-looking neighbors who are active in everything from gardening to pickleball and the arts. The strong interest residents show in the wider world is a core value I share. I support thoughtful long-range planning, careful stewardship of this special place, and sound fiscal management.

In my career managing communication satellite engineering teams, I developed complex systems that had to perform reliably for many years. I listened closely to understand customers' needs and worked collaboratively to reach timely, practical decisions. Through this work, I built effective teams, set priorities, managed large budgets, and achieved consensus. I managed those budgets with the discipline of a small business owner.

I also volunteered for 20 years with the Project Management Institute in Silicon Valley and served 2 years as President and 8 years as a board member. Our all-volunteer organization delivered 200 events a year for 2,200 members—experience closely aligned with a volunteer-driven community like Oakmont.

Here in Oakmont, I continue to serve as a board officer of the Oakmont Lifelong Learning and Asian Pacific Club, and previously through the Future Club. I understand how vital volunteers are and how to balance costs with benefits while anticipating future needs.

Our facilities are our shared investments. I am committed to helping Oakmont move forward responsibly, with both current residents and future homeowners in mind. I would be honored to serve you on the OVA Board.

For more information on my background, please see [Terrie4Oakmont.com](http://Terrie4Oakmont.com). Thank you for your consideration and your vote.

## 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 or 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 have questions or want to be put on the mailing list, including Zoom, email [tinalewis31@comcast.net](mailto:tinalewis31@comcast.net) or call (707) 758-9739.

## OAK at the VOM Golf Club

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

### SUGARLOAF CLUBHOUSE UPDATE

In partnership with OVA, we are excited to announce that the Sugarloaf Golf Shop re-opened on Sunday, March 1. Please check in at the Sugarloaf Golf Shop located at 557 Oak Vista Court.

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to an exceptional 2026 season together.

Valley of the Moon Club and Oak Restaurant has a full calendar of events and specials coming up this March, along with ongoing dining and golf offerings for members and guests. All events can be found at [playvom.com](http://playvom.com).

### SUGARLOAF OAK WINE RELEASE

Introducing Sugarloaf Wineries' newest limited collection: The Oakmont Reserve—wines celebrating the fabulous Oakmont Community! These two wines are designed with Oakmont residents in mind, to honor the founding vision of H.N. Berger, and all the Oakmont community has grown to become today.

As these wines are exclusive to Oakmont community members, we invite you to gather, mingle, sip, and enjoy at our release party on Friday, March 27, held at the Valley of the Moon banquet hall. Tickets will include tasting flights of the Oakmont Reserve Chardonnay and Pinot Noir along with amazing flavors from our winery neighbors St. Francis Winery and Vineyards, Landmark Vineyards, and VJB Cellars to name a few.

**WHAT:** A Wine Tasting Extravaganza right in your backyard!

**WHEN:** Friday March 27, 5–7 p.m.

**TICKETS:** \$45 tickets include unlimited wine sampling, hors d'oeuvres and a charcuterie grazing board. Bottles of the Oakmont Reserve Collection will be available for purchase!

RSVP by Monday March 23 by contacting Marisa at [mmangano@playvom.com](mailto:mmangano@playvom.com) or 707-539-0415 ext. 2.

### OAK MARCH SPECIALS

**Double Down Discount:** Our golfers have loved our February post-round special, so we are upping the bundle for March and keeping the party going! Order any signature cocktail, with an entrée, and make your drink a double for only \$2! For our beer lovers, sip your beer post round and enjoy a free one on us with the purchase of any entrée! Must present receipt for golf round purchased on the same day

**Weekly March Madness Burger Special:** Specialty burger each week! Burgers will come with their choice of fries for \$20.

**St. Patrick's Day Special:** Join us Tuesday, Mar. 17 for our Irish Classic—Traditional corned beef served with red potatoes, carrots, and fresh cabbage. A delicious addition to your Irish holiday! \$22

## Vaccine Clinic on March 27

■Oakmont Village Association

Appointments are now available for a vaccine clinic on March 27 at the Berger from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Second dose COVID vaccines will be offered, and also RSV, shingles, pneumonia, and Tdap for anyone who are eligible.

This fall, the new Covid 2026 vaccine will be available. The spring clinic will allow residents to get immunized for Covid now and be ready for their six-month immunization in time for the fall clinic.

You can make an appointment at [www.safeway.com/vaccinations/group-clinic/OakmontVillageSantaRosaSpring2026](http://www.safeway.com/vaccinations/group-clinic/OakmontVillageSantaRosaSpring2026).

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

Please bring your medical, prescription and/or Medicare part B card to the clinic, plus your consent form. Safeway is unable to bill for Kaiser members. If you are a Kaiser member, please contact your provider.

**St. Patrick's Day Drink Specials** running March 13–17 (Friday–Tuesday): Irish Coffee—\$7, includes shot of Baileys, Jameson, or Kahlua; Jameson—\$10, Mixed Drink/Shot; Mini Shooter— \$3 each (Baileys, Jameson); Espresso Martini—\$13, served with Baileys, Tito's Vodka; \$8 cans of Guinness!

### GOLF

**Golf Shop Hours:** Monday–Sunday, 6:30 a.m.–5 p.m. For tee times call (707) 539-0415.

**Range Card Sale—March 20:** We will have our monthly Range Card Sale on Friday, March 20. On this day you will be able to purchase our Driving Range card for \$100 (normally \$150) and gets you 12 large buckets for the price of 10. This is a huge savings for those of you who love to hit balls on the range.

Winter is the BEST time of year to work on your golf game. Learn about our instructors by visiting our instruction page at [www.playvom.com/golf/instruction](http://www.playvom.com/golf/instruction).

### LIVE MUSIC AT OAK, 5–7 PM

March 16: Coffey Park Band

March 30: Relish Band

Doors open at 4 p.m. \$10 cash cover charge upon entry.

Contact Marisa at [mmangano@playvom.com](mailto:mmangano@playvom.com) or (707) 539-0415 ext. 2.

### TRIVIA NIGHT

First Tuesday of every month (the next one is April 7). \$10 cash cover charge at the door, 5–7 p.m. (doors open at 4 p.m.). Prizes await our winners! Call (707) 539-0415 ext. 4.

### POLICY REMINDERS

Finally, we'd like to extend a friendly reminder to refrain from fishing on any of the golf course ponds due to safety concerns.

We'd also like to remind everyone to follow the golf course walking hours located on our website at [playvom.com](http://playvom.com).

For reference, please see walking hours on the golf course on our website: [www.playvom.com/the-club/walking-policies](http://www.playvom.com/the-club/walking-policies).



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## BYLAWS AMENDMENTS Continued from page 1

#1 would change that. It would allow the elected Board to amend the Bylaws without a membership vote when, but only to the extent that, an amendment is necessary to prevent a conflict with a new or changed law.

Proposal #1 would not apply to any Bylaws amendments other than those necessary for OVA to become and to remain in compliance with the law.

**Proposal #2:** This amendment would modify the voting requirements for OVA voters to approve future amendments to the Bylaws. Currently, it takes a YES vote by 50% +1 of all of Oakmont's eligible voters (1,607 YES votes) to approve a Bylaws amendment. That's a threshold of voter agreement that has only occurred twice in the last 30 years. Proposal #2 would permit future Bylaws amendments if two requirements are met: (1) at least 50% of all eligible voters must cast votes (whether for or against an amendment), and (2) at least 55% of those casting votes must approve of the proposed amendment.

Here's some examples of how Proposal #2 would work:

**Example #1:** 1,000 voters cast ballots, and all 1,000 (100%) vote "YES" on a proposed Bylaws amendment. Result? *The amendment fails.* Why? Not enough total votes cast. Proposal #2 requires at least 50% (1,606) of all eligible OVA voters to cast ballots, otherwise the vote cannot be considered legitimate.

**Example #2:** 1,800 voters cast ballots, a 950 majority (i.e., 52.7%) vote "YES" on a proposed amendment. Result? *The amendment fails.* Why? Not enough "YES" votes. Although enough total votes were cast, Proposal #2 requires at least 55% of those voting to vote "YES," and here, only 52.7% voted "YES."

**Example #3:** 1,800 voters cast ballots, and a 1,000 supermajority (i.e., 55.5%) vote "YES" on a proposed Bylaws amendment. Result? *The amendment passes!* Why? Both of Proposal #2's requirements are met. More than 50% of all eligible OVA voters cast ballots. And more than 55% of those voting voted "YES."

Proposal #2 would only change the approval requirements for votes to amend the Bylaws. It would not change the approval or voting requirements for any other kinds of membership votes.

You'll need to vote on each Bylaws proposal separately.

When you vote, please place each Directors or Bylaws ballot in its own corresponding return envelope, as ballots submitted in the incorrect envelope cannot be accepted. Members voting online will receive comparable email instructions.

**Very Important:** All ballots—for the election of Directors and for the Bylaws amendments—must be received by 5 p.m. on April 5. For questions, please contact askova@oakmontvillage.com or Dawn McFarland at (707) 539-1911 ext. 106.

