

OAKMONT NEWS

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Lightning Strikes Tree, Damages Church in Oakmont

■News Staff

If you were jolted awake by thunder and lightning early Friday, April 10, you weren't alone. Around 3 a.m., lightning struck a towering redwood tree near the Monsignor Fahey Parish Center, the church office for Star of the Valley Catholic Church.

Lightning struck a tree in Oakmont on Friday, April 10, damaging the buildings of several nearby businesses and Star of the Valley Parish Hall. (Photo by Jim Brewer)



See **LIGHTNING** on page 4

Three Options Considered for Berger Center

■News Staff

A recent Town Hall spotlighted the future of the Berger Center as the OVA prepares to replace its aging boiler and chiller. On April 21, Energy Systems Group (ESG) joined the OVA board and members to present three potential paths forward. No decisions have been made—these options were offered strictly as possibilities for the board to evaluate.

Option 1 addresses infrastructure only: replacing the boiler and chiller and completing required code upgrades. This is the minimum scope of work required and would be fully covered by the Asset Replacement Fund (ARF) and Capital Improvement Fund (CIF), with no loan necessary.

Option 2 builds on Option 1 by bundling additional reserve study items into the same project. Combining this work can lower overall costs, reduce future disruptions, and minimize building downtime. The ARF and CIF would cover a portion of the expenses, with the remainder financed through a \$2.7M loan.

Option 3 encompasses everything in Option 2, plus enhancements to the building's layout and functionality—including reconfiguring Room G and adding approximately 1,000 square feet of space toward the plaza to better support events

See **TOWN HALL** on page 4

OVA Moves Forward with GoGo Grandparent

■News Staff

Since last month's announcement about exploring GoGo Grandparent as a transportation alternative to Bus 16, members have expressed positive feedback, said Christel Antone, OVA General Manager at the OVA board meeting on April 21.

"Interest has been strongest among those who may not benefit from fixed routes or schedules, particularly for errands, and other day-to-day needs," Antone said.

The pilot program will begin in May and will include up to two rides per member per month to start, with an option to expand as more is learned during the evaluation period.

HISTORY OF OAKMONT GOLF COURSE

Tom Kendrick provided an update on the history and current status of Oakmont Golf Course, covering the establishment of OVA's wholly-owned subsidiary, Oakmont Village Property Corporation (OVPC), and its lease agreement with CourseCo. Now six years in, the arrangement has remained financially stable, and both OVA/OVPC and CourseCo plan to revisit the lease later this year to consider minor amendments. OVPC documentation is available at oakmontvillage.com/ovpc.

WEST REC. UPDATE

The parking lot at the West Rec. Center partially reopened following repaving work, Facilities Manager Todd O'Donnell said. However, the section of the parking lot near the tennis courts and roundabout will remain closed for a few more weeks while work is completed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Oakmont Community Development Committee (OCDC): OCDC is currently tracking several nearby development activities, paying special attention to two projects: the Southeast Santa Rosa Senior Housing

See **BOARD** on page 3

OVA Board Election Set for May 5

■Oakmont Village Association

Three seats on the OVA Board of Directors are on the ballot this spring, with results to be announced at the rescheduled Annual Meeting on May 5. Six candidates—Josh Axelrod, Greg Darcy, Heidi Klyn, Theresa (Terrie) Mui, Matt Oliver, and Steve Spanier—are seeking to fill these open spots.

See **ELECTION** on page 5

Upcoming Key Dates in the OVA Board Election

May 4: Deadline for all ballots at 5 p.m.

May 5: Election scheduled for 10 a.m.

May 12: Candidates signs to be removed

Oakmont Eco-Friendly Garden and Firewise Home Tour

■Iris Harrell, Chair, Firewise Task Force

As an active firewise volunteer since the 2017 wildfire, I've learned a lot about wildfire behavior, home hardening, and firewise landscaping. Feeling better prepared and educated has helped me get over my PTSD about future wildfire events. At this point, I am extending my education beyond human and home protection to protection of our wildlife and surrounding environment. I was pleased to learn, for example, how controlled burns are necessary and beneficial, and more about the importance of eco-friendly gardening for pollinators, habitat and the environment.



Get inspired by the Oakmont Eco-Friendly Garden and Firewise Home Tour. (Photo by Louisa Knabe)

The Firewise Task Force and the Environmental Stewardship Task Force are together organizing a tour of five Oakmont properties to help demonstrate how we can live better with wildfire and simultaneously respect the needs of our surrounding wildlife and environment. Some properties have landscapes that emphasize native plants and sustainable practices that help support pollinators. Some properties have both home hardening features and attractive landscapes that follow guidelines recommended by wildfire experts to reduce risk from wildfire.

Finding a balance between living more safely with wildfire and gardening for pollinators using environmentally sustainable practices is a complex dance, but one that inevitably affects all life, including us. We would like to share some of what we've learned. Come visit with us and see if there is something that might be useful for you and your home and also be attractive. Let's work together to support the environment and to pursue the goal of Oakmont's Firewise USA status—residents helping to reduce wildfire ignition risk.

Save the date: Oakmont Eco-Friendly Garden and Firewise Home Tour, Sunday, May 24, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Addresses will be published closer to event.

For information, contact:

Oakmont Environmental Stewardship Task Force: Carolyn Greene at (805) 443-7289.

Oakmont Firewise Task Force: Iris Harrell at (650) 280-3265.

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BOARD Continued from page 1

Project (formerly Elnoka) and the redevelopment of the Sonoma Development Center. Other notable items include the Spring Lake Village East Grove project and construction activity at the Kenwood Resort and Airstrip on Highway 12. The committee currently has two members and is actively seeking three to five total members with skills in gathering, analyzing, and reporting data for the Board.

Oakmont Firewise Task Force: The Firewise Task Force has been researching and educating homeowners about fire insurance requirements, particularly around outdated ZINSCO electrical panels that are causing insurance denials. They recently installed a map showing which WUI (wildland urban interface) fire risk zones homes fall into. Firewise is expanding its home assessment program, welcoming new certified members, and staying current with state and local fire regulations. Two upcoming community events are planned: a Firewise/Earthquake Safety Fair at the Berger Center on May 7, 2-7 p.m., and a joint Eco-Friendly Garden and Firewise Homes Tour on May 24.

Oakmont Environmental Stewardship Task Force (OESTF): OESTF had an active quarter focused on native plant restoration, waste reduction, and community outreach. Key projects include ongoing care of the native tree parcourse, collaboration with the Community Garden and a local fire station on native plant areas, and organizing tours of a recycling facility for residents. They published several educational articles in the Oakmont News, updated their website for easier access to resources, and are co-hosting the garden and firewise tour on May 24 with the Firewise Task Force. They also shifted their monthly meeting schedule to better accommodate their board liaison.

League of Oakmont Maintained Area Associations (LOMAA): LOMAA is primarily grappling with three major challenges: rising fire insurance costs, firewise compliance requirements, and new state legislation (AB1572) banning potable water for irrigating non-functional turf in HOA common areas by 2029. On the insurance front, many sub-HOAs are working with homeowners to replace outdated electrical panels (at an estimated cost of \$2,000-\$4,000 per home) to avoid policy cancellations. LOMAA has also sent a letter to the state Water Resources Control Board seeking an exemption or extension on the turf irrigation law, citing the financial hardship it would create for this senior community. Upcoming priorities include continued education, landscape planning, and awaiting final compliance guidance due July 1.



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

All events and information can be found at playvom.com or call (707) 539-0415. To keep up to date on all Valley of the Moon Club news, sign up for the VOM newsletter at www.playvom.com/contact/newsletter-signup.

CALLAWAY DEMO DAY

WHEN: May 8, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

LOCATION: Valley of the Moon Club

Get fitted by Callaway experts, test the newest drivers, irons, and wedges, and find the setup that maximizes your distance, accuracy, and consistency. Spots are limited—sign up early to secure your time!

Reserve your fitting spot: www.callawaygolf.com/fitting.

SRIXON DEMO DAY—MAY 23

Join us for another great demo day with Srixon on May 23 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

To sign up, contact me directly at (707) 539-0415 ext. 4 or by email at kschmuhl@playvom.com.

TWILIGHT MEMBERSHIPS

The best deal in town! Join our Twilight Players Club for just \$39 per month and enjoy a \$23 rate (includes green fee, shared cart, and a small bucket of range balls per round) each time you play after 1 p.m., Monday through Sunday.

