

# OAKMONT NEWS

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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.

## Trivia Coming to the Berger A Benefit for Oakmont Community Foundation (OCF)

■Jim Brewer

An OCF fundraising Trivia Night will take place April 23—the first of four featuring Trivia Master Joanne Phillips. The event will begin at 5 p.m. in the Berger Center. All proceeds from the trivia nights support OCF grants that are awarded to Oakmont clubs, groups and individuals with eligible projects and events.

Team captains can register a table of eight players on a first-come, first-serve basis. Only one person per

See **TRIVIA** on page 4

## OVA Testing New Transportation Program

■News Staff

At the March 17 Board meeting, General Manager Christel Antone updated the Board on a 12-month pilot program that will transition the community bus service to GoGo Grandparent, a ride coordination service that works similarly to Uber or Lyft.

See **PILOT PROGRAM** on page 4

## Plan Ahead West Rec. Center Parking and Pool Closures This Spring

■Oakmont Village Association

The parking lot at the West Rec. Center will be closed April 6–14 for repaving. The facility itself will remain open during this time, and street parking is available on Stone Bridge Rd., Meadowridge Ln., and Meadowridge Dr. Residents are encouraged to carpool, allow extra time, or consider an alternate meeting space during this period.

Beginning April 9, the West Rec. Center pool and spa will close for resurfacing—routine maintenance scheduled as part of OVA's Reserve Study. In addition to resurfacing, the project includes ADA-compliant stair reconfiguration, new handrails, and updated coping.

This work is estimated to take approximately eight weeks. During the closure, residents are welcome to use the pools at the Central Activities Center and the East Rec. Center.

Water Fitness classes normally held at the West Rec. Center will move to the Central pool beginning April 9 for the duration of the project.

Work is expected to wrap up in mid-June, restoring full access to the West pool and spa.

Questions?  
Contact OVA at [askova@oakmontvillage.com](mailto:askova@oakmontvillage.com).

## OHI Getting It Done During Tax Season!



Members of Oakmont Health Initiative shared the Berger Center with AARP Tax-Aide services this past month and made great use of the space for their fitness classes. From left to right are four of the members near the Berger bathrooms: Patricia Cosgrove, Reenie Lucker, Donna Kaiser, and Karen Dieterle. (Photo by Kerin McTaggart)

## OVA Election Deadline Approaches

■Oakmont Village Association

Oakmont Village members will learn the results of the 2026 Oakmont Village Association (OVA) Board of Directors election on April 6, when votes are counted and announced during the annual meeting.

The Board of Directors election will decide three seats on the OVA Board, and those ballots will be counted April 6. Ballots pertaining to the proposed bylaw amendments will only be opened if a sufficient number of ballots are received by the April 5 deadline. Quorum for the bylaws amendments requires a minimum of 803 votes; however, 1,607 affirmative votes are needed for each amendment to pass.

Ballot counting for the Board of Directors election will begin at 10 a.m. at the Berger Center during the Annual Meeting, with bylaw amendment ballots to be counted afterward if applicable. Results are scheduled to be announced at the Organizational Meeting at 2 p.m. Both meetings will be available via Zoom livestream and recording.

During the morning Annual Meeting, the board will also recognize two honors: the Volunteer of the Year Award and the Community Service Volunteer of the Year Award. The Susan Millar Award, presented to the Volunteer of the Year by the Oakmont Community Foundation, includes a \$1,000 grant to an eligible Oakmont club or group selected by the recipient.

Ballots were distributed by mail or email based on member preference. Mail ballots must be returned in the provided envelope, and online voters must use credentials supplied by the election provider. Ballots will not be accepted at the OVA office or at the Berger Center on the day of the meeting.

Members who need a replacement ballot are encouraged to contact Pro Elections at (209) 559-1448 or [info@pro-ei.com](mailto:info@pro-ei.com) before the deadline.



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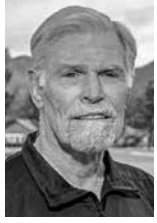
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## Maintaining and Planning for Our Community Facilities

■Matt Oliver, Board of Directors President



Maintaining and planning for the long-term care of community facilities is an important responsibility of OVA. The following overview explains how maintenance planning, management responsibilities, and the Reserve Study guide these efforts.

Reserve studies and maintenance plans are planning tools for identifying long-term repair, replacement, and improvement projects, which are updated each year. The Reserve Study evaluates community facilities and infrastructure and helps forecast when major repairs or replacements may be needed. This allows the association to plan responsibly for long-term maintenance while maintaining financial stability.

As facilities age and conditions change, priorities, project scopes, and timing may be adjusted to reflect updated inspections, operational needs, and financial considerations. This ongoing evaluation helps ensure that maintenance and improvements are addressed in a responsible and practical manner.

The term “deferred maintenance” is commonly used in the real estate and property management industry. It refers to work that may be needed in the future but does not yet have a specific timeline, or work that is scheduled based on priorities, available resources, and operational planning. Items identified in the Reserve Study may be revised, updated, or rescheduled as conditions change or as additional information becomes available.

The Board of Directors provides oversight, approves budgets, and authorizes projects, while the identification, scheduling, and coordination of maintenance activities are handled by our professional management staff. Throughout the year, OVA management continually evaluates maintenance needs and prioritizes projects based on urgency, safety considerations, and available resources. Seasonal weather conditions or storms may require immediate work such as tree trimming or removal to address potential safety hazards, which can temporarily shift maintenance priorities to ensure the safety of residents and the protection of community property.

The Berger Center provides a good example of how this planning process works. Elements of repair, maintenance, and potential upgrades for the building have been identified in prior Reserve Studies as part of long-term planning. Over the past year, OVA management has been conducting further evaluations to better define the scope of needed and desired repairs and improvements, including assessing building conditions and identifying improvements that may need to be prioritized.

Management is currently working with consultants and contractors to define the work, along with scheduling and cost estimates. Once this information is finalized, it will be reviewed by the Finance Committee and then presented to the Board of Directors for consideration and vote. If approved, the work would then move forward for implementation.

Maintaining community facilities is an ongoing process that requires careful scoping, planning, prioritization, and responsible financial management. OVA management and the Board of Directors remain committed to ensuring that our community assets are properly maintained and positioned for the future.

Residents are encouraged to stay informed about community projects and planning efforts through Board meetings, committee reports, and regular OVA communications. Continued engagement and awareness help support informed decision-making and the long-term stewardship of our community facilities.

## Oakmont: A Firewise USA Community in Good Standing

■Matt Zwerling, Firewise Resource Task Force

Driving into Oakmont on each of its main entrances is a sign that says that Oakmont is a “Nationally Recognized Firewise USA Participating Site where Residents are Reducing Wildfire Risks.”

Oakmont has been a member of Firewise USA since 2018. Firewise USA is a national organization started in 2002 by the National Fire Protection Association to help communities reduce wildfire risks. Oakmont is one of over 2,000 active Firewise communities across the country.

Oakmont qualified to become a Firewise USA site after the OVA Board submitted an application in 2018 with a wildfire risk analysis of Oakmont, established goals to reduce those risks and created the Firewise Resource Task Force to educate residents about wildfires.

To maintain its Firewise USA status Oakmont submits an annual report documenting that it has met requirements for either hours or money spent on actions that reduce wildfire risks during the year. The annual report lists Oakmont’s educational events such as Town Hall presentations by wildfire experts, the annual informational Fire and Earthquake Fair and tours of firewise homes.

A major activity that helps Oakmont to keep its Firewise USA status are the free firewise educational assessments that the Firewise Resource Task Force performs at resident’s homes. These informative assessments educate residents on both defensible space and home hardening actions which help to reduce wildfire risks.

Hours and dollars spent by residents to reduce wildfire risks count in the annual Firewise report. The A.C. office gives out a questionnaire that records hours and dollars spent on a resident’s home. Residents can sign up on the OVA website for a firewise educational assessment. These assessments are not used for enforcement purposes but are for a resident’s education and help with renewing our annual Firewise USA Community status.