For more information on the proposed Bylaws Amendments, see the full video of the Bylaws Townhall and slides at oakmontvillage.com/bylaws-town-hall. The GDC also created an explanation video that can be found on the elections page at oakmontvillage.com/candidates

The GDC has also been holding Bylaws Amendments meet/greets where residents can ask questions. The next and final one is on March 16, 3 p.m. in Berger Room G.

## Urgent Update to Zinsco Panel Replacement Process

■Susan Miller, Firewise Task Force

Recently, two articles have been published in *Oakmont News* concerning replacing unsafe Zinsco electrical panels. The first one described the home safety and insurance risks of Zinsco panels, called "Zinsco Electrical Panels—A Home Safety and Insurance Risk." A second article was published in the February 28 issue detailing the permitting process to get the panels changed, entitled, "Permitting of Zinsco Panels." We have recently learned that PG&E has just made a major change to the permitting process for replacing Zinsco panels.

Here are the key takeaways:

1) No letter from a C-10 licensed electrician is required when a permit is submitted to the City of Santa Rosa and PG&E to change out your Zinsco panel either 'like for like' or to upgrade to a 200 Amp panel.

2) In most cases, the panel will not need to be moved 3 feet away from the gas meter. It is now deemed safer to have a new electrical panel in place rather than a faulty Zinsco panel. The cost to the homeowner is high enough without also moving the panel further away from the gas meter, which can greatly increase the cost.

3) Should you choose to upgrade to a 200 Amp panel, you may not be required to move your panel. However, your electrician will need to ascertain whether or not your current conduits and cables are capable of handling the higher electrical load of a 200 Amp panel. If they are not, additional steps will be required which could be costly. Confirm your situation with your electrician and PG&E.

In conclusion, PG&E has just made changing out older faulty Zinsco and other panels more streamlined. All homeowners are encouraged to replace these panels for home safety and to meet current insurance requirements. For more details, please see the full article on the Firewise Task Force page on the OVA website.

In addition, a link to PG&E's updated Greenbook, dated February 5, 2026, can be found here: [www.pge.com/assets/pge/docs/account/service-requests/greenbook-update-2022-2023.pdf](http://www.pge.com/assets/pge/docs/account/service-requests/greenbook-update-2022-2023.pdf).

## BERGER ASSESSMENT Continued from page 1

and ensure the long-term reliability of important community facilities.

When replacing major systems such as the boiler and chiller, updated building codes may require additional upgrades. For example, the Berger Center currently does not have a fire sprinkler system, and code requirements may need to be evaluated during replacement work. Understanding these potential requirements now allows the Board to better prepare both financially and operationally if they are triggered.

The evaluation is also reviewing:

- Reserve Study items anticipated in the next several years to determine if any should be considered during this timeframe.

- Potential improvements to Berger Center functionality, such as lighting, acoustics, or space configuration that may benefit clubs, groups, and community events.

### POTENTIAL PROJECT SCOPES

The evaluation will present three potential scopes for the Board to consider:

1. Replacement of the boiler and chiller, along with any required code upgrades. This work is not optional, as these systems have reached the end of their useful life and will need to be replaced.

2. Reserve Study items that could potentially be completed at the same time (optional).

3. Functional improvements to the Berger Center (optional).

The Board will review the information for each scope and determine whether only the required boiler and chiller replacement will move forward, or whether any optional items should be included.

### CURRENT PHASE

The assessment is currently between the 50–60% completed phase, which includes:

- Reviewing building systems and infrastructure.
- Identifying potential project scopes and priorities.
- Developing preliminary cost estimates.
- Identifying risks, constraints, and opportunities.

These cost estimates would be preliminary and will continue to be refined as the evaluation progresses.

### NEXT STEPS

In the coming weeks, depending on the scope the Board ultimately decides to pursue, the assessment will move to the 90% completion phase, where scope, costs, and implementation details would be further refined. At that stage, the Board would be asked to enter a contract with ESG and costs would be associated with continuing the evaluation.

### IMPORTANT TO NOTE

- No construction has been approved at this time.
- No scope of work, project size, or funding approach has been approved by the Board.
- The current work is focused solely on evaluation and planning.

At this time, there has been no cost to OVA, and no fees have been paid to ESG for this assessment.

The Board is also beginning to consider how clubs, groups, and community events could continue their activities during any potential closure period, if future work were to occur.

We appreciate the community's interest and engagement and will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available.

If you have any questions, please contact me at christel@oakmontvillage.com or (707) 539-1611.



## Oakmont Movers and Groovers



■Denise Lindsey

### GET READY, OAKMONT:

### ANTHONY PAULE SOUL ORCHESTRA LIVE!

It's time to bring the groove to your Saturday night! Join your friends and neighbors for an unforgettable evening of high-energy soul and blues of the '60s and '70s.

Whether you're a longtime fan of soulful rhythms or just looking for a fun night out with the community, this is the place to be. Powerful vocals. Dancing encouraged!

Tickets are \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members at the door.

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 14. Doors open 5:30 p.m., music starts at 6:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Berger Center, 6633 Oakmont Drive

**FOOD TRUCK:** Come hungry! The food truck provided by HopMonk Tavern will be serving up delicious bites for all Oakmont residents starting at 5 p.m., so arrive early, grab dinner, and settle in.

Soulful sounds, great food, good company—the perfect Saturday night!

Remember dues are \$10 for a calendar year so if you haven't renewed for 2026, you can do it now. There is an envelope in the OVA office. If you are new, there is a sign-up sheet that is also in the folder at the OVA office. Thanks to all for your support.

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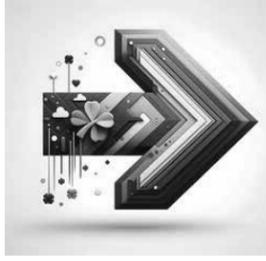
## Oakmont Singles Social Club



■Bailey Penzotti

### MARCH MIXER

**DATE AND TIME:** Friday, March 20, 6 p.m.  
**WHERE:** East Rec. Center



March is the month when everything continues turning green (can you believe many spring flowers began to bloom in January?). Leprechauns start looking for their pot of gold at the end of the rainbows and college basketball teams are ramping up for March

Madness. Everybody is a little IRISH in March and many are NCAA Basketball fans. Go Cardinals! For this month's mixer, come with a "lilt in your laughter", some pep in your step, and a smile on your face to enjoy our own little March madness.

It's also time for the election of our Oakmont Singles Social Club Board of Directors. Ballots listing nominees will be available at the OVA office between March 2-18. Fill out a ballot and cast it in the Ballot Box located next to the club folders. You'll also be able to cast your ballot at the Mixer.

Please RSVP no later than March 16 at 5 p.m., via our website, or email your Activities Director, Kat at KAT9433@icloud.com. If you need assistance with the website, please contact Alan at alans25028@hotmail.com. Remember to wear your name badge to the Berger Center.

### APRIL BON APPETIT (OSSC MEMBERS ONLY)

**WHEN:** Thursday, April 2 at 5:30 p.m.  
**RESTAURANT:** Palooza Brewery and Gastropub,

8910 Sonoma Highway, Kenwood

As is noted on their website, "In the urban dictionary, 'Palooza' is a party that goes on forever, and so it does! Starting their culinary journey in 2010, today Suzette and Jeff Tyler have two restaurants, a hotel and brew their own beer. They opened Palooza Brewery and Gastropub in 2014 and enjoy serving approachable good quality food in a relaxed atmosphere. Their passions is food and local: people, ingredients and giving back to the Sonoma County community where they live. They've provided services for various organizations such as Blood Bank of the Redwoods, the Kenwood Fire Department, Canine Companions, Light the Night and Project Grad, Kenwood Rotary Club, and Kenwood Schools. Their motto: "Treat people right, buy good ingredients, and don't screw up."

Our reservation is for maximum of 20 members. Registration is open from March 6-31 at 5 p.m. or when the 20 slots are filled, whichever comes first. If there are 20 members confirmed before this date, you will be placed on a waitlist. Please note that we will be seated in their upstairs dining area. There is no elevator at this establishment, so you'll need to be able to climb stairs.

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 or email Simone Smith at ssmith8151@aol.com.

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

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

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

**St. Patrick's Day Challenge:** On March 17, a bowler must bowl a strike in the first and seventh frames (St. Patrick's Day, 3/17) to win a \$5 gift certificate to Safeway. Stay tuned for winners.

**Easter Challenge:** On March 31, a bowler must bowl a strike in the fourth and fifth frames (Easter Day, 4/5) to win a \$5 gift certificate to Safeway. Stay tuned for winners.

**Bowling dates for March:** Mar. 17 (week #9 St. Patrick's Day Challenge), 31 (week #10 Final Winter League, Easter Challenge). No bowling Mar. 24 (fourth Tuesday).

**Bowling dates for April:** Apr. 7 (Play-off Winter Tournament, Top 4 Teams, 2 p.m. East Rec.), 14 (Week #1, Summer League), 21 (week #2). No bowling Apr. 28 (fourth Tuesday).