Visit our website today to download the application: playvom.com.

**SPARK GOLF LEAGUE
VOM THURSDAY LEAGUE**

Sign up for our weekly 9-hole league and play every Thursday evening through September 3 and compete for end-of-season prizes!

Fees: Green Fee \$24, Cart Fee \$14, League Fee \$9.

League membership: Free to join.

www.spark.golf/golf-leagues/valley-of-the-moon-santa-rosa-ca-1A3pFbiT3.

OAK RESTAURANT—MAY SPECIALS

May 7: Chicken Enchiladas (\$24)

May 14: Tuna Melt (\$21)

May 21: Hamburger Sliders (\$18)

May 28: BBQ Pulled Pork and Hot Link (\$25)

OAK HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday-Saturday: 11 a.m.-7 p.m. (kitchen closes at 7 p.m.)

Sunday: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. (kitchen closes at 6 p.m.)

Special closings: May 2—closing at 5 p.m. (outside event); May 4—closing at 4 p.m. (maintenance day).

Phone: 707-539-0415, ext. 5.

MUSIC MONDAY

Doors open at 4 p.m. \$10 cash cover charge at the door. Contact Marisa to reserve your table today.

May 11: Skyhawk Band

May 18: Third Rail Band

June 1: O & The Riots Band

June 15: Showcase Band

June 29: Relish Band

RANGE CARD SALE

\$100 Range Card Sale on May 15. Don't miss this great deal!

TRIVIA NIGHT AT OAK RESTAURANT

Doors open at 4 p.m. Trivia runs from 5-7 p.m. \$10 cash cover charge at the door. Prizes await our winners!

Contact Marisa to reserve your spot: (707) 539-0415 ext. 2 or mmangano@playvom.com.

GOLF INSTRUCTION

Learn about our instructors by visiting the Instruction page on the Valley of the Moon website at playvom.com/golf/instruction.

SUNFLOWERS PAINTING EVENT—MAY 26

WHEN: May 26, 5-7 p.m. (doors open at 4:30 p.m.)

LOCATION: Valley of the Moon Golf Club, 7025

Oakmont Drive.

Delicious dinner and appetizers are available for purchase throughout the evening. Wine is available by the glass or bottle. All art supplies are included.

Please Note: All art supplies are included. No painting experience needed. No complimentary food or wine is included with your ticket to this event. www.paintedcellarsso.com.

**GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE
AND CART DRIVING RULES**

The golf courses are in great shape, and Andy and his team are working hard to keep it that way. We really need the help of our golfers to maintain these courses in the best shape possible. Here are a few things to keep in mind during every round:

- Repair your ball marks on every green (and one or two more if you see them).
- Sand or replace all the divots you can find on the course.
- Rake and clean up all bunkers of footprints and damage.
- Keep all riding carts at least 30 feet away from all greens and tees. If you are teeing off or putting, the golf cart must be on the cart path.
- When using the 90-degree rule, stay on the cart path as long as possible, then drive out to your ball at a 90-degree angle from the cart path.
- Play ready golf. Get to your ball early and be ready to hit when it is your turn.
- Keep up with the group in front at all times. If you fall behind, please allow any faster groups waiting to play through to help maintain pace of play.

GENERAL REMINDERS

Please refrain from fishing in any of the golf course ponds due to safety concerns.

Please follow the golf course walking hours listed on our website at playvom.com.

GOLF SHOP HOURS

Monday-Sunday: 6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Phone: (707) 539-0415.

**Join the Letter Carrier
Food Drive**

■News Staff

Oakmont residents are once again invited to take part in the national "Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive" on Saturday, May 9, with proceeds benefiting the local Redwood Empire Food Bank. This year's collection site will be set up at the Berger parking lot, with volunteers on hand from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The food drive has run for decades, born from a simple recognition that too many families lack the means to put healthy food on the table. What makes the drive especially impactful is that food collected locally stays local, supporting summer school programs and food distribution events visible throughout Sonoma County, from parks and senior centers to school parking lots.

The timing of the drive is no accident. May is historically one of the leanest months for food banks nationwide, as the surge of holiday-season donations has long since dried up. Many food banks report that the Stamp Out Hunger drive is what allows them to keep their shelves stocked through the summer and into fall, bridging the gap until donors return to giving at the end of the year.

Donations of non-perishable food items are welcome, though glass containers should be avoided, as breakage in transit often renders large quantities of food unusable. For those who prefer to give financially, checks made out to the Redwood Empire Food Bank can be handed directly to volunteers at the site and will be delivered to the food bank.



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Star of the Valley

■Peter Hardy

BINGO IN MAY CANCELLED!

The Bingo scheduled for May 12 is cancelled due to the recent storm which caused a tree to fall on the Parish Hall. Due to the damage the hall will not be available for use until after August.

At present we expect to have bingo in September.

Lawn Bowling



■Mary C Blake

INTERESTED IN LEARNING TO BOWL?

Email us at oakmontlawnbowling@gmail.com. Training is usually 3 free lessons followed by a practice game. Membership is \$20 per year.

APRIL FOOLS' DAY TOURNAMENT

Our April Fools' Day Tournament was cancelled due to a forecast of three days of rain.

OPEN PAIRS TOURNAMENT—APRIL 24

Oops! I misspoke in our last newsletter article. The Open Pairs Tournament was not done as a round robin. This article is being written well before the tournament and I don't yet know who won the first round. I'll have more news for you in our next article.

TACO THURSDAY!

Our first After 5 Social of the year will be a very special event. Barbara Serafin and Kay Lambert are overseeing socials this year and will be gathering all the fixings. All club members and associate members and their guests are welcome. So that they'll know how much food to get, Barbara and Kay will put a sign-up sheet in the bowls room.

COMING EVENTS

Friday, May 1: Women's Pairs
Thursday, May 14: After 5 social with tacos!
Friday, May 15: Men's Pairs
Monday, May 25: Memorial Day Tournament

NO LONGER BOWLING?

Most importantly, we miss you! If you're thinking of bowling again, you're always welcome to drop in.

If you aren't bowling but still have bowls in the bowls room, let us know what you'd like us to do with them.

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

TOWN HALL

Continued from page 1

and gatherings. Like Option 2, it would be partially funded by the ARF and CIF, with a \$4.0M loan covering the balance.

All three options include accessibility improvements and energy-efficient upgrades aimed at reducing long-term operating costs.

A cost analysis presented at the Town Hall outlined what each option would mean for member dues. OVA residents are currently paying down a \$4.3M golf course loan, which adds \$11.08 per month to dues. Option 1 would require no change to that figure. Options 2 and 3, however, would each require an additional loan, with corresponding dues increases.

Option 2's \$2.7M loan would add \$2.32 per month, bringing the total loan-related dues to \$13.40. Option 3's \$4.0M loan would add \$5.22 per month, for a total of \$16.30.

Community response to the ESG and OVA presentation was mixed. Some residents expressed concern about taking on new debt before the golf course loan is retired, while others voiced enthusiasm for upgrading a building that sees heavy use throughout the community.

Importantly, the board has not reached any decisions and recognizes that additional questions, research, and information are still needed. More details will be shared as the process progresses.

Pickleball Corner



■Peter Copen

HOW TO FIND THE RIGHT PADDLE

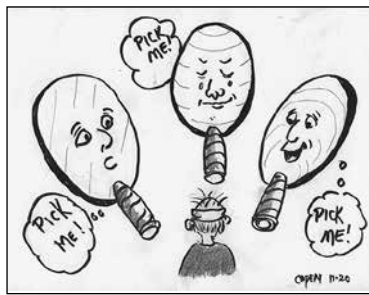


If you've been comparing paddles, you've probably noticed most descriptions sound the same—power, spin, control—without clearly showing what actually changes. That's where "JustPaddles' Paddle Lab" stands out. You can look them up on the Internet.

Every paddle is tested under the same controlled conditions and measured using real performance data—not opinions or marketing claims.

Rec players can compare exactly what matters:

- Power (exit velocity): Exit velocity is the speed at which the ball leaves your paddle after contact.
- Swing weight (speed vs stability): Swing weight tells you how heavy a paddle feels during play, which can differ from its actual static weight.
- Spin rate: Spin rate is measured in rotations per minute (RPMs), demonstrating how much spin a paddle generates on the ball.
- Twist weight: Twist weight measures the stability of your paddle when you strike the ball off-center.
- Consistency across the face: Consistency measures how evenly a paddle performs along its vertical axis—from the handle to the head.
- Balance point: The balance point shows you how weight is distributed in your paddle.