It is beneficial to maintain our Firewise USA Community status because many insurance companies give a discount to residents on their premiums because of that status and it demonstrates that Oakmont takes seriously wildfire risks and is working to reduce those risks.

## 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.

## Emergency Communications Drill

■Tom Pugliese, Oakmont Emergency Communications Task Force

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 9–11 AM**

Our spring drill will simulate a magnitude 6.8 earthquake on the Hayward and Rodgers Creek faults causing power outages, major infrastructure damage, blocked roads, structural damage and the potential for serious injuries. County and City agencies have issued shelter-in-place orders, expected to last several days. Normal communications, including 911, are either down or overloaded.

The drill coincides with the Sonoma County Spring Shakeout which begins at 10 a.m. While this event does not affect our exercise, our team will now have the opportunity to practice messaging and radio skills while participating in a County-wide earthquake awareness event. Whether you are a volunteer or not, I encourage you to register at [socoemergency.org/event/shakeout2025](http://socoemergency.org/event/shakeout2025). When registering, you can also sign up for SoCo Alerts to notify you when the shakeout begins.

During the drill our Emergency Communications team and our radio network will be activated. Neighborhoods with radio volunteers, wearing yellow vests and carrying walkie-talkies, will check on residents’ well-being. If assistance is required, these “Zone Communicators” will use their radios to request support from Oakmont resources or directly from County and City agencies through our network which has direct access to the County Emergency Operations Center and REDCOM. Official status updates will also be shared through this network. Our goal is to stress our systems and processes to identify areas for potential improvement.

If you do not see a volunteer wearing a yellow vest in your neighborhood it may be due to lack of radio coverage. Prior radio experience is not required. We provide the equipment and training, and the annual time commitment is about nine hours. Email [OakmontW6OVA@gmail.com](mailto:OakmontW6OVA@gmail.com) for more information about volunteering as a neighborhood radio volunteer on our Emergency Communications team.

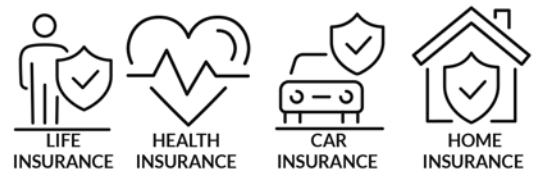


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## Water Fitness



■Valerie Hulsey and Marcy Katzin

### JOIN US AT THE POOL

As of this writing the West pool will be closed starting on April 9 so we will start using the Central pool on April 9 until further notice but please watch your emails for any changes.

Every day gets a little warmer (although we do have class rain or shine) so please join us at the West pool (until April 8) and the Central pool starting April 9 at 9:30 a.m. 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.

## Elnoka Project Neighborhood Meeting Report

■Susan Miller, News Staff

On Monday evening, March 23 from 5-6:30 p.m. at the East Recreation Center, the City of Santa Rosa hosted and facilitated a Neighborhood Meeting on the topic of the Southeast Santa Rosa Senior Housing Community (formerly known as "Elnoka"). This meeting was very well attended and was available on Zoom for those who could not attend in person. No decisions were made at the meeting; it was for information sharing only.

The meeting in fact did not adjourn until 6:30 p.m. due to all of the questions and comments from the audience. Note that questions were not able to be received via Zoom; only those present could participate. The Project Planner is Kristinae Toomians, a Senior Planner with the City of Santa Rosa, who gave the City Staff Presentation. Several other members from the City were also present, including representatives of the Fire Department, and engineers from various departments.

The Applicant Presentation was given by Vin Smith, the president of VCS Consulting on behalf of Burbank Housing. The project includes 69 acres along Highway 12 and would involve 275 homes for seniors aged 55 and up. According to the proposal, there will be a mix of housing types, including multi-family affordable housing units that Burbank Housing will build. The rest of the planned development is slated for single family houses, for which Burbank is expected to engage other developers. About 34 of the 69 acres will be developed for housing, leaving the open space and trails. An Emergency Vehicle Access Road, which the City will maintain, and which the Fire Department will control, will be constructed at the beginning of the project development. It will have a gate and will not be used for regular traffic. In an emergency, the Fire Department will determine if it is needed for fire trucks or for evacuation purposes.

Issues which need to be addressed in the planning stages include traffic, emergency response, buffers and setbacks, recreation and the environment. The City of Santa Rosa adopted their General Plan a year and a half ago and this new proposal meets the General Plan requirements.

Members of the community present included both Oakmont residents and those from the wider community including the Melita area. Questions and comments began promptly at 5:30 p.m. Concerns centered on the issues of traffic, evacuation, fire safety, the decision to build additional houses in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), increased insurance costs, preserving wildlife and wetlands, a buffer for homes on Stone Bridge Road and the Community Garden, and water use. The Traffic Engineer present stressed that CalTrans controls Highway 12 so they are in charge of additional traffic lights, not the City of Santa Rosa.

Attendees were allowed to express their opinions, most of which focused on evacuation and traffic.

Additional project information, including plans and documents are available on the City's project webpage: [www.srcity.org/2568/Elnoka-Senior-Community](http://www.srcity.org/2568/Elnoka-Senior-Community).



## 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](mailto:mikemilbrath0@gmail.com). More information is available at [www.nhbsc.org](http://www.nhbsc.org).

## TRIVIA Continued from page 1

table should register. Registrations for individuals and groups fewer than eight are welcome and will be accommodated by creating teams formed by OCF. Seating is limited and registration deadline is April 20.

The cost to play is \$10 per person and bring your own snacks and beverages. Gift cards to a local coffee shop will be awarded to the first-place team.

To register a team for Trivia Night, go to [OCFtrivia@gmail.com](mailto:OCFtrivia@gmail.com) or drop by the OVA office where there is a sign-up sheet posted.

Future trivia events will be held in July, October and January 2027.

More than \$400,000 in grants have been awarded since the foundation was created in 2007, but last year awards were issued to a more diverse group of recipients than in previous years. A successful proposal no longer has to be submitted by a club or OVA-approved group. Individuals in Oakmont are encouraged to also create events and projects that meet OCF guidelines as charitable and educational, and collaborations within Oakmont are encouraged. For more information or to download a grant application, go to [oakmontcommunityfoundation.org](http://oakmontcommunityfoundation.org).

Among last year's recipients were the Asian Pacific Heritage Club, Grief Counseling, Caregiver Support Group, Games Club, the Oakmont Library Volunteers, the Community Garden and Music at Oakmont. The Foundation also hosted a Health and Wellness Fair last August with more than 400 in attendance.

The Oakmont Community Foundation (OCF) is an independent California non-profit Public Benefit Corporation specifically organized to enhance and support educational and charitable activities within Oakmont Village Association. It is governed by an all-volunteer board.

## PILOT PROGRAM Continued from page 1

Starting in May, residents will be able to use the service by calling a phone number exclusive to Oakmont or by using an app. The GoGo Grandparent pilot is budgeted at \$60,000 for the year, compared to the current city bus service, which costs approximately \$117,000 annually and continues to increase each year. This represents an estimated annual savings of \$57,000.

In addition to cost savings, the program offers increased convenience and flexibility for residents. Service is curb-to-curb, drivers are specially screened for transporting older adults, and family members can help manage rides. Initially, rides will follow the same general destinations currently served by Bus 16 to ensure continuity for residents. Over time, however, there is an opportunity to expand to a broader range of destinations, including additional locations within Oakmont—such as visiting neighbors—as well as other destinations beyond the community.

Each participating resident will receive two fully subsidized rides per month to the same shopping destinations currently served by the bus, with the option to take additional rides at personal expense. The program can be cancelled at any time, giving the Board flexibility to adjust or end the trial based on resident feedback and usage.