### RESULTS AS OF MARCH 3 (WEEK #7 WINTER LEAGUE)

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

Men's High Games: Charlie Ensley, 268; Don Shelhart, 255; Glenn Hewitt, 238; Rob Warren, 217; Richard Adamczyk, 206; Howard Sidorsky, 203, Gordon Freedman, 202.

Women's High Games: Joanne Abrams, 300; Peggy Ensley, 257; Laurel Earles, 253, Joanne Bender, 231; Sandy Osheroff, 226; Valerie Hulsey, 218; Carol Garneau, 216; Pat Scott, 213; Thea Holladay, 208, Carolita Carr, 203; Karen Palmiotti, 200.

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 all the fun.

## SESR PUBLIC MEETING Continued from page 1

March 23 from 5-7 p.m. at the East Recreation Center in Oakmont.

Residents may attend in person or via Zoom at Webinar ID: 836 5943 9620, or by calling in to (877) 853 5257. A direct link is posted on the City of Santa Rosa website and on the OVA website.

The meeting will provide an opportunity for residents to learn more about the project, review proposed plans and ask questions.

### LONG SOUGHT EVA PART OF SESR PLAN

A major component of the plan is an Emergency Vehicle Access (EVA) connection from Stonebridge Drive, near the Dog Park in Oakmont to Melita Road. The connection would be funded by the developer and maintained by the City of Santa Rosa.

While the road would normally remain closed to regular traffic, city officials could open it for emergency response vehicles or evacuation during wildfires or other critical events.

For Oakmont residents, who currently rely primarily on Highway 12 as their main evacuation route, the additional connection could represent a significant improvement in emergency preparedness.

The need for additional evacuation routes has been widely discussed in Oakmont for years, particularly following the devastating North Bay wildfires of 2017.

The proposed EVA would provide a potential alternate path for emergency responders and residents during an evacuation, offering a secondary route away from Highway 12.

### SMALLER DEVELOPMENT THAN EARLIER PROPOSALS

The housing development itself has also been scaled down considerably from earlier concepts for the site. Through discussions between Burbank Housing, Oakmont's general manager and the 2023 Oakmont Village Association Board, the developer agreed to limit the project to fewer than 300 homes, all designated for residents age 55 and older.

Earlier proposals for the Elnoka property envisioned more than 600 homes, and under California housing law the site could potentially accommodate even greater density if developed differently.

Oakmont representatives say the reduced scale helps address concerns about traffic and neighborhood compatibility while allowing the project to move forward.

### DESIGN FEATURES REFLECT COMMUNITY INPUT

Several aspects of the project design were shaped through discussions with Oakmont leadership and feedback from nearby residents.

These include:

- Two-story height limits.
- Setbacks ranging from 79 to 112 feet from Oakmont property lines bordering the proposed development.
- Firewise landscaped buffers designed to improve wildfire safety while maintaining privacy and views.

More than 35 acres—over half of the site—would remain open space, according to project plans.

The development would include creekside walking paths and a segment completing the Sonoma Valley Regional Trail along Highway 12. Improved bicycle access is also planned, helping remove cyclists from Highway 12 and providing safer connections through the area.

### EMERGENCY ACCESS SEEN AS KEY BENEFIT

For many Oakmont residents, the proposed EVA connection is the most significant element of the project.

Oakmont currently relies primarily on Highway 12 as its only major exit, a concern frequently raised during discussions about wildfire preparedness and evacuation planning. The potential Stonebridge-to-Melita access route could provide an additional option for emergency vehicles and residents during a crisis.

Residents are encouraged to attend the meeting to learn more about the project, review the plans, and share questions or comments with City representatives.



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For Appointments Call:  
707-535-6097 or 707-843-4007

## Movies At Oakmont



WHERE: Berger Center

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

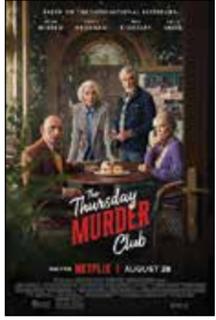


**HOSTS:** Mike McInnis, Deborah Davidson, Jeff Neuman and Barbara Marquardt.

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

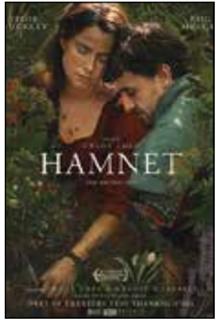
### MARCH 15: NUREMBURG

A WWII psychiatrist evaluates Nazi leaders before the Nuremberg trials, growing increasingly obsessed with understanding evil as he forms a disturbing bond with Hermann Göring. 2025, PG-13, 2:28.



### MARCH 22: THE THURSDAY MURDER CLUB

Four irrepressible retirees spend their time solving cold case murders for fun, but their casual sleuthing takes a thrilling turn when they find themselves with a real whodunit on their hands. 2025, PG-13, 1:58.



### MARCH 29: HAMNET

A powerful story of love and loss that inspired the creation of Shakespeare's timeless masterpiece, *Hamlet*. 2025, PG-13, 2:05.

## Oakmont Art Association

■ Linda O'Connor

### OAKMONT MEETS IMAGINATION— 52ND ANNUAL OAKMONT ART SHOW FRIDAY, MAR. 20 AND SATURDAY, MAR. 21, 10 AM–4 PM, BERGER

Oakmont Art Association is thrilled to present the 52nd annual Oakmont Art Show on March 20 and 21 in the Berger parking lot. This year's show will feature the work of more than 50 members of the Oakmont Art Association, showcasing a rich and diverse collection of fine art. Visitors can expect to see original works in acrylic, oil, pastel, watercolor, fiber art, and photography, many of which will be available for purchase. The exhibition highlights the wide range of styles, techniques, and personal visions represented by Oakmont's artists, making each year's show a fresh and inspiring experience.

In addition to fine art, the show will include a lively Artisan Marketplace. Artisans will offer an array of handcrafted items, including jewelry, photography, assemblage art, fiber and fabric pieces, original books, pottery, fused glass, and many other unique small works. These one-of-a-kind creations make perfect gifts and provide an opportunity to support local artists directly.

The event is designed to be both engaging and festive. Attendees can enjoy live music by Oakmont musicians and appetizers while browsing the exhibits and visiting with artists. A popular highlight of the show is the annual raffle, which adds an extra element of excitement while supporting a meaningful cause. In 2025 more than 50 raffle prizes were generously donated by local businesses. Raffle drawing and wine reception occurs at 3:30 p.m. Saturday.

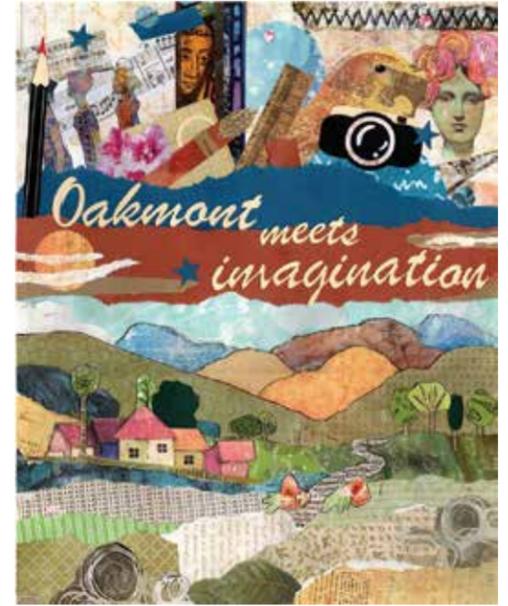


Photo of work created by Linda O'Connor.

Proceeds from the raffle benefit Art Quest, an organization that supports Santa Rosa students who are pursuing education and careers in the arts. The generosity of past attendees has made a real impact—the 2025 raffle raised \$3,200 for Art Quest, helping to foster creativity and opportunity for young artists in our region.

The Oakmont Art Association invites the community to attend this special event, celebrate 52 years of creativity, and experience the imagination, skill, and passion of its artists.

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# Lifelong Learning

■Marlena Tremont



## SANTA ROSA'S MARIMBA BAND IS BACK FOR A FREE CONCERT!

Local music educator, Irene Gilchrist, is back again with her talented troupe of student musicians. Prepare to be astounded as you enjoy world music selections played on specialized Zimbabwean marimbas. Join us in supporting this valuable program through onsite donations. Watch for smiles of joy and gratitude.

**WHEN:** Friday, April 10, 5-7 p.m.

**WHERE:** Berger Center

**TICKETS:** Donations appreciated. Theater seating.

## CELEBRATING TWO DECADES OF DISCOVERY

### AN ANNIVERSARY GALA WITH PRESS DEMOCRAT COLUMNIST, KERRY BENEFIELD

**Saturday, June 20, 2-4 p.m., Berger Center, Cost: \$10**

On a rain-soaked day in November of 2006, hundreds of people jammed into the East Rec. Center to attend the first-ever Oakmont Lifelong Learning Open House. Twenty years later, the program has offered hundreds of classes boasting over 20,000 enrollments, all managed by Oakmont volunteers.