Cartoons by Peter Copen.

And the best part? It's all free to access. And the value is simple: it helps you understand why a paddle feels the way it does—and which one actually fits your game. Instead of guessing, you can make a more informed, confident choice!

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. Website: www.oakmontpickleballclub.com.

LIGHTNING

Continued from page 1

"The tree exploded, sending a large piece through the roof," said Pete Hardy, Men's Club Social Director at Star of the Valley. "This caused major damage to the roof, a skylight, and the main beam in the ceiling."

According to the *Press Democrat*, debris from the fallen tree also damaged the adjacent property, affecting nearby businesses including Sonoma County Ambulance Services and Sequoia Senior Solutions.

Another tree was hit by lightning near the West Rec. Center, also on Friday, but no damage to any buildings in that area was reported.

Insurance companies are currently working with the church, the affected businesses, and a construction company to address the damage, Hardy said. A temporary patch has been installed on the roof, but crews are still working to mitigate interior and water damage.

Because of the damage, Star of the Valley canceled their upcoming Bingo dates, but expect to resume these events by September.

"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.

Oakmont Pétanque Club

■Don McPherson

PLACING THE CIRCLE

In pétanque, all throws are made with both feet planted on the ground within a 50 cm diameter circle that functions as a foul line. At the beginning of a game, the starting team may place the circle anywhere on the terrain that permits a legal cochonnet placement of 6-10 meters (plus one-half meter from an end line). It may be placed up against an end or side line and it may be placed as near as 10.5 meters from the opposite end line. During the game, the circle is placed around the last position of the cochonnet in the prior end.

Frequently a player will want to move the circle back from that position to provide more distance for placing the cochonnet. In casual friendly games, it's not unusual to see a player just throw the circle back in line with that spot or seek agreement of the opposing team to move it back. On a hot sunny day the teams might even agree to let shade determine the placement.



Steven Payette prepares to throw from within the circle placed near the end line.

But what do the Rules actually say? Officially, the circle may only be moved back if there is insufficient distance (less than 10.5 meters) for all legal cochonnet placements and it can only be moved back to a distance from the opposite end line that will allow a legal placement (10.5 meters maximum). The option to move the circle back—or not—belongs solely to the throwing team; no agreement is required.

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.

Lifelong Learning

■Marlena Tremont

REGISTER NOW!

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

Explore the vital role of women in creating and popularizing the American Blues—Ma Rainey, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Janis Joplin, Aretha Franklin, Etta James and Bonnie Raitt.



Pamela Rose is a jazz and blues vocalist and instructor at the Jazz School in Berkeley.

CELEBRATING TWO DECADES OF DISCOVERY

FEATURING PRESS DEMOCRAT COLUMNIST, KERRY BENEFIELD

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

Kerry Benefield was one of the members of the Pulitzer Prize winning team reporting on the 2017 wildfires. Now, she writes a human-interest column on people and places in Sonoma, always “on the hunt for the brightest, most beautiful, weirdest and wildest stories you know.”

Join us for music, light refreshments by Chef Karl Turner, wines by Trattore Farms, giveaways and more!

To RSVP, go to OakmontLL.org, fill out a form with your payment in the OVA office or pay at the door.

Register online at www.OakmontLL.org, complete a registration form with payment in the OLL folder at the OVA Office or pay at the door.

ELECTION Continued from page 1

Along with the Board election, members will learn the results of balloting on two proposed bylaws amendments: 1) adjusting quorum to 50% of OVA membership and changing the approval threshold to 55% of those who vote on a proposed bylaws amendment, and (2) allowing the board to bring the bylaws into legal compliance without a member vote.

The election was postponed a month to May 5 after the OVA learned that residents at Oakmont Gardens did not receive ballots in the required time.

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. 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 before the deadline, which is May 4.

SCHEDULE OF MAY 5 ELECTION

OVA Board Annual Meeting and Ballot Counting: 10 a.m.–1:45 p.m., Berger Center. Zoom Webinar ID: 838 6301 0758; Passcode: 719623.

OVA Board Organizational Meeting: 2-4 p.m., Berger Center. Zoom Webinar ID: 816 3814 4311; Passcode: 788625.

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. Go to our website at www.oakmonthikingclub.org to join, get hike details, see photos, register for a hike and more. The annual membership is only \$15. Keep checking website for the latest updates.

MAY 7: LONG HIKE THE BEST OF MOUNT TAM

We'll hike from the Whitegate Ranch trailhead, take a short walk to the Steep Ravine where we'll climb to Pantol. We then head to the Cataract trail via the Easy Grade trail. At Laurel Dell, we head across Ridgcrest to the Coastal trail for what will hopefully be a colorful wildflower display. We finish by walking through a bay forest on the Old Mine trail. Distance 9.5 miles, 1975 feet elevation.

Depart Berger promptly at 8 a.m. Hike leader is Jeff Zalles, (415) 999-5333.

MAY 7: SHORT HIKE SONOMA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK



Umbrella Tree, North Sonoma Mountain.

An invigorating 2-mile roundtrip / 500 feet elevation hike along a shady trail up to the Umbrella Tree, with breathtaking views from the top—so bring your cameras and binoculars! Regional Park Pass or day use parking fee of \$8.

Meet at Berger Center at 9 a.m. Check OHC website May 6 for possible updates. Hike leader is Jan Preston, (949) 433-7330.

MAY 14: LONG HIKE TOMALES POINT



Tamales Point.

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

Meet at Berger Center at 8 a.m. Hike leader is Janet McCann, (707) 328-6637.

MAY 14: INTERMEDIATE HIKE FISH LADDER TO DOYLE PARK

We'll follow Channel Drive and cross the storm diversion pinch that helps prevent downtown Santa Rosa from flooding. Continuing through Spring Lake Park and across Spring Creek we locate the downtown tunnels and our second fish ladder where Santa Rosa Creek slows before continuing on to the Russian River. Lunch is at Doyle Park. Most of the hike is on paved trail and sidewalk. 6 miles 200 ft. elevation.

Meet at Berger Center at 9 a.m. Hike leaders are Georgene Bonovich and John Ferreira, (650) 766-0497.



Oakmont Singles Social Club



■Bailey Penzotti

MAY BON APPETIT (OSSC MEMBERS ONLY)

WHEN: Thursday, May 7 at 5:30 p.m.

RESTAURANT: Kiraku Sushi and Ramen restaurant, 1985 Mendocino Av., Santa Rosa

At this restaurant, “Kiraku” means “relaxed and joyful,” and that’s exactly what they provide—a space to unwind, enjoy delicious food, and create lasting memories. They are passionate about Japanese cuisine, offering rich ramen and creative sushi rolls made with fresh, high-quality ingredients. Try their special rolls, each thoughtfully crafted to excite your taste buds and leave you craving more.

Our reservation is for maximum of 20 members. Registration is open until May 4 at 5 p.m. or when the 20 slots are filled, whichever comes first. If there are 20 members confirmed before this date, you will be placed on a wait-list.

Bring cash because the restaurant will not provide separate checks! Meet at Berger Center parking lot by 5:15 p.m. to carpool to the restaurant. RSVP on our website or email Simone Smith at ssmith8151@aol.com.

MAY MIXER

DATE AND TIME: Friday, May 15 at 6 p.m.

WHERE: East Rec. Center

May is a month of spring with many guilty pleasure days of eating. We celebrate May Day (May 1), Derby Day (May 2), Star Wars Day (May 4), Cinco de



Mayo (May 5), Mother’s Day (May 10), Europe Day (May 9), Armed Forces Day (May 16) and Eat What You Want Day (May 11). At our May mixer, we’ll be recognizing these days by eating what we want.

For an appetizer or dessert, think about a guilty pleasure you enjoy (biscuits and gravy, tuna noodle casserole, chocolate cake with chocolate ganache icing, chips and guacamole) or what you might want to serve your mother on her special day (pancakes with strawberries and whipped cream, marry me pasta, fruit salad, spring salad, bacon cheddar quiche). The skies the limit to turn everything into an appetizer!

Registration is open through May 13 at 5 p.m. You may register online through our website. If you’re not comfortable registering online, feel free to RSVP to me at bailey.osc1@gmail.com.