Because this is a pilot program, staff will be closely monitoring the service and gathering resident feedback along the way. One of the key advantages of GoGo Grandparent is its flexibility, allowing the program to evolve and be refined over time to better meet the needs of the community. Residents are encouraged to stay tuned for additional details, including the dedicated phone number and app access, which will be shared as we get closer to launch.

The Board approved an expenditure of \$110,616 to purchase the chiller at the Berger building. Because the existing chiller has reached the end of its service life, Operations Manager Todd O'Donnell recommended moving forward now due to the approximately four-month lead time for procurement and the likelihood of cost increases over time. Ordering the equipment in advance will help control costs and ensure the chiller is on hand when replacement is scheduled, allowing for a more efficient installation process.

The Board also approved replacing the damaged benches surrounding the Lawn Bowling Green at a cost not to exceed \$33,000. The new metal slat benches were chosen to better complement the bronze benches at Berger Plaza and support future site standardization, and carry a lower estimated lifecycle cost compared to the wood slat replacement previously considered.

The OVA launched a new pilot program introducing an AI-powered chatbot on the Oakmont website, [oakmontvillage.com](http://oakmontvillage.com), designed to help residents quickly find answers to common questions. The Oakmont Chatbot can assist with forms and policy questions, club information, and general community and facility topics. To use it, simply visit the OVA website and click the orange circle with the white speech bubble in the lower right corner of your screen, then type your question in plain language. As with all pilot programs, resident feedback is essential. OVA encourages everyone to try it out and share their thoughts by contacting the OVA office at [askova@oakmontvillage.com](mailto:askova@oakmontvillage.com).

Finally, the OVA Board encourages all residents to make their voices heard in this year's election. Three Board seats and two bylaw amendments are on the ballot, both of which will shape the future of our community. Completed ballots must be received by Pro Elections no later than 5 p.m. on April 5. Ballot counting will begin at the Annual Meeting on April 6 at 10 a.m., held at the Berger Center and on Zoom.

## 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)

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



Candace English.

## 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 tinaleswis31@comcast.net or call (707) 758-9739.

## OAK at the VOM Golf Club

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

### EASTER BRUNCH AT OAK—APRIL 5

Join us for a festive Easter Brunch with seating at 12 p.m. (doors open at 11:30 a.m.). Pricing is \$65 per adult and \$35 per child (ages 3-12), with a \$10 upgrade available for a bottomless mimosas and Bloody Mary experience.

The buffet will feature: Fresh Fruit Platter, Assorted Quiche, Crab Cakes, Teriyaki Meatballs, Assorted Bagels, Cream Cheese, English Muffins, and Jams, Belgian Waffle Station, Poached Prawns with Lime Horseradish Cocktail Sauce, Deviled Eggs, Scrambled Eggs, Apple Wood Smoked Bacon, Apple Chicken Sausage, Cheesy Potato Gratin, Baked Salmon with Herb Butter Sauce, Pineapple Ham, Roasted Rosemary Garlic Encrusted Bottom Round, Assorted Desserts.

To make a reservation, contact Marisa at (707) 539-0415 ext. 2 or mmangano@playvom.com.

### OAK RESTAURANT EXTENDED HOURS—STARTING APRIL 1

Monday-Saturday: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Sundays: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

### LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE

OAK is hosting live music throughout April and May. Doors open at 4 p.m., with a \$10 cash cover charge at the door. Reserve your table in advance by contacting Marisa at (707) 539-0415 ext. 2 or mmangano@playvom.com.

April 6: Showcase Band  
April 20: Coffey Park Band  
April 27: O' and the Riots  
May 11: Relish Band  
May 18: Third Rail Band

### WALKING AND FISHING POLICY REMINDERS

A friendly reminder to all members: fishing on any of the golf course ponds is not permitted due to safety concerns. We also ask that everyone observe posted golf course walking hours, available on our website at playvom.com/the-club/walking-policies.

### RANGE CARD SALE—APRIL 17

Mark your calendars! On April 17, you can purchase a Driving Range card for \$100 (regularly \$150), which gets you 12 large buckets for the price of 10. It's a great deal for anyone who loves time on the range.

### GOLF LESSONS

Interested in improving your game? Learn about our instructors and available programs by visiting our instruction page at playvom.com/golf/instruction.

### CALLAWAY DEMO DAY—APRIL 17

Make the leap with Callaway's newest Quantum Driver! Work one-on-one with Callaway's expert fitters from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to dial in the Quantum Driver with Tri-Force Face, engineered to maximize distance, speed, and consistency. Sign up for a fitting at the Callaway Golf Fitting page.

### XXIO DEMO DAY—APRIL 3

Join us April 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for an exclusive XXIO Demo Day at Valley of the Moon Club. Test out the latest equipment and get custom fit by an expert brand fitter.

To sign up, contact Khiana Schmuhl at (707) 539-0415 ext. 4 or kschmuhl@playvom.com.

### UPCOMING PAINT NIGHTS AT OAK

Looking for a fun evening out? Painted Cellars is hosting Paint Nights at Oak on the following dates. Click the links to learn more and register:

April 3: Mountain Meadow: paintedcellarssoco.com/events/mountain-meadow-4-3-26  
May 26: Sunflowers: paintedcellarssoco.com/events/sunflowers-5-26-26

## Weed Smarter, Not Harder Natural Alternatives to Chemical Herbicides

■Lesli Lee, Oakmont Environmental Stewardship Task Force

Weeds in Oakmont? Those uninvited guests show up unannounced, overstay their welcome, and somehow thrive no matter what you do. But before you reach for that bottle of herbicide, consider this—your garden doesn't have to be a chemical battleground.

A growing awareness of synthetic herbicides' impact on the health of soil, pollinators, and humans has sparked a shift toward effective and more environmentally sound approaches.

According to Sonoma County Master Gardeners, mulch is one of the simplest and most effective alternatives. A 2-3" layer of composted wood chips or shredded leaves, over flattened cardboard smothers weed seeds by blocking sunlight while simultaneously enriching the soil as it breaks down. Using discarded election signs can temporarily work in a pinch. Apply combustible mulches in a firewise way far from structures and with gaps of noncombustible materials.

In the 0-5' zone next to structures, use a thick layer of light-colored rock mulch.

Ground cover plants offer a living solution. According to our local California Native Plant Society chapter President and Oakmont resident Liz Parsons low-growing species like Salvia (sage), Fragaria (strawberry), Epilobium (CA fuchsia) and Achillea (yarrow) planted in a firewise way naturally crowd out weeds while providing habitat for beneficial insects.

Boiling water applied directly to young weeds between driveway cracks or along fence lines is a highly effective spot treatment.

A highly concentrated vinegar/liquid soap combination directly sprayed on more tenacious weeds works in cracks between pavers and in unplanted rock mulch areas. With eye/skin protection use sparingly to minimize harming nearby beneficial insects and soil organisms.

Hand weeding remains unbeatable for precision and pure pleasure. Using a Hori Hori knife, hula hoe or weeding fork after rain, when soil is soft, makes root removal far easier and more thorough.

Most effective before weeds go to seed these methods work with the garden ecosystem rather than against it. Healthier soil grows healthier plants, pollinators and people—and fewer weeds over time.

**Save the Date:** Sunday, May 24 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.—Ecofriendly/Firewise Home and Garden Tour.

## Jewish Interest Group

■Howard Sidorsky

### THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS—WHAT A TREAT!

Every Sunday at 9 a.m., in the Birch Room in the Central Activities Center, members of the Jewish Interest group and other Oakmont guests have been watching and discussing episodes from *The Great Courses on the Dead Sea Scrolls*. This dedicated group has been there each week since January 11, to learn about the finding of the scrolls and their content. In addition, every Sunday, we have been enjoying lox, bagels, cream cheese and coffee, much to everyone's delight.

The sessions will end in April and then we will be back to our normal location and time in the East Rec. Center on the third Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. Upcoming will be a presentation and discussion led by Rabbi Morrison, from Congregation Shomeri Torah, on Israel and what is happening in the Middle East. We are still working on the exact date.