On Saturday, June 20, OLL will celebrate its two

decades of discovery with keynote speaker Kerry Benefield, music, light refreshments by Chef Karl Turner, wines by Trattore Farms, giveaways and more!

Kerry Benefield joined her hometown newspaper in 2003 where she has covered politics, breaking news and sports and was part of the Pulitzer Prize-winning team reporting on the 2017 wildfires. In 2021, she

began writing a human interest column on the Sonoma people, places, education and institutions that make our communities tick. She is, in her own words, always “on the hunt for the brightest, most beautiful, weirdest and wildest stories you know.”

To RSVP, go to [OakmontLL.org](http://OakmontLL.org), fill out a form with your payment in the OVA office or pay at the door.

## Canine Club

■Steve Huntley

### PLANNING AHEAD FOR THE ANNUAL CANINE CLUB SPRING PICNIC

Yes folks, less than a month away, the annual Canine Club Spring Picnic to be held Saturday, April 11 at the West Rec picnic area. We also have the West Rec 2nd Floor meeting room reserved just in case of rain. This is a potluck-style picnic with the main courses of beef burgers, veggie burgers, and hot dogs provided by the Oakmont Market.

You do not need to have a dog to attend the picnic but your club dues for 2026 do need to be up to date. As a club member you should be getting all the info you need to RSVP from Peri's weekly newsletter, and if not, email her at [periolinger@yahoo.com](mailto:periolinger@yahoo.com).

Looking to adopt? Looking to socialize? Looking for doggie goodies? Next up is the Wiley's Wish and Pawsarotti's Spring Social: Adopt and Shop taking place on March 21, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Pawsarotti's Dog and Cat Boutique just down the road on Calistoga Rd. Come



Murphy.

meet incredible, trained rescue dogs available for adoption, soak up the spring vibes, and maybe even meet your future best friend!

Do you have a dog that is friendly and loves people?

Would you like to share their love with others?

Paws for Healing is a local nonprofit that trains and provides canine-assisted therapy (C.A.T.) teams to enhance the quality of life for people in our community (e.g., schools, hospitals, and more).



Marlo and Casper.

New training dates just announced are April 18, April 25, and May 2 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:p.m. Visit their website at <http://www.pawsforhealing.org> or call Oakmont resident Donna Forst at (707) 775-9241 for more information.

Volunteers are still needed at the Happy Tails Dog Park. No more than an hour per week! Just shoot Peri Olinger an email at [periolinger@yahoo.com](mailto:periolinger@yahoo.com) if you would like to volunteer.

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## Grandparents' Club

■Leslie Brockman

### HERE COMES THE EASTER BUNNY AT THE EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA



Photos by Maureen McGettigan.

Easter Eggstravaganza! It's that time of year for the Easter Bunny to visit Oakmont's grandchildren. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 4, 1-2:30 p.m. at the Berger Plaza.

There will be bounce houses, balloon animals, face painting, prizes galore, beanie babies, and egg hunts for plastic Easter eggs filled with toys and candies. Ages toddlers through teens. Come one, come all for a fun-packed afternoon ... all for the price of \$7 for Grandparents' Club members and \$10 for non-members.

Registration is now open on our website: <http://www.oakmontgrandparentsclub.org>. Join Grandparents Club for 2026 for \$20 per family to get discounts on the Easter Eggstravaganza and Grandparents' Week (July 26-31) and to support our endeavors. Computer challenged? Email [oakmont.grandparents@gmail.com](mailto:oakmont.grandparents@gmail.com) for assistance. Registration closes March 30.

We also need volunteers to help during the event—whether or not you have a grandchild attending. It's a lot of fun just to watch the action while you volunteer. Contact me at [oakmont.grandparents@gmail.com](mailto:oakmont.grandparents@gmail.com), text (949) 683-7725, or simply sign up on the website under Events. No cost to volunteer, of course!

Hope to see you and your grandchildren at the Easter Eggstravaganza on April 4.

## Domino Club



■Brian Huckins

### MIX THOSE DOMINOS

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

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

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

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

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

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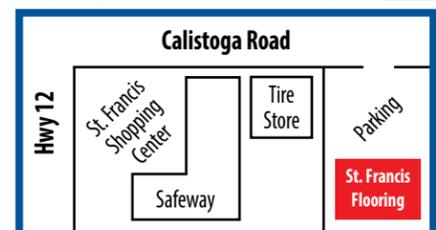
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Eloise Tweeten, Founder  
Oakmont resident since 2012

## Water Fitness



■Valerie Hulsey and Marcy Katzin

Mary's classes are back at the West pool until March 19. Unless there is a change, we will be going to the Central pool starting Monday, March 23.

Every day gets a little warmer (although we do have class rain or shine) so please join us at the West pool for 50 minutes of exercise and fun.

There is a drop-in fee of \$10 and Mary's classes are

held Monday through Thursday at 9:30 a.m. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Julie's friendly Friday water exercise class continues all year round at the West Rec pool at 10:10 a.m. every Friday. The class will move to the Central Pool on March 27 and stay there until resurfacing at the West is complete.

All fitness levels are welcome! \$8 drop-in fee.

## Meditation

■Joanne Davey

### MEDITATING TOGETHER WEEKLY MEDITATION SESSIONS AT CAC

"We can make friends with ourselves, our bodies, our minds, our hearts, until we feel at home no matter where we are."—Pema Chodron

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.

## Strength and Balance Class

■Valerie Hulsey

### MARY'S FITNESS CLASS

The Balance and strength class is held every Friday at 9:30 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. There is a \$10 drop-in fee and don't forget to bring your TheraBand for strengthening. Or, you can purchase one for \$5 when you arrive.

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

## Oakmont Health Initiative Free Fitness Classes

■Charlene Bunas



Nicole leads weight class.

### TIME TO SPRING INTO ACTION

March arrives and we spring forward. In autumn, we reverse. These semi-annual rituals of adjusting clocks feel like jet lag without ever leaving home.

Pros and cons of this ritual have been disputed since Romans times. The United States adopted Daylight Savings Time during World War I. It was meant to "add more daylight hours" for seven extra months. It became permanent for the duration World War II, signed into law by President Nixon and later repealed by President Ford.



A study in the journal *Current Biology* concluded that "poor sleep caused by DST can intensify depression and anxiety. Disrupted sleep can cause people to be groggy, less focused." Following the onset of DST, there's about a 6% rise in car accidents.

For Oakmont Health Initiative members, "spring forward" means "springing into action:"

- Three days before changing clocks, change bedtime. Go to bed and wake up earlier.
- During the first week of the time change, get at least 15 minutes of early morning sunlight.
- For several days after the time change, postpone early morning routine for an hour. For example, take your 8 a.m. morning walk at 9 a.m.
- Because alcohol and caffeine can disrupt your sleep, consider cutting down or out. Avoid sugary or high fat foods. Stay hydrated, eat plenty of fruits, vegetables and protein.
- Exercise. One of the best ways to get over jet lag... or time change is through exercise. According to Mayo Clinic, physical activity "acts as a strong cue for the body's circadian rhythm, helping it to synchronize with the new, earlier or later, time."

It takes the body about a week to reconcile a change of time. Be proactive: exercise to avoid the drag of time lag before changing your clocks.

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

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■Greg Fauss

**PAUSING FOR PATRICK**

As we continue moving through the season of Lent, we pause to consider the life of Saint Patrick. His is a story of ironic redemption. Kidnapped by pirates as a youth from Britain and trafficked to Ireland as a slave, he escaped after six years, but eventually returned as a priest and missionary in the fifth century. His work there led to Ireland's rapid conversion to Christianity.



Saint Patrick.

Similar to the story of Jesus, the takeaway for me is that God can turn to good what others mean for evil.

You can find daily inspiration during Lent on our website and opportunities for reflection at our Sunday Worship Services. We meet Sundays 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 [www.occsantarosa.org](http://www.occsantarosa.org), write us at [occsantarosa@gmail.com](mailto:occsantarosa@gmail.com) or call us at (707) 595-0166.

**Playreaders**

■D. Hall

**SPRING ROLLS IN WITH SERIOUS DRAMA**

March presentations concluded with a reading of her original work by Oakmont Playreader Sarah Shankman. Audiences love Sarah's readings.

On April 6 and 13, we hope to see a serious drama by Tennessee Williams. Jim Preston will be presenting *The Glass Menagerie*.

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.

**Oakmont Sunday Symposium**

■Judie Coleman

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

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

**MARCH 15: KY BOYD  
 KY'S ANNUAL OAKMONT  
 ACADEMY AWARDS REVIEW**



Ky Boyd, a self-professed movieholic who operates the beloved Rialto Cinemas in Sebastopol, will give us his expert take on the movies and actors nominated for the 2026 Oscars. This is always a very lively and fun event, even if you haven't seen all (or any) of the movies. (Sequined dress and Tux not required.)

**MARCH 22: DAVID SCHMIDT  
 THE BAY AREA YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW**

In this vivid, eye-opening talk, environmental historian David D. Schmidt reveals the San Francisco Bay Area not just as our home, but as a living, changing system shaped by thousands of years of human choices and natural forces. He tells a story of wildfires,



ambition and consequence, loss and renewal.