Don’t forget to bring your favorite libation to wash down your guilty pleasure eats and don’t forget to wear your name badge. Lastly, let me know if you are able to volunteer at the mixer. It’s a great way to get to know other members and see the inside workings of your club.

DO YOU LIVE IN OAKMONT? ARE YOU SINGLE?

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

The Peacock Nail Lounge by Sherilynn

Spring Special
“Fresh Toes” \$30

4525 Montgomery Dr Ste 19

707-481-9044

By Appt



Oakmont Movers and Groovers



■Denise Lindsey

COMEDY SHOW AND VODKA TASTING

Jason Love is a nationally touring headliner who has appeared on HBO, Comedy Central, America's Got Talent, and two Dry Bar specials. His clips are played daily on Sirius XM. He is a crowd-favorite on cruise ships. *L.A. Weekly* named Jason Love "one of the top ten comics to watch." Each year, Jason produces hundreds of shows, including the Big Bear Comedy Festival, San Diego Fair, and IPIC Theaters across the country. Jason's non-profit, Love and Laughter, brings free shows to cancer support communities. Don Casino, Levity, and 800 Pound Gorilla represent Jason. He is a partner in an upcoming Roku channel.



Jason Love.

The evening will start with Vodka tasting provided by a family-owned and operated business in the heart of Sonoma wine country. Hansen of Sonoma began as an idea and took two years of research and development, launching in 2012 as the product it is today. In 2013, they undertook their first official grape harvest and designed their very first label. That same year, they presented bottles with masking tape labels at the Spirits International Prestige Awards, where they won the Best in Class—Vodka and the Prestigious Platinum Award. They also won two golds at the Vodka Masters in London.

EVENT DETAILS

WHEN: Saturday, May 16. Doors open at 5 p.m., Vodka Tasting from 5:30–7 p.m. Followed by Jason Love, a comedian, and the opening act that Jason is bringing.

TICKETS: 25 per person. Purchase by dropping by the OVA office and putting it in the OMG folder. Available now.

LOCATION: East Rec. Center, 7902 Oakmont Drive

RSVP: By May 11

Feel free to bring your drinks and snacks to enhance your experience.

Bocce Club



■Deb Ponts

MOTHER'S DAY TOURNAMENT

Starting May 1 Bocce Club member play is at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Club members and Oakmont residents can reserve one court during times not reserved for member play times by contacting Bob Swift, (707) 548-5409. During the month of May, Judy Aiken will be taking court reservations, (703) 819-4924.

May 2 is our Mother's Day Tournament at 9:30 a.m. To participate you must be a club member unless there's space for guest players.

Bocce is a great way to meet your neighbors while playing a low impact sport. New member lessons are available the first Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m.

Throughout the year we have monthly tournaments, periodic happy hour get-togethers, picnics and our annual December celebration. If you'd like to join, annual dues are \$25 with your membership you'll receive the code to access the Bocce equipment. Applications are available at the OVA office. Cash is preferred, checks are accepted payable to our treasurer, Tony Sarram.



Conservatives Club



■Jane Gyorgy

STAY ENGAGED, STAY INFORMED, VOLUNTEER WITH THE SCGOP

Our April 28 meeting will feature Debbie LeBoy, Chairman of the Sonoma County Republican Party.

John Jay, one of the authors of the Federalist Papers and 1st Chief Justice of the United States (1789–1795) under George Washington, stated, "America belongs to 'We the People.' It does not belong to Congress. It doesn't belong to special interest groups. It does not belong to the courts. It belongs to 'We the People.'"

Ms. LeBoy will speak about all things regarding the upcoming primary and November election and how we can become involved. The Sonoma County GOP has numerous volunteer opportunities. See their website for their monthly newsletter and more information about events, volunteering, donating, and more.

Stay engaged and stay informed.

Our May 26 meeting will present a representative from the Santa Rosa Chapter of the California Rifle and Pistol Association.

Monthly meetings are held on the fourth Tuesdays, from 4–6 p.m. in the Berger (6633 Oakmont Dr). Food and beverage welcome.

Non-members, please email TheNewOakmontCC@gmail.com and include your and your guest(s)'s full name.

Members, RSVP with "YES", "NO," or "MAYBE" using the link in the invitation sent to you.

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.

Progressives Club



■Ed Biglin

PROF. TOM JORDE SPEAKS ON PRESIDENTIAL POWER AND THE SUPREME COURT

WHEN: Monday, May 11, 6:30

Social, 7 p.m. Talk/Discussion

WHERE: East Rec. Center

Prof. Tom Jorde of the Brennan Center for Justice will address current issues surrounding executive power and threats to voting rights. Tom has given two Sunday Symposiums, spoken to the Oakmont Progressives and to the local World Affairs Council on these and related issues.



Tom Jorde.

Prof. Jorde is Professor Emeritus of Law at U. C. Berkeley and a founding Board Member of the Brennan Center for Justice. Upon graduating from law school, Jorde clerked for Judge Stanley A. Weigel of the U.S. District Court in San Francisco and for Justice William J. Brennan Jr. of the U.S. Supreme Court. He then practiced in San Francisco for four years, specializing in litigation. He joined the Berkeley Law faculty in 1978.

He served for a year as a special assistant to the director of the Bureau of Competition of the Federal Trade Commission in Washington, D.C., and he has served as special master for Judge Thelton Henderson of the U.S. District Court in San Francisco. Jorde is the coauthor of *Antitrust, Innovation, and Competitiveness* (1991) and *Intellectual Property in the New Technological Age* (1997).

As always for Oakmont Progressives events, feel free to bring light appetizers to share and a libation of your choice.

Prof. Jorde is a very popular speaker, so space in the East Rec will be limited. To ensure a spot, please RSVP at www.oakmontdemocraticalliance.org/event-details/current-issues-of-executive-power

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.

Jazz Club Concerts



■Dolora Hurst

A VERY SPECIAL JAZZ SHOW

We are especially happy to announce that one of the most beloved pianists in the Bay Area will be playing at our next Berger Stage Performance! Brad Stone, Music Director of KSJS, was quoted in the *San Francisco Chronicle* about Larry Vuckovich—that any discussion of the best jazz piano players in the world must include Larry Vuckovich. That was especially appropriate, as he has indeed played all



Larry Vuckovich.

over the world! Andrew Gilbert of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Boston Globe Jazz Times*, and *Downbeat* has said that Larry's playing is "the work of a Master." We are extremely fortunate to have this incredible musician on our Oakmont stage. You will not want to miss this show!

Kai Lyons, guitarist, is considered one of the foremost guitar players in our country today. He has also recently been playing in New York, Brazil, Cuba, the Caribbean, and Africa/Ghana, and has performed with Herbie Hancock's Original Headhunters, as well as the San Francisco Ballet production of *Carmen*.

Charity Goodin-Sanen is the most requested musician we have ever had for our major production jazz programs. She has sung with the Santa Rosa Symphony, has been a featured singer with the Becari Yugoslavian Orchestra, and has also performed with the Del Sol Band. She can sing in five languages and was the featured



Charity Goodin-Sanen.

vocalist for *Pokemon Pictures* as well as other films. Is the name Ramsey Lewis one that you are familiar with? The band was famous for fabulous rhythmic music! We will have his genius drummer, Leon Joyce, as our drummer!

Buca Necak, bassist, is considered one of the finest players of today.

Truly a group of some of the finest musicians to be found anywhere.

WHEN: Saturday, May 9, 7:00 p.m. Doors open 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Berger Center. Drinks and snacks permitted. **ADMISSION:** \$40. Make checks payable to the Oakmont Jazz Club and deposit into the OVA Office file, then come dance the night away!

INFORMATION: (707) 537-7720



■Larry Souza, Host

PRESENTING CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION

Get ready for an evening of great food, live music, and festive fun as ShaBoom Events Club celebrates Cinco de Mayo on Saturday, May 2. We are bringing the energy for a night you won't want to miss.

Doors open at 5 p.m., with dinner served from 5:30–7 p.m. The menu, catered by Los Molcajetes, features beef and chicken enchiladas, rice, beans, and salad. After dinner, Smoke and Mirrors takes the stage for live music from 7–9 p.m.

Tickets are \$30 per person. To reserve your seats, make checks payable to ShaBoom Events Club and place them, along with the names of all attendees, in a single envelope so your group can be seated together. Tables seat up to eight. Drop your envelope in the ShaBoom folder at the OVA office.