## Oakmont Volunteer Helpers Aging in Place

■Matt Zwerling

### THE COUNCIL ON AGING RESOURCES BY LINDA GABOR

At a March 7, presentation sponsored by the Oakmont Aging in Place Workgroup, Jamie Escoubas, CEO of the Council on Aging (COA), shared practical ways the COA supports older adults and caregivers across Sonoma County. COA is a local nonprofit (founded in 1966) offering services in four key areas: Nutrition, Health, Social Connection, and Fiduciary Support.

Highlighted COA resources include:

- Meals on Wheels (serving about 500 clients), community dining, and drive-up/pick-up meal locations (wait list may apply).
- Aging in Place, an 8-week program with seated exercise and nutrition education.
- PEARLS (Program to Encourage Active, Rewarding Lives), an evidence-based coaching program delivered over 6–8 sessions.
- A Senior Peer Support program with one-on-one trained volunteers.
- A Family Justice Center for support of those experiencing elder abuse.
- An Adult Day Care program at four County locations for people with cognitive decline.
- Fiduciary services including help with power of attorney, trustee duties, advanced health directives and special needs trust administration (fees apply).

The COA website is [councilonaging.com](http://councilonaging.com) with a large list of other community resources. Contact them at (707) 525-0143.

Another valuable entity is the Sonoma County Aging and Disability Resources, which provides resource assistance at (707) 565-4636. Their extensive website is [socoardh.org](http://socoardh.org).

Mark your calendars for the next Oakmont Aging in Place Forum: June 20, 10 a.m. Information to follow.

## 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.



## Playreaders



■D. Hall

### PLAYREADERS CLUB PRESENTS THE GLASS MENAGERIE

Drama in the first degree—it's Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*, and it's about to debut by Oakmont Playreaders. The classic is a memory play that premiered in 1944 and catapulted Williams from obscurity to fame. The play has strong autobiographical elements, featuring characters based on its author, his histrionic mother, and his mentally fragile sister. Jim Preston produced and directed this cast: Sarah Shankman, John Dolan, Lis Erwin, and Mike Erwin. Act 1 will be on April 6 and Act 2 on April 13.

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.



Approaching *Lavendar* by Julie Crutcher. Readers were Star Power, Marcel Coder and Margaret Applegate. (Photo by John Dolan)

## Table Tennis

■Herbert Ristock

### SAFETY FIRST

As one could read recently in a local newspaper, falls are one of the most common—and often most dangerous—health events affecting older adults. In fact, they are the leading cause of injury-related hospitalizations among adults over the age of 65 in the United States. Fortunately, a few simple habits can help reduce the risk of falling when playing table tennis.

Start with a stable playing position. Keep your feet about shoulder-width apart, knees slightly bent, and lean a little forward from the hips so your weight stays balanced on the balls of your feet. This position improves balance and makes it easier to move safely.

Other helpful tips include:

- Wear non-slip athletic shoes with good support.
- Warm up before playing to loosen muscles and improve balance.
- Move your feet instead of overreaching for the ball.
- Let unreachable shots go - one missed point is better than risking a fall.
- Keep the playing area clear of loose balls, bags, or other obstacles.

With good posture, smart movement, and a little caution, table tennis can remain a safe, enjoyable, and healthy activity for players of all ages. We'd be delighted to have you join us! Here is our 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.; and Sunday, 3–5:30 p.m.

Please visit our website <https://sites.google.com/view/oakttclub/> for further information.



## Music at Oakmont



■Judy Walker

### ERINYS QUARTET MAKES ITS DEBUT AT OAKMONT

After presenting several concerts showcasing unusual instrumental combinations, for our April concert we will return to chamber music's core instrumentation. For lovers of string quartets, this concert's for you!



The Erinys Quartet.

Making their first visit to Oakmont, we will feature a young ensemble which is making quite a name for itself in the chamber music world. The Erinys Quartet all studied at the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music and were mentored by the esteemed Dover Quartet. Since the

Autumn of 2025 they have performed as the graduate string quartet-in-residence at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music while studying with the renowned Pacifica Quartet.

Named for the "Erinyes" (the Furies) from the Greek Tragedy *Oresteia*, their members hail from Estonia, Lithuania, Greece and the United States. The quartet was founded in 2018 at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki. They went on to win top prizes at the prestigious Fischhoff Chamber Music competition in 2024 and in 2025, the Trondheim International Chamber Music Competition in Norway.

They are currently performing throughout the United States and Europe including their visit to Oakmont where they will be playing works by Webern, Beethoven and Debussy. I will address the program in more detail in a follow-up article. Meanwhile, please save the date for this stimulating April concert.

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 18 at 1:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Berger Center

**ADMISSION:** \$35 (cash or check only), or with season pass

## Conservatives Club



■Jane Gyorgy

### EAGLE FORUM MEETING DETAILS AND VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Our March meeting featured Orlean Koehle of the Sonoma County chapter of Eagle Forum. Eagle Forum, founded in 1972, educates on self-governance, public policy, and political action. Eagle Forum is a nationwide organization. Local chapters operate independently and may vary in focus and activities. More information is available at [EagleForumCA.com](http://EagleForumCA.com).

Debbie LeBoy, Chair of the Sonoma County GOP and Election Integrity Chair, will speak at our April 28 meeting. Her presentation will address Republican involvement in upcoming primary and general elections. Volunteers are needed at headquarters or for phone outreach. Volunteer tasks may include phone banking, event setup, or greeting attendees. No prior experience is required.

Monthly meetings occur on the fourth Tuesday, 4–6 p.m. at Berger (6633 Oakmont Dr.). Food and drinks are provided. Attendees must supply full names for name tags and seating.

RSVP instructions vary by status:

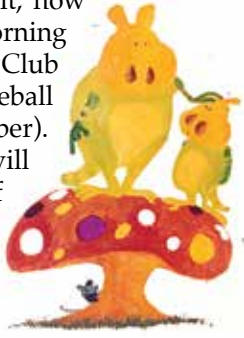
- Members: Reply "YES," "NO," or "MAYBE" via the link in your invitation or by email.
- Non-members: Email [TheNewOakmontCC@gmail.com](mailto:TheNewOakmontCC@gmail.com).

## Pickleball Corner

■Peter Copen

### WANT TO LEARN PICKLEBALL? FOR NEWBIES!

Spring is just around the corner and what better time to get out and enjoy the outdoors and try something new! There is lots of buzz about Pickleball and if you have wanted to try it, now is the time. Every Tuesday morning at 9 a.m. the Oakmont Pickleball Club offers an Introduction to Pickleball (don't need to be a club member). We have two coaches who will guide you through the rules of the game and have you playing before the hour is up. Paddles are provided so all you need to do is show up and we will have you laughing and loving the game before the hour is over.



Graphic by Peter Copen.

Once you have completed the Introductory Class, the OPC has just added a Beginners Class on Thursdays at 8:30-9:30 a.m. for club members. We will have two coaches there and will help you develop your skills and confidence. They will teach you strategies and all the tricks of the game. This is a great opportunity to meet other beginning Picklers.

In addition, the OPC has many parties and events throughout the year. There are two tournaments in addition to a super spooky Halloween Party, Christmas Ugly Sweater event, Game Nights and many other opportunities to socialize, exercise and enjoy the camaraderie of Pickleball! Please feel free to check out our website: oakmontpickleballclub.com.

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: oakmontpickleballclub.com.

■Geoff Canham

## Spirituality Collaborative

### EMBRACE THE MYSTERY

Some aspects of spirituality, such as being compassionate, have been tested and demonstrated to be good for you, as well as for others. Other spiritual topics, such as whether there is really a separate spiritual realm, are open to speculation. If you enjoy delving into mysteries, why not join us as we discuss all aspects of spirituality.

Our meetings start with a 5-minute meditation

to ground us after the cares of the day. Then we usually have a specified topic to at least start off the discussion. We meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 4 p.m. in the Birch Room of the CAC.