More than history, this talk is a revelation: a vivid, deeply human account of how the Bay Area became what it is today. You'll walk

away seeing the Bay Area with entirely new eyes.

**MARCH 29: JIM CODINGTON  
 A LIFE BEHIND THE LENS:  
 THE COST OF GETTING CLOSE**

Jim Codington's photos are a once-in-a-lifetime ride through a life lived at full throttle. They show a depth of experience which earned him recognition as a semifinalist in the BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year and the invitation to exhibit his work at the de Young Museum. His images aren't just beautiful. They are visceral, funny, humbling, and profound, offering a rare insight into wildlife, wilderness, and Indigenous cultures.



Come for the photographs—stay for an inspiring peek at the man behind the camera.

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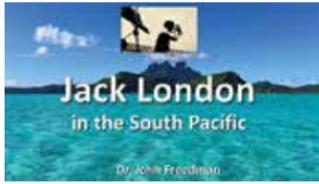
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## Lifelong Learning

■Marlena Tremont

### SPRING CLASSES



#### JACK LONDON IN THE SOUTH SEAS

**Instructor: Dr. John Freedman**  
**Thursdays, Apr. 9 and 16, 3-5 p.m., Berger**  
**2-week session. Cost: \$35 or \$26.25 with discount**  
**Online registration only**

Join Jack and Charmian London aboard their custom ketch, *The Snark*, for a South Seas adventure. See how this intriguing part of the world set a canvas for his literary achievement and shows why “the greatest story Jack London ever wrote was the one he actually lived.”

*Dr. John Freedman is a global studies scholar and lecturer for cruise lines, the Smithsonian, National Geographic and the World Affairs Council. He has visited over 170 countries.*

#### WINE: IN HISTORY, ART, AND SOCIETY

**Instructor: David Sandri**  
**Mondays, Apr. 13, 20, 27 and May 4**  
**3-5 p.m., Berger**  
**4-week session. Cost: \$65 or \$48.75 with discount**



Wine has been part of human societies for thousands of years, inspiring great art, colorful prose, religious teachings, and political influence. Join a journey through the ages, looking at how wine has intertwined with the development of humanity—in

art, culture and life.

*David Sandri has been an instructor, writer, grower, beverage judge and producer of Valued Added Agriculture products (including wine, cider, beer, spirits and olives) for over 35 years.*

#### JIMMY CARTER, RONALD REAGAN, AND THE TWILIGHT OF AMERICAN LIBERALISM

**Instructor: Mick Chantler**  
**Thursdays, Apr. 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21 and 28**  
**3-5 p.m., East Rec**

**6-week session. Cost: \$95 or \$71.25 with discount**

Vietnam and Watergate fueled deep cynicism about our government, fracturing the liberal consensus, just as Jimmy Carter rose to prominence. Ronald Reagan emerged to offer a new beginning, sparking a political sea change. How did this dramatic shift in American thinking occur?



*Mick Chantler is a beloved American History scholar and baseball fan, whose return to Oakmont is always highly anticipated.*

#### ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE LAND OF THE BIBLE

**Instructor: Alexis Boutin**  
**Wednesdays, April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13 and 20**  
**3-5 p.m., Berger**

**6-week session. Cost: \$95 or \$71.25 with discount**

Archaeological evidence can support and challenge modern interpretations of the Hebrew Bible. Explore political-economic history, material culture, and identity formation from the earliest societies



through the Persian empire; and critically examine how heritage is used for political and ideological purposes in the Middle East.

*Dr. Alexis Boutin, is an SSU Anthropology professor, Coordinator of the Cultural Heritage and Resources*

*Management Program, and bioarcheology researcher, studying human remains at sites in the Middle East.*

#### GREAT WOMEN OF THE BLUES

**Instructor: Pamela Rose**  
**Mondays, May 11, 18 and 25**  
**2-4 p.m. (early start time), Berger**

**3-week session. Cost: \$50 or \$37.50 with discount**

Understanding the vital role of women in creating and popularizing the American Blues, keeps their music and their stories alive. Explore a crucial piece of our cultural history through the ‘truth-telling’ songs of artists like Ma Rainey, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Janis Joplin, Aretha Franklin, Etta James and Bonnie Raitt.



*Back by popular demand, Pamela Rose is a San Francisco jazz and blues vocalist who has eight recordings and is on the faculty of the Jazz School in Berkeley.*

0Purchase multiple classes at the same time for the same person in the same semester and receive a 25% off to total. Register online go to [Oakmontll.org](http://Oakmontll.org), drop off a completed registration form with payment in the OLL folder at the OVA office or pay at the door.

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## Oakmont Pétanque Club

■Don McPherson

### PÉTANQUE SAUVAGE

Pétanque is typically played on an open, unbordered terrain of any surface, frequently hard-packed dirt, decomposed granite, gravel, or stones of uniform or varying sizes. In tournaments, or when multiple games have to be accommodated simultaneously, play will be confined within the borders of vertical, parallel lanes laid out with string or wire.



The finish of a fun game of pétanque sauvage played on road base.

That version of the game—conventional pétanque—contrasts with an alternative captured by the interesting French expression “pétanque sauvage”—wild pétanque. As the expression is typically used in the U.S., the “wild” characteristic usually references an unconventional terrain—in a redwood grove among and around trees; on a rough, bumpy grass field or a sandy or rocky beach; on a hill side; on a patch of big, jagged

road base rocks; on paths in a cemetery!

According to a recent post on the blog “All About Pétanque,” the expression “pétanque sauvage” as used in France refers not so much to a “wild” terrain—which may or may not be involved—but specifically to the informal, unofficial organization of the play. This informality likely involves a looseness in attention to the approved rules, conventions, and customs of competitive play as governed by the 332,000 member-strong French Federation. Thus, the essence of “pétanque sauvage” is play primarily for fun, including the unconventional wildness of a terrain or location, as opposed to play as organized competition strictly adhering to the rules.

### 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 interested Oakmonters 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.



## Magical Night of Music Fundraiser—April 10

### PRESS RELEASE

Maria Carillo High School Band boosters is hosting a gala fundraiser, A Magical Night of Music, featuring many of the instrumental ensembles from MCHS, on April 10 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at The Backdrop on 1455 Corporate Center Pkwy.

Please come and enjoy good food, music, auction items, wine and beer to help support the instrumental music at MCHS.

Tickets can be purchased at: <https://mchsbandboosters.betterworld.org/events/magical-night-music-copy> or with the QR code below.



## Kiwanis Club of Oakmont



■Charles Ensley

### SHREDATHON COMING MARCH 26

The next OVA and Kiwanis co-sponsored drive-through Shredathon is Thursday, March 26 in the Berger parking lot. Hours are 9 a.m. to noon, or earlier if the truck is full.

You may bring the equivalent of five banker boxes. No looseleaf or spiral notebooks, as they jam the shredder. You may remain in your vehicle, and our members will remove items from your trunk. There is no charge, but any donations help fund our scholarships to Montgomery and Maria Carrillo High School Key Club students.

A recent speaker at our Thursday morning breakfast meetings was Nate Myers, Superintendent/Principal of Kenwood School District. He discussed financial woes in other districts and highlighted the new transitional kindergarten and sixth grade classrooms in Kenwood. Our club sponsors dictionaries for second graders, Hope of America awards to two students in each fifth and sixth grade classes, and helps fund STEAM programs. Nate was presented the balance of our \$1,500 annual donation. We are also the only sponsor of new books for the library Luther Burbank Elementary School on Sonoma Avenue.



Photo by Charles Ensley.

While Redwood Empire Food Bank barrels are no longer around Oakmont, our club is happy to transport canned and boxed food there. No glass jars.

We meet Thursday mornings at Berger Center, 8–9:30 a.m. You may drop off your food donations there that morning and we will transport them to REFB after our meeting.

## Jazz Club Live Music and Workshop



■Michael James

### DYNAMIC TRIO IN APRIL

Join us in April as violin stylist Candace English plays beloved jazz, pop and country tunes featuring guitarist Randy Vincent and Bill Fouty on bass.

Candace English was born in Compton and raised in a musical family. Her grandma played ragtime piano and Liberace was a friend. At home, in the family business (Tiny Town Kiddieland Park), at school or church, there was always music. (Tinytownpark.com).

After attending the University of Iowa, Candace married jazz/film composer Jon English and moved to Europe, where she was a leading interpreter of modern vocal music (candacenatvigenglish.com). In the 1980s she worked in musical theater in San Francisco, forming her own non-profit organization with the mission of perpetuating music of Bay theater composers through choral performance. She founded Music in the Blood, a chorus which thrived as a theater community icon until the mid '90s. (musicintheblood.com)



Candace English.

A self-taught violinist, Candace returned to her childhood instrument in the '90s, becoming an orchestral musician and aspiring jazz player. She has worked as an arranger, composer, teacher and licensed family therapist. Candace facilitates the Oakmont Grief Support Group (candacenglish.com).