Questions? Contact me at (707) 327-7208.

Oakmont Car Club

■Mike Murphy, Car Show Coordinator

23RD ANNUAL OAKMONT CAR SHOW ROLLS IN SATURDAY, MAY 23



Photo by Julie Kiil.

Get ready, car lovers—the engines are revving for the 23rd Annual Oakmont Car Show, happening Saturday, May 23, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Berger Center parking lot!

This year’s show promises to be bigger and bolder than ever with over 120 stunning classic cars on display from timeless vintage icons to sleek performance legends. Among the highlights: a 1966 Ford Thunderbird Convertible, 1971 Porsche 911, a 1953 Lancia Aurelia B20 Coupe, 1935 Ford 3-Window Coupe (NASCAR Hall of Fame #10), 1972 De Tomaso Pantera, to name just a few.

The Oakmont Car Show has become the community’s most popular annual event, and we’re thrilled to bring together such an exceptional lineup.

While you admire the chrome and craftsmanship, enjoy live music with “Jaydub and Dino” plus classic eats—burgers, hot dogs, chips, and cold drinks served up by the Oakmont Market.

Admission is free for spectators, and \$15 for car entries—a contribution that helps the Oakmont Car Club support valuable local charities year after year.

To register online go to: carshowpro.com/event/3074 or contact us at oakmontcarshow@gmail.com.

Oakmont Quilting Bees

■Linda O’Connor

QUILTERS SHARE INSPIRATION, INNOVATION, AND A BIT OF HUMOR AT LATEST MEETING

The Oakmont Quilting Bees gathered for another lively and creative meeting, filled with storytelling, inventive techniques, and a generous spirit of sharing as they welcomed two new members, Bob and Maria, both new residents in Oakmont.

Linda opened the session with a recap of her recent “shop hop” adventure through the Pacific Northwest. While the event featured an impressive 126 quilt shops, Linda and her sister managed to visit just 10. Even so, she described the trip as “phenomenal”—and, with a knowing smile, “a bit expensive,” a sentiment fellow quilters in the room readily understood.

Linda also shared a method she found a way to keep thread from coming off a bobbin when stored. Half inch plastic tubing from which she cut a thin slice, cut an opening in the circle and slipped it around the bobbin to hold the tread in place. No more threads coming loose when bobbins roll across the floor.

Innovation was on display as Larry introduced a fascinating new technique: incorporating actual photographs into quilts. He shared his first completed block, sparking curiosity among members eager to learn more about the process. Larry welcomed follow-up questions from anyone interested in exploring this unique approach.

Kathy followed with a heartfelt show-and-tell, presenting a birthday quilt she created for Larry. The piece featured a playful panel of rocket ships, planets, and whimsical outer space creatures—perfectly suited to Larry’s passion for studying space.

Carol showcased two distinctive projects: her charming “Hey Diddle-Diddle” quilt and a creative growth chart quilt designed for a child. Both pieces highlighted her

versatility and imaginative approach to quilting.

Cherie shared a work in progress for her son—a powerful quilt featuring a flag fabric background and a legally obtained image of the Statue of Liberty with her face in her hands. Cherie explained the technical challenge she embraced by placing the background fabric on the bias, resulting in a deliberately wobbly edge once quilted—an effect that adds emotional depth to the piece.

The spirit of generosity was evident as Bonnie offered two projects to fellow members: a collection of exquisite silk kimono fabrics and a butterfly appliqué project consisting of 25 blocks, ensuring these materials will find new life in another quilter’s hands.

Rounding out the presentations, Janet displayed her nearly completed ginkgo quilt, currently in the final stage of binding—a fitting close to a meeting rich with creativity and camaraderie.

All newcomers are welcome. For more information contact Liz McDonnell, (707) 495-538-2523.



Photos by Liz McDonnell.

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Oakmont Art Association

■Linda O'Connor

ART ASSOCIATION OPPORTUNITIES

Amanda Rose Hopkins, "All About Texture."
Amanda Rose Hopkins, Mixed Media and Acrylic Painter, will provide a free demonstration highlighting her upcoming 6-week class. Free demonstration is at the East Rec. Center on April 26, from 4-6:30 p.m. with refreshments provided by the OAA.



Amanda Rose Hopkins, All About Texture.

Amanda's classes will be April 30-June 1, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at a cost of \$175 for the 6 weeks or drop-in sessions at \$35 each. Classes will utilize a variety of materials to add depth and visual interest to your paintings. This class is geared towards folks who have some comfort with painting.

Monthly Presentation: "The Art of Fresco Painting."
Fresco, the art of painting on a fresh plaster surface, is one of the most durable of all painting media. The technique dates back thousands of years, with examples from ancient Egypt, Minoan Crete, Rome and Byzantium.



Fresco From Sistine Chapel.

Fresco was rediscovered in the Renaissance era, resulting in Michelangelo's magnificent frescoes in the Sistine Chapel. The art of fresco painting has been revived in recent times—in this talk we will visit a notable fresco project that is underway right now in Santa Rosa. Learn about the age-old technique and its many uses over time, in this illustrated presentation with art historian Lynn Ostling.

Lynn Ostling is a retired professor of Art History who taught at Sonoma State and Santa Rosa Junior College for over 25 years. Ms. Ostling graduated with honors from Stanford University, and completed her graduate work at UC Berkeley, specializing in Classical Greek and Renaissance studies. She has lectured widely in the field of Art History, including recent presentations here at Oakmont on King Tut's tomb, the art of the Middle Ages, and the "four Davids" of Renaissance art.

WHEN: May 8, refreshments 10 a.m., program 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Berger Center

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 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.

Valley of the Moon Women Niners

■Maureen McGettigan



Photo by Maureen McGettigan.

CAPTAIN IS HANDICAPPED

Handicaps are an integral part of the game of golf. When Kathy Camp, the Captain of the women's niner's golf group became handicapped due to foot surgery, her teammates wanted to show their support. The Niners pulled out their old surgical boots (we've all been injured over the years) and posed with Kathy to show our solidarity. We all hope Kathy will heal quickly and be bootless once again.

The niners golf group meets every Thursday morning at the Sugarloaf course to play nine holes. If you're interested in joining, email Kathy Camp at KCcamp6229@gmail.com.



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Thursday 18-Hole Women Golfers

■Kathy Faherty

The 18-hole member group at Valley of the Moon Golf Club plays yearly in two separate Four Ball Match Play leagues: North Bay Team Play (NBTP) and Futures. Teams consist of six players (A, B, and C teams in handicap order). Play begins April 23 and concludes in mid-August.



North Bay sends teams to the following Country Clubs: Fountaingrove, Santa Rosa, Richmond, Olympic, Marin, Meadow, Sonoma, Napa, Green Valley, and Stonetree. We host all of these teams here on June 11.

Futures sends teams to Fountaingrove, Marin, Meadow, Napa, Silverado, and Stonetree. We host these teams here on May 21.

There is so much support from the whole group and often those who do not play in these events will wear their team shirts while playing at VOM and send a photo before golf to their team members who are competing that day!

If you're interested in joining us, we'd love to have you! Please inquire at the Pro Shop desk and someone can direct you to the application forms in the Member Club Room.

Photo by Vanessa Jade.

Asian Pacific Heritage Club

■Curtis Chong

ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE OAKMONT CELEBRATION

Asian Pacific Heritage Club presents AAPI Heritage Month Celebration on Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Berger Center.

Free to all Oakmont Residents and guests. Made possible by a generous gift from the Oakmont Community Foundation.

Performances by Oakmont Tai Chi, Hawaiian Singer Songwriter Bill Rhyne with the lovely Linda Miyasaki Hula Dancing, Oakmont Silver Liners, Oakmont Ukulele, Japanese Kamishibai Storytelling, Wu Academy Youth Martial Arts, Redwood Empire Chinese Association Cultural Dancers and the Lion Dancers.



Curtis Chong.



Hawaiian Singer Bill Rhyne

In addition, we are offering a calligraphy workshop, Bonsai workshop, Mahjong presentation, Oakmont Ikebana Japanese Flower Arrangement and Asian Art Show.

Hopmonk Food Truck will be on site for lunch for purchase,

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Movies At Oakmont



WHERE: Berger Center

SCREENING DAY AND TIME:

Sundays at 2 p.m.