For more information, and to get on our email list if you'd like, contact Sue Aitken at slaiken5440@gmail.com and/or me (Geoff) at gcanham@cs.com. Embrace the mystery!

■Deb Ponts

## Bocce Club

### SPRING HAS SPRUNG

We had a great turnout for our St. Paddy's Tournament. The next tournament, "Tax Time Tournament," is Saturday, April 11 at 1 p.m. Tournaments are for club members only, unless we have space available for non-members to play.

Official play dates for Bocce Club members are

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 1 p.m. New member lessons are available the first Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. Club members or Oakmont residents can reserve one court during times not reserved for member play times by contacting Bob Swift, (707) 548-5409.

The noise level at the courts has been brought to the club's attention, please be considerate of the neighbors living near the courts, use hand signals vs yelling scores.

Bocce is a fun way to make new friends while enjoying a low impact sport. Throughout the year we have monthly tournaments, periodic happy hour events, and picnics. If you are interested in joining, annual dues are \$25, you'll receive the code to access the Bocce equipment.

Applications for membership are available at the OVA Office. We prefer cash, but will accept checks payable to our treasurer, Tony Sarram.



Photo by Maureen McGettigan.

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## Oakmont Art Association

■Linda O'Connor



Monet, Church San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice, 1908.

### ART TALK—MONET AND VENICE

Although Claude Monet visited Venice only once, his paintings of the city are among his most dazzling. This preview of the DeYoung Museum Exhibition, March 21–July 26, was co-organized with the Brooklyn Museum and is the first dedicated to Monet's Venetian cityscape since their debut over a century ago.

Featuring more than 100 artworks, the exhibition places Monet's Venice paintings alongside select works from across his career, including his *Water Lilies*, as well as Venetian views by artists such as Renoir, Sargent and Canaletto. Unlike the bustling scenes painted by other artists, Monet's Venice is eerily deserted, its architecture, buildings, and canals dissolving in an encompassing hazy light he described as the "enveloppe."

The exhibit and our Oakmont presentation by Alfred Escoffier offer a rare opportunity to experience Monet's version of the famed Italian city.

Alfred was a graduate of the 2011 Docent class at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, where he gives tours to children and adults at both the Legion of Honor and the de Young. He earned his AB at Stanford in Art History and is pleased to be using

his art history in his volunteer work. Alfred was the library director of the Burlingame Public Library for nearly 20 years. He lives in Sonoma with his partner and a labradoodle named Sylvie.

**WHEN:** April 10

**WHERE:** Berger Center

**TIME:** Refreshments 10 a.m. and Program at 10:30 a.m.

## "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.



■Greg Fauss



He Is Risen—The First Easter by Arthur Hughes, 1893.

### PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER

Join us for a joyous celebration with real palm branches on Palm Sunday and on Easter Sunday! Visiting grandkids are of course always welcome.

We will consider the far-reaching meaning of these two historical events, especially the resurrection to life of Jesus, which dramatically changed the course of history. That women in a patriarchal society were providentially the first to discover and proclaim this good news says something.

There's something inspiring in all of this for everyone, so please join us Sundays at 10:30am in the East Rec. Center. We aim to be a safe place.

For information about our Wednesday Morning Bible Study, occasional meetings in Oakmont Gardens, Saturday Prayer, 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.



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## Oakmont Garden Club



■Patty McHugh

### IMPROVISING WITH FLOWERS

**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 8, 9:30 Social, 10–11 a.m. Presentation, Q&A follows

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

**SPEAKER:** Barnee Alexander

Glorious Spring—a rebirth! Dormant trees and shrubs are awakening and leafing out, early bulbs are putting on a show, and early flowering plants are gracing us with gorgeous blooms. The list of springtime praises is long indeed.

Barnee is a longtime Garden Club member and volunteer and was delighted to be asked to offer another flower arranging program. The timing is perfect with so much to pick from. It is sure to give your imagination a boost, as her creativity and vision are an inspiration.

In Barnee’s own words: “To immerse in arranging, to create with flowers, you become ‘Mother Nature’, orchestrating your personal symphony. Pleasing yourself, there are no wrong arrangements. That is not to say there aren’t any critics; but everyone views beauty differently. I collect flowers, greenery and any natural material that I find interesting from my



Photo by Barnee Alexander, Program Presenter.

own garden and from generous neighbors and friends. “The challenge is to be able to work with what is available here, not having to purchase flowers. Choosing to use only what is accessible makes every part of a flower a potential addition to the arrangement—spent seed pods, just the flower’s stem, an interesting weed, possibly a turkey feather—all could be included. These elements play off the few perfect flowers, making them shine, but do not dominate the arrangement. The enjoyment for me is creating a harmony of all the parts working together.”

Barnee brings fun to the program with her affable personality, funny anecdotes and love of a good pun. As always, first-time guests are always welcome!

## Oakmont Sunday Symposium



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

■Judie Coleman

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

### 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.

### APRIL 5—EASTER SUNDAY

No meeting—be kind to bunnies!

### APRIL 12: CRAIG GRIFFEATH GARDEN OF SYMBOLS: THE PLANTS BENEATH THE CANVAS

From ancient myths to cutting-edge exhibition design, art historian Craig Griffeth presents an intriguing, eye-opening journey into how plants have shaped the language of art. Discover the secret meanings hidden in Old Master paintings, wander through legendary gardens from Eden to Versailles, and see how flowers, trees, and vines have inspired modern icons from Monet and Van Gogh to O’Keeffe and Warhol. Once you see it, you’ll never look at art—or plants—the same way again.



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## Oakmont Democratic Club



■Ida Engli

### HOLLY NEAR CONCERT, BINGO NIGHT—PLUS, POLITICAL SPEAKERS

The April 2, 6 p.m. Holly Near fundraising concert is nearly sold out. The Berger Center event invites guests to enjoy Holly’s fabulous music, along with food and drink, silent auction and raffle. Find details and get tickets at [Oakmontdemocraticalliance.org](http://Oakmontdemocraticalliance.org).

Another fundraising event to look forward to is the Bingo Social at East Rec. on March 26. Enjoy games with your neighbors for a good cause. Sign up at Alliance website or arrive early at the East Rec.

The April speaker will be Santa Rosa mayor, Mark Stapp. He will update us and answer questions about the Elnoka development, our city schools, city budgets, and more: Monday, April 13, 6:30 p.m., East Rec.

Our own Tom Jorde, retired UC Berkeley Law School professor, will speak for us on Monday, May 11 at the East Rec. at 6:30 p.m. He will talk about how the Supreme Court has transformed the scope of the modern presidency, as well as about the Brennan Center for Justice, and current constitutional and judicial issues concerning our court systems.

Next Speaker Meeting (East Rec., 6:30 p.m.): Mayor Mark Stapp, April 13

Next Social Night (East Rec., 6:30 p.m.): April 23

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.

## Kiwanis Club of Oakmont



■Charles Ensley

### SHREDATHON DOLLARS FUND SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to those who made donations to our Kiwanis Foundation at our March 26 Shredathon, co-sponsored by OVA and Kiwanis Club of Oakmont.

Donations along with funds from our foundation enabled us to sponsor Melvin and Kathy Ruiz Scholarships for four graduating seniors this month. They went to the presidents of the Maria Carrillo

and Montgomery High Key Clubs, as well as two other members of the Montgomery Club. They were all accepted at UC and CSU campuses. They will be recognized at their schools' awards recognition assemblies in May.

Recent speakers at our Thursday morning breakfast meetings included Theresa Rhodes of Kids Scoop News, Sarah Ramos of Boys & Girls Clubs of Sonoma-Marin, Breanne Beseda of Redwood Empire Food Bank and Leslie Brockman of Oakmont Grandparents Club. Funds raised at our semi-annual Shredathons and our upcoming August 8 Carnitas and Margarita Dinner all go to support Sonoma County organizations that serve those in need, especially those with a focus on children. We are the only funding source for

library books at Luther Burbank Elementary School on Sonoma Avenue.