Guitarist Randy Vincent is an improvising artist known for remarkable agility and imagination. After moving to California in 1980, he played at jazz clubs and festivals in the Bay Area and across the U.S. and Europe. He’s performed with many greats: Dizzy Gillespie, Joe Henderson, Bobby Hutcherson and Mel Martin. Randy teaches at S.F. Conservatory and Sonoma State, enjoying the fulfillment of creative expression through jazz.

Bill Fouty, bass guitarist, was raised in Burbank, and studied under legendary bass pedagogue, Nathaniel Gangursky. Throughout his youth, Fouty played in classical music ensembles. Later he settled in Sonoma County and became active in the East Bay jazz scene, while playing in the hospitality sector throughout the Wine Country.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 1

**TIME:** 2–3 p.m. performance, 3–4 p.m. open jam/workshop

**WHERE:** East Recreation Center

**COST:** Suggested donation \$10

## ECK Spiritual Adventures Club

■Kimberly Morris

### THE WONDER OF YOU

You are cordially invited to our monthly club event on Friday, March 20 from 3–4:30 p.m. in Birch Room and explore “The Wonder of You.”

Have you experienced a sense of life after death? Have you caught a glimpse of one of your past lives? By now, most of us have lost a loved one and experienced precious moments when our beloved continued to help us in our new life. Others may have discovered a knowing from another lifetime that came to help you today. Oh, the wonder of You.

Harold Klemp, Spiritual Leader of Eckankar, shares from his book, *ECK Wisdom on Life After Death*: “You are Soul—an eternal, individual spark of God, who can never die. Each person is a divine being who comes to life on earth every time with a spiritual purpose and gains a unique wisdom.” And, “Death is a doorway,

a transition into the inner worlds. Births and deaths mark a movement from one stage to another as a further step on Soul’s journey home to God.”

Eckankar offers a series of spiritual practices with Divine Spirit that can lead to deeper understanding of love, wisdom and freedom. The purpose of Eckankar is to help explore your true self, Soul, an eternal being, created by the creator, to gain spiritual freedom and more love. Soul becomes a co-worker with God. We offer a direct ancient love song to God, the HU, that can benefit anyone’s deeper and inner exploration.

All perspectives are warmly welcome at the ECK Spiritual Adventures Club as we share and learn from each other.

Interested, contact California website at <https://eck-ca.org> to learn more about Eckankar and me at (707) 312-6369 and [ECKClubOakmont@outlook.com](mailto:ECKClubOakmont@outlook.com).

## Table Tennis



■Herbert Ristock

### TABLE TENNIS AT THE 2026 OSCARS

The film *Marty Supreme* is a finalist at this year's Oscars, and Timothée Chalamet, portraying ping-pong hustler Marty Mauser, is widely considered a frontrunner for Best Actor. To prepare for the role, he trained under former world champion Timo Boll. One of the key challenges was adapting to the way table tennis was played in the 1950s.

At that time, the sport was largely a defensive "hardbat" game. Over the decades, technological innovations—such as sponge rubber, high-friction inverted rubbers, speed glue, and larger balls—transformed table tennis into today's fast, spin-heavy, aggressive, close-to-the-table game.

At our Table Tennis Club, players showcase a wide variety of individual styles—past and present. We'd be delighted to have you join us!

Schedule for open play at West Rec. Center upper floor:

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 <https://sites.google.com/view/oakttclub/> for further information.

## Oakmont Democratic Club



■Ida Engli

### HOLLY NEAR SINGS FOR DEMOCRACY

The Oakmont Democrats Club and Alliance are busy planning and implementing bi-election events, working locally toward a blue wave in CA and the US Congress. Tickets for the April 2 Holly Near concert and fundraiser are selling quickly. Holly Near has long been an outspoken political activist and singer-songwriter, a national music treasure up there with Joan Baez and Pete Seeger.

Near's music and life story illustrate how song can have the power of lyrical call and can influence the course of social justice. Berger Doors will open at 6:00. There will be a raffle as well as snack food and beverages. Attendees will have a chance to hear candidate Villegas speak before the concert begins. Go to [oakmontdemocraticalliance.org](http://oakmontdemocraticalliance.org) for tickets and details.

In February the Alliance had a full house for Jennielynn Holmes, CEO of Catholic Charities of Northwest California. She spoke about, "ICE, Immigration and Homelessness in Sonoma County." She garnered a full house at the East Rec and the crowd was generous in supporting her and the work Catholic Charities does locally. The March speaker will inform us about a proposed November ballot issue, the California Billionaire Tax Act. All are encouraged to attend and learn about this proposition on March 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the East Rec.

The April 13 speaker at East Rec will be the current Santa Rosa mayor, Mark Stapp. He will speak and answer questions about city government issues, including information about the planned development Southeast Santa Rosa Senior Housing Community located west of Oakmont, formerly called Elnoka. Check out details at [www.srcity.org/2568/Elnoka-Senior-Community](http://www.srcity.org/2568/Elnoka-Senior-Community).

Next Oakmont Democratic Alliance Social: March 26, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Every fourth Thursday of month.

Next Oakmont Democratic Alliance speaker: April 13, Santa Rosa Mayor, 6:30–8:30 p.m., Presentation and Q & A beginning at 7 p.m., East Rec. monthly, second Monday.

Much more at [oakmontdemocraticalliance.org](http://oakmontdemocraticalliance.org).

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

## Tennis Club



■Diane Curtis

### OUR MAN-OF-THE-WORLD TREASURER

Edilberto Loaiza is the OTC money man, the volunteer treasurer for the club who collects the dues and events payments, deposits the checks in the OTC bank account, does the spreadsheet work that keeps careful track of the funds and pays the bills. (He also knows who hasn't paid their 2026 OTC dues yet, so if you're one of the procrastinators, please get your \$30 check to him via the OVA office and join the club fun guilt-free.)

Oakmont's courts were a big draw for Edilberto and his wife Ruth Layne (also a formidable tennis player) when they moved here in 2017. "I had to reinvent myself," he said, explaining that he left a United Nations job he loved because of mandatory retirement at age 62. "I didn't want to retire, but I had to." In his new Oakmont life, he dove into a host of activities that included tennis, golf, yoga and gym workouts as well as supporting OTC and coordinating tournaments and events.



Tennis Club Treasurer Edilberto Loaiza. (Photo by Diane Curtis)

Outside Oakmont, he volunteered as a court-appointed advocate for neglected and abused children in the welfare system. That volunteer work aligned with the career he had at the UN, first coordinating data production, analysis and dissemination about child mortality, protection and education for UNICEF and then working as a social demographer for the United Nations Population Fund.

A world view grew naturally. Born and raised in Colombia, Edilberto earned his Ph.D. in Canada, met then-Peace Corps volunteer Ruth in Honduras, lived (and played tennis) for a time in the Dominican Republic and traveled the world for his UN work.

Questions about OTC? Email to [hellooakmonttennis@gmail.com](mailto:hellooakmonttennis@gmail.com).

## Let's Dance—Together!

■Terry Whitten

### LEARN BASIC STEPS IN COUNTRY 2-STEP IN APRIL

**WHAT:** Beginning Country 2-Step partner dance classes

**WHEN:** Wednesdays, April 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 4–5:15 p.m.

**WHERE:** Lower West Rec. Center  
**COST:** \$10 pp if 2 or more classes are purchased at the same time. \$12 pp for single class. Please pay at the door with cash or check.

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

Country 2-Step is one of the favorite partner dances in Sonoma County. It is an upbeat and fun partner dance that can be danced to lots of great Country Western music as well as to some Swing, Rock 'n Roll and Foxtrot music. The basic steps will be taught over the course of 5 classes and each class will build on the material taught in the previous week.

No partners or experience are required. We will rotate partners during the classes. However, couples that prefer to stay together may do so. Also, any ladies that want to lead and any men that want to follow are very welcome.

Partner dancing has been shown to be good for our muscles, balance, brains and spirit! A number of studies have shown that partner dancing on a regular basis may reduce the possibility of cognitive decline and may actually increase mental acuity. Please join us for a fun way to get exercise and meet great people.

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



## Conservatives Club



■Jane Gyorgy

### LOOKING FORWARD

This month please join us Tuesday, March 24, 4–6 p.m. at the Berger Center (6633 Oakmont Dr.) when we are honored to welcome Orlean Koehle, CEO of Eagle Forum, whose mission is to empower conservative and pro-family citizens to shape public policy rooted in liberty, family, virtue, and enterprise.

Members: RSVP "Yes," "No," or "Maybe" to the invitation coming soon. Everyone is welcome—bring a friend, bring your voice.

Non-members, please email [TheNewOakmontDD@gmail.com](mailto:TheNewOakmontDD@gmail.com). If you are bringing a guest(s), please provide the full name(s).

Last month, the Conservatives Club listened to an informative and alarming presentation by Sharon Wood, Executive Director of New Day for Children. According to Wood, children as young as two are being sexually trafficked, though the average age for girls is 12-14, and for boys it's even younger. Wood shared that up to 300,000 US children fall victim to trafficking each year, and there's a significant increase in early death without intervention.