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

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

APRIL 26: SINNERS

Trying to leave their troubled lives behind, twin brothers return to their hometown to start again, only to discover that an even greater evil is waiting to welcome them back. 2025, R, 2:18.

MAY 3: FRANKENSTEIN

Dr. Victor Frankenstein, a brilliant but egotistical scientist, brings a creature to life in a monstrous experiment that ultimately leads to the undoing of both the creator and his tragic creation. 2025, R, 2:29.

MAY 10:

SENTIMENTAL VALUE

An intimate exploration of family, memories, and the reconciliatory power of art. 2025, R, 2:13.

MAY 17: THE TESTAMENT OF ANN LEE

Ann Lee, the founding leader of the Shaker Movement, is proclaimed as the female Christ by her followers. This film depicts her establishment of a utopian society and the Shakers' worship through song and dance, based on real events. 2025, R, 2:17.



Kiwanis Club of Oakmont



■Charles Ensley

KIWANIS HELPS DOGS AS WELL AS KIDS

In addition to the books we provide to two local schools, the donations we make to agencies that assist children and families in need, the children's music education we fund, and the high school scholarships

we provide each spring for graduating seniors headed to college, Kiwanis helps dogs as well!

A hands-on project at an April meeting included making dog toys for two local animal rescue agencies. Fashioned out of old T-shirts and flannel pajamas, the

materials were braided into strips fashioned around an old tennis ball, as well as braided rings for dogs to pull on. The dog toys will be donated to Pets Lifeline in Sonoma, which rescues all animals: dogs, cats, pigs and adopts them out. They are also donated to Dogwood Rescue in Santa Rosa, which does not house the dogs but places them directly into foster homes for later adoption.

Oakmont Sunday Symposium

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



■Judie Coleman

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

**APRIL 26: ERON FLORY, MEDTRONICS ENGINEER, HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS COACH
HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAM:
THIS IS WHAT SMART LOOKS LIKE**

Being a member of the Maria Carrillo High School Robotics Team is about far more than building robots. Robotics teams run like startup companies: students learn teamwork, leadership, problem-solving, and real-world business skills while working under pressure to design, build, and compete. Having "robotics team" on an application moves them to the top of the pile both for colleges and future jobs. And the best part: you'll see these amazing student-built robots in action.



**MAY 3: DOUG VON KOSS AND FRIENDS
RUMI'S CARAVAN: THE POWERFUL
IMPACT OF POETRY**

By popular demand, Rumi's Caravan is returning to the symposium to move us with their visionary,



ecstatic tradition of spontaneous poetic conversation and music. This is always a visual and auditory feast performed on a Persian-decorated stage. Their resonating presentation will lift your spirits and touch your heart.

MAY 10: MOTHER'S DAY

No meeting. Be kind to mothers!

**MAY 17: TRANSCENDENCE
COMES TO OAKMONT SYMPOSIUM**

A Transcendence performance is always high energy, vibrant and electrifying! These world-class Broadway-level performers will mesmerize you with their awesome talent, enthusiasm, and joyous love for what they do. And we'll get a sneak preview of their summer repertoire. Be prepared to be amazed and uplifted!



Photo by Charles Ensley.

On April 4 we supported the Oakmont Grandparents' Club with their annual Easter Egg Hunt with funding and hands-on assistance. Another April donation from our foundation budget went to the Santa Rosa Symphony youth education program, with guest musicians and donated instruments in local schools, and supports the symphony's summer youth music programs.

For those who attended—or missed—our March Shredathon, the next one is Thursday, October 29 outside Berger Center.

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. Guests are always welcome. For more information contact me at (707) 623-9564.

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Playreaders

■D. Hall

A PLAY ABOUT HAZARDOUS WORKING CONDITIONS DEBUTS

Some serious fare is on tap for Oakmont Playreaders on May 4 (Act 1) and 11 (Act 2.) Narrated by one of the workers, Catherine Donohue, *These Shining Lives*, by Melanie Marnich, shows women getting a chance for a well-paying job in the 1920s and early 1930s, which was uncharacteristic for the time in the United States.

The play is based on the true account of young women employed by the Radium Dial Company, who died from radium poisoning after painting the numbers on clocks and watches so they would glow in the dark. The cast will be Steven Levin, Mark Parsons, Sarah Shankman, Marcel Coder, Leslie Tuche and Sammie Ellis.

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.



April playbill, *The Glass Menagerie*, by Tennessee Williams. Cast: John Dolan, Sarah Shankman, Lisa Erwin, Mike Erwin, Steven Levin and Jim Preston.

Ladies Bunco Night

■Barbara Wooley

BUNCO—FUN, FRIENDS AND FOOD!

Looking for a fun, low stress indoor activity for the spring? Come on over and try Bunco—the fun, easy, no-skill-required dice game. Bunco is a great way to meet new people, while having a lot of fun. The icing on the cake is that players have the opportunity to win cash prizes! In what other game can a player literally win for losing?

Haven't played before? That's OK, beginners are always welcome. In five minutes, you will be an expert.



Photo by Barbara Wooley.

Usual nights are the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month; however, there are exceptions, so always check your OVA Calendar. Please arrive by 6:45 p.m. for check-in. Games run from 7–9 p.m. Bring a friend! **WHERE:** Card Room, Central Activity Center **WHEN:** 2nd and 4th Monday of each month (check Oakmont Events Calendar). Next dates are April 27 and May 11

TIME: 6:45 p.m. (play is about 1-1/2 to 2 hrs.). A \$5 fee/night is required for each participant.

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

Strategies for Independence

■Carol Smith

PRESENTATION ON ALZHEIMER'S: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

We are back after an extended hiatus and looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

On April 29, our topic will be Alzheimer's: Effective Communication, presented by Lauren Hibdon of the Alzheimer's Association. The presentation is geared toward both loved ones and caregivers, and all are welcome, whether Oakmont residents or not. This should be helpful for people now, and also useful from a learning perspective about the disease regardless of your current circumstances.

We meet at 10 a.m. in the East Recreation Center and there will be time for questions. We are planning to have Lauren return this summer, when she will present more helpful methods of dealing with Alzheimer's disease.

RSVP to me via cell or text at (707) 480-1068.

Oakmont Democratic Club

■Ida Engli

OAKMONT SENIORS COMING OUT FOR DEMOCRATIC EVENTS

Recent Democratic Alliance events here at Oakmont have sold out and filled rooms full of seniors who are standing strong—some with the assist of walkers—to help elect candidates who will defend democratic values.

The Oakmont Democrats Club and the Oakmont Progressives, coming together as the Oakmont Democratic Alliance (oakmontdemocraticalliance.org), continue working together to influence the 2026 midterm election. Their second goal is to inform Oakmont members and gain a reputation as a reliable source of truth about major political issues facing Santa Rosa, the state of California, and The United States. They have an active agenda that will carry through the November election. Santa Rosa mayor Mark Stapp, the Alliance speaker for April answered tough questions about the Elnoka development, our troubled city schools, and local housing and homelessness issues.

On May 11 at 6:30 p.m. at East Rec, retired UC Berkeley Law professor and co-founder of the Brennan Center for Justice, will address our "Current Issues of Executive Power," and our current threats to free and fair elections.

Following that, at the May Social Night on May 28 at East Rec., 6:30 p.m., the ODA will screen the 2025 Oscar-winning best documentary entitled *Mr. Nobody Against Putin*, about an ordinary teacher in a small Ural Mountains town recording his students as they struggle to understand Putin's demand that they maintain and voice "patriotic displays" of support for Putin and his Ukrainian war. The film viewing and popcorn are free.

The Democratic Alliance is hosting a sign-making workshop on April 28, 1 p.m. in Suite B at the OVA office in advance of a spread-the-word rally in Oakmont on April 30 about May Day, a day recognizing workers' rights.

Next ODA Social: May 28, 6:30 p.m., East Rec. film and discussion, *Mr. Nobody Against Putin*, this year's Oscar-winner for best documentary film (Social on fourth Thursday of month).

Next ODA speaker meeting, May 11, East Rec. 6:30 p.m. (speaker on second Monday): Tom Jordy on Executive Legal Power and Voter Suppression power.

Lastly, save the date: Friday, June 19, More Joy concert at Berger. Details at oakmontdemocraticalliance.org.

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

Canine Club

■Steve Huntley

AND THE WINNER IS... WOOF, WOOF!