We also join Oakmont Rotary Club and Grandparents Club in co-sponsoring the April 4 Easter Egg Hunt.

Kiwanis Club of Oakmont meets each Thursday morning at Berger Center. Breakfast begins at 8 a.m. and the meeting runs 8:30-9:30. Most weeks we have speakers along with occasional service projects completed at the meetings.

We collect canned food for the Redwood Empire Food Bank at the first meeting of each month, and have a warehouse workday scheduled there on May 22. We invite you to come to a meeting for a free breakfast.

For more information contact me at (707) 623-9564.

## Quilting Bees

■Linda O'Connor

### WE WELCOME QUILTERS OF ALL LEVELS

Quilter? Or maybe a "wanna-be" quilter? Either way, the Oakmont Quilting Bees offer a welcoming and creative place for anyone interested in quilting.

Oakmont has a vibrant group of quilters ranging from beginners to experts—and everyone in between. The Quilting Bees meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 1-3 p.m. in the Art Room at the Central Activities Center (CAC). Meetings are relaxed and social, giving members an opportunity to share finished projects, works in progress, or even ideas that are still in the planning stages.

At a recent meeting, members enjoyed seeing a project from Carol Jarvis, who shared a quilt pattern she originally purchased in 1978. After rediscovering the long-set-aside project, she decided it was finally time to complete it—proof that quilting inspiration never expires.

Members also discussed entering art quilts in the Oakmont Art Association show on March 20 and 21.



Several members shared recent creations. Vivian Valencia displayed a beautiful bed-size scrap quilt, while Julia Grant showed a lap quilt she thoroughly enjoyed making. Cherie Gooler brought a newly finished red knitted hat supporting the "Melt the Ice" movement that began in Minnesota. She noted that red yarn has become difficult to find in stores because so many people are making the hats.

Janet Chosa showed a table topper she made with Irish themed fabric for use on St. Patrick's Day. Joan Moore showed a bright, beautiful quilt top made with Kaffe fabrics and our visitor from Oregon, Pamela Hilton showed a table runner she made.

Members also announced an upcoming fabric and sewing garage sale in Skyhawk on

March 28 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Helen Anderson said the group welcomes donations of fabric, patterns, books, and other sewing supplies. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Santa Rosa Quilt Guild.

New quilters—and curious visitors—are always welcome. For more information call Elizabeth McDonnell at (707) 538-2523.

Photos by Liz McDonnell.

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## Hikers



■Colleen Keegan

We welcome you to join us on a hike whether you are a member yet or not. Bring water, lunch, hat, sunscreen and poles if you use them. The annual membership is only \$15. Go to our website at <http://www.oakmonthikingclub.org> to join, get hike details, see photos, register for a hike and more. Keep checking website for updates.

### APRIL 2: LONG HIKE OAT HILL MINE



Trail Oat Hill Mine.  
(Photo by Colleen Keegan)

Hike along an old mining road used by freight wagons hauling quicksilver from the mines to the railroad in Calistoga. The wildflowers should be putting on a show this time of year. It is rugged walking close to the top so count on a workout. About 9 miles and 1900 feet elevation gain.

Leave Berger at 8 a.m. Rain cancels. Hike leader is Colleen Keegan, (925) 487-4014.

### APRIL 2: INTERMEDIATE PLUS HIKE OAT HILL MINE

Please note earlier time. We will hike up the historic Oat Hill Mine Road to the ruins of the Holm Place, where we will have lunch. Fabulous views of the Napa Valley, rock formations, basalt column cliffs, and wildflowers. Optional extension to see a hillside of rare Fawn Lilies. About 8 miles (9 with the Fawn Lily extension), 1900 feet elevation gain.

Leave Berger 8:30 a.m. Hike leader is Florentia Scott, (707) 591-1929.

### APRIL 2: SHORT HIKE TOLAY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

Tolay Lake is home to many bird species and views of marshes, meadows and rolling hills. The out and back hike is about 3 miles and 300' gain. Alternate routes may be chosen, depending on conditions.



Tolay Lake.  
(Photo by Colleen Keegan)

Restrooms are available at the parking lot. Sonoma County Parks pass or day use parking fee. Leave Berger at 9. Hike leader is Jan Preston, (949) 433-7330. Check website April 1 for possible updates.

### APRIL 9: LONG HIKE MARIN WATERSHED

Phoenix Lake to Lake Lagunitas and then Bon Tempe Lake for lunch. Next a short climb to the Madrone trailhead where we'll hike down a forest filled with madrone trees. Finally, a hike along the other side of Phoenix Lake. According to All Trails, 8.2 miles and 1256 feet elevation gain.

Lots of restrooms throughout the park. Leave Berger at 8:30 a.m. Hike leader is Jeff Zalles, (415) 999-5333.

### APRIL 9: INTERMEDIATE HIKE HELEN PUTNAM REGIONAL PARK

Stunning views of the Petaluma & Chileno valleys. 5-6 miles, 400 feet elevation gain. We will explore the Ridge, Yarrow, Pomo, Filigree, Panoramic & Arroyo trails. Challenge yourself on the 125 steps heading down or take the alternative winding trail.

Sonoma County Parks pass or day use parking fee. Heavy rain cancels. Leave Berger at 9 a.m. Hike Leader is Marilyn Pahr, (707) 541-6430.

## Oakmont Pétanque Club

■Don McPherson

### THE PÉTANQUE TERRAIN

According to Article 5 of the Pétanque Rules: "Pétanque is played on any surface." To provide interest and challenge, clubs frequently seek a variety of hard dirt, decomposed granite, multi-size gravel, and stones for their courts. Oakmont's terrain is relatively level decomposed granite. The club does rake to spread the DG, but natural small hills, valleys, ridges, hard and soft spots remain.



A look before throwing: the twig and stone may not be removed, the tuft of grass may not be pulled up, but the divot from a previous boule can be filled.

Before a game begins, debris may be removed but under the Rules, once play begins obstacles like bark, twigs, acorns, and leaves must be left in place unless they completely obscure the cochonnet. Article 10 provides: "It is strictly forbidden for players to press down, displace or crush any obstacle whatever in the playing area." There is a single, very specific exception: "The player who is about to play, or one of their partners, may fill a hole

[divot] which would have been made by one boule played previously." The Rules do not permit filling or smoothing other 'imperfections' in the surface.

Although it is not uncommon to see a player tamping down or sweeping lightly in front of a cochonnet or boule before throwing, Article 10 explicitly prohibits "sweeping in front of a boule to be shot." Grooming the terrain in front of a target—or elsewhere—is an unequivocal violation except to fill one divot made by a previous boule.

### 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.

## Billiard Club



■Steve Dieterle

### 9 BALL DOUBLE ELIMINATION TOURNAMENT

Oakmont Billiards Club held their latest Tournament (8 Ball Double Elimination) on Thursday, February 19. Ten competitors showed up to challenge the field and that made for a lively and highly competitive 20-match tournament.

Looking at the starting field of players, it surely was anyone's tournament to win. As play moved forward, Steve Dieterle managed to win all his matches and get himself into the finals. Ron Holladay only had one loss and then navigated through the rest of his matches to be Steve's competition in the finals. Because this was a double elimination tournament, Ron would need to beat Steve twice to win the tournament.

The first final game was played super tight and Ron pulled out the win. The second final match was again played down to the wire, but this time Steve held on for the win. Both games were super tight and very competitive. For those who stayed, it presented excitement to watch and surprises

Competitors in the tournament.

■Mary C Blake

## Lawn Bowling



**INTERESTED IN LEARNING TO BOWL?**  
Email us at [oakmontlawnbowling@gmail.com](mailto:oakmontlawnbowling@gmail.com). Training is usually three free lessons followed by a practice game. Membership is \$20 per year.