While most aid programs restrict funding to the communities where it originates, thus trapping victims where they were harmed, Wood shared that New Day for Children is a national network with homes across multiple states. This program offers victims specialized, 24/7/365 residential care, and is staffed entirely by trauma-informed personnel, from cooks to tutors to therapists. Every role is part of the healing mission. Support continues long after a child returns home.

We were grateful for the visit from New Day for Children. You can learn more about this organization at [NewDayforChildren.com](http://NewDayforChildren.com).

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

## Valley of the Moon Rotary Club



■Star Power

### YOU DID IT!

A few weeks ago, Valley of the Moon Rotary held their Annual Crab Feed Fundraiser. Thanks to you in Oakmont, your friends and family, it was a wonderful evening of food, fun and very generous contributions toward next Rotary year's community and international projects.

The Fund-a-Need this year was Redwood Empire Food Bank and the response was overwhelming. Thanks also go to the many hands it takes to pull off such a big event, which includes every one of our members, but also their friends that showed up to lend a hand. The teens from Chops Teen Center in Santa Rosa, who served everyone did a bang-up job and got lots of tips. Let's not forget the auctioneer, Kenn Cunningham, who led the Live Auction.

After the locally-caught crab and sides were heartily consumed, a raffle was held. The items raffled off were a plethora of lovely themed baskets, i.e. Spot O' Tea, Tee Time, Pasta Galore, Chocolate Lovers Delight, etc. All went to good homes.

Then came the Live Auction, which offered up a Weekend in Bodega Bay, 8 days and 7 nights at Fish Inn Hat Creek, Dinner for 8 at the Saddle Club, One week Condo Stay in Honolulu, A weekend in a beautiful Bennett Valley House, and A week at Purisima House in San Antonio, San Miguel de Allende.

All in all, more than 75 businesses and individuals helped sponsor this event. Valley of the Moon Rotary thanks all of you for your generosity and kind help.

See you all next year!

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## 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](http://www.onewayplumb.net) or call us at 537-1308 for all your plumbing needs.

## AIR CONDITIONING REPAIR

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

## 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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.

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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.

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## 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](mailto:OakmontsPainting@gmail.com).

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

## 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.

## HOORAY! IT'S SPRING

Nice warm weather and maybe time to freshen up the house or get those little odd jobs taken care of. Call or text Dan Morse, painter and handyman, (707) 799-5823.

## 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.

## 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.

## GALUS PAINTING

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

## 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

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## MARSHALLS PLUMBING

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

## COMPASSIONATE PERSONAL ASSISTANT/COMPANION

Heart centered companionship, positive creative support, and assistance. Also, Celtic harpist, multi-instrumentalist, performer, mentor, soothing original, professional music for special occasions, therapeutic sound and healing facilitator, 40 yrs. exp. References. Call or text Jewel at (503) 487-7338. Oakmont resident.

## NEED COACH

Help build social media audience for my book *Letters from My Wife* (Amazon.com). Will pay for tutoring. Contact Keith Patterson, [kpsails@yahoo.com](mailto:kpsails@yahoo.com).

## 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.

### 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](http://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  
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Venmo (@agnes-reznikov) or Zelle ([cjmprod567@gmail.com](mailto:cjmprod567@gmail.com)).  
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(Non-voting officer)

tom.kendrick@oakmontvillage.com

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christel@oakmontvillage.com

**POOLS & JACUZZIS**

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

WEST: 7 AM-9 PM

(Closes 7 PM Wednesdays for cleaning)

EAST: 6:30 AM-9 PM

(Closes 7 PM Mondays for cleaning)

CENTRAL: 5:45 AM-9 PM

(Closes 7 PM Tuesdays for cleaning)

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

CENTRAL POOL HOURS FOR PEOPLE UNDER 18:

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

Memorial Day-Labor Day: 12-4 PM daily

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

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

**COORDINATOR**

**Rides to Medical Appointments**

**March 1-15**

Jen Rabalais 808-938-4479

**March 16-31**

Colleen Keegan 925-487-4014

We provide the following services to Oakmont Residents:

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

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

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

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

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

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

**HOW TO CONTACT  
YOUR LOCAL OFFICIALS**

**County Supervisor Rebecca Hermosillo, District 1**

Phone (707) 565-2241

Email: rebecca.hermosillo@sonoma-county.org

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

**City Councilwoman Dianna MacDonald, District 3**

Email: dmacdonald@srcity.org

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

**InvestOAK**



■Joseph Pundyk

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND POWER PLANT INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT**

The major stock markets of the U.S. and World hit new highs in January, but in February it was a different story. The markets were volatile and headed downward due to concerns over inflation and over investment into Artificial Intelligence, perhaps leading to a great loss of jobs.

On the last trading day of February, the S&P-500 Index decreased by 0.43% to 6,879 from the high in January of 7,002, just .018% lower. The market was down because the preferred inflation gauge of the Federal Reserve the PPI increased in January 2.9%, year on year. The Producer Price Index is the equivalent of the wholesale inflation gauge, indicating that February would perhaps have higher inflation than during January. The CPI overall inflation rate in January 26 actually went down to 2.4% year on year from 2.7% in December 25.

The economy improved in the first two months of 2026 because infrastructure investment has greatly increased for AI data centers, power plant, factories, land, etc. In January the U.S. manufacturing index, the ISM increased to over 50%, indicating that investment is starting to produce fruit. AI investment is at new highs and there is an exciting battle for survival between the major AI software names: OpenAI, Gemini, Perplexity, Claude and Grok.

Commodity prices for Gold, Silver, Copper and Uranium reached new highs, but Crypto-currencies continued their downward spiral. Ed Yardeni one of the great investment commentators coined, "Gold is the new Bitcoin" as virtually all the Crypto-based coins, ETF's and equities reached lows in early 2026. The US-\$ is doing poorly as its deflation continued into 2026.

InvestOAK reports and discusses which investments are performing well. For many of us the performance of our IRA's and other investments are critical. These issues are part of the enjoyable discussions.

Please join for the next InvestOAK Club meeting for a discussion about investing in the Stock market and Alternatives on Friday, March 20, from 10-11:30 a.m. in the Birch Room of the Central Activity Center.



A Food Pantry for All

**New Tax Incentives Make Giving to F.I.S.H. Food Pantry Even More Impactful**

**PRESS RELEASE**

New federal tax changes mean more people may qualify for a charitable deduction—even without itemizing. Your gift to F.I.S.H. of the Santa Rosa Area helps provide reliable access to nutritious food for neighbors facing food insecurity, whether their need is temporary or long-term.

As Sonoma County's largest and longest-serving food pantry, F.I.S.H. delivers food directly to people who need it most—efficiently, locally, and with dignity.

Please call (707) 527-5151, visit our website [www.fish-of-santa-rosa.org](http://www.fish-of-santa-rosa.org) or scan the QR code below to donate or learn more.



**Pickleball Corner**



■Peter Copen

**DID YOU KNOW?**

• Humans have long been infatuated with how tall we can build things. Pickleball players seem to be infatuated with something else — how many hours in a row people can play our sport without stopping.



Cartoon by Peter Copen.

So... a new record was set recently for singles, and it was achieved by two men from Grand Rapids, Michigan, who met through the local pickleball community. They played for 28 straight hours, which shattered the previous record of 24 hours.

• Always stay behind the baseline after you hit your serve no matter how good your serve felt, it's always easier to move forward into a shot than to retreat. If you creep in too soon and your opponent hits a deep return, you'll be forced to backpedal into your third shot, which makes it much harder to stay balanced and controlled. Crowding the line also leaves you vulnerable if the ball lands at your feet—one of the toughest positions to defend from. Give yourself space, stay patient, and move forward only after you've read the return.

• Time to define a word or term that is widely used in the pickleball world: Skinny Singles—a version of pickleball where two players play against one another. However, unlike regular singles, only half of the court is used at any given time. Both players line up on the right side of the court to begin and depending on the score, they either play out the point diagonally or down the line. Skinny Singles is a great way to practice doubles—and you don't have to be skinny or single to play.

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>.

**Oakmont Ukesters**



■Rebecca Gilbert

**LEARN TO PLAY UKULELE**

The Ukesters of Oakmont is offering a six-week course to any Oakmont resident. This is a great opportunity for you to learn to play the ukulele and sing along as an added bonus. The ukulele is one of the most popular instruments in America and easy to learn.

It is also great for seniors for these 10 reasons: 1) Improves hand-eye coordination, 2) Reduces stress, 3) Boosts brain function, 4) Promotes social connection, 5) Enhances creativity, 6) Boosts mood and self-esteem, 7) Offers a low-cost hobby, 8) Can be done anywhere, 9) Fosters a lifelong love of music, 10) Improves self-discipline.

The added benefit following class participation is to become involved with Ukesters weekly practice sessions and occasional performances at Oakmont Gardens and other social events such as Grandparents' Week.