Not quite yet, but the 2026 OakMutt Doggy Day Dog Show is just around the corner and will take place on Saturday, June 6, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. at the Berger Greensward Lawn and Patio. More information on dog show categories and deadlines for entering your dog in the dog show will be forthcoming. If you would like to volunteer at the Dog Show please contact Paula Lewis at paulalewisc21@sbcglobal.net.

We are still looking for a couple more Happy Tails Dog Park volunteers. We try to have a different volunteer each day of the week plus a couple more for backup when folks are out of town. We would love to have a few more volunteers! It's fun work strolling through the dog park, with the doggies romping around while you inspect for damage and unwanted deposits and more! Just shoot Peri Olinger an email at periolinger@yahoo.com if you would like to volunteer.



Gilbert.



Dusty.

In case you are not aware, this Monday, April 27 is National Little Pampered Dog Day. The great benefit is you pamper your dog, and in return, your dog pampers you!

Most importantly, this coming Friday, May 1 is "May Day," historically a European holiday marking the first day of summer. Yes, but more importantly on this day, the daily 1-hour time that the Dog Park is reserved for small dogs (25 lbs. or less) changes from 3–4 p.m. to 9–10 a.m.

Not a member of the Oakmont Canine Club? You can join now! Annual membership dues are only \$12 for individuals and \$20 for households. Go to www.oakmontcanineclub.org for more information on how to join this exciting club! Benefits include a weekly newsletter, an annual Club picnic, annual Members' Appreciation Party at the Wild Oak Saddle Club, and various other social events throughout the year.

Slot-Car Club

■Ray Wells

SCHEDULE OF SLOT-CAR EVENTS

Our 2026 race events are at the West Recreation Center upper level on May 16, August 1, September 12, October 24, November 14 and December 19.

We will alternate between open practice sessions and racing starting as early as 11 a.m. Depending on attendance, the program will accommodate new arrivals. At 3 p.m. we will hold a Fastest Lap Challenge, allowing all-comers to compete with their own 1/32 scale cars.

Notes on cars: The club provides 18 Carrera digital 1/32 GT cars for anyone to race. You may bring your own car but check the club folder in the OVA office to avoid buying a duplicate. Both down-force magnets are removed making cars trickier to drive.

Contact me at (707) 540 2827 for further information and to volunteer.



Garage testing a 4-lane track: Mary Janney, Martin Johns and Ray Wells. (Photo by Caroline Satchel)

Tennis Club

■Diane Curtis



THOROUGH AND DETAILED

As the new OTC board member in charge of court and equipment maintenance, Michael Scrobonia seems to have all bases covered. He's already used parts of an older Lobster ball machine to fix an ailing, newer one. He has assessed the sheds on both east and west courts and plans to reorganize the crowded west shed and move some of the extra ball baskets and scorekeepers to the east shed.

He is concerned that relatively new squeegees and rollers don't do the job and plans to confer with OVA staff who do the buying on that and other maintenance issues. He is going to explore the possibilities of installing a backboard on the west courts and getting a VAPTR, the court-drying machine already used on the west courts and by the pickleball players, for the east courts. And, in a nice sleuthing move following a tip from a veteran OTC member, he has reopened a long-ignored storage locker at the East Rec. Center and discovered scrapbooks, OTC paperwork and a mountain of party supplies. Whew!

Michael's career may help explain his thoroughness and attention to detail. A mechanical engineer with experience in technical and project management, one of his more intriguing defense projects helped reduce collateral damage caused by ballistic rounds. His team made the control section for the Excalibur guided munition. "It's like a smart bullet with deployable fins and GPS to guide it to within a few feet of the target," he said.

A grandfather and father of a daughter and two sons, Michael moved to Oakmont from Healdsburg a year and a half ago attracted by the community's amenities and activities. He plays tennis three or four times a week and has "picked up golf again."

Sad note: Kay Kim died April 4 in San Francisco. R.I.P., Kay.

Billiard Club

■Steven Dieterle



9 BALL ROUND ROBIN FORMATTED TOURNAMENT

The Oakmont Billiards Club just recently held a 9 Ball Round Robin formatted Tournament on Thursday, Mar. 26. This is where every player gets to play every other player. At the end of the five rounds for the six participants the player with the most wins is the winner. At the end of play we had two players, Steve Martin and Steve Fuller with 4 wins each out of 5 games played!

The tie breaker is who won the game they played against each other. That would be Steve Martin. Congratulations Steve Martin on the win!



Winner Steve Martin on the right and runner up Steve Fuller.

Just a little bit of information on that tie breaker game. When Steve Martin broke the racked balls to start the game against Steve Fuller, he sunk the 9 ball! This is an automatic win for that game and as it turned out for the tournament!! Steve Fuller didn't get a chance to play. What a way to win it all and what a way to lose it all!



The Oakmont Billiards Club Steering Committee, L to R: Barb Marquardt, Steve Fuller, Rich Winston, Frank Coryell, Steve Martin and Steve Dieterle

Oakmont Health Initiative Free Fitness Classes

■Charlene Bunas

HOW TO HAVE FUN

Bryan Mixon has plenty of energy. And a love of fun. As a kid in Livermore, his family wasn't into team sports, "but had good times on water skis." At age 24 he bicycled from California to Pennsylvania.

As a teacher in Bakersfield, he learned to appreciate a surprise perk of physical exercise: friends. "I played racketball and took aerobic classes and enjoyed plenty of socializing that did not revolve around food or drink."

He also built a house, maintained acreage and cared for chickens. He says, "the property gave me plenty of exercise. And accidents."

Two years before Bryan and his husband Keith moved to Oakmont (2025) he fell and stress fractures in his back kept him in a brace until after they'd settled into their new community. He says, "OHI classes were my catapult to recovery."



Bryan in class. (Photos by Charlene Bunas)

OHI gave him back life. "Focusing on healthy movement, the instructors helped me build confidence to jump, step, reach, twist and bend in a safe environment."

And he's found friends. A common theme, Bryan said the "OHI class is a place where people of many interests overlap." Since reclaiming health, he can now be found on

the Pickleball courts or in the garden. He belongs to the art club, plays ukulele and hikes.

"Fun keeps me going." He obviously likes people, music and physical movement. He said, "the fact that OHI classes are free of charge is a bonus."

Note of interest: OVA underwrites the Oakmont Health Initiative classes but OHI organizes occasional fundraisers which pay for and maintain a variety of equipment and which show OHI appreciation to the instructors.

Additional note of interest: these classes are intense and offered to all Oakmont residents. Individual assessment is advised.

Meeting ID 850 1489 7161 / 998608.

Meditation

■Joanne Davey

MEDITATING TOGETHER

WEEKLY MEDITATION SESSIONS AT CAC

"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony."—Mahatma Gandhi

Our meditation circle is growing! We invite you to join one or both of our weekly drop-in meditation sessions which have been taking place for many years.

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

Tuesdays at 4 p.m. in the CAC Building, Art Room: A 30-min. meditation. Beginning and experienced meditators are welcome.

We approach meditation as a non-denominational practice.

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

Water Fitness

■Valerie Hulsey



CLASS SCHEDULE CHANGES

Mary's Monday-Thursday classes are currently at the Central pool. The water is warm and there's lots of room for everyone. Mary's shoulder surgery is scheduled for April 30, so she may not be able to teach on that day, plus there will be no classes the first two weeks of May. Everyone is still welcome to go to the pool and exercise with other members of the class. Stay tuned for more information on when Mary will be able to return to class.

JULIE'S FRIDAY CLASS

Julie's friendly Friday water exercise class continues all year round, and starts at 10:10 a.m. every Friday. All fitness levels are welcome! \$10 drop-in fee.

Water exercise classes will also be at the Central Pool while the West Rec. pool is closed for maintenance.

Strength and Balance

■Valerie Hulsey

BETTER BALANCE TO PREVENT FALLS

Mary's shoulder surgery is scheduled for April 30 so there will be no balance class on May 1. As of this writing Mary is hoping to return on May 8 to her regularly scheduled classes on Friday at 9:30 a.m. at the East Rec. Center.

Not only do we work on our balance skills we have lots of fun doing so. The laughter in the room is always contagious. Everyone is welcome to join the class.

There is a \$10 drop-in fee and don't forget to bring your TheraBand for strengthening. If you don't have one you can purchase one for \$5 when you arrive. Bring water and come and have some fun and improve your balance at the same time.