### ST PATRICK'S DAY TOURNAMENT

Last year we had to cancel the St. Patrick's Day Tournament because of wind and rain. This year it was in the high 80's and we shortened the game to 10 ends to avoid melted bowlers out on the Green.



St. Patrick's Day Bowlers: Randy White, Michelle Macintosh, Linda Pickell, Pam Dempsey and Steve Pickell.

We had 24 bowlers out there, many wearing green, of course.

In first place was Bruce Rolland (skip), Pam Dempsey (second), and Wilma Rolland (lead). With the same spread and coming in second were Mark Johnston (skip), Bonnie Johnston (second), and Chris Williams (lead). And, coming in third were Jim (JB) Brewer (skip), Janet Johnson (second), and James Chang (lead).

Visit our website to see photos from the game.

### REMOVING OLD PLINTHS

When the grass was in early stages of development, Jim Krause had added wooden plinths to help separate the grass from the sandy ditch. This was on top of the originally installed separators already there. As the wood warped, Jim worked to keep them functional. And now, with the grass in good shape, it was time to remove them.

We put out an eblast asking for assistance. Besides Jim, 11 members showed up (many with tools) to help remove the warped, uneven wood. Especially challenging were the long, often rusted or stripped screws. Thanks to everyone who showed up.

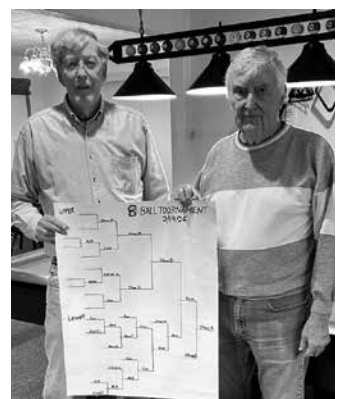
Email: [oakmontlawnbowling@gmail.com](mailto:oakmontlawnbowling@gmail.com).

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

on shots missed, and shots made to finally decide the Tournament Championship.

Thanks again to all the competitors in helping make this a fun and competitive tournament!

The winner Steve Dieterle on the left, with the runner-up, Ron Holladay.



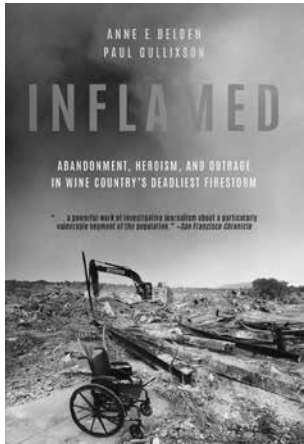
# Cal Alumni Club of Oakmont



■Marilyn Noah

## PULITZER PRIZE WINNER TO SPEAK AT APRIL CAL ALUMNI DINNER

The Cal Alumni Club of Oakmont's next dinner is on Thursday, April 16 at 5 p.m. at the Wild Oak Saddle Club. Cost is \$62 per person.



Our April speaker will be Paul Gullixson, former writer and editor for the *Press Democrat*. Mr. Gullixson won a Pulitzer Prize for his coverage of the October 2017 wine country wildfires and has written a book, *Inflamed*, about the disaster. He recently retired as Communications Manager for Sonoma County.

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

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

■Diane Curtis

# Tennis Club



## SWEET LIFE



Rob Swaigen. (Photo by Diane Curtis)

Rob Swaigen has no business being so fit and fast on Oakmont's tennis courts considering his dream career circling the globe for Jelly Belly Candy Company. Obviously, he limited his intake of buttered popcorn and watermelon Jelly Bellies because he speeds around the court like the Road Runner. And serving as vice president of global marketing for Jelly Belly wasn't his first dip into confectionary employment. Before Jelly Belly, he worked for Hershey and Otis Spunkmeyer Cookies.

Rob's immersion in feel-good businesses is perfect for his new role as OTC social chairman. Working with Maureen Pennal, director of tennis events for OTC, he, like Maureen, is determined to set a fun, welcome tone for the socials and tournaments they have scheduled for the year (the December 27, 2025, OTC column in the *Oakmont News* has a full calendar of 2026 events).

"I think the goal is to keep what's working and improve on it and ensure that what we do is relevant to the players," he said. "Number One is to make sure people are having a good time and creating social

experiences relative to tennis and attracting new players." He mentioned the recent March Madness social that drew 17 players for a lively morning of play with four different partners. The event "wasn't competitive in any real sense," he said. One goal was to get participants to play with people they hadn't played with before.

Rob and his lovely wife, Ako Nakajima (who just got married this month—congrats!) have lived in Oakmont about two years. "Such beautiful courts were one of the draws as well as all the facilities – the pool, the gym. It's like living in a resort."

Coming Up: April 10—Spring Fling, 5 p.m., West Courts



March Madness. (Photo by Maureen Pennal)

## New to Oakmont?

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

emergency prep.

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

# 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.

## 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 playoffs. 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.

**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 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 17 (WEEK #9 WINTER LEAGUE)

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

Men's High Games: Charlie Ensley, 258; Glenn Hewitt, 258; Gordon Freedman, 245; Scott Harris, 232; Bradley Kravitz, 207; Joe Bernal, 202; Mike Earles, 201.

Women's High Games: Joanne Abrams, 300; Sandy Osheroff, 268; Laurel Earles, 238; Peggy Ensley, 236; Carolita Carr, 235; Vickie Jackanick, 233; Thea Holladay, 232; Shirley Jamison, 224; Elisabeth LaPointe, 221; Karen Palmiotti, 218; Valerie Hulse, 213; Pat Scott, 206; Joanne Bender, 205; Carol Garneau, 201.

If you're thinking of joining us, we will start our Summer 2026 League on April 14. 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.

# CLASSIFIEDS

### BODEN PLUMBING, HEATING AND AIR

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

### BABE'S TRANSPORT

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

### ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

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

### YOUR PERSONAL CAREGIVER AND ADVOCATE

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

### ONE WAY PLUMBING, INC.

Dependable experts serving you and your neighbors with excellence and integrity for over 20 years. Licensed, bonded and insured. Senior discounts available. CA Lic. #854537. Find us on the web at [www.onewayplumb.net](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.

### HANDYMAN RESIDENT

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

### ERIC WILSON, REMODELING SPECIALISTS

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

### 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).

### YOUR FRIENDLY HANDYMAN

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

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

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

### FOR ALL YOUR PAINTING NEEDS

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

### SONOMA VALLEY LEGAL SERVICES

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

### 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

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

### 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.

### WINDOW AND PRESSURE CLEANING SERVICES

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

### ENTRY DOORS, PATIO DOORS, INTERIOR DOORS

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

### 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).

### ESTATE SALE: STONE BRIDGE APRIL 10 (12-3), 11-12 (10-3)

Amazing clothing, accessories, art, jewelry, collectibles and kitchenware. Follow signs on Stone Bridge Road. Text (415) 302-3496 for more info.

### BEST DOG WALKER IN OAKMONT

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

### PETER'S LANDSCAPING

Lawn mowing, trimming bushes, removing weeds. Gutter cleaning. \$50 job minimum. Please call (707) 486-6684.

### HOUSE CLEANING SERVICES IN OAKMONT

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

## Soroptimist International Oakmont Wine Country

■Denise Bickert



### SOROPTIMIST AFTERNOON TEA

Soroptimist Oakmont Wine Country hosted their third annual afternoon tea March 7. The club increased the capacity by three tables this year and the event still sold out several weeks in advance. Attendees enjoyed tea sandwiches and scones, and an array of desserts. The food and set up was all made possible by club volunteers, and we were supported by three local high school students as servers. The event concluded with a hat contest and presentation of amazing raffle basket prizes.



Photo by Marilyn Noah.

Most importantly, proceeds from this event support Soroptimist Live Your Dream scholarships. Our club granted two awards this year. One recipient is pursuing a Sociology degree, and the other a Paralegal degree, with a long-term goal of becoming an attorney.