**WHEN:** Fridays, March 20, 27, April 3, and 10

**TIME:** 10-11 a.m.

**LOCATION:** OVA Suite B

**COST:** \$5 for printed materials

**WHAT TO BRING:** Ukulele, tuner and music stand

**CONTACT:** Rebecca Gilbert, (949) 887-0925

## Lawn Bowling



■Mary C. Blake

### INTERESTED IN LEARNING TO BOWL?

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

### COMING TOURNAMENTS

At last! Let the tournaments begin! Our first tournament is St. Patrick's Day on Tuesday, March 17 at 12:30 p.m.

For those of you who haven't bowled in a tournament for a while or who are new, the holiday tournaments are fun games, often with a little twist



Janet and Linda at St. Patrick's Day, 2019. (Photo by Mary Blake)

just to make them a bit more interesting. Sign up for the tournament on the board on the shed or online. On the day, bring \$3 and show up 15 minutes before start time.

For most tournaments, you'll dress in white. But we don't want anyone to get pinched, so shades of green are also welcome.

If you're feeling a little rusty and would like a friendly refresher, contact

Janet Johnson, who's now in charge of training. Richard Goodwin will be setting up monthly workshops and Janet can help you on an individual basis. Our goal is to help you enjoy bowling.

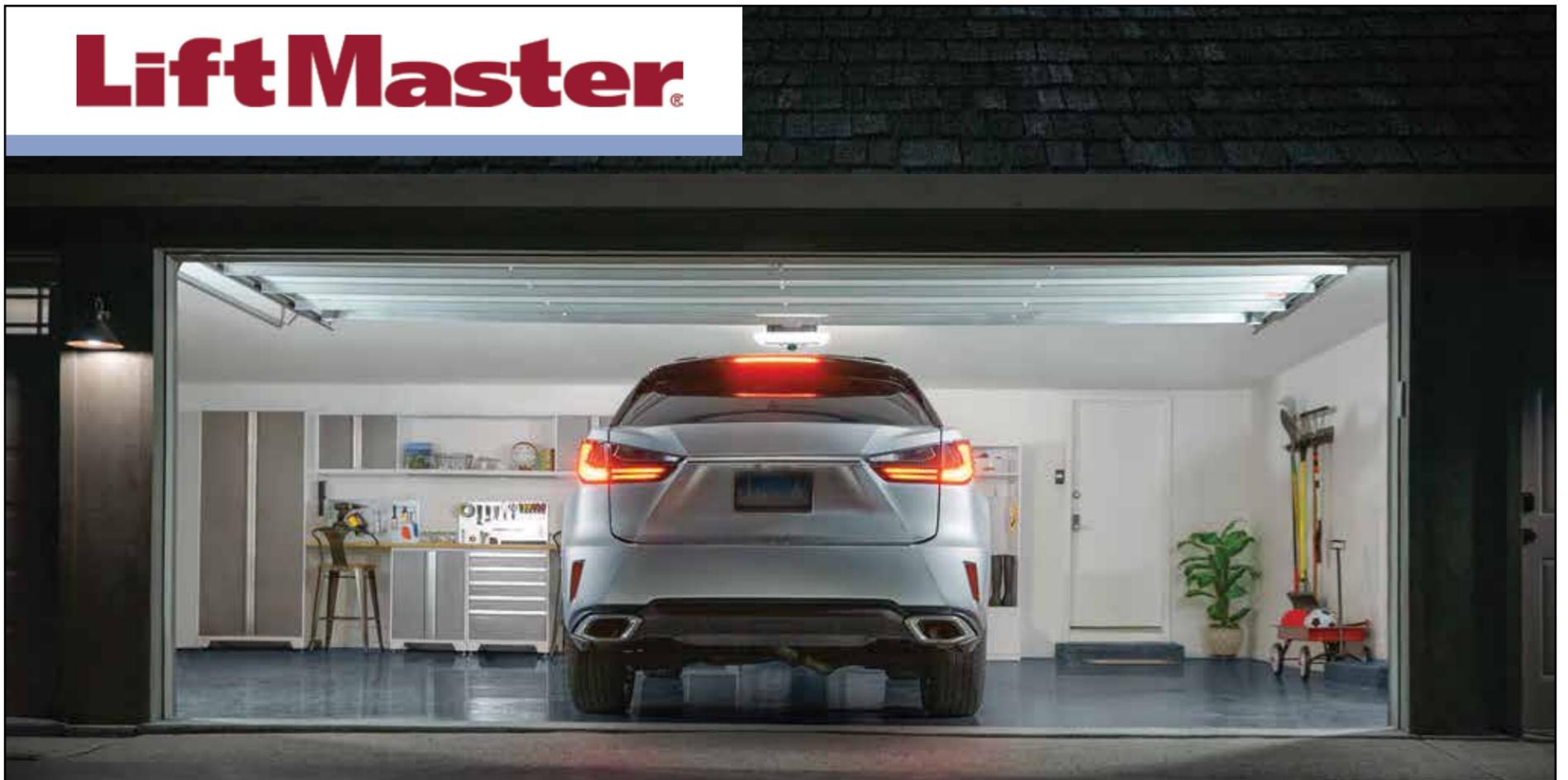
Email: [oakmontlawnbowling@gmail.com](mailto:oakmontlawnbowling@gmail.com).

Website: <http://www.oakmontlawnbowling.com>.



Juan, Denise and Mark at St. Patrick's Day, 2019. (Photo by Mary Blake)

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# Hikers



■Scott Finn

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.

## MARCH 19: INTERMEDIATE HIKE JENNER HEADLANDS

Join me on one of my favorite coastal hikes on the Jenner Headlands Preserve. We'll take the Sea to Sky Trail and Raptor Ridge trails with lunch at the Barn on Raptor Ridge. This will be a cardio workout but we'll take it fairly slow and easy and besides, I'll bring those delicious Bonnie's Brownies to power us up the hill, so no worries. 4.2 miles, 928 feet.

Bring poles and lunch and there are restrooms at the trailhead. Hike leader is Gary Andersen, (360) 778-9604, [garyandersen66@gmail.com](mailto:garyandersen66@gmail.com).

## MARCH 19: LONG HIKE ANNADEL LAWNDALE RD./RIDGE TRAIL LOOP

We will hike into Trione Annadel State Park to the Lawndale Road trailhead and take Lawndale Rd to the Schultz Rd trailhead before continuing on the Schultz, Ridge and Marsh trails to loop back to the

Lawndale Trail and the East Rec. The loop will be about 11.3 miles and 1,437 ft of elevation gain.

Bring layers, water, lunch and poles, if desired. Hike leader is John Schwonke, (707) 292-7359.

## MARCH 26: INTERMEDIATE HIKE SPRING LAKE/TRIONE-ANNADEL

Let's explore two lesser hiked trails between the two parks. Starting at the upper lot of Spring Lake, we'll take the first part of a loop trail that leads to a frog/salamander pond. From there a rather steep, rocky narrow trail through the woods will put us on the Cobblestone trail in Annadel for a bit before we do the Orchard trail loop. Here you'll see remnants of quarrying from long ago. Consider this a challenging hike with some rocky parts up and down and decent elevation gains. Wonderful views of forest and meadow. 4.5 miles, 650 ft. elev.

Regional pass or \$7. Muddy trails cancel. Bring a lunch, sunscreen and water. Hike leader is Marilyn Pahr, (707) 541-6430.

## MARCH 26: LONG HIKE CANYON, WATERFALL, PONY GATE, LOWER BALD MOUNTAIN LOOP HIKE

Hikers will see a powerful waterfall and beautiful vistas on this 7-mile hike. This beautiful hike will be a picture worthy with overwhelming sounds of



Sugarloaf Waterfall.



Brown Belted Cow.

gushing waterfalls to the iconic views from Bald Mountain.

Bring poles, lunch, water and selves. Hike leader is Chris Sork, (707) 495-3196.

# Progressives Club



■Ed Biglin

## BINGO NIGHT FUNDRAISER

On March 26, the Oakmont Democratic Alliance will host a Bingo Night fundraiser at the East Rec. Center. The evening will feature donated prizes along with light appetizers and refreshments. A social begins at 6:30 p.m. followed by Bingo at 7 p.m. Funds raised will support related efforts. Jackie Elward, currently on the Rohnert Park City Council and a past Mayor of Rohnert Park, is expected to attend and is a familiar figure at ODA events. Come meet her and enjoy an evening of Bingo and conversation.

## HOLLY NEAR CONCERT

If you haven't already gotten your tickets for the Holly Near concert on April 2, you can purchase them at [www.oakmontdemocraticalliance.org](http://www.oakmontdemocraticalliance.org). Holly is a nationally known singer/songwriter who has performed with all the folk singers of our youth.



Holly Near and Jan Williamson.

She will perform with pianist Jan Williamson. For over half a century, she has also been an activist for progressive, anti-war, feminist and LGBTQ+ causes. Her concert will be a benefit for related causes.

Come join us on April 2 at the Berger center for an evening of uplifting music and activism. We'll have light appetizers and libations to share. Doors open at 6 p.m.

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



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510-734-5327  
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*Gabriella and Stan*

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