Valley of the Moon Rotary Club



■John Brodey

ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME HOME

Despite having been to some 63 countries with more on our list still to visit, it seems strange that we feel the need to go to Italy regularly. Granted my sister has lived there for 15 years, but that doesn't totally explain our love of the country. We are Stanly Tucci's in training.

At this point in life, we have learned that the most profound aspect of travel is the people you meet along the way. Yes, the food in Italy is superb. Very little of it is processed, with year-round outdoor farmer's markets in every town. The intense passion with which the meals are created is the magic ingredient.

While there for the month we traveled to the town of Altamura in Puglia and tracked down the little bakery run by two women who are 89 and 90, respectively. They handmake several incredible types of pasta and have a subterranean shop where they also offer delicious loaves of bread that look more like clouds with a crust that is indescribable.

But the people are the prize. They are instantly engaging, curious, informed, funny and welcoming. Some spoke some English and the others did quite well with hand gestures. Somehow, it led to real conversations, and it was clear they had considerable empathy for what our country is going through right now.

A highlight was visiting the ancient town of Matera. Famous for its cave houses carved into the hillsides around the 4th century. Later the city grew with newer houses being built on top of those around the 9th century. "New" is a relative word in Italy.

A big surprise was seeing Rotary plaques on buildings the club has helped to restore and preserve. It put a smile on my face!

Oakmont Village Association

OAKMONT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

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

MAINTENANCE OFFICE

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

CONDOMINIUM FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (CFM)

OVA Accounting
 Tel 800-585-4297

OAKMONT NEWS

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

PAS MANAGEMENT COMPANY

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

ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE

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

AVAILABLE IN OVA OFFICE

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

BULLETIN BOARDS

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

LOCKER RENTALS

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

GUEST PASSES

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

STREET CLEANING

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

NEED A RIDE? GIVE A RIDE! OAKMONT VOLUNTEER HELPERS

We provide the following services to Oakmont Residents:

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

COORDINATOR Rides to Medical Appointments

April 16–30
 Jenny Watts 707-367-2102
May 1–15
 Colleen Keegan 925-487-4014

If you would like to be a volunteer, please call 707-539-8996. Donations to Oakmont Volunteer Helpers are appreciated and tax deductible. Mail your check payable to Oakmont Volunteer Helpers, 6637 Oakmont Dr., Ste. A, Santa Rosa, CA 95409. Thank you.

Mon.–Fri. medical rides before 9 AM or after 4 PM are subject to limited volunteer driver availability. No service on weekends or holidays. Please call at least three full working days prior to appointment.
We regret that we are unable to provide either wheelchair or emergency service.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR WRITER GUIDELINES

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

POOLS & JACUZZIS

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

STORAGE UNITS AND PARKING

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

LIBRARY

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

OAKMONT COMMUNITY GARDEN ON STONEBRIDGE

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

HAPPY TAILS DOG PARK

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

FITNESS CENTER

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

2025–2026 OVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

E-mail: askova@oakmontvillage.com

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

Robert Williams, Director
robert.williams@oakmontvillage.com

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

GENERAL MANAGER
Christel Antone
christel@oakmontvillage.com

OVA BOARD MEETINGS

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

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

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

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL OFFICIALS

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

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

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE IN OAKMONT

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

BE ON OVA E-MAIL LIST

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

Oakmont Garden Club



■Patty McHugh

PICKING THE RIGHT AVOCADO TO GROW IN SONOMA COUNTY

WHEN: Wednesday, May 13, 9:30–10 a.m. Social, 10–11 a.m. Presentation, Q&A follows

WHERE: East Rec., 7902 Oakmont Drive

SPEAKER: Dr. Jeff Pierce, Family and Lifestyle Medical Physician

Back by popular demand. Dr. Pierce spoke to us in January about growing fruit-bearing trees, vines and bushes in our Sonoma County gardens, touching briefly on uncommon avocado trees. He is returning to give us a master class on the beloved avocado.

Avocados are a subtropical tree and, as such, not commonly grown in our area. This need not be,

although they do need certain growing conditions to thrive. On behalf of the SC Master Gardeners program, Dr. Pierce will share knowledge about growing your own avocado tree—including how to choose the right variety (there are many to choose from), when and where to plant it, and how to care for it.

He has given this talk for the Sonoma County UC Master Gardeners recently in Windsor and Rohnert Park to packed audiences. He is passionate about the benefits of a plant-based diet for a healthy lifestyle. His passion makes for a fabulous program! Soon you'll be harvesting your very own delicious avocados.

Dr. Pierce is a board-certified family medicine physician who has practiced for over 18 years in

Northern California and performed global health work in Africa and Latin America. Dr. Pierce firmly believes in the power of plant-based medicine. He believes, with the right information and motivation, people could get to the root cause of many illnesses. He believes in the health benefits of growing your own food, including stress reduction, time in nature and connection with others. We wholeheartedly welcome him back!

Reminder: The Garden Club is on hiatus for June, July and August—we will be back in September. Have a wonderful, safe summer!



CLASSIFIEDS

BODEN PLUMBING, HEATING AND AIR

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

BABE'S TRANSPORT

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

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

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

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.

TONY'S GARDENING SERVICES

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

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.

ONE WAY PLUMBING, INC.

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

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. Call Alex, (707) 322-1646. Lic. #06530716.

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.

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.

SUBSTANTIAL REWARD FOR LOST GOLD CROSS NECKLACE

Lost on Easter somewhere in Oakmont. Sentimental value, designed by late husband. It has the Star of David with small precious stones. Please call Shirley Collins at (707) 543 6688.

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. 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.

YOUR FRIENDLY HANDYMAN

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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. (707) 539-3196.

MARSHALLS PLUMBING

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

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.

OAKMONT GARDENING SERVICES

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Kind, one-on-one help with everyday things like sorting mail, scheduling appointments, simple phone calls, taking small donation bags (clothing/items) for drop-off, etc. Nothing is too small and you're always in charge. Years of experience in the Oakmont community. If you ever need a gentle extra set of hands, call or text me at (707) 408-2226 or email to gracefulhandsbystephy@gmail.com.

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To place an ad, contact: CJM Productions, 2105 Longhorn Circle, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 • 707-206-1957 • cjmprod567@gmail.com

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.



■Greg Fauss

WALK FOR WATER



This is not a religious event! But it will be fun and it's for a very good cause. 6km is the average distance a person in difficult circumstances needs to walk to obtain clean water. We are raising funds to provide clean water where it's most needed by walking that distance (approximately 3.7 miles) through Oakmont.

To sign up, take a picture/scan the QR code, or visit global6k.worldvision.org/teams/40370.



It all happens beginning on May 16 at 10 a.m. at the Berger Center in the Courtyard.

You're also always welcome to our Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. in the East Rec. Center.

For information about our Wednesday Morning Bible Study, occasional meetings in Oakmont Gardens, Saturday Prayer, and other gatherings go to www.occsantarosa.org, write us at occsantarosa@gmail.com or call us at (707) 595-0166.

Oakmont Squares



■Barbara Wooley

DANCING INTO SPRING!

Congratulations to Oakmont Squares' newest graduates, Iris Harrel and Ann Benson! Our new members are not newbies, but are veterans who joined to brush up on their skills. Over four months, our graduates were taught the 50 calls that make up the Mainstream level of Square Dancing. The class culminated with fun written and practical tests. Yes, balloons and paper bags were involved.



Iris Harrel and Ann Benson.
(Photo by Barbara Wooley)

Oakmont dancers have found the Social Square Dancing program (based on 50 calls) to be a good fit for the Oakmont "active adult" demographic. Professional caller Lawrence Johnstone is adept at combining those 50 calls into nearly endless patterns, so the brain gets a work-out along with the body. Modern square dancing goes beyond what many individuals of a certain age might remember from junior high/middle school. The music spans a wide



Practical test.
(Photo by Barbara Wooley)

range of music genres, from country, to Disney, to Broadway Show Tunes and movie themes, to holiday songs, music from the 40's, 50's, and 60's, and beyond.

The club will begin a new introductory class in late summer. Watch for announcements. Experienced dancers who may be thinking about joining the group or dropping in from time

to time are welcome to come dance at Mainstream Level. No partner is necessary since it is customary to switch partners often. If you would like to join a new class or have questions, please reach out to Jenny (see below).

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

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

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