What's next for the club? We are reviving our Coffee, Croissants and Cork Craft event with an upcoming class Wednesday, April 29. We will be making a rustic American Flag door decoration.

The club holds regular meetings once a month on the second Thursday at 3 p.m. Guests are always welcome. If you are interested in learning more about the upcoming craft class or the organization, contact me at deniseb.siowc@gmail.com.

## Valley of the Moon Rotary Club



■Star Power

### ARE WE EVER SAFE?

Good grief, it seems like every day when we wake up, there's a new scam trying to trick us and take our hard-earned money. I think these folks should get an honest job and leave us alone.

Valley of the Moon Rotary recently had a terrific speaker, John Guardaglia, a 28-year member and volunteer with the Santa Rosa Police Department, who talked to us about the latest scams going around.

The scam artists have figured out how to get your credit card information, so the best thing is for us to "tap" to pay, whenever you can, in lieu of "swiping." If you have to give out your credit card number, just don't give them the number on the reverse side of your card, as that gives them all your card info.

Here's a big one, ladies—watch your shopping cart. The thieves come in groups. While one distracts you, the other snatches your purse.

John talked about mailbox theft and advised us to write our checks with indelible ink that can't be "washed." They're getting very professional at doing this. If you drop mail with checks into the big blue postal box, don't do it on Sundays. They've figured out how to reach down in and grab mail.

Another is your voicemail or answering machine. Keep your message to less than 10 seconds or they can grab your voice on AI and create a whole "you" and make calls with your voice (I changed my voice message the minute I left this meeting!).

You're welcome to come to one of our meetings on Thursday mornings at 7:30 a.m. (meetings are from 8–9 a.m.) at the East Rec. I know you will enjoy our many great speakers.

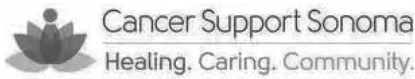
## Café Mortel



■Linda Suhr

### CANCER SUPPORT SONOMA PRESENTS ABOUT ITS HEALING SERVICES—APRIL 8

It's the diagnosis that no one wants to receive—cancer. It stirs within us fear of debilitating treatment, pain and death. But today, with new therapies and the right support, people are not only living with cancer but living well with cancer. We are fortunate to have an innovative cancer support center in our area.



Café Mortel is pleased to host Executive Director Rachel Glitz and End-of-Life Doula Ann Hyland of Cancer Support Sonoma at our April meeting. We'll learn about the center's integrative therapies for cancer patients at every stage (diagnosis, treatment and recovery), counseling services for patients and caregivers as well as group classes and activities. Their unique end-of-life doula services team is led by a coordinator, who works with clients to find the best match for holistic support. In addition to physical support, CSS provides mental, emotional and spiritual support in a welcoming, warm and supportive community.

Join Café Mortel on Wednesday, April 8 from 3–4:15 p.m. in the East Rec. for this informative and inspiring presentation. Contact linda@autumnoflifepanning.com for info.

### FINAL EXIT NETWORK WORKSHOP

In this free, 3-hour workshop, learn about the importance of creating an advance health care directive, legal pathways for a chosen death and FEN's exit guide program.



It is on Monday, May 4, 9 a.m.–12 p.m., and will be repeated from 1–4 p.m. For more information and to register, send an email to workshop@FinalExitNetwork.org.



■Carolita Carr

### TRAVELING WILBURYS REVUE



**WHERE:** Berger Center **WHEN:** Saturday, April 25  
**TIME:** Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Music begins at 6:30  
**COST:** \$20 per person. Each member may bring one guest.

**BRING:** the beverage of your choice and snacks for your table

The Traveling Wilburys Revue brings the music of the Wilburys and the hits from each individual artist to every show. Music like "Here Comes the Sun," "Won't Back Down," "Pretty Woman," "Like a Rolling Stone," "Don't Bring Me Down," and more. Music we all know and love.

Seats are on sale now on the Boomers website: oakmontboomers.org. If you have problems purchasing seats, please check to see if your membership is up to date.

Membership is open to any Oakmont resident, and may be purchased for \$15 per person, per year and payable on our website.

## Oakmont Movers and Groovers



■Denise Lindsey

### RHYTHM DRIVERS AT BERGER CENTER—APRIL 11



Rhythm Drivers ignite the stage with a high-energy mix of Blues and vintage rock that turns every show into a party. Rooted in the rich Blues tradition, they blend classic influences with a modern edge to deliver a dynamic, groove-driven performance. Their sound moves effortlessly through jump, swamp, Chicago, and boogie styles, keeping audiences dancing from start to finish.

Based in Sonoma County, Rhythm Drivers have become a regional favorite, bringing their lively shows to wineries, breweries, clubs, festivals, and celebrations across the area. With infectious energy and tight musicianship, they're the perfect band to elevate any event and create a fun, feel-good atmosphere. Get ready to move!

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 11

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

**TIME:** Doors open at 5:30 p.m., music starts at 6:30 p.m.

**TICKETS:** \$20 each for members and their guest; non-members are \$25

Please feel free to bring food and beverages. Food truck TBD

Remember, dues are \$10.00 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 in the folder at the OVA office. Thanks to all for your support.

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

### COORDINATOR

#### Rides to Medical Appointments

**March 16–31** Colleen Keegan 925-487-4014

**April 1–15** Maggie Schmidt 707-890-1347

We provide the following services to Oakmont Residents:

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

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

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

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

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

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

## HOW TO CONTACT LOCAL OFFICIALS

### County Supervisor Rebecca Hermosillo, District 1

Phone (707) 565-2241

Email: rebecca.hermosillo@sonoma-county.org

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

### City Councilwoman Dianna MacDonald, District 3

Email: dmacdonald@srcity.org

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

## 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 29: HAMNET

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



### APRIL 5: EVITA

The hit musical based on the life of Eva Perón (Evita Duarte), a B-picture Argentinian actress who eventually became the wife of Argentinian president Juan Domingo Perón, and the most beloved and hated woman in Argentina. 1996, PG, 2:15.



### APRIL 12: SONG SUNG BLUE

Lightning and Thunder, a Milwaukee husband and wife Neil Diamond tribute act, experience soaring success and devastating heartbreak in their musical journey together. 2025, PG-13, 2:12.



## Oakmont Men's Group

■ Russ McCracken

### A SECOND SUPPORT GROUP FORMED

Over the last 14+ years, our 12 person Oakmont Men's Group has become very popular and often has a waiting list. Therefore, we have started a second group along the same lines as our existing group. Like it, we meet twice a month for two hours each and focus discussions on issues relevant to aging men.

Such issues include but are not limited to: the challenges of acceptance of diminished physical abilities, health problems that you or your spouse/partner are facing, how aging affects relationships, the mental challenges of

aging, the loss of a mate, and many other challenges that living in beautiful Oakmont presents.

Men, if you need a forum to discuss men's issues with other men in a safe and confidential place, you are invited to contact us. There are no attendance requirements or dues. Our group is non-religious, non-political and open to all men of Oakmont, married, single, gay, or straight. We currently have room for several new members.

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

## Canine Club



■ Steve Huntley

### NATIONAL HUG YOUR DOG DAY

April 10 is National Hug Your Dog Day, a very important holiday celebrated worldwide by happy, lovable pups and their humans. This special day encourages dog owners to show love and appreciation for their furry friends by hugging them.

The next play date at the Happy Tails Dog Park is the Rescue Dog/Mixed Breed Play Date (35 lbs. or more) on Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m.–Noon. Another reminder that every day from 3–4 pm the dog park is reserved for small dogs (25 lbs. or less)!

Less than two weeks away, the annual Canine Club Spring Picnic will be held Saturday April 11 at the West Rec. picnic area. This is a member-only Canine Club event. 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.

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

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). 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> for more information.

Volunteers are still needed at the dog park. No more than an hour per week! Just shoot Peri Olinger an email at periolinger@yahoo.com if you would like to volunteer.



Penny.



Maddie.